



*The Mell Baptist Association Exists to Encourage the Pastors, to Strengthen the Churches, and to Build the Kingdom, for the Glory of God.*

Established 1886

[www.mellbapt.com](http://www.mellbapt.com)

June 2015

## PLANNING AHEAD

June 7  
Religious Liberty Sunday

June 14  
Flag Day

June 21  
Fathers' Day

July 4  
Independence Day

July 19  
Baptist Heritage Day

July 19  
Omega Baptist Church Presents  
Guest Speaker Bill Barker  
Of Appalachian Ministries  
in Both Services  
Call 229-528-4920 for Information

August 2  
Day of Prayer for World Peace

August 4  
Tift County  
Students First Day of Class

August 9  
Language Missions Day



**Gen 1:31 And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. (ESV)**

## **Associational Missionary Highlights**

### **Jason Jones**

In recent weeks, I have found myself, on a number of occasions explaining to those who ask about my job. One of the most identifying things in our society about how to begin interacting with or thinking about a person is what they do (that's not necessarily good, but its reality). I had a certain seminary president that was sitting next to a farmer on a plane once. After talking about what kind of farming he did, the question from the farmer was, "and what do you do?" The president told him that he was a rancher. "Oh yeah," the farmer said with excitement awaiting further explanation of the kind of ranching, and what was his role in ranching, etc. Dr. Patterson told the farmer that he was in the sheep and goat ranching business with his father. He told the farmer that he and his father together took goats and changed them into sheep. He then proceeded to share the gospel with the farmer.

Now every illustration isn't to be taken to its furthest end (and this one has some theological problems), but the point for us is well made, we are to be seeking sheep, growing sheep, multiplying sheep, and sending out sheep. As I explain my work to others, I tell them that there is a group of churches that voluntarily link arms to reach our area. As a group of churches, we want to see ALL of our county and the surrounding communities in which our churches gather, become the flock of our Heavenly Father. We want ALL of the 40,000-50,000 people to be sheep? Do you think ALL is possible? Do you think ALL is our goal?

How are we doing? Glad you asked. In Tift County there are about 40K people. In the surrounding communities that our churches reach (Enigma, Alapaha, Lenox, and Sparks), there might be 10K, but probably not. Anyway, the Mell has 12,048 people on the rolls of our churches. We have an average worship attendance of 4,196 per Sunday. If we operate on a round number of 45,000 people, that comes to about 9.3% of our area attending our churches. If we assume that those who attend are sheep (BIG assumption), we are reaching 9% of our area. Not too good.

But we want to reach the ALL. So we must begin to focus our efforts on the segments of the population that we are missing. Some are obvious. Some we must search out. The GBC can help with that by providing demographic and sociographic information specific to your church and immediate surrounds. There is enough work and goats to fill all of our church buildings. Revival among us is a must. Reaching the ALL, will take place when the 4,196 take their commission seriously and make a disciple. Just think if each of the average attendees made a disciple-maker every other year, we would reach the ALL in 7 years.

We must bloom where we are planted, serve in the church families that God has placed us in, in the communities that God has placed us in. We must also make inroads to areas and peoples that we are not reaching, advancing the kingdom of heaven, pushing back the gates of hell. We sing Rescue the Perishing, but are we doing that? Are we willing to think outside the norm to do it?

### **Brother Jason**

Mat 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Mat 28:20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (ESV)

## **!!! HELP NEEDED !!!**

The Mell Baptist Association is seeking skilled volunteers to help renovate the former Fourth Street Baptist Church facilities, making it ready for a new church plant. Specific skills needed are listed:

**Plumbing**

**Tile**

**Drywall**

**Electrical** (only a small amount of work needed)

**Painting** (lots of work needed)

**Finishing**



If you have worked in these areas in the past, or are qualified to work in these areas, please contact the Mell Baptist Association at:

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P.O. Box 1547

Tifton, Georgia 31793  
(229) 386-0865 Office  
(229) 388-9786 Fax

**email:** [mellbapt@friendlycity.net](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net).  
[www.mellbapt.com](http://www.mellbapt.com)

[www.facebook.com/mellbaptassn?ref=hl](http://www.facebook.com/mellbaptassn?ref=hl)

## **Pray for Just One**

Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators, tells the story of a 23 year old Sailor that he spent time discipling. He spent many hours with this young man in the Word and the importance of being a witness for the Lord and leading other sailors to Jesus.

A month later the sailor returned to Dawson: "I can't get any of these guys on the ship to get down to business." Dawson replied: "Listen, you ask God to give you one. You can't have two until you have one. Ask God to give you a man after your own heart."

He began to pray. One day he came to Dawson and said "I think I've found him." The young man came to Dawson and eventually he received the Lord. Then as these two young men continued to grow, they also continued to spiritually reproduce. Eventually, 125 men from that very ship found the Savior. Men off that first battleship went to four continents of the world as missionaries. What was the key? A Prayer for one man; just one.



Men's Ministry Host Church

2015

August..... Mt. Zion Baptist  
November.....VACANT

**Summer brings a lot of fun and a lot of health and safety challenges. Take a few minutes to be safe and healthy.**

- Use U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets on the water.
- Put on sunscreen and a wide-brimmed hat to protect your skin from the sun.
- Drink cool, non-alcoholic fluids
- Put on insect repellent.
- Wash your hands often.

### Who are the "nones"?

Several polls have been taken over the last few years that have given rise to a new identifiable group of people. They are simply identified by the name "nones". Who are these "nones", and what role are they playing in American society?

Gallup began tracking how Americans identified themselves with religion in 2008. They released the results in January, 2013. The percentage of American adults who said they have no explicit religious identification averaged 17.8%, up from 14.6 % in 2008.

To measure religious identity, Gallup asks respondents this question: *What is your religious preference -- are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, another religion, or no religion?* "Nones" are those who respond "no religion" as well as those who say they don't know or refuse to answer.

Greg Smith, a senior researcher at the Pew Research Center, did a study where he reports one-fifth (approximately 64 million) of Americans identify themselves as "nones". He further stated in the report that "nones" are more likely to be under the age of 30. Smith commented during a National Public Radio (NPR) interview that one defining characteristic of the "nones" is their social liberalism. He went on to say that three-quarters of this group favor same-sex marriage and abortion. Robert Putnam, a Harvard professor who writes extensively about religion in public life, sees a creeping secularization as the leading cause in the rise of "nones".

Lifeway researcher, Ed Stetzer, in an article for CNN, recently pointed out at least a small ray of hope. From 1972 through 2014, regular church attendance by evangelicals has increased nationally from 7.9% (16.59 million/210 million) of the population to 12.5% (39.87 million/319 million).

So, what does all of this mean? When looking at all of the data, it seems America's younger generations are moving away from organized religion and forming a more secular society. The question now becomes, how can we reverse this trend? Churches must get back to the basics of discipling their members, who, in-turn, must share the Good News with everyone they meet.

Lester Potts



**Covenant  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

## Baptist Heritage Conference

Dates: June 19-21, 2015

Registration opens on April 15 at  
[www.covenantbapt.org](http://www.covenantbapt.org)



Dr. Tom Ascol is the Pastor of Grace Baptist Church, Cape Coral, Florida, an author, speaker, and the Executive Director of Founders Ministries.



Dr. Tom Nettles is Professor of Historical Theology at SBTS, an author, speaker, and widely regarded as one of the foremost Baptist historians in America.

Contact us: [events@covenantbapt.org](mailto:events@covenantbapt.org) for more information.

Location:  
Covenant Baptist Church  
3019 Country Club Drive  
Valdosta GA 31602

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **June**

#### **Birthdays**

7 Dorothy Layfield  
8 Charlene Fogarty  
27 Brandy Baker

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

6 Rev. & Mrs. John Hughes  
9 Rev. & Mrs. William Fogarty  
12 Rev. & Mrs. Dan Eidson  
14 Rev. & Mrs. Gerald Purvis  
15 Rev. & Mrs. Kevin Harris  
26 Rev. & Mrs. Benji Rowland

#### **Church Anniversaries**

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| 1 Andy Ring/Salem       | 2011 |
| Mark Myers/Tift First   | 2008 |
| 3 Pete Jones/Enigma     | 1984 |
| 20 Fred Evers/Northside | 1999 |

### **July**

#### **Birthdays**

7 Mark Myers  
8 William Fogarty  
14 Jim Donovan  
15 Casey Kilgore  
18 Misty Harris  
20 Glenn Ford

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

None

#### **Church Anniversaries**

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| 1 Wayne Roe/Tift First   | 1996 |
| Jose Lopez/Tift First    | 2004 |
| 21 Don Harris/New Bethel | 2013 |

#### **Food Pantry List**

##### **2015**

June ..... Chula  
July ..... Omega  
August ..... Eastside  
September ..... FBC Ty Ty  
October ..... Oak Grove  
November ..... Northside

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Tifton, GA 31793

#### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Chula, GA 31733  
Permit No. 5

#### ***BCM News*** ***Penny Chesnut***

It is quiet around here and, for the first time in 5 months, I have been able to go to bed at night and not have to wake in the middle of the night and write down what I forgot to do that day. The last half of May is when the students are gone for the month and I have time to reflect on last year and seek God's guidance for next year. Please pray for me as I seek wisdom and leadership from God.

I am amazed at how God worked this past year. We have close to 20 students who are leaving within the next couple of weeks to serve in some mission capacity literally all over the world. Please pray for them as they travel out of their comfort zone to minister. Pray that they will have wisdom from God to do what they need to do. Pray that they will have time, even in the field, to spend time daily seeking God's guidance through His Word, and please pray for their health – students tend to burn the candle at both ends and sooner or later it catches up with them and they get sick.

You know, so many times we think we have to have the best music and programs to reach people and forget about the power of the love of Christ. This semester we had some students that really tried to share Christ outside the doors of the church and BCM. These students tried to build a relationship with a young man in their class who was definitely not like them. This guy was African American, a partier, and smoked pot, and had very little church background. But, they put away their differences and eventually were able to ask him to church. The guy, much to their surprise, went. The country church welcomed him, took him home for meals, and genuinely seemed to care about him. These acts of kindness truly touched this young boy's heart. He is now asking questions about God and searching. They are continuing to love on him and reach out to him. You know, so many times we get wrapped up in programming and fussing about things that don't really matter and forget the power of letting God work through us in loving others. It is the love of God that bridged the gap between us and Him when He sent Jesus to die for us and it is the love of God reaching through us that can touch a life for Him.

Please pray for these students as they continue to reach out to him and that the Holy Spirit will move him and he will one day come to know Christ as his Savior.

Again thank you for all you do for us; you play a big part in our ministry on this campus!

#### **BCM Meal List 2015**

##### **FALL SUPPER LIST**

AUG. 31 - Crossview  
SEPT. 14 - First Baptist Church Tifton  
SEPT. 21 - Northside Baptist  
SEPT. 28 - New River Baptist  
OCT. 5 - First Baptist Chula  
OCT. 12 - BCM  
OCT. 19 - Fall Break  
OCT. 26 - Crossview  
NOV. 2 - Calvary Baptist  
NOV. 9 - Mt. Zion Baptist  
NOV. 16 - TyTy Baptist  
NOV. 23 - BCM