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David Pittman, Director of Missions

Christian Education Director, Tim Fisher; Moderator, Milton Hicks; Multi-Housing Coordinator, Ellen Chapman

Tim's Notes

Tim Fisher, Kingdom Growth Coordinator

Dead or Alive, which word describes your church? The meaning of dead: deprived of life, no power, no longer in use. The meaning of alive: alert, active, having hope. Which meaning defines your church? The great writer Robert Louis Stevenson once said, "I have been to church and am not depressed." Hopefully that is a common statement after most Sunday morning worship services although I could not be for certain. Is your church alive or dead?

Several years ago while working at a children's home, I would take children quite frequently to the Lansing Zoo. While at the zoo we would always visit the reptile house. One of the many snakes that were in the house was a large Python that was over 20 feet long. The kids loved to look at the large snake but they could not believe it was alive because it never showed signs of life, it never moved. One day while we were in the house the large snake showed signs of life, it moved. The children that were with me that day also showed signs of life. They left the building in a hurry. A simple question, does your church show signs of life?

In Ezekiel 37:1-6 we have the powerful story about The Valley of Dry Bones, bones that come alive. In these scriptures we see four characteristics of an Alive Church.

1. The hand of the Lord is upon them.
2. They are led by the Spirit.
3. They look in the mirror. They are willing to examine and evaluate themselves.
4. They hear and apply the word of God to their lives.

What happens when you apply these characteristics to your life and your church? You come to life and you know that God is Lord. Dead or Alive? How do you answer that question?

Go for the goal!

Cooperative Program Giving

Over the next two months Concord Baptist Association along with the Tennessee Baptist Convention is going to put an emphasis on the importance of each church giving to the Cooperative Program. Our challenge to you is to have every church in our association give at least 10% of their offerings to the Cooperative Program by the year 2010. We are asking each church to pray concerning increasing their giving to the Cooperative Program.

On April 19 we will have a Cooperative Program Missions Banquet and Fair at Belle Aire Baptist Church. The Fair will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the banquet at 6:00 p.m. Exhibits for the Fair will also be available for viewing after the banquet. The next day Sunday, April 20 we will have a CP Emphasis Day in our local churches.

Happy 100th Birthday!

There will be a party to celebrate Harry Nichols 100th birthday on April 12 at Westwood Baptist Church from 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. Brother Nichols has served many of the churches in Concord Association. You are invited to come help him celebrate. Your gift to him will be your presence.

Dates to Remember

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| April 7 | Associational VBS Conference, Southeast – 7:00 p.m. |
| April 9 | Pastors Coffee Fellowship – Holly Grove, 8:30 |
| April 13 | Association Bible Drills/Speakers Tournament – Riverdale, 2:00 p.m. |

From the Desk of...

J. David Pittman, Director of Missions

I would like to take this opportunity to update everyone what has been taking place with my cancer treatment. My hospital stay for the stem cell transplant has ended. With the complications that transpired during this process my hospitalization for this procedure lasted for a month. This was about two weeks more than we had planned.

It was a difficult process to go through. But God was and is gracious. He brought me through the hard times and enabled me to have victory throughout the experience. We will know how successful this treatment was in a few months.

The thing that I need your prayers about now is my kidney function. With all that has happened to me recently my kidneys have taken a major hit and at this point are not functioning normally. They are so far from normal that I have been receiving kidney dialysis three times a week. This will continue until a more normal kidney function returns or we will be looking at dialysis on a long term basis. I request your prayers for my kidneys. You have faithfully prayed for me during this entire ordeal and I thank you in advance for your prayers concerning this matter.

During this time of recovery I do get out periodically. My plans are to return to work as my health and energy allows. Brenda knows where I am at all times and if you need to speak to me she can direct you how to reach me.

If you see me you will notice my best imitation of "Mr. Clean". My hair has thinned considerably and I cut it short. If you do a double take it is all right. Samson was the only man that I am aware of that needed to be careful with his hair.

Thank you for the prayers you have lifted before God on my behalf. I know you have been praying for me. Without your prayers I do not believe that I would still be on this side of Glory. Your prayers have sustained Janice and me through this long and difficult passage that we are going through.

I would be remiss if I did not take the opportunity to express extreme gratitude to the Lord for the excellent staff and wonderful volunteers He has blessed this association with. They are doing extra work picking up the slack that my absence has caused. I am grateful for their leadership.

Summer Missionaries Needed!!

Every year Concord Baptist Association uses college students as summer missionaries for 10 weeks during the summer. They will be involved in Vacation Bible School, multihousing ministries, children and youth ministries, door to door outreach, block parties and other ministries. They will work with the local churches in our association. The missionaries must live locally and have their own transportation. They are paid \$150 per week. If you are interested in serving or know someone who might be interested contact the association office at 890-6409. Also if your church is interested in using the missionaries please contact us soon to get your date on the calendar.

Missions Coordinator

John Seals

It's the time of the year to be asking God where He would like you to serve in missions this spring or summer. The North American Mission Board has approximately 80 needs in the five surrounding states. If you do not want to get too far from home the needs are in Missouri, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana and our own state of Tennessee. The needs are for Backyard Bible Clubs, evangelistic response, construction, evangelism, prayer walking, survey, visitation etc.

I just received a needs list from the International Mission Board this week. There were 372 needs in 74 countries listed. You can go for 1 – 5 weeks. You can also go for 2 years as an International Service Corp.

Won't you please pray and ask God where He would have you serve in missions this year?

Associational Bible Drill/Speakers Tournament
Riverdale Baptist Church
Sunday, April 13
2:00 p.m.

Please call the association office and let us know how many children or youth will be participating from your church and what version of the Bible you have been using. Please call 890-6409 by March 31 with this information.

ASSOCIATIONAL VBS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Southeast Baptist Church
Monday, April 7
7:00 p.m.

Conferences:
Preschool – Sharon Lamb

Younger Children – Diane Campbell

Middle Children and VBX – Lowell Thompson

Youth – Sherman Boyd

Adult – Bobby Maxwell

Missions – Glenda Palmer

Music – Cliff Moore

Recreation – Tim Fisher

Crafts – Bertha Duvall

VBS Directors – Larry Montgomery

Cactus Canyon Club – Heidi Binder