

*From the desk of Dennis Holmes, Associational Missionary*



For the past several years, “Partners in the Gospel” has been the prominent theme for the Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati (BAGC). While some may think this expression is lackluster, over-used, or time-worn, as far as I am concerned, it best identifies the purpose and relevancy of an association of churches. BAGC churches are indeed partners in the gospel working together to reach the unreached in our metropolitan area for Jesus Christ. And not a day goes by that I am not thankful for our partnership in the gospel (Philippians 1:5).

The expression also describes our relationship with the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio, the North American Mission Board, and through the Cooperative Program and special mission offerings, with all other entities of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). As you are well aware, the BAGC missionary staff has been and continues to be comprised of jointly funded missionaries.

In 2012 the “Partners in the Gospel” theme will take on an even greater dimension. Our partnerships will be expanded to include the Tennessee Baptist Convention, the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and, through the Send Cincinnati city coalition, pastors and churches from some other states. Why all this attention on Greater Cincinnati? It may have something to do with the fact that in our area, the SBC church to population ratio is about 1 church for every 16,000 people while in states like Tennessee and South Carolina, it is about 1 church for every 2,000 people.

Some key weeks on the 2012 calendar are February 20-24 and July 16-20. In February we are hosting a “vision tour”, primarily with Tennessee mission leaders, but also to include other potential partners. This is shaping up to be a week of driving through nine distinct regions of the Greater Cincinnati area to show those who will be visiting the needs for ministry and new work. No doubt the tour will include a drive around BAGC churches and the communities surrounding them. This effort, however, also involves the partner associations of Ohio Valley, Southwestern, and Southern Hills Baptist Associations. We have defined and mapped the Send Cincinnati area and it includes four associations and a total of 75 existing churches and church plants. The July week is designated as a “prayer blitz”. Tennessee Baptists are planning to send at least 100 people to Cincinnati to prayerwalk the streets that we assign. This will be a week of focused attention on areas in need of expanded ministry and new work.

All of the churches of the BAGC will have the opportunity to benefit from these new partnerships. Oliver Hawkins has already sent forms to pastors to be used for requesting ministry assistance. From everything that I can see, these new partners have a sincere desire to send mission teams and sponsor ministry activities and new work in our region. They want to be used by God, so let’s help them get placed to be used for God’s glory!



As I think of these partners, I know they will be arriving from the south and will be seeing Cincinnati from the “cut in the hill”. When I come into Cincinnati from that direction, I always think of the last time Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives. The Bible says he looked down on the city and wept, because the people did not know the things that made for peace. May we and all our Southern Baptist partners have the eyes of Jesus and make known the gospel of peace. Indeed, we are “partners in the gospel”.

## Evangelism Ministry - Oliver Hawkins



### Partnering together in 2011 and looking forward to 2012!

The Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati logo states that we are “Partners in the Gospel.” I like that logo since it is a good short description of what we need to be about. As I reflect on another year gone by it is evident that together we can do a lot. In 2011 there were many examples of how we partnered together and saw great things happen. There were new church plants that got a start as a result of many churches working together. Some of these churches were helped and are still being supported in many ways by established churches. Grace Nepali Baptist church started meeting in the spring with a handful of believers and now this new church meets each Sunday afternoon at Creek Road Baptist Church with over sixty in attendance. Many churches have helped this young congregation and God has blessed the efforts. Other church plants have been assisted in different ways. The annual PowerPlant project helped five church plants. First Baptist Mason has been a great partner for this project allowing the students to stay in their building. The Race for Hunger is an event that would not be possible without the help of churches working together. Fellowship Baptist had over fifty volunteers help make the race a success. This year’s race raised almost six thousand dollars for hunger ministry. These funds will help the new Bhutanese church reach out to those in need as more refugees come to Cincinnati. We were also able to partner with two church plants Compass Community church and Red Door Church to help families with Thanksgiving meals. Compass Community helped over four hundred families with needed food. This news paper article tells the story well. [Article: http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20111111/NEWS01/111120301/School-s-story-inspires-Thanksgiving-feast?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|communities|s](http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20111111/NEWS01/111120301/School-s-story-inspires-Thanksgiving-feast?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|communities|s)

World Changers is another example of our partnership in 2011 that resulted in many happy homeowners, over twenty-five opportunities to share the gospel and two individuals saved. Without your help World Changers would not be possible. Our block party trailers are a great tool for everyone to use and without the partnership we have we would not be able to have these great tools. In 2011 there were 171 events where the trailers were used. For 2012 we will have a new game that I think is going to be a big hit at many events. It is a “monster obstacle course” and will offer loads of fun for any event. The block party trailers are not a budgeted item but because of the user fee churches pay the trailers can be maintained and upgraded. For 2012 World Changers, PowerPlant and the Race for Hunger will again offer opportunities to partner together. We are also looking for new ways to partner. The World Choir games are coming to Cincinnati in July. We are looking at ways to volunteer and help with this event. The new partnership we have with Tennessee Baptist will offer new opportunities with a



vision trip planned for February and a prayer blitz planned for July. Some Tennessee volunteer groups are making plans to come to Cincinnati to help our churches with VBS and other events this summer while many more will make plans to come in 2013. Contacts with the Cincinnati Bengals Chaplin could lead to youth events for 2012 at which Bengal players may be available to speak. The North American Mission Boards evangelism initiative God’s Plan for Sharing GPS will emphasize big events in a campaign called “Reaching across North America.” In 2010 we participated in the “Across North America” campaign which seemed to give a boost to many churches. Initial plans for a 2013 On Mission Celebration (OMC) are being made. Our last OMC was in the fall of 2008. Finally Send Cincinnati will offer even greater opportunities for our Association of churches to reach Greater Cincinnati with the gospel as more volunteers come to Cincinnati. I am looking forward to a great year working together with you.

## Collegiate Ministries - Ken Dillard



As you read this newsletter it will be January and the Winter Quarter at UC will be in full swing. We started back to classes on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and everyone is running around the campus all bundled with big jackets, ear muffs, and a variety of winter gear. They come back from the holidays prepared for fighting off the cold of January and February. But will they come back prepared for the icy cold reality of temptations that confront every college student?...

That's why Collegiate Ministry is here on the campuses of UC and reaching onto other campuses in greater Cincinnati. Armed with an army of warm smiles, gallons of hot chocolate, and a variety of opportunities to talk about the things of life that really matter, we go on the campus every day with the Gospel of salvation that can change hearts and lives. We spent the Fall Quarter investing into the spiritual foundations of our students. This quarter we will be doing evangelism training with at least 25 of our student leaders. Our goal is to boldly go into every corner of campus, everywhere that our students' daily paths take them, armed with a fresh excitement and commitment to see friends come into the Kingdom of God.

This is where we could really use your prayers in very specific ways for the next couple of months. Pray for our staff as we pour into willing hearts a passion for the spread of the Gospel. Kim, Erica, Aaron, Mike, Uko, and myself very much rely on the strength your prayers give us. (2) Pray for our student leaders to hunger to be His witnesses in their "Jerusalem" of campus life. It takes a bold heart to talk to your friends, co-workers, and even faculty about the most important thing of life. (3) Pray that the Holy Spirit go before us and open the hearts and minds of the campus community to a fresh moving of the saving, life-giving power of Jesus. Hearts that hunger and thirst after the bread of life and the living water are what we desire.

Fifty three years ago you decided the hearts of college students needed a Savior and provided a ministry to reach and teach them. Today the need is greater than it has ever been. Join us every day on our knees for students and the university communities.



### COMING IN MARCH —VBS INSTITUTE—HIGHLAND AVE BC

March 9, 2012 - 5:00pm - March 10, 2012 - 3:30pm

Registration is open January 3 through February 29 and the cost is \$10.00 per person (lunch is included). The On Site Registration cost is \$15.00 and does **not** include lunch

The Vacation Bible School Institute is coming to Columbus! Join us for a fun filled adventure, learning how to make VBS 2012 a great evangelistic experience. The theme for LifeWay VBS 2012 is

Amazing Wonders: Aviation. You don't want to miss out on the tips and training that will be offered at this event. And we can't forget to mention that Jeff Slaughter will be joining us again this year to teach us the songs that he wrote to go along with the Amazing Wonders theme!

Attractions include: A Full LifeWay VBS Store. Acc-u-cut, Door Prizes, Open House 5:00pm-7:00pm Friday Night, Core Classes, Electives, VBS Musical

#### Friday

5:00-7:00pm - Check-in/Registration  
 5:00-7:00pm - Open House  
 7:00-8:30pm - General Assembly w/Worship Rally & Jeff Slaughter  
 8:30-9:00pm - Bookstore Only

#### Saturday

7:30-9:00am - Check-in/Registration  
 8:00-8:25am - General Session w/mini worship  
 8:35-10:30am - Breakout Session 1  
 10:40-11:50am - Breakout Session 2  
 12:00-1:00pm - Lunch  
 1:10-2:20pm - Breakout Session 3  
 2:30-3:30pm - Breakout Session 4  
 3:30-4:00pm - Bookstore Open

Please contact Wendy Hammock with any questions by phone or email at: 614-827-1826, [wehammock@scbo.org](mailto:wehammock@scbo.org).

New  
Address

**Baptist Association of Greater Cincinnati**  
**270 Northland Blvd, Suite 214**  
**Cincinnati OH 45246-3653**  
 (513)761-1151

Dennis Holmes, Associational Missionary  
 Linda Ensor, Ministry Assistant  
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## State Convention of Baptists in Ohio

[www.scbo.org](http://www.scbo.org)

### JANUARY

14-16 Youth Winter Retreat, Seneca Lake  
 24-26 North Central States Rally, Indianapolis IN  
 27-28 Worship 4:24, Cedarville  
 31 Mission Council

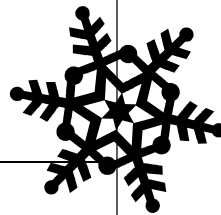
### FEBRUARY

17-18 All Star Sunday School Training,  
 Indian Trail NC  
 25 Mission Roundtable,  
 Spring Hill BC 9-4:00

**MOMENTUM**  
 ACCELERATING CHURCHES AND LEADERS

**MARCH 20—9:15am-9:00pm**

Lifepoint Church  
 7719 Graphics Way  
 B-Lewis Center, OH 43035



## BAGC DATES:

### ALT MEETING

(Administrative Leadership Team)

January 12 @ 10:00 a.m.  
 260 Northland Blvd Suite 233

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### TAX SEMINAR

January 12 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 270 Northland Blvd Suite 312

Meal Provided

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### MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

January 17 & February 21 @ 10:30 a.m.  
 270 Northland Blvd Suite 312

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### OMLT MEETING

(On Mission Leadership Team)

February 7 @ 10:00 a.m.  
 260 Northland Blvd Suite 233

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### HARVEST COUNCIL – January 30

CANCELLED

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**FOCUS** articles due February 6

## Church Contributions January-November 2011

Amelia	\$4,405.33	Iglesia Casa de Dios	\$0.00	Origins	\$1,100.00
Anderson Hills	\$650.00	Impact	\$51.00	Passage	\$1,267.00
Bethel Unity	\$1,187.08	Korean Cinti	\$400.00	Power Korean	\$1,200.00
Christ the King Church	\$1,890.00	Lakota Hills	\$13,128.96	Providence	\$1,875.00
Church/Holy Trinity	\$0.00	Liberty Heights	\$1,125.00	Reading	\$1,090.00
Compass	\$500.00	Loveland	\$2,418.38	Red Door	\$352.00
Creek Road	\$4,866.64	Mason	\$15,806.11	Saving Grace	\$0.00
Dent	\$4,756.48	Maud	\$1,223.84	Sharon	\$1,314.21
Eastern Hills	\$157.59	Miamitown	\$300.00	SonRise	\$1,367.90
Fellowship	\$21,681.76	Mt. Carmel	\$16,500.00	Springdale	\$1,150.00
Good News	\$300.00	Mt. Healthy	\$9,983.73	The Bridge Cinti	\$656.00
Grace Nepali	\$0.00	Mt. Repose	\$4,586.27	The Bridge Oxford/West	\$0.00
Harrison	\$3,019.82	New Hope	\$1,100.00	Trinity	\$1,695.95
Heritage	\$1,035.00	Newtown	\$4,902.59	Urban Hills	\$150.00
Iglesia Alfa Y Omega	\$355.00	N Dearborn	\$803.17	<i>Partners in the Gospel</i>	<i>\$130,351.81</i>