

## MMAB CHURCHES

Antioch  
Athens First  
Bethel Springs  
Bethsadia  
Brookhill  
Calhoun First  
Calvary Etowah  
Calvary Missionary  
Cambria  
Central  
Clay Hill  
Clear Springs  
Clearwater  
Cog Hill  
Conasauga  
Cottonport  
Decatur First  
Dixon Avenue  
Double Springs  
Eastanallee  
Eastview  
East Athens  
East Niota  
Englewood First  
Etowah First  
Five Point  
Good Hope  
Goodsprings  
Hiwassee  
Idlewild  
Lakeside  
Lakeview  
Manilla Chapel  
Marshall Hill  
McMahan Calvary  
Mount Harmony Niota  
Mount Harmony Riceville  
Mount Pisgah  
Mount Verd  
New Beginnings  
New Bethel  
New Zion  
Niota First  
North Athens  
North Etowah  
Oak Grove  
Old Salem  
Parkway  
Pisgah  
Pond Hill  
Pope Avenue  
Riceville First  
Rockview  
Rocky Mount  
Rogers Creek  
Sanford  
Shiloh  
Short Creek  
South Liberty  
Stephensville  
Union Grove Decatur  
Union Grove Niota  
Union Hill  
Union McMinn  
Valley Road  
Valley View  
Walnut Grove  
West End  
West View  
Wildwood  
Zion Hill

# LINKS

## MCMINN-MEIGS ASSOCIATION OF BAPTISTS

350 North Congress Parkway

Athens, TN 37303

Phone: 423-745-2248

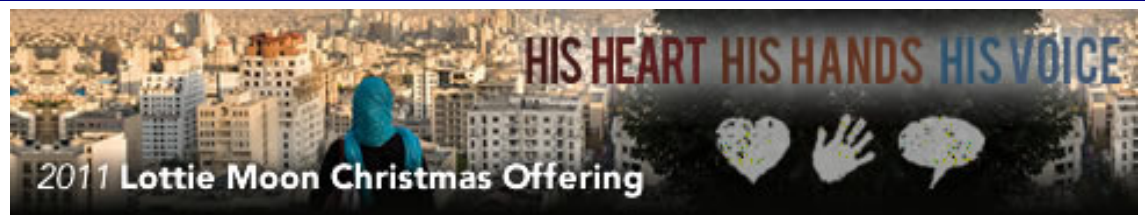
Fax: 423-745-7693

Email: [mmab@truevine.net](mailto:mmab@truevine.net)

[www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org](http://www.mcminnmeigsbaptists.org)

Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2011



### Focus Scripture: Acts 1:8

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

If you are a follower of Jesus, you are part of the task to fulfill the Great Commission.

Paul says, "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Jesus has commissioned us to be His heart, His hands, His voice. Through praying, giving and going, Southern Baptists have fulfilled this legacy for more than 160 years.

Yet, billions remain lost and time may be running out for them. We must pray more intentionally and give more sacrificially than ever before. Our churches must take direct responsibility for helping reach the nearly 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups that missionaries may never be able to get to.

And, since most unreached people groups likely are represented in the world's urban centers, we have unique challenges and opportunities to reach the world through the cities.

What can you do? If you are a pastor or missions leader, you can lead your church to own the Great Commission as never before, to be an extension of His heart, hands and voice through praying, serving and unprecedented giving to engage the remaining people groups without access to the Gospel.

Individually and together, we *are* Southern Baptist missions!

### Remember in Prayer

*Our churches without Pastors:  
Brookhill, East Athens, First Baptist  
Etowah, North Etowah, Sanford, Short  
Creek, Union Grove Niota and Zion Hill.*



**Christian Builders of  
Southeast TN ...needs  
you to volunteer today!**

*For details on how you can be  
involved please call Ray Luck at 506-6541.*



*Ray Luck*

*Kathy Fain*

## Ray's Reflections

I truly hope and pray that you and your family had a most Blessed Thanksgiving 2011 and that you did indeed take the time to thank God for all His bountiful blessings the greatest of which is the sending of His Son Jesus Christ to be the atonement for our sins. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas (the celebration of the birth of our Savior) there will be a lot of activity, parties, shopping, sharing with others, etc. In the midst of it all I hope and pray that the significance of this season of the year will not be lost. May our hearts once again be warmed by the God sent event that has literally changed the world one life at a time. As you wish people Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays (which literally means Holy Day) may you do so with a heart of love, compassion, caring and a desire to point people beyond the commercialism to Jesus the one and only Savior of the world.

I would like to share with you a personal testimony of Thanksgiving. On November 5, 2011 between 5:55 and 10:10am, I walked a total of 14.1 miles in my neighborhood (that is a ½ marathon plus an extra mile – I call it a Biblical ½ marathon because I went the extra mile). Many people ask me, “Why did I do that?” Well as Paul Harvey would often say, “now the rest of the story”. From July 2010 to July 2011 I had many physical problems too numerous to share. It was during that time that I could barely walk a ¼ of a mile at one time. I was in much pain many days and did ask Jesus, as did the Apostle Paul (recorded in II Corinthians 12), to grant me healing. The healing did come, not all at once mind you, but it did come. In July 2011 I began building my endurance and walking further each day until I am now consistently walking 3-5 miles at least six days a week. My legs have gotten very strong and I felt that I could stretch my one time around the neighborhood walk to three times around thus completing the ½ marathon plus one mile. Judy was in Brentwood that day for a wMu Board meeting so it was an ideal time to take a shot at doing this. Now as to the reason for the walk the answer is simple. I wanted to do something tangible to thank Jesus first and foremost for His answering my prayer with healing and renewed strength and to praise and honor Him. I also wanted to thank Him for bringing the doctors and other medical personnel into my life during that time to be used by Him to diagnose my problems and prescribe what I needed to bring healing. Doctors like Dr. Craig Riley and Dr. Sam

by E. Ray Luck, Director of Missions

Olsen and the nurses of the Internal Medicine Associates in Etowah; Dr. Wayne Hatfield, Urologist in Alcoa; Benchmark Physical Therapy of Athens; Dr. Cindy Bohannon, Natural Wellness of Athens; Dr. Lisa Parsons, Podiatrist of Athens; and finally but not least Dr. David Rymer, Chiropractor of Athens. Each one of those listed above was used by Jesus to bring about a healing that allowed me to walk the half marathon of thanksgiving, honor and praise. I know at 67 that I will have future days when I will go through physical difficulties, but I am ever so grateful to be beyond this bout enabling me to walk the half marathon. I also want to thank you for your prayers for Judy and I. It means so much to know that you are praying for us as we do for you on a regular basis. The one thought I had when I was walking the half marathon - would I be this thankful had Jesus chosen not to heal me? The answer is a resounding YES and I say that with the assurance of the grace of my Lord who responded to Paul's request for healing with these words, “...My grace is sufficient for you: for my strength is made perfect in weakness...” (II Corinthians 12:9). None of us like pain and illness, but the one thing, among many, that I discovered during that ordeal was that His grace is truly, truly sufficient for anything and everything that I will do for the rest my life. It is my hope and desire that you, your family, your church family and friends will have one of the most blessed, thankful, and joyous Christmas celebrations ever. I also pray that the true meaning of the season, Jesus Christ, will shine through your life brightly to all you encounter this Christmas 2011 and for all the days of your life.

I hope you will read the article about “**TAKE A STAND**” in this LINKS. It is not just another program but a wonderful opportunity for you in a non-threatening manner to share your faith and the Love of Jesus with someone you know who does not know the Lord. Also in February I will be receiving more details regarding a new, simple witness training opportunity for your church called “**MORE LIFE**”. I will be sharing that in future LINKS.

Again Judy and I would like to offer for you our hope and desire that this Christmas 2011 will be one of the most blessed ever for you and yours.

- **First Baptist Riceville** is seeking a Bi-vocational minister of music. Interested candidates should contact Rev. Jeremy MacMurray at 453-7193 or Carolyn Spurlin at 462-2612.
- **Women at the Well** will be raking yards again this year. If you would like to have us rake your yard call 423-745-0010. We charge according to the size of the yard..
- **McMahan Calvary Baptist Church** will have their annual Drive-Thru Nativity on Friday, December 2, 2011 from 6:00—8:00 pm. They are located on Clearwater Road. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Vacation Bible School

*Yes - it's time to start planning for VBS 2012!*

I will be placing an early order for Lifeway's VBS materials and I will be picking up the orders mid-January. (*I will confirm the exact date in the next newsletter.*) We will have these on display at the Association office as soon as they become available. Call the Association Office (745-2248) to place your order today!

### Church Contributions

Church Name	Current	YTD	Church Name	Current	YTD
Antioch	0.00	141.81	Mount Harmony, Riceville	35.78	35.78
Athens, First	2,166.66	4,333.32	Mount Pisgah	326.30	326.30
Bethel Springs	0.00	0.00	Mount Verd	0.00	0.00
Bethsadia	50.00	100.00	New Beginnings	0.00	0.00
Brookhill	0.00	0.00	New Bethel	0.00	0.00
Calhoun, First	668.99	668.99	New Zion	264.00	264.00
Calvary, Etowah	100.00	100.00	Niota, First	194.90	194.90
Calvary Missionary	0.00	0.00	North Athens	25.00	50.00
Cambria	196.03	196.03	North Etowah	873.84	873.84
Central	729.67	1,102.69	Oak Grove	395.00	743.00
Clay Hill	0.00	0.00	Old Salem	418.40	418.40
Clear Springs	617.95	617.95	Parkway	15.00	30.00
Clearwater	416.67	416.67	Pisgah	1,075.00	1,075.00
Cog Hill	175.00	175.00	Pond Hill	0.00	0.00
Conasauga	100.00	200.00	Pope Avenue	64.34	64.34
Cottonport	0.00	229.68	Riceville, First	197.55	197.55
Decatur, First	873.93	1,637.19	Rockview	0.00	0.00
Dixon Avenue	0.00	55.00	Rocky Mount	150.00	150.00
Double Springs	166.00	332.00	Rogers Creek	81.07	81.07
Eastanallee	2,733.00	2,733.00	Sanford	0.00	0.00
East Athens	820.00	820.00	Shiloh	0.00	0.00
East Niota	166.00	332.00	Short Creek	0.00	304.05
East View	0.00	0.00	South Liberty	119.00	247.00
Englewood, First	475.67	951.34	Stephensville	0.00	0.00
Etowah, First	250.00	250.00	Union Grove, Decatur	0.00	225.00
Five Point	25.00	50.00	Union Grove, Niota	90.00	270.00
Good Hope	75.00	150.00	Union Hill	338.59	551.29
Goodsprings	125.68	221.42	Union McMinn	400.00	800.00
Hiwassee	58.00	58.00	Valley Road	0.00	0.00
Idlewild	100.00	300.00	Valley View	0.00	310.00
Lakeside	333.00	613.40	Walnut Grove	164.48	398.48
Lakeview	74.80	74.80	West End	162.13	162.13
Manilla Chapel	0.00	0.00	West View	140.28	140.28
Marshall Hill	100.00	200.00	Wildwood	0.00	1,061.07
McMahan Calvary	245.85	245.85	Zion Hill	200.00	200.00
Mount Harmony, Niota	452.00	452.00			
			<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>18,025.56</b>	<b>26,931.62</b>

*Contributions received after November 29th, will be included in the next month.*

### Birthday's this Month

- 04...*Susan Bryant* ..... Clearwater
- 15...*Ralph Jenkins* ..... Eastanallee
- 18...*Michael Coleman* ..... New Zion
- Vicki Vest*..... Wildwood
- 23...*Annie Elkins* ..... Pope Avenue

### Anniversaries this month

- 09... *Wayne & Susan Bryant*, Clearwater
- 18...*Donnie & Pam Dalton*, Mount Verd
- 19...*Kevin & Lindsey Cheatham*, Calhoun First
- 21 ..*Larry & Libby Johnson*, Cottonport
- 22 ..*Victor & Anita King*, New Bethel

### Church Anniversaries

- Travis Torbett* ..... Marshall Hill ..... 1 year
- Glen Gamble* ..... Goodsprings ..... 3 years
- Ralph Jenkins* ..... Eastanallee ..... 4 years
- Ronnie Best* ..... Conasauga ..... 7 years
- Doug Alexander* ... Union McMinn ..... 10 years
- Bill Sneed*..... Hiwassee ..... 14 years

### TAKE A STAND

The TBC has announced the **Take A Stand** promotion being conducted throughout the state. The premise of **Take A Stand** is that the church or individuals in the church purchase one or more copies of the booklet containing the Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Romans. The members will be asked to specifically pray for one or more lost friends for a period of time. Following that time period of praying for their lost friend(s) they are asked then to take the copy of the booklet to them and tell them that they had been praying for them and ask if they could share with them about Jesus. In addition to the booklet, each person who commits to do this will receive a leaflet giving guidance as to how to pray for the lost. If you are interested in being involved in the effort to reach your lost friends in a loving non-threatening way please call Ray Luck at 506-6541 or 745-2248. **Orders for the booklets need to be in to the Association office by the first week of January.** For more information on this please call Steve Holt at 1-800-558-2090. It is the Association's desire that many will become involved in this effort. Let's **Take A Stand** and make a difference through prayer and sharing in the lives of those who are lost.

### Calendar of Events

#### December

*Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*

**04-10**—Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

**23-26**—**Christmas Holiday, Baptist Center Closed**

**30**—**New Year's Holiday, Baptist Center Closed**

#### January

**02**—**New Year's Day Holiday, Baptist Office Closed**

**10**—**Retired Ministers/Wives Breakfast, Shoney's 9:00 am**

**15**—**Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**

**17**—**Executive Board Meeting, Baptist Center, 7:00 pm**

**26-28**—**Youth Ministry Conclave, Chattanooga**

## United in Kingdom Service

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Athens, TN 37303

Return Service Requested

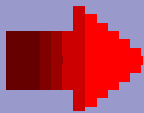
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### Association Staff:

Director of Missions:  
E. Ray Luck

Secretary/Treasurer:  
Kathy Fain

New  
Book's in the  
Library



Attention:  
Church Clerks

The 2011 Annual  
Minutes will be ready  
on December 5th and  
may be picked up at  
the Baptist Office!

Attention

Association Calendars  
are ready and may be  
picked up at the  
Baptist Office!



May the miracle  
of that first  
Christmas renew  
your heart with Joy