

# Carrollton Baptist Association

From Your Associational Missionary

Dr. David Jeremiah in his book The 12 Ways of Christmas shares this story.

“Interestingly, convenience seems to play a significant part in holiday gift giving. More than \$29 billion of the 2007 shopping total was spent online, and \$35 billion was spent on gift cards. Just imagine how much easier it would have been for the Magi if they could have purchased their gold, frankincense, and myrrh over the Internet and had them delivered directly to Bethlehem. It would have saved them several months’ worth of saddle sores, not to mention a life threatening encounter with a vindictive king named Herod. Or, if they weren’t sure that gold and precious spices were the right gifts for the newborn King, they could have just purchased gift cards and let Mary pick out something that Jesus needed.

This fanciful scenario suggests just how far we have come from the humble actions of several ancient “wise men” who established the pattern of gift giving at the first Christmas.

They spared no expense in their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They gave their gifts

humbly, personally, and thoughtfully—royal gifts for the newborn King. The way the Magi gave their gifts should serve as a model for how we give. I don’t mean we have to give as expensively as they did or deliver all our gifts in person. And there’s certainly nothing wrong with shopping online or giving a gift card. If I had to choose a word to summarize Christian Christmas gift giving, I think I would choose appreciatively. If we give gifts to one another appreciatively, we’ll be saying, “I honor and appreciate you. I’ve selected this gift for you because I want you to know how much I value you and the role you play in my life. This gift isn’t a payment—it’s an expression of what I could never repay or replace—your unique friendship.”

Isn’t that what the very first Christmas gift represented to those who received it? No, I’m not talking about the Magi’s gifts to the baby Jesus. I’m talking about the gift of Jesus Himself to you and me. Jesus once referred to His coming into the world as “the gift of God” (Romans 6:23). And the apostle John talked about all who received the gift of God gaining the “right to become children of God” (John 1:12).

So Jesus’ entry into the world was

indeed the first Christmas gift. God gave something of infinite value to say to us, “I love you more than you can imagine. I want you to know how valuable you are to Me.” Our gifts to one another at Christmas ought to be a reflection of God’s first gift to us. When we give to others, it ought to be an expression of gratitude for what God has given to us. The generosity and appreciation revealed through our gifts ought to say to the recipient, “Everything I know about giving I learned from God’s gift of Jesus Christ to me.”

Is that too idealistic? Perhaps. But remember that maturity is our goal in all the Christian life (Matthew 5:45). We strive to do and be all that God wants us to be, knowing we’ll fall short—and that applies to our gift giving this year as well. But by striving to have our gifts reflect God’s gift to us—by keeping His gift in mind—we may be able to stay focused on giving instead of spending. Giving like God gives. It’s the way of Christmas.”

Please remember to give generously to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support the work of our IMB Missionaries around the world.

Dan

*Continuing to be  
an Acts 1:8  
Association*

**December 2019**



*Merry Christmas!*

**The CBA office will be closed  
Monday, December 23rd through  
Wednesday, January 1st for the  
holidays. We will reopen on  
January 2nd.**

**NEWS FROM CHURCHES...**

**Mt. Pleasant:** called Rev. Brady West as Transitional Pastor

Also, Mt. Pleasant is looking for an Administrative Assistant. This position is a support staff position and is full-time. To apply please email resume and cover letter to:

[mpbcemploy@gmail.com](mailto:mpbcemploy@gmail.com)

**Pleasant View:** called Rev. DeWayne New as Interim Pastor. He will begin on Sunday, November 24th.

**Rocky Mount:** called Emily Driver as Youth Leader.

**Salem:** Rev. Tim Ridgway, Pastor, resigned to accept a church in North Carolina.

**Trinity Baptist:** is looking for a part-time administrator: 20 hours a week. Please send your resume to John Stallings at [jsarchwood@bellsouth.net](mailto:jsarchwood@bellsouth.net).

**2019 Mission Opportunities**

12/02-12/07	FBC, Villa Rica	Guatemala
12/6-12/7	Concord	Rogersville, TN
12/13-12/14	Association	Rogersville, TN

**Note to Pastors...**

We will have our December Minister Luncheons on the 4th, and 11th at 11:30 a.m. at American Pie Pizzeria. There will be No luncheon on the 18th or 25th.

**Thank you to all the churches who have supported the CBA financially since September 1st, 2019, the beginning of our financial year....**

Antioch, Bethesda, Beulah, Bowdon, Calvary, FBC Carrollton, FBC Centralhatchee, Concord, Consolation, Flat Rock, Fullerville, Glenloch, Harmony, Indian Creek, Kansas, Midway, Mt. Pleasant, Oak Grove, Pleasant Grove, Pleasant Ridge, Pleasant View, Rocky Mount, Roopville Road, Salem, Shady Grove, Son Rise, Tabernacle, FBC Temple, Trinity, Tyus, FBC, Villa Rica, and Whitesburg

**Baptist Collegiate Ministries**

Merry Christmas! I have so many wonderful memories of Christmas. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year! It is the day we celebrate the birth of our Savior! I am praying that many people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ this Christmas. I am also praying that Ministers would find time to rest and spend quality time with their families. "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be on His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Amen and Amen!

God Bless, Bill



**Samaritans' Purse Shoebox Update**

**Shoeboxes given as of November 19th: 1283**

Look for an update in the January Newsletter

**Note: Please have all announcements for the January Newsletter into the CBA office No later than Wednesday, December 11th.**

**December Meeting Schedule**

- 12/02 **Mission Development Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
- 12/05 **Community Ministries Team Meeting**—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A
- New Generation Team Meeting**—Noon at the CBA. Lunch will be provided.

## From the WMU

I hope you and your church are preparing to focus on the Week of Prayer for International Missions (December 1-8) and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Take an opportunity to lead your church and family to pray and give toward reaching the unreached with the IMB. Since 1845 the IMB has partnered with churches to send missionaries to live and work among those around the world with little to no access to the gospel. One hundred percent of your offering is given to our missionaries around the world to support them and their work.

You can find some wonderful resources at [imb.org](http://imb.org) to share with our church to introduce a mission focus each day during the Week of Prayer. You may also have the prayer guides to hand out. There are short and informative videos for each day's focus that will help us understand the lives of our missionaries and their needs we can pray for.

- 847 people groups engaged through the work of IMB in just the last year
- 3,692 IMB missionaries currently on the field

Some of you may like to include the International Mission Study on Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh during December or at another time. You can find those resources for adults and other age levels at [wmustore.com/ims](http://wmustore.com/ims). The Rohingya are "the most persecuted people in the world," according to the United Nations. You can learn more about them with the mission study materials.

Thank you for all you do,  
Keri Perkins

[www.carrolltonwmu.com](http://www.carrolltonwmu.com)



**Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

**December 1-8**

**All money collected goes directly to support our IMB Missionaries and their ministry.**

**Looking Ahead...**

- **Baby Bottle Boomerang** begins January 19. All money collected goes to the Pregnancy Resource Center.
- **Sanctity of Human Life Day** is January 19.
- **VBS Early Bird Clinic** : January 27th at 6:00 p.m. at Bowdon Baptist Church. This clinic is for all Pastors and VBS Directors





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**CBA Office Hours:**

Monday-Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-Noon  
1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-Noon  
1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Closed on Fridays

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**Rev. Mark Williams: Moderator**  
**Rev. Mike Harris: Vice Moderator**  
**Rev. Dan Dockery:**  
**Associational Missionary**  
**Mrs. Teresa Britt:**  
**Ministry Assistant**



# December



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| <p>1-8 <b>Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering</b></p> <p>2 <b>Mission Development Team Meeting—8:30 a.m. at Chick-fil-A</b></p> <p>2-8 <b>Pray for Centralhatchee First, Mark Williams, Pastor</b></p> <p>4 <b>Ministers' Luncheon—11:30 a.m. at American Pie Pizzeria</b></p> <p>5 <b>Community Ministries Team Meeting—8:15 a.m. at Chick-fil-A</b><br/><b>New Generation Team Meeting—Noon at the CBA. Lunch will be provided.</b></p> <p>6-7 <b>Associational/Concord Mission Trip to Rogersville, TN</b></p> <p>9-15 <b>Pray for Christ The King Church—Kirk</b></p> | <p>Richeson, Pastor</p> <p>11 <b>Ministers' Luncheon—11:30 a.m. at American Pie Pizzeria.</b></p> <p>13-14 <b>Associational Mission Trip to Rogersville, TN</b></p> <p>16-22 <b>Pray for Concord, Joey Dedman, Pastor</b></p> <p>18 There will be NO Ministers' Luncheon</p> <p>23-29 <b>Pray for Consolation, Mike Powers, Pastor</b></p> <p>23-January 1 <b>CBA Office Closed for the Christmas Holidays</b></p> <p>24 Christmas Eve</p> <p>25 <b>Merry Christmas!</b></p> <p>30-January 5 <b>Pray for Discovery, Allen Trippe, Pastor</b></p> <p>30 <b>New Year's Eve</b></p> |
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