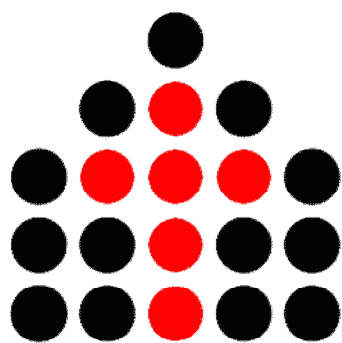


The Duck River Current

News from
the Duck River
Baptist Association

April 2023
Volume LXV, Issue 4

Churches serving Christ together in Coffee, Franklin, & Grundy Counties...and to the uttermost part of the earth.



#JESUSTENT

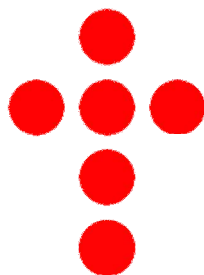
SHARING THE LOVE OF GOD IN THE NAME OF **JESUS CHRIST**

Breaking news
SEE PAGE 4

As many as 80,000 people will be coming to Coffee County, June 15-18, for the Bonnaroo Music Festival.

It is estimated that the ministry of the Jesus Tent touches more than 10,000 people each year with acts of kindness and a Gospel witness.

Your church can help show them Christian love and share the good news of Jesus Christ.



There are three main ways you can help:

1. Pray for this ministry and the impact it will have on many lives.
2. Your church can collect items to be distributed in the Jesus Tent at Bonnaroo: travel size sunscreen, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sunglasses, bandanas, salvation bead bracelets

Bring these items to FBC Manchester or to the DRBA by **June 1st**.

3. You can volunteer to help in the Jesus Tent, June 15-18. You can volunteer for a few hours or all day. You can serve once or every day.



Go to www.theJesusTent.com
for more information and to register as a volunteer.

This ministry is jointly sponsored by the Duck River Baptist Association, Tennessee Baptist Convention, and area Baptist churches.

Special thanks to Jake Dorak and FBC Manchester for their leadership in coordinating this ministry.

pray • go • serve • tell

DRBA Taiwan Mission Partnership Resumes

Between 2013-2019, the DRBA sent 17 teams of volunteers to Taiwan, East Asia where we worked alongside IMB personnel. Then in 2020, the world shut down due to the pandemic. Taiwan had one of the longest lockdowns in the world. They finally opened to foreigners last October and this March the DRBA had our first team of volunteers go back to Taiwan. A team of six, some staying as long as three weeks, presented the true story of Easter in public schools.

For most students, this was the first time they heard the good news of the Gospel.

Pictured left to right: John McKelvey (Rutledge Falls BC), Marsha Noland, Eban Noland (FBC Decherd), Melva Clark (IMB/DRBA), Emma Noland (FBC Decherd), and Charlene Cunningham (FBC Cowan).



Tuesday, April 4, 8:30 AM
@ Sunrise Restaurant in Decherd



Disaster Relief Training

April 21-22, 2023

Northside Baptist Church

655 W. Thompson Lane, Murfreesboro, TN

Training tracks for: chainsaw, fire recovery, flood recovery, rebuild, damage assessment, ham radio, mass feeding, spiritual preparation/evangelism, chaplaincy, Introduction to Disaster Relief

Go to: tndisasterrelief.org for more information and to register.

*DRBA retiring Director of Missions,
Mark Puckett, is seen here at
the reception in his honor
on March 26th.
With Mark is his wife, Linda.*



Out with the OLD...

What more can be said than WOW!? Thank you, DRBA churches, pastors, leaders, and church members, for your outpouring of appreciation. The retirement reception on March 26th was overwhelming. Thank you for your attendance, kind words, and gifts. I want to express my appreciation to our Administrative Assistant, Debbie Johnson, and our associational moderator, Tim McGehee, for all that they did to make this event so special. Thanks to them and many others who assisted them.

The most common question I get is “What are you going to do now?” The honest answer is “I don’t know. That’s up to the Lord.” I hope not to sit around watching “The Price is Right”. I will be available for supply preaching and interim pastorates. I also have mission involvements. I will be spending the month of July on mission in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Beyond that, I’ll just have to wait for the Lord to reveal to me.

I want to say also how much my wife, Linda, has meant to my ministry, both before and here at the DRBA. She has been involved in women’s events and ministry at a number of our churches, leading Bible studies, speaking at special events, singing at numerous churches, leading mission teams, teaching children’s Sunday School and being a constant help and encouragement to me. We celebrate our 40th anniversary this May and I can’t imagine how I would have gotten through those years without her. Thanks, Linda!

As most of you know, I had submitted my resignation effective March 31st. However, the search for my successor is not yet finalized (see opposite side of this sheet). I have offered and the DRBA Executive Board accepted my offer, to stay through May so as to avoid a gap in leadership. I will look forward to tying up loose ends in these final days and will hopefully get to see many of you again before I leave the association. Of course, I’m not moving. We are staying in Tullahoma and I hope to continue connections and serving our DRBA churches for years to come. Thank you for the privilege of serving you and your church as your Director of Missions. It has been a blessing.



*Left: Mark Puckett and DRBA
Administrative Assistant,
Debbie Johnson.*

*Right: DRBA Moderator
Tim McGehee presents a picture
to Mark Puckett. The picture is of
the DRBA building. Many of those
attending Mark’s retirement
reception on March 26th signed
the mattee surrounding the picture.*



In with the NEW...



NOTICE OF SPECIAL CALLED EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

This called meeting is for the purpose of voting to approve Matthew Ledbetter as the next Director of Missions of the Duck River Association of Missionary Baptists.

Tuesday, April 18

FBC Estill Springs

6 PM - Meet & Greet

6:30 PM - Executive Board Business Session

Meet & Greet

Monday, April 17

Oaklawn Baptist Church, Winchester

6 PM

Meet & Greet

Tuesday, April 18

Trinity Baptist Church, Manchester

11:30 AM for lunch

RSVP to the DRBA for a lunch reservation.

931-455-5072

All members of all DRBA churches are welcome and encouraged to come to any of the three meet & greet opportunities. Only members of the DRBA Executive Board are eligible to vote.

The Executive Board is comprised of two members of each DRBA church, the pastor and one elected layperson. Each church should make sure they have a duly elected member of the Executive Board in order to vote.

Highlights of the candidate's ministry:

- Full-time pastor for 24 years in 5 different churches in North Carolina and Georgia.
- Very involved in associational life, serving in a variety of positions including moderator.
- Currently serving as interim Director of Missions for the West Chowan Baptist Association in North Carolina
- Veteran of more than 20 mission trips, domestically as well as Mexico & Honduras.
- Sponsor of multiple Hispanic mission church plants in the U.S. and Mexico.
- Veteran of multiple Disaster Relief deployments.
- Currently Vice-President of the NC Baptist Convention's Pastors' Conference.
- Has served on the Board of Directors of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- Has served two terms as Second Vice-President of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.
- U.S. Army veteran

Thanks to our DoM Search Team for their service:

Herb Hester, FBC Tullahoma

LZ Johnson, FBC Cowan

Johnny Mayes, Oaklawn BC

Jerry Pullum, Trinity BC

David Wall, Harmony BC



Gospel Conversations Workshop

Monday, April 17th, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

First Baptist Church, Manchester



Gain Confidence, Clarity, and Caring

Christians commonly express these concerns regarding evangelism:

- I don't know what to say.
- I can't answer objections to the Gospel.
- I do not want to cause offense.

Every Christian can be an effective Evangelist!

The Can I Ask You a Question? curriculum describes the Gospel in five easy-to-remember elements: who He is, what He did, why I need it, how to get it, and where

to find it. Effective witnessing explains the Gospel fully, inviting the hearer to consider each of its points, as well as having answers to any objections raised. This comprehensive evangelism program includes a concise apologetics handbook for Christians, offering simple, natural ways to start conversations, it enables and inspires Christians to begin witnessing immediately. \$5 registration includes a light meal and a copy of the book, "Can I Ask You a Question".

Register at:

<https://www.tnbaptist.org/event/gospel-conversations-workshop-w-preston-condra-manchester>



Jon George (pictured left) has been called as Children's Pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Manchester. He came to ministry later in life, having previously served at FBC Orlando. He and his wife, Donna, have two adult children.

Michael Beasley (pictured right) began serving as Pastor of Crossroads Baptist Church in Estill Springs on March 12th. He has previously pastored two churches in Mississippi. He is also an Army veteran and served in Iraq. He and his wife, Amy, have 11 children.



Derek Jones, a member of Oaklawn Baptist Church in Winchester has recently been moved to the Marshall Islands by his work. It is Derek's desire to also serve the Lord there as a lay missionary. February 12th, Oaklawn commissioned Derek as a missionary to the Marshall Islands.

**How may we serve your church?
We're here to help.**

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Debbie Johnson, Administrative Assistant

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The Child Development Center at Highland Baptist Church in Tullahoma is searching for a teacher for 3-5 year olds starting this summer. For more information, contact Ann Smith at 931-455-8642.

Congratulations to Billy and Jodi Levensgood on the birth of Molly Joy Levensgood. Born February 23, 2023 7 lbs., 4 oz. Billy is the Pastor of Encounter Life Church in Manchester.



Many churches and individuals have been praying for the daughter of DoM Mark Puckett who has been in a high risk pregnancy and spent 46 days in the hospital.

Knightlee Jolene Wren Montague was born nine weeks early on February 5th and weighed 2 lbs. 6 oz.

She is still in the NICU, but is healthy and doing well and will hopefully be home soon. In the picture above she weighed 3 lbs. 14 oz.

Thanks for your prayers.

