



December & January Newsletter

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December, 2017
& January 2018

DOM'S Reflections, December 2017

Del Rio—Uvalde
Baptist Association



Working Together for
the Growth for the
Kingdom of God

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"Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!" 2 Corinthians 9:15 ESV

December is one of my favorite months of the year. It is the time when we remember in a very special way the birth of our Savior. It is good that we celebrate the glorious truth that God became flesh and dwelt among us. The Christmas season is also a time when we exchange gifts. But as we reflect on the deeper meaning of Christmas we are reminded that Jesus Himself is the most wonderful gift ever given. He is God's inexpressible gift. Why do we consider Jesus as the inexpressible gift?

2 Corinthians 9 has to do with the love gift from the Gentile Christians to the poor and suffering Christian believers in Jerusalem. In contemplation of this wonderful gift expressed in this collective offering, Paul exclaims, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" What is that gift to which Paul refers? Is it the gift of that fellowship in which all men, Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female, become one? Is it the surpassing grace of God, which produces in the Gentiles the fruit of gracious giving after the pattern of God's own sacrificial giving? Is it Christ Himself, whose giving lies at the heart at the heart of the Gospel which provokes men to give as God gave when He gave up His Son to reconcile fallen and divided humanity?

God's inexpressible gift is Christ Himself, the Blessed Lord Jesus. Jesus is God's inexpressible gift because of His nature. In His nature Jesus is eternal. As Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was I am" John 8:58 ESV. In contrast to all others, He is perfect, being the only one that has lived without sin (Hebrews 4:15). As Lord He has all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).

Furthermore, Jesus is God's inexpressible gift because of His character. When Jesus came to live among us He came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). His life was the demonstration of true humility, as He lived a totally unselfish life and ultimately offered Himself up on the cross in absolute selflessness (Philippians 2:5-8). He also zealously sought to carry out the Father's will in everything that He did (John 5:30).

As we further reflect, we see that Jesus is God's inexpressible gift because of His purpose. The blessed Lord Jesus came to make God known and to identify with mankind (John 1:14, 18). The writer of Hebrews reminds us that Jesus was tempted in every respect that we have been tempted, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). Ultimately, we see that Jesus came to die for us on the cross in order to save us from our sins (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Because of the inexpressible gift of the Lord Jesus we are able to be saved by grace through our faith in Him

Association Calendar

ASSOCIATION and AREA CALENDAR

Dec 25	Happy Birthday Jesus	Happy Birthday Jesus!
12/22-1/5	Office Closed for Holidays	Office Closed
Jan 13	ANNUAL WINTER YOUTH RALLY	New Jerico Baptist, Uvalde, 3pm
Jan 18	Executive Board Meeting	Frio Canyon Baptist, Leakey, 10am
March 30	Good Friday	Office Closed

Del Rio-Uvalde Baptist Association Strategy Initiative

In the Annual Meeting the Association approved a three-year strategy initiative, "Together for the Kingdom". "Together for the Kingdom" flows forth out of the Vision statement adopted by DRUBA: "Working Together for the Kingdom of God."

"Together for the Kingdom" is based on five Associational priorities: (1) Prayer, (2) Fellowship, (3) Evangelism/Missions, (4) Church Health, and (5) Leadership Development.

Prayer

Goal: To develop a stronger prayer life within the churches.

Coordinator – Tony Gruben

Fellowship

Goal: To develop a network and structure to embrace the interdependence of the churches within the Association.

Coordinator – Monty Benson

Evangelism/Missions

Goal: To encourage through information and direction to our churches to reach lostness by being an Acts 1:8 church.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Coordinator – Michael Howard

Church Health

Goal: To help the churches develop and maintain a strategy and structure to support the five New Testament functions of the church.

Worship
Evangelism
Fellowship
Discipleship
Ministry

Coordinator – Tommy Larnar

Leadership Development

Goal: To develop a culture of leadership development.

Definition-A process where leaders are trained through an apprenticeship mentoring system that has an end in mind which is to be a more effective leader.

Coordinator - Larry Floyd

Pray diligently for God's direction and enablement as we begin to implement the strategy. May the Lord work in us and through us in such a way that we will truly be an Association that works together for the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Join us for our Annual Winter Youth Rally

FIX OUR EYES

Guest Speaker Jaime Garcia

Live Music, Fun Games, Good Food, and a Great Time!

Join other youth groups in your association for the is awesome time of fellowship and worship.

Prepare to fix your eyes on what really matters most, and this is Jesus Christ!

January 13, 2018 begins @ 3pm

At **New Jerico Baptist Church** 367 Windmill Road

Uvalde Estates, Uvalde, TX

For more information call Ralph @ 830-278-6283.

FIX
OUR
EYES

HEBREWS 12:2

DOM Reflection January 2018

My prayer for each one of you is that 2018 be a great and successful year. But what does it mean for it to be a successful year? I personally believe that the definition of having a successful year is the same as being successful in life. In his book Success Motivation and the Scriptures William H. Cook states, "Success is being the person God wants me to be and the accomplishment of goals that God helps me to set." This definition reflects what we see taught in Joshua 1:1-9.

Success in life flows forth out of an intimate relationship with the Lord. V. 8

To be truly successful we must have great goals. V. 2

For us to achieve success we are going to have to work in order for our God-given goals to become reality. V. 2

"Arise, go over this Jordan"

We must trust in the Lord to have true success in our lives. Vs. 5, 9b

To be successful in life we must be strong and courageous. Vs. 6, 7, 9

May 2018 be a year when we become more the person God wants us to be and we are able to accomplish goals that our Lord helps us set.

DRUBA

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2017

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. After more than a century, the annual offering continues its steady growth. The National Goal this year is \$160 Million. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

In the last year reported (2015):

1.9 Million heard the Gospel
175,290 new believers
15,058 trained pastors



Through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, you and your church:

- Support over 3,600 missionaries
- Enable disciples to be made and churches to be multiplied around the world
- Continue the SBC's 172-year commitment to missions

Continued—Dom's Reflections

(Ephesians 2:8-9). Jesus the Gift is the Giver.

I pray that this Christmas season will be a time of joyous celebration as we reflect on the coming of our wonderful Savior to live among us and to give Himself in sacrifice for our sins. Let us offer our thanks to the Lord for His inexpressible gift." This is also a time when we can ask God for opportunities to give to others this "Inexpressible Gift, through sharing the Gospel with those who do not know Christ.

REQUEST & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blanca San Miguel is looking for a Podium and 2 offering plates for a start up church in Mexico. If you have any to donate please call her at 830-900-2507. Thank you.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE PASTOR-LESS CHURCHES:

First Baptist Church, Camp Wood
Concan Baptist Mission, Concan
Jerusalén, Eagle Pass
First Baptist Church, Rocksprings
Utopia Baptist Church, Utopia
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Del Rio

