

BAMA MINUTES – May 12, 2010

The Bristolville Area Ministerial Association met Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at Mecca Community Church. Present were host pastor Chris Furl, Dale Briggs, Ron McIlvaine, Jody Baker, Jim Gardiner, Jim George, Roger Norton, Rich Whipkey, Tal Lewis, and Fred Keener.

Host pastor Chris Furl opened the meeting by sharing from John 21:15ff, where Jesus asks Peter several times if he loves Him with agape love, and Peter replies that he loves Jesus with brotherly love. Chris said Peter was answering Jesus in a humble manner, admitting that he hadn't yet "arrived" in his love for Jesus, but that he was still a "work in progress."

Following prayer, the minutes of the April 14, 2010 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Jim George reported that we have \$3,385.07 in the treasury, after having paid Dan Smith and his band for their services. It was reported that the offering from the Lenten service at Greene Community Church has not yet been turned in.

In Old Business, Jim George shared that he and Ron McIlvaine took a trailer, pickup, and carload of computers and other broken or obsolete electronic equipment to Ret3 Job Corp in Cleveland. They estimated there were more than 30 systems, and said that RET3 will no longer accept anything from outside Cuyahoga County.

The 2 assemblies and comeback event with Dan Smith May 5 at North Bloomfield High School went very well. The overall cost was about \$1,940, and from the donations that were given, Jody has about \$18 left. 140 youth and adults were present for the comeback event, the most Dan has ever seen attend one of those. Jody felt it was because the assemblies were so well appreciated, and because Dan spent the lunch break talking and relating to the students. Both assemblies received much good feedback from the students, as well as from Principal Kobus. In fact, Mr. Kobus said it was his favorite assembly in 10 years. Jody said several Bloomfield students were in church the following Sunday that hadn't been there previously. Jody, as well as Dan's people, videoed the events, and segments of the tapes will be made available for promotional purposes in the future.

Dale wondered if it might be better to continue scheduling future assemblies and comeback events at just one school per year, rather than trying to hit all 3 the same year (Bloomfield, Bristolville, and Maplewood). It was felt that no matter where the comeback event is held, the most participation will always come from the school where the assemblies are held.

Later in the meeting, Dale wondered whether we should consider another assembly and comeback event next spring--probably with Dan Smith again--since we have more funds available than usual. Tal encouraged us to start making plans early in order to try to avoid scheduling difficulties. Rich mentioned the possibility of doing an event at one school this fall, and another school next spring. Dale will check to see if there's a date available at Bristolville in the fall. Chris suggested that Dale ask Bristol's Principal Jones to call Bloomfield's Principal Kobus to get a good recommendation from Mr. Kobus on Dan Smith. Using footage taken with Jody's camera, Dale said he will work on editing a DVD to show Principal Jones.

Dale shared that everything is confirmed for the concert of the Blackwoods Gospel group to be held November 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Wildare's Family Life Center. BAMA

churches are invited to donate toward the cost of \$300 for travel and 3 motel rooms. A love offering for the group will also be received.

Jody reported that he has purchased movie rights for a year for the film "To Save a Life," about teen suicide. He has scheduled it to be shown outdoors June 4 on Bloomfield U.M.C.'s property, just to the north of the church. The showing of the movie will begin at dusk. Jody distributed some promotional materials. He said popcorn and slushy drinks will be available that night, but there's no need for him to know ahead of time how many people are coming. A member of the Bloomfield School Board is handling the projection and sound. In case of rain, the event will be held in one of the churches in Bloomfield. It was mentioned that the Assembly of God would have the most space.

In the meantime, Jody is willing to loan the movie to us for short periods of time if we would like to preview it. Jody said that as long as he comes along and sets it up, the movie can be used in any town park or church, though he will confirm this with the company.

Jim George brought up the issue of insurance coverage--who is liable at a BAMA-sponsored event? After much discussion, it was felt that probably whoever owns the property where the event is held, be it a church, school, or town park. In the case of this movie, it will be a church-sponsored event held on church property.

Chris announced that March 20-21 of 2011, Answers in Genesis will be doing events at Mecca Community Church, and tentatively at Maplewood and Badger high schools if it can be worked out. If Badger doesn't agree to it, the organization would be available to do an assembly at another school in the area. He said no BAMA funds will be needed--his church is taken care of all expenses. He said that Dr. Tommy Mitchell will be the one representing Answers in Genesis. Dr. Mitchell will also be sharing two 45-minute sessions Sunday and Monday evenings at Rock of Grace. Chris reminded us to be sure to give the right "version" of promos to school principals--versions designed more for a secular audience than a Christian audience--so the principals don't get "turned off" by too strong of a religious come-on.

Jim George gave a report on the activities of the regional Salvation Army, overseen by Tony Houshour. He said that \$7,200 was taken in from our area this past Christmas season--Cortland, Mecca, and Bristolville. Jim clarified that the Salvation Army helps with rent as well as utilities, although people are sent to HEAP first. With Loren Hopkins becoming less active with the Salvation Army, Jim is now a liaison between BAMA and the Salvation Army. He said that the Warren office of the Salvation Army will be receiving funds specifically to help with electric bills. Just as a reminder, people in need may contact the Cortland Area Salvation Army at 330-637-6239.

Chris shared how benevolence is done at Mecca Community Church--a free will offering is received once a month and administered anonymously by the elders to those in the congregation who need financial assistance.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Jody Baker. Our next meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8 at Bristolville United Methodist Church, with Roger Norton as host pastor. Those who can meet for prayer at 8:30 a.m. are invited to do so.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Keener, Secretary