



Laurel Link

Quarterly Newsletter & Highlights

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world’s greatest problem – **LOSTNESS**. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence.



She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*. Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel.

Usually during the month of December churches all over the world collect and send monetary gifts to support Southern Baptist Missionaries. It is important to emphasize that these gifts can be collected and sent at any time. For that reason I am encouraging our churches to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering even in January. These gifts have an eternal reward. The graphic to the right shows the impact of your missionaries in 2022.



Pastor Birthdays

January Birthdays

- 28 Paul Cooper
- 30 Barry Robinson

February Birthdays

- 20 Craig Morgan
- 22 Geral Wells

March Birthdays

- 17 David Smith
- 24 Claude Maggard

Pastor Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

- 2 Craig & Ruth Morgan
- 4 Paul & Kimberly Cooper
- 15 Andrew & Corrie Dyer
- 31 David & Leslie Smith

February Anniversaries

- 9 Vince & Tricia Mullins

March Anniversaries

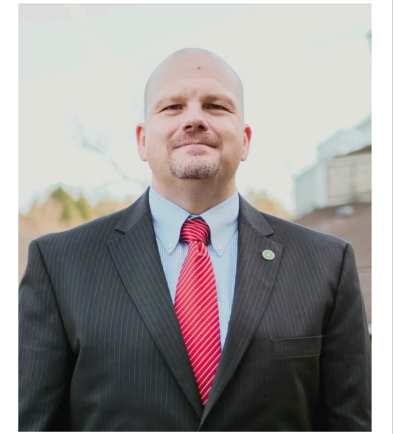
- 6 Barry & Kim Robinson

Holiday Office Closings

- Jan 15 MLK

January Executive Board Meeting Jan 29, 2024

I am very excited about our January Executive Board Meeting later in January. We will be discussing some important areas pertaining to ministries and organizational structure. We will also hear a word from Dr Charlie Goodman the President of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. Dr Goodman will be speaking during our pastor / layman conference after our brief executive board meeting. Each church has two board members; one of which is the pastor and the other is elected by the church. Guests are permitted to come and observe but cannot vote in the business session of the executive board. I look forward to see you all January 29, 2024 at 7:00pm at the Association Ministry Center.



Dr. Charlie Goodman
President Clear Creek Baptist
Bible College

Upcoming Activities in our Missions Organizations



The WMU director's meeting will be **January 15** at the LRBA Ministry Center at 6:00pm.

The Quarterly WMU meeting will be **January 18** at Liberty Baptist Church beginning at 6:30pm



Our next Baptist Men's Brotherhood meeting will be **February 1 at West London Baptist Church**. There will be a meal, meal will begin at 6:00pm and meeting will follow

First Impressions & Guest Next Steps Workshop Feb 22, 2024

In February we will host a workshop that will help our church leaders with tools that will help attract guests and provide insights on how to keep the guests that we reach. Our guest presenter for this workshop is Mike James. Mike is the co-author of the book *VELCRO Church* with Ken Hemphill. Mike currently serves as the Discipleship pastor at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. The workshop will be held at FBC East Bernstadt in the Life Center. We will have a meal beginning at 6:00pm and two plenary sessions. We plan to conclude around 8:30. This is designed for pastors and lay leaders.



Mike James
Guest Presenter

Reach Evangelism Conference March 11-12, 2024

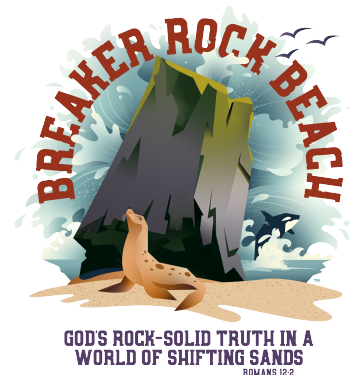


I am very excited about this year's Reach Evangelism Conference that our state convention puts together every year. The conference is packed full of encouraging messages and break-out sessions that equip and minister to each person. I have the opportunity to introduce Jay Stract this year as one of the plenary speakers. When I was a teenager, I attended a youth evangelism conference in Frankfort KY, Jay Stract was the evangelist for that event. God used Jay Stract to call me into ministry nearly 30 years ago! I have an opportunity to say thank you to Jay for

letting God use him to impact my life. I believe the Reach conference is one of the best events the Ky Baptist Convention puts together each year for pastors and laypersons. I want to extend an offer to our pastors. If you would like to attend the reach conference and finances for this event is an issue. Let the association pay your way. We will cover your hotel expense for you and your wife to take that burden off of you. There is something for everyone at the Reach conference. Let me know by **January 31** so I can make hotel bookings. Plan to ask off work for the Monday and Tuesday. To learn more about reach use this link. <https://www.kybaptist.org/reach/>

VBS Training Event March 23, Richmond

Vacation Bible School is one of the greatest ministry for kids and families that most church will do all year. This year I am encouraging you to attend the VBS training event at FBC Richmond on March 23. The event will be led by kids ministry specialist. Even if you do not use the Lifeway VBS this event will help you lead a VBS experience and reach your community for Christ. Our association will be participating in the VBS incentive plan again this year, meaning that the association will receive a 5% commission of VBS sales when churches order through the association. Let me know how I can serve your church this year through VBS.



A Word From our Director

I am grateful for our churches and leaders, I recently had conversations with pastors during the week of Christmas and was greatly encouraged to learn what was taking place in their respective congregations. 2023 was a tough year. Our association experienced the disaster of burst water pipes from freezing temperatures. We also experienced the loss of loved ones especially the recent loss of a fellow pastor friend Bro. Greg Deaton. Hope is not lost. God continues to show his grace and kindness to us in our delights and in our despairs. 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us that we are to be ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks for a the reason for the hope within you. No matter the circumstance, we need to be prepared to share the hope that is in Christ Jesus. Undoubtedly we are going to walk with those who are experiencing many trials and perhaps, are wondering where is God in all of this. We should be quick to give a thoughtful, compassionate answer; that our hope is in Jesus. I look forward to what 2024 may bring us.





Laurel River Baptist Association

114 Carter Dr. London KY 40741

Office: 606-864-9441

Visit us on the web: www.lrbaky.com

We Serve Churches in Their Mission of Making Disciples



Laurel River
Baptist Association

114 Carter Dr. London, KY 40741

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