



# Madison Baptist Association

“Assisting churches in fulfilling their mission, and providing them opportunities for fellowship and to work together in advancing the kingdom of God”

THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER  
14,  
2017

One of the classic passages of Scripture found in God’s Word is I Peter 1:3-9. I once heard a preacher say, when it comes to riches and rewards, “You don’t get it here.” Of course he was talking about the Christian and eternity, reminding us that the rewards that last are not found on earth but in heaven. These Scripture verses echo that very fact. Peter tells his Christian readers in verse 3 that they have been “born again to a living hope.” As believers in Christ, we don’t possess some dead hope in a distant God. We actually have “a living hope” that’s based on “the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” The Lord Jesus Christ is alive and our hope is in Him, the living God. And the content of this living hope involves “an inheritance” which is “reserved in heaven.” Peter, in verse 4, describes our future inheritance as “imperishable.” This means it is immortal; it cannot be touched by death. He also says it is “undefiled.” This means it is pure; it cannot be stained by evil. Last he adds that it “will not fade away.” This means it is permanent; it cannot be impaired by time. Again, our eternal inheritance is “reserved in heaven” for us, or is “kept under guard” where it can never be lost or stolen. While I was serving as pastor of a church in Savannah, GA, thieves broke into my Music Minister’s house and stole some of his most valuable possessions. The robbery took place on a Sunday night while we were all in church. Evidently the robbers knew when he wouldn’t be at home and broke into his house at that time. Jesus said, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth.....But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal.” (Matt. 6:19-20) The treasures in heaven that we “store up” (by works of faith) are eternal rewards that never fade away. They are not temporary, like the treasures of this world. As Paul said, “For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.” (I Tim. 6:7) As followers of Christ, let’s be diligent to maintain the proper perspective on possessions and riches. The ones of eternal value, the ones that will last are found in heaven. We accumulate (“lay up”) these eternal treasures by displaying a living faith here on earth that produces a variety of good works. We don’t work our way to heaven, for entrance into heaven is based upon the finished work of Christ. Those who go to heaven are the ones who trust in Christ, and Christ alone for forgiveness of sins and salvation. The Bible says in Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace through faith, but then the next verse says, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works.....” So let’s be busy doing what we were created for: good works that bring glory to God and magnify His kingdom. The bonus is when we get to heaven, an eternal inheritance will be awaiting us. We are not told exactly what that inheritance consists of, but we trust in a very creative God so I imagine we won’t be disappointed.

Your Director of Missions,  
Charlie

**CHRISTMAS BACKPACKS**  
for Mississippi River Ministry

Share a gift of LOVE and the GOSPEL with a child in need this CHRISTMAS.

Mississippi River Ministry works with compassion ministry sites and church plants in 8 states.

Alabama Baptists are challenged to provide at least 6,500 backpacks, bringing the Gospel to many who have never heard.

Drop off at the MBA on October 25 or 26, from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM

For more information and collection sites: [AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks](http://AlabamaWMU.org/backpacks)  
Or call the MBA at 256-536-0015

OUR GOAL:  
**150 Backpacks!**

**Special Olympics**

*Special Olympics 2017*

Each year, MBA hands out over 1,000 bags of Trail Mix to those attending Special Olympics. There are usually 600+ participants, 1,200+ escorts and parents, and over 700 volunteers. This is a great time of ministry to our Madison County community and everyone knows MBA will be there with the treats.

Please help us make this another successful year by providing trail mix bags and/or volunteering to help distribute the bags. This is an ideal mission project for youth home-schoolers.

Join us Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> (rain date Oct 26<sup>th</sup>), Milton Frank Stadium, 9:15 – 12:30.

For more information or to volunteer, please call the MBA office: 256-536-0015

**Trail Mix Recipe**

1 - 14oz Box of Honey Nut Cheerios, Cheerios or any Cheerios  
1 - 7.5oz jar salted sunflower seeds  
2 - 6oz bags Sun Maid Fruit bits or other dried fruit  
1 - 15oz box of raisins

Please add something colorful and interesting like Skittles, Fruit Loops, Goldfish, Pretzels, Candy Corn, etc.

- NOTE: We do not give Trail Mix to anyone with a possible allergy to peanuts because of possible cross contamination.
- If you include chocolate, add sparingly and use M&Ms that do not melt easily.
- PLEASE put into snack size zip lock bags. Available at most Dollar and Grocery stores.

The 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the  
**Madison Baptist Association**  
will meet on  
**Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 3:15 p.m.**  
at **Hillwood Baptist Church**  
300 Kohler RD SE, Huntsville, AL

**Meal tickets** are now available at the MBA for \$10 per person. Deadline for meal registration is Thursday, October 5. *You must pre-purchase a ticket for dinner.*

**Messenger information is due to the office no later than September 28.**

Sept 10-17	..... Week of Prayer for State Missions & Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering
Sept 14	..... Minister’s Conference (MBA, 10:30 AM) <i>The Top Ten Leadership Challenges for Busy Pastors</i>
Sept 14	..... ACPs & Leadership Worksheets Due
Sept 16	..... Trail of Tears Mission Opportunity (Madison, AL, 9:00 AM)
Oct 10	..... 180th Annual Meeting (Hillwood Baptist, 3:15 PM)
Oct 11-12	..... MBA Closed
Oct 24	..... Special Olympics (Milton Frank Stadium, 9:15 AM)
Oct 25-26	..... Christmas Backpack Drop-off (MBA, 7:00 AM—4:00 PM)
Oct 26	..... Evangelism Conference (Southside Baptist, 4:00 PM)

**Galilee Baptist Church**  
4262 Old Hwy 431, New Hope

*The Singing Commodores Quartet* from Blountsville, Alabama, will join us as special guests for our Fifth Saturday night singing on September 30 at 6:00 PM.

Please come join us for great music and a time of fellowship. Refreshments will be served after the service. Everyone is welcome!

**ATTENTION CHURCH CLERKS!**  
**ACPs and Leadership Worksheets are now due!** Please contact Denise (256-536-0015) if you have any questions or need assistance.

**NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL**

Romans 1:16

**MBA Fall Evangelism Conference**  
at Southside Baptist Church  
Thursday, October 26, 4:00—8:00 p.m.  
(includes optional supper, \$6 each)  
Call the MBA (256-536-0015) for meal tickets.

**Guest Speakers:**  
Dr. Danny Lovett, Senior Pastor, The Church at Chelsea-Westover (Westover, AL)  
Dr. Joel Carwile, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church (Athens, AL)

Music by the Southside Baptist Praise Team  
Special Time of Prayer during the Conference

**Madison Baptist Association, Inc.**  
Dr. Charlie Howell, Executive Director of Missions  
Rev. Ron Lynch, Church Ministry Director  
Regina Berry, Financial/Administrative Assistant  
Denise Panter, Receptionist/Publicist/Clerk  
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Web Site: [www.madisonassociation.org](http://www.madisonassociation.org)  
Phone: 256-536-0015 ~ Fax: 256-536-0017  
Office Hours: 7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday Closed on Fridays