

## Troup Baptist Association

### Focusing on the Wrong Thing

In the Olympics, there is a shooting sport that I really enjoy watching. It is the 50-meter three-position air-rifle shooting event. By the title, you can ascertain that the shooters have to shoot their targets from three different positions at a range of 50-meters. Those shooters are so good that it is not good enough to simply score a 10; (or a bullseye) the bullseye is measured in tenths. You can actually shoot a 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, etc., all with an air-rifle, mind you! That's some serious BB Gun shooting!

In the 2004 Olympics, American Matt Emmons competed in this event. The competition had come down to the last shot. All Matt Emmons needed to do to win a Gold medal was simply hit the target with his final shot. He didn't even need a bullseye. All he needed to do was hit the target. It did not matter where he hit it; he just had to hit the target! His shot was scored an 8.1. This should have won him the gold medal. However, in what is described as, "an extremely rare mistake in elite competition," Emmons fired at the wrong target! Standing in lane two - he fired at the target in lane three. His score was good

enough to win. But his focus was on the wrong target! Consequently, he finished in 8th place! What we focus on goes an extremely long way in determining our success or failure. Matt Emmons focused on the wrong target and failed.

Everybody's favorite underdog, Charlie Brown, figured out a way to be successful without focusing. He would go into the woods with his bow and arrow, shoot his arrow into a tree, and then paint a target around the arrow. Lucy, who has the gift of encouragement, saw what Charlie Brown was doing and began to exclaim, "Charlie Brown! That's not the correct way to do that!" To which Charlie Brown replied, "Yes, I know. But if you do it my way - you never miss!"

I heard a story about a man who ran a fix-it shop. When his customers would complain that an item he had repaired did not work correctly, he would reply, "Well, it works better that it did when you brought it in!" Sadly, better is not the goal! Speaking of which, I went to my doctor the other day. It had been a long time. He told me he was going to do an A1-C blood sugar test. My goal is 7.0. I told him that mine would probably be 14.0! When the results came

back mine was 7.9. I told him, "Doc, you probably will not appreciate this, but I am thrilled with a 7.9!" He responded, "Aaron, it is amazing to me how low you set your goals - then celebrate when you hit them!"

Here is the truth I want to convey in today's column: Focusing on the wrong thing (s) always prevents us from being all we were created and designed to become! In other words, we cannot be successful while living a life that is out of focus! We find a poignant Biblical reminder of this in Isaiah 6:1. Isaiah says, *"In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."* I heard my friend, Pastor Terry Rainwater, of Highland Baptist Church in Hogansville, Georgia speak on this last week. We see where a cataclysmic event had happened in both the life of Isaiah and the Children of Israel. A beloved king had died. But let me paraphrase what Isaiah says: In the midst of calamity on every side, I stayed focused on the Lord! In the middle of my horrific circumstances, I focused upon and saw God!

In 2020 we have witnessed, just to name a few things, a presidential impeachment trial, Australia burning, plagues of locusts, killer

hornets, the Coronavirus, quarantines, social distancing and masks in public, schools and businesses closing, church buildings being closed, pastors being arrested for having church, medical care/procedures delayed, not being able to visit loved ones in the hospital, not being able to have funeral services, the collapse of the economy, shortages of toilet paper and hand sanitizer, exorbitant food prices, nationwide protests and looting, racism, sickness and death on every hand, and intolerance and hatred for anybody who happens to disagree with our point-of-view, at an all-time high! And generally speaking, there is an ill-wind blowing across America today like I have never witnessed!

What then is our recourse? The answer is simple. We cannot be like Matt Emmons and focus on the wrong target. We cannot be like Charlie Brown and create our own targets. We cannot be like the fix-it shop guy (and me) and focus on making things better. We must be like Isaiah, and remain focused on God in the midst of calamity!

Let us stop focusing on the wrong thing!

*Brother Aaron*

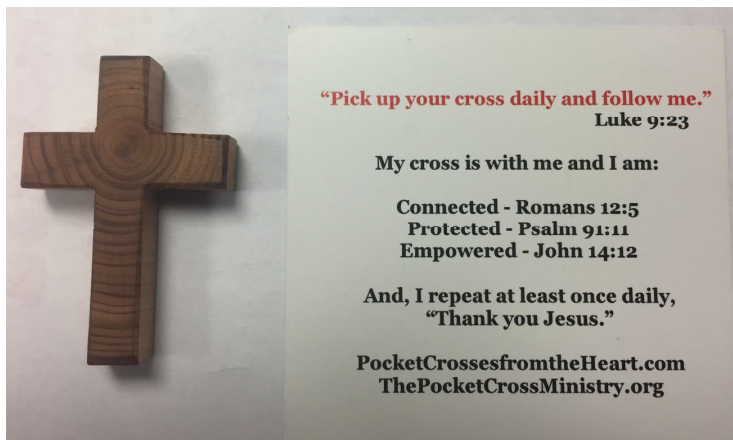
# News

**Association** - The "Truck-loading" Gift Card Drive held last month for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home in Meansville, Georgia was a huge success. We collected almost \$3,600 in an assortment of gift cards and checks. These were mailed to the Meansville Campus after the collection period. Thank you to all churches, church groups and individuals who participated in this event!

## Mission Minute with Brother Aaron

I had the privilege of meeting Don Mahaffey the other day. Don, who is a member of First Baptist Church on the Square, stopped by my office to tell me about Pocket Cross Ministries. Don used to be in the log home manufacturing business in Elijay, Georgia. When he began to phase out of that business, in an attempt to give his son something to do, he started a second business that focused on "Christ Centered Symbols." When he realized his son was not interested, he said the Spirit of God spoke to him and said, "Go forward. This is your purpose." His focus narrowed to making crosses that easily fit into your pocket. His goal is for people to start their day by being reminded that they are to take up their cross and follow Jesus – and to be reminded throughout the day, or through any circumstance, God is with them. His goal is to make and distribute one million of these pocket crosses by December 31, 2020. Don does sell some of crosses at flea markets, etc. He does this in order to fund the ministry. I want to encourage you to consider having Don come to your mission group meeting, small group meeting, or a regular church service to tell you about Pocket Cross Ministries. I know you will be blessed. Also, you may want to consider purchasing some for your church members and as personal witnessing tools! You may contact Brother Don at: 706.889.7379.

Thanks, Brother Aaron



## 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 July 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of August 2, 2020 - Rosemont Baptist Church  
Week of August 9, 2020 - Second Baptist Church  
Week of August 16, 2020 - Shoal Creek Baptist Church  
Week of August 23, 2020 - Stovall Baptist Church  
Week of August 30, 2020 - Teaver Road Baptist Church

Week of September 6, 2020 - The Church on the Rock  
Week of September 13, 2020 - Troup Baptist Association  
Week of September 20, 2020 - Unity Baptist Church  
Week of September 27, 2020 - Wehadkee Baptist Church

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



Above: Don Mahaffey of ThePocketCrossMinistry.org



# News (continued)

**Baptist Tabernacle (BTC)** - Feeding the Valley and BTC hosted a mobile food drive on July 25 and gave out 500 boxes of food. BTC food and clothes closets are open each Thursday from 9 until 11 am. • BTC Prayer Warriors continue to meet on the Square in LaGrange for prayer for our country. BTC is collecting school supplies for their Partner in Education, Clearview Elementary School. If you'd like to help with this, please call the church office (706-882-0087) for a list of requested supplies.

**Grace** - is holding in-person services with Sunday School in the George Harris Building behind the church at 10:00 am, morning worship in the sanctuary at 10:45 am and Wednesday service at 7:00 pm. They follow the CDC guidelines. All other activities are cancelled until further notice. All services are streamed live on Grace's Facebook page and their YouTube page.

• The Ladies of Grace donated school supplies to Long Cane Elementary School. • Reformer's Unanimous will stream live on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. Please check the webpage [www.gbclagrange.com](http://www.gbclagrange.com) for updates and links to the Facebook and YouTube pages.

**Highland** - Highland continues to have Sunday Morning services at 10:15 am via Facebook Live and teleconference. Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study are by teleconference at 6:00 pm. Highland plans to go back to in-church services by the end of August unless there is a surge of virus cases in Troup County within the next few weeks.

**Lakeview** - Sunday morning services at 10:00 am and Wednesday night services at 6:00 pm are being changed to drive-in services only. The nursery will be closed until further notice due to the pandemic. Sunday sermons are being posted on Lakeview's Facebook page. Faithful member James "Tony" Jones went home to be with the Lord on July 13, 2020. His service to the church includes serving as Treasurer and Chairman of the Deacons. He will be greatly missed. Graveside services were held and a Memorial Service will be held at a later date. Donations in his memory can be made to Lakeview Baptist Church.

**New Hope (LaGrange)** - Pastor Michael (Mike) Hornsby will be retiring as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church at the end of August. See announcement for a Reception at right.

## Circles of Troup County

Circles of Troup County works to reduce poverty in our community. One way is to help families that are struggling financially to develop skills and goals to become financially stable. We do that with classes, support, job skills and, most importantly, by connecting these families with volunteers further up the economic ladder who encourage them along the way.

We need you to be that encouraging volunteer! We have online training available - a total of 3 hours over 10 segments. No commitment required, but it will give you an idea if this is the volunteer experience fit for you!

To start volunteer training, contact Holly by email: [hroberts@troupc.org](mailto:hroberts@troupc.org) or by calling 770-380-5021.

## Faith Bible Institute

Troup Baptist Association—Satellite Campus

Classes will be held online for the Fall Semester.

Tuition & Fees:

Returning Students: \$97 / Spouse \$61

New Student \$139

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

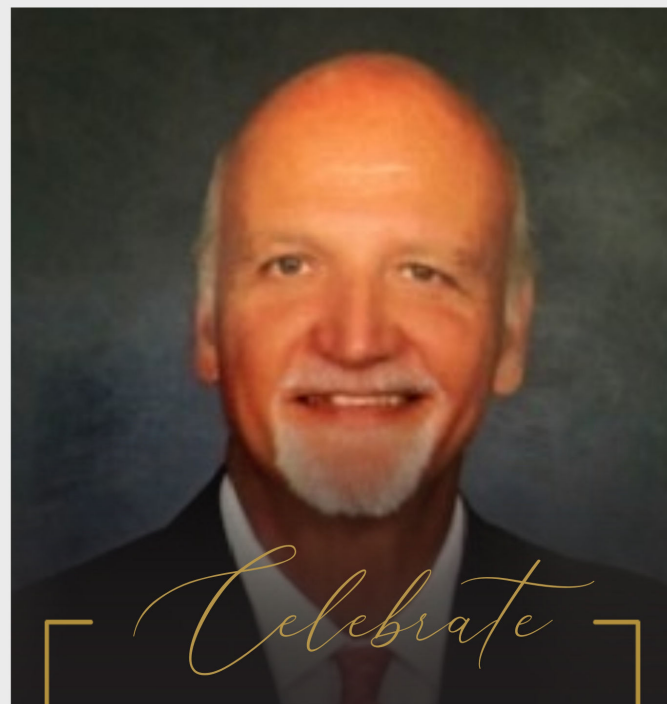
For more info: [www.troubaptist.org](http://www.troubaptist.org) or call 706-884-1975



**WMU School Prayer Walk**  
Week of August 3-9

Due to meeting restrictions, there will be no breakfast or gathering of people to receive school assignments. Please call Judy King to receive your school assignment. If your church prays for a particular school, please let Judy know as they want to be sure every school in Troup County is covered in prayer.

For more information, please contact Judy King by email at [lilose2567@gmail.com](mailto:lilose2567@gmail.com) or by phone (706) 882-0371.



**DROP-IN RETIREMENT RECEPTION**

HONORING

**PASTOR MICHAEL HORNSBY**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2020

4050 Roanoke Rd. LaGrange, Ga.

Family Life Building

Drop-in visit hours open from 2:00-5:00

## AUGUST CALENDAR

3 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
 10 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
 17 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
 24 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom  
 31 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom

TBA refers to Troup Baptist Association

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

Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester begins August 18.



## *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  
 22 Rev. Danny Geter, Long Cane  
 23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs, Anointed By Faith  
 29 Rev. Billy Allen

## Pray for our Schools, Educators & Students

Father William, the old priest, made it a practice to visit the parish school one day a week. He walked into the 4th grade class, where the children were studying the states, and asked them how many states they could name. They came up with about 40 names. Father William jokingly told them that in his day students knew the names of all the states.

One lad raised his hand and said, 'Yes sir, but in those days there were only 13 states.'

**Troup Baptist Association**  
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**LaGrange, Georgia 30241**

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# Photos

Grace Baptist Church



Above: The Ladies of Grace (Grace Baptist Church) donated school supplies to Long Cane Elementary School.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY 100<sup>TH</sup>



Messenger Volunteer, Mrs. Clyde Moore celebrates 100 years on Sunday, August 9, 2020

Clyde Allen Moore was born in LaGrange at the family home on South Greenwood Street on August 9, 1920. She and her family lived in Bolton, Georgia for a number of years. During the Depression they moved back to LaGrange. Clyde completed her education at Rosemont School where she played on the girl's basketball team. She graduated high school in 1936 at the age of 16! She wanted to go to nursing school but was too young to be accepted. So she went to Atlanta Business School instead. She worked in Atlanta for a number of years. She married B. P. Moore, Jr. of LaGrange in 1940 and also began work at the family business, Moore's Dairy Farm. In 1940, they welcomed their only child, a daughter, Hertha Jane. After Hertha Jane began school, Clyde went to work for Callaway Mills in the General Office. She retired in 1986 and has been busy ever since! Mrs. Clyde enjoys cooking, flower gardening, crocheting and writing poetry and short stories. She has published a book of poetry and is currently working on a book of short stories from her life experiences. One of the things she is known for is cooking and delivering meals to those in need. Mrs. Clyde has been a Messenger Volunteer at the Troup Baptist Association for many years. Mrs. Clyde is a very giving person; sometimes she gives flowers from her yard or food from her kitchen, other times she gives you a story from her 100 years of memories. Whatever she gives you, treasure it. God has richly blessed her!