

Troup Baptist Association

I Want to be Like Rodney Lott

I want to talk to you today about Rodney Lott. Rodney is the kind of person you only meet once in a lifetime. There is nothing extraordinary about Rodney. He was a high school graduate, but to my knowledge, he never attended college, or a technical school. He did not possess some skillset that made him stand out above the crowd. He mostly worked service-related jobs and never accumulated very much wealth. Yet everything about Rodney made him an extraordinary person! He was the embodiment of a quote attributed to Mother Teresa, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." Again, I've never met another person quite like Rodney.

Rodney was a member of Roper Heights Baptist Church in West Point, Georgia when I became their pastor. Now, Rodney was not a "manly-man." Yet, he was deeply loved by the "manly-men!" He didn't go out into the woods seeking to kill Bambi's daddy, or out on

the lake trying to catch Moby Dick. However, he could turn both Bambi's daddy and Moby Dick into the most delicious meal you ever ate! He was a seriously good cook!

While never the official leader, Rodney was always heavily involved with the children and youth ministries of the church. He was always teaching a class, Vacation Bible School, chaperoning a lock-in, or staying up all night watching sappy movies with his younger sister and her friends.

Rodney liked to sing Southern Gospel music. In fact, during my tenure at Roper Heights, for several years he was part of a quartet that traveled from church to church playing concerts. It was during this time that Rodney was given a nickname. I honestly don't remember if I hung it on him, or somebody else did. But his nickname was, "Friend."

July 29, 2020, I witnessed one of the bravest, most Spiritual, faith-filled, Christian acts I have ever witnessed in my forty plus years of pastoral ministry. Being a diabetic, Rodney

endured failing health. He lost both legs and a finger to diabetes and was on dialysis. But through all of his health struggles, he was always a loving husband to his beloved, Carmen - and was the glue that held his family together. About a month ago his mother died. This fulfilled the commitment he had made to her to see after her. About a week ago, Rodney and his brave wife Carmen, had the difficult conversation. He told her that he was tired of fighting and he was ready to go home to be with Jesus. They agreed to call-in Hospice and to stop his dialysis. So, knowing that his time was short, he sent out an invitation to all his family and friends. He invited them to come see him one last time. Now, nothing sad or morbid would be allowed. He wanted to sing Southern Gospel songs once again with his friends, reminisce about the good times, and laugh! My family and I went to see him. We laughed and had a tremendous time together. It was during this time that I discovered that Rodney once worked as a para-pro at the high school where one of my granddaughters attended. She is on the

Autism scale. So, at lunch time, she sat alone. Unbeknownst to me and my family, Rodney became her lunch buddy. She said to Rodney, "You were a friend when I had none. You were a teacher when I wasn't even your student. But most of all, you let Jesus shine through you, even if the school didn't like it at all." As we got ready to leave, knowing it would be our last time, we said our emotional and heart-felt goodbyes. Rodney corrected us. He said, "No! It's not goodbye. It's just I'll see you in a little while."

None of us knows how we will die. But if my death happens to be anything like Rodney's, I pray that I will find the courage to be as brave, as Spiritual, and as faith filled as he was. I want to be like Rodney Lott.

It is August 3rd as I sit at my computer writing this column. Tomorrow I will conduct the memorial service for my "Friend." I love you Friend! And remember what I told you, "I'll see you again. I already have my reservation for heaven!" So, until then ...

Brother Aaron

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

News

Association - Congratulations to Pastor Mike Hornsby upon his retirement. Mike and his wife Susan have served New Hope Baptist in LaGrange, Georgia for 26 years. The church hosted a retirement party for them on August 23. Sunday, August 30 is his actual last day as pastor. "Thank you Mike and Susan for giving of yourselves so freely to the church, the Troup Baptist Association, and our community. What a blessing you are!"

~ Bro. Aaron



Above: Susan & Rev. Mike Hornsby

Association - Mrs. Clyde Moore, Messenger volunteer, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sunday, August 9, 2020 at her home on Whitesville Road with a small group of family members. They enjoyed a meal together using a set of china that she had hand-painted years ago. Following the meal, the Troup County Sheriff's Dept. paraded along her circular driveway, with horns and sirens blaring to wish her a happy birthday. Thanks to many of you, she received over 67 birthday cards, which she is arranging in a photo album as she continues to enjoy them.

Association - The Troup Baptist Association class of Faith Bible Institute is meeting online for the Fall semester which began the week of August 16. Faith Bible Institute is a college level Bible course designed for every Christian. This 3 year (six semesters) curriculum covers the entire Bible. For more information, visit www.troubaptist.org and click on the Faith Bible Institute tab. You may also call the association office for more information. Phone: 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 September 2020, please pray for following churches:

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

For October 2020, please pray for following churches:

Week of October 4, 2020 - Western Heights Baptist Church
 Week of October 11, 2020 - Anointed By Faith
 Week of October 18, 2020 - Antioch - Hogansville
 Week of October 25, 2020 - Antioch - LaGrange

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

Association - During the month of August, several new videos were produced in our studio. Brother Aaron and Rev. Michael Stiggers, Pastor of Eastside Baptist Church in LaGrange and Pastor of Mount Pisgah Baptist Church in LaFayette, AL, began a series titled "An Open Honest Conversation on Racism." Rev. Greg Morris, Pastor of Hogansville First Baptist came in to the video studio and told "his story" for the "What's Your Story?" video series. While there, he and Brother Aaron also did a video titled, "How to Lead Someone to Faith in Jesus Christ." And lastly, Dr. Baxter and Brother Aaron continued their series "Faith, Fun and a Touch of Foolishness" with Lesson 9, "Why and How God Disciplines Us" and Lesson 10, "The Tower of Babel." These videos may be viewed by visiting the Troup Baptist Association's website, www.troubaptist.org/videos/.

²⁴ The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:

²⁵ The LORD make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:

²⁶ The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.

²⁷ And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel,
and I will bless them. Numbers 6: 24-27 KJV

News (continued)

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - God blessed their church family with one new member. "Praise God for all He does for each and every one of us." • The Food and Clothes Closets continue to remain open each Thursday from 9 until 11am. This month the food closet gave away 166 boxes of food and 427 meals serving 655 individuals. BTC will begin giving out backpacks in September to children for weekend food. • The BTC Youth Ministry is meeting on Wednesdays from 7 until 9 pm. • BTC is collecting school supplies for their Partner in Education, Clearview Elementary School. If you would like to help, please call the church office 706-882-0087, for a list of requested supplies. • BTC Prayer Warriors continue to meet on the Square in LaGrange for prayer for our country. They meet each Tuesday at 10 am. • BTC wishes all a Happy and Safe Labor Day. "God Bless America!"

Bethel - Bethel Baptist Church in West Point (7855 West Point Road) will have Homecoming on Sunday, September 20 starting at 10:30 am. Brother Aaron McCollough will be the guest speaker for the morning and Stephanie Walker will be leading the music and bringing the special singing. Rev. Steve Johnson is the pastor.

Grace - is holding in-person services with Sunday School at 10:00 am in the George Harris Building located behind the church. Morning worship begins at 10:45 am in the sanctuary and Wednesday service begins at 7:00 pm. They are following the CDC guidelines. All other activities are canceled until further notice. All services will be streamed live on the church Facebook page and YouTube page. • Reformer's Unanimous will stream live on Friday nights at 7:00 pm. Please check the webpage for updates and links to the church Facebook and YouTube pages. www.gbclagrange.com/

Highland - Highland sponsored a Back-to-School Prayer Walk on August 15 at the Hogansville Elementary School. A good crowd turned out to walk around the school and pray for the teachers, students, and administrators prior to the start of the new school year. • Highland WMU sponsored a pocketbook ministry. Ladies in the church filled purses with items that all ladies could use. These will be delivered to Harmony House in LaGrange. • Highland congregation continues to have Sunday Morning services at 10:15 am via Facebook Live and teleconference; also Wednesday night Prayer and Bible Study by teleconference at 6:00 pm.

Lakeview - Sunday morning services at 10:00 am and Wednesday night services at 7:00 pm (previously 6 pm) are drive-in services only. Sunday sermons are posted on Lakeview's Facebook page. • Recent mission projects included participating in Troup Baptist Association's truck-loading project for Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and having several members participating in the WMU's annual prayer walk for all Troup County Schools.

New Hope (LaGrange) - The New Hope family held a drop-in retirement reception for Preacher Mike Hornsby and Susan on Sunday afternoon, August 23 in the Family Life Building. Many came by to share their thoughts, prayers and memories of their 25 years with Preacher Mike at New Hope. He preached his last message as pastor of New Hope on Sunday, August 30. To Mike and Susan: "We pray God's richest blessings on you as you make this transition in your life. You are very much loved and appreciated. God speed. You will be missed!"

• In July, the congregation brought gift cards for the Georgia Baptist Children's Home. "Thank you to all who gave to this vital ministry." • On Sunday, August 2, parents Rick and Jan Fendley, dedicated their son, Richard Franklin Fendley, called "Finn", to the Lord. • On Sunday, August 23, Lily Prestridge was baptized by Youth Minister, Chase Golden. • On Sunday, August 16, new deacons were announced, a pastor search committee was appointed and an interim pastor, Rev. Don Ellison, was introduced. Brother Don will begin his interim pastorate with New Hope on Sunday, September 6. Please pray for Bro. Don and for the search committee. • Sisters of Hope met Monday evening, August 3. Because of the virus, baby and wedding showers will not be given by the Sisters of Hope. Watch the bulletin each week for birth and wedding announcements. Gifts may be brought to the church for the recipients to pick up. • Congratulations to Calli Hughes upon her graduation from high school. "May God bless you as you look forward to whatever the Lord has in store for your future." • The Sunday School Bible Study time is being held in the Family Life Building at 10:00 am for adults, youth and children. There is social distancing. Mr. Tim Mills is leading the adults and Chase Golden is leading the youth. A teacher is also available for children who attend. • All ladies are invited to the Sisters of Hope meeting, Monday, September 14 at 6:30pm at the church. There is no need to bring snacks. • If New Hope is your church and you have a new phone number or a new address, please call Joyce Gandee at 334-499-0216 or drop a note in the offering basket at church so they can keep the church records up to date. • "May the God of all blessings protect and keep safe all the school teachers and school children during this trying time." "Pray for America."

What month does every tree dread?
Sept-timmmberrr!

Why did the lions move at the end of summer?
Because the pride goeth before the fall!

What kind of vest should you wear in the fall?
A har-vest!

Why did the tree worry that he would never get
his leaves back after autumn?
He didn't be-leaf in himself!



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- 7 NO Pastors' Prayer Fellowship - Labor Day Holiday
- 7 Labor Day Holiday: TBA & GBMB Closed
- 13 Grandparents Day
- 14 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 21 Pastors' Prayer Fellowship, 11:00 am In Person & Zoom
- 28 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
Faith Bible Institute Fall Semester is underway with online classes.



Happy Birthday September



- 2 Rev. Michael Reeves, Open Range Cowboy Church
- 4 Rev. Tom Farr, First Baptist on the Square
- 20 Rev. Jason Jones, Western Heights
- 29 Rev. Richard King, Lakeview
- 30 Dr. Lamar Truitt, Lakeview
- 30 Rev. Ben Turner, Teaver Road



Happy Grandparents Day - September 13th



The Indians asked their Chief in Autumn if the Winter was going to be cold or not. Not really knowing an answer, the chief replies that the Winter was going to be cold and that the members of the village were to collect wood to be prepared. Being a good leader, he then went to the next phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter to be cold?"

The man on the phone responded, "This Winter is going to be quite cold indeed."

So, the Chief went back to speed up his people to collect even more wood to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again, "Is it going to be a very cold winter?"

"Yes", the man replied, "it's going to be a very cold Winter." So, the Chief goes back to his people and orders them to go and find every scrap of wood they can find.

Two weeks later he calls the National Weather Service again: "Are you absolutely sure that the Winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the man replies, "the Indians are collecting wood like crazy!"

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Photos

Grace Baptist Church



Above: Grace Baptist Church Sunday School class taught by Jimmy Pruitt in the George Harris Building



Above: Ladies of Grace (Brace Baptist Church) prepared lunch for the teachers at Long Cane Elementary School.