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**David Pittman, Director of Missions**

Christian Education Director, Tim Fisher; Moderator,  
Milton Hicks; Multi-Housing Coordinator, Ellen Chapman

**From the Desk of....  
J. David Pittman,  
Director of Missions**

Tennessee Baptist Convention has a partnership relationship with the Iowa Baptist Convention to encourage churches and associations in our state to consider the ministry needs present in Iowa. With this in mind our association sent an exploratory group to Iowa to research the possibility of forming a partnership with the Southwest Iowa Southern Baptist Association. The association we visited encompasses ten counties near the city of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Council Bluffs, a city of around 60,000, lies across the Missouri River from Omaha, Nebraska. In this ten counties area there are only six Southern Baptist Churches. To say there is a need for other Southern Baptist work in this area would be an understatement.

The main industry in the area is agriculture. Once you leave the metropolitan area there are miles after miles of corn fields. These farms are extremely large by Tennessee standards. But, the lack of economic diversification present is one of the reasons that the counties in southern Iowa are among the poorest in the United States.

Our group quickly realized that our association would be unable to supply all of the resources needed to have a strong impact for the Kingdom of God in the Southwest Iowa Southern Baptist Association. Their needs are too great and the distance between the two areas would prove to be a major obstacle. Also, we realized that cultural differences could prove to be a hindrance. But, we came back convinced that there are some things that we can do to advance the Kingdom of God in Iowa!

The three members of our exploratory group were Tim Fisher and myself from the association staff along with Dan Parker, Pastor of Parkway Baptist Church in Smyrna. Feel free to contact any of us to learn more about the trip or ask any questions about how your church could become involved. We all came back convinced that there are things that we can do to be of assistance to the six pastors and churches in the area.

You are encouraged to attend the next Executive Committee Meeting on May 21, 7:00 pm at Miracle Baptist Church to hear a report on this trip. We will present a picture report on the trip and discuss the needs that we discovered. Let me encourage you and your church to come and learn more about the needs present in Iowa. Perhaps God will lead you to conduct a mission trip to this area.

**Tim's Notes  
Tim Fisher, Kingdom Growth Coordinator**

Did you know that in 2005 **97,547** people accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through the ministry of VBS. Did you know that in 2005 2,211 people accepted the call into the ministry through the ministry of VBS. Did you know that Vacation Bible School is the #1 outreach ministry of Southern Baptist churches. Vacation Bible School is important: pray, plan, organize, encourage and get ready for a great adventure in your church this summer. Does your church need last minute help in conducting VBS? If the answer is yes, contact our office at 890-6409. We can help you with individual training or we can send our summer missionaries Carrie and Kimberly to your church to help out in any way you see fit. They are serving in our association from June 1 through August 10. If you need their help give us a call **soon**. Also we are looking for two college age students to serve with Carrie and Kimberly this summer. If you are interested or know someone who is interested contact me at 890-6409. It's going to be a great summer.

**Remember this date, October 6, 2007.** Concord Baptist Association will be hosting a fun festival before the **MTSU vs Virginia Football game**. Time to be announced. We need churches to volunteer and provide festival type games for children and their families. This will be an outreach ministry to the families who will be attending the football game. The festival will be located at the new track and field complex located off Greenland Drive, close to the football stadium. We will also host a skills competition for the children. The association will provide inflatables and we ask the churches to provide volunteers, games and food. We will have a stage set up on the field for music and sharing of the gospel. We are in the beginning planning stages and we would like your church involved. If you would like to be involved in this wonderful outreach ministry please give us a call at 890-6409.

Go for the goal!

**Associational WMU Annual Meeting**

**Scenic Drive Baptist Church**

**May 7**

**Dinner: 6:00 pm**

**Program: 7:00 pm**

**The cost of the meal will be \$5.00. Please call 459-0025 for reservations by May 5.**



The picture (left) was taken of a wall mural at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Council Bluffs, Iowa. The mural depicting the setting around the church, was painted by a church member. The church is situated in the suburbs between the city and the surrounding corn fields. Ridgecrest Baptist Church is currently without a pastor but is continuing to have a strong ministry influence in the area.



First Baptist Church, Carter Lake (left) is the setting for the social ministry pictured above. Pastor Larry Hayes leads this weekly ministry to the needy that live in the area surrounding the church. The building in the picture was provided by Tennessee Baptist from another association several years ago.