

MISSION MARION

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From The Missionary's Desk

Nine weeks ago as I experienced a cardiac procedure, expecting to have a stint placed in an artery, I heard the words of my cardiologist saying "Mr. Gallups, you can't go home. You need surgery!" I had 98% blockage in my arteries. So began my journey of surgery and recovery. As a pastor I had ministered to many people who experienced heart bypass surgery, but my past experience did not prepare me for all aspects of this journey. For me the question was, "What did prepare and encourage me?" My family, my friends, and my faith are the answer.

My family: Throughout the procedure my family was there. My wife, my sons, my sister and brother plus my soon to be 90-year-old mother were all there praying and uplifting me. In my ministry I have been blessed with a family who understood my calling and supported and encouraged me.

My friends: I cannot count the number of friends who have prayed and taken time from their hectic schedule to be there for me as well as my wife and sons. Friends from past churches as well as friends throughout the Marion County Baptist Association have expressed love and support during this time.

My faith: During any difficult time one's faith is often tested. The same was true with me. As I awaited the surgery, many thoughts went through my mind; mostly concern for my family. When Dr. Simpson came in he went over all the "professional" facts that one would expect a doctor to say and gave me what he considered my chances when I had the procedure. He said, "Mr. Gallups I do need to tell you that there is a 5% chance that you will not make it through the

surgery." I replied, "That's okay doc, I belong to Jesus." He smiled a huge smile and said, "So do I, let's have prayer." What a blessing! I learned from one of the nurses that Dr. Simpson has prayer before each surgery, praying for the patient as well as himself and his team. A Christian could not ask for more. We're all in the hands of the Great Physician, but it is a comfort to know that the doctor who literally is holding your heart in his hands also knows that Physician.

Donna and I would like to thank so many people who stepped in during this time to help in so many ways. A special thanks to the many pastors who kept the duties of the Association flowing so smoothly, especially Dr. Tim Meherg as moderator. Special thanks to Laura for maintaining the administrative duties of the office. Thanks to all those who sent cards of encouragement, the many prayers that were lifted up and all the phone calls and visits. We truly appreciate and love you for all the kindness you have shown us during this time. Please pray for me as I continue to recover.

Marriage Conference First Baptist, Winfield March 16 - 18, 2012

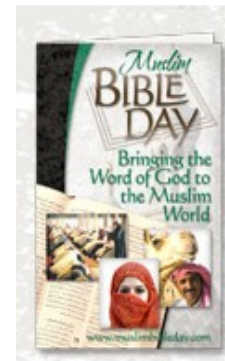
First Baptist, Winfield will host a marriage conference, March 16 - 18, 2012. The sessions will be held at 7:00 PM on Friday night, March 16, 9:00 AM on Saturday morning, 7:00 PM on Saturday evening, March 17 and at 10:15 AM on Sunday morning, March 18. Married couples and singles from around the area are invited to attend. The conference will be led by Bill and Pam Farrel.

**For more information go to
www.missionmarion.org
click on coming events.**

Associational Evangelism Conference And Muslim Bible Day

**Sunday
February 19, 2012
First Baptist, Winfield
6:00 PM**

**Dr. Rick Lance
Executive Director
Alabama Baptist State
Board of Missions
Guest Speaker**



Youth Drama Festival

The Marion County Baptist Association and Winfield First Baptist Church will present their annual Youth Drama Festival on Sunday afternoon, March 11, 2012 and would love to have as many churches as possible be a part of the event. The term "drama" encompasses any way the youth might be involved in the services at your church. This could include vocal soloist as well as instrumental soloist, youth choirs, youth bands, monologues, human videos (either solo or group), skits, puppets, testimonies, etc. This is a way for youth to share their talents as well as learn from other groups or individuals. Pastors and youth leaders are encouraged to bring their youth regardless of whether or not they participate. This is not a contest but rather a time of sharing a worshipful experience. If you have any questions please contact Joyce Ballew at 487-2666 or 468-1811. Please let Joyce know as soon as possible if you wish to participate.