

AUGUST 2020 VOL. 8

MERCER-THOMAS BAPTIST NETWORK

MERCER AND THOMAS COUNTY
BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS SERVING TOGETHER



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Pray. Love. Serve.

Mercer and Thomas County Baptist Associations

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for an incredible first year serving as your Associational Mission Strategist! Yolonda and I rejoice in God's faithfulness and abundant blessings as your co-laborers in the Gospel. God has enabled me to worship on a Sunday morning, Sunday evening, or Wednesday evening with all forty-one of the churches I am privileged to serve in our two Associations.

Additionally, thank you for being faithful to the LORD during this COVID-19 pandemic. You continue identifying and utilizing the resources you do have to honor and glorify the LORD as His people. You continue identifying and utilizing appropriate methods to pray, love, and serve. God continues honoring those who honor Him (1 Samuel 2:30), especially as we love Him and love people as He loves us.

Hopefully, the information you encounter in this newsletter will help you and the churches of our Associations take the next steps in fulfilling God's plans according to His will. Please ask God what your participation should be in the needs, opportunities, and events shared within this newsletter.

God continues being faithful to provide all the resources we need to be the individuals and churches He has designed, created, and called us to be. He is fulfilling His plans, of which we get to be part.

Take a few moments, please, to consider some of the life elements already identified for the balance of this unique year. How are we to pray, love, and serve in these unpredictable times when we control virtually nothing and when many of the voices in our culture do not reflect the values and convictions of biblical Christianity?

We who are Christ followers have two God-given mandates to address the balance of this year and beyond. We cannot do these on our own. They can be done only on God's terms. First, love God with all our hearts, souls, and strength (Matthew 22:37). Second, love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39). These are simple when done on God's terms; however, they are not easy.

Relationships with God and with people require praying, loving, and serving. I look forward to year two of praying, loving, and serving with Mercer Baptist Association, Thomas County Baptist Association, each church, and all of you.

Because God first loved me,
Bro. Grant Hignight

August

AUG 3, MON
6:30 – 8pm
Pastors Prayer Time
Odd Month ~ Thomas County Assoc Ofc;
Even Month ~ Mercer Assoc Ofc

AUG 4, TUE
6:30 – 7pm
MBA Deut 1:15 Mtg
Northside Baptist Church

7 – 8pm
MBA Exec Cmte
Northside Baptist Church

AUG 6, THU
10 – 11:30am
Pastors Prayer Time
TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave,
Thomasville, GA 31792

6:30 – 8pm
MBA Prayer Mtg
TBD

First Day of School for Thomasville City
Schools

AUG 10, MON
First Day of School for Thomas County

AUG 13, THU
10 – 11:30am
Pastors Prayer Time
TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave,
Thomasville, GA 31792

AUG 17, MON
MBA Prayer Revival

7 – 8:30pm
MBA Prayer Revival
Ochlawilla Baptist Church

AUG 18, TUE
MBA Prayer Revival
9 – 10:30am
Brooks County Ministerial Association
Quitman Church of God

11:30am – 1pm
MBA Prayer Revival Lunch & Learn
First Baptist Church

7 – 8:30pm
MBA Prayer Revival
Philadelphia Baptist Church

AUG 19, WED
MBA Prayer Revival

6:30 – 8pm
MBA Prayer Revival Youth Night
First Baptist Church

AUG 20, THU
MBA Prayer Revival

10 – 11:30am
Pastors Prayer Time
TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave,
Thomasville, GA 31792

7 – 8:30pm
MBA Prayer Revival
Evergreen Baptist Church

AUG 21, FRI
MBA Prayer Revival

7 – 8:30pm
MBA Prayer Revival
Morven Baptist Church

AUG 22, SAT
7:30 – 9am
MBA Prayer Revival Men's Breakfast
Northside Baptist Church

12 – 1:30pm
MBA Prayer Revival Ladies' Lunch
Location TBA

AUG 27, THU
10 – 11:30am
Pastors Prayer Time
TCBA Office, 1020 Remington Ave,
Thomasville, GA 31792

7 – 8:30pm
MBA Discipleship Mtg (incl. meal)
Northside Baptist Church

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AUGUST 30, 2020

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This picture reveals some of the keynote speakers scheduled to participate.

CHURCH *News* Mercer

Brooks County SEWN in Prayer

MONDAY, August 17, 7:00pm
ADORATION IN PRAYER, Ochlawilla Baptist
TUESDAY, August 18, 7:00pm
SIN AND PRAYER, Philadelphia Baptist
WEDNESDAY, August 19, 6:30pm
YOUTH NIGHT, FBC Quitman
THURSDAY, August 20, 7:00pm
THANKSGIVING IN PRAYER, Evergreen Baptist
FRIDAY, August 21, 7:00pm
SUPPLICATION PRAYERS, Morven Baptist

SATURDAY, August 22, 7:30am
MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST, Northside Baptist
DAILY LUNCHEONS
Tuesday – Friday, 11:30am – 1:00pm
FBC Quitman
Tuesday: Seniors and Praying
Wednesday: Praying for Your Church
Thursday: Pastors & Ministry Leaders Only
Friday: Political Praying
Saturday Afternoon: Women's Retreat (NOON to 2pm)

<https://markmirza.com/sewn>

What news can we share about your church? Feel free to email me any information you would like to publish in the newsletter.



Thomas County

New Day Christian Fellowship

*New Day Christian Fellowship called Rev. Glenis Langlais (pronounced 'Lang-ley') June 21, 2020, to be their pastor. Rev. Tommy Johnson, who had been serving as interim pastor, will become an Associate (Assistant) Pastor for the church.
Rev. Langlais currently resides and works in Atlanta but plans to relocate to Thomasville by the end of 2020.*

Salem Baptist Church

*Salem Baptist Church called Dr. Doug Thompson as their pastor June 14, 2020.
Doug and his family are relocating from South Carolina.
He begins serving Salem Baptist Church July 5, 2020.*

Thomasville First Baptist Church

*Rev. Marty Carnes has resigned as pastor of First Baptist Church, Thomasville.
He joined the staff at Truett McConnell University July 1, 2020,
as Associate Vice President for Advancement.*

Big Creek Baptist Church

Big Creek is involved in a church wide food drive which will be taken to the Thomas County food bank. The WMU has contributed to the Baptist Children's Home and to a missionary in Atlanta as a part of Christmas in August. Contact the church for more information.



News from Karen Haineault Mercer Baptist Association VBS and Summer Missions Coordinator

The Summer Calendar was full and anticipation was high in February, 2020. Plans were being made for the outreach program to invite everyone to the Vacation Bible Schools in our area then COVID 19 was diagnosed in America and the world as we knew it changed. As we got closer to May everything was cancelled that had been scheduled for the summer. I asked God what His plans were and He revealed the need to take the Bible to the children and adults who do not have the opportunity to learn about Him. Mercer's two summer missionaries were very excited to serve wherever God placed them. I began in May reaching out to find places we could serve and distance ourselves at the same time. God opened many doors and He guided us where, by the end of May, our calendar was full for the summer.

The Backyard Bible Clubs we have presented reach so many more people than attend them. We have had other children, parents, and grandparents come and listen as the Gospel is being shared outside. We are taking the Gospel to them where they live.

One week we had a young man come up and asked, very bluntly, what we were doing there. (I felt the presence of evil so strongly when he approached us.) We shared that we were there to bring the Word of God, do crafts, sing songs about God and how Jesus is the foundation which we build our lives on, we play games, and have fun. He stayed and tried to manipulate what we were teaching but God stepped in using a stray dog the kids called "Buddy". When he would approach me the dog would growl and protect me. The kids there said that "Buddy" didn't like adults and they were surprised she would do that for me. That was God! The young man stayed and sang songs with us. I later found out he was a drug dealer in the neighborhood.

Later that week "Buddy" showed back up and toward the end of the Backyard Bible Club that day a gang of grown men began watching us and when they tried to approach "Buddy" met them at the entrance to where we were and would not let them enter. They left and did not return. God has and continues to show up every time we meet.

We are learning to look at every situation in a different light. Everywhere we go God has already found a connection for us to meet and join together with to spread the Good News of Jesus. I am excited to see where God leads us next as we all continue to grow and mature in our walk with God. I know I am learning something new every day and I thank God for the many friends I have made in this new way of reaching out to others for Him.



News from Teresa Carver

Thomas County Baptist Association VBS and Summer Missions Coordinator

Each year is different, and this year is very different, but there is also continuity. We can always depend on our Savior and his faithfulness. If it is summer, then there should be Vacation Bible School and Interns helping churches in our association. This summer is different and churches are struggling trying to determine how to faithfully share Christ and keep their members safe. A number of churches are extending VBS plans into the fall and some churches have even expressed plans to have VBS during school holidays at Christmas. A few churches have developed alternative formats and held VBS this summer. The summer interns for our association have been excited to serve and help churches who were able to hold a VBS. This was not enough to fill all of their days and the interns had to serve in more hands on, physical roles as well. They have been busy working at the new association office painting and doing minor repairs when not engaged in VBS. Colleen Folsom and Eric Luna have been flexible and have done a wonderful job however they were asked to serve. It has been a year like no other but there is still continuity. We serve our Savior wherever he directs. Thank you Colleen and Eric for your faithfulness!



Thomas County Baptist Association Summer Interns Sharing Jesus Through VBS



Summer Missions Report

My name is Olivia Walton and recently I was given the opportunity to serve as a temporary missionary for Mercer Associations (whatever the professional name it is supposed to be). Mission work is overall a humbling experience. I am partial to this kind of outreach is because I have been on out-of-country mission trips before and each time, I realize how I need to be more grateful and often my heart seems more touched than theirs. That being said, when returning, there is always that feeling of “I’m going to make a change” and in my case, rarely does it last long. This summer going neighborhood to neighborhood in very reachable areas, working with kids and sharing Gods message has opened my eyes to see just how possible a real difference is to make within my very own community. This internship has proved to me that through the pandemic and the recent changes to travel opportunities that going on a mission trip to other countries is wonderful but often times, sharing the Word of God is even more needed all around us. God’s love has no boundary. This mission work has left me inspired to reach out to friends and areas around me in my town that may need to hear the good news. God had a plan in allowing me to join Mercer mission work and I praise Him for giving me such a chance.

**Mercer Baptist Association
Summer Interns Sharing
Jesus Through Backyard
Bible Club in Quitman**





Summer Missions Report

Hi, my name is Paxton, and I have had the opportunity to work with Mrs. Karen through the Georgia Baptist Association as a summer intern. I was thinking that this summer I would be only helping different church with their VBS and other programs but because of the circumstances this year, the summer program had to change! Churches were closed or canceling their VBS programs.

I didn't know what plans God had, but I have been blessed in so many ways. As a preacher's kid, I have grown up in church. I was taught about Jesus all my life through VBS programs, Sunday school, children's church, youth activities, and regular church services. I have been blessed by God to have these opportunities.

Being able to go into the community though this program has opened my eyes to the children out there that need to hear about God and what He has done for them. Many children do not have parents that make church a priority. These children often grow up missing the chance to hear the Gospel over and over. Going to different places in Brooks County and seeing these children's faces just light up with joy, really touched my heart. As a Christian, the Bible tells us in Matthew 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen." I'm grateful the Lord has allowed me to help fill this Great Commission this summer through this internship! Hopefully, I can keep spreading God's Word where He calls me, in my own community and beyond.



Summer Missions Report

My name is Nathan Dukes and I have been a missionary for Mercer Baptist Association for 2 years. With the virus, a lot has changed since last year. It has given me a new perspective on how even through this pandemic, witnessing is still possible and necessary. It's eye opening to go to places in my hometown that I pass by virtually everyday and realize that I could be ministering to them at anytime. Places that don't have a church nearby or don't have a witnessing program are the places that this program encourages us to reach out to and throughout this summer it has been a very good experience yet very heart changing for me. Even with everything going on concerning race, it has not altered the way we approach things nor held us back from reaching those that society says hates us.



**Bible Story Time
Mercer Baptist Association
Summer Interns
Backyard Bible Club in Quitman**



Summer Missions Report

Hi, my name is Colleen Folsom. I am one of this years' Thomas County Baptist Association's Summer Missionary Interns. I go to Pineland Baptist Church and I have attended there with my amazing grandparents and brother my whole life. Thanks to my church's love, prayers, and support, I've been properly equipped to become an ambassador for Christ through both my words and actions.

Of course, this summer has been quite difficult beings that it was my senior year and most of that has been taken away from me and the rest of the Class of 2020. Regardless, the Lord has been with me, and has given countless opportunities to serve him: even in the midst of this pandemic.

So far this summer, me and my partner, Eric Luna, have worked with the our first church's VBS and what an experience it was. We got to meet the sweetest kids at Enon Baptist Church and from the look on their faces, they were very excited to see new faces and to even have a VBS. We played games, listened to bible stories, and sang and danced together. It was extremely fun and I have no doubt that they felt the same.

VBS is one of the most important Evangelistic events in America. It allows children (and even adults) to hear the word of God and to even have fun in the process. For me, the music is what really made VBS the best for me. Ever since I was little, the music was my most favorite event during VBS. It allowed the kids to sing and dance for Jesus and each song always had a special meaning and usually connected to the night's lesson. I like doing the music for both that reason and so that I can interact with the kids more and to also have fun with them.

Next month, I plan to go to Valdosta State University on a full-ride scholarship and enter as a sophomore. I plan to major in Elementary Education and minor in Dance Education. The Lord has done great things so far this summer through me teaching the kids the dances and even showing them that I love them. That is what every child needs, is to know that somebody loves them. I want to let them them know that I love them with all my heart, but most importantly, that Jesus loves them more than anything else. His love is far greater than any kind of love us as humans can understand, but one thing that I can definitely say that I've learned this summer is that God's love never fails, it never gives up, and never runs out on any of us.

Mercer Baptist Association Giving Report

January 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	YTD
Barney Baptist	\$ 751.00	\$ -	\$ 751.00
Barwick Baptist	\$ 527.35	\$ 678.77	\$ 1,206.12
Beulah Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dixie Baptist	\$ 784.53	\$ 668.00	\$ 1,452.53
Elam Baptist	\$ 288.59	\$ 139.05	\$ 427.64
Evergreen Baptist	\$ 228.80	\$ 285.14	\$ 513.94
First Baptist	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 3,750.00
Friendship Baptist	\$ 335.00	\$ -	\$ 335.00
Morrison Baptist	\$ 372.45	\$ 444.84	\$ 817.29
Morven Baptist	\$ 684.63	\$ 1,315.13	\$ 1,999.76
Northside Baptist	\$ 301.82	\$ 129.82	\$ 431.64
Ochlawilla Baptist	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,500.00
Okapilco Baptist	\$ 675.00	\$ 770.00	\$ 1,445.00
Pauline Baptist	\$ 956.01	\$ 668.06	\$ 1,624.07
Philadelphia Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Union Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Totals	\$ 8,805.18	\$ 8,048.81	\$ 16,853.99

Psalm 100:4-5

Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Thomas County Baptist Association Giving Report

January 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020

	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	YTD
Antioch Baptist	\$ 1,088.70	\$ 494.94	\$ 1,583.64
Barnetts Creek Baptist	\$ 597.08	\$ 581.75	\$ 1,178.83
Big Creek Baptist	\$ 521.82	\$ 550.85	\$ 1,072.67
Big Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Boston Baptist	\$ 350.21	\$ 606.59	\$ 956.80
Coolidge Memorial Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Dawson Street Baptist	\$ 3,107.16	\$ 3,107.16	\$ 6,214.32
Enon Baptist	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00
Thomasville First Baptist	\$ 6,249.99	\$ -	\$ 6,249.99
First Newark Baptist	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Fredonia Baptist	\$ 386.80	\$ 360.08	\$ 746.88
Friendship Baptist	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Gatlin Creek Baptist	\$ 331.48	\$ 500.07	\$ 831.55
Little Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 105.00	\$ -	\$ 105.00
Meigs Baptist	\$ 648.25	\$ 835.08	\$ 1,483.33
Merrillville Baptist	\$ 201.35	\$ -	\$ 201.35
Midway Baptist	\$ 600.00	\$ -	\$ 600.00
New Day Christian	\$ 75.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 125.00
New Growth Baptist	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
New Shiloh Baptist	\$ 518.76	\$ 461.34	\$ 980.10
Ochlocknee Baptist	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
Pavo Baptist	\$ 75.00	\$ -	\$ 75.00
Pineland Baptist	\$ 416.66	\$ 2,083.30	\$ 2,499.96
Salem Baptist	\$ 747.14	\$ 598.69	\$ 1,345.83
Summerhill Baptist	\$ 134.00	\$ 166.00	\$ 300.00
Totals	\$ 19,879.40	\$ 13,845.85	\$ 33,725.25

Luke 6:38

Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."