

# **BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

## **PLANNING AHEAD**

**February 5**

RA Racer  
Associational Race  
First Baptist Church, Tifton

**February 7**

Baptist World Alliance Sunday

**February 8—14**

Focus On WMU Week

**February 18-20**

Pastors' Retreat

**February 20**

State RA/Challenger Racer  
Camp Kaleo

**February 25**

Executive Committee/7 PM  
Calvary Baptist Church

**March 6—13**

Week of Prayer for  
North American Missions

**March 27**

Easter Sunday

## **What Are We Waiting For?**

*(Verse 1)*

**He says Go, take the news to every nation  
We say no, you know I just don't feel called  
But oh the Lord of all the universe  
Has called us all to go, so**

*(Verse 2)*

**He says now give your life to serve the broken  
We say how will this fit into my plans  
But oh the Lord of all the universe  
Has spilled His blood, His precious blood**

*(Chorus)*

**What are we waiting for  
A message in the sky  
A miracle, a sign  
From up above, is not His word enough?  
What are we waiting for  
He's given us a choice  
He's given us a voice  
And right now, if He is Lord  
Then what are we waiting for**



Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment.  
(Exodus 6:6)

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

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

February 2016



## Highlights

### **Jason Jones, Associational Missionary**

Christmas and New Year's has come and gone again. Hopefully special services at your church brought a sweet smelling aroma before the Lord. Also, I am quite convinced that the Lord is pleased with the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Most churches that I visited in the last couple of months have met and exceeded their goals. I don't have all the final, concrete numbers in, but I believe we gave over \$250,000 as an association. That is awesome!!! I am really proud to serve an association with a heartbeat for international work enough to sacrifice financially to fund the going forth of the gospel. I spent a week this month at the IMB's missionary learning center, and I know that they are appreciative too. Hopefully churches all across the convention will have ramped up our giving, and possibly reach that \$175 million dollar goal for the first time.

As we get back into the groove for 2016, we must get back into the great commission. After having spent a week with the IMB, I believe that we can do more here. Churches must begin to bear the load personally for sending and shepherding missionaries with the IMB's help, and not the other way around. We must train, and help people transition their lives overseas or to international groups here in the states.

Our methodology (as much as I would like for it to be) should not be to do an associational trip or partnership; it must be done by the local churches. There are several reasons. First, I can't push a trip all over the association. I can train pastors and churches for partnerships and cross-cultural ministry, but if a church and a pastor are not fully committed, it will not work associationally either. Secondly, the logistics of going and fundraising are best handled within the churches. Again, I can train and help, and the IMB will train and help, but the local church is where it rises and falls. Finally, this is biblical. A church may get together with another church to do it, but they work together better, than trying to do a middle man, which we don't see in the scriptures.

So, let this be my push. We need more international, long-term church/IMB/people group partnerships. You can do it. When we began one at New River in 2009, we partnered with a two-year-old church plant of 50 people in Alberta, Canada who agreed to take two trips a year if we took one. It was kind of embarrassing that a church less than half our size, 130 years our junior, would take on 2/3 of the partnership to reach an unreached valley in Peru.

Matt Papa wrote the song on the front of this newsletter that I think sums it up, and asks a very simple question, what's your/churches answer? He doesn't want beliefs or checks; comfort is not a reason to abstain; what are you doing for the nations? If you aren't, commit today. Begin to

advocate, talk to your pastor. Pastor, come talk to me, let me help you in direction toward a partnership to reach a people. What are you waiting for?

**Bro Jason**

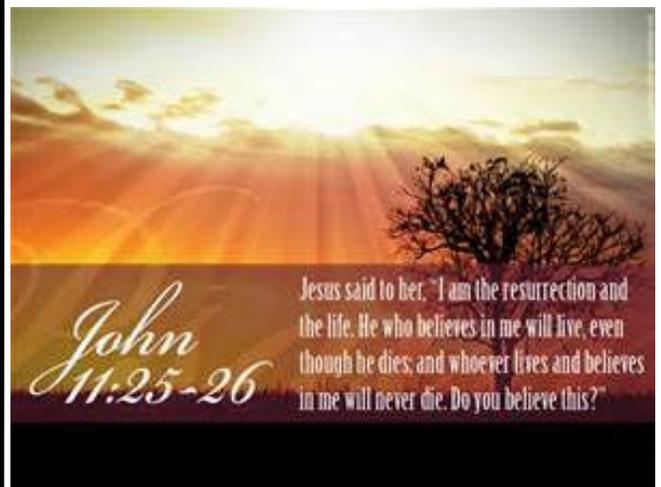
First Baptist Church of Waycross is currently searching for a senior pastor. Reply with inquiries or resume to:

**Pastor Search Committee  
First Baptist Church of Waycross  
P.O. Box 757  
Waycross, Georgia 31502-0757**

Churches wishing to inform the public of upcoming events, please forward the information about the event to our office via email or snail mail so that it will arrive by the 20th of each month. Our email address is: [mellbapt@friendlycity.net](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net).

### **Our mailing address is:**

Mell Baptist Association  
P.O. Box 1547  
Tifton, GA 31793



### **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

## February

### Birthdays

- 5 Allison Tucker
- 14 Louellen Parker
- 16 Bill Hughes
- 23 Andy Ring
- 23 Christian Colson

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 13 Rev & Mrs Fred Evers

### Church Anniversaries

- 19 Dan Eidson Victory 2006

## March

### Birthdays

- 9 Kimberly Hulsey

### Wedding Anniversaries

- 14 Rev & Mrs Andy Ring
- 31 Rev & Mrs Christian Colson

### Church Anniversaries

- 2 Steve Tucker Liberty 2008
- 4 Bill Hughes First Tifton 1991

## TO BE LIKE A CAMEL

There are four characteristics of a camel that bear a remarkable similarity to what is required of a believer.

1. They rely on a master to lead them, and to keep them from wandering aimlessly.

Each day when the camel gets up, it does not know where it will be going, what road lies ahead, or how much burden will be placed on its back. The camel relies on the master to guide it in the proper direction. Without such guidance it would wander aimlessly and get lost.

Christians must depend on the Holy Spirit to guide us each day as we trek down life's highways.

2. They rely on the master to provide them with their daily sustenance.

Since a camel is incapable of providing for its own nourishment, it must rely on the master to provide its needs. The right kinds of food, in the right amounts, at the appropriate times are necessary for the camel to do its job.

We must depend on the Master to "give us our daily bread." (Matthew 6:11)

3. Their eyes are always turned upward as they travel.

When walking, a camel's head is positioned so the eyes are looking forward and upward. There may be occasional glances downward or backward, but these do not last long.

The upward and forward looking position, for Christians, is not a prideful or conceited look; but a simple acceptance of where to look for the ultimate guidance and direction.

4. The knobby knees of a camel are ideally suited for kneeling on a frequent basis.

Frequent kneeling produces the tell-tale knobby pads distinctive of a camel.

Christians should develop callouses kneeling before God in prayer. This posture is absolutely essential for us to be able to rest in the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Lester Potts

### Food Pantry

Churches can reserve a month in 2016.

Call 229-386-0865

Or email [mellbapt@friendlycity.net](mailto:mellbapt@friendlycity.net)

### 2016

- |           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| January   | <b>Liberty</b>               |
| February  | <b>First Baptist, Tifton</b> |
| March     | Open                         |
| April     | Open                         |
| May       | Open                         |
| June      | <b>Chula</b>                 |
| July      | Open                         |
| August    | Open                         |
| September | Open                         |
| October   | Open                         |
| November  | Open                         |
| December  | Open                         |

Churches who wish to participate in stocking the **Food Pantry**, please let our office know.

### 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](mailto: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.



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## 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 has been a great semester start! Prayer Warriors, we have a lot for you to lift up before God. We are going through the gospels and Acts this semester on Mondays, most Thursday Bible Studies, and in small groups. We are also posting daily Bible readings from the gospels each week in an effort to get people to read the Word of God. Can you believe it? Some people are actually reading the passages each day!!! Many are commenting on how God is speaking to them. Please pray that His Word will hit home and lives will be changed! For the month of February on Thursdays we will be speaking about godly relationships. In the world these students live with media which is constantly feeding them lies on how to handle a dating relationship. We will be looking at the Bible and studying what God has to say about dating. There is not anything on dating as such in the Bible, but, it says a lot about actions, how to treat each other, and standards of behavior. Please pray for open hearts and conviction to obey what God has to say about this area of their lives.

We have also had our summer missions selections for the sate this past week. We have nearly 200 students who will be sent out this summer all over the world. We have 8 students from ABAC serving in Georgia, other states, one in Brazil, and one will be traveling up the river in a country on a riverboat stopping in villages to share the gospel. ABAC also has a student serving as a BCM Hands On missionary. T.J. Chesnut, my son, will be serving in Boston with college ministry for the next year and a half. Please pray for these students as they prepare to serve.

During our Christmas break mission trip we stressed the need to share the gospel with your family and friends and it is amazing to see how some of them are actually doing this! We spent a lot of time focusing on how to explain salvation to a lost person. One of them recently had the pleasure of sharing the gospel and seeing the harvest of a soul! I don't think this kid's feet have hit the ground yet, he is so excited about sharing His faith now! You know, once you have the privilege of God allowing you to be the hands and feet that lead someone to Christ, things in your life fall into place and you realize this is my purpose on this earth! As we go into this semester please pray that more and more students will have the privilege of planting gospel

seeds, tilling the grounds of some hearts, and then the joy of seeing a harvest!

**Penny**

### Winter Suppers

Feb 1	Victory
Feb 8	Lenox
Feb 15	Brookfield
Feb 22	Oak Grove
Feb 29	Crossview
Mar 7	Zion Hope
Mar 21	First Baptist Tifton
Mar 28	Eastside
Apr 4	Northside
Apr 11	New River
Apr 18	Crossview

**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.**



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