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UNSHAKABLE PURSUIT

June 18, 2020

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

COVID-19

Many meetings and events have been cancelled, postponed, or rescheduled! Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of our church services were online and then drive-in. This was a totally new experience! We did not get to meet and greet fellow believers and most of us realized afresh what a true blessing and encouragement it is to meet with our church family! To put it mildly, I have never experienced anything like this! However, none of this was a surprise to our Heavenly Father! He is sovereign and in control. Trust Him! Choose FAITH not fear!

GREAT COMMISSION CONVERSATIONS

On Tuesdays at 10 am and 8 pm, Alabama WMU offers Great Commission Conversations with missionaries who are currently stateside as well as North American Mission Board Missionaries. This is via Zoom. These gatherings have been incredibly insightful and encouraging. To participate, you must register. If you have not participated, we encourage you to do so. These will be offered weekly as long as we have missionaries stateside who will participate. To RSVP, visit AlabamaWMU.org or Alabama WMU on Facebook.

KIDS’ EDITION

Every other Thursday at 7 pm, Alabama WMU offers Great Commission Conversations: Kids’ Edition. These are Zoom calls where our TCK’s (also known as missionary kids) share their experiences with other children. These will continue as long as we have TCKs stateside who can participate.

COMING EVENTS

EQUIP and ONE DAY Cancelled

Alabama WMU has made the difficult decision to cancel both the Equip leadership gathering at Shocco Springs and One Day regional training. Although in-person training will not be happening, a virtual alternative will be offered. Keep an ear out for more details regarding alternative training.

Annual Meeting

Normally, our WMU Annual Meeting is held in April. This year, it has been postponed until Monday, September 14th, at 6:30 pm. Stockdale Baptist is our host church for this event. We appreciate their willingness to reschedule. Candace McIntosh, Executive Director of Alabama WMU, will be our special guest speaker. We plan to elect our Associational WMU Leadership Team for a two-year term. Anne Churchwell is retiring after several years of service as our director.

Memorial

The Father took our beloved **Joyce Chambless** to Heaven on June 3rd. She was a faithful, missions-minded lady and served on our association’s WMU leadership team for several years. One fond memory: when I phoned to ask if she would consider serving on the team, she did not respond with a promise to pray about the offer and get back to me. She said, “Yes, I have been praying about an opportunity to be more involved in missions!” She will be missed by her Oak Grove FBC church family as well as other friends. Heaven is getting sweeter every time one of God’s children is called Home! Please lift her heartbroken family to the Father. He is able to comfort!

Planning Meeting

Our Association’s WMU Leadership Team’s annual planning meeting is on the calendar for Saturday, June 20th, at 10 am. Special guests for this meeting are Stan and Joanie Albright, our new DOM and his wife. Also, Candace McIntosh, Executive Director of Alabama WMU, will be joining us. This is an important meeting and we encourage every member of the team to be present, even if you are retiring. Pray for God’s leadership as we plan.

Oxford Children’s Home

The Alabama Baptist Children’s Home, Friendship House, in Oxford will soon be transitioning to an all boys shelter. Boys don’t like to be called sissy because of school supplies! Please keep this in mind as you buy items for our annual pounding. With the top five items listed first, here is the list of school supplies requested this year:

- 1” and 1 1/2” binders with clear view front
- Plastic prong folders with pockets
- Dividers
- Pencils and Mechanical pencils (especially mechanical)
- Ear Buds for Computer Lab
- Wide-ruled composition notebooks
- Wide-ruled notebook paper
- Glue Sticks
- Highlighters
- Sticky notes
- 24-pk. Crayola crayons
- Coloring pencils
- Dry erase markers
- Scissors
- Blue, black and red pens
- Zipper pencil bags that go in binder
- Clear or mesh backpacks
- Insulated lunch bags
- Ice packs for lunch bags
- * Hand soap, hand sanitizer and Clorox wipes

Please bring your group’s contribution to the association office during the week of July 13-16. Office hours are Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.



Born to Ride Motorcycle Ride

Resources For Women/Sav-a-Life has their second annual bike ride scheduled for Saturday, June 27th. Please contact their office in Sylacauga for information regarding this fund-raising event.

Director Melodie Miller reports that they have been continuing to meet the needs of their clients during this trying time. Phones at the center have been manned 24/7. Education classes were cancelled but they expect to be starting back very soon.

Items needed include: diapers, wipes, baby wash, baby shampoo, high chairs, strollers, NEW car seats, cribs, blankets, diaper bags, gently used or new baby clothes and shoes, room decorations, toys, and pacifiers.

Life is precious from beginning to end and Sav-a-Life in Sylacauga has been serving the Tri-county area for the past 17 years. We encourage you to support this worthy cause.

Operation Christmas Child

If you haven’t already been planning for the annual shoebox campaign, now is a great time! Fact is, many churches do a year-round collection of items. Suggested gift ideas are:

- January: hats, gloves and scarves
- February: accessories
- March: quality crafts
- April: stuffed animals
- May: hygiene items (no toothpaste)
- June: Toys
- July: clothing items
- August: School supplies
- September: Games
- October: Letter and Photo



SCHOOL PRAYERWALK

Saturday, August 1st, is the date on our calendar for the annual Prayerwalk for Public schools in Talladega County. Next month, we will be mailing assignments to each church. With all the uncertainty as to how school will be held this year, our prayer support is more crucial than ever. Most of you are probably already praying for our children, their teachers and all support personnel in our school systems. We encourage everyone to continue year round prayer for schools! Martha Brooks from Sylavon is chairman for this project.

BACKPACKS

Much advance preparation is needed to have successful backpack events for needy children in the Mississippi Delta region. Be sure to check Alabama WMU’s website or Facebook page for latest information on any changes from previous years. This project is designed to share the gospel with each recipient and their family! Many souls have been reached over the years we have been sharing gifts of love!

MISSIONS ADVENTURE CAMPS

Some of the summer camps are almost full! Check out WorldSong’s website for available camps. Recently, Alabama WMU was able to acquire additional acreage, adding to this beautiful campus located on Bald Mountain in Cook Springs. Campers make new friends and memories as they enjoy weeklong adventures in nature and in God’s Word. Pray for campers, cabin leaders and all others involved in Missions Adventure Camps! This is a busy spot during the summer!

FALL MISSIONS FESTIVALS

Missions Festivals for Children are on the calendar for two different weekends in October: Oct. 9-10 or Oct. 16-17. Missions Festival for Adults is scheduled for October 27. These festivals are held at WorldSong in Cook Springs and give opportunity to hear from missionaries and interact with like-minded Christians from all around our state.

WEEK OF PRAYER

The week of September 13-20 is designated as the Week of Prayer for State Missions and our Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. Please make plans to emphasize this in your church. Past campaigns have been very successful and 2020 should be no different!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER OBSERVANCE

On Monday, November 2nd, Baptist Women around the world will be meeting a time of prayer with sisters in Christ. Many walk long distances for this joyful privilege.

FUTURE EVENTS

- June 20 WMU Leadership Annual Planning Meeting
- June 27 Sav-a-Life’s annual Born to Ride event
- July 13-16 Collection week for school supplies for Oxford Children’s Home
- Aug. 1 School Prayerwalk
- Sept. 13-20 Week of Prayer for State Missions and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering
- Sept. 14 Annual WMU Meeting at Stockdale
- Oct. 25-31 Collection week for Backpacks
- Nov. 2 Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer