



Mid Lakes Baptist Association

NEWSLETTER

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November 2021



From Your AMS (Association Mission Strategist)

Bro. John Rhodes



Have you ever had someone, or several someone's, who have been an influence in your life? This past week I saw numerous people who have impacted my life through the paths we have gone down together. As I attended the MO Baptist Convention's Annual Meeting, I kept seeing people from my past. I saw people who I have worked with, prayed with, worshipped with, and ministered with. These are people who have made a difference in so many lives. They are people who also ministered to me. One such person is the man pictured with me, Bro. Bill Jetton. Bro. Bill was my Director of Missions when I pastored in Cape Girardeau County. I have had several Director of Missions that did a great job, but Bro. Bill is the best DOM I have ever had. Why? Because of the things he taught me, and the investments he made into my life. Bro. Bill was a true pastor to pastors. He is an encourager, leader, and he remains true to the Word of God. He taught me that the most important part of ministry comes in caring and loving the people that God has placed in our path. That includes loving them by proclaiming God's Word, and by putting feet on our witness. If all people hear are words, and they never see action, they will struggle to follow. Bro. Bill taught me by example, in word and deed.

As I walked down memory lane in my mind, I am reminded of how I needed all these people who made a difference in my life. Now, the question is, are you living your life for the Lord in word and deed? I believe with all my heart that the people that make up Mid Lakes Baptist Association can make an immense difference in the lives of people in Polk, Cedar, Hickory, Green County, and beyond.

Colossians 3:17 *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."*

1 John 3:18 *"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."*

Go live for Jesus. Happy Thanksgiving!

Bro. John & Mrs. Gayle





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Disaster Relief Ministry

In our July Executive Board Meeting, the Executive Board approved the purchase of a used 13/1/2' cargo trailer to replace the old 1988 box truck used for Disaster Relief. The trailer was purchased, and set up to serve as a chainsaw / mud-out Disaster Relief Response Unit. We would like to thank Southern Hills Baptist Church for covering the cost of lettering the trailer. It now has a very professional look which we pray will enhance our ministry opportunities and encourage others to join in this ministry. If you would like to learn more about the DR Ministry, see Bro. Kevin Bailey, or Bro. John. If a church would like for the trailer to be displayed at their church, just let Bro. John know.

We also signed an agreement with SBU's Collegiate Disaster Relief Ministry, uniting our ministries as we share equipment and personnel. We are excited for what our ministry will look like with them on board with us.





ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



The One Hundred and Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Mid Lakes Baptist Association was a great blessing. During our two night meeting, we enjoyed two wonderful meals, six challenging messages from our very own pastors, one testimony, and a message from your AMS. I want to thank everyone who had a part in making this year's Annual Meeting a wonderful event. Special thanks to Heritage Baptist Church and Grace Fellowship Baptist Church for hosting us.

During this year's meeting we honored Ms. Judy Coppedge who donated \$5,000 in honor of her late husband and our previous DOM, Bro. Joe Coppedge. With that donation, the ***Joe Coppedge Memorial Scholarship Fund*** was established. This way, no child will ever be turned away from camp because of finances. We also honored Dr. Bob Kitchen and Bro. Bob Brown for all their work in the Disaster Relief Ministry. Their leadership in the past has played a great part in where we are today.

Another Disaster Relief opportunity which we acted upon was a partnership agreement between SBU's Colligate Disaster Relief Ministry and our Disaster Relief Ministry. A formal agreement was made for us to work together, and to share equipment and personnel. I am excited about being able to work together.

Our Annual Meeting theme was **Iron Sharpens Iron**, taken from **Proverbs 27:17**, "***As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.***" The purpose of this theme was to remind us that we need each other. This year's Annual Meeting was about drawing closer together as an association. Six pastors, along with the AMS, brought seven individual 15 minute messages designed to create one big message. The assigned messages were, Having a Right Relationship with God, Building Relationships Together, Encouragement Over Discouragement, Covenant Relationships, Using Technology to Strengthen One Another, Three Strands are Stronger than One (working together), and God Calls No Lone Rangers. Plus a testimony about how Mrs. Heather uses writing to influence others.

In closing we watched a video called *The Harvest*. This video reminded us of the importance of working together to gather the spiritual harvest for the Kingdom of God. After a time in the altar, and some powerful spoken prayers, we closed with a spirit of unity and excitement.

Thank you Mid Lakes for all you do, and for what we will do together in the future.

Remember, **EVERY church is vital to the Kingdom of God.**

January 2022

Executive Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: SBU - McClelland Dining Hall

Guest Speaker: SBU President,

Dr. Richard Melson



\$8,000

Our goal

THANK
YOU!

\$882.00

You can send your donation
to the MLBA office and
mark it "Block Party
Trailer Fund".

**BLOCK
PARTY**
Trailer Fund





The First Ever
Mid Lakes Camps
Fall Youth Retreat Report
By Pastor Derrick Lewright

Summer camp is always a special time for many youth of the Mid-Lakes Baptist Association. For years though, we've heard about how they would love to be able to gather together in a camp-like setting more often. This year, Mid-Lakes was able to do something about that. This last weekend, Oct. 29-31, as a follow up to summer camp, MLBA youth were able to participate in the first ever Fall Retreat at Baptist Ridge, near Warsaw, MO.

There were 44 students who attended, and it required 20 leaders and workers to pull it off, but what a great weekend it was. As one who was able to be there and speak to these young people, and watch them engage with the word of God, I can honestly say that God is moving in some very powerful ways in this generation. In over 25 years of ministry I have never seen a group of young people as a whole more focused and ready to learn and serve the Lord than the youth of the MLBA.

I hope that we will all commit ourselves to praying for the young people of our churches. It's often said that the youth are the future of the church, but it's my belief that the youth are the present influencers of the church. As they bring back an excitement and dedication to serve the Lord and love others, let's encourage them. Also, let's look to their example and perhaps even learn something from them. God has blessed us with a precious gift in these youth. Let's pray for them that they will serve the Lord all the days of their lives, and like David, serve their generation.

- Derrick Lewright





Ordnation Service

Sunday, November 28th, 2021

Mt Olive Baptist Church

Candidate: Pastor Chadd Caldwell

Ordaining Council 2:00 PM / Ordination Service 2:30 PM

Come join us as we celebrate Bro. Chadd's surrender into the Gospel Ministry.



Mid-Lakes

Baptist Association

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