

Oldham-Trimble Baptist Association

Twenty-two Baptist churches
and two church plants
serving the Oldham-Trimble area

the CALL

www.otba-ky.com

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March 31, 2008

REFLECTIONS BELECTIONS

—from rick

Prison Perspective

This year an anticipated 700,000 prisoners will be released from U.S. prisons—an unregimented army 3 times the size of the U. S. Marine Corps.

So ill-prepared for return to society are most of these that within 3 years, 2/3 of them will be rearrested and 1/2 will be returned to prison.

There are better ways of preparing inmates for return to society. The University of Pennsylvania, in a 2003 study, documented that Prison Fellowship's InnerChange Freedom Initiative (IFI) had only 8% of IFI graduates re-incarcerated within 2 years of their release. (Prison Fellowship is the international Christian prison ministry founded by Chuck Colson.) That's 2 1/2 times better than the study's closest control group!

Congressional leaders have finally recognized this and similar data and on Mar. 11 passed the Second Chance Act through the Senate. It is now on the President's desk for his signature.

With it comes grant funding for state and local governments to refocus their prisons on reentry—drug treatment, family reunification, mentoring, etc. Also included are grant monies for community groups and churches to enlist and train mentors to match with exiting ex-offenders.

I'm grateful for Christian folks who are doing their part to help along these lines. Craig Kidwell and others involved with Crestwood Baptist's prison ministries are championing the identification of mentors to work with exiting inmates.

I was glad to be able to point one of our church members who has a deep concern for ex-offenders to Craig. They have begun exploring the possibilities of working together.

Suzanne McElwain-Seabold, a former chaplain at Luther Luckett, a state correction facility here at LaGrange, heads up Prodigal Ministries, a faith-based halfway house ministry for the formerly incarcerated. In addition to units in Louisville, they have a home for women in Crestwood and another for men nearing completion in Buckner.

Volunteers from Buckner and Crestwood have been assisting in putting the finishing touches on the latter. The ministry has also been a recipient of a grant from our Eliza Broadus State Mission Offering.

(continued, bottom of next column)

Salazar Mission Trip Scholarships Available Now

Funds are still available for volunteers who need additional support in order to go on international missions trips through the Luis & Raquel Salazar Trust for International Missions. But applications need to be sent soon.

Applications are reviewed and decisions made by an elected selection committee. Forms are due 4 months in advance of trip departure. Funds allocated will not exceed 50% of trip costs.

Applicants may call the OTBA office for more specifics or to request an application form.

Celebration Event May 17

The Salazar Mission Fund Committee is overseeing a capital fundraising campaign at present. Victory goal for the campaign is \$50,000, with a Challenge Goal of \$70,000. The campaign will conclude with a **Celebration Event** scheduled for **Saturday, May 17**, at Ballardsville Baptist's Family Life Center. The dinner will begin at 6:00.

Tickets for the Celebration Event will cost \$25.00 per person. Baptist Hospital Northeast has graciously agreed to fund the dinner. (Many thanks to BHNE and Director Dennis Johnson!) So, all ticket proceeds will send more volunteers on mission.

Tickets must be purchased by **Apr. 25**. Call or email the OTBA office to reserve your seats.

In addition to hearing final results of the campaign, there will be missions testimonies from several recipients of Salazar Fund scholarships in 2007, and a "roast" of your Director of Missions.



Usually there's little lack of volunteers to work with inmates inside a prison. However, the need is great for the church to direct resources—volunteers, funds, job opportunities, training, housing, etc.—towards those recently or about to be released.

An army is coming! Will they be released armed with the gospel, a new view of the world and their role in it, and with a community to welcome them to a new way of life?

The church—and you—can make a huge difference in their lives when we are faithful to the gospel and God's call to vital servant ministry!

OTBA Spring Meeting and Mission Rally

5:30—Missions Fair

Network with 18-20 presenters. Learn about local, state and international missions.

6:30—Business Session

Take part in what must rank as one of the briefest Baptist business meetings you'll ever attend.

7:00—Missions Rally

Hear missions testimonies. Brad and Cassie White, recently returned from Peru, will be keynote speakers. Brad was the founding pastor of New Dawn Church (Iglesia Bautista Nuevo Amanecer) before going to work with an unreached people group in the Andes. At the conclusion there will be a commissioning/recognition of all volunteers who will go or have gone on mission in 2008.

(Refreshments will be available during the Missions Fair. Childcare will be provided during the business session and missions rally.)

Other Upcoming OTBA Meetings

Good News Homes Board
April 9, noon, at GNH Offices

Infant/Child Resource Center
April 17, 7pm, at GNH Offices

Central Region Hispanic Ministry Mission Action Team
April 17, 7pm, at the Baptist Ministry Center, Ballardsville

Youth Workers Fellowship
April 21, 7 pm, at the Baptist Ministry Center, Ballardsville

KBC Event for Your Church...

Assimilation Tour 2008 8 Events/8 Cities

Nearest us is...

Mt. Washington Baptist Church
320 No. Bardstown Road
Mt. Washington, KY
April 22, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

To help your church involve and retain those you touch through church outreach.

Go to www.kybaptist.org for more info.

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Rick Lucas, Director of Missions
4901 So. Hwy 53
Crestwood, KY 40014

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**Treasurer's
Report
Mar. 31, 2008**

Sep. 1, 2007 –Mar. 31, 2008

Church Income:

Antioch -----	\$60.92
Ballardsville -----	4,489.57
Bedford -----	3,791.62
Beulah Land -----	464.62
Buckner -----	1,404.07
Centerfield -----	0.00
Corn Creek -----	167.30
Covington -----	1,583.03
Crestwood -----	7,500.00
DeHaven -----	3,063.85
Eighteen Mile -----	400.82
Harrods Creek -----	1,212.03
LaGrange -----	13,019.30
LaGrange Heights -----	0.00
Liberty -----	120.00
Milton -----	3,750.00
Pleasant View -----	100.00
Poplar Ridge -----	1,000.00
Providence -----	696.51
Sligo -----	2,600.64
Union Grove -----	180.00
<u>Westport -----</u>	<u>5,906.51</u>

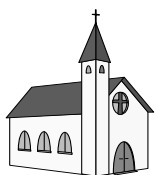
Total Church Income ----- 51,510.79

Undesignated Indiv. Gift -----300.00
Total Undes'd Receipts -----51,810.79

Summary

Total Balance, 3/31/08 ----	\$39,993.84
Designated Funds -----	6,794.48
Undesignated Balance -----	\$33,199.36

This reflects payments received and deposited on March 31, 2008.



**AMONG THE
CHURCHES**

Please pray for BALLARDSVILLE, CRESTWOOD, PROVIDENCE, and UNION GROVE churches as they seek pastors.

BALLARDSVILLE has called as minister to children Gigi Wheeler, daughter to missionaries to the Phillipines. She and husband David have three children. Nineteen Honduras team members were involved in building a church building in an unchurched area where they also built 10 houses for families in need. Additionally, they conducted 3 Bible schools and adult evangelism, seeing 44 youth make professions of faith and 6 adults.

BEDFORD voted Mar. 30 to build an 11,000 square foot family life center, including 4 classrooms for educational space.

BUCKNER pastor Lynn Traylor took part in the adult Kentucky Changers project at Cedarmore Assembly. Also, Buckner member Abby Borders recently went on mission to the Czech Republic.

COVINGTON Evert Staib began serving as pastor on Easter Sunday. Formerly pastor at Antioch, Evert and wife Gini had returned to their native Missouri after his study at Boyce. He has returned to pursue a Masters degree at SBTS. CRESTWOOD and BUCKNER volunteers worked this last month to help Prodigal Ministries complete a half-way house in Buckner for paroling offenders.

DEHAVEN has called Linda Sargent to serve as Minister of Children.

POPLAR RIDGE pastor's son Jamie Limato is heading up a church plant in Norfolk, VA on the campus of Old Dominion Univ. Directors for the church planting efforts he is part of were highlighted as part of the NAMB Week of Prayer focus in recent weeks. Pray for them as they form a leader team and core group.

PROVIDENCE is hosting a benefit April 19 to assist the Tommy Tingle family with medical expenses. A dinner will be served beginning at 5:00, with a concert by the Christian music group "Unfinished" set for 7:00.

UNION GROVE pastor Dennis Plank announced his retirement, effective May 31st after almost 8 years of ministry there. He will be available for pulpit supply and interim work.

WESTPORT youth will attend a DiscipleNow weekend Apr. 18-20 hosted by Bloomfield BC, with whom they've connected through KY Changers. DeWayne and Gail Sowell direct a youth camp that Westport youth will attend at Boone's Creek Camp June 9-14. Registration is open to other youth as well. Cost is \$125. For more info, contact Gail at 222-7294.



**Marriage Enrichment
Opportunities**

Crestwood Baptist is hosting "Making Good Marriages Great," a satellite simulcast with Dr. Gary Smalley on Sat., Apr. 26, from 9:30-3:30. Other special guests include Erwin and Kim McManus, Henry Cloud, and Les Parrott.

Cost is \$15 per person and includes lunch. Tickets are available through the church office or registration can be completed at www.crestwoodbaptist.org.

Also, the Marriage Enrichment Resource Center (MERCY) will present a marriage enrichment seminar Apr. 26, entitled "An Introduction to the Strength Finder's Assessment Tool." Presenter will be Valerie Vincent, a certified family counselor. It will be held at Baptist Hospital Northeast from 9:30-11:00 a.m. There will be no fee, though an offering will be taken to help cover expenses.

To register for this event or for more info check out the website (www.kymrc.com), call Penny Hudson at 939-0121, or email her at pdhud9@aol.com.