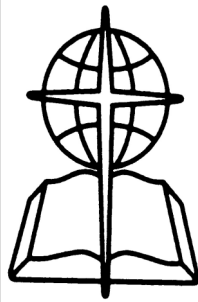


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Thursday, May 25, 2017  
Local Edition of the Alabama Baptist



## BIBB BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

*"I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along."*

2 Cor. 11: 28b

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### TONGUES OF FIRE

Pentecost Sunday is June 4<sup>th</sup> this year. That sends my mind to the Book of Acts. "The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which he was taken up" (Acts 1:1-2). The former treatise is the Gospel of Luke. In this gospel, Luke wrote of Jesus' ministry in the days of his flesh until his ascension. In Acts, Luke would write of what Jesus continued to do and teach in the person of the Holy Spirit through his disciples.

#### Now think about the demonstration of the Holy Spirit found in Acts 2:1-4.

It was on the Day of Pentecost. Pentecost means "fifty days."

It was one of the three great annual feasts of the Jews.

It came fifty days after Passover (cf. Exod. 23:16-17).

"They were all with one accord in one place" (Acts 2:1). Has there ever

been another church in which all the members were in one place harmoniously praying for God's promised blessing? There were three Miracles on that day in Jerusalem. One, the Holy Spirit became the Holy Breath of God who breathes new life into sinners when they are born again (cf. Jhn 3:5-8; 20-22). Two, the fire fell. The tongues of fire was a symbol of purity, of separation, and of judgment. The third miracle was the language barrier being supernaturally overcome by the work of God's Spirit. (Acts 2:4) At Pentecost people were present from many nations who spoke in many languages. When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them, each one in the crowd heard the disciples speaking in his own language. (See Acts 2: 6-12). These miracles attended the advent of God's Holy Spirit and confirmed His coming. It was similar to the miracles at the birth of Jesus which confirmed He was the Messiah.

Peter's explanation of Pentecost can be found in Acts 2:12-21. People who heard the disciples speaking in their languages were amazed and asked, "What does this mean?" The irrational explanation of the skeptics that the disciples were drunk proved nothing. Peter dismissed it by saying that 9 a.m. was too early in the day for people to be drunk. Peter said the occurrence as the fulfillment of a prophecy by Joel (Joel 2:28-29).

The early Christians were experiencing the fulfillment of God's promise. God was pouring out His Spirit on all without distinction of age, gender, race, or professional standing. The time had come "that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:21).

The last days have now come—the days of the Messiah and gospel proclamation; the days in which all disciples are to obey Christ's Great Commission.

In accord with the promise of the Father through Jesus, the Holy Spirit came to abide through the last days until Jesus comes again. The Holy Spirit will **guide** and **empower** disciples to conduct a worldwide mission enterprise in accord with Jesus' commands.

So the purpose of Pentecost is about the spreading the gospel of the kingdom starting at home and moving to all the world. The power of Pentecost is the power of God who created the world; who enabled God to become a man; who brought Jesus out of the grave; who works through the foolishness of preaching; and who enables a person to witness powerfully about Jesus being the only way.

The People of Pentecost are ordinary people, diverse people, saved people, praying people, Spirit filled people, unified people and they are people with an extraordinary God!



### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 25— Cahawba Christian Academy High School Graduation
- May 28— Homecoming @ Bethlehem-10:30 am Singers "Crimson Stain"
- May 29— Memorial Day! Office Closed
- June 4— Homecoming @ Six Mile—10:00 am Singers "Crystal River Quartet"
- June 6— Church Tax Conference for Small Churches, Baptist Building, Montgomery
- June 8— Church Administration Guidelines, Baptist Building, Montgomery
- June 12-14— Southern Baptist Convention, Phoenix, Arizona
- June 13— Executive Board Meeting @ Association Office @ 6:30 pm
- June 18— Happy Father's Day
- June 18— Baptist Men's Day
- June 21— BCUCM @ 9 am, Association Building
- June 23-24— Alabama Baptist Deacon's Retreat, Shocco Springs



#### Week of June 5-9th

Lowerytown — 6 pm—8:30—  
Commencement Sunday, June 11th @ 6 pm  
Brent—5:30 pm—8:30

#### Week of June 12-16th

Johntown— 8:30 am—11:30 am  
Lucile—6 pm—8:30 pm  
West Blocton First—9 am—12  
Pondville—Night

#### Week of June 19-22nd

Centreville—Kick Off Sunday night the 18th  
19-22nd — 9 am—noon

#### Week of June 19-23rd

Four Points— 6 pm— 8 pm  
Calvary— 6 pm-8:30pm

#### Week of June 21-23rd

Six Mile— 5:30 pm-8 pm

If your church needs any help or guidance, Melissa Thompson and Greg Findley who are our associational VBS leaders will be available to help you. Also, Bro. Bill Russell will help. Feel free to call them: Melissa's phone: 334.590.802, Greg's phone: 205.966.3556, Bro. Bill phone: 205.926.7866

Remember to call and let Bro. Bill and I know your VBS date so we can put in the backpage. Thank you.

