

# THE TIDE



(228) 832-4311

Email- Robin@gulfcoastba.com

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[www.gulfcoastba.com](http://www.gulfcoastba.com)

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## Upcoming Events in Your Association

Book Reading Cohort GCBA Training Center 11:30am - Dec 2

Monthly Minister's Meeting GCBA Training Center 10:30am - Dec 9

Hancock County Coffee - Mockingbird Café 8:15am - Dec 15

Harrison County Coffee - Cracker Barrel 8am - Dec 16

Stone County Coffee - Gateway Christian Academy 8:30am - Dec 17

Office Closed for Christmas 12pm - Dec 23

Office Reopens 8am - Jan 5, 2026

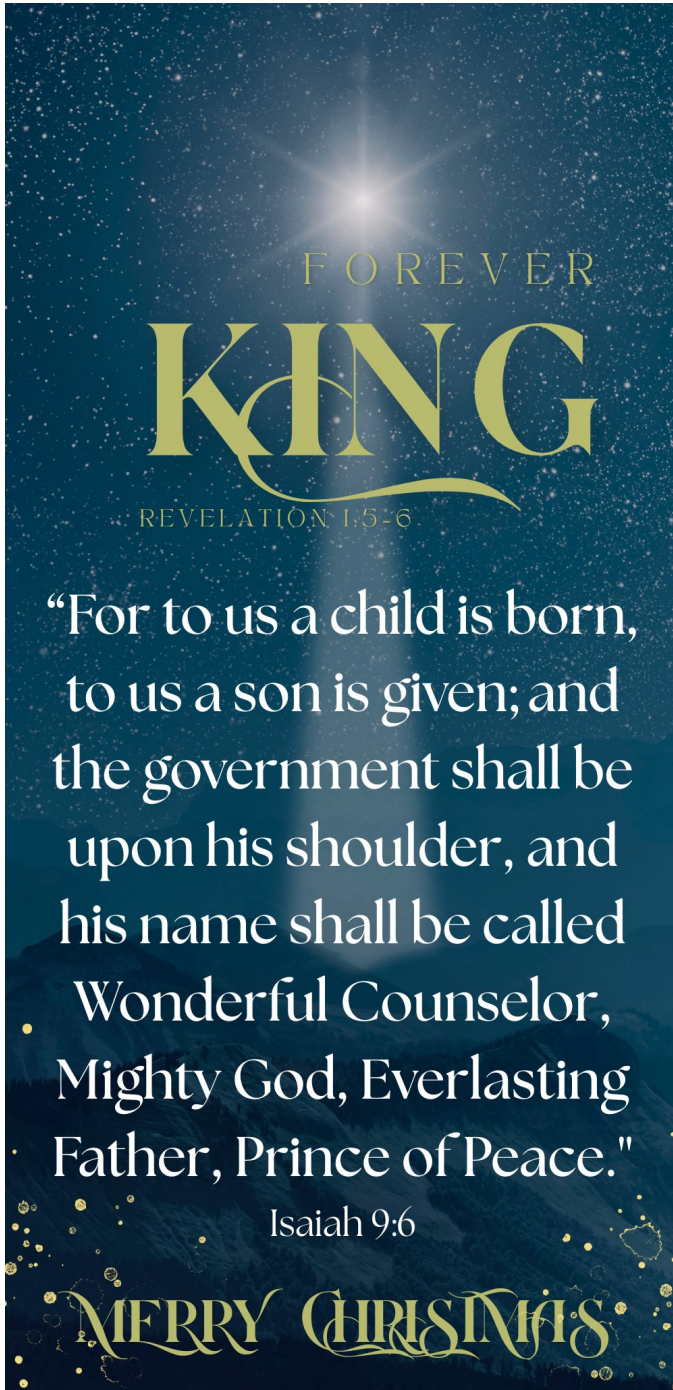
Book Reading Cohort GCBA Training Center 11:30am - Jan 6

Monthly Minister's Meeting GCBA Training Center 10:30am - Jan 20

Hancock County Coffee - Mockingbird Café 8:15am - Jan 26

Harrison County Coffee - Cracker Barrel 8am - Jan 27

Stone County Coffee - Gateway Christian Academy 8:30am - Jan 28



Staff:

Dr. Brian Rushing  
Executive Director/Treasurer

David Knapp  
Facilities/Maintenance

Robin Knapp  
Executive Ministry/Financial Assistant

Isaac Sivils  
Ministry Intern



## Christmas Reminds Us of God's Mission to Save

Christmas means a lot of things to our entire nation, including Santa Claus and apple cider and fruitcakes (I guess I'm hungry?). But for Christians, we understand Christmas at its more fundamental level – that this holy day (aka, hol-i-day) is about the Incarnation of Christ. We discover in Scripture that the Messiah is Immanuel – God With Us.

FROM THE  
DESK OF

**BRIAN RUSHING**

**AMS**

Philippians 2 spells this out: Christ Jesus, existing in the form of God, was willing to leave the glory of heaven and assume the form of a servant by coming to earth as a man. He is God. And He came in human flesh to earth. God with us!

But He didn't stop there. He then "humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death – even to death on a cross. For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name." And the name of this great Savior is Jesus!

During Christmas, we celebrate God's mission to come to earth as our Savior. And one way we can join in part of the mission is by personally sharing this gospel message with others. And a second way we can join in is by being part of the sending team that puts missionaries on the field. As Southern Baptists, we have the largest mission sending organization in the nation through our International Mission Board.

At Christmas, one of the ways we Southern Baptists honor Christ and participate in His mission is through the annual emphasis we place on our International Missionaries, specifically through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. While there are many different organizations we can bless at Christmas, let me encourage you to make sure to pray for our IMB missionaries and financially support our LMCO to continue our international mission efforts.

As I previously mentioned in my email updates, Pastor Keith Tankersley shared with me the idea of his church finding new ways to bless their mission partners with some form of Christmas gift. That got me to thinking about encouraging all of our churches to do the same with their missions partners. If you have missionaries you support and are in partnership with, please consider doing something special for them at Christmas, as it can be very lonely on the mission field, especially during the holidays. While we are eating turkey and dressing at Thanksgiving and spending time with family at Christmas, our missionaries are often just continuing their diligent work, but also missing the family festivities. To be good Senders, be sure to reach out and encourage your missionaries at Christmas, as they are on the field to share the gospel message of Jesus with a lost and dying world.

Our IMB has a mission partner for every SBC church. If you are not sure who that is for your church, have your pastor write an email to: [info@imb.org](mailto:info@imb.org), and indicate you would like to know who your IMB Connection missionary is. The missionary will then get in touch with you through the contact info you provide. Thank you for caring about the mission of Jesus at Christmas-time, as we celebrate His arrival as Immanuel, God with us!

**Merry Christmas! Shine His Light and Tell His Story!**

**- Brian**



## Contributions for October 2025

CHURCH	MONTHLY	YR. TO DATE
Back Bay	\$180.00	\$1,260.00
Bay St Louis	\$1,791.00	\$17,460.00
Bay Vista	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bayou Church	\$25.00	\$250.00
Bayou View	\$83.33	\$833.30
Bel Aire	\$877.00	\$9,536.00
Big Level	\$1,750.00	\$13,000.00
Big Ridge	\$324.49	\$3,750.86
Biloxi FBC	\$426.82	\$5,351.25
Bond	\$443.95	\$6,872.95
Brodie Road	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chinese Grace Bible	\$0.00	\$800.00
Christ Church	\$73.00	\$1,835.35
Church @ 112 (C112)	\$0.00	\$5,486.97
Cornerstone	\$100.00	\$1,100.00
Crosspoint	\$289.38	\$4,112.26
Delisle FBC	\$0.00	\$0.00
Desired Nation	\$0.00	\$442.56
Empowerment Min. CC	\$0.00	\$600.00
Faithview	\$782.57	\$6,863.49
Faro de Esperanza	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fernwood	\$0.00	\$350.00
Grace Chapel	\$227.63	\$2,960.17
Grace Memorial	\$492.32	\$5,943.36
Grace Temple	\$0.00	\$100.00
Gulf Gardens	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gulfport FBC	\$1,973.64	\$22,424.49
Handsboro	\$371.24	\$6,159.88
Harbor City	\$50.00	\$450.00
Harvest Church	\$315.08	\$2,565.08
Highland	\$194.00	\$639.83
Hope City Church	\$50.00	\$250.00
Iglesia Emanuel	\$53.43	\$475.72
Jacob's Well	\$1,584.89	\$19,707.10
Lakeshore	\$0.00	\$150.00
Lizana FBC	\$0.00	\$65.10
Long Beach FBC	\$1,725.85	\$17,895.00
Lyman FBC	\$0.00	\$1,853.00
McHenry FBC	\$0.00	\$2,199.47
Michael Memorial	\$2,665.59	\$16,813.97
MS Korean	\$382.10	\$3,798.46
Mt. Chapel	\$25.00	\$225.00
New Hope	\$1,322.75	\$15,383.32
North Long Beach	\$878.82	\$3,871.71
Old Spanish Trail	\$50.00	\$500.00
Parkway	\$560.80	\$6,180.02
Pass Christian FBC	\$0.00	\$215.69
Peace	\$65.00	\$400.00
Pearlington FSBC	\$0.00	\$579.00
Perkinston	\$157.02	\$2,366.81
Popps Ferry	\$0.00	\$540.00
Riverside	\$135.00	\$1,606.00
Robinwood	\$526.14	\$5,850.07
Shoreline Park	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Success	\$0.00	\$934.56
The Church at Windance	\$0.00	\$3,850.81
The Ch. Of Turning Points	\$15.00	\$105.00
Tuxechena	\$72.52	\$754.97
West Gulfport	\$0.00	\$664.72
Wiggins FBC	\$3,119.61	\$40,637.33
Woolmarket	\$941.93	\$12,028.71

## CHURCH*News*

Please check our Group Page on **Facebook**  
for additional church news:

**Mississippi Gulf Coast Baptist Association**

If your church has a vacancy for a position you  
would like us to publicize, please contact the  
office. We will post the information at:

**Open Church Positions | Gulf Coast Baptist**

## PASTOR SEARCH

Join us in praying for these  
churches as they seek God's  
wisdom and guidance  
in calling a pastor:

- Chinese Grace
- New Hope
- Pearlington FSBC
- Success

## Our Deepest Condolences

Please remember Jimmy, pastor FBC Gulfport  
and his wife, Janice Stewart and family  
in the passing of Janice's brother,  
"Teddy" Theodore Edward Stuart, Jr.  
on October 28 in Hattiesburg.



### ***Merry Christmas one and all!***

We are ending the fall semester with a lot to be grateful for, and we are praising God for what He has done. Between our two campuses of Harrison County and Perk, we've seen 9 students surrender their lives to Christ and profess Him as Lord! We had 61 Students attend our Mississippi BSU Fall Conference. And we have had the ongoing, regular involvement of many students in our weekly ministry events.

We will be closing out this semester by taking a team of 16 students to *Christmas in the Delta* on December 14-18<sup>th</sup>. This was a great missions opportunity last year, and I am excited to see what the Lord does this year through the mission experience. We will also be holding interviews for our 2026 Summer Missionaries, so I ask for your prayers for both our Christmas Mission Trip and for the Summer Missions interviews.

Lastly, I just want to express my deep gratitude to all the churches in our association who support the ministry of the BSU through giving to the Cooperative Program, Margaret Lackey, and directly to Gulf Coast BSU, providing meals for our free lunches and outreach events, and the pastors who have come to preach God's Word to our students. I love my job not only because I get to make disciples of college students everyday but also because I get a front row seat to see the local churches coming together to carry out the Great Commission in cooperation.

Praying the Lord blesses you all in your Christmas and end-of-year ministry programs!

***David MacLellan***

Director, MGCCC Baptist Student Union



## WHAT IS THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING?

Growing up in Virginia, Lottie Moon and her siblings chose to rebel against Christianity. At 18, Lottie followed Christ and was baptized. When she was 33, she sailed to China as a Southern Baptist missionary. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem – **LOSTNESS**.

In letters to Southern Baptists in America, she pleaded for increasing prayer and giving. Her letters raised more support for missionaries to be sent to China.

Every year, Southern Baptists collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® where **100% of your gift supports missionaries, not overhead. Every dollar you give helps take the gospel to those who've never heard.**

### CELEBRATE GOD'S WORK IN 2024

As reported by IMB missionaries and national partners

**3,577**  
MISSIONARIES ON THE FIELD  
**68,628**  
BAPTISMS  
**84,430**  
NEW LEADERS

**2,409**  
CHURCHES PLANTED  
**144,969**  
PROFESSED FAITH IN JESUS  
**1.6 MILLION**  
HEARD THE GOSPEL PRESENTATION

### PROMOTIONAL RESOURCES TO INSPIRE YOUR CHURCH

Each of these resources is designed to encourage prayer and giving for your IMB missionaries. We encourage you to make these products visible and accessible for your church family.



**Prayer Guides**  
Available in English, Spanish, French, Korean, and Chinese.



**Offering Posters**



**Offering Envelopes**

 DVD can be ordered separately.

### WAYS TO GIVE

- ▶ Give through state convention
- ▶ Give online at [imb.org](http://imb.org) and connect your gift to your church



*"We remain grateful for churches in the U.S. who support God's mission on the other side of the world. This task isn't possible without our work together."*

HUN SOL, IMB MISSIONARY

804.353.0151 | [info@imb.org](mailto:info@imb.org) | [imb.org](http://imb.org)





# CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADER\$ SEMINAR

EQUIPPING CHURCHES WITH FINANCIAL CLARITY

FEBRUARY 20-21, 2026  
GARAYWA CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER  
CLINTON, MS

Join us for an essential two-day event designed to help associational leaders, churches, pastors, and other ministry staff navigate the complex world of IRS regulations and tax issues specific to ministry. Led by Guest Speaker Johnny Rakestraw, a seasoned pastor and CPA, this conference provides practical guidance and resources to ensure financial integrity and clarity in your church operations.

#### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- Associational Staff
- Pastors and Church Staff
- Budget & Finance Committee Members
- Church Treasurers and Financial Secretaries

Equip your ministry with the tools and understanding needed for responsible financial stewardship. Don't miss this opportunity to gain clarity and confidence in your church's financial practices.

#### \$50 REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:

- Church Financial Binder with IRS guidelines, best practices, and planning tools
- Friday night lodging on Garaywa's campus at Patterson Place
- Friday dinner and Saturday breakfast



Scan QR Code  
to register!

Contact Stewardship/Prayer Ministries at 601-292-3347 or  
[amckay@mbcb.org](mailto:amckay@mbcb.org) for more information.