



The Messenger

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the Moriah Baptist Association

Volume 52, Issue 3
November/December 2020

Moriah Baptist Association
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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Closed on Friday

Moriah Baptist Association
2020 Annual Session
November 5, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Hyde Park Baptist Church
1898 Flat Creek Road
Lancaster, SC 29720

You will be able to participate in one of three ways:

- 1. In person**
- 2. Zoom (Details will be published later.)**
- 3. Facebook Live (Go to Hyde Park Baptist Church's page.)**

We will be looking at the following items during our Session, some of which could alter our association as we know it today. Please be in prayer for our Annual Session.

- 2021 Budget Approval
- Nominations
- Restore Strategy
- Association Merger: Chester and Moriah Associations
- Carolina Gospel Coalition (formerly 521 Corridor)

Carolina Gospel Coalition (formerly 521 Corridor)

Dr. Joe Youngblood



The Carolina Gospel Coalition, formerly called the 521 Project, is a Great Commission and Great Commandment cooperation project. The Moriah, Chester and York Associations in South Carolina along with the Union and Mecklenburg Associations in North Carolina have agreed to partner together, along with the South Carolina and the North Carolina Baptist Conventions to impact the counties of Lancaster, Chester and York with the gospel. The aim of the coalition is to impact spiritual lostness in the tri-county area through church revitalization and church planting.

The tri-county area is rapidly growing and thereby the percentage of spiritual lostness is rapidly growing. It is estimated that between 75 -80 percent of the population does not know Christ as their Savior. The Carolina Gospel Coalition is a partnership cooperation designed to assist churches to move towards spiritual health and to plant new churches. The Great Commission of "winning the lost and developing the saved" is given to the local church, and the tri-county area needs healthy and vibrant churches to impact the spiritual lostness that is invading and engulfing the area. The Carolina Gospel Coalition is a cooperative evangelism and discipleship effort among the churches of the five participating associations to impact the lostness of Lancaster, Chester and York counties.



Empowering Team Leadership

Dr. Joe Youngblood

The Empowering Team Leadership is a small group cohort that is designed to assist the participants with skill improvements in leading cultural change in their church and the development of leadership teams to fulfill the Great Commission. The Great Commission has two components which are:

1. Win the lost
2. Develop the saved

Participants have learned and developed leadership skills that have led to impacting the current culture of their church. The culture in most churches does not lend itself to implementing and doing a strategic strategy to accomplish the Great Commission. Participants have learned skills and proven practices that have equipped them to lead cultural change in the church without "blowing the church up."

Participants have also learned skills and proven practices in developing teams of leaders and workers to fulfill the Great Commission through their church. A team will more often complete the Great Commission compared to a committee or individual. Participants have learned skills and practices that will lead to impacting the lostness of the Lancaster County.

The Empowering Team Leadership cohort began in September 2019 and will complete in December 2020.

See "Carolina" continued in next column.

Around the Association...



November	18-24 Week of Prayer for Moriah Association	
Nov. 1	2:00 a.m.	Time Change—Fall back Orphans & Widows Sunday
2	National Day of Prayer	
5	11:00 a.m.	Kershaw Area Pastor's Small Group, Kershaw Second Annual Session, Hyde Park Baptist Church—Family Life Center, Lancaster,
	6:30 p.m.	
8	Disaster Relief Appreciation Sunday	
11	Veteran's Day	
12	10:00 a.m.	Empowering Leadership Team, Mission Center
16	10:00 –11:00 a.m.	Literature Collection, Mission Center
17	Chester/Moriah Marriage Pastor's Prayer	
19	11:00 a.m.	Lancaster Area Pastor's Small Group—Mission Center
20	ACPs Due	
24	Noon	Mission Center Closes at Noon (11.24-29) to begin Thanksgiving Holidays
26	Thanksgiving	
29-Dec.6	Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions	
December	(Nov. 29—Dec. 6—Week of Prayer for International Missions—Lottie Moon Offering)	
3	11:00 a.m.	Kershaw Area Pastor's Small Group, Kershaw Second
7	9:00—10:30 a.m.	Prison Packets due at Moriah. Judy Sims will be here to pick up and deliver the packets to Columbia.
10	10:00 a.m.	Empowering Leadership Team, Mission Center
17	11:00	Lancaster Area Pastor's Small Group—Mission Center
24	Noon	Mission Center Closes at Noon (12.23-1.4) to begin Christmas Holidays
25	Christmas Day	
31	New Year's Eve	



"Carolina"

A new leadership cohort will begin in January 2020 entitled, "Refocused: A New Way For A New Day." This cohort will focus upon the development of leadership skills aimed at refocusing the church towards impacting the lostness of the community through new and innovative projects following the impact of the corona-virus.



Pastor's Small Groups—Encouragement/Accountability
Rev. Bill Truesdale, Facilitator

These small groups are open for all lead and staff pastors.

The Kershaw-Heath Springs Meeting is the first Thursday in the month, and the Lancaster meeting is the third Thursday at 11:00 a.m., with lunch following. The meeting dates are listed below:

- November 5** Kershaw Area, Kershaw Second
- 19** Lancaster Area, Mission Center
- December 3** Kershaw Area, Kershaw Second
- 17** Lancaster Area, Mission Center

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Empowering Leadership Track for Lead and Staff Pastors

Dr. Joe Youngblood

On the second Thursday of each month we have an Empowering Leadership Track Cohort. Lead and staff pastors are invited to attend. I offer encouragement to each of you who attend. The schedule for our upcoming meetings are listed below and they begin at 10:00 a.m. at the Mission Center with lunch following the meetings.

- November 12
- December 10

Please make your plans now to attend these meetings. I would love to have you join us.

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**The Moriah Baptist Association
Will be closed beginning at noon on
Tuesday, November 24 and returning
on November 30**

In observance of Thanksgiving.

Enjoy your time with your family.

*Happy Thanksgiving from
Your Moriah Staff
Joe, Judy and Lois*



Opportunities within the Association

• **Prayer Corner**

Please pray for these churches without pastors in Moriah. They are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| Beaver Creek | Jones Crossroads |
| Center Grove | Oakhurst |
| Charlesboro | Spring Hill |
| Flint Ridge | |

- **Oak Ridge Baptist Church, Kershaw** is prayerfully seeking a full-time Pastor. We are a Southern Baptist Church and active in the Kershaw Baptist Association. Please mail resume to 603 Oak Ridge Church Rd, Kershaw, SC 29067 or email to

oakridge.baptist@yahoo.com

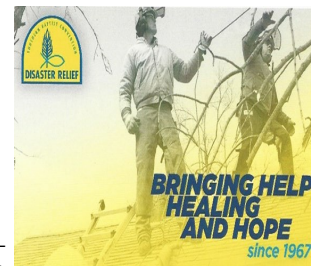
- **Bethel Baptist Church** is seeking a part-time music director. If interested, please send resume or inquiries to the email address below:

slanglin67@gmail.com

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Disaster Relief

Shirley Buckner, Director



This has really been a very unusual year for all of us. Because of the Corona Virus, Moriah's Disaster Relief Team will not be meeting for the remainder of the year. Please remember to practice all the guidelines that have been given to us and stay safe not only for yourself but also for your family and friends. If you have an opportunity, do something nice for your neighbor.

Also, please remember that November 8 is Disaster Relief Appreciation Day. Please pray a special prayer for the team on this day.

Gulf Shores, AL (Orange Beach) and Pensacola, FL

Our Sisters of the Laundry (Carolyn, Judy, and Toni) traveled to these locations to do laundry for the workers on site. They were gone for twelve days. We hope to have a full report for you in our next publication.

Organizational Resources

John Hess, Treasurer

	2020		
	First Eight Mos.	September	YTD
Antioch	\$800.00	\$100.00	\$900.00
Beaver Creek	675.00	68.00	743.00
Bethel	750.00	0.00	750.00
Bethlehem	5,686.04	515.40	6,201.44
Calvary	200.00	300.00	500.00
Camp Creek	500.01	0.00	500.01
Carolinas Cowboy	105.52	0.00	105.52
Catawba	160.00	20.00	180.00
Center Grove	985.98	0.00	985.98
Charlesboro	0.00	0.00	0.00
Covenant	2,640.00	330.00	2,970.00
Crestview	800.00	100.00	900.00
Eastside	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ebenezer	301.72	40.80	342.52
Elgin	0.00	0.00	0.00
Flat Creek	1,000.00	125.00	1,258.00
Flint Ridge	875.00	125.00	1,000.00
Fork Hill	1,506.15	229.26	1,735.41
Friendship	0.00	0.00	0.00
Glenwood Heights	583.31	83.33	666.64
Haile Gold Mine	600.00	200.00	800.00
Heath Springs	0.00	0.00	0.00
High Point	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hyde Park	3,128.94	403.23	3,532.17
Immanuel	1,738.55	535.15	2,273.70
Indian Land	700.00	0.00	700.00
Jones Crossroads	400.00	0.00	400.00
Kershaw 2nd	1,800.00	200.00	2,000.00
Lancaster 1st	5,516.00	664.00	6,180.00
Lancaster 2nd	9,446.64	0.00	9,446.64
La Roca (Mission)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Midway	5,469.26	0.00	5,469.26
New Hope	2,471.70	304.97	2,776.67
New Horizon	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oak Hill	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oakhurst	1,099.33	0.00	1,099.33
Pineview	999.51	105.49	1,105.00
Pleasant Dale	1,333.36	166.67	1,500.03
Pleasant Hill	2,990.14	192.52	3,182.66
Pleasant Plain	1,710.03	249.59	1,959.62
Rich Hill	2,270.00	0.00	2,270.00
Sand Hill	3,725.33	0.00	3,725.33
Sherwood	400.00	50.00	450.00
Springdell	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Spring Hill	2,953.56	0.00	2,953.56
Taxahaw	0.00	0.00	0.00
Taylors Grove	960.00	120.00	1,080.00
Temple	500.00	0.00	500.00
Thorn Hill	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Union	780.00	0.00	780.00
Westside	1,256.00	159.00	1,415.00
White Bluff	1,624.62	154.52	1,779.14
White Springs	200.00	0.00	200.00
Grand Total	\$74,141.70	\$5,541.93	\$79,683.63

Gifts to Moriah: Basic, 3%; Glory, 4%; Hallelujah, 5%,

Restore Process Update

Dr. Joe Youngblood

The Restore Project is an association revitalization project. The Moriah Baptist Association entered the project in February of 2020. The desired outcome of the revitalization process is:

- Restore the purpose of the association
- Restore the priorities of the association
- Restore the participation in the association
- Restore the plan for the association

There are four phases to the Restore Revitalization Project. The first phase is in-person personal meetings with the pastors of the association. Phase one began in February 2020. Joe Youngblood, Interim Director of Missions, met in person with many of the pastors in February and March. After the coronavirus became a reality, he met with the remaining pastors via an internet meeting. The personal meetings with pastors were completed in April.

Phase two began in May, with small cohort meetings of pastors, pastoral staff members and lay leaders of the association. Small cohorts of three to five participants were held during the months of May through August. The participants completed an assessment of the Moriah Association and then participated in a discussion of the association. Each cohort meeting lasted about ninety minutes.

Phase three was held in August and September. Phase three used large cohort meetings of six to ten participants. The participants were made up of the pastors, pastoral staff members and lay leaders who participated in the small cohort meetings of phase two. The participants developed the proposed Purpose and Priority Statements. The Purpose Statement developed reads:

Purpose Statement:

The Moriah Baptist Association is a partnership of churches to assist churches to follow the Great Commission.

The Priority Statement reads:

Priority Statement:

The priorities of the Moriah Baptist Association are as follows:

- ◆ Cooperation
- ◆ Collaboration (co-laboring)
- ◆ Communication
- ◆ Care
- ◆ Equipping
 - ◆ Impact lostness
 - ◆ Develop the saved

If these two statements are approved by the association in the Annual Meeting at Hyde Park on November 5, then phase four will begin which will be to determine a plan to fulfill the Purpose and Priority Statements. If approved, phase four will begin in January 2021.

November is Literature Collection

A testimony from a country that was on the "receiving end" of the literature follows:

Zimbabwe

Greetings Steve. It was 6 am on this side when I was woken up with a phone call. A lady was screaming on the other end of the phone, "Pastor, Pastor thank you for the Bible that was given to my husband yesterday in the street. He got your number from the evangelist that gave him the Bible. Pastor my husband came home yesterday afternoon and has been in the laundry room reading the Bible and crying to God repenting of cheating on me, ill treatment of the children, spending money recklessly on alcohol and cigarettes. Now he is asking me and our five children for forgiveness. He's saying, "How come I got a free Bible? God is calling me, talking to me."

Botswana

A great big thank you for supporting us with the tracts and books. It was such a blessing for us to have you guys supporting us and even a much greater blessing to those in the refugee camps in Botswana and those in rural Zambia. All the boxes were loaded together with some Bibles and taken to Francistown Botswana. It was difficult to get pictures from the refugee camps and the illegal immigrant camps as security is strict. We are very disciplined to walk the narrow path in Africa. Regards.

Pastor Bobby James will be here at Moriah to collect our gently used literature on November 16 from 10:00 until 11:00 a.m. If possible, please be a little early so you can help Pastor Bobby load your materials onto his trailer.

Just to give you an idea of how much literature they send out all over the world, below are a few pictures that I received from Bonita Gray, Harvest Seeds and Love Packages. People of all sizes love to come and help with the distribution of the literature.



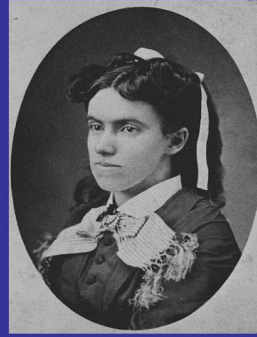
Steven Schmidt, Director



Steven Schmidt reported that they have already shipped 1,127 tons of literature this year. Their goal is to ship 2,020 tons. However, he thinks they are in good shape for this year even with the pandemic in force. So, anything we can do will help them reach their goal.

We hope you reach your goal!

Lottie Moon



IMB photo

Missionary to China

**Lottie Moon
Christmas Offering**

**National Goal
\$175 Million**

A Great Multitude + You

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially.

This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ.

**"I saw a great multitude from every nation..."
Revelation 7:9**

**Week of Prayer for Foreign Missions
November 29—December 6, 2020**

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**May your Christmas Holidays
be blessed and happy as you
spend time with your family and friends.**

God Bless Each of You!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Joe, Judy and Lois

The Mission Center will be close at noon on December 23 and will reopen on January 4, 2021.

WMU

Judy Sims, Director



Greetings,

This year has been incredibly different from those in the past, and this note is to let you know what we plan to do for the remainder of 2020.



There are several items we need to consider:

● **Ministry Kits**

If your church collected Ministry Kits this year, may we suggest that you give them out in your communities or local charities.

● **Prisoner Bags**

Yes, we are collecting the prison bags, and below is a list of the items needed in each bag. Please do not vary from the list below:

One **black** non-retractable pen (no wire clips, no other color ink).

One writing tablet no larger than 5 1/2" x 8" (no wire bound books, composition books, or post-it notes).

One adult toothbrush (individually factory-sealed, no multi-packs).

One 4 to 6-ounce toothpaste (no travel size).

One 3.2 to 6-ounce bar of soap (no travel size, no unwrapped/unboxed bars).

Two rolls of hard candy like LifeSavers, Mentos, Breath Savers No Smarties, Sweetarts, Necco Wafers, Rolos, Starburst, TicTacs).

Three first class #10 stamp embossed envelopes (from the US Post Office, NO regular stamps, no other size envelope).

One-gallon size zipper bag (No other size bags accepted).

Do not include: washcloths, toothbrush holders, floss, combs. Extra approved items may be sent to St. Andrews Baptist Church on collection day in a zip lock bag/box marked "Extra items."

Please remember to pack ten prisoner packets in an un-scented trash can bag. For instance, if you have forty prisoner bags, you should have four unscented trash bags with ten prisoner packets in each. If you will do this for us, we will not have to take the time to put the packets in trash bags once you arrive at Moriah.

I will have my church van in the parking lot at the Moriah Building on **December 7** between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Please be mindful of the time, because I have to have these bags in Columbia by Noon.

National Day of Prayer—November 2, 2020

No, we will not be having a collective group for our National Day of Prayer this year. I want to encourage each WMU Director to have a special Day of Prayer in your individual churches; and as usual, take up the love offering. For those of you in the Kershaw Area, you may get your offering to me; and the Lancaster Area may bring your offering to the Mission Center.



November 1, 2:00 a.m.

The Connection Ministry Spotlight
Jason and Nancy Smith,
Directors



We are so thankful for all of our church partnerships in the Moriah Baptist Association. 2020 has been a year of trying new and sometimes hard things, but it has also been a year full of hope! In the past few months, we have begun a new family Bible study at The Connection on Sunday nights. We are beginning to see our first faithful attendees from our community. This month we have had 30 people each week including adults, teens, and children. We have seen 7 people come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and then get baptized!

Homework Helpers is another program we do at The Connection that has been such a blessing to our neighbors! Each child in our community gets 1 hour of focused help and a Bible study each week. This year we hope that each student will be sponsored by a buddy that will pray for them and send them little gifts of encouragement throughout the year! Just a simple way for the children to know that they are loved and valued and that God has a plan and a purpose for them. We still have children available for sponsors too!

Lastly, we are getting ready for our busiest time of year at The Connection. We will have a fall festival, Community Thanksgiving, and The Connecting Tree! All of these events are carried out with the help of our association's local churches. Servant leaders from all over Lancaster are an integral part of helping our community come to know and love Jesus Christ.

If your church or group would like to be a part of any of these upcoming events call Jason and Nancy Smith 803-287-0150. Be sure to follow our ministry on Facebook for weekly updates or check out our website at www.theconnectionministry.com.

Please pray that our community will continue to seek Jesus even during difficult times, and for The Connection to continue to be a light shining powerfully in the darkness.



Congratulations!

**Maxwell James Wright
"Max"**

Born: September 24, 2020



**Proud Parents are
Adam and Allison**



**Veterans, "Thank You" for your service.
God bless each of you!**

Chester/Moriah Associations Marriage

Dr. Joe Youngblood

In February, Scott Shields, Association Liaison for the South Carolina Baptist Convention, convened a meeting with Ted Hodges, Director of Missions for the Chester Baptist Association and Joe Youngblood, Interim Director of Missions for the Moriah Baptist Association, to discuss the viability and possibility of a merger between the two associations. After this meeting, all three participants were led of the Lord to continue to meet, envision and discuss the viability of the merger. A total of three such discussion meetings were held. The conclusion was that God was leading Ted Hodges and Joe Youngblood to lead their respective associations to discuss the possible merger.

Ted Hodges met with the leadership of the Chester Baptist Association and Joe Youngblood held discussions with the leadership of the Moriah Baptist Association. Below are some of the individuals and leadership groups of the Moriah Baptist Association who were met with to discuss the possibility of a merger:

- Bill Truesdale, Moderator of the association
- The Finance Team
- The Personnel Team
- Pastors of the association

All of the above and some others indicated that they believed God was leading to further discuss the possibility of a merger.

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020, Bill Truesdale, Moderator of the Moriah Baptist Association brought forth a recommendation to the Executive Committee to form a leadership team to begin formal discussions with the Chester Baptist Association for a merger. The following were elected by the Executive Committee to serve on the Merger Leadership Team:

- Rev. Randy Hatcher, Personnel
- John Hess, Treasurer
- Sandra Reece
- Rev. Charlie Simpson
- Rev. Bill Truesdale, Moderator
- David Williams
- Dr. Joe Youngblood, Interim DOM

The two Merger Leadership Teams held a joint meeting on Monday, September 21 at the Moriah Baptist Association office. Scott Shields moderated the meeting. The primary focus of the meeting was to hear the testimony of Randy Bradley, Director of Missions for the Three Rivers Baptist Association and Tom Capps, Associate Director of Missions for the Three Rivers Baptist Association. Randy and Tom shared a testimony on the process, procedures and results of the merger of the North Greenville Association, where Tom was the Director of Missions and the Greer Association, where Randy was the Director of Missions. These two associations merged in 2013, and it has been an extremely successful merger. Ted Hodges and Joe Youngblood met on Thursday, September 24. The results of that meeting are:

1. To call the merger process a "marriage" instead of a merger. The name decided upon for the process is "Marriage of Chester and Moriah Baptist Associations."
2. To conduct on the second Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the month of December, two meetings. At 9:00 am a Marriage Prayer Meeting will be held for all the pastors of the two associations. The purpose of the prayer gathering is to discern God's will and to build relationships between the pastors of the two associations. The second meeting to be held on each second Tuesday, will be for the two Marriage Leadership Teams in order to mover forward with the possible marriage.

The first prayer meeting for pastors and the First Marriage Leadership Team meeting was held on October 13, 2020 at Chester First Baptist Church. A verbal report will be given at the Moriah Baptist Annual Meeting on November 5, 2020 about the Marriage Leadership Team Meeting.



**Let's do our part:
Vote on November 3**