



REGULAR BAPTIST MINISTRIES
Making Disciples through Healthy Local Churches

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
GARBC.org



REGULAR BAPTIST MINISTRIES

Mike Hess, National Representative



GARBC.org

It was a year ago that the messengers at the national conference entrusted me with the stewardship of leading the GARBC. Christina and I consider it a blessing and privilege to serve our fellowship in this capacity. Traveling to churches, conferences, colleges/seminaries, and camps, as well as other ministry opportunities, has given me even more reason to be fired up about the future of the GARBC.

Many of you have asked how this transition has gone. Thank you for your prayers and faithful encouragement! By God’s grace, we have absolutely loved serving in this role. The Resource Center staff is a highly competent and enjoyable group to serve with. In this report you will be brought up to speed on several other areas of encouragement, where God is blessing the GARBC and RBP.

I’m blessed to serve with a great team of ministry leaders.

- Under David Gunn’s capable leadership, RBP continues to expand and grow in sales. It’s a joy to work closely with him. He is one of the most theologically articulate voices in our circles.
- You’ll notice our international partnerships continue to grow. Much of this is due to Chris and Deb Hindal’s indefatigable schedule as they travel around the world visiting current and potential partners.
- Mark Johnson has done a splendid job preparing the retirement program. The finances of RBM are served well with Mark’s financial integrity and expertise.
- Manning Brown’s report reflects growth in the chaplaincy ministry. Much of this is due to his burden and passion for this ministry. I’m excited about his goals for the upcoming year.
- Clare Jewell is capably serving one of the most crucial components of GARBC ministries—church planting and revitalization. Many of you

have commented to me how his ministry has helped your church see the need for revitalization. He has worked tirelessly to help churches with this endeavor.

This past year has been one of major transitions for Christina and me—Iowa to Illinois, pastoral ministry to NR of the GARBC, weekly preaching ministry in the same local church to itinerant ministry, having children at home to becoming empty nesters. But through it all God’s gracious and faithful character remains our anchor. We rejoice that His grace has proven sufficient in this transition.

This map illustrates the many places we’ve been blessed to serve in over the past 12 months. We are truly humbled and grateful for each of these opportunities. I have observed that momentum and enthusiasm for the GARBC is building. A special thank you to those who have given me the opportunity to preach the Word at your church or ministry. We give God all the glory!



Looking ahead, God has placed on my heart several initiatives to keep in front of you:
Retirement. The GARBC retirement program for pastors is now open for enrollment!

Pastoral Soul-Care. This ministry provides pastors and wives a Biblical, compassionate, and hopeful venue to get help with ministry struggles they may be facing.

Church Revitalization. After traveling tens of thousands of miles and visiting dozens of churches, I'm convinced that local churches' greatest need is revitalization. This is crucial to the future of our fellowship.

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Church Recruitment. We plan on utilizing every resource at our disposal to get the word out to churches who doctrinally align with us. It would be great to see the GARBC continue to expand into fast-growing states, urban and inner-city settings, and other unchurched areas in need of the gospel. Churches are not better off going it alone. An interdependent fellowship such as ours can play a significant role in helping other churches make disciples for God's glory. I need your help with this. Let's get the word out about this great fellowship of ours.

Pastoral Referrals. I recently wrote about this growing concern. Please pray with me that God would raise up qualified men with a desire to serve in pastoral ministry.



Mike Hess shares the Word with future pastors at Faith Baptist Bible College.

I'm very encouraged by what the Lord has done in the past year. More importantly, I'm eager to see what He will do as we press forward to "Make Disciples through Healthy Local Churches."



The GARBC Resource Center Staff, 2019.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Mark Johnson



It has been an exciting year for our ministries as several important projects were completed and others began to take shape. On the financial front, we maintained our goal of a break-even operating budget across our ministries for the third consecutive year. RBP is seeing increases in sales of curriculum, VBS, and Kids4Truth Clubs products, and \$200,000 has been invested so far in a complete revision of our Sunday School curriculum. The retirement of our independent RBP distributor in Canada this year led us to bring on a new distributor and even more opportunities for growth in that country. We continued to improve our work and reduce costs through technology. We rejoice in the progress God has given our ministries this year, and we are looking forward to the coming year being transformative for how our ministry serves churches. Here are three of the most significant updates on the horizon.

A new national retirement plan will enroll its first participants this summer, marking the beginning of a new journey toward long-term financial security.

1. A new national retirement plan will enroll its first participants this summer, marking the beginning of a new journey by pastors and ministry workers toward long-term financial security. This new program fills an immense void in church finances by providing easy access to a group retirement plan specifically designed for vocational Christian workers. It also strengthens our fellowship by creating a direct, personal connection between the GARBC and the individuals it serves. For more information, we invite you to visit garbc.org/retirement, or send us a note at retirement@garbc.org.

2. We have committed to an expert and thorough evaluation of our fundraising model to identify areas of untapped potential and to create a strategic plan around them. Our supporting base is strong, with more than 700 unique donors having given to our ministries in 2018. Though we remain diversified in our donor base, we see the long-term importance of further diversifying the ways we acquire new donors and offering more ways in which individuals, churches, and like-minded foundations can support the Regular Baptist Ministries. Keep an eye on your mailbox later this year for information on new programs and new ways that you can become involved.



A thorough, expert evaluation of the fundraising model will identify areas of untapped potential and create a strategic plan around them.

3. Continued investment in the RBP product line and strategy is planned for the coming year. As treasurer, I aim to manage funds in a way that provides for the ministries' daily needs while planning for the most effective future opportunities. Join me in prayerfully seeking God's wisdom and blessing on the stewardship of His resources.

Financial Results for 2018-2019

	GARBC General Fund	R e g u l a r B a p t i s t Chaplaincy Ministry	International Ministry	Builders' Club
Income				
Contributions	\$ 147,560	\$ 56,768	\$ 142,394	\$ 90,935
Investment & Other	202,322	-	19,554	44,768
Conferences	39,175	-	1,000	-
Total Income	\$ 389,057	\$ 56,768	\$ 162,948	\$ 135,703
Expenses				
Staffing & Benefits	\$ 250,937	\$ 61,982	\$ 72,765	\$ 56,716
General Operations	120,918	14,486	54,785	41,992
Facilities & Equipment	15,356	2,350	1,490	3,575
Grants & Assistance	1,846	181	65,054	113,361
Total Expenses	\$ 389,057	\$ 78,999	\$ 194,094	\$ 215,644
Net Difference	-	\$ (22,231)	\$ (31,146)	\$ (79,941)
Next Year's Need	\$ 300,000	\$ 51,000	\$ 155,000	\$ 184,000

Regular Baptist Press	
Income	
Sales - Curriculum	\$ 3,315,805
Sales - VBS	1,375,755
Sales - Books & Other	241,959
Sales - Kids4Truth	167,694
Baptist Bulletin	105,454
Investment & Other	92,184
Contributions	17,412
Total Income	\$ 5,316,262
Expenses	
Staffing & Benefits	\$ 2,195,038
Inventory Cost	1,680,126
General Operations	452,367
Fulfillment & Shipping	382,971
Marketing	224,039
Facilities & Equipment	198,909
Total Expenses	\$ 5,133,450
Net Difference	\$ 182,812

Highlights
Financial support received:
363 churches
385 individuals
Regular Baptist Press:
29,532 orders filled
Donor-funded grants:
\$ 113,000 Baptist Builder's Club
\$ 65,000 Regular Baptist Int'l



REGULAR BAPTIST CHAPLAINCY

Manning Brown



RegularBaptistChaplaincy.org

Looking back at the previous year, it is amazing to see God's hand working in and through the chaplaincy ministry.

- Ch. (CAPT) Tom Webber retired from the US Navy.
- New chaplains include Gil Kerr and Jack Dowden, both involved with hospital chaplaincy.
- Phil Zilinski and Caleb Reising are serving as police chaplains.
- Roger Allen now serves as a chaplain with a prison ministry, and Tony Brown with an addiction recovery ministry.
- Daryl Marco is a chaplain candidate with the Wisconsin Army National Guard, and Gibson Garwo and Bruce Morrow were selected for chaplaincy with the active duty Army. David Troyer also began service as an active duty chaplain, having transferred from the Reserves.
- Mike Crawford was promoted to colonel, and Peter Klotzbach was promoted to major. Both serve as chaplains in the Army National Guard.

It is great to see new chaplains start their ministry and see others recognized for their hard work. God continues to use our chaplains in incredible ways.

During the past year Jennifer and I visited many churches and many of our chaplains. Our travels took us to Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, Germany, and Hawaii. In addition to the GARBC annual conference, I was able to attend the Illinois/Missouri, Ohio, and Michigan state conferences. We presented the chaplaincy at churches in Michigan, Tennessee, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. We were warmly welcomed by all. Meeting with chaplains, their families, and our churches is truly a joy for Jennifer and me.

Awareness, recruitment, and encouragement remain the focus of the Regular Baptist Chaplaincy. Awareness comes primarily through church visits, the website, and social media. My goal is to have at least two articles a year in the *Baptist Bulletin* that will highlight chaplains and their ministries, and to visit four churches a year. Awareness directly dovetails into recruitment, with leads coming from visits and posted stories. My goal is to endorse six new chaplains in the coming year. Encouragement is critical, as is ensuring

our chaplains and their families know they are being prayed for and, when necessary, intervening on their behalf. Encouragement comes through visits throughout the year and contact through email, telephone, and cards. Jennifer will be reaching out to spouses through cards and other personal contacts. My goal is to visit three chaplains a year.

In April, Jennifer and I moved to Michigan, where I joined a church staff. It was an unexpected opportunity, but after several interviews and much prayer, it was clear that the Lord was leading us to take this step. Jennifer and I are grateful that I can continue in my role as the director and endorser of the chaplaincy ministry. Our new church has three GARBC-endorsed chaplains. My responsibilities with both the church and the Regular Baptist Churches complement each other, and I look forward to seeing what opportunities the Lord will open as a result of this change.

Jennifer and I remain dedicated to chaplaincy ministry, as well as to our chaplains and their families, and we are humbled and grateful to be a part of the Regular Baptist Chaplaincy.



Major Peter Klotzbach leads a military Bible study.

REGULAR BAPTIST PRESS

David Gunn

RegularBaptistPress.org 



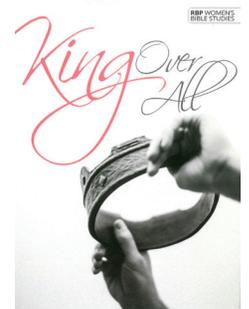
This year has been both challenging and rewarding for RBP. The work on the Strong Kids curriculum revision has occupied a great deal of energy and thought. As I write this report, we are just over halfway through it. Much work remains to be done, but we are encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive responses to the new material we have already witnessed, and we are grateful for the opportunity to work on this important project. Due to the revision, we have seen significant growth (around 15 percent) in curriculum sales this year.



Kids4Truth Clubs continues to experience steady growth. We now estimate that around 520 churches are using our midweek material. This year also saw exceptionally strong sales for our Vacation Bible School program. This was the second year in a row that we met and exceeded our VBS sales goals. We are rejoicing over these gains and praying that the Lord will use them to impact many lives for eternity.

Our book releases this year included *King Over All*

by Dorothy Davis, *Facing Your Fears with Faith* by Juanita Purcell, *God Gives More Grace* by Tim Valiante, and a newly revised and expanded edition of *Learning and Living God's Word* by Daniel Estes. With God's provision we were able to meet our fundraising goal for the first three volumes of the forthcoming New Testament Exposition Commentary series. The commentary authors are hard at work, and we anticipate initiating preproduction on the first volume soon. A number of other book projects and educational resources are also being considered for publication in the near future.



Major goals for the coming year include completing the children's curriculum revision, beginning the youth curriculum revision, adding hand motion videos to our VBS offerings, launching a robust digital publishing strategy for our book product lines, improving our order fulfillment service, and leveraging marketing opportunities to continue increasing the customer bases for our major product lines. In collaboration with Mike Hess, I am also exploring the possibility of launching regional conferences in the areas of worldview, apologetics, and Bible prophecy.

The need has never been greater for the church of Jesus Christ to proclaim resolutely the absolute, unchanging truths of Scripture.

We are living in an age of widespread confusion and uncertainty. As our society continues to drift into moral and epistemological relativism, the need has never been greater for the church of Jesus Christ to proclaim resolutely the absolute, unchanging truths of Scripture. RBP exists to equip churches for that work, and we are immensely grateful for the opportunity to do so.



BAPTIST BULLETIN

David Gunn

B BaptistBulletin.org

Throughout the history of the Regular Baptist Churches, the *Baptist Bulletin* magazine has existed as a platform for promoting Regular Baptist thought, theology, and ministry. We have always been unashamedly countercultural on those points where our culture is in conflict with God's revealed will, and we have been unwaveringly committed to the inerrancy and authority of Scripture. Today we continue to advocate for a Christian faith and worldview from a Regular Baptist perspective.

In 2018–19, the *Bulletin* engaged the following cultural and theological trends and issues from a Biblical worldview:

- the importance of church revitalization and the various resources available for that task;
- the ongoing debate between continuationists and cessationists over signs and wonders, dreams and visions, and Biblical sufficiency;
- the alarming New Apostolic Reformation movement;
- dealing with accusations Biblically;
- gender roles and Biblical womanhood;
- how Christians should prepare for the imminent return of Christ;
- how a strong position on Biblical sufficiency should impact our views on counseling and wellness;
- the importance of Biblical creationism for theology; and
- how dispensationalist premillennialists should understand the church's relationship to the Kingdom.

We also reported on news stories and ministry issues of particular interest to Regular Baptists, such as

- the lives and ministries of Ralph Turk, Robert Lightner, and Warren Wiersbe;
- John Greening's retirement and Mike Hess's installation as national representative of the GARBC;
- various ongoing church planting and revitalization efforts in our association churches;
- the growing crisis of pastoral shortages;
- how to avoid ministry collapse; and
- a forthcoming retirement plan for Regular Baptist pastors and ministry leaders.

This year also saw the launch of the *Baptist Bulletin* podcast, an online program that I am privileged to cohost with Mike Hess. The *Baptist Bulletin* podcast is dedicated to advocating for a Biblical worldview by encouraging Christian growth and ministry from a Biblical perspective.



Mike Hess and David Gunn record a podcast for the Baptist Bulletin.

REGULAR BAPTIST CHURCH PLANTING

Clare Jewell



rbChurchPlanting.org 

To facilitate church planting within the GARBC over the past year, I have focused on the following:

1. Continuing to offer \$30,000 Start Up grants to qualified new churches. This has helped to bring a few church plants into our association. Our goal is to see three more church plants come into the GARBC by the annual meeting in 2020.

Another goal is to communicate quarterly with several of the mission agencies with whom we have established relationships. I am seeking to expand existing connections with them in the hopes that we can see more new churches come into the GARBC while we help encourage and fund their efforts. I started this new communication in April 2019.

2. Developing a network of regional HUB churches to help develop lead church planters through one-year residency programs. Without qualified leaders who have been equipped to plant churches, we will not see any significant increase in church planting.

We launched a Train Up grant program in 2018. One resident has completed six months with Involve Church in Nampa, Idaho. He hopes to plant a church when his residency is completed this fall. I keep in touch with him and the host church / coach on a regular basis. We just met in person last month to assess progress.

Our goal is to have at least three more residents in the program by the annual meeting in 2020. I would like to see that increase to five per year starting in 2020–21.

Ten churches have committed to be HUB churches. The goal is to have 15 churches in place by June 2020. I have just initiated a quarterly contact system to help equip and inspire our HUB churches, and to connect them to each other so they can establish a peer group to encourage and coach one another.

3. Developing a church revitalization strategy. The majority of our churches are plateaued or in decline. As a result, they do not see themselves as being ready to engage in church planting. We need to continue to help churches move forward with a growth and reproduction mentality.

We launched a Lift Up grant program in 2018 to help churches go through a revitalization process with an experienced consultant. The grant pays for 50 percent of the cost. To date, two churches are engaged in the revitalization process. Both are seeing significant progress. Both pastors will be our guests at the annual conference in June.

Our goal is to have three more churches go through this revitalization process by the end of 2019, and then five per year starting with 2020.

We have also been working with revitalization consultants to help provide resources to our churches. To accomplish that, we have the following processes in the works:

- Our consulting groups will be teaching a 3-hour module on church revitalization on Tuesday, June 25.
- Our consulting groups are putting together a 12-month content strategy that will be delivered through email to pastors in our association who sign up. This will give pastors key information to help them take positive steps toward revitalization.
- The consulting groups will also be helping us to encourage church revitalization through several articles and data points delivered via the *Baptist Bulletin*, our website (garbc.org/churchplanting), and social media.



Grant recipients Branch Life Church, Pottstown, PA, held their launch service on April 28, 2019.



REGULAR BAPTIST BUILDERS CLUB

Clare Jewell



BaptistBuildersClub.org

1. In 2018 the Regular Baptist Builders Club expanded its grant categories from three to five to better serve the needs of churches on our association.

We initiated Lift Up grants to help churches walk through a revitalization process with experienced consulting groups. If approved, churches receive a grant for 50 percent of the cost of the consultation up to a maximum of \$10,000. This grant is designed to encourage churches to move forward with the kind of outside help and perspective that many churches need to gain clarity and to become reengaged in God's mission.

We initiated Train Up grants to help attract and equip quality leaders who are called by God to lead church planting or church revitalization efforts within our association. If approved, we offer up to \$1,000 per month for up to 12 months for a residency at one of our pre-qualified HUB churches. This grant program is designed to help deal with the shortage of leaders within our association.

2. To provide funding for the new and existing grant programs, we are in the process of developing a more complete process for raising funds. This includes the following:

Evaluating the pattern of income and expenditures for the Regular Baptist Builders Club over the past 10 years. Mark Johnson has already supplied the data we need.

Expanding our call letter base as a means of increasing income. Our constituency base has been declining due to aging. One of the ways we are seeking to expand this constituent base is to identify and connect with churches and individuals who benefited from RBBC grants in the past.

Developing a promotional campaign across all our media outlets.

Developing other fundraising efforts, which may include

- seeking estate gifts,
- seeking legacy gifts from churches that close, and
- initiating fundraising events.

Our goal is to increase our annual income by 50 percent over the next five years.

3. We are also working on plans to better steward our resources in the following ways:

- With Mark Johnson's help, we have instituted a more formal and clear process for receiving payments on our no-interest loans. This is already in operation and has proven to be effective.

- We have developed teams within the Regular Baptist Builders Club board that focus on specific grant requests by categories. These teams make recommendations to the full board based on more thorough research.

- All grant requests are fully vetted and considered before the board votes on any of the requests. This allows us to better prioritize grant approvals.

- We are also looking at possible caps on total grant approvals each year.

Over the past year, I have been engaged with several churches in our association as well as speaking at various state and regional conferences. I was the keynote speaker for the Minnesota and Illinois/Missouri conferences. I also led workshops at the Ohio and Baptist Network Northwest conferences. Please know I am available and willing to come to your church or region to speak or share on topics of interest—especially church planting, church revitalization, outreach, discipleship, and leadership development. I have also led workshops on building healthy teams, doing a SWOT analysis, and various aspects of leadership.

In addition, I have been connecting with various seminaries in hopes of opening up pipelines for church leaders and church planters to come into the GARBC. This included a visit with key leaders at Bob Jones University in the fall of 2018 and initial contacts with more than two dozen seminaries across the country. Please pray that these connections will bear fruit as we move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this association! I believe God will do great things in our midst as we focus more and more on the mission for which Christ died.

REGULAR BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL

Chris Hindal



GARBCinternational.org



Regular Baptist International includes Regular Baptist Press International, which focuses on providing Biblical educational materials to national churches, and the International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries, a network of independent Baptist church associations worldwide. I am available to introduce or report on Regular Baptist International. Contact me at chindal@garbc.org.

IPFBM

This network of partners continues to expand in number and influence. Since last summer, seven associations were added to the partnership, bringing the total to 70 in 23 countries, representing 10,000 local churches. I visited 11 countries, conducted pastors training seminars, spoke in association meetings, led strategic planning consultations, and vetted new partners through personal on-site investigations. While two-thirds of the partners are in Asia, during the next 12 months, I will focus on Mexico, Central America, and South America. Currently the IPFBM includes two associations in the Caribbean and two in South America, but much work remains to be done in the Spanish-speaking world. Elsewhere, fundamentalist Muslims and radical Hindus gain political support in their countries. Courageous national pastors and church planters, though often threatened and even suffering physical abuse, labor tirelessly in the spread of the gospel.

RBPI

Kids4Truth Clubs, an RBP children's club that teaches systematic theology to kids, has recently been translated into Chinese. The goal is to edit the materials and have them reviewed by national pastors, provide graphics, and publish them in Mandarin Chinese, followed by Cantonese for Hong Kong. Due to increased persecution and scrutiny on the mainland, the goal will be to secure an

International Standard Book Number for distributing the materials legally. Everyone involved covets much prayer for this work.

RBPI India will publish RBP Vacation Bible School curriculum for the fourth year, but the goal for 2020 is to contextualize by inserting Indian photos and illustrations, thus increasing the effectiveness of the gospel presentation.

A second year of RBP Primary Department Sunday School curriculum was translated this year and published in the Indian language of Telugu. Multiple teacher training seminars in the state of Andhra Pradesh, India, have trained over 2,000 teachers.

With added partners, RBPI will also increase distribution of RBP curriculum into more countries and more churches. We will also seek to create a secure website-based portal for internationals who can access broadband to download curriculum, which would eliminate shipping costs. Digital distribution will continue to expand.



Chris Hindal shares the gospel with a community in Malawi.