

Washington Baptist Association
P. O. Box 476
(615 Highway 24 E)
Milledgeville, GA 31059

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The purpose of the Washington Baptist Association is to support member churches as they come together in the common bond of Christ.
www.washingtonbaptistassociation.org E-mail: washba@windstream.net Phone: 478-453-8111

WBA Men on Mission January 10, 2017 7:00 p.m. Ohoopee Baptist Church



All men are encouraged to attend and enjoy a breakfast-type meal and good Christian fellowship. Paul

Melton will be the speaker for the evening.

Apologies to **Mosleyville** Baptist Church for omitting the church's name from the list of churches who made monetary donations to the general budget of the association last year.

Chris Wasson, pastor of **Long Creek** Baptist Church, graduated summa cum laude with a B. A. in Ministry Studies at Baptist College of Florida. Congratulations!

The next *Carpenters for Christ* project is coming up January 6 & 7, 2017 at Bethel Baptist in Putnam County (169 Jackson Rd - the first street after you cross over the lake on 441 near Lakeside Baptist Church). We will begin work each day at 8:30 a.m. Contact Eddy Turner for details (e.tu@live.com or (478) 538-6053).



Sinclair Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor to be the spiritual and administrative leader of the church. Inquiries and resumes may be submitted to:
Sinclair Baptist Church
Attn: Pastoral Search Committee
102 Airport Road
Milledgeville, GA 31061
Email: pastor.search@sinclairbaptist.org

The WBA office will be closed the week of December 25 through 31.

THE URGENCY OF THE GOSPEL

THE GEORGIA BAPTIST EVANGELISM CONFERENCE
January 23 and 24, 2017
Central Baptist Church
1120 Lake Joy Road
Warner Robins GA 31088

SPEAKERS

DERWIN GRAY, FRANK COX, JOHN BISAGNO, MICHAEL CATT, VANCE PITTMAN, ROBERT SMITH, JR., ED NEWTON, JEFF CROOK, HERB REAVIS, BILL PURVIS

REACH
EVANGELISM CONFERENCES

GBCevangelismconferences.com

Increase your attendance next year by 30%

The statistics below were extracted from LifeWay Research, in partnership with the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism in Wheaton and surveyed 2,000 unchurched Americans. These results surprised me.

First, your church can reach more people than you think. New research indicates that people are not as negative about church as many in our churches believe. In fact, nearly 47% of American would interact freely in such a conversation. Only 11% of unchurched Americans would change the subject. Another finding is that one out of three unchurched in America plan on attending church in the future. Let me say that once more. One third of the unchurched have plans to attend someone's church. Why not your church? See also Thom Rainer's free 30-minute webinar for more information.

http://revitalizedchurches.com/invite-replay?utm_source=ThomRainer.com&utm_campaign=94c3edd827-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_TEDS&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_10c78481d1-94c3edd827-81579585



2016 MOVE Conference for teens
December 29-30, Macon Coliseum
\$59/person
<http://moveconference.com/>

VBS Jumpstart 2017, 7-8:30 pm – Free Event
January 19, First Baptist Perry
January 24, Lakeside, Greensboro

WMU Spring Event
April 28-29, Stone Mountain
\$139 through Feb 3/\$159 Feb 4-Apr 14
Register online: <http://gabaptistwomenspringevent.com>

SUPERWOW - Summer 2017
Ft. Walton Beach-Jekyll Island –Toccoa
<http://superwow.com>

WBA Youth Camp
July 10 – 15, A. H. Stephens State Park

IT'S OK.....

People give gifts at Christmas for many reasons. People who love and follow Jesus give gifts to remember the true "Gift" - Jesus. Giving presents also remind us of the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh. They also give gifts to show their love for their families and friends. Some people tell the story of Santa Claus-a pretend figure whose kindness in giving gifts originates with Saint Nicholas who did, in fact, give gifts to the poor. But Santa Claus has nothing to do with the true meaning of Christmas.

In the original, pagan Christmas-which was not called Christmas, since it was not about Christ--gifts were given. But to Christians, gifts are given at Christmas as an opportunity to show love. Sadly, this season has been taken as a commercial opportunity and many people indulge in materialism

In the Christian religion, the practice of giving gifts at Christmas is traced back to the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh that were given to the Christ child by the three Magi. The magi were kings from the East, wise men who traveled a great distance following a star, to find the Christ child and to bring him gifts. The visit of the Magi to the Christ child was originally celebrated on the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th. Over time, the tradition of giving gifts came to be more associated with Christmas than with Epiphany. It is the time from Christmas to Epiphany in the Church calendar – from December 25th through January 6th – that is recognized as the “twelve days of Christmas” from the old Christmas carol.

To be certain, the ancient Church did not “celebrate” Christmas as much as it “observed” Christmas as a holy day. It wasn't really celebrated until the modern era. The tradition of giving gifts to loved ones at Christmas became more and more popular as the middle ages ended and the modern era began. Various countries and peoples began to make gift-giving a regular part of the holy day (or “holiday”) over a period of time. By the time the Americas were settled, giving gifts at Christmas was practiced by many of the settlers. The early Dutch settlers to America introduced St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, to the new world. The early French and English settlers, in contrast, were more likely to give gifts at New Year's or at Epiphany. (Excerpts taken from the internet.)

My point is this - it's ok to give gifts at Christmas. I can't imagine not having Christmas carols, decorations, hot chocolate, caroling, cards, greenery of all kinds, holiday shopping, snow scenes with Santa and his sleigh, Nativity scenes of all sizes, shapes, and colors, candles glowing, smiles and Merry Christmas. It's up to us as Christians to make Christmas a happy and humble time of the year. We need to let the world know that “Jesus Christ” was born. He has given up everything to save us and to allow us to share in a wonderful heavenly home with Him.



Merry Christmas
May God's blessings pour out on you this Christmas season.
David & Gloria

