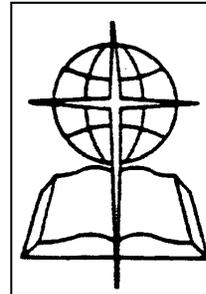


NEWSLETTER

MID-LAKES SOUTHERN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



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You've probably heard about the "new Baptist" who asked "Aren't they ever going to get Lottie (or Annie) paid off?" Of course, the answer is **NO!** As long as we claim to be **Great Commission Churches**, **Lottie** and **Annie** will need **DOLLARS** to **SEND** and **SUPPORT MISSIONARIES**.

The video's supplied by IMB are excellent as they show real, live missionaries working to spread the Gospel. Show the videos **AND TEACH** about **Lottie Moon** and her passion to reach the Chinese people. Her influence is still there in hidden "house churches". In many countries the lives of IMB missionaries are in danger as they tell of Jesus love to people groups who have never heard the Name of Jesus.

WMU COUNCIL---Our next meeting will be on **January 9 @ 10:30 at the Mid-Lakes Office**. It would be great to have a representative from each church present. If Bolivar schools are closed because of slick roads, we'll move our meeting to the next week.

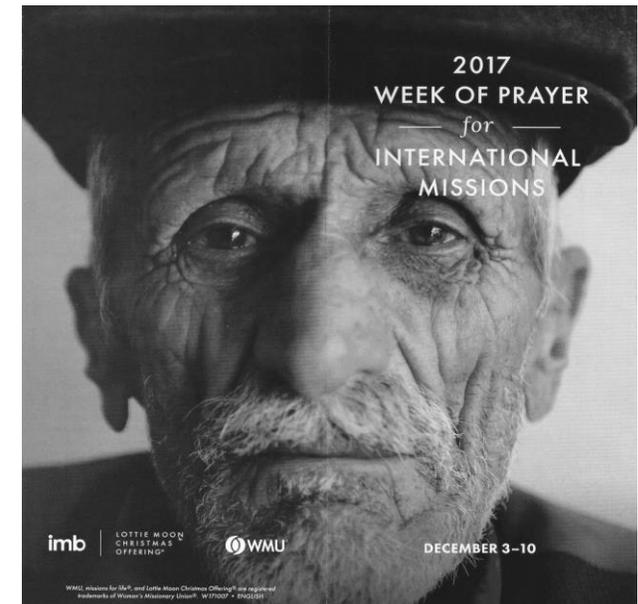
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain, Over the Hills and
Everywhere, Go, Tell It on the Mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born!"

Have a Great month of celebrating Christ's Birth with family and friends as You Go and Tell.

Jill McCracken,
417-326-5099

DECEMBER

2017



DECEMBER

- 3-10 Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 4 Pastors / Staff Christmas Party, Heritage
- 16-31 Associational Office Closed for Holidays
- 25 **Christmas Day**

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day Observed (Office Closed)
- 6-8 National WMU Board Meeting
- 9 Executive Board, 7:00 PM, Bolivar, FBC
- 14 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday (CLC)
- 15 Martin Luther King Day
- 21 Baptist's Men's Day

FEBRUARY

- 1-28 "True Love Waits" Month
- 3-4 State Evangelism Conference
- 4-6 SBU Church Music Workshop
- 10-18 Mission Construction Trip
- 12-18 Focus on WMU Week
- 17 Children's Ministry Day
- 19 President's Day

"And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

1 John 2:28

Praying For the Association

Month of **DECEMBER 2017**

We are asking you to remember the Association in prayer and lift up the following needs:

- >Praise for the pastors of MLBA churches
- >Pray for the Disaster Relief Ministry
 - *Wisdom
 - *More Trained Volunteers
 - *Finances to fund the ministry
- >Pray for the Shuttle Ministry
- >Pray for the churches and leaders.
- >Pray for the Missions Committee
- >Pray for the needs of those struggling with Cancer
- >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 the work of MLBA
- >Pray for Joe and Judy Coppedge (Peace)
- >Pray for the New Year 2018
- >Pray for Wisdom as we face major decisions

History of Mid-Lakes Baptist Association:

I was made aware recently what an Association of Baptist Churches Ministry should be. It was such a blessing to hear of the history of Association in life of local Baptist Church and the need to cooperate together and help sister churches in a local setting. Mid-Lakes formerly was identified as Polk County Southern Baptist Association. Combined the years under this ministry and you have 151 years! WOW! I remember when we sought the city of Bolivar to approve our moving into a house and making it headquarters for the Ministry. They asked how we know you will be around in the future. I remember smiling at them and saying we have existed for 140 plus years and I think that should be a pretty good assurance we would be around for years. After their approval we moved for first time into a permanent location at 722 E. South St.

But as great as this is! (our office) This is not what makes me so happy to be your Director of Missions. What blesses me the most is how well we check off all the description of an Association. In the 20 years that I have been with you all we have helped 5 churches through some hard times financially. We held Revivals and you volunteered your time and even brought an offering along with your volunteering. The Association was a part of helping several building programs, handicap ramps, cutting down trees, putting on roofs, helping cancer victims keep their yard mowed, and repaired water leaks in many families who couldn't pay for the repairs. (I remember one in particular that had a water leak in her ice maker which ruined her kitchen floor. The men or our churches got together and not only fixed her floor but paid for the material!), Disaster Relief, Prison Ministries, Camps, VBS, Interims, Pulpit Supply, Conversion/Salvation, soul winning, helped with conflict management, Mission trips to help repair and work on new buildings, and yes a fellowship of those who attend pastor's breakfast that has grown into more than just pastors but men and sometimes women who get together to have fellowship. I could go on and on and there is much more that we are walking in fellowship and service. I think with what I have just wrote you can see why I say we might be small in number but big in service and building the Kingdom of God. I want you to know that I am thankful for each of you and look forward to what God has for us all as we serve and work together as an Association of Churches in our local setting. I pray that you will hear my heart and realize that I along with many others think we have a great association! May we walk humbly committed to continue to serve in the future. AMEN!

Director's Notes

Christmas 2017 will go down in my mind a little different. I plan in all things to maintain my love for Christmas and all the plans that are made in the Churches of MLBA. Judy and I will make as many Christmas programs as we can. We might not be there in body but our hearts will be with you as you celebrate Jesus' Birth.

Another year is closing out and I am so happy to report that things are looking bright and hopeful for the New Year. At this point we are up in budget and we are blessed to welcome Pastor Derrick and the Berean Church Family into our fellowship. I am so thankful and blessed to have a solid relationship with you all and I have said it before we may be small but in my mind we are giants in humility and service to each other and the Kingdom of God. When I think about are service to the Lord I am reminded that God blesses the Humble and will elevate a person or ministry as we faithfully serve Him in our abilities and talents.

1 Peter 5:5-11

“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. 7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

Mid-Lakes Baptist Association
NEW CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP
We are in contact with Texas Baptist Convention
Dates: February 3 -10, 2018
Cost: \$ TBD
(Please be praying for the plans for this trip)
More information as it develops

July 30, 1967



Our Fiftieth Wedding Pictures

Thanks again for the sabbatical for Anniversary trip



She is just as pretty now as she was 50 years ago!!

July 30 2017