



Bigbee Baptist Association

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JULY/AUGUST 2019

Brother Brad's Box...

Happy Summer!

Vacation Bible Schools have begun! Kids are learning, loving, and living Jesus, and what an awesome thing that is! Other VBS events will be coming in the next few weeks, so let me strongly encourage you to pray for and with those VBS leaders, teachers, and teams as they prepare, and for the children whose hearts will be touched!

By the time you read these words, the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention, held for the first time in Alabama in nearly 80 years, will have met, conducted its business, and moved on. So, let me also encourage you to pray for our denominational leaders, be they national, statewide, or associational. It is an awesome privilege to serve as a Missionary in any of these positions, and all prayers are coveted!

It seems my focus for this newsletter has already become prayer. I can think of no greater way to help meet the need of someone you love. However, I wonder if too many folks treat prayer like something we only need to do when we are down and out or if we or a loved one have a serious illness or difficulty. And then our first thought is to ask God where He's been. If you had been in conversation through prayer with the Father before your difficulties, perhaps you would more readily feel His presence through those circumstances.

In a world where everything around us is focused on communications, and most of those are wireless, why is it we don't take advantage of the greatest wireless connection there is?! When phones were attached to our walls, we were free. Now that the phones are free of wires, we have become attached. There are entirely too many distractions keeping us away from our time with God.

I want to encourage you these summer months to feel free enough to go your way, take your vacations, spend some time off, but please don't leave God out. Find ways to keep the connection open. Visit a church you happen across in your travels. Practice looking for the Lord in the beauty of the scenery and the lives of those around you. And most of all, continue to pray. Above all else, do not give your prayer life a summer off!

I shared a thought with my church congregation recently, and then felt like I should share it here as well. I once heard someone say that every time you skip church, you have cast one more vote to close the doors. Now certainly there are times when things happen, but more times than not, we aren't in church simply because we choose not to attend.

So let me ask you about your summer plans. Are you skipping church, its activities, its functions, its schedule, just so you can take some time off? I pray not.

Look at your upcoming church and associational calendars. Plan a worship schedule if necessary. Keep corporate worship times in your plans. Make sure your children and grandchildren are attending VBS and other kiddo camps or activities. And show them by example.

Pray, worship, and forsake not the gathering of yourselves together in fellowship. Those are good items to keep on your summer calendar. God is so very good. Show Him your thankfulness by your faithfulness.

May He bless you with a relaxing and God-filled summer!

Praying for you and yours,
Brad

Calendar of Events

JULY

- 1 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 21 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., BBA Office

AUGUST

- 5 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 8 Church Financial Issues, SBOM office Facility
Register early for \$15, within 7 day cost is \$25

SEPTEMBER

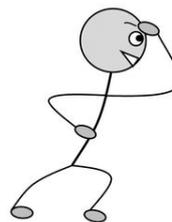
- 2 Labor Day
- 8-15 Week of Prayer for State Missions Offering
- 9 Pastors Conference, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office

Schedule for July VBS

- Siloam—July 13—8:30-2:30 p.m.
- Cuba—July 14-18—5:30-8:00 p.m.
- Christian Valley—July 19-21
- Fri—4:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
- Sat—9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- Sun—9:45 a.m. with VBS program at 11:00 a.m.



- Cuba—July 21-24
Preacher: Rev. Wade Phillips
- York — August 11-14
Preacher: Dr. Carl White
- Eutaw—Sept 8-11
Speakers—Phil & Teresa Glisson
*Teresa has the talent of being a ventriloquist



LOOKING FORWARD....

- Praise Night
- September 29
- 5:30 p.m.
- Christian Valley

PASTORS/CHURCH CLERKS

- Reminder:
- Elect messengers to the annual meeting in September.