# The Light

Churches Partnering Together to Accomplish the Great Commission

Partnerships to accomplish the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, that's who we are and that defines our win. As believers from our churches connect to love each other and grow deeper in Christ and when we join hands together to expand the kingdom of Christ, we celebrate the win.

- I was delighted in the month of January to see the majority of you partnering together financially through giving to your DBA.
- I was delighted to see the youth from many churches worshipping and serving together at Winter Surge weekend in February.
- More than 10 of your sister churches are either providing meals or evangelists for the Mobile Dental Medical Mission work taking place this month.
- DBA churches have come together and planned three mission trips to Kantunilkin, Mexico for this year. Praise God!
- We will forever sing the praise of our God on account of the opportunity he has opened for you to fulfill the Great Commission in India. Together we are still in deep prayer for Pandu and our brothers and sisters in India as the government in India is persecuting the church and wants to stop the advance of the gospel.

The testimony of your cooperation can go on and on (see the remainder of this newsletter). It makes the heart glad. I celebrate your fellowship together and I encourage any of you who have not connected with your fellow churches in going, praying and giving; this adventure is a whole lot more joyous and enriching for you and your congregation when you become an active member of the team. This year is going to be another spectacular year of obedience and fulfillment of the Great Commandment and Great Commission among us because of the faithful and strong leadership of the Spirit of Christ in us. I'm ready.



What God has appointed for you to be part of in India is absolutely exceptional. He has chosen you for this. I can't find the words to express my sense of reverence and joy over this thing that God has entrusted to you.

Regarding the latest updates: Pandu was planning to come to the United States and spend time with us in the month of March, but the government of India is not allowing Pandu to leave the country. Twice he tried to come, and he was stopped by the government.

We need to pray and fast and ask for strength for Pandu and for the new budding churches being planted in India. I encourage you to fast from one meal each week this month and dedicate that time to prayer for Pandu and the church in India. Also ask our Lord if you should give financially to Mission India. The new churches in India need Bibles and the pastors need training. You can use God's money to place the Word of God in the hands of the people of India and enable the training of elders and teachers for the fledgling churches of India.

Again, please do not post anything regarding Pandu or Mission India on any social media platform including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Through social media the Indian Government learns about our desire to partner with Pandu for the advancement of the gospel and they use that information to persecute Pandu and the church and stop us from partnering with him.

## PASTORS DAY AT THE CAPITOL

Several of us attended our Pastor's Day at the Capital. Robert Jeffress was the key note speaker and spoke an encouraging word. We are called to preserve our nation as long as we are able while we shine the light of the gospel. We are salt and light.

I encourage and challenge you:

Become informed about the spiritual battles happening in our state which are being fought at all levels of government, from our school boards to our state capital.

A good place to begin is https://gabaptist.org/publicaffairs

Designate a time during the week to lead your congregation to take action.

Give them an overview of the issues

Provide the address and contact information and tools needed to write their representatives.

Give your congregation the opportunity to write to their representative in the house and senate concerning specific bills we would like our representatives to support or oppose.

It would also be effective if we sent a note on our thoughts to those who are sponsoring the bill. See the attachment below on how to be a citizen lobbyist

Contact our Representatives

Greg Morris <u>http://www.house.ga.gov/Representatives/en-US/member.aspx?Member=174&Session=27</u> Blake Tillery <u>http://www.senate.ga.gov/senators/en-US/member.aspx?Member=4908&Session=27</u>

#### Pastors Day at the Capitol continued from p. 2

Several issues that we heard about at our time at the 2019 Pastor's Day at the Capital are listed below. These are issues that we are addressing through our leaders at the GBMB.

#### **RFRA REGARDING RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

It is paramount. It has moved its way to the top of our list of issues, because if we are not standing for religious freedom, then our ability to legally do missions and evangelism is going to come into jeopardy. And so, standing on religious freedom and, in particular, The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) is of extreme importance.

I am thankful that our new governor, Brian Kemp, has made a commitment to the passage of a Religious Freedom Restoration Act. With that in mind, it is important that we as Baptists keep our governor and his wife, Marty, in our constant prayers. He's a man who knows the Lord and what is right. He's wanting to work with Georgia Baptists and all Georgians in protecting our First Amendment Rights.

#### **SR 184 REGARDING GAMBLING**

For four years we have been able to stop every single piece of gambling, from Daily Fantasy Sports to casino gambling. But I am telling you friends, I do not believe the gambling industry is ready to give up. It is going to be harder than ever before, but we are going to work to stop the expansion of gambling in our state and to protect our families from its harm.

The fact is overlooked that every \$1 raised in tax revenue from legalized gambling results in \$3 of social costs back to the community!

#### ABORTION

We intend to work with Governor Kemp in trying to put together a bill to stop all abortions at the time that a fetal heartbeat is detected. That legislation would begin to stop all abortions from approximately six weeks onward. This is a tremendous piece of legislation being pursued in a number of states. Georgia Baptists are working with organizations and faith leaders here in our state to support such an effort!

#### **HB 324 REGARDING MARIJUANA**

It is coming. And it is a very hard issue to deal with. We do not take a position on medical marijuana, but do on cultivation and recreational use. It is coming at us with an unbelievable force, both in our state and across our nation. We are going to try to minimize any other expansion of marijuana in our state.

#### **HB 76 REGARDING ALCOHOL RESTRICTIONS**

Most people do not understand that the detriment from the abuse of alcohol <u>is greater than the opioid issue</u> in our nation. It is being overlooked. We are trying to retain the restrictions already in our laws. Evidence shows that "if you decrease availability in any manner, shape, or <u>form it will decrease consumption</u>."

#### SR 55, SR 66 REGARDING PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION LAWS

These pertain to issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. These laws are going to be a tremendous detriment to our state if we are not able to stop them. Many of the laws end up being a potential source of religious discrimination.

Other areas of public policy that we are influencing: SB 45, SR 84 Pari – Mutual Betting on Horse Racing HB 418 – Hidden Predator Act HB 426, SB 166 – Hate Crimes Laws HB 228 – Marriage Ae Reduction HB 234 – Human Trafficking Enforcement

These are just some of the issues we know we will be dealing with during this legislative session. You can stay up-to-date on any issues that would have an effect on Georgia Baptists and sign up for alerts that may require your action as well as your prayers by visiting <u>https://gabaptist.org/</u><u>publicaffairs</u>



#### Let's celebrate these churches that have participated financially in our cooperative effort. We hope you are encouraged by your fellow churches that have partnered with you!

Alston
<b>Boiling Springs</b>
Cedar Crossing Hispanic
East Gordon
El Camino
Fairview
Faith Missionary
Friendship
Higgston
Hope

Longpond Lyons FBC Mount Vernon FBC New Corinth Normantown Oak Grove Ohoopee Providence Rocky Creek Smith Street South Thompson Springhill Stuckey Tabernacle Trinity Baptist Uvalda Vidalia Baptist Temple Vidalia FBC

#### **DBA Treasurer's Report**

		Budget		
		Offerings	Expenses	Net
	02/28/19	7,353.41	(10,279.74)	(2,926.33)
	YTD - 2019	23,002.55	(19,890.08)	3,112.47
		Gifts/	Disbursements	
Calvin	1/31/2019	Transfers		2/28/2019
Durrence	2,208.78	426.22	(1,885.00)	750.00

## PICK YOUR SUNDAY for the CALVIN DURRENCE OFFERING

The month of May is Calvin Durrence month! Churches are invited to choose which Sunday works best for them to take up the offering. The DBA will gladly provide a bulletin to print out and offering envelopes for the occasion. Additionally, we would be delighted to set up a local recipient of the Acts 1:8 fund to come speak on the Sunday you choose (available on a first come basis). We celebrate with you as DBA churches collect, 100% of the donation goes to support the following ministries for 2019:

Mercy Medical Clinic Cedar Crossing Hispanic Mission Rachel's House Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva Missionary: Nathan Ammons Sweet Onion Christian Learning Center The Dream Center

Please let the DBA office know which Sunday your church chooses to participate in the Calvin Durrence Offering by calling (912) 583-2713 or emailing daniellbaptist@gmail.com

The annual cost of supporting these ministries is \$10,235, or \$852.92 monthly.

# **Upcoming Events**

PASTORS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION & LUNCH

March 11, 2019 **Topic: Eat Right & Get Moving Mobilizing Disciples for a Healthy Church** Discussion at 11 a.m.

Homemade lunch at Noon Feel free to come one or both Bring your friends, leaders, and volunteers! Please RSVP

**EVANGELISM TEAM MEETING** Monday, March 25 12 Noon 201 NW Main St, Vidalia

# **BI-VOCATIONAL PASTORS & WIVES**

are invited to dinner at Hardware Pizza on Saturday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Please RSVP by April 1st (912) 583-2713 daniellbaptist@gmail.com

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETING

Thursday, April 18 5:30 pm DBA Office

# DENTAL MINISTRY for PASTORS

The dental van for pastors, their family, and church staff will be at the DBA office May 15-18, 2019. For more information, please call Jessica at (912)583-2713.

# **PRISON MINSITRY**

Please continue to lift up our brothers as they minister to those in prison.

March: Bro. Karl Hay April: Bro. Joey Davis 900-N-3 Coaches: Bro. Mike Keene &

Bro. Joe Aldridge

Recertification will be held on March 15th at 5:00 p.m. A meal will be served and the Choir will perform. Please make every effort to attend so that your certification does not lapse.

# The Baptist Mobile Health Ministry Unit

is in Vidalia, GA March 4-9, 2019 At Cross Timbers Baptist Church 702 Maple Dr, Vidalia, GA 30474

The following churches & organizations have partnered together to make this ministry possible:

Cedar Crossing Cornerstone Cross Timbers FBC Mount Vernon Harmony Normantown

Tabernacle Trinity Vidalia Advent Brewton-Parker College Dream Center

Please partner with us in praying for those who will be seen that do not know our Savior Jesus Christ. Please also pray for the men & women who will serving as dentists, hygienists, and those sharing the Good News. Surge Winter was held at FBC Mount Vernon on February 22 and 23 for all DBA students in 6th through 12th grade. Eleven different churches participated. The weekend consisted of worship, break-out sessions and mission work. Students from the Ministerial Association of Brewton-Parker college helped lead the worship sessions through speaking and music. Saturday afternoon the group served at the Dream Center by moving furniture, moving dirt, cleaning windows, hanging towel rods etc. in bathrooms as well as several other projects. Two students gave their lives to Christ Friday night.









# SURGE YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Registration is now open for Surge Summer Camp June 17-21, 2019. Total camp fee of \$175.00 includes 4 nights, 11 meals, t-shirt, tote bag, a drawing for door prizes, and other items throughout the week. Register here: https://bit.ly/2S6tonr

# ADRIAN CHILDREN'S SUMMER CAMP

Registration is now open for Surge Summer Camp June 24-28, 2019. Cost: \$210 Ages: 8-14 Register here: https://bit.ly/2n0rBUa

# **Ministry Partner News**

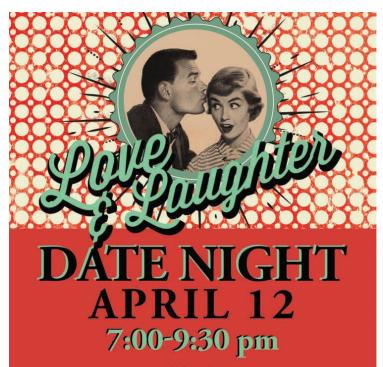


Domestic Violence Shelter & Sexual Assault Center

If you or someone you know has been a victim of sexual assault, there is one on one help available! <u>The Refuge</u> <u>Sexual Assault</u> Center has a nurse

available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They

"concentrate on what's going on in your life and what your need is and to help law enforcement make the investigative process go faster" (Michelle Girtman) Services as free and confidential. 24-hour crisis line 1-800-33HAVEN.



\$25/couple Register online at fbclyons.org Held at Toombs Co. High School Auditorium, 500 Bulldog Road

join us for dessert, coffee & a fun evening of love and laughter as we celebrate marriage

Guest speakers: Jeff & Debby McElroy

Each pastor who has 5 couples from their church to register comes free!



at realdm.org

# \* PRAY FOR AMERICA \* LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. JOHN 13:34

Prayer precedes every great historical movement of God! The theme for this year's National Day of Prayer is **Love One Another**, and America needs the love of Jesus Christ in every way! From now through the **National Day of Prayer** on **Thursday**, **May 2**, we need to do all we can to see a **Love One Another Movement** occur across America.

Please visit https://www.nationaldayofprayer.net/ for more information. Unified public prayer for America on Thursday, May 2 - and PRAY that we will see God pour out a #LOVE1ANOTHER MOVEMENT upon every town, city, and county in our nation!

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER TASK FORCE http://www.nationaldayofprayer.com/



#### **March 2019 Devotional**

Exodus 4:29 Then Moses and Aaron went and assembled all the elders of the sons of Israel; 30 and Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. He then performed the signs in the sight of the people. 31 So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped. Ex. 4: 29-31

God was sending Moses to deliver the sons of Israel from 400 years of bondage. God told Moses exactly what he must say and do so that the people would believe and worship Him. This time of affliction was not by chance. God had previously told Abraham "that his offspring would be servants there and afflicted for 400 years." (Genesis 15:13). God had prepared them for what was ahead. But as we all sometimes do, we never anticipate how long or how bad our affliction will be.

But, oh what joy there must have been on that day when Moses delivered the news that deliverance was coming. A massive sigh of relief had to sweep over the people. Finally, God has heard our cries. That's how it feels sometimes but that's not the way it really is. God had predetermined how long their time in Egypt would last before it ever began. It was at His time and by His hand that it would end. He ended it by showing Himself as the One True God, The Great I Am!

We will all have times in our lives when we may feel like God does not hear our cries; that He does not see what is happening to me. But He does see; He does hear. And, at His time and by His hand He will deliver you and He will be glorified.



# Chasing the God Who Chases Us

Spring Gathering is an experience for women of all ages. Join us as we explore God's Unshakable Pursuit at Turning Point at Mabel White Baptist Church in Macon on April 27.

# Highlights

- Refugee Loss Simulation
- Missions Inspiration & Challenge
- Conferences on Spiritual Growth, Wellness, and Leadership
- On-Site LifeWay Store

# Early Bird Rate

\$59 Early Bird Rate through March 8 \$79 Regular Rate through April 5

#### \$20 Early Bird Rate through March 8

\$40 Regular Rate through April 5 Includes all sessions, conferences, and lunch Please send your payment and the below information to: Daniell Baptist Association, P.O. Box 388, Ailey, GA 30410



# Schedule

8:00 a.m. - Check-In Opens 9:00 a.m. - Worship 10:15 a.m. - Conference 1 11:30 a.m. - Lunch 12:45 p.m. - Conference 2 2:00 p.m. - Worship

I would like to attend the GBW Spring Gathering

Name:

Phone Number:

Address:

Email:



Bill Black Donny Crosby Emory Fennell Peggy Fowler Joshua Johnson Lauren Johnson Reece Mincey Keith Tipton Jessica Vinson Chester Proctor



Doyle & Robbie Waller Karl & Laura Hay Joshua & Lauren Johnson Jason & Molly Corbett Thomas & Amy Bowers

# Calendar

March

Pandu Visits

- 4-9 Baptist Mobile Health Ministry, Cross Timbers
- 5 Rachel's House Annual Banquet
- 8 Deadline for Women's Spring Gathering Early Bird Registration
- 11 Pastors Roundtable, Discussion 11, Lunch noon, DBA Office
- 12 GBMB Executive Committee Meeting
- 15 Prison Ministry Recertification, 5:00 pm
- 25 Evangelism Team Meeting, Noon

#### <u>April</u>

#### 5 Deadline for Women's Spring Gathering Registration

- 8 Pastors Roundtable, Discussion 11, Lunch noon, DBA Office
- 13 Bi-Vo Pastors & Wives Dinner, Hardware Pizza, 6pm
- 18 Administrative Team Meeting, 5:30 pm, DBA Office
- 21 Easter Sunday
- 27 Women's Spring Gathering, Macon

Weekly Events:

Wednesday - Wheeler County Prison Ministry, 9:00 a.m.

Would you join us in praying for the following churches & pastors by name: FBC Mount Vernon, Pastor Karl Hay FBC Soperton, Int. Pastor Joshua Johnson FBC Uvalda, Pastor Adrian Bell FBC Vidalia, Pastor Ricky Cummings

Commit to prayer the following churches as they seek God's wisdom in searching for a pastor: FBC Alamo, Beulah, FBC Soperton: Int. Joshua Johnson Friendship, Int. Donnie Brown Ohoopee; Stuckey; Vidalia Baptist Temple

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Deadline for submitting information for the next edition of "The Light" is March 25th