

DECEMBER 2022

VOL LX ISSUE 12

# THE MESSENGER

HOLSTON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

On December 4 we will kick off the Week of Prayer for International Missions as we emphasize the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Why? 157,690. That's the number of people who die each day without Jesus. Each month over 4.7 million people step into a Christless eternity as 7,327 people groups (4.6 billion people) remain unreached! The only solution is the Gospel, and we are blessed to be part of one of the largest missionary sending agencies in the world. Consider these 2021 facts from our International Mission Board:

**3,650 Missionaries Supported**

**93 New People Groups and Places Engaged**

**592,408 Heard the Gospel**

**176,795 New Believers**

**107,701 Baptisms**

**22,744 New Churches Planted**

Because of your faithful giving, these missionaries can serve fulltime without having to return home to raise support. I can't wait to see what God has done in 2022!

If you've never given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, I want to challenge you to give at least \$10 for each member of your family. If your church has had the same LMCO goal for a while, consider raising it at least \$100. One person can cover that increase! You and I will likely spend much more than that on gifts that will last only a short time. By comparison the Gospel makes an eternal impact!

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. – Isaiah 40:8

As we prepare to enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas, may the Holy Spirit convict us to invest in souls; they will spend eternity somewhere. May we in turn faithfully pray, give, and go that a great harvest of souls will be won!

The Gospel is only good news if it gets there in time. – Carl F. H. Henry

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Troy

# Merry Christmas!



Pastor Greg Burton of Colonial Heights Baptist Church was named the Good News Jail Ministry Volunteer of the Year for Sullivan County. Pastor Greg volunteers monthly to hold services for incarcerated men at the Sullivan County jail. Many have come to Christ through his faithful dedication.

Sheriff Jeff Cassidy and Jail Chaplain Kent Pugh presented the award at the annual Good News Jail Ministry Banquet on October 21. In response to the honor, Pastor Greg states, "I am but one of a team of humble servants of Christ caring for the hopeless. All glory totally goes to the Lord. Grateful for all my prayer partners and to my church, who shares this with me!"

**Please Pray for  
Our Churches  
Without Pastors**

**Boone Trail  
Fall Branch  
Friendship Chapel  
Grace  
Muddy Creek  
New Victory  
Ninth Street  
Oakdale  
Timberlake**

*December*

## Senior Pastor Birthdays

11 Jaime Velasco  
14 Michael Pope  
22 Keith Malone  
23 David Green  
23 Tommy Pierce  
30 Pete Tackett

*Happy Birthday, Pastors!*



## Johnson City Baptist Center Thanks and Joy

The Johnson City Baptist Center would like to express much thanks for the great time of food and fellowship experienced during our Thanksgiving meal. Nearly one hundred children, families and neighbors were served with the traditional food the Monday before the holiday. Thank you to Mt. Zion Baptist and Depot City Church for blessing us in this way, as Jesus' love was shared through your gifts of food and service.

The past weeks have also given us more reasons to be thankful. Churches and individuals have come through in selecting all the children on the Angel Tree. About sixty children will receive gifts from you to help lift their hearts this Christmas. More importantly, in sharing with them, they can see and hear about the love of Jesus. What joy that will bring into each home. But no gift will outshine the joy that God has bestowed through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our prayer is that the children and adults we minister to, come to know the truth of Jesus, and the hope and joy He brings.

Anna Huggins, JCBC Director



The Acts 2:17 Initiative was officially launched during the Tuesday afternoon session (Nov. 15) of the annual meeting of the Tennessee Baptist Convention held during The Summit at Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova.

The Acts 2:17 Initiative will provide Tennessee Baptists across the state the opportunity to speak into future priorities of the state convention. Messengers gathered in small groups to begin the process and 24 other listening sessions are scheduled across Tennessee beginning in January of 2023. **Mountain View Baptist Church in Johnson City is the location of the January 16 (6:30 PM) meeting location.** Visit [tnbaptist.org/Acts217](http://tnbaptist.org/Acts217) for regular updated information.

Ryan Keaton, next generations specialist for the TBMB, shared what the future will look like for Tennessee Baptists. "There have been times in our past where we have had plans, events changed what we thought the future would be, and our plans had to adapt," Keaton observed. He encouraged Tennessee Baptists "to dream with us as we have the opportunity to look ahead at the future."

Keaton observed that trend assessments are essential for organizations to proactively plan for the future. "Our desire is to be proactive," Keaton said. The TBMB specialist noted that visioning is not a new concept. "Jesus was a futurist and encouraged His followers to look to the future and be prepared for it."

Keaton cited five major trends that Tennessee Baptists need to be aware of as they plan for the future: population, hardships, economic, societal, and church. (See entire article, linked below, for important details.)

Keaton acknowledged that "we can't do anything about the future in our own strength, but God can. We have great hope in being in the presence of God and seeking His preferable future. God has placed us here for this time and for this purpose. May we seek Him in ways that future generations can stand on the shoulders of our faithfulness."

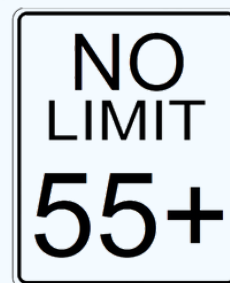
For more important information, read the entire article at: <https://baptistandreflector.org/summit-2022-acts-217-initiative-provides-new-platform-for-churches/>

*-Excerpted from the Baptist and Reflector, November 28 Edition*

# Last Chance to Register!

## DECEMBER 2

### HBA ON MISSION CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



**For Seniors 55+**

**Saturday, December 17**

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Antioch Baptist Church \* 1014 Antioch Road, Johnson City

**Cost \$5**

Seating is Limited \* Reserve Your Spot Today

<https://square.link/u/whDQPLUX>

Or call (423) 929-1196

Reservation Deadline - December 2

**Great Food \* Great Entertainment**

**Powerful Reminder of How Christmas  
Calls Us to Be On Mission with God**

**Join us!**

## HELLO December HBA CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

**2 Reservation Deadline for NO Limit 55+ Christmas Event**

**4 - 11 Week of Prayer for International Missions**

**6 Minister & Spouse Christmas Banquet**

**7 JCBC Angel Tree Gifts Due**

**17 HBA NO Limit 55+ On Mission Christmas Celebration**

**22 Deadline for Messenger Content**

**25 Merry Christmas!**

**23-27 HBA Office Closed**

### JANUARY

**1 Happy New Year!**

**19 Executive Board Meeting - Woodlawn Baptist, Bristol**

**22 Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

**26-28 TBMB Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat**

**29-30 WinTN State Evangelism Conference**

### FEBRUARY

**19 Focus on WMU Sunday**



## CHURCH STAFF OPENINGS

### BIVOCATIONAL ASSOCIATE PASTOR & BIVOCATIONAL CHILDREN'S PASTOR **Mountain View, Johnson City**

**Bi-Vocational Associate Pastor:**  
Oversees Outreach and Discipleship

**Bi-Vocational Children's Pastor:**  
Oversees the Children's Ministry

For full job descriptions or to submit a  
resume,  
contact [admin@mtnviewbaptist.com](mailto:admin@mtnviewbaptist.com),  
or call 423-282-3262.

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### PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER **Harmony**

Salary negotiable based on experience and  
time devoted to fulfillment of job  
description. If you are or know of a Godly  
man with a love for youth and their spiritual  
growth, please send resumé to:

Harmony Baptist Church  
c/o Pastor Steve Pate  
1177 Harmony Rd.  
Jonesborough, TN 37659

\*Full job description available upon request.

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### PART-TIME WORSHIP MINISTER **Oak Hill**

Well paid position to sing, lead choir,  
and lead musicians

Contact Toby Brown at (423) 348-5176.

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### PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR & PART-TIME CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR **Ninth Street**

For full job descriptions or to submit a  
resume, contact [nsbchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:nsbchoffice@gmail.com).



Bart Richardson has been involved in ministry for over two decades and has served on staff at several churches as Minister of Music, Youth Pastor, and Interim Pastor. In October God opened the door for Bart to become the pastor of Central Baptist Church of Erwin, and he and his wife Danielle look forward with great anticipation to what God is going to do. Bart and Danielle have two sons, Thomas and Micah, and they both serve in ministries at Sinking Creek Baptist Church. Bart is no stranger to the Holston Baptist Association having served as Worship Leader, Senior Adult Coordinator, as well as serving on several committees in years past. Bart and Danielle are very excited to be back in the HBA and can't wait to see old friends while making new friends.



AMS Dr. Troy Rust presents the HBA petition signed by pastors and messengers to Michael Hensley, Senator Marsha Blackburn's liaison to faith-based organizations. The petition urges Senator Blackburn to vote against HB #8404 which will negatively impact:

- our views on traditional marriage
- pastor and church teaching
- faith-based non-profits
- businesses holding Biblical values, and
- Christian educational institutions.



Boone Trail Baptist will again hold its live nativity at the Barn at Boone Falls. This year's dates are December 15, 16, and 17 from 6pm to 9pm.

We would love to invite you and your church to partner with us in one of two ways:

1. Send a group to see the nativity for yourselves! Groups may register online at [boonetrail.net/nativity](http://boonetrail.net/nativity)
2. Come help us! We need
  - Able-bodied builders to assemble Bethlehem the week prior to the nativity
  - Bethlehemite citizens walking the streets, selling wares, and engaging guests
  - Choir singers for the angel choir (singing many standard Christian carols)

Last year more than 3500 people came through the free event where they experienced what it may have been like in the Bethlehem marketplace the night Jesus was born. Once again you'll see church members dressed in time-period clothing walking the streets, attending their booths, selling their goods and tending to their animals (sheep, donkeys, chickens, llamas etc.). You'll see Roman soldiers taking down names for the census, Herod in his palace, angels singing and, finally Mary, Joseph and Jesus the Savior. Along the straw-covered streets families will hear the Christmas story broadcast through their car radio as well as the sounds of a live church choir.

A large star will shine above the venue held by a 100-foot crane. The star should be visible from a long-range in the Boones Creek area.

In addition to driving through in cars, visitors will have additional options that will move the crowd through more quickly. Guests are welcome to park at Meade Tractor and walk the route, or ride on covered passenger trailers (donated from Fender's Farm). Large groups can also reserve spots on the trailers. As a treat to visitors, families will receive cookies and hot chocolate to enjoy along the route and, at the end, guests will be given a personalized gift that reminds us of the reason Jesus came and that he knows us by name.

Boone Trail Pastor John Wilson says the response to last year's event was overwhelming. "We had such amazing feedback of the blessing families received from our event. They said it really brought the true meaning of Christmas to life. Our hope is that this event is again a refuge from the typical commercialized holiday rush to just step back in time and realize the miracle that was Christ's birth, death and resurrection."

Blessings,  
John Wilson  
Associate Pastor



**May the Lord's Great Love  
Bless You and Your Family this**

*Christmas*



*Wonderful Counselor ✦ Mighty God ✦ Everlasting Father ✦ Prince of Peace*