

Missionary's Message

Last month, my daily Bible readings took me through Romans. Anyone who has studied Romans understands the two divisions of the missive written by the Apostle Paul. Chapters 1-11 are heavy on doctrine as Paul plumbs the depths of the Gospel by focusing on God's righteousness, man's sinfulness, and what it means to be justified by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul sets the tone for this section in Romans 1:16-17, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written: **The righteous will live by faith.**" (CSB)

In chapter 12, "Therefore" is the first word in the first verse. "Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship." (CSB) This verse begins the practical section of Romans. Paul is essentially saying, "Now that we understand what it means to be justified by faith alone through Jesus Christ alone, this is how we are to live." Our beliefs drive our behavior and our behavior must be consistent with our beliefs.

As I read through the practical section of Romans, I couldn't help but think of its appropriateness for our current season of life. Many people have different opinions about all the things that are going on around us. These differing opinions even exist within our local church bodies. If we are not careful, our opinions will detract us from our mission to make disciples.

I encourage you to take time to read Romans 12-16 and ask yourself the question, "Do my actions reflect these teachings?" Here are a few verses to get you started:

- "Love one another deeply as brothers and sisters. Outdo one another in showing honor" (12:10)
- "If possible, as much as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (12:18)
- "Love does no wrong to a neighbor..." (13:10)
- "So then, let us pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another." (14:19)
- "Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with one mind and one voice." (15:5-6)

Scott Setzer



SRBA Ministers' Zoom Call Tuesday, September 22 at 10 AM *Staying Connected to International Missions During COVID-19*

This call will feature Jay Shafto, IMB Missionary to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Matthew and Shelby Meyer, IMB Missionaries to Poland. We will hear reports of what God is doing on these fields as well as discuss how churches can stay connected to international missions during this season. The call is open to all SRBA ministers and lay leaders. If you are a lay leader and would like to participate, please notify Linda Franks at linda@southroanoke.org or 252-756-4332 so we can send you a link to join the meeting.

Appalachian Coalfields Christmas Outreach

For the past several years, churches and individuals from across North Carolina have participated in the blessing that is Appalachian Christmas Outreach. Through this ministry, backpacks are delivered to thousands of children in the Appalachian region. These backpacks are filled with winter clothing, hygiene packets, non-perishable food, and age/gender appropriate toys. Most importantly, each backpack includes a Bible and an insert that explains the true meaning of Christmas. Sunday School classes, women's and men's groups, youth and families fill the backpacks each year.

Bible Missionary Baptist Church (BMBC) in Wilson and several other SRBA churches have been participating in this ministry. Mary Murphy from BMBC is our association's contact person for this ministry. This year, BMBC has a unique offer to help with the cost of filling the backpacks. Bible has purchased backpacks and Bibles in bulk at a lower cost and you may purchase a backpack, Bible and get an insert for \$7.00 and then you will fill the backpack with the remaining items. BMBC will be a collection site again this year, so you can deliver your filled backpacks to them Saturday, November 7th. If you have any questions, you may email Mary Murphy at bmbewilson@gmail.com. Here is the link to the Appalachian Coalfields Ministry on the Baptists on Mission website: <https://baptistsonmission.org/Mission-Projects/United-States/Appalachian-Coalfields/Appalachian-Christmas-Outreach>. Here, you can find the information and how to fill your backpack and how to prepare it for delivery.

WMU News

WMUNC RED BOX (*Women's Prison Christmas Ministry*)

We need 1,000 plastic 10-15 ounce bottles of SHAMPOO (plain - NO conditioner). Please deliver packed in boxes (not plastic bags). You may deliver to the SRBA office or bring to the annual meeting October 19, 2020. Thanks for your continued service to God's people.

Beverly B. Butler

SRBA WMU Mission Consultant

**FEEDING CHILDREN HAS
NEVER BEEN SO IMPORTANT!**
Baptist Children's Homes  **food roundup**
SEPT. 2020

All SRBA churches are encouraged to collect non-perishable food items, paper products, and gift cards for Kennedy Home in Kinston. Donations can be delivered to the Resource Center September 1st - 30th from 9 AM - 3 PM Monday - Thursday and 9 AM - 11 AM on Fridays. Please call before delivering to make sure someone is present to receive the items. Gift cards can be mailed to Kennedy Home, 2557 Cedar Dell Ln, Kinston, NC 28504. More info: bchfamily.org/foodroundup

September is the month for the NC **Missions Offering**. This year's theme is **Compelled by Love**. Contributions support NC Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, Mission Camps, Associational Projects, and Mobilization Ministry Projects. Resources can be found at ncmissionoffering.org.



2020 Week of Prayer for Association Missions October 18-25

Theme: Fix our Eyes

So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4:18 (CSB)

Resources will be emailed to churches and accessible at southroanoke.org in mid-September.

