



## December 2020 *Spotlight*

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our office remains closed, however, we are working remotely and responding to all phone calls, text messages and emails. - SBA Staff

### ***A Word from Dr. Matt Brogli, Associate AMS***

Greetings fellow Sandhills Baptists,

Throughout the year 2020, we have seen trials, tribulations, pandemic, and politics sweep our headlines and domineer our conversations. A great deal of what makes our lives feel familiar and rhythmic changed by cultural force and government mandate. Many feel uncertain about the immediate outworking of faith and family in a strained culture, especially with holidays fast approaching. As Christians, we must center ourselves on that which never changes and draw close to the support of God's great hope to us.

God's story is one that stretches from eternity to eternity. We pick it up in the Bible with "In the beginning, God..." and finish with the reminder, "Surely, I am coming soon." He is the Creator, and we are his creations. Ed Welch rightly states, "God's word exalts him and brings appropriate humility to us as his creatures. All wisdom starts here." God's way is to reach into the darkness as light itself to extend salvation to the lost and broken. God sent his Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Immanuel, God with us, to save us then, to keep us now, and to never leave or forsake us. What will we do during this holiday season amid a season of tumult? We will do what God has told us.

We will pray. We will give. And we will go.

A time-honored tradition in many Southern Baptist churches and represented in the Sandhills Baptist Association is the annual special offering in honor of Lottie Moon to support the International Mission Board's enduring efforts to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ into the darkness. Every December since 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has empowered Southern Baptist's international mission work. This month, our pastor's luncheon will host an IMB affinity leader to help us work through how we can partner with God in His efforts to reach the world through our churches in the Sandhills Baptist Association and the IMB. Our luncheon will be a special time of renewal for our pastors in their commitment to the Great Commission and one we hope will be a catalyst to spectacular gospel work in the future.

God's great story continues. He has created a people for himself, and even though these people often choose a different story, God perseveres with His plan and calls wayward creatures to himself. Even though this life's challenges are prominent, there is hope throughout a year like this. Hope is what makes this time of year special and memorable for us. The true story of Christ coming is the beginning of another story that culminates in the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection is God's answer to a hopeless world. The churches of the Sandhills Baptist Association have this great hope at their center. No storm or challenge can sink a hope anchored in Christ's mission, love, and provision.

Since we have this apparent hope in Christ, we must always look to the Lord as we move forward, day by day. The clearest path forward is to focus on making this time memorable by putting Christ at the center of all that we do in our lives, homes, and churches throughout this holiday season. How can we celebrate God's hope and faithfulness? How can we point others to that hope? We must begin by finding our hope rooted in God's great work for us and then sharing it with others.

Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas, because Jesus is the unwavering hope for all time.

Dr. Matt Brogli  
Association Missions Strategist



*Dear folks of the Sandhills Baptist Association,  
Through nearly eighteen years I was blessed to be a part of your wonderful fellowship. In this time I have learned much about what it means to be a servant of the Lord. My wife Terri and I want to express our deep gratitude to all of you for your support through the years and the precious gifts you presented to us at the fall annual meeting on October 19. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you. You will continue in my prayers in the days ahead as we focus our ministry during retirement in the FBC Carthage family. God bless you all.*

*Tom and Terri Lamkin*

## Upcoming Events



### **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is an annual offering collected by believers around the world to support international missions. The offering was officially named in 1918 by Woman's Missionary Union in honor of the missionary to China who urged churches to start it and give sacrificially. This offering is unique from other mission offerings in that 100% of gifts provide for missionaries all over the world. It is a valuable part of Southern Baptists' 175-year history of reaching the nations with the gospel and vital to reaching the vision of a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshiping our Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 7:9). At the beginning of this giving season, we start with a week of prayer dedicated to international missions, taking place November 29-December 6.

### **NC Baptist Foundation Scholarship Applications Will be Open Soon!!**

The NC Baptist Foundation has four educational scholarships available for Baptist students. Applications for these scholarships are online and are open as of January 1, 2021. Scholarships and will remain open until the close of business on February 15, 2021.



More detail information can be found on teach scholarship at <https://ncbaptistfoundation.org/scholarships/>



## Sandhills Baptist Association Online Calendar



## Needs List



## Needs List



## October 2020 Financials

**NEWSLETTER (PDF)**

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