

Troup Baptist Association

The ABC's of Life

In 2004 a student named Tim Lee gave the Hampton University Commencement Speech. It was a rousing challenge to all those graduating students. And I believe it is a rousing challenge to us as we enter the New Year. As you read what Tim said, I believe that this may be one of those articles that you tear out of the paper and tuck away in your Bible, stick on the refrigerator door, give to somebody facing the trials of life, or mail to somebody.

“So, I say to you today my friends we still face difficult days ahead. We still have work to do, mountains to climb, and obstacles to overcome. We cannot stop striving yet. They won't get easier, life's challenges. But they will become more intricate, tricky. So when life's complexities confuse us, when the paradoxical ironies of existence surprise us and when we are troubled by the uncontrollable external entities both spiritual and physical, we must remember our abc's. No,

not the alphabet - English majors of reading and writing. But the abc's of life. And once we've learned them, we should take them with us as we let our lives do the singing.

Take the A-and accept the challenge. The B-and believe in ourselves. The C-convert our thoughts into hopes. The D-the determination to convert our hopes into dreams. We should E-expect some obstacles on the way up. And F-fight while being faithful and finish the course. We should G-get God on our side. And H-have a Harvey model of leadership. We should I-inspire someone else. And J-take Jesus on our journey. We should K-keep on keeping on. And L-be a leader. We should M-make every day count. And N-never give up! We must O-overcome our obstacles. And P-put our best foot forward. We must Q-quit quitting. And R-run the race with patience. We must S-strive on while T-trusting in The Lord. We should U-use our talents. And V-value our time. We

should W-wait for understanding. And X- x-ray our own lifestyles. We should Y-yearn to achieve all that we seek. And Z-be zealous when reaching the top!

Yes! We can reach the top! We must reach the top! We must understand that there is a plan for our lives, a greater plan and will. And if we ask God, he will reveal it. If we pray to God, he will reveal it. If we wait on God he will deliver it. And if we go with God, we will achieve it. Thank you and congratulations!”

In my soon to be sixty years of life, I have discovered that it is not the values that somebody else imposes upon us or the standards that someone else judges us by that make the difference in our lives. It is the values and standards that we set for ourselves and hold ourselves accountable to that make the difference. This is what Tim Lee was speaking about. The Godly and moral internal values and standards that we set for ourselves and hold ourselves account-

able to serve as the wind in our sails, the rudder of our ship, and our Spiritual GPS as we navigate the Sea of Life.

I love what Tim said. He said that once we've learned these ABC's, like Accepting the challenge, Believing in ourselves, and Converting our thoughts into hopes, “...We should take them with us as we let our lives do the singing.” Wow! What a thought! When we've learned and incorporated the Spiritual ABC's into every aspect of our life-journey, we don't have to sing the ABC Song, as a child would do. Our life will sing it for us!

I close the column today with a bit of useless trivia. Have you ever noticed that the ABC Song and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star are the same melody?

As we launch into this New Year, I encourage you to learn your Spiritual ABC's and let your life sing for you this year.

Brother Aaron

News (continued)

Franklin Road - They are praising the Lord as they move into 2015 after seeing 40 new additions to their church family last year and several more expected in coming weeks. As they move into the New Year, Pastor Andy has challenged them to use John 3:30 as their personal theme for the year. The formula looks something like this, HE > i. "He is GREATER than i." As a result of the Church Revitalization Seminar led by Brother Aaron, they are renewing and refreshing several ministries in their church such as the Greeter/Usher Ministry and the Prayer Ministry. They are also providing new training in each area of their work as a church. They are excited to see what God will continue to do through FRBC.

Highland - Project Joy hygiene boxes were handed out along with food distribution at God's Bread Basket. Choir presented a beautiful Christmas Cantata, "The Love of God at Christmas," during morning worship on Dec. 21. They gave an outstanding performance. Following the service, everyone was invited to stay for Christmas lunch. A large crowd turned out for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. It was a beautiful service.

Hilyer - The AWANAs had Jesus' birthday party on Wednesday December 17th with pizza and birthday cake. On December 21st the church had the Christmas dinner and program. The AWANA children sang and presented several hand bell songs. The Christmas tree gifts were distributed along with fruit baskets for the children. The WMU held their Christmas party on December 28th with finger food and gift exchange. On December 31st the church held a time of fellowship for all who would attend to ring in the new year. It included a time of games, movies, snacks and prayer.

Lakeview - On Dec. 7 had Christmas Open House at home of Pastor Lamar Truitt and his wife, Carol. There was a large crowd, wonderful fellowship, and delicious refreshments. On Dec. 14 enjoyed Christmas Cantata by Lakeview Choir. On Dec. 17 had Christmas dinner and celebration with recognition and expressions of appreciation to many who fill important positions and work very hard for the church. On Dec. 21 celebrated the Lord's Supper. Continued to minister to the residents of Poplar Creek Assisted Living by presenting music and devotions. On Dec. 31 met for regular services and celebrated the Lord's Supper again. Collected donations for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

Mountville - December was a busy month at Mountville. A church-wide Christmas Dinner was held on December 13. Everyone enjoyed a wonderful meal provided by Kimble's. MBC was blessed to sponsor 4 families for Christmas. The congregation provided toys and clothing for 14 children! Thank you, MBC, for your giving

spirit! MBC also provided baked goodies for the Callaway High School staff on Dec. 17. Children of MBC presented a wonderful Christmas Play on Dec. 21 entitled "Unfrozen" and it was a wonderful story of the Love that Jesus has for us! The AWANA group also celebrated the birth of Jesus with a celebration on Dec. 21. Youth Group enjoyed a trip to Gatlinburg, TN on Dec. 27-Jan. 1. This was a great time of fun and fellowship but also of spiritual renewal for the upcoming year. They wish everyone Happy New Year and can't wait to see what God has in store for them in 2015.

Mt. Pleasant - Their youth and children performed "Angels We Have Heard" for their Christmas play and did a wonderful job. They are shown below.



Roper Heights - December was busy! Had several Christmas parties and everyone had a wonderful time. Choir presented a cantata, "Glory to God in The Highest," with Gina Spradlin, Choir Director, leading the choir and with everyone doing a great job. Hosted Long Cane Baptist, Bethel Baptist, and Davidson Baptist for a New Year's Eve Service. Rev. Randy Gilbert, Pastor of Long Cane Baptist, preached and Rev. Steve Sexton, Pastor of Bethel Baptist, along with his family provided special music. Had good preaching by Pastor Jackie Taylor and Associate Pastor Jim Chesnut in December. At left below, their GA's are pictured having an awesome time at Fantasy in Lights. At right below, the Sonshiners and the WOM (Women on Mission) had a great time at El Jimador for their Christmas party on December 8. They wish everyone a Happy New Year.



GA's at Fantasy in Lights



Sonshiners & WOM

News (continued)

Stovall - Carried fruit baskets to their shut-ins on Dec. 20. Their men cooked a Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, Dec. 21, for everyone who could come. Their Christmas Play that same evening was enjoyed by all with a time of fellowship after the program.

Wehadkee - Had an inspirational month celebrating the birth of our Lord and Saviour. The church was beautifully decorated and highlighted with a unique nativity scene donated by Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Alford. The Annual Christmas Party was held at a local restaurant and many of them realized during the game session that they didn't know their right hands from their left. Everyone truly enjoyed these games directed by their beloved pastor's wife, Janet Pilgrim. Rev. Nick Pilgrim had inspirational messages all month long encouraging everyone to go forth and serve. New Year's Eve was observed with a prayer service of thankfulness and prayers not only for Wehadkee but for all churches during these troubled times.

Association - Church Prayer List

For January 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of Jan. 4, 2015 - Flat Shoals Baptist Church
 Week of Jan. 11, 2015 - Flat Shoals Salem Road Baptist Church

Week of Jan. 18, 2015 - Franklin Road Baptist Church
 Week of Jan. 25, 2015 - Glenn Baptist Church

For February 2015, please pray for following churches:

Week of Feb. 1, 2015 - Grace Baptist Church
 Week of Feb. 8, 2015 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
 Week of Feb. 15, 2015 - Highland Baptist Church
 Week of Feb. 22, 2015 - Hilyer Baptist Church

Please pray for God to bless these churches and meet their needs.

Announcements

Brother Aaron's Suggested Reading

"Jesus is: _____."

By Judah Smith

Association - There is still time to register for the Spring 2015 Semester of Faith Bible Institute's three-year Bible course. Students study chronologically through every Bible Book & Doctrine in classes that meet only one evening each week. This course combines verse by verse Bible teaching, student workbooks and group classes to produce a life-changing learning experience. **Online enrollment** is the easiest and fastest way for **new students** to receive

Announcements

their materials.

1. Use the official school name: **Troup Baptist**
2. Visit www.fbiclass.com/register to enroll!

Class meets **Tuesday** nights 6:30 - 9:20 p.m.

First class of the 18-week semester is on **January 20**.

Association - We are offering Faith Bible Institute's **Scientific & Biblical Creationism** Course! This will answer your questions about the Creation/Evolution debate, the dinosaurs, the Flood, the age of the Earth, the fossil record, the gap theory, the canopy theory and the origin of man. A great course to help you strengthen and defend your faith. Application forms are at the Association office. **Enrollment Deadline: February 1, 2015.** Contact Jane Gottshall @ (706) 957-7443 for details.

Association - Baptist Mobile Health Ministry is again the recipient of grant funding from the Georgia Baptist Health Care Ministry Foundation to offer dental assistance at no charge to ministerial staff and their spouses plus widows of pastors who do not have dental insurance or financial means to obtain dental care. Dates and sites:

Feb. 26-28, 2015– Daniell Baptist Assn– Ailey, GA Call Mrs. Diana Brown at 770-936-5217

Ministers Wellness Retreats will be:

Sept. 10-12, 2015– Conference Center Toccoa, GA

Oct. 8-10, 2016– Conference Center, Norman Park, GA Call Mrs. Ruth Smith at 770-936-5364 for both.

Creekside - The Word of Life ministry resumes every Wednesday at 6:30 pm with supper & program at 7 pm. The adults will meet in the sanctuary for Bible study.

Davidson - They welcome everyone to join them:
Sundays: Breakfast - 8:45 am, Sunday School- 9:45 am, Morning Worship - 11 am, Evening Service- 6 pm.
Wednesday: Food closet 12-2 pm; Bible Study- 6:30 pm.
3rd Friday of the Month: Prayer Night- 7:00 pm.
5th Sunday of the Month: Singing- 5 pm.

Association - Wide Spring Revival

Attention: Men only!

There will be a special outdoor sportsmen event with Stacy Dyer on Saturday, April 25th

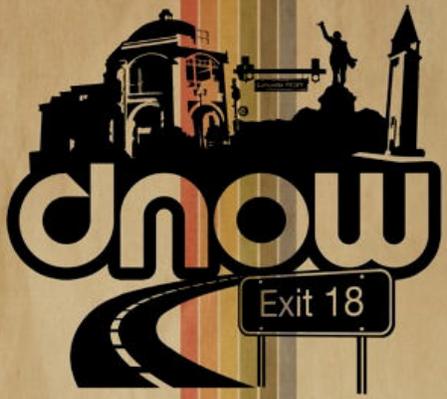
April 26th - 29th
 Sunday night 6:00 pm
 Monday - Wednesday nights 7:00 pm

at Troup Baptist Association Office
 1301 Washington Street, LaGrange, GA 30240

Speaker: Stacy Dyer
 State Missionary from GBC

Announcements (continued)

First LaGrange -



January 16 - 17
Total Cost: \$50
Churches from all over Troup County are partnering to support D-NOW weekend.
D-NOW is open to 6th - 12th graders, will include worship services, small groups, mission projects and recreation time.
Contact your youth pastor for more information or email John Oliver at john.oliver@fbclagrange.org.

Teaver Road -



Harris III
Master Illusionist
COME ONE COME ALL
Experience an unforgettable journey into mystery, wonder, and a reflection of truth.
Tons of interactive, audience participation!
"I was blown away. Absolutely phenomenal!" - John Maxwell, Legendary Leadership Expert
"One of the most talented communicators I've ever had the privilege of hosting." - Jason Hayes, Lifeway

March 7th 2015 6:00 PM
Teaver Road Baptist Church
215 Teaver Road LaGrange, GA
Call 706.882.5774 for details
For more information including reviews and videos, visit www.harrisiii.com

Lakeview - A 50th wedding anniversary reception was planned for Pastor Lamar Truitt and his wife Carol for Saturday, Jan. 10 at the church. Family members of the Truitts provided delicious refreshments and decorations. The large crowd enjoyed watching pictures of the Truitts going back many years. Congratulations to Pastor Lamar and Carol on this milestone anniversary. Lakeview is seeking a Youth Minister; send resumes to Richard King at rsk97@bellsouth.net or call 706-882-0371.

Rosemont - Please be in prayer for our South Asia Mission Team. They leave on January 9th and return the 19th. All Wednesday Night Activities start back January 14th! Our D6 Family Ministry Summit will be held on Friday and Saturday, January 30th - 31st. This year we are excited to announce that Dr. Tedd Tripp, author of *Shepherding a Child's Heart*, will be leading all of our sessions. Please register at www.rosemontchurch.org.
Friday evening: 5:00 - 5:30 drop off your children for free childcare (we will provide dinner for the children)
5:30 - 7:00 Dinner date with your spouse (on your own)
7:00 - 8:30 Session 1 with Dr. Tripp
Saturday morning: 9:00 Session 2 with Dr. Tripp
10:15 Break
10:45 Session 3 with Dr. Tripp

Wehadkee - January schedules will return to normal with Wednesday Bible Study and Sunday night service returning to usual time. Ladies' meeting date to be announced. Wehadkee is spearheading Prayer on the Square events in LaGrange, GA. **Plans are to meet on the square every fifth Sunday at 3 pm to pray for Troup County. The next meeting will be March 29, 2015. Brother Aaron encourages all churches to participate.**

Western Heights - Steve Vickery invites everyone to join him and his wife Wanda on a trip to Israel with Dr. J. Robert White and the Sons of Jubal on Oct. 5-14, 2015. It will be the opportunity of a lifetime— a journey to the places our Lord lived, traveled, ministered, died, and rose again. You can register now and pay installments each month. It is recommended to register by Sept. 30 (\$300 deposit) and pay \$400 monthly with final payment June 30, 2015. There are several price options for the trip. The trip cost is all inclusive. The sons of Jubal will have opportunities to share the gospel through music at several venues along the way. Please e-mail Steve Vickery at stevev@westernheights.net or call 706-333-7838 to receive a brochure/information about registering for the trip.



spotlight

The Rock Ministry

I recently had the privilege to meet Terry Hinkle, hear the vision and tour the facilities of The Rock Ministry. The Rock Ministry was birthed from a burden God gave Terry and Donnie Primrose to do something to help people and families who, for whatever the reason, find themselves homeless. This includes battered women and their children. In Terry's words, "We are looking to give people a "hand up" not a "handout."

God has provided Terry and Donnie with a twelve cabin facility in Troup County (Location purposely withheld) to be used for this purpose. The purpose of this ministry is not to give folks a long term place to stay. The length of the stay is designed for ninety days, free of charge, during which time the family is given breathing room, so to speak, to get their lives back together. Again, as Terry said, "A hand up, not a handout!"

Terry & Donnie are doing this ministry solely on faith. Both of these men have other jobs and are financial contributors to the ministry themselves. And while the cabins are in varying stages of disrepair, they do already have some families staying there.

The need for this ministry is fourfold:

- 1) Prayer.
- 2) Provide for the spiritual needs of the families staying at the facility.
- 3) Raise financial support for construction materials and operational costs.
- 4) Recruit volunteer labor to facilitate repairs.

We already have some of our churches onboard with this ministry. If you would like to be a part of this most worthy ministry, I encourage you to contact Terry Hinkle at: 706.594.7010 or Donnie Primrose at: 706.442.1253. They will be more than happy to tell you all about this ministry.

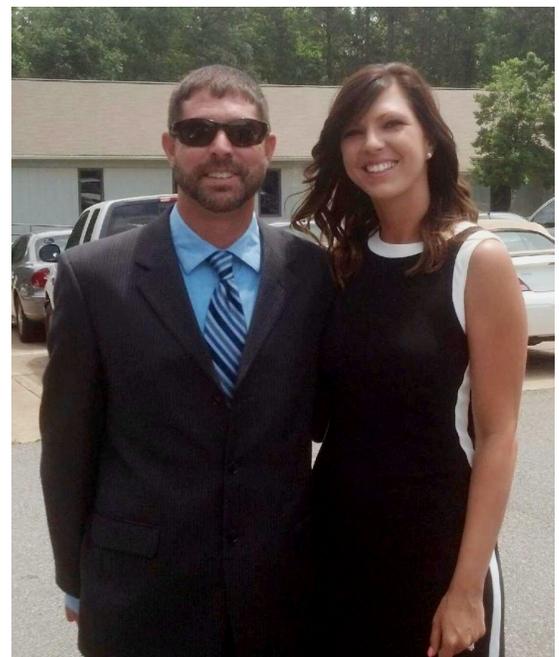
Brother Aaron



Pictured above is one of the twelve cabins which house the residents of The Rock Ministry.



Donnie Primrose, shown above, is one of the founders of The Rock Ministry.



Terry Hinkle, shown above with his wife Nikki, is one of the founders of The Rock Ministry.

JANUARY CALENDAR

5 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Ryan Whitfield
12 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bobby Bozeman
19 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Robert Burnett
20 Church Planters' Network Association Office 9 am-12 noon
22 Executive Committee Meeting 7 pm at Troup Baptist Association
26 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Bernie Pasley

Association Office and GBC will be closed for New Year's holidays from January 1-January 2, 2015

Note: Prayer Team will begin meeting at the association office at 6 pm on Mondays beginning January 12, 2015.



**Happy Birthday
January**



3rd Rev. Howard Longshore, Davidson
4th Rev. L. W. Booker, True Love
5th Rev. Bryan Geter, Creekside
9th Rev. Tom Owensby
9th Rev. Jack Sapp
15th Rev. Sam Wood, The Church on the Rock
17th Rev. Lincoln Anderson, With One Accord
17th Rev. Craig Marshall
18th Rev. Terry Rainwater, Highland
24th Rev. Chad Bishop
24th Rev. Willie Edmondson, Bethlehem and Antioch of LaGrange

Happy New Year from Your Association Staff

On The Lighter Side

"You're a minister, huh?" "Yes, I am." "What church?" "Baptist."

"Oh, you're the narrow-minded bunch that believes only their group is going to make it to heaven."

"I'm even more narrow-minded than that. I don't think all of *our* group are going to make it!"

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