

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Darin Garton, Convention President

As I finish this second term as your President, let me just say how much I have **appreciated having the opportunity to serve** Indiana Baptists. It has given me a great opportunity to interact with pastors and leaders across this great state and I'm so encouraged about what God is doing here. I'm excited to see what the future holds for us as we work together as a state convention.

No matter where you go in Indiana, you can see many reasons to be encouraged about **what God is doing**. In urban, as well as rural, areas we are having an impact through our cooperative effort that we would never see if we worked as isolated churches. It is our partnership together for the Gospel that enables us to accomplish far more than we ever could on our own. Thank you so much for your glad cooperation to advance God's work in Indiana.

I had the opportunity recently to do a tour of some of our **newest church plants** in Indianapolis. We heard each church planter's story of how God led them to start a church, how they had been directed to our state, and how they were working to bring the Good News to their field. I can't tell you how proud it made me feel to be a part of what God is doing through the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana (SCBI)! The caliber of our planters, the quality of the work that was being done, and the impact of their outreach among Hoosiers is greater than I have seen in over 20 years of service in Indiana. By cooperating together, we have been able to put some of the highest quality leaders on the field and they are making a difference.

I also was able to spend some time recently at **our camp**. It is encouraging to see evangelistic and discipleship events taking place, to see work being done among a variety of people groups, to see the new chapel going up, and to see our state staff coming together to maximize our effectiveness. We are sharper than we have ever been and we have much to be encouraged about. I'm grateful to work alongside of people who have such a deep desire to see the Gospel go to every region of this state.

Our mission as a state convention is "**to exalt Jesus, to encourage pastors, and to equip churches**." Everywhere you look, we are becoming more effective at accomplishing this task. It has been a

distinct honor for me to serve as your president and to support this mission. Thank you to so many who have encouraged me and prayed for me. May God continue to bless the work of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana!

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT

David Cullison, Chairman of the Board

2015-2016 has been an **exciting year** for the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana and the Executive Board. We have seen the completion of selling the North High School Road property in Indianapolis. Great progress has been made in the move to the Highland Lakes building that is presently housing our SCBI offices. Along with the remodeling of these structures, additional modular office space has been purchased. These structures are not complete at this time, but are well underway. We want to express our sincere appreciation to our state staff for working through and physically helping in the move and the transitions that was required.

Highland Lakes is an on-going “work in progress.” It is so exciting to see a new Chapel being built. This building is being completed debt free as monies are donated. We praise God for the generous hearts of our SCBI churches and individuals who have invested in this great addition. What a wonderful vision our churches, staff and individuals have had through the years to continue seeing new and exciting additions to Highland Lakes. It is our prayer that God would use this facility to bring people to Himself. Statistics through the years have proven its effectiveness in leading men, women, young adults, teenagers and children to the Lord, and making an impact on many other lives to serve Him in so many diverse areas of ministry.

During this year we have seen a **reorganization** of staff. Dr. John Rogers retired in April of 2016. His position was transitioned to a new position which was filled by Rick Hillard as Director of Missional Coordination.

Along with these new projects, the Executive Board can report a **solid financial status** for the SCBI. We have sought God’s wisdom in every decision we have made. The Cooperative Program monies were utilized by the various personnel and committees to great use. Our state offerings for Annie Armstrong and Lottie Moon both exceeded the SCBI goals that were established. Praise the Lord!

We **deeply appreciate** all the great work of our Convention Staff and that of our Churches to accomplish Southern Baptist work throughout Indiana. As Chairman of the Executive Board, I want to relate our desire as a committee to continue wise use of our

finances and resources that God provided the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. We are rich in Christ! Our combined efforts and prayers as leaders of the SCBI are to enrich lives and to reach Indiana for Christ!

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Cecil W. Seagle, Executive Director

What a year!

2015/2016 is proving to be a year of continuing **transition**:

- We said goodbye to Dr. and Mrs. John Rogers, long time SCBI Evangelism and Prayer leader;
- We said goodbye to Debbie Hymer, Office Manager with Highland Lakes Baptist Camp (HLBC,) transitioned Sarah Wickersham to Highland Lakes as Office Manager and welcomed Terah Adams as Administrative Assistant replacing Sarah Wickersham on Dr. Steve McNeil's team.
- Dr. Rick Hillard was called to lead missional efforts related to International Partnership, Disaster Relief, Collegiate Coordination and Hunger Fund Support, an effort in feeding those in desperate need across Indiana.

SCBI's **office space** is slowly but surely being completed. Target date for completion is mid-November, 2016. Completion of the office facilities is the first of many steps vital to making HLBC a Missionally-Focused, Missionary-Centered equipping center for Kingdom advance.

The **Chapel** at HLBC is well on its way to reality. SCBI will celebrate this achievement as HLBC hosts the 2017 SCBI Annual Meeting. Stunningly beautiful, practically functional, the Chapel adds a dimension beyond worship and conferencing. It frees space in the current chapel for added hotel rooms, much needed indoor recreation opportunities and expanded dinning space. Thanks to the hard work of Rick Porter, HLBC Operations Manager, and the leadership of HLBC Team Leader Jim Shields.

SCBI's leader team was blessed to crisscross Indiana and meet with ten groups over five days with the sole agenda of **praying for our state**, our nation and His work in Indiana. I listened and was moved as pastors and lay leaders gathered in these varied venues for no other purpose than to assault heaven on behalf of earth.

HILL, SCBI's **High Impact Leader Lab**, saw another 17 pastoral leaders spend a week exploring calling, direction and ministry, as Dr. Steve McNeil and the SCBI team poured into these men vital spiritual and leadership truths. SCBI Team leaders spent many hours re-

viewing the HILL process and, as our custom, renewed our commitment to provide the best possible environment to equip, encourage and inspire our pastoral leaders.

With sadness, this is my **final report** to the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. I will retire December 31, 2016. Peggie and I have been blessed beyond measure by this wonderful Hoosier journey. You have made this assignment pure joy.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL AWAKENING REPORT

Dr. Cecil W. Seagle, Executive Director

Dr. Rick Hillard, Missional Coordinator

Dr. John Rogers and his Team for Prayer and Spiritual Awakening produced this annual report for more than fifteen years.

Dr. Rogers retired, moved to Tennessee May 2016. Indiana Baptists **miss his leadership** and emphasis upon prayer and spiritual awakening.

Dr. Roy Fish has written extensively about **Spiritual Awakening**, chronicling the move of God across America. Dr. Fish reminds us that North America has not seen a mighty move of God in more than 100 years.

In addition to the one-hundred-year grim reality, Dr. Fish reminds us that **Indiana** has never seen the inexplicable, sustained Hand of God move across our state.

Many of us **long to see** that which God alone produces when He moves in power and glory in the midst of His people.

With that in mind, your SCBI Team spent **five days in ten locations** meeting with Indiana leaders for prayer. We claimed then as we claim now - "WHEN MY PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED BY MY NAME SHALL HUMBLE THEMSELVES AND PRAY" **And pray!**

Prayer saturation - how is that possible in Indiana? What do we think might take place if ten - or 30 - or 100 churches would "WALK EVERY STREET, PRAY OVER EVERY HOUSEHOLD AND AGAINST EVERY STRONGHOLD?" Or slowly ride every winding rural road and pray over every household, against every stronghold - asking God to move mightily?

The Evangelism, Prayer and Spiritual Awakening Committee of the Executive Board is **developing a strategic process** to assist every willing congregation who will pray, equip and deploy to their village, town, city, state, nation, North America and the Nations with the life-giving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Watch for the announcement Fall of 2016.

I must say - this begs the question: if we pray and **if God moves**

among us to penetrate the vast dark wasteland that is LOSTNESS, will we obey or will we retreat to our huddles to debate methodology?

RAISE THE BANNER OF CHRIST - is more than cliché!

Watch for **coming information**.

MISSIONAL COORDINATION REPORT

Dr. Rick Hillard, Missional Coordinator

Partnership Missions

The **partnership vision** of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana is to grow to the point where “the sun never sets on our reach for Christ.” Indiana Baptist congregations are active in taking the Gospel to the under-served and under-reached areas in our world.

SCBI currently has two official **International Mission Partnerships**. There is a partnership with IMB missionaries in an unnamed area in the Amazon River Valley in South America. This partnership is set to expire October 2016.

There is a partnership with **Indiana’s own** Dave and Debra Wilson who are serving in the Patate Region of Ecuador.

Please pray as we continue to look for other ways to broaden the reach and influence of Indiana Southern Baptists.

Global Hunger Relief

The **Hunger Relief ministries** with the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana continue to meet the physical needs of many people within our State. This ministry receives no Cooperative Program funding and is entirely dependent on the Hunger Funds offering. This vital offering continues to shrink among Southern Baptists. The dollars were down yet again in 2015. However, the need continues to be paramount.

We now have 23 hunger funds ministries that are funded through SCBI. There were **246 salvations reported** for 2015 as a result of these ministries.

Collegiate Ministries

During the year Collegiate Ministry continues to have a presence on these campuses:

- Notre Dame and IU South Bend (Joshua “Swelh” Velila)
- Indiana Tech; Ivy Tech of Fort Wayne (Greg Byman)
- Ball State
- Purdue (Ben Beck and Dennis Runner – International students)
- Indiana State and Ivy Tech, Terre Haute, Rose Hulman, St. Mary of the Woods (Roger and Rose Bear)
- IU Southeast (Cody Bishop)

-IU Bloomington and Ivy Tech, Bloomington (Mat Shockney and Trevor Kirtman)

-University of Southern Indiana (Matthew Castro)

There are **610 collegians** involved in Campus Ministry programs.

Disaster Relief

Indiana Disaster Relief (DR) teams continue to **answer the call** for help.

Indiana Southern Baptist **DR has responded** to flooding events in South Carolina and Missouri. We have been grateful that there has not been significant storm and weather-related disasters in our State, but DR has been busy in Indiana responding to flood related mud-outs and straight line wind damage.

The **DR commitment** is to bring help, healing and hope to disaster victims. These teams work hard bringing physical relief, but to also recognize the most important aspect of what we do, which is to minister to the spiritual needs of people. Along with the tools you might expect on each of our units, you will also find tracts and Bibles. DR has shared the Gospel with several, prayed with many and has planted the Word of God in multiple locations.

The **giving spirit** of our Disaster Relief volunteers is alive and well in Indiana!