

Flint River Baptist Association
Annual Meeting – Woolsey Baptist Church – Fayetteville, GA
October 21, 2010

THEME: “FOLLOWING AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD

SESSION I
2:00 PM

The 187th session of the FLINT RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was called to order by Moderator, DR. MARK SELLERS, Pastor of SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH.

REV. JEFF DURHAM, Worship Pastor at WOOLSEY BAPTIST CHURCH, led the Congregation in a time of corporate praise and worship.

REV. CHUCK CHAMBERS, Pastor of WOOLSEY BAPTIST CHURCH, welcomed everyone to the 187th Annual Meeting of the FLINT RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, and provided pertinent information and instructions to messengers and guests.

MRS. CHARLOTTE DAVIS, Clerk of the Association, presented the following motion:

“Mr. Moderator: I move that those who have been elected by their churches, and who present themselves as messengers, be seated as the 187th session of the FLINT RIVERBAPTIST ASSOCIATION.”

The motion received a second and was approved by the Assembly.

Mrs. Davis then called attention to the agenda for the meeting printed in the program on pages 2 and 3 and moved for its acceptance. **A second was received and the motion passed unanimously.**

A video presentation was shown entitled “**FOLLOWING AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD.**”

FOLLOWING GOD THROUGH PROVIDING SUPPORT

Administration Committee Report

The Moderator noted that Rev. Ken Haag was scheduled to give a report from the Administrative Support Team, but was unable to attend. Two reports from mission activities sponsored by the Association were given instead:

1. MR. JERRY RIORDAN of GRIFFIN SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH reported on the mission trip to Ukraine in October, 2009. The group who went ministered to children, adults in hospitals and nursing homes, they spoke in churches and they were able to support our missionaries and their families by taking items to them that they are unable to obtain in Ukraine. Another trip to Ukraine is scheduled for the first week in November,

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2010, and they are excited to actually be allowed to speak in the schools, in addition to the other areas where they will minister.

Jerry also led a group to Petersburg, West Virginia in July, 2010. The 24 mission volunteers split into two groups: one led a five-day VBS at New Day Baptist Church and the other did construction work at Old Fields Baptist Church. Both churches are a part of the Potomac Highlands Baptist Association. This association is a part of the Appalachian Region targeted by the SBC and GBC with 23 million unchurched people.

2. MRS. JOYCE BRADLEY of TEAMON BAPTIST CHURCH told of the Association’s summer youth mission trips. The first was in June, 2010, to Helen, Georgia, to assist with Georgia Mountain Resort Ministries. Although it rained every day, it didn’t rain during critical times of ministry. The youth washed windows for the merchants and then went in and asked if they could pray for them. They did repairs on an elderly woman’s home, and they conducted a VBS kick-off party for a local church. The group watched as God provided for their needs from controlling when the rains came, to supplying the specific bolt that was needed for a non-working saw, to moving on the hearts of people to fix the broken-down van for just the cost of the part, to another person offering the use of her van free of charge.

The second trip was in July, 2010, to Savannah. This group spent two days working for the Living Vine Maternity Home, including cleaning and helping to straighten their large thrift store and they babysat for a ladies’ Bible study. A highlight for the students was passing out lip gloss on the beach with a gospel tract that said, “If your lips are dry, try this lip gloss. If your life is dry, try Jesus.”

Joyce reminded the messengers that none of these youth would have been on mission this past summer if we had not had an Association. She thanked all the churches who were involved in helping to provide the funding and prayers to make that happen. Joyce also issued a caution about our children. She indicated that we must educate our children in Southern Baptist missions. We have missionaries all over the world, but she asked the attendees if their children know about them. She left the group with this thought, “Give us the children of today for missions, and we’ll take the world for Christ tomorrow.”

FINANCIAL REPORTS

MRS. CHARLOTTE DAVIS, Association Treasurer, gave the FRBA Financial Report, referring to pages 4 and 5 of the program booklet

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| • October – September Church Income | \$143,868.63 |
| • Total Association Income | \$208,360.32 |
| • Total Association Expenses | <u>\$217,201.58</u> |
| • Income Over Expenses This Fiscal Year | <u>\$ (8,841.26)</u> |
| • Plus Designed Income not Available for Operations | <u>\$ (9,139.67)</u> |
| Actual Net Income for 2009/2010 Fiscal Year | <u>\$ (17,980.93)</u> |

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Checking/Savings/Investment Account Summary as of September 30, 2008

| | |
|--|----------------|
| FRBA General Fund Checking Balance | \$ 5,560.19 |
| Reserve Account Balance | \$ 43,108.56 |
| Georgia Baptist Foundation Operating Acct Balance | \$ 96,548.11 |
| Georgia Baptist Foundation Ministry Acct Balance..... | \$ 444,244.97 |
| First State Bank CD (KVF) (Int. earned will be reported at redemption in October, 2010)..... | \$ 250,000.00 |
| United Bank CD (Int. earned will be reported at redemption in February, 2011) | \$ 7,507.62 |
| Office Petty Cash Balance | <u>\$ 7.83</u> |
| TOTAL Cash Assets..... | \$ 846,977.28 |

Mrs. Davis gave the following additional information with reference to the financial situation of the Association:

- Income from churches was down from last year by approximately \$33,000.
- Even though income is lower, we do have funds in a Reserve Account that are available to help ease us through these difficult financial times. Total spendable funds in the Reserve Account are \$22,646.63 as of 9/30/10.
- Net income was a loss this year of \$17,980.03. This was covered by money already in the checking account at the beginning of the year and by transferring funds from the Reserve Account to cover the balance of the losses.
- Under designated income, the Association received \$2,546 to ship 256 Buckets of Hope to Haiti and our churches also donated \$4,731.26 toward the purchase of water treatment systems to be sent to the Haitian people.
- Approximately \$300 of the designated income for youth missions was in rebates from LifeWay for churches who purchased their VBS materials through the Association. Mrs. Davis urged the churches who use LifeWay to remember to place their orders through the Association office this year to help pay for the 2011 youth summer mission trips.
- There has been a continued recovery in the Georgia Baptist Foundation accounts. That organization experienced considerably less of a loss in the market downturn in 2008 than did many other firms. The Kingdom Ventures Fund ended the year with a gain of \$16,156.65 and the Association's Operations Fund gained \$3,511.34.
- On October 26, 2010 the CD at First State Bank (Kingdom Ventures money) will have earned \$4,783.94. This will be included in the grants awarded in January. The CD owned by the Association at United State Bank will mature in February, 2011 and interest will be reported at that time.
- Total net worth (excluding fixed assets) as of 9/30/10 was \$846,977.28.

The Treasurer moved for the adoption of the report and the motion passed.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES SUPPORT TEAM

The proposed budget for the Association was presented by REV. STEVE QUIGLEY of SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH, Team Leader for the Financial Resources Report Team (see attached). There are two major areas in the budget: the Front Line Ministries and the Administrative Support. There were no questions. **Coming from a standing committee, no second was required. The motion was unanimously approved.**

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LEADERSHIP NOMINATING SUPPORT REPORT

The slate of officers and team leaders/members shown, on page 9 of the program booklet, was presented by REV. CARLTON SWICEGOOD of LISBON BAPTIST CHURCH. There were no nominations from the floor. **Coming from a standing committee, no second was required. The motion received unanimous approval.**

KINGDOM VENTURES TEAM REPORT

The Kingdom Ventures report was given by MR. JOHN CECIL of GRIFFIN SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH on behalf of the Kingdom Ventures Fund Team. Mr. Cecil noted that the KVF received requests of over \$31,000 in the past grant cycle, and awarded a total of \$24,679.37. In January, 2011, we will have \$26,000+ to distribute. At this point, Mr. Cecil narrated a power point presentation covering the purpose and guidelines to receive a KVF grant, as well as the names and churches of team members. Four short videos from the grant recipients were then presented giving an overview of what the grant money was used for:

- A. Compassionate Services of East Griffin Baptist Church (Pastor Charles Killingsworth) received \$10,000. This was used to fund community programs which assist clients in finding jobs, obtaining a GED, learning life skills, and personal counseling.
- B. New Mercy Baptist Church (Pastor Grady Caldwell) received a grant of \$6,879.37 which was used to purchase playground equipment and fencing for a playground in the Daycare Center they are preparing to open. They also used grant funds to purchase carpet for the Daycare classroom.
- C. Teamon Baptist Church (Pastor Bill Stokes) received \$4,200 in grant funds in support of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary satellite classes in Griffin. The grant funds scholarships and other costs of the classes.
- D. East Griffin Baptist Church WOM Food Pantry (Pastor Charles Killingsworth) used their grant of \$3,600 to help provide over 7,800 pounds of food to 3,931 people from January through September. An additional 2,145 people were fed on site.

Mr. Cecil reminded everyone that the deadline for applications for this year's grants is 1/2/11. Application forms are may be downloaded from the Association's website at www.frbagriffin.org.

REV. JEFF DURHAM led the congregation in a time of praise and worship through song.

OFFERING FOR PASTOR/STAFF EMERGENCY AID

DR. MARK SELLERS informed the messengers that the offering received would be used to encourage and aid pastors and other ministry staff who find themselves in need. A total of \$491.25 was collected.

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FOLLOWING GOD THROUGH FRONT-LINE MINISTRY

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS REPORT

DR. CHARLES CLARK gave his DOM report in the form of a power point presentation, “With the Kingdom in View.” Dr. Clark reminded the messengers of the importance of vision for individuals, churches, and associations. He noted the lack of vision that was apparent in the Flint River Baptist Association when he arrived, as evidenced by the collective statistics of our churches from the most recent 5-year reporting period:

- Resident membership has declined 15%
- Baptisms have declined 56%
- Transfer growth has declined 18%
- Worship attendance has declined 13%
- Bible study participation has declined 25%
- Cooperative Program giving has declined 39%
- Associational financial giving has declined 45%

Dr. Clark explained the new structural organization for the Association as approved by the Annual Meeting messengers at the 2009 meeting and then spent some time delineating the differences in the old design and the new. He pointed out, however, that the praying, planning, and dreaming are pointless unless something actually gets done – unless it results in implementation – and continued to explain how the responsibility and accountability built into the new design is geared to produce results. When the design works as planned, the three Front-Line Ministry Teams will create a comprehensive calendar of mission and ministry action through the Association.

Dr. Clark ended his presentation with the following statement: “The work of the Front-Line Teams is just now beginning to unfold. Their strategies are just now being put into action. Your interest and involvement will ultimately decide how effective we are going to be in our work together. Together, we have sought God’s direction; together we have come to understand God’s priorities; together we have designed a strategy and structure to keep first things first; together we are empowering Associational leaders to guide us in the work; and today we are deciding whether or not we will partner our lives and our churches in ministry and missions to follow an extraordinary God!”

FRONT-LINE MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

A. CHURCH EMPOWERMENT TEAM – REV. CLAY EDGE from WOOLSEY BAPTIST CHURCH, assisted by REV. GRADY CALDWELL, Pastor of NEW MERCY BAPTIST CHURCH, explained the focus of their ministry team through a time of questions and answers between the two of them. Their slide presentation showcased the ministry projects their team sponsored during the past year:

VBS Open House – LifeWay Saddle Ridge Ranch material was on display in January and March of 2010, with door prizes and refreshments provided to attendees. Open House dates for next year are 2/1/11 & 3/31/11 from 3-7 p.m. for viewing “Big Apple” material.

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Senior Adult Camp Meeting – Held at UNION BAPTIST CHURCH with 175+ seniors enjoying great fun, food, and fellowship. Next year's meeting will be on August 11, 2012 at Griffin Second Baptist Church.

Church Chicks – A quarterly gathering of ministry assistants and other ladies of the church to encourage mutual care and assistance. Next meeting will be held in the first quarter of the next year.

Building the Kingdom – A personal witnessing training conference held at MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH. This conference was designed to help overcome the fear of sharing one's personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Faith Baptist Church Ministry Project – A renovation project planned to assist a sister church in replacing windows and a walk-way overhang.

B. LEADER ENHANCEMENT TEAM – REV. RANDALL HARRIS, Pastor of LISBON BAPTIST CHURCH and REV. FRED THOMPSON, Pastor of MT. GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH combined forces to provide information on the purpose of their ministry team. Their team has developed a pastor survey that they are using to determine the needs of pastors in the FRBA. They discussed the eight effective traits of effective pastor-leaders and then presented a power point of their projects for the year:

Bible Study on Spiritual Warfare – DR. CHUCK LAWLESS came to MCINTOSH BAPTIST CHURCH and taught the principles in his book, *Putting on the Armor: Equipped and Deployed for Spiritual Warfare*.

Stewardship of Life Conference – REV. DOUG COUCH of the GBF spoke with pastors at GRIFFIN SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH about end-of-life stewardship and will preparation.

Monthly Pastors' Luncheon – A gathering of pastors and ministry staff at a local restaurant or member church to hear an inspirational message, encourage each other, and enjoy lunch together.

Book Study – Arranged on a regular basis for pastors, ministry staff, and lay leaders, these studies are designed for participants to read the assigned book and then come together to share and discuss insights from their reading.

Peer Learning Experience – Set to begin in November, 2010, this experience for pastors will provide coaching relationships through peer clusters that will result in spiritual growth for church leaders.

NOBTS Satellite Classes in Griffin – These are certificate classes offered through the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, held at TEAMON BAPTIST CHURCH. The new semester will begin on October 25th, with two classes being offered.

C. MISSION ENGAGEMENT TEAM – REV. MIKE PATTERSON, Pastor of LIBERTY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, gave the report for his ministry team. In addition to the projects profiled in his video presentation, he informed the group that the Mission Engagement Team is planning a large motorcycle rally for sometime in the spring that will include a number of different ways that churches can participate. The following projects were sponsored by this team:

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Ukraine Mission Trip & Mission trip to Petersburg, WVA – The last week of October, 2009, and in July, 2010, respectively. These trips were explained earlier in the meeting by Jerry Riordan.

Buckets of Hope – In early March, 2010, the churches of FRBA sent 256 buckets of food to the people of Haiti and collected \$2,545 to help pay shipping charges. In addition, we collected \$4,731.26 to purchase water treatment systems for the Haitians.

Youth Mission Trips – In June and July of 2010. These mission experiences were described by Joyce Bradley earlier in the meeting.

Truck Loading for GA Baptist Children's Home – In addition to collecting a large quantity of requested supplies, the FRBA churches donated a total of \$900 in gift cards and cash for the children and youth at the Meansville Campus.

Sock the Homeless – The goal of this project is to collect 1,000 pairs of socks for men and women by October 31st. Stocking caps, gloves, and new or gently used coats will also be accepted.

Evangelism Event Trailer (FEET) – The evangelism trailer has become a vital tool for our member churches to use in reaching out to their communities. It has been used for block parties, VBS kick-offs, back-yard Bible clubs, and Fall Festivals.

Disaster Relief – This ministry focuses on five areas: chaplaincy, child care, clean-up and recovery, communications, and feeding. Our goal is to coordinate the trained volunteers in our churches into a cohesive unit, encourage more trainees, and develop a response plan for our Association.

FOLLOWING GOD THROUGH PARTNERING

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM AND GREAT COMMISSION GIVING – REV. ALLEN HILL of the GEORGIA BAPTIST CONVENTION spoke on the importance of supporting the cooperative program through our giving, using II Cor. 5:14 as his text: “For Christ’s love compels us, since we have reached this conclusion: if One died for all, then all died.” Rev. Hill made the following points during his presentation:

- ❖ The Cooperative Program motivates us to recognize God’s love for us and in turn, to love Him back.
- ❖ What Christ did on earth is now the work of the church – reconciling people to God. 70% of Georgians are unchurched.
- ❖ We are workers together with Christ. We don’t have to do it alone.
- ❖ The Cooperative Programs helps us to also be workers together with each other, investing in the Kingdom of God.
- ❖ Average giving today among Baptists is 2.6% - worse than during the Great Depression.
- ❖ Baptists are the 3rd largest disaster relief organization in the world.

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- ❖ The Cooperative Program has been helping to accomplish the Great Commission since 1925 and now supports more than 10,000 missionaries in the US and abroad.
- ❖ We must educate our young people about missions and Cooperative Program giving.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Moderator called for miscellaneous business, but none was brought to the floor.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Moderator in the fiscal year 2010/2011. REV. TIM CONORT, Pastor of UNION BAPTIST CHURCH, submitted the name of DR. MARK SELLERS, Pastor of SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH and a second was received. No other names were placed in nomination. **Dr. Sellers agreed to serve if elected and the vote in his favor was unanimous. The messengers also reaffirmed that the Administrative Ministry Assistant to the Director of Missions will continue to serve as Association Clerk.**

PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

Moderator Mark Sellers reminded everyone of our guest speaker for the evening, Dr. Frank Page, and encouraged them to make a special effort to be in attendance at 7:00 p.m. REV. DAN TODD, Pastor of DAYSPRING BAPTIST CHURCH, dismissed the meeting with a prayer of benediction.

SESSION II
7:00 P.M.

INSPIRATIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE

The evening session of the 187th meeting of the FLINT RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION was called to order by REV. MARK SELLERS.

REV. JEFF DURHAM led the Congregation in a time of corporate praise and worship.

Messengers and guests were welcomed to the second session by PASTOR CHUCK CHAMBERS.

A video presentation was shown entitled **“FOLLOWING AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD.”**

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New Church Staff who have been in their position a year or less were introduced by DR. CHARLES CLARK and those in attendance were given the opportunity to come forward and introduce themselves to the Association:

Dr. Clark also read the names of all who will be filling leadership positions in the coming year and asked them to stand for recognition. He thanked them for their willingness to give of their time and talents to serve the LORD by serving in their Association.

A desktop plaque was presented by Dr. Clark to DR. MARK SELLERS, in appreciation for his service to the Association as Moderator for the past year. Dr. Clark also thanked Mrs. Charlotte Davis for the five years she has been working with the Association and its member churches. Mrs. Davis will be retiring at the end of the year and a drop-in reception will be held in her honor on December 12, 2010, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Union Baptist Church.

REV. JEFF DURHAM led the congregation in an offertory hymn.

DR. MARK SELLERS prayed over the evening offering and announced that it would be used help offset the expenses of the Annual Meeting. A total of \$174 was collected.

The worship time was enhanced through a praise and worship medley presented by
REV. JEFF DURHAM and the Praise Team of WOOLSEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Inspirational Speaker

DR. FRANK S. PAGE
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

There being no further business to bring before the assembly, the 187th session of the Flint River Baptist Association was adjourned with prayer offered by REV. STEVE STRINGER, Pastor of CONNECTION CHURCH.