



Birmingham Baptist Association

Churches working together...to meet needs...to change lives.

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A word from our Executive Director

A New Look

Hello to each of you in the BBA family. You are getting your first look at our NEW newsletter that will be published monthly. We will still use the back page of The Alabama Baptist on a weekly basis but through the monthly newsletter we can

give you more information on the happenings in the BBA for the upcoming month! We hope this will help us to better communicate what is going on in the ministry areas of your BBA and to also begin spotlighting what is happening in our local churches.

Please, let us know if there is additional information that you would like to see in either the weekly or monthly newsletters. We want to design the newsletters in such a way that you are getting the information you and your church need from us and that we are getting the information from you that you would like to put in either of the newsletters. Thank you for your suggestions!!!

Toni Wall, our Marketing Specialist, is responsible for putting these publications together and I want to express my deep appreciation to her for the job she has done and is doing to help us better serve you through these publications.

This monthly publication is only going to those for whom we have an e-mail address. So if you have friends in your church who want to get a copy of the monthly newsletter we need their e-mail address. The weekly Alabama Baptist newsletter will continue to come through the mail to your mail box.

Please send any suggestions or information you would like to include in the newsletter about your church to Toni's attention and she will get back in contact with you. Please send your information to news@bbaonline.org.

It is hard to believe that November is here and Christmas is coming. As we look at the calendar for November, remember that the Food for Friends ministry will not gather together un-

der the bridge at 1st & 2nd Avenue North during the Thanksgiving holidays this year.

We have changed the focus of this ministry by making our feeding unit available to our churches during the year to assist any of our BBA churches with a block party; a community-wide event; or a special evangelistic event where you might want to provide a free meal to people in your community to draw them to your church and to share the Gospel with them.

We feel this will enable us to use this ministry in a greater way than just one time a year. It will better assist our local churches in their areas of ministry, and since so many other non-profit groups are now feeding the homeless downtown with a full Thanksgiving meal the need for us to be there has diminished. Thanks to all of you who have supported this effort to feed the homeless every year at Thanksgiving for over 20 years!!!

The ministry continues but in a different way and you can still volunteer to help us as we go out to help individual churches in their communities to meet needs in people's lives.

We will keep you posted in the newsletter as to when the Food for Friends volunteers are needed to assist a local church in a ministry effort.

As you and your family celebrate the Thanksgiving holidays all of us here at the BBA want to express our thanksgiving to all of you for your prayers, encouragement, support, and volunteer spirit in helping provide the resources that enable us to offer the ministries that the BBA staff facilitates on your behalf!

We pray that as we continue to work together that the Lord Jesus will be glorified; that all of our churches will be edified; and that the people we reach out to will be sanctified!!!!

Happy Thanksgiving and may our Lord Jesus Christ be praised!!!!

In the work together,
Bro. Mike

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EVENTS AND UPDATES

Stay informed about your BBA.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Send your e-mail address to news@bbaonline.org to receive our monthly updates.

Remedy is in need of used medical equipment.

To donate your used medical equipment, please call (205) 783-9170 or e-mail remedy@bbaonline.org.



Medical equipment is always needed

Equipping people for living

by Keith Ivey

"The nurse at Princeton said I should call you," Ethan said hesitantly. "My mom is being released tomorrow, and I can't afford to hire someone to sit with her. We don't have the money to buy the equipment she needs to stay by herself so I can get back to work. I'm all she's got, but if I don't get back to work, we won't be able to make it. Can you help me?"

Ethan's situation isn't unusual. His mom is 64 and does not qualify for state or federal aid. Ethan's work as a carpenter pays the bills, but only when he is working. His mom's broken hip placed them in a crisis situation. They need help to move toward a successful recovery.

The ReMEDy Center is a ministry dedicated to helping Ethan, his mom and others in similar situations. As a cooperative venture between the 137 churches of the Birmingham Baptist Association and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services STAR program, ReMEDy Center gathers, stores, repairs and reissues durable medical equipment to those who have a need. Utilizing the resources entrusted to us by both of these entities, its supporters and volunteers focus on equipping people for living.

This "equipping" begins when we partner with people to meet their physical needs, but it does not end there. Our volunteers encourage, pray with and advise those who come to us. Their physical needs are accompanied by emotional, intellectual and spiritual challenges. As a ministry of the Birmingham Baptist Association, the ReMEDy Center is positioned at the crossroads where that person's needs and God's grace intersect. We desire for people to leave us with the equipment they need to meet their physi-

cal challenge and with a renewed hope in the resources that are provided for them through a relationship with Jesus and his people.

Thanksgiving testimony

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, we answered the phone and a woman asked if we could provide her with a hospital bed, a walker and a hospital table for her mother. God had provided us with these



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items through his people, and she came to our store to pick them up. Her mother was being released from the hospital that weekend, and she was frantically trying to prepare her mother's room before she came home. Inez walked through the door of the Center, leaning on a cane to support her arthritic knee, which was overdue for a replacement.

As she spoke with us about her needs, Inez kept up a brave front about her situation. One of our volunteers sensed a deeper need, grasped her hand and asked her how she was handling all of this. At the touch, Inez broke into tears and admitted she had no idea how she was going to be able to take care of her mom. The

volunteer asked to pray with her, hugged her, and then walked her through the details of each piece of equipment to ensure that she would know how to use them at home.

While the ReMEDy Center takes its God-ordained role in these divinely choreographed movements very seriously, we have recognized that this ministry has its limitations. We are given a gateway into the lives of people only for a moment. With this in mind, we are hoping for a closer partnership with our churches and their members. Often, people have a need for equipment, but do not possess the means to transport them to their house. This provides a great opportunity for churches to deepen their level of involvement with their communities by simply offering to pick up and deliver medical equipment into the homes of their neighbors.

The ReMEDy Center appreciates your donation of shower chairs, walkers, wheelchairs, scooters and other equipment. Without the provision of these items and monetary gifts by people like you, our mission would not exist. We look forward to this New Year and the people who God will bring to our door. Help us ensure that no one will leave empty-handed by considering how God would contribute to his mission through you. Please contact us at:

The ReMEDy Center
2610 3rd Ave S.
B'ham, AL 35233
(205) 783-9170
remedy@bbaonline.org
<http://equippingforliving.com>



Photos by Toni Wall

UPDATES

THE GATHERING

Our annual associational event, The Gathering, was October 5th, at McElwain Baptist Church. Over 500 people were in attendance.

Becky and Greg Moore received the Keith-Cross Volunteer(s) of the Year Award at The Gathering 2014. Pictured from left to right are Butch Henderson, Church and Community Specialist of BBA, and Becky and Greg Moore. Greg is the Associational Director of Disaster Relief.



BBA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

On October 13th, we held the first BBA Charity Golf Tournament. All proceeds benefit the Caring Hands Medical Apartments Ministry.

Pictured is the first place winning team...Mike Matthews, Aaron Lissenbee, Robert McCulley and Brian Matthews. Thanks for playing a great game for a great cause!

Central Park Ministry Center partners with local non-profits

BBA Foundation launches Central Park Ministry Center

by Meg Hawley

Just a few months ago, the Birmingham Baptist Association Foundation was entrusted with an incredible piece of property affording incredible opportunity. The historic Central Park Baptist Church was donated to us in order to develop an interdenominational evangelical ministry center. The goal is to preserve the integrity of the landmark, to bring life back to the building and surrounding area, and most importantly, to have an impact for the Gospel in Birmingham's West End.

We are seeking Ministry Partners to occupy the physical space, who by their presence and outreach will have a far-reaching effect on the city. To date, we are hosting the Birmingham Board of Education's Drop-Out Recovery Program, Covenant Community Fellowship Church, Central Park Baptist Church and Central Park Christian School. We are introducing potential partners to the facility; those who have ministries already established in other parts of Birmingham, as well as those already in Ensley with

a vested interest in their community.

As repairs are being done, the building is being equipped with the latest in technology for the benefit and productivity of our partners.

"Who wouldn't want to be a part of this if only for the opportunity to meet for prayer?"

- Comment from a Birmingham ministry leader

Partners may choose long term occupancy, such as the churches and school; short term, such as recent occupants Metro Changers and Daniel Cason Ministries; or for several days for a conference venue. Our refrain to potential partners is, "Tell us what you need in order to be successful."

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE

2014 FALL SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

November 3 - Dr. Charles Carter, Pastor Emeritus of Shades Mountain Baptist Church

November 10 - Alabama State Convention, Lakeside Baptist Church.

November 17 - Dr. Andrew Westmoreland, President, Samford University

November 24 - Dr. John King, BBA Church and Community Relations Specialist and Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church

DECEMBER

December 1 - Dr. Timothy George, Dean, Beeson School of Theology

December 8 - Rev. Frank Jones of Frank Jones Ministries and Music Evangelist Bob Smith will present a Christmas program.

December 15 - Dr. Jim Cooley, Senior Pastor of FBC Birmingham is guest speaker. Come enjoy a Christmas celebration with refreshments. This will be our last meeting in December of 2014.

BBA Singles Thanksgiving Dinner
November 20th, at 6:00 PM, at Eastside Baptist Church
Call the BBA office at 599-3245 to make reservations.

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

We want to hear about your church events, ministry stories and testimonies. If you have a story you would like for us to consider for publication, please follow our submission guidelines.

- Please send text files only (Word doc, or Word docx)
- Information should be submitted two months in advance of publication. For example, if you have a story or event for our January newsletter, we need your information by the third week of November.
- Include all details of events including who, what, when, where and contact information. For church related events, please also include your church name and Senior Pastor's name.
- Please proofread your information and verify details before sending.

Please e-mail your information to news@bbaonline.org.

We look forward to sharing your news with the churches of our association!

BBA Contributions From Churches

January - September 2014

Budget Requirements	468,749
Actual Contributions	436,963
Budget Shortfall	(31,738)

Thank you for your generous and sacrificial contributions to the work of Birmingham Baptist Association. Partnering together we can accomplish ministry that an individual church could not.

Michael Ethridge,
BBA Director of Operations

Season of Our Savior
December 9-11, Drop-off date is December 9th

Thanksgiving Blessings to You and Yours!

"Name That Newsletter" prize winner to receive a \$25 Gift Card

Our newsletter is a tool we use to communicate with our churches, church members and community about what's happening at your association. We want you to know about mission opportunities, church happenings, upcoming events, statistics, testimonies and so much more. The newsletter belongs to you and we want your help in naming it!

We need a distinctive name that sets it apart and one that encompasses our mission statement; churches working together...to meet needs...to change lives.

Please submit your ideas to katies@bbaonline.org by noon on November 20, 2014, for consideration. Include your name and e-mail address to be added to our database so that you will receive the newsletter each month.

The prize winner will be announced in our December issue and awarded a \$25 Visa Gift Card!

CALLING ALL ARTS AND CRAFTS ENTHUSIASTS - BBA is in the planning stages of an association-wide Arts and Crafts Ministry that will serve as a fundraiser for the overall ministries of the Birmingham Baptist Association. If you are interested in being involved in this type of ministry, please e-mail Toni Wall, BBA Marketing Specialist, at toniw@bbaonline.org. You will be placed on the mailing list for future developments in this new area of ministry. Please place "Arts and Crafts Ministry" in the subject line of your e-mail.