



chicago metro

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

M-Pulse

September 2011

*The Missions Heartbeat of Chicagoland
from Keith Draper, CMBA Executive Director*



Thank you, Belaire Park! (May there be more like you!) Belaire Park Church was the first church to **complete and turn in their Annual Church Profile (ACP)**. Yes, it's that time again. Our staff is willing to help you fill out the form. (Mindy is especially eager to see this project done well and on time.) The ACP is one way churches participate in the association. And it's one way we can track God's work in Chicagoland through all our ministries. Look for the forms in the mail. You should have received a big envelope from IBSA. **The ACP is due in the CMBA office by September 30.**



Fast, then Break Fast. The **CMBA Annual Meeting** is set for **Saturday, October 22 at Brainard Avenue Church** in Countryside, 8:30AM to Noon. We will explore the future for CMBA in light of the cuts in funding streams and loss of staff positions. We will present the proposed 2012 budget and pray for our work. We're asking everyone (who is able) to **observe a day of fasting and prayer for CMBA** on Friday, October 21. Then on Saturday morning, we will pray together and Break Fast (with pancakes) before the worship and business sessions.

Meet the Advocates: We had an excellent turnout for the first meeting of "The Advocates." This team of pastors and church leaders will **conduct personal visits with churches** this

Fall, urging greater participation in our shared ministry. Beginning in 2012, all CMBA funding will come from local churches, not from NAMB. CMBA's future depends on increased giving by all churches and dedication to the work we do as sister congregations: growing leaders, growing churches, and growing God's kingdom in Chicagoland.



New Seminary Extension Director in Chicago. Rev. Mark Jones, associate pastor at Uptown Baptist Church, is a graduate of Southern Seminary's Chicago extension program. Now he replaces Mark Coppenger as its director. (Dr. Coppenger has moved to Louisville to teach on the main campus.) As CMBA's Jay Noh, who is also a seminary professor, points out, "One **benefit for our churches** is access to the world-class theological education and ministry training through the six Southern Baptist seminaries. The lower tuition rate is further discounted by 50 percent for students who are members of a local SBC church." Classes meet on five Saturdays during the fall semester, and new classes start on September 23 and October 29. Contact Mark Jones at Uptown (773-784-2922) or mmejones7@gmail.com.



Back to Basic Training. Six teams seeking to plant churches in Chicagoland met for training in August. The team reaching Polish-speaking people (see left) were among those studying vision, small groups, evangelism, systems and structures, and leader development. The two-day event (also pictured below) was **hosted by Peoples' Community Church** in Glen Ellyn, a mission congregation that recently moved into new facilities near Glenbard South High School. **Pastor James Shannon**, thank you for your hospitality.

50 Mission Teams came to Chicagoland this year; 30 through CMBA and 20 more in direct partnership with our churches. As always, the churches report great blessing in their communities, but this is not a one-way blessing. God is growing hearts for the city in all who visit and work here. **Pray about hosting a team next year.** Look for request forms under "mission opportunities" at www.Chicagobaptist.com.



Downstate Women Minister in Chicago. Eleven members of the Woman's Missionary Union returned to Chicagoland in July to reach out on the northside. (See photos at left: craft class, cooking for a crowd, "fans" of WMU.)

In a 28-year partnership, **the ladies teamed with Uptown Baptist Church** for ministry to women in their neighborhood. They arrived on Saturday, their vehicles loaded with food, toiletries, and craft items. CMBA's office administrator **Mindy Cobb**, also an Uptown member, joined the team when they arrived. Mindy says, "Each year seems to be better than the year before. It is amazing to see God work."



In addition to serving Uptown's Monday night meal for 250, the team stuffed goody bags of personal items, **handed out snow cones** and tracts on a hot summer afternoon, painted the fellowship hall, organized clothing for distribution, **prayer-walked** the neighborhood, led a crafts class and Bible study, and visited patients at **Stroger Hospital**. Beanie Babies and Bibles were popular presents for the patients. The team plans to **return to Chicagoland twice in 2012**. And they're looking for ways to include more women in the ministry.



A Personal Note. In late August, we gathered to celebrate the life of my wife's mother, **Dorothy Dahms**. Our children have such a heritage of faith from their grandparents. Dorothy's family was active in the historic **Bellevue Baptist Church** in Memphis. After Dorothy married Oscar and moved to his Chicago hometown, the Dahms were instrumental in **the founding of Glenfield Church** in Glen Ellyn (where I met and married Barbara). Dorothy was church pianist and WMU leader and preschool teacher and most everything else that was needed across five decades. Dorothy had suffered Alzheimer's in recent years. She is survived by her husband Oscar, five children and their families, including 20 grandchildren, and many appreciative students and friends.