



# *the* *Calvary Caller*

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Committed to the Mission

Praying this letter finds you warm and in good health. February arrived quickly and since it is the shortest month of the year, it will be in the history books before we realize it. Why do we want to monitor the calendar? This is how we can track what we are or not doing. How thankful we are for the Consolidated Missions Offering (\$70,000) that was collected for 2023! This is how we as a group of people called Southern Baptists reach the world. We are committed to the Great Commission by a cooperative effort in supporting our missionaries in praying and giving. So, let me ask you. Have you set aside an offering for the sake of our missions' effort? If you have not, then let me gently remind you that we will be singing Christmas hymns before you know it. If we are not purposeful in our giving, we will miss the opportunity to be on mission with God. This is why God has blessed our denomination in spite of our many blessed inconsistencies. Our denomination has been committed to the Great Commission with people going to the ends of the earth. With that being said, the mission is not complete. Jesus has not returned and until He does, we keep our hand to the plow and faithfully give.

Missions' training is imperative. As our children and grandchildren learn the Bible,

the one thing that they must know and understand is there is no salvation outside of Christ. There is one road that leads to Heaven. It is very narrow and quite difficult. Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it." The Bible is quite clear, "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." God is merciful. However, mercy is found in Christ alone. Apart from Christ, people are lost for all of eternity. Understanding this is a motivator in getting the message of the Gospel out as far as we can take it. There are many people that have been wonderful examples of faithful love and sacrifice in their service to the Lord. When it comes to our denomination, there are many missionaries that have gone far to tell the Good News. But at the top of that list is a small, but very dedicated woman by the name of Lottie Moon. There is much that can be said about her, but here is a small clip from our International Mission Board web page that says, "Lottie wrote letters home detailing China's hunger for



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truth and the struggle of so few missionaries taking the gospel to the 472 million Chinese in her day. She also shared the urgent need for more workers and for Southern Baptists to support them through prayer and giving. She once wrote home to the Foreign Mission Board, "Please say to the new missionaries they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility and constant self-denial. Disease, turmoil, and lack of co-workers threatened to undo Lottie's work. But she gave herself completely to God, helping lay the foundation of what would become the modern Chinese church, one of the fastest-growing Christian movements in the world. Lottie Moon died at 72 — ill and in declining health after decades ministering to her beloved Chinese. But her legacy lives on. Today, when gifts aren't growing as quickly as the number of workers God is calling to the

field, her call for sacrificial giving rings with more urgency than ever."

How we thank God for the life of Lottie Moon who has inspired millions upon millions of people to give and thousands upon thousands of people to go to the ends of the earth and share the Gospel! Lottie died December 24, 1912. She weighed 50 pounds as she gave her food in the time of great famine to feed the people she loved. Let her example of love for God, love for the lost, and the commitment to sacrifice re-inspire all of us to a renewed commitment. Calvary Baptist Church has been, and we pray will continue to be committed to the mission.

In Christ,  
*Pastor David*



"Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior, waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord." We know and love this song, especially the next line. But wait What if our most important Christian celebration of the year did not include resurrection? "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable (1 Corinthians 15:19)." "Thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (v. 57)." Paul tells us in verse 20, "But now is Messiah risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept." Notice the word firstfruits is plural, not singular. Who is this group of "bodies of the saints" (Matthew 27:52) who were harvested from "Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22)? These raised bodies were visible in Jerusalem. Now notice Matthew 27:53 where scripture says they came out of the graves AFTER His resurrection. It's important to note that Jesus was first. Why? Jesus is the "only begotten" of God that makes all other resurrections possible. Now following this concept of firstfruits, Paul points out in

Romans 11:16, "For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy so are the branches." From scripture we know that the firstfruits have already been offered and accepted. But the main harvest of primarily gentiles continues. Now as we follow the Old Testament pattern of harvest, when the main harvest is complete, then will come the corners and the gleanings. Paul helps to clarify this consummation of harvest season in 1 Corinthians 15:23 where scripture says, "each one in his own order." Paul speaking of this same timeframe wrote in Romans 11, "what shall the receiving of Israel be, but life from the dead?" All these details clarify a season in Israel's story known as "Jacob's Trouble." Zechariah 13:9 says one third of Jewish people will survive. Daniel 12:10 speaks of "many being purified, made white and refined..." but I'm concerned about what precedes this conclusion. Daniel 12:7, "...when the power of the holy people has been completely shattered, all these things shall be finished." Now if the "holy people" is Israel what would best represent their power? Obvious

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choices would be their economy or their military and most likely their democracy. The rest of the story reveals that neither of these three things will be necessary for Israel's future. Jesus alone will provide these things. Just like the days of Noah and Lot, this time through judgment one third of the Jewish people will endure to the end and

be saved in their mortal bodies to live in the Promised Kingdom. This Kingdom which the Feast of Tabernacles foreshadows will truly be the Kingdom of "Immanuel" (Matthew 1:23). The Easter saga is His greatest story! Give Him Praise!

Curtis



Church Family,

What is love? According to 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does

not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." It is easy to read this and agree with this, but are we putting love into action. We read in James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." I know as sinners, we all fall short. However, we should be striving every day to love God and love others.

Knowing that we are the examples for our children, let us support them in their efforts to love and serve the adults. We can accomplish this task by signing up for the Valentine's Meal. The children are looking forward to serving the food and it will be a joyous time of fellowship. Please remember to sign up for this event and the meal will

begin at 6pm. We are also having a parent' night out on February 9th from 5-8pm. We will have food, fun and games. The youth will be helping with this event. We will have activities for the younger children as well as the older children. The nursery will be staffed for parents night out.

I just got back from a wonderful Vacation Bible School Conference. The theme is "The Great Jungle Journey". We are going to have so much fun as we grab our binoculars and cruise from Genesis to Revelation. This VBS is so rich in content. We will be studying the 7 C's of History which include: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross and Consummation. If you have any interest in helping with VBS this summer in June, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, if you have any interest in helping with the weekly Children's classes on Sunday, help is needed. We need to staff a toddler class, but do not have enough volunteers presently. Search your heart and contact me if you can help in any way.

Blessings to you all,

Alicia Smith



Please be in prayer concerning the selection of a team to seek out our next youth pastor and the man that will fill this position. Pray for Sam Dalton as he fulfills the role of interim youth pastor.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the fruit basket you gave me for Christmas. It was very thoughtful and delicious as well.

In Christ's Love,

Mildred Silvers



# Happy Birthday



**February**

1 Kiley Bennett, 2 Chuck Stanford, 4 Jacob Edwards, Courtney Mosley, Julie White, 5 Ellen Delgado, 6 Mike Huggins, Kaitlyn Phillips, Kirsten Phillips, Finely Rainey, 7 Faith Bennett, 8 Mary Gail Crawford, Robert Richardson, 9 Alean Hughes, 10 Tony Baker, Aaron Bennett, 11 Lyndsey Stack, 12 Dorothy Hawk, 13 Marie Tipton, 14 Page Sifford, 15 Samantha Marotta, Cheryl Moore, 21 Heather Higgins, Donnie Pate, 24 Diana Davis, 25 Olivia Manfull, 27 Kathy Bolson

## Memorial & Honorarium Offerings

*In Honor of*


*Faye Adkins  
by Jim and Mary Crawford  
to Consolidated Missions*



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

### Connect with us online

Website - <https://calvaryerwin.org>  
Email - [calvaryerwintn@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryerwintn@gmail.com)

 Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Tn  
Sun. Service is live on Facebook 10 am

 Calvary Baptist of Erwin Tn

 @CalvryErwin



Service times at  
*Calvary*

**SUNDAY**

10:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
6:00 p.m.

Sunday School  
Morning Worship  
Evening Worship  
Youth Bible Study  
Calvary Kids

**WEDNESDAY**

5:30 p.m.  
6:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.

Awana  
Youth & Adult  
Bible Study  
Choir Practice

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