

Mell

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

PLANNING AHEAD

December 2
Downtown Holiday Christmas
5:00 PM—10:00 PM

December 5
Mell Ministers/Wives
Christmas Banquet
6 PM

December 14
Mell Administrative Team
Noon
Mell Office

December 18—January 1
Mell Office Closed

December 25
Christmas Day

January 2
Mell Office Open

January 15
ML King, Jr. Holiday
Mell Office Closed

January 16
Mell Ministers Meeting
Mell Office
Noon

January 21
Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 23
Senior Adult Luncheon
Liberty Baptist Church
Noon—Until

January 25
Mell Executive Committee
7:00 PM
Mell Office



December 3-10, 2017
Week of Prayer for International Missions
and
Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering
Goal
\$160,000,000

100% of gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering fund IMB missionaries who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached people and places.

In the last year reported (2015):

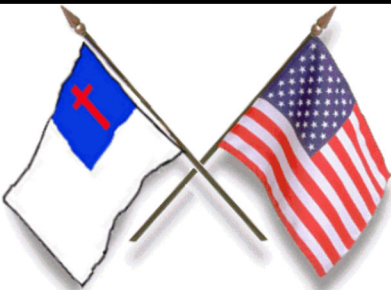
- **9 MILLION** heard the gospel
- **175,290** new believers in Christ
- **15,058** trained pastors
- **6,138** new churches

The Mell Baptist Association exists to Encourage Churches, Strengthen Churches, and Partner with Churches to Reach People with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Established 1886.

www.mellbapt.com

December 2017



AM THOUGHTS

I am pleased to announce that the Administration Team approved my recommendation today for Mrs. Charlene Fogarty (wife of William Fogarty, pastor of Unity BC) to be the association's next Administrative Assistant. She will begin December 4 and will have two weeks overlap with Lester. I am looking forward to working with Charlene see how God uses her in this position. Thank you for your prayers for this process.

On behalf of the association, I want to thank Lester Potts for his almost three years of service to the association as Administrative Assistant. He has faithfully served the association during three transition times—the resignation of Jason Jones as Associational Missionary, the interim time of Tom Hocutt as interim Associational Missionary leading to Tom as full-time missionary, and the move to a new location. We wish God's blessings on Lester and the next stage in His walk with the Lord. We know that God will continue to use him in His kingdom's work.

Praise the Lord for the sixty from six churches who attended the Mell Senior Adult Luncheon at Omega Baptist Church on October 24. There was good food, enjoyable entertainment, and excellent fellowship. Our next Mell Senior Adult Luncheon will be January 23, 2018, at Liberty Baptist Church. Please make your plans now to attend.

Thank you for providing the resources for Martha and I to attend the 196th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board at North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville November 13-14. We also attended the Pre-convention Rally on Sunday night prior to the Annual Meeting. David Platt, president of the International Mission Board brought a powerful message from Exodus 32 on the Golden Calves in our lives. We enjoyed getting to fellowship with friends, seeing how GBMB functions, participating in the election of officers, enjoying tremendously the music of the Jubal Chorus and Orchestra, and celebrating the 25th Anniversary of J. Robert White as Executive Director. I am so grateful for nine of our pastors who were able to attend this meeting.

Martha and I want to wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving (belated for some) and a very Merry Christmas and a God-filled New Year! We will spend Christmas with our son and family (including two granddaughters) in Richmond, Virginia.

Remember that the Mell Office will be closed December 18-January 1! The office will reopen on January 2, 2018.

I have received affirmation and blessing from the Evangelism/Missions Team and the Administrative Team to participate with a mission team at the Winter Olympics in South Korea. Our team will be leaving February 15 and returning February 27. This is a team that I have ministered with in three previous Olympics. Would you begin praying now for me and this team for our safety and that God would use us to witness to many people about the saving power of Jesus Christ? Thank you in advance. We will be using pin trading, balloon art, and tissue flowers to witness. We always have a story telling pin that we use to witness. Thank you for the privilege of being a part of this great ministry!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS Jumpstart

February 15, 2018

Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany

7:00—8:30 PM

Free Event/No Registration Required

Regional VBS Clinic

March 10, 2018

Sherwood Baptist Church, Albany

Early Bird Registration—February 5, 2018—\$15

Regular Registration—February 23, 2018—\$20

Late/At The Door Registration—\$25

Register online: gabaptist.org/kids

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 15th of each month for inclusion in the newsletter.

mellbapt@friendlycity.net

Our mailing address is:

Mell Baptist Association

P.O. Box 1547

Tifton, GA 31793

Or call

(229) 386-0865

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 Mission Board

<https://gabaptist.org/>

Mell Baptist Association

<http://mellbapt.com/>

CELEBRATIONS

December

Birthdays

14	Stacy Ring	Salem
21	Steve Tucker	Liberty
23	Nerily Lopez	Vida Abundante

Anniversaries

Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

28	Les Gilbert	New River
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January

Birthdays

2	Dana Hughes	First, Tifton
15	John Hughes	First, Tifton
18	Dan Eidson	Victory

Anniversaries

6	Rev. & Mrs. Bill Hughes	First, Tifton
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Pastor/Staff Anniversaries

3	Benji Rowland	Journey
4	Brian Broome	Northside

Food Pantry 2017

December Brighton Road

2018

January Liberty
February First, Tifton
March Zion Hope
April
May
June
July
August
September
October New River
November
December

The Food Pantry served 23 households in October.

If your church would like to sponsor the Food Pantry for a month in 2018, give us a call at 229-386-0865 and let us know which month you want.

Special Ministers' Luncheon

Tuesday, January 16, 2018
Noon @ Mell Office

Speaker: Matt Stacey, Church Planter, Tapestry Church, of Decatur, Georgia

P.S. He and his brother will be catering the meal. You don't want to miss this.

Please make your reservations by emailing thocutt@gmail.com or calling 386-0865

BRIGHTON ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

hosts

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Brighton Road Baptist Church will host, **Verse II Ministries** on December 10, 2017 from 10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM.

Please come and join us for a special Christmas Celebration of Joy, Peace, Hope and Love. They will be performing a concert with a unique sound described as "Christian Orchestral Folk" which means acoustic instruments with a blend of all kinds of music for this Holiday Season.

Free for all

162 Brighton Rd., Tifton, GA.

Mell Senior Adult Luncheon

January 23, 2018

Noon—Until

Liberty Baptist Church

Mell Baptist Association Executive Committee

January 25, 2018/ 7:00 PM

Mell Office

The Mell Executive Committee includes all pastors of member churches and one elected lay representative.



Mell Baptist Association
817 Central Avenue, North
P.O. Box 1547
Tifton, GA 31793
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Chula, GA 31733
Permit No. 5

PH: 229-386-0865
mellbapt@friendlycity.net
www.mellbapt.com

**Baptist Collegiate Ministries
Club Advisor
Penny Chesnut
ABAC 595
2802 Moore Highway
Tifton, GA 31793-2601
(229) 382-8708**

Mell Monthly Financials

(October 2017)

Budget Needs: \$9,823.39

Funds Received: \$7,228.18

Expenses: \$12,761.04

BCM NEWS

Thanksgiving break is here and I don't know if I could have lasted much longer. I need this break to recharge and fight the spiritual warfare that is so evident around here this year. It is so pressing this year.

The Bible says, "Flee youthful lusts." It also says – "Satan is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." When you look at young people today this is so evident! I look at so many of my students and see the great strides they have made in their walk with Christ –but, as they are climbing in their walk, Satan is doing all he can to stop them in their tracks! He knows their weaknesses and will hit them where they are the weakest! I have seen that so much this semester.

Good students have been brought to their knees by the power of sin. Many are not strong in their faith enough to recognize the lies of Satan and fall into his clutches! I have several on my mind when I am saying this. The pull of media and the college world around them is so strong. The pull to sleep around; get drunk; and just waste precious time that could be spent spending time with God or doing His work is extremely devastating. Laziness and apathy are also rampant! I have counseled so many students this semester that are broken down by this pull. Please pray for them as they deal with the pain and consequences of sin. I pray and ask you to pray with me that they will learn from their mistakes and turn to Christ for forgiveness and strength to fight the fight! Students today definitely need the FULL ARMOUR OF GOD! Please pray they will fall in love with the Word of God because this is how they will have the power to fight sin. "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee."

I urge you, if you have children or grandchildren today – please stay on your knees in prayer for their salvation and need to stay strong in the Word of God. When you are driving them anywhere, use that time to talk to them about Christ and things in the Word of God. They are a captive audience.

I do not want you to think all things are bad. They are not! This is just a strong pull and it breaks my heart to see them suffer through the pains of sin. Many ARE making great strides in their faith. We are working on our Christmas mission trip and pray for me as I plan our devotions and discipleship during this time. We are going to hit heavy on sin and distractions in our walk.

I cannot tell you how thankful I am for the Mell Association saints who pray for us and support us. God bless you this holiday and Christmas season! Penny

Georgia Baptist Mission Board
Evangelism Conference

January 29-30, 2018
Central Baptist Church
Warner Robins, GA

To equip and encourage pastors and churches to reach more with the Gospel.

Alabama/Georgia Church Revitalization Conference

May 1-3, 2018
Morningside Baptist Church
Columbus, Georgia

www.renovatemychurch.org

For more information, call 706-322-7757 or email: info@renovatemychurch.org



Mell Ministry

December 2, 2017

5:00 P.M.—10:00 P.M.

Volunteers needed to distribute tracts and verbally share the Gospel.

To volunteer your church, contact our office at 229-386-0865 or via email at mellbapt@friendlycity.net.

Deacon Training

Omega Baptist Church will be hosting **Bryan Alexander/GBMB**, from Rutledge Ga, for Deacon Training. The event will be **January 27, 2018, 1:00 pm to about 5:00 pm**, at the **Omega Baptist Church Social Hall**. We invite men from our association Churches who need training or refresher training.

MELL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION PRAYER UPDATE

Volume 1, Number 8 December 2017

Urgent Prayer

1. Pray for a spirit of prayer to sweep through our churches that would usher in true repentance and revival.
2. Pray for those impacted by the hurricanes in Texas, Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico and other areas and those churches, other entities, and individuals helping in the recovery.

Local

Pray for our Purpose to become a reality: "Mell Baptist Association exists to encourage churches, strengthen churches, and partner with churches to reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

We are praying for our churches and pastors per an alphabetical list of churches. Pray this time for Omega Baptist Church (Allen Mullis, pastor), Pine Grove Baptist Church (no pastor), and Salem Baptist Church (Andy Ring, pastor).

Pray for the churches without pastors: Alapaha, Eldorado, New River, and Pine Grove.

Pray for our city and county officials in Tift, Cook, and Berrien Counties.

Pray for our schools, colleges, boards of education, superintendents, principals, teachers, and students.

Pray for the lost in your family and your circle of influence (work, school, recreation, neighborhood, etc.).

7. Pray for unity in the body of Christ in our association and surrounding area.
8. Pray for the monthly meetings of the Encouraging/Strengthening Team, Evangelism/Missions Team, and Administrative Team.

Pray for the Mell Baptist Association staff (Tom Hocutt and Lester Potts).

Pray for the Mell Ministry at the Downtown Holiday Christmas Celebration December 2.

State

Pray for our state government officials.

Pray for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board: its Executive Director (Robert White), its ministries, and other State Missionaries.

Nation

Pray for our national government leaders.

Pray for the North American Mission Board, its president (Kevin Ezell), staff, and its missionaries.

Pray for the Southern Baptist Convention: Frank Page, CEO of the Executive Committee and Steve Gaines, SBC President.

Pray for the revival of God's people and the spiritual awakening of our nation and the world.

Pray for the protection and support of our law enforcement, fire fighters, and EMS personnel.

World

Pray for the International Mission Board--its president (David Platt), staff, and missionaries.

Pray for the 1.6 billion Muslims of the world that they would come to an understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

Pray for the Gospel of Christ to be shared to the unreached people groups in the world.

Pray for the protection of Israel, wisdom for Israel as they deal with their enemies, and for the peace of Jerusalem.

Pray for protection for our armed forces in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and around the globe.

Pray that the people of Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria would have stable governments and that they would have an opportunity to hear the Gospel and respond.

Pray for the persecuted Christians of the world.

ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Praise the Lord for the 60 from six of our churches who attended the Mell Senior Adult Luncheon at Omega Baptist Church October 24.