



**BETHLEHEM
AND
PINE BARREN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATIONS**

Partners in Missions and Ministry
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We offer professional Christian counseling at The Bethlehem Baptist Association office in Frisco City on Tuesdays from 9:00-4:00. For information and to set up an appointment, call 205-603-9551 or visit Pathway's website at www.pathwaysprofessional.org

Local Edition: Alabama Baptist

Director of Missions Email: john@bethlehempinebarren.com ~ Office Hours: 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00 ~ Monday-Thursday

June 2018



**A WORD FROM
YOUR DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS**



Someone has said, "Freedom is not the right to do as you please, but the liberty to do as you ought." Independence Day is the time of year when we celebrate our freedom and the blessings we have in our country. It is a time of year when we need to remember that a price has been paid and is being paid even now to secure that freedom.

We celebrate Independence Day with a sense of pride and sometimes even sentimentality as we recall what our forefathers brought forth—a nation built upon the principles taught in the Bible and a love for God and country—and the right to be independent of outside oppression.

Unfortunately, whether we like to admit it or not, our nation today is not that which our forefathers forged. We have slipped into an attitude of cynicism and have been corrupted with a decline of patriotism and pride in our people and our nation. We have allowed our beloved nation to become one of violence and hatred instead of compassion and love for our fellowman as God's word teaches. So many seem to have forgotten the freedom to love.

Just once, I would like to see us, as we celebrate Independence Day with all the traditional festivities, to also pause to remember the price that has been paid for our freedom; the sacrifices that have been made to secure it; and the willingness of those who place their very existence on the line every day so you and I can set off our fireworks and eat our barbecue and enjoy our celebration.

Why can't we go back just for a moment and recall what it took to make our nation the "Land of the Free and Home of the Brave?" The people who built this nation were people who had a dream and were willing to pay the price to see that dream fulfilled. They built their homes and raised their families. They fought for their beliefs and for their freedom. They farmed their lands. They built industries. They dared to experiment. They dared to take chances. They placed their faith in God and His provision and guidance as they pressed forward to develop what so many take for granted today. They did it for God's honor and glory.

These values and beliefs may seem old fashioned today, but they are what it will take to return our nation to that which our founding fathers dreamed that it would be.

So, I challenge all of us this Independence Day to cast aside our cynicism and criticism of our nation and its leaders and instead, lift them up in prayer that they will be obedient to God's design for America and be the leaders that He would have them be. Let's pray that they will set aside partisan differences and strive to work together to make America truly the nation where all of us can experience "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Let us raise our voices in thanksgiving and praise to our Almighty God for our freedom and our blessings. For our own good and for the good of others, let us indulge in praise to God and pride in our nation, its history, and those pioneers who worked so hard to make it great.

Blessings, Bro. John

UPCOMING EVENTS

Bethlehem Pastor/Staff Fellowship and Lunch meets each Monday at 11:30am at the Bethlehem Associational Office.

July 4 —Independence Day

July 19—BBA Executive Committee Meeting; 6:00 at the Associational Office

July 22—PBBA Executive Committee Meeting; 2:30 at Enon Baptist Church

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Awin—Rev. James Collins, Pastor

July 21—Movie Night "I Can Only Imagine" beginning at 6:00pm

Beatrice—Rev. Mack Elkin, Pastor

July 29—Fifth Sunday Night Singing and Ice Cream Social

Bethsaida—Rev. Don Bell, Pastor

July 21—Church Security Class; 8:00am-5:00pm with lunch provided; The cost is \$50.00; bring your own pistol and 150 rounds to shoot. There are 2 open spots—Call Rev. Don Bell @ 251-362-5169 to make reservations.

Enon (BBA) -

July 22—Homecoming; 11:00am; Speaker—Rev. C. L. Langford; meal to follow

July 23-25—Revival; 7:00pm; Speaker—Dr. Pete Dunn

Enon (PB)—Rev. Mike Yancey, Pastor

July 1—Movie "I Can Only Imagine" followed by ice cream and cake; 5:00pm; everyone welcome.

Goodway—Rev. Tony Bayles, Pastor

July 8—Homecoming; Speaker—Dr. Steve Dunn

July 8-11—Revival; Speaker—Dr. Steve Dunn

Gulletts Bluff—Rev. Reid Nettles, Pastor

July 22-25—Revival; 7:00pm; guest Evangelist will be Rev. Terry Harden; music will be led by Mr. Larry Burt.

Mineola—Rev. Jeff Kirchharr, Pastor

July 22—Homecoming; 10:00am; No Sunday School; Speaker—Rev. Henry Wilson; meal to follow.

July 23-26—Revival; 7:00pm; Speaker—Rev. Wayne McMillian

Southside—Rev. Mike Crowe, Pastor

July 4—Celebration during worship; 11:00am; meal to follow

Vredenburg-

July 14—Fun Day; 9:00am; lunch will be served; There will be Bible Stories, crafts, games, and food.

Vacation Bible School Dates

June 29-30—Mineola; June 29: 5:00-8:00; June 30: 9:00-4:00;

July 1: Family Night; 6:00

July 8-12—Old Salem; July 8: 5:00-registration; 6:00 -8:00—class;

July 10-12: 5:30-8:00

July 9-11—Mt. Olive; 5:30-7:30

July 9-12—Christian Way; 5:00-7:00

July 11-13—Bible Baptist; 6:00

July 14—Water fun for the children

August 1-3—Gulletts Bluff; 6:30-8:30