



SOUTHWEST GEORGIA MEN'S CONFERENCE
"God and Country"
with Speaker Col. Steve Russell

September 6, 2014
First Baptist Church Pelham
239 Primitive Avenue, Pelham, GA 31779
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon



Speaker
Steve Russell

DOOR PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN!

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICE, \$10.00 EACH

**Bethel Baptist Association Office
will be closed
September 1st for Labor Day**

LABOR DAY



*First Baptist Church Blakely
will be showing the movie
"Mom's Night Out"
on September 7th at 6PM.*

Missions Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next meeting of the Missions Coordinating Committee is set for **Monday, Sept. 15th**. We will meet at the **Associational Office** in Edison at **7PM**. Please submit requests to the Association Office by **Thursday, Sept. 11th**.



Soul'd Out Quartet

Soul'd Out Quartet will be at Shiloh Baptist Church, 1974 Cotton Hill Road, Fort Gaines, on Saturday, September 20, 2014, 7:00 PM.

Missionary Musings

In my 15 years of service here as the Associational Missionary, most of you know that I rarely speak or write about the subject of associational finances. We are blessed in the Bethel Association with a family of cooperating and supportive churches. But this month I must make an exception and alert you all to a growing problem before it becomes a financial crisis.

It's September, and many of our churches are beginning their budget planning process for 2015. Well, the process of projecting a budget for the Bethel Baptist Association for the 2014-2015 fiscal year has been anything but routine. The BBA Stewardship Committee has attempted to address the issue of declining or flat receipts and increasing expenses by proposing a revised associational budget of **\$118,396** for the coming year. This total represents a **decrease of 8%** from our current operating budget, and includes the first reduction in staff salaries in many years.

A copy of this revised spending plan is being mailed to all BBA Executive Committee members this month for their review. There will be a special **called meeting** of the Executive Committee on Thursday evening, September 18, 7PM, to approve the revised budget. Then the proposed budget will be voted on at our Fall Meeting in Edison on **October 7th**.

Even though \$118,396 is a significantly reduced budget, it is still very much a "faith budget." To fund it, at least \$114,496 would be needed in contributions from the churches. This is nearly \$5,000 over what we can expect to receive this year from the churches **at the current rate of giving**.

The Stewardship Committee and the Administrative Team agree that our financial challenges must be addressed from **both** directions. We need to **curb spending** at the present time by reducing the budget, on the one hand, while at the same time working to **increase revenue**. By giving diligence to both sides of the equation, we can begin to restore the financial margin that our Bethel Association enjoyed prior to our national recession, and ultimately be able to grow and expand our ministries once more.

The Stewardship Committee and Administrative Team are proposing two strategies for increasing revenue:

- 1) That each member church in the Bethel Baptist Association be encouraged to increase its regular contributions to the General Fund of the BBA by **1/2%** of the church's undesignated receipts. (NOTE: In 2012-2013, the churches of the Bethel Baptist Association gave \$107,243 to the association out of \$3,387,853 in undesignated receipts, or 3%. Using those same figures, if every church increased its contribution by 1/2% of undesignated receipts, it would mean a net increase of \$16,939 to the operating budget of the association!)
- 2) That an annual Season of Prayer and special emphasis on Associational Missions be observed throughout the association, and a **special offering** be received during this emphasis for the general fund of the BBA. This emphasis/offering could be planned and promoted by the WMU in cooperation with the associational staff, including an announced goal for each year's offering. The suggested goal for this offering in its first year (2015) is \$5,000.

I join your Stewardship Committee and Administrative Team in believing that this holistic approach, bathed in prayer and trusting our great God to bless His people (the churches), will result in renewed financial strength and greater Kingdom impact for our beloved Bethel Baptist Association.

To God be the Glory!
Bro. James

Bro. James

Bethel Baptist Association
2014 Annual Fall Meeting
Tuesday, October 7th
4:30 PM
Edison Baptist Church

Children's Home Truck Loading

At the Fall Meeting on October 7, 2014 beginning at 3:00 PM prior to the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Clorox 2, Pine Sol
 Paper plates, Paper cups, and Plastic utensils
 Gatorade, Ranch Dressing
 100% fruit juices, and bottled water
 Gift cards are always Appreciated (Wal-Mart for example)



Bethel Baptist Association will be participating in the Backpacks for Appalachia ministry this year. However, there will be different guidelines for collection at the Associational office. The office will be the designated collection site from October 27 to November 6, then the backpacks will be transported to the Georgia Baptist Convention in Macon. All backpacks must be packed in uniform size boxes (18x18x16 medium packing boxes) before being dropped off at the office. Please write the number of backpacks in the boxes on the outside of each box. The boxes can be purchased at Lowe's, Wal-mart, or Home Depot. If you are filling a single backpack, you can bring it to the office and it will be placed in a box with others. The goal for the association is 400, therefore, if you are taking your backpacks to the convention yourself, please let the Association Office know how many so they can be counted toward our goal.

Go to missiongeorgia.org/backpacks-for-appalachia for detailed instructions.

CHURCH CONTRIBUTIONS

July 28, 2014 thru August 26, 2014

Arlington	832.09
Bethel	1,343.74
Beulah	
Blakely FBC	1,325.35
Bluffton	123.53
Carnegie	
Coleman	
Colomokee	250.08
Cuthbert FBC	512.50
Damascus (E)	
Damascus (R)	251.83
Edison	129.54
Enterprise	
Faith	500.00
Fort Gaines	665.43
Georgetown	416.67
Leary	449.65
Milford	763.00
Morgan	500.00
Morris	
Mt. Gilead	
Mt. Hebron	342.07
Mt. Vernon	
New Bethel	
New Hope	396.72
New Zion	
Rehoboth	
Salem	
Shellman FBC	600.00
Shiloh	750.00
Southside	225.00
Sowhatchee	402.15
Springvale	
Vilulah	
Individuals	
TOTAL	10,779.35
Balances	
General Fund	6,041.39
Designated Fund	9,533.84
New Work Fund	10,971.98
World Missions Conf.	2,606.93

Thank You

Bethel Baptist
Association
124 Bay Ave.
PO Box 398
Edison, GA
39846

Change Service
Requested

The Bethel Baptist Association

James Holloway, Associational Missionary
Jana Youmans, Ministry Assistant
Phone 229.835.2887
FAX 229.835.2023

E-mail: bethelbaptist@windstream.net

Website: www.bethelassociation.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30PM

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Permit # 7

Calendar of Events

September, 2014

- 1 LABOR DAY (Associational Office Closed)
Ministers' Family Fellowship-Bennett's Lake House
(147 Pataula Heights Lane), 12 NOON-3PM
- 6 "Step Up" Regional Men's Rally-Pelham FBC,
8:30AM-12 NOON
- 10 Church Revitalization "Round Table" Group
Assoc. Office, 10AM-12NOON
- 15 Missions Coordinating Com.-Assoc. Office, 7PM
- 18 Called Executive Committee Meeting
(Proposed Budget)-Assoc. Office, 7PM
- 22 New Zion (Mission) Steering Committee
Freeman Rd., 7PM

October, 2014

- 7 Annual BBA Fall Meeting (and Children's Home Truck
Loading)-Edison BC, 4:30PM
- 13 Bi-vocational "Barnabas" Group-Assoc. Office, 7PM
- 14 "Barnabas" Group-Assoc. Office, 11AM
- 27-11/6 Receive Backpacks for Appalachia at Assoc. Office
(8:30AM-2:30PM, Mon.-Thurs.)

November, 2014

- 3 Bi-vocational "Barnabas" Group-Assoc. Off., 7PM
- 4 "Barnabas" Group-Assoc. Office, 11AM
- 6 Last Day to receive Backpacks for Appalachia at
Assoc. Office (8:30AM-2:30PM)
- 10-11 Georgia Baptist Convention-Ingleside BC, Macon, GA
- 17 Admin. Team, Assoc. Office, 6:30PM
- 22 "Christmas at the Fort" Festival Outreach-Ft. Gaines,
9AM-4PM
- 26-28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS (Assoc. Office Closed)

SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH



A CRISIS HAS NO SCHEDULE

Help is available 24/7 for problems with mental health, drugs, or alcohol. If you or someone you

- Threatens to or talks about hurting or killing themselves
- Feels hopeless
- Feels rage or uncontrolled anger
- Feels trapped, like there is no way out
- Engages in reckless behaviors
- Increases alcohol or drug use
- Withdraws from friends and family
- Feels anxious, agitated, or unable to sleep
- Encounters dramatic mood changes
- Sees no reason for living

Call 1-800-715-4225 * Online at mygcal.com

September