

Carrollton Baptist Association

Striving to be an Acts 1:8 Association

From Your Associational Missionary....

December, 2009

Coming Up...

- **Week of Prayer for International Missions & the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**—November 30-December 6
- **Christmas Holidays**—office will be closed December 23 at noon-January 3. We will reopen January 4
- **Minister/Mate After Christmas Fellowship**—January 12.
- **VBS Early Bird Clinic**—January 25.

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"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:1-3, 14 (KJV)

Thirty years ago (1979) I celebrated my first Christmas outside the U.S. serving as a Journeyman missionary in Liberia, West Africa. There were no shopping malls, no "Black" Fridays, no Christmas open houses, no lights or decorations in the little town's dirt streets, no parades, no Christmas trees being sold, no Christmas music being played in the stores, no wreaths on the doors of homes. In fact, I only remember one Christmas tree and that was in the missionaries' home—Oren and Martha Robison. I know that George, an American doctor who worked for the CDC and the Peace Corps workers had some lights up but I don't recall another tree in

the whole town. The Swedish Pentecostal missionaries had candles and even came to sing for us one night before Christmas and the local Baptist church had some candles in the windows. For me it was definitely an unusual Christmas. There were a few presents under the tree and I remember going to the Robisons' home on Christmas morning, making donuts (their tradition) and after breakfast was over, hearing the Christmas story and then opening the presents. It was a wonderful morning just celebrating the birth of our Savior and Lord and reflecting upon the "Word becoming flesh and dwelling among us." I was not able to talk with family on that day and I must admit I was a little homesick that afternoon not being with my family on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. I missed the cold weather and snow—it was 85 degrees on Christmas day there, but I was grateful that God had placed me right where He wanted me on Christmas Day even if it was quite different. But as I reflected on that,

these verses came to mind from John 1 and I was reminded that Jesus had left his familiar surroundings and its beauty to be born in a stable surrounded not by royalty but poverty. His first Christmas away from home was quite different! From a majestic place to a manger surrounded by his earthly parents, animals, and later shepherds. His Father had placed him right where He wanted Him to be on that first Christmas morning.

So this Christmas, my prayer for you is to spend some time looking at the manger and the Christ child who left His home for you. Remember to pray for our missionaries as they celebrate Christmas away from home. And don't get caught up in the rush of Christmas but in the hush to listen to His voice. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Dan

*May God Bless you with
a Merry Christmas*

*From Your
Carrollton Baptist
Associational Staff
Dan ♦ Teresa*

*And a
Happy
New Year!*

Note to Pastors:

Please make note of the Dates, Programs & Locations for the December Ministers' Luncheons

December 2nd—11:30 a.m. at the Associational office. Dan will share "Focus Your Vision"

December 9th—11:30 a.m. at Papa's Pizza.

December 23rd & 30th—**There will be NO Ministers' Luncheons. The Associational Office will be closed.**

December Meetings:

Family Ministries Team Meeting—December 8th at noon. Bring your own lunch

Administrative Team Meeting—December 9th following the Ministers' Luncheon at Papa's Pizza.

Sunday School Mentoring Program

Session #4

December 10th

Bowdon Baptist

6:30-8:30

Youth Evangelism Conference

Macon Centreplex, Macon

Baptist Collegiate Ministries

It is the beginning of that magical time of the year—the beginning of the holiday season. I can already taste the turkey, dressing, and pecan pie. It's a time for family and realizing all that we are thankful for. We at the BCM are very thankful for our extended family of Churches in the Carrollton Baptist Association! We are thankful for all that you do that allows our ministry to

exist. We couldn't do it without you! Please pray for all of our students that will be traveling over the holidays. Please pray for our students who don't have supportive families to go home to this holiday season. God bless you and your families during the holidays.

In Christ,

Bill

"One Night in Bethlehem"

Glenloch Baptist Church

Thursday through Sunday, December 17th-20

6:30-9:00 each night.

Admission is free.



Minister/Mates After Christmas Fellowship

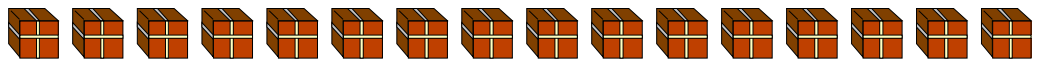
January 12th at 7:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Carrollton

Please let the Associational office know by January 6th if you can come.

Cost: \$10.00 per person.

Menu: Ribeye steak, baked potato, tossed salad, bread & dessert

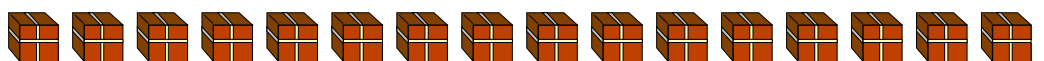


Samaritan Purse

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

A big THANK YOU! to all who have participated in this important ministry.

Count as of Tuesday, November 17: 1174



Note from the office:

If you Church or Sunday School classes would like to help a family during the Christmas season, we keep a list of families who need assistance.

Prayer Walking Schedule:

November 30-December 6: **Consolation**
December 7-13: **Discovery Church**
December 14-20: **Ephesus**
December 21-27: **Eureka**
December 28-January 3: **Fellowship**

NEWS FROM CHURCHES



Eureka: called Rev. Jason Adams as Associate Pastor.

Mount Pleasant: recently celebrated their 135th anniversary.

Tabernacle: recently celebrated their 110th anniversary.

Temple First: recently celebrated their 125th anniversary.

Week of Prayer for International Missions

November 29-December 6

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions

Christmas at Fullerville

Live, Walk Through Nativity

December 11 & 12

Tours begin at 7pm & end at 9pm.
Free admission. Free refreshments.
Donations accepted.

“Celebrating Jesus Christmas 2009”

Presented by the Son Rise Baptist Celebration Choir
Copeland Hall in Bowdon
Sunday, December 13th & Monday, December 14th
7:00 p.m. Free Admission.

From the W.M.U.

As I write this I am knee deep in preparations for our annual Christmas Child Shoebox collection week at the associational office. This always signals that the holidays, Thanksgiving and Christmas are close at hand. Where has the year gone?

The year 2009 has not been an easy year for me and my family as we celebrated the life of our dearly beloved husband, father and grandfather in March when he went home to be with his Lord. He was such a big help with the shoebox ministry and he sure will be missed this year. I have felt led to not be the Relay Coordinator after this year and am very excited to share with you that two couples have agreed to take on this responsibility and are working closely with me this year to learn the “ropes”. Lewis and Gloria North and Pat and Charlotte Culwell will share the duties so please pray for them. I want to stay involved but you

really need a man to share the work load.

Let me share what we have done over the years as an association and I think you will be proud of our work. Our first year to collect was in 1999 and we collected 802 boxes, just from our churches. In 2003 we became a Relay station where we collected boxes from anyone from anywhere who wanted to bring them to us. That year we collected 2,954. Last year which was our 6th year as a Relay station, we collected 3,601. All together in the ten years we have collected 25,347. This year will be our eleventh and we hope to pass last year’s goal. Just think of how many children have been blessed to get a gift—most of them for the first time and most importantly they have heard about the love of Jesus for them. Rev. Mark Williams and some of his members at Centralhatchee First saw first hand the joy in the children’s faces as they got to hand out boxes when they were on a recent mission trip. Thank you to all who have joined in and helped

this to be a very successful and wonderful ministry. It takes a lot of volunteers to pack the boxes into the cartons and then we are so grateful to Scottie and Steve Jennings of The Furniture House for carrying the cartons to Newnan to the Collection Center. Many people are working next week and it is a joy to fellowship as we work. God is good to give us this ministry.

I wish you and yours a very blessed Thanksgiving and a season of joy, peace and love as we celebrate the birth of our Lord at Christmas. For many it will be like it will be in our family, sadness without a beloved family member who has gone home to be with the Lord this year but we will be rejoicing that they will be celebrating their first Christmas in Heaven with Jesus. We have this to look forward to one day.

It is a joy to serve with all of you.

Barbara Swaynham
WMU Director

Note from the Office:

We are busily documenting the new information from the church ACPs and creating a new mailing list. If we have your e-mail you will receive your newsletter electronically. If you had rather receive a hard copy, let us know. Thank you.

Diplomats New Year’s Eve Singing Fullerville Baptist Church

December 31st 7:00 p.m.
Many other Southern Gospel groups scheduled to sing.
Suggested \$10.00 donation.
Call 459-3977 for more info.

CARROLLTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Return Service Requested

Rev. Carlton Rivers: Moderator
Rev. Anthony Puckett: Vice Moderator
Rev. Dan Dockery: Associational Missionary
Teresa Britt: Ministry Assistant



DECEMBER, 2009



- November 29-December 6 **Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**
- 2 **Ministers' Conference**—11:30 a.m. at the Associational Office. Dan will present *Focus Your Vision*.
- 8 **Family Ministry Team meeting**—noon. Bring your own lunch.
- 9 **Ministers' Conference**—11:30 a.m. at Papa's Pizza
Administrative Team Meeting—Papa's Pizza following the Ministers' Conference.
- 10 **Sunday School Mentoring Program**—FBC Bowdon. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- 11-12 **Christmas at Fullerville**—Live Nativity. Walk through tours begin at 7pm and end at 9pm. Free admission. Donations taken.
- 13-14 **"Celebrating Jesus Christmas 2009"** - presented by the Son Rise Celebration Choir at Copeland Hall in Bowdon. 7:00 p.m.
- 17-20 **One Night in Bethlehem, Glenloch Baptist Church**
- 23 **There will be NO Ministers' Conference.**
The Associational Office will close at Noon and reopen January 4th.