



March 20, 2025

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

## A NEWSLETTER FOR THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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### DIRECTOR OF MSSIONS

Greetings, from your Judson Baptist Association office. I pray you are doing well and enjoying the abundant life promised to us by our Savior.

I am looking forward to Easter this year, as I am sure you are also. Easter is the best time of year because we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Celebrating His birthday is great, but celebrating the power of His resurrection and what it means to us is better. This is the best time of year to invite someone to church. The vast majority of people surveyed said they didn't attend church because they were not asked. What better time to invite someone to your church than on Resurrection Sunday? Pray for God to give you an opportunity to invite someone, and then be ready when the opportunity arises. Let's make this Easter the best ever, and let's do it on purpose.

Please make it a habit of yours, if it is not already, to pray for the twenty-two churches of Judson Baptist Association. Each of our churches has challenges they must face from time to time as we navigate through life. We should lift one another up regularly. Some of our churches are looking for a pastor, and some are looking for a minister of music or to fill some other ministry position. These are not easy positions to fill today. We have faced a lot of funerals in our churches over the past year or so, and that takes a toll on the church family. Keep each other in your prayers. It is a great privilege to be in such a close family of churches.

Aimee Starling and I will be going on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with a group of our missionary friends. The trip will be from June 23 through June 28. We will fly into Puerto Plata and travel from there to Playa de Cambiaso. We will help provide VBS for the children in Cambiaso. We will do something special for the women and men of the community also. We are still planning the trip, and we covet your prayers. We will see old friends and meet many new ones. As we move forward with the planning, we will let you know if there is a way for you to help us on our trip. Please keep us in your prayers, the people who are helping us minister, and the people of Playa de Cambiaso.

Outlet Ministries Christian Life Center has been active in our association since joining in October. It has been a blessing working with Pastor Freddie Smith and his key leadership in the church. There is much to learn and prepare as they acclimate to SBC life. It has been an exciting time. Freddie, his team, and I are going to plan a meet-and-greet type of service at Outlet Ministries in the near future. We want everyone to come and meet our brothers and sisters at Outlet Ministries and get better acquainted with them and their church. We look forward to many events shared together at Outlet Ministries in the future. We will be sending information out on the date and time of the service when we get through planning it.

As always, it has been a great honor serving you as your Director of Missions. I pray God continues to use us to provide Gospel ministry to the people of Henry County and beyond. I am genuinely excited about what the future has in store for our association. Please join me in praying for God to continue to expand our reach, influence, and effectiveness as we seek to carry out the Great Commission. God bless you!

"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him *be* the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations <sup>[a]</sup> forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 NASB

Your Fellow Servant,  
*Brandon Turner*

*He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Psalms 91: 1-2*

### MSC Report—Michael & Aimee Starling

Food Drives - March/April - Spaghetti Noodles

### MINISTRY CENTERS

Greetings to all of our readers! God is so good, and His blessing are exceedingly abundant! His blessings come in so many ways and from so many sources, sometimes we fail to recognize how He is working all around us. One of our greatest blessings is being an affiliated with the Alabama Baptist State Mission Board. It is so refreshing to be a part of a "bottom-up" organization that supports local churches and a myriad of ministries, all the while sharing the possibilities of what we "can" do, rather than simply telling us what we **have** to do and **how** we have to do it. Last week I was reminded of Warmest this when I had an opportunity to attend a ministry evangelism retreat. It was open to anyone but specifically designed for those of us involved in any type of community service ministry, or those interested in becoming involved in community service. Kristy Kennedy, along with her ministry assistant Lynn Graham, designed and put forth an amazing program that totally revolved around humble servants of God sharing what they are doing in their community, what their challenges have been, how God has overcome those challenges, and how their efforts have been blessed. The speakers who shared were retreat attendees-not professional talking-heads with pie-in-the-sky wild ideas. They came from a variety of locations around the state and included some who are new to ministry and some with 30 plus years of ministry experience. Each speaker gave information on a different topic which included hunger relief programs, thrift stores, mentoring and discipling new Christians, effective outreach ministries, how be intentional in your ministry by having a vision, the importance of giving to the cooperative program, and how the state's ministry for the deaf and hearing impaired in growing and becoming more effective than ever. There was a lot packed into seven sessions and boy, did the time fly! There are plans for three more of this type of retreat planned this year. For information on attending one, you can contact Kristy Kennedy at [kkennedy@alsbom.org](mailto:kkennedy@alsbom.org) for dates and locations.

Sharing ideas with fellow Christians who are also trying to have and effective ministry and share Jesus in their communities was so encouraging. I drove home Friday afternoon with some ideas that could be tweaked to benefit our two ministry centers, hopeful that I too had shared some ideas that would benefit someone else's ministry, and a renewed understanding and respect for what our Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions does to support our local ministries. If you have not taken advantage of the support services they offer, go to <https://alsbom.org/ministry-directory> and browse their list of 35 different areas of ministry for which they provide support.

Always in His service,  
Judy Koerber  
Judson Baptist Association  
Ministry Centers Director

### VBS

2025 JBA VBS Clinic will be Sunday, March 30 at 2:00  
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church.  
Contact Allison Lindsay Rominger if you have any questions  
at 334-441-7195

### Alabama Baptist Children's Home

A reminder that on Mother's Day which is May 11, some churches take up a special offering for the Children's Home.