

Summer 2023

# missionupdate

Tri-County Baptist Association | a Missouri Ozarks family of churches

## A Mission Trip to Our Own People: Tri-County Summer Camps 2023

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10) Tri-County churches are full of gifted and talented people, and our Summer Camps at Baptist Hill Assembly give our folks an opportunity to leave home and use their abilities and willingness to “do something for the Lord.” It’s like a mission trip—to our own people! If your church has kids who didn’t go to church camp this year—or if you’re an adult who wants to use your time and talents to advance God’s Kingdom—come go with us in 2024! Tri-County’s camps aren’t “big camp”—they’re OUR camps where we’re making disciples of Jesus!



SPARK KIDS



IGNITE YOUTH



LEFT: Our incredibly creative camp directors Cindy Kinser (Spark Kids) and Melissa Edwards (Ignite Youth)—our camp “dream team!”  
RIGHT: For the second year in a row, a mission team from Southwest Baptist University came to our camp and were a huge blessing!

### Making Jesus Smile



As a missions volunteer, former pastor and now as an associational leader, it gives me a thrill to see

God’s people mobilized for mighty service to extend His Kingdom. And in my mind’s eye, I can imagine our Lord Jesus—looking upon His people as they work together and love each other and share His love with the lost—with a big smile on His face.

**And I hope that Tri-County’s church camp last June made Him smile.**

I hope He’s pleased that almost 90 adult volunteers from many different churches—most of whom didn’t know each other before that week—came together, giving of their time, talents and treasure for one purpose: to share Christ’s love with 160 children and youth.

I hope He’s pleased with the spiritual seeds that were sown and the decisions made for Him, some publicly at camp and others after camp in their churches—and other decisions, hopefully, yet to come.

One cabin leader (who’s also a student pastor) sent me this report: *I had one-on-one discussions with the guys in my cabin at camp, one of which has grown up in the church, but has not given his life to Jesus. I didn’t know that until camp. We were able to get lunch last week and had a great gospel conversation. He did not give his life to the Lord, but he is so close. We are getting together again soon. Please pray for him.*

I think praying for that young man would make the Savior smile. And I am persuaded that Tri-County’s camp makes Him smile too. **Let’s live to please Him!**



Phillip Shuford  
Director of Missions

encouraging, assisting and resourcing our churches to fulfill the Great Commission

## TRI-COUNTY SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Phone: (417) 725-8825 Fax: (417) 725-8835

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Permit #33

Nixa, MO 65714

Return Service Requested

### STAFF

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### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - noon & 1:00—4:00 pm  
Friday: Office Closed; Other Hours by Appointment

Tri-County Baptist Association is connecting churches with each other and with the Great Commission. Contact us about speaking in your church about what God is doing through local missions!

connect with Tri-County  
Phone: 417-725-8825 Fax: 417-725-8835  
www.tcsba.com



Tri County Southern Baptist Association

## Around Tri-County

help us get your news out by emailing [debbie@tcsba.com](mailto:debbie@tcsba.com) or calling at (417) 725-8825

**COLLEGIATE MINISTRY UPDATE:** In April, Tri-County's long-time campus missionary at College of the Ozarks, Dr. Kyle Rapinchuk, submitted his resignation as BSU Director. We are thankful for Kyle and Kristin's almost 11 years of service and wish them all the best! Since then, Tri-County's collegiate ministry team has been meeting to determine next steps for our collegiate ministry and to begin a search for our next campus missionary.

#### Here's a brief outline of our thinking:

- CofO is a unique mission field in our area and we cannot leave that field "untended."
- We've been in contact with MBC's Collegiate Ministry and intend to continue our partnership with them.
- To align ourselves with what other campus ministries are doing across the state, our campus ministry "re-boot" won't be called "BSU," but "BCM" (Baptist Collegiate Ministry).
- The new director will be a part-time employee of Tri-County, and we are developing a job description for the BCM Director, which will be approved by Tri-County's Administrative Team. We will search for this person locally. The job description will be posted on Tri-County's website.
- Our primary goals for the coming academic year include having weekly worship experiences and developing a student leadership base.
- Please be in prayer that the Lord will raise up His person to lead this very important ministry.

And please be in prayer for Tri-County's BCM ministry team, for wisdom and discernment: Mark Miller (Executive Pastor, FBC Branson); Dr. Juston Gates (Lead Pastor, FBC Forsyth);

Dr. Justin Carswell (Vice-President for Christian Ministries at CofO); and Dr. Rusty Osborne (Associate Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at CofO).

Any questions or comments, please contact our Director of Missions Phillip Shuford at (417) 725-8825/phillip@tcsba.com

### WE'RE TRAINING OUR PEOPLE TO

**SERVE GOD!** Working together, we are preparing the current and next generation for ministry, and we're doing it two ways: the **Jim and Judy Wells Ministry Scholarship** and the **Tri-County Bible Institute**.

**WELLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:** In 2018, Tri-County established the Jim and Judy Wells Ministry Scholarship to honor our former DOM and his wife Jim and Judy Wells and to assist members of Tri-County churches who are called into vocational ministry with their ministry training expenses. Since it was established, the Wells Scholarship has disbursed \$13,618.75 and helped individuals from Tri-County churches with their ministry education.

**The 2023-2024 recipients of the scholarship are:** Justin Chapman (associate pastor, Sojourn Church of Nixa, attending Midwestern Seminary); Evan Walsh (elder at The Way Baptist Church of Branson, attending Oklahoma Baptist University); Michael O'Sullivan (pastor, Keystone Baptist Church of Reeds Spring, attending Dallas Theological Seminary); and Joseph Sisneros (pastor, Jamesville Baptist Church, attending Midwestern Seminary).

### TRI-COUNTY BIBLE INSTITUTE:

Fall class: "1 Corinthians: A Study of Paul's First Letter to the Church at Corinth"  
Class begins August 7. Cost: \$154, includes course and books (50% scholarship available for members of Tri-County churches). For more information and how to register: [tcsba.com](http://tcsba.com) and click on "Ministries" or call (417) 725-8825.

### COMING UP

**Mexico Mission Partnership exploration:** August 7-14. Call/email Phillip (417) 725-8825/Phillip@tcsba.com

**Pastor/Staff Prayer Fellowship Breakfasts:** Village Inn Ozark 8 am: 8/24, 9/21, 10/19  
Bob Evans Branson 8 am: 8/31, 9/28, 10/26

#### Worship Leaders Huddle

August 31 at noon, FBC Ozark, 1400 W Jackson Street, Ozark. Lunch, talk and prayer, open to all Tri-County worship leaders. We're going through the book *Spiritual Leadership* by Richard Blackaby. RSVP [Phillip@tcsba.com](mailto:Phillip@tcsba.com)

#### TCBA Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 1, Real Life Church Hollister (formerly FBC Hollister). Speaker: Dr. John Yeats. More info coming!

**STAFF CHANGES:** Matthew Mays as pastor to Pleasant Grove Baptist (Highlandville); Chris Thixton as Interim Pastor to Ozark Highlands Church (Ozark); Trevor Berndt as Family Life Minister to FBC Crane

**Pray for our churches between pastors:** FBC Chadwick, FBC Clever, Selmore.

### Thank you for giving to local missions through Tri-County!

Our commitment is to use what the Lord sends us to encourage, assist and resource our churches in Christian, Stone and Taney Counties to fulfill the Great Commission.

Budgeted thru June 2023: \$136,289  
Receipts thru June 2023: \$146,937.56  
Expenses thru June 2023: \$144,025.45

"They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." *Philippians 4:18*