

Bloomington-Normal Great Banquet & Awakening

Community News & Events Winter/Spring 2020

How is God working in you?

The Great Banquet Board is seeking individuals who would be willing to share a 10-15 minute testimony or message during Apostolic Hours (candlelight worship) for either the spring or fall weekends.

Would you consider praying about how you might share with the community what you've learned, experienced or witnessed in your faith since your weekend?

Sharing your story is one way that you can encourage the community as together, we serve. Every Saturday night of our weekends, just before candlelight, we gather to pray and worship together, reflecting on where God has led us since our 3-day experience.

If you would be willing to share, or if you know someone in the community who would have a powerful message to share, contact Monica Terven: MonicaTerv@aol.com or Cara McMorris: TheMcs7@gmail.com

We need you!

- Prayer Vigils
- Meal Servers
- Bring Snacks
- Provide Agape
- Make a Banner
- Attend Events
- Financial Support
- Sponsorship



For Awakening Information visit:
BNGreatBanquet.com

Mens Great Banquet # 130

March 5-8, 2020

Dedication: Sunday, March 1 • 6:00 pm at Calvary UMC

Minimum Registrant Deadline: February 18

Banquet Schedule

Thursday

7:00 pm Guest Registration
8:00 pm Send off/Sponsor's Hour

Friday

7:30 am *Meal Servers Arrive*
8:00 Breakfast
9:15 Discovering Priorities
11:15 God's Gift of Grace
11:30 *Meal Servers Arrive*
12:30 pm Lunch
1:45 Ministry of All Believers
3:00 Our Response to God's Grace
5:00 *Meal Servers Arrive*
5:30 Dinner
6:30 The Way of Relationship

Saturday

7:30 am *Meal Servers Arrive*
8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Truth Through Study
10:15 Sacramental Grace
12:00 pm *Meal Servers Arrive*
12:30 Lunch
3:00 The Life of Christian Action
4:30 Obstacles to Grace
5:00 *Meal Servers Arrive*
5:30 Dinner
7:00 Disciples
7:30 *Community Arrives for Gut Bucket*
8:30 *Candlelight Worship*
10:00 *Candlelight*

Sunday

7:30 am *Meal Servers Arrive*
8:00 Breakfast
8:50 Changing Our Environment
10:00 A Life of Grace
11:00 Body of Christ
11:30 am *Meal Servers Arrive*
12:00 Lunch
1:30 Staying Power
2:30 Establishing Priorities
4:45 *Community Arrives for Closing*
5:00 Closing

Lay Director	Al Schroeder
Asst. Lay Director	Mark Wylie
Asst. Lay Director	Bruce Tucker
Musicians	Glenn Dicken
	Mike Casali
Board Advisor	Ron Kennedy
Talk 1 - Discovering Priorities	Randall Farris
Talk 2 - God's Gift of Grace	Rick Tindall
Talk 3 - Ministry of All Believers	Squish Calderon
Talk 4 - Our Response to Grace	Bruce Tompkins
Talk 5 - The Way of Relationship	Kevin Kennedy
Talk 6 - The Truth Through Study	David Anderson
Talk 7 - Sacramental Grace	Joe Culpepper
Talk 8 - The Life of Christian Action	Mike Kruen
Talk 9 - Obstacles to Grace	Clinton Brown
Talk 10 - Disciples	Jonathan Thompson
Talk 11 - Changing our Environment	Bob Mueninghoff
Talk 12 - A Life of Grace	Kevin Gordon
Talk 13 - The Body of Christ	Tyler Blanks
Talk 14 - Staying Power	Al Schroeder
Talk 15 - Establishing Priorities	Jake Aupperle
Agape Chapel Leader	Jason McHenry
Agape Chapel	Lucas Bauer
Agape Chapel	Joe Kokaly
Agape Chapel	Mark Terven
Agape Chapel	Clay Witham
Agape Chapel	Jacob Schroeder
Table Leader	Terry Kirby
Table Leader	Rob Kuhlmann
Table Leader	Adam Stephey
Table Leader	Cody Wickenhauser
Table Leader	Tim Higginson

For more updates visit:

www.BNGreatBanquet.org

Womens Great Banquet # 131

March 19-22, 2020

Dedication: Sunday, March 15 • 6:00 pm at Calvary UMC

Minimum Registrant Deadline: March 3

Lay Director	Judy Kelly
Asst. Lay Director	Tammy Tucker
Asst. Lay Director	Bobbi Overfelt
Musicians	Karla Lohnes Annie Hobson
Board Advisor	Julie Anderson
Talk 1 - Discovering Priorities	Bobbi Overfelt
Talk 2 - God's Gift of Grace	Carol Smithson
Talk 3 - Ministry of All Believers	Carolyn Jiles
Talk 4 - Our Response to Grace	Nancy Behrens
Talk 5 - The Way of Relationship	Kathy Knecht
Talk 6 - The Truth Through Study	Kim Payne
Talk 7 - Sacramental Grace	Mary Kay Henson
Talk 8 - The Life of Christian Action	Gina Dew
Talk 9 - Obstacles to Grace	Betty Nave
Talk 10 - Disciples	Sharyl Jennings
Talk 11 - Changing our Environment	Jill O'Flaherty
Talk 12 - A Life of Grace	Terry Pitzer
Talk 13 - The Body of Christ	Crystal Ward
Talk 14 - Staying Power	Judy Kelly
Talk 15 - Establishing Priorities	Linda Adams
Agape Chapel Leader	Marrita Taylor
Agape Chapel	Kathy Rygh
Agape Chapel	Annette Thompson
Agape Chapel	Tori Langellier
Agape Chapel	Jean Schmidt
Table Leader	Cheryl West
Table Leader	Jill Warren
Table Leader	Lucy Williamson
Table Leader	Marcy Shaffer
Tech Support	Donna Able

Banquet Support

72 hour Prayer Vigil

Support the weekend with your prayers!
Sign-up on-line through Sign-up Genius
www.bngreatbanquet.org

Meal Servers

Be Christ's hands and feet while serving our guests and team!
Sign-up on-line through Sign-up Genius
www.bngreatbanquet.org

General Conference Room Agape Letters

Let our guests and team know how you have been praying for them and offering up sacrificial acts of agape on their behalf!

Banners

We are in need of new banners to share on the weekends. A great reunion group project!

Agape Gifts

All those cute little gifts can make a BIG impact.
Plan on 60-70 gifts per weekend.

Set Up/Clean Up

4:30 pm Wednesday before the weekend
4:00 pm - 1 hour after Closing

Gut Bucket Band

7:30 pm, Saturday
Bring a costume (or we will provide a silly hat!)
sing a song and provide entertainment.

Candlelight Worship

8:30 pm, Saturday
Join us for community worship, prayer and communion.
* Help with set-up at 7:00

Candlelight Walk Through

10:00 pm, Saturday
Hold a candle and be "agape in the flesh"

Closing Worship

5:00 pm, Sunday
Hear how God has changed lives in 72-hours!

Lincoln Great Banquet # 54

April 17-19, 2020

Dedication: Tuesday, April 23 at Network Bible Fellowship - 6:00 pm

Lincoln Team # 54

Lay Director	Stephen Sigler
Asst. Lay Director	Dean Buhrke
Asst. Lay Director	Steve Myers
Musicians	Mike Cassali Glenn Dicken
Board Advisor	Rusty Bledsoe
Agape Chapel Leader	David Kaeb
Agape Chapel	Harry Jiles
Agape Chapel	Joe Kreiter
Agape Chapel	Durand Dressel
Agape Chapel	Todd Calhoun
Table Leader	Ricardo Baez
Table Leader	Darwin Richmond
Table Leader	Tom Brooks
Table Leader	Keith Taylor
Table Leader	Gerald Gooding
Table Leader	Kevin Cook
Table Leader	Kerry Parker
Discovering Priorities	Dean Buhrke
God's Gift of Grace	Keith Blankenship
Ministry of All Believers	Jeff Williamson
Our Response to Grace	Steve Barrow
The Way of Relationship	Rick Dancey
The Truth Through Study	Pete Falstad
Sacramental Grace	Dan Jassman
The Life of Christian Action	Jim Smith
Obstacles to Grace	Rick Dancey
Disciples	Glenn Dicken
Changing our Environment	Bernie Wrezinski
A Life of Grace	Wayne Giermann
The Body of Christ	Scott Riddle
Staying Power	Stephen Sigler
Establishing Priorities	Steve Myers

Lincoln Support

Attend Dedication

Tuesday, April 23

6:00 pm at Network Bible Fellowship

Prayer Vigil

Prayer Vigil starts at Midnight on Friday!

Sign-up on line at BNGreatBanquet.org.

Sponsor's/Agape Letters

Help us provide letters for our Lincoln guests

Address to: "Dear Brother in Christ"

Sign: "Sister in Christ or Friend"

Do not seal envelopes

Agape Gifts

Paper agape works best ... bookmarks,

origami, kids coloring pages and art work
are always a hit!

*** no stickers, staples, tape, paper clips

Lincoln Clearance

Clearance for Candlelight and Closing

Prior clearance is needed for those wishing to attend weekend events at Lincoln Correctional Center.

Please contact Rusty Bledsoe by February 10
309-838-0950 or rusty@ctb123.net

He will gather information from you and submit to Lincoln. Once you have clearance, you will receive an e-mail with additional instructions.

Community Impact

Blessings everyone and Merry Christmas!

This years donations exceeded our target which allowed us to go back to the Chaplain to ask if there was anything we could provide that would help her with Church or programs. She indicated that their TV just broke they use for Church and that a cart would be helpful for her to move items from location to location. These items accounted exactly for our extra donations we had to spend - God is good!

In addition to a pair of socks and the normal goodies that went to the 1,050 residents, our group was able to donate a TV and (2) carts to the Chaplain. Here is her thank you note:

"Rusty, My heart is so overwhelmed by everything that you all have done for this facility. The cart and TV and all the things for the Men's Christmas Baskets is such a display of the Great Banquet's love for God and for the men behind bars. Thank you, all so much and if I don't see you before tell all the Great Banquet Men and Women "thank you." Have a Blessed and Happy Christmas and New Year.

Blessings, Chaplain Colleen Bennett-Houston"

I feel this is such a great opportunity for us to reach the 80% of the residents that we don't normally interact with. Our prayer is that as they enjoy their goodies, they might be open to hear about the Love and Peace that Jesus Christ can bring. And God will soften their hearts and open there minds to the greatest change in there lives. Amen!

On behalf of Chaplain and the men of Lincoln, I would like to thank everyone who donated, including those from CHAT (women's prison team). This is a great opportunity to provide a positive moment to everyone at Lincoln and through your generosity our hope is to be able to do this again next year!

Rusty Bledsoe,
Lincoln Correctional Center Prison Liaison

Logan Pillow Agape

Thank you to all who have contributed to the pillow agape for Logan Correctional Center. Two dozen pillows have been purchased and delivered, with plans to purchase an additional 4 dozen.

The Great Banquet board agreed that this is an ongoing need that the community will support as long as the need exists. Since 75 women attend our weekends, we will purchase that many pillows annually for the facility until the need no longer exists.

If you would like to contribute to this specific outreach, please send your checks to the PO Box address with "pillow agape" in the memo line.

May you be blessed in the new year!

Michelle Giermann,
Logan Correctional Center Prison Liaison



New Board of Directors Structure:

In January the Bloomington - Normal Great Banquet Board approved a new board structure. We will now operate under an Executive Board, made up of individuals who head up committees or "areas of responsibility" to ensure the success of our weekends and community.

The Executive Board will still meeting monthly and committees will be encouraged to meet bi-monthly.

We believe this new structure will allow us to utilize more community members and provide more efficient use of people's time.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this new set-up!

Executive Board "Board Leadership Team"

Community Lay Director – Shelly Hanover

Spiritual Director – Pastor Dan Jassman

Treasurer – Sheila Melzer

Communications Lead – Rob Wall (Temporary Lead)

Community Outreach Lead – Julie Anderson

Team Preparation Lead – Keith Jenkins

Weekend Preparation Lead – Rhonda Jenkins

Weekend Execution Lead – Cara McMorris

Men's Prison Ministry Liaison – Rusty Bledsoe

Women's Prison Ministry Liaison – Michelle Giermann

Awakening Liaison – Ellie Dew

Past Community Lay Director – Rob Wall

Committee Teams

Communications

Email, Web Site, Newsletter, and Social Media

Team Lead: Rob Wall

Aaron Shane

Rob Wall

Donna Able

Paul Morris

Hannah Jassman

Shelly Hanover

Darren Plattner

Team Preparation

Team Selection, Team Training, Document Management, Database Administration, and Background Checks

Team Lead: Keith Jenkins

Julie Anderson

Jim Pitzer

Rhonda Jenkins

Darren Plattner

Cara McMorris

Weekend Preparation

Supplies, Setup/Clean Up, Technology, Sound Equipment, and Miscellaneous

Team Lead: Rhonda Jenkins

Monica Terven

Mark Terven

Robin Shelton

Scott Dunt

Keith Jenkins

Rob Wall

Community Outreach

Community Gatherings, Fourth Day Meetings, Sign-Ups, and Sponsorship

Team Lead: Julie Anderson

Amanda Cryer

Gail Sigler

Liz Walsh

Terry Pitzer

Ellie Dew

Hannah Jassman

Weekend Execution

Weekend Registrar, Weekend Events, and Community Musician.

Team Lead: Cara McMorris

Janae Bledsoe, Registrar

Denise Pitzer, Community Musician

Donna Able

Jeff Able

Monica Terven

Prison Ministry

Coordination and Oversight of the ministry in Lincoln and Logan Correctional Centers

Team Leads:

Rusty Bledsoe

Michelle Giermann

Meal Servers Guidelines

A great way to display “Agape in the flesh” is through meal service on the weekend. As always, we are so grateful for the volunteers who take time out of their day to drive to the lake and serve our guests, sleepers and team.

Here are some easy guidelines and suggestions:

Eight is great!

8 servers is an ideal number to cover the needs of our guests, sleepers and team.
Sign-up online at BNGreatBanquet.org

Make it a party

Bring agape to place on tables
(beginning at dinner on Friday night)
Provide special napkins, centerpieces or tablecloths

Sponsors, Spouses & Parents

If you are a sponsor, spouse or parent, please plan on serving on Sunday so your guest or sleeper can have their own experience.

Plan on 2 hours

Time slots for meal servers are 2 hours.

- When you arrive set the table, put out agape, and get ready for guests to arrive. The weekend Board Advisor should be over to check in with you.
- Once guests arrive, servers can offer beverages and serve food to the table. (which will be delivered from kitchen by a staff member).
- After food is served, volunteers will be given the opportunity to introduce themselves, sharing name, home church, weekend number, and table name.
- After guests are through eating, clear plates, silverware, and cups. If there is leftover food, you can eat once guests leave the dining hall.

Stay out of the kitchen

Due to health code requirements we are not allowed in the kitchen area of East Bay. Please appoint one person from your volunteer team to be the point person for the kitchen during your meal.

Don't “bring the world” in with you

Refrain from using cell phones while serving
Be discreet allow guests/sleepers to enjoy their meal without being reminded of the world back home

Sorry - No kids

Please remember all weekend events are for folks who have completed a 3-day weekend.
(Banquet, Emmaus, Awakening)

Prayer Vigils

Remember how it felt knowing that people were praying for you around the clock during your weekend? What an amazing act of service and agape!

Sign Up Now!

It is helpful to have all the slots filled the weekend before the weekend - so team can rest easy knowing the entire fourth day community is supporting them.

Plus, this gives us time to prepare the schedule board and have it ready when the weekend kicks off on Thursday evening.

Hot Tip!

Signing up for the same time slot on multiple weekends will help in remembering your volunteer time.

Sign Up today!

www.BNGreatBanquet.org

Norman Brown

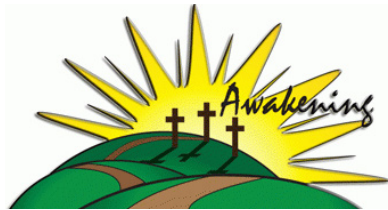
In December we lost one of our founding community members, Norman Brown. To give you a bit of community history; in the Spring of 1988, Norman served as weekend Lay Director #1 at East Bay. We are grateful for a beautiful start he gave us and his dedication to our community throughout the years.

Since 1988, our community would mark the end of summer and the beginning of our Fall weekends by attending the Brown's Picnic (Gathering) held at Norman's home. The hayrack rides, the yummy food, and the friendship sprouted will be in our hearts and memories forever.

When we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the community at the Brown's Picnic, Norman stated, “When we bought the farm we envisioned events just like this” just imagine!

To the Brown family ... please accept sincerest thank you for sharing Norman with us. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with you through this time of grieving.

Bloomington-Normal Great Banquet Community
PO Box 707
Bloomington, IL 61702-0707



www.BNGreatBanquet.org

Fourth Day Meeting

Thurs. March 26 • 6:30 pm
at Calvary UMC, Normal

Guests and those looking to get more involved with our community are invited to share about their fourth days, create reunion groups and learn more about the community.

Data Base Clean Up

If you would like to stop receiving the B-N Great Banquet/Awakening newsletter please email:

Darren Plattner gd7995@gmail.com
Shelly Hanover ShellyHanover@me.com

Please remember, newsletters and other information is available online at BNGreatBanquet.org

2020 Weekend Dates

Girls Awakening: February 7-9

Boys Awakening: February 21-23

Minimum Registrant Deadline: February 5

Men's Banquet: March 5-8

Minimum Registrant Deadline: February 18

Women's Banquet: March 19-22

Minimum Registrant Deadline: March 3

Lincoln Men's Banquet: April 17-19

Men's Banquet: September 17-20

Minimum Registrant Deadline: September 1

Women's Banquet: October 1-4

Minimum Registrant Deadline: September 15

Logan CHAT: TBA

Girls Awakening: October 30-November 1

Minimum Registrant Deadline: October 14

Boys Awakening: November 13-15

Minimum Registrant Deadline: October 28