

# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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## Table of Contents

- 1 SBC Annual Meeting
- 1 Hands of Hope
- 2 Hands of Hope photo page
- 3 Hands of Hope photo page
- 5 Leo Endel: Perspectives
- 5 Bill Tinsley: Reflections
- 6 Leadership: Clint Calvert
- 7 Intercultural: Na Herr
- 7 Disaster Relief: Ben Seamans
- 9 First Person: Emily Anderson
- 9 Calendar of Events
- 10 Mission gifts from the churches
- 11 Mission gifts from the churches
- 11 Good News from the Associations

## SBC messengers reject amendment on women pastors

Indianapolis (BP) — Southern Baptist messengers failed to reach the required second two-thirds approval for a constitutional amendment which would have defined a cooperating church as one that “affirms, appoints, or employs only men as any kind of pastor or elder as qualified by Scripture.”

The amendment did receive the requisite two-thirds last year in New Orleans, but failed this year on the required second approval. With 8,298 messengers voting in Indianapolis, there were 5,099 ballots (61.45 percent)

in favor. The vote followed approximately 10 minutes of debate from the floor.

The failure to pass the amendment was not a signal of a new direction in the predominant Southern Baptist view of only men being qualified to serve as senior pastors. Some voted against the amendment thinking it went too far by including female staff members whose title includes the word pastor (rather than minister or director). Others felt the amendment was unnecessary because mechanism already exists and has been used to rule out



*In the exhibit hall of the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Indianapolis, Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, finds pastor and wife Philip and Jummai Nache of Hope of Nations Fellowship Church in Bloomington, Minn.*

of fellowship churches with women pastors.

Spence Shelton, lead pastor of Mercy Church in Charlotte, N.C., said Southern Baptists have made clear their collective stance on com-

plementarianism by voting in the two most recent conventions to rule churches out of fellowship for egalitarian views. Those included

See **MEETING** page 4

## Volunteers impact community for the gospel

Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. — Nearly 50 volunteers from churches in Minnesota and Wisconsin gathered at the Church at Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., June 15-21 to work alongside that congregation in impacting their community with the love of Jesus.

Three local churches participated: Church at Wazeecha, River Cities Community Church, and First Baptist Church of Wisconsin Rapids.

Church at Wazeecha’s pastor Trey Turner and Jonathan Lemaster of Emmanuel Baptist



*Volunteers for Hands of Hope gather for a group photo in front of the church sign of their host, Church at Wazeecha, in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. Trey Turner is pastor.*

Church in Rochester, Minn., worked together to coordinate the community service projects and evangelistic outreach events.

Volunteers made repairs to trailer homes, cleaned out an invasive

weed on one end of Lake Wazeecha, and made improvements to homes, two non-profits and the host church through painting, landscaping and tree trimming. They also put on a block party to build

relationships, share the gospel, and connect people from the community with local churches.

See more photos on pages 2 and 3

Read **First Person** by Emily Anderson

**2024 State Missions Offering**

Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention  
mwbc.org

**We will tell the next generation**  
the praise worthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. Psalm 78:4



# Hands of Hope Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. June 15-21, 2024



Volunteers went door to door to let people know what Hands of Hope was about.



A little rain did not stop the climactic block party at the end of the week as volunteers connected with people from the community and looked for opportunities to share the gospel and point them to local churches.



Some loving care to the host church's landscaping improved their "curb appeal."



After tree removal at a home, volunteers neatly stack the logs.



Volunteers put on their masks as they get ready to do some deep cleaning of a thrift store warehouse.



# Hands of Hope Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. June 15-21, 2024



*After a day of cleaning out invasive weeds near the lake, volunteers take a break for a group photo.*



*High branches are trimmed on a tree.*



*Volunteers did painting and landscaping at a local non-profit that ministers to women.*



## MEETING

*continued from page one*

last year's vote regarding the SBC's largest church (Saddleback) as well as this year's vote on one of the SBC's oldest – First Baptist of Alexandria, Va., whose 1803 founding predates the Convention itself.

“We have an effective mechanism,” he said. “It allows us to act with the conviction and unity. . . . We have shown that the mechanisms we currently have are sufficient to deal with this question.”

### Elections marked by runoffs

A crowded field of candidates led to numerous runoff elections in 2024. After two runoffs, North Carolina pastor Clint Pressley was named president. Pressley is senior pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church near Charlotte.

Brad Graves, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Ada, Okla., was named first vice president. Eddie Lopez, senior pastor of FBC en Español, Forney, Texas, won the race for second vice president after one runoff election.

Don Currence, who serves as an administrative pastor and the mayor of Ozark, Mo., was not opposed in the race for registration secretary. Nathan Finn, professor at North Greenville University and teaching pastor at Taylors (S.C.) First Baptist Church, was unopposed in his bid to be re-elected as recording secretary.

### Messengers approve eight resolutions

Messengers were presented with a slate of 10 resolutions but only eight came to the floor of the meeting due to a lack of time for discussion.

Messengers adopted resolutions on the conflict between Israel and Hamas, religious liberty, parental rights, just war theory and in vitro fertilization among other topics.

This year marked the first time messengers were able to preview the resolutions 10 days before the gavel dropped on the first day of the meeting.

### Dozens of motions brought to floor

Messengers presented 50 motions at the 2024 SBC Annual Meeting and acted on several, rejecting calls to abolish the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and censure Southern Baptist leaders and approving the unseating of messengers from FBC Alexandria.

Abolishing an entity requires two successive two-thirds votes of approval. The crowd in the Indiana Convention Center fell well short of that margin on a motion brought by Tom Ascol, pastor of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla., getting an estimated quarter of the vote. Attempts in recent years to abolish the ERLC have failed by bigger margins.

Louis Cook, pastor of Oak City Baptist Church in Oak City, N.C., presented a mo-



*As the SBC annual meeting ended, some Minnesota-Wisconsin attendees gathered for a final meal and fellowship at Panera Bread. From left to right are Paul Springer, Jr., pastor of Northwest Baptist Church in Wauwatosa, Wis.; his wife Melissa; their four children; Mark Millman, director of missions/church planting catalyst for Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association; Leo Endel, executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention; Donna Kay Williams, wife of David Williams (not pictured), editor of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist; and Ernie Elvis Delarosa, church planter in Milwaukee, Wis.*

tion to censure Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President Albert Mohler, Lifeway Christian Resources President Ben Mandrell and then-SBC President Bart Barber in relation to signing an amicus brief in a case of Kentucky-based statute of limitations case. The messengers ultimately overruled the Committee on Order of Business by ruling the motion out of order.

The motion to unseat messengers from First Baptist Church in Alexandria, Va., was brought by Aaron Decker, a messenger from Red Village Church in Madison, Wis. The Credentials Committee followed Decker's motion with a recommendation to deem the church not in friendly cooperation with the SBC based “on the grounds of their public endorsement of egalitarianism.” The messengers' agreement with that recommen-

dation – by a ballot vote of 6,759 to 563 – unseated the church's messengers.

### Most messengers ever in Indiana

More messengers registered for the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention than in either of the two years Indianapolis previously hosted the event, according to the SBC Executive Committee's registration database.

Total messengers were 10,946, compared to 7,277 in 2008 and 8,600 in 2004.

In addition to messengers, 3,132 guests and 2,740 exhibitors registered for the 2024 meeting, bringing total attendance to 16,818. Messengers hailed from all 50 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, representing 3,988 churches.

But messenger registration and church representation were lower than in 2023, when the annual meeting in New Orleans drew 12,781

messengers from 4,423 churches in 48 states, D.C. and Puerto Rico, according to the 2023 SBC Annual.

The 2025 annual meeting is scheduled June 10-11 in Dallas, a city that registered the highest SBC annual meeting participation on record, with the 1985 Dallas meeting drawing 45,519 messengers, according to the 1985 convention annual.

### Iorg tells his 'out-of-retirement' story

Though no stranger to the SBC Annual Meeting platform, Jeff Iorg, newly elected SBC Executive Committee president and CEO, gave his first presentation in the role.

Iorg told messengers he was ready to retire from the presidency of Gateway Seminary and spend more time with family when he

# Something to crow about

Last night I slept in a remote mountain village in Thailand in a community of Karen people originally from the country of Myanmar. The voice of the gospel came to this village community about 50 years ago and now approximately 160 believers are part of this church.



## Perspectives

Leo Endel

nered with this church and our sponsoring church to give away reading glasses, hearing aids, and a broad selection of practical gifts for both adults and kids. The local pastor and

his people were among us bringing their friends in for help and connecting them to a local voice that can continue to lead them towards Jesus.

I worked on the team with the reading glasses and was overwhelmed with the joy I could see in their faces when their eyesight improved. I was so blessed to look into their eyes, person after person, and see their joy.

I woke up a while ago at the cock-a-doo-

dle-doo of the rooster at 5:20 a.m. The sun was just breaking through the mist-filled sky above the mountain jungle. At first, I could barely hear the rooster faithfully singing his wake-up call through the jungle noise. I had woken a couple of times throughout the night and was amazed at how loud the jungle noise was. I estimated that it was at least 30 to 40 decibels.

When I got out of bed, I continued to think about the noisiness of the jungle, and then I stepped over to the back of our building and saw the rooster that I had begun to hear just a few moments earlier. God brought a thought, perhaps an accusation: the world is noisy with life and death lived loudly in the cacophony of voices around us. Like the single voice of



the rooster, the gospel is almost drowned out in the noise and the darkness. It almost appears as if the rooster caused the sun to rise, perhaps he thinks he does! The sun begins to streak the darkness, and in time the sun has fully risen. The darkness has receded and the rooster voices his triumph over all that has happened. His work is done; he has announced the sun.

Like the rooster, we were called and created to declare not just the coming of the day but the glory of the Lord. We proclaim the gospel

and God spells the darkness. Like every rooster is faithful to his task, we too, must be faithful to our calling to announce the coming of the glorious Son, our savior Jesus Christ.

So, we are God's roosters. Be faithful to your calling. You were created to declare God's glory! Get out into the world daily and cock-a-doodle-doo your announcement of the Son, Jesus Christ!

*Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

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## When I'm 64

Paul McCartney wrote the song, "When I'm 64" at the age of 16 and later recorded it in 1966. I have listened to it most of my life. I remember reciting the lyrics in my youth, thinking of the inconceivably ancient age of 64. I assumed by then I would be in a nursing home or dead. "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when



## Reflections

Bill Tinsley

in first grade together in 1953. We have the photos to prove it. While we don't feel old, and still think of ourselves as we once were

I'm 64?" Well, I blew past 64 years ago and, strangely, I don't feel old or anywhere near incapacitated.

Every year I spend several days with some of my childhood friends. Several of us were

in our youth, others apparently think we are old. When we went out to a restaurant together for dinner, the owner took pity on us and gave us a free dessert.

I realize something when I am with my childhood friends. I realize we are all still on the journey. We started this journey together as children in post-World War II. We were the first Baby Boomers. We didn't know what that meant. We just knew there were lots of us. We have journeyed through the Sixties,

Vietnam, Flower Power, the Moon Landing, Watergate, Floppy Disks, the World Wide Web, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Desert Storm, the Dot Com Bust, 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Great Recession and Covid.

Our individual journeys have taken different turns and twists. Two entered the military graduating from West Point and the Air Force Academy, one became a physician, two entered

See 64 page 6



# New Field Instructors Open New Ways to be Equipped

Since 2021, the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention has offered courses in ministry training in partnership with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary via the

Equip Network. Over time, new field instructors joined our Equip Network as they graduated from SEBTS with their doctor of ministry degrees. Pastor Aaron Ramquist brought his passion for missions to the Equip Network. Pastor Aaron Sturgill shared his expertise in preaching while teaching Biblical Exposition II.

Two new field instructors, Charlie Handren and Rebecca Reeves, will join the Equip Network as field instructors this fall. These new

instructors bring more depth and breadth to the program. Each instructor has an area of focus that will enhance our students' experience in preparation for ministry.



**Leadership**  
*Clint Calvert*

Dr. Clint Calvert, MWBC church leadership catalyst, will teach Mentored Internships and Leadership courses. Dr. Charlie Handren, adult ministries pastor of Cross of Glory Church, will teach Biblical Exposition 1 and 2. Dr. Aaron Ramquist, lead pastor of Rock of Hope Church, will teach Christian Missions with opportunities for mission trip participation. Dr. Rebecca Reeves, group scheduling director for Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center, will teach Personal Discipleship and

Disciple-making. Dr. Aaron Sturgill, pastor of Cornerstone Church, will teach Biblical Counseling.

Erik Lee says, "The Equip Network has been able to help provide the knowledge I needed in the ministry. I am not just a number, but I also build relationships with the field instructors on a ministry basis and in my personal life. The Equip Network has instructors who are first-hand in the field. The thing that I love most about Equip is the weekly in-person meeting to teach me the course and also pray for me in the ministry."

Pastor Geoff Luellen shares, "I was ordained and installed as a lead pastor (of Campus Community Church) with the understanding I would need to pursue a seminary education. I have been studying Pastoral Seminary Education through Equip for three se-

mesters and found this to be an excellent fit for my situation. I've found the educators to be top-notch, and the coursework to be challenging, relevant, and immediately applicable to my current pastoral ministry. The schedule is quite manageable for one working full-time with many ministerial responsibilities. I also appreciate the flexibility of available course opportunities that are available also through Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. I would recommend pastoral education through Equip to anyone interested in gaining a quality Seminary education."

Equip courses provide ministry training to both credit-seeking and non-credit-seeking students. Courses are offered every spring, summer, and fall semester and can be applied to degree programs at SEBTS. The MA in Christian Min-

istry [Mentored] (49 hours) can be earned with 24 credit hours in Equip courses and 25 credit hours of online courses with SEBTS. Four Equip courses are being offered in the MWBC via Zoom this fall: Mentored Internships, Bible Exposition I, Christian Missions, Personal Discipleship, and Disciple-Making.

Students who desire graduate credit need to apply to become a student at SEBTS. Students may also take the courses without credit for lifelong learning and ministry skill development. The deadline for course registration for the fall is July 26, 2024. Please contact Clint Calvert at [calvert@mwbc.org](mailto:calvert@mwbc.org) or 507-254-0237 for more information.

*Clint Calvert is church leadership catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## 64

*continued from page five*

business, one became an educator, one became an Episcopal priest, another a Baptist minister. We have different political, economic and religious opinions. But we are still together on the journey.

It reminds me of the words Jesus first spoke to his followers. "Come and follow me." God always invites us to a journey. His invitation is to all of us and His invitation is life-long. The journey never stops. It has valleys and

mountaintops. It leads through sorrow and celebration. It encompasses wonder, worship and war. It includes pain, poverty and prosperity.

Now that I am far past 64, the age our generation has sung about since we were young, I am grateful for the journey. I am grateful for the companions God has given me to travel with. And I am grateful for Jesus who invited me to follow Him when I was young and still leads me when I am old.

"You have been borne by me from birth and

have been carried from the womb. Even to your old age I will be the same, and even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it and I will carry

you" (Isa. 46:3-4).

*Bill Tinsley is a former executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Appearing in various local*

*newspapers around the country, his column "reflects" on current events and life experiences from a faith perspective.*

**Back to the beginning**

# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

## Generational challenges facing the immigrant church

In Ben Trueblood's book, *Within Reach*, he cites statistics that 66 percent of young people stopped attending church regularly between the ages of 18-22. Lifeway



**Intercultural**  
*Na Herr*

Research identified ten predictors of students who stayed in church versus those who dropped out. I will highlight three. Young people who stay in church perform these

three actions consistently:

1. They read the Bible regularly.
2. They are involved in church.
3. They know adults at church who genuinely care for them.

In the immigrant church, young people face the added pressure of language and cultural differences. Even though they live under one roof, parents

and children have very different life experiences. First generation immigrants often want to hold on to what is familiar, particularly cultural values and practices from their country of origin. Second generation immigrants tend to be more Americanized and have little affinity for the cultural values and practices of their parents.

Based on the three Lifeway Research predictors presented earlier, an immigrant church might respond to the problem of young people leaving the church by doing the following.

1. Teach young people to read and love the Bible in the language of their choice, whether it is English or the immigrant language.

2. Give opportunities for young people to serve in the church. Allow them to serve in ministries where a high fluency in the immigrant language and culture is not required, such as running the sound board or teaching a children's English Sunday school class.

3. Be intentional about building relationships with young people. Even though they may have a dif-

ferent cultural perspective from their elders, most young people in immigrant communities still desire affirmation and guidance from their elders.

I encourage all churches to be intentional about reaching the next generation. As I have learned from many children ministry leaders, young people are not only the future of the church . . . they are the church now.

*Na Herr is intercultural catalyst/team facilitator for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## Busy time for disaster relief

It has been a busy month for disaster relief for certain and, as a result, disaster relief is sucking wind, it seems, all over the country.

On Saturday, June 22, tornadoes came across southern Wisconsin doing considerable damage to communities. Of the hardest hit were the city and town of Janesville. Disaster relief volunteers gathered from Resonate Church with Hoyt Lovelace leading the team in efforts to minister to the most affected with priority given to making homes safe. About



**Disaster Relief**  
*Ben Seamans*

18 homes were served. In addition, leadership and encouragement was given to the local fire and police chiefs who were overwhelmed by the storm's effects.

We were blessed to work alongside Sheep Dog Rescue, an organization made up of volunteers from former fire and rescue, EMT and law enforcement personnel.

At the same time, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention disaster relief leaders also were responding with flood recovery to northern Minnesota in the city of Cook in St Louis County. Efforts

are still underway there as 85 homes were under water. Most of our responders were blue cap leaders from both Minnesota and Wisconsin. There are weeks of need for this area, and we are in dire need of our volunteers to respond.

In addition, SBDR National is recruiting volunteer teams from across the country to assist in this effort as well. Among those organizing at the time of this writing are Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia. Many of these states are responding to Iowa, Kentucky and other areas across the country. We are being sought out for assistance by other communities in southern Minnesota for flood recovery as well. The need is great



*Clyde Hamer, Hoyt Lovelace and missionary Jim Millard remove downed trees in Janesville, Wis.*

for our volunteers to recertify and mobilize in our own back yards.

Please pray for the following:

- Volunteers to respond
- Funds to cover the expenses needed
- All affected peoples

and their homes

• Opportunities to share the gospel and love of Jesus

*Ben and Kayla Seamans are co-directors of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## MEETING

*continued from page four*

was approached about seeking the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee.

He put the matter before his wife Ann and their three adult children. His daughter Melody's response helped seal the deal, he said in part 1 of his Executive Committee report to 2024 SBC messengers.

"She said, 'Dad, from the day you moved our family to the West Coast to plant a church, our family has always been about the gospel. And this is your opportunity to minimize the distractions and help Southern Baptists stay focused on what we're really here for.'"

In his address, Iorg acknowledged Southern Baptists face great challenges focusing on God's eternal mission while giving other issues appropriate attention.

"The mission matters most," Iorg said, reciting a phrase he said has helped him stay on track. "This phrase reminds me to prioritize God's eternal mission, while still recognizing other matters need appropriate attention. The mission matters most means other things do matter – but just not as much as some people advocate – and never to the detriment of God's eternal mission."

### **83 missionaries commissioned in IMB sending celebration**

The messengers were moved to joy and tears

as 83 new missionaries were commissioned to go to every affinity of the world where the International Mission Board works today. They represent a collective commitment to the biblical model of getting the gospel to those who have yet to hear through the presence of a missionary, according to IMB.

IMB President Paul Chitwood encouraged the missionaries. "Beside you and behind you are row upon row, thousands of Southern Baptists, here to celebrate with you as you prepare to go to the nations," he said. "As you go out to literally every corner of the earth in pursuit of the lost, may the Lord remind you that always – always – there are Southern Baptists praying fervently for you, and for the gospel to advance."

He reminded missionaries that Southern Baptists are committed to "hold the rope" for the new missionaries in praying, giving and sending others to work alongside them.

### **Thousands hear gospel, many respond**

The North American Mission Board (NAMB) reported that 185 responded to the gospel during Crossover 2024, preceding the annual meeting

Hoosiers heard the gospel during 60 different Crossover events June 3-8 supported by 44 local churches. Roger Kinion, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Greenfield, Ind., gave local leadership and was joined

by NAMB, the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana along with the Crossroads Baptist Association.

NAMB Vice President of Evangelism Tim Dowdy reported more than 1,469 volunteers engaged through Crossover events; 9,211 homes were visited, and 5,393 people heard the gospel.

### **Recommendations approved**

Messengers overwhelmingly approved two recommendations brought forward by the SBC Abuse Reform and Implementation Task Force (ARITF).

The recommendations hand the priorities identified by ARITF over to the SBC Executive Committee to further implement. The move closes a chapter of Southern Baptist life marked by three consecutive annual meetings where new task forces were appointed to make recommendations toward and implement abuse reforms.

Those recommendations were:

- That the messengers of the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention affirm the objectives outlined in the 2024 Report of the Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force, in particular, 1) the expansion of the Ministry Toolkit, 2) the establishment of the Ministry Check website, and 3) the creation of a permanent home for abuse prevention and response, but the Convention does not require the use of any

particular organization outside the Convention's entities or commissions to accomplish these objectives.

- That the messengers of the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention urge the Executive Committee to work earnestly to complete the implementation of these objectives by recommending a structure adequate to support these objectives, by recommending the allocation of funds sufficient for the effective accomplishment of them, and to report back to the messengers to the 2025 SBC Annual Meeting on actions taken in response.

Messengers also adopted six recommendations proposed by the Great Commission Resurgence Evaluation Task Force with one slight amendment during the SBC Annual Meeting's Tuesday evening session June 11.

Recommendation 2, which called for simplifying the Annual Church Profile (ACP), added another point clarifying the request for a church to provide its total amount of Cooperative Program giving.

Messengers also approved four recommendations from the Cooperation Group, which was tasked in 2023 to study the issue of how Article 3 of the SBC Constitution references the Baptist Faith and Message. The recommendations included:

- To ensure that edits

or amendments to The Baptist Faith & Message follow the same process as amendments to the Constitution (two-thirds vote, two consecutive years), we recommend the Executive Committee propose changes to our governing documents for the Convention's consideration at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

- To ensure that the sole authority for seating messengers is vested in the messenger body, we recommend the Executive Committee propose changes to our governing documents for the Convention's consideration at the 2025 Annual Meeting. We also recommend celebrating churches seating messengers for the first time.

- To ensure the fidelity of our trustees to our doctrinal confession, we recommend the Executive Committee propose changes to our governing documents for the Convention's consideration at the 2025 Annual Meeting to require the Committee on Nominations to nominate as entity trustees and standing committee members only those candidates who affirm the Convention's adopted statement of faith.

- To clarify our cooperative unity, we recommend the Executive Committee evaluate the usefulness and accuracy of a public list of churches and report their updates at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

**Back to the beginning**



# Hands of Hope event leaves lasting impact

Each year a group of servant-hearted individuals from various churches across Minnesota and Wisconsin band together for one week

at one location to share the gospel and meet needs in the community.

This year's Hands of Hope

focused on Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., and the host congregation was the Church at Wazeecha.

Although the projects were completed from June 15 through June 21, the impact that they achieved will be long remembered. The volunteers completed projects for The Hannah Center (a nonprofit organization that ministers to women in crisis); an environmental health initiative to control invasive plant species; home improvement projects for elderly residents; window and screening installations along with flooring and roof repair for residents of trailer parks; and much needed landscaping and beautification projects for various ministries and churches in the Wisconsin Rapids community.

Despite the necessary and significant visible improvements and revitalization that was accomplished through the Hands of Hope team, it is the invisible work that was done through those nearly 50 volunteers

that was the most remarkable aspect of their efforts. In addition to carrying out various service projects throughout the week, the Hands of

Hope team brought the gospel of Jesus Christ door to door to Wisconsin Rapids residents.

By faithfully sharing the

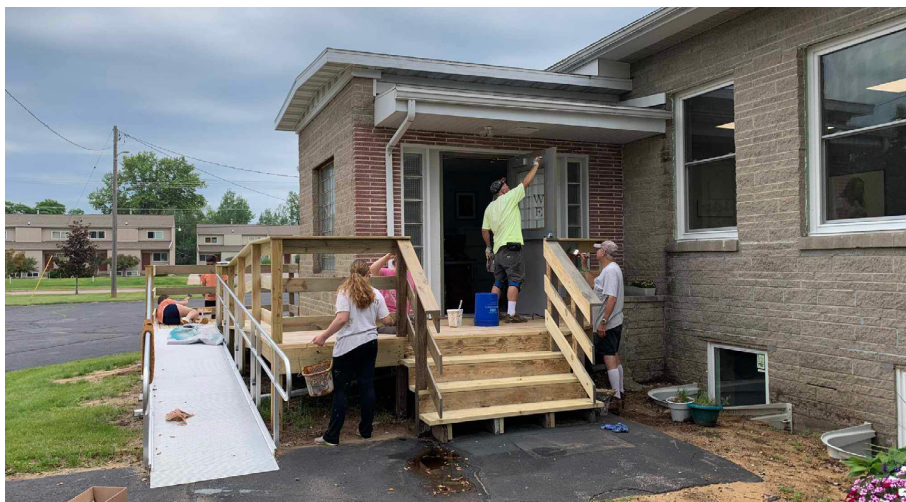
gospel, this year's dedicated Hands of Hope team had more than 70 different conversations all centered on the gospel! That is more than 70 different times that the seed of the gospel was planted or watered in one short week.

Though the outward effects of Hands of Hope can be seen and will be admired for years to come, I cannot help but wonder because of the willingness and dedication of the Hands of Hope team and the work that the Lord did through them, how many souls are closer to personally experiencing and knowing Christ. These invisible yet powerful impressions upon people's minds and souls hold the potential to be catalysts for life-changing surrenders that stretch into eternity.

Unsurprisingly, when I was privileged to hear some of the testimonies of those who were blessed by the Hands of Hope team – through



**First Person**  
*Emily Anderson*



*Hands of Hope volunteers paint and stain the front porch, stairs, and ramp of the Hannah Center, a nonprofit that ministers to women in crisis.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association  
SWBA: Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association  
LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association  
NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association  
SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association  
TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

MWBC events are in bold print.

To have your events included, email them to [davidwilliams@compuserve.com](mailto:davidwilliams@compuserve.com).

### JULY

**1-14 SEA Mission Trip, Thailand**

4 Independence Day Holiday Observance – **MWBC Office Closed**

### AUGUST

### SEPTEMBER

**1-30 Season of Prayer for State Missions**

2 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

**13-14 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.**

**20-22 Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo, Wis.**

### OCTOBER

**24 Church Planters Gathering, Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.**

**25 Pastors Conference, Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.**

**25-26 MWBC Annual Meeting, Valley Baptist Church, Appleton, Wis.**

28-29 Missouri Baptist Annual Meeting, St. Charles Convention Center, St. Charles, Mo.

### NOVEMBER

10-12 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Waco, Texas

28-29 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

### DECEMBER

1-8 Week of Prayer for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

25-1/1 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

**27-1/5 Israel Trip**

See HOPE page 12



# Mission Gifts from the Churches

## MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM/OFFERING RECEIPTS

January - June 2024

Cooperative Program Budget 2024 Year to Date	\$327,521.63
Cooperative Program Receipts 2024 Year to Date	\$307,873.88
Under Budget Year to Date	\$19,647.75

NAME	CP <sup>1</sup>	LMCO <sup>2</sup>
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### BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible	\$250.00	\$0.00
Appleton, Church of the Living Water	\$216.71	\$1,694.25
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Missions	\$581.22	\$100.00
Appleton, Valley	\$37,531.92	\$24,184.00
Clintonville, First Baptist	\$1,277.28	\$1,084.00
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$3,071.01	\$3,180.00
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$21,209.69	\$450.00
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$0.00	\$85.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$1,687.73	\$0.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist	\$1,421.50	\$1,020.00
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,002.06	\$0.00
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$68,249.12</b>	<b>\$31,797.25</b>

### LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist	\$1,734.00	\$330.00
Brookfield, Redemption	\$2,450.00	\$0.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Franklin, El Bethel Baptist	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Amistad Cristiana	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$7,857.67	\$6,266.00
Kenosha, Redeemer Parkside	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$444.43	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Su Presencia	\$195.18	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$5,448.54	\$3,970.00
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$750.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$227.94	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$650.00	\$525.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$150.00	\$100.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish	\$800.00	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministries	\$582.94	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$5,945.77	\$3,861.00
Pewaukee, Crossroads	\$1,708.57	\$0.00
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie Baptist	\$6,914.20	\$0.00
Racine, Hope Community	\$1,002.66	\$0.00
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$42,461.90</b>	<b>\$16,152.00</b>

### NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$578.00	\$0.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe	\$550.00	\$250.00
Crookston, Prairie Community	\$0.00	\$45.95
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Baptist	\$1,230.00	\$120.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist	\$400.00	\$0.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$2,501.30	\$3,050.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist	\$4,108.00	\$1,950.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist	\$3,564.48	\$0.00
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,350.00	\$0.00
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$2,644.02	\$0.00
<b>NWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,925.80</b>	<b>\$5,415.95</b>

NAME	CP <sup>1</sup>	LMCO <sup>2</sup>
<b>TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>		
Amery, Journey	\$5,000.00	\$500.00
Bloomington, Hope of Nations Fellowship	\$482.82	\$595.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean Baptist	\$600.00	\$500.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$5,205.38	\$12,451.43
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$600.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, N Center Lao	\$0.00	\$500.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center Baptist	\$2,585.32	\$610.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$1,250.00	\$800.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist	\$100.00	\$0.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$750.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$600.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Unlock	\$600.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples	\$3,240.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, Jubilee	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$600.00	\$0.00
Monticello, First Baptist	\$0.00	\$560.00
Monticello, Grace Bible	\$500.00	\$0.00
New Hope, Westview	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
New Prague, Calvary	\$12,353.12	\$0.00
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$840.00	\$0.00
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$4,200.00	\$0.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$660.00	\$500.80
Spring Lake Park, Hmong Hope Community	\$500.00	\$500.00
St. Louis Park, First Ukrainian Evang.	\$500.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Cities	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$7,203.60	\$140.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$600.00	\$0.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$3,600.00	\$1,360.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$360.00	\$0.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$1,250.00	\$0.00
<b>TCMBA Total</b>	<b>\$67,680.24</b>	<b>\$19,017.23</b>



Pastors present Leo Endel with a framed resolution of gratitude at the Kingdom Growth Conference in Milwaukee. Left to right are Anthony Burns, Roy Hopgood Jr., Leo Endel, Keith Cogburn, Rodney Bailey, and Marcus Allen. The resolution recognized Endel for his years of ministry, especially as executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention since 2002 and his support of the annual Kingdom Growth Conference as part of his "keen interest in urban Milwaukee and the African-American Pastors Fellowship of the Lakeland Baptist Association."



# Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP <sup>1</sup>	LMCO <sup>2</sup>
<b>SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>		
Boscobel, Blue River Valley	\$798.66	\$276.00
Janesville, Resonate	\$3,256.99	\$0.00
La Crosse, Crossway	\$1,200.00	\$1,009.00
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	\$0.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$900.00	\$100.00
Madison, City on a Hill	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Madison, Doxa	\$13,664.05	\$0.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$4,310.00	\$2,181.00
Madison, Emmanuel	\$388.00	\$0.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$149.00	\$0.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$2,616.00	\$1,052.50
Madison, Midvale Baptist	\$5,712.73	\$1,447.00
Madison, Red Village	\$4,250.00	\$1,945.00
Madison, Shalom Christian Assembly	\$162.00	\$0.00
Monroe, Redemption	\$720.00	\$0.00
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$5,181.60	\$0.00
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$8,700.00	\$7,652.20
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$1,942.07	\$815.75
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$600.00	\$0.00
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ Baptist	\$838.92	\$0.00
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$1,521.56	\$650.90
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$513.84	\$0.00
Tomah, Waterbrook Community	\$0.00	\$500.00
Waterloo, Cornerstone	\$1,100.00	\$1,600.00
Watertown, Watertown Community	\$300.00	\$0.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$1,200.00	\$130.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$2,636.82	\$580.00
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$250.00	\$132.00
<b>SWBA Total</b>	<b>\$73,512.24</b>	<b>\$20,071.35</b>

NAME	CP <sup>1</sup>	LMCO <sup>2</sup>
<b>SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION</b>		
Austin, Austin Baptist	\$2,864.90	\$122.00
Chester, Chester Woods Community	\$912.60	\$986.00
Eyota, Hmong Baptist	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Marshall, Radiant Life	\$1,945.79	\$0.00
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Baptist	\$2,355.67	\$770.00
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$10,141.45	\$2,977.00
Rochester, Northbridge	\$0.00	\$3,014.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$7,125.97	\$0.00
Rochester, Rochester Community Baptist	\$600.00	\$0.00
Sartell, Faith Journey	\$3,574.85	\$0.00
Viola, Viola Bible	\$1,325.89	\$360.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$1,925.00	\$6,100.00
<b>SMNBA Total</b>	<b>\$34,272.12</b>	<b>\$15,829.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$4,250.00	\$0.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$522.46	\$200.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,772.46</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$307,873.88</b>	<b>\$216,765.56</b>

NOTE: No giving received by MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above during stated giving periods

<sup>1</sup> COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING 1/1/24 THROUGH 6/21/24

<sup>2</sup> LOTTIE MOON GIVING 5/1/23 THRU 4/30/24

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

### SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

“In the light of our changing and complex world,” SWBA’s administrative team is working in consultation with attorneys from the Alliance for Defending Freedom to produce a “new and revised edition” of their constitution and bylaws.

At the April meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention Executive Board, members approved a \$10,000 Burress-Littleford grant for Resonate Church of Janesville, Wis.



On June 16, Immanuel Church in Racine, Wis., installed a new pastor, Phillippe Adebile. Pictured with him is (left) Dr. John Draper, the church’s transitional pastor.



**2024 State Missions Offering**

Minnesota Wisconsin Baptist Convention  
mwbc.org

**We will tell the next generation the praise worthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done.**  
Psalm 78:4





Livingstone Baptist Church's college ministry is thriving, according to the annual report submitted by Peter Ko. Twenty students are involved and participating in the program and they engaged 30 students, 25 of whom are international students. During the year, ten students and five non-students made professions of faith. One graduating student is returning to South Korea to receive seminary training and prepare for future ministry. "WE conduct campus evangelism every Thursday," Ko reports. "We believe that sharing the good news of Jesus Christ is the best way to help students who are facing difficulties."



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## HOPE

*continued from page nine*

either the work that was done for them or by having the opportunity to be a part of the team itself – certain words were mentioned repeatedly. Words such as joyful, patient, kind, gracious, sweet, and grateful were the types of descriptors used to define the presence and demeanor of this team.

As I watched every person beam while explaining how blessed they were by the Hands of Hope team, I quickly realized that this year's team was bearing the fruit of the Spirit wherever they went while diligently doing whatever they were instructed to do. They touched people's lives not merely because of what they did, but – arguably much more importantly – because of how they did it.

Therefore, it is with tremendous joy that I would like to thank both the Hands of Hope team for their Christ-like service to this

year's mission's projects and the churches that sent them to be the hands and feet of Christ by exuding His love upon Wisconsin Rapids in immeasurable spades.

Thank you to all the churches who comprised this year's Hands of Hope team: Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis.; Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn.; Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis.; River Cities Community Church in Nekoosa, Wis.; First Baptist Church of Wisconsin Rapids; and Church at Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids. Special "thank you" to Jonathan Lemaister for leading such an extraordinary team!!

*Emily Anderson is a member of Church at Wazeecha in Wisconsin Rapids, Wis. She is a graduate of Baptist College of Florida and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

**Back to the beginning**