

Mid Lakes Baptist Association

NEWSLETTER

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December 2021



From Your AMS (Associational Mission Strategist) Bro. John Rhodes

Christmas Greetings from the Mid Lakes Baptist Association Office.

Once again we face the time of year where so many people are overwhelmed with the busyness of the season. Our days are full of shopping, planning, preparing, and yes even ministry. Churches are

gearing up for Christmas Programs, Cantatas, Nativity Scenes, and numerous Christmas parties, and all of these things are important. I know at our house we look forward to the scurrying of little feet all over the place, and rooms overflowing with kids and grandkids.

However, if I could plant a thought today, this would be it: "What gift have you received that you can share with everyone you know and meet? As I ponder the answer, and I am sure we are all on the same thought track, I find it difficult to use a one word answer. Naturally the main answer is Jesus, but how do we give Him to others? The candles in the Advent Wreath helps us with the answer, for those candles represent Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ. If we will strive to share God's Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ with others, God can make this the best Christmas season ever. So no matter if you're shopping or singing, show Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Christ in all you do.

Gayle and I love and appreciate all of you, and want to wish you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

In Christ's love, Bro. John & Mrs. Gayle

Merry Christmas





It's Lottie Time! The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering supports our International Missionaries around the world. Videos are available to download from IMB website. Whether you gather around a laptop or show on a big screen, these videos let us see what our Missionaries are doing to tell the Good News in difficult places.

We had a very interesting gathering at FBC Bolivar on Monday evening November 15th. We learned a lot about Prague and the struggles to spread the Gospel in a city of 100 Spires. One of our speakers, who now lives in Bolivar, is a native of Prague. She emphasized the fact that when the older, Christian generation, dies and the next generations have not been taught, the desire for Christ is gone. Christians there were and are handicapped by not being allowed opportunities in education and other necessities.

Our churches have delivered numerous Operation Christmas Child Boxes to the pickup point at Wellspring Baptist Church and First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton.

Share Your Christmas is a county wide project sponsored by Polk County Christian Social Ministries. Gift bags & food are provided to nearly 500 families.

Keep Sharing God's Love, Jill McCracken, WMU Director

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LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

Lottie Moon, Missionary to China

ottie Moon was a missionary to China. A missionary is someone who travels to another place to tell people about Jesus. Lottie went to China on a ship in 1873 to tell the Chinese people about Jesus.

At first, the Chinese people were afraid of Lottie. They called her a "foreign devil" because she didn't look like them and she came from a place they had never heard of. Lottie decided to bake cookies for the children. The children liked the cookies! Then, the mothers invited Lottie into their homes, and she told them about Jesus. The children called Lottie "the cookie lady."

Lottie also wrote lots of letters home to the United States. She wanted people to pray for the Chinese people. She also wanted more people to go to China to tell people about Jesus. Because of Lottie's letters, Southern Baptists began collecting an offering every year for international missions.

Lottie Moon died on Christmas Eve, 1912. Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send Southern Baptist missionaries to countries around the world where they tell people about Jesus. The offering is called the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®.

This year, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal for Southern Baptists is \$175 million! That's a lot of money, but it helps support nearly 3,600 missionaries and their 2,880 children who are telling people about Jesus! Thank you for giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering!

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.

Notation: The 2021 LMCO Goal is \$185 Million.













Everyone is invited to come watch Overcomer. Thursday, December 2nd at the Osceola Church 12480 Hwy 82 at 7 PM

Christmas Candlelight Service

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL CELEBRATION

Grace Fellowship Baptist will enjoy a Candlelight Christmas worship service on Sunday morning December 19 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join us.



This event is an opportunity for your students to be encouraged and trained to advance the gospel in their world with the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Date: January 16-17, 2022
- Location: Calvary Baptist Church, Republic, MO
- Cost: \$25 per person
- Registrations received by 12/4 will receive a free t-shirt!
- Registration closes January 12, 2022

Use this link to register:

https://mo.sbcworkspace.com/Pub/Event/Register/55233806



<u>aphahouse</u>

Winter 2021

<u>CE CENTER</u> ahprefriends.org Broadway St., PO Box 644 Bolivar, MO

Investing in healthy LIFE choices!



Thursday, December 9th from 630-730 PM we invite you, your family and church family to join us for our building payoff celebration! Yes– we are paying the building off and we hope you are as excited as we are! This is a HUGE blessing and we want to celebrate together! Hot cocoa, worship, and cupcakes! The building will be open for people to walk through, with the "note burning" to take place at 7! We hope you will join us as we thank the Lord for His good gifts!

Building Pay-off Celebration!

Client Related Needs Hooded Bath Towels (Bab Diapers - Newborn/2 New baby boy clothes Sleepers Diaper Cream YTD Statistics Jan 1- November 1 Clients Served: 67 Pregnancy Tests: 16 Ultrasounds: 49 Students Reached: 285



Center Related Needs

Forever Stamps 100% Juice Boxes oilet Paper/Paper Towels Lysol Wipes

White Copy Paper (office supplies)

Now Hiring-Prevention Services Director

The Prevention Services Director is responsible for planning, preparing and teaching a sexual health program that focuses on sexual avoidance (AKA - abstinence based). The hours worked will be mostly during school hours. Pay is based off of experience and education. Travel to and from area schools is required (mileage is reimbursed). 16-20 hrs./week, 44 work week per year. Some qualifications:

- Agree to our statement of faith and philosophy of ministry
- Have a passion for seeing youth make healthy, positive choices specifically in
- relationships.
- Have experience as an educator, presenter, or working directly with youth (ie. youth pastor, teacher, etc.)
- Be able to complete the Sexual Risk Avoidance Specialist training within 6 months. (We take care of the cost of this training).
- Be a good communicator

Be able to create and maintain positive relationships with area teachers and administrators (this person represents the reputation of Alpha

2021 Board of Directors Dawna Pirtle, President Randell Boggs, V. President Taylor Howe, Treasurer Kristen Johnson, Secretary Brooke Campbell Dr. Bob Kitchin Kelly Mauck Matt Rice Stacie Spurgeon Ray Leininger, Member Emeritus Amanda Smith, Director





January Executive Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Time: **7**:00 PM

Place: SBU - McClelland Dining Hall

Guest Speaker: SBU President,

Dr. Richard Melson





Disaster Relief is a wonderful way in which Southern Baptist work together to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. We offer Help, Hope, and Healing to people in times of disaster. There are many different areas of Disaster Relief which a person can become involved. Units in MO consist of Chainsaw, Assessment, Mud-out, Mass Feeding, Shower, Laundry, Chaplaincy, Childcare, and Communications. Individuals can obtain training in any one, or all of these areas. Chaplaincy does require some extra training that goes along with the area which you are assisting with. Chaplains work alongside all the other ministry units. Our Mid Lakes Baptist Association does have a Chainsaw/Mud-out Unit which we operate. We have been blessed with great leadership in the past, and now are blessed as Kevin Bailey helps lead this ministry.

I have had several people to ask me, "How can I become involved in Disaster Relief?" I am very excited every time I hear someone expressing that interest. So let me share with you a brief synopsis of what DR entails, and how you can become involved.

- 1. Our association unit works in and through the MO Baptist Convention's Disaster Relief Ministry, and they work through the national Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry. Being able to work together with the same guidelines, goals, and organizational structure allows everyone to be used more effectively and to be on the same page. Together we can accomplish more, and this helps prevent duplication that is not needed. For example, a hurricane hits LA, if every DR unit took off on it's own and went wherever, you might have 157 units in New Orleans, and none in the other affected areas. Working together allows us to minister to more people and thus, we share the gospel with more people.
- 2. Because of the scope and size of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry, all volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. This has more to do with liability and safety than anything else.
- 3. Every Disaster Relief volunteer must go through a MBC orientation class and a basic class for the ministry which they desire to serve. Our local unit does not provide credentials to be a DR volunteer, but the state convention does. Four times a year, the State DR Ministry offers training in four different locations across the state. With eight regions, they rotate the regions each year. Hopefully there will be a training close to you that you can attend. If you cannot attend one near you, you may need to drive a few hours to reach another training. Remember, when a disaster happens, you have to go to the disaster, and often times travel is required, so driving to a training is just practice. There is a link below which will show all the trainings available through the state convention for 2022. It also explains the cost and other details. I would encourage you to familiarize yourself with all these details. However, we, as a local association, can and will gather together more often to help train our volunteers to be more familiar with our equipment, and also so we can form our own team that can go out and serve together when called upon. We do have the ability to self deploy in our own area for small disasters, however, we still keep the convention updated on our activity.
- 4. Understand that just because you become a DR volunteer, does not mean you have to go to every disaster. That's why it is volunteer. However, I know a lot of people who once they went the first time, they were hooked. They are just waiting for the next opportunity. Because everyone cannot go all the time, that is why we need many volunteers, so when we do get called out, we can have enough people to answer to call together. This coming year, we will be planning some special events which everyone is invited to, just so you can see if DR is for you. Please feel free to contact myself (John Rhodes 573-579-5993) or Kevin Bailey (417-766-3376) if you have any questions.
- 5. Our association has partnered with the SBU Collegiate Disaster Relief program this year. SBU has students who have spent their summer training in all areas of DR. They are young, and full of energy, but have no equipment. We have the equipment, so we have partnered in order to help each other.
- 6. One last thought: Disaster Relief will not ask you to do more than you are able to do. Just come, give God your best, and He will receive the glory!



Polk County Christian Social Ministries



December 13-16, 2021

Bolivar First Assembly of God

Help make Christmas brighter for Polk County families in need. Your donations will help purchase food and gifts for up to 500 families.

Mail donations to:

PCCSM

PO Box 254

Bolivar, MO 65613

Or Drop your donation off at the PCCSM Clothing Center

327 S/ Springfield Ave. Bolivar

Mondays - Wednesdays

10 AM - 3 PM



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