

Missionary's Message

Last month, I shared that prayer is the first of three building blocks of becoming a church that networks with other like-minded churches in order to fulfill the Great Commission. Networking to fulfill the Great Commission is really the heart of associational ministry. Here is the diagram to refresh your memory:

Building Block #3: Partnership Goal: <i>Collaboration</i>
Building Block #2: Participation Goal: <i>Cultivation</i>
Building Block #1: Prayer Goal: <i>Connection</i>

Participation is the building block I would like to focus on this month. The goal of this building block is to move people from different churches into settings where they can begin cultivating Great Commission oriented relationships with fellow believers. If you live in a more rural or small town setting, it is highly likely that members in your church know folks who are members of other churches in the area. This is also true for churches that are involved in the local association. These connections can be leveraged to move to deeper, Great Commission oriented relationships with fellow believers from sister churches. It makes sense that a natural outflow of the building block of prayer will be participation in Great Commission endeavors with those from other churches that we are consistently lifting up in prayer.

Settings for the participation aspect of networking include one-time or once-in-a-while activities. Here are three types of these activities:

1. Praying Together: Prayer walking/driving with members of other churches; multi-church prayer gatherings, etc.
2. Learning Together: Localized multi-church learning clusters that concentrate on knowing your community, Gospel Conversations Training, etc.
3. Serving Together: Operation Inasmuch; Seasonal projects

Scott Setzer

SRBA Ministers' July Zoom Check-In

Tuesday, July 14 at 6:30 - 7:30 PM (Bivocational ministers are encouraged to participate)

Thursday, July 16 at Noon - 1:00 PM

These are opportunities for ministers to gather online for fellowship, encouragement, and prayer. Links to join the gatherings will be emailed several days before the meeting dates.

WMU News

WMU EMPHASIS FOR 2020-22 RELENTLESS:

As we make disciples of Jesus who live on mission, we will be relentless in

- *living authentic faith in Christ
- *seeking God in prayer
- *giving sacrificially
- *witnessing to others

WATCHWORD: But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved (Heb. 10:39 NIV).

Project HELP: Refugees

Resources may be found at wmunc.org or wmu.org

To God be the glory!

Corby



This five-week online training based on the book, *The Six Stages of Cultural Mastery*, will help you learn how to connect with people of diverse cultures without compromising your faith and convictions. Classes will meet every Thursday for one hour from Aug. 13 - Sept. 10. Cost is \$50 and includes

the facilitator's guide, learner's guide, and online access to the Cultural Mastery site. \$25 scholarships are available through the SRBA. Email scott@southroanoke.org for info. Register at ncbaptist.org/event-cultural-mastery-trainings/.

NC Baptist Aging Ministry Hope Line

Listener Training is coming to the SRBA, Tuesday, September 15 at Grace Baptist Church, Wilson.



In observance of Independence Day, the SRBA Resource Center will close Thursday, July 2 at 12:30 PM and reopen Monday, July 6 at 8:30 AM. The Resource Center will also be closed Friday, July 10 due to staff vacations.

Ministry Opportunities During COVID-19



Food for Families in Eswatini (Swaziland)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had far reaching effects throughout the world. In the Southern African nation of Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), there is widespread hunger among the people. Wayne Myers, former IMB missionary to Eswatini, writes this about the situation: "Our Swazi family is in deep trouble and there has never been a greater need than now to help in a time of desperation. I have seen hunger often there and we have helped at different times, but this time, it is much more widespread and even more desperate. Annah, one of our first converts, wrote me the other day. I had asked her about the food situation and her answer was, 'Pastor, don't ask about food it's bad.' Other Swazis have shared similar messages. The situation is rapidly becoming critical and as bad as I have ever known over the years in Swaziland."

The Swazi Partnership of Washington First Baptist teamed up with Wayne Myers and Nitsandziwe Ministries to feed 200 families three times this summer. Praise God that the first round of food distribution served 331 families! The second delivery is scheduled for July 6-10. For \$70, you can feed a Swazi family for one month. If you would like to donate to the effort, go to www.swazipartnership.com and click on the "Donate" button in the top right corner. On the donation site, select "Swaziland Partnership". Under the Fund tab, select "Swaziland/Eswatini COVID-19 Hunger Response" and then click the submit button to make your donation.



Neuro-Medical Treatment Center

Longleaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Center in Wilson continues to deal with the impacts of COVID-19 on their residents and staff. One way your church or a group of churches can encourage the staff is by providing a cold plate lunch or snack break. If you would like more information about serving the center, contact Chaplain Michael Willard at michael.willard@dhhs.nc.gov or 252-399-2112 ext. 369. Michael also serves as Bivocational Pastor of Aenon Missionary Baptist Church in Elm City.