

THE MESSENGER

July 2023 • Volume 58 • Issue 7

FREEDOM.

July literally begins with a bang. I love this time of year when we celebrate our FREEDOM as Americans and spend time thanking God that we live in a free country where we can worship freely and do the things we love to do without worry or fear of being imprisoned or killed. And I love fireworks! Things have been crazy in recent years but on our worst days, we still enjoy many freedoms that others around the world will never know. We are blessed to live in the USA!

But I'm more thankful for the FREEDOM I have **IN CHRIST** because of what He has done for us as believers. Galatians 5:1-6 is a beautiful passage that speaks of that FREEDOM. I don't have the space to do a complete exegesis of the verses, but I do want to focus on verse 1 and verse 6 briefly.

¹For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Notice that in verse 1 it says, "**FOR** FREEDOM Christ has set us free..." Christ didn't die to give me freedom so I could wear a badge or sit as a trophy on a shelf. He bought my freedom "FOR" a reason: for me to LIVE by FAITH in Him and LOVE for others. Serving Jesus is something wonderful to live FOR!

Paul pleads for us to choose FREEDOM in Christ over the BONDAGE of legalism. Tragically, in that day many were choosing the latter and forfeiting the power of the grace of Jesus. That continues even today as many live and never experience the true joy of being FREE because they are bound by confidence in what they can do for themselves. Most people believe that FREEDOM is doing whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it. But that could not be more wrong. If that were freedom, more people would find it and enjoy it. True Freedom begins with a deep faith and contentment in Christ that allows us to live for Him and then love others unselfishly, just as He loved us.

Putting our faith in anything other than Christ, means taking on the bondage of the law and obligating yourself to keep the whole law perfectly which no one other than Jesus Christ has ever been able to do. Instead, let's choose to live in the FREEDOM Christ has bought for us with His life.

Since freedom was bought at a great price, let's not waste the opportunity to LIVE IT TO THE FULL, both in our relationship with Christ and in the great country in which we have the privilege of living.

Bro Andy



TBA Annual Truckloading Event For Georgia Baptist Children's Homes July 24-27

Fill the Truck Campus Needs Drive



ITEMS NEEDED:

Canned Fruits & Vegetables	Solo type Cups
Individual Snacks, Crackers & Chips	12-16 oz Bowls
Jell-O and Pudding Snack Packs	Paper Towels
Laundry Detergent (pods)	Toilet Paper
Disinfectant Spray & Wipes	Gift Cards (Walmart)



REACHING THE FATHERLESS

Truth in Nature is an outdoor ministry that exists to Reach, Inspire, Support, and Engage young men from fatherless, single-parent homes.

Our goal is to help boys understand their purpose as Christian men and to help break the fatherless cycle in local communities across our nation.

MENTORS WHO CARE

Our programs are designed to be a fun and exciting experience, but our primary mission is connecting Godly mentors with your son who can teach him how to be the young man God created him to be.

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Call or Email the TBA or visit
<https://truthinnature.org/lagrange/>

MINISTRY NEWS

It's been an exciting month of travel and ministry with the highlight of getting to experience the scenery of Alaska as Kim and I got to visit with my niece and her family and be amazed at God's handiwork in the 49th state. We saw big moose and baby moose, big bears and baby bears, eagles, caribou, sled dogs and even a porcupine in the wild. It was a wonderful adventure!



It was also a joy and honor to worship and preach at Callaway Baptist (6/18) and Wehadkee Baptist (6/25) during the month. It's always a joy to open God's Word together and gather with God's people in the TBA.

The highlight of the month, however, had to be the TBA Children's Camp at Camp Rockridge. 146 children and 46 leaders had a great time during the week. God gave us some wonderful (and cool) weather and protected us from the hard rains. In the end we saw 19 children receive salvation as they gave their heart and life to Jesus Christ. We also have several others who are asking questions and will talk further with their parents and pastors about what it means to be saved. Wow!

I want to thank several folks that work hard to make the TBA Camp a special time. First, Pam Murphy who organizes and brings it all together. Things run so smooth and Pam keeps it all together. "Thanks, Pam!"



Camp Rockridge 2023

Next, thanks to Tifton Dobbs and Dobbs Transportation for getting everyone up to camp in style by providing 4 buses and drivers and for providing this service each year as a ministry. "Thank you so much, Brother Tifton!"

Thanks to Philip McClung and Adam Camp for the great teaching and leadership in Bible study and worship. Thanks to the track time leaders, nurses, and cabin keepers. You guys were phenomenal and the kids were blessed with how you served and worked with them.

Finally, thanks to our new Camp Director, Rhodes Skinner and new Camp Manager, Noah Skinner. We are blessed with the new leadership at Camp Rockridge and I hope every one of our churches will try to get up there for a retreat or day of service and fellowship soon. It's a great place and as our new tag line says...

"It's My Favorite Place!"



Updated Sign and new rockface style that is also a part of our cabin updates.

Chapel Worship >>>>>



<<<<< THE SNACK SHACK

Bro. Phillip teaching during worship about how we must GROW as Christians. >>>>>



Thank you to
Dobbs Transportation



BAPTIST COLLEGIATE MINISTRY LAGRANGE COLLEGE



Please pray for all the preparations for Fall Semester. We have a new Student Leadership Team in place and are making plans to reach new and returning students on campus this fall. **Would you like to be involved?**

Get your Sunday school class or group together and plan to provide a lunch one Tuesday for the students during the Fall.

Please pray that God will turn their hearts toward the BCM and allow us to love and encourage them as they arrive in August. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Church News & Announcements

Baptist Tabernacle (BTC) - The Food Ministry served 466 individuals, giving away 188 boxes of food with 98 meals being delivered. • On Sunday, June 18, BTC recognized all of their fathers who were in attendance for the celebration of Father's Day. • On June 16, several members of the Youth Group went to Six Flags and had a great time with the excitement of the rides and fellowship among the youth. • BTC will be hosting a Blood Drive on July 27. • Baptist Tabernacle VBS will be July 17 -21, from 6 - 8 pm.

Creekside – celebrated all of their fathers from oldest to youngest on Father's Day, June 18. "Happy Father's Day to all our men."

- Creekside had a wonderful turnout to hear The Perrys and Daniel Ashmore on June 10. It was a great day to dedicate the new Laddie Yates Pavilion. There were over 100 in attendance and God was in their midst.
- During the month of June, they welcomed a new member, Wanda Garrett and baptized three!
- On Sunday, July 2, Creekside enjoyed an evening cookout followed by fireworks. • The Sisterhood meeting will be July 10 at 6 pm. The Brotherhood breakfast will be July 15 at 8 am. Creekside would love for you to come and visit!



Creekside Father's Day



Creekside: Dedication of the Laddie Yates Pavilion



Davidson – has had four souls saved and two have joined their church! "Praise God!" • Davidson had a great family day in June. • On July 22 from 9 am until 2 pm, Davidson will host an End-of-Summer Bash including a bouncy house and lots of games. There will be pizza and ice cream. They are working on building their youth. • The 5th Sunday Night Singing will be held on July 30 beginning at 5 pm. Davidson Baptist Church is located on GA Highway 18 in West Point

Dunson - has been blessed this month! The youth group went to the lake for kayaking, swimming, and fellowship. • There was a great turnout for Mother's Day and Father's Day. "We pray many blessings over these Godly parents." • The informal Sunday night service on June 14 was held at George and Clara Andrews' home. Their daughter, Sharon, talked about her 6-week, 500-mile pilgrimage through France and Spain known as The Way of Saint James leading to the shrine of the apostle in the cathedral of Santiago in northwestern Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the apostle are buried. Sharon said the 500-mile walk was a journey of physical, emotional, and spiritual evaluation.



Above: Dunson's Sunday night informal service met at the home of George & Clara Andrews.



Left: Dunson's Youth enjoyed a day on the lake with kayaking & swimming.



FBC Hogansville: His Place & Hosanna House led worship.

Church News & Announcements

FBC Hogansville - A group of twelve teenagers and two chaperones, Monica Johnson and Tyler Stretch, attended Centrifuge Camp in Panama City the week of June 19. It was a great trip during which seven young people recommitted their lives to Christ and one got saved! Those eight were baptized Friday morning in the ocean. Students worshiped, did Bible Study, had quiet time devotions in the morning. They also did some recreational activities that were in direct relation to our walk with Christ, and had two messages from the Camp Pastor daily. There was also a mission offering taken up on Thursday night. Last year, FBC Hogansville Youth started collecting change in a jar to donate to the missions offering this year. In the last few months, they opened it up to the church to help fill up their jar which resulted in almost \$270 going to the IMB. "We praise the Lord for the decisions made and lives changed over the week!" Several of the young people shared some of their meaningful experiences with the congregation on Sunday Morning. (photo page 4 & 7) • On June 25, they welcomed a large group from His Place and Hosanna House to lead in worship. The music was inspiring as the choir overflowed with joyful music. Then Director Kenny Young of His Place brought a wonderful message from the book of Genesis about the grace of forgiveness, illustrated by Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers. His Place and Hosanna House offer a faith-based program that focuses on the healing power of Jesus Christ, the teachings of the Bible, and recovery from addiction through the love of God. "We were blessed to share in worship together." (photo page 3) • Earlier in the month the Prime Timers had a day of shopping and eating, two favorite things. They traveled to Buckner's Family Style Restaurant in Jackson, and then on to the Tanger Outlet Mall for a shopping spree. They appreciate Jim Call driving the church bus to facilitate these adventures. • The Green Patch Backyard Bible Club continues every Wednesday night from 6 to 7 pm. Locations are at the corner of Green Avenue and Dickinson Street or at the church. It is a fun, family time of games, food, and Bible study. Everyone is welcome. • FBC Hogansville is anticipating a wonderful Vacation Bible School which will be held the week of July 9 - 14 from 6:00 - 8:30 pm with July 14 being Family Night. "Please make plans to attend."



FBC Hogansville Youth at Centrifuge Camp in Panama City

Franklin Road – VBS this year was held at Pastor Trace Lasher's home, Big Tree Farm from June 7 thru 9. It was an outdoor event and thankfully the weather was beautiful. They had 18 kids of all ages. The theme for this VBS was based on Psalm 23. The activities included a nature preserve to emphasize God's overflowing blessings, and a zip line in Happy Valley to learn how God will help us all overcome our fears. The Gideons came and gave out Bibles. A great big thank you to all the adults and youth who helped supervise the Summer Camp. In the words of our Pastor, "This camp ranks up there as one of the best we have ever had." A special thank-you goes to the pastor's wife Ashley, who put the whole thing together. "God is our Good Shepherd and is watching over us every day."



Above: Scenes from Franklin Road's Vacation Bible School

Church News & Announcements

Grace - Served 235 people with free food in June. Free food is available every 3rd Saturday. The drive-through starts at 10 am. • The Clothes Closet helps anyone in need.

- On Father's Day, the youngest dad, oldest dad, and the dad with the most children with them was recognized.
- VBS Twist & Turn kickoff will be July 16 from 4 until 6 pm. VBS will be July 17 - 20, from 6:00 until 8:30 pm.
- Visit Grace's webpage for more information on service times: <http://www.gbclagrange.com/>



Grace The Youth had a picnic with swimming and boat rides at Long Cane Park on June 24.

Highland - had a great Father's Day Service with each Father receiving a gift along with a ticket for a chance to win an additional gift. The names of four lucky fathers were drawn and each received a special gift from the WMU. Following the service, all fathers were invited to go into the Fellowship Hall and select five items from a selection of tools. It was a nice way to honor our fathers.

- Highland celebrated July 4th with a luncheon following Morning Worship Service on Sunday, July 2. Everyone enjoyed a meal of BBQ, stew and all the trimmings.
- Plans are underway for Homecoming to be held on Sunday, September 10. Rev. Kenneth Cole, pastor of Dunson Baptist Church, will deliver the message and will also provide the special music. Lunch will be served following the service. "Everyone is invited to join us for this special day!"

Lakeview - Welcomed two new members, Russell and Julie Pickron, on Sunday, June 25. The Pickrons have a beautiful daughter, Everly, who was born on April 4, 2023.

- A yard sale was held at the home of Bill and Mary Cobb on June 10 to benefit the local chapter of Disabled American Veterans. Thanks to everyone who made donations.
- Breakfast is served every Sunday morning at 9:15 am and then Sunday School starts at 10 am. The Sunday morning and Wednesday night messages are posted on Lakeview's Facebook page.
- A WMU meeting, planned by hostess Carol Truitt, was held at Nutwood Plantation on June 1. The ladies enjoyed the time together, the devotion, and the food. The next WMU meeting will be held at the home of Sally Pike on July 15 from noon until 2 pm.

Mountville (MBC) - received one new member by salvation and baptism! ♥

- VBS 2023 was awesome!!! There was an average of 95 in attendance each night! Four children accepted Jesus as their personal Savior!! It was a great week of fun and worship! (see photos below)

Watermelon Wednesday will be held on Wednesday, July 5 at 6:30 pm. This is always a great time of fellowship!

- Mountville MPact will be going on a beach trip July 7-9. Please keep them in prayer as they travel, worship, and share Jesus with others!



Above: Mountville had a big Vacation Bible School!

Church News & Announcements

New Hope (LaGrange) - VBS was a great success! Two accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. "Praise the Lord!" The Bible class led by Shane Wilbanks of Make Known Ministries was fantastic. It was a great time of fun, fellowship, learning about the love of Jesus, and enjoying new friends.

- New Hope Youth will be attending Crossroads Summer Camp in South Carolina July 3-7. Please be in prayer for them as they travel and enjoy the week.
- All men are invited to the fellowship breakfast, Saturday, July 29 at 9:00 am. Come and enjoy good food and great fellowship.
- On Saturday, July 8 Sisters of Hope will meet at 9:00 am to help prepare breakfast for the Empower program Breakfast of Champions which will start at 10:00 am.
- Don't forget the Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Youth meet at 6:00 pm.
- Enjoy the hot summer days of July.



Top: New Hope Vacation Bible School with Shane Wilbanks.
Above: New Hope VBS outdoor fun on the water slide.

It was a baby mosquito's first day to fly out from home. When the mosquito came back home later that day, the father mosquito asked, "How was your journey?"

The baby mosquito replied, "It went great. Everyone was clapping for me!"



Roper Heights - VBS was a great success! Shannon Maggart did a great job directing it. (Photos at left and below)



Wehadkee - HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1

July Birthdays:

July 2	Suellen Shae
July 4	Jimmy Massey
July 15	Jacob Sams
July 26	Essie Pilgrim



July Anniversaries:

July 24	Susan Gebhardt
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FBC Hogansville Youth shared their experience at Centrifuge Camp with their congregation

Announcements

Vacation Bible Schools

First Baptist Hogansville Vacation Bible School will be held July 9-14, 6:00 – 8:30 pm with July 14 being Family Night.

First Baptist on the Square VBS "Twists & Turns" July 10-14 9:00 am until 12:00 pm.

Grace Baptist Church VBS "Twists & Turns" July 16–20. Kick off is Sunday, July 16 4:00 - 6:00 pm. VBS is Monday thru Thursday, July 17-20 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Baptist Tabernacle VBS is July 17-21, 6 - 8 pm.

Eastside Baptist Church, 1016 Mason Street, will have Vacation Bible School on July 24-26 at 6 pm nightly.



Annual Truckloading Event

Troup Baptist Association

July 24-27

Items Needed:

- Canned Fruits & Vegetables
- Individual Snacks, Chips, Crackers
- Jell-O and Pudding Snack Packs
- Laundry Detergent (pods)
- Disinfectant Spray & Wipes
- Solo type Cups 12-16 oz
- Bowls
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Gift Cards (Walmart preferred)
- Bring your items to Troup Baptist Association M-W, July 24-26 between 9 am & 4 pm or Thursday, July 27 between 9 am and 11 am. Volunteers are needed to help load the truck at 11 am on Thursday, July 27.

Back-to-School Prayer Walks

**Saturday, July 29
9:00 AM**

Churches: Please organize a group to prayer walk the school or schools in your neighborhood.

This is a suggested date & time but can be done anytime before school starts

Grace Baptist Church will have a VBS kickoff July 16th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. You can either register your child by scanning the QR code below or during our VBS kickoff.



Association - Church Prayer List

For **July 2023**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of July 2, 2023 - Mountville Baptist Church
Week of July 9, 2023 - Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church
Week of July 16, 2023 - New Heaven Korean Baptist Church
Week of July 23, 2023 - New Hope Baptist Church (Greenville)
Week of July 30, 2023 - New Hope Baptist Church (LaGrange)

For **August 2023**, please pray for the following churches:

Week of August 6, 2023 - New Macedonia Missionary Baptist
Week of August 13, 2023 - Open Range Cowboy Church
Week of August 20, 2023 - Pineview Baptist Church
Week of August 27, 2023 - Praise & Prayer Ministry

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

On The Lighter Side

Mr. and Mrs. Brown had two sons. One was named Mind Your Own Business & the other was named Trouble. One day the two boys decided to play hide and seek. Trouble hid while Mind Your Own Business counted to one hundred. Mind Your Own Business began looking for his brother behind garbage cans and bushes. Then he started looking in and under cars until a police man approached him and asked, "What are you doing?" "Playing a game," the boy replied. "What is your name?" the officer questioned. "Mind Your Own Business." Furious the policeman inquired, "Are you looking for trouble?!" The boy replied, "Why, yes, how did you know?"

LET'S CELEBRATE!

God has done some amazing things this summer at our churches through VBS and other children, youth, and adult events. We want to celebrate together as the TBA Family. Take some time today to let us know about what has happened at your church. Call us, email us, or go to the TBA Website (<https://troubaptist.org/celebrate>) and share your testimony. Church leaders, send us your data and let's celebrate it! We're BETTER TOGETHER!



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



FROM ALL OF US

JULY

July 1 Rev. Trace Lasher
July 6 Rev. Michael Hornsby
July 13 Rev. Bobby Bozeman
July 20 Rev. Billy McCollough
July 23 Rev. Max McCord
July 24 Rev. Fred Buchanan
July 24 Rev. Chris King
July 27 Rev. Robert Bagley
July 27 Rev. Brad Thompson

AUGUST

5 Rev. Lamar Womack
10 Rev. Bernie Pasley
10 Rev. Mike Watson
13 Rev. Jerry Johnson
17 Rev. Frank Abrahamsen
21 Rev. Derek Williams
22 Rev. Danny Geter
23 Rev. Tifton Dobbs
29 Rev. Billy Allen

FOR FREEDOM.
CHRIST <<<
has set us FREE;
Stand Firm
therefore, AND DO NOT SUBMIT
again to a YOKE of SLAVERY.

Galatians 5:1

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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