

A large, light gray outline of a house with a pointed roof and a chimney, serving as a background for the text.

2012
GARBC
ANNUAL
REPORT

www.GARBC.org



General Association of Regular Baptist Churches

John Greening

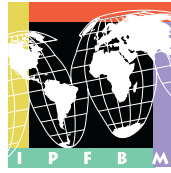
Few would deny we are living in a period of global uncertainty. A growing restlessness shows itself in the financial markets, on the political stage, and in the ideological arena. Like shifting tectonic plates, the strata of populace society are rumbling with pent-up pressure. Counterforces of oppression and resistance are building toward a revolution—not only in countries such as Syria, Sudan, and Greece, but also in the U.S. with the Tea Party and Occupy Wall Street movements.

With tensions mounting, the church of Jesus Christ must raise its voice and declare the only message that can address the epicenter source of society's problems—the gospel. We must not fall prey to false reassurances of complacency as in the time of Noah. Instead we must courageously follow the example of the apostle Paul, who boldly declared in a threatening environment, “I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation.”

At the center of God's plan are His local churches—vast grassroots networks of transformational influence. In the countryside, villages, towns, and cities, we are called to make Christ known through our words and actions. As a fellowship of gospel-grounded, Bible-based, and like-minded churches, we must accept the challenge! We must individually fulfill our gospel assignment and collaboratively execute the work of the Great Commission. We must invest with abandonment every asset God has granted to our churches in proclaiming Christ.

This year the Lord has enabled us to advance the GARBC for the cause of Christ. Take joy in the following positive developments:

- **Church recruitment**—An upturn is taking place in churches seeking information on fellowshiping with the GARBC. Our association's characteristics of consistent doctrine, balanced approaches, and respect for varying methods in doing ministry are appealing assets. Pastors desire fellowship with ministry peers and the network and services that our association provides.
- **Church planting**—A renewed interest in church planting is gaining momentum. More pastors, churches, and state fellowships are considering church planting. We must fulfill our obligation to pursue this Biblical mandate. Our association must provide support for this initiative without violating the nature of our non-centralized fellowship.
- **Master planning**—I have led a team of seven pastors in monthly online meetings to lay out a strategic vision and action plan for the GARBC through 2020. Stay tuned for eventful days ahead!
- **Online learning**—Participation in online cohorts continues to grow. I hosted a series of eight-week pastoral cohorts. A new monthly church planters' cohort is thriving. I plan to continue to expand online interactions among pastors.
- **State representatives connecting**—I began an online forum to bring state/regional representatives together for mutual encouragement, problem solving, and professional development. We are planning to meet regularly.
- **Baptist Bulletin**—The magazine is drawing increased interest by advertisers. The articles are focused and thought-provoking. The *Bulletin's* features on church planting tell the story of real ministry in the trenches. The online *Baptist Bulletin* continues to attract interest. Every church would benefit by subscribing the *Baptist Bulletin* for its members.



- **Pastoral referral**—A new online system at www.garbc.org facilitates pastoral candidates submitting their résumés online and churches posting their ministry openings. We can efficiently and comprehensively provide pastoral referral assistance through this venue.
- **Consultation**—Our GARBC administrative team assisted churches in developing personalized strategies for revitalization, growth, financial stability, disciple-making, and conflict resolution. Online and on-site GARBC consultation services guided churches through a process of self-discovery, asset assessment, community awareness, creative consideration, and operational alignment.
- **Policy**—After thoughtful review, the Council of Eighteen is recommending two additional statements to the GARBC Articles of Faith. The statements address a Biblical position on marriage and male-only pastors.
- **Annual conference**—God gave us an exceptional week of fellowship, instruction, and worship in Denver, Colo., in 2011. The Rocky Mountain regional committee, led by Dan Williams, did a great job hosting last year's conference. We are enjoying this year's conference thanks to Baptist Bible College's warm welcome and Craig Golden's leadership of the regional committee.
- **Finances**—Praise the Lord, our overall finances will end in the black as a result of prudent cost containment. It is essential for long-term viability that we plan for the addition of donor churches/individuals, efficient business planning, and product sales. Each of these three components contributes to a financially sound organization.

Looking forward, we will collaboratively pursue important initiatives. Church planting is vital to carrying out the Great Commission. We will implement church-planting strategies such as developing online resources, mentoring, accountability, and funding assistance. In pursuing global evangelism, we will build upon our network with doctrinally sound international fellowships for greater effectiveness. In the education realm, we will develop an online and on-site learning lab network for the enhancement of ministry skills for pastors and church workers. Equipping individuals for ministry can also be promoted by forming a coalition of Baptist higher learning comprised of doctrinally aligned schools. We must work on strengthening communication channels by connecting pastors and churches for fellowship and compassionate assistance and by restructuring the association for regional representation and participation. We can leverage collective wisdom by linking state/regional representatives together for local church assistance, pastoral referral, and creative planning. To build for the future, we must articulate our association's positions and values through writing and publishing resources for local church and academic learners. We must be forward in our thinking while maintaining our theological roots. We must build our ministries with mutual respect and an appreciation for one another across ages, preferences, and worship styles.

Our time is now. We cannot allow ourselves to be distracted by passivity, pettiness, or misplaced priorities. It is time for action. I count it a great blessing of the Lord to regard the GARBC as my family and my circle of ministry colleagues.

Together we can accomplish more!



Treasurer's Report

Michael Nolan

Fiscal year 2012 was especially challenging in relation to the finances of GARBC ministries. While many positive ministry accomplishments were made, many possibilities went unrealized due to finances and many ministry areas are still in need of funding.

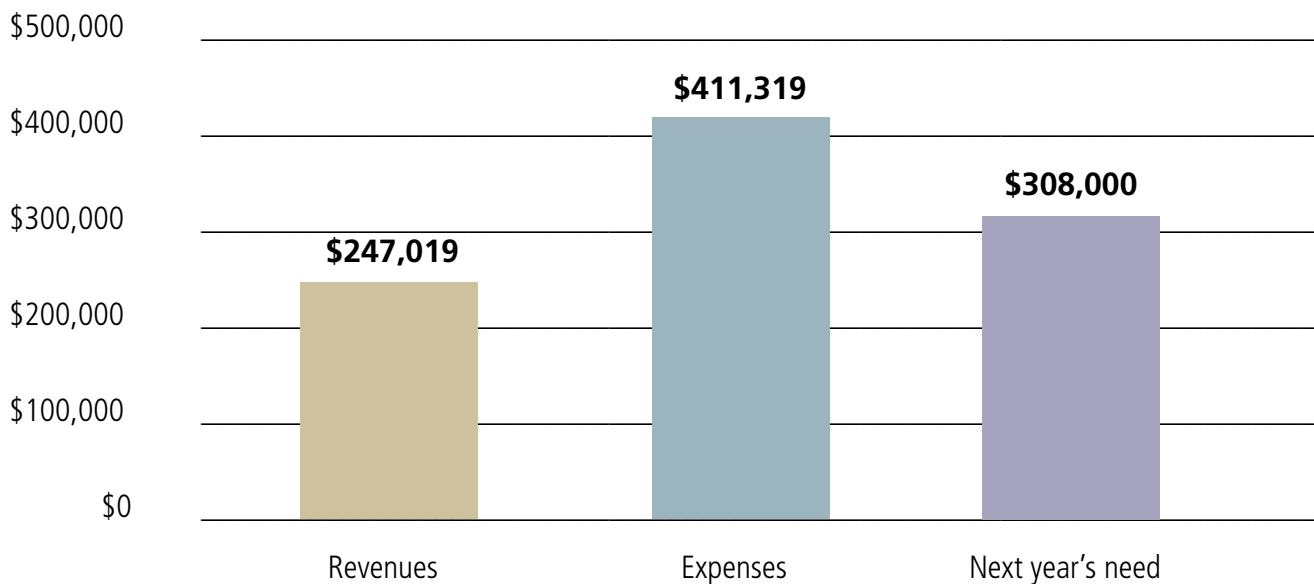
The GARBC saw a continued decrease in contributions, prompting a careful evaluation and reduction to expenditures in an attempt to get closer to a break-even budget. Regular Baptist Press had increases in VBS, while Sunday School curriculum sales were lower once again due to churches' shrinking order sizes. Among its successes, Regular Baptist Chaplaincy initiated new programs that will need increased support. Baptist Builders Club continues to grant and loan Regular Baptist churches money in an effort to strengthen our churches in the USA, though funding is short in the area of church planting. And the International Ministries accomplished much through its international partnership; many projects were completed in getting the gospel throughout the world.

The overall consolidated financial picture for the year is praiseworthy. We started the year on track to report a loss of \$250,000 and in need of borrowing money short-term. The actual year-end results show our financial picture with positives in both our operations and cash flow. Praise the Lord! The needs for our ministries are greater, and contributions and sales continue to decline, yet our outlook for next year is still positive. We must find ways to generate more RBP sales and more donor / church contributions to support the ministries of the fellowship.

	GARBC	RBP	Chaplaincy	GLS	BBC-USA	IPFBM	Total
Revenues	247,019	6,324,307	123,270	213,991	87,489	9,120	7,005,196
Expenses	411,319	5,936,088	132,613	367,463	138,656	10,768	6,996,906
Net Result	(164,300)	388,219	(9,344)	(153,472)	(51,167)	(1,648)	8,289

Please take a moment to read the following GARBC ministry reports and express thanks to the Lord for enabling His servants and for working through our association.

GARBC Fund



- Expenses have been reduced for 2012–2013, yet there is still a shortfall and a need for additional funding.
- By every church lending support, the need will be met.



Regular Baptist Press

Alex Bauman

60 Years of Faithfulness

Sixty years ago a group of GARBC churches decided they needed their own Sunday School curriculum to teach what they believed as Baptists. The interdenominational curriculum available at that time didn't take a strong enough stand on doctrines and issues important to Baptists. Regular Baptist Press was a result of that desire for Bible-based, Baptist curriculum.

By God's grace, RBP has not wandered from its initial moorings. It is RBP's connection to the GARBC that has in part kept the ministry so closely tied to its original position. Being accountable to churches with strong Bible convictions ensures that RBP could not place financial success over doctrinal purity.

Students who grow up using RBP curriculum are prepared for life. They are taught to live as Christlike disciples and to seek to please Him. They are ready to impact their world.

By God's grace, RBP will continue to serve GARBC churches faithfully for the next 60 years and beyond.

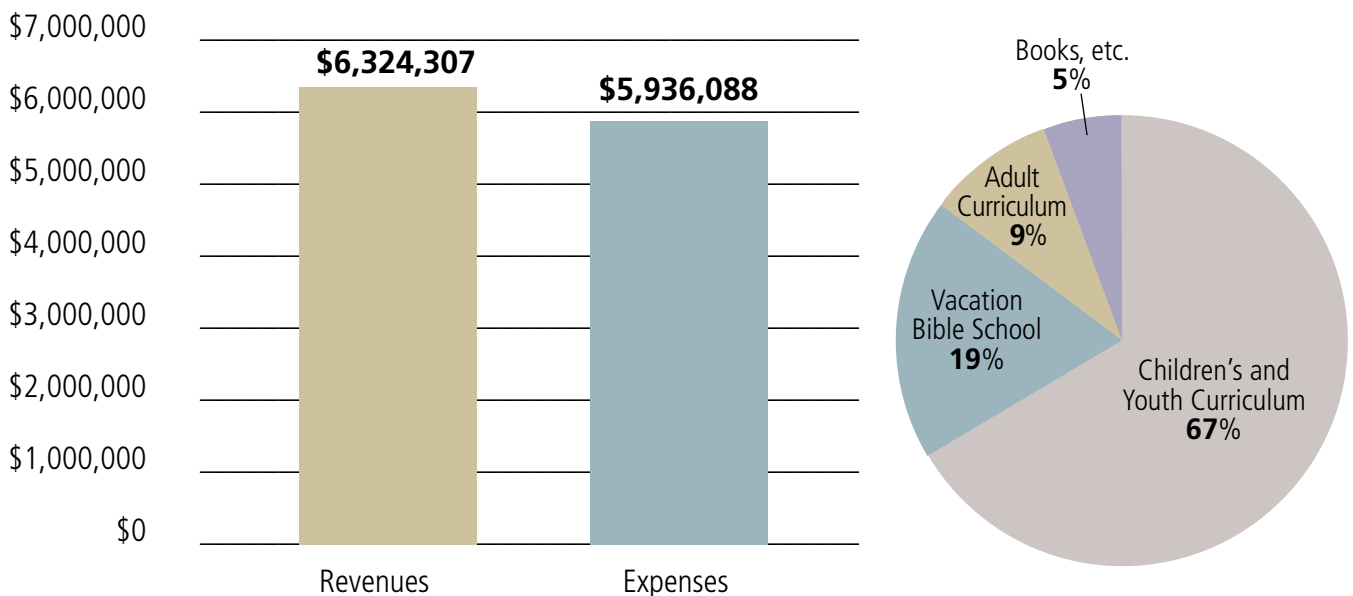
Looking Forward

RBP started Regular Baptist Books as a way to capture distinct Baptist beliefs and to provide Baptist tools for pastors, Bible colleges, and seminaries. The newest additions are *Baptist Distinctives and New Testament Church Order* by Kevin Bauder and *The Pastor: God's Faithful Servant* by Jim Vogel, editor, with contributions from more than 30 pastors and Christian leaders. RBP is also pursuing a book on Baptist history.

RBP is also anticipating the release of its junior church program called *It's GROW Time!*, a through-the-Bible curriculum. RBP's 2013 VBS, *Investigation Destination*, will be a program with state-of-the-art 3D graphics as well as clear, gospel-centered content. The newest women's Bible study, *Living by the Power of the Spirit* by Valerie Wilson, challenges ladies through the book of Acts. *Conflicto bajo Control* is a Spanish version of the RBP Bible study *Conflict under Control*.

As the world becomes more digital, RBP is exploring ways to provide materials in formats that meet the needs of churches today.

RBP Fund



- RBP sales need to increase to continue to meet annual expenses.
- Every GARBC church can choose to use RBP materials to help out with sales.



Baptist Builders Club-USA

Michael Nolan

Strengthening Regular Baptist Churches across the USA

BBC-USA exists to help strengthen Regular Baptist churches across the United States. These churches could be in the planting phase, the growing phase, or the rebuilding phase. Assistance is given through financial grants or loans, prayer support, and counsel. Last year (2011) marks one of the greatest years for Baptist Builders Club in relation to the number of churches assisted (11) and the amount given to Regular Baptist churches (nearly \$100,000). Praise God!

The year was also marked with continued struggles and areas that the ministry can enhance to further meet the needs of our fellowship. Success cannot, and should not, be measured by monetary gifts alone. We need to ensure that funds are given and used to improve and equip ministries to reach out to their communities with Biblically based, doctrinally sound churches. We need more Regular Baptist churches planted, and we need to help strengthen existing ones. If every member of every GARBC church would join us in this effort, much more could be accomplished.

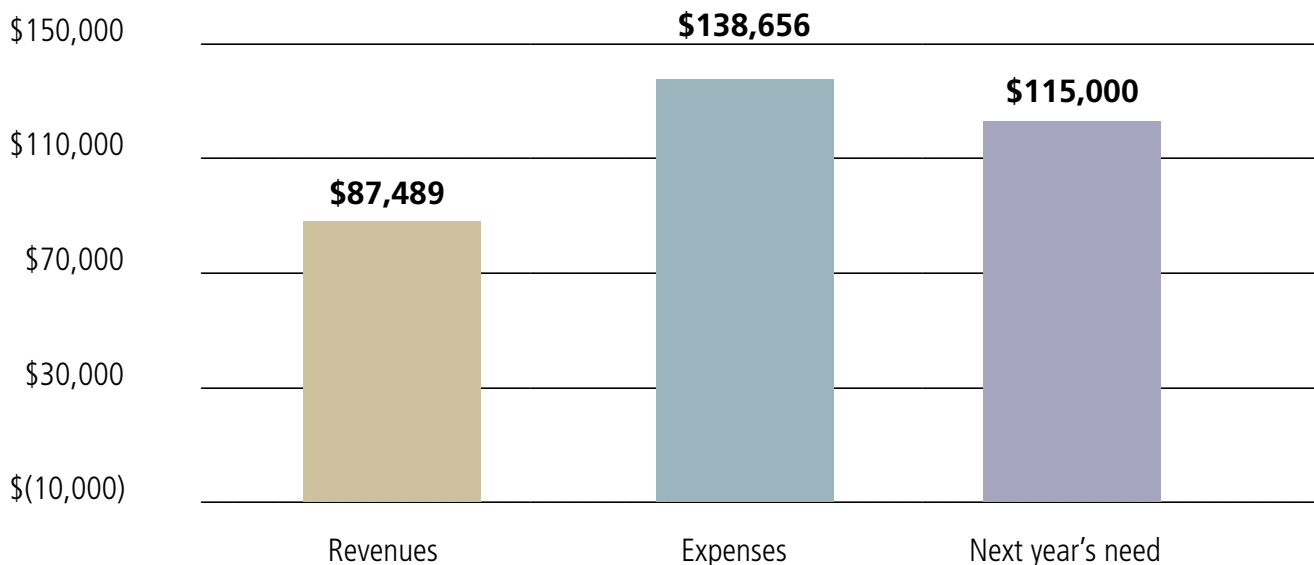
Let's Make a Statement—Show Church Plants We Care

This country needs more Regular Baptist churches. That is a statement. But in 2012-2013 we need to make another statement . . . one about church planting.

As an association and a ministry, we need to make this statement: If any church, state association, or agency in fellowship with the GARBC is planting a church, we will be there to give assistance. You can make a statement, too, by committing your support to Baptist Builders Club for church planting, so when the request comes in for assistance, BBC-USA will be there and be ready to assist.



BBC-USA Fund



- Church planting will require new donors to join the team; this is the most critical area of need.
- If one person from each GARBC church joined Baptist Builders Club, donating \$20 per call for assistance (\$100 a year), the ministry's financial need would be met for the coming year.



Gospel Literature Services

Chris Hindal

Ministering to Churches around the World

For nearly 40 years GLS has provided churches in 40 countries with curriculum that is critically needed to teach individuals about Jesus and develop believers. RBP teaching visuals are even hanging on the walls of hand-formed mud brick church buildings as evidence that truth is spreading to the farthest stretches of the globe.

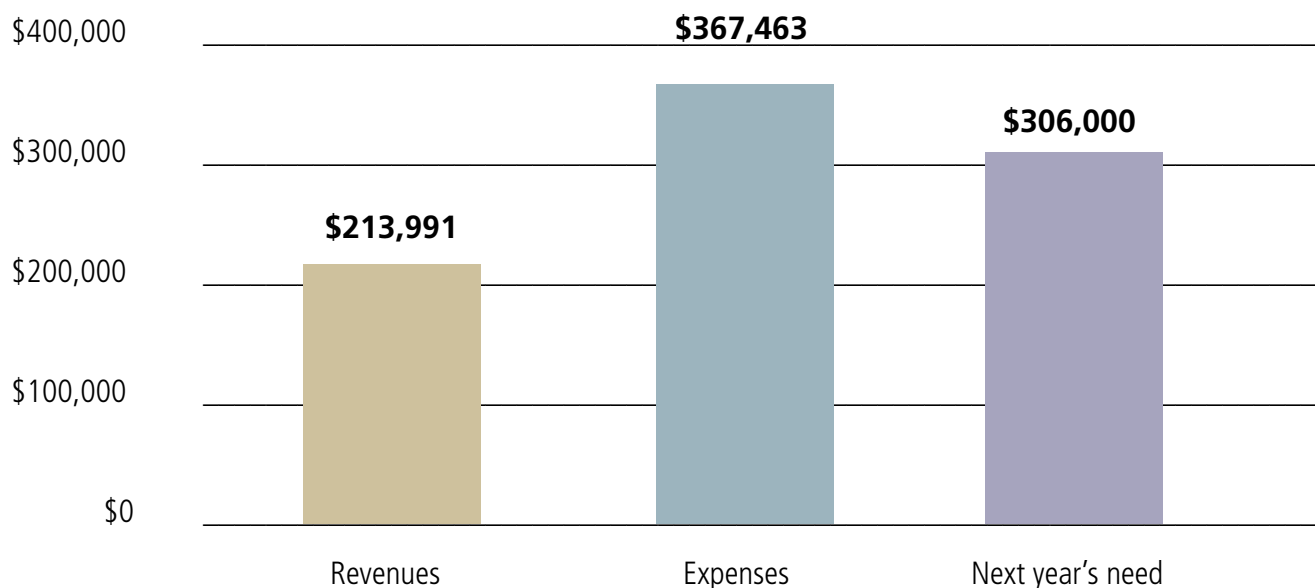
- GLS has shifted from sending hardcopy materials to sending digital copies to 80 percent of users, resulting in thousands of dollars being saved in shipping costs.
- The translation of curriculum into the Telugu language, spoken by 84 million people in India, is complete and materials are being printed.
- Dr. Paul Jackson's book on Baptist polity, *The Doctrine and Administration of the Church*, was translated and printed in Thadou-Kuki for the Kuki tribe of northeast India.
- An orphanage was dedicated in Kisumu, Kenya, funded by the 2010 RBP VBS project.
- The second edition of *Unger's Bible Handbook* in Bengali was funded and published.

Planning for the Future

Help us accomplish these objectives in the coming year:

- Create digital curriculum for fast and cost-effective distribution to needy churches.
- Continue translation of curriculum into numerous languages in order to reach a broader network of churches throughout the world.
- Continue to meet the needs and requests of pastors all over the world for books that will assist them in their ministry.
- Oversee the distribution of the 2012 RBP VBS project funds directed toward children's ministry in India.

GLS Fund



- Efforts have been made to reduce expenses, but there is still a need for increased support.
- Sending digital materials has led to a decrease in expenses.



International Partnership of Fundamental Baptist Ministries

Chris Hindal

Facilitating Relationships with Like-Minded Associations

The IPFBM provides a new paradigm for engaging in the Great Commission. Fifty-eight associations of independent Baptist churches network together, conferencing, collaborating, and planning strategically to assist one another in fulfilling the divine assignment.

2011–2012 highlights include:

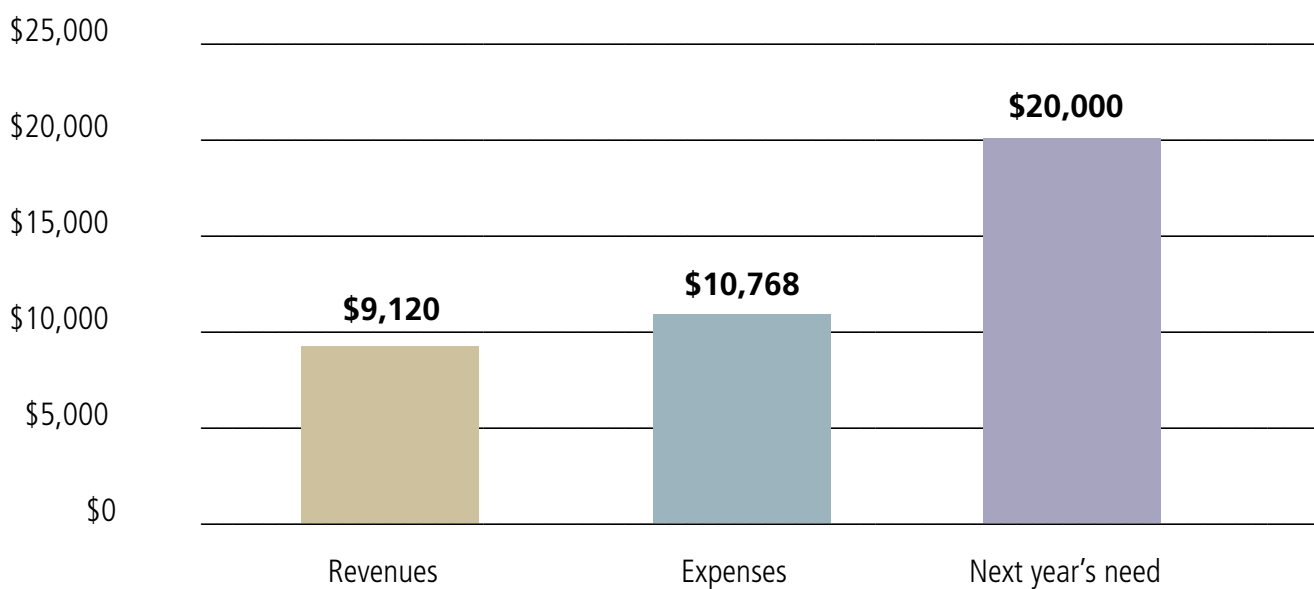
- An African regional conference was held in Accra, Ghana, bringing together leaders from West Africa and a few from East Africa.
- Teen Leadership Conference at Baptist Bible College contributed over \$20,000 to two IPFBM projects, completing two church buildings in India and one building in Haiti.
- One church building and one pastor's home were completed in Haiti, in partnership with Construction for Worldwide Evangelism and ABWE.

Planning for the Future

Join us in accomplishing the following projects in the coming year:

- The second all-partnership conference will be held in November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. For these leaders, this is a key step in the development of networking relationships.
- Initiate the development of a training school for pastors in East Africa.
- Three more pastors' homes and one more church building are to be completed in Haiti in the next six months.
- Pastors will take a missions trip in October to survey the development of church-based Bible institutes in Ukraine and consider partnering with our Ukrainian brothers. To participate, see Chris Hindal for details.

IPFBM Fund



- Conference coordination and travel expenses are needed for the coming year.



Regular Baptist Chaplaincy Ministries

John Murdoch

Meeting Needs through Chaplaincy

The GARBC has a distinguished reputation in all branches of our country's military because our chaplains are known as men of the Bible and have served with distinction. One retiring base commander, a general officer, remarked to me, "Oh, you are with the GARBC. Your churches are known for preaching the Word of God."

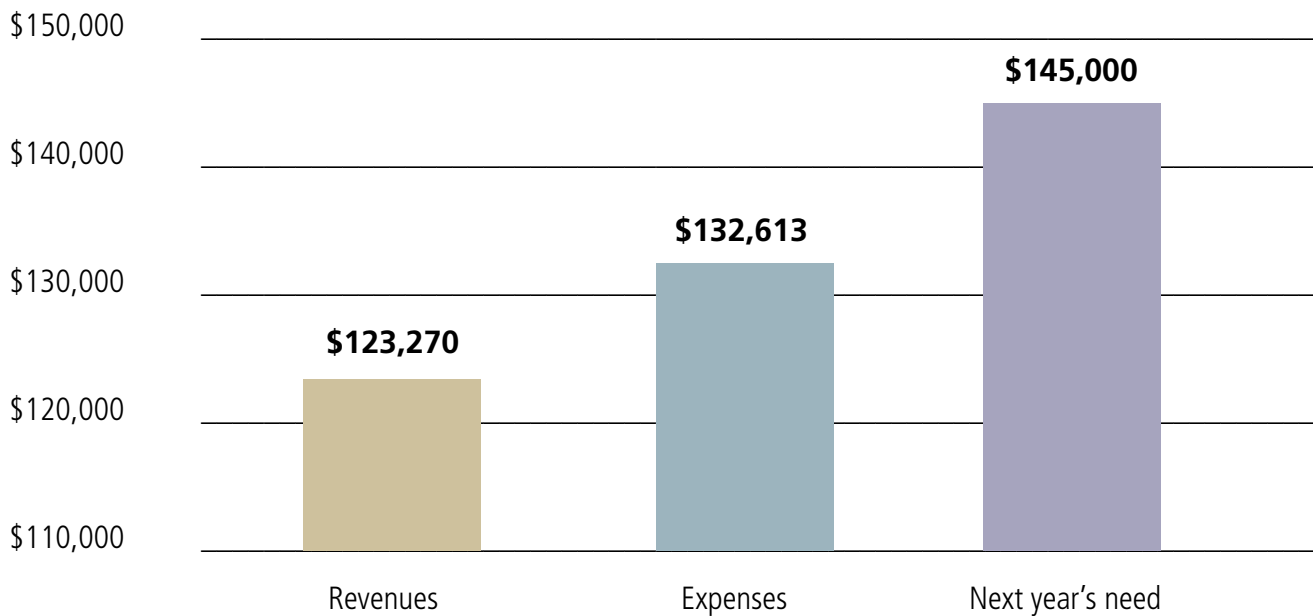
By God's grace, the caliber of our chaplains is regularly rewarded with commendations and promotions. On June 1, the U.S. Navy awarded retired Capt. Stanley J. Beach, serving with the Chaplain Corps of the U.S. Navy, one of the highest honors it can give. The Navy Chaplaincy School and Center at Fort Jackson, N.C., was named in his honor, in gratitude for his "inspirational leadership, personal sacrifice and selfless service to God and Country." He says of his service as commandant of the Navy Chaplaincy School before his retirement, "My prayer every day was to be a strong, winsome testimony for the Lord and my churches."

Current and Future Efforts

Pray for our chaplains and their efforts.

- Currently deployed: Chaplain Ken Alford (Kuwait); Chaplain David Carr and Chaplain Ryan Schildroth (Afghanistan)
- New chaplains:
Military: Scott Conner (USAFR), Ryan Schildroth (USA)
Institutional: Sidney Capillas
Community Service: Laird Baldwin
- Chaplains retired from military service since July 1, 2011: Wayne Keast, Jim Odell, Tom Phelan, Steve Szasz, Craig Wiley, Michael Wood. These men collectively served our Lord, the GARBC, and U.S. soldiers and their families for 168 years.
- Continue to present the challenge of chaplaincy ministry through personal contacts and college and seminary visits, and in missions conferences, camps, and local churches.
- Expand prayer support for our military and church awareness of outreach to veterans.

Chaplaincy Fund



- The increased need is attributed to increased retirement costs and additional projects.