
TESTIMONIES

New Testament Association of Independent Baptist Churches

Forward

Of my nearly 72 years of life, I have spent nearly all of it all in Wisconsin. Somewhere along the educational trail I learned about Wisconsin: its history, geography, flag, symbols and much more. Wisconsin's motto, *Forward*, has stayed in my mind; possibly because it wasn't hard to remember, but I rather think it is because in a simple word much is conveyed.

For many of the NTAIBC'S growing churches it would be a blessing when changing out the old year for the new, to have a blessing awaiting or special need met. The old year out and the new year in is us tracking time, not God having special obligations to be met.

Many of our churches have set their themes, goals, and projections for the New Year. Yet, but some churches may just be changing calendars without a purposeful *forward* plan. A meaning of the word forward is *toward or at a place, point, or time in advance; onward*. No matter the attendance of your church, it needs a plan and purpose, derived through prayer, of how to further impact the people of your community. Too often a congregation can become stagnant simply because it has no plan to be moving forward in its outreach.

A number of our NTA pastors are bi-vocational and many church members are maxed out as to what they can do. If a pastor is working 40 plus hours a week and has family and ministry responsibilities, it may seem impossible to do any more. Let me make a thoughtful suggestion. Take a few hours once a month, perhaps on a Saturday morning to meet with a group of local people, maybe business leaders. Investing your time in the members of your community could open a door for spiritual ministry.

Another area where churches need to invest is maintaining an up-to-date web site. It is not unusual to visit a church web site that is several years old and outdated. This applies to my own church as well as the NTA's web site. I will endeavor to keep our web site more current and informative.

Another critical area is a plan of security. Our churches can no longer ignore the importance of having a plan in place in the event of a threat or an attack. No matter the size of the congregation, all our churches need to be proactive with security. What ever the plan is, it needs to be reviewed by an attorney and local law enforcement.

I pray 2018 will be a great and safe year for our churches.

Pastor Garry Thompson, NTAIC National Representative

Financials

Plant for the Lord

Beginning Balance: \$10,505.35
 Income: \$ 490.00
 Pust Support: \$ 800.00
 Ending Balance: \$10,195.35

General Fund

Beginning Balance: \$ 6,119.91
 Income & Receipts: \$ 5,815.99
 Total Disbursements:\$ 7,686.00
 Ending Balance: \$ 4,249.90

Please send any NTA giving to:

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 10600 61st Street
 Kenosha, WI 53142*

NTA National Representative

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Chaplain Robertson

On December 15, 2017, I completed my required military education at Command and General Staff College. I began the courses in May of 2016. It was broken into four phases that were spread out over the past eighteen months, although the actual course work could have been condensed into four, two-week blocks. When I boarded the plane to fly home from Ft. Jackson, South Carolina after completing the capstone course, I felt a great sense of relief. It has been disruptive schedule.

I did not want to spend a year in school where I did not minister to the soldiers in my unit. When I spoke to the commander of my unit, he agreed to provide additional funding so that I could be present at drills and Annual Training during that time. This mean I was drilling twice a month and had an additional two-week obligation this past summer. My church has had more special speakers this past year than any time since the 2009-2010 deployment. I am looking forward to 2018 settling into a more normal pattern.

I recently spoke with the State Command Chaplain in Wisconsin, and I will be moving units in the coming year. I've been at my current battalion since 2014, and it is Army policy to move officers around. I hope my unit is not too far away, but I anticipate the new unit being in the Milwaukee area. This will mean a longer drive time for now, but it will set me up for a better assignment when the next time to move comes.

Thanks again for your prayers as we continue to serve God and



James Barrick Obituary

James Barrick was born February 9, 1948 in Craig, Colorado. During his teen years he accepted Christ as his Savior at Riverview Baptist Church in Casper, Wyoming. He attended Pillsbury Bible College, married his college sweetheart, Rhonda, in 1968 and graduated from Maranatha Baptist Bible College in 1971 with a Bible Theology degree. He served as pastor at Rocky Mountain Baptist Church in Ennis, Montana and at Memorial Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois where he was also administrator of Rockford Baptist Schools. In 1989, he and his family moved to Cody, Wyoming where he faithfully served as pastor of First Baptist Church until he passed away on August 11, 2017. He was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Mountain States Baptist College, Great Falls, Montana in 2016.

He will be remembered for his service and devotion to Bible Camps, Christian education, shepherding his church family and loving and caring for his wife, children and grandchildren.

2018 Annual Meeting

The NTAIBC 2018 Annual Meeting is set for June 5-7 is at Faith Baptist Church, St. Paul, MN with host, Pastor Julian Suarez. Please watch for further details in upcoming issues.

Chaplain James Ekblad

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. It has been a year of many blessings and a few trials. We thank you for your prayers as we continue our ministry in the Chaplaincy and serving those in the military.

Currently we are stationed at Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX and are waiting for the Army's decision on where to send us in 2019. I am continuing to gain deeper trust in the lives of many of my soldiers and their families and allows me opportunity to share the love of God and His Word. Please pray for the unit. Half of my brigade just returned from a nine month deployment to Afghanistan and we lost one soldier. This coming year will be filled with rigorous training as we prepare for another deployment in 2019. During the time the brigade was deployed, I was the Rear Detachment Chaplain for the troops not deployed, was covering five Battalions and the Brigade Headquarters as well as training and mentoring two other Chaplains. I praise the Lord for the strength He provided to accomplish it. I love the job and the opportunities God has provided.

Pray for wisdom for Heather and I as we seek God's guidance to start the adoption process again. This can be a lengthy, trying and very expensive process. We praise God for providing funds last time and are seeking His guidance moving forward. Additionally, pray for us as Heather has started her own photography business. We are also praying for Alethea to one day recognize God loves her despite her sin nature and turn to Him. Please continue to pray for strength and wisdom in my ministry. I personally have had to deal with two suicides, 75 suicide ideations, and many different family and domestic issues. This can be taxing emotionally.

Thank you all so much for you continued support and prayers.



Chaplain Jeff Simpson

Greetings, from the Simpson family! This past summer we took a step of faith into the Air Force Chaplaincy. After 18 years of full time ministry at Fairview Baptist Church and Treasure State Academy, and many years in the Montana Air National Guard, I felt God leading me into the active duty chaplaincy.

My wife, Jodee, and two teenage kids, Emma and Wesley, were very supportive. In mid-July, I was told my first assignment would be Little Rock, AR, but the next day, I was offered a recently funded chaplain position at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Great Falls! After reviewing all that took place this last year, it was obvious God had orchestrated all in His impeccable timing! We'll just continue to follow as He leads.

Since my first day at Malmstrom AFB, my family and I have been blessed to be used of God. I am assigned to five squadrons, which includes over 1,000 military and civilian workers and their families. I am also the lead pastor for the Protestant Sunday Service and all Protestant programs. Additionally, I am managing the chapel funds until they hire a new accounting manager. Glory be to God for all that is being accomplished!

It has been very busy but God is providing a wonderful ministry experience. I have been involved in unit visitation, ministry work at squadron functions, and counseling people from all walks of life with many opportunities to share the Gospel. In fact, I led three people to Christ in my office last week! Praise the Lord! We covet your prayers as God continues to use our family in a field white for harvest!



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Thompson's Travel

Sunday, October 22 we were at First Baptist Church, Pastor Matt Fennell (Tanya) of Blooming Prairie, MN. I was privileged to teach the adult/teen SS class, preach the Morning Service and stay for their third service that shortly follows the morning service.

For the evening we traveled up to Morris, MN to visit with Pastor Micah (Rena) Tanis. We enjoyed a good time of fellowship, seeing the ongoing improvements to the church property. We were blessed with the gracious hospitality of the Tanis'. It was our blessing to be with the faithful people of Cornerstone Baptist Church, Elk River, MN, Pastor Gordon (Joyce) Langdon on November 12. I shared a brief history, purpose of the NTA and the relationship of the NTA with Cornerstone Baptist Church. After preaching the morning service message we were treated to a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

We left Elk River and went to Baxter, MN for the Evening Service of First Baptist Church, Pastor David (Cindy) Grotzke. We are grateful for the warm welcome and kind hospitality of First Baptist Church and overnight accommodations so we could drive home Monday morning.

Due to knee replacement surgery on December 5, I did not schedule a meeting for December.

Chaplain James Baker Update

I am continuing work in my unit getting to know the soldiers and leadership. It's a great opportunity! At the end of January, I will be going to Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course (CH-BOLC) and will be there for 4 months, graduating at the end of April.

We have a child due in May so much of my wife's pregnancy will be without my presence. We appreciate prayer for her physical endurance and sanity with our current three children. My M.Div. work is still creeping along and I am hoping to graduate in May.