

# Blood River Review

December 2018 NEWSLETTER OF BLOOD RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION



Pastor's/Board Members/Wives

Christmas Dinner Dec. 13th

Dexter Baptist Church @ 6:30 PM

76 Church Street Dexter KY 42036

Blood River Baptist Association  
Rev. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions  
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Hardin, KY 42048-0018  
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## Mark's Memos

In Acts 20:35, the LORD Jesus said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

As your Director of Missions, I am grateful that I serve a group of churches who understand this Biblical Principle.

As a result of your faithful giving to the Bags of Hope Thanksgiving Food Drive, over 140 families were provided food for a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. Furthermore, our churches provided over 300 Christmas Backpacks to the KBC Christmas Backpack program and we delivered nearly 1400 Christmas toys to the Freeda Harris Center. So, on behalf of those who have been blessed by your faithful giving, I pray our LORD would abundantly bless each of you and our churches.

Kristin and I were blessed to participate in the joint Thanksgiving Service with Flint, Dexter, and Scott's Grove Baptist Churches on Sunday evening, November 18. We enjoyed the worship service; the fellowship; and the meal that was provided.

As we approach the Christmas Season, I hope and pray that each of you will remember to keep our International Missionaries in your prayers. The Week of Prayer for International Missions begins on Sunday, December 2. If your church needs offering envelopes or prayer guides, please come by the office and we will give you some.

I look forward to fellowshiping and celebrating Christmas with our pastors/board members/wives at our annual Christmas celebration on Thursday, December 13, at Dexter Baptist Church and then with our Blood River Baptist Associational volunteers at the associational office on December 14.

But, if I don't see you at either of these events, I pray that God will richly bless you, your family, and His church this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Serving Him Together,

Bro. Mark Sickling, Director of Missions



November 30, 2019

EMAIL US AT:  
bloodriver@bloodriverassoc.org

Remember to limit your words to 200

## December



- 8<sup>th</sup> - Bro. C. C. Brasher, Oak Level
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Bro. Mike White, New Providence
- 26<sup>th</sup> - Martha Miller, Symsonia
- 27<sup>th</sup> - Carolyn Holland, Holly Hills
- 28<sup>th</sup> - Robin Walker, Briensburg

## Church Anniversary

3rd Sunday

Bro. Royce Dukes, Lakeview Baptist (2016)



5th- Bro. Brett & Leslie Miles, Northside (1981)

10th- Bro. Darrell & Cornelia Walker, (1983) Gilbertville First

20th- Bro. Rick & Mona Johnson, New Bethel (1980)

## Notes From Bags of Hope

In October we were able to help 125 families, 28 of which were new.

We gave out 3,240 food items, 460 bread, and 126 hygiene items.

Thank you for your continued support for this ministry. We at the food pantry want to wish everyone a

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank you and God bless



BRBA VOLUNTEER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 14<sup>th</sup> @ BRBA 6:00PM



May you have a Very Merry Christmas

And a Blessed New Year.

Bro. Mark Sickling, DOM

&

Ms. Sandra Little, Association Secretary

Offices will be closed  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>-Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> for the Holidays



**Wanted**

Oak Grove Baptist Church in Puryear TN is seeking Youth Minister. Interested parties may call Bro. Carl Mc Neill at 270-705-1452 or send resume to: Oak Grove Baptist Church 5525 Jones Mill Crossland Rd. Puryear, TN 38251



**DON'T FORGET**

**LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 9TH**



**Key Speaker: Bro. Mark Sickling  
Memorial Baptist Church @ 6:00PM**

**Freeda Harris Toy Drive**

Blood River Baptist Association Would like to thank all who participated in the toy drive this year. We were able to collect 1,395 toys. Just under our goal of 1,500. Also a special thanks to all who came to help pack and load the toys for shipment.

**CHURCHES WITHOUT PASTORS**

New Mt. Carmel Kirksey Salem  
Altona

**UPCOMING  
Events**

<u>December</u>		
2-9		Week of Prayer for International Missions, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
4	6:00 pm	1st Place Christmas Stars Banquet, Memorial
14	6:30 PM	Pastors/Board Members/Wives Christmas Dinner, Dexter
21-Jan 1		Office Closed for Holidays
25		Christmas Day
31		New Year's Eve
<u>2019 January</u>		
1st		Happy New Year (Office Closed)
4th		Deadline for Scholarship Applications
6th	4:30 PM	1st Place Orientation, Memorial
7th	6:30 PM	1st Place Orientation, BRBA
8th	2:00 PM	Missions Committee @ BRBA
10th	6:30 PM	Exec. Board Mtg. Bethel Baptist
13th	4:15 PM	1st Place meets weekly at Memorial
14th	5:00 PM	1st Place meets weekly @ Memorial
16th	12:00 PM	Minister's Luncheon Sirloin Stockade Murray KY
20th		Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
21st		Martin Luther King Day (Office Closed)
28th	10:00 AM	WMU Quarterly Mtg. @ New Harmony
<u>February</u>		
2nd		Ground Hog Day
10th		Racial Reconciliation Sunday
11th - 17th		Focus on WMU Week
12th		Lincoln's Birthday
14th	6:30 PM	Mission Board Mtg. Kirksey Baptist
22nd		Washington's Birthday

**New Zion:** Psalm 100:4 "Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, and into His courts with Praise: be thankful unto Him, and Bless His Name." Greetings from New Zion! Thanksgiving is one of my favorite holidays. It is a time to reflect on all the many blessings God showers us with. This month we have been so blessed to hear sermons on *The Things God cannot do, The Things we cannot do, How to Deal with Temptation, The Dynamic Pictures in the Scriptures, How to Live in a Fallen World, and You Can't see the Forest for the Trees.* These are just a few of the topics Bro. Dale was led to share with us. October 20<sup>th</sup>, our youth attended Judgement House and we were blessed to have 2 precious souls saved! October 20<sup>th</sup>, we held our church wide fish fry and had a packed house. Special thanks to those who caught and cooked the fish. We also recognized Bro. Dale for Pastor Appreciation and we are so blessed to have him and his family. October 21<sup>st</sup>, Bro. Samuel Kiguli from Uganda preached in our evening service and told us about the new schools they are building. October 28<sup>th</sup> we were most blessed to have Brent Tibbs bring our special music in the morning service and David Parr in our evening service. November 2<sup>nd</sup>, we had 34 attend the Christmas Extravaganza at Badgett Theatre and November 8<sup>th</sup> our ladies class went shopping in Clarksville, TN. How blessed we are to welcome our new members this month. God is leading such wonderful people to come and be a part of our New Zion family. This Thanksgiving please take time to stop and reflect on the many blessings you have received. Praise God and thank Him for sending His son.

**Elva:** Several in our church attended Judgement House at Chief Cornerstone in October. We rejoice in having 2 youth saved that night! In November we had our Chili Supper/Trunk or Treat with lots of activities for the children. The kids enjoyed pumpkin painting, face painting, and games. We raised money with a chili cook off with all proceeds going to the Shriner's Hospital. This month our youth will be delivering Thanksgiving meals to several families in our community.

**Pleasant Hope:** It has been another busy month here @ Pleasant Hope. Got our Freeda Harris toys in, turkeys and fixings in for the Thanksgiving Baskets for Bags of Hope, hope everyone got out to vote, had our Thanksgiving meal on the 11th and what a great turn out and everything was great, hope everyone remembered to thank God for all the Blessings. We welcomed another couple to our Church by letter, and have another young man to be baptized next week, God has been so, so good to us. Our Wednesday night Worship is going great have some new teachers and they are busy getting our Christmas Program ready for December 12th and I am sure it will include Praises to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for without Him where would we be?

**Salem:** Fall is finally here, and we are enjoying the beautiful colors of fall that God blesses us with each year. Our WMU ladies and especially our President of WMU worked hard to fill six backpacks this year for the boys and girls. We also took our turn working at Bags of Hope, both very good ministries. We have many activities planned at Salem over the next few weeks. Revival started November 11 with Bro. Roger Rice. We enjoyed a fellowship meal on Sunday, and the Revival will continue through Wednesday night. Bro. Rice has shared some wonderful messages, and we have had special music to bless our hearts. We are looking forward to West Fork and Sinking Springs joining us for the Wednesday night service. We are also excited about our joint Thanksgiving meal with Oak Grove and Sinking Springs on November 18. Oak Grove is hosting the meal this year. One of our deacons, Johnny Williams, had surgery a few weeks ago, but he is doing better. Several in our church have had surgery or falls. We are praying for their speedy recovery and for those who have lost loved ones. Our youth will be participating in the Murray Christmas parade again this year. We thank our youth leaders and KWAM leaders for ministering to our youth at Salem. We also want to thank our song leader and our musicians at Salem. We are blessed!!

**New Bethel:** On October 7th, one time song leader here at New Bethel, Jeff Prater, lead our Song Service in the morning worship and just like it was when he was here before, it was great. October 7th was also the last day to turn in items for the KY Baptist Convention's Christmas Backpack Program and we filled 6 backpacks. On October 16th our Young At Heart Seniors went to Parcell's in Draffenville for their monthly outing. On October 20th, we had an Italian Food Bonanza Spaghetti Dinner here, with the proceeds going to benefit the New Bethel Youth Group. On October 28th, we had our annual Fall Harvest Fellowship with a meal, fun, games and a hay ride. The Freeda Harris Toy Drive wrapped up here at the Church on November 4th. The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is ongoing. We're still involved in the Best Choice Food Program and the Oneida Baptist Institute Box Tops for Education. We have our regular Bags of Hope pantry items plus the special Thanksgiving item for November. Hope you voted on November 6th. Please pray for all of our kids and their teachers and their schools, our Community, our Country, our leaders at all levels of Government, for each other and for Bro. Mark and Jackie.

**Oak Grove:** Those attending the annual associational meetings at Spring Creek BC, Gilbertsville BC, and Altona BC were blessed, and we thank each of these churches for hosting these events. Our WMU Ladies of Hope were very busy shopping and filling 12 Christmas backpacks. On October 13, and our annual fish fry/auction for our youth ministry was \$1,261. The choir is now practicing for the Christmas Cantata, and we are making plans for the joint Thanksgiving service on Nov. 18th. The annual chili cook-off, costume contest and cooking decoration were also held this month. We had wagon rides and there was fun for all ages. Bro. Carl has been teaching the book of Genesis during our Wednesday night Bible study for the last two months, and he gives us unusual incites into the great events found in Genesis. We at Oak Grove wish everyone a very "Happy Thanksgiving".

**Sugar Creek:** "Give thanks to the lord, for he is good, his love endures forever." psalm 136  
We recently had our annual Fall festival where we had great fellowship with friends and family and delicious food. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving, as we have so much to be thankful for at Sugar Creek Baptist Church. We are having a Thanksgiving feast November 18th after Sunday night service, we are excited to fellowship and spend time with one another. Our Youth has been working hard to prepare for the Christmas program this year and we can't wait to see what they have been doing. Come join us if you get the chance. Grateful, Thankful, Blessed.

**Symsonia:** Our Youth attended Judgement House in October. Everyone enjoyed our Chili Supper and Trunk or Treat also in October. We had some really great costumes this year! Our children and youth have been busy packing Shoeboxes this month. We packed a total of 265 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child.

**Dexter:** November has been a great month for Dexter. We had a great concert November 18th with Bro. Eric Horner and that night we had a great fellowship with Scotts Grove serving a Great Feast and Flint Baptist Church supplying the wonderful music and Bro. David Little supplying the message. We look forward every year to the fellowship with our sister churches. December will be a busy month for Dexter. The WMU ladies invite the church and do a Chinese auction Christmas Party on the 3rd. The 7th our men of our church is doing a "Ladies night out" and cooking dinner for us with entertainment and special speaker Mrs. Kristin Sickling. We have a baby shower on the 8th. Hosting the BRBA Christmas Party the 13th. Christmas Shopping for the children on the 16th. We will have our Christmas dinner the 23rd with special visitor and that evening we will have our Christmas Program. All are welcome to come may you have a Very Merry Christmas.