

September 16, 2009

Vol. 3, Issue 102



Three Rivers Baptist Association

“... to assist each member church in fulfilling its God-given purpose.”

Three Rivers Baptist Association's



and Annual Meeting

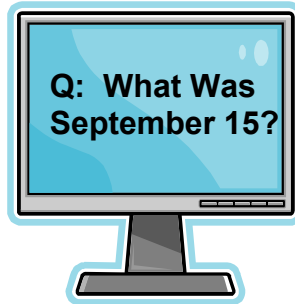
Saturday, October 3rd
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
at FBC Coal City
(noon meal provided)

Celebrate and reminisce with some of the former D.O.M.'s
and then catch the vision for the future!
Open to All! No reservations necessary.

2009 Streator Experience
January Bible Study Retreat
For Pastors and Lay Teachers
October 26-28, 2009
at Camp Streator

\$75 pp covers room, meals

Questions? Email Lanny Faulker at
brolanny@comcast.net



A: That was the day that the ACP (Annual Church Profile) was due to the association office or entered online through the IBSA website!

**October is
Pastor
Appreciation
Month**

IBSA Annual Convention
Nov. 11-12
Crowne Plaza Hotel reservations: 217.529.7777

**“Called to Love Through
Building Relationships”**

Presented by the WMU
Saturday, Sept.19
at Calvary Morris
1 - 4 p.m.

**A hands on day of fun mission
activities for the gals!**

Eastern Slovakia - On The Map!

August Mission Trip to Poprad & Presov - Read the stories, see the pictures of how God is working. Go to ww.trbaslovakia.wordpress.com



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To the Ends of the Earth Until the End of Time

- By. Rev. Roy Worley

The West Texas Ranch for Christ was covered in strong darkness when the five of us arrived at 1 AM on a moonless night. We were running behind after two flights, a stop at Chile's to refuel and an hour-long drive from Sweetwater, Texas on roads none of us from TRBA had ever seen before. As a matter of fact we weren't seeing much of them on that dark night either.

The ranch wasn't easy to find on a night like that. Stacking difficulty on top of difficulty the sign for the entrance to the ranch...gone. Apparently some vehicle had had a smack down with it the week before and it laid on the side of the road, in the dark, DOA. We drove right by the gravel road that wound across another ranch, through dry gulches, flowered cacti and the pungent earthy aroma of the arid land and ended at our hopeful destination – a place to sleep!

Nevertheless, with Pastor Ismael Adames at the wheel of our rental car there was never any that we would find. And find it we did. The ever-prepared staff of Billie Hanks ministry had posted a scout to snag the wandering packs of preachers that were making our way to the ranch. He led the way with the headlights of his dusty truck piercing the darkness to the bunk house where at least six other snoring pastors from parts unknown never heard us blunder in and climb into our really, really tall bunk beds.

The trip bonded us. Most of us met Pastor and church planter Dagoberto Franco (El Camino al Cielo) for the first time. Dago and his wife America and their four children are a great family with a vision to reach the Hispanic people of east Joliet. He hates flying so we had some fun at his expense. Did I mention that this was male bonding? Lot of teasing going on.

Pastor John Patterson from Marseilles, Pastor Ron Taylor from ICBC (no that's not a root beer) and myself Roy Worley from Faith Fellowship Church in New Lenox rounded out the team. We were privileged to travel to Texas last June to find out what God had for us there. Folks, it was a divine appointment!

Evangelist Billie Hanks has spent decades teaching God's people all over the world how to turn our churches into obedient disciple making families that are used by God to impact the ends of the earth until the end of time. Time and space will not allow us to share everything in this article that we learned. Truth is we are hoping to bring Billie up next spring for an Operation Multiplication conference for the association.

Nevertheless, I would like to highlight some things that God gave me and that He is currently using in our church.

- God expects me as pastor to model the one-to-one or life-to-life process of disciple making. Since returning I have been meeting with three different men in my church in this kind of relationship. They are really growing.
- Evangelism grows naturally out of discipleship. Each time we meet I pray with my guys that God will give us someone that day to witness to. In the words of Billie, "if you pray for rain you better carry an umbrella." My guys are witnessing. It is a matter of time!
- Train your maturing believers the vision of disciple making using the materials that Billie has put together. This was the biggest help to me because it gave us a way, a system if you will for beginning a process that will last until Jesus comes.
- This one is related to number three. Have a process in place where every new believer can be offered to possibility of being discipled one on one the first week after they are saved. This applies to those who join the church and are already saved.

God was so powerfully present while we were there. As we headed for the airport we had two things on our minds. First, where could we get an authentic Texas steak and second, God give us someone to witness to. We started in the steak house and asked our server how we could pray for him as we thanked God for our sizzling lunch. Did he ever open up! We prayed for him and it was a witness. When we got to the airport we spread out and at least four of us shared Jesus with people there. As we got in the air I asked the flight attendant if anyone had told him that day that God loved him. With tears on the edge of his eyelids he said, "you just did. Thank you." It was a witness.

When we got to Dallas airport we had to take a train a bus and a dog sled to get to the right gate, but once we got there we spread out again and each one of us got to share the gospel of our Lord again. In my case a young man in the army sat two seats over from me. I leaned over and struck up a conversation by thanking him for serving our country. The conversation led into a witness op in which I showed him how to be saved. Turns out God had already put Lee Strobel's book *A Case for Christ* in his hands and he had a lot of questions. Then he surprised us by saying that he wasn't even on that flight. He had walked across from the other gate looking for a place to plug in his iPod! God is good! When you pray for rain....

All of this was affirmation that God had led us there and back here with a mission. Now the battle has begun. We have been attacked and discouraged but we are onto the devil and his schemes and we will be victorious because God is at work in empowering us to fulfill the only marching orders He gave His church – Make Disciples of All Nations! Go God!