



chicago metro

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

M-Pulse

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

January 2012



How grateful I am to God for you, for your church, and for our partnership in the Gospel.

I remain committed to praying for you, your family, and your church in its community. I believe your church, in fellowship with other local churches, is key to reaching Chicagoland for Jesus Christ.

I believe **working together with like-minded believers is vital** if we are to remain encouraged for growing leaders, growing churches, and growing God's kingdom. As you know, we enter 2012 with big challenges. During these changing times, it is important to know where we stand with each other. **My family and I remain committed** to our calling here. We are praying, we are giving, and we are participating with you so our shared work prospers.



>> Drapers join the *Journey to Bethlehem*:
An evangelistic outreach at Crossroads Church
drew 1,000 people.

With cuts in funding from the North American Mission Board, **CMBA must now stand on its own feet**, relying on offerings from member churches and new partners. Our Advocates team continues to meet with church leaders about the financial support of CMBA.

To summarize our new staffing: two. Our office administrator, **Mindy Cobb**, who moved to Chicago in 1977 as a missionary in the city, continues to serve full-time through CMBA. **And me, Keith.** My time is divided between CMBA director responsibilities and church planting in Chicagoland through IBSA. Because of cuts, missionaries **Jay Noh** and **Eric Reed** concluded employment with CMBA in December and will be serving in other positions through Illinois Baptist State Association. We appreciate their aid in this time of transition.

New leaders step up. Much of our CMBA work in 2012 will be led by able volunteers. Some of the ministries piloted by CMBA staff in recent years will be guided by recently elected coordinators: **Cheryl Dorsey** (Prayer); **Mindy Cobb** (Women's Ministry); **John Yi** (Mission Mobilization); and **Robert Goette** (Church Planting).

At our Annual Meeting in October, we welcomed new Administrative Council members. They are **Marvin Del Rios of Erie Church**, **Manny Diesman of Brainard Avenue**, **Rick Dorsey of Beacon Hill**, **Jun Lee of Tyrannus**, and **Travis Morris of Broadview**. These leaders join **Brandon Holiski of FBC Bolingbrook**, **Marcus and Mattie Randle of Resurrection House**, and **Victor Bonilla of Iglesia Evangelica Filadelfia**.



And at our first Council meeting in November, the group elected returning member **Cody Lorange** (upper left) as Council Chair. He is pastor of **Trinity International Baptist Mission**, and an effective church planter who has guided church starts among Karen, Nepali, and Ethiopian immigrants. They meet in Carol Stream and Glen Ellyn. And **Bryan Price**, pastor of **Love Fellowship Baptist Church** in Romeoville (lower left) was elected CMBA moderator. These pastors will be vital leaders in our year of transition.

Chicagoland OnDemand is still available. We are developing new coaches to help strengthen local churches. Coaching by local experts will continue in 2012 with a team of **experienced local pastors** and ministry experts. Contact our office, and we will put you in touch with the leaders who can help your church with mission and vision, evangelism and small groups, women's ministry and prayer, and more.

Empty shelves. **Mindy Cobb** will handle requests for hunger ministry grants next year. We have appreciated the support of Texas Baptists and Illinois Baptist Women for many years, but the amount of money they send is being reduced in 2012. We must seek new partners to fight hunger here. As you can see in the bottom photo, the shelves at **Evening Star Missionary Baptist Church**, always need to be replenished. One of 20 CMBA churches distributing food, Evening Star's pantry is shown here before a Thanksgiving distribution.



Welcome, Garcia family. **Joseal Garcia and his family** (right) have started a strong core group in the Brickyard neighborhood, but are looking to relocate to a neighborhood or suburb where there is no Hispanic work. Please pray for them.



Welcome back, Dale. With the SBC funding changes, IBSA has assigned workers to 10 zones across Illinois. **Dale Davenport** has returned to Chicagoland to serve Zone 1. Formerly education minister at **Naperville Baptist Church** (now Springbrook), pastor at **Hillcrest in Tinley Park**, and CMBA's church development director, Dale has served on IBSA's staff for five years. He will continue to offer services to churches statewide through conferences and on-site consultation, while being based in Chicago. You may hear from Dale, as the state association brings its services to Chicagoland through "IBSA North."

Host a team, Send a team. We are attempting to place mission teams to help local churches with their ministries. **If you would like to have a team**, or if you want to form a team to serve in the metro area, contact the office. This is a good opportunity to develop **urban-suburban partnerships** and to encourage your congregation to grow a heart for missions.

