



# Bradley Baptist Beacon

Bradley County Baptist Association

February 2007

## 2007 Regional Men's Conference



January 26th and 27th,  
Westwood Baptist Church  
“Hang in There: The life of Job”  
Featured Speaker Johnny Hunt

Cost: \$35 Register at BBA 476-5493



## Financial Issues Facing Churches and Ministers



Featuring Richard Skidmore of the TBC  
February 26th at 6:30 pm  
Helpful information for Church  
Leadership, Treasurers, and Stewardship  
teams



## BBA Partnering with the Gulf Coast Association Year Two



Interested in Rebuild? Contact the BBA for more information on 2007 or how to plan a trip for your church group.

# MINISTERING IN OUR JERUSALEM

## COMMUNITY—PROJECT HELPING HANDS

## FINANCES

This year was a phenomenal success for Project Helping Hands. With over 200 families receiving assistance and over 60 different organizations connecting with families to help during the Holiday season. Several of those organizations were schools. They held food drives to collect can food for families. This year one school in particular out did themselves with the spirit of giving. North Lee Elementary school collected 5,203 cans of food. This not only helped provide for families but filled up two local church based food banks. Following are pictures of the classes that donated the most, second and third.



In third place was Mrs. Flowers Kindergarten class with 604 cans.

## MEN'S MINISTRY

### January 26-27, Regional Men's Conference



The conference will feature Johnny Hunt and will focus on "Hanging in There: the Life of Job." Cost for the conference is \$35 and includes breakfast on Saturday and snacks both days. Immediately following the conference on Saturday, there will be a Men's Ministry Training event led by Gene Williams of TBC. This is a free event if you have signed up for the conference but you must pre register separately as lunch will be provided. Please call the BBA at 476-5493 to register for either event.



Mrs. Boucher's 2nd grade class was the winner collecting 883 cans



Mrs. Hillard's class took second place collecting 739 cans.



Richard Skidmore, Financial support from the TBC, will be addressing money issues at the BBA on February 26th at 6:30 pm. The major emphasis will be on the "pay package" and how to plan the financial support of your staff. Money delivered incorrectly to ministers often results in the payment of 25% or more in unnecessary taxes.

### Things that will be overviewed include:

*Changes in Federal Reporting Requirements, Changes in Charitable, Contribution Rules, NEW – Roth 403b Contribution Rules, Accountable Reimbursements (non-taxable), Excess Benefit Transactions (DON'T do this) and Health Insurance Options.*

IRS regulations for the church to report salary of employees and money paid to self-employed persons continue to change. There are new rules affecting your church's responsibility for documenting charitable contributions and reporting those contributions to donors. We will discuss these and other matters at this workshop. Please invite your church leadership, treasurer, and financial teams as well as paid ministry staff to attend with you. For further information please call the associational office at (423) 476-5493.

## WMU

As the new WMU Director, I would like to say **Happy New Year** and may it be a year of harvest as we engage in needful ministry opportunities in our communities. I am excited to be a part of this association and I see great potential to grow our churches by introducing mission opportunities that will allow us to spread the gospel to all that will hear. I am blessed to have a great leadership to work with. **Inez Franks (Director Support) Josephine Frazier (Church Growth), Pauline Cartwright (Support), Rhonda McAlister (Mission Friends), and Emily Beth Starnes (G.A.s)**, are all ready and willing to assist you in starting new mission groups or growing your existing groups. Please feel free to contact the Association office if you would like some assistance or more information about mission opportunities that are available. You may also contact me directly at 423-650-2470. I look forward to meeting women who are on mission for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jan Kyle, WMU Director

## SEMINARS

**Coming to First Baptist Cleveland on April 16th, Dr. Reggie McNeal will speak on Practicing Greatness.**

Often spiritual leaders do not aspire to greatness for fear of seeming to lack humility. Yet greatness in spiritual leadership is just what we need. The question is How do good spiritual leaders become great leaders?

## SEMINARS CONT.



Dr. Reggie McNeal will discuss this based on his extensive experience as coach and mentor to many thousands of Christian leaders across a broad spectrum of ministry settings. Dr. McNeal helps spiritual leaders understand they will self-select into or out of greatness.

In this conference Dr. McNeal will discuss how great spiritual leaders are committed consciously and intentionally to seven spiritual disciplines as outlined in his book *Practicing Greatness: 7 disciplines of extraordinary spiritual leaders*.

Cost of the conference is \$25 and scholarships are available upon request. Call the BBA at 476-5493 for more information.

## STUDIES

Corinth Baptist church is sponsoring a financial study led by Brian Byrd Jan 20th from 9:00 am –5:00 pm. Entitled “God’s prosperity for you,” this study will delve into the following three questions: Are you living paycheck to paycheck? Do you want to have money at the end of the month? Are you planning to retire?

Issues discussed will be Advertising, Financial “Worship”, Basic Budgeting, Financial Planning, Biblical Stewardship, Goal Setting, Creating a Spending Plan. Lunch will be provided.

## YOUTH– YEC

Youth Pastors, Lay ministers and Parents, Youth Evangelism Training is right around the corner. The Bradley Baptist Association is sponsoring a trip. Churches can travel together via Coach Bus and stay at the same hotel in Nashville.

The cost per person is \$46 and includes lodging, registration, and transportation. Space is limited. This years conference



features Brad Bennett and Wes Hamilton. Music will be provided by Barlow Girl, and Worship led by Charlie Hall. The conference is February 23-24 at the Municipal Auditorium in Nashville.



## CONCLAVE

February 1st—3rd is the ultimate Youth ministry training event. Hosted at the Chattanooga Convention Center, Conclave 2007 features the Chris Orr Band, The Skit Guys, Dr. Reggie McNeil, Mark Hall of Casting Crowns, Dr. David Platt, Dr Kevin Smith and many others.

## ISLAM

In an attempt to assist you with understanding the difference between Islam and Christianity, we thought an information column comparing key core beliefs would be beneficial. For the next three months we will look at the differences regarding God, Jesus, Salvation, the Bible, Sin, Heaven and Hell.

### God:

Historical Christianity: There is one true and living God who exists as three distinct, co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; John 20:28; Acts 5:3-4; 2Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

Islam: The one true God is a being called Allah. He is a distant God, unknowable and unapproachable. He does not love all people, only those who do well. He is the author of evil as well as good since he predestines all things. He is not a triune God.

### Jesus:

Historical Christianity: He is the virgin-born Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit (Isa 7:14; Matt 1:13-23; Luke 1:35). He is the eternal God, the Creator, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and Holy Spirit (John 1: 1-14; Col 1:15-20, Phil 2:5-11; Heb 1:1-13). Jesus died for our sins (1Cor 15:3), rose physically for the dead (Matt. 12:38-40) and is coming back physically and visibly one day (Matt 24: 29-31; John 14:3; Titus 2:13; Rev 19:11-14).

Islam: He is one of God's prophets of messengers, but inferior to Muhammad, who brought Allah's final revelations to man. The Koran denies that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and nay Muslim who believes in the deity of Jesus has committed "the one unforgivable sin" called shirk—a sin that will send that person to hell. Muslims do believe Jesus is the messiah; was born of a virgin; lived a sinless life and is coming back one day—to establish Islam through the earth. They do not believe He died on the cross, but was called to heaven by Allah.

## SAMARIA: NEW YORK

### New York:

#### The David Dean Update

Jack and Becky Synder of Waterville Baptist are the hosts of the NAMB mission house in New York. The Sydners have been there for 3 years and have seen many groups come and minister. In their December Newsletter Jack spoke of the need:

*"The David Dean Mission House is a haven in the Metro Baptist Association. Meeting the needs of mission teams as they reach the world right here in the five Burroughs of New York. There are 164 different nationalities of people living here. Your church can partner in the kingdom work by getting involved in spreading the gospel."*



#### Shane Pierce-Mission Service Corps Missionary White Plains

Sunday, October 15, was the first service for Christ the King church in White Plains New York. They met at the YWCA and had several in attendance that were new. Shane has had opportunities to join with a family from Pakistan who are Christians as well as form a reading group of Christians and non-Christians. Shane spent part of December and January in ministry partner work in Tennessee. Please continue to pray for Shane and Christ the King Church. You can see update on this ministry at: [www.christthekingchurch.info](http://www.christthekingchurch.info).



#### What do Steven Baldwin, Rick Warren and FREE hot chocolate all have in common?

The 411 NYC and several other area churches partnered together to bring the first EVER Live Nativity to Times Sq. Out of place in a tiny parking lot on 46<sup>th</sup> St. between the Scientologist HQ and Beauty and the Beast, on a cold winter's night stood 4 stuffed FAO Schwarz sheep (w/ the tags still on them), 3 shivering wise men, a shepherd, and a choir. They all gathered around a spot lit scene of a simple family looking down at a plastic doll wrapped in cloth. But as a cold wind began to blow and the choirs' voices began to rise singing familiar Christmas carols, something magical happened. The scene transported you back two millennia ago to what it might have been like on the night of our dear Savior's birth. Busy New Yorkers stopped in their tracks on their way home from work and began looking at the spectacle. Puzzled Jewish families lugging around gigantic Menorahs stopped to ask if the Live Nativity was a movie set. Tourists heading to elaborate Broadway shows to get Disney's interpretation of the meaning of a man and becoming a king by watching Tarzan or The Lion King, were now faced with the true meaning of both Man and King found in one simple scene. This was truly an amazing night as Steven Baldwin stopped by twice to share a message of God's word about the Joy of the season and Rick Warren stopped by to sing and celebrate Jesus' birth with us. Thirty Four Cleveland volunteers also joined in to help gift wrap and give free hot chocolate and coffee as an outreach for the 411 New York.

The 411 has also experienced growth with 12 new servant leaders. They have opened the artist lounge which is seeing approximately 10 people a day with many seeking further connection to the 411 ministry. Please continue to pray for this mission and the community it reaches.

## And now a word from our director.....



Blow that layer of dust off the book of Nahum in your Bible and catch a glimpse of the last part of

verse three, chapter one:

“The way of the Lord is in the whirlwind and in the storm.”

That’s good to remember when you’re caught in record-bustin’, pipe-burstin’ blizzards like we have seen in Denver and New Mexico over the past month. I reminded myself of God’s awesome power as I watched TV footage of people shoveling ten-foot snowdrifts, avalanches and snowplows crawling through highways choked with frozen cars. As I witnessed that atmospheric drama and as I prepare to leave for the Gulf Coast where Katrina showed its wrath, I reminded myself of its Director who was, once again, having His way in the whirlwind and the storm. There was no doubt but that the Lord, the God of the heavens, was in the storm. Nature refuses to let you forget her Artist.

But how about the storms of life? What about the whirlwinds of disease, disaster, and death? What about the storms of interruptions, irritations, and ill treatment? Well...if Nahum’s words apply to the heavenly sphere, so do they apply to the earthly. If God’s way is in the threatening sky so is it in the difficult, heart-rending contingencies of daily living. The Director of the heavenly theater is the same as of the earthly theater. The cast may be different, the plot

may be altered, the props may be rearranged...but behind the scenes sits the Head, the Chief...overseeing every scene of every act.

Ask Nebuchadnezzar. He would reply:

And all the inhabitants of the earth  
are accounted as nothing,  
But He does according to His will  
in  
the host of heaven

And among the inhabitants of earth;  
And no one can ward off His hand  
Or say to Him, “What hast Thou  
done?” (Daniel 4:35)

David, if asked, would answer:

But our God is in the heavens;  
He does whatever He pleases  
(Psalm 115:3)

Paul would add:

For it is God who is at work in you,  
both to will and to work  
for His good pleasure.  
(Philippians 2:13)

Life is literally *filled* with God-appointed storms. A sheet of paper ten times this size would be insufficient if we were to list the whirlwinds of the Christian. But two things should comfort us in the midst of daily lightning and thunder. First, we all experience them – God has no favorite actors who always get the leading role. Second, we all need them – God has no other method more effective. The massive blows and shattering blasts (not to mention the little, constant irritations) smooth us and humble us and force us to submit to the script *He* had written and the role *He* has chosen for us.

William Cowper could take a stand in defense of all I have written. He passed through a period of great crisis in his life. He tried to put an end to it all one bleak morning by taking poison. The attempt at suicide failed. He then hired a coach and asked to be driven to the Thames River, intent on throwing himself from the bridge...but was “strangely restrained.” The next morning he fell upon a sharp knife – but the blade broke! He later tried to hang himself, but was found and taken down unconscious...still alive. Some time later he took up a Bible and began to read the book of Romans. He was gloriously saved. The God of the storms had pursued him unto the end and won his heart.

After a rich life of Christian experiences – but not without constant whirlwind and storm – Cowper sat down and recorded his summary of the Lord’s dealings in the familiar words:

God moves in a mysterious way  
His wonders to perform;  
He plants his footsteps in the sea,  
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in the unfathomable mines  
Of never failing skill,  
He treasures up his bright designs,  
And works his sovereign will.

Before the dust settles, why not ask God to have His way in *today’s* whirlwind and storm? The play is so much more enjoyable when the cast cooperates with the Director.

In His Service,

Phil Taylor

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Dimple Cox—Ministry Assistant  
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## BBA GULF COAST PARTNERSHIP

Exiting things have been happening with our ongoing partnership with the Gulf Coast Association in Gulfport, MS. for rebuild and outreach related to Hurricane Katrina. A new church plant has been started by lead coordinator, John Morris. With a couple of staff, He assists all of our teams staying and working out of the Robinson Road facility. The new church start has grown to 40 in attendance in just a few months and a couple of Bible Study groups have been starting in strategic locations related to the rebuild. There have been great stories of folks coming to Christ through the rebuild outreach. If your church would like to schedule a mission trip to Gulfport for rebuild or outreach call Randy at the BBA office. If you would like to go on a trip that is already scheduled contact one of the team leaders below.

- **March 4-10**, Bradley Baptist Association Sponsored Trip, 15 members, Team Leader – John Davis, PH:472-5412 or 802-8034 email: [ldavisthree@bellsouth.net](mailto:ldavisthree@bellsouth.net)
- **March 11 – March 17**, Westwood, 20 members, Team leader - Byron Eidson: PH: 284-1506, email: [beidsons@aol.com](mailto:beidsons@aol.com)

- **April 22 - 28**, Waterville Baptist Church, approx. 20 members, Team leader – Kathy Moore PH: 423-650-8055, email: [lynmoore@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynmoore@bellsouth.net)
- **May 19 – May 26**, Westwood, 15 members, Contact - Byron Eidson: PH: 284-1506



Fema Trailer Community in Gulf Port

## Among Our Churches

**New Horizons** needs a reliable church van. If you can help please contact Rev. Wallace Varnell at 479-3891.

Rev. Varnell also has a set of speakers available for free to a church. Please call if interested. 479-3891

**Birchwood Baptist** is looking for a part time music minister to lead worship and direct a choir. Please send resumes to 5436 Hwy 60, Birchwood, TN 37308 or email it to [jkyale2434@yahoo.com](mailto:jkyale2434@yahoo.com).

**North Etowah Baptist Church** is looking for a bi-vocational youth pastor. Please send resume to Minister of Youth, 585 Co. Rd. 609 Athens, TN. 37303.



## February

### Associational Events

- 1-3: **Conclave 2007** “the Ultimate Youth Ministry Training Event” 2nd: Cleveland Net Noon Prayers
- 7th: **MDT meeting**
- 10th: **Associational Library Meeting** at Thompson Springs. 23rd-24th: YEC in Nashville
- 26th: **Financial Issues Facing the Churches and Ministers** at the BBA: Richard Skidmore Speaker.

### Other Area Events

- 1st: **Kingdom Heirs** at Westwood. Call 472-1533 for tickets.
- 17th: **“We are Family,”** woman’s conference. Women by Design Ministries, 9:00-3:00. First Baptist Church Athens. Cost \$20 423-745-2248