



December '22/January 2023

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2022

National Offering Goal: \$190 million



What will your church goal be?

Every year, Southern Baptist churches collect an offering to send and support missionaries to be steadfastly present among those who have never heard the gospel. 100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enable Gospel transformation among the unreached. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ. (Revelation 7:9).



JANUARY FOLLOW UP TO LOTTIE MOON

IMB SPEAKERS ARE AVAILABLE TO COME TO YOUR CHURCH!!

The International Mission Board (IMB) has a number of missionaries and staff members who are excited and willing to come to your church and share about the work God is doing in their global mission field. Speakers can be directly requested on the IMB's website by filling out their 'Speaker Request' form.

Requesting missionary speakers is a great way to encourage your congregation with what God is doing with their faithful giving to the Cooperative Program and steadfast prayers for IMB missionaries. Requests may take four to six weeks for missionaries to confirm their availability. An IMB staff member will contact you or your church upon receiving confirmation of missionary availability.

All questions can be directed to speaker@imb.org.

In Honor of

Pastor Joe Lindstrom

The Blue Ridge Baptist Association has lost a truly great leader to heaven recently. On November 25th, 2022 Pastor Joe Lindstrom of Third Day Community Church in Jefferson, MD lost his earthly battle with cancer. Please pray for his wife Marisol, Joe's 3 children - Reagan, Wyatt and Preston, and the Third Day church family in the days ahead.

Joe started Third Day Community Church in the association 5 years ago, and was a bi-vocational church planter. He also served as a Risk and Safety Manager for the City of Frederick, MD until his illness caused his departure from that job. The church immediately made Joe their full time pastor on the church's 5th anniversary.



BRBA will do whatever we can to help the church and the Lindstrom extended family in the days ahead.



MISSION WORKERS NEEDED IN DECEMBER!

We have an immediate need for workers to travel with a team to WAR, WV to finish work on a home to keep the cold air out this winter! The commitment is for 2 days, subject to your availability.

TEAM #1 (2 man crew) will complete sub-flooring in 2 rooms, and finish drywall in both rooms.

TEAM #2 (another 2 man crew) will need to install insulation in the crawl space of the same home to keep the cold air from coming in underneath.

All materials will be provided ... we just need the labor. If you can help make someone's Christmas warm ... please contact John Ely at (443) 340-1028, or by email at jely60@comcast.net

Christmas Events at Member Churches



A Night At Bethlehem @ Faith Baptist Church

December 9, 2022 / 06:00 pm – 08:00 pm

2212 Jefferson Pike Knoxville, MD 21758

In this festive event, families are transported back in time to experience Bible-times Bethlehem. They'll visit the marketplace where they'll create their own unique keepsakes and interact with local shopkeepers who share the Christmas story and they'll also get to meet Mary and Joseph and hear about the miracle of Jesus' birth.

**This is a free walk thru event and there will be crafts in every booth that recreates the ancient marketplace of Bethlehem and includes a visit to Jesus in the stable.

Register at <https://vbspro.events/p/0400d5>

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

SATURDAY, December 3rd - 2 TO 4 PM

First Baptist Church @ 7 Sunny Way, Thurmont

**MAKE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE

**PLAY A BINGO GAME

**HEAR A STORY

FREE ADMISSION

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!



Dave's Corner

aka Free Stuff to help Churches!



Merry Christmas 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!

This month we are featuring Bible studies. We have themes, specific books, and of course, studies for ladies, men, teens, kids, and even some that are general Bible studies that everyone can do at the same time.

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.

Congratulations to Pastor Don Cherry, retired pastor of New Hope Church in Inwood, WV who has now been called as the Director of Missions for the Sandhills Baptist Association in Carthage North Carolina. He and his wife Deborah will be moving to that area to serve soon.



Michael Crawford, the Exec. Director of the Baptist Convention of MD/DE will be our guest speaker at the BRBA Pastor's Fellowship Breakfast on Wednesday, December 7th, 2022 at 9 AM at the Bob Evans Restaurant in Frederick, MD.

Please make an effort to come and talk with Michael and enjoy breaking bread with fellow pastors and church leaders.

NOTE: There will be no Pastor's breakfast in January 2023.



BAPTIST
CONVENTION
OF MARYLAND/
DELAWARE

What's Happening!?!

Prayer Meeting - Baptist Convention of MD/DE
December 7th 11am-12pm
10255 Old Columbia Road Columbia MD 21046



Bible Study January 1-8

Sanctity of Life Sunday January 22nd



IMB
MISSIONS
COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023 –
SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2023

*International Learning Center
Rockville, Virginia*

COST: \$249*
(INCLUDES LODGING AND MEALS)

The greatest problem facing humankind is not a natural disaster, a humanitarian crisis, or political instability. The greatest problem in the world is lostness. IMB Missions College 2023 is a hands-on training event for church members and leaders who desire to learn more about how they can begin or grow their church's partnership with the IMB in solving the world's greatest problem. For more info and to register, scan QR Code.



BRBA is offering a limited scholarship for serious inquiries. Please contact the BRBA for more information.

"Keeping Christ in Christmas"

Christmas is a time of year when we all enjoy the season for many different things. Over the years, the celebration has morphed into things that have little resemblance to the original intent - to celebrate the gift of salvation provided by the Christ child to all mankind. God's gift literally provided a way for us when there was no other way for us to earn God's favor.

Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy the secular spin offs at Christmas time just as much as the next person. Where would Christmas be without tales of Scrooge and the Grinch (who eventually find a greater meaning in Christmas), fantastic cookies, glittering decorations, and the closeness of family? For me though, it always comes back to recognizing that the whole world pretty much puts on a show and then shuts down (governments, stores, everything) to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Every society in almost every nation celebrates the birth of God in human flesh among us, a Saviour born to die for our sins. I saw a pastor share a wonderful acrostic that spells out how the believer should focus on what **"C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S"** is really all about:

"C" = "Christ has come!" Christ was born, and He is here now among us!

"H" = "Hope!" We can be at peace because Christ has come. He has given us hope for a glorious life here and now, and hope for a future in heaven with Him!

"R" = "Righteousness!" There's no need to struggle to please God with our own works of righteousness, because He has made us the embodiment of His own righteousness! (2 Corinthians 5:21).

"I" = "Inheritance!" An inheritance has been bestowed on us; we're no longer poor. Rather, we're joint-heirs with Christ! (Romans 8:17).

"S" = "Salvation." The availability of salvation has been absolutely accomplished since Christ has come.

"T" + Our duty as born again believers of Christ is to share the Good News of the gospel. We must - through our daily lives - tell others about Jesus Christ.

"M" = "Ministry" We are all called to be ministers of reconciliation, but also to use our own gifts to make a difference in the church, in the lives of others, and in Kingdom causes.

"A" = "Acceptance" We're to tell the whole world that they can be forgiven and accepted by the Father, irrespective of their past. God will no longer count their sins against them (2 Corinthians 5:19).

"S" = "Sonship" Once we accept Christ's salvation - we become sons and daughters of the most high! (1 John 3:2).

Corrie Ten Boom once put it like this -

Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world.

The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son.

The only requirement is to believe in Him.

The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

May God bless you all this Christmas with the wonder of the birth of the Christ child !!!

Bruce M. Conley

Pastor Bruce

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