

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

*P.O. Box 1064, 124 W. Spring St., Monroe, GA 30655*

*770-267-8278 - [www.appalachee.org](http://www.appalachee.org)*

*Rev. Eric Buffington, Associate Missionary*  
*Virginia Mason, Administrative Assistant*

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*March 2012*

**Dr. Emir Caner, President of Truett  
McConnell College, Speaking at the  
2012 Spring Meeting of the  
Appalachee Association**

The Spring Annual Meeting of the Appalachee Baptist Association will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Bishop Baptist church. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Dr. Emir Caner, President of Truett McConnell College.

Born on August 25, 1970, Emir Caner grew up in the Columbus, Ohio, area in a Sunni Muslim family. As a young teenager, he came to faith in Jesus Christ during a Baptist revival service. He is a graduate of Criswell College in Dallas, Texas and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. In 1999, he earned a Doctor of Philosophy in History from the University of Texas, Arlington.

During the decade before he entered the academic world Dr. Caner served as a pastor or in staff positions for churches in Ohio, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas. From 1999 to 2004 he was Assistant Professor of Church History and Anabaptist Studies at Southeastern. In 2005 he became the founding Dean of The College at Southwestern, Director of the Center for Free Church Studies and Professor of History at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. In August of 2008 he accepted the call of Truett-McConnell College to become its eighth president.

Dr. Caner has written or contributed to 18 books about various topics, including Islam, persecution, religious liberty, ecclesiology, Baptist history, and apologetics. *Unveiling Islam*, for which received the Gold Medallion Book of the Year award, has sold nearly 200,000 copies.

Since taking the office of President at Truett-McConnell Dr. Caner has steadily improved both its academic programs and facilities. On the academic side, the four year degree programs started in 2003 as the college continued to expand and new professors and staff have been added. In terms of facilities, a new academic building, dining hall and dorm opened in 2011 at the school.

Dr. Caner is a powerful speaker with a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our honor to be able to host him this year at our Annual Spring Meeting. Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear what God is doing at your Truett-McConnell College.



**Are you looking for a simple tool to help you share your faith?**

The Gospel Pen is a simple tool designed to help you share your faith. Its current layout was designed by Roy Pierce, a member of the Evangelism Team of the Appalachian Association. Roy has been personally sharing this pen in his day to day walk with great evangelistic results. Various people and churches in Georgia as well as in other states are getting involved in sharing the gospel pen with others, one-on-one. As Roy enthusiastically reports, people are finding that it is easy to share the pen with others, with the vast majority of people that are offered a pen gladly accepting. Roy has seen people get saved and/or get connected with a church as a result of the pen ministry. Anyone interested in receiving sample pens or learning about the ministry, please contact Roy Pierce on 770-682-5500 or at [RSbygrace@yahoo.com](mailto:RSbygrace@yahoo.com)

April 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 at 7:00 pm

*Spring Meeting of the Appalachian Association at Bishop Baptist (1110 Old Bishop Rd, Bishop GA.)*

Guest Speaker: Emir Caner, President of Truett-McConnell

Music By the Southern Gospel Group 'Georgia' & Contemporary Worship

Representative from both Appalachian Association ministries and local outreach groups will be presenting brief reports on how

## It's Now or Never

*A Call to Reclaim AMERICA*

**Dr. Jody Hice**

Pastor, radio talk show host, former congressional candidate, author of *It's Now or Never A Call to Reclaim AMERICA*

### **Pastor's Conference**

You are invited to enjoy lunch and listen to a fellow pastor sharing with you the right, duty and responsibility of clergy to proclaim our Christian heritage from the pulpit, without fear of government intervention, as pastors have done since the founding of our nation until our generation.

Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

First Baptist Church of Loganville

680 Tom Brewer Road, Loganville, GA 30052

Lunch served beginning at 11:30 AM

Please R.S.V.P. by Friday, March 23

John Sauers [jsauers@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsauers@bellsouth.net) 678-777-8836

Jody will be giving out 5 books as door prizes.

**North American Missions**

## **Whatever It Takes**



**National Goal: \$70 Million**

[www.AnnieArmstrong.com](http://www.AnnieArmstrong.com)



**What's In a Name?  
To Be 'Southern Baptist' or Not  
By Eric Buffington**

One of my mentors in the ministry loved to tell a little story about a student coming up to him and asking, "If you were not Southern Baptist, what would you be?" To this question, the professor would always proudly declare "If I were not Southern Baptist young man, you know what I would be? I would be ashamed!" Although his voice did not reveal it, if you looked closely, you could see the hint of a playful glint in the professor's eye that revealed this boastful story had both a serious and a humorous intend.

Over the past few months, our convention has been tinkering with the idea of a name change. According to the SBC Life Journal the debate has been settled at least for now. Legally we will remain the Southern Baptist Convention. However, the "descriptor" phrase "Great Commission Baptists" will be proposed as an informal option for those who feel it is to be preferred according to need.

So will this settle the matter? I, personally hope it will. There are far bigger fish to fry, as the saying goes, than internal debates over the name of the convention. Our churches face declining baptismal numbers and declining financial resources. Our culture is moving further and further away from its foundation in the Christian tradition. We are not in danger of becoming a predominantly secular people, by the statistics we are already in that category.

Personally, I was not in favor of a name change because the cost of the change would have been a burden on already limited resources and the potential confusion created could have been even greater. I'm not saying the phrase 'Southern Baptist' has to be on your church sign (it's not on the sign

of the church I pastor, for that matter) but I'm also not convinced that name change would make a measurable difference.

You see, instead of a denominational name change, I think what we need is a heart change. Maybe, in addition to installing Emergency Medical Defibrillators in our churches to shock those whose physical hearts have stopped beating back to life we could also install, at a each door, an Emergency Spiritual Defibrillator to shock those whose hearts are spiritually lethargic back to life. The only problem is, I'm not sure what we would officially name the things. Anyway, that's just my opinion. However, I think it is pretty well on target.

**WMSL 88.9 FM**



**Masterful Golf Tournament®**

@Lane Creek Golf Club Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 9am  
Breakfast, snacks during play, and Lunch provided.  
Co-hosts: Chickfila, Classic Awards, & Golf, Etc.

This is a Captain's Choice, best-ball team tournament!  
Check-in 8:15 until 8:45am for Breakfast biscuits, warm-up & hole assignment.  
Hospitality snack and drink carts available all day at no charge.  
Mulligans available for each player.

**For more information contact Jim Delette at  
(404) 372- 9375**



*John Carroll*

*May 27, 1939 – March 15, 2012*

*In love and appreciation for his life and  
service to our Lord Jesus Christ*

*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 Vision***

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Monroe, Ga. 30655

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

- ~ Alcovy Mountain Baptist  
Pastor John King
- ~ Annie Mary Baptist  
Pastor Buster Brown
- ~ Bethebara Baptist  
Pastor Rob Bray
- ~ Bethel Baptist  
Pastor Aaron Arledge
- ~ Bethlehem FBC  
Pastor Jason Britt
- ~ Bishop Baptist  
Pastor Eric Buffington

**MARCH 2012**

- 4-11 Week of Prayer for North American Missions
- 6 Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 9-11 ABA – WMU Mission Celebration
- 15 Evangelism Team Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 17 WMU Spring Mission  
Continuing Education – every Tuesday – 7:00-9:00 p.m.

**APRIL 2012**

- 3 Minister's Meeting – 12:00 p.m.
- 6 Office Closed – Good Friday
- 8 Easter Sunday
- 10 ABA – WMU Leadership Meeting
- 10 Budget & Finance Committee Meeting – 10:00 a.m.
- 10 Associational Council Meeting – 11:00 a.m.
- 12 Associational Bible Drill – FBC Monroe
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 26 ABA Spring Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
- 27-28 Georgia Baptist Women's Spring Event – Callaway Gardens  
Continuing Education – every Tuesday – 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.