



## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by Southern Baptists to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.

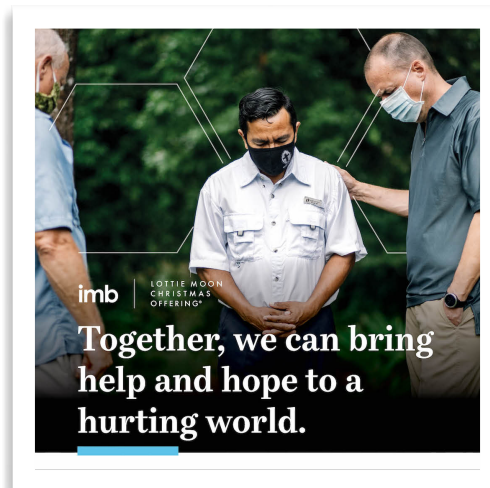
Born Charlotte Digges Moon, December 12, 1840, in Albemarle County, Virginia. Lottie rebelled against Christianity until she was in college. In December 1858, she dedicated her life to Christ and was baptized at First Baptist Church, Charlottesville, Virginia. Lottie attended Albemarle Female Institute, female counterpart to the University of Virginia. In 1861, she was one of the first women in the South to receive a master's degree. She stayed close to home during the Civil War but eventually taught school in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia.

Edmonia Moon, Lottie's sister, was appointed to Tengchow, China, in 1872. The following year, Lottie was appointed and joined her sister there. Lottie served 39 years as a missionary, mostly in China's Shantung province. She taught in a girls'

school and often made trips into China's interior to share the good news with women and girls.

Lottie Moon was passionate about people knowing Christ. She didn't hesitate to speak her mind. Today's China is a world of rapid change. It's home to 1.4 billion individuals – one-fifth of the world's population. Village dwellers flock to trendy megacities with exploding populations. And China holds its own in the world's economy. It's very different from the vast farmland Lottie Moon entered in the 1800s. But one thing hasn't changed: China's need for a Savior.

When she set sail for China, Lottie was 32 years old. She had turned down a marriage proposal and left her job, home and family to follow God's lead. Her path wasn't typical for an educated woman from a wealthy Southern family. God had gripped her with the Chinese peoples' need for a Savior. For 39 years Lottie labored, chiefly in Tengchow and P'ingtu. People feared and rejected her, but she refused to leave. The aroma of fresh-baked cookies drew people to her house. She adopted traditional Chinese dress, and she learned China's language and customs. Lottie didn't just serve the people of China; she identified with them. Many eventually accepted her. And some accepted her Savior.



# **NEW CONSTITUTION / BYLAWS & OPERATING PROCEDURES COMING IN 2022!**

**From Bruce Conley**  
Your Director of Missions

This month I finish up my 14th year as your Director of Missions for the Blue Ridge Baptist Association. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve you all, and I look forward to many more years of helping, planting, and revitalizing churches in our region so that we as a family of churches can advance the gospel in greater ways in the future.

For the last 10 years, BRBA has made it a practice to admit churches into our membership that may not necessarily come from SBC backgrounds, but their theological beliefs are extremely close to our theological beliefs found in the Baptist Faith and Message. While I have been a Southern Baptist since I was saved as a teenager, I have many friends who align with other denominations or are non-denominational in their evangelical Christian faith, church support, and attendance.

In my estimation, the enemy has been far too successful over the centuries at dividing Christians. In heaven - there will be no sections for different denominations. We will all be the bride of Christ. The melding together of all who trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation will be a glorious thing to behold. Race, creed, color, denomination, personal preferences - ALL will all fade into the distance as we who are saved from our sins will worship Jesus together for all eternity. For that reason - it made sense to me that we should accept some churches who are like minded and ascribe to similar practices as Baptists, to help insure the future health of the association, and to bless more pastors, leaders, and churches who need what we have to offer.

Our own Baptist denomination de-funded local associations a dozen years ago with the passing of GCR (Great Commission Resurgence). With BRBA adding like minded churches to our membership, we have been able to keep a healthy base of support to keep missions and ministry vibrant and healthy - so the lack of SBC or NAMB financial support wouldn't damage our local association. Too many associations across the nation have been lost, or are now financially fractured to the point where they're unable to do much to help their churches (because of GCR), and I grieve over those massive losses in our denomination.

There's one problem that has arisen with our membership strategy that I imposed as director over a decade ago. Our Constitution and By-Laws should have been changed in tandem with this new procedure for admitting churches, but it was not. The last time our governing documents were updated was in 2005. Those documents state that we can/should ONLY admit Southern Baptist churches into our membership. The fact that these documents have not been updated to reflect our adjusted membership practices is absolutely my failure in leadership, and I ask for your forgiveness for my lack of proper attention to matching the Constitution and Bylaws to the changed membership policy.

At the Annual Meeting of the BRBA in October, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee suggested an immediate change to our Constitution to make way for member churches to be admitted to the association who may not be "Southern Baptist". There is still a screening process in place to make sure the church being considered for membership is very close to Baptist beliefs and practice. The DOM and Credentials Committee can either recommend or refuse applicant churches based on researching their own statements of faith, procedures, practices, and policies. Likewise - we are asking an existing church and pastor to walk through a "watchcare" year to advise the Credentials Committee whether they believe the applying new church is a good match - or not.

In 2022 the BRBA Constitution and Bylaws Committee (appointed in 2020 during the pandemic) will be bringing a revised set of governing documents to the association for consideration and implementation - so that we can finally update these documents to match the way have been operating - not the way things were 17 years ago. There will be opportunities along the way in 2022 for pastors and church leaders to read drafts of the new documents, tell us concerns and provide input and feedback to the process of revising these vital documents. I ask that you pray fervently for the Committee as we do our work, and be open and honest in your communication with them along the way with your ideas and input.

About a year ago - our personnel committee gave me their blessing to do some Interim work at Middle River Baptist Church since they were without a pastor and a worship leader. I have still been available to any and all BRBA churches while doing that interim work, but when not needed or requested locally - I have been helping our sister church in Baltimore. I am very happy to report that my work there is drawing to a close by the end of December. They now have a new pastor AND worship leader and I'm expecting to hear great things from their church about God moving in the future there.

That means you should be seeing me making my rounds to visit YOUR church soon ... and I am asking every church in BRBA to invite me to bring a missionary report to your church in 2022, entitled: "WHY ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS?" It will help each and every member of your church understand better what I do as your associational missionary, and what BRBA does to help churches and pastors.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. - Luke 2:6-7

I pray that you and your families will have a blessed and peaceful Christmas together !!

Pastor Bruce Conley



**Pastor of Student Ministries  
Covenant Church**

Shepherdstown, West Virginia, United States

The Pastor of Student Ministries will be responsible for the church's comprehensive ministry to students (Junior/Senior High/ College) and their parents. This Pastor will provide oversight to the planning and execution of the church's ministry plan which emphasizes the gospel's connection to lost students, the spiritual growth of those reached and the shepherding required in caring and protecting them in partnership with their parents. More specifically, the position requires the recruiting, training and supervising of effective lay leadership teams in addition to being the primary voice of the ministry to the students.



**General Requirements:**

- Support the vision and values of Covenant Church.
- Support and pray for the pastors of Covenant Church.
- Make every effort to build the ministry of Covenant Church
- Be a sacrificial giver to Covenant Church
- Build the teams in the Student Ministries.



Apply at <https://www.covenantexperience.com/jobs-pastor-student>



Leonardtown Baptist Church is seeking a Youth Ministry Director. This individual must be committed to Jesus as their Lord and Savior, devoted in the practice of spiritual disciplines, biblically grounded, outgoing, energetic, skilled in communication, coachable, and highly motivated. They will love our middle and high school students and lead them to grow in their commitment to King Jesus.

In committing to be a covenant member of Leonardtown Baptist Church, the Youth Ministry Director will join a church family that has covenanted together to SEEK the Lord in Worship, STUDY God's Word, SERVE the Body of Christ, and SHARE Christ with the world.

For more information, please contact [Jason.Pamblanco@lbcmd.org](mailto:Jason.Pamblanco@lbcmd.org)



Keystone Fellowship in Montgomeryville, Pa., has 100 red chairs and nine 4ft x 8ft mobile stage panels to give away. These items are available for pickup in December. If interested, contact Tim Buck at [tbuck@keystonefellowship.com](mailto:tbuck@keystonefellowship.com).



### Prayer Requests:

Please pray for Dan Sheffield, DOM for the Susquehanna Baptist Association in MD as he has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. Surgery is not an option, so he will undergo large amounts of radiation every week day for 9 weeks. Pray for Dan, his wife Debbie, and their family as they face this cancer diagnosis

Pray for Pastor Phil Graves and his family from First Baptist Church of Brunswick as they continue the process to adopt a young girl from Ukraine. They leave for their first trip 12/12.

Praise God for Summit Trace Church's newly ordained Family Pastor Kyle Barnette



# Coming Events

## **REBOOT**

### **January 7 - 9 at Skycroft**

Reboot is the BCMD Youth Evangelism Conference; a 2-night, 3-day winter retreat focused on growth and outreach through a variety of activities. Reboot is designed as a shortened version of summer camp. Students in 6th-12th grade and adults will be challenged by Bible Study, worship, recreation, fellowship and circuits.

*See [skycroft.org/reboot](http://skycroft.org/reboot) for more info*

### **January 25, 2022 @ 9:30 am - 12:00 pm**

This seminar is designed for pastors, staff ministers, and church treasurers. If you desire a personal consultation, please indicate on the form below. You'll be notified of your scheduled time and receive a call back at the number you provide. In order to serve as many people as possible, consultations will begin at 12:30 p.m. and will be limited to no more than 20 minutes, concluding at 3:00 p.m.

The registration fee for this conference is \$25 per person (includes lunch & materials). The registration deadline is Tuesday, January 18, 2022. No refunds will be made after this date.

You'll receive a ZOOM link for the Tax Seminar on Monday, January 24, 2022.

*See [bcmd.org/event/tax-seminar](http://bcmd.org/event/tax-seminar) for info and to register*



## **BRBA recommends MBA Seminary Extension classes to be held at the First Baptist Church Rockville in Spring 2022**

The first class offered will be Disciplines of Discipleship. Students can take this class for credit in any Seminary Extension diploma or certificate program, or as a stand-alone course. It is a study of spiritual disciplines valuable to growing Christians with a focus on implementation of those disciplines in the Christian life. The class requires an eight week, one night per week commitment. The course cost is \$156 with the textbook and \$136 without materials. Classes will be taught regularly throughout the year at this site, and more courses at one time will be offered as extra instructors are enlisted. Information about Seminary Extension and a course catalog are available on their website <http://www.seminaryextension.org/default.asp>.

Seminary Extension, based in Nashville, Tenn., was established in 1951 to offer distance education to all Southern Baptists regardless of their educational backgrounds. It is flexible enough to meet the needs of persons with all levels of education, whether they have only a high school diploma, GED, or possess a graduate degree. Students may enroll for a single course or pursue a longer course of study diploma or certificate program. Students cannot earn a degree through Seminary Extension, however. Students taking individual courses may enroll without providing their high school, GED or college transcript. A transcript is required for entry into diploma or certificate programs. Students may choose from either of two study methods or a combination: correspondence and in-person classes called local study groups. Montgomery Baptist Association will offer in-person classes, but individuals who need greater flexibility can enroll anytime for any class or course of study as independent study students. Materials will be mailed to students, who can complete the course on their own within the prescribed time limit for the course. Seminary Extension courses provide an excellent learning opportunity for all church members, including both full-time and bivocational pastors, church staff, ministry leaders and individuals simply interested in personal spiritual growth for service in the local church. Seminary Extension's learning resources are rooted in a deep reverence for the Bible as the divinely inspired Word of God and the authoritative guide for human conduct. The 2000 Baptist Faith and Message is the doctrinal standard for all courses. Seminary Extension's curriculum and resources grow out of the conviction that God expects Christians to search the Scriptures with open and inquiring minds in order to know and follow God's will. Therefore, Seminary Extension designs its courses to assist Christians in the serious academic study of the Bible and its teachings in order that they may become effective in Christian ministry.

Seminary Extension offers more than fifty courses. Diploma programs provide a well-rounded course of study. They require the greatest commitment, offer the greatest flexibility in course selection, and students say they offer the greatest satisfaction. Individuals who complete these programs are well-prepared for service in the local church. Diplomas require a sixteen-course commitment. Seminary Extension offers four diploma programs: Biblical Studies; Educational Ministries; Ministries/Pastoral Education; and Theological Foundation. Seminary Extension also offers three Certificate programs: Bivocational Ministry; Lay Ministry Training; and Women's Ministry. Certificates require an eight-course commitment that also allow some flexibility in course selection. Classes and courses of study are designed to be low-cost. No class costs more than \$259, including materials, and the cost is less if the student does not purchase a textbook. No diploma program costs more than \$3010, and no certificate program costs more than \$1722. A number of colleges and institutions have in the past, and continue to accept Seminary Extension Certificate/Diploma course credits towards their undergraduate degrees as well as their certificate and diploma programs. However, Seminary Extension is a special purpose institution. That purpose is to provide opportunities for theological education and ministry training to individuals that cannot or will not seek training from traditional institutions. Its mission does not include preparing students for further college study. Students should be aware that transfer of credit is always the responsibility of the receiving institution. Whether or not credits transfer is solely up the receiving institution. Any student interested in transferring credit hours should check with the receiving institution directly to determine to what extent, if any, credit hours can be transferred.

Rev. Dr. Tim Bonner, Associate Pastor at First Baptist Church Rockville, is the Association's Seminary Extension Director. Contact him at [tim@firstbaptistrockville.org](mailto:tim@firstbaptistrockville.org) or during church office hours at 301-825-9231 for additional information and to register for Disciplines of Discipleship. The class will meet from 7-9 pm every Thursday from Jan 6 - Feb 24 at First Baptist Church Rockville, 55 Adclare Rd., Rockville, MD 20850. Registration closes on Dec. 30.

THE BLUE RIDGE

# PULSE

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021



20810A National Pike  
Boonsboro, MD 21713