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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

EQUIP ... for Missions, for Ministry, for Life

What an exciting summer weekend! Some of the *specials* were: a "Meet and Greet" held to honor outgoing Alabama WMU President Anna Spier and Sandy Wisdom-Martin, Executive Director/Treasurer, WMU, SBC; a sneak preview of the MULLY movie; and bargains galore at the "moving sale". Attendees were blessed by inspirational and powerful Bible study led by Sandy Wisdom-Martin. Too, Shelley E. Johnson proved to be a great worship leader as she led us to a true worship experience. All breakout conferences were led by capable speakers or dedicated missionaries. At our Biannual meeting, these were elected to serve a 2-year term as our officers: President Melissa Bowen, Vice-President Shirley Smith, and Recording Secretary Kay Stewart. Theme for this event was "as you go" and we came away challenged to share the love of Christ with those we come in contact with **as we go**.

Children's Home Pounding

Due to earlier start of school, we were asked to deliver our items by mid-July. In addition to checks totaling \$175, we collected 2969 items of school supplies and 181 cleaning products. Robert and Pat McCutchen from Mt. Sharon and Rev. Kevin Jones from Stockdale delivered our donations to Oxford. Our thanks to them and to each of the 15 churches who participated: Lincoln, Cragdale, Bon Air, Childersburg First, Tallasahatchie First, Sylavon, Village Street, Trinity, Central, Talladega First, New Hope, Oak Grove First, ChristPoint, Mt. Sharon, and Fayetteville. This is such a tangible way to invest in the next generation and show these children our love for them. By the way, Bro. Kevin gave his children a first-hand view of doing missions by letting them help with the delivery!

Prayerwalk for Public Schools

Our great God loves us and one way He gives us opportunity to share in His work is through prayer. And what a testimony to those in our county to see groups of Christians meeting to pray at each school in Talladega County! Some met on the first Saturday; others have learned they have greater participation from their members to meet on a different date. Thus far, we have received reports that 147 from 16 of churches participated in the prayerwalk. Please continue to pray for our schools!

Enhance Leadership Training

A total of 21 WMU leaders from 12 different churches registered for our local training on August 15th. Pastor Bryan Taunton led as we worshipped in song. Missions Director Lisa Compher promoted the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering. Anne Churchwell shared tips for filling backpacks. Marion Aldridge made announcements. Thanks to all at ChristPoint who helped in any way to make this a nice evening for us. It is evident that this is a caring church family. Everything was tastefully decorated. Refreshments were delicious and served in cute sand pails.

Thanks to members of your associational leadership team who led training conferences for each age-level.

Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

Our 2017 Week of Prayer for the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering is now history. State Goal is one million dollars. If each Baptist in Alabama follows God's leading, we will exceed this amount. Churches in our association who participated in the 2016 offering were: Alpine, Bon Air, Brecon First, Central, Childersburg First, ChristPoint

Community, Cragdale, Dry Valley, Fayetteville, Five Points, Hepzibah, Jenifer, Lincoln, Marble City, Mignon, Mt. Olive, Mt. Sharon, Mt. Vernon, New Hope, Oak Grove First, Odena, Patton Chapel, Pleasant Grove, Ridgeview, Russell Chapel, Shiloh, Stockdale, Sylacauga First, Sylavon, Talladega First, Tallasahatchie First, Union Springs, and Village Street.

The Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief fund had dropped to a low level due to heavy expenditures during previous disasters. With recent hurricane strikes on Texas and Florida by Harry and Irma, immediate needs are very great. Well after the headlines fade, groups of Alabama Baptist volunteers will continue to minister in these hard-hit areas, offering hope and healing for the long haul.

In Memoriam

In July, Muriel Thein went to be with our Lord. She had served Trinity Baptist Church as WMU Director in alternate years for quite a long time.

Charlie Aldridge, husband of Marion Aldridge, was called home to glory on September 9th. Marion is a member of Childersburg First and serves on our association's WMU Leadership Team. Her husband was a great encourager to her in this work.

We share love and sympathy with these two families and request your continued prayers for them.

COMING EVENTS

Women on Mission Meeting

Our Women on Mission Meeting has been rescheduled for Monday, September 25th, at 6:30 pm at Childersburg First Baptist Church. As Hurricane Irma became a tropical depression with a forecast for heavy rains, we felt it wise to postpone this event from Sept. 11th.

Mother/daughter team, Hope and Kaley Stephens, are scheduled to be our guests. Their presence will be a great visual of our theme, "Investing in the Next Generation" and they will be an inspiration to all who attend. This will be a great opportunity to bring your Acteens and GA-age girls.

WMU Director Marion Aldridge and other ladies at Childersburg FBC are planning tasty refreshments to be served during our fellowship following the program.

Christmas Backpacks

This is our third year to participate by sharing Christmas Backpacks with poverty-stricken children in eight states along the Mississippi Delta. NAMB Missionary Bill Barker reported over 700 decisions for Christ as a direct result of the backpacks distributed in 2016. Those who send a backpack will be sharing the gift of LOVE and the GOSPEL with recipients and their families. A copy of the Christmas Story is put in each backpack and Mailbox Bible Clubs are conducted for all who express an interest. Please include some food in your backpack. Items such as breakfast bars (no nuts) and cans with pop-top lids will be most welcome. Some have reported the only food they had during the holidays was what was in their backpack.

Bring your backpacks to the association office no later than October 31st and we will deliver them to a collection site for you. This is another way we share the gospel **BY ALL MEANS!**

Fall Missions Festivals at WorldSong

Children's Fall Missions Festival dates are Oct. 6-7 or Oct. 13-14, beginning Friday at 5 pm and concluding Saturday at 3 pm. Cost is \$50 person and includes meals, lodging and programming.

Adult Festival is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17th from 10 am—3 pm. The cost of \$16 per person which includes lunch.

For additional info on either event, contact Kathryn Helms at khelms@alsbom.org or 800.264.1225 ext. 325.


Myers-Mallory
 State Missions Offering

Baptist Women's
World Day of Prayer
 Daricer Shoemaker, WMU
 Director at Hepzibah, invites
 all women in our association

September 21, 2017

to meet with them for breakfast, a program and time of prayer. Please note the date for this is **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD** at 9 am. It is always a joy and blessing when ladies gather for corporate prayer.

Children's Home Open House

A great opportunity to visit Friendship House in Oxford is Sunday, December 3rd, from 2 pm 'til 5 pm. Leadership Team members partner with Calhoun Association to provide refreshments for this annual event.

Resources for Women Banquet

Pam Tebow, mother of Tim Tebow, is guest speaker for this year's fundraising banquet. Reserved seating tickets are \$25/person for the banquet to be held at Sylacauga First on Thursday, October 26th. Meet and Greet with Pam is also by reservation and cost for that is \$25/person. For tickets, call RFW at 256-208-8888 and leave your phone number on the message. Also can be purchased at the RFW office from 10 am 'til 4 pm on Tues., Wed., or Thurs. Also available online: www.facebook.com/Resources4WomenSylacauga.

Operation Christmas Child

Just 52 days and counting ... And it will be time to deliver shoeboxes. Collection week is Nov. 13-20. Hepzibah and Sylacauga First will again graciously serve as collection sites. If you would be available to help with the OCC Relay -Collection Center at Sylacauga First, please phone Laurie Vines by October 10th at 256.267-4995. It will be work, but rewarding work. Sometimes we forget how much effort is exerted to get these shoeboxes to destination once they've been dropped off at a collection center.



Collection hours at **Sylacauga First**: Mon., Nov 13, from 8 am—2 pm; Tues., 4-7 pm; Wed., 2-5 pm; Thurs., 4-7 pm; Fri., 8 am—12 pm; Sat., 8 am—10 pm; Sun., 3-5 pm; Mon., Nov. 20, 8 am—1 pm.

Collection hours at **Hepzibah**: Mon, Nov 13, from 5-8 pm; Tues, Nov 14, 9 am to 12 noon; Wed, Nov 15, 9 am to 12 noon; Thurs, Nov 16, 9 am to 12 noon; Fri, Nov 17, 9 am to 12 noon; Sat, Nov 18, 9 am to 12 noon; Sun, Nov 19, 3-5 pm; Mon, Nov 20, 6:30-8:30 am.

FUTURE EVENTS

Nov. 5 Association's WMU Leadership Team meets At the association office, 2 pm

Nov. 13 Opening Rally for OCC Collection Week at Sylacauga First, 8 am. Ribbon cutting, prayer and refreshments

Nov. 13-20 Collect Shoeboxes for OCC

Dec. 3-11 Week of Prayer for IMB Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering emphasis

Dec 7 Special Week of Prayer Observance at 10 am National WMU, Missionary Ridge

Jan 7 WMU Leadership Team Meeting, 2 pm

Feb 12-18 Focus on WMU Week

Feb 19 Missions Celebration, 6:30 pm, place TBA

Feb 24 RENEW at Heritage Baptist, Montgomery