

KDBA

Strengthen our hands

for this good work!

NEHEMIAH 6:9

KNOXVILLE DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, INC.

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018



**Melvin W. Wright, Pastor
Bethany Baptist Church**

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the first issue of the Knoxville District's Mission Committee Newsletter. We want to help you and your church maximize your efforts to do kingdom building work. Each quarter, this Newsletter will bring you the latest in missions updates from around the District. Each quarter we will feature a Church of the Quarter doing special work. We will also bring you information about mission grants, conferences, and other opportunities for us to be a service to your ministry. Welcome to the future of KDBA mission work.

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Tribute To Elder Dr. Tommie Mims



Elder Dr. Tommie Lee Mims left this earthly service for his heavenly reward on September 7, 2018. He will be deeply missed by his family, church family, ministers and other workers in God's garden. He was a man who answered God's call to ministry at an early age. He was a dedicated evangelist and pastor. The world was his pulpit as he traveled to other countries to spread the gospel of Jesus the Christ.

Elder Mims was born on November 25, 1948 in Bay Minette, Alabama. He accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of seven. Church life was key in his upbringing. Education was also important to the Mims family. He graduated from Douglasville High School in 1966 and enrolled in Alabama State University in Montgomery. His siblings encouraged him to move to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and pursue his musical talents in the church. He sang in the choir, was a musician and choir director at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church. God also had a plan for him to meet and to marry his wife Evelyn Sue Jacobs on August 30, 1969. At the time of his death this year (September 7, 2018), they were married for 49 years and bore children Venisha, Tory, Terrell, and Thomas.

Dr. Mims also had a love for his country. He enlisted in the US Coast Guard for four years (1970-1974). His encounter with an atheist caused him to defend the faith and, thus, came his calling to become a minister of the gospel at the age of 25 years.

Furthering his education to study the Word was key to his abilities and calling to teach others. He received his bachelor's degree from the American Baptist College and Theological Seminary in 1977; master's degree and doctorate from the North American School of Theology, Winter Haven Florida.

The Knoxville Baptist Missionary Association was blessed to have Dr. Mims as a leader. He lived by example. He led missions to Africa and to the Caribbean. He dug water wells in East Africa. He planted churches, witnessed and built widow homes in Kenya and Tanzania. Additionally, he taught other pastors, evangelists and followers of Christ. He has served as Director of Christian Education for the Knoxville Baptist District Association. He never stopped serving. Recently, he was the Congress President for the Tennessee Baptist Missions and Education Convention. He still did not stop working. He co-founded and was president of S.A.F.E (Scholarship, Apologetics, Fellowship and Evangelism), which prepares Christian workers by encouraging scholarly education and equips them to defend doctrines of the Faith. We call this evangelism at its best. Though we will miss Dr. Mims, we know that he is at home with the Lord. He left a footprint in the earth. He came, he saw, he witnessed, he taught, and most of all he believed in the One True God. To follow his legacy and the teachings of Jesus, we must continue to use our gifts for kingdom building. Preach, sing, play, teach, evangelize, enjoy life, and be that missionary like Dr. Mims.



Hurricane Florence Relief

Hurricane season is upon us. This year is no exception for the need to help our brothers and sisters in the path of these catastrophic events. Major devastation, including loss of life and property, await those who live in hurricane-prone areas. I am honored to work with the District to provide relief for areas affected by these horrific events.

The Apostle John writes, “If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother and sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God’s love be in that person? Dear children, let us not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God”

(1 John 3:17-19).

This scriptural passage drives our response to catastrophic events. When the need arises during hurricane events, churches across the District combine resources through the love of God. We give according to our means: Some give dollars, others give dimes. But we give. The combined resources of all the churches that respond to these events amount to a lot. The Lord God is quite pleased and uses our resources for His glory. He pours out His love on these hard-hit areas through us.

Last year, the District responded quite generously to our brothers and sisters affected by Hurricane Harvey. Our resources were combined with the resources of churches in the Tennessee Convention and we met a great need. This year, the same approach is being used for the District’s response to Hurricane Florence which devastated the Carolinas. Historic rainfalls were recorded there and did great damage. According to Elder Joe E. Maddox, President of the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention, Inc., “Thankfully, we already have a Disaster Relief support structure in place to facilitate our quick response to this weather event. A critically important element to this Convention’s ministry response to Hurricane Florence is the life impacting donations of Disaster Relief items and assistance from the churches, districts, and regions of this Convention.” Elder Maddox made a request for disaster relief items such as water, clothing, shoes, toiletries, bed linen, towels, blankets, cleansing powders and many other items. The District churches delivered these items to the drop-off location at New Hope Baptist Church by October 8, 2018, where they were picked up by a prearranged moving and storage company. There were pick-ups from other locations across Tennessee by the same company and the items were delivered to our brothers and sisters in the Carolinas. All of this was coordinated with Disaster Relief Management of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. and the conventions in North and South Carolina.

We never know when we will be on the receiving end of such generosity. However, we do know that God admonishes His children to give to those in need. Giving is an expression of His love. Certainly, disaster relief for victims of hurricanes is a must for God’s children. Again, we are honored to be called upon to contribute to this mission outreach effort.





From the Moderator

When we think of mission we usually focus on going to the “outermost.” But I like to view mission in proximity. The work of mission is about extending our branches. Mission is Spreading the Light in this world of darkness, influencing the culture with the Good News of Jesus Christ. In order for us to bear fruit, we must be planted and rooted by flowing streams of water.

We are to be like the tree in Psalm 1. First, we must be rooted. We begin mission by living in the places of hurt, oppression, injustice, and joy and happiness. We must be rooted where people are. We hear their stories, share their pain and live in community with people. We are trees planted and rooted by the waters.

But what if the waters are tainted and toxic? What if the water is poisonous? We have to test the waters that nourish our roots and feed our branches. Test the waters so that we are not spreading our cultural preferences as biblical mandates. Make sure we are rooted in our communities and context and receiving nourishment from the Word of God, the Love of Jesus and the power of the Spirit. Any other stream is contamination.





My Mission Story Reflections from Kenya Missions 2018

Sharing what I do and why I do it is an honor for me and I hope it becomes a blessing and a motivation for you. Let me begin by saying mission work is not a vacation. It is work—just like going to a job. However, the difference is it gives you more than you could possibly get from a job and it gives you an opportunity to build lasting relationships with others you might not ever have met. Some people ask me “why do you go to Africa when there are so many people you could help here?” My response is always the same—I do mission work here in my own community, but that is not the only place where I can share the Good News. I believe God has given us a direct order to go beyond our church walls and communities to tell and share with others His Good News.

I have been blessed to go to Kenya for the last five years. I take each trip seriously and each trip has a specific purpose for me to fulfill for the Lord. Caring for the sick is not new for me, but what is new each time is the degree of illness seen and how to manage those situations. Our team has limited supplies, but our God has an endless supply of hope, love and giftedness for us to share and bring to those we are serving.

One of the things I treasure most during our time in Kenya is the foot washing we do with the street children. These children (most all are pre-teen to teen boys) are homeless and live at and eat from the city dump. Their lives and living conditions are unimaginable to most Americans. However, the foot washing is a most humbling experience. It reminds me why I am really there—to serve others. The foot washing also is an example to our Kenyan brothers and sisters that we are all mere servants of the same Lord, Jesus Christ. Not one of us is more important than the other in His sight.

Finally, another thing I treasure most about my time in Kenya is the relationships that are fostered there. I love the people I have met and care deeply for them. It is not hard to love and give freely to others if you are a loving person. Accepting them where they are (and them accepting me where I am) makes for a lasting and loving relationship that expands the breadth of any ocean.

To God be the Glory!! Amen





New Covenant Baptist Church Shoes for School

*“Everyone in the world has a need to be supported and loved.
WE all have an obligation to support and love others.”*

In August of 2018, New Covenant Baptist Church members answered the call from the Women's Missions Union to donate money and supplies for the Knoxville Area Urban League Shoes for Schools program. NCBC member Phyllis Nichols is president and CEO of the Knoxville Area Urban League. Sandra Cannon implored the congregation to give donations toward the purchase of shoes and school supplies (pencils, crayons, paper, glue sticks, and the like). Sandra told a story of how her student teaching experience in Atlanta in 1970 taught her a lesson. One of her top students had many absences. When she asked the teenaged girl why she missed so many days, this girl from a large family told her that her younger sister and she wore the same size shoes and since there was only one pair, they had to alternate who attended school because the family could not afford to buy shoes for all the children in the family.

Shoe donations of \$10 per pair were solicited from our congregation, with Pastor Frederick and Sister Delores Brabson giving a sizeable donation because Pastor Brabson says he remembers putting cardboard in the bottoms of his shoes when they were too worn to continue wearing them. NCBC donations amounted to over \$2000 and the fun began. The Church was able to donate money for 75 pairs of shoes and lots of school supplies.

Prior to the event, other supplies were given by Marvin and Anna Anderson, Senta and Phillip Hester, Gwen and Bill Valentine, Betty and Jim Walker, Johnnie and Sandra Cannon, Donna and Charles Mitchell, and Will and Stephanie Wilson. These items included wagons to transport the supplies, balloons, ice, water, decorations and give-away items. We worked as a team on mission.

On the day of the Shoes for Schools event, NCBC was not prepared for the number of students who showed up to receive school supplies and shoes. Over 2000 students came looking for their blessing. We promised to “step up our game” for 2019 to serve more students. We must enlarge our tent and expand our territory.

NCBC missions helpers included the Oliver family (including their children), the Cox family, the Cannon family, the Will Wilson family, the Mitchell family, the Anderson family, the Walker family, James Clark, and the Tony Smith family. There was one other tent sponsored by a church (Freedom Fellowship). Companies, sororities and fraternities, insurance companies, and social organizations set up tents and passed out many needed school supplies to the children. Some organizations had at least 2000 items to donate, including book bags, notebooks, books, calculators, socks and other needs. Shoes were passed out to children who signed up in advance to receive them.

Pastor Brabson and Sister Julia McGlown made sure we had a beautiful new sign on our tent. Church members on our crew inflated balloons for decorating the tent and for giving to the children. We had give-away items for students who answered questions. Our tent was brilliant in color and beautiful in spirit. We smiled and we engaged the parents and the students as we passed out bags of school supplies to each and awarded them with t-shirts, purses, balls, paddles and other items for their participation in our quiz. Deacon Will Wilson asked some of the students who died for their sins. At least a couple of the students responded, “My mama.”



New Covenant Baptist Church Shoes for School (continued)

Therefore, we have much work to do to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Women's Missions Union thanks the entire church for their generosity and for giving in the spirit of the Lord. Without the Church members stepping up to give donations, this event would not have been as successful. The NCBC volunteers' eyes were opened to the fact that there are so many children in Knoxville who need basic things that our children take for granted. We thank the parents of the children who came to the Shoes for Schools event. They want better opportunities for their children. As Minister Cannon reminds us, "We are here to be a blessing to others."



The year 2019 will be upon us sooner than we realize. The need for NCBC and other churches to "step up our game" for Shoes for Schools is imminent. We encourage all congregations and friends to start donating as soon as possible so that in August 2019 the Baptists in Knoxville will be ready to serve at least 2000 students with shoes and school supplies so that we can make a difference TODAY. We pray that by then, those children who thought their mamas died for their sins will have learned the name JESUS.



Mission Opportunities

Jamaica Evangelistic Mission Trip

Date: March 15-23, 2019

Base Cost: \$1,700

Contact: Pastor Melvin Wright

Nigeria Combination Mission Trip

Date: February 10-22, 2019

Base Cost: \$4,000 (all inclusive, incl. mission supplies)

Contact: Rev. Dr. Joseph Smith

Mexico Evangelistic Mission Trip

Date: Spring 2019 (tentative)

Base Cost: \$1,500 (approx.)

Contact: Rev Dr Joseph Smith

Kenya Medical and Teaching Mission Trip

Date: July 3-15, 2019

Base Cost: TBD

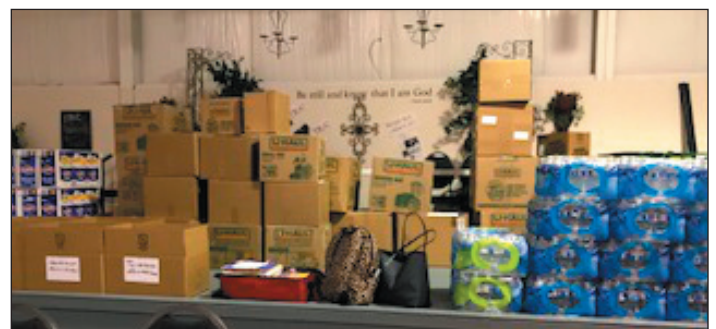
Contact: Pastor Melvin Wright

Kenya Pastoral Education Mission Trip

Date: September 2019

Base Cost: TBD

Contact: Elder Dr. Joe Maddox



COLLECTING SUPPLIES FROM THE KNOXVILLE DISTRICT
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CHURCHES
DONATIONS TO 2018 HURRICANE FLORENCE RELIEF



2019 Kingdom Building Conference

The stated objective for the District Missions Committee in 2019 is to provide material support, training, and opportunities for District Churches and their members. To provide those resources, the Committee will hold its annual Kingdom Building Conference at Foster Chapel Baptist Church on February 22-24, 2019. The fundraiser on the 22nd will be a District-wide talent show. There will be a \$10 admission. Contestants will be representatives from District churches. There will be a junior and a senior winner, with each winner being determined by the amount of money raised on their behalf. Money can be raised ahead of time and/or used to cast a vote for your favorite contestant at the talent show itself.

On day two of the Conference, rather than conduct classes, there will be a Missions in Action (MIA) Project that will include a District-wide food pantry, with other potential ministries including, but not limited to, such things as Health Screening, personal prayer and pastoral counseling, a hot meal, and other things to be determined later. Volunteers for each ministry shall come from District churches.

On day three (Sunday), the District Mission Day will be held. It will include a special memorial for Elder Dr. Tommie Mims.



Grant Applications

☛ Missions Grant Application

☛ Church Grant Application



Name This Newsletter Contest

The KDBA Missions Committee is asking for entrees to establish the official name for this Newsletter from our readers. What name would you give it? The winner will receive two (2) FREE tickets to the fundraiser “Talent Show” being held on February 22, 2019, as part of the 2019 Kingdom Building Conference at Foster Chapel Baptist Church. You may submit as many names as you like. Please email your nominations to Minister Johnnie Cannon (Cannonjb@charter.net) by February 4, 2019. The new name will be on the Spring Issue and the winner will be celebrated at the Talent Show.



Submit a story to the Missions Newsletter

We want to share your missions experiences with others and we encourage others to spread the Good News as we help others live out their lives as Jesus taught.

- ☛ Email article (500 words or less) to cannonjb@charter.net
- ☛ Deadline is January 30, 2019 for Winter Edition; March 30, 2019 for Spring Edition; June 30, 2019 for Summer Edition; and October 30, 2019 for Fall Edition
- ☛ Send a Word file with JPEG photos
- ☛ Sign and date your submission, giving us permission to print the article and to publish the picture accompanying it.