

CHURCH / LEADER DEVELOPMENT

Bob Weeks, Team Leader

The Church and Leader Development Team focus consists of 11 broad categories of ministry: Church Health, Leader Development, Church Revitalization, Discipleship/Sunday School/Small Groups, VBS, Youth, Children, Women, Men and Worship.

Because the task is so large, our team uses five Core Values to guide us to accomplish our State Convention's purpose to "Exalt Jesus, Encourage Pastors and Equip Churches." Our Core Values are: Enjoy the Journey, Spend Wisely, Better Together, Respect Our Partners and Strive for Excellence. Everything our team does is held accountable to SCBI's purpose and our team's Core Values.

The Church and Leader Development Team consists of volunteers throughout our State as well as part-time ministry leaders Sarah Bohrer (Worship/Children) and Allison Kinion (Women). We also are blessed with a full-time ministry assistant in Terah Adams who keeps us on track and on time! When you call the State Convention office regarding Church and Leader Development, your first contact will most likely be Terah. She looks forward to serving you!

Since being called to the position of Team Leader at our March Executive Board meeting, we have spent considerable time prioritizing our efforts to better support SCBI churches in a day of dwindling Cooperative Program dollars and a reduction of manpower; but, that has not stopped us from continuing to provide excellent resources to our churches.

You may not be aware of it but the Church and Leader Development team is charged with staffing, programming and implementing all of our SCBI Summer Camps. We have had a wonderful camp season! We cannot say enough about the resource that is Highland Lakes Baptist Camp and our partnership with the HLBC Team. Children and Students from all over Indiana have had the opportunity to experience a safe time away to experience Christ in a manner geared for their age and affinity. Thanks to the MANY volunteers that give of their vacation time to assist as leaders in our summer camps. This would not be possible without you! The High Impact Leader Lab (HILL) was once again held in the

spring and pastors from every corner of our state gathered for four days of intense sharpening of their skills to enable them to better lead their congregations toward where God desires them to be.

We also held events such as the Church Security Seminar, Intentional Interim Training, numerous Pastor Search Team Trainings and personalized Leadership Consultations/Trainings.

Going forward, our “Mile Markers 2025” emphasis helps us to focus even more on the specific needs in our Convention without ignoring any of them. In year one of “Mile Markers 2025,” the Church and Leader Development team will highlight Revitalization of our churches.

Many of our SCBI churches have reached a stage where declining effectiveness is the norm – declining baptisms, declining giving, declining influence in the community and declining attendance. Part of the issue is a lack of awareness of a problem. Sadly, some of our churches do not know or are unwilling to admit, that they are in the grips of Death until it is far too late. Personally, I struggle to see how God is glorified when a church dies.

Revitalization is attainable, but it is not easy. Like any disease if it is caught early, the patient is actively involved in treatment and desires success. The best scenario for this to occur is when a local church in partnership with her local association teams up with SCBI and our national convention to fight together. Victory is not assured but it can and does happen. I have been part of too many church closures already. Let the Church and Leader Development Team help you bring Revitalization to your church!

Children’s Ministry

Sarah Bohrer, Director

Pure Girl is a weekend retreat at Highland Lakes Baptist Camp with the purpose of drawing moms, grandmas, mentors and girls closer to one another and closer to God. At Pure Girl 2017 - Brave, Chris Conrades, a pastor’s wife from Richmond, challenged girls and moms to live their lives in a way that reflects Christ, using the story of Esther to remind them that they have been created “for such a time as this.” One mom who had attended Pure Girl with her daughter for five years said, “I consider this time with my daughter sacred. It has been such a great time to spend together

and grow together.”

At **Man Camp** – Lion Chasers, men and boys heard about the story of Benaiah and spent the weekend worshiping and having fun. Rick Porter spoke and Bo Warren led in worship. Dads, grandpas and boys spent the weekend shooting arrows, playing capture the flag and prayer walking.

This year at **Mission Adventure Camp (MAC)** – Incredible Faith, over 200 kids and counselors worshiped and were challenged to be on mission for God by camp pastor Nathan Tripp. MAC is a great opportunity for kids to invite their un-churched friends. One grandma who came as a counselor with her granddaughter said that her granddaughter brought a friend who had never been to church, but was very excited to spend the week at camp. On Wednesday night, she and her granddaughter had the opportunity to lead this little girl to Christ. Throughout the week, we saw several kids accept Christ, many more said that they wanted to share Christ with their friends and family and others said they felt called to be missionaries. A missionary who currently serves in Panama shared what God is doing there and challenged the kids to pray for the people who need to hear about Jesus. Throughout the week, the kids gave an offering of \$550 to help support a local mission in Panama. In 2019 there will be a weekend Mini-MAC for kids who have completed 1st and 2nd grade!

JAM (Jesus, Arts and Music) Camp is different from any other camp we do at SCBI. Many of the kids and students (grades 3-12) who attend come every year and make friendships that last a lifetime. They are given the opportunity to choose from worship arts classes like guitar, keyboard, vocal techniques, drawing, drums, dance, interpretive movement, balloon art puppets and more. These classes are led by talented volunteers from Indiana churches who volunteer their time, talents and passion for the week. One pastor who has attended with kids from his church for several years said that JAM has been very impactful on his church. Students help lead worship at his church. It was a blessing to see his group of 15 kids and students lead in worship at the talent show. One leader said, “This is what JAM is all about! Teaching them and then actually let them do it!” In 2019, we will add a missions track to JAM so that kids and students who are not involved in the arts can find a place at JAM.

The 2018 reports from **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** are beginning

to come in from around the state of Indiana. While the numbers for 2018 are not complete, the trends are showing that VBS in Indiana is in decline. VBS has historically been one of the most evangelistic tools of the church. It is still a very evangelistic tool that can be very effective. Some churches have begun looking at it more creatively by hosting backyard Bible clubs, weekend VBS, spreading it out one day a week throughout the summer or hosting it over fall or spring break.

Women's Missions and Ministry

Allison Kinion, Director

Two **Transformed** women's retreats were held this spring - one in March and one in April. The attendance was strong at both locations. The theme 'Walking Worthy' was based around the Ephesians 4:1-3 passage of scripture. March's retreat was held at First Southern Baptist Church in Clarksville, where Lara Williams served as the keynote speaker and Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin led worship. April's retreat was held at Northside Baptist Church in Indianapolis, where Marian Jordan Ellis served as the keynote speaker and the praise band from Hope Community Church in Brownsburg led worship. There were several salvation and restoration decisions made between the two locations.

Indiana **WMU** saw continued interest in its strategic approach to reach out to churches to encourage intentional missions education/involvement efforts. Our President, Dr. Linda Clark, remains a great encouragement to our state WMU Leadership team and continues to challenge and equip associational leaders. We are actively seeking WMU Leadership representation in four of our associations who currently do not have representation: Northwest, North Central, Wabash Valley and West Central. These Associational leaders:

- advocate for missions education as an avenue for engaging others in mission activities;
- are familiar with WMU and its structure;
- are willing to relate to the churches, pastors and staff in their association in relation to missions education; and
- strive to be visible and involved in their association at associational meetings and gatherings.

On August 11, 2018, the **Missions Lifeline** Conference and Kids

Missions Mini Camp was held. It was another success with around 100 men, women, boys and girls participating in the one-day event held at Calvary Baptist Church in Greenfield. We had multiple missions related breakout conferences for pastors, missions leaders and missions minded people to attend. Kids (birth-6th grade) learned about SBC Missions work with Refugees as they went through the 2019 International Missions Study. We heard from Joel Turner, our International Mission Board missionary in South East Asia, as well as David Creswell, the Clarkston, GA Ministry Center Coordinator with the North American Mission Board. Worship was led by the worship team from Calvary Baptist Church. Participants took part in a Missions Expedition where they walked month by month through the church calendar gaining creative ideas for infusing missions into the life and mission of their local church. We are excited about offering Missions Lifeline again next year on August 10 at Calvary Baptist Church in Greenfield.

Worship Ministry

Steve Blanchard, Worship Coordinator

While serving as Coordinator of Worship Ministries these past 18 years, it has been my overarching goal to see all of our churches across the state served by a competent, inspirational worship leader and worship team. Since most of our churches are led by volunteer or part-time worship leaders, training for them is critical. The worship landscape has changed so much over that time!

A new event that we held this year was a retreat for worship leaders called Unceasing Worship. We took a chance and held it in late February at Highland Lakes Baptist Camp (HLBC). God was gracious to allow decent weather for the weekend. Twenty churches sent their leaders to take part in this event where we provided training in music theory, playing different worship instruments, planning worship, using choirs in worship and supporting worship through sound and projection software. Demonstration worship times were led by the team from First Baptist Church in North Vernon.

A full-week worship arts camp with a long history was targeted toward kids from third grade through senior high graduation. JAM Camp for older children and Super JAM for junior high and senior high students was held simultaneously at HLBC in June. Worship

was led by the Pointe Church Worship Band from Fort Wayne. Besides campers singing in a choir, both camps featured a variety of classes that helped kids and youth learn how to play instruments in a band, plan worship, play drums and rhythm instruments, take photographs using professional quality digital still and video cameras, act in a dramatic skit and paint on canvas. The students responded to worship with joy, excitement and true commitment. At the end of the week, campers for both camps presented what they had experienced for their parents and sponsors. We have truly been blessed by some wonderful leaders who have come back year after year to make JAM Camp and Super JAM a truly special week!

REGIONAL REPORTS

East Region

Steve Blanchard

I began relating to the three associations of the East Region in October of 2017, so much of my priority has been to get to know the pastors of existing churches, learn their stories and hear the needs expressed. Another emphasis has been to deal with churches that were in transition. The following are some of the church health needs I found in each of those three associations:

Eastern Indiana Baptist Association

- I worked with the pastors in the churches in Richmond to think about how they could come together to reach Richmond and Wayne County for Christ. We began a series of lunch meetings to talk about the people who were not being reached in the area. This was a great opportunity for the pastors and associate pastors to come together to deepen relationships and discuss topics such as evangelism, healthy churches, church planting and common mission opportunities. Some of these men had never taken the opportunity to meet with one another before.
- In New Castle, Calvary Baptist Church has been served by a new pastor, Randy Sidwell, following the long tenure of Bobby Slagle. Unfortunately, the physical place of ministry was attacked, not by men in masks, but by bandits of the four-legged variety—raccoons! The raccoons got into the attic of the main building, digging through the ceiling of the

sanctuary and offices and chewing up water heater lines. It was such a mess that the congregation was forced to meet in the fellowship hall. The Association came to the rescue however to help with a grant of \$7,500 to make the necessary repairs so that the congregation could get back into the sanctuary for worship and the offices for continued ministry. These funds were available because a church in Richmond had closed, but the proceeds from a building could be used for such a project.

- Several pastors were able to attend the Midwest Leadership Summit in Springfield, Illinois in January: Dan Conrades and Brandon Doyle, Crosspoint Church, Richmond and Jeremiah Burdon, Western Avenue Baptist Church, Connersville.
- Several churches conducted revival services that had a great impact in their communities.
- First Baptist Church in Knightstown had been having difficulty finding a pastor and maintaining their ministry in the community. According to God's provision however, a church plant in Greenfield Total Restoration Church led by John Maples, had a different challenge. They were growing but had no building in which to meet. The two congregations decided to merge together and meet in Knightstown, led by Pastor Maples. The result has been renewed energy for the combined churches.

South Central Indiana Baptist Association

- I love to see churches work together for a common goal. Sebastian Nicolas is a Hispanic church planter who was seeking to begin another church for people in Seymour; however, they did not have a decent place to meet. Bethel Baptist Church in North Vernon was seeking to help Pastor Sebastian find a place, but they weren't having much luck either. Bethel's pastor, Ricky Persons, brought that need to the church as a matter of prayer. Fortunately, a leader from Bethel owned a business in Seymour that had a training center that they only used from time to time, so he offered to let this new congregation use his building for worship.
- Several pulpits became vacant during the year including Risen Saviour Bible Church in North Vernon, Rising Hope Baptist Church in Nashville and Sprunica Baptist Church in Nashville. I met with each of these churches, preached for them and assisted them with deciding how to search for a new pastor. At the time of the writing of this report, Risen Saviour Bible

Church has called Gary Haines, their Associate Pastor to the senior pastor position. The two Nashville churches have regular pulpit supply or interim pastors in place.

- The association sent a good contingent of leaders to the Midwest Leadership Summit. They included: Don and Beth Morris, Vernon Baptist Church; Kevin Crouch, Rykers Ridge Baptist Church, Madison; Sebastian Nicolas, La Hermosa Bautista, Seymour; Dan DeFriece, Calvary Baptist Church, Seymour; Gustavo Vasquez, El Cavario Bautista, Seymour; Chris Clemans, Brushy Fork Baptist Church, Canaan; and Ezequiel Batista, Hispanic Baptist Mission, Columbus.
- The association has conducted a monthly Leader Lab for church pastors. Each month a different pastor leads the session, which focuses on various aspects of church health and church growth.

Whitewater Baptist Association

- The association conducted an association revival at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Greensburg that was well attended. Jeff Edwards, pastor at First Southern Baptist Church, in Rushville, was the evangelist and Randy Edwards, pastor at Elm Grove Baptist Church in Metamora, was the revival music director.
- Donnie Yates was called to be the pastor at First Southern Baptist Church in Sunman. He also conducted evangelistic Bible studies in Batesville and Greensburg.
- Smyrna Baptist Church in West Harrison provided gloves, hats, socks and underwear for needy children at Brookville and Mt. Carmel Elementary schools as an outreach effort.

Southeast Region

Bobby Cox

The Southeast region is comprised of 63 SCBI churches which in turn constitute the Southeast Indiana Baptist Association, under the capable leadership of Gary Yochum, Associational Coordinator. The leadership continues to actively work on the state of health within the association. At the close of the 2017-18 associational year the churches continued to work on obstacles concerning church health. The leadership is beginning to address those obstacles through four areas of their strategy emphasis:

- The Evangelism Deliverance Team: continues to promote and enhance strategy implementation that encourages every

church in the association to simultaneously promote an effective evangelism strategy within their unique communities.

- The Leadership Deployment Team: has a passion to see the association build leadership effectiveness within the churches that is both unique in training a leadership bench, but diverse in reaching every aspect of their community.
- The Prayer Dependence Team: dependence is the key term that this team believes has propelled and will propel the churches and association to effective victories. As the team builds their strategy for 2018-19, they work upon the celebrations and challenges from 2018. Prayer dependence continues to grow healthy churches.
- Communications Development Team: promotes new network strategies that are essential for the association to stay connected through the technology of the 21st century. The emphasis here is the lubrication that has and will continue to promote the gospel throughout Southeast Association and the entire region. Southeast has seen celebrations in the area of the church planting venue.

In the Southeast region, we continue to make every effort to recruit, develop and deploy church planters into the harvest. There are no Anglo church starts to record in the area since the last report. One new Hispanic work was planted in Charlestown. We have had substantial growth in our current plants. The House of Refuge Community Church in Jeffersonville continues to show marked growth spiritually and numerically. Pastor Michael Dorsey has completed all requirements for funding beginning September 10, 2018. Brother Dorsey says, "The church is growing numerically, having five baptisms." The church is an essential part of that community.

Shea Allen and the Refuge Church continues to grow beyond the bounds of their current building in Charlestown, and they are praying that God will open new opportunities for more space to grow. Shea attributes the growth of the church to the membership in the community. Other plants include River Ridge Church in Jeffersonville with Pastor Patrick Lynch, Redeemer Church in Jeffersonville with Pastor Brad Walker and Empowerment Church in New Albany with Pastor Richard Pimpleton. These are all growing exponentially in their communities. The Hispanic works are exploding in Southeast Association. We currently have three plants and one new plant with First Baptist Church Charlestown

being established this year. Roca de Salvacion in New Albany (CRBC) under Pastor Ugandi Infante had 96 in worship attendance two weeks ago. Praise the Lord!

We continue to place great emphasis on replanting and revitalization in the region and are expecting God to do great things in the coming months in this area of opportunity. Thank you Indiana Baptists for allowing me to serve you as Church Planting Catalyst in the Southeast region.

North Region
Doug Jividen

This year has been a whirlwind across the northern region of our state. God has blessed over and over in our associational Leader Labs. We have seen pastors and leaders come together to discuss impactful topics in helping lead our churches and associations. These gatherings have been a safe place for pastors and leaders to discuss the foundational issues we face in our churches. We have seen in several of our associations men who have stood and facilitated these gatherings in their individual associations. Northwest Association has their titled Pastors Roundtable which is led by their Director of Missions Wes Rankin. This gathering has been very inspirational and informative. We are continuing on with our Leader Labs in the northern region with an emphasis on the association developing leaders to lead these gatherings. It truly is a growing and positive day in Indiana.

This year we once again had a strong group of pastors at our annual High Impact Leader Lab (HILL). We have had tremendous blessings in this one week journey of pastors who desire to invest in their personal leadership. After this intense week of discussion and self-evaluation, we follow with six months of coaching. This has been a strong year across our state in coaching pastors and leaders of our churches because of the unique journey started at HILL.

Finally, it has been a joy to be a part of our associational leadership teams. We have represented our state staff and planting in particular at these meetings. This has been a powerful tie with our associations to partner with SCBI in the desire to reach all of Indiana for Jesus Christ.