



Bigbee Baptist Association

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Brother Brad's Box ...

My Dear Friends,

We reflect on the ten-year anniversary of the April 2011 tornadoes and the utter devastation that left people and places forever changed. Just this week, I've been flipping back through some of the photos I took in my mother's hometown of Smithville, Mississippi, on those first few days following the complete destruction of that little town.

Still, I can feel the gut-wrenching heaviness of the situation and the absolute jaw-dropping scenes of those days. I remember the utter helplessness of knowing an older cousin was missing, the lot that contained her home completely wiped clean like a fresh schoolroom chalkboard. Many of us lost friends and relatives in the storms that day all across the Southeast.

But what stands out the most to me as I've revisited those photos and memories, and have read updates on so many areas that were devastated that day, is the unwavering faith of God's people. Homes and neighborhoods are being rebuilt. Businesses are beginning again. Some things will never be the same, and I can't help but believe that's the whole point!

Why would God allow us to experience things like devastating storms, disease and isolation, or any number of other things, only to leave us as we were? He expects us to be changed, to come out differently than we were, to use the difficulties of our yesterdays to bring blessings into our todays and make us better witnesses for our tomorrows.

My wife read me something the other night. It was a statement she had heard from one of my sermons, and she had penciled it in the margin of her Bible. It went something like this, "Do you know why your rearview mirror is so small compared to your windshield? It's because our main focus is to be on what's ahead, not what's behind us."

Certainly our past helps make us what we are, but we are designed to live for today while preparing for tomorrow. As we slowly leave the difficulties of covid-19-related isolation and separation behind us, my earnest prayer is that we use it for the good we've received.

Don't dare take those family moments and visits for granted now! Jump at every chance you get to visit one another, especially our older generation! And, please, for the love of all that is good, hug one another!

As events are continuing to be canceled or put off until later, please know that we are prayerfully doing what we can only believe is the best for the majority of our friends and neighbors, believing that much better things are in store for tomorrow! Trust and believe.

And believe this too – I love hugs. If you need one, call me.

Yours & His,
Brad

Calendar of Events

MAY

- 3 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 9 MOTHER'S DAY
- 31 MEMORIAL DAY

JUNE

- 7 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention—Nashville Music City Center, Nashville, TN
- 20 FATHER'S DAY

JULY

- 5 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 18 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m. BBA Office

AUGUST

- 2 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office

SEPTEMBER

- 13 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 26 Praise Night, 5:30 p.m., York

Cancelled Meeting due to Covid 19...

May 18—Deacon/Pastor/Spouse Conference

May 27—Senior Adult Rally

Monday, May 31, 2021

Memorial
DAY
*Remembering those who served
and gave their all.*