



Bigbee Baptist Association

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Brother Brad's Box ...

Dear Friends,

As I write this, it is a gorgeous cool day. The sun is shining, and I'm thinking about how blessed I am. On the way to the Associational office this morning, I stopped by the always-wonderful Mennonite bakery for a scrumptious treat. In the parking lot, I ran across a dear friend and former coworker and took a moment to catch up on life's events. Once I stepped inside, the owners were just finishing up their own breakfast in the corner, and Mrs. Linda hollered a "Good morning, Brad!" across the dining room. We chatted briefly about the nice day.

I walked into the local bank a little later this morning, the only customer on the premises, and was greeted from across the lobby with a big, "Good morning, Brad!" My teller, Ms. Deloris, and I discussed the cool air and how it puts a much-needed pep in our step.

Later this morning, I'll walk a couple of blocks down to the post office to check both our office mailbox and my own, and I'll get to see business neighbors between here and there. I'll stop for a second to greet and be greeted by the kind gentleman who takes such good care of the grounds around the federal post office building. And if the package for which I'm eagerly awaiting has arrived, I'll step inside the inner lobby where I'll again hear any one of the employees greet me by name and ask how I'm doing today.

On Thursday morning I'll pick up the local newspaper, and although it isn't nearly as thick as some papers are, I'll peruse the few pages there are and quickly find some news about another friend, neighbor, or acquaintance, whether it's a congratulatory message, a tragic difficulty, or even an obituary notice.

I used to think I'd like to live in some huge metropolis that afforded me all of life's pleasures - a place where I'd never lack for entertainment and could live close enough and walk anywhere I wished. But my fifty-some-odd years have brought me to another place in life, one I wouldn't trade for the world. When I moved to Sumter County, AL, on my 18th birthday, I wouldn't have believed you if you told me I'd never leave. And yet here I am.

And that's much of the reason I'm so blessed today. The weather is cool and the sun is shining, and that's beautiful. But I met and married my wife here, we've raised three beautiful young women who are all now on their own. We've watch friends and loved ones all over this county come and go, and many have moved on to their eternal homes. Yes, I'm blessed. Blessed by a church that remembers "Pastor Appreciation month," a Baptist Association that allows me to encourage and prod us along in a weird world, and I'm blessed to have dear friends like you.

Whether we remember each other's names or not, it's a great place to be. I pray that in the days ahead, we are encouraged and able to lead folks to know the name of Lord as personally as He knows ours.

Much love and prayers, Brad

Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER

- 1 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 7 Daylight Savings Time ENDS
- 16-17 Alabama Baptist State Convention, Whitesburg, Huntsville
- 25 *Thanksgiving Day*

DECEMBER

- 6 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 25 *Christmas Day*

JANUARY

- 3 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 16 Executive Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m., BBA Office
- 30 Men's Breakfast, 7:30 a.m., Livingston First

FEBRUARY

- 7 Pastors Fellowship, 10:30 a.m., BBA Office
- 13 Choir Festival and Evangelism Conference, 4:30 p.m., Livingston First



Sunday, January 30
Livingston First
7:30 a.m.

Cost: Donations



Choir Festival and Evangelism
Conference

Sunday, February 13
4:30 p.m.
Livingston First

Happy Thanksgiving
And
Merry Christmas