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UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT

December 13, 2018

Watchword

“My dear friends, stand firm and don’t be shaken. Always keep busy working for the Lord. You know that everything you do for Him is worthwhile.” (1 Corinthians 15:58, CEV)

REPORTS OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Christmas Backpacks

Thanks to the efforts of members in 14 of our Coosa River Churches, we provided 163 backpacks for the Mississippi River Ministries. Be assured children who receive these gifts will have a happy Christmas ... because you cared!

Churches contributing backpacks were: Sylavon, Calvary, Village Street, Mt. Sharon, Tallasahatchie First, Hepzibah, Childersburg First, Mountain View, Cartersville, Bon Air, Dry Valley, Trinity, Sylacauga First, Immanuel, Fayetteville, Lincoln, ChristPoint and Talladega First.

This year, our association office served as a collection site for District 3. An additional 100 backpacks were received from Calhoun, Cleburne and Shelby associations. Special thanks to Linda Cotton and volunteers who helped her in accomplishing this additional task.

Please continue to pray as much effort will be required to get the backpacks in the hands of needy children. Also, ask God to use this effort to reach lost souls! What better Christmas gift than to receive Christ!!

Operation Christmas Child

Every year, this is a major mission project! We are blessed to have two of our churches continue to faithfully serve as collection sites. Rev. Justin Milliken is senior pastor at Hepzibah and Dr. Rick Patrick is senior pastor at Sylacauga First. Crystal Pomeroy, team leader for this project at Hepzibah, reported receipt of 1696 boxes. Laurie Vines, central drop off team leader at Sylacauga First, reported 1878 boxes were donated. Amy Williamson serves as church project leader for OCC at Sylacauga First.

Additional boxes were delivered to Sylacauga First, from Carey Association, Riverchase United Methodist, and the Church at Brook Hills. The truck left Sylacauga with 9787 shoeboxes!

Thanks to each person who had a part in this mission project! May you share the joy experienced by those who receive the gospel message!

Atlanta & Boone Operation Christmas Child Warehouses

Can you imagine the amount of work and the number of people required to make Operation Christmas Child a success? Several warehouse locations around the U.S. receive the shoeboxes from central drop off locations.

A missions team from Hepzibah volunteered their time on Saturday, December 1st, as they went to Atlanta for the specific purpose of WORK! Thanks to Daricer Shoemaker, Bridget Milliken, Joshua Milliken, Tyler Neloms, Sandra Tinsley, Rebekah Tinsley, Patsy Rogers, Scott Corbin, Martha Watts, Howard Grigsby, Linda Hodnett, Emily Dunn, Crystal Pomeroy, and Kathy Aiken.

Bon Air’s pastor, Rev. Jeff Thomas, and his lovely wife, Carolyn, were part of a mission team from another church who went to Boone, NC to WORK in the OCC warehouse.

Others from our association may have worked in one of the warehouses, but we were aware of the ones mentioned.

We commend these workers for their faithful service! We know God’s Word does not return void and He will use your efforts to plant His message in the hearts of children.

Children’s Home Open House

Your WMU Leadership Team provided cookies as part of refreshments for the Oxford Friendship Open House on December 2nd. Thanks to Crystal Pomeroy for getting the cookies and Dr. Randy Hagan for delivering them for us. Jesus loves little children ... and so do we!

Day of Prayer

Childersburg’s Circle of Love group observed the Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer on November 13th. Ladies

from several other churches were invited to share this event with them. After a tasty breakfast brunch, attendees enjoyed a program led by Ann Casaday from Cartersville. A season of prayer with all participating concluded this special time.

In Memoriam

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the family and friends of Nell Brasher who recently went to be with our Lord. Nell had moved to South Alabama to be near her son several years ago. While she lived in our area, she was a member of the Childersburg First Baptist Church and served for many years on the Association’s WMU Leadership Team.

Prayer Experience for International Missions

Annually during the December week of prayer, national WMU has a special observance on Thursday. This year’s observance included an exploration of the cultures of the world and praying for specific needs around the world. We also gained insight related to needs of our missionaries on the field.

Following the prayer experience, bonus options were offered. A prayer conference led by respected author and speaker Jennifer Kennedy Dean or a Refugee Simulation giving insight into the plight of refugees and what the Bible says about our response.

This was quite different from past observances and was so timely and relevant.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

By the time you read this, the designated week of prayer for IMB missionaries will have concluded. Each one who prays and/or gives is part of reaching every nation with the gospel.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering continues to be the lifeline for missions throughout the world. All of this offering is used exclusively for missionaries and their ministries.

The legacy of Lottie Moon continues to inspire and we always like to include one of her personal comments: “Oh, that my words could be a trumpet call stirring the hearts of my brethren and sisters to pray, to labor, to give thanks, to give themselves to the people.”

May God use our gifts so that many more will be able to hear the “good tidings of great joy” during this festive season.

Enjoy a Blessed Christmas!

Each member of our WMU Leadership Team extends our hope that you and yours will experience a blessed and merry Christmas. We encourage you to spend some time in prayer as you remember that when God spoke and brought the world into existence, Christmas was on His heart! Yes, Christmas is all about Jesus, the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world! It’s about Jesus, God’s gift of redemption. Write it down: “Jesus—born to die that I might live!”

COMING EVENTS

Missions Celebration

Our annual missions celebration is scheduled for Monday, February 18th, at 6:30 pm. We need a church to host this event. Please let Linda Cotton know if your church would serve in this way. Call her at 256-362-7173.

This is a time when we rejoice with others in the Coosa River Baptist Association who have been on mission trips. It is always exciting to hear how God uses ordinary people to reach out with His great message of hope! Dr. Randy Hagan is in charge of the program and you may contact the association office if you would like to share this year.

Every year, we are challenged and encouraged by the presentations at this celebration.

Sanctity of Life Sunday

January 20th is designated as “Sanctity of Life Sunday.” It is sad to realize there are those who would seek to kill and destroy individuals created in the image of God. Pray for organizations like Sav-A-Life whose volunteers devote time and resources to reaching and educating parents who would abort their own children.

Children’s Mission Explosions & Ministry

February 2nd and 9th are the dates for children from across Alabama to come together for worship and missions. There are three locations for each day, so it should be convenient for any who have an interest.

Children’s Ministry Day follows on February 16th. Contact Alabama WMU for further information.

RENEW ... A Day Away With Friends

Be sure to save the date: February 23, 2019! This event, sponsored by Alabama WMU, offers a one-day spiritual retreat for women. Renew 2019 will be held at NorthPark Baptist Church in Trussville from 9 am til 3:15 pm. Now’s the time to talk it up, get with like-minded friends, and plan for a great day to RENEW spiritually. The last two years have included a WorldCrafts shopping experience. You just can’t beat that: spiritual renewal and shopping!

Contact Alabama WMU for information on cost and registration.

Global Hunger Sunday

February 17th is designated as Global Hunger Sunday. It is hard for those who have never experienced true hunger to realize there are many in our world who are not so fortunate. Even in America, there are many who go to bed hungry many nights.

Not only on this designated date but, every day, let’s be aware of the needs of those here in our great land and around the world who experience true physical hunger. We are challenged to give to this worthy cause.

Complete

March 1-2, 2019 is the weekend when teen girls from all across Alabama will gather at Birmingham First Baptist Church for a time of spiritual renewal. Contact Alabama WMU for information on cost and registration. Girls who attend this gathering could meet new, lifelong friends and be challenged to inspire and lead others.

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas to all Coosa River Baptist Association churches from the Associational WMU and the WMU Leadership Team! May the Lord bless you all in the coming new year!!

FUTURE EVENTS

Jan 6	WMU Leadership Team meets, 2 pm
Feb 11-17	Focus on WMU Week
Feb 17	Global Hunger Sunday
Feb 18	Missions Celebration, 6:30 pm, Place TBA
Feb 23	EQUIP at NorthPark, Trussville
Mar 3	WMU Leadership Team meets, 2 pm
Mar 3-10	Week of Prayer for NAMB and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
Mar 7	Week of Prayer Observance, National WMU
Mar 10	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Apr 11	WMU Annual Meeting, 6:30 pm, place TBA
Apr 21	Resurrection Sunday—Easter
May	Collect snacks for Alabama Baptist Children’s Home Camp of Champions—Association office
May 12	Mother’s Day/Alabama Baptist Children’s Home Offering
June 12-13	Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham AL