

MINISTERS CONFERENCE

We were blessed to have John Sawyer from the Middle District Baptist Association at the October conference. He presented on the offering of Emotionally Healthy Spirituality training at the MDBA and the benefits to churches and pastors. For the November conference, Michael Fields will bring the topic. The meeting is at the Association Complex.

The rest of the dates for the conferences are: December 4, January 8 (held at Oakland Baptist), February 5, March 4, April 8, and May 6. Please put these dates on your calendar so that you can come and learn with us. As always, we invite your associate and staff ministers to join us as well.

As we go into this season, let's meet together to encourage and build each other up. If you have questions or concerns, I can be reached by phone at 804-896-2859 or by email at: madickey70@gmail.com.

In Christ,
Mike

PRAYER CONCERNS

Associational Ministries & Churches
Camp Kehukee
WMU Ministries
Missionaries
War torn Countries
Storm Victims

MISSION COUNCIL

Greetings in the name of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST!

We sent \$1,000.00 to Hawaii to aid in recovery from the fires. We have opened discussions into next on a Partnership Mission.

We are again supporting our churches who are collecting Christmas gifts for West Virginia, by providing the use of Kehukee's basement on Nov. 27th and 28th from 9-2. We ask your prayers for them and those who are participating in Operation Christmas Child and the Missions projects of all of our churches.

We have monies for community missions if you need assistance. We also could use more members to expand our discussions on missions work. All interested parties are asked to check the Gleam to check for dates and times.

Thank for your prayers and giving! May YOU enjoy GOD'S Richest BLESSINGS in the coming Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year seasons.

In CHRIST,
Tom





HOPE

---IN CHRIST---

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (Rom 12:12)

What comes to mind when you think about hope? Oftentimes, the word *hope* is defined as wishful thinking. “I hope to have a good day.” “I hope to get the promotion.” “I hope my loved one is healed.” Hope in Christ is more than mere wishfulness. It is an assurance of the future founded on the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul believed biblical hope was a firm belief that God works all things for our good and His glory. Romans 12:9–16 (ESV) says this foundation of hope in Christ propels us into action so we will be genuine in love, patient in tribulation, constant in prayer, and compassionate to all. Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome to urge the believers there to unify as the body of Christ. Selfish ambition and pride divide, but the gospel creates unity, bringing the church together because of our hope in Christ. At the Last Supper, Jesus prepared His disciples to go into the world and make His name known. In addition, He gave them a new commandment to love others as He loved them. He explained: “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35 ESV). For Paul, this type of love was worth working for. He fervently sought to love the church, asking nothing from anyone. This was out of a deep desire for the church to know Christ. In 2 Corinthians 12:15 (ESV), Paul said, “I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls.” The ministry of the church is not an easy job, but it is a true labor of love worthy of the effort. Genuine love is exhausting, but the reward is great!

It’s not too late to participate in the **Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer** (held on the first Monday of November)! Just pick another day in the month of November to organize your missions group to pray, praise God for the work He is doing around the world, and possibly collect an offering for those efforts. Helpful information is available at bwawd.org/day-of-prayer. Don’t miss this opportunity to gather your missions group and pray for women and missions all around the world!

The **PBA WMU Leadership Team** will meet on Wednesday, **November 1st** at 10:00 am at the PBA Complex in Petersburg. Team Members, please join us as we begin the process of preparing nominations to be presented at our WMU annual meeting in April 2024.

December 3rd – 10th is the **Week of Prayer for International Missions**, and the **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, an annual offering collected by Southern Baptists to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by the Woman’s Missionary Union in honor of Miss Moon, the missionary who urged churches to start it and support it sacrificially. This year’s theme is **IMPACTING LOSTNESS TOGETHER** and 100% of gifts received for this offering will enable gospel transformation among the unreached. (Further info can be found at imb.org).

If your church or missions group is planning to host (or interested in hosting) a **Missions Prayer Breakfast** during this year’s Week of Prayer, please let me or someone on our WMU Leadership Team know. We would love to support and assist you in any way needed.

Tammie Frazier

Association WMU Director

FROM THE DESK OF... INTERIM DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

Ken Hutchinson, author of "Before All Hell Breaks Loose", made this statement. "If you're on the mind of God, if you're in the thoughts of heaven, you have value beyond your wildest dreams." What an amazing promise that our Lord gives us. He cares for us in such a way we cannot even imagine the depth of His love.

November is a wonderful time of year and we have so much to be thankful for. Knowing that we are on the mind of God is an awesome thought. It is a season of family, friends, and feasting.

I am reminded of the story about the feeding of the five thousand. Hungry multitudes cover the hillside. Jesus takes the young lad's lunch, lifts it up and says the familiar prayer: "Bless this food to the nourishment of our bodies and our bodies to Thy service. Amen." Actually, I'm pretty sure it did **not** happen that way.

There are two words in the New Testament used in connection with praying before meals. The first is "eulogeo", the word we get the word eulogy from, and it really means to offer praise. But in the case of the five thousand it wasn't the food Jesus was "speaking well of" it was his Father. We should offer praise to our Father when we eat.

The second word is the Greek word "eucharisteo", which is a word we associate with Holy Communion. It means to be thankful or offer thanks. What Jesus was doing at the Passover meal was offering to his Father the traditional blessings when bread and wine were eaten.

Now there is nothing wrong in asking a blessing from God. In fact, Jesus taught us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread", but only after praise: "Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done..."

So, this Thanksgiving, don't ask the blessing. Instead, offer a blessing. Remember, you have value beyond your wildest dreams because God is continually thinking about you.

May God be on your mind this Thanksgiving!

Pastor Fred

Kehukee Financial Support Team

The year 2023 has been a difficult year for Camp Kehukee in a number of ways, yet rewarding at the same time. As Pastor Wayne Williams stated in a recent meeting, "**God will see us through.....He always does**". What TRUTH! A quarter million dollars has been spent on much needed Spain Conference Center repairs, some quite extensive. Although the camp pool is yet to be completed, the heart of "OUR" Christian mission camp is the Spain Conference Center, which is finished and very beautiful except for a couple minor items. Already, individuals, couples, church groups and PBA churches have met the challenge and provided funds to cover monthly payments of \$1035 each for the required loan through the last month of year 2023. This is a huge **BLESSING!** We proposed initially that every PBA church consider committing to one monthly loan payment in the first 48 months. Consider....not required! Smaller churches who may already be facing financial struggles of their own, could partner with another small church for a single \$1035 monthly payment. We pray and hope that the very positive actions shown thus far will continue in years to come.

Therefore, the single biggest issue remaining....and a costly issue....is the Camp Kehukee pool. The pool house piping, filters, connections, and changeover to a saltwater pool is basically complete. Lines to the pool are unblocked and fully functional. The expensive pool cover cost is set aside. We could fill and use the pool now, but to properly and adequately complete the pool requires extensive surface and tile work. If not done correctly at the present, it will cost much more later. The profits from the October 28, PBA Harvest Fest, fundraiser BBQ chicken meal, and multiple private donations are all going to finance pool repair/upgrade. However, we are still many thousands of dollars short, thus making necessary other feasible fund raising avenues. *Do you have any suggestions? Can you help with a pool designated monetary gift...possibly in honor of or in memory of a loved one?* Are you now a part of the "Friends of Kehukee", having provided thousands and thousands of dollars towards Camp Kehukee and its continued mission effort?

Thanks to each of you for your prayers, support and encouragement. You all have been an on going inspiration to us. In fact, you are what keeps us motivated, especially when we may feel like throwing up our hands and calling it quits.

Again, thank you!!

Hugh G Mumford - Kehukee Financial Support Team Leader 804-731-6095

ASSOCIATIONAL CALENDAR NOVEMBER—DECEMBER 2023

Nov 3-5		Women's Get Away – Eagle Eyrie
Nov 5		Daylight Savings Ends
Nov 6	10:30 AM	Ministers Conference – PBA Complex
Nov 8	9:30 AM	Budget & Finance – PBA Complex
Nov 23		Happy Thanksgiving – Office Closed
Nov 27—28	9:00 AM—2:00 PM	Appalachian Christmas Packing Gifts—Camp Kehukee
Dec 3 – 10		Lottie Moon/Week of Prayer for International Missions
Dec 4	10:30 AM	Ministers Conference – PBA Complex
Dec 13	9:30 AM	Budget & Finance Meeting – PBA Complex
Dec 21 – Jan 1		Christmas - Association Office Closed

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