

JBA General Board Minutes – 9/27/18

At 7pm our **JBA Vice-Moderator Blair Maust** opened up the meeting with prayer and a devotion taken from Luke 10:1-9, 17. He noted how the Lord Jesus sent out the workers “two by two” into the harvest fields, going out in pairs, a team approach to ministry. He also noted that not only did Jesus focus on the 12 disciples, but also the “unnamed” 72 who went out. This larger group represents us as well. We are to ask the Lord of the Harvest to send out the workers. It is sobering to read, “I send you out as lambs among wolves” but God promises his protection and grace. We are to “travel light—no bags, no money, and to depend completely on God.” When we arrive at a potential ministry field we are to look for a “man of peace” to be our conduit for ministry in that place. The followers of Jesus were to do two things—heal the sick and tell the Good News. This was a call to both the ministry of the Word and to doing good deeds meeting human need. We would do well to remember that combination as we focus on hurricane relief and recovery in the coming days. At the end of the account, the 72 returned with joy, telling about all the wonderful things God did while on their ministry journey!

There were no new board members present tonight.

In the absence of our **Clerk, Rev. Steve Grice**, Dr. Kelton Hinton read the minutes from the June meeting of the General Board and they were approved.

Our **Associational Missionary, Dr. Kelton Hinton**, gave an extensive report to the Board covering many items. Our Evangelistic Block Party Trailer is still serving our churches well as a new record of 18 churches have booked it so far this year. The JCC Campus Ministry has expanded to include two new Bible study groups in the Cosmetology area bringing the total of groups to eight involving nine church leaders from seven different JBA churches. Our two new church plants this year, LifeZone and The Point Church are both in their beginning stages in the Clayton area. Our major focus continues to be church planting. With the JBA containing SIX POLs (“Pockets of Lostness”) as determined by research done by the BSCNC, it behooves us to focus more of our resources in the following areas: Clayton, 40/42, Four Oaks, Smithfield, Selma and along Thanksgiving FD Rd. Dr. Hinton talked extensively about intentionally reaching out to those living in “multi-housing” situations (apartment complexes, mobile home parks, government subsidized housing, gated communities, etc) where an estimated 95% are unchurched and unreached for the Gospel. He challenged us to begin 50 “missional communities” in the next 5 years, one in each apartment complex. He also revisited the vision statement: “JBA Churches: Pushing Back the Darkness” and showed slides from one of our JBA churches—**Casa de Cristo** located near Newton Grove, who have been going monthly to a nursing home with their children and youth, “pushing back the darkness” of loneliness and depression among these seniors.

In the absence of our **JBA Treasurer Shirley Pike**, we reviewed the budget balances to date and noted that as of today, our JBA churches had given \$5,000 more this year than last year at this time! (Of course, in July we sent out letters to all of our churches asking them to consider increasing their giving to the JBA as well as a “wish list” for the new money and a copy of the proposed 2018-19 budget. Apparently those letters had a positive effect!)

JBA Baptist Men’s Director Rex Everhart gave us an update on Hurricane Florence recovery efforts. With 20 different sites being set up down east by NCBM, he advised our JBA churches to, at least initially, work through their website www.baptistsonmission.org and let them assign you where most needed. It is imperative that 1) trees are cut, 2) tarps are put on leaky roofs and 3) initial mudouts are done ASAP before mold sets in and ruins everything; THEN we as an association can “adopt” an area to focus on long term.

In the absence of **Carolyn Tharrington, our representative for the NCBCH**, it was noted that THIS Saturday (September 29th) would be a “work day” at Kennedy Home. They are expecting up to 500 volunteers to come and help them with recovery efforts.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Rev. Tim Stevens and adjourned at 8:30pm.

Submitted by Dr. Kelton F. Hinton

(in the absence of Clerk Steve Grice)