baptist builders club makes four contributions

Baptist Builders Club provided grants for several churches across the country to help meet their facility needs.

- Sovereign Grace Baptist Church (Modesto, California) $10,000
- First Baptist Church (Kuna, Idaho) $10,000
- Victory Baptist Church (Fullerton, Nebraska) $7,500
- Heritage Baptist Church (Cedarburg, Wisconsin) $15,000

BBC also gave $15,000 to First Baptist Church in Princeton, Indiana, to help the church as it recovers from the effects of an earthquake earlier this year.

new churches added to the GARBC

The GARBC welcomed three new churches to the association Wednesday after messenger approval. Bennington Baptist Church in Bennington, Nebraska (Peter and Mary Lou Jenks) and Heritage Baptist Church in Cedarburg, Wisconsin (Mark and Melissa Brooks) received mission church status. Jehovah Chausse Baptist Church in Green Acres, Florida (Jocelyn and Gerta Dorcin) received full fellowship status.

attendance swells on Iowa churches night

Thunderstorms and lightning didn’t deter nearly 1,700 people from coming Wednesday night to hear Iowa’s Duke Crawford share God’s Word. The storms forced Students Alive! to pack into the Eagle’s Nest for their SPAM-O-RAMA. Wednesday night to hear Iowan Duke Crawford share God’s Word. The storms didn’t deter nearly 1,700 people from coming Wednesday night to hear Iowa’s Duke Crawford share God’s Word. The storms forced Students Alive! to pack into the Eagle’s Nest for their SPAM-O-RAMA.

special thanks...

To Andrea Gower from the Resource Center and Don Anderson of FBBC for their great work in facilitating our conference’s move to Ankeny.

To Copy Systems, Inc. in Des Moines and Sales Representative Ryan Ong for providing a copier for Conference use. See Ryan at the Copy Systems display booth for more information. Ryan is proud member of Ankeny Baptist Church.

To McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C. for underwriting the cost of producing CrossWords.

DON’T KNOW MUCH ABOUT OCCUPATIONAL FRAUD?

Next to tax fraud, occupational fraud is the most costly type of fraud in the United States. It costs organizations over $600 billion annually increasing eight percent each year. While large corporations might seem to be the ones where fraud would most likely occur, organizations with less than 100 employees are 10 times more likely to become victims of occupational fraud. Additionally, at least one-half of all employee theft takes place within organizations with fewer than 100 employees.

A study conducted in 2006 estimated that most victimized organizations lost an average of six percent of annual revenues. Since most nonprofit organizations strive to “break even” each year, a six percent loss could be crippling, especially for churches striving to accomplish God’s work within their local communities.

Fraud usually goes undetected because three primary reasons: internal controls don’t exist, those controls could be manipulated or the controls were insufficient to prevent fraud in certain areas.

Churches have become prime targets for occupational fraud, usually because many of them depend on volunteer labor to perform monthly and yearly accounting services. In addition, some don’t have the volunteers available to adequately institute internal controls or segregate various accounting duties. However, such precautions are necessary even for the smallest organizations.

In thinking of your church, does the same person reconcile monthly bank statements, approve expenses and issue reimbursement checks? If so, you may need to find someone else capable of performing one of those tasks to avoid temptation and commitment of occupational fraud. Or you may want to institute a set of internal controls to monitor that person to ensure the integrity of all accounting processes.

McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith, P.C., a locally-owned CPA firm in West Des Moines, Iowa, can help your church not only institute a system of internal controls, but can also assess existing controls to ensure no fraud is currently taking place. Please call Joni Tonnemacher at 515-288-5279 with questions or to schedule a confidential, no obligation meeting about your concerns.

If you would like information on how to make regular automatic contributions to the GARBC, please call 1-888-588-1600, ext. 857.

“God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

(Galatians 6:14)
“The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is that God rests too inconsequentially upon the church. His truth is too distant, his grace is too ordinary, his judgment is too benign, his gospel is too easy, and his Christ is too common.”

Thus did David Wells write about post-modern church life: preaching devoid of technique, insufficient organization, or antiquated music, and those who want to squander the church’s resources bandaging these scratches will do nothing to stanch the flow of blood that is spilling from its true wounds. The fundamental problem in the evangelical world today is that God rests too inconsequentially upon the church. His truth is too distant, his grace is too ordinary, his judgment is too benign, his gospel is too easy, and his Christ is too common."

The trivial God portrayed by post-modernism will never restore the condition of man’s soul. The true gospel of the cross terrifies when the sense of God should hang over our soul as heavily as our humid, Iowa summer air, knowing that our God is a consuming fire.

Yet the gospel of the cross demands confrontation of core realities: sinners are depraved beings whose style of life needs transformation, not affirmation. Jesus Christ, the glorious, sinless God-man became sin, bearing the full brunt of the fury of God’s eternal wrath due sinners. The sense of God should hang over our soul as heavily as our humid, Iowa summer air, knowing that our God is a consuming fire.

The glory of the cross lies in what Christ becomes for the sinner: wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption. Such glorious weight! This glory illuminates the unsurpassed glory and merit of Christ’s character and work.

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