



# The St. Clair Baptist Messenger

ENCOURAGE EQUIP ENGAGE

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Thursday, August 27, 2020

## MINISTRY POSITION

### Macedonia #1 Baptist Church

1655 Levine Rd., Margaret

**Seeking a**

### Part-time Student Minister

Please send resume to:

P O Box 347, Margaret AL 35112

## September

- 1 Rev. & Mrs. Dewey Corder *Central*
- 1 Rev. & Mrs. Nicholas Gandy *Friendship*
- 10 Rev. Billy Wakefield *Bethany*
- 11 Rev. & Mrs. Chris Beck *Mt. Pisgah*
- 12 Rev. John Maddox *Argo*
- 14 Mrs. Marla Jones *Mt. Moriah*
- 16 Mrs. Brenda Robertson *New Lebanon*
- 17 Mrs. Karen Burtram *Piney Grove*
- 18 Rev. & Mrs. Gary White *New Haven*
- 28 Rev. Michael Mills *Greensport*

## Week of Prayer September 13-20



## Come to Christ

### CRUSADE 2020

October 4-8 6:31 – 8:30 p.m.

Eden Westside Baptist Church - Pell City

#### Speakers:

Dr. Steve Gaines, Cordova TN  
Scott Dawson, Birmingham AL  
Dr. Ted Traylor, Pensacola FL  
Dr. Johnny Hunt, Woodstock GA  
C. T. Townsend, North Augusta SC

#### Music:

Charles Billingsly, Lynchburg VA  
Jonathan Wilburn, Gadsden AL  
Voices of Mobile, Mobile AL

#### Testimonies:

Author/Speaker/Educator - Donna Gaines, Cordova TN  
Chief Meteorologist - James Spann, Birmingham AL

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 17 – 7:00 p.m.

All Pastors and Committee members are invited to join us in person, or online. Business for Annual meeting will be discussed.

## A Three Point Message & Invitation

**Introduction:** Every day I read another article that tells me how many ministers are getting frustrated and discouraged by the covid-19 pandemic. Researchers are predicting large numbers of church members will not return when in-person services and ministries resume. Further, they predict that thousands of ministers are going to quit. Add to that an increasing number of ministers being fired or asked to resign, and the future of the church is looking bleak.

While some of those predictions may be correct (only time will tell), I'm growing weary of the doomsday prophecies of these researchers. Therefore, allow me to take this discussion in a more positive direction.

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. **Hebrews 12:1-3 (NASB)**

### 1. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us . . .

The Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint. It calls for endurance. Slow and steady wins the race. (Think of the tortoise and the hare.) Covid-19 may have slowed us down, but we are still moving. And the course of the race has already been set. Jesus has gone before us and prepared the way, and the Holy Spirit is with us every step of the way.

### 2. Fixing our eyes on Jesus . . .

I love the story of Peter walking on the water. As long as his gaze was focused on Jesus he walked on the surface, but when distracted by the wind and waves he began to sink. Yet Jesus immediately reached out to pull him up again. Covid-19, political arguments and divisions, protests and riots are all distractions. We must fix our eyes on Jesus. I love that word, "fix." It literally means "to fasten securely." We have been looking all around us. It's time to look back to Jesus and keep our eyes on Him.

### 3. So that you will not grow weary and lose heart . . .

We must not grow weary in the race. We must not lose our determination to keep going. I am not a runner. I've never been good at running, especially distance races. Yet in college one of my classes required completing a lengthy run within a specified time. I failed at several attempts to complete the race. On my final attempt, I had hit "the wall" and felt I couldn't go another step when one of my friends started running beside me. He went with me step by step, encouraging me not to stop until we finally crossed the finish line. The only way I was able to endure was through the support and encouragement of that friend.

**The Invitation:** Don't run this race by yourself. If you are running well, then take time to encourage others. If you are struggling don't suffer in silence but ask for help. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. The Association is a family, and we are running the same race. So, let's run it together to make sure each one endures to the end.

*Bro Danny*