



THE BAY LAKES EXPERIENCE

Bay Lakes Baptist Association

Issue 2

February 2010

The Measure of Love

The news came to us back in September 2009 and it was heartbreaking to hear.

Mapledale Baptist Church in Sheboygan has a "FOR SALE" sign in their front yard.

Only two years ago they had been averaging in the 80s and 90s and had a new addition to their church building. But now attendance was down, averaging in the 30s; giving to the church was down, forcing the dwindling congregation to dig deeply into their savings. When their bi-vocational pastor resigned in September, hope for the future of the church was very low. They were in real danger of falling apart.

BLBA allowed our Director of Missions to help them as Interim pastor. Dr. Hansen approached Bethel Baptist Church in Green Bay about being available to this BLBA sister church. Bethel Baptist Church hosts the N.E.W. Southern Seminary Center and has several members taking classes. These students and their Associate Pastor, Kirk Leach volunteered to be supply preachers

for Mapledale. Caleb Azure, Pastor of Student Ministries at Bethel, assisted a Mapledale couple when their premature baby required hospitalization in Green Bay. Somehow, the loving efforts of a few brought hope to this weary congregation and they

began to also sense a renewed vision for God's purpose for His church in Sheboygan.

At their end-of-the-year business meeting, the 2009 financial picture was shared with the congregation. All bills were current with \$1,200. in checking. The "FOR SALE" sign is now absent from their front yard. They have renewed their mortgage adding 5 years to the payments, but making the payment more manageable until the congregation rebuilds itself. The attendance has begun to rise again with averages in the 40s and 50s. Steve Melvin, MWBC, reported 60 people in attendance just last Sunday.

The prayers of God's people for this sister church have been answered and continue to be answered. Continue to pray with them as they begin the process of finding a pastor.



Announcements

CALENDAR NOTE

~Empower~

Is coming up very soon. Make your reservations

at Green Lake!

www.mwbc.org

March 18-20

Remember

to pray for

HAITI



go to...

www.SBC.net

for information on

how your church can help

CALENDAR NOTE

Biblical Counseling Institute

Midwest Regional Conf.

Green Bay Community Church

May 30-May 1

To enroll...

www.bcstitute.com

251-401-0293

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4-6 MWBC Pastor & Wife Retreat—all BLBA pastors invited and encouraged to attend
- The month of March is Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Prayer for North American Missions.
- March 18-20 Empower
- April 4 EASTER NAMB Evangelism Emphasis
- April 17 B.O.D.I.E.S Conference Valley Baptist Church
- April 19-22 Pastor Prayer Summit, Green Lake
- April 24 BLBA Board Meeting 10:00-noon
- Pastor Mentoring: 2/18; 3/25

Praying for one another

- Barb Casper 's continued recovery
- Churches without pastors—Mapledale, FBC Stevens Point, Greenville Baptist
- Greenville Baptist Church in their search for a church planter