



Happy Easter

To a Christian,

Easter Sunday means everything, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

-Bernhard Langer

**Bethel
Baptist
Association**

April

“Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ”

the **BETHEL NEWSLETTER 2020**

On a hill far away...

**He died,
that I might live.**

1 Thess. 5:10



Missionary Musings



So much has taken place since the last time I wrote to you all, it's hard to know where to begin. As most of you know, we had to cancel our **Annual Spring Meeting** in March due to growing concerns about the spreading of the COVID-19 "Coronavirus" in large group gatherings. Now, many of our churches have suspended their worship gatherings and other activities in response to this public health crisis, and state and local governments have declared states of emergency and have enacted various "shelter in place" mandates and restrictions on businesses and large groups. Schools are closed and Blakely's annual "**Peanut Proud**" Festival has also been canceled.

Suddenly, we find ourselves living in a strange new world. I must admit that I was taken by surprise by the rapid progression of these changes across our nation and in our own communities. On the Monday after the first "wave" of closures took place, I had the eerie sensation that I was in an old science-fiction movie that I had seen as a small child. It was called "The Day The Earth Stood Still." (Yes, that one. If you remember it, you're as old or older than I am!)

Perhaps some of you have been having trouble processing all of these events as well. You might even be having some fear and anxiety about it all. Well, I have some GOOD NEWS to share with you in the midst of these confusing and challenging days. **EASTER IS COMING!** God is still on His throne, Jesus has risen from the dead, and the Holy Spirit continues to shed His love and comfort in our hearts! The death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are historical facts, and no virus can cancel Easter! Let us rejoice and celebrate the victory we have already won through Jesus Christ our Lord.

I am so proud of our pastors and other church leaders who have stepped up and taken on these new challenges in bold and creative ways.

Many of our people are discovering and practicing what it means to "**be the church**" even when they may not be able to "**have church**." They are reaching out and loving their neighbors in Jesus' Name in countless practical ways.

And God's people are **praying** as never before! Here are some specific ways you can pray for our entire nation and world during this time of uncertainty and fear:

1. Pray for those infected by COVID-19, particularly the most vulnerable.
2. Pray for families who are already suffering grief over loved ones lost.
3. Pray for doctors and researchers attempting to find ways to treat and prevent this disease.
4. Pray for government officials at all levels as they make decisions that impact all of our lives.
5. Pray for all pastors and church leaders as they seek to minister and lead their congregations in the days ahead. Pray for courage and innovation as they find ways to continue proclaiming the Word and spreading the Gospel no matter what.
6. Pray for the Body of Christ, that we would all reflect the love of God and point others to Him. Pray for unity in your church, in spite of many not being able to physically gather together as they would like.
7. **PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY** in stopping the spread of COVID-19. He can do it! Let all those who are called by His Name humble themselves, confessing our sins, and plead for Him to heal our land. Pray for His power and mercy to be displayed in such a way that many come to faith in Him during these days.

In addition to the most important strategy of prayer, let me encourage you all to remain faithful even during these times with your **tithes and**

offerings to your own local church. Even when Sunday services are not being held, the bills still need to be paid and your faithful staff have to live. If your church does not have online giving, then find you some other way to "bring all the tithe into the storehouse." This is especially critical in times of great ministry need.

A final word about our associational meetings and events: Our Administrative Team met together on March 22nd to discuss how we should carry on in the weeks (possibly months) to come. We decided to cancel all **BBA-sponsored large group activities through Mother's Day**, in accordance with the recommendations of the CDC. **This includes the Evangelism/Discipleship Workshop with Jason Dukes** which had been scheduled for April 3-4 in Bluffton.

At this point, smaller committee meetings will take place as scheduled (see "Calendar of Events"), but possibly via video and/or teleconferencing, as the situation dictates. It is our desire to keep the Associational Office open at least 3 days per week (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) from 8:30 am until 4:30 pm, as long as that is feasible. Of course, I am able to do much of my work from home, so feel free to contact me at (299)723-1375 if you can't reach anyone at the office.

Finally, brothers and sisters:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your forbearing spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

-Philippians 4:4-7 (NASB)

He Lives!

Bro. James

Discipleship/Evangelism
Conference
Friday-Saturday
April 3 & 4
Bluffton Baptist Church

CANCELLED



“Introduction to the 2020 CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS Project” postponed from Apr. 13th to Monday, May 18th, 7 pm (tentatively) at the BBA Office, but watch for further updates!



MISSIONS
Coordinating Committee
Meeting
BBA- Thursday, April 23
Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
Requests for New Work Fund assistance must be into the BBA Office by Tuesday, April 21st.

PRAY for our Summer Camps (scheduled for June 24-27)

2020 “ON MISSION CONNECTION” FINANCIAL REPORT

Beginning Balance	Oct. 1, 2019	\$5,663.74
Added Since 10/1/19		\$2,311.05
Total Income		\$7,974.79
	Expenses	
Lodging & Food for Missionaries	\$2,407.91	
Banquet	\$1,647.54	
Expenses reimbursement for Missionaries	\$2,709.17	
Total Expenses		\$6,764.62
Balance March 18, 2020		\$1,210.17

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

Feb. 27, - Mar. 24, 2020	
Arlington	710.00
Bethel	
Beulah	179.70
Blakely FBC	1,591.82
Bluffton	1,024.18
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	359.69
Edison	108.50
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	893.30
Georgetown	416.66
Leary	133.44
Milford	538.00
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	53.22
Mt. Hebron	200.00
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	200.00
New Hope	77.08
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	250.00
Shiloh	833.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhattee	
Springvale	
Vilulah	
Individuals	150.00
TOTAL	8,456.09
Balances Mar. 24 (2020)	
General Fund	7,974.01
Designated Fund	9,591.14
New Work Fund	7,684.89

PRAISE THE LORD! For the wonderful out-pouring of love and support for our “On Mission Connection” missionaries who spoke in our churches on Sunday, February 23rd. A total **Love Offering** of **\$8,950.25** was given in our participating churches on that day, which was divided equally among our 12 missionary teams. Each received a generous check for \$745.85 along with a note of appreciation for their service among us that weekend. They certainly blessed us while they were here. Thank you, BBA churches, for blessing them as well!



Barnabas Group Prayer
Tuesday, April 7 @ 11 am
Via teleconference!

Bethel Baptist Association 124 Bay Ave. PO Box 398 Edison, GA 39846	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Bethel Baptist Association</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dr. James Holloway, Association Mission Strategist Kathy Hardwick, Ministry Assistant Joyce Jarrett, Financial Assistant</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Phone 229.835.2887 FAX 229.835.2023</p>	Presort Standard Mail (B) US Postage Paid Mailed from Zip Code 39846

CALENDAR *of Events*

April 2020

- 7 "Barnabas" Prayer - Teleconference, 11 am
- 12 **EASTER**
- 23 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 27 Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm

May 2020

- 5 "Barnabas" Prayer - TBA, 11 am
- 18 "Christmas Backpacks 2020" Planning Meeting - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 25 MEMORIAL DAY (Assoc. Office Closed)

June 2020

- 4 Registration Deadline for BBA Summer Camps
- 22 Executive Committee - Assoc. Office, 7 pm
- 24-27 BBA Children's Summer Camps - Group Camp Hicita, Kolomoki Mounds State Park

NOTE: All dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to the developing public health crisis. Team members and committees should watch for direct communications from us (mail and email) concerning each event as it approaches.

