



chicago metro

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

M-Pulse

December 2011

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



Partnerships North and South of the Mason-Dixon Line. We kicked off November with visits to two state conventions to encourage partnerships, the **Illinois Baptist State Convention** and the **Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC)**. Former IBSA staff member **Rick Hedger**, now Partnership Missions Director in Missouri, invited my daughter **Quinlan** and me (below, left) to represent Northern Illinois. While at the event at Osage Beach, we met leaders from many churches in Missouri to encourage greater mission engagement between CMBA and MBC.



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Freed-up to do more. **First Baptist Church of Tinley Park** and their pastor **Harold Parsley** (below, checked tie) held a note-burning service November 20. As they celebrate paying off all debts, the southwest suburban church continues to be a great missions partner with CMBA. Pastor Parsley works bi-vocationally as a realtor and volunteered to help Mission de Jesus and Resurrection House to move into new spaces to expand their ministries.

Second down and 23. **Household of Faith** and **Pastor and Mrs. Lawrence Haskin** enjoyed the support of many from CMBA for their thirteenth anniversary. Grant Kelly, Jay Noh, Bryan Price and I were on hand as the church shared the story of its beginnings and new Hispanic mission started this year. Pastor Haskin believes he is called of God to plant 23 more congregations in his lifetime. May they see their visions realized across the South suburbs. Sister Sylvia is the daughter of the late Pastor Sylvester Coleman of **Bel-Aire Park Baptist Church** in Markham where **Michael Lindsey** pastors.



What's Better than a Bears Game? The night of the Lions-Bears game, I got to be right down the street at the **Rain or Shine Missionary Baptist Church** to celebrate the fourth anniversary **Pastor and Mrs. James Echols** (seated, left). God has given Pastor Echols a new chapter, calling him out of retirement after age 80 to serve another congregation. Thanks for the good work he and Sister Echols are doing to transform their Southside community near Soldier Field.



83-year-old Preaches for 83rd Anniversary Celebration. **Clarence Hopson**, Pastor Emeritus of the Broadview Missionary Baptist Church, preached for the anniversary celebration at **Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church**. I was pleased to provide the warm-up act for the church near United Center on Chicago's west side during a weekend of festivities to honor their long history. **Pastor Al Lloyd and his wife, Linda**, serve this historic congregation. (Pastor Lloyd is pictured at the far right end of the group photo above, with Pastor Hopson standing next to him.)



A Church for the Nations. Right before Thanksgiving I had the privilege of teaching on missions partnerships in Chicago at **Cornerstone Baptist Church**. God has assembled a veritable united nations of peoples from around the world who have come together to form this young body of believers pastored by **Leland Johnston** (lower right corner of church photo, wearing tie). They meet at Cumberland Presbyterian in Niles in the North suburbs.

Tweet this! Join me at Church! We're One-year-old and Growing.

How great to join **Edward and LaTanya Jones** as they celebrated the first anniversary of their church start the **Kingdom Family Worship Center in Olympia Fields**. The congregation meets each week at one of the most serene settings in the South Suburbs at the Irons Oaks Learning Environmental Center, 20000 Western Avenue in Olympia Fields. The church is using the internet creatively. They pause in the worship service to have attenders tweet or check in on Facebook to share their status and invite others to join them.



Brainard's New Pastor. **Brainard Avenue Baptist Church in Countryside** welcomes their new pastor, **Dustin Coleman**, this month. Dustin and Beth and their daughter, Madelyn, come to Chicagoland from Florence, Kentucky, where he has served as associate pastor for discipleship and missions. Dustin is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.



Year End Blessings. As we near the end of 2011, we know that 2012 holds many challenges for us all—both personally and as an association of churches. Several of our staff members are starting new jobs, as the funding for their present positions has ended. I will be serving as Church Planter Catalyst, a NAMB-funded position through IBSA, while continuing to do a portion of my responsibilities as executive director of CMBA. And for CMBA as a whole, this will be a season of change and challenge. With our budget and staff cut by two-thirds, we are looking for CMBA member churches to step up their giving if we are to “make ends meet.” And we need our volunteer leaders to step up and assume greater responsibility for the ministry and mission of our association. In 2012, we will learn what it means to be an association: sister churches that support each other, encourage each other, and learn from each other. And we will seek new partners who want to see Chicagoland won to Christ. Please pray about your personal involvement with CMBA's ministry in our great mission field. The work is great. Our God is greater. To paraphrase Bro. Blackaby, Will you find God at work here and join Him in it?

Blessings to you all at Christmas and all year long.