

Appalachee Baptist Association
"A Family of Churches"
The Vision
"Where there is no vision, the people will perish" ~ Proverbs 29:18

Vol 12 – No. 4

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Associational Missionary

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Jan. & Feb. 2010

**OCONEE-GAINESVILLE—BCM
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETS**

The second meeting of the Appalachee Baptist Association's Baptist College Ministry for Oconee-Gainesville Campus Advisory Committee was December 8th. Committee Chairperson, Rev. Aaron Arledge led the group in a discussion of ways to involve our family of churches more in the ministry to the commuting students on that campus.

For some years two or three of our churches have faithfully assisted in the ministry to students by serving a light lunch on a monthly basis. This was begun when the campus was operated through the Truett-McConnell college system.

"One of the problems we face," said one committee member, "is that our churches just don't know about the ministry opportunities on that campus." Plans are now being made to change that by getting the message out in various ways. The needs are numerous, but high on the list is some support for the efforts to assist with the student luncheon program.

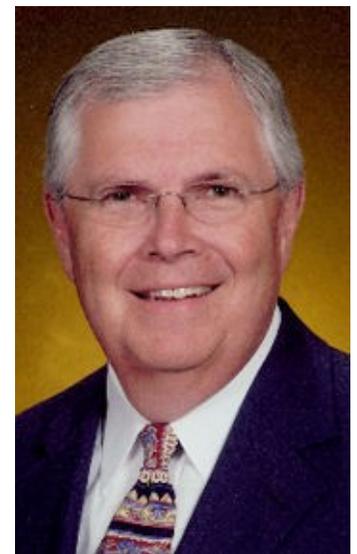
Vaughn Colquitt is currently serving this campus as a campus minister intern, a program connected with Vaughn's graduate work with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and the collegiate ministries program of the Georgia Baptist Convention. Vaughn is preparing to be a full time college minister.

**SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING SLATED FOR
WALKER BAPTIST ON APRIL 29**

Appalachee Baptists will gather at Walker Baptist Church, 1150 Good Hope Road on April 29th at 7:00 P.M. The program will be built around the general theme of evangelism in keeping with Georgia Baptists emphasis on "wave revivals" which is coordinated with the North American Mission Board's "GPS." "Wave Revivals" is in reality what we have known as Simultaneous Revivals where all participating churches hold revival meetings during the same week or month. "GPS" is an acronym for God's Plan for sharing, a new ten year emphasis on evangelism for Southern Baptists. Our spring meeting will either be a celebration time of results of evangelism efforts in our association or a kick-off for the beginning of such an effort.

Dr. Gerald Harris, Editor of *The Christian Index* has accepted the invitation to be our keynote speaker for the spring meeting.

The spring meeting is limited to fellowship and inspiration and the only business will be the election of program directors and committee persons who will take office in October.



AD HOC EVANGELISM TEAM MEETS

During the closing days of preparation for the recent On Mission Celebration, Dr. Graham began to give serious thought to the concept of “just what makes our denomination, including our association, unique among other denominations and/or religious bodies. The answer was the obvious one: Our commitment to Missions and Evangelism. Knowing that we were highlighting missions during the OMC his thoughts turned to evangelism. After comparing records of baptisms reported for the last three years he discovered that we haven’t gained significantly in the number of baptisms reported annually. With that burden he selected a few pastors to share what he called a “crisis situation.” They met on January 5th at the mission center for prayer and discussion.

The Holy Spirit’s presence was evidenced in the honest struggle to discover some ways to enhance our outreach and address the lostness of the community around us. Two themes emerged from the meeting. (1) Many churches and pastors have lost their passion for souls as they fulfill expectations of members and perform their administrative responsibilities. (2) Meaningful, fervent prayer has become routine, formal, and has lost its power among church members and is sadly lacking in others.

This team will meet again soon. In the meantime, will you pray with them about these concerns?

UPDATE ON HAITI EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

Many are calling and asking what can be done in response to the horrific devastation in Haiti. Here is the latest information the association office has gathered as of Monday, January 18th.

Baptist Global Response is hoping to have an 8-member initial assessment team on the ground by the 17th. They will assess the situation and determine an appropriate plan of response. The U. S. Government is strongly encouraging untrained/non-credentialed volunteer groups to NOT self-deploy. There is no infrastructure in place to accommodate volunteer

groups. Transportation and communication is still halted. The only communication coming out of Port Au Prince that NAMB has been aware of is via satellite phone. The top priority now is medical evacuation and establishing an infrastructure. It will be some time before Disaster Relief volunteer groups are going to be ready to enter the country. The estimates change every day, but here is the latest:

3 million people lived in Port Au Prince; 150,000 estimated dead already; food and water is being quickly depleted (problem is that of transportation and distribution); violence is on the rise; bodies are being loaded onto tractors to be buried wherever possible; 10,000 vehicles at one border crossing trying to get in from Dominican Republic.

While we can’t go now and help, we can give generously. Send donations to Dr. White at the Georgia Baptist Convention office.

CHEEBTSHEEJ BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRATES RETIREMENT OF PASTOR CHER PAO HER

On December 27th amid sadness and celebration of his faithful work Pastor Cher Pao Her officially retired as Senior Pastor of the Cheebtsheej Baptist Church. The congregation will look within its own leadership for a replacement.

Brother Tip McConnell presented a certificate of appreciation from the Appalachee Baptist Association to Reverend Her on behalf of Dr. Graham who had other commitments.

Brother Her sends this greeting: *...I would like to say thanks for the opportunity of working with all of you. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your family for the years to come. It has been a great blessing knowing and working with all of you. I greatly appreciate the years of helping me and being patient with me. Please continue to keep me and my family in your prayers. Thanks again and God bless.*

FROM WHERE I SIT

The Cure

J. B. Graham



First, I want to thank you for the prayers and expressions of support for my sister-in-law in Texas. Most of you know that she has multiple myeloma a cancer of the bone marrow and has recently gone through an extensive treatment of chemotherapy and stem cell transplant. This treatment was conducted at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Hospital in Houston. It was here that many things were confirmed in my own spirit. I felt it appropriate to share some of them.



The people at M. D. Anderson are fantastic, beginning with the parking attendants, volunteer patient helpers, nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors. It is a friendly place that is dedicated to the

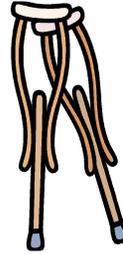
comfort and healing of their patients. It is amazing the number of people they treat each day and the efficiency by which they are seen.

The patients are also amazing. The majority has been subjected to huge amounts of chemotherapy which can quite accurately be described as a “controlled poison.”

One of the side effects is the loss of hair. That explains why most patients wear a head covering of some kind. A few however don't bother about the hair. There are a lot of wheel chairs in use because patients are so weakened from the treatment they cannot walk or stand. Progress is measured in very small increments. I helped one man who was every bit of 6 feet tall celebrate the fact that he had gained one pound and was now at 117 pounds. Nausea is every cancer patient's enemy and most carried some kind of receptacle for that emergency. Everybody

wore masks because of the lowered resistance to infections.

The fact that impressed me most was the conquering spirit most of the patients demonstrated. Only one that I observed was hostile and defiant toward others. All the rest were attempting to encourage one another.



As I spent the better part of days in the waiting room while Areta stayed in the treatment rooms with her sister I had several lessons confirmed in my mind—just by observation.

First, cancer is horrible and is no respecter of persons. It plagues young and old, wealthy, and poor, and men and women of all races and cultures. Second, the disease and the treatment are humbling experiences. There is no room for personal pride where this disease is present. Third, I am more grateful for moderately good health than I have ever been and I will vow to complain less about my feelings. Cancer truly has become a common enemy.

But there is another enemy more prevalent than cancer. It is the disease of sin. Sin destroys life on this planet and separates its victims from the presence of God. Sin left untreated will bring eternal death. While they are still working to find a cure for cancer, we are assured that there is a cure for sin. That cure is the applied blood of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. I'm glad I have received the “Jesus therapy” by inviting Him into my life and asking Him to forgive my sin. My heart aches that there are so many others in the waiting room who are still so terribly diseased by sin! If you have received the “cure” shouldn't you share it?



WALKER BAPTIST CHURCH

Holds Senior Adult Revival

Walker Baptist will hold their annual Senior Adult Revival on February 3rd & 4th at 11:00 a.m. The speaker will be Dr. Mel Blackaby pastor of Jonesboro First Baptist. The senior adult choirs will be from Jonesboro First Baptist and Heritage Baptist. For lunch reservations call Gerald Malcom at 770-267-2363 no later than February 1st.

The Vision is published monthly except for **July & August**. The Vision's purpose is to inform, encourage and share the story of the Appalachian Baptist Association of churches. Please share your Church's noteworthy activities and news items. Information should be received by the 21st of each month. You can send information by e-mail at administration@appalachee.org or mail to Appalachian Baptist Association, P.O. Box 1064, Monroe, Ga. 30655. The Vision is mailed free by request. If you wish to receive it, simply contact us and give us your name, church and mailing address.

The Vision

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The Apostle Paul put it simply in
I Thessalonians 5:25,
“Brethren, pray for us.”

~First Baptist of Winder
Pastor John Talley
~Freeman Creek Baptist Church
Pastor Kenneth Jennings
~Grace Baptist Church
Pastor Brad Waters
~Harmony Baptist Church
Pastor Brant Callaway
~Mars Hill Baptist Church

FEBRUARY 2010

- 2nd Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 4th VBS Literature Preview – 7:00 p.m. –Associational Office
- 6th Mission Friends Celebration – TBA
- 6th Sisters Who Care Summit (Georgia WMU) – Atlanta, Ga.
- 15-21st Focus on WMU Week
- 16th Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- 16th Associational Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
- 20th Children's Ministry Day
- 22-23rd Evangelism Conference (Regional), Tabernacle Baptist Church, Cartersville, Ga.
- 25th Bivocational & retired minister's & wives game night @ J.B. Graham's house.
Continuing Education-7:00 - 9:00 p.m. – every Tuesday

MARCH 2010

- 1-2nd Evangelism Conference (Regional) Central Baptist Church. Warner Robins, Ga.
- 2nd Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 12-14th Journey – A Retreat for Teen Girls (Georgia WMU) – TBA
- 13th VBS Regional Training, Sarepta Baptist Association - TBD
- 13th Women on Mission Leaders Retreat – TBA
- 27th Prayerwalk in ABA Association - TBA
Continuing Education-7:00p.m.-9:00p.m.-every Tuesday