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The Voice

of Miller County Baptist Association

DECEMBER 2014

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

On Christmas Day of 1864 Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was experiencing great turmoil of soul. Gripped by the grief of losing wife in a tragic accident the year before, and recently receiving news that his son was severely injured in battle, Longfellow was going through some of the trials of Job. Doubt and despair were more familiar to him than hope and joy. Peace was foreign to him. It did not seem like a very Merry Christmas at all.

That is when he sat down and penned a poem that later became a beloved Christmas carol. There were originally 7 stanzas but the 4th and 5th stanzas related directly to the Civil War and are often omitted in our day.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day, Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, the words repeat, Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound the carols drowned Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn the households born Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

And yet in our day, just as in Longfellow's day, people are often gripped by fear, despair and anxiety. We look around and see the atrocities and aggressions of ISIS, the shaky economy, the turmoils within our own nation, and even we who are followers of Christ, may wonder what happened to peace on earth, good will to men.

*And in despair I bowed my head; "There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

Is "Peace on Earth, good will toward men a mere fantasy that will never become reality? Is it a sentimental memory of days gone by? Or is it some Proclamation of Heaven that expresses the Hope found in Christ?

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men."*

Indeed, the message of Christmas, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, dispels all fear, despair and anxiety. We do not have to be a poet, like Longfellow or Job, to possess the hope of peace on earth even in the most trying of times; though we may borrow their words to proclaim that hope!

"As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth." Job 19.25 NASB

Your Fellow Servant
Timothy

Christmas Events Scheduled at Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

THIS HOPE

In concert

Wednesday, December 3, 6:30
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

KID'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6:00
MT. CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH

*Christmas Eve
Candle Light Service
Mt. Carmel Baptist Church
Wednesday,
December 24, 5:30 PM*



ROCKY MOUNT FOOD PANTRY BUILDING

The new Rocky Mount Food Pantry Building is coming along. Work is slow. Volunteers are needed to help with the work. If you would be willing to help, call Pastor Dan Duckworth at 392-5844.

If someone has a lift and would be willing to volunteer for a day that would be very helpful.

Christmas Happenings at Eldon First Baptist Church

Sunday Morning, December 7th, 10:15
Kathy Dewbre of the
International Mission Board
Will speak of her work in the Americas

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Sunday Evening, December 7th, 6:00
Hanging of the Greens
Featuring
Scene Makers Drama Group

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Sunday, December 14th
5:00-7:00 PM
"A Night in Bethlehem"
A hands on Holy Land experience for families
with children thru 6th grade.
"Travel back in time to ancient Bethlehem.
Taste, see and smell what daily life was like
when Jesus was born."

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Sunday, December 21st, 10:15 AM
The FBC Choir will present their
Christmas Cantata
"He Is Here"

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Wednesday, December 24th, 6:00
Christmas Eve Lord's Supper Service

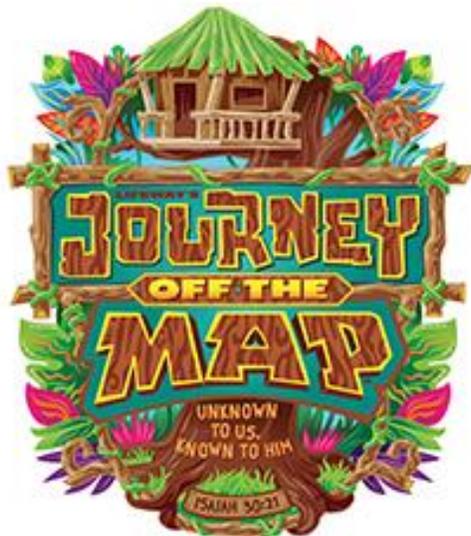
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Sunday, December 28th, 6:00
After Christmas Family Christmas Sing
Come join us as our church family bring you a
variety of music and singing

*Please remember to pray
for our churches without pastors
Mt. Herman, Tuscumbia,
FBC Iberia, Hickory Point,
Barnett & Brumley*

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3: This Hope in concert at Mt. Carmel, 6:30
December 5: Pastors' Christmas Dinner - FBC Eldon, 6:30
December 7: Kathy Dewbre, IMB Speaker, 10:15 AM FBC Eldon
Hanging of Greens, 6:00, FBC Eldon
December 8: Lake Area Chorale, 7:00, FBC Eldon
December 14: "A Night In Bethlehem", FBC Eldon
December 19-20: Rocky Mount Food Pantry Open
December 21: "He Is Here" Christmas Cantata, FBC Eldon, 10:15 AM
Kid's Christmas Program, Mt. Carmel, 6:00
December 24: Candle Light Service at Mt. Carmel, 5:30
Christmas Eve Service/Lord's Supper, 6:00 FBC Eldon
December 25: Christmas
December 28: After Christmas Family Sing, 6:00 FBC Eldon
January 5: RSVP for Pastors Fellowship Breakfast
January 6: Associational Council Meeting, MCBA Office, 7:00
January 10: Pastors Fellowship Breakfast, Blue Springs, 8:30 AM
January 13: Executive Board Meeting, Spring Garden, 7:00
January 20-22: Advance Midwest Leadership Conference, Springfield, IL



In VBS 2015 we are going to take a "Journey Off the Map - Unknown to us but Known to Him". Begin making plans now.

Jane Waters,
VBS Team Leader

PASTORS FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Preachers like to eat. Preachers like to talk. And when preachers get together to talk and eat it is a good time!

We are planning another Fellowship for Saturday morning, January 10, at Blue Springs. We will meet at 8:30 am. All pastors and retired pastors are welcome to attend. Please RSVP at 392-7074 by Monday, January 5, if you are planning to attend.

If you have any questions or suggestions about this please contact Bro. Lonnie Simpson, Pastoral Ministries Director, 392-7074.

Merry Christmas

Wishing our families and friends of Miller County Baptist Association a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year as we celebrate the greatest of all, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy Faber
Director of Missions

Carol Hutcherson
Administrative Assistant



PRESS RELEASE FOR 2015 BUCKET CHALLENGE

Sub-Saharan Africa is more heavily affected by HIV/AIDS than any other part of the world. Nearly 23 million people are living with HIV in the region. In 2012, 1.2 million people died from AIDS related diseases there and 1.9 million people became infected with HIV. Since the beginning of the epidemic, 14.8 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS related diseases.

In many countries of sub-Saharan Africa, AIDS has erased decades of progress made in extending life expectancy. Average life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa is now 54.4 years and in some more heavily affected countries is below 49 years. Households are severely affected by: loss of income earners, necessity to provide home-based care for sick relatives, and orphans left behind who must be cared for by members of extended family or siblings as young as 8-years-old.

Baptist Global Response (BGR) has found that that sharing a five-gallon 'Bucket of Love' may be the most effective way to open doors to share the love of Christ with these folks who are at death's door. BGR has researched and worked with partner organizations to determine the best resources to include in the Hospice Kits. One kit costs around \$85. A detailed shopping list is available and nothing more or less should be included for the sake of customs regulations and a need for uniformity. A step-by-step guide for assembling the 'Bucket of Love' is also available so that all items will fit properly in the five-gallon bucket.

Most importantly, as the buckets are delivered by missionaries, volunteers and Baptist partners, the gospel is shared and opportunity to make a decision to follow Christ is given.

BGR has given Missouri Baptists the challenge of filling 5,000 buckets in 2015. We hope that your church will include the Bucket Project as part of your missions' outreach. If you are interested in filling buckets, or would like more information, please contact the Association Office, 392-6591, for a list of items for the buckets. As you fill buckets you may also drop them off at the Association Office.

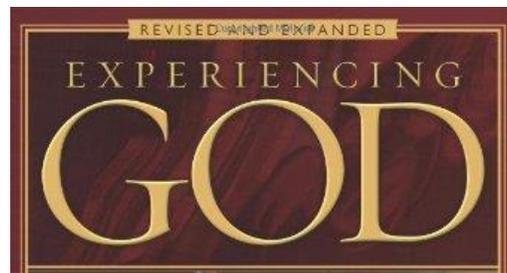


January 20-22

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Illinois

An equipping conference to help
Build stronger churches and leaders
[call the associational office for information]

SAVE THE DATES



EXPERIENCING GOD RETREAT
FEBRUARY 20-21, 2015
PARKADE BAPTIST CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MO
[SPONSORED BY MBC & LIFEWAY]



RA CONGRESS
APRIL 17-18, 2015
MISSOURI STATE
FAIR GROUNDS
SEDALIA, MO

CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL

Saturday, April 25, 2015

Baptist Building, Jefferson City, MO

Grades 4-6 Red Cycle

YOUTH & HIGH SCHOOL

BIBLE DRILL

Saturday, April 11, 2015

First Baptist Church, Odessa, MO

Youth 7-9 Cycle 1

Highschool 10-12 Cycle 1

Miller County Baptist Association

P.O. Box 391, Eldon, MO 65026



The wise men worship the infant Jesus.