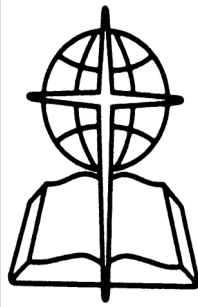


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Thursday, September 22, 2022
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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What Can I Give?

Steven Hicks wrote this report for me. "First Baptist Church of Woodstock partnered with Cahaba Medical and West Alabama Food Bank to host a mobile food pantry Wednesday August 31, 11am-3pm. The community was given free groceries, including fresh fruit, vegetables, frozen chicken, pork, and fish. 199 families were provided with food. It was a great opportunity to serve our community by meeting a huge need during a time when families are struggling to put food on their tables. We desire to love Jesus and love our neighbors.

This act of kindness was a blessing to those who received the food and to those who gave it away. The report makes me think of John 6:1-14. One little boy! Two small fish! Five loaves of bread! 5000 men plus! Everyone pigged out! Twelve baskets of leftovers! Jesus chose to use a little lad to accomplish this great miracle! Why did the Lord use this little boy? Obviously, I do not know exactly why God chose to work in this manner, but I would like to make some observations.

Observation # 1. The Boy Was Available for Service. Notice verse 9 "Here is a boy." He was nearby because he wanted to be close to Jesus. He was just a little boy among 5000 men. That made this boy an unlikely candidate to be used in this great ministry. Do we want to be used of God? We need to stay close to Jesus. You know how to get close to Jesus. James 4:8 "Come near to God and He will come near to you". The boy was also focused on what Jesus was saying and doing. We need to be focused on the LORD. Sometimes we are present in body, but our hearts are somewhere else. Read Matthew 15:8. We need to draw close to God with our heart and He will come close to us. We must keep our heart focused on what He is doing if we are going to be used of the LORD. Then the opportunity to minister will arise.

Observation # 2: The Boy gave his lunch to the Right Person. Verse 11 "Jesus then took the loaves". The lad could have eaten it by himself. He could have given his lunch to anyone. He could have shared with one or two. He could have sold his lunch. He could have raffled off his lunch and made a lot of money. But he chose to give his lunch to the One who could do the most with it. The little boy was willing to give what he had to the Lord. He believed that Jesus could take it and use it to meet the needs of the multitude. The results were amazing. Read verses 11-14. The people were not just fed...they were filled! There were leftovers. The people glorified Jesus Christ. All because the boy gave his small lunch to Jesus. Remember Jesus can do more with your stuff than you can.

Observation # 3: The Boy gave all he had. He wasn't ashamed of what he had. Andrew must have been. He said, "...What are they among so many?" Perhaps others scoffed at such a small amount of food. The little boy knew something we all need to remember. With God, it doesn't matter how much or how little we have to give! It matters how much we are willing to give...God looks at our hearts. The little boy was unselfish with what he had. He was willing to give it all. He didn't close his eyes or turn away from the need.

You can give your life to many things. To making money. To having fun. To obtaining power and prestige. But think, what could Jesus do with our lives...if we would only yield ourselves to Him? This is what we are exhorted to do. Read Romans 6:13 and Romans 12:1. If we do that the results will be amazing. The people will be not just fed... they will be filled! People will be changed for the glory of Jesus Christ. If we want the LORD to do big things through the small things, we must stay close to Him and give Jesus control of all we have.

FBC Woodstock gives away hot meals to people regularly. West Blocton FBC also gives food away to the community once a month. We have several Bibb Baptist churches that collect food for the Soup Kitchen in Brent. If your church gives money to the Global Hunger Fund some of this money comes back to Bibb County Feeding ministries. Not only that but that money helps feed hungry people all around the world.

There are a lot of spiritually hungry people in Bibb County. What will we give to the Lord? Our time? Our talent? Our treasure?

Mark Your Calendar

September 28th - "See You At The Pole" 7:20am at each school. In conjunction with National Student's Day of Prayer.

September 28th - "Fields Of Faith" 6:30pm A night to come together and pray for our schools and community, worship together, and share the gospel. Food trucks will be available. This will be at the Bibb County High School football field.

October 1 - Annual Church Profiles are due

October 6th - is "Bring Your bible to School Day"

October 11th - "Abundant Living" for Sr. adults at Hunter Street Baptist 9:30-11 am / 1-2:30 pm. Lunch on your own.

October 15th - 10am-2pm "Colors On The Cahaba" Festival. To benefit Bibb County SAV-A-LIFE. Arts & crafts, food trucks, live music, car show and more.

Contact Melissa 334-590-2802

November 6-8 - Community revival and annual meeting:

6th @ 6pm Bro. Kevin Blackwell,

7th @ 7pm Bro. Jim Parker,

8th @ 7pm Bro. Roy Neil Lowery

"And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:27



So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

Galatians 6:10