

Southside Baptist Network Associational Mission Strategist 2022 Annual Meeting Report

Our churches established this Network on March 1, 2013. Since then, the Lord has blessed us with over 80 congregations in Clayton, Fayette, Henry, Rockdale, Spalding, Coweta, and DeKalb counties.

The mission of SBN is to equip leaders and encourage congregations to engage our communities with the Gospel.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you these 9½ years. If you have not heard, I have announced my retirement effective June 30, 2023. Dr. Randy Wood is doing an excellent job leading the AMS Search Team. Please add that Team to your prayer list.

Here are some of the ways God is using your prayers, participation, and gifts to the Southside Baptist Network:

- During the 2021-22 school year, six **Pastor Cohorts**, a Discipleship Ministers Cohort and a Children's Ministers Cohort met monthly and studied Dr. Steve Viar's book, *Loving Your Community*. Steve is Pastor of Faith Church, Lafayette, IN.
- Feb. 13-18, eight of us travelled to Faith Church, Lafayette, IN, for the **Faith Biblical Counseling Training Conference**, and 12 participated online. Those attending in person also toured the three community centers they operate.
- Our Annual **SBN Children's Homes Food Drive/Truck Loading**, Feb. 28-Mar. 3 went very well. Thank you to those churches who generously gave!
- The annual **SBN Ministry Assistants Appreciation Luncheon** April 21 was well attended. Retired Glen Haven, McDonough, Pastor Stan Berrong, and his wife, Jackie, provided the program.
- **GBMB West Central Region Partnership** with Stockbridge Area Churches: Stan Jordan, Virtual Strategy Coordinator, participated in a Missions Conference at Roopville Road Church, near Carrollton, March 4-6. A group helped Tanners Baptist Church with their VBS and other projects. A youth group from Flat Creek Baptist Church in Fayetteville will have an MNOW instead of a DNOW emphasis prayer walking and canvassing in the Stockbridge area in November. GBMB will use this as a promotion for other churches to consider doing the same thing.
- **Equip 2022** was Saturday, Aug. 27, 8:30am-Noon, at Glen Haven, McDonough. Dr. Steve Viars, Pastor of Faith Church, Lafayette, IN, was the Keynote Speaker. The theme was "Loving Your Community." Approximately 250 participated. Several said it was the best one yet.
- **Cohorts**: This school year we have five Pastor Cohorts studying Mac Lake's book, *The Multiplication Effect: Building a Leadership Pipeline That Solves Your Church's Leadership*

Shortage. In addition, a Discipleship Ministers Cohort and a Children's Ministers Cohort, are doing the same studies. I am privileged to facilitate these rich times together.

- **Support for Church Planters:** SBN supports five Church Planters financially:
Frantsner Samed, Baptist Bible Fellowship, Stockbridge
Jesse Beernink, Resonate Church, Janesville, WI
Jairo Martinez, Centro Biblico la Roca, Waterloo, WI
Issa Safadi, Arabic Church, Milwaukee, WI
Jose Marco, Emmanuel Hispanic Church, Madison, WI
- **The Selfie Station** is a fairly new resource to help your church do inreach and outreach. Those who have used it love it. It costs only \$100 per event.
- **The Evangelism (Block Party) Trailer** usage is picking up post-COVID. Don't forget your church can rent it for only \$100 per event.
- **Evangelism Grants** are available to our churches to help with special projects.
- **Stewardship Team:** To better maintain our Evangelism Trailer, a shed was built next to our SBN building last year. It will be stained this month.
- **International Missions Partnership has changed from Puebla, Mexico to Ecuador.** We will work in conjunction with Georgia Baptist Mission Board and IMB liaisons. See Stan Jordan for more information.
- **Southern Wisconsin Association Partnership:** Daniel Compton, Hampton FBC Missions & Connections Pastor/Clayton State University Baptist Campus Minister, and I will be going on a Vision Trip to the Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association, Madison, WI, Oct. 17-19. See Daniel Compton or Ray Gentry for more information.
- **Ministers Conferences** for pastors and staff are appreciated for equipping, networking, and fellowship. In addition, Music Ministers meet monthly.
- **Clayton State University Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM):** Daniel Compton, BCM Campus Minister – Daniel is continuing to minister to the students as he is able.
- **Prayer:** SBN is co-sponsoring a Men's Prayer Breakfast/ Prayer Conference with FBC Jonesboro in their fellowship hall on October 15 from 8:00am-Noon. The cost for breakfast is \$10; no charge if you come after breakfast at 8:30am. Thomas Bush, Founder of Prayer Assist, La Mesa, CA will be leading it.
Just before this meeting, Thomas Bush of Prayer Assist led a Pastor's Prayer Seminar at 10:00am. The Community Impact/Prayer/Missions Team is providing a copy of *A Praying Life* by Paul E. Miller to everyone who attends the Annual Meeting.

- **Save the Date! The next Southside Summit will be Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023**, Eagle's Landing FBC, McDonough. The theme is: Building a Leadership Pipeline in Your Church. The Keynote Speaker is Mac Lake, author of *The Multiplication Effect: Building a Leadership Pipeline in Your Church*. This is the book our Pastor Cohorts are studying during the 2022-23 school year.
- **Church News:** Rock Springs, Morrow, and Emmanuel, Riverdale, have chosen to leave SBN. The Church at Southedge, McDonough, and North Fayette Baptist, Fayetteville, have disbanded. North Fayette gave their facility to SBN, and the SBN Executive Council voted to give it to one of our church plants who needed a place to meet: True Light Baptist Church. They are thrilled and so thankful. Ash Street, Forest Park, sold their facility, and now meet in the back of First United Methodist, Morrow.
- **Welcome New Pastors!**
Sokhom Khim, FBC Jonesboro Cambodian Mission
Don Long, Sardis, McDonough
James Oney, Liberty, Fayetteville
Antoine Robinson, The Rock, Rex
David Rocker, The Connection Church, Jonesboro
Michael Tinney, Philippi, Locust Grove
- **RightNow Media** is a resource to encourage pastors and their families. We have purchased a free subscription for every senior pastor (to be shared with his family)! Pastors now have access to tens of thousands of Bible studies, conferences, training sessions, kid's cartoons, and much more! And because of SBN's partnership, your church has the ability to subscribe church members at a 30-60% discount. Talk to the SBN staff to learn more.
- **Save the Date! Thursday, March 9**, is when we plan to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Southside Baptist Network and vote on my successor. He will work alongside me starting in April. There will be a three-month overlap for continuity.

Thank you for your church's prayers, gifts, and participation in The Network! We could not do what we do without your trust and cooperation! Please help us be even more effective by encouraging your church to...

1. **Pray** for me, for our AMS Search Team, and for the next AMS.
2. Encourage members to **subscribe** to our free monthly e-newsletter.
3. Continue to **support or increase** support for associational missions with your financial contributions (3% of undesignated church receipts is the goal).
4. **Participate** in SBN mission and ministry opportunities throughout the year.

To the praise of His glory,

Dr. Ray Gentry