



# Birmingham Baptist Association

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

Dr. Mike McLemore, Executive Director • 750 Montclair Road • Birmingham, AL 35213 • Phone: 205-599-3245 • Fax: 205-599-3246 • [www.BBAonline.org](http://www.BBAonline.org)



**Announcing Holiday Food Boxes!**  
Look inside for details!

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## SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

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## A word from our Executive Director

# A look ahead to the holidays

By Dr. Mike McLemore

Well, praise the Lord the beautiful fall and winter months are ahead of us! I love the fall of the year and am looking forward to a beautiful October and November! As we look at this quarter's opportunities for service, let me mention some ministry highlights.

First, we just celebrated our annual "Gathering" on Sunday evening, October 2nd, at First Baptist Church of Trussville! It was a great worship and celebration experience for those that attended. I was personally blessed, and from your comments, many of you were too! The staff and good folks at FBC Trussville did a great job in hosting this year's gathering! Thank you Pastor Buddy, Joe Estes, choir, orchestra, and your leadership team for your support in getting ready for the evening celebration. You did a great job! Allison Speer did a great job in honoring the Lord with her testimony and her songs from the heart! The Lord blessed and we are grateful!

Secondly, we are getting ready to send backpacks to the Mississippi River Ministry in support of our State WMU mission project. We are the distribution center for District 11. We will be gathering the backpacks that our churches have prepared and will put them on a truck to be sent to the Delta. We will accept these backpacks on Monday, October 31st thru Thursday, November 3rd from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day. Let me remind you that the backpacks are to be already boxed up by the church, taped and labeled, and then brought to the BBA building at 750 Montclair Road, Birmingham, AL 35213. We will load them in a pod until they are picked up on November 3rd.

Thirdly, our annual State Convention meeting will be held this year in Montgomery at Eastmont Baptist Church on November

15-16th. The Pastors Conference will meet on Monday, November 14th, at Eastmont Baptist Church. All of you are encouraged to attend our State Convention.

Fourthly, the "I CARED ENOUGH" Thanksgiving Evangelism Service and Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at the CROSSPLEX on Tuesday, November 22nd, which is an all-day event. BBA partners with Daniel Cason Ministries to host this event in the western area of our city. Anyone can volunteer to help any time during the day. We need volunteers to help serve food, hand out clothes, etc. You can also volunteer to help counsel those who make decisions for Christ during the two evangelistic services. This event has taken the place of the "Food for Friends" ministry that we did for years under the Downtown viaduct.

Fifthly, we will be involved again this year with our "Season of Our Savior" ministry which is a ministry where our churches stuff stockings for needy families for Christmas. The churches set a goal for how many stockings they want to stuff and then they plan a meeting at their church to involve their members to buy the items for the stockings and then stuff them. The church then brings the stockings to the BBA building on December 6th-7th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. They will be picked up on December 8th and distributed to the non-profit agencies throughout our city who will then give them to the needy families. This is a great and much needed ministry because this is all of the Christmas some families enjoy.

I hope you will take the time to give of yourself in service through any of these ministries sponsored by the churches of our association. God bless you all!

In the work together,  
Bro. Mike

*A word  
from  
Bro. Mike*

**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT - Liberty Park Baptist Church Volunteers Minister at Medical Apartments****Liberty Park Baptist Church shares a touching testimony**

by David Lucas

As we do on the second Tuesday of every other month, a group of Liberty Park Baptist church members prepared a delicious meal for folks who live in the UAB Townhouse Apartments, working with this ministry led and sponsored by our Birmingham Baptist Association. A small group of five of us went to the apartments with the food. The people are living there while they or a loved one is in the hospital or is an out-patient with frequent therapies and treatments. The apartments are adjacent to the hospital, so it is super convenient for patients and their families.

One of the requirements of the Townhouse is that the patient must live at least 60 miles away from Birmingham. That has given us the opportunities to meet people from all over Alabama and our surrounding states, plus more distant states such as Pennsylvania, Oregon, California, etc. Over the years we often meet a family only one time, and their stories always touch our hearts. Some patients have been in the hospital for months and months. Some of us exchange Christmas cards.

Last night, after everyone had their plates and had begun to eat I stood up and, after we asked the Lord to bless the food and the people, explained who we were. We usually go around the room and ask each person to give their name and home town, tell their story, and tell us how we can best pray for them. Sometimes we hear only a few words, but oftentimes it is an extended outpouring of someone's heart. That's okay. We don't have a schedule or even a plan. Always we are undeservingly thanked for the food, but also for just listening and for praying. As we were going through that process last night, a group of three people walked in and began to serve themselves a supper in "to go" boxes. Many times a family member will prepare a plate for someone who is too sick to come downstairs where we are, or requires isolation for germ protection. We're used to that. However, this

trio didn't leave, but rather moved and stood along the wall and listened to what everyone was saying. We finally completed our loop around the room, so I asked them if they had a prayer request. One of the ladies introduced herself as Katrina and she began to speak.

"My husband and I are from Crestview, Florida, and we've been here for nearly three years" she stated. "Over those years I have come into this very room where churches come to bring meals, sometimes conduct a Bible study, or just be our friends. This room is usually filled with love. That's why I'm here tonight." She continued on, "my husband had to have a kidney transplant when we first came here nearly three years ago and he has had a very difficult time with his recovery. In fact, he never completely healed. Then, a while back he developed heart and breathing

problems. Long story short, he ended up on the heart-lung transplant waiting list. It has been a long and difficult struggle for us."

"Three days ago he had a massive stroke and was placed on life

support. This afternoon I crawled up into the bed with him and held him as the doctors removed the life support from him. My sweet husband, only forty-nine years old, died in my arms just a few minutes ago. We, my two friends and I, walked back to the apartments, and all the while I was praying that a church would be in this room tonight. Here you are, and here I am."

I'm reminded that sometimes ministry can seem too repetitive, even boring, so ho-hum. The desire is to go and try something new and exciting. Personally, I'm so very happy and thankful for this firmly entrenched ministry in the UAB Townhomes and that God allows us to participate. I tell my Sunday School class that I receive more from preparing for a Sunday lesson than I could ever so feebly impart to them. The same is true for the UAB Townhouse ministry. Thank you, Lord, for this opportunity!

**"all the while I was praying that a church would be in this room tonight."**

### **Donate A Holiday Food Box to a Needy Family for Christmas**



Our network of Alabama Baptist food pantries needs your help to supply needy families with a Thanksgiving meal for the holidays and an opportunity to know Jesus Christ as Savior. Your contribution of \$50.00 helps our food pantries across the state purchase a Holiday Food Box that will feed the underprivileged for the holidays. Our goal is to feed 2,500 unsaved or unchurched needy families and to offer them resources to enjoy a healthy, nutritious Thanksgiving meal. Our Holiday Food Boxes feature menus that include the finest foods, seasoned to perfection. All dinners are precooked and only require reheating before consumption. Dinners serve 6-8 people.

Thank you for honoring needy families with a nutritious meal for Thanksgiving!

Yes! I would like to donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ Holiday Food Boxes (at \$50 a box) to honor a needy family with a nutritious meal for Thanksgiving.

Make your check payable to: Harvest Community Charities (a Ministry of the ALSBOM World Hunger Ministry) and mail to Birmingham Baptist Association, 750 Monclair Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213.

For further questions, please contact Sammy Campbell at the Birmingham Baptist Association office at (205) 599-3245 or (205) 948-8808.

## BBA HAPPENINGS



Jeff Senkbeil, a member of Valleydale Baptist Church, received the Keith-Cross Volunteer of the Year award at the "Gathering" on October 2nd.



Birmingham Baptist Association Charity Golf Tournament Winners - First Place Gross, Dr. Mike McLemore, Executive Director of Birmingham Baptist Association, congratulates Brittany Foster, Danny Bowers, Barrett Milam, and Chad Goodwin.



Birmingham Baptist Association Charity Golf Tournament - First Place Net, Dr. Mike McLemore, Executive Director of Birmingham Baptist Association, congratulates Eddie Braswell, Jeff Forman, Mike Evans, and Larry Otto. The golf tournament was sponsored by Brookwood Baptist Health, and benefitted the Baptist Foundation and BBA ministries.



Carol Miller, of FBC Trussville WMU, delivered lots of pillows to Reynard McMillian, Director of the Carings Hands Medical Apartments. Sweet dreams to all residents!



Wayne Emanuel, former Missionary to Japan, will hold an Art Exhibit, open to the public, at the BBA office January 23-26. All proceeds will go to missions.



Alabama Disaster Relief teams have recently been ministering in Baton Rouge, LA; Savannah, GA; and St. Augustine, FL. Pictured above is our Disaster Relief team returning from Louisiana after the area was devastated by floods.



The Baptist Ministers Fellowship Hour meets every Monday at 11:00 a.m., (unless otherwise noted) for a time of fellowship, inspiration, and prayer.

The Fellowship Hour is open to all ministers in the Birmingham Baptist family, including men and women, as well as their guests.

### SCHEDULE OF SPEAKERS

- Oct 24** - BBA Executive Board meeting, at the BBA office
- Oct 31** - Dr. Mike McLemore, BBA Executive Director
- Nov 7** - Rev. Neal Bruce, Pastor of FBC Irondale
- Nov 14** - Rev. Karnie Smith, Pastor of Walking on Water Church
- Nov 21** - Rev. Amos Crews, Pastor of Christ First Missionary Church
- Nov 28** - TBA
- Dec 5** - TBA
- Dec 12** - Christmas Program

## Holiday Office Hours

The BBA office will be closed November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The BBA office will be closed December 23rd-January 2nd for the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

We hope you enjoy a blessed holiday with family and friends.



## Season of Our Savior

Please drop off your donations of stockings and hygiene kits at the Birmingham Baptist Association on Tuesday, Dec 6th, and Wednesday, Dec 7th, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. They will be distributed to needy families on Thursday, Dec 8th.

## BBA CALENDAR

### I CARED ENOUGH

*Sponsored by Daniel Cason Ministries and Birmingham Baptist Association*

**Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

A FREE community event including a hot Thanksgiving meal, free clothes, medical screenings, school supplies, and so much more!

**BILL HARRIS ARENA at CROSSPLEX**

To volunteer or donate, please call (205) 320-2111 or (205) 365-1800.

### OCTOBER

- **The Gathering**, Sunday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m., at FBC Trussville
- **BBA Charity Golf Tournament**, Thursday, October 6, at Pine Tree County Club
- **Human Resources Committee**, Wednesday, October 12, at 9:00 a.m., at BBA Office
- **Task Force**, Thursday, October 19, at 9:00 a.m., at BBA Office
- **Executive Committee**, Thursday, October 20, at 11:30 a.m., at BBA Office
- **Executive Board Meeting**, Monday, October 24, at BBA office in the Chapel
- **Christmas Backpacks Mississippi River Ministry**, Collection dates are Monday, October 31-Thursday, November 3, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

### NOVEMBER

- **Daylight Saving Time Ends**, November 6
- **Agency Brunch**, Thursday, November 10, at 10:30 a.m., at BBA Office
- **Pastors Conference**, November 14, Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL
- **Alabama Baptist State Convention**, November 15-16, Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery, AL
- **Thanksgiving Day**, Thursday, November 24, BBA office closed November 24 in observance

### DECEMBER

- **International Missions Emphasis Week of Prayer and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**, December 4-December 11
- **Season of Our Savior**, donations accepted December 6-7, agency pick-up and deliveries are December 8
- **Christmas/New Year's Holidays** -BBA office will be closed for the holidays on December 24-January 2. We re-open on January 3, 2017.