



Bradley Baptist Beacon

December 2008 and January 2009



Yuletide Joy

*Harpist,
Greg Buchanan*



Pastor's Christmas Celebration

December 1, 2008 @ 6:30 pm

Candies Creek Church

"Praise the Lord with the harp" ...Psalm 33:2

Call 476-5493 for reservations & tickets

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

National Goal \$170 Million

GO TELL
the story of Jesus



Guillermo

Your missionary shared with Guillermo and now together they plant churches across the Andes.
Your gifts make partnerships like this possible.

GIVE SO OTHERS LIKE GUILLERMO CAN HEAR.



New ministry at Westwood Baptist!

Actually, this is a new chapter for the ESL ministry started by the Association over 5 years ago. The ESL ministry has blessed a great number of international people in Cleveland who have benefited from free English classes and from the friendships they have made with the Christian volunteers who teach them. At Westwood they currently have students from Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Ukraine, Korea, and Honduras participating. So what's new about that? Well, two things. First, the supervision of the ministry is now completely in the hands of Westwood Baptist staff. We believe this change will benefit both the ministry itself and the church that wants to minister to its local community. Second, we have joined in this ministry effort by offering a short and simple Bible study after the English class every week. Though our original intention was to offer it in Spanish for the benefit of the mostly-Hispanic group, the students requested we do it in English so they can not only learn about the Scriptures but also continue practicing their English language skills. We bought copies of the *New International readers Version (NIRV) New Testaments*—which is written on a third-grade level—and gave each student one to take home. Every week we assign them a story to read and then we discuss it the following Tuesday after their English class. They are participating and they seem to be enjoying this mini-study. We have provided the Spanish-speaking students with the Spanish version of the Bible stories we study to make sure they get the message from Scripture even if their English language skills are not "there" yet. We have also provided the Ukrainian student with a New Testament in Russian and will provide the Korean student one in her language. Keep these students in your prayers as we share the Scriptures with them on a weekly basis! And pray for Westwood Baptist as they seek the Lord's leading to minister to the community around their church with more ministries like this.



ESL class at Westwood Baptist

congregation one Sunday evening to speak to them about the various ministries sponsored by the Association. We also talked about the possibilities of their church starting their own ministries to serve and to reach their community. We were greatly blessed to witness the interest of the members of this small congregation in actually serving their community. They accepted our invitation to come and observe during the ESL classes at Westwood. They were relieved to see how simple and easy it is! We will be working with his congregation to develop one, and possibly two, ministries to reach the Hispanics living in two apartment buildings a few yards behind their church. This is a small church that knows "it can" with the Lord's help!

We are also encouraged by the extra effort brothers George Bulson and Eric Ferguson of **Big Spring Baptist** are making to purposely attract and minister to the Hispanic people around their church during their upcoming Fall Festival. They will begin by promoting their event with bilingual flyers (English/Spanish), and the day of the event they will have Spanish signs everywhere and will even play Spanish Christian music along with English music during the Festival. Even before that, they will have a special training session for their church volunteers so they can be more comfortable welcoming and reaching out to their new Hispanic friends. We are looking forward to assisting them with all these projects! Way to go, Big Spring! We



know the Lord will bless their efforts and we rejoice in that.



We are looking forward to working with more of our churches to assist them in any way necessary so they can win their community – and the

internationals within it – for our Lord and Savior. Give us a call at the Association to set up a meeting so we can work together to reach Cleveland for the Lord!



On new developments, we have been greatly encouraged by the steps taken by Pastor Chris Seiber of **Maple Street Baptist** to lead his congregation to do practical ministry to reach their community. We had a chance to visit with this

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES

"Starting with God—Your Life In Christ"

Wednesday, January 14—February 18, 2009

10:00 am—11:30 am

Bradley Baptist Association Conference Room

This is a 5 week study, taught by Virginia LaRue, and developed by Campus Crusade for Christ to help new and struggling Christians understand how God intended for their relationship with Him to be. The following questions will be the focal point of each week: How God was involved in our becoming Christians? Will God ever leave us or give up on us? What does God want us to do when we sin? What does God plan on producing in our lives? What is prayer all about?

There will be no charge for the material and no homework. Childcare for this study will be provided onsite at First Baptist Church, 340 Church Street. To receive childcare, you must pre-register your child at 476-5526 and speak with Teri Colloms prior to January 14.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD—brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the message of God's unconditional love.

SHOE BOXES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP AT THE BBA

You may drop them off at one of these locations:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bradley Baptist Association | Life Care Center of Cleveland |
| 2707 North Ocoee Street | 3530 Keith Street NW |
| Cleveland, TN 476-5493 | Cleveland, TN 476-3254 |



- Randy Bonner, BBA Ministry Evangelism Director

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT MINISTRY EVANGELISM?

Simply put, ministry evangelism is building relational bridges through ministry over which Christians intentionally share the gospel of Jesus Christ. Often this is done as needs are being addressed in a person's life. Jesus always communicated His saving message through both word and deed and we are encouraged to do the same. Luke 4:18-19 (NLT) tells us, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has appointed me to preach Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the downtrodden will be freed from their oppressions, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come." The Bible teaches that Christians should share resources, especially with those who are in need. The story of "the widow's offering" in Mark 12:41-44, is one of the most touching accounts in all of Scripture. As Jesus stood and watched the wealthy placing their gifts into the temple treasury, He was most impressed with a poor widow who gave only two mites (less than two cents). According to Jesus, "this poor widow has given more than all the others have given. For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has" (Matt:12:43-44, NLT).

Christ requires the same from His people today. Christians must be willing to share abundantly from their resources as the spirit of generosity is a sign that the Holy Spirit is at work among His people. Ministry evangelism involves sharing the gospel with those in need and sharing our resources of finances, time and energy. It may mean supporting a local food pantry or teaching someone to read and write or teaching an international to speak conversational English so they can get a better job and support their family. It could even be adopting a needy family for Christmas through Project Helping Hands and delivering a food box and a gift or two for a child. This year we have more families than ever that have requested a food box for Christmas - just give us a call and we can match you up. The greatest blessing this Christmas season is to give and share to others as an expressions of God's Love.

BBA DISASTER RELIEF VOLUNTEERS RESPOND TO HURRICANE'S GUSTAV AND IKE

In September and October a total of 7 BBA disaster relief teams made the long journey to Houma, LA., Buna, TX. and Galveston Island, TX. in response to Hurricane's Gustav and Ike. Approximately 50 volunteers served



Feeding crew in Buna, TX

through mass feeding, chainsaw/recovery, chaplaincy and through our laundry and shower unit. At least 12 people were won to Christ as a result of the personal witness or our volunteers. A special thank you to our team leaders: Jim Polier (FBC Cleveland), Earl Farris (Georgetown), Lou Sadowski & Ron Chastain (Waterville), Jim Sneed (Clingan Ridge). A special thank you also goes out to Jim & Betty Sneed (Clingan Ridge) and Wayne & Johnnie Morrison (Westwood) for serving multiple weeks with our shower and laundry unit. Our shower and laundry unit has now been used 9 times for approximately 14 weeks in 2008. Your 2008 VBS offerings made this possible.



More laundry for Betty & Johnnie

OVER 300 NEEDY FAMILIES HAVE COME THROUGH PROJECT HELPING HANDS

This has been our biggest season of Project Helping Hands in the history of it's ministry. We have received more applications from needy families living in Bradley County than ever. We have had more volunteers from our churches involved in



Volunteers taking PHH applications

screening applicants and praying with individuals and families. As we finish Project Helping Hands, more than 100 volunteers will have been involved in the ministry. Christ has been shared ever day through witnessing encounters and more than 30 individuals have made decisions for Christ. Our team leaders have done a



PHH Wednesday volunteers representing several of our BBA churches

fantastic job: Shirley Freeman (Georgetown), Sue Harris (Cloverleaf), Diane Cantrell (Elkmont), Karen Hicks (Philippi) and our Assistant Ministry Coordinator, Karen Trotter (Ridgeview). A

special thank you goes out to all of our volunteers, Team Leaders and to Karen for all of their hard work. You have truly been a blessing to many, many people and we thank God for you.

Bradley Baptist Fall Harvest Celebration

"You Will Be My Witnesses" Acts 1:8

What would October be without an Associational Fall Harvest Celebration? October 23rd was a beautiful crisp fall day with the changing colors of the fall leaves as our church families gathered together for our Fall Harvest Celebration at Westwood Baptist Church. A tasty meal was served and inspiring messages were delivered by Phil Taylor, Randy Bonner and Frances Irizarry. Chuy Avila, representative of the TBC, shared his testimony of how his family came to accept Christ through the ministry of an SBC missionary. Our guest speaker Dr. Geoff Hammond, President of NAMB, challenged us with God's Plan for Sharing (GPS),



The Slavic Christian Church presented special music



Seated left to right:
Dr. Jay McCluskey, Pastor North Cleveland Baptist;
Pastor Steve Best, Westwood Baptist;
Phil Taylor and wife Peggy;
Dr. Geoff Hammond, President NAMB

asking us to share our faith in Jesus Christ with everyone from the east to the west by the year 2020. He reminded us of John 4:34-36, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work," Jesus told them, "Don't you say, 'There are still four more months, then comes the harvest'? The reaper is already receiving pay and gathering fruit for eternal life, so the sower and reaper can rejoice together."

Thanks to all the messengers and visitors who came out to celebrate the work of our Bradley Baptist Association. Thank you all for your support in God's Plan for Sharing.



Thirty Bradley Baptist Association churches were represented

Congratulations!
40 years

as Pastor of
Bellefounte Baptist Church



Rev. Lake Walker & Bro. Phil Taylor

On Sunday, October 19, Bellefounte Baptist Church members honored Pastor Lake Walker and his wife Sue, with a trip to the Holy Land in appreciation of 40 years of service as pastor. A luncheon was given in his honor. Bradley Baptist Association presented Pastor Walker with a plaque. Phil Taylor attended to represent our 59 BBA churches.

Introducing God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) - BBA gave 2 GPS Navigators to the pastors with the most members attending.



Pastor Sammy Hooker took home one of the two GPS's. He will navigate the new car he was given by his church, Philippi Baptist, in honor of Pastor's Appreciation Day.



JAIL MINISTRY

New Socks and Christmas Cards



It is time again for our JAIL MINISTRY to distribute new socks and pre-stamped Christmas Cards for inmates. They need our help to collect these items. This opens doors to minister not only to the inmates but their families.

Bring your new socks and stamped Christmas Cards to the BBA by December 17, 2008

Pastor Earl Farris, Georgetown Baptist, also received a GPS for having the most members present.





Each year we provide our churches an opportunity to come together and celebrate the work of God's people. We have offered the opportunity for His people to come and hear from God's finest servants among our Southern Baptist family. We continue in that tradition and we are grateful for your presence

Also we presented our churches a copy of the Association budget. Our budget for 2009 is \$388,458.00. This is a 4.3% increase or \$16,839.00. Our budget for 2009 presents us with a new challenge. We will have to freeze \$19,900.00 or 5% of our budget. The items that have been frozen are Church Leadership Development, Disaster Relief, Youth Ministries and all staff development. At this time we have been able to protect all ministry funding.

Our budget supports the missions and ministries of our Association. It also provides support for our missionaries and support staff. Part of our budget funds the operation of our office. We are your Association. We belong to each and all of our churches and we will tell the good news of Jesus Christ in your name.

Randy Bonner and Frances Irizarry are North American Mission Board and Tennessee Baptist Convention appointed missionaries who work with our Association. Randy has been in many of your churches and has given many of your people new opportunities by helping you mobilize people to share Christ. Ocoee Outreach has had its best year thus far under his leadership and under his supervision we have seen several summer missionaries consider God's call in their life for ministry. Frances, in her first year of ministry with us, has also mobilized people in missions and taken our vision to reach the nations here in Bradley County to a new level. We are so proud of the networks she has established in our city and we are excited about the future.

All of this is possible because of the support of our churches. We depend on your gifts. We are not a standalone ministry. We are the mission of the churches that make up the Bradley County Baptist Association. I know that many of our churches will be preparing their budgets in the coming months. I am asking that you set a goal 3% of your budget for Bradley Baptist Association. I hope that you will prayerfully consider increasing your gift to our Association. I recently reviewed our income from our churches and I discovered that 34 of our churches give less than 3% of their undesignated income to Bradley Baptist Association. On the other side 22 churches give a range of 3% to 9% of their designated income to BBA ministries. If those partners that give less than 3% could plan

to grow up to 3% that would represent an additional \$270,000 of ministry dollars.

Stewardship is taught throughout the Bible. Paul gave direction for the early church in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

I am glad this Association needs money! If it did not, it would mean its employees were sitting around reading the Baptist Reflector, not trying to revitalize unhealthy churches, to reach the nations here in Bradley County, and to preach the gospel in other places. No missionary zeal.

I am glad this Association needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not doing anything to support the helpless and needy in the 6th ward district of Cleveland. No compassion.

I am glad this Association needs money! If it did not, it would mean it had "topped out" and was not interested in expanding into other areas of needed service. No vision.

I am glad this Association needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not interested in providing life-changing fellowships where Kingdom people could come together and experience heaven here on earth. No collaboration.

I am glad this Association needs money! If it did not, it would mean it was not interested in strengthening churches through Sunday School, Deacon Training, and Church Health Workshops. No future.

Yes, I am glad this Association needs money! The fact that it does means it has not forfeited its zeal, compassion, expansion, vision, concern, evangelism, and future. This Association needs your partnership and I am glad of it. I would not want to be a member of any other kind of Association.

We are a "Missional" people. We take seriously the "Great Commission" and the Acts 1:8 Challenge. The churches in our association are great churches; generous when they are called upon. I am asking that you prayerfully consider your support of our Associational ministries. I hope that each church will set a goal of 3% as a basis of their gifts to the Association. Again, this is your Association and this is our primary means of support. For those churches which strongly support our work, let me say a heartfelt word of thanks on behalf of all of us in your Association.

Thank you for your partnership.

In His Grace,

Phil Taylor

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Cleveland, TN 37312

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Email: bba10@bellsouth.net

Website: bradleybaptist.org

Permit #288

Cleveland, TN

Phil Taylor—Director of Missions
Randy Bonner—Ministry Evangelism Director
Frances Irizarry—Ethnic Ministries Director
Denise Roebuck—Collegiate Ministries
Dimple Cox—Ministry Assistant
Loyce Farris—DOM Assistant

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

10th—TBC Annual Pastors Conf. @
First Baptist, Hendersonville

11th-12th—TBC Annual Meeting @
First Baptist, Hendersonville

27th-28th—Thanksgiving Holiday
BBA Office Closed

DECEMBER

1st—Pastor's Christmas Banquet
Candies Creek Baptist 6:30 p.m.

3rd—MDT Meeting @ 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

BBA Office Closed December

24th—January 1st

JANUARY

14th—Women's Bible Study begins at
BBA office—sponsored by First
Baptist Church

28th—Pastor's Luncheon

LIBRARY CALENDAR

January 11-March 29

Adult Winter Reading Club
Read 4 books (one of which is a
non-fiction) to qualify for Associational level
door prizes

Saturday, February 7 @ 9:00 AM

Clingan Ridge—Pete Vanderpool Storytelling

Janice Baker, Director 479-2612

Lynda Harrington, Assistant Director 559-9509

Clara Hudson, Secretary 479-3725



Among Our Churches

• **Valley View Baptist Church** is now accepting resumes for the position of **StoreHouse Director**. The ideal candidate will have a heart for people in a low socioeconomic bracket, be computer literate and have management experience. The position entails leadership of the entire ministry and requires a commitment of 20 hours per week. A full job description is available upon request. The Valley View StoreHouse is a ministry partnership between Valley View Baptist, Union Baptist and Michigan Avenue Baptist churches. Twice each month relationships are built, food is distributed and prayers offered for about 150 families. Those interested should send a resume and cover letter to Valley View Baptist Church, 4657 Spring Place Road, Cleveland, TN 37323. For further information, please call the church secretary at 472-7707.

- **Tasso Baptist Church** is seeking a part-time Worship Leader. Contact Pastor Michael Cawood @ 315-0692.
- **Mount Carmel Baptist Church** is seeking a part-time Youth Minister. Contact Chairperson Navada Rymer at 479-8460 or 605-8068
- **Corinth Baptist Church** is a designated site for ANGEL FOOD—a non-profit organization providing low cost boxes of food to benevolent outreaches in communities. November orders are being taken until November 8th. Some of the food is frozen and must be picked up at the designated time or will be donated. Place your order by calling the church office at (423) 479-8159 or log on to church website @ corinthbaptistchurch.us. This is available for anyone interested.
- **Emmanuel Baptist Church**—The Lord has blessed the children's ministry and they are in need of a church bus. If you have one for sale or to be donated, please call Pastor Tim Woody at 284-1614.

\$50 to \$2000 in 1 hour & 30 minutes



The students at **The Church at Grace Point** were divided into 4 groups and given a \$50 bill to turn it into as much items from a given list for New Hope Pregnancy Center in one hour and thirty minutes. They brought back \$246.88 in cash, plus \$2000 worth of baby items, including strollers, car seats, diapers, clothes, wipes, toys, changing table, bottles, etc.



CONCLAVE

A WORSHIP AND TRAINING EVENT
FOR YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY TEAM

January 29-31, 2009
Gwinnett Center, Atlanta GA