



People of Purpose

Piedmont Baptist Association

February, 2010

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Church News:

- Please make a note that whenever the Amherst County Public School system is closed due to bad weather then the Associational Office will also be closed. If the school system is running a later schedule, we will be on our regular schedule here in the office if at all possible. Thank you!
- **Jonesboro Bapt. Church** has a Christian oriented group called the *Young at Heart* that meets at the church for fellowship meals, crafts, picnics, movies, and programs. They invite you to their next meeting February 6th, 3 PM. The theme is "*Valentines Are Not Just For Couples*". Guest speaker will be Jake Stewart. Invite your family and friends, bring a food to share, and come to an evening of fun, and fellowship. Following the meal, those who would like to stay will be viewing the inspiration for the game of life movie *Flywheel*. Call Rev. Wayne Underwood #434-277-8614 or Jeanne Houser # 434-277-8215 for more information.
- **Amherst Bapt. Church** is looking for a part time music director. Call the church at 434-946-7823.
- **Rockfish Valley Bapt. Church** has a "bunch" of used/old Sunday School literature if anyone can use it. Call Barbara Hardy at 434-361-1253.

Pray for the PBA Church of the Week

Feb. 7 Nueva Vida Bapt. Church
Feb. 14 Oak Hill Bapt. Church
Feb. 21 Piney River Bapt. Church
Feb. 28 Ridgecrest Bapt. Church

PERMANENT WMU WATCHWORD

"Labourers together with God"
(1Cor. 3:9KJV)

We will not have a WMU Executive Committee meeting in February. I will mail information. Please remember Focus on WMU week (Feb. 14-21). This is a fantastic opportunity to welcome women into your WMU fellowship. Feb. 20, 2010, is Children's Ministry Day. Take time to lead them in a ministry project by helping at a food bank, hold birthday parties at nursing homes, host a dinner for seniors at your church or deliver care packages to shut-ins). Children's Ministry Day is about teaching children to minister to others.

Volunteers are needed to assist in preparations for Crossroads' 25th Anniversary Celebration (May 22, 2010). Please contact me at 277-8620 or email me (feshel@ceva.net).

Calendar Events

February, 2010

- 4 Network of Assoc. Workers - Roslyn Conf. Center
- 11 Tax & Financial Support Planning Seminar - West Lynchburg Baptist Church
- 14-21 **WMU Focus Week**
- 15 Tax & Financial Support Planning Seminar - 1st Bapt. Ch. Charlottesville
- 16 **Pastor's Conf.** - Clifford BC; 10:30 a.m.
- 20 **Children's Ministry Day**
- 21 Virginia Baptist Colleges and Schools Day
- 22 **PBA Executive Committee - Ministry Center; 7:30 p.m.**

March, 2010

- 7-14 **Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and prayer for North American Missions**
- 16 **Pastors' Conference 10:30 a.m., Mt. Shiloh Baptist Church**
- 21 Special Education Day

Director of Missions

Several of our churches are searching for pastors. As of this writing, eight churches out of the twenty-three churches in our association are without a regular pastor. While this situation is not always critical, it does present a challenge and an opportunity for each congregation. There are many reasons why pastors leave churches including, but not limited to, retirement, a call to another church, resignation for personal reasons, forced termination, or the need for a time of rest and renewal. As your Director of Missions, I am intimately involved in assisting these churches during their transition period as they consider interim and permanent pastors. Many others in our association and in the Baptist General Association in Richmond are actively helping also. I have been very pleased at the high level of cooperation and assistance on the part of so many to make it possible that our churches secure pastors as soon as possible.

Now while all of this help and concern is good, not much is going to happen unless we turn to Almighty God in prayer for His direction. Jesus said as recorded in Luke 4:18-19, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of

the Lord." And in Matthew 7:7-8. we read these words our Lord Jesus Christ, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him hat knocketh it shall be opened."

I strongly encourage each church to be in prayer to our Heavenly Father in Jesus' Name for the churches searching for pastoral leadership and for all of the churches in the association. Set aside one Sunday or another day for concerted prayer that we will meet the challenges before us and seek God's help. We live in rather dangerous, uncertain times, but we worship a God who does not change, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We worship a God who loves us so much that He gave His life for us in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. He wants us to minister in His Name. He wants His churches to preach and teach and reach out, and He wants us to pray for one another in Jesus' Name!

Finally, I quote from Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Israel W. "Jake" Stewart, Jr.

Interim Director of Missions

Hispanic Ministry

Let me share with you some interesting facts that I read in the April, 2009 *The Watchman*. "Currently, of the world's more than 2 billion Christians, about one fourth reside in Europe, though the truth is that most of them are merely names on baptismal registries of dwindling churches. Perhaps 200 million can be counted in North America - Mexico, USA and Canada. But the startling, and wonderful fact is, that our faith is moving south and east. Within the next decade, at the present rate of growth, there will be more than 600 million Christians in Africa, with another 600 plus million in South America, and perhaps 500 million in Asia.

Someone has lightly said that the Christian church is becoming a Southern religion, because most Christians will live in the global South." What does that mean for us in Central Virginia? Hispanics in Latin America are aggressively evangelizing with more and more Hispanics coming to the United States that are evangelical. Even though much of our ministry here in the PBA is to people who will return one day to their countries of origin, if they go back as believers in Christ, then we are helping the churches grow to the South of us.

Nueva Vida has been averaging a worship attendance of 11 during these winter months. I had the opportunity to share the gospel with 4 homes and Bibles have been given out. I took a group of men over to Dickie Brothers Orchard and shared with them the story of *The Prodigal Son*. The congregation also collected \$182.00 for the Lottie Moon international missions offering. Louis Orsatti from Richmond preached on January 17 and Pastor Wayne Underwood of Jonesboro Church drove the van. While we are not having meals every Sunday, the monthly meals that churches provide are appreciated since we have so many single men who come.

Your support is appreciated!

Evan Johnson

Hispanic Ministries Coordinator, PBA



Yes, it is Winter and the holiday season. But, it's never too early to start thinking about VBS!

Vacation Bible School

Do you have a director?
Have you set your dates?
Plan to come to train with the new materials the end of March (*date to be set*).

Wanted:



Nueva Vida is in need of a drum set and bass guitar with amplifier for use in Sunday worship services.

Anyone who has these items for sale or would like to donate them, please

contact Evan Johnson at 946 - 7795 or you can e-mail him at evanjohnson7@gmail.com

Looking for a home: Handsome homeless hound seeks Godly home with pickup truck..."My name is Pogo (because I jump up and down like I'm on a pogo stick when someone comes to see me.) I would dearly love a home with an outdoorsy master who likes to take me on walks and runs and truck rides. I'm a sweet, thoughtful guy who gets along great with all humans and canines. I've had my shots and I'm strong and lively but they tell me it'll be hard for me to find a home because I'm already 8 years old. I don't know why: I'm still a youngster at heart and love to run and I'm gentle, unlike a wild puppy. I can be adopted through Almost Home Adoption Center in Nelson County or call my foster mom, Cindy, at 434-922-7529 to get to meet me or find out more about me. Thanks."

