



BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PLANNING AHEAD

November 1
Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 3
Election Day

November 11
Veterans' Day

November 22
Community Thanksgiving
Service

November 23-27
Thanksgiving Holidays
Tift Schools/Tiftarea Academy

November 25-26
Mell Office Closed

November 26
Thanksgiving Day

December 7
Pearl Harbor Day

December 21—January 1
Mell Office Closed

January 1
Happy New Year

January 18
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Mell Office Closed



CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

Deliver me, O LORD, from mine enemies: I flee unto thee to hide me. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Quicken me, O LORD, for thy name's sake: for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble. And of thy mercy cut off mine enemies, and destroy all them that afflict my soul: for I am thy servant.

(Psalm 143:9-12)

The Mell Baptist Association exists to Encourage the Pastors, Strengthen the Churches, and to Build the Kingdom, for the Glory of God. Established 1886.

Highlights

Jason Jones, Associational Missionary

Christmas time is just around the corner (feels weird to say that as I write before Halloween), and I want to take a second and remind you about the opportunities and needs that are presented us during this season.

Backpacks for Appalachia – These are due really soon. We have become a pickup site for the GBC this year. Several of your churches participate, and the pickup is on Nov 5th after noon at Northside. So, if you have your backpacks, you can bring them to Northside between 8-4 on Tuesday and Wednesday, or Thurs before lunch. Everything has to be boxed and ready by Thursday at noon. This is a needed and worthwhile ministry. If you need info, or want to participate individually, here is the website:

<http://missiongeorgia.org/backpacks-for-appalachia/>.

Lottie Moon – Of course, most of you know about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. It is our biggest offering of the year. This offering goes strictly to missionaries on the field and the supplies they need to carry out their ministries. This offering makes up nearly 60% of the IMB's budget for the year. We have missionaries from the Mell Association serving overseas, and this helps keep them there. Info on the LMCO is located here: <http://www.imb.org/main/lottie-moon/default.asp>. As you may know the IMB has made large-scale cutbacks this year because of funding shortfalls, and we must help! Goal again for this year is \$175,000,000 (for you and me that get confused with 0's, that's \$175 million), let's help them reach it. Five billion people need it.

Santa's Helpers – This is an opportunity to give and to volunteer at the same time. Through this ministry we give to 12,000 underprivileged children in Tift County. This year they have experienced a cut in funding. Since Jog for Jake did not go this year, Santa's Helpers lost \$15,000 of their \$20,000 budget. This means that instead of helping 500 families, they will only be able to help 300, as well as reducing the number of toys. We took up over \$3400 to help make up the shortfall at the annual meeting. You as individuals and as churches can really help meet this need. And of course, they are always in need of volunteers to help pack (Dec 7-11) and distribution (Dec 17th). This year's distribution will be at the county fairgrounds.

End of Year Gifts – Many non-profits in our area benefit from end-of-year donations. After you talk with the Lord (and your financial advisor, if you wish) consider giving to one of the location organizations such as Christian Women's Job Corps, Ruth's Cottage/Patticake House, Pregnancy Care Center, Lifehouse Ministries, Called to Care, Brother Charlie's, or you could also give a gift to the association (we don't turn money away).

Of course there are others, as we are commanded to look after the orphans and widows, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give cups of cold water in Jesus name. We are to be the hands and feet of Jesus all the time, but especially this time of year, when Jesus came to earth as the greatest gift and most humble servant ever.

Let me be the first to say it, **Merry Christmas!**

Bro Jason

Lifehouse Ministries Annual Banquet

November 12, 2015
UGA Conference Center
Featuring: Gianna Jessen



Make your reservations now: 229/402-3794
larae@sgmlifehouse.org
<http://www.sgmlifehouse.org>



Operation Christmas Child 2015

Collection Week: November 16-23

Order free materials at samaritanspurse.org

This year you may order **deco** shoeboxes for about \$40 per 100 count.

Note: Collection Center: **Eastside Baptist**
For information, call Richard Gaines at 386-5799 or
e-mail occ@ebctifton.com.

Help collect 25,000 shoeboxes from our area so that children and their families can experience God's love and salvation in Christ!

Thanks so much,
Richard

Useful Links:

Southern Baptist Convention
<http://www.sbc.net/>

North American Mission Board
<http://www.namb.net/>

International Mission Board
<http://www.imb.org/>

Georgia Baptist Convention
<https://gabaptist.org/>

Mell Baptist Association
<http://mellbapt.com/>

CELEBRATIONS

November

Birthdays

4 Gary Cadwell
12 Kim Ashley
13 Benji Rowland
15 Kevin Kilgore
24 Larry Layfield

Wedding Anniversaries

6 Rev. and Mrs. Steve Tucker
12 Rev. and Mrs. Shane Ashley
22 Rev. and Mrs. Brian Broome

Church Anniversaries

8 Jimmy Parker/Brushy Creek 2006

December

Birthdays

14 Stacy Ring
21 Steve Tucker
23 Nerily Lopez

Wedding Anniversaries

12 Rev. and Mrs. Chad Hall

Church Anniversaries

28 Les Gilbert/New River 2002

For Your Information

Beginning in January 2016, "The Christian Index" will no longer publish a bi-weekly print edition. An electronic copy of the index will still be published.

If you do not currently receive the printed newsletter (printed quarterly) and wish to do so, email me with your name and mailing address or send a request in the regular mail to:

Mell Baptist Association
PO Box 1547
Tifton, GA 31793

Food Pantry

2015

November	Northside
December	OPEN
Churches can reserve a month in 2016.	
Call 229-386-0865	
Or email mellbapt@friendlycity.net	
January	Liberty
February	First Baptist, Tifton
June	Chula



Register Today

The conference will be from 7:00-10:00 on Friday night and from 9 am - noon on Saturday.

Cost is \$35 if registering individually or \$25 if registering as part of a group (15+). Any church registering as a group will be considered one of the Host Churches and their pastor will be involved in the program (praying, introducing a speaker, or giving a challenge) and they will also be asked to serve as one of our decision counselors.

Groups can register online at www.georgiamen.com

Individuals can register at www.gerogiamen.com or come by NBC church office to register as a part of the Northside group.



NEWSLETTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

If a church or ministry wishes to share upcoming events or activities in the newsletter, please email the information to mellbapt@friendlycity.net before the 20th of the month preceding the month you want your announcement printed. I will also include church announcements on our Facebook page and on our website.



Men's Ministry

If you would like to host one of the quarterly events during 2016, please contact this office.

Feb—May—Aug—Nov
Open Open TyTy Open

It has been suggested the Men's Ministry events be changed to two times yearly. What are your thoughts? Let us know.

BCM NEWS

This month has been the beginning of our small groups. This is important because in these groups relationships are built and indepth learning takes place. The students are given 5 days of materials to read and then they discuss their findings. This is an opportunity to teach them to begin having a daily quiet time and to read scripture and actually see how it can be applied to their lives. In this group we are beginning a study on the command, need, and how to share your faith. As always, I am amazed at how many students have been saved since childhood and when asked to explain how to know Christ they stare at you "like a deer in the headlights".

I am constantly amazed at the immature faith of our young people. The other day we were discussing the story of Gideon and the fleece and everyone of the students admitted they were not sure who Gideon was! These were church kids! I even had a pastor's son last week tell me he had never had a consistent quiet time. Many of them have read many books about the Bible but have not read the Bible. I sat in a class the other day and out of the 12 students in attendance there was not one who had ever read the Bible all the way through. More and more God is showing me that these students desperately need to acquire a love for the Word of God. This is what will transform their lives, show them the need to share the gospel, and give them the godly sense to be a witness in this crazy world.

I want to urge you pastors and Sunday School teachers to please mentor your youth. I have found that it is in the small groups and one on one that students really learn. You may not feel you can or even know how to mentor someone. But, ask God to show you and I know He will. It is just spending time with them, showing them how to read the scriptures and apply them, and showing them how to live a godly life by example. I constantly hear students talk about an older person in their church that is a living example of a godly life. You will never know the difference your wisdom and knowledge could make in a young person's life. If you are interested and not sure how to do this, please call me and I will encourage you and help you get involved in a young life!

November 15 has been set aside as a day to recognize college students in our churches. I want to urge you to take some time this day to encourage your college students and pray for them. CONTINUED....

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Tifton, GA 31793
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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www.mellbapt.com
Jason Jones, Associational Missionary
Cell: 229-339-1383
sabsp4hm@gmail.com

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

As always, I urge you to pray for us to have wisdom to know how God would have us to lead our ABAC students to have a love and desire to study God's wonderful book! God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path! How can they know which path to take if they don't read the light that guides them? Penny

BCM

Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM), formerly known as BSU (Baptist Student Union), is sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention, however, we welcome everyone to join us. BCM is a great way to make friends, have fun, learn about Christ, and get involved at ABAC.



Club Advisor
Penny Chesnut
ABAC 595
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601

BCM Meal List 2015

FALL SUPPER LIST

NOV 2	Calvary
NOV 9	Mt. Zion
NOV 16	TyTy
NOV 23	BCM



Rejoice

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

O.C.5

Outrageous & Contagious Women's Conference



Liz Curtis Higgs
NY Times Best Selling Author & Int'l Speaker



Selah
7 Time Dove Award Winning Trio from Nashville, TN



Team RADIATE
(Tammy Arant, Joyce Ashley & Amanda Hayes)

FEB. 6, 2016

UGA Tifton Conf. Center
I-75/Exit 64 • Tifton, GA

9:00am - 4:00pm
Doors Open at 8:00am

TICKET PRICE:
\$50.00 All Reserved Seats

Tickets available on www.iTickets.com



Find us on
Facebook "Outrageous & Contagious 5"



Hilton
Garden Inn Conf. Rates Available



Give thanks
to the Lord, for
He is good; His love
endures forever.

Psalm 107:1



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

Be Fruitful and Multiply

Early in the book of Genesis, we see sin rapidly spread throughout the earth. We see Adam and Eve sin by defying God's command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. We see their son Cain murder his brother Abel. As we read on, sin continues to permeate humankind and manifest itself in increasingly wicked ways.

As sin spread throughout the world, the human response to sin also began to change. When Adam and Eve sinned, their response was to hide in shame. When Cain sinned, he responded with indifference (Am I my brother's keeper). Later, in Genesis 4: 23-24, you see Lamech, the great, great, great grandson of Cain, kill a man and boast about it to his two wives, Adah and Zillah. Within the span of four chapters and a few generations, we go from shame to indifference to boasting about sin.

So, how does God respond? Genesis 6: 5-8 tells us that God saw that the wickedness of man was great and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. God regretted that He had made man and He was grieved. God decided that He would destroy all life that was on the face of the earth by sending a flood. But, Noah found grace in the eyes of God.

How can Almighty God, Creator of all things, become grieved? In Hebrew, grieved means *toil, languish, agony, to be injured in feeling*. The fact that mankind had become so preoccupied with evil grieved Him in His heart. The basis of His grief is love – love for the people He created. He simply loved us. So, even in judgment, God shows merciful grace. He chose to purge the world of its great wickedness. Yet, He lovingly chose to save one family. Why? Because like a father cannot stop loving his children no matter how often they disobey, God bound His heart to His created children.

Through His great love, He extends grace to us today. The story of the flood is certainly one of judgment – the declaration of a holy and righteous Judge against all that is evil. And yet, it is also a story of grace.

The story of Noah points us ahead to Jesus. Jesus is the One in whom God was truly pleased, the One God truly favored. Though all have sinned and fall short of God's glory, though none are righteous, not even one, based upon the sole person of Jesus and His righteousness, God offers salvation to us.

The story of the flood doesn't end with Noah's rescue, but with God making a covenant with Noah. In Genesis 9:1, it reads, "and God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth." This looks very much like the original command God gave to Adam and Eve in the garden. Here we find a blessing, a charge to be fruitful and multiply, and the responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation.

Today, God wants us to *be fruitful and multiply* by taking the good news of this holy and merciful God to the rest of the world. God offers grace to every tribe, tongue, and nation. It is our charge, as followers of Jesus, to faithfully proclaim loud and long about the coming judgment and the good news of the provision God has made for our salvation – Jesus Christ.

Lester Potts

Christian Women's Job Corps Annual Report

We are blessed to share with you the remarkable results of the 2015 ministry. Our purpose is to help women become self sufficient by offering Job Skills, Life Skills, Bible Study and GED Classes. All of our classes include sharing the love of Jesus, building relationships with our participants, provide mentoring and entering into covenants with each one, then asking them to do the same. We provide a one-on-one mentoring relationship to help build self-esteem, confidence, discipline and other essential skills to achieve self-sufficiency.

CWJC: Term 1 and Term 11 of 2015

Term 1 Graduated May 15, 2015- Ceremony was hosted by St Anne's Episcopal Church with approximately 75 attending. Term 11-Fall Class 2015 ends December 11, 2015.

20 Women registered with our program- including Term 1 & Term 11, 2015

17 Women with children

3 Single women

-Spring Class: We graduated 6 women and celebrated the GED Completion of a previous participant.

-We have provided other services to 75% of our participants.

-We anticipate 2-3 participants will pass their GED Test this term and 4-5 participants to pass half of their GED Test this term.

-We have six certified teachers with our GED Program and four instructors for our Jobs for Life program and Computer Skills.

-We are partnering with ABAC, providing us with two students this term to completing their practicum by substitute teaching our Social Studies and Computer Skills class.

-We also partner with our community providing volunteer opportunities. At present we have about 25 volunteers serving with CWJC.

-Our participants are also students of SRTC which allows them the flexibility to attend classes at SRTC simultaneously or continue with their education at that location when they are ready.

-CWJC is active in many other community services in the Tifton area.

Over the history of CWJC we have experienced:

20%-----Received the gift of salvation

100%-----Evidence of life change: attitude, change of goals, they realized they have value, self confidence, self esteem, family life and involvement with their children and self discipline. We have seen in them the joy of the Lord. We are thankful that God is in control at CWJC.

Respectfully Submitted,
Martine J Hill, Executive Director

Proverbs 29:18 says "Where this is no vision, the people will perish."

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING



"Why should we not ... do something that will prove that we are really in earnest in claiming to be followers of him who, though he was rich, for our sake became poor?"

Lottie Moon, Sept. 15, 1887, Tungchow

The International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) has established a goal of \$175 Million. And because you give, IMB helps churches send missionaries to the Billions who have yet to hear.

2015 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering