



The KBA BEACON

A Word from Brad Horne:



Redwood trees are the tallest trees in the world, towering up to heights of nearly 400 feet or as tall as a 40-story building. That's taller than the Statue of Liberty. But the redwoods are unique. They have very short and shallow roots relative to their height, and therefore their roots cannot sustain the weight of the enormous trees in a strong wind. So why are they still standing? Here is the incredible truth that is unseen to the casual bystander. They can't stand by themselves, but underneath the ground, the roots of the redwoods are intertwined with each other. I love it! They are holding on to each other! Only redwoods have the strength and ability to support other redwoods. They need each other in order to stand up tall and claim the prize of being the tallest tree in the world. They can't do it alone. They can't grow to be as tall as they are all by themselves. They need each other. A vast network of support is formed just beneath the surface. When the strong winds blow, they won't fall down, because they are supporting each other. John Maxwell said it this way. "The trees grow very close together and are dependent on each other for nutrients, as well. Only redwoods have the strength and ability to support other redwoods."

But will California's giant redwoods survive the current raging wildfires? In the past week, California experienced nearly 11,000 lightning strikes within a span of 72 hours. The redwoods were standing when Jesus was born and when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses, and most of the redwoods will survive this wildfire just as they have done so for the last 2,000 years.



We are fortunate that redwoods are incredibly resilient trees, a fact that helps them live to over 2,000 years old. One reason they don't easily burn is because God put into the bark of the redwoods a chemical called tannin, which is a natural flame retardant. It's the tannin that gives redwoods their reddish color and also protects them against disease, fungi, and insects. Redwoods also have little resin or pitch, which are highly flammable.

Just as the redwoods are better together, the KBA is better together. This is one of the great truths that I have learned in the last five months as the DOM: the 33 Baptist churches in the Keystone

Baptist Association (KBA), are better together! When one church is hurting, we all hurt. When one church experiences victory, we all experience victory. We support one another. When COVID-19 hit, pastors were scrambling to figure out how to do technology. KBA put together an Internet Task Force and offered pastors several tech seminars. When a pastor leaves the church, KBA is there to help the church figure out the next steps. The KBA brings pastors together to pray weekly and offers Pastor's Renewal Retreats. We do missions better together, so the KBA organizes mission trips every year that would not be possible for a small church.

God put it this way. Iron sharpens iron, and a cord of 3 strands cannot be easily broken. We need each other and are better off together. Much of the New Testament speaks about the saints fellowshiping together, helping each other, ministering together, and praying together. Although the KBA is working hard with the KBA churches, it is not always seen by all of the churches in the association. It is similar to the redwood root system that is continually at work underground and unseen.

Here are some examples of being better together. Just as one candle can give some light in the darkness outside during the night, many candles together give light to the whole area, and the darkness is pushed back. We have 50 united states because we are stronger together as one country instead of 50 separate countries. The twelve tribes of Israel needed each other and were a support for each other, but yet they lived in their tribes and were autonomous, just as each of our churches is autonomous.

God thinks that believers should be unified and work together. Throughout the Bible, we see partnerships. God made a partnership when He entered into various covenants with different people in history. With a strong KBA presence, what does the future hold? The KBA believes that what we do matters for eternity because God establishes the work of our hands. And His love is greater than all the turmoil that we have experienced this year. The distances between the KBA churches has diminished as technology has enabled our churches to become even more connected than ever. With distances diminished, the KBA is able to meet with pastors more often and have a more substantial electronic presence.

The KBA will stand in the gap and provide wise counsel for churches in need. We will help and encourage pastors in their life and work. We will become more and more relevant as we grow. We will create awareness of what we are doing and advertise how God is working in the KBA region. But our ultimate goal is this: To see "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb."

The future is bright and hopeful because we are 2,000 years closer to the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May His name be praised and lifted up. The Apostle John ends the Bible with these words. "Come, Lord Jesus."

KBA Financial Update

As of July 31, 2020

Receipts through July - \$66,701.84

Expenses through July - \$31,928.13

2019-2020 Administrative Team

Moderator: Pastor John Buhr, Central Baptist Church
1st Vice Moderator: Pastor Adam Hedge, Memorial Baptist Church
2nd Vice Moderator: Dr. Pusey Losch, Mt. View Community
Historian: Bayard Bastedo, FBC, Hanover
Clerk: Tim Dedman, Red Land Baptist
Treasurer: Heather Barberis, Memorial Baptist
Assistant Treasurer: Pastor John Worrall, Mount Wolf Community
SE Zone Leader: Pastor Tim Parker, Stewartstown Baptist
North Zone Leader: Pastor Don Henrikson, Thompsontown Baptist
SW Zone Leader: Dr. Kenny Craig, Chambersburg Baptist

News from our Churches:

Country and Town Baptist Church has called Todd Jones to be their Senior Pastor. Todd and his wife, Aimee are from California and have arrived for their quarantine. His first Sunday in the pulpit will be August 30th. Todd and Aimee have two children, Sophia and Elias.

Stewartstown Baptist Church is exploring the need for a tutor ministry in the Stewartstown Community. Pastor Parker states, "We want to help parents and students navigate educational needs during this COVID-19 environment. Please pray for this ministry and for opportunities for all KBA churches to engage their communities with the gospel during this turbulent time."

Mount Wolf Community Church is planning to show the movie "The Overcomer" in October. Dates and times to be set.

Red Land Baptist Church hosted WMU writers Trennis and Pam Henderson as they interviewed Aubrey King a member at Red Land about her involvement with WMU and her missionary experiences in Lesotho, Africa.



Friendship Baptist Church, Stewartstown, is seeking a part time Associate Pastor. This person should have theological training and some experience in leading a church. He must have a calling to preach and teach. FBC enjoys blended music, both contemporary and traditional. The church is on a main road and has an excellent potential for growth. The salary is negotiable. The Associate Pastor will work with the Senior Pastor to build a ministry that effectively reaches our community for Christ. If you are interested, please contact:

Ken Cademartori, Senior Pastor, Phone 717-818-7943
14874 Winterstown Road, Stewartstown, PA 17363

Prayer Focus:

Pray for our churches without pastors:

Greencastle Baptist Church
Josiah's Way
Iglesia La Fuente

Pray for our churches looking to add to their staff:

Friendship Baptist Church, Stewartstown (Associate Pastor)

Pray for:

Alice Worrall -Is feeling much better but continue to pray for her complete recovery.

Larry Theisen's daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and her family. Elizabeth lost her only brother, Master Sgt. Jason Brackins suddenly on August 3rd in Fairbanks Alaska. He was 36 years old. Jason was married to Lindsay and has two children, ages 2 and 6. He had been in the Air Force for 18 years and was a 354th Fighter Wing Airman stationed at Eielson Airforce Base.

VBS – Covid 19 Style: Greencastle Baptist



Greencastle Baptist Church held Vacation Bible School at Antrim Township Park on July 27th through the 29th. Their theme was "Be Strong in the Lord" based on Ephesians 6:10.

Children participated in a Bible Lesson, sang songs, played games and, of course, enjoyed snacks. Each child left with an activity sheet that was to be completed at home with their parents.



They had great participation and the children enjoyed this unique VBS experience.



VBS – Covid 19 Style: Mason Dixon Baptist

Jessica Beck



I think that we can all agree that the year of 2020 has looked different to the world and the church, but I am comforted by God's Sovereignty and the truth that none of this has been a surprise to Him. As Christians we have been given a unique opportunity to be stretched as believers, given a new platform from which to share the Gospel, and a gift of deepening our trust in the Lord. Likewise, ministries that churches have been doing for years are given this same opportunity and at Mason Dixon Baptist Church it has likely changed the way that we will put on VBS for many

years to come.

Under normal circumstances our VBS has been a 5-day program running from 9am to 12:30pm the last full week of every July. It has been this way for years. In recent years it has served between 150 and 200 children and required the help of 75 to 120 volunteers. These are not Covid-19 friendly numbers. In early March we decided that there was no doubt that VBS needed to look different this year. After much prayer and a lot of creative brainstorming our VBS plans started to take shape.

We decided to offer 3 styles of VBS in an effort to be prepared for whatever the PA guidelines would be at the end of July and to meet families where they were on the Covid-19 spectrum. All three of our VBS "styles" condensed the usual 5-day curriculum into 3 days and included more parent involvement than our VBS traditionally has. We also shifted from our usual mission focus and each family that participated in any of the three VBS styles were given another VBS kit to share with a family who wouldn't otherwise come to or encounter our VBS. This really excited us and many participating families because we were able to send them out on mission for the Gospel.



Style one was our pickup option. Volunteers at our church packed a box for each family that included a bible, VBS CD, bible lesson resources, a letter that included how to find bible lesson videos on YouTube, the ABCs of salvation and a craft. Then they packed 2 craft bags per child that contained crafts that went with the bible lessons of our day two and day three. A pickup family simply drove through our church parking lot at a designated time and was handed all their VBS supplies through their passenger side window.

The next two styles were in person, one-hour sessions that a parent had to stay with their child for. These were held in a tent outside and had significant attendance restrictions in an effort to maintain social distancing and to accommodate multiple Covid-19 comfort levels. We ran 3 sessions on a Monday, Wednesday, Friday rotation (2 morning and 1 evening) and 2 sessions on a Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday rotation (only 2 morning)

Our second option was something we called "Family cubical". This year's construction theme lends itself nicely to creating caution tape zones or cubicles for a family to have to themselves for the duration of our time together. This group was also limited to 5 families per session and was the first session to run each day. This option had three families participate on the MWF rotation and two families attend on the TTS rotation. I would say that while those numbers don't give the feeling of well attended it was very well received and appreciated by its participants who include families with immunocompromised family members or elderly grandparents bringing their grandchildren because mom and dad had to work.

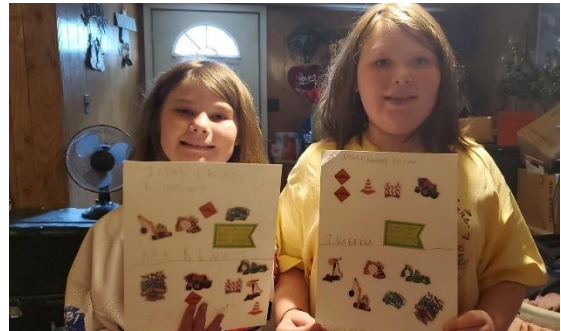
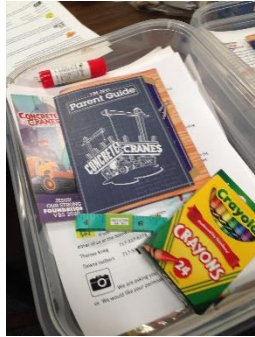


Our third option was what we called "Family block party". This was still under the tent but there were no cubicles and we limited the number to 50 children per session. We ran one morning and one evening session on the MWF rotation and a morning session on TTS. This was our most popular option and I am glad that we were able to safely gather to worship and honor King Jesus together.

I have never been thanked by so many parents for simply having VBS. Our in-person participants were craving any shred of normalcy that we could offer, and our pickup families needed us as a church to not just respect their comfort level but meet them where they are. I have been humbled by this experience and truthfully have not fully digested all the work we had the privilege of watching God do. We encountered needs in our community that we didn't even know existed and I pray that people's greatest need for the Gospel of Christ Jesus was met. As true with every VBS, one weeks' worth of labor has the potential to change someone's eternal life. It was an honor to gather, at times with only one family, and approach the throne of Jesus in worship and thanksgiving for the salvation that He offers all of us. I have been changed by this experience and can only contribute that to the molding and shaping hands of a Good Father. Kylie and I as a team agree that this year has changed the way that we will approach VBS for years to come. All in His honor and for His Glory we are ready to tackle VBS 2021 with new eyes to see and reach people.

VBS – Covid 19 Style: Red Land Baptist

Red Land Baptist decided to prepare “VBS in a Box” and delivered the “tool” boxes to the children in their church. They prepared Baby – 2-year-old boxes, Preschool boxes, and Children’s boxes complete with Bible lessons, games, Bible activities, craft projects and also snacks. Each “tool” box included all the supplies they would need to complete each activity.



Updates from KBA:

The KBA Executive Board will meet by zoom on **Monday, August 31st at 7:30 pm**. The Executive Board consists of every pastor of a KBA church plus one church member chosen by the church body of that church. Zoom invitations will be sent by email.

The KBA Administrative Team will meet prior to the Executive Board Meeting on **Monday, August 31st at 6:30pm**. Zoom invitations will be sent by email.

Dr. Jerry Dixon (Prayer Coordinator for KBA and Pastor) has asked Mark Mirza from Atlanta, Georgia to come and lead in the **RESTORE** prayer conference: More information to come! Mark’s website is [www. MarkMirza.com](http://www.MarkMirza.com).

Mission Trip: Pastor Gusmane Michel from **First Haitian Church of York** along with Brad Horne will be planning a mission trip to Haiti for pastors in January 2021. More information to come.



The 2019 Keystone Baptist Annual Book of Reports is available by email. If you would like an email or a printed copy, just let us know. We will be glad to email or print a copy and send it to you.



Update from the Fraley Family

We are so grateful to the Keystone Baptist Association for their generosity in providing transportation for our daughter Corinne to go to the ReEntry Retreat in Indianapolis. Corinne grew up on the mission field since the age of 3. She is now returning to the US during a time of turmoil and pandemic. It is hard enough to determine how to proceed in an unfamiliar culture, but even more difficult in these strange times. So, we were even more thankful for the generous gift of sending her to meet with over 50 other students who are also wading through the strange waters of these days.

Corinne went with anxious expectation and returned with joyful fulfillment. She loved her time learning about the major issues that college students are facing. Corinne's comment was that she would have loved for the retreat to have been longer! She enjoyed sharing with the 50 other students from around the world and hearing what was happening where they live.

So again, thank you so much for your generosity. This retreat goes a long way to help MK's to be prepared to ReEnter American life on today's college campuses.

So thankful that in this climate of students, who often feel forgotten by the church, your generous gifts remind students of the church's love for them in these difficult times. We are so grateful!

New Life at Penn State Prayer Request: Kayla Smith

-Pray that we'd see the new opportunities God is providing during this time where it seems like a lot is limited. We know He is working on campus and among students and want to join Him in this work!

-Pray for our new leadership team. We have 4 student leaders this year who have really encouraged us so far. Pray for continued unity among them, and for their own personal growth in the Lord.

-Pray for the Spirit to lead New Life staff and students with some creative ideas on how to bless Penn State students and the State College community.

-Pray for our ministry to international students. Specifically, there are 4 girls that Autumn and Kayla are now getting to know. We want to serve them well and show them God's heart for them.

-We are actively seeking ways to not just enter the discussion about racial reconciliation, but to take action. Join our staff in prayer about action steps we can take on our campus.