

Troup Baptist Association

Toxic Relationships

I wrote the paragraph below late this past Sunday afternoon. As I state in the article, it had been on my mind all weekend. I posted it to Facebook. Evidently, it struck a chord. In less than twenty-four hours it had been liked or loved by 283 people, generated 69 comments, shared 84 times, and viewed by thousands. Again, it struck a chord! Perhaps it will strike a chord with you.

“For some reason, this has been on my mind all weekend. Perhaps it's for you. So, here goes: If somebody wants to be a part of your life, they'll do whatever it takes to be a part - period. (Reread that last sentence.) If they don't, then they'll allow any little thing to prevent them from being a part. For them, one excuse is just as good as another. But here's reality. At some point, life runs out for all of us. How sad it would be to reach the end of life carrying a boatload of regret. All of us are nothing more and nothing less than the sum of all the choices we've made in life, good or bad. I encourage you to choose wisely. Choose to settle the outstanding relational

accounts in your life. Forgive. Correct what's wrong. Amend your ways. You see, if you don't, at some point, people will decide that they're simply no longer going to allow themselves to be bound by your drama and they will move on. And when that ship sails, it may never return. Again, I encourage you to choose wisely.”

I can only surmise why these words resonated as they did in the lives of those who read them. I think a possibility is because it highlights the fact that far too many of us are carrying emotional baggage we weren't designed to carry. We cannot make somebody love us. It's their choice. And regardless of how nice of a person we are, how much we love somebody, how nice we are to them, or how much drama we have already endured or tolerated from them, at the end of the day, it's their choice. Amos 3: 3(KJV) asks a great question. It asks, “*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*” And of course, the answer is no. One person can no more sustain a two-person relationship o

r commitment than one mule can effectively pull a two-mule yoke. It just cannot happen. It takes both pulling together.

Sometimes, one of the most difficult, yet needful and liberating things we can do as Christians, is to free ourselves from some toxic people and toxic relationships in our lives. When a relationship isn't reciprocal, it becomes toxic. And despite our best intentions and efforts, toxic people and toxic relationships will suck the very life out of us. And although we love them, want the very best for them, and will do everything within our power for them, sometimes, self-preservation dictates that, until such time that they choose to make the relationship reciprocal, we must set them free! If we don't, we won't survive.

Many years ago, I was going through airport security to board a flight. I had purchased a \$70 bottle of cologne and had it in my carry-on bag. Marianne told me they weren't going to allow me to take it onboard. I argued her down. When the security person looked inside my bag and saw my cologne,

he stated, “That can't go onboard with you.” I protested. I told him how much I had invested in it, how much I like the fragrance, and how badly I wanted it! He refused to budge. I asked him what I was going to do with my cologne. He said, “Sir, I really don't care. There's a mailbox over there; you can mail it to yourself if you want. And there's a trash can right over there that you can toss it in. Again sir, I don't care. All I know is that if you want to board that flight, that cologne is not going onboard with you.” The choice was clear. If I was going to board the flight that would take me to my destination – I had to rid myself of that which was preventing me from boarding. So it is with toxic relationships. Sometimes, we must leave a relationship behind in order to move into the destiny God has for us!

I don't recall ever writing a column like this, but I have stated the truth. If this column is for you – choose wisely! (Maybe you need to go back and reread the second paragraph!)

Brother Aaron

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

News

Association - Children's Home Truck Loading Event was held in June with the truck being loaded on June 19 at noon. Once again, the churches and people of the Troup Baptist Association were extremely generous! The trailer was filled with supplies and \$1,400 worth of gift cards was donated! "Thank you."



Above: The trailer before and after loading supplies for the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes (GBCH)



Above L-R: Angela Maddux, association ministry assistant, presenting gift cards to Charles Maddox & Steve Smith, GBCH, with Rev. Stanley Woods & Rev. Derek Williams who helped with loading.



Association - Pastor's Rib Day was held on June 24. Mrs. Peggy Shipman (right) and members of New Macedonia carried on the tradition of Pastor's Rib Day started by the late Rev. Jerome Shipman. Thank you to Rev. Derek Williams, Peggy Shipman and members of New Macedonia, who prepared and served the delicious rib meal.



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 - Children's Camp Rockridge 2019



Camp Rockridge was June 17-20 at Rockridge Baptist Assembly in Franklin, Ga.

There was a record attendance with 170 campers and 40 plus counselors. The theme for the week was "Glow for Jesus". A new event this year was the campers' talent show. The camp video is available for viewing on the Troup Baptist Association Facebook page and the website, troubaptist.org. There were 25 salvation decisions during camp!



"Thank you to all who helped make this possible!"

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - received one new member last month. • The Food Closet served 613 individuals, giving away 346 boxes of food and 693 meals. The Clothes Closet served 213 individuals. • BTC participated in Teacher Appreciation at Clearview Elementary School by serving breakfast to 85 teachers and giving them gifts. • BTC helped with the annual Georgia Baptist Children's Home Truck Loading Event held June 17-20 at the Troup Baptist Association office.



Davidson - had a great revival June 9-11 with John Lanier. (right) Photo above is John Lanier, Larry Strong and Rev. Howard Longshore.



Highland - welcomed a new member by profession of faith on June 23. Mike Norwood accepted Christ as his Savior and will be baptized! "We are happy that Mike has made this decision and will continue to serve the Lord at Highland."

• Highland observed Father's Day by recognizing all fathers in attendance during Morning Worship Service. In addition, they recognized the youngest father, Charlie Wright, and the oldest father, Harold Todd. Harold was saved at Highland Baptist Church in 1962. It was a very special service.

• An Ordination Service was held on Sunday, June 30 for Colby Freeman, a member of Highland Baptist Church, who recently finished school to become a Minister of the Gospel.

• The first meeting of Prayers and Squares was held. Highland has become a part of this international ministry where the ladies hand-tie lap quilts and designate each quilt for someone in need of prayer. Quilts will be displayed in the church so anyone can say a prayer for the intended recipient and at that time, they will loosely tie a knot on the quilt to represent the prayer. Once completed, the quilt will be delivered to the recipient so they can feel the knots and know that each one represents a prayer that someone prayed for them.



L-R: Highland's Youngest Father, Charlie Wright and Oldest Father, Harold Todd



GRACE VBS

Grace - sponsored 22 children to go to Camp Rockridge this year! They also sent two counselors to help with the camp. • There were eight members of Reformer's Unanimous who attended the conference in Illinois. • Vacation Bible School was held the last week of June. The kids had a lot of fun!



Grace: Reformer's Unanimous

News (continued)

Lakeview - Hostess Sally Pike planned the menu and the activities for the June 24 WMU meeting. Men's Brotherhood Breakfast and planning meeting were held June 29. Members participated in several ministry activities in June: Troup Baptist's truck loading event for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes, donation of drinks and snacks to hospice, donations and volunteering for the bed ministry of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace", music and devotions at Poplar Creek Assisted Living, and donating food for the Food Closet.



The Hummingbird Quilt Guild, Hogansville, presented pillowcases and a quilt to the LaGrange chapter of "Sleep in Heavenly Peace." Pictured L-R are: Carol Truitt, Lakeview Baptist Church, Greg Watts, Chapter President of Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Brenda Kendrick, Phyllis Bruce and Heather Bostick. All of the Ladies are members of the quilt guild and worked on site June 15, where 80 bunk beds were constructed for children who were without beds. Anyone interested in helping with future projects may call Carol Truitt, 706-882-3579.

Mountville (MBC) - Mountville had a wonderful VBS in June. There were four salvations and one re-dedication! "We had an amazing encounter with Jesus!" • A big group from MBC attended the Atlanta Braves game on June 10 to support their own Chloe Costley, who participated in singing the national anthem with the Young Singers of West Georgia. • The Mountville Mission Team spent a great week in Copperhill, TN in June. The team worked and ministered to residents of that community. • Mountville MPact held a car wash at Mike Patton Ford on Saturday, June 15. A special thanks to Mike Patton Ford for donating their facility and for investing in our community! Money raised was used to help fund the mission trip and the building fund.

Mountville Mission Team



Mountville MPact Car Wash



At Left
←
Grace Baptist
VBS
"In The Wild"

News (continued)

New Hope (LaGrange) - Wow! VBS was a huge success with over 170 kids of all ages and adults. It's been a wonderful time of learning new songs about Jesus, having fun in classes, and making new friends. "Thanks to Troy and Rita Karr, Melissa Hughes and all workers who helped to make this a happy VBS."

- Seven children from New Hope had a fun week at Camp Rockridge. They were kept busy with many activities to help them understand who Jesus is and what He has done for them. Those attending were Ava Hughes, Maris Mayfield, Skylar Cash, Brooke Pope, Lily Prestridge, Tyler Langford and Bryson DeMooney. • New Hope children are enjoying theme night each Wednesday evening at 6:30 during the summer. "We appreciate Children's Director, Melissa Hughes."

- All fathers were recognized on Father's Day. A special gift was given to the oldest father, Wallace Herren, and the youngest father, Chase Wilson. Preacher Mike's message for fathers was "Duct Tape Lessons for Dad."



Tyler Langford & Bryson DeMooney



Lily Prestridge & Brooke Pope



Ava Hughes, Maris Mayfield, Skylar Cash, Brooke Pope & Lily Prestridge



NEW HOPE VBS

Roper Heights - has had a busy month. They sponsored seven of their children to go to Camp Rockridge in June. Those going were Jaden Milner, Elleigh Parker, Alonta Moss, Matthew Duncan, Zayden Lott, McKinley Milner and Nathan Duncan. They had a blessed time! • VBS was held June 22 - 28 and concluded with a Family Night on June 28. "May God Bless!"

Unity - VBS "In the Wild" was a great success! The children had a wonderful time. There were important decisions made by some of the children. The youth group was a big help at VBS. They helped in the classrooms, with snacks & missions and with recreation & music. "Thank you for your help!"

- CMG had their monthly meeting on June 10. They planned a yard sale for July 13 and a Sunshine Sisters banquet for September. They made a donation for the Annie Armstrong Easter offering and will be donating items to the Awana Store at the August meeting. • The Food Closet helped several families in the community with food and personal items on June 28.



UNITY
VBS

"In The
Wild"



Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - Vacation Bible School will be held July 21-25 from 6 - 8pm. The theme is "In the Wild."

- The Blood Drive will be Monday, July 1 from 2-7pm in the JC McMillian Life Center. Please give so someone may live.
- Conquering Chemical Dependency is held every Tuesday night at 6pm at Baptist Tabernacle Church - room #14 of the JC McMillian Life Center. This is a Christ-centered 12 step program and is open to the public.
- Happy Birthday America on July 4th. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."* Psalm 33:12. KJV "BTC wishes everyone a happy and safe 4th of July."

Callaway - There is a new ministry at Callaway Baptist! A support group called Fighting Cancer Through Christ meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Callaway Café.

Creekside - The First Step Addiction program is held every Thursday at 7pm in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Davidson - VBS will be July 12 from 5:30-8:00pm with pizza and July 13 from 8:30am until 2:00pm with breakfast & lunch.

- Breakfast every Sunday at 9:00am, Sunday School at 9:45, Worship at 11:00am. All are welcome!
- Davidson is seeking an innovative and energetic Youth Leader to expand the youth program. If interested, email sherry_bennet@hotmail.com.

East Vernon - will have a family fun / yard sale day on July 13 from 7am until 3pm. • VBS will be held on July 18 & 19 from 6-8pm (dinner at 5pm) and on Saturday, July 20 from 9am - noon. The VBS theme is ROAR.

Grace - Every Wednesday beginning with a meal: Young Disciples program (PreK - 5th grade) @ 6:30pm Youth Group (6th-12th grade) @ 6:45pm

- Senior's Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30pm.
- WMU meets the 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.
- Esther Women's Prayer Group meets the last Monday of every month at 6:30pm at the Burdette's. All women welcome. Contact by email: sburdette98@gmail.com
- "Making Home Work" meets the first Wednesday at 6:45pm in the choir room. This includes fellowship, encouragement and Biblical instruction for couples, single parents & grandparents. Childcare is provided and all are welcome.
- RU Recovery Program meets on Fridays at 7:00pm.
- *The Old Paths* will be in concert on July 7 at 6pm at Grace.

Highland - Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 22 - 26 from 5:30 until 7:30 pm nightly for ages 5 years through 5th grade.

Lakeview - Homecoming will be Sunday, October 13 with special music and Sheriff James Woodruff as guest speaker. "Everyone is invited to attend."

- Donations of nonperishable foods with future expiration dates continue to be needed for the Food Closet.

New Hope (LaGrange) - HIS Club (Hope Inspired Seniors) are inviting all seniors to the July 29th meeting at 11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. • New Hope Church will celebrate their 25th anniversary on Sunday, September 29. Mark your calendars! Church directory pictures will be made **one day only** on Saturday, July 13 for the 25th church anniversary directory. All church members are encouraged to participate. Call the church office at 706-812-0120 and leave a message for Kathy McConnell so that she may contact you.

Stovall - hosts a singing every 3rd Saturday Night at 6 pm.

Unity - Unity Baptist UKids Summer Fun is "God Colors": Green - Garden of Eden (Adam and Eve), Brown - Noah's Ark, Red - The Red Sea Parts, Yellow - The Star in the East, Blue - Calming a Stormy Sea and Purple - King of Kings. Ukids meet every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30pm. • Awana starts back on August 14 with registration and a "Back to School Party."

**Hear: Former
Atlanta Fire Chief,
Kelvin Cochran!
Fired for Christian beliefs
Won at Supreme Court!**



**To
Honor
All 1st
Responders**

Public Invited

Sun. July 21 @ 5 pm.

Oakside Baptist Church
1921 Hamilton Rd.

Meet our Responder Heroes @ 4 pm

Announcements (continued)



WMU School Prayer Walk
Saturday, August 10, 2019
Breakfast at 9:00 am

For more information, please contact Judy King by email at lilose@outlook.com or by phone (706) 882-0371.

Faith Bible Institute

Troup Baptist Association—Satellite Campus

Fall Semester 2 Late Enrollment through August 20 includes The Exodus & The Promised Land, The Life of Christ II, and The Books of Acts.

Tuition & Fees:

New Student \$139 / Spouse \$61 (Late fee of \$28)

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

Berta Weathersbee School

School Supply Drive Goal: \$8,175

You may donate by check
 made payable to:

Troup Baptist Association

(memo: Berta School Supplies)

Mail to: Troup Baptist Association

PO Box 550

LaGrange, GA 30241



These seven students spent the past three years faithfully attending Faith Bible Institute classes each week, completing homework assignments and taking final exams in Old Testament, New Testament and Theology Courses. They are now eligible to receive a Bible Diploma. They are left to right: Rev. Tommy Jeter, Pastor of At the Cross, Joy Burnham, Tabitha Daniel-Gates, Sheila Dean, Mike & Susan Phillips and Rev. Phillip McMillan, Jr., Youth Pastor at Eastside Baptist. Not pictured is Rev. Jonathan Pike, Pastor of Woodland Baptist in Phenix City, AL. Jonathan completed two years with our local class when he was called to pastor Woodland. He organized a school at Woodland and completed his last year there.



Happy Birthday
August



- 5 Rev. Lamar Womack, Gray Hill
- 6 Rev. Bobby Robinson
- 10 Rev. Bernie Pasley, East Vernon
- 10 Rev. Mike Watson
- 13 Rev. Jerry Johnson, Stovall
- 17 Rev. Frank Abrahamsen, Praise & Prayer
- 21 Rev. Derek Williams, New Macedonia
- 23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs, Anointed By Faith
- 29 Rev. Billy Allen

Association - Church Prayer List

For July 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of July 7, 2019 - Praise & Prayer Ministry

Week of July 14, 2019 - Reeds Chapel Baptist Church

Week of July 21, 2019 - Roper Heights Baptist Church

Week of July 28, 2019 - Rosemont Baptist Church

For August 2019, please pray for following churches:

Week of August 4, 2019 - Second Baptist Church

Week of August 11, 2019 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church

Week of August 18, 2019 - Stovall Baptist Church

Week of August 25, 2019 - Teaver Road Baptist Church

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

Troup Baptist Association's Faith Bible Institute

Celebrates

7th Graduation Service
Sunday, August 4, 2019

3:00 p.m. at

Troup Baptist Sanctuary

Special Music by Kevin Dunn

Charge to the Graduates by
Rev. Aaron McCollough

Faith Bible Institute Testimony by
Rev. Kenneth Whitlock,
Spring 2017 Graduate

Reception following service
in Fellowship Hall

JULY CALENDAR

- 1 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Paul Baxter
- 4 Office closed for Independence Day holiday
- 8 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Greg Bruckert
- 15 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Doug Bingham
- 22 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Michael Stiggers
- 25 Executive Committee Meeting, 7pm at TBA
- 29 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA, Bob Tidwell

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
 (no class on July 2)

Happy Birthday July



- 6 Rev. Michael Hornsby, New Hope LaGrange
- 13 Rev. Bobby Bozeman, Baptist Tabernacle
- 18 Rev. Jackie Taylor
- 20 Rev. Billy McCollough
- 20 Rev. Eddie Striblin, Roper Heights
- 23 Rev. Max McCord
- 24 Rev. Fred Buchanan
- 24 Rev. Chris King
- 27 Rev. Robert Bagley
- 27 Rev. Brad Thompson, Callaway



Happy Independence Day!



On The Lighter Side:

Visiting his parents' retirement village in Florida, my middle-aged friend, Tim, went for a swim in the community pool while his elderly father took a walk. Tim struck up a conversation with the only other person in the pool, a five-year-old boy. After a while, Tim's father returned from his walk and called out, "I'm ready to leave."

Tim then turned to his new friend and announced that he had to leave because his father was calling.

Astonished, the wide-eyed little boy cried, "You're a kid?"

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Messenger is a Monthly Publication of The Troup Baptist Association
 P.O. Box 550, 1301 Washington St., LaGrange, Georgia 30241
 Office: (706) 884-1975
 Fax: (706) 882-8574

Web Address: www.troubaptist.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/troubaptist

Rev. Aaron McCollough, Associational Missionary: aaron@troubaptist.com
 Angela Maddux, Administrative Assistant: angela@troubaptist.com
 Rev. Terry Rainwater, Moderator: rainwater001@outlook.com
 Rev. Derek Williams, Vice-Moderator: derrickw309@gmail.com
 Mr. Daves Nichols, Treasurer
 Mrs. Dottie Henson, Assistant Treasurer
 Mrs. Jane Gottshall, Clerk

USPS341-040
 Periodicals Postage Paid LaGrange, Georgia 30241
 Postmaster: Send Address Changes To: The Messenger, P.O. Box 550 LaGrange, Georgia 30241