

Your

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2020

# >> FORWARD >>

*Without fear*

***“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)***

BRBA's Annual Meeting **“FORWARD WITHOUT FEAR”** will be through **ZOOM** on **October 12, 2020** (Columbus Day) at 7 pm. This will allow you to view from home, office computer or cell phone. Due to Coronavirus concerns, we felt this was the best option to hold our meeting for our association members. Everyone's safety is our top concern and having this option available, allows participation from the comfort of your home.

The meeting will last around an hour +/- with pre-recorded segments being prepared in advance for broadcast for about the first 45 minutes. The live business session will take place the last 15 minutes to vote on the proposed budget for 2021 and other items that require membership voting.

In order to participate you will need to download and install Zoom. To access the meeting link, please visit this site <https://blueridgebaptist.org/annual-meeting/> or go to BRBA website <https://blueridgebaptist.org/> and on the Front Page click **2020 Annual Meeting**. All the documents will be digital this year and accessible on our website under the Annual Meeting Link.

***There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. 1 John 4:18***



**Due to the global crisis, ALL EVENTS on the BRBA Calendar are postponed until further notice!**



Reminder of the Pastor's Breakfast ZOOM fellowships are held the **1st Wednesday** of **OCTOBER** and **NOVEMBER**. ZOOM invites will go out 2 days before each one.

## From Your Director of Missions...

I must admit ... I have never in my 6+ decades of life on this planet experienced anything like the hardship of these last few years. Then, just when I thought much was behind me - we experience a global pandemic that has taken the lives of over 2 million people worldwide, and the numbers are still climbing.

What we have all experienced seems at times like an apocalyptic movie. Lock downs, supply shortages, people running around wearing masks, restrictions on church assemblies. More people feel their mortality looming now than probably ever before. The fragility of life is on display before our very eyes. People are asking more spiritual questions about God than ever before! Anxiety and depression become rampant in this COVID-19 world we find ourselves in.



Throughout scripture we see examples of God's people who went through all kinds of severe hardship. It's in times like these that we often hear people say "*where is God in all of this?*" He's right here. In Genesis 16 when Hagar ran from the abuse she suffered under Sarai she found God while in the wilderness calling him "*The God who sees me*". When the Israelites were delivered from generations of slavery and hopeless wandering, they were provided for and protected by Jehovah Jireh, our God who provides!

Hardship of this magnitude can be crushing, and make us feel like God is distant or even absent from us ... but that is NEVER the truth at all. In our humanity - we have a tendency to try our best to by-pass suffering at all costs, and desire a good life without pain. But abundant life in Christ, and being molded in the image of our Savior can only happen through hardship and pain. Becoming what God wants you to be - usually is refined **best** in some very difficult places. When things are good and stable - we have a tendency to become prideful, and even complacent. Hardship causes us to seek after God more, and rely on His mercies because there is little else to hold onto.

Your association stands with you as you struggle to maintain church family unity during this season of life. As your DOM I pray for a hedge of protection to be around every congregation in BRBA and beyond. I stand as your ready servant. One thing I have learned through almost losing my earthly life 2 years ago ... my calling and purpose is clear (as God chose to extend my life), and I will do anything in my power to assist you and encourage you as we all follow God's lead and receive His grace and mercy during this Coronavirus.

***Psalm 116:5 reminds us "Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; Yes, our God is compassionate!"***

Blessings,

Bruce

## ***PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)***



BRBA still has supplies of **FREE** PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for your church. Should you find the need for additional supplies, please email Karen at [karen@blueridgebaptist.org](mailto:karen@blueridgebaptist.org) and we will do our best to provide as we can. As long as we are able, we will replace stock as needed.

- \* Individual Hand Sanitizers
- \* 4-ply Surgical Masks
- \* No contact thermometers (*church cost \$40.00*)
- \* Face Shields
- \* KN95 Masks
- \* Gloves

The BRBA team stands ready to assist you with any needs you may have during this season of our ministry lives!



## IN THE CHURCHES



has been meeting in a school for over a decade, and was then displaced because no churches were allowed in the schools following COVID. For a time they met at Ceresville Mansion on Sundays, but at the end of August, they moved into their NEW rental space (which is actually next door to Summit Trace Church) 5112 Pegasus Court, Unit E, Frederick MD 21704 (*in the Westview Business park behind the Chili's*). Please bring your own chair(s). Due to COVID Restrictions in place, everyone must wear a mask; must practice social distancing. There will be no food, coffee, no child care or kids' classes. We will still have **Facebook Live**.

**Fellowship Baptist Church** installed a HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE RAMP that will allow people with disabilities to attend services in their new building. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the project...what a blessing!



**West End Baptist Chapel** built newly remodeled baptismal pool. We are excited to fill this with water for a baptism service. They had their first baptism in the pool on Sunday, September 27th. If you are interested in being baptized, please see pastor Shane!!



The Southern Baptist Disaster Relief chainsaw teams from the Eastern shore of Maryland and Western Maryland took part in Phase 2 of "Operation Delaware." They were joined by other disaster relief teams from Delaware and Pennsylvania. All the volunteers were involved in major cleanup activities at family homes that were hit hard by the recent hurricane and tornadoes spun off by the hurricane.



## Prayer Request

How can we pray for you?

\* Pray for Randy Williams (former store manager at Lifeway in Hagerstown) who is going through chemotherapy treatments for cancer.

\* Pray for Thom Smith (FBC Hagerstown) who is recovering in rehab after 8 days in the hospital where the liver cancer caused him to retain fluid thus breathing difficulty.

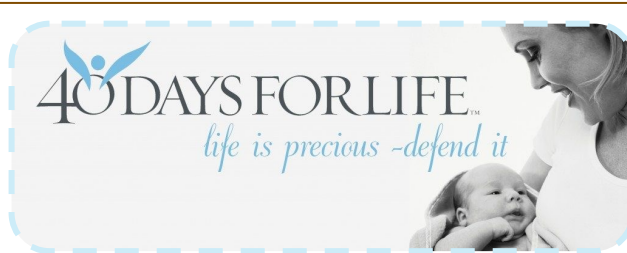
\* Pray for Linda Conley, estranged wife of DOM Bruce Conley - as she has been diagnosed with ALS.

\* Pray for Pastor Todd Heishman and his family and Valley Baptist Church in Jefferson, MD. Pastor Heishman has resigned from his position as pastor. He recently had medical test results that revealed a number of masses growing on and near his liver and pancreas. Biopsies are now being examined. Pray for the doctors and specialists that will be helping Todd with his next steps.

\* So many of our churches have had to learn how to use the internet for live streaming of services, and how to do meetings and bible studies remotely for safety during the pandemic. Pray that God will continue to teach ALL of us how we can increase our outreach and effectiveness in ministry by using these technology tools for God's Kingdom!

\* Pray for the many people who are still suffering with unemployment and other issues due to the corona virus.

\* Pray for a vaccine to be found soon for COVID-19.



The 40 Days for Life is a focused, 40-day, non-stop, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a single Planned Parenthood center or other abortion facility in your community. It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who are called to stand witness during this 24-hour-a-day presence send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion.

Knowing that "with God, all things are possible," people of faith and conscience unite in 40 days of prayer and fasting. Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand. Prayer keeps us rooted in the fact that it is our desire to carry out God's will. Fasting is a sacrifice that helps us reach beyond our own limitations with God's help. <https://www.40daysforlife.com>

*Blue Ridge Baptist Association*  
*20810A National Pike*  
*Boonsboro, MD 21713*



Partnering together to reach our Communities for Christ