

## First Baptist Church, Glenarden, Hosts Annual Celebrations

In a spirit of service that is unequalled, the members of First Baptist Church of Glenarden, under the shepherding of Pastor John Jenkins, hosted both Annual Celebrations of the Mideast Baptist Conference and the Baptist General Conference during the week of June 23, 2003.



*Slavic Nesteruk, V.P. Baptist Union of Ukraine and Ruslana Westerlund.*

The MBC meetings opened with a banquet at First Baptist followed by a moving worship service of wonderful music presented by Steven Herd and the FBC Worship Team. Two new churches were received into the MBC: New Life Community Church, Bowie, MD, and New Hope Community Church, Loudonville, OH.

A powerful message was delivered by Slavic Nesteruk, Vice President of the Baptist Union of Ukraine. He and wife Luba spent three weeks in the MBC ministering and giving testimony of events in Ukraine.

Nesteruk spoke eloquently, as translated by Ruslana Westerlund from the Minnesota Baptist Conference, of how treatment of Ukrainian Baptists has changed in the last 15 years since the demise of the Communist party. Where there once was

persecution, now there is acceptance; where there was once a small number of closet churches, the Baptist movement in Ukraine has expanded rapidly to 150,000 members; new churches spring up as fast as pastors can be mobilized to plant them. Listeners were humbled to learn that for just \$150 a month, a church planter could be paid and rent the space to start his church!

Wednesday morning, the MBC 2003 ministry update yielded positive reports from various ministries; testimonies of what God has been doing across the MBC; and election of new officers and ministry team leaders with Dan Peterson being re-elected to a third, five-year term as MBC Executive Minister.

Peterson gave two "Pastor of the Year" awards: one to Dan Cook, senior pastor at Lakewood Baptist Church and the other to John Jenkins, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Glenarden.

At noon, the MBC meetings transitioned directly into the Baptist General Conference Annual Celebration with numerous Leadership conferences benefiting pastors and



*Dan Peterson presents "Pastor of the Year" award to Dan Cook, Lakewood Baptist.*

*Cont'd on back....*

## Great things going on across the MBC....

### **Riverview Baptist Church McKeesport, PA**

God is on the move at this church pastored by Alan Gross. Five people were baptized on July 20 and 11 new members will be received into the congregation very soon....VBS was a great success, ministering to 60 neighborhood children. The church will be following up with families to encourage further participation with a goal of reaching many for Jesus Christ.... This past Monday evening (July 28) an Indonesian woman walked through open doors at the church. She was a mail-order bride who had just had a big fight with her husband. Her mom always told her that if she experienced problems in America, she should find a church and seek help. Pastor Gross had an opportunity to spend time hearing her and witnessing to her. While the outcome is not known, seeds have been planted; God will cause the harvest!

### **Salem Community Fellowship Salem, OH**

Pastor Freddie Rodriguez is excited that the church's praise band is becoming well known as they continue to be invited to provide worship music for area events and churches....Vacation Bible School is in full swing (week of July 27) with 57 children attending the first evening and a hoped-for attendance of 100 by Friday....A big surprise awaited members of this church at the end of the Salem Bicentennial Parade held recently in this small town southwest of Youngstown, OH. Pastor Freddie relates that his members, on the spur of the moment, decided to enter a float in the religion category of the parade where they won first place. They were awarded a plaque from the area Chamber of Commerce and got some great visibility! Congratulations!

### **Seed Money Offering Outstanding for 2003!**

Thanks to the generosity of 45 Mideast Baptist Conference churches and special gifts from over 50 individuals, our 2003 Seed Money Offering has reached its goal of \$100,000! Thank you to everyone who has participated in supporting church planting across the district. Here's just one brief story of what God has done through your faithfulness:

At the Church Planter's Luncheon, Charles Whitaker, church planter at River of Life Church in Marlow Heights, MD, told how during a youth program where music by the rocker Nelly was being played, people in the laundromat next door heard the music and came to check out what a church was doing playing this type of music. In the process they saw first-hand how this music was used to teach a lesson to the kids about the difference between the world's way and Jesus way.

It is still possible to give to the 2003 Seed Money Offering! Your contribution will be used to further the work of Jesus Christ through the church planting ministry. Mail your gift to the MBC, 20 E. McKinley Way, Suite 5, Poland, OH, 44514.

### **Send Us YOUR Good News....**

**We'd love to publish your stories of what God is doing through your church. Email to [june@bgcmideast.com](mailto:june@bgcmideast.com) or mail to MBC, 20 E. McKinley Way, Poland, OH 44514! Next UPDATE Deadline: September 30, 2003.**

# Short Term Missions: Great Opportunity to Get to Know the "World"

## Love Lift for Ukraine...

Ten churches from the MBC sent 75 members to Kiev and Rivne, Ukraine to minister in sister churches for the fourth year. Two churches have participated for



*In the fields of Ukraine*

eight years: Berean Baptist and First Baptist, New Castle. Other churches participating include Old North Church; Lakewood; First Baptist, Glenarden; Mentor Baptist; Beulah Baptist; Walnut Creek; Ordinary; and Christ Community, Fredonia. The teams traveled between July 24 and August 12.

Dan Peterson led Vision team members in presenting Church Planting conferences in both Kiev and Rivne. The other teams presented day camps for all age children, women's and men's ministries, a business seminar and more. In addition, Sandi Peterson began a ministry that will help Ukrainian children and youth in orphanages and foster homes.

To learn more about Love Lift for Ukraine, contact [june@bgcmideast.com](mailto:june@bgcmideast.com) or call the MBC at 330.757.7970.

## Mexico MissionFest...

In June and July, two groups of young people, totaling 134 members in teams from various churches across the MBC, flew to California, loaded into vans and other vehicles and traveled down to Tijuana, Mexico. They specifically went to build houses for families who needed a home in which to live.

Building houses took up most of their time, yet the youths still found time to play games with kids who visited the construction site. Meals were shared with families who received the homes being built. Youths slipped away for quiet time at a dorm that is the BGC missionary home of Dave Burdett and family. They also spent time in corporate worship as they sought God's blessing on their work. Reportedly, no one came home unchanged; for many, God is present with them in a new way.



*Kids worship together in Tijuana, MX*

To learn more about the 2005 MissionFest, contact [becky@bgcmideast.com](mailto:becky@bgcmideast.com) or call Becky Wehr at the MBC 330.757.7970.

## New MBC Website, Email Contact Launched July 1

The new and improved MBC website and email system was launched on July 1. With information provided by the MBC, John Dawson, Associate Pastor at Evergreen Community Church in Charlottesville, VA, did a great job with a design that is pleasing to the eye and full of great information divided by ministries. You can test drive the new site at

<http://www.bgcmideast.com>

In addition, the MBC staff has new email addresses that you can begin to use immediately. Here is the contact list:

Dan Peterson – [dan@bgcmideast.com](mailto:dan@bgcmideast.com);  
Gary Schroeder – [gary@bgcmideast.com](mailto:gary@bgcmideast.com);  
June Jagunic – [june@bgcmideast.com](mailto:june@bgcmideast.com);  
Becky Wehr – [becky@bgcmideast.com](mailto:becky@bgcmideast.com);  
Cindy Sigmon – [cindy@bgcmideast.com](mailto:cindy@bgcmideast.com);  
Linda Penney/MBC Office –  
[office@bgcmideast.com](mailto:office@bgcmideast.com).

Please begin to use these addresses immediately and enjoy the new website.

## Trader's Corner....

For Sale by Salem Community Church: 1998 Ford, 15-Passenger, Econoline Van with tinted windows, tilt, cruise, AM-FM cassette, front and rear A/C, new front tires. 98,363 miles. \$7,790.00. Call 330.332.4555 and ask for Bill.

Free to good home from Old North Church: Olivetti, long carriage, electric typewriter. Three type head balls. Ribbons and correction cartridges included. Call Dave Bianco, 330.533.0674.



*Shawn McBride, left, and Charles Hill, pastors, New Life & New Hope churches.*

## Celebrations, cont'd....

their families presented through noon on Thursday. The Holy Spirit seemed to be present from the beginning as another wonderful worship time ensued leading into the business portion of the BGC meetings.

BGC President Jerry Sheveland gave an impassioned message entitled "Xtraordinary Impact," asking BGC members to work together for a global movement of reproduction for the Kingdom of Christ. He encouraged everyone to disciple their communities; reproduce new churches in un-reached communities; reproduce

movement leaders who possess the vitality of Christ to attract those who need to know Him; and reproduce cross-culturally and globally.

During the evening banquet, John Jenkins met everyone with a challenge to change their thinking about giving and about how we treat our pastors; to trust God to provide and stop leaning on our own understanding of what that means – trust God to do all that He has promised and more!

After a day filled with helps, testimonies, presentations and more, Dave Pound, senior pastor at Berean Baptist Church, Mansfield, enjoined the congregation to, in a sense (author's translation), "go M.A.D." which stands for "go make a difference!" He reflected on how Jesus touched each one He met in a life-changing way that caused them to go tell about Him, thereby changing the lives of

others. We, too, are to be changed by our interaction with Christ in a way that causes us to want to go out and see the lives of others changed – to "go M.A.D."

As if God had not already provided the assembly with blessing after blessing through reports and testimonies, He then sent Chaplain Rear Admiral Barry T. Black, newly elected chaplain to the United States Senate, to challenge us to "Xtreme Faith." For this writer, this was a WOW message.

Black spoke about the Xtreme faith of Peter as he got out of the fishing boat to walk on water when he heard his Master call. Black reminded everyone how it was only when Peter kept his eyes on Christ that he was able to walk on that water. When Peter got all impressed with the idea that he was walking on the water, he began to sink. Black said it is the same for us: we must keep our eyes on Jesus and what He is calling us to do, to say, to be, to have that Xtreme faith that will allow God to do all things through us.

The BGC meeting ended on Saturday morning with more testimonies, a new slate of officers being elected and a closing worship service that included the combined choirs of FBC and Berean Baptist Church...what a treat!

The entire week was a huge blessing with no heart left untouched in some meaningful way. God was all over it and it reflected His glory. Amen!



*John Jenkins Sr. Pastor First Baptist, Glenarden*