

Troup Baptist Association

Losing Seasons

Writer's note: This is the eleventh in the series: The Stories of My Life.

Recently, I heard it said that we should not be jealous of a team that is having a winning season – because we don't know what they had to endure during their losing season to become a winner!

Wow!

Each of our lives is filled with the pain of losing seasons. They are what define us, give us character, teach us the hard lessons, and force us to make the necessary adjustments. Without the losing seasons we would never learn how to win. It's only when we learn how to extract and apply the value gleaned from our losses that we learn how to win!

I also heard it said recently that God doesn't give a person a dream without giving them the ability to achieve it. This doesn't make success automatic. It doesn't mean that failure won't be a constant companion. It

simply means that somewhere deep inside each of us, God has placed the ability to realize the dream He has given. The question is whether or not we'll persevere until we discover it.

It may come as a surprise to you, but I do have some regrets about my life. One of the biggest, regards my oldest son, Jonathan. To be totally honest with you, I sacrificed him on the "altar of church." Sadly, there was always a meeting I felt I needed to attend, a visit to make, or a sermon to prepare. Lord, if I could do it over, a whole lot of things that I thought were so important – would be put on the backburner and my son would be my top priority!

As badly as I messed-up, I didn't totally blow it with him. He played Little League Baseball. He was a pitcher and an infielder – and he was good! I made it a priority to practice with him and to invest as much of my time into him as possible. On summer afternoons, when I would come home, he and I would walk into the front yard. I had made a makeshift Homeplate.

I would set up behind it and have him pitch to me. My constant reminder to him was, "Son, throw the ball to the glove." Then, I would hit the baseball to him. However, before I did, I would give him a gameday scenario and make him tell me what he was going to do with the ball when he fielded it.

It was the last game of the regular season. As fate would have it, if his team won, they would go to the all-star game. If not, they went home. He was the starting pitcher. It was the top of the last inning and they were leading one to nothing. Three outs and they would win. To the horror of everyone present, including me, he walked the bases loaded with no outs. The coach came out to the pitchers' mound and talked with him. He said, "Win or lose, it's your game. I'm leaving you in." Marianne looked at me and in a panicked voice said, "Well, don't just sit there; do something!" So, I came out of the bleachers and walked to the fence on the third base side of the field. I propped up on it and called his name. I said, "Son, listen to your

daddy. Tune everything else out. It's just you and me in the front yard. Son, throw the ball to the glove." He struck out the next three batters!

The Spiritual takeaways from this column are numerous. First, there are times in life that, despite our good intentions or how noble our cause, we just flat blow it - and it's painful! Secondly, we all need somebody to invest themselves and their time into us and teach us how to do what we're supposed to do. Thirdly, we all need somebody to believe in us, despite how bleak our current situation appears. Fourthly, we all need somebody to remind us that God has placed within us the ability to achieve the dream He has given us. And finally, we need somebody to remind us to tune out all the noise around us and simply throw the ball to the glove! And even if we don't win, we will learn that there is great value - even in our losing seasons!

Brother Aaron

We encourage you to "like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/troubaptist

News

Association - Thomas Hammond, Executive Director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board was in Columbus on February 21 to listen to the concerns of area pastors. Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough attended and participated in the session. In closing, Executive Director Hammonds said, "Pastors are our heroes, Churches are our priority and Georgia is our mission field." (see photo below)



Association - Associational Missionary, Aaron McCollough attended the Legislative Prayer Breakfast on February 12 at the Capitol along with Rev. Tim Tidwell, Rev. Dan Woltmann, Rev. Steve Vickery, and Rev. David Cross.

At Right: Aaron McCollough, Representative Randy Nix, & Rev. Tim Tidwell.

Below Left: Representative Bob Trammell. Below Right: Rev. Dan Woltmann, Rev. Tim Tidwell, both of Oakside Baptist, Rev. Steve Vickery of Western Heights & Rev.

David Cross of Gray Hill Church of God.



Above: Members of the Association Prayer Team from L-R are Rev. Robert Burnett, Brenda & Danny Townsend, Rev. Frank & Patti Abrahamsen, Rev. Stanley Woods and Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough (not shown). The Prayer Team meets each Wednesday morning at 11:00 to pray for requests. You may submit a confidential request by going to the website troubaptist.org/prayer-request/ or by calling the office at 706-884-1975.

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 - Church Prayer List

For March 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of March 3, 2019 - Franklin Road Baptist Church
 Week of March 10, 2019 - Glenn Baptist Church
 Week of March 17, 2019 - Grace Baptist Church
 Week of March 24, 2019 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
 Week of March 31, 2019 - Harvest Baptist Church

For April 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 7 2019 - Highland Baptist Church
 Week of April 14, 2019 - Hillcrest Baptist Church
 Week of April 21, 2019 - Hilyer Baptist Church
 Week of April 28, 2019 - Lakeview Baptist Church

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

Association - Fountain Church of LaGrange has planted a new church, Fountain Church of Hogansville. They meet each Sunday morning at 9:15 at the Hogansville Library located at 310 Johnson Street. Their pastor is Rev. Jason Bennett. If you live in the Hogansville area, and do not have a church home, give them a visit. At right is Pastor Jason Bennett.



Above: The congregation of Fountain Church of Hogansville

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - During the month of February, BTC added four new members to their Church family. "What a mighty God we serve." • The Food Closet gave out 261 boxes of food, 574 meals and 120 backpacks were also given to children for week-end food. • The Clothes Closet also served 180 individuals, giving away 26 coats. "What a blessing these ministries are to our community." The Food Closet and Clothes Closet are open every Thursday from 9 to 11 am.

• Silent Hope's Valentine banquet was held on February 9th and it was a big success. The ribeye steak dinner was superb. Great entertainment was provided by members, Craig Marshall and Renee Gantt. Eighty six people were served. This was a fundraiser for Silent Hope Ministry which helps church members in need. • Flock gave out Valentine Gifts to our widows. Thank you to the ladies of our church that helped with this project. • Awana held a Parent Love Game-Show night. It was fun for everyone. Coach Wiggins from CHS brought three outstanding speakers to Super Bowl night at Awana: Tate Johnson, Walt Stewart and Hunter Williamson. Thanks to Coach Wiggins and the guys who came and spoke.

Davidson - The Youth along with Mrs. Debbi Longshore visited the nursing home and hospice on Valentine's Day to give out God's love and valentine cards. (see photo below)



DAVIDSON



Above: Grace "Making Home Work" study group had a fellowship night with games, soups and grilled cheese sandwiches.



Grace Above Left: "Making Home Work" study group
Above Right: A Baby Shower for Cara Spradlin was held in January. Congratulations to Josh and Cara Spradlin on their new baby Brantley

GRACE



Above: Grace Sunday School kids enjoying breakfast before classes. Below: Grace Sunday School Kids



Above: Grace kids and youth take Valentine's Cards they made to give to the Nursing Home residents.

News (continued)

Highland - The choir began working on *Because He Lives*, a beautiful musical to be presented during Morning Worship Service on Easter Sunday. • The WMU ladies began collecting items for Project Joy boxes to be given thru God's Bread Basket around Christmas.

Lakeview - WMU met on February 8 at Cracker Barrel with hostess Judy King planning a devotion and a gift swap activity. • Men's Ministry met for breakfast and fellowship; Special guests were disabled veterans.



Above: Valentine Banquet sponsored by the Mountville MPact group.



At Left: Valentine Table Decorations



Above L-R: Phyllis Malcom, Wanda Vickery, Maureen Merck and Judy King of Lakeview (not pictured) attended the Ministers Wives Retreat in Toccoa, Georgia in January.

Mountville (MBC) - celebrated homecoming on Sunday, February 10. "What a great day of worship and fellowship it was!" Bro. John Chelcy brought the message and *Higher Hope* provided wonderful praise and worship! Lunch was enjoyed by all following the service. • Mountville MPact sponsored a Valentine's Banquet on Saturday, February 16. The menu consisted of Spaghetti, bread, dessert and drinks. The Youth served tables and made everyone feel very loved and special! Funds raised will benefit their Summer Mission Trip to Copperhill, TN. • A baby dedication was held on February 17. Cade Howse was dedicated to the Lord by his sweet parents, Donald & Amanda Howse and big brother Cannon.

MOUNTVILLE

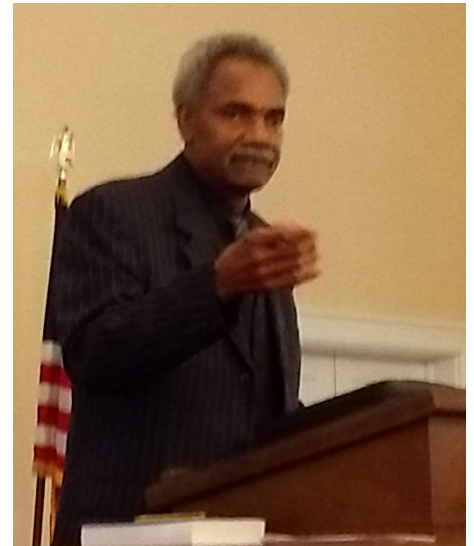


Above: Mountville Baby Dedication L-R: Big Brother Cannon, Amanda Howse and Baby Cade with Pastor Dwayne Perdue. Donald Howse (not visible) is holding Cade.



Above: *Higher Hope* singing at Mountville's Homecoming Service. At Right: Homecoming Speaker Bro. John Chelcy bringing the message at Mountville Baptist Church on February 10.

MOUNTVILLE
HOMECOMING



News (continued)

New Hope (LaGrange) - The Valentine Dinner and movie on February 10 was a great success. There were many guests who enjoyed the fellowship. • On February 16, four couples from New Hope attended the Valentine Dinner and concert hosted by East Vernon Baptist Church. The meal was delicious and the concert by Kevin Dunn was very worshipful and uplifting. "Thank you East Vernon for your wonderful hospitality."

- After the worship service on Sunday, February 17, Sisters of Hope made Valentine bags to take to four nursing homes. The blessings were ours as we watched the residents smile with joy when they opened their bags and saw all the "goodies". The Children's Department made the valentines and the church family provided the snacks and small stuffed animals. "Thank you so much to everyone for helping to reach out to others."
- Congratulations to Chase and Hanna Wilson as they prepare for their first new baby boy in March. A baby shower was held for them on March 3 in the fellowship hall.
- Jeff Manion blessed the congregation on Sunday, February 24 with a mini concert. He read Scripture and sang songs that pertained to that Scripture. "Thank you Jeff for sharing your talent with us and using it to glorify God in worship."



Above L-R: Grace & Charles Crowder, Dave & Ginny Stewart, Joyce & Herb Gandee and Brenda & Ken Lee from New Hope attended the Valentine Dinner at East Vernon Baptist Church on February 16.

Unity - A Senior Valentine Banquet was held on February 16 with the youth serving the meal. The food was delicious and everyone had a good time.

- On February 18, CMG (Current Mission Group) met and discussed upcoming mission projects and had a short Bible study. The next meeting is March 18.
- The Food Closet was held February 26 and several families in the community were helped with food and personal items.

Wehadkee - "Greetings from Wehadkee Baptist." Those celebrating birthdays in February were Randy Mickle, Leona Mulkey, Katie Hewett, Tim Yarbrough, David Cliett, and Brother Freddy Traylor. "Happy Birthday to all!"

- During the service on February 10, Mr. David (aka "Pound Cake") Daniel brought a special song and Brother Haywood Cliett delivered the sermon.
- A lunch was held in honor of Mrs. Katie Hewett who has answered the call to serve her country. She will be leaving on March 5, 2019. As you are reading this newsletter, please lift her up in prayer for strength and comfort.



Above: Wehadkee lunch in honor of Mrs. Katie Hewett



Above Front Row: Jeremy, Ellie and Katie Hewett
Back Row: Pastor Nick & Janet Pilgrim



←
"You were preaching a 45-minute sermon in a 25-minute zone, Pastor. I'm going to have to see your license and ordination."

Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle - Lighthouse Keepers Ministry is for people 55 plus. They take a home-cooked meal to Hospice the first Thursday of each month and also donate bottled water.

- On Saturday, March 2 a Motorcycle/Jeep Ride for Relay for Life 2019 is scheduled at 9 am at Baptist Tabernacle Church parking lot. Sloppy Pig BBQ will be sold on site for this event. The proceeds will go to Troup County Relay for Life.
- There will be a Blood Drive on Monday, March 4 from 2-7 pm in the JC McMillian Life Center of Baptist Tabernacle. "Come give blood and help save lives!"
- Prayer services are held on Saturday nights at 9 pm. "Drop by and pray with us."
- Remember to set your clocks ahead on Saturday night, March 9th before going to bed. Daylight Savings Time starts on Sunday, March 10th. Don't be late for Sunday School and Worship Service. Remember God is always on time.

Davidson - will have *Praise His Name* on March 10. Breakfast at 9:00, Sunday School at 9:45 and Worship at 11 am.

East Vernon - Annual Birthday Bash will be held on Saturday, March 16 from 2 to 4 pm. Covered dish meal at 12 decorated tables with Karaoke entertainment. Vote for your favorites!

Grace - The 16th Annual Homecoming will be March 24 at

10:30am with Jay Parrack & Vocal Event. • An Easter play, *Because He Lives*, by the children's ministry will be held April 14 at 10:50am. • Every Wednesday beginning with a meal: Young Disciples program (PreK - 5th grade) @ 6:30pm Youth Group (6th-12th grades) @ 6:45pm • Senior's Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm. • WMU meets every second Friday of each month at 1:00pm. • Giving Grace Meals are every third Saturday.

- Grace Men for Christ and Ladies of Grace meet every third Monday night at 6:30 with a meal followed by a meeting. Each group's main focus is community missions.
- Making Home Work meets the first Wednesday at 6:45pm.
- RU Recovery Program meets on Fridays at 7:00pm.

Highland - will hold a Congregational Song Service during Morning Worship Service on March 31. Anyone can suggest their favorite hymn for the congregation to sing. There may also be solos, duets or group selections. "Music is uplifting and a blessing to many, and we always enjoy this service."



Lakeview - A Gideon will be a special guest on March 17 and a love offering will be taken for the Gideons to help them purchase Bibles. • Girls in Action will begin on March 5; more information is available from Judy King or Audrey Holloway.

Mountville (MBC) - will participate in Relay for Life on April 26 to support the American Cancer Society. A Sloppy Pig BBQ sale will be held on Saturday, March 30 from 11am - 1pm at Tractor Supply. Bags will consist of 2 BBQ sandwiches, chips, brownie, and a drink and will be sold for \$10 each. All proceeds will benefit the Relay for Life event.

New Hope (LaGrange) - Heads up! Vacation Bible School is just around the corner. The date is set: June 23-27. Make plans now to participate. "You are needed!" • During the month of March, the church will be collecting non-perishable food items to stock the pantry at LaGrange Hospice. The Sisters of Hope will take the food baskets to hospice at the end of March. • The Youth will sponsor a spaghetti lunch on Sunday, March 25 after the worship service. Proceeds will go to the Youth Fund for their projects. Please make plans to attend and support our Youth program. • The choir began practice for the Easter Cantata on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:30 pm. *The King is Coming* will be presented on Sunday, April 14. Anyone who loves to sing is invited to join them. • Sisters of Hope will not meet in March. A meal will be prepared on Sunday, March 3 after the worship service, to be taken to LaGrange Hospice. The next meeting will be Monday, April 8 at 6:30pm with a guest speaker. All ladies are invited to attend. On April 7, the Sisters of Hope will host a soup lunch after the worship service with proceeds to go to the Annie Armstrong offering.

Unity - will have a BBQ fundraiser for VBS on March 1.

- **Revival: March 3-6, 2019 with Brian Fossett**, starting at 10:30 Sunday morning and 6:30 pm nightly. Youth night is Sunday, March 3 and Children's night is Wednesday, March 6.

Higher Hope's 14th Anniversary Concert

Featuring Higher Hope
& Special Guests - The Nelons



Saturday, March 30 at 6 PM
(doors open at 5 PM)

Callaway Baptist Church
310 John Lovelace Rd, LaGrange Georgia

Announcements (continued)

WMU Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 6, 2019

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Registration begins at 10:30 am

Motivational Speaker: Ellen Hester

WMU Speaker: Theresa Miller
West Regional Missions Mobilizer

Special Music: Gina Spradlin

Location: Grace Baptist Church
3731 West Point Road, LaGrange, Georgia

Please RSVP by March 25 to Judy King
by Email: filose@outlook.com
or by phone (706) 882-0371

All women are invited!

New Grief Support Group

Monthly beginning March 19 at 10:00 am

Location: Troup Baptist Association
1301 Washington St., LaGrange GA



Lead Facilitator:
Rev. Michael Stiggers, (R)
Chaplain, Serenity Hospice Care
Rev. Michael Hornsby, (L) and
Dr. Lamar Truitt who are both
Certified Chaplains, will assist.

Group sessions may include a discussion of different types of losses and stages of grief, while addressing questions and offering suggestions to facilitate the healing process.

Book used: *GriefWork—Healing From Loss*

Please RSVP by calling 706-884-1975.

Faith Bible Institute

Troup Baptist Association—Satellite Campus

Fall Semester Enrollment through July 1

Tuition & Fees:

Returning Students: \$97 / Spouse \$61

New Student \$139

Late Enrollment July 16 through August 20 (Late fee of \$28)

For more info: www.troubaptist.org or call 706-884-1975



FIGHTING CANCER
THROUGH CHRIST



Tuesday, March 12 @ 6:30 PM

CALLAWAY CAFE'
310 John Lovelace Road, LaGrange, GA 30241

Purpose > To provide support through Christ to ALL people affected by cancer.

Our goal is to provide a group for each of you suffering with cancer to share your experiences with others as well as family members who have been impacted by this disease.

Happy Birthday April



- 3 Rev. Greg Morris, First Baptist of Hogansville
- 6 Rev. Paul Blair, First Baptist on the Square (retired)
- 6 Rev. Clay Snyder, Harvest
- 7 Rev. Cade Farris, First Baptist on the Square
- 9 Rev. Aaron McCollough, Association
- 9 Rev. Donnie Benefield, Grace
- 11 Rev. Nick Pilgrim, Wehadkee
- 16 Rev. Tommy Gilbert, Antioch - LaGrange
- 23 Rev. Randall Foxworth
- 27 Rev. Steve Vickery, Western Heights
- 28 Rev. Hugo Oropeza, First Hispanic
- 29 Rev. Frank Sledge, (retired)



Bass Tournament - March 23 Highland Pines Marina

Annual fundraiser for LaGrange chapter of "Truth in Nature", a non-profit ministry for boys without a father in their lives.

Contact Jeff Benefield at 706-616-8732
www.truthinnature.org/lagrange
for information and registration.

Jerome Shipman Memorial Scholarship Fund

To assist students who have a financial need and also display academic achievements, a commitment to serving others, strong ethics, and leadership qualities.

New Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church will be accepting applications through April 1, 2019.

To request an application, send email to jeromeshipmanscholarship@gmail.com.

MARCH CALENDAR

- 4 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Brian Fossett
- 4 Financial Peace University Class, 6pm at TBA
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins - Spring Forward
- 11 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Joe Frye
- 11 Financial Peace University Class, 6pm at TBA (last class)
- 18 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Lamar Womack
- 25 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Richard King

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association office

Association Prayer Group meets on Wednesdays at 11am @ TBA

Faith Bible Institute meets on Tuesdays at 6:30pm @ TBA



Happy Birthday March



- 6 Rev. Adam Camp, Rosemont
- 8 Bro. Donald Boyd, Northside
- 9 Rev. Benjie Dukes, Concord
- 11 Rev. Don Ellison
- 13 Rev. Neil Stich, Second Baptist
- 16 Rev. James Yu, New Heaven Korean Baptist
- 20 Rev. Randy Warren, Flat Shoals Salem Road
- 22 Dr. Tom Tucker, First Baptist - West Point

Welcome Spring!

On The Lighter Side:

"Doctor, I think my wife is getting hard of hearing."

"There's a simple test you can run to see how bad the problem is: Start out 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone say something and see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the man's wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he's in the living room. In a normal tone, he asks, "Honey, what's for supper?" No response. So he moves to the other end of the room and repeats, "Honey, what's for supper?" Still no response. Next, he moves into the dining room. "Honey, what's for supper?" No response, so he walks up to the kitchen door.

"Honey, what's for supper?" Again, there is no response, so he walks right up behind her. "Honey, what's for supper?"

"For the fifth time, Harry, CHICKEN!"

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