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The Messenger

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October 22, 2020

Associational Prayer Requests

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

Alpine, Brecon FBC, Eastaboga, Oldfield, and Union Springs

Churches with Interim Pastors:
Cartersville: Rev. Harold Bannister
Mignon: Rev. Mike Owen
Rocky Mount: Rev. John Vogel
Shelvin Rock: Rev. Mike Johnson
Talladega Creek: Rev. Trull Hill

Local schools, teachers and students as they return to school for the new school year. Pray for the Lord's protection from COVID-19 for the students, teachers, and administrators.

Rev. Terry Davis, Minister of Music at Lincoln Baptist Church, as he recovers from COVID-19.

Churches who have COVID-19 cases in their membership. They have had to cancel in-person worship and return to online services.

Billy Williams' daughter, Amy, passed away on October 10, 2020. Brother Billy is the pastor of Sylavon Baptist Church.

News from our Churches

Eastaboga: Rev. Mike Snyder has resigned as pastor of Eastaboga Baptist Church. Pray for this church as they begin to search for another pastor.

Westside: Rev. Bryan Camp began his pastorate at Westside Baptist Church on October 11, 2020. We welcome Brother Bryan and his family into the Coosa River Association family!



To the following Coosa River pastors, ministers, staff members and spouses:

- Oct 22-Jay Jenkins, Dry Valley
- Oct 25-Julie Hibbs, Mignon; Ralph Haywood, New Hope
- Oct 28-Evan Patrick, Sylacauga FBC
- Oct 30-Susan Smith, Winterboro
- Oct 31-Carl Armstrong, Stemley; Jearldine Heath, Mountain View
- Nov 1-Joseph Strickland, Ridgeview
- Nov 2-Jeremy Clifton, Oak Grove
- Nov 5-Jeff Weathers, Sycamore
- Nov 7-Connie Morrow, Oak Grove
- Nov 8-Kelsey Files, Immanuel
- Nov 9-Calvin Mann, Hepzibah; Hudson Chappell, Fayetteville

NO LITTLE PLACES – part 2

Today, we continue our review of the book, "No Little Places," by Ron Klassen and John Koessler. In our last newsletter we took a look at two of Klassen and Koessler's "Five Myths of Ministry Success." They were:

1. To Be Significant, A Ministry Must Be Big.

2. To Be Significant, My Ministry Must Be In A Big Place.

In this issue we will cover the remaining "3 Myths."

3. My Significance Is Measured By How Much Recognition My Ministry Receives. Jesus gives us the "defining factor" for the purpose of each of our ministries. Listen to His words in Mark 10:42-45 . . .

"You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever

would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

So much of the attitude of Jesus began with a choice . . . a choice to make himself nothing, take on the nature of a servant, humble himself and become obedient. Notice that the choice He was making was to put His own status and comforts aside to work for the good of others. Understand that working for the good of others was marked by suffering, submission, and sacrifice.

4. My Significance Is Motivated By My Career Advancements.

When "career advancement" becomes our motivating factor for ministry, we not only undermine the very character of our position of leadership, but God's calling upon our ministry as well. Klassen and Koessler state that, "As a result, instead of giving our whole heart to serving the people

God has called us to, we end up trying to use the people to advance our own careers. This is not ministry, but exploitation."

5. My Significance is Affirmed By Professional Success. Klassen and Koessler state, *"Those who expect professional success to provide the cure for feelings of inferiority, whatever the reasons for fragile self-esteem, will in the end find only disappointment. This is not a need that can be met by 'ministry advancements' and 'promotions to new levels of ministry' . . . when we are driven by a need to prove our own worth, we sabotage our own ministries because our work is motivated by what's in it for [me] rather than out of a desire to serve."*

In our next newsletter, we will begin looking at Klassen and Koessler's "5 Responses" to the "5 Myths" they have identified.

Blessings,
Brother Stan

Christmas Backpacks

Christmas backpacks will be collected at the Coosa River office the week of October 26-29. Collection hours will be 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. Evening hours and Friday hours by appointment. Call Linda at 256-362-7173 to make an appointment.



These backpacks will be sent to compassion ministry sites and church plants in at least 4 states along the Mississippi River. Be the hands and feet of Jesus and give a Christmas gift to a child who would not otherwise get one. For more information on what to pack and to receive other necessary items, contact Alabama WMU at AlabamaWMU.org/christmasbackpacks.

Last year Coosa River churches collected 216 backpacks. Let's exceed that number this year!

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please, take the time to tell your pastor, and other staff members how much you love and appreciate their service to your congregation. A kind note, a card, or perhaps a meal would mean a lot to these hardworking men of God and their families.

Don't forget to pray for all the ministers on your church staff and their families on a regular basis.

Back Poarch Conversations

Joanie Albright invites all ministry wives to her home for some "Back Poarch Conversations" on Saturday, October 24 at 8 AM.

We'll socially distance and masks are encouraged while we get to know one another. Please call Joanie at 256-452-2902 and let her know if you plan to attend.

Samford Ministry Training Institute

A new class of the Samford Ministry Training Institute will begin on Tuesday, October 27, 2020. Rev. Heath Walton will be teaching, The Gospels. Classes begin at 6 PM until 9 PM each week for eight consecutive weeks.

The class fee is \$50 plus a \$10 registration fee assessed once each semester. You must register online at www.samford.edu/go/mti. You may also submit your payment there.

Christmas Banquet

Plans are being made for the 2020 Christmas Banquet. The banquet may look a little different this year due to COVID-19 but we are still planning on celebrating the Lord's birth! Watch your mail for the details very soon.



Bulletin Board

October 24

Ministers' Wives Fellowship at the home of Joanie Albright.

October 26-29

Collection week for Christmas Backpacks. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Evening hours and Friday hours by appointment.

October 27

Samford MTI class begins at 6 PM, The Gospels, taught by Rev. Heath Walton

November 26

Thanksgiving Day-Coosa River Association office is closed

December 3

Coosa River Association Christmas Banquet at Shocco Springs at 6:30 PM

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