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By All Means

Watchword

"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."
 (1 Corinthians 9:22-23, NIV)

REPORTS OF MEETINGS & EVENTS

Missions Celebration

On an unseasonably warm night in February, 43 persons from 11 Coosa River Baptist churches met for our annual Missions Celebration. We also had visitors from another church. An offering totaling \$207 was collected and given to our Pioneer Missions fund.

Pastor Jeff Thomas greeted attendees, extended a hearty welcome and led our opening prayer. Billy Wayne Curtis led congregational hymns, accompanied by pianist Judy Dean. Upcoming events were announced by Marion Aldridge who also led in prayer for missionaries who were celebrating a birthday on February 19th. Uplifting special music was shared by Carolyn Thomas, with Pastor Jeff singing with her on one of the numbers.

Rev. Max Buttram, Pastor of Oak Grove First Baptist Church, came to share about a recent trip to the Holy Land. Ten members from Oak Grove made the inspiring trip and it was great to see slides and hear more about the land where Jesus walked.

Thanks to Debbie Pearson and all in the Circle of Love who helped to plan and provide refreshments. They were plentiful and delicious and enjoyed by all. It was a blessing to have teen girls serving the food and drinks.

RENEW

This Alabama WMU event was enjoyed by many ladies from all across our state. Charlene Cleveland from Tallasahatchie FBC was the only one from Coosa River Association who reported attending this great event.

Renew always proves to be a great spiritual outing for all who attend. We appreciate the time, effort and expense spent to make this so special.

ON MISSION HERE & NOW

This was the theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for North American Mission Board and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. This theme should remind us that every believer has a call to love God, love others, and share the gospel. These are "our" missionaries and we should be faithfully praying for them.

The designated Week of Prayer has passed, but there's still time for prayer and sacrificial giving. How can we fail to pray when we realize the vast number of lost people who live in the US and Canada? Ask God to stir your heart with compassion for lost souls.

COMING EVENTS

Annual Meeting

Our 2018 annual WMU meeting is being hosted by Talladega First Baptist Church on Thursday, April 12th, at 6:30 pm.

Rosalie Hall Hunt, a dynamic speaker and author who is a favorite of many in our association, will be our guest. Her newly released historical novel, "The Extraordinary Life of Ann Hasseltine Judson: A Life Beyond Boundaries", will be the basis for her presentation. Prior to writing the book, Rosalie spent much time and effort in research, made trips to Burma to see first-hand the places where the Judson's served as missionaries, and interviewed descendants of those who were originally reached by the Judson's.

All who care about missions and the legacy passed down to us can expect to be blessed and challenged by this lady who has a wealth of knowledge to share.

This book, as well as others she has written, will be available that evening. You will want to have your copy personally autographed.

News from Resources for Women

Resources for Women/Sav-A-Life will host their annual Yard Sale on Saturday, April 7th, from 7 am 'til 2 pm at 1259 Ala. Hwy. 21 (across from KFC) in Sylacauga. They are now accepting donations of items to sell and would appreciate any stuff you can spare. If you have items to donate, phone the center at 256 208-8888.

This center provides ultra sound, post-abortion counseling, miscarriage recovery counseling, and Earn While You Learn classes where clients acquire parenting skills and learn pre-natal care.

Congratulations to Melodie Miller who was recently installed as director of the Sylacauga center. She has volunteered on a regular basis for several years and has a big responsibility in this new role. Please pray that God will use her and all others who faithfully serve.

Coosa River Day

Our bi-annual Coosa River Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th, from 2 'til 5 pm. Your WMU leadership team will participate in this event, as will other association ministry teams. Hot dogs, hamburgers and pop corn are some of the goodies planned for attendees. A special invitation is extended to those who are unaware of the many ways your association can be of help to your church. Please plan to drop by the association office during this time.

Snacks for Camp of Champions

At the beginning of each summer, Alabama Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries brings in house and foster parents and all kids in their care for a few memorable days of good ole camp fun at Shocco. At past camps, many have made professions of faith.

For several years, our association has partnered with them by providing snacks and drinks to be enjoyed by campers and chaperones. Our ambassadors to the children's homes, Danny and Linda Cotton, will be mailing a letter with a list of snacks and drinks most appropriate for the need. Several changes have been made, so don't rely on last year's request!

We know God loves children and we're so glad Coosa River Baptists do too!

Cleaning Products and School Supplies

One of our long-time mission projects is the collection of cleaning products and school supplies for the Friendship House in Oxford in July each year.

A large donation of various cleaning products was recently received. So, the only cleaning products needed are **Pure & Free laundry detergent, Lysol wipes and Lysol deodorant spray.**

Due to this unexpected blessing, we will concentrate on bringing **only school supplies.** There should not be drastic changes from last year's list of school supplies. Since school starts in early August, we will need to deliver our donations to Oxford by mid-July.

School Prayerwalk

For many years, the first Saturday in August (4th) has been the day designated for our annual prayerwalk. Several of our churches prefer Wednesday. The object of our walk is to pray for all public schools in Talladega County! As the time draws near, a letter will be sent listing which churches are responsible for each school.

EQUIP...for Mission, for Ministry, for Life

This great Alabama WMU event is held annually right in our own backyard ... at Shocco Springs! Dates for this year are July 27th and 28th. Members of the Alabama WMU staff, other gifted speakers, and special missionaries will offer opportunities for training for all levels of leadership and special interest conferences, in addition to corporate worship times. Contact Shocco directly for cost which is based on number of meals required, etc. Make plans to attend.

March 15, 2018

ENHANCE

This local training event is designed to help WMU leaders further enhance their leadership skills. Our 2018 training is scheduled for Tuesday, August 14th, at 6:30 pm at Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Talladega. **Pat Ingram** from Alabama WMU will be leading training for all leaders of adult groups. WMU Leadership Team members will lead training for other age-level groups; i.e., Mission Friends, Children in Action, Acteens, etc.

Thanks to Pastor Cal McIntire and Mt. Olive WMU ladies for agreeing to host this event.

One-day Training

Alabama WMU annually holds a one-day training event for all age levels. This year, it's on Saturday, August 18th in Gadsden and Troy. Cost is \$10 which covers snacks and materials. Churches hosting this event have not been finalized, but will be provided in the June newsletter.

Host Church Needed

Our annual Women on Mission Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 10th, at 6:30 pm. If your church would like to host this meeting, please contact Linda Cotton at 256.362-7173 or Anne Churchwell at 256.249-3864.

WorldSong Missions Adventure Camps

Camps open to girls and boys completing grades K-12 are offered from June through late July at WorldSong Missions Place in Cook Springs. Women on Mission circles are encouraged to invest in the lives of campers by committing to be prayer warriors with the Missions Adventure Camp staff. Some will put feet on their prayers by writing encouraging notes or cards to staff members or with care packages of homemade goodies and/or creative reminders that you are praying for the staff and campers.

Over the years, many campers have made decisions for Christ: some for salvation, some for rededication, and still others have surrendered to the call to be missionaries. Investing time in prayer for them is well worth the effort!

Love Offerings

Thanks to those who continue to support your Coosa River WMU with love offerings. Thanks to Sylacauga FBC Day Group, Lincoln Baptist, and Talladega FBC for your gifts this year.

FUTURE EVENTS

- Apr 1 Resurrection Sunday (Easter)
- May 13 Mother's Day and Children's Homes and Family Ministries Sunday
- May 20-27 Associational Missions Week of Prayer
- June 10-11 WMU, SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas TX
- June 12-13 SBC annual meeting—Dallas TX
- June 17 Father's Day and Baptist Men's Day
- June 23 WMU Leadership Annual Planning Meeting
- Aug 5 County-wide School Prayerwalk
- Aug 14 ENHANCE training, 6:30 pm at Mt. Olive
- Sep 10 Women on Mission Meeting, 6:30 pm, place TBA
- Nov 4 Daylight Saving Time ends
- Nov 5 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer