



NEWSLETTER

MID-LAKES

SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

And

May God Bless you ALL!

With Love & Appreciation

Joe and Judy Coppedge

DECEMBER

- 4-11** *His Heart—His Hands—His Voice*
Week of Prayer for IMB Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
- 5 MLBA Christmas Banquet, Bolivar FBC
12 Association Prayer Time, 7:00 pm
15-31 Association Office Closed for Holidays
- 25 Merry Christmas**

JANUARY 2012

- 1 **NEW YEARS DAY HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
- 7-10 National WMU Board Meeting
10 Executive Board Mtg, Noble Hill, 7 pm
15 Sanctity of Life Sunday (CLC)
16 Martin Luther King Day
21 Blizzards to Blessings Women's Conference, Brighton Baptist Church

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits"
 - 2-4 Church Music Workshop, SBU
 - 11-18 Louisiana Mission Trip
 - 11 Evangelism Conference, Springfield
 - 17-18 SW Region Disaster Relief Training
 - 19 Children's Ministry Day
 - 28 E3: Exalt, Equip, Evangelize
 - 28-29 DOM Retreat, Branson
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Praying For the Association

Monday December 13, 2011

Prayer time 7:00 pm.

We are asking you to stop where you are and lift up the Association in prayer:

- > Pray for the churches and leaders.
- > Pray that we will see more people saved.
- > Pray that our Sunday Schools will experience growth.
- > Pray for the finances of the churches
Pray for Stockton First and Humansville First
- > Pray for Mission trip to Walker, LA
February 11-18, 2012

WMU

As November 1 dawned, nine Mid-Lakes women and 1 man loaded into Humansville First Baptist Church's van, with driver Charles Bays, for a work day at the distribution center of Forest Park Baptist Church. We were joined by Larry and Liz Winder of FBC Bolivar, with a pickup load of furnishings and Martha Kolstat, Dallas County WMU Director, and FOURTEEN people from Dallas County Association, with two 26 ft. U-HAUL trucks filled with furnishings and other supplies collected from both associations. They had a slow day at the center, with only about 75 of the normal 150 people coming through for supplies. This allowed our volunteers to not only be personal shoppers, but to do a lot of organizing—especially in the household supplies area.

Martha and I took sandwich making and other picnic supplies for our lunch, which we shared with the seven permanent workers there and with several shoppers who were present while we were eating.

I delivered several more items on the 25th as we returned from Thanksgiving with our family. Current needs are: pots & pans and dishes, new or used—good condition, of course. New items are reserved in a special location for those who had complete losses.

About 30 people attended Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer, hosted by Mt. Olive on November 7. We had an excellent program and good fellowship with lots of "goodies" after the program.

The Lottie Moon kickoff dinner at FBC Bolivar on Monday evening, Nov. 28, was well attended and we learned a lot about London from LeAnn Clark and Gayle Roberts, whose son-in-law works in the IMB office in London.. Norma Bishop also shared about her work among Olympic participants and desire to go to London to work next year.

One of the Missionary Testimony videos in the Lottie Moon Pack, features Beth Locke, who serves with her husband, Allen, in Johanasburg, South Africa. Allen's parents, also served in Africa, and they furloughed in Bolivar—so we have a real connection with this IMB missionary family. If you do not have the videos, I have an extra copy and/or you can download them from: www.IMB.org.

WMU Directors, Mark your calendars—Jan 10, 2012. Council Meeting, Mid-Lakes Office, 10:00 a.m.

Working Beside You in His Name,
Jill McCracken

Week of Prayer for International Missions December 4-11, 2011

HIS HEART HIS HANDS HIS VOICE



2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*

National Goal: \$175 million

Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4-11, 2011

IAMBSMISSIONS.COM Our church goal: _____



Blizzards to Blessings "Whatsoever Things Are Lovely"

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Brighton Baptist Church

Conference Speaker: Sandee Hedger

www.brightonbaptistchurch.com

Planning Meeting at Southern Hills

January 6, 2012 at 7:00 pm

(If not sure come and get details for later if you can go.)

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association

MISSION TRIP

Dates: February 11 -18, 2012

(Please be praying for the plans for this trip)

Walker, LA

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

January 10, 2012

7:00 PM

Noble Hill Baptist Church

(We will be discussing the plans of the mission trip and Disaster Relief and 2011 Annuals will be distributed)

DIRECTOR'S NEWS

I have always tried to be very positive in my life. The story is told of twin boys one an optimist the other very pessimistic. Parents gave many gifts one Christmas to the pessimistic son to whom he cried because his friends would be jealous and he had to keep batteries in all these things. They gave the optimistic son a box full of horse manure. To which when the boy opened it he ran out to the front of house came back in and ran to back yard and as he was coming back in the Father stopped him and said, "son do you know what you have?" "Yes, he said, "a pony but I can't find him!" Needless to say life is what we make of it. Another saying is; "when life gives you lemons make lemonade." I am not sure if getting older has made it harder for me to be positive and make lemonade to keep moving forward.

The economy continues to cause many of us to make changes in what we spend and how we do ministry. Many of the churches of MLBA have had to make some deep cuts and as a result the association will have to adjust accordingly. My first response to budget cuts was not very positive, in fact, I felt very negative about it and wondered what will the future hold for the ministries of our churches working together.

Bottom line is that the churches and MLBA are receiving some lemons. We are dealing with lemons in economics, leadership, worship styles, and the way we do church. So will we complain about the condition of our world and be very sour or will we take the lemons that have been dealt to us and make sweet lemonade? I really want to be very optimistic about our future. Maybe one of the mistakes we are making is being self-serving instead of self-giving. Jesus taught us to be servants of all. **"For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."** (Mk 10:45)

Let's remind ourselves who is in control. God has never failed his church in the pass and I am certain he will continue to bless the church in the future which will result in blessings for our Association.

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