



Happy 4th of July
JULY 4, 1776

Bethel Baptist Association

July 2020

“Strengthening Churches in Sharing Christ”

the **BETHEL NEWSLETTER 2020**



2020 SPARK CONFERENCE

GO GEORGIA 2020 GOES ONLINE **PREMIERES AUGUST 28, 2020**

What Makes This Event Different?

There is no gas or lodging expense. That's hundreds in savings! Attend from your own computer and still be at home with your family or church. It doesn't matter at what stage you are in ministry, there is something for everyone at SPARK. This conference is designed with YOU in mind, no matter your experience or skill level! You can attend all day August 28 as the sessions release in real time. After that, during the free portion of the event, you can watch online anytime. Each presentation will be available via free access for 3 weeks.

*All Content will be FREE from August 29 through September 22 if an individual or church has registered before August 28th.

<https://www.thesparkconference.com/home>

Missionary Musings

As we prepare to celebrate our national independence on July 4, this year many Americans are feeling apprehensive and even fearful about the future of our great country. We **do** have much to celebrate, as the United States is still the strongest and the free-est nation on earth, and countless men and women have sacrificed their very lives to establish and protect the freedoms that we enjoy. It is appropriate that we honor their labors with a big national party every Fourth of July, and that we express our thanks to God for allowing us to live in such a country. Each year thousands of oppressed and disadvantaged people from all over the world endure great hardships to come to the United States in hopes of finding a better life.

But this summer's celebration is tempered by a growing unrest in our nation. Between continuing public health concerns over the deadly coronavirus and the economic hardships brought about by our attempts to mitigate and contain it, and the renewing of racial tensions with the accompanying protests and riots across our land, many Americans are scared on this Fourth of July. We are scared because our nation seems to be imploding from within and that we are beginning to lose those basic freedoms that our forefathers fought and died for - such as Freedom of Religion, the freedom to worship God and exercise our religious beliefs without government control; and Freedom of Speech, the freedom to express diverse points of view in a civil and rational manner with-out censorship.

So how are we to approach this Independence Day 2020 as Christians? Over the past three months, I have been

repeatedly drawn back to one of our most oft-quoted Old Testament verses. In **2 Chronicles 7:14**, God gave the nation of Israel both a challenge and a promise:

“If...My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (NASB)

Like so many verses in the Bible, we really like this one because we have a tendency to misinterpret it. We read this verse and we think to ourselves:

“Yeah! If only all of those trouble-makers and anarchists and atheists and rabble-rousers and _____ ‘s (opposing political party, you fill in the blank) would just **repent** and get right with God, then our country would be made right again!”

The problem is, that is not what the verse says. In 2 Chron. 7:14, God say “If **My** people, who are called by **My** name...” will humbly pray and seek after Him and repent of their sins, then He will heal and bless the country in which they live. In the New Testament context, that means **Christians!** **We** are the one who must do these things before God will bless our nation!

I don't now about you, but humbling myself is not easy. Nor is prayer. Nor is seeking after God with all my mind, soul and strength, when I am so easily distracted by the pursuit of wealth, entertainment, and all the other

Wishing you a blessed
Independence Day

Now the Lord is the Spirit, where the Spirit
of the Lord is there freedom. 1 JOHN 3:16

Have a Safe and Joyful July 4th Celebration

attractions of this world. And turning from my wicked ways? First, we have to get real honest with ourselves and admit what those wicked ways are:

Materialism,
Self-centeredness,
Indifference,
Racism,
Infidelity,
Hypocrisy,
Envy...

And the list goes on and on. I think you get my point. Church, we can complain all we want about the current state of affairs in our nation. But 2 Chron. 7:14 states that “the ball is in our court.” Will we as God's people in America humble ourselves, get serious about prayer, put Him first in our lives, and repent of **our** sins?

“Then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

Amen. So be it!
And have a safe and Happy Fourth.

Bro. James



Pray for the Associational Mission Strategist Search Committee!

Cathy Arnold
(Morgan Baptist Church)

Ryan Lancaster
(Arlington Baptist Church)

David McFather
(Damascus Baptist Church)
Randolph County

Chris Sumner
(Southside Baptist Church)
Blakely

Karin Tabb
(Milford Baptist Church)



MISSIONS

Coordinating Committee

Bethel Baptist Association
Missions Coordinating Committee
Thursday, July 23rd
Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
Requests for New Work Fund assistance must be in to the BBA Office by Tuesday, July 21st..

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

May 28, - June 17, 2020

Arlington	
Bethel	
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,589.77
Bluffton	650.44
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	351.45
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	446.32
Edison	87.00
Enterprise	
Faith	
Fort Gaines	1,157.80
Georgetown	416.66
Leary	
Milford	
Morgan	
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	200.00
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	127.10
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	
Shiloh	833.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatchee	
Springvale	
Vilulah	50.00
Individuals	190.00
TOTAL	6,837.04
Balances June 17	
General Fund	10,754.87
Designated Fund	10,149.08
New Work Fund	7,694.16

UNDER GOD



Indivisible

Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.

Luke 4:8



“Barnabas”

Group Meeting on Tuesday July 7th @ 11 am. Association Office

ADMINISTRATIVE



Meeting

July 20th @ 6:30 pm Association Office

**Seek the Lord while He may be found. Call on Him while He is near...
Isaiah 55:6**

Pray for our country!



Bethel Baptist Association 124 Bay Ave. PO Box 398 Edison, GA 39846	<h2 style="margin: 0;"><i>The Bethel Baptist Association</i></h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Dr. James Holloway, Association Mission Strategist Kathy Hardwick, Ministry Assistant Joyce Jarrett, Financial Assistant</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Phone 229.835.2887 FAX 229.835.2023</p>	Presort Standard Mail (B) US Postage Paid Mailed from Zip Code 39846

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

July 2020

- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 7 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- 20 Administrative Team - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm
- 23 Missions Coordinating Committee - Assoc. Office, 6:30 pm

August 2020

- 4 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- 16-22 Brother James away on vacation
- 28 "SPARK" Conference Premiers Online

September 2020

- 1 "Barnabas" Group Meeting at 11:00 am; Assoc. Office
- 7 LABOR DAY (Assoc. Office Closed)
- 12 Regional Sunday School Training Event - Bainbridge FBC, 8:30 am-12:15 pm

NOTE: All dates, times, and locations are subject to change due to the ongoing public health situation. Team members and committees should watch for direct communications from us (mail, email, and text messaging) concerning each event as it approaches.

