

Good Shepherd Baptist Missions

(800) 226-9391
gsbministries.org

Home Church
Victory Baptist Church
Alexander City, AL
Pastor John Watkins



General Director

D. H. Easter, Jr., PhD
1657 Magnolia St.
Alexander City, AL 35010-3418
Office: (256) 329-3436
deasterinalabama@gmail.com

Administrative Team

Dayton Barnes – Proctor, AR
D. H. Easter - Alexander City, AL
Roger Hain - Shinglehouse, PA
Jerry Mullendore - Johnson City, TN
Joe Williams - Lodi, OH
Steve Williams - N Olmsted, OH

October 6, 2014

Dear Friend and Co-laborer,

(Please excuse the multiple use of the personal pronoun I in this letter. There is no way to effectively discuss my projected retirement from GSBM without the use of the same)

Hopefully, you are doing well today. Twenty one years ago, 1993, I was asked by Pastor Dayton Barnes to organize a ministry of helps in memory of his (and Carolyn's) son, Robert, who had recently drowned at a teen camp in Arkansas. Shortly after Robert's accident, a series of supernatural events occurred, and God just kept showing His direct involvement in the organization and development of Good Shepherd Baptist Missions. (Originally called Good Shepherd Baptist Mission, the name was changed because *Mission* without the plural ending was misleading.) Missionary James Maness and I spent a week in prayer together asking God to reveal His will concerning this new ministry. The ministry started with supernatural effectiveness and spread literally around the globe. Never before, at least to our knowledge both then and now, had such a ministry as emergency roadside assistance and emergency housing assistance existed on a national level. Not knowing the exact number, I am safe in saying that thousands of people in the category of evangelists, pastors and missionaries as well as some full-time Christian workers have called our emergency number for assistance. I would delight in writing stories and details but this letter would get too lengthy. Actually, a very interesting book could be written on the many calls.

As a friend and supporter you are fully aware of the ministries of GSBM including Emergency Roadside Assistance, Emergency Housing, Missionary Training Schools, Pastors Training Schools and the Online School for Ministry Leaders. While the Holy Spirit was the Guide, He gave me the privilege of listening to His orders and of serving as the human element for organizing, developing and overseeing this wonderful work of God for the past twenty-one years. Because of His divine appointment to me with this privileged task and of His continued sustenance it has been extremely difficult to come to a voluntary decision to relinquish the leadership. Logically thinking though, I will be seventy in November; and that age in itself indicates that time is nearing for change. Several weeks ago, I began praying and fasting and have since spent about as much time praying as sleeping nightly even after the decision was made to retire from GSBM. Every time I have thought about staying after December 31st of this year, I have sensed a spiritual wall; so I ultimately knew that this was the time for change.

Since 1993, I have been wearing two hats, Director of GSBM and Evangelist and I plan to continue serving God as an evangelist. My physical health has been recently categorized as excellent by two doctors who further stated that my health is in the top ten percent of men my age.

Temporarily, members of the Administrative Team will lead various parts of the ministry. The Administrative Team has always worked closely with me and together, as a team, we have made ministry decisions for GSBM. Joe Williams will lead the Pastors Training Schools, Steve Williams (unrelated to Joe) will lead the Missionary Training Schools, and Roger Hain will lead the Emergency Roadside Assistance and Emergency Housing. We have not yet determined who will lead the Online School for Ministry Leaders. For the time being it will continue to function without needing changes as all ministries are functioning well. My desire has always been for the Online School for Ministry Leaders to develop into a full four-year university. The potential is certainly there with the right leadership. All the groundwork has been laid.

Although I will continue to lead GSBM until December 31, 2014, the GSBM Administrative Team will soon meet again to make additional decisions. Because most of the Administrative Team will be present at the Pastors Training School that is scheduled for November in LeDuc, Canada with Pastor Jim Price, we will have limited discussions there as well as at other video conferences via www.gotomeeting.com. I have been asked to continue to teach in the Missionary Training Schools and the Pastors Training Schools and plan to do this for as long as is possible, which could be several years. With much prayer and hopefully fasting, the Administrative Team will, as soon as possible, select a new General Director.

I hope that you will continue to support this tremendous ministry that God directly initiated and developed. Please follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Good Shepherd Baptist Missions continues to be a wonderful ministry and GREATLY NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. There is much to be done for Jesus, and GSBM is a wonderful ministry to work with and support. Supporting GSBM is in actuality supporting many missionaries.

Have a good day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brother Easter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Darwin H. Easter, Jr., PhD
General Director
Good Shepherd Baptist Missions