

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Bruce Reynolds, Convention President**

What a privilege it has been to serve as your President this past year. I have had wonderful opportunities to serve alongside some amazing men and women from all over the state. I have watched as hearts and minds partnered together with a desire to be faithful to the King, find how best to serve the men and women of this state convention and how we as soldiers of the Cross can reach people for Jesus. I am also not naive enough to think that we are always going to agree on the optimal way to accomplish this task.

I am really excited about this year's theme for our convention, "Kingdom Unhindered," because I still believe that when the church is being the church, the gates of hell cannot stand against us. When we choose to lock arms, to build His kingdom and not our own, the blind shall receive sight and the captive will be set free.

Like all of you, I have been called to this great state of Indiana. We have come a long way over the years. I have to believe that better days are ahead of us, maybe not easier days, but better. I choose to lock arms with you. I choose to serve alongside every one of you who call yourselves followers of the One True King.

From the time I was in 4th grade through my senior year of high school, I loved to play football. I was on some good teams, but never a perfect team until senior year. That year we were perfect: 0-10. I know it is not exactly the perfection one would desire, and not the way I wanted to finish my football career. I am a competitive guy; I hate to lose at anything. At the age of 13, I was offered to be a part of a winning team, a team that never loses, and I jumped at the chance to play the game of life with Jesus. Then at the age of 20, I chose to be a part of another team. These guys and gals call themselves Southern Baptists, and I chose this team not because they are perfect, but because they choose to serve the perfect Savior the best that they can, with no compromise. I still choose this team because I do not want to go through my ministry alone. I choose this team because I believe in Who and what we stand for. Today I choose to do ministry with you.

## **EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT**

**David Cullison, Chairman of the Board**

The Executive Board members always consider it a great honor to serve the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. This year, our largest task has been in seeking the Lord's will in securing a new Executive Director. It was a delight to see the Board vote unanimously for Dr. Steve McNeil, and this was done on the first and only vote. This demonstrates a great unity in our State Convention. Dr. McNeil has been able to quickly get to work and accomplish many things in a short amount of time. Presently, there are still areas in transition, but we anticipate these will be accomplished in the near future.

What a joy and great blessing to see our new Worship Chapel at Highland Lakes Baptist Camp completed this spring. God is continuing to grow our camp; therefore, allowing us to reach more people for the Kingdom of God.

The State Convention offices are also complete, including a very nice conference room. The SCBI offices produce a wonderful work environment for our state staff. They present a welcoming atmosphere for each person who visits.

Each of the Executive Board's committees, working with the state staff, have shared exciting progress as we seek to reach Indiana for Christ. Please continue praying for the Executive Board's work as God leads our great State Convention of Baptists in Indiana. 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. Steve McNeil, Executive Director**

Another year of transition!

In the 2015/2016 report, we recognized the retirement of Dr. John Rogers. In 2016-2017, we recognize the retirement of Dr. Cecil Seagle as our Executive Director and Administrative Assistant Bev Olonoh. This has been another year of transition: So what has happened during the 2016-2017 year?

- The new state office space is now complete and houses 15 staff members, and it is completely paid for;
- With Bev Olonoh retiring, we re-aligned responsibilities, and we were able to help four current staff members with pay increases and added responsibility. Terah Adams has taken on the Church/Leader Development administrative responsibility. Alison Blankenship has taken on the communications responsibility. Michelle Hillard picked up the Annual Church Profile (ACP) responsibility. Greg Cooper was given more hours to help us with our graphics and media needs.
- We were able to help six pastors who were going through difficult times.
- We helped several churches work through conflict resolution situations.
- We trained new Intentional Interim pastors, and we continue to help churches who are going through an interim period.

We continue to work toward our vision of **Missions**, by working toward the day when the sun does not set on what Indiana Baptists are doing in mission work. We enlisted a new prayer leader for the state- Laine Elam. Our Disaster Relief teams are working toward training more volunteers and engaging more people and more churches in relief efforts. Pre-trips were made this year to explore future mission trips to Africa and the South Pacific. Thank you Rick Hillard for your work with these teams and helping us fulfil this vision.

The **Chapel** at HLBC has just completed its first year of use, and the reports are good. The facility has given us the ability to worship with around 450 people. We are using the new building for this year's annual meeting. This new facility also opened up the old worship space to be used as recreation space, which was well used during this year's camp season. Thank you to

Jim Shields, Rick Porter and the entire Highland Lakes Team.

The Highland Lakes **Camp** continues to serve us well. Camps for all age groups and with different purposes from evangelism, discipleship, leadership development and worship have been held this year. You can read more about these camps in some of the reports that follow this. Lives have been touched, saved and developed. We praise God for the work that He is doing in and through our camps. Thank you to Sarah Bohrer, Alison Kinion and Steve Blanchard for your consistent hard working efforts with our camps.

**HILL**, SCBI's High Impact Leader Lab, saw another class of pastoral leaders spend a week exploring calling, direction and ministry, as the SCBI team spent time coaching, mentoring, encouraging and praying with these pastors. There have now been 60 pastors to complete HILL. This is the 3rd part of our vision to equip and encourage pastors to be the best spiritual leaders they can be. Associational Leader Labs and E-quip U one day equipping workshops are the first and second levels of our leadership strategy.

**Church Planting** has had a challenging year. Our team has done a great job planting churches with no new money to work with. We planted so many churches over the past two years that we committed our funds to the point that no money was available to plant new churches this year. So our team has been creative, enduring and hard working to continue to plant another 14 churches this year. Thank you John Horn, Jesus Pacheco, Steve Blanchard, Bobby Cox, Doug Jividen, Bob Weeks, Dale Eakes and Mitch Whidden. Great job team. We also say goodbye to Mitch Whidden who has taken a pastor position in Kentucky.

**New Pastors and New Churches** have come to SCBI in the past year. We welcome the new pastors who have accepted the call to pastor some of our churches around the state. We also welcome several new congregations again this year who have chosen to affiliate with our associations, our state convention and ultimately our Southern Baptist family at large.

We continue to move forward with the goals to fulfill our convention purposes which are:

**Exalt Jesus – Encourage Pastors – Equip Churches**

I hope that you will work with us as we seek to impact missions, increase evangelistic efforts, help churches develop strategies for discipleship, small groups, Sunday School, pastoral care, worship and fellowship. Can we see someone trust Jesus every week in our churches? Can we see 25% of our regular attenders who are discipling another believer? Can we see 50% of our churches start a new Sunday School or Small Group unit this year? Can we see 50% of our churches be engaged in a church plant? Can we see 50% of our churches bring and send people to our camps? Can we see 50% of our churches take the 1% challenge this year by increasing their giving to the Cooperative Program to help with the mission causes here in Indiana and across the nation and world? Can we make a choice to work together for the sake of the Gospel? To impact our world and our communities, we need to choose to work together!

# **MISSIONAL COORDINATION REPORT**

**Rick Hillard, Director of Missional Coordination**

## **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 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 consider other ways we can 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. So, if your church doesn’t participate in the Hunger Funds offering, let me encourage you to please participate.

We now have 22 hunger funds ministries that are funded through SCBI. There were 5,974 evangelistic encounters, 102 professions of faith, and 88,767 total fed through these ministries for 2016.

## **Collegiate Ministries**

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

- Notre Dame and IU South Bend (Joshua “Sweh” Velilla)
- 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 Institute of Technology, St. Mary of the Woods (Roger and Rose Bear)
- IU Southeast (Caleb Creel)
- 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**

The **DR commitment** is to assist churches in offering help, healing and hope to disaster victims. The DR teams are committed to assist with physical needs during a crisis, but also realize the vital importance of ministering to the spiritual needs as well. 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.

Indiana Disaster Relief teams continue to keep busy.

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 serving spirit of our Disaster Relief volunteers is alive and well in Indiana!

### DR Statistics:

605 Certified Disaster Relief Participants  
58 additional volunteers became certified in 2016  
2 assessor trainings  
2 recertification trainings  
2 Command and Communication trainings  
2 chainsaw trainings  
1 Chaplain training  
1 Shower unit training

We have responded to call outs in: Brookston, Kokomo, South Bend, Huntingburg, Jasper, Salem, and Ft. Wayne.

## **Prayer**

Laine Elam has been asked to serve as our volunteer State Prayer Coordinator. Laine is a prayer warrior and faithful member of Old Town Hill Baptist Church in Muncie, Indiana. Laine will be praying for the pastors, churches, and other ministries in Indiana. We are moving toward our goal of developing a prayer team that will saturate the Hoosier State with prayer!

## **Evangelism**

There is some good news in regards to the number of baptisms in our state. For the first time since 2005, we did not experience a decrease in the number of baptisms. Baptisms were up in 2016. There were 2,083 baptisms reported in 2015 and 2,176 reported in 2016. That is an increase of 93 baptisms. Praise God for that!

We are looking forward to working with pastors in the coming months to sharpen up Evangelism Strategy Plans. The goal is to see ESP 2020; every church with an evangelism strategy plan by the year 2020. If you would like some help, let's get something going.

## **Cooperative Program Promotion**

There is more good news to report. The Indiana Baptist Cooperative Program receipts are up! The CP offering in 2016 was \$2,392,657.05. That represents the first time we have met our budget goal since 2008. Thank you Indiana Baptists!

We have been working to promote and educate our congregations with all the good things CP accomplishes. The CP Sunday has been a good success in educating our congregations. Has your church scheduled a CP Sunday yet? If not let's get one set up.

Wow, we have been busy. I am grateful that God is at work among Indiana Baptists!