



Heflin Baptist Church Messenger

*Heflin Baptist Church exists to:
Share God's Word, Show God's Love,*

September 21, 2023



Dear HBC Family,

I was recently asked about the reason there is so much suffering and pain in our world. Even though we don't always know the reason, we must never forget that suffering always has a purpose. All of God's children have a will experience the pain of suffering at some point in our lives. Even some of our heroes have written about their own personal struggles with the suffering they endured. I have read the accounts of spiritual giants such as Charles Spurgeon and Billy Graham as they detailed the way suffering and grief often gripped their lives. Each week I carry many names to the Lord in prayer over the situations they are facing that are causing them to be anxious, fearful and depressed. I understand that the only cure for the broken heart is when a person carries their broken heart to the real hurt and heart Healer, the Lord Jesus. I recently read a book by Ann Voskamp that included a statement that echoes my previous statement... *"Brokenness happens in a soul so the power of God can happen in a soul."* Wow! The pain of brokenness is a tool God allows to be used in our lives to bring us to the end of ourselves so that we can experience His power in our lives.

"There is such terrible darkness within me, as if everything was dead. I do not know how much deeper will this trial go - how much pain and suffering it will bring to me. This does not worry me anymore. I leave this to Him as I leave everything else... Let Him do with me whatever He wants as He wants for as long as He wants if my darkness is light to some soul."

- Mother Teresa

"Suffering can give us opportunities to witness. The world is a gigantic hospital; nowhere is there a greater chance to see the peace and joy of the Lord than when the journey though the valley is the darkest."

- Billy Graham

The words of Mother Teresa and Billy Graham echo the words of the Apostle Paul in 2nd Corinthians 1: 3-4, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort, (4) who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."* Even though it is very difficult to imagine how good can come from our suffering, we must understand that it is used to bring us close to God and help others in their struggles. That is why it is so important to be a part of a church family. Pain is inevitable, but God gives us His presence and each other to bear the burden.

I Love You ALL and there's nothing you can do about it!

Pastor Brent

Proverbs 30:5

The church office is open Monday—Thursday, 8:00 AM—3:00 PM

And Friday, 8:00 AM—12:00 PM.

JOIN US FOR



Please join us for Sunday School at 9:00 AM and for Sunday Morning Worship beginning at 10:00. The Morning Worship Service is streamed live online each week. Join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 PM for Worship and Bible Study in the fellowship hall. The Children's Ministry and Frontline Student Ministry also meet every Wednesday.

KIDS PRAISE TRAINING

We are excited to be kicking off a new children's church program, **Kids Praise**, beginning in October! We will have a training for **Kids Praise** on Sunday, September 24, following the Worship Service.

Those interested in helping with children's church, as well as ushers and Welcome Center workers, are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.



MYERS-MALLORY STATE MISSIONS OFFERING



The Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering supports Alabama WMU, Disaster Relief, and church planting. Offering will be received Sunday, September 24. Gifts will help church revitalization and global partnership missions.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We are collecting year-round for Operation Christmas Child! Suggested items for the month of September are band-aids, plastic cups, plastic bowls, soap, toothbrushes with covers, deodorant, nail clippers, washcloths, etc.



DEVOTIONALS ON SALE NOW!

You may reserve your copy of the new **Everyday Joy and Peace** 52 week, leatherbound devotional today! Pastor Brent is a contributing author again this year and all proceeds go to HEARTS Cancer Relief Services. The cost is just \$15, and they make great Christmas gifts!



CHURCH PICNIC

The church picnic will be Sunday, October 1, 4:00 PM at Cahulga Creek Park. Be sure to join us for some delicious fish (or chicken tenders) fried to perfection with all the trimmings!



Women's D-Life Group Meetings:

Cammie Benefield's group meets Thursday mornings at 9:00 in the fellowship hall.
Robin Morrison's group meets at her home Sunday evenings at 6:00.
Madison Owen's group meets at her home Tuesday evenings at 7:00.

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Marty Burson, Music Director/ Joanna Brown, Ministry Assistant/

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