

# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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## Empower: Tell the next generation

**By Clint Calvert**  
*MWBC Church  
Leadership Catalyst*

Green Lake, Wis. – Focusing on Empower 2025’s theme, “We Will Tell the Next Generation,” Sandy Wisdom-Martin used her keynote speaking segment to tell five stories and issue five challenges.

Meeting Mar. 7-8 at Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center, 118 adults, 27 youth, 20 children, and 10 infants attended the annual event for a total of 175. There were separate sessions for youth and children.

Featured speakers during the three plenary sessions were Tim Dowdy, vice president of evangelism for the North American Mission Board; Mark

Croston, national director of Black church ministries at Lifeway Christian Resources; and Wisdom-Martin, executive director of national Woman’s Missionary Union.

In addition to the plenary sessions, adults chose from various break-out sessions dealing with topics such as Vacation Bible School, developing missional communities, reaching the next generations, connecting with guests, maximizing church facilities, and developing a culture of evangelism in the local church. Break-out sessions were led by the featured speakers and Charles Dunning, the MWBC KidMin Team, Chris

See **EMPOWER** page 6



Sandy Wisdom-Martin tells a story that leads to a challenge at Empower 2025.

## Search committee update

Rochester, Minn. – Steve Melvin, search committee chairman, says things are progressing toward finding the next executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

“The MWBC executive director search team is progressing through their process and is beginning step 5,” he said, adding, “Your prayers

are appreciated.”

Step 5 involves conducting initial interviews with prospective candidates.

Here are the ten steps the committee is following:

1. Determine MWBC needs and goals
2. Receive resumes and prepare a context

See **SEARCH** page 7

## Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association changes name

Madison, Wis. – As of Jan. 1, 2025, the association based in Madison, Wis., is now named Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association.

The change was approved at the association’s annual meeting last October as leaders recognized their association has extended well past southern Wis-



consin, with member churches in northern Wisconsin and Milwaukee.

“We still respect the other two associations

in the state of Wisconsin, but we acknowledge that God has given us resources to help

See **NAME** page 7

## Endel retirement reception set

Everyone is invited to celebrate the retirement of Dr. Leo Endel during a reception at noon, Saturday, Apr. 26, at the Rochester International Event Center. Endel retires June 30 after 23 years with MWBC. Tickets are \$20 each for lunch (\$5 for children

under 10). Register by Apr. 13 at <https://EndelRetirement.eventbrite.com>.





# Empower 2025

## Mar. 7-8

### Green Lake, Wis.



A crowd of 175 gather for this year's Empower.



The crowd was treated to *The Magic of Andrew and Lynette Baerlocher*, members of Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis. Here, as part of a mind-reading trick, five volunteers perform the song YMCA.



Infants through 5th graders are cared for by trained volunteers during worship and breakout sessions.



Two of the three plenary speakers at Empower pose for a photo between sessions. Left to right are Mark Croston, national director of Black church ministries at Lifeway Christian Resources, and Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union.



Youth attend their own sessions that focused on their identity in Christ.



Andrew and Lynette Baerlocher, members of Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis., perform a magic trick as part of their act at Empower.



Between sessions, Tim Dowdy, center, and his wife Christine visit with Pastor Joseph Young of First Hmong Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minn. Dowdy is vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board and was one of the key plenary speakers at Empower. Young shared at Empower that his church hosted a recent evangelism training using NAMB resources.



# Empower 2025 Mar. 7-8 Green Lake, Wis.



*Sandy Wisdom-Martin explains how to use a special edition of the Gospel of John as a witnessing tool as Rebekah Phillips looks on.*



*Green Lake's Rebecca Reeves presents a picture of Green Lake to Leo Endel in appreciation for his years of partnership with Green Lake Conference Center.*



*Empower leaders and volunteers gather for a group photo at the fireplace in the dining hall of Green Lake Conference Center.*

# What is a servant leader?

What is a servant leader?

Pastor John helps the kitchen committee clean up after the fellowship meal. Does that make him a servant leader?

Elder Mike is kind and encouraging to Cindy who is struggling to prepare for VBS. Does that make him a servant leader?



## Perspectives Leo Endel

Deacon Phil keeps the church finances in an accurate and accountable way. Does that

make him a servant leader?

Sally, the kid's ministry director does all the administrative work and organization of the kids ministry. Does

that make her a servant leader?

Not exactly. Pastor John is humbly serving, but cleaning up isn't leadership; it's service.

Elder Mike is encouraging, but until he helps equip Cindy to work through her challenges he's not leading.

Deacon Phil is certainly serving the church, but administration is not leadership.

Sister Sally is a great administrator but until she identifies, trains

and supervises her teachers, she's a valuable servant but not yet a leader.

So, what does a servant leader do? The short answer is that they do what Jesus did for His disciples.

On the night of the Last Supper Jesus washed His disciples' feet with the clear intent that His disciples would serve one another. He had already taught them that Christian leadership was not about power and status. He had taught them to imitate him by serving His followers. That much, almost everyone understands.

But in this shocking moment, Jesus washed the feet of His disciples as a final moment of teaching, modeling, and of intimacy. This was the graduation ceremony for the first class of the University of Jesus school of leadership development. Jesus had been serving the disci-

ples for three years. He chose twelve disciples whom He could teach, develop and equip for leading His work after He ascended to the father. In short, He served his disciples by developing them into leaders who could make disciples (Mt 28:19).

That's what servant leadership does. Servant leaders develop and serve the people God entrusts to them. Servant leaders prepare people to serve within the Body of Christ to the maximum of their God given potential. Servant leaders "equip the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

In 1 Peter 5, Peter describes the elders (pastors) who are called to elder (lead), pastor (care for) and oversee (manage) the affairs of the church. These, and other church leaders, are called to serve the people of God by moving them on to the mission

of God. They identify, equip and oversee the individual members of the church to serve well at the convergence of their capacity and the mission of God.

Servant leaders serve people by helping them become all that the Father wants them to be. Servant leaders call out the giftedness of the people within the church. They equip the people of God to exercise the gifts God has given and to align their gifts and calling to the Lord's purpose for their lives and into the Kingdom of God.

With sacrificial love and humility servant leaders give part of themselves away to develop leaders. This is servant leadership! This begs the question, are you a servant leader?

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

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist:

- The state paper and official publication of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

- A Christian newsjournal with a focus on Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists – their interests, churches, and partners.

- A digital only publication, the PDF emailed free to all who subscribe and posted on MWBC's website and Facebook page.

- Formatted for letter size paper for those who want to print a copy.

**Leo Endel**  
Executive Director  
endel@mwbc.org  
519 16th St. SE  
Rochester, MN  
55904

**David Williams**  
Editor  
davidwilliams@compuserve.com  
P.O. Box 628  
Liberty, TX 77575

## A healthy heart

Deaths from heart disease have fallen dramatically over the last 50 years.

According to the American Heart Association, "the epidemic increase in heart disease mortality ended in the 1960s or 1970s." Heart-healthy alterna-



## Reflections Bill Tinsley

tives are produced in almost every food category. Restaurants include heart-healthy menus. Smoking has been banned in most public places. Cheerios and oatmeal both claim to help with

a healthy heart. Physicians and non-profits promote diet-and-ex-

ercise.

Nevertheless, both of my wife's brothers died of heart attacks. One brother collapsed in his garden. The other made it to a hospital.

I first read Dr. Kenneth Cooper's book *Aerobics* in 1982. It was a groundbreaking book that opened the eyes of millions to the benefits of aerobic exercise and a healthy diet for a healthy heart. When I visited Brazil,

I was fascinated to find hundreds of Brazilians walking and jogging every morning to get in their "Cooper." The doctor's name had found its way into Portuguese as a synonym for heart-healthy aerobic exercise.

When I followed Cooper's regimen, I experienced the benefits: lost weight, increased strength and stamina. Unfortunately-



# Business as missions

Having led students on several international mission trips, I often encounter

this question: What is the best way to prepare for full-time missionary work? The traditional path is to go to

Bible school and get a theology degree with an emphasis on missions or cross-cultural work. Unfortunately, the majority of unreached

people groups live in countries that do not allow missionaries.

This dilemma requires a different approach to missionary work.

Business as missions is one approach that has received

a lot of attention in recent years. Instead of going into a country as a ministry worker, the missionary goes in as a business entrepreneur.

The business must be real, profitable, and sustainable. Using business as a platform, the missionary is able to stay in the country and work with local churches to spread the gospel. In the marketplace, the missionary has access to people and groups who may never step foot inside a church.

Certainly, business as missions has its challenges. Managing a business is hard work. Often, the business consumes so much time and energy that the missionary barely has

time for actual ministry. In addition, many missionaries lack training in basic business skills. Missionaries are great at preaching the gospel, but they are not as good at balancing the books and managing inventory. Finally, financial supporters of missions want to hear stories about the gospel changing lives, not the profits and losses of a business.

What is the best way for students to prepare for full-time missionary work? Should they get a business or trade degree? Or, should they

get a theology degree?

My recommendation is for students to pursue both. Having both a theology degree and a marketable skill opens up the most opportunities to serve in the most places in the world.

If they had to choose one, they should get a theology degree. Nothing can replace a firm theological foundation when on the mission field.

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



**Intercultural**  
*Na Herr*

## What every pastor needs to get equipped to reach the next generation

I travel extensively in Minnesota and Wisconsin and frequently stop

at Kwik Trip convenience stores for fuel, coffee, and snacks.

A recent advertising campaign for the store's fried

chicken illustrates a generation gap between me and the target audience for the chicken sales. Signs at the curb side promises No Ordinary Chicken ... "chicken with serious rizz" and "chicken that slaps."

More disturbing are the chicken footprint stickers attached to the floor that lead customers to the hot food counter containing fried

chicken. While I love to eat chicken, I don't want to picture the

chicken's final steps from living creature to delicious treat.

Every time I encounter those signs and stickers, I am

reminded that retail stores have to market to a variety of demographic segments. As a Gen X born in 1970, I don't require my chicken to slap or to have serious rizz. I just need the chicken to be cooked to a temperature that makes it safe to eat.

Churches, like Kwik Trips, serve multiple demographics and it makes sense to have a variety of expressions

that communicate with a variety of generations.

This challenge is especially real in preaching. I am currently the interim pastor for Hiawatha Valley Baptist Church in Red Wing, Minn. I have noticed that my stories and illustrations resonate well with Baby Boomers and fellow Gen Xers because we share a cultural memory of the 1970s to the present time.

I have also noticed that the stories and illustrations I frequently use do not connect as well with Millennials, Generation Z, and Generation Alpha. For them, my stories require additional context, and, when provided, they do little to illustrate the point I was trying to make. Many pastors, like me,

face the daunting communication challenge of speaking to six generations present in the same room.

The temptation to relate to all generations puts church leaders in a bind, as they must use terms they do not understand well in ways that do not sound authentic to them. However, the challenge remains for church leaders to determine the best way to communicate effectively with all generations. This is why pastors must equip themselves to reach the next generation.

A great way to get that equipping is by attending the EQUIP NextGen Ministry Conference at Southtown Baptist Church in Bloomington, Minn., Apr. 4-5. Sessions will be 1-9 p.m. on Friday,

Apr. 4, and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Apr. 5.

EQUIP will feature Jeremy Carroll, LifeWay Kids Ministry publishing manager for Hyfi, VBS, and Kids Discipleship resources. Before coming to Lifeway, he served in various church staff positions. He continues to serve each week in the kids' ministry of his church. Jeremy earned a master of arts in Christian education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. A Middle Tennessee native, he and his family live in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

You can register at <https://EQUIP2025.eventbrite.com>. The cost is \$49 per person. Pastors attend for free

## EMPOWER

*continued from page one*

and Rebecca Phillips, and Ward Utterback.

Special thanks to Tia Underbakke, M-W WMU president and Empower coordinator; Cindy Vang, nursery room coordinator; Elee Vang, children's coordinator; Dee Thao and Keng Thao, youth coordinators; Chris Steiner, audio-visual technician; and Na Herr, breakout technician; as well as 20 volunteers who served in various capacities.

In the plenary sessions, Dowdy spoke on Ephesians 6:19-20 with the title "A Prayer Request We Should All Repeat!" Croston spoke on 2 Timothy 4:16-18 with the title "Empowered to Stand with Jesus!"

Wisdom-Martin built her message around five stories and five challenges.

Her first story was about her transporting an 8-foot tall teddy bear in a tiny Fiat car with only seven feet of interior space. Once the large teddy bear was loaded in the car, all people could see was fur pushed up against every window in the car. Sandy challenged the audience to make Christ visible by having Christ pressed up through every window of our souls. "Do everything you can to show people Jesus," she said.

Her second challenge was "to take your place in God's plan." She illustrated this challenge with the story of the or-

igin and impact of the Mississippi River Ministry. Bekah Sewell inspired the highly diverse congregation of First Baptist Church of Beverly Hills to mobilize members to raise funds for clothing and go on a mission trip to Lake Village, Ark. The church was burdened for the impoverished people of the Mississippi Delta. They provided clothes, toiletries, and a Bible for more than 500 elementary school students. Their mission trip encouraged Christian unity among the races of the churches of Lake Village.

Wisdom-Martin's third challenge was to "walk humbly." She sketched the generational impact of missionary Adoniram Judson in present day Myanmar. Judson's first seven years of ministry were without a convert. His son Edward's ministry was characterized by a profound impact on thousands of people. Edward said, "If we succeed without suffering, it is because someone else suffered before us. If we suffer without succeeding it is so others may succeed after us."

Her fourth word of challenge was "to never give up." She told the story of Albert Peake from Mineral Wells, Tex., who grew up as a voracious reader and one who took his faith seriously. As an 18-year-old, Peake was injured

in a Navy diving accident, which left him with significant physical, emotional, and psychological difficulties. For 55 years, he struggled with his injuries and homelessness, but he later graduated from a community college as a refrigeration repair technician. James McCoy, a structural coach, assisted Peake with the routines needed to take his medication and apply himself to a two-year course of study. When a church in Mineral Wells honored all the current graduates, the 500-member congregation erupted with a standing ovation and waves of applause for Peake.

Her last challenge was "to leave the results to God." She described her outreach to a waitress named Brenda who seemed initially receptive. But after sending her a letter and some materials, she was ignored

by Brenda during her next visit to the restaurant. Wisdom-Martin told how God used that incident to help her be abandoned to the will of God and give up control of the results of her ministry.

Wisdom-Martin closed with the words of the poem Gitanjali 50 by Rabindranath Tagore:

*I had gone a-begging from door to door in the village path, when thy golden chariot appeared in the distance like a gorgeous dream and I wondered who was this King of all kings!*

*My hopes rose high and methought my evil days were at an end, and I stood waiting for alms to be given unasked and for wealth scattered on all sides in the dust.*

*The chariot stopped where I stood. Thy glance fell on me and thou camest down with a smile. I felt that the luck of my life had come at last.*

*Then of a sudden thou didst hold out thy right hand and say "What hast thou to give to me?"*

*Ah, what a kingly jest was it to open thy palm to a beggar to beg! I was confused and stood undecided, and then from my wallet I slowly took out the least grain of corn and gave it to thee.*

*But how great my surprise when at the day's end I emptied my bag on the floor to find a least little grain of gold among the poor heap. I bitterly wept and wished that I had had the heart to give to thee my all."*

Wisdom-Martin then asked, "Do you have the heart to give the Father your all? Do everything you can to show people Jesus, take your place in God's plan, walk humbly, never give up, and leave the results to God?"

**Back to the beginning**

Annie Armstrong  
Easter  
Offering

MWBC NAMB FUNDED MISSIONARIES  
STEP INTO THE  
STORY

Enrique Acuña  
Greg Alles  
Haddon Anderson  
Eber Argueta  
Grayson Gilbert  
Leo Gilliam  
Walter Gutierrez  
Jordan Hecox  
Vitalie Huzun  
Jaehyu Lee  
Maxo Maceno  
Jose Mareo  
Andrew Naselli  
Matthew Nnadi  
Richard Red  
Bryan Standerwick  
Jacob Tonak  
Paul Yang

CPCs & Leadership:  
Joshua Whetstone, SEND Church Planting Director  
Mark Millman, Gerardo Antivero, Jonathan Parnell

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association  
 GWBA: Greater Wisconsin Baptist Association  
 LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association  
 NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association  
 SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association  
 TCMB: 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).

### APRIL

**4-5 Equip – NextGen Ministry Conference, Suthtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn.**

18 Good Friday – **MWBC Office Closed**

**25-26 MWBC Executive Board Meeting, Rochester, Minn.**

**26 Leo Endel Retirement Celebration, Rochester, Minn.**

### MAY

1 GWBA Spring Meeting, East Madison Baptist Church

26 Memorial Day Observed – **MWBC Office Closed**

**22 Send Network Multiplication Pipeline Training, Lambeau Field, Green Bay Wis.**

**30 New Pastor Orientation, Rochester, Minn.**

### JUNE

6-11 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Dallas, Texas

**14-21 Guyana Mission Trip**

**TBD Hands of Hope**

### JULY

4 Independence Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

**14-30 SEA Mission Trip - Thailand**

### AUGUST

**2-9 Argentina Mission Trip**

### SEPTEMBER

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

1 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**

**12-13 MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.**

**TBD Called Out Youth Conference, Baraboo, Wis.**

### OCTOBER

**23 Send Network One Day, Cities Church, St. Paul, Minn.**

**24 Pastors Conference, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.**

**24-25 MWBC Annual Meeting, Emmanuel Baptist Church, Rochester, Minn.**

27-28 Missouri Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Branson Hilton Convention Center, Branson, Mo.

### NOVEMBER

16-18 Baptist General Convention of Texas Annual Meeting, Abilene, Texas

27-28 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

### DECEMBER

24-31 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

**27-1/5 Israel Trip**

## SEARCH

*continued from page one*

profile

3. Prayerfully review resumes

4. Send candidates the in-depth questionnaire

5. Conduct initial interviews

6. Check references and hear candidate preach/teach

7. Narrow the field to one candidate

8. Invite the candidate to an 'on the field' interview

9. Invite the candidate to an Executive Board meeting in view of a call

10. Complete the process

**Back to the beginning**

## NAME

*continued from page one*

all Southern Baptist Convention churches throughout the entire state," said Mark Millman, GWBA director of missions/church planting catalyst. "Our mission to plant and develop thriving churches in partnership with the gospel continues as we move forward."

The association's legal name will remain Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association, so checks can still be made out to SWBA, Millman said.

**Back to the beginning**

## EQUIP

*continued from page five*

with paid registrations from their church.

EQUIP will address the needs of those who minister to children, students, and young adults. I will be one of the breakout speakers at EQUIP. My breakout will focus on practical ways of communicating with

all generations while remaining authentic to oneself. I look forward to seeing you there and getting equipped to reach the next generation.

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

**Back to the beginning**



**mwbc.org**

# Pastors share journeys at retreat

Green Lake, Wis. – More than 100 pastors and wives from churches in the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention gathered Feb. 6-8 at Green Lake (Wis.) Conference Center for their annual retreat.

“Sharing the Journey” was the theme of the Pastors and Wives Retreat. The theme verse was Proverbs 27:17, which says, “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.”

Rather than bringing in outside speakers this year, program planners decided to tap local resources, inviting four MWBC pastors to speak to the group, sharing their pastoral journeys through the years: Joseph Young, First Hmong Baptist Church, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Trey Turner,

Church at Wazeecha, Wisconsin, Rapids, Wis.; Larry Griffith, Brown Deer (Wis.) Baptist Church; and Roy Hopgood, Jr., Mount Horeb Baptist Church, Milwaukee.

Mouafu Mouanoutoua, of United Cornerstone Hmong Baptist in Oakdale, Minn., brought his sound equipment for the retreat and also led worship on Thursday evening.

Ben Seamans, MWBC disaster relief catalyst, led worship Friday morning.

The annual retreat is provided without cost (other than getting to the conference center) through gifts through the Cooperative Program and special funding from Texas Baptists’ Mary Hill Davis State Missions Offering.



*Pastors and wives enjoy fellowship and a meal between sessions.*



*Clint Calvert, MWBC leadership catalyst, welcomes the pastors and their wives.*



*The traditional Friday night movie night this year featured *The Forge*, the latest Christian movie from Kendrick Brothers Productions.*

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE ASSOCIATIONS

### GREATER WISCONSIN

During the association’s spring meeting on May 1 at East Madison Baptist Church, Jacob Asmussen of Alliance for Defending Freedom will share how his organization can meet important needs of churches.

A Multiplication Pipeline free training event will take place May 22 at Lambeau Field. To learn more about identifying and training leaders in your

church, register for the event. Trainers include Dr. Jeremy Westbrook, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, and Jim Scott, North American Mission Board’s pathways strategist for the Midwest. Both of these men have planted and pastored churches. NAMB’s online pipeline tool will be presented. A free lunch will be provided from the catering staff of the Green Bay Packers.

Click [here](#) to register.



*Roy Hopgood Jr., pastor of Mount Horeb Baptist Church in Milwaukee, shares his journey as a pastor.*



*Ben Seamans, MWBC disaster relief catalyst, leads worship.*



# Jesus in North Carolina

God has His plans, and He has His purposes (Acts 15:18). We know that His purposes are always good (Psa. 145:17), and so we can trust that His plans are always good (Jer. 29:11) – even when they don't align with our plans (Isa. 55:8–9).

Natural disasters (like hurricanes) are never part of our plans. Immobilizing sickness is never part of our plans. Single-parenting is never part of our plans. Yet, we know that these things are part of the human experience all across the globe – including North Carolina.

Recently I had the opportunity of joining five churches across the Twin Cities on our second mission trip to this part of the world. The purpose of this trip was to join the Baptists on mission disaster relief ministry in serving those whose lives have been turned upside-down as a result of

the recent hurricanes. Just within the past decade, Hurricanes Matthew (2016), Florence (2018), and Helene (2024) have pummeled the state: leveling homes, gutting highways, and claiming

the lives of many. This alone has made North Carolina a targeted destination point for mission trips and relief organizations.

Having experienced the beauty and brokenness of North Carolina in 2024, our local network of churches felt called to return with another team in 2025. Based on our previous experience at Charity Mission Center, we returned with similar plans for how we were going to serve again this year, but (wouldn't you know it?) God had His own plans for this trip (Prov. 19:21).

We planned on a week of rain, but God gave us sunshine instead.



**Guest Column**  
*Jeremiah Knoop*



*Volunteers from five Twin Cities churches work together to build handicap ramps while on mission in North Carolina.*

We planned on rebuilding homes, but God asked us to build handicap ramps instead.

We planned on hosting a sports camp, but God called us to do street evangelism instead.

We planned on investing into real estate, but God planned for us to invest into relationships instead.

We planned on working with a specific missionary couple, but God moved them to a different part of the state!

We planned on worshiping with a specific church, but God directed us somewhere else.

In describing the nature of our trip to others, it was as if we were planning to be on the frontlines, but God called us to support the troops.

It was as if we were planning to serve the food, but God asked us to clean the kitchen.

It was as if we were planning to swing the hammer, but God asked us to organize the workshop.

It was as if we had asked to “go,” but Jesus told us to “stay” (Mark 5:18–20).

We planned our way, but the Lord directed our steps (Prov. 16:9). And, once again, God did more than I could have asked or imagined (Eph. 3:20).

We had the joy of working alongside men (like Ollie) and women (like Pebble) who have devoted their retirement years to serving those in need.

We had the joy of building handicap ramps for individuals with limited mobility (like Ella) who have been waiting for more than three years.

We had the joy of sharing the good news of Jesus to single moms (like Jacqueline) and single dads (like Taylor), to business workers (like Kathy), and to little children (like Cyder and Michael and Tinsley and Wyatt).

We had the joy of gathering with a local church (at Dobson Chapel) on Sunday

where we sang about standing up for Jesus and listened to a message by Pastor Jeffery Barber about what it looks like to love as Christ has loved us.

And I had the joy of experiencing all of this with my son, Aukeem.

If you are prayerfully considering a mission trip opportunity, I highly recommend connecting with Charity Mission Center. Not only is it an affordable mission experience, but you will also have the opportunity to serve alongside some of the most beautiful people in some of the most broken places in our country. It may not be what you expect (or go the way you planned), but, by God's grace, you will see Jesus.

And when you leave, perhaps you might even say, “I think this was the best week of my life” (John, 13 years old).

*Jeremiah Knoop is pastor of North Center Baptist Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn.*



*A mission team from the Twin Cities gathers for a group photo on a North Carolina beach.*

# Mission Gifts from the Churches

## MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION COOPERATIVE PROGRAM/OFFERING RECEIPTS

January - February 2025

Cooperative Program Budget 2025 Year to Date	\$106,837.50
Cooperative Program Receipts 2025 Year to Date	\$122,474.60
Over Budget Year to Date	\$15,637.10

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2024
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### BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amherst, Amherst Bible	\$200.00	\$0.00
Appleton, Living Water	\$28.98	\$0.00
Appleton, Valley	\$13,272.80	\$7,404.89
Clintonville, First Baptist	\$480.08	\$530.00
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$1,530.48	\$355.00
Green Bay, Highland Crest Baptist	\$10,675.13	\$0.00
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$675.69	\$0.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist	\$395.50	\$0.00
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$541.38	\$0.00
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$27,800.04</b>	<b>\$8,289.89</b>

### LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bassett, Westosha Baptist	\$1,095.00	\$20.00
Brown Deer, Brown Deer Baptist	\$0.00	\$1,045.00
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,780.93	\$3,300.00
Kenosha, Redeemer Parkside	\$1,500.00	\$418.00
Milwaukee, Grace Point Community	\$489.06	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Su Presencia	\$101.64	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Jericho Church Without Walls	\$500.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist	\$900.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue Baptist	\$2,107.64	\$1,816.00
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$150.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Milwaukee Arabic	\$15.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$440.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$600.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, Northwest Baptist	\$2,500.00	\$0.00
Milwaukee, UFlourish	\$200.00	\$0.00
Mount Pleasant, I.C.A.R.E. Ministries	\$317.37	\$200.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$800.40	\$1,345.00
Pewaukee, Crossroads	\$824.13	\$0.00
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie Baptist	\$0.00	\$2,545.00
Racine, Hope Community	\$839.32	\$390.00
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$16,360.49</b>	<b>\$11,079.00</b>

### NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist	\$371.00	\$0.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe	\$2,750.00	\$0.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Baptist	\$450.00	\$50.00
Hill City, Hill City Baptist	\$200.00	\$0.00
New York Mills, Grace Connection	\$532.00	\$0.00
Pequot Lakes, Eagles Nest	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist	\$941.00	\$1,876.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist	\$785.70	\$0.00
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,201.78	\$0.00
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$1,255.00	\$0.00
<b>NWBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,486.48</b>	<b>\$4,926.00</b>

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2024
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### TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Amery, Journey Church	\$5,000.00	\$500.00
Bloomington, MN Kangnam Korean Baptist	\$200.00	\$0.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$1,700.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$300.00	\$0.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center Baptist	\$1,439.17	\$65.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center Lao	\$0.00	\$800.00
Eagan, Eurasia Baptist Church	\$300.00	\$0.00
Lino Lakes MN, Bethel Moldovian Baptist	\$300.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Northwood	\$200.00	\$0.00
Maple Grove, Unlock	\$200.00	\$0.00
Minneapolis, All Peoples	\$1,080.00	\$0.00
Minnetonka, Redeemer Bible	\$300.00	\$0.00
Monticello, Grace Bible	\$250.00	\$0.00
New Prague, Calvary	\$4,081.57	\$800.00
North St. Paul - Eternal Life Hmong	\$416.66	\$0.00
Oakdale, United Cornerstone Hmong Baptist	\$0.00	\$160.76
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$800.00	\$0.00
Roseville, Twin City Hmong	\$0.00	\$450.00
Sartell, Faith Journey	\$1,807.88	\$0.00
Spring Lake Park, Hmong Hope Community	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
St. Cloud, Calvary Community	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
St. Michael, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Cities	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$1,282.00	\$20.00
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$300.00	\$0.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$120.00	\$0.00
White Bear Lake, Emmaus	\$500.00	\$0.00
White Bear Lake, Faith Fellowship	\$2,880.00	\$0.00
<b>TCMBA TOTAL</b>	<b>\$37,657.28</b>	<b>\$5,295.76</b>





# Mission Gifts from the Churches

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2024
<b>GREATER WISCONSIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION</b>		
La Crosse, New Hope	\$600.00	\$0.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$300.00	\$0.00
Madison, Doxa	\$3,240.00	\$0.00
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$1,427.00	\$2,080.00
Madison, Emmanuel Church	\$182.00	\$0.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$451.45	\$0.00
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$819.00	\$310.00
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$799.50	\$1,870.00
Madison, Shalom Christian Assembly	\$500.00	\$0.00
Minocqua, Cornerstone Church of the Northwoods	\$0.00	\$50.00
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$3,133.32	\$0.00
Sparta, Gospel Baptist	\$579.69	\$1,468.35
Sun Prairie, Christ Fellowship	\$200.00	\$0.00
Sun Prairie, Reborn in Christ Baptist	\$453.93	\$0.00
Sun Prairie, Transformation	\$792.13	\$0.00
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$430.78	\$0.00
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$400.00	\$0.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$435.36	\$875.00
WI Rapids, First Baptist	\$150.00	\$10.00
<b>GWBA Total</b>	<b>\$14,894.16</b>	<b>\$6,663.35</b>

NAME	CP YTD	SMO 2024
<b>SOUTHERN MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION</b>		
Austin, Austin Baptist	\$453.20	\$0.00
Eyota, Hmong Baptist	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Marshall, Radiant Life	\$709.57	\$140.00
Red Wing, Hiawatha Valley Baptist	\$0.00	\$420.00
Rochester, Chester Woods Community	\$180.10	\$1,030.00
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$3,652.23	\$2,594.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$10,620.29	\$0.00
Rochester, Rochester Community Baptist	\$100.00	\$0.00
Sauke Rapid, Harvest en Espanol	\$0.00	\$412.00
Viola, Viola Bible	\$122.50	\$0.00
<b>SMNBA Total</b>	<b>\$15,837.89</b>	<b>\$5,596.00</b>
<b>OTHER</b>		
Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$850.00	\$0.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ	\$588.26	\$0.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,438.26</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	<b>\$122,474.60</b>	<b>\$41,850.00</b>

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

## HEART

*continued from page four*

ly, I have not always followed those disciplines, and it shows. Developing a healthy heart requires more than knowledge.

As important as it is to maintain a healthy heart physically, it is even more important for us to develop a healthy heart spiritually. The Bible clearly sets forth the disciplines and characteristics of a healthy spiritual heart. They include gratitude, hope, forgiveness and love. If we discipline ourselves to be grateful every day for what God has done, if we hope when things look hopeless, if we forgive those who injure us, if we love those of other nationalities, ethnicities and languages, like the Good Samaritan did, we will have a healthy heart.

But, like our physical heart, having a spiritually healthy heart requires more than knowledge. We may know that we need to be grateful, hopeful, forgiving and loving. But how do you create heartfelt gratitude, hope, forgiveness and love?

In the spiritual realm, this requires a spiritual heart transplant. God must create a new heart within us, something that He is more than willing to do.

We are all born with spiritual heart disease. Jeremiah says, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9). But later he writes, “I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the Lord; and they will be My people, and I will be their God” (Jer. 24:7). And in Ezekiel He says, “Moreover, I will

give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh” (Ezek. 36:26).

God sent His son Jesus so that He might create in us a healthy heart. He changes the heart that has grown callous, bitter and resentful into one that overflows in gratitude. Someday our physical heart will beat its last beat and our bodies will die. But the spiritually healthy heart that God creates will live forever.

*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**



**NextGen Ministry Conference**  
Ephesians 4:12

**April 4-5, 2025**  
**Southtown Baptist Church**  
Bloomington, MN

This conference is for all leaders & volunteers in Children and Youth Ministries. It will be a time of encouragement, equipping, community, and fun. Make plans to bring everyone who works with the youth and children's ministries.



**Special Guest**  
**Jeremy Carroll**  
Lifeway Kids Ministry Publishing Manager for Hyfl, VBS, and Kids Discipleship resources

**Price: \$29 until 12/31/2024**  
**\$39 01/01/2024–3/15/2025**  
**\$49 after 3/15/2025**

Senior Pastor may attend free with a paid registration from their church.

**Registration now open!**



If you have any questions, please ask on Facebook @ MWBC KidMin Community or call Penny @ 218-340-0862

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# STEP INTO THE STORY



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