

The FOCUS

December
2017
Volume 45
Number 12
Bowie Baptist
Association
903-831-0194



Contend for the Faith

Southerland Springs, once known simply as a small town near San Antonio, is now synonymous with the violence increasingly common to society. On November 5th, twenty-six innocents died having gathered moments earlier at the First Baptist Church for worship. It wasn't the first such shooting. Here in East Texas we remember Dangerfield and Wedgwood. But this one comes so soon after other incidents, Las Vegas and the New York bicycle path attack for example, that the emotions are overwhelming.

In the wake of these events we hear an endless cacophony of media personalities debating what actions must occur to put an end to such deeds. Unfortunately, most miss the point. They address the issue as if we have a gun problem, or a terror problem, when, in fact, we have a heart problem. To quote Henry Brandt, "the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart."

Let me ask a question. Amid a culture that devalues life, abandons restraint, and fuels self-worship, what else should we expect? Romans 1:28-30 says, *"And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness..."* Such is life in a fallen world.

So, what's the answer? It's not a new law, although we can have that debate. After all, government exists to provide boundaries limiting the extremes to which a sinful humanity may reach.

But to really address the problem, we must return to the Gospel. Preach Jesus! Teach men, women, boys and girls how to love Him, walk with Him, and serve Him! In Jude 3, Paul says that, while he wanted to encourage his protégé about their shared salvation in Christ, he "... found it necessary to write, appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."

Thanksgiving is here. Christmas is coming. Don't yield to the despair of the 24/7 news cycle. Jesus Christ is alive and well. Let's show the world that this is so.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6
(ESV)

Bro. Jim

One More Thing! On Saturday Dec. 16th, beginning at 8:00 AM, Cross View Baptist is hosting a church security seminar led by Kenny Sanders. Kenny, with the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Department, is a nationally respected authority on church vulnerability and security. He also happens to be a lay pastor, having served as interim pastor for numerous congregations in our area. Bring your safety / security team members!

In this month's FOCUS

- Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- 2017 Week of Prayer
- Administrative Team Meeting
- Bi-State School of Ministry
- 2018 Meeting Locations
- Redwater FBC Senior Adult Winter Festival
- For the Sake of One
- Upward Basketball & Cheerleading League
- Church Security Seminar
- 2017 Christmas Programs
- Walk Through Bethlehem
- Churches Seeking Staff

Bowie Baptist
Association
PO Box 7740
Texarkana, TX 75505

Phone: 903-831-0194

FAX: 903-831-0193

association news & prayer

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering December 3rd - December 10th.



Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

For more information about the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and promotional materials for your church, click [here](#).

2017 Week of Prayer for International Missions

December 3rd - December 10th

- Day 1** - Bagby Family, Nepal
- Day 2** - Muslims of Russia
- Day 3** - Jones Family, Japan
- Day 4** - Mexico City Team
- Day 5** - The Forgotten Refugee
- Day 6** - Mikeska Family, London
- Day 7** - What God Has Done - World Wide
- Day 8** - Why Prayer Matters - World Wide

For more information about these missionaries and their story, click [here](#).

Administrative Team Meeting

The next Administrative Committee Meeting will be **December 12th**, 10:00 AM, at the BBA Office. Meetings are open to participation from interested persons within the association.

Bi-State School of Ministry

The Call: How God Shapes You for Ministry is the Spring Semester class for the Bi-State School of Ministry. Students will explore how God shapes disciples ministry, including the spiritual and practical preparation essential for effective service. A core component of the Diploma in Christian Ministry, this class is appropriate for anyone seeking to grow as a servant of Christ and His church.

This class is offered Mondays, beginning January 15, 6 to 9 PM, at First Baptist Church, Wake Village, Texas. Dr. Jim Turnbo is the instructor. For information contact the association at 903-831-0194 or Bro. Jim by e-mail at jimturnbo@bowiebaptist.org.

2018 Meeting Locations

January 16, 2018 - 12 Noon, DeKalb FBC

April 17, 2018 - 6:00 pm, Hooks FBC

July 24, 2018 - 12 Noon, BBA Office

September 18, 2018 - 6:00 pm
Cross View Baptist Church

2018 Partnership Celebration & Annual Meeting

October 21, 2018 - Wake Village FBC

FOCUS on the ministry

Redwater FBC Senior Adult Winter Festival

FBC Redwater will be having the Senior Adult Winter Festival on **December 2nd**, 4:30 pm. Entertainment only tickets may be purchased at the door - \$5. Contact the church office for more information. 903-671-5142.

For the Sake of One Foster & Orphan Care Ministry

This local non-profit ministry is in need of volunteers. To find out more information, please contact Angela Coston at 903-329-0566 or click the links below.

www.forthesakeofone.com
forthesakeofonetexarkana@gmail.com

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading League

Registration is open now with practices beginning in December. (K - 6th grade) To register or for more information, contact Liberty Eylau Baptist Church at 903-832-7526 or click [here](#) for the upward website.

Church Security Seminar

Cross View Baptist Church will be hosting a "Church Security Seminar" Saturday, December 16 from 8 am to 12 pm. For those who are interested, please RSVP by contacting the church office 903-794-6066.

December 25 - January 1st

BBA Office will be closed.

Have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

2017 Christmas Programs

Myrtle Springs

"A Mountain Christmas Memory"

Presented by the choir & drama team

November 30th, 7 pm
December 1st & 3rd, 7 pm

Highland Park

"Here With Us"

December 10th, 10:45 am

Liberty Eylau

"Family Night at Christmas"

December 17th, 6 pm

New Boston FBC

"Hanging of the Green"

December 3rd, 6 pm
"Christmas Carol Sing"
December 17th, 6 pm

Pleasant Grove

"At Last, Noel"

December 17th, 6 pm

Walk Through Bethlehem

See the shops & visit with the merchants as your guide walks with you through the market place of the city of Bethlehem.

Midway Baptist Church

1415 FM 2148, Texarkana, TX

December 2-3

6:00pm—8:30pm

December 9-10

6:00pm—8:30pm

For information on how you can help, please contact the church at 903-334-9707.

Churches Seeking Staff

Please continue to pray for the numerous churches in the Association that are seeking staff members.

Pastor:

Victory City Midway FBC
Old Salem

Worship Leader:

Hooks FBC

Pianist:

Pleasant Grove (903-838-5558)

Youth Leader:

- Flower Acres (903-824-8412)
- Korean Mission
- New Boston FBC
- Cross View

(Send resume to 3268 North FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75503, ATTN: Youth Search Committee)

- Midway FBC

(Send resume to 1415 FM 2148, Texarkana, TX 75501, ATTN: Youth Minister Search Committee)

For more information, you may contact the respective congregations with the information provided, or contact the BBA Office.

Associational Staff

Dr. Jim Turnbo

Associational Missionary
jimturnbo@bowiebaptist.org

Valerie Mills

Ministry Assistant
receptionist@bowiebaptist.org

Paul Burkhalter

Ministry Training Director
enhpastor@hotmail.com

Heath Coston

Baptist Student Ministry Director
heath.coston@gmail.com

Fraternal Organizations

Sam Clem

Runnin' WJ Ranch
sclem1513@aol.com

Edna Walker

Telford Prison Ministries
ewhosphe@aol.com

Cody Howard

Friendship Center Director
choward@tfc.org



THE FOCUS, Published monthly by
Bowie Baptist Association
PO Box 7740
Texarkana, Texas 75505-7740
Published primarily by email
Hardcopy upon request
Postmaster: Send address changes to
Bowie Baptist Association
PO Box 7740
Texarkana, TX 75505-7740
"Address Service Requested"

DECEMBER 2017

- 3-10** Lottie Moon Christmas Offering &
Week of Prayer for International Missions
- 10** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 12** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am
- 25** Christmas Day
- 25 - Jan 1** BBA Office closed

JANUARY 2018

- 1** New Years Day
- 4** Pastor's Monthly Fellowship
Pleasant Grove, 10 am
- 9** Administrative Team Meeting
BBA Office, 10 am
- 15** Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 16** Executive Board Meeting
Pleasant Grove, 12 Noon

FRIENDSHIP CENTER

620 W. Fourth
Texarkana, TX 75505
903-792-1301

DECEMBER

- Circle J Cowboy
- Everett
- Moss Springs
- Buchanan FBC
- Gravel Hill
- Plantation
- Cross Pointe
- Highland Park

RUNNIN' WJ RANCH

4802 S. Kings Hwy
Texarkana, TX 75501
903-838-3223

These churches have been asked by the Friendship Center to get involved in the food drive for this month. The Center needs all kinds of canned goods, flour, corn meal, dried beans, macaroni and cheese, powdered milk, baby foods and formulas, and diapers. Any effort made for the Friendship Center will be appreciated. Some churches have chosen to include the Friendship Center in their annual budget and send a monthly check for support. Runnin' WJ Ranch needs financial support, volunteers, and supplies as well.