

*The Vision*  
Of  
*The Appalachian Baptist Association*  
*A family of churches on mission*

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*The Joy of a 7.1 million  
"something" Christmas Gift!*

If someone whom you loved and trusted offered you a Christmas gift would you take it? My guess is that, like me, you would. What if they then followed up the initial offer by telling you that the gift was going to consist of 7.1 million 'somethings' only to refuse to tell you anything about what those 'somethings' actually were?

At that point, I think I would have to ponder the situation for a bit. After all, a gift of 7.1 million U.S. Dollars or British Pounds or South African diamonds would be fantastic. On the other hand, there are a great many things that others enjoy which I just would not want in such large quantities.

However, if we think for a minute we might realize that we have misunderstood the offer. What if the gift did not consist of material things at all? Further, what if the gift called on you to share something that you already possess and can never lose no matter how often you give it away? Even greater, what if the gift only served to enhance the joy and excitement of what you already possess while costing you nothing? You have to admit, it would be intriguing.

Such a fantastic Christmas gift is ready and waiting for you. It is offered to

you from the heart of our God. Everyday in our state we are surrounded by 7.1 million people who do not know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Over 70 percent of the population of Georgia is lost, separated from God and condemned by their own sins. As believers in Jesus, you have been given the gift of the opportunity to share the Gospel with the lost majority in our communities.

What will be done with the gift is up to you. Will you receive it with joy only to put it on a shelf to be soon forgotten? Will you 'regift' it to someone else, because it is just not what you wanted this year? Will you seize it for the blessing that it is and seek to make the most out of every opportunity presented? It all depends not on how highly you value the gift, but rather on how highly you value the one who gives it to you.

"And the Angels said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"

*Luke 2:11-12*

## *Church and Minister Updates*

**Statham First Baptist:** Rev. Gordon Thornton recently retired as pastor of Statham First Baptist Church. The church family recognized his 14 years as their pastor and 30 years as a pastor on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He and his wife, Freida will continue to live in the community. Rev. Thornton will be available for supply and interim ministry work.

**Life Springs Baptist:** After 14 months of ministry, Rev. Clyde Self has resigned as the pastor of Life Springs Baptist Church. His last Sunday of service as their pastor was November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Rev. Self and his family will be moving to Mt. Salem Baptist Church, in the Chattahoochee Baptist Association, where he has recently been called as pastor.

## *Generosity Campaign Celebration Event*

On January 12, 2012 Mars Hill Baptist church will host the final event in our association wide **Generosity** campaign. The celebration gathering will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a meal and continue at 6:45 with music, testimonies, and a message by conference leader Dr. Chuck Kelly. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting and join the celebration of God's provision for us and our churches. Please contact the Association office as soon as you have a count of those attending to RSVP.

## *Mission and Ministry News and Updates Needed!!!*

God is at work in the churches of the Appalachian Baptist Association. He is using our church families to witness to the lost, reach out to the hurting and minister to those in need. We want to celebrate all the various ways that God is doing His work among us in this newsletter. As God blesses your ministry, please take a moment to send an email or call the office to let us know about what is going on so that we can encourage one another along our journey. We all need to know that we are not alone and that God is always moving to save souls and shine the light of the Gospel into the sin darkened world.



2011 **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering®**  
National Goal: \$175 million

Week of Prayer for International Missions: December 4–11, 2011

Our church goal: \_\_\_\_\_

The International Mission Board is a Southern Baptist Convention entity supported by the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is a registered trademark of IMB.

# JUMPSTARTS

## What Are VBS JumpStarts?

Get your VBS started off on the right track. All Church and Associational VBS Directors are invited to a FREE VBS JUMPSTART that will give you some great ideas to make this year's VBS the best ever. This year, a LifeWay Bookstore will be providing a CURRICULUM OVERVIEW as a part of the VBS JumpStart.

VBS JumpStarts will start at 7:00 PM and will run till 8:30 PM. Come get a jump on enlistment, promotion, planning, and a curriculum overview for your VBS.

## Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Cartersville (Tabernacle Baptist Church)  
Macon (Mabel White Baptist Church)  
Brunswick (First Baptist Church)

## Monday, January 23, 2012

Conyers (Rockdale Baptist Church)  
Tifton (Northside Baptist Church)  
Augusta (Abilene Baptist Church)

## Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Statesboro (First Baptist Church)  
Clarksville (Bethlehem Baptist Church)

## Thursday, January 26, 2012

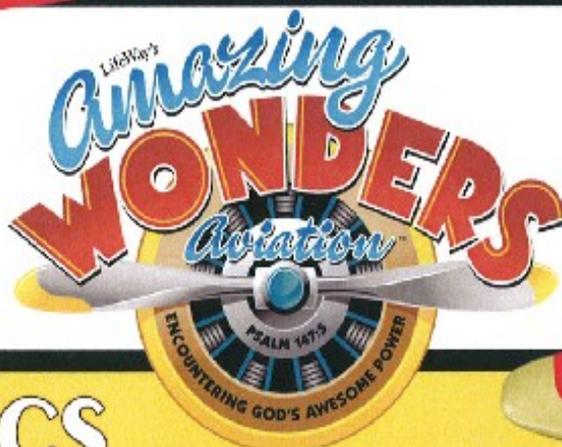
Valdosta (Northside Baptist Church)  
Columbus (Northside Baptist Church)  
Athens (Beech Haven Baptist Church)

## Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Douglasville (First Baptist Church)

## JUMPSTARTS

# VBS



Now Offering  
**5 DATES**  
AND **12**  
LOCATIONS!

## VBS CLINICS

# CLINICS

### Registration/Cost

- Early Bird Registration - \$10.00 per person if registered by February 17, 2012
- Regular Registration - \$15.00 per person if registered by March 3, 2012
- Late Registration - \$20.00 per person if registered on or after March 4, 2012

### Base Level Conferences

- Younger Preschool (Birth - 3 yrs. Old)
- Older Preschool (PK - Kindergarten)
- Younger Children (1st - 2nd Grade)
- Middle Children (3rd - 4th Grade)
- Older Children (5th - 6th Grade)
- Youth (7th - 12th Grade)
- General Leaders (VBS Directors, Pastors and Assoc. Missionaries)

**3 DATES**  
AND **5**  
LOCATIONS!

## Saturday, March 10, 2012

Cartersville - Tabernacle Baptist Church  
Statesboro - First Baptist Church

## Saturday, March 17, 2012

Athens - Beech Haven Baptist Church  
Tifton - Northside Baptist Church

## Saturday, March 24, 2012

Macon - Mabel White Baptist Church

### Clinic Schedule

- 7:45-8:30 am - Registration Check-In & Continental Breakfast
- 8:30-8:50am - Worship Rally
- 9:00-9:50am - Special Interest Conference # 1
- 10:00-10:20am - EXPO/Snack
- 10:30-11:20am - Special Interest Conference #2
- 11:30am-1:00pm - Base Level Conference
- \*LifeWay Bookstore Hours 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

For more information visit our website at [ssog.gabaptist.org](http://ssog.gabaptist.org) or call 1.800.746.4422 - Ext. 286

*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 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. You can send information by e-mail at [administration@appalachee.org](mailto: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 Apostle Paul put it simply in  
I Thessalonians 5:25,  
“Brethren, pray for us.”

~ Life Springs Baptist  
~ Lighthouse Baptist  
Pastor Tom Harris  
~ Loganville First Baptist  
Pastor Ronald Kendall  
~ Mars Hill  
Pastor Steve Bingham

#### **DECEMBER 2011**

4-11 Week of Prayer for International  
Missions  
6 Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.  
13 Budget & Finance Committee – 10:00  
a.m.  
13 Associational Council Meeting – 11:00  
a.m.  
Dec. 22-Jan. 2  
Office Closed-Christmas Holiday  
Continuing Education – every Tuesday  
7:00-9:00 p.m.

#### **JANUARY 2012**

3 Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.  
10 ABA WMU Leadership Meeting  
12 Generosity Conference –  
Dr. Chuck Kelly – TBA  
19-21 Selah, WEM Leaders – Camp Pennacle  
19 Executive Committee Meeting –  
7:00 p.m.  
26 Evangelism Team Meeting – 7:00 p.m.  
Continuing Education – every Tuesday -  
7:00-9:00 p.m.