

## BAMA MINUTES – FEBRUARY 10, 2010

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, February 10, 2010 at West Mecca United Methodist Church. Present were host pastor Ron McIlvaine, Jody Baker, Jim George, Dale Briggs, Chris Furl, Jim Gardiner, and Fred Keener.

Host pastor Ron McIlvaine opened the meeting with devotions from Joshua 24, posing the question of whether God sometimes hardens people's hearts as He did Pharaoh's, in order for His will to be accomplished. He also asked whether we are guilty of worshipping some of the same false gods as the Israelites and other nations around them. Ron shared about the peace he and his wife have in spite of his recent job loss. Several other testimonies were shared regarding evidence of God's control in our lives.

Following prayer, the minutes of the January 13, 2010 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George reported that we have \$2,583.37 in the treasury, with 2 churches continuing to send monthly gifts. Regarding the apparent discrepancy with the amount of the Thanksgiving offering, Jim George had explained that some of the checks given at the Thanksgiving service were written directly to the Bristol Area Food Ministry, which accounts for the difference in the amount Wildare counted and the amount Jim counted. The total amount contributed that evening was \$844.73.

Regarding the possibility Jim had brought up in November about taking obsolete computers and other electronic equipment to a place in Cleveland for refurbishing, he found out that it's an organization called Ret3 Job Corp Inc. All electronic equipment is welcome, including computers, VCRs, cellphones, digital cameras, and TVs, though there is a \$10 fee for TVs. It was decided to let our congregations know of the availability of this program. Jim George will produce and e-mail us a bulletin insert. Each church can serve as a collection point for people in that congregation. At the end of the collection period (end of March), all items can be taken to Jim George, who will then transport them to Cleveland. Donations may be given to help with gasoline expense. For more information, go to [www.ret3.org/](http://www.ret3.org/)

Thanks to Dale Briggs, BAMA's Facebook page is up and running. Dale reported that the group has 36 members so far, and has been used to submit such things as prayer requests and announcements. Pastors are encouraged to remind people in their congregations of the opportunity to join. It should be noted that there are many groups on Facebook with the name "BAMA," but that our group has a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

The Lenten service schedule still stands as decided at our January meeting. However, Jody Baker shared the need for North Bloomfield U.M.C. to switch to March 21 for its turn as host church, due to the sanctuary being remodeled prior to that time. He will talk to Rich Whipkey about the possibility of switching dates. Another option would be to have the service in North Bloomfield's basement, or at another church altogether. Also regarding Lenten services, Jim George announced that West Farmington will be serving refreshments at 6 p.m. on the evening of April 2, with the service itself still scheduled for 7 p.m.

Regarding school assemblies this spring, Jody shared more information about Dan Smith, who pastors the Momentum Church near Independence. He and a band are willing to come and do 3 assemblies during the day plus a comeback that evening by himself, for the cost of \$1,700-1,800. Dan has received high ratings from the area

Youth for Christ coordinator, as well as from a middle school principal and the City of Independence. Jody shared that May 5 would be a good date for Dan to come, and would also work for Bloomfield High School. Chris Furl said he will check with Maplewood. It was felt that the evening program—which will possibly include rap, music, games, and testimonies—would work best at Wildare's Family Life Center. Jim George will check with Tal Lewis about this possibility. Assemblies would tentatively be held during the day at North Bloomfield (8 a.m.), Bristolville (10:30 a.m.), and Maplewood (1 p.m.), with the evening event probably starting at 6:30 p.m. As BAMA members, we need to be available to help set up and tear down.

Dale said he will approach the Bristol principle about having an assembly at the school, but needs links to Dan's videos to be able to show to the principal. Jody said he will send him some links. Such links could also be a promotion tools for kids to use to invite their friends. It was felt that word-of-mouth advertising will go a lot further than newspaper or any other kind of advertising. Chris feels that his church would give several hundred dollars toward this outreach. Other churches can be encouraged to pitch in as well.

Dale will be contacting Pizza Joe's in Champion to give them a heads-up about the need for a number of pizzas to be served at the evening event. Jody asked whether junior highers should be included. Dale said he thought junior highers should be invited to the evening program as well as senior highers. Assemblies at Bristolville and North Bloomfield could also be opened up to grades 7-12, provided there's enough space.

Regarding the event at Maplewood last June 27 with Michael Olson, Chris noted that there was no charge to BAMA for any expenses incurred by this event. He also apologized for giving the impression that Olson would be bringing a band to the event.

Closing prayer was offered by Chris, including prayer for Duane Hennen who is under the weather with a possible staph infection.

Our next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 10 at West Farmington U.M.C., with Jim George as host pastor. Those who can meet for prayer at 8:30 a.m. are invited to do so.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fred Keener, Secretary