



January 23, 2026

THE LAMPLIGHTER

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Bro. Brandon Turner, Director of Missions

Dina Burdeshaw, Ministry Assistant

532 Ozark Road, Abbeville, AL 36310

Telephone (334) 585-3274

Fax (334) 585-1985

Email: jba4christ@comcast.net

Face Book: Judson Baptist Association

Website: jba.church

Judy Koerber, Ministry Centers Director

LOVE IN ACTION MINISTRIES (ABBEVILLE)

532 Ozark Rd, Abbeville, AL 36310

Store Telephone (334) 585-3334

Food Bank Telephone (334) 575-5187

OVERFLOWING MINISTRIES (HEADLAND)

810 Mitchell St, Headland, AL 36345

Telephone (334) 693-0200

From the Director of Missions

Greetings! It was November the last time I wrote to you via the Lamplighter. I pray you had a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year. Last year was a great year in ministry, and we saw some promising things starting to take place in our churches. There has been something brewing spiritually in our nation and definitely in Alabama. We want to thank God for His blessings last year and look forward to the great things He will do this year.

One thing I want you to be praying about is a statewide emphasis on revival that the State Board of Missions has called Celebrate250. I will be leading the emphasis in our district, so I truly covet your prayers. This is going to be big! We will have a lot of prayer leading up to the main event that will take place on October 1st of this year. We are at the beginning of the planning phase, but we will have a big revival event on October 1st with preaching and worship. It will be planned in a central location for our 7 associations that make up our district. The statewide goal is to see 3000 souls come to Jesus, and our goal for this district is 250 souls to come to Jesus. If all 12 districts in Alabama reach 250 people for Christ, we will meet our statewide goal of 3000. Of course, we will be thrilled if God surpasses these goals. You will be given more details as we progress in our planning. Please keep this effort in your prayers!

I had the privilege of going to Balkum and sharing with the parents during halftime at 3 of their Upwards basketball games. I was there for 3 hours and saw hundreds of people come through to see the children play. There were a couple of hundred people at each of the games I attended, from all over our county and beyond. I talked with a lot of people. I saw people I know and a lot of people that I didn't know. Balkum has a tremendous ministry taking place, and it requires a lot of volunteers. They need people to share, for about 5 minutes, the Gospel during each half-time. They could use volunteers in other areas also, but they also said it would be a great ministry for people to come and simply get to know the people in our community while praying for and sharing with them. I really enjoyed my time there and would encourage you to go and visit one Saturday and see how great an opportunity for ministry they have there. They start at 9:00 a.m. and continue into the afternoon.

Be in prayer for our D-NOW "Change" that will take place February 20th and 21st. The information was emailed to each church and posted on our Facebook page, so please check it out for more information.

Thank you for your support of Judson Baptist Association. It truly is a blessing to serve with all of you. God Bless.

Your Fellow Servant,

Brandon Turner

MSC Information

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and Week of Prayer – March 1-8, 2026 *"More than a Gift"*

[Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us – to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."](#) Make plans to promote this in your church.

Prayer Guides and other resources are available for free at www.alawoman.org but **you must update your information each year**. Missionaries are sharing the gospel in places and ways they never imagined. They're seeing that powerful message transform lives, families, and communities, not only here and now but for eternity. The mission study this year features Kevin and Janelle Nehrt, who, in their retirement years, joined Jordan and Jessamy Adams in planting The Chapel in West Lafayette, Indiana, home of Purdue University. The study is available at www.anniearmstrong.com.

Sunday, February 15, 2025 - The Alabama Hunger Offering for Global Hunger Relief

Hunger Sunday is set aside to educate Alabama Baptists on the ongoing worldwide crisis of starvation and hunger. When a dollar is contributed to the Hunger Offering, 50% will be used to feed the hungry in Alabama by assisting associations and designated churches with food pantries. The remaining 50% will be distributed through the Global Hunger Fund. Our food banks receive money from the Hunger Fund and while we don't depend solely on these funds there are food banks that do. Please consider collecting for this offering each year. <https://alsbom.org/hunger/>

Aimee Starling, MSC Coordinator

MINISTRY CENTERS REPORT

Well, here we are again! Closing out one calendar year and beginning another. You know, one of the great things about being involved with a Southern Baptist ministry is the opportunity for reflection, analysis, and planning – TWICE each year. We close out the fiscal year at the end of September, look back over the last 12 months, and evaluate what we did, how well we did it and decide if we want to do it again or do something entirely different. We fill out reports, meet with ministry teams, executive committees, and attend annual association events. It's a process that I happen to like. And then comes the end of the calendar year when there are different evaluations and reports for the different agencies we partner with and my life reads like the back of a shampoo bottle – lather, rinse, REPEAT. But I love it. I know I've mentioned in a previous newsletter that I like meetings and paperwork. Especially this time of year (and, of course, at the end of the fiscal year too) because as I look back and evaluate our ministries, I see nothing but God's hand of blessing touching every aspect of both the thrift stores and the food banks. Let me share...

We have been blessed with the most supportive community possible! Our donation boxes have been overflowing every week with the best variety of items possible allowing us to keep both stores well stocked. The number of items we receive requires a large brigade of volunteers to inspect, clean, price and either pack or stock the items in their proper place. And that leads to another blessing - our volunteers! Our volunteers are the absolute best God can send us! Sometimes we have to run things with a shortage of help and that too is a blessing in itself. While we are praying in the hallway, waiting for God to open a door for more volunteers, the ones we have stepped up! They have a heart for ministry and stay an extra hour, work an extra shift, come an extra day, or move to work in another area to help.

Food availability has been amazing this year also! From what was available to us from a local food bank, to what we received from the community, public agencies, men's and women's groups, and our association's churches, we have been doubly blessed. For example, the longest government shutdown in history last October/November created an extreme hardship on families in our community as well as others. We were blessed to not only provide normal size food boxes to our clients, but in addition we provided another 3,000 lbs. of food over 3-and-a-half-week period to help replace part of the SNAP (food stamp) benefits local families did not receive to start the month. And while I'm talking weights, total weight for the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year, drum roll please...a combined total of **113.9 tons** of food were distributed from the two food banks. The blessings just continue! Right now, taking the second opportunity to reflect and evaluate, the 2025 calendar year distribution was **116.9 tons** of food.

The final and greatest blessing is the number of people we have praying for the ministry centers. We are especially grateful to have so many prayer warriors who are physically unable to volunteer but support us every day with their prayers. As always, I encourage you to volunteer when and where you can, all the time you can, and pray as often as you can.

Judy Koerber, Ministry Centers Director

WMU

The JBA WMU Leadership Team will meet Saturday, March 7 at 9:00 at the Association Office. It is important for all church WMU leaders and Association officers to be there as we consider events for the year. We had a great event at Union Springs Baptist Church as Charlie and Robin Janney shared experiences of their 28 years of mission work through IMB in Mexico. We are blessed to be part of their ministry as we give to the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon. Remember to make your church's donation to the work of Our own WMU.

Charlotte Doster

**Food Drive
January/February - Soup**