



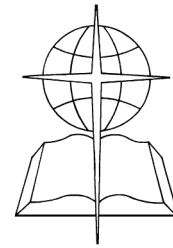
July 2020 Events

- Message from the Director of Missions
- BSBA Meetings/Events Canceled
- NC Baptist Resources and Information during COVID-19

Email your CHURCH NEWS to:

janicestrickland1013@gmail.com

- VBS 2020 Update
- Ministry Opportunity
- WMU Update
- Philippine Missions Update



Number 323

July 2020

*"Churches
On Mission
Together"*

BSBA DOM's Email: stevestrickland1013@gmail.com

BURNT SWAMP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION (910) 521-9850; FAX (910) 521-7166

The Burnt Swamp Bulletin

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

It is hard to believe we are already half-way through the year 2020 and about to enter into the last quarter for our 2019-2020 fiscal year. It certainly is turning into a year that will be remembered for all kinds of reasons. I commend you all for facing these unprecedented challenges with great faith and wisdom, while navigating through these uncharted territories. As we continue to address COVID-19 concerns, I want to encourage all of you to continue the course, while trusting God and seeking His wisdom moving forward.

2 Thessalonians 3:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:
AT THIS TIME, ALL BSBA MEETINGS/EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY HAVE BEEN CANCELED! IF THERE ARE ANY UPDATES THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, WE WILL MAKE SURE YOU ARE INFORMED!

NC BAPTIST RESOURCES & INFORMATION DURING COVID-19

The Baptist State Convention of NC Staff is committed to serving you, as you Minister under challenges resulting from the Coronavirus. The resources provided below seek to aid in those efforts.

Please go to the following link, to see available Resources:

<https://ncbaptist.org/covid-19-resources-information>

VBS 2020 UPDATE

As many of you are aware, the VBS Expo and Kickoff were both **cancelled** for 2020. We at the Association are leaving it up to each church to decide if they are going to have VBS this year. Some churches are choosing to go virtual and some are choosing to hold on to their current material to use next year. The VBS team is ready and willing to assist in whichever direction you decide. The VBS team will be preparing for the new VBS material for next year, knowing that we may also have to prepare for those churches that decided to use Concrete and Cranes next year. If you would like to return your VBS Material back to Lifeway, the deadline is **October 1, 2020**. Lifeway has made available on their website **4 VBS Strategies** to assist you in your decision making process concerning VBS 2020.

*Pam Sweeney
BSBA VBS Director*

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

The following is an advertisement from **Calvary Way Baptist Church**, seeking an *Associate Pastor of Discipleship and Family Engagement*:

This is an incredible opportunity to be part of a healthy, dynamic church in Robeson County, NC that is Reaching People, Making Disciples and Building Relationships with young families in this area. Calvary Way is positioned to reach a wide area in and around the town of Pembroke for Jesus through the utilization of a contemporary, creative approach to ministry focusing on the central issues of Christianity.

Please forward all resumes and inquires to pastor@calvarywaybaptist.org



Bethel Hill - CONGRATS to all the Graduates. We are still having parking lot services on Sunday morning at Bethel Hill. Pastor Jimmy is faithfully studying and preaching the Word. We get a phone vite every day and a reminder on Wednesday to pray Wednesday night together collectively at 7:00 pm. God is still being faithful to His people who are crying out for loved ones to be saved. We have had (3) individuals saved in the past (2) months. Praise the good Lord! One of those individuals was our daughter! We thank all of those who have prayed on her behalf and there were many!

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Burnt Swamp - **5/24**- 3 souls saved.; **5/31**- Graduation service with recognition.

Elizabeth Heights - **6/14, 21** Special Speaker, Rev. Larry Oxendine; **6/21**- VBS Cancelled; No monthly SINGING until further notice; Sunday Drive in SERVICE at 9 am (social distancing enforced).

Gospel Tabernacle - Service on Sunday's @ **9:00 a.m.** in Church Parking Lot; **6/14**- Graduation Celebration; **6/21**- Father's Day Celebration; **7/12**- Conference (Cancelled); **7/25**- Family Day TBA (If we have it!).

St. James - **3/29**- Drive Up Service/ Live Stream; **5/17**- Present...Inside Service/ Live Stream/Radio Service; **6/10**- Youth Bible Study - Bro Fred Pedro.

Willard's Chapel - **4/12**- Easter Drama; **5/10**- Mother's Day Brunch; **5/31**- Communion; **6/1**- First Sunday Dinner; **7/5**- First Sunday Dinner; **7/26-31** VBS 5-8PM; Weekly Wednesday night Bible Study @ 7PM.



UPDATE FROM IMB MISSIONARY R.J. LOCKLEAR

Friends,

Thanks again for your prayers through this tough season. Know that I have been praying for you and our communities through this. My training as of now is still scheduled for August 3rd. I have been in constant communication with IMB, and they are keeping us posted on how the virus is continuing to affect us.

In the last month and a half since my last newsletter I have given my time to prayer, bible reading, and continual church ministry. I have made it a weekly routine now to walk through Prospect Elementary and Purnell Swett High School to pray for the staff and future students. I have also started doing a weekly prayer service via Facebook live so that we can seek God's help in our community and world. I am also still preaching at Berea and assisting our worship team. I am available to preach over the next 5 weeks as needed!

Continue to keep me in your prayers

- Pray for wisdom as I move forward.
- Pray for my relatively young relationship with Elayna Locklear, as we trust God over this next season.
- Pray for racial, social, and spiritual reconciliation among our world.
- Pray for an end to this virus and for the many vulnerable communities affected.
- Pray that God keeps me and the IMB Team physically, emotionally, and spiritually strengthened.

Thanks!

Blessings,

R.J. Locklear

WMU UPDATE

⇒ All WMU Meetings/Events for the month of JULY have been **CANCELED** at this time!!

You may contact **Mrs. Suzanne Locklear, BSBA WMU Director**, at **(910) 391-4722** for further details regarding these cancellations!

We're on the Web
www.burntswamp.org

BSBA Philippine Missions Update:

Greetings to you all!

I just want to give you some updates of what's going on with us and the mission work. Rhonda and I are doing fine by the grace of God. God so wonderfully providing for us and protecting us through this pandemic. We are still going through the lock down and General Community Quarantine (GCQ). Only the essentials are allowed to operate and also go out and come into the province. It is actually working out safely for us. Aurora is one of the very few provinces that still have a "zero case" record. We hope to keep it this way. Many cities in the Greater Manila area and southern Philippines have high and still rising cases of COVID 19.

Church Deployed:

Rhonda and I meet with some of our pastors and their wives and some church leaders for devotion and prayer fellowship on Sundays and Thursdays. We pray for our BSBA churches and Pastors. Our mission churches (except the Mother Church, the very first planted church) are still not having services on Sunday. Our pastors are involved in teaching the bible to the Philippine National Police Department in their respective town and local community. Every police officer must attend the sessions once a week as part of their holistic training- physically, mentally and spiritually. We also participate in preparing and distributing food packs to the community, serve lunch and snacks to our Front Liners who are doing checkpoints on the roads. By doing this we are able to pray with them and share the gospel.

Our Mission School:

Like every school worldwide, our mission school did not have closure and graduation ceremony due to COVID-19. The new school year (2020-2021) is supposed to have started the first week of June, but it's been postponed till the last week of August if nothing changes. The Philippine Department of Education is doing a blended way of teaching (partly face to face and partly work at home modules). The registration is going on this month up to the middle of August. We have about 48 children enrolled so far. We had 138 students last year. Five of our faculty have passed their board exam and are leaving our school to go to public school. Depending on the number of students this year, we will hire and replace the five teachers. Please pray for our mission school and our teachers' new teaching adjustments this year.

Construction on Hold:

The construction of our Camp Worship Hall was stopped last March until now. Due to restrictions, we still could not continue the work. We do need to work on the project soon. We have lumber that are dry rotting and cement bags getting hard already. Please pray for the work to resume.

Personal Update:

Like I mentioned, God is really wonderful to us and to the rest of the ministry here. Rhonda and I are healthy and enjoying the ministry just doing what we can during the pandemic. We would love to visit North Carolina, our Association churches and our children, specially Megan, who is pregnant and is due in July, but it is not possible because of COVID-19. More likely, we will not be able to come Stateside this year. So, we will plan for next year if things change for the better. Please pray for this matter.

I would like to also share with you a wonderful need for prayer and financial partnership as the Lord leads. This is one of the major ministries that Pastor Jerome Glemao and his church (Casiguran Southern Baptist Church) is involved in. Pastor Jerome "Jag" is one of our pastors and also the Program Director of their community radio station. He pretty much is the one who lines up the airwaves with our own Christian programs where our pastors do devotions, preaching, children and youth talks and bible teachings. Below is the proposal to partner with them in buying transistor radios to be given to families who want and need the radio, so they can listen to the programs. It is an awesome way of preaching the gospel and also discipling believers through this quarantine period.

I appeal to you and our churches to be a part of this great ministry opportunity. I asked my kids to contribute to this and also trusting our Association will get into this for our partnership. The cost of the radios for our counterpart is \$600. Please let me know what the Association might could commit. Trusting in the Lord for whatever He allows.

Thank you Pastor Steve for you and Sister Janice's leadership to our Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. God is using you guys in mighty ways. We appreciate you very much.

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Manny, BSBA Philippine Missionary



July 2020



Burnt Swamp Baptist Association

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