

Troup Baptist Association

Don't Run Out of Strong

In the book, "Same Kind of Different as Me," by Denver Moore and Ron Hall, Ron wrote the following about his wife's struggle with cancer. He said, "The medicine took her down quickly, slashing her weight to one hundred pounds. Still, she was determined to eradicate the enemy and insisted on trying different kinds of chemo treatments, sometimes in the same week, hoping to incinerate the cancer with the medical equivalent of napalm. At home, whenever she could lift her head off her pillow, she slipped on her Reeboks and we would walk together. The kids and I couldn't get her to stop, even when she ran out of strong." Those last seven words resonated with me: "... even when she ran out of strong."

In their book, "Leadership on the Line," Ron Heifetz and Marty Linsky state, "You can't cook without

a pot to cook in, and leadership is as much about strengthening the pot and controlling the temperature as it is about which ingredients to add when."

Whether it is a woman struggling with cancer, a pot holding the stew, a parent struggling with a wayward child, financial problems, addictions, a marriage holding only by a thread, a crisis of faith, or some other life circumstance; the struggle we all face is - to not run out of strong.

In life, the struggles are real. The tragedy is that sometimes, aside from Jesus, we are the only one who knows exactly how real. Why? Because we think it a sign of weakness to share our innermost struggles, feelings, and failures with others. Therefore, we become expert at suppressing our feelings and holding up our Wal-mart Smiley Faces for the world to see. We've become

masters of deceit - hiding our hurts, disappointments, frustrations, and innermost feelings. After all, what would others think of us if they knew the struggles burdens we are bearing. So, we just keep struggling along - hoping to God that we don't - run out of strong.

In Matthew 11:28-30 (KJV), Jesus gives us a prescription for how to not run out of strong. He said, "*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*" You will note that even though Jesus acknowledges that there will come times when His followers will both labor and be heavy laden, He never promises to remove those burdens. However, He does promise physical rest and that if His followers will come to Him, take on

His yoke, and learn of Him, He will also give rest for their souls. So, if we don't want to run out of strong, then our instructions are clear. We are to come to Jesus, take on His yoke, and learn of Him. Then we will find the strength we need to run the race that is set before us.

Again, whether it is a woman struggling with cancer, a pot holding the stew, a parent struggling with a wayward child, financial problems, addictions, a marriage holding only by a thread, a crisis of faith, or some other life circumstance; the struggle we all face is - to not run out of strong.

Reality check: None of us are the Energizer Bunny! We don't have an infinite supply of energy or strong. We cannot keep going forever. And unless we come to Jesus for rest, there will come a time when we run out of strong!

Brother Aaron

News

Association - On April 22, Brother David Fitch was ordained as a deacon of East Vernon Baptist Church in LaGrange, Georgia. Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough preached the "Charge to the Candidate" sermon and Pastor David "Bernie" Pasley preached the "Charge to the Church" sermon. David's wife, Kim and children Boone, Lucas and Carley were there to show their support. "It was a great service!"



Above L-R: East Vernon Chairman of Deacons, Ralph Riddle, Pastor Bernie Pasley, and newly ordained deacon David Fitch.



Brother Aaron: "I know I shouldn't eat this... but it IS my birthday!"



Above: The Pastors' Prayer Fellowship celebrating Brother Aaron's Birthday on Monday, April 9th at New Macedonia Baptist.

Association - Several women from the Troup Baptist Association attended the Georgia Baptist Women's Spring Event in Stone Mountain April 13-14.



Above L-R: Lataine Smith, Judy King, and Theresa Miller

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.



A large group of pastors and local church leaders came out to hear a presentation from Joe Graham of GBMB Collegiate Ministries regarding personality profiles.

Association - Monday evening, April 23, Joe Graham, Georgia Baptist Mission Board State Missionary for Collegiate Ministries, came to the Troup Baptist Assoc. office to administer personality profile examinations to the members of the three leadership groups taught by Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough. The purpose of this was to help these young leaders better understand why they think and process as they do. To say the least, there were some eye opening revelations!



Above: Joe Graham of Georgia Baptist Collegiate Ministries

Association - Two association churches had booths at the Relay for Life Event; Baptist Tabernacle and Dunson. Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough serves on the local American Cancer Society Board.



News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During the month of April, the Food Closet served 550 individuals with 296 boxes of food and 459 meals. The Clothes Closet served 252 individuals and gave out 37 coats. The volunteers for the food ministry and the clothes ministry do an outstanding job. They are here every Thursday from 9 to 11am serving God. • On Easter Sunday, April 1, the cross was beautifully decorated to honor our Savior. The Easter service was a blessing to all. • Awana's held Grand Prix night on April 18. This is such a fun time for the children as well as the adults. They build, paint and decorate their own cars and then they race them. • Relay for Life was held on April 20. BTC had a successful event again this year. Thanks to all who contributed. • HUB youth group had a lock-in on April 13 with 35 people in attendance. They enjoyed a worship service, scavenger hunt, dodge ball tournament, and a glow-in-the-dark capture-the-flag game. On Wednesday, April 18, 808 Ministries led worship service for the HUB.

Davidson - Gospel singer, Buddy Lyle sang at Davidson on April 21. Everyone enjoyed the uplifting songs and of course the fantastic "fellowshipping" and food. • Several Davidson members attended the revival at The Church on the Rock and the Davidson singers participated in the singing. The messages were soul touching; the revival itself was a time of blessings, worship and praise. All had a wonderful time.

Dunson - Dunson had one new member to join this month. • The Dunson M-pact Girls Ministry & Royal Rangers had a tent at Relay for Life. They took 2nd place for best decorations with a Candy Land theme. "Great work on those homemade decorations!" The Royal Rangers cooked blueberry cobbler on-site in a Dutch oven and served it with ice cream as their fundraiser. The WMU purchased luminaries in honor of all Dunson Baptist Cancer Survivors. Pastor Kenneth sang several songs as part of the Relay program with "Victory in Jesus" requested by Ruth Garner, Dunson member and longtime cancer survivor. • After their Wednesday night service, the M-pact girls went on an excursion to Chick-fil-A for ice cream cones and the boys stayed at the church and ate freeze-dried astronaut food. • The Dunson adults teamed with Unity and went to eat in Atlanta at 57th Fighter Group Restaurant. "We had a great time together."

Dunson's Relay for Life Booth (Candy Land) →



Dunson & Unity Travelers at the 57th Fighter Group Restaurant.

Highland - had a great Easter Sunrise Service with Pastor Don Ellison delivering the message. A large group gathered, not only from Highland, but from other churches in our community as well. Breakfast was served following the service. Later that morning, our choir presented the beautiful cantata entitled "There is A Redeemer". • On Sunday, April 29, we had a "Hymn Sing" service during Morning Worship, with some congregational hymns, choir specials, and other special music. This is always a special service.

Lakeview - WMU met April 21 with hostess Patricia Spradley planning the menu and providing a very timely and helpful devotion about relying on God during Life's storms.

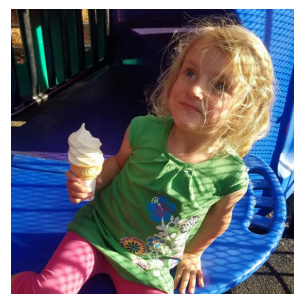
• Brotherhood met April 28 for a military fellowship breakfast and a discussion of brotherhood projects. • Several ladies attended the Troup Baptist Association's WMU Luncheon at Grace Baptist Church on April 28; everyone enjoyed good food and interesting speakers. The event was planned by the association's WMU Leadership Team which is led by Lakeview member, Judy King.

Mountville (MBC) - The MBC Women's Group enjoyed a "Paint Night" on April 9. Mr. Phil Thompkins was the guest speaker and taught the ladies about water colors. Everyone had a chance to create a water color masterpiece. "There are a lot of talented people at MBC!"

• Team Kids enjoyed "Crazy Glasses" night on April 18. "We are crazy about JESUS!"



Above: Mountville's Team Kids enjoying Crazy Glasses night



Above: Dunson's M-Pact Girls Ministry enjoying ice cream

News (continued)

New Hope (LaGrange) - The Axis Youth of the Month is Addison Turner, who is a 6th grader at Gardner Newman Middle School. He loves Georgia Bulldogs, NASCAR, and golf. His peers say he is friendly, selfless, and has the biggest heart.

Addison Turner →



- All ages enjoyed an Easter Egg Hunt and meal on March 28.
- Brother Aaron McCollough brought the morning worship message on April 8.
- Sisters of Hope met April 9 for a craft night. They also discussed plans for the Troup County Teachers Retirement Banquet to be held at New Hope on Tuesday, May 15.



Above: Scenes from Easter at New Hope - LaGrange

Roper Heights - had a great month with good attendance and good Bible studies.

Teaver Road - The Acts 1:8 missions' team has been collecting monthly items for Operation Christmas Child. Collection item for May is soap. Acts 1:8 also provides a meal monthly to the patients and families of Hospice. One other mission project they are working on is collecting food for the Harmony House kitchen. • Teaver Road had a great month. They hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt and had a fantastic turnout. They also held a Sunrise service with over 100 people in attendance! They baptized two in the month of April! • The buildings & grounds team has been busy with beautification projects around the church such as planting Cypress trees in memory/in honor of someone and installing carpet that was so generously donated by Interface!

Did you know...

(reachingnextgen.com)

**Approximately 15% of baptisms
come from Vacation Bible School!**

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - On May 2, Awanas will have Waterslide Night which is a lot of fun. The Awana Awards Ceremony will be held on May 16. Thanks to all of the volunteers for making this a very successful year. • The Puppet Ministry will begin on May 23 at 7:00pm. All children must sign up to attend. It will continue each Wednesday until VBS begins. • The HUB mission trip will be June 3-9 and they will be going to Clarksville, Ga. • Conquering Chemical Dependency classes began on Tuesday, April 17 at 6:00pm in the Life Center, Room #14. This class will meet each Tuesday night at the same time and place. These classes are anonymous. If you or someone you know needs to attend, then just show up. • A new group, REVIVE, for ages 30-50 has been formed. A cook-out will be held on April 25 at 6:30pm. Anyone in this age group is encouraged to attend. You can follow BTC on social media: Facebook: Baptist Tabernacle LaGrange Twitter: Baptist Tab and jimmymcm1 Website: www.baptisttabernacle.ws Listen live: Sunday at 10:50am WCJM 100.9FM and Facebook. Tuesday at 6:00pm Straight from the Bible WOAK 90.9FM

Davidson - Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the week of June 18. There will be more on this in the next Messenger. Please join us for service and fellowship: Sunday Breakfast at 9:00am / Sunday School at 9:45am Sunday Worship Service at 11am / Evening Service at 6pm Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30pm (Jeremiah)

Dunson - M-pact Girls Ministry and Royal Rangers meet on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. • Dunson will host a Gideon speaker on Sunday, May 6. "It is always a blessing to have a Gideon speaker at our church." On Tuesday, May 8, adults will be playing Dominoes at 6pm in the fellowship hall. This is a fun time of fellowship and food. Visitors are welcome to join us. The next adult trip will be the last week of May. Please call the church at 706-884-7814 for further information on the monthly trips and/or luncheons.

Highland - will observe Mother's Day during the Morning Worship Service on May 13. They will recognize all Mothers, as well as the Oldest and Youngest Mothers in attendance.

Lakeview - Cinco de Mayo will be celebrated on Saturday, May 5 with a "Paint Up, Fix Up, Clean Up" work day at the church at 8am. All members are invited to attend.

Mountville (MBC) - A Prayer Service will be held on the new land on Sunday, April 29 at 6:00pm. The congregation will be praying for direction and guidance as they move forward.

- MBC will honor their graduates on Sunday, May 20. Graduates include: Skylar Rice - CHS, Grant Shelton - CHS, Adrian Stroud - THS, Star Phillips - THS, and Dustin Downey - THS. • VBS will be held June 11-14! Supper will be served from 5 - 5:45pm each day and class will be from 6:00 - 7:30pm. We invite EVERYONE to come join us for "Game On" as we gear up and get ready for an encounter with Jesus!

Ministry Spotlight: Truth in Nature

Outdoor Mentorship & Ministry Program For Fatherless Boys



Jeff Benefield

Program Director-LaGrange GA

Meet Jeff Benefield. Jeff, who is a member of Western Heights Baptist Church in LaGrange Georgia, and a teacher and coach in the Troup County School System, is also the new program director for Truth in Nature, which is a 501-(C)-3 outdoor mentorship and ministry program for fatherless boys. Jeff is one of three program directors in Georgia and one of only nine in the United States.

The mission of the program is to work with fatherless boys in grades 7-12 and teach them about the outdoors. While these young men are learning about the outdoors, they will also learn about morals, manners, respect, accountability, character, and faith in Christ. This will be accomplished by connecting these young men with male mentors who will help fill the void of the missing parent. In short, they will be taught how to be a man.

Some of the activities they will be participating in are camping, fishing, skeet shooting, archery, hiking, hunting, tubing, horseback riding, and many other outdoor type activities.

Jeff is seeking outdoorsmen who would like to volunteer to serve as a mentor for these young men. Of course, background checks and character references will be required for all volunteers.

Jeff first learned about Truth in Nature at a brotherhood meeting he attended at a local church. There he met Reed Lewis, owner of Lonesome Jake Preserve in Glenn, Georgia. Reed offered the preserve as the place for Truth in Nature to meet.



There are no costs for these young men to participate in this program. However, their mother or legal guardian must complete a registration form. Jeff says that his goal is to start out meeting on a quarterly basis and progress to a monthly basis.

The kickoff and open house for this ministry will be May 5th, 11am-2pm, at Western Heights Baptist Church, located at 2382 West Point Road in LaGrange, Georgia. So, if you want to know more, please make your plans to attend! Also, you can learn more online at: <https://truthinnature.org/lagrange>; you can e-mail Jeff at: jeff.benefield@truthinnature.org, or you may simply call him at: 706-616-8732.

Thank you Jeff Benefield for the difference this program will make in the lives of these young men, and for the difference it will make for the Kingdom of God!

Brother Aaron

Announcements (continued)

New Hope (LaGrange) - The children will have an end-of-year party on Wednesday, May 23. • VBS "Game On" will be held June 24 - 28 from 6:00-8:30pm. • A Part-time Youth Director is wanted at New Hope Baptist Church in LaGrange. Contact Pastor Michael Hornsby at (706) 333-8984 for details. New Hope will host a Youth Gathering on Sunday, May 20 at 6pm. All youth groups are invited to attend and participate. For more details, contact Pastor Michael Hornsby or youth leader Christie Holland (706) 302-1083.

Roper Heights - will have Homecoming on May 20. Special singing will begin at 10:00am and the Worship Hour will begin at 11:00am. Lunch will follow the morning service. "Everyone is welcome!" • VBS Kickoff will be held on Saturday, June 2. VBS will be June 3 - 7 with Family Night on June 8.

Teaver Road - In May there will be a special Graduation Sunday service to honor the seniors in our youth ministry. Fusion Student Ministry is thriving with an average of 40 students in attendance every Wednesday! They will be taking a trip to Super Wow in Fort Walton Beach, FL in June with 52 signed up to go! • The Children's Ministry is also doing great! As Awana comes to a close, there are exciting summer activities coming up including Vacation Bible School on June 3-6 and our community summer camp, Camp Trust, coming July 20-22. Check out the Facebook page for details to come about these events! • The Brotherhood will meet on May 12 at 8:00am for breakfast, fellowship, and a devotion.



Safe Families for Children

Safe Families for Children (SFFC)

is in the midst of a 30 day campaign. One of the goals of the campaign is to let churches know we now have

27 host families. These families are willing to open their homes to children whose parents are in a crisis situation. If you know someone who is in need of this service, we are ready for referrals. SFFC is also in the process of recruiting more churches to participate in this movement of the church. These churches would help us recruit more host families. Those interested in the program may call Candi Gibson at (706) 302-4553.

Attention Churches:

For those churches planning a VBS this summer, please send me your VBS information. I would like to know the date, time, ages, VBS theme, etc. Also include dates and times for special events such as VBS Kick-off or VBS Family Night. I will use the information to compile a helpful list of all of our Vacation Bible Schools this summer for use on our website, Facebook and email. Thanks, angela@troubaptist.com



Faith Bible Institute

The Troup Baptist Association serves as a satellite campus of **Faith Bible Institute**, a ministry of Rowland Road Baptist Church in Monroe, Louisiana.

Early Registration April 1 - July 1 for Fall Semester
Late fee of \$24 applies after July 1
Classes begin August 21, 2018

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • New Student: \$126 | • FBI Graduate: \$53 |
| • Returning Student: \$86 | • 2 nd Family Member; \$53 |

For more information go to www.troubaptist.org
 Contact Jane Gottshall - Director at (706) 957-7443
 or by email: jane.gottshall@gmail.com



Georgia Baptist Mission Board

Baptist Mobile
Health Ministry

May 17-19

Open to any Georgia Baptist Convention ministerial staff & spouses who do not have dental insurance.

New Providence Baptist Church, Smarr, Georgia

Contact Ted Kandler at 1-800-746-4422 extn 217

or by email at tkandler@gabaptist.org

September 12-15

Ministers Wellness Retreat

Georgia Baptist Conference Center, Toccoa Georgia

Open to any Georgia Baptist Convention minister and spouse who do not have preventive health insurance.

Contact Mrs. Laura Gray at 1-800-746-4422 extn 364

or by email at lgray@gabaptist.org

Association - Church Prayer List

For May 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of May 6, 2018 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
 Week of May 13, 2018 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Church
 Week of May 20, 2018 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)
 Week of May 27, 2018 - New Hope Baptist Church (Greenville)

For June 2018, please pray for following churches:

Week of June 3, 2018 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist
 Week of June 10, 2018 - Northside Baptist Church
 Week of June 17, 2018 - Open Range Cowboy Church
 Week of June 24, 2018 - Praise & Prayer Ministry

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

Announcements (continued)

Children's Camp Rockridge 2018



June 18-21

Rockridge Baptist
Assembly
Franklin, Georgia

Early Registration thru June 10: \$170
After June 10: \$195

Children ages 8 years thru rising 6th graders

Online Registration is underway now!

For scholarship information, call 706-884-1975

www.troubaptist.org/childrens-camp-rockridge-2018/

Roof Repairs at the Association Office

I want to say thank you to the churches and individuals who have responded to our fundraising appeal regarding the roof repairs at the association office. However, please allow me to remind you that we need "all" our churches to respond financially. So, I am asking for 100% financial participation, as some level, from all our churches. I am also requesting that any individual who had a connection with the former Southwest LaGrange Baptist Church, or who is a friend to the association, to please consider making a donation. Together, we can do this!

All gifts are tax-deductible. For more information, go to www.troubaptist.org/association-roof-repair-2018.

Thanks,
Brother Aaron

GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

"GEORGIA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES "

"Truck Loadings"

"A New Day, A New Start, and A New Life through Jesus Christ"

Date: June 18-20, 2018

Bring your Donation To:

Troup Baptist Association Office

Collect: 9:00 – 3:00 pm Monday & Tuesday

9:00 – 12:00 Noon Wednesday

The Troup Baptist Association is collecting: Sugar, Cooking Oil, Salt/Pepper, Bottled Water, Canned fruit, Styrofoam plates/bowls, Plastic forks/spoons. Gift Cards are always appreciated!



2018- Will you partner with us and pray for our residents and direct care staff as they start their journey here with us!

Sheepdog Seminars - A Response to Violence



May 18-19, 2018

Friday: 8:30am - 3:30

Saturday: 8:00am - 12:30

Faith Baptist Church

552 Hammett Road,
LaGrange, Georgia

For Church Staff Personnel, Ushers, Church Security Team,
Pastors, Youth Leaders, Church Leaders, etc.

Early Registration \$49

Pre-register at www.sheepdogseminars.com

For information call 817-437-9693

Thank you to those individuals who provided scholarship money for campers to attend Camp Rockridge this summer!

It's not too late to donate! If you, your church, or civic group would like to sponsor a child, please call the association office at 706-884-1975.



**Happy Birthday
June**



- 3 Rev. Ronnie Puckett
- 8 Rev. Wendell Brown, Flat Shoals
- 13 Dr. Paul Baxter
- 14 Rev. Robert Burnett
- 15 Rev. Ellis Freeman
- 17 Rev. Alan Meacham
- 22 Rev. Bobby Patton
- 29 Rev. Tommy Jeter, At The Cross

