

**The Caring Place/Sycamore
Ex-Committee Report
January-March 2019
Submitted by: Virginia Alexander**

Statistics:

- Active volunteers 43
- Families served (CP & Bible study) 137
- Individual served 278
- Bible study average 15 adults and 7 children with 6 volunteers

Appreciation:

- Active volunteers
- Individuals and memorial donations
- Churches and Danville High School students
- Donated items, food, clothes, towels, socks, blankets, hygiene supplies, monetary, etc.

Caring Place needs:

- Boys clothes and men's blue jeans
- Peanut butter, mac & cheese, cereal
- Hygiene items: soap, shampoo and toothpaste

West Hartselle Baptist Church sent thinking of you gifts to wives of Pastors in WY.
May Christ be glorified through these gifts.

Thank you for your prayers and the churches which donate to the Caring Place.

**AL Raceway Ministry
Ex-Committee Report
January-March 2019
Submitted by: Virginia Alexander**

NASCAR, Talladega Speedway has many AL Baptist State Convention sites. Each site leads a 9:00am worship service each Sunday of the race. Also, each site conducts activities and witness to race fans and workers.

Spring race:

- Spring race will be April 26-28 Please be in prayer as the Raceway Team that Christ's Love will be shared.
- One of our team members will be bringing the prayer for the start of the Friday's ARCA race

English and More, Literacy – ESL
Executive Committee Report
January – March 2019
Submitted By: Debbie Pirkle

Our ESL group is presently meeting at the Somerville Senior Center.
This started when one of our students could not come all the way to Decatur for class due to her husband's situation.
He is over 20 years older than her and has some health issues as well as memory issues.

The ladies planned a Un-birthday Party recently for the seniors and it was a big hit.
We found out the birth years of all the seniors.
The students did some research online to discover events that occurred during those dates.
They also found out about prices of houses, cars, milk, bread, gas, etc.
The created a game show called "Do You Remember When?"
We decided the group into two teams and they named themselves...
The Old Folks Team and The Young Folks Team.
The Old Folks won.

The ladies shared about the 3-5-7 celebration that occurs in the fall.
Children of these ages go to a shrine or temple in Japan to pray for good health.
This started many years ago when many Japanese children died.
The numbers 3,5,and 7 are considered lucky numbers in Japanese culture.
Our ladies also dressed the seniors in summer kimonos.

The 15th birthday of female teens in Hispanic cultures calls for a big celebration.
We shared photos of our students and their daughters and grandchildren who had observed this celebration.
The girls wear beautiful, very light pink dresses (they look like almost white wedding dresses).
There is music, cake, dancing, etc.
Maria (from Mexico) wore a long dress.
She sat in a special chair...like a throne.
She wore a tiara like a princess.
One of the senior men pretended to be her father.
He removed her casual shoes and put high heels on her feet.
She gave her dolls to her "younger sister".
This shows that she is no longer a little girl.
She is now a woman.
Her father then has the first dance with her followed by the young men.

We had a pinata filled with chocolate.
The seniors took turns trying to break it.
No one could so we just emptied out the candy.
The students found Mariachi (Mexican) music on their cell phones and played it as Maria and one of the senior adult men had the first dance.
Some of the seniors pretended to play the maracas and the giant Mexican guitar.
We put magical candles on a pink cake and let one of the senior men try to blow the candles out while we sang "Happy Birthday".
The candles would not go out.

It was a good day enjoyed by the ESL ladies and the seniors.

It was especially good because one of the seniors who never smiles or wants to do anything new participated and laughed.

One of the other things that they did that was a hit was to divide the seniors into groups. An ESL student had a stack of cards that asked all kinds of questions about a person. Everyone participated and they all learned many new things about each other.

It was great English practice for the students and great way to build some relationships. It thrills my heart to see the ESL ladies relate to these older adults and seem to enjoy it so much. I'm afraid our American culture has lost that.

I know that the director is wanting our students to teach the senior some origami And they are planning to that before the school year is over.

The ESL Bible study has continued to meet on Friday mornings at Central Park. Our Chinese students' son has gotten a job in Ohio and is doing well. He is one hour north of where my son is a co-pastor. My son has been able to spend a little time with him and the Chinese young man is planning to come (March 31) to hear our son preach. Our son is trying to introduce him to some friends who live near him. They are believers and college age.

His mother continues to come faithfully to Bible study. She has learned much, but it not a believer. She was very honest in our last session when we studied about David and Bathsheba.

We had a long discussion about how the prophet Nathan told David that his actions. "...By this act you have given those who hate the Lord a reason to speak against the Lord."

The Chinese lady shared about some of her Chinese friends who claim to be Christians, but she hears them say one thing and live in a different way.

Some of them have tried to get her to be a Christian. She has heard them say things like, "Oh, it's ok if I do that. All I have to do is ask forgiveness." Please pray that God will continue to work in her heart.

A former Japanese student left Decatur years ago to return to Japan. Her two sons are all grown and she is a grandmother. Her husband has been transferred to South Carolina to a city near where one of our former ESL teachers now lives. The Japanese lady has renewed her friendship with this teacher and visited about once a month. She shared that her father was very ill and she started asking questions about heaven. The teacher realized that she had many misconceptions based on Oriental religion.

They started meeting more frequently. The teacher found a simple Japanese Bible to give this lady. She was thrilled.

The teacher's daughter was recently diagnosed with both lung and breast cancer. The teacher shared about her daughter and this was another area that they shared in common...a seriously ill loved one.

The teacher's faith showed through. Got word a few days ago that the Japanese lady's father died. She has returned to Japan and may be there for a long time. She was an only child. Please pray that she did take the Bible with her and that God will continue to help her understand. She is in Osaka, Japan.

Morgan Baptist Disaster Relief Summary

(January – March, 2019)

Submitted by: Geno Shirey

The Disaster Relief Team participated in a total of 10 activities, involving 61 volunteers, during the first quarter. Highlights of the quarter:

- **All quarter : 3 deployments in response to Hurricane Michael in Florida**
- **2/15/19 : Assist with Shower/Laundry Training in Mobile, AL**
- **3/11/19 – 3/12/19 : 2 teams to Colbert County for flooding cleanup**

Preparations continue to be able to minister to disaster victims. This includes deploying chaplains, cook teams, chainsaw/cleanup teams, or the shower/laundry unit, as needed. The Disaster Relief team appreciates the support received from a number of churches in the association.

Calhoun January-March, 2019 Report

Calhoun weekly Bible study continues to meet in the library on Thursday at 12:30 pm. The participation has been low this semester, because of class, and work schedule. We made efforts to reach out to students through candy bags and promotional materials about the Bible study.

The Pursue Conference was in Montgomery February 8-9 with one Calhoun student attending. Calhoun Spring break was 18-22, with opportunity for students to partner with UAH on a trip to Marianna Florida to do cleanup from an October storm. Calhoun students were not able to go on the trip. I was able to go and participate in cleaning several homes and yards of tree branches. We were accompanied by Madison Baptist Association Disaster Relief Team, who prepared meals and leadership for the work.

Thank you for continued support in reaching students at Calhoun Community College.

Willie Alexander Campus Minister, Calhoun, Decatur