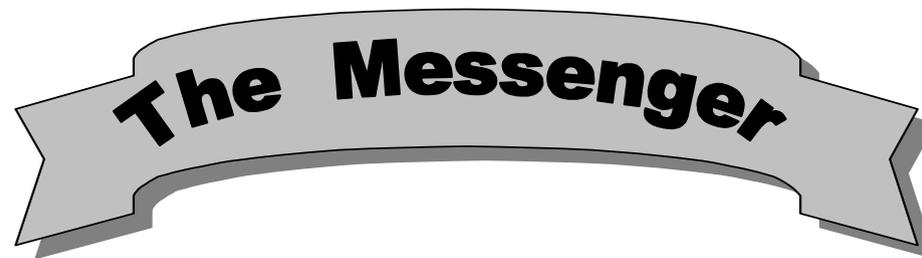


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February 8, 2018



Randy Hagan,
Associational Missionary
Ricky Milford,
Hearing-Impaired Missionary
Linda Cotton, Secretary
Sandy Locke,
Financial Secretary

Associational Prayer Requests

Please pray for these churches that are without a pastor. Also pray for their Pastor Search Committee:

Chandler Springs, Family Fellowship, Hepzibah, Jenifer, Westside and Winterboro

Churches with Interim Pastors:
Central-Rev. Trull Hill
Lincoln-Dr. Ben Chandler
Rocky Mount-Rev. John Vogel
Talladega Springs-Rev. Richard Bonds

Lee Ann Ward, retired association financial secretary, as she battles cancer.

Rev. Billy Paul Williams, pastor of Fayetteville Baptist Church, was hit by a car as he was jogging and broke his leg. Pray for him as he recovers.

Dr. Danny Courson, pastor of Odena Baptist Church, as he continues to recover. He has returned to work following his mini-stroke.

Rev. Tim Crist and his family in the recent death of his grandmother, Marjorie Temple. Brother Tim is the pastor of Russell Chapel Baptist Church.

News from our Churches

Tallahatchie FBC: Tallahatchie FBC has called Rev. Jim Griffin to be their pastor. We welcome Brother Jim and his wife Miriam to the Coosa River Association family. He will begin his pastorate on February 11, 2018.



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:
Feb 8-Tyler Wesley, New Hope; Jessica Pearson, Munford
Feb 12-Cody Lytton, Calvary; Rickey Mullins, Stemley
Feb 14-Danny Cotton, Shiloh
Feb 16-Jim Hazel, Pleasant Grove; Brad Mitchell, Alpine; Kasie Lathem, Munford
Feb 18-Paul Hickman, Jr, Calvary; Melanie Pearce, Sylacauga FBC
Feb 20-Mary Leigh Freeman, Dry Valley
Feb 21-Clyde Pettus, Pleasant Grove; Melba Strickland, Ridgeview; Amy McDonald, Five Points

Cheer up People!

A person was expressing how they were going through a difficult time in their life. I began to think about the fact that we live in a fallen world with sin, disease, and the presence of evil. We, as Christians, are *not* promised we will never face hardships. Second Timothy 3:12 states, "Yea, and all who live a godly life in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." Matthew 16:24 states, "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

So, if we as Christians "suffer persecution" and "take up his cross", the understanding is this could be a hard life. I think the problem is that we live in a land of "milk and honey". By this I mean

that we are comfortable in our life. When we are attacked by another person for our belief, or for another reason, we question why God doesn't stop it. We are somewhat spoiled to a life of convenience. Now you understand I am not speaking against our blessings just wanting *us* to put our difficulties into perspective. First Thessalonians 5:18 states, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

We are probably in a problem now, just coming out of one, or about to enter another one. My sixth grade teacher wrote on my report card, "Randy is his own worst enemy." A prophecy that has come true way too many times. Most of the difficulties I face are

my own fault. I would like to blame it on someone else, but I know I should have used better judgement. Or how about this, pray about it, seek counsel or read the Bible. You get the picture, we should be thankful for our salvation and giving God the glory.

Our praise for God should override our staying in our pity party. I can throw the best pity party and there is always 3 present, me, myself, and I. Maybe we have an "I" problem. You know you will have difficulties but look with me to this verse of scripture in John 16:33. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Cheer up!

In His Service, Brother Randy

Jail Ministry Training

Has the Lord called you to work with the inmates at the Talladega County Jail? You must complete a training course before you can minister at the jail.

The next training class will be held on Sunday, February 18 at the Coosa River offices at 2 P.M. Charles Rogers, our Jail Ministry Coordinator, will lead the class. There is no charge for the class. Just come and complete the required paperwork. Once you have been approved by the jail administrator you can help hold services with the inmates.

2017 Association Annuals

The staff has been working on the annuals and we will have them ready to pick up on **Monday, February 12, 2018**. Thank you for your patience. Annuals may be picked up during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 256-362-7173.

Please note that the association office is closed on Fridays.

Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries

There is still time to register for the 56th annual conference of the Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries which will be held at Shocco Springs on March 11-14. Register at Shocco.org or by phone by calling 256-761-1100.

This is a great time of fun, learning and fellowship. See you there!

Mission Celebration

The Mission Celebration is a time for all churches to gather and hear reports of mission trips taken by our sister churches.

Rev. Max Buttram, pastor of Oak Grove FBC, will share about his trip to the Holy Land. Come to Bon Air on Monday, February 19 at 6:30 P.M. to hear what other churches are doing!

Children's Day Camp

The Coosa River WMU is sponsoring a Children's Day Camp for Saturday, March 10, 2018. It will take place at Hepzibah Baptist Church. Kaley Stephens, camp director at WorldSong Missions Camp, will lead the activities with help from the WorldSong camp staff.

Letters have been mailed to all children's leaders. To reserve a spot for your group call Crystal Pomeroy at 256-268-2200 or call the association office at 256-362-7173.

Coosa River Day

Once every two years the ministry teams of the association host a day of fun and information. We want to make sure that the churches know how the association can help them do ministry.

Saturday, April 21 is the date you can come to the association office and learn more about what we do. The Block Party Trailer will be set up so you can see what we have to offer. You can look through the Shower Trailer, see the Resource Library, and have some food too. We will be here from 2-5 PM.

Bulletin Board

February 9-10

Bivocational Minister/Spouse Retreat at Shocco Springs

February 18

Jail Ministry Training at the association office at 2 PM

February 19

Missions Celebration at Bon Air, 6:30 PM

March 10

Children's Day Camp at Hepzibah-9 AM

March 11-14

Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries conference at Shocco Springs

April 21

Coosa River Day from 2-5 P.M. at the association office. Come and see what the association can do for your church.

Publication Deadline

The Messenger is published on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Do you have an announcement or event that you would like to have covered in an upcoming edition of *The Messenger*? Contact Linda at the Coosa River office by the **first or third Monday** of each month. Phone: (256) 362-7173 Fax: (256) 268-8803 E-mail: lcotton@crba.org