Moving Rocks

Recently, I had the honor of eating lunch with Dr. Tom Tucker, Pastor of First Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia. As we were leaving to go to lunch, Tom showed me the “Community Garden” that is located across the street from the main entrance of the church. The church sponsors the garden as an outreach ministry to the community. It is quite a large plot. And right now it is filled with plants, blooms, and vegetables!

As we spoke about how beautiful the garden is and how it is meeting a need in the community, Tom began to tell me about the plot of land where the garden is located. “That plot of land hasn’t always looked like this,” he said. He continued, “That garden was the vision of Jack Combs. Now Aaron, when God gave Jack the vision for that garden, he was already retired and not in the best of health. And on top of that, the plot was filled with rocks and wasn’t suitable for a garden. But do you know what? For several years you were apt to see Jack in that plot of land, any day of the week and at any time during the day – ‘moving rocks!’”

Tom paused and his voice began to quiver. With tears welling in his eyes, he said, “Jack was my friend, but Jack never got to see his vision completed. Jack died. So, as a tribute to Jack and as an outreach to our community, the members of the church completed Jack’s Garden.” And by the way, it really is a beautiful garden!

As I digested what Pastor Tom had told me, it began to settle in on me that, sometimes God wants us to have. However, the good news is that in Jeremiah 23:29(KJV) God teaches us that His Word is like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces. His truth “breaks us” and His love “changes us!”

As I continued pondering what Tom had said about Jack Combs, I thought about the parable of the sower in Mark Chapter 4. I realized that everybody, regardless of the condition of their life, receives a portion of God’s grace. (Seeds)

The harlot, the drunk, the drug addict, the liar, the hypocrite, the child molester, the deadbeat dad, and even the upright person – all receive a portion of God’s grace! However, in my opinion, one of the greatest failings of the church today is that we have “excelled” in producing “Soil Analysts” but our production of “Seed Sowers” is “woefully inadequate!” (Just ponder on that one!)

Jack Combs had a vision for a community garden, but he knew that unless the conditions changed, the plot could not sustain a garden! Sin gives us a stony heart. And the truth is that unless something changes that, we cannot sustain the life God wants us to have.

Sometimes a root will enter the crevice of a rock through an opening that is no larger than a human hair. But once inside, it grows. And as it grows it changes its conditions by breaking and pushing the rock aside in order to find the nutrients to sustain the life of the tree.

Jack Combs was faithful to God’s call by moving rocks that would block the roots of plants that only existed in a garden he envisioned. Think about that.

Sometimes it’s all about a vision, moving rocks, and nothing else!

Brother Aaron

(photo next page)
News

**Association** - The Faith Bible Institute’s Angel Elective Class celebrated the last class of the series with ‘Angel’ food cake, strawberries, and whipped cream. Students of the Angel Elective were: Joy Burnham, Cathy Cooley, Tabitha Daniel, Sheila Dean, Don Ellison, Joanna Frickert, Cheruyl Gosdin, Jane Gotshall, Tommy Jeter, Jacqueline Lattimor, Tony Lattimor III, Phillip McMillan, Jr., Mike Phillips, Susan Phillips, Teresa Todd, Elaine Whitlock, and Kenneth Whitlock. (See photos below)

**Troup Baptist Association**

**Mission Statement:**

The Troup Baptist Association is a Spiritual, educational, and community resource that, through cooperative fellowship, equips pastors, staff, and churches as they seek to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus Christ.

**Association** - Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough visited the community garden, a mission project of First Baptist Church of West Point and the vision of the late Mr. Jack Combs, member of First Baptist Church. As seeds are sown, plants are cultivated, and fruit is produced so are the people of First Baptist sowing, cultivating and harvesting for the Kingdom of God. For additional information about this ministry, see the August 2016 edition of The Messenger available on www.troupbaptist.org (Newsletter).

**Association** - On Tuesday, July 18, the Troup Baptist Association hosted the Berta Weathersbee Elementary School Stakeholder Gathering. The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for families and community members to meet the new principal of Berta Weathersbee, Mr. Willie Cooks and also to meet Ms. Christy Nolan, Instructional Specialist of Berta Weathersbee. The Troup Baptist Association is continuing its partnership with Berta Weathersbee. Again this school year, the goal is to provide a backpack and school supply kit to each of the 400 students of Berta Weathersbee. If you would like to help purchase backpacks & supplies for Berta Weathersbee students, please send your tax deductible donations to Troup Baptist Association, P.O. Box 550, LaGrange, GA 30241. Please write ‘backpacks’ in the memo line of your check. You may also donate on the website, www.troupbaptist.org/berta-weathersbee-backpacks. Many individuals and churches have already donated. We appreciate your faithfulness in giving to this school partnership. “Thanks!”

**Association** - Rev. Aaron McCollough brought the homecoming message and Stephanie Walker sang at Hilyer’s Homecoming on July 16. The Hilyer choir is pictured below.

The Food Patch - A Community Garden Ministry of First Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia provides gardening opportunities for their community as well as fresh produce for the local Food Closet.

Above left: School Supply Kit and backpack that will be provided to each student at Berta Weathersbee by the Troup Baptist Association Partners in Education. Above right: Mr. Willie Cooks, Principal of Berta with his wife, Passion and their son, Elijah.
News (continued)

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - A Blood Drive was held on July 31 from 2-7 pm in the J.C. McMillian Life Center. This blood drive helped reduce the shortage of blood and gave someone a chance to live. Please consider giving if you haven’t already.

- During the month of July, the Food Ministry served 538 individuals with 331 boxes of food and 441 meals. The Clothes Closet served 184 individuals.
- A church social gathering was held on July 9 at 5 pm with lots of singing, guitar picking, volleyball, and socializing in the old-fashioned way. There was ice cream, cakes, brownies, chips, and drinks enjoyed by everyone in attendance.
- VBS concluded on July 26.

**Creekside** - VBS was held all day on Saturday, July 22, and was a big success with nearly 80 in attendance. The children enjoyed good food, crafts, and a great lesson on “Ocean Commotions,” as well as snow cones on a hot day and a giant water slide.

- One young lady gave her heart to Jesus on Sunday night and will be baptized soon.
- Creekside prepared and delivered more than 80 meals as they fed the “seniors” in the community on July 25 as a bi-monthly outreach project.

**Davidson** - A Tent Revival was held on May 8-21. The singers were blessed with songs of glory and praise. The following speakers brought God’s Word each of the 14 nights: Jackie Taylor, Aaron McCollough, David Cross, Danny Geter, Len Martin, Mark Peak, Joel Scott, Darrell Hogan, Alan Simpson, Randy Allen, Howard Longshore, and Jim Chesnutt. More importantly, the Holy Spirit was there in all of His Glory!

- All Mothers were recognized with a rose and a special program presented by the children on Mother’s Day, May 13.
- Father’s Day was celebrated with a ‘Pot Luck’ dinner and games on June 17 in the Ivy Building.
- ‘Paul and the Underground Church” was the theme of Vacation Bible School which was held June 26-30. There was a nice number of children who attended and had a wonderful time while praising and worshiping God.

**Dunson** - was pleased to have Paul Smith of Citizens Alert share during the service on July 16.

- Royal Rangers and Girls Ministries both had pool parties at the home of members Don and Kay Abrams in West Point. The Royal Rangers held an awards ceremony lead by Josh Bagley to recognize those who worked hard to earn their merit badges.
- The adults met at the Taste of Lemon for a fellowship meal.
- The “Let’s Have a Little Talk About Jesus” witnessing class has kicked off on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. Pastor Kenneth was able to share the Gospel with a large group at his farm in Pine Mountain.
- Dunson’s Director of Music, Danny Jones, was recognized for doing a wonderful job with the music ministry. His move to South Carolina has opened up the door for the Lord to provide another Director of Music at Dunson. Please contact the church if you are interested in filling the position.

**Association - Church Prayer List**

For August 2017, please pray for following churches:

**Week of August 6, 2017 - Unity Baptist Church**
**Week of August 13, 2017 - Wehadkee Baptist Church**
**Week of August 20, 2017 - Western Heights Baptist Church**
**Week of August 27, 2017 - With One Accord**

For September 2017, please pray for following churches:

**Week of September 3, 2017 - Anointed By Faith**
**Week of September 10, 2017 - Antioch Baptist / Hogansville**
**Week of September 17, 2017 - Antioch Baptist / LaGrange**
**Week of September 24, 2017 - At The Cross**

Please pray for God to bless these churches and meet their needs.
News (continued)

Franklin Road - Franklin Road BC held a Green Thumb Family Night on July 19 at the Bryan Field Mobile Home Park near the church. The families were treated to watermelon and sno-cones while decorating and planting vegetables for their home in pots. They were also treated to fresh produce grown by the members of Franklin Road. It was a great time of fellowship and sharing the love of Jesus.

FRBC GREEN THUMB FAMILY NIGHT

Grace - Grace Baptist Church held a benefit singing and hot dog supper on July 20 in support of Tony Butler. Music was provided by Gold City, Higher Hope, and The Ward Family. An account has been set up for donations on Tony’s behalf at Charter Bank, Lafayette Parkway, LaGrange, Georgia.

A large crowd enjoyed the benefit singing at Grace

Lakeview - A potluck supper and singing was held on July 16 with delicious food and toe-tapping music. Lakeview musicians, Pastor Lamar Truitt and Sidney Lanier, along with guests Rev. Aaron McCollough and Rev. Randall Hodge, led in the fun and entertainment. Everyone had a great time. • Two Lakeview young people have participated in summer mission trips. David Truitt, age 12, grandson of Pastor Lamar Truitt and Mrs. Carol Truitt, went to South Carolina to help a team from Fountain Church; he worked hard helping to build a handicap ramp. Dae Ragland, age 18, granddaughter of Dottie Henson, went on her second mission trip to the Bar Rest Ranch / Good Shepherd Riding Academy in Warm Springs; she helped with the care, feeding, and grooming of the horses that are ridden by the children attending the Good Shepherd Riding Academy.

Lakeview - (continued) A team representing Lakeview visits residents at Poplar Creek twice a month to provide a devotion and music. • Member Ron Helton has led in lots of painting, yard work, and other improvements to the church building and grounds. “Thank you, Brother Ron.” • Pastor Lamar Truitt baptized Drew Ragland, grandson of Dottie Henson; Drew has been attending Lakeview since he was three months old.

Drew Ragland being baptized

Lakeview - shown during a July visit are some residents of Poplar Creek (seated) and Lakeview team members (standing L-R): Pastor Lamar Truitt, James Jackson, Sidney Lanier, Richard King, and Judy King.
Mountville (MBC) - is so thankful for one salvation/baptism in July.  • Mountville was so excited to have two baby dedications in July. Presleigh Townsend and Ariat Webb were dedicated to the Lord. Proud parents are Justin & Meagan Townsend and Justin & Jessica Webb. It is such a blessing to know that young families are raising their children to love the Lord!  • The Mountville Impact Young Youth traveled to Alabama to attend the “Awaken” conference at Bethlehem East Baptist Church on Friday, July 21. The theme was “Awaken and tell the world about Christ!”  • MBC will have prayer walks at Callaway Elementary and Callaway High School on July 30.  • Mountville participated in the “On Mission Together Week” sponsored by the Association Acts 1:8 Team. What a wonderful time of sharing and working in the community.

New Hope - VBS was held in June and had a total enrollment of 185. “What a magnificent time we had planting seeds of the gospel in the lives of children!”  • During the month of July, the church family brought items for Operation Christmas Child. The Children’s Department thanks everyone for helping them get a head start on the boxes.  • The Youth summer celebration on July 15 was well attended. Although it was hot, they all enjoyed the fellowship, food, and fun games.  • Condolences from New Hope to the family of Joan Costly, charter member of New Hope, who went to be with the Lord on July 18.

Roper Heights - had a blessed month with good attendance and good preaching. Rev. David Burkett, missionary in Mexico visited and shared his experience. Mrs. Burkett and daughters ministered to the congregation in song. (see photo above right)
Announcements

Wehadkee - (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The annual trip to watch the Atlanta Braves will be on August 4. • A Young Adults Class is beginning August 5 with a supper and devotion at 6 pm. This class is for ages 19-30. “Come and join us.” • The Puppet Ministry will begin in August. • BTC will be partnering again this year with Whitesville Road Elementary School for school supplies. School begins August 10 and we pray for all the children, teachers, principals, bus drivers, maintenance, janitorial, and administrative staff. “May all of you have a safe and successful year.”

Creekside - Revival will be held on August 27 through 30 at 7 pm nightly, except Sunday which will begin at 6 pm. Brother Ricky Lipp of Community Chapel in Pine Mountain Valley will be the guest speaker. Special singing nightly. All are welcome.

Davidson - Sunday, August 20 is Homecoming! Join us to hear God’s Word as Darrell Hogan brings the message, enjoy the singing of the Ward Family, and dine on scrumptious food! Please join Davidson for service and fellowship:
- Sunday Breakfast at 9:00 am / Sunday School at 9:45 am
- Sunday Worship Service at 11 am / Evening Service at 6 pm
- Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm
- 4th Thursday at 11:00 am  Food Closet - Message & Food

Mountville (MBC) - A “Back to School Bash” will be held on August 6 at 2:00 pm at the home of Bruce & Lisa Heath. There will be water slides, games, and food! • AWANA is moving to Wednesday nights! Club will kick off on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm. Club will run from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. “We are excited about sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ! Please come join us.” • There are a lot of great things going on at MBC! “If you are looking for a home church, please come visit us. It is all about JESUS!”

New Hope - The new church year begins in September. “We look forward to seeing what God is going to do as we pray about where He wants each of us to use our gifts and talents to serve Him.” • The Youth are planning a lock-in at the church on Friday, August 4 from 7 pm until Saturday morning at 8 am. Bring your own snacks and join the fun. Drinks will be provided. • Pray for all our school children and teachers as they begin a new year in August.

Highland - Prayer Walk at Hogansville Elementary School is planned for Saturday, August 5 at 8:00 a.m. They will walk around the school and down the hallways of the school. There are benches available for those who want to pray but are not able to walk that far.

Roper Heights - will be gathering school supplies for the children going back to school. • The Sonshiners meet on the First Thursday after the third of the month. Everyone is welcome. “God bless.”

Wehadkee Bubble Blowing Fun at a Church Fellowship
L-R: Britney Carson, Janet Pilgrim, Will Folds, Miss Ellie with Mom Katie Hewett, Britney Fields, and Miss Rileigh Cliett.
Senior Adult Rally
Thursday, September 7 at 11:00 AM
hosted by
Callaway Baptist Church
310 John Lovelace Road
LaGrange, GA 30241
Cost: $5.00 per person
Special Guests: Randy & Sherri Miller
Randy & Sherri Miller are a musical and evangelistic duo from Nashville, Tennessee. The duo combines Contemporary Christian with Southern Gospel, Country, Southern Rock, Classic Rock, Pop Rock, Folk, and Bluegrass to create a one of a kind sound to uplift and praise God, while occasionally stepping into jazz and soul music.

Faith Bible Institute
of Troup Baptist Association
Fall Semester Classes begin August 22, 2017
- New Student: $126
- Returning Student: $86
- FBI Graduate: $53
- 2nd Family Member; $53

Late Registration fee of $24 applies after July 1
For more information go to www.troupbaptist.org
Contact Jane Gottshall - Director at (706) 957-7443 or by email: jane.gottshall@gmail.com

SEPTMBER CALENDAR
4 TBA & GBMB are closed for Labor Day Holiday.
7 Senior Adult Rally Callaway Baptist 11:00am - 1:30pm
11 Pastors’ Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Paul Botica
14 Keith Hamilton Church & Individual Finance Strategy 11 am
18 Pastors’ Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia S.T. Janney
25 Pastors’ Prayer Fellowship New Macedonia Stanley Woods
28 Executive Committee Meeting Association Office 7pm
Faith Bible Institute meets at association office on Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

Happy Birthday
September
2 Rev. Michael Reeves, Open Range Cowboy Church
4 Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist on the Square
16 Rev. Randy Presley, Rosemont
24 Rev. Olin McClain, Pastor Emeritus - Wehadkee
30 Dr. Lamar Truitt, Lakeview
30 Rev. Ben Turner, Teaver Road

Come and Congratulate the Sixth Graduating Class of Troup Baptist Association’s Faith Bible Institute Graduation Ceremony & Celebration Sunday, August 6, 3:00 p.m.
Troup Baptist Association Sanctuary
1301 Washington St., La Grange
Honoring Graduates:
Jackie Lattimor
Tony Lattimor
Rev. Kenneth Whitlock
Speakers:
Rev. Aaron McCollough
Dr. Alvin Howard, Fall 2012 Graduate
Special Music:
Dr. Lamar Truitt and Sidney Lanier on guitar
Sarajo Langley
with Rodney Hewitt on guitar
Jane Gottshall
with Frankie Hadden on piano
Reception & refreshments after the service

2017 Minister’s Wellness Retreats
Toccoa Baptist Conference Center
Toccoa, GA.
Session One: Sept. 13-14, 2017
Session Two: Sept. 14-15, 2017
Who: Each pastor and his spouse who do not have health insurance
What: Complete health screening and dental care by physicians and health care professionals
Cost: FREE to each minister and his spouse who DO NOT have health insurance. Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security are considered insurance. Registration is required!
Sponsored by: Church Minister Relations, The Georgia Baptist Mission Board and The Georgia Baptist Healthcare Foundation
To Register or for more information contact Laura Gray in Church Minister Relations, lgray@gabaptist.org or (770) 936-5364
Pray for our Schools, Students & School Staff!

On The Lighter Side:

“I have been to a lot of places, but I’ve never been in Cahoots. Apparently you can’t go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone. I’ve also never been in Cognito, either. I hear no one recognizes you there. I have, however, been in Sane. They don’t have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips, thanks to my friends and family.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump and I’m not much on physical activity.

Troup Baptist Association
P.O. Box 550
LaGrange, Georgia 30241

Phone: 706-884-1975
Fax: 706-882-8574
Web: www.troupbaptist.org

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