



THE VIEWPOINT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SCBA

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Hey there! First off, I want to say 'thank you' for taking the time to read our newsletter each month! I try to include up-to-date information & relevant topics for you to enjoy as well as Associational events happening around the county. Second, let me extend an invitation for you to join us for the Executive Board meetings that happen on the last Monday of every month here in the office at 6:30pm. This is a great time of fellowship & networking with sister churches, but it's also the best place for your voice to be heard. We don't always have major changes/decisions to make, but when we do, it would be ideal to have representatives from all of our churches present to help us make the best decisions possible.

lastly, let me encourage you to pray for the leadership of our Association, its church families, & pastors.

Now, more than ever, we need to come together in prayer with one another & for one another. As a network of churches, we are also responsible for sharing the Gospel with the lost in our community. You may not be able to reach them all yourself, but could you connect with one? Imagine if we all took the time to share Jesus with one person ... wow! What an impact for the kingdom, amen? The only way we can be ready to share our faith is to have a closer walk with the Lord for ourselves ... I hope you find space in the days ahead to spend quality time with the Father in His Word & in prayer. Thank you for the love & support you've shown me thus far, I am daily humbled & honored to serve you!

-Justin

B TOOLBOX

Why is fasting still relevant? Fasting gives us one more way to yield our lives to Jesus. As David Platt has observed, “One day, all of our praying and all of our fasting in pursuit of God will culminate in the goal of our salvation: everlasting, uninterrupted, uninhibited, unimaginable, indescribable, all-satisfying, communion with God.”

Read the full article @ <https://bit.ly/3JjDWMV>
or scan the QR code

Article written by
Kie Bowman

SCAN ME 



SBC Annual Meeting

register @ sbcannualmeeting.net

Coming Together



CAMP SMOKY & YOU

By Justin Johnson | AMS

By now, most of you have probably heard that we made the decision to terminate our Caretakers at Camp Smoky at February's Executive Board meeting. This decision was not made lightly as we knew the impact it would make on their family, the campus ministry, and groups coming in over the next few months. This is certainly an adjustment that no one wished for, but nonetheless was needed.

It's been said that "if we do what we've always done, we'll get the same result". I realize that change is not always easy, but it can be the catalyst that moves organizations, onward and upward. Camp Smoky has been in a financial rut for quite some time now, and it's obvious that something needs to change. As a matter of fact, the people/churches in our future are counting on us to make the right changes today so that they can enjoy building upon the legacy we leave them.

Someone once told me that, in ministry, you're going to have to ask for help ... Association family, I'm asking for it. I know that we have many who are blessed and gifted in certain areas that would greatly benefit Camp Smoky, but we need to do a better job of bringing those people into the fold so we can utilize every resource to positively impact the Kingdom through this ministry. I hear story after story about how Camp Smoky was influential in the lives of our residents and how back in the day it was the place to be. I sincerely believe that, with the help of our churches, there are greater things yet to come and more opportunities to glorify God with this gift He's entrusted us with. Most everything needed to be done at camp at this point is cosmetic, but to get it all done it will take finances, volunteer work, & the willingness to see it through.

My vision for us as an Association is to develop an exceptional campus for groups in Sevier County and beyond to grow in their walk with Christ by providing opportunities for retreat, promoting spiritual rejuvenation, & pointing others to Jesus. If you can get behind this vision & commit to supporting Camp Smoky, I will give you my best to ensure that this ministry thrives for generations to come.

Blessings,
Justin



Open Church Positions

- First Baptist Church, Pigeon Forge, is seeking a part-time nursery worker on Sundays. Candidates must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or equivalent, and a current CPR certification from the American Heart Association. They must be willing to submit to a background check and prove that all immunizations and tests (particularly a TB test) are up-to-date. General working hours are 9 a.m. to noon each Sunday. The pay is \$15/hour. There may be some additional opportunities to work during special events. Please go to our website (<https://www.fbcpf.org/documents>) to download the Employment Application. Email applications to office@fbcpf.org.

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discover more @ www.gloo.us

Ministry/Fellowship Opportunities

Join us July 26th & 27th at the Greenbrier Mountain Festival hosted by Hills Creek Baptist Church and the town of Pittman Center. We extend a warm invitation to all as there is no admission fee.

Crafts - Games - Music - Food - Exhibits - and Fun for the entire family! For more information visit hillscreekbaptistchurch.com

Be a part of presenting the story of Jesus this Fall as Hills Creek presents **THE PASSION PLAY IN THE SMOKIES AT GREENBRIER**. Put on the costume of a Roman soldier, disciple, towns person, or a follower of Christ & travel back to the first century. Rehearsals start in July with the presentation weekends in September. This is a wonderful time of fellowship as well! To get the details, contact Mark Pedro at 865-640-8903.

MISSION TRIP TO CHINA

By Meng Johnson (Justin's wife)

My name is Meng (pronounced *Mong*) and I am from China. I was born in a very poor family. My grandmother on my father's side, who was a Buddhist, hated the fact that I was not a boy because she believed that girls were useless. So when my mother gave birth to me, she kicked us out & left us without a home. In order to make a living, my father had to work far away from us in another province (ZHEJIANG), so it was just my mom and me at home most of the time. We suffered a lot of verbal/non-verbal abuse from my grandmother and other relatives. Life was tough, and it became worse when my mother died of cancer when I was 18. At that time, I had to prepare for my university admission exam, so she didn't want me worrying about her and losing focus of my educational goals. My entire life was suddenly full of sadness and bitterness. I felt desperate, and life became meaningless to me. I remember hearing my uncle tell my dad at the funeral, "Now you can go marry a young woman and have a son". They often called me an "orphan" and treated me even worse. My heart broke into pieces and I found myself drifting into a world without love and hope.

Before I came to the U.S., I didn't know anything about God until I met a Christian lady from Thailand in the summer of 2011 and my life was totally changed because of her love. I soon met more Christians and their premise for helping me was, "We love because Jesus loves us". I began to be touched by God's love and saw a glimmer of hope ahead of me. For the first time in a long time, I felt love! I took a Bible back to China with me, and within a few months I noticed a difference in my life. Before, I couldn't sleep at night, but after consistently reading His Word I began to feel an overwhelming sense of peace and joy. I accepted Jesus on Christmas of 2011 and began my new life in Christ. By God's calling, I came back to the U.S. in the summer of 2012. It was then I learned more about Jesus and started growing from the infant stage of my spiritual walk with God. I decided that I wanted to stay here and not go back to the life I had before. So, I began praying for God to open the door for me to go to college here. Because we didn't have health insurance, my dad had to spend all of our money paying off hospital debt. The reality was that there was no way for us to pay for tuition. Then a miracle happened. God provided wonderful people who blessed me with everything I needed from transportation to tuition and a place to stay with every financial need covered. I started praying for my dad to come watch me graduate. The visa was difficult for him to get, but by God's providential grace he was able to be here. That was his first time to experience the love from all the people that impacted me. The best part of it all was that my dad got saved and was baptized the day before he returned home to China.

After graduation, I began praying to stay because I only had one year left before I would have to go back to China. A turning point in my life was when I decided not to give God options to let me stay, but to surrender to His will. I began praying that He would show me a reason to stay or help me accept the fact I had to go back to China. Again, through His great providence, God allowed me to stay by sending my husband (Justin). With the help of all of our friends and family, our wedding was held on August 20, 2016. Since then, our little family has grown to four (Jayden, 3 & Micah, 1.5).

Reflecting on all the help I received, God gave me a desire to help other international students like me by showing them the love of God – that's when we started our new ministry, Hope 3:16. There have been students of various nationalities that we have reached, but I have a heart for helping Chinese students. Through others, and us, they have heard about Jesus and even got to take a Bible home with them. I never understood why I had to go through the things I did, but everyone encouraged me and told me that God

gave me a strong testimony that would inspire other people. When I share my testimony with these Chinese students, it affirms my calling to this ministry. He has worked a lot of miracles in my life and He has taught me, through Jeremiah 29:11, that I can trust Him because He's the one who holds my future. Now I feel that my life has never been more wonderful because I believe that no matter what happens around me, I will always find comfort in God's presence. Looking back on every need He has provided and how far He has brought me, I know that He has a plan for my life and I am willing to serve Him wherever He calls me.

Over the last 11 years (2013-2024), we have reached over 300 Chinese students. Nearly 50 of them were saved and baptized before they returned to China. We reach out to them by helping them with transportation, cooking Chinese food for them, taking them to places like church & the Great Smoky Mountains, and sharing the Gospel with them. We have given out over 200 bibles and devotionals. Several students heard about Jesus for the first time and were moved by the grace of God. They went home to tell their families about their experience here & what they learned about God. Some students even found a church in China to attend.

We are gearing up to go back to China this year, so I am raising \$8,000 for mission trips while I am in China.

- \$5000 will cover domestic airline tickets, lodging, and any other expenses.
- \$3000 is to purchase fine Chinese- English bibles from Singapore and donate to churches that those J1 students attend.
- I plan to visit 5 cities, 64 students that I invested in from 2011-2019. Twenty two of them were saved and some are previous J1 students who got married and have children. Over the last few years, I have kept close touch with them and they invited me to meet with their families and visit their churches.

I appreciate you reading this brief overview of my story of how God not only brought me out of a desperate situation, but used me to reach others who are waiting to hear about the hope they can find in Jesus. This is my passion, and I'm humbled that God would take my story of brokenness and turn it into a blessing for those that need to hear it.

This trip will be from July 8th - October 17th. If you feel led to support me financially, I can take cash, Venmo (@Hope_316), or you may write a check to Hope 3:16. Your contributions are tax deductible & you will receive a statement at the end of the year. If you have any questions or would like more information about my mission trip, please feel free to call me at 865-604-4212. Whether you're able to give or not, the biggest blessing will be your prayers for me as I share Jesus' love with previous J1 students/families & that they respond to the Gospel.

Mail to:

Meng Johnson
Hope 3:16
1418 Mesquite Dr.
Sevierville, TN 37876



Church Gifts			
April 2024			
Alder Branch	\$921.00	Millican Grove	\$247.50
Banner	\$100.00	Mountain View	\$698.98
Beech Springs		New Center	\$50.00
Bells Chapel		New Era	\$302.54
Bethel		New Salem	
Blowing Cave		Northview	\$200.00
Boyd's Creek	\$79.03	Oak City	
Bradley's Chapel		Oldham's Creek	\$247.60
Calvary	\$25.00	Paw Paw Hollow	\$624.10
Connect	\$100.00	Pigeon Forge 1st	\$511.66
Covemont		Providence	
Dripping Springs		Red Bank	\$200.00
Dupont		Red Bank 1st	
Faith Fellowship	\$100.00	Richardson's Cove	
French Broad Valley	\$300.00	Roaring Fork	\$250.00
Friendship		Sevierville 1st	\$2,083.33
Gatlinburg First		Sevierville 2nd	\$150.00
Gists Creek	\$100.00	Seymour 1st	\$684.80
Grace	\$85.55	Shiloh	\$2,148.00
Gumstand		Sims Chapel	
Henderson Chapel	\$209.00	Smithwood	
Hills Creek		Sugar Loaf	
Howard's View		Union Valley	
Hurst Chapel		Valley View	\$285.00
Jones Chapel	\$552.65	Walden's Creek	\$60.00
Knob Creek	\$197.01	Walnut Grove	
Kodak		Wears Valley	\$530.00
Laurel Branch		Williamsburg	\$63.40
Laurel Grove		Zion Grove	\$196.00
Lebanon		Zion Hill	\$414.00
Maples Branch	\$34.00	Individuals	
TOTAL		\$12,750.15	

Praying for our Pastors

June 2nd - 8th

Bill Helton | Dupont
Lowell Wilson | Faith Fellowship

June 9th - 15th

Danny Henry | Friendship
Nick Moore | FBC Gatlinburg

June 16th - 22nd

Tim Dixon | Gists Creek
Butch Stovall | Grace

June 23rd - 29th

Ron Reagan | Gum Stand
Ricky Loveday | Henderson Chapel

scan the code to sign up for text reminders
about upcoming meetings



ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Calendar

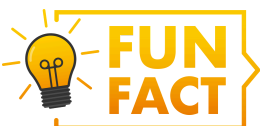
- **May 20** - Executive Board Meeting
- **May 27** - Office Closed (Memorial Day)
- **June 8-12** - SBC Annual Meeting (Indianapolis)
- **June 16** - Father's Day
- **June 16-21** - Men's Ministry Mission Trip
- **June 24** - Executive Board Meeting 6:30pm | SCBA Office

Birthdays

- **June 13** - Kevin Thacker | Union Valley
- **June 16** - Greg Rains | Northview
- **June 24** - Terry Kirby | FBC Pigeon Forge
- **June 25** - Jennifer Loveday | Henderson Chapel
- **June 30** - Danny Matthews | Walnut Grove

Anniversaries

- **June 2** - Kim & Dee McCroskey | Roaring Fork
- **June 4** - Terry & Jeana Kirby | FBC Pigeon Forge
- **June 10** - David & Brenda Wilson | Millican Grove
- **June 17** - David & Kimberly Hodges | Maples Branch
- **June 17** - Greg & Sharon Watson | Lebanon
- **June 20** - Jimmy & Donna Miller | Dripping Springs
- **June 20** - Sam & Rita Grindstaff | Beech Springs
- **June 21** - Michael & Tami Barnes | Wears Valley First
- **June 23** - Ron & Sandy Reagan | Gum Stand
- **June 25** - Clay & Pat Sutton | Bradley's Chapel



Alexander the Great was the first person to be pictured on a coin.



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**Associational Mission
Strategist**

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