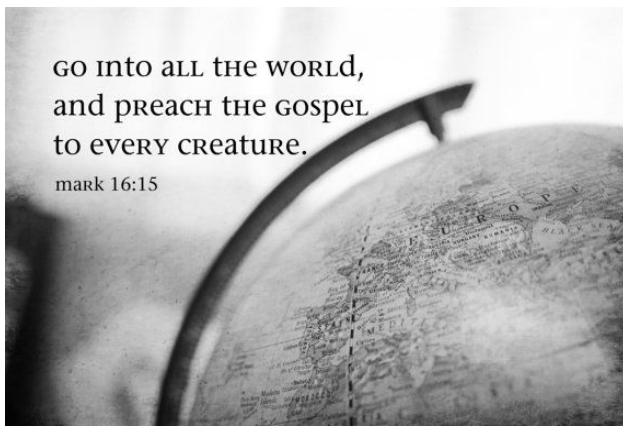




October/November 2022



See you October 10th for our Annual BRBA Meeting!!

This years Annual Meeting theme is: **“On Mission for the Master”**

Lots of great things to cover at this year's BRBA Annual Meeting. Guest speakers include Phil Graves from First Baptist Church of Brunswick who will be sharing about the adoption of his daughter Brizzy, from the Ukraine!

We will also have Pastor Chad Hooker from Calvary Baptist in War, WV speaking about the previous missions work done there with the help of people across many churches, some of them yours! Worship music will be presented by the worship team from Home Church in Urbana MD this year.

The Annual Meeting will be held at:

Skycroft Conference Center on Monday, October 10th @ 7pm - registration begins at 6:30pm
Address: 9621 Frostown Road Middletown MD 21769

IMPORTANT:

A notice has been mailed and emailed about details for how to register church representatives who will be voting for the revised BRBA Constitution and ByLaws. Each church has received a copy of this proposed draft and should review in preparation for voting.

Representatives will need to register on the BRBA website or can email sarah@blueridgebaptist.org with their full name and the church they are representing. They must be members of your church!! We would like to have everyone registered no later than October 6th but we will accept registrations on the day of as well beginning at 6:30pm.

Each member church may designate 5 representatives in addition to the Pastor, for those churches who have less than 100 members. For every 100 members thereafter, you may add 2 additional representatives, not to exceed a maximum of 20 representatives.

Dave's Corner

aka Free Stuff to help Churches!



Hello everyone! I am Pastor Dave Hays, and I manage equipment and vehicles for BRBA. We have a LOT of items that have been donated to help our churches in storage, and by way of this article every 60 days - we plan on drawing your attention to some of the things that we have that are FREE for your church to use, or in some cases - call your own at NO COST to you!

All that you need to do is **reserve on the BRBA website**. If you are searching for something specific, use the drop down menu to find Equipment Reservations and hit "other item". Let me know what you are in need of and I will let you know if we have it!

Items we have: many books, bible study materials, and lots of sound equipment to fill your church's needs. **Contact me at Dave@blueridgebaptist.org** and I'll be happy to make arrangements for you to come to our storage facility in Hagerstown and take a peek at what we have.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief organization. Our mission is to provide local partners around the world with shoeboxes filled with small toys, hygiene items, and school supplies as a means of reaching out to children in their own communities with the Good News of Jesus Christ



We ship these simple gifts outside the United States to children affected by war, poverty, natural disaster, famine, and disease; and to children living on Native American reservations in the U.S. In each shoebox receiving country, we partner with a National Leadership Team that consists of year-round volunteers from various church denominations. Together, they strategize how to reach children in their country with the Gospel. Because of this strategy, the economic impact on a community is minimal and allows us to reach millions of new children every year with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We disciple thousands of these boys and girls each year, with millions now sharing their faith with their friends, family, and beyond.

Drop off locations will be listed on their website the first week of October. National Collection Week is November 14-21, 2022

You can also mail your box to their offices listed on their website. Lastly, you can build a shoebox on their website, choosing the items you wish to include for \$25. This requires no work on your side but going online, choosing the items they offer, and purchasing the box for \$25! How amazing is technology! Feel free to visit the site to know what items are NOT allowed in the boxes

<https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>



WAR Mission Trip: Ramp Project COMPLETED!!

The weekend of Aug. 4-7 a team of workers went to WAR, WV to do construction of a handicapped ramp in a mission outreach of and to CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH in War, WV.

A very special thanks to **John Ely, Neil Reazin, Clayton Clark, and Mike Littleton** for their hard work in the heat to get this mission completed!



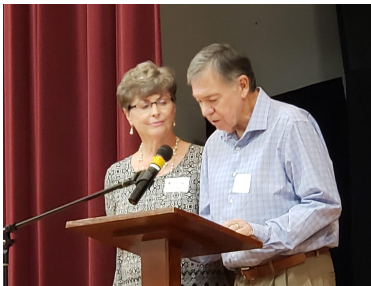
!!SPECIAL LOVE OFFERING!!

The Personnel and Stewardship Committees of BRBA are asking every member church to take up a special love offering during the month of November 2022 to honor our Director of Missions, Bruce Conley. December of this year will be Bruce's 15th Anniversary as our local missionary and we would like to show him our love and appreciation for his many years of service to our churches.

Funds received will most likely go towards Bruce's annuity account with Guidestone to make up for a slight deficit. We simply want to bless him for his Anniversary. Please promote this love offering in your church during November of 2022. If you need love offering envelopes, they will be made available at the Annual Meeting or can be mailed at your request.

No contributions will be accepted after November 30th as we do not want to detract from the Lottie Moon Christmas offering for the international missions and missionaries.

Thank you for your support, and thank you Bruce for your steadfast leadership!



PRAYER

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need -Hebrews 4:16

★ In Memoriam: Pastor Ed Jordan August 3, 1949- September 11th, 2022

Faith Baptist Church of Knoxville, MD reports that Pastor Emeritus Edward Jordan, 73, of Brunswick MD, went home to Heaven while in hospice care at home in Brunswick, MD following a battle with Lewy Body Dementia. Ed was the beloved

husband of Jo Anne Jordan for 51 years and was pastor at Faith Baptist for over 30 years.

The family received friends on September 16th at Stauffer Funeral Home in Brunswick and a memorial service was held Saturday, September 17th at Faith Baptist Church in Knoxville, MD. There will be a private interment service at a later date. Donations in Ed's memory are encouraged to the Lewy Body Dementia Association at www.lbda.org or to Mission Dignity, a program supporting retired pastors and spouses with little income in retirement - www.guidestone.org. Please pray for Ed's wife Jo Anne and their entire family, friends, and church family who are grieving his loss.

★ PRAYER FOR PASTOR BILL MILLER

Please pray for retired Pastor Bill of Hagerstown. He will be going through some medical testing in the next few weeks for having difficulty maintaining his balance and for labored breathing. Bill reports that "all is well" and that he "knows that he is in the comfortable hands of God". When asked what he most wants or needs during this time - he replied: "I would ask for prayer so that I would have the opportunity to lead just one more person to saving faith in Christ". We can certainly ALL pray for God to answer Bill's earnest prayer!

★ PRAYER FOR PASTOR JOE LINDSTROM

Please pray for Pastor Joe at Third Day Community Church as he continues to be treated for cancer. Pray that God would completely heal Joe from this disease, and that his strength would continue to improve as he leads the church.



What's Happening!?!

1. **AAF Presents - BCM/D Pathways: Prevention and Protection**

October 8th @ 8:30am - 1pm at Fort Washington Baptist Church
\$20 - Sales end on October 7th

<https://bcm�.org/event/aaf-presents-bcm-d-pathways-prevention-and-protection/>

Abuse is a serious issue, and there are many ways that we can respond to it. This training will equip church leaders and workers, including those who may serve in counseling, administrative, and children's and youth ministries, as well as other areas, with comprehensive insight into creating safety in multiple areas of church life.

2. **Connect Lunches! For Children & Youth Ministry Leaders - Host: Kris Buckman**

October 26th @12 -1:30pm - D'Atri's Cumberland - 1118 National highway, Cumberland MD
**Free Event

<https://bcm�.org/event/connect-lunches-for-children-youth-ministry-leaders/2022-10-26/>

3. **ANNUAL MEETING**

November 6th-7th @ Ocean City Fontainebleau Resort - 10100 Coastal Highway Ocean City MD

More information will be available soon.

Must complete the form at the link below to register. Once you register you will receive a link to book a hotel room at a discount (by 10/7)

<https://bcm�.org/event/annual-meeting/>



Upcoming and Important Events

1. **Pastor Breakfast - Wednesday October 5th @ 9am**

Location: IHOP: 134 Jefferson Crossing Way Charlestown WV

There will be a round-table discussion about the new proposed Constitution & Bylaws that will be voted on at the annual meeting the following Monday. All pastors and church leaders are encouraged to come and take part in the fellowship and discussion. We look forward to seeing you there!

2. **BRBA Annual Meeting - Monday October 10th @ 7pm-9pm**

Location: Skycroft Conference Center: 9621 Frostown Rd, Middletown MD

Come and hear what God is doing in the churches of the Blue Ridge Baptist Association! We will be voting on the 2023 budget and revised Constitution & Bylaws. There will be guest speakers, worship music, door prizes, fellowship, and light foods/drinks served afterwards. ALL are invited to attend this annual celebration!

The DOM will be preaching in area churches on October 2, 16, 23, 30.. He will be at the BCM/D annual meeting the first weekend in November. To have him come speak at your church, contact the BRBA office at (240) 818-8760, or get in touch directly at bruce@blueridgebaptist.org

Mark your Calendar

**LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR
IN A SEXUALLY
CONFUSED WORLD**

**Event open to all youth leaders,
teachers, administrators!**

Saturday October 8 @ 10am

**Sign up by
October 5th!**

Glenn T. Stanton
Director of Global Family
Formation Studies
at Focus on the Family

Covenant Church
7485 Shepherdstown Pike,
Shepherdstown, WV, 25443

Registration link
covenantexperience.com/glenn

“Loving Our Neighbor in a Sexually Confused World” - Saturday October 8th 10am-12pm

Location: Covenant Church Shepherdstown 7485 Shepherdstown Pike Shepherdstown, WV
Registration is required and ends October 5, 2022.
The event is free.

DETAILS : Glenn T. Stanton is the director of Global Family Formation Studies at Focus on the Family. He debates and lectures extensively on the issues of gender, sexuality, marriage and parenting at universities and churches around the world. This session with Glenn is for any leader who works with

teens, youth pastors and volunteers, teachers, administrators, etc.

Registration Link <https://covenant-group.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1356397>

Fall Soul 2 Cafe: Saturday October 1st @ 5-8pm

Location: Pleasant Valley Baptist Church 3346 Gapland Road Rohrsersville MD

In addition to an evening of music, we usually have some light refreshments. Feel free to bring a snack. This musical event is an opportunity to donate to a worthy ProLife organization, the Hagerstown Area Pregnancy Clinic. Come share in the singing or come and enjoy the music. All are invited. No registration or RSVP required.



**Fall
Soul 2 Soul
Café**

**Saturday,
October 1
5-8pm**

**Donations
support
HAPC**

THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHOIR
presents a
**Worship
Concert**

Independent Bible Church
2306 Hedgesville Road
Martinsburg, WV 25403

**Sunday,
October 09, 2022
at 6:00 pm**

FREE ADMISSION - DOORS OPEN AT 5:00PM
www.NationalChristianChoir.org / 301-570-6331

Worship Concert: Sunday October 9th @ 6pm

Location:
Independent Bible Church
2306 Hedgesville Road Martinsburg WV

FREE ADMISSION - DOORS OPEN AT 5PM

Annual BRBA Meeting Anticipation

Bruce Conley, Director of Missions

This year's annual meeting promises to be filled with all kinds of encouraging information and experiences. We'll be hearing from one of our pastors, Phil Graves from FBC Brunswick, about how he and his wife went to war torn Ukraine to rescue their newly adopted daughter. He'll share how risky it was to enter a war zone and how God protected them all along the way.

We'll also hear from Pastor Chad Hooker who serves at Calvary Baptist in War, WV. You will get to hear about mission work that has already happened there and will be given a list of needs there that BRBA churches can play a part in or assist Calvary Baptist with. You will get to meet Chad and his family and begin to think of ways that your church can assist and encourage them.

Also this year, we will be looking to update our old 2005 Constitution and Bylaws that have been worked on by a revision committee for almost 2 years. So much has changed in the last 17 years, including me being hired as DOM 14 years ago. When I started serving BRBA, it became obvious to me that we needed to try some new methods to ensure the vibrant health of our association in the future. Strategic planning and experimentation became necessary especially after the North American Mission Board cut financial support to all associations in 2010. This new Constitution will now align us with many of those changes that we have tried for a dozen years and will bring our governing documents more in line with the way we have already been operating.

Our Constitution & Bylaws revision committee has been through 2 chairmen and a host of other minor delays. We have received input from numerous sources on modern trends in Associational missions work. One important challenge that the committee adhered to was to simplify and shorten our governing documents to what was legally necessary and applicable to our needs and to consider having a separate set of operational procedures. Professionals in the field and legal advisors, recommended that we condense these governing rules and make sure that we meet the legal requirements of the State of Maryland, but not to overload these documents with too many extraneous operational items. Having a separate policy manual would allow BRBA to then grow without the need for a major Constitutional change with each minor alteration. Our committee has come up with a document that should serve us well, following the wise advice that was received.

Because a new Constitution is a major item of business, we are asking every BRBA church to send official credentialed messengers to the annual meeting this year to vote in the business session, as mentioned in the front page of the newsletter and a letter sent out individually by email and physical mail this week. Registration can be done on our BRBA website. The other option is to contact Sarah in the BRBA office (240) 818-8760, or sarah@blueridgebaptist.org to register who will be your messengers this year (full name and the church they are representing). *They must be members of your church!* This is a very important year for each church to have representation at the Fall meeting of BRBA.

May God bless you as you continue to serve Him !!
Rev. Bruce Conley; Director of Missions

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