



The *Spirit* of Strawberry Baptist Association

Rev. David Timma- Moderator

Vernon DeLong - Secretary

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Labor Day kicks off the beginning of September.

Our country has a national holiday to celebrate the work of the ‘common’ man, sometimes referred to as blue collar or the ‘working man’. This is a good thing, but it is not limited to a certain ‘social’ class. Christians have been taught to honor labor since creation. And it is all labor, whether salaried, hourly, volunteer, or totally unrecognized! The Bible has given us a rich teaching on the value of labor as the following verses illustrate.

It starts of course in Genesis 1:28 when “God blessed them, and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it.” We PREFALL were called to be stewards over earth – it is both our job and evidently it was a built-in need for creation, or we wouldn’t have been given the command. The current generation is often taught that man is an unwelcome intrusion to nature, and that is just not true! While we obviously do not always do a good job, our failures have never erased the command of God, and need of creation for mankind’s active intervention!

Moving to psalms, we find a warning that addresses the propensity of a sinful people to do the wrong thing! “Unless the Lord builds a house, its builders labor over it in vain” Psalm 127:1 We have seen enough ruined lives that we ought to know that we need guidance. The essential missing ingredient in most ruined lives is God’s presence and guidance. That He is the author, creator, and designer, if you want to build a good marriage, raise Godly kids, and have ‘careers’ that are meaningful, God’s presence and guidance is essential!

In Ephesians there is the warning against thieves that that they are to “do honest work with his own hands, so that he has something to share with anyone in need”. We are not to work only for self, but also for others. Wealth has a purpose other than keeping score, it meets physical needs, and when able we should not only look to our own needs but also to the needs of others. Christians should be hard workers who provide for their own but are also known for their generosity with what they have earned. Use it for eternal purposes.

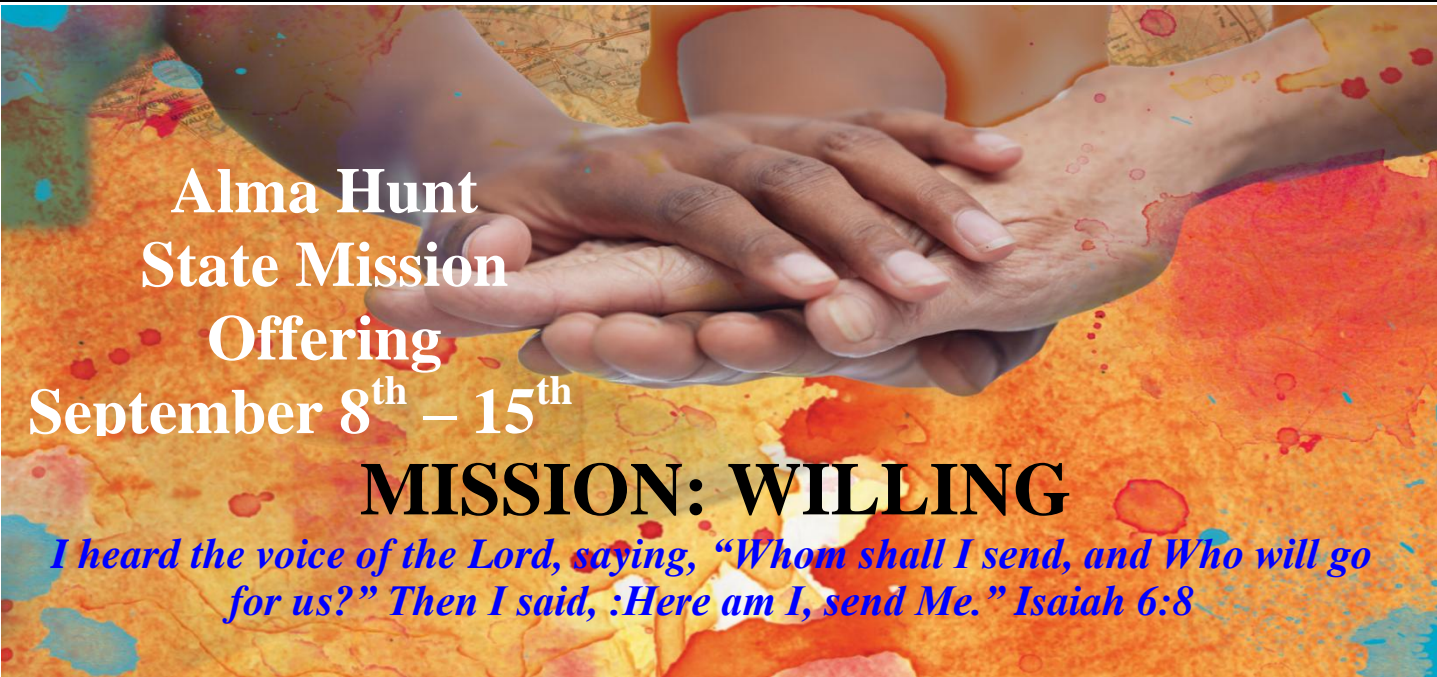
Many that work hard and are financial successes are empty in the soul. It is not a Christian virtue to *only* work hard, there is a purpose and guidance that is distinctly Christian. Many a man has ‘worked’ his way out of his marriage. It is a shame when a man ruins his relationship with his wife and children for the sake of money or reputation. Many people sacrifice the eternal at the world’s altar of money and reputation. Instead, work hard to show the surpassing grace and mercy of God!

David

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Alma Hunt
State Mission
Offering
September 8th – 15th

MISSION: WILLING

I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and Who will go for us?" Then I said, :Here am I, send Me." Isaiah 6:8



Lives are
Transformed
by the Gospel,
thanks to
your gifts.

Together On Mission
visionvirginia | 2024 WEEK OF PRAYER & OFFERING FOR STATE MISSIONS **Week of Prayer**
September 15th – 22nd

CELEBRATING 43 YEARS OF
CENTERFEST
IN DOWNTOWN BEDFORD

Presented by
The Central Virginia Business Coalition
Sponsored by Turman Forest Products, Inc.

September 21st, 2024
10am-6pm
Downtown Bedford
FREE ADMISSION

Event Activities
Live Entertainment Beer Garden, Food Truck Rodeo, Kids Zone, Petting Zoo, Bounce Houses & Face Painting, Mobile Laser Tag, Safety Zone, History Zone

CenterFest
Saturday, Sept 21st, 2024

We need a **Director/Facilitator/Supervisor** for **Centerfest**. **Centerfest** is a **Mission Opportunity** as well as an **Outreach Event** to our community because many visitors come to downtown Bedford each year. The SBA provides a Tent that houses a Baby Changing Station and distributes bottled water. If you would like to Volunteer, please let us know.

Strawberry Baptist Association

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Bedford - September 1st is Promotion Sunday for our youth and children. We are dedicating September as “Appreciation Month”. Members will make sweet treats each week which will be delivered to our service providers: Police Department, State Police Department, Sheriff’s Department, Hospital Volunteers and Bedford Christian Ministries.

*On Sunday, September 29th, we will have our Dinner Theatre during morning worship followed by a potluck luncheon. We did this last year, and it was a huge success.

*We are saddened that Jeanne Willis is retiring as the Youth & Education Leader but are excited that she will still take an active role at Bedford Baptist. With her retirement, we have been led to hire on an internship basis, Hein Vermaak, who will fill a new position at Bedford Baptist. Hein and his family come to us from South Africa.

*We have begun collecting individual items for our Operations Christmas Child mission. Each Sunday, we are encouraged to bring in a particular item to be placed in a box for the “Packing Party” which will be held in a couple of months. All members are also encouraged to pack their own box or boxes to bring on Dedication Sunday.

Mentow - Twice a year, Mentow hosts a music event. On September 14, 6:00 p.m., bring a lawn chair and enjoy gospel bluegrass music and ice cream. This is sponsored by the Music Department and the Men’s Ministry. That evening, we’ll welcome DJ Mann & the Bethel Church Band and L&F Express to the outdoor stage. These friends are from Campbell and Halifax Counties and have performed for us previously.

*Like other churches in the Association, we’ll begin a new church year on October 1, praying for growth both spiritually and in numbers.

*On October 27, at 10:30, we’ll observe our annual Homecoming Day. A catered lunch will be served around noon. The speaker will be our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Richard Foster.

*We continue with community missions, helping individuals and groups in our surrounding area. We recently helped with the funeral expenses of a mother and daughter killed in an accident and gave gift cards to the teachers at Huddleston Elementary School, to help them with buying supplies where needed. These are just two examples of what we do on a monthly basis. The blessings are ours!

Timber Ridge - Our ladies enjoyed Ladies Night Out with dinner and a movie. They watched the new Kendrick brothers’ movie, “The Forge”. A good time of fellowship was had by all.

*We recently had a So Long to Summer and Back to School Hot Dog Bash. Our families, youth and kids were treated to the Flaming Inferno Waterslide, yummy hot dogs and lots of sweet treats. We used this event as a kick start to our upcoming AWANA year, which begins Sunday September 8 from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m.

*Our Wednesday Night ladies and men are beginning new studies. Our ladies will be delving into a study in the Book of Numbers. Our men are beginning a study entitled, Kingdom Living: The Parables of Christ.

*Our WMU is continuing to collect personal care and other items for the Foster Care System and for the Homeless. We are also continuing our Haiti pad ministry as well.

*Pastor Phil is continuing his Revelation Series during our Sunday Morning Worship services.

*Our men enjoyed a time of fellowship, food and Bible Study during their recent Men’s Prayer Breakfast.



Operation Christmas Child

Collection week is November 13th -20th.

Have you finished Planning for your OCC Shoe Box collection?
Collection for OCC Shoe Boxes is during September & October?

Strawberry Baptist Association
P.O. Box 91
Bedford, VA 24523

September

- 2** Labor Day
- 3** Pastor's Conference
- 8–15** Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Baptist Missions
- 15–22** Vision Virginia Week of Prayer & Offering for State Missions
- 21** Centerfest – *Downtown Bedford*