

Troup Baptist Association

Speaking Death or Life Into a Situation

Facts are exactly that, facts. So, please don't interpret what I say in this column as me encouraging you to ignore the facts and instructions regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic; I'm not. However, sometimes the way we process a fact makes all the difference in the world.

Proverbs 18: 21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue ..." This means that when we observe certain situations, our words can literally speak death or life into that situation. No, physically speaking, we don't have the power to curse something with our words and it die, nor do we have the power to bring something that's dead back to life. But Spiritually and mentally, yes, I believe we have that power! Words matter!

As I pondered speaking death or life, I thought about the story in the Bible of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10: 30-37) Amazingly, in this story the Bible takes a negative view of the victims' situation. In vs.30 it says, "... Leaving him 'half dead.'" "Half dead!" Think about that! It's a fact that cannot be disputed. He

was half dead. But let me pose a question: If the victim is 'half dead,' then by default, what is he? You guessed it! He's half alive! The difference, or the miracle, in this story is in how the Good Samaritan processed facts differently. He saw hope/life where the Priest and Levite bought into the "half dead" scenario. They saw no hope. They saw death. And they passed the victim by, leaving him to die. It's amazing to me how the Good Samaritan, seeing the same identical facts, chose to see the victim as "half alive" instead of "half dead." He chose to see hope! He chose to be optimistic! His view governed his response. (As will our view govern our response, regarding anything!) He chose, if you will, to speak life into the victim. He then provided the love, time, compassion, commitment, care, medical help, money, and everything else the victim required to facilitate healing/life!

Regarding the current Coronavirus situation in which we find ourselves, without dispute, the facts are what they are. What will make the difference is how

we choose to view and process these facts. We have the power to speak death or life into this situation. Which will we choose? We can be a part of the problem or a part of the solution. So, whenever we have the opportunity to do so, let's try to bring good out of this bad situation. In times like these, Christians and the church have always been at their best. They've done those things that make a positive difference. I believe this situation will be no different! So, choose to do good when you can, where you can, for everybody you can, and as often as you can. On purpose, choose to be positive and kind in this negative situation. Child of God, let others see Jesus in you. And church, let's be the church!

Speaking of the church being the church, I heard my son-in-law say in a Facebook sermon, "The church appears empty. However, while the building may indeed be empty, the church is not! Her members are simply deployed!" Son! That'll put you on shouting ground!

In the worst of times, while observing the proper quarantine rules, I have witnessed the church getting outside the walls of the

church building as I have never witnessed before! Facebook has been turned into an evangelistic outreach tool! Pastors, who couldn't spell Facebook Live two weeks ago, are now rocking Facebook Live Sermons. It's filled with singers, people reading to children, and people encouraging each other! People are volunteering to pick up groceries for those who dare not get out. Churches are buying meals for employees of agencies who don't have the option to stay home. People are making masks for health care workers, praying as never before, and they're choosing to speak life into this Coronavirus quarantine – and not death!

Please know that during these most difficult times, Marianne and I love y'all, are praying for y'all, and are here for you.

Brother Aaron

PS: Don't forget to send your tithes and offerings to your church! Church finances/bills aren't quarantined! They still show up every month! And for those who don't do on-line giving, old-fashioned check writing and the US Mail - still work!

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

News

Association - Due to state mandates regarding the coronavirus and social distancing, there are currently no meetings of any size being held at the association office. Associational Missionary Aaron McCollough and Administrative Assistant Angela Maddux have been in the office attending to necessary business of the association. Although the Prayer Team is not meeting, you may still submit a prayer request by phone (706-884-1975) or via our website. (troubaptist.org/prayer-request) • Many of our churches have gotten very creative during this time of “social distancing.” Individually, there are many ways that we can stay in touch without assembling together, such as phone calls, notes or cards sent by U.S. Mail, and of course, social media.

Association - The Troup Baptist Association sponsored a Firehouse Sub lunch for the frontline medical workers of the Troup District 4 Health Department on Friday, March 27.

Association - A new video has been added to the series “What’s Your Story.” Rev. Doug Bingham of Unity Baptist Church came to the association video studio in early March and told his story. Visit <https://www.troubaptist.org/videos/> to hear his story. There are new videos up in the “Church Polity and Practices in Plain English” as well as in the “Discipleship” category with Mike Taylor (GBMB). There is also a coronavirus update video as of March 24. Now would be a good time to view some of these informational videos available on the Troup Baptist Association website.



Association - Church Prayer List

For April 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of April 5, 2020 - Gray Hill Baptist Church
 Week of April 12, 2020 - Harvest Baptist Church
 Week of April 19, 2020 - Highland Baptist Church
 Week of April 26, 2020 - Hillcrest Baptist Church

For May 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of May 3, 2020 - Hilyer Baptist Church
 Week of May 10, 2020 - Lakeview Baptist Church
 Week of May 17, 2020 - Long Cane Baptist Church
 Week of May 24, 2020 - Mountville Baptist Church
 Week of May 31, 2020 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church

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

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.

Due to meeting restrictions, only one sheet was published with no photos. The online version will include photos that were submitted.

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Closet served 477 individuals, giving out 269 boxes of food and 406 meals. 120 backpacks were also given to children for weekend food. God continues to bless this ministry. • The Blood Drive was held on March 2 and was a success. A total of 38 people donated blood so that someone else could live. “Thanks to all our volunteers and those who donated.” • Due to the coronavirus all church services have been suspended through March 29. However, the church will post a live video of Pastor Jimmy preaching for each Sunday morning service and Wednesday night service. This began on March 22. These videos will also be on Facebook and YouTube. They will continue to monitor the virus situation and keep everyone informed as to what the worship schedule will be after March 29. “Please remember each other in prayer as we face this crisis together. Remember, God is in control and we will get through this together.” *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.* Proverbs 3:5

Creekside - During March Creekside Baptist received four new members, three by letter and one by baptism!

• Creekside is in the process of refinishing the flooring in their fellowship hall. Plans are to place new carpet in the Sanctuary at a later date.

Davidson - On February 22, Davidson youth sang several songs for the residents at Lakewood Assisted Living. They also passed out hymnals and sang with them on requested songs. The residents and the youth really had a great time and they have asked to return soon.

Dunson - had a busy month. Two were baptized, Alexander Hand and Ciera Young, and were welcomed into the family of God. • Dunson held its first “drive-up” service in the parking lot with special music, hymn singing, and preaching. They will continue to worship in this way as long as necessary in order to have a service each week. • The youth had a basketball free throw tournament and a “lock-in” before the coronavirus caused safety measures to go in effect. “We pray that every church remains safe and virus free during this trying time.

News (continued)

First Hogansville (FBCH) - On Sunday March 1, Pastor Greg Morris surprised Mrs. Lynn Campbell by presenting her with a plaque recognizing her 45 years of faithful service at First Baptist Church, Hogansville. He also gifted her with a beautiful watch which was engraved to commemorate the date. Over the years Lynn has served in many positions of leadership, but she is best known as our Music Director/Pianist. In addition she is our church secretary, and as such is the go-to person for information about most activities at church. Following the morning service there was a covered dish luncheon in Lynn's honor featuring a decorated cake and much good food. Lynn said she has never been accused of being speechless, but this surprise caught her unawares. (Well done, Pastor Greg.) We appreciate Lynn for her dedicated service and cheerful spirit. The honor is well deserved.

Grace - enjoyed a hotdog supper and ice-cream social after Sunday night service in February. • All activities are canceled until further notice due to the coronavirus. Services will be streamed live on the church Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceBaptistChurchLaGrange/> Service times are Sundays at 10:45am and Wednesdays at 7:00pm. Reformer's Unanimous will stream live on Friday nights at 7:00 also on Facebook - ReformersUnanimousCh1078. Please check the church webpage www.gbclagrange.com for updates.

Highland - Pastor Terry delivered messages via teleconference and Facebook video due to restrictions on social gathering. • The choir has prepared a cantata, "My Chains Are Gone", for Morning Worship Service on Easter. However at this time we are uncertain if Highland will be able to have services on Easter. We will continue to hold services via teleconference as long as necessary.

Lakeview - Several ladies attended the Troup Baptist Association's WMU Spring Luncheon on March 7; this was the March WMU activity and the ladies had the opportunity to make donations to support the mission of the Georgia Baptist Children's Homes. • Irby Barton, Gideon speaker, visited on March 8; he explained the work of the Gideons and gave examples of amazing salvations due to the Gideon Bibles that are placed in many locations. A love offering was taken to support the work of the Gideons. • Due to the coronavirus outbreak, church services and activities at Lakeview have been suspended until further notice.

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 2 through August 18 (Late fee of \$28)

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

Mountville (MBC) - is having services via Facebook during this difficult time. The Spring Revival was canceled and will be rescheduled for later in the Spring or Summer. • At this time, they still plan to have the Yard Sale on May 2 from 8-12 at the church. All proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. • VBS is scheduled for June 8-11 from 5:00 until 7:30 each evening. Dinner will be served from 5:00 - 5:30 pm.

New Hope (LaGrange) - is not having services right now because of the coronavirus. "We sure do miss our fellowship and worship together." Remember God's word in Isaiah 41:10: *"Fear not for I am with you. Do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."* Preacher Mike Hornsby will do a short message on Facebook on Sunday mornings, so please tune in and keep trusting in Jesus. • On Sunday, March 1, they welcomed two men from the Gideons, Edd Williams and Joseph Dumais. Brother Williams spoke to the congregation about how working in this field is not only a called ministry but a prayer ministry also. He encouraged prayer as they face opposition in placing Bibles in different locations throughout the world. New Hope's children took up a special offering to help with this ministry. • VBS is still scheduled for June 29 - July 2. Volunteers are still needed to fill some vacant spots. Please let Rita Karr know if you are willing to help. • Please continue to pray every day for President Trump for physical and spiritual strength and for our nation. "We hope to be back together in worship very soon."

Unity - is having services on Facebook Live each Sunday until they can get back to worship together. "Please everyone stay safe and take care of yourself." • Awana held Comfy Cozy Night on March 4 and Wear Green on March 11. There was a great turnout for both. They plan to have the Grand Prix Race on April 22, 2020. If possible, they will have a couple of work days. • The VBS team had a BBQ Fundraiser on March 20. The BBQ was a great success! Vacation Bible School will be held June 7-11 at Unity Baptist Church. • In Children's Church, the children are studying stories from the Old Testament. The children love to worship with song. One of their favorite songs is "I am a C-h-r-i-s-t-i-a-n."

Children's Camp Rockridge 2020

Sponsored by Troup Baptist Association

June 22-25, 2020 at Rockridge Baptist Assembly
For Boys & Girls ages 8 years through 6th grade

Early Registration Fee: \$180 per child thru June 12
After June 12: \$200 per child.

As of March 27, we are planning to have camp.

Online Registration Coming Soon: www.troubaptist.org
For more information call Angela at (706) 884-1975

APRIL CALENDAR

- 6 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA (to be determined)
 - 13 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA (to be determined)
 - 16 Leadership Groups (to be determined)
 - 20 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA (to be determined)
 - 23 Executive Committee Meeting, (to be determined)
 - 27 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11am at TBA (to be determined)
- TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association office

Financial Peace University is not currently meeting

Faith Bible Institute will begin online classes for remainder of Spring

Association Prayer Group is not currently meeting but accepting prayer requests by phone (706)884-1975 or www.troubaptist.org



He is Risen!

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)

Due to meeting restrictions, only one sheet was published with no photos. The online version will include photos that were submitted.

After much nagging from his wife, Sam was visiting the audiologist. Yes, he would need hearing aids and they ranged in price from \$10.00 to \$2,000, was what he was told. "I'll try the \$10.00 pair" Sam said. The nurse placed the hearing aids into his ears and hung a wire around his neck. "Does the wire really have to be around my neck?" asked Sam. "Why of course!" replied the nurse. "You think these things in your ears do anything?!" It's the wire around your neck – it makes people talk louder!"

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

Photos



Association: Melinda Knight & Crystal Bolt of District 4 Health Services in LaGrange receives the Firehouse Subs.



Davidson Youth visited Lakewood Assisted Living.

Looking Ahead to May...



*Happy Birthday
May*



- 4 Rev. Jimmy McMillian, Baptist Tabernacle
- 7 Rev. Chuck Anderson
- 16 Rev. Dwayne Perdue, Mountville
- 18 Rev. Terry Prestridge, Mt. Pleasant
- 21 Mrs. Marianne McCollough,
First Lady of Troup Baptist Association
- 24 Rev. Anthony Hovey, Shoal Creek
- 25 Rev. Cleve Moore, Hilyer
- 26 Rev. Randy Gilbert, Long Cane



Dunson

Ms. Ciera Young walks into the baptistry to be baptized at Dunson Baptist Church. This young lady has a heart for Jesus! Please pray for her as she continues her journey of faith in Christ.



Dunson held their first Drive-Up Worship Services with Special Music, Hymn Singing & Preaching.

← At Left: Dunson Pastor Kenneth Cole
Baptizes Alexander Hand

Photos



Grace - Youth Lock-In in February



Unity Awanas: Singing Their Favorite Song, "I Am A CHRISTIAN"



Unity Awanas: Held Comfy Cozy Night on March 4



Hogansville First: Lynn Campbell received a plaque commemorating 45 years of faithful service to her church.



Unity Awanas: Held Wear Green Night on March 11