

**Caring Place and Sycamore Bargain Center
Ex-Committee report
January – June 2020
Submitted by Virginia Alexander**

Due to COVID, The Caring Place from March to May only had drive through food pick up. Ken Blackwood, Belinda Ealey, Mike Alexander, and Virginia Alexander handed the food out.

The Caring Place partnered with the Hartselle School system. The school handed out vouchers from the Caring Place and families came through the drive through food.

In June about half of the volunteer returned as the governor declared “Safer at home”.

Therefore, The Caring Place was able to have full service to the client.

Thankful to partnership with NARCOG in their farmers food supplies for the months of June – August. This has helped so much with the food supplies.

US Postal food drive was cancelled because of COVID. Therefore, any food item donations are very much welcome.

Volunteer shortest along with the COVID, the thrift store has not opened.

**AL Raceway Ministry
Ex-Committee Report
January – June 2020
Submitted by Virginia Alexander**

Due to COVID 19 AL Raceway Ministry was unable to serve at Talladega Super Speedway. Therefore, no report for the spring race.

**Baptist Collegiate Ministry
Calhoun Community College
Ex – Committee Report
January – June 2020
Submitted by Willie Alexander**

Calhoun Community College second semester did not get up going very much before COVID closed our mission/ministry field with the student going online with their courses and the school building closed. Our annual mission trip was cancelled along with any other activity.

I retired in May from a ministry in which Christ allowed me to serve.

I would like to express how thankful for the opportunity to work with Virginia and Mike Alexander and the Morgan Baptist Association to reach student at Calhoun. The support from you and MBA made the journey easy.

Thanks for trusting students in my care to shape lives for the Kingdom.

Thanks for the rewarding and amazing journey!

Willie Alexander

As of today, the support staff from UAH will be leading BCM, Calhoun, Decatur until further notice.

Morgan Baptist Disaster Relief Summary

(January – June, 2020)

Submitted by: Geno Shirey

The Disaster Relief Team participated in a total of 13 activities, involving 74 volunteers, during the first quarter. Highlights of the quarter:

- 1/5/20 – 1/6/20 : 2 chainsaw teams to Town Creek
- 1/13/20 – 1/22/20 : 2 chainsaw teams to Hartselle/Danville
- 2/7/20 : participated in quarterly VOAD meeting
- 3/25/20 : donated 7,000 masks & 100 gloves to Decatur-Morgan Hospital
- 4/14/20 : chainsaw team to Carbon Hill, AL
- 4/22/20 : chainsaw team to Circle Ranch (Punkin Center)
- 5/28/20 : participated in quarterly VOAD meeting

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.

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English and More

July 2, 2020

Well, the pandemic has affected English and More just like everything else. I had started to go to the Excel Center when school started back for the spring semester and work with a couple of Hispanic middle school students one-on-one two mornings a week. Things were going well until the principal told me that the school system was not going to allow volunteers to come into the school due to COVID-19. This was as much for the volunteers' sake as the students' since most of the volunteers are older. It was later that week when the schools closed state-wide.

I had not been able to meet with any adults this year, but have tried to stay in touch with the students that participated last year. We met last year at the Somerville Senior Center which enabled the student from Colombia to participate. Her husband had serious health issues and he would come to the center near their home and the director graciously worked with us to allow us space to have class and the ESL students also did many things with the seniors there which was a good experience for them all. The senior center also had to close during state restrictions and was only allowed to be the location that seniors could come and get their lunches. We learned that one of the members there was recently in the hospital with COVID-19, but she is at home improving now.

Our student from Colombia texted me a couple of weeks ago to tell me that her husband was confined to bed and was getting worse each day. He passed away this week and his graveside will be here in town on Monday morning. I know that she wants me to be there. I am praying that I will be able to be there for her. I'm trying to stay well because my older son is getting married in Cleveland, Ohio next week. June 30th was my final day as the Children's Minister at Central Park Baptist Church. I was hoping that I would be able to devote more time to ESL starting this fall.

So much is still up in the air with all this pandemic. Not sure what this fall is going to look like and what might be the best way to try to minister to those in our areas that need help with their English skills and need to know the Lord.

I forgot to mention the Bible study. We haven't been meeting either, but I have been staying in touch with the ladies. A lot has happened to them during this time. One's husband continues to be in the nursing home and so far has avoided COVID even though there have been several cases at that location. One is staying busy working in an assisted living home during the weekends so she can be home to help her grandson with his school work during the week. The grandson and his mom have moved in with her. One's husband has been ill for some time now and passed away on Monday...the same day as the husband of the lady from Colombia. One had to quit her job when COVID hit because of health issues that she and her mom have. Finances are tight. One will be graduating from Calhoun this summer. It was supposed to have been in May. She has already started taking online classes from Athens University....so proud of her.

As I think about trying to maintain relationships during COVID VS being able to meet together weekly as a church or as a class, reminds me of going to Grandma's house every Sunday. All my aunts, uncles, and cousins who lived nearby would come on Sunday as well and we got to see each other. After my grandparents passed away, you would have to go and see them individually which was a lot harder to do. It would end up that about the only time we would see each other was at funerals. Do you know what I mean?

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