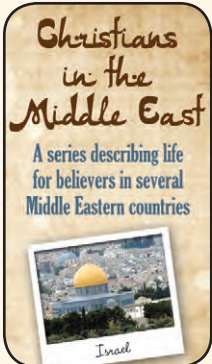


## INSIDE



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# No choice but comply

## Consequences steep for churches that do not obey new FCC mic rule

By Kristen Padilla  
The Alabama Baptist

**D**awson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, spent just shy of \$4,000 over the past two years changing out five wireless microphone sets that would no longer be legal under the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation that went into effect June 12.

Even with that much notice to stop using wireless microphones in the 700 megahertz (MHz) band, the switch-over was still inconvenient, said Dennis Hoffman, audio ministry team coordinator for Dawson Memorial Baptist.

But "you have to be compliant; you don't have a choice," he said.

While larger churches probably have the budget to handle the expense associated with the switch, smaller churches may find it rather painful.

"For a smaller membership church, that's a pretty good outlet of cash," said Keith Hibbs, director of the office of worship leadership and church music for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. "It is expensive (but) it just has to be swallowed."

Replacing the microphones can cost anywhere from \$650 to \$1,500, depending on the quality. That's because the rule change requires replacing more than just the handheld or lapel microphone. The entire wireless system has to go.

"With a wireless system, you take the cable that connects to the mic and plug it into a receiver. The microphone that the person talks into is connected to a belt transmitter pack. What you're replacing is the transmitter and the receiver pack," said Hoffman, who does sanctuary sound system/application consultant work on the side.

But churches shouldn't wait until they find enough money to make the switch or just hope that their existing wireless microphone system will go unnoticed because the consequences for failing to comply with the new rule are steep, he said.

Those who do not comply can face fines totaling more than \$100,000 or imprisonment.



Hoffman said pastors may be the ones at the greatest risk.

"What happens is that the minister, the pastor of the church, who is considered the CEO, is the one personally held responsible," he said. "He's the one who would be liable for it, not necessarily the congregation."

### 'Civic duty'

And churches should realize that continuing to use a wireless microphone in the 700 MHz band could interfere with an emergency broadcast, Hibbs said.

"There's a civic duty ... to comply," he said.

On its website, the FCC explains that when these wireless microphones were first designed, they operated between the frequencies television stations used

to broadcast programs.

"With the completion of the digital television transition on June 12, 2009, television stations no longer use the frequencies between 698 and 806 MHz (the 700 MHz Band) for broadcast," the FCC stated. "These frequencies are now being used by public safety entities (such as police, fire and emergency services) and by commercial providers of wireless services (such as wireless broadband services)."

"The wireless microphones that had been operating in the old TV broadcast channels can cause harmful interference to these public safety and wireless consumer services," it continued.

So how does a church find out if its wireless microphone systems are operating within the 700 MHz band?

## What to do

**How do you find out if your wireless mic system doesn't comply with the new Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulation?**

▶ Check the back or side of your wireless mic receiver(s) for a number followed by MHz. If the number falls between 698 and 806 MHz, then it needs to be replaced.

▶ Go to the FCC website, <http://fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/manufacturers.html>, and see if your model number is listed.

▶ Call the FCC at 1-888-225-5322.

**What do you do if one or more of your wireless microphone systems falls within the 700MHz band?**

Ed Landers, director of the media center at Samford University's Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies, recommends visiting the website or calling a reputable microphone manufacturer to ask about prices and updating your system(s). Two manufacturers he recommends are Shure (1-847-600-2000/shure.com) and Audio-technica (1-330-686-2600/audio-technica.com).

Look at the back or side of the receiver for a number followed by MHz. If the number falls between 698 and 806, then the microphone is operating on the 700 MHz band and can no longer be used.

Or visit the FCC website, <http://fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/manufacturers.html>, for a list of microphones that operate within this band broken down by manufacturer and model number, or call the FCC at 1-888-225-5322.

For more information, contact Hibbs at 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 217, or Hoffman at 205-910-9544.

## Gardendale FBC unveils new worship center

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

**I**t didn't take long for the new sanctuary at Gardendale First Baptist Church (FBC) to reach its seating capacity. In fact, it moved just past that mark to standing-room only as the first service in the new building began Aug. 8.

That's right 2,504 seats all taken.

A 200-seat choir loft and 35-seat orchestra pit almost full. Some people sat on the floor, some stood along the back wall as the service began with baptisms. This was the official opening of the long-awaited new sanctuary, which almost doubles the size of the now retired sanctuary, and lots of people showed up.

But Pastor Kevin Hamm didn't

waste any time making sure the congregation and guests knew "this is not a pleasure palace."

"We've been given a responsibility with this church to take the gospel across the street and across the ocean.

"This is not come and see, but go and do," he said, noting the North Jefferson Baptist Association church has (See 'Standing room,' page 8)

# COMMENT

## One Story About Christian Higher Education

The writer of the e-mail had just finished her first day at a prestigious medical school. When she got back to her apartment, the first thing she did was send an e-mail to some of her major professors at Samford University. In two short paragraphs, she illustrated the values and goals of Christian higher education at her alma mater, as well as at the University of Mobile (UMobile) and Judson College.

She wrote that during that first day, “all I could think about was how thankful I was to have had the opportunity to go to Samford and learn from each of you.” Instead of being overwhelmed by the demands of medical school, she felt confident. Her academic training had been first-rate. She had done research and understood that process. Her writing and oral communication skills had been honed. She had learned how to think, evaluate, draw conclusions and act accordingly.

This young woman had applied herself, taken advantage of the opportunities offered by her Christian school and achieved at high levels through it all. As a result, she felt prepared and eager to begin, while some of her new peers were frightened by what lay ahead of them. That is supposed to be the result of a college education. The graduate is to be competent and prepared to achieve in his or her chosen field.

The e-mail writer noted the “enormous lecture hall,” saying, “I couldn’t help but notice I wasn’t at Samford anymore.” Enormous lecture halls may be a staple in some colleges but not in Alabama’s three Baptist institutions of higher learning. There the student-faculty ratio allows for personal relationships between faculty and students.

The writer made that point as she continued, “I know that if it weren’t for the role that each of you have played in my life and education, I wouldn’t be here today.”

But the new med student wrote, “There will be times (here) when I will not always be reminded and pushed to reach my highest potential.”

Imagine an academic setting where faculty members have personal relationships with students, hold up the importance of learning and push students to do their best. That creates a different kind of atmosphere than a place where students are numbers or the professor’s goal is delivering a lecture.

Christian higher education is supposed to be person-centered and expressed through interaction



### THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

between students and faculty. That was certainly the case for this young woman.

“And to do all for the glory of God” — that is how she described her efforts. She acknowledged her faith in Jesus Christ and how her years at Samford had influenced her spiritual life. “This (faith) is something that has been a part of my whole life and was further integrated into who I am during my time at Samford and especially by my [department] family.”

### Lessons beyond the classroom

Like its sister schools, Samford works hard to be a Christian school, a Baptist school. Chapel services, student missions groups, special religious emphases, student-led prayer groups, other religious activities and much, much more characterize the culture of the school as Christian, as Baptist.

For this recent graduate, the religious experience went further than school-sponsored events. It included the relationships with her professors. In the classroom, personal conversations and projects, she learned of her professors’ Christian faith, and together they took a journey that helped the young woman “further integrate (faith) into” who she is.

Can one expect more from a Christian university?

The experience at a Baptist university helped this person determine who she is and what she is about. “I know why I am in medical school,” she wrote. Her academic preparation, her personal relationships, her walk with the Lord had all combined to give her clear direction about who she is and what she is to be about. She has found her purpose, her calling in life.

“It is only through each of you that I have truly begun to understand what it means to serve,” she continued. That is an expression of values, and val-

ues is what Baptist colleges are about. Baptist colleges are not places where one masters information or is only equipped to earn money. In the educational process, meaning must emerge. At Samford, UMobile and Judson, one learns that as Christ gave Himself for us, we are called to give ourselves for others. This young woman learned that lesson, and her life was changed forever because of it.

The influence of a Christian higher education is not limited to the years spent on the campus. The writer shared, “As I started the next big phase of my life, each of you played a role in that, and in a way, each of you were there with me as I walked into that lecture hall today.” Indeed the influence of her faculty mentors will be with her every day for the rest of her life.

Unfortunately not every student’s experience is as positive as this one’s. There is what theologians call “free will,” and some young people make choices that result in bad experiences. Some young people in our churches make similar choices.

And just as one cannot condemn a church for a youth’s choices, one cannot condemn a college for a student’s mistakes.

What can be celebrated is that for all who enter the gates of Samford, UMobile or Judson, the opportunity is there for success like that of this young woman. All are places where academic standards are high, personal attention from and personal relationships with mentors are available, purpose is sifted out amid the information, God is honored and lives are changed.

As classes begin on the three campuses this week and the next couple of weeks, Alabama Baptists can be thankful for their partnership with these institutions of higher learning and thankful to God they are places where young people can be impacted as positively as the writer of this e-mail.

## Letters to the Editor

### DISCIPLE-MAKERS

The Great Commission is about only one phrase: not “evangelize the world,” not “penetrate the darkness,” not anything but “make disciples.” As I read my Strong’s (Concordance), that

means to go forth and enroll as learners.

Plain fact: We (Southern Baptists) boast 16-plus million members but struggle to find 5 million any one Sunday. We even joke about how folks join and then disappear.

Now God said He, via His Holy Spirit, baptizes folks into the body of Christ, so I’m assuming the 16 million people were brought to us courtesy of God. And by the numbers, we are doing (See ‘Letters,’ page 16)



“If ye continue in my word, then ... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

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## Someone You Should Know

By Christine Kapurch, Correspondent, TAB

### Jean Lackey

Munford Baptist Church  
Coosa River Baptist Association

**FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE:** John 3:16

**FAVORITE HYMN:** "How Great Thou Art"

**HOBBIES:** Knitting, sewing and arts and crafts

**FAMILY STATUS:** Married to Thomas for 61 years; three children, Thomas Edwards Jr., William and Melanie; 10 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren



LACKEY

**A** member of *Munford Baptist Church* since 1953, Jean Lackey has participated in 80 missions trips and even bought a travel camper to do missions around the United States.

**Q: When did you come to know the Lord?**

**A:** I accepted Christ when I was 13 under a brush arbor.

**Q: How have you been involved in church through the years?**

**A:** I've done a little bit of everything. ... I have taught a Sunday School class for 23 years and have sung in the choir. I am also an active member of WMU (Woman's Missionary Union).

**Q: What have you gotten from those ministries?**

**A:** It was great to be able to teach children (in Sunday School) and see so many of them now going on missions trips.

**Q: How have churches changed over the years?**

**A:** A lot of churches now aren't having night services. The church was our entertainment when I was younger.

**Q: How do you see yourself involved in church in the future?**

**A:** I hope I can go every time the church doors are open if my health allows me to.

**Q: What difference has being a Christian made in your life?**

**A:** I don't know how anybody faces life without the Lord. Prayer has brought us through many illnesses, and I sure believe in prayer.

*If you know someone who should be featured as "Someone You Should Know," send his or her name, a contact number and the reason you think he or she should be featured to Someone You Should Know, c/o The Alabama Baptist, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209.*

# 'This is major'

## Baptist Global Response helps survivors of recent Pakistan floods

**U**nprecedented flooding in an area of Pakistan where people already struggle with great tragedy and hardship has prompted a Southern Baptist disaster relief response.

As many as 1,600 people are reported dead and another 14 million have been affected, the United Nations is reporting. As the heavy rains continue to fall, devastation and despair once again seem to have taken hold among the peoples of Pakistan. Stranded by floodwaters, many are grieving loved ones who have died while worrying about how they will care for their living.

Roads are blocked and bridges destroyed. Landslides continue to threaten homes. In at least one area, residents do not expect electricity to return for weeks, according to reports out of the area. Cooking oil is scarce. Diesel for trucks and generators is gone, and hope that a new supply will arrive anytime soon is slim.

"The KKH (Karakoram Highway) is reported to be closed for six weeks," one international Christian said. "This is major! All supplies come up this road. The flooding affected several thousands of people; the KKH being blocked affects over 1 million — the entire area, every family. ... Diesel, gas cylinders, food, phone recharge cards, everything is limited and running out. The military is bringing in [flour], but it disappears quickly."

This year's monsoon rains, which began July 22, have been vicious, relief officials said.

"The floods are the worst in Pakistan's living memory," according to an Aug. 8 report of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

### 'Still reeling'

"These are unprecedented floods in a country whose people can ill afford more tragedy and hardship in their lives. Many of those affected by the flooding are still reeling from Taliban fighting in their areas," said Francis Horton, who with his wife, Angie, directs work in Central and South Asia for Baptist Global Response (BGR), an international relief and development organization.

Of the 14 million who've been affected, at least 1.4 million of them are children, according to an Aug. 9 U.N. report. About 1.8 million of those 14 million are homeless.

"Needs are higher than those that followed the 2005 earthquake, and far more widespread across the country," the report said. "Shelter is the most urgent need, while food, water and health care are also crucial."

The Oct. 8, 2005, earthquake that rocked northern Pakistan destroyed whole villages. Government officials said the 7.6-magnitude quake killed more than 73,000 people and left about 3 million homeless.

Pakistan has a population of 177 million, according to the U.S. State Department. The



BP photo

**LENDING A HAND** — A man with a humanitarian organization distributes pillows and bedding to flood survivors. The recent Pakistan floods have prompted a Southern Baptist disaster relief response.

United Nations World Food Program estimated in an Aug. 10 report that as many as 6 million Pakistanis will require assistance in obtaining food during the weeks and months ahead because of the current flooding.

Southern Baptists gave generously at the time of the 2005 earthquake, helping to rebuild homes and livelihoods. Their giving again is blessing the people of Pakistan, Horton said. More than \$80,000 in emergency funds has been released for Pakistan and \$10,000 has been allocated to help flood victims in neighboring India.

"BGR is partnering with local and international partners to put world hunger funds to work from the north to the south in [Pakistan]," Horton said. "This is an incredible opportunity for the church of Pakistan to rise and help those affected and show God's love to them."

Pakistan's population is 95 percent Muslim, and those the floodwaters have ravaged have little direct knowledge of Christians. Pakistani Christians, with the aid of Southern Baptist partners and Southern Baptist funds, are doing all they can to help those in need and bring true hope to hurting flood survivors in Pakistan.

"One team is doing search and rescue in one of the landslide areas. They have found dozens of bodies," a Southern Baptist relief worker said.

"I asked if they were worn out from all

this difficult work, but [they] insist that they have great joy in their work and they are eager to continue to help."

In another area, Pakistani Christians found a man unconscious but alive in the bushes along a riverbank.

### 'He can save him'

"They rescued him and took him back to a shelter and prayed over him," the relief worker said. "When he regained consciousness, he told of a man appearing to him telling him that he was going to save him. [They] shared with him that this was Isa (Jesus) and He can save him."

"This old man was the only male with the family, and his return brought the ladies and children great joy," the relief worker said. "The entire family was shared with and has responded positively."

In addition to providing transportation costs for rescuers and evacuations, Southern Baptist funds have purchased tents for temporary shelters, hot meals and food staples. Pakistani Christians are distributing rice, flour, lentils, chickpeas, sugar, tea, condensed milk and matches.

"Projects being funded by Southern Baptists stretch from the north to the south. Feeding is taking place everywhere, as well as some provision of temporary shelter," Horton said. "Pakistani people all along the Indus River are being helped by [the] funds." (BP)

## Southern Baptist gifts help Pakistan

**G**ifts to the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and the General Relief Fund are helping survivors of the devastating floods in Pakistan:

- ▶ \$1.29 serves a hot meal.
- ▶ \$4.13 supplies a sleeping mat.
- ▶ \$8.86 gives a two-week food packet.
- ▶ \$18.41 purchases a tent that

will give a family temporary shelter.

▶ \$25 rents a bulldozer for one hour to help redirect floodwaters.

▶ \$103 endows a family of 10 with a large tent in which to live.

In the future, funds may be used to help provide seed to replant crops and to help replace livestock that were killed. (BP)



# ISRAEL

## Christians in the Middle East



*Holy Land full of dead, living stones  
bearing witness to Christ*

By **Botrus Mansour**  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

**I**srael attracts attention from Christians all around the world. Considering it is a country with 7.5 million people living in a tiny spot of land of 21,000 square kilometers (or 13,020 square miles), the interest is phenomenal.

The interest is in the mere fact that modern-day Israel (and for that purpose, the West Bank) is the exact location of the land that God chose to fulfill His redemptive plan in. Jesus Christ, God incarnate, lived most His life on earth and had the main events of His ministry happen in this small spot of land.

The names Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Hebron, Jericho and Capernaum are known to every Bible-believing Christian anywhere on the globe.

### Attraction to pilgrims

As a result, the Holy Land (or the "Land of the Holy," as some prefer to call it) is an attraction to pilgrims who come by the hundreds of thousands annually to walk in Jesus' footsteps, to visit the exact locations of familiar milestones in His life. They read the relevant Bible passages, reflect and understand better the event at the specific place

after witnessing the tangible monument of dead stones.

However, a story that rarely comes on the radar of Christians in the West is that of the living stones — the Christians who live in Israel today. It is the exciting story of God's work among the faithful in the land. They are the real witnesses for Jesus in the land He lived and died in and was resurrected from.

These are the Arab and Jewish followers of Jesus in Israel. In recent years, the Lord has blessed the community of the faithful in the Holy Land. New churches and meetings are being opened, and a new fresh spirit of cooperation between the churches and assemblies (Arab and Jewish, too) is evident. However, with blessing come hardships. For years, Jewish Orthodox and (to a lesser extent) Muslim extremists have attacked Christians and Messianic Jews, slandering them publicly, committing violent acts against them, disrupting baptisms or church services and vandalizing meeting spaces. The observer cannot help but notice that a higher level of actions against the faithful has been witnessed in the last couple of years.

Two and a half years ago, a Palestinian Bible Society worker was kidnapped and then murdered by an Islamic extremist group in

Gaza. Before community of the faithful in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza could grasp this, Narkis Street Baptist Church in Jerusalem was burned by a Jewish extremist group.

Last March, a son of a Messianic Jewish missionary was hurt badly by explosives put on the door of the family's home in Ariel.

In the meantime, these attacks leave the community of the faithful united and focused on its mission.

### Easy target for extremists

In addition to being an easy target for extremists, the community of the faithful suffers from marginalization by the majority groups. Arab evangelicals and Messianic Jews are not part of the Jewish establishment. Neither are they part of the dominant Muslim majority among the Arabs. Even the liturgical churches, which constitute the majority among Christians, marginalize the evangelical churches.

Baptists are one group of these faithful believers. 2011 will mark the centennial of modern-day Baptist ministry in the Holy Land.

It all began when a young Palestinian man by the name of Sukri Mussa, who was originally from Zefat in Upper Galilee, was baptized in 1909 into the fellowship of First Bap-

**FAITHFUL TO THEIR TRADITION AND BASED ON THE GREAT COMMANDMENT, BAPTIST CHURCHES ARE KEEN ON EVANGELISM AND HAVE PLANTED CHURCHES IN SEVERAL VILLAGES AND TOWNS. THE ASSOCIATION OF BAPTIST CHURCHES IN ISRAEL IS LED BY CHAIRMAN MONTER NAUM AND SECRETARY BADER MANSOUR. IN A COUNTRY HURTING FROM HATRED AND STRUGGLE, THE BAPTISTS ARE ALSO A SOURCE OF RECONCILIATION BETWEEN ARABS AND JEWS.**

tist Church, Dallas. Later Mussa was sent as a missionary to Palestine. On May 10, 1911, Mussa baptized a devout local believer by the name of Louis Hanna in wadi El-Lamon near Zefat.

The Baptists in Israel see that event as the beginning of Baptist work in the country. Several events will be held in 2011 to mark 100 years since that event.

Baptists constitute only around 3,000 people in Israel, but they are a vibrant church and join with other evangelicals and Messianic Jews to serve the Lord and lift His banner high in His own land.



There are 20 Baptist churches, and they are members of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel. They are scattered all around the country from Ramle and Jerusalem in the south to Ramah and Acre (Akko) in the north. Most of these churches consist of Arabic-speaking believers. In other churches, services are conducted in Hebrew, Pilipino and Russian.

Faithful to their tradition and based on the great commandment, Baptist churches are keen on evangelism and have planted churches in several villages and towns. The Association of Baptist Churches in Israel is led by chairman Monther Naum and Secretary Bader Mansour.

In a country hurting from hatred and struggle, the Baptists are also a source of reconciliation between Arabs and Jews. They are engaged heavily in the reconciliation ministry and strive to form "the one new man in Christ."

The Baptist community is known around the country mostly for Nazareth Baptist School (NBS), a K-12 school with around 1,000 students. NBS is the only evangelical school in Israel and has been in the top schools for its scholastic achievements for decades. Recently it was rated fourth nationwide. It has been producing high caliber graduates who fill key positions both in the ministry and the marketplace.

NBS is one of the few places in the whole Middle East that the gospel is shared in chapel and Bible classes for all students, 25 percent of whom are Muslim.

NBS has been struggling with the challenges of an aging and highly crowded facility. The school accommodates about 900 students and staff on a campus of three-quarters of an acre as well as another 120 people in a rented building nearby. The average number of students in a classroom is 37.

### New evangelical venture

NBS has launched a campaign to relocate the school to a larger facility in the suburbs of Nazareth. Huntsville's Dick Thomassian of TIME Ministries and Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, are partnering with NBS in this venture. A new, exciting evangelical venture led by the Baptist church in Israel is Nazareth Evangelical Theological Seminary. In partnership with International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic, and Spurgeon's College in London, the center provides a theology degree for those called to ministry. It is led by President Bryson Arthur. A few Southern Baptist representatives serving with the International Mission Board are teaching in the seminary.

In light of the unique place of the Holy Land, it is essential that the witness for the Lord there be strong. The Jewish and Muslim hegemony is a challenge for that witness. Baptist Christians in Israel feel like a minority among a minority, and the support of the extended worldwide family of believers is essential to empower them.

The support can come in the form of prayer for the forgotten believers in the Holy Land. It can also come through visits with the living stones of local believers as Baptist groups

visit the country and partnerships for joint ministries.

The Baptist community in Israel also provides opportunities for students to join in missions trips, for lecturers and teachers to take sabbaticals and joint evangelistic ventures, etc.

This tiny minority of Baptists is struggling to make a difference for Christ in the midst of a complicated political situation involving hatred, violence and despair.

Joining forces with the Baptist community will bring great advancement for the kingdom of the Lord and will make the living stones shine brightly to reflect the Son of righteousness and the Light of the World.

It was in Nazareth that Philip answered the question of his brother Nathanael, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" with the splendid answer, "Come and see." We echo this

call today: Come and see!

People from all races and nations have come to see what came out of Nazareth. It was Jesus — the Nazarene. Come and see what the Nazarene has established in His own hometown and region.

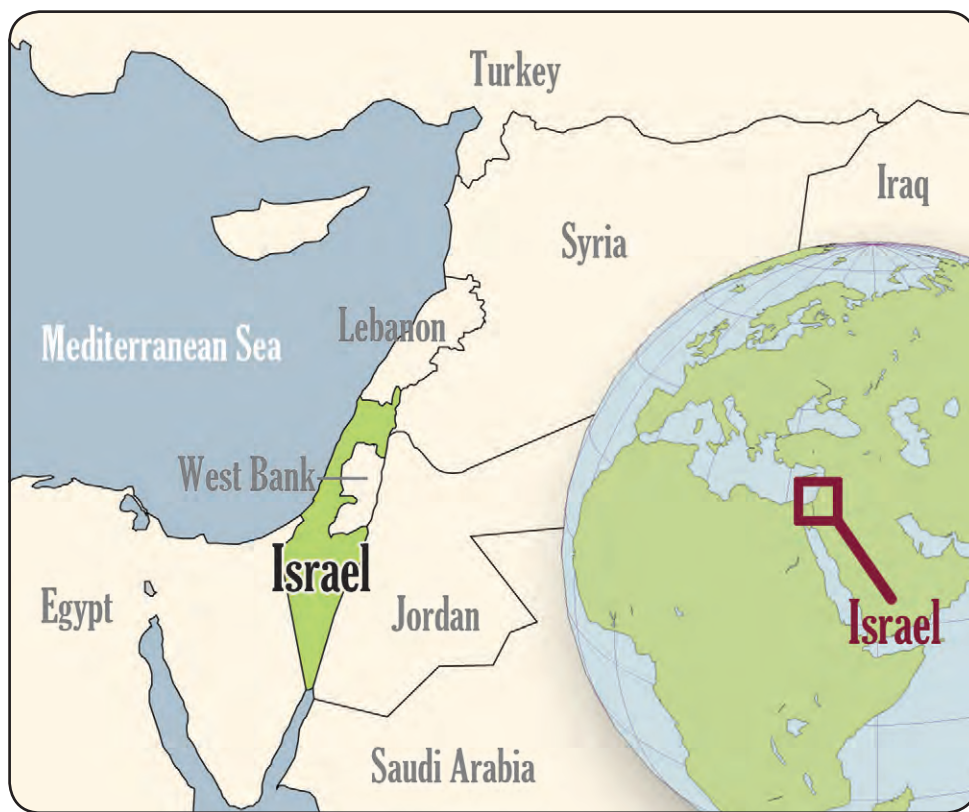
*EDITOR'S NOTE — Botrus Mansour is a lawyer and the general director of Nazareth Baptist School. He also serves as an elder in Local Baptist Church in Nazareth.*

**LAST IN A SERIES**

**Christians in the Middle East**

A series describing life for believers in several Middle Eastern countries

Israel



**CLOSING SCENE** — Sixth- and seventh-grade students from Nazareth Baptist School perform the closing scene of a Christmas play in 2009 at the Nazareth culture center. The K-12 school has around 1,000 students.

Photos courtesy of Botrus Mansour

# Across Alabama's Associations

## BESSEMER

► **North Highlands Church, Hueytown**, will hold Walk for Water Aug. 21, 7 a.m. The walk is to raise awareness for those who do not have access to clean water and to raise money to build wells through Living Water International. The seven-mile walk will begin at the church and go through Hueytown in honor of those who walk that distance daily for water. For information call Michael Wallace at 205-491-7921. Jamey Pruett is interim pastor.

## BETHEL

► **Forest Hill Church, Linden**, will hold a gospel singing Aug. 29, 6 p.m., with Tom Stricklin, of Greensboro. Steve Trader is pastor.

## BIRMINGHAM

► **Deerfoot Church, Trussville**, will hold a special service in memory of author and preacher John Phillips Aug. 22, 6 p.m. Phillips died July 25 in Winston Salem, N.C. For information call 205-655-0798. Roger Willmore is pastor. ► **East Gardendale Church** will continue August Alive! Aug. 25, 6 p.m., with Evangelist David Ring. Donna Weaver and Daryl Green will provide special music. A nursery will be provided. For information call 205-608-0889. Allen Davis is pastor. ► **McElwain Church, Birmingham**, will start the program Celebrate Recovery Sept. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m., and will continue to meet on Tuesdays. The program is to help those with any type of addiction and involves eight principles based on the Beatitudes of the New Testament and 12 biblical steps to recovery. For information call 205-956-

0388. R. Joseph "Joby" Tricquet Jr. is pastor. ► **Lakeside Church, Birmingham**, will host Kidz Blitz Live! Aug. 20, 6 p.m. Parents and children are invited. For information call 205-822-1240. Breck Ladd is pastor.

## COFFEE

► **First Church, Enterprise**, will hold a Ladies Power Lunch Aug. 24, noon, in the fellowship hall. Jackie Quisenberry, an Army wife and mother of four sons, will share about God's leadership in her life. Quisenberry also is a National Garden Club master accredited flower show judge and will share tips and examples of flower arranging. For meal and child care reservations call Kathi at 334-393-5683 by Aug. 20. Alvin M. "Sonny" Moore III is pastor.

## LIMESTONE

► **Salem Springs Church, Elkmont**, will celebrate its 55th homecoming Aug. 22, 11 a.m. The theme will be Remembering the Past, Embracing the Future. Lunch will follow. For information call 256-232-4551. Kevin Ward is pastor.

## MORGAN

► **Cave Spring Church, Decatur; Shiloh Church, Somerville; Valhermoso Church; First Word Ministries; McYouth.net; and StudentNet of Morgan County** will host A Night of Hope Aug. 28 at Celebration Arena in Priceville. Gates open at 4 p.m. The event will end at 10 p.m. There will be music by Decyfer Down, The Letter Black and Hillcity Lights. Jamie Tworowski of To Write Love on Her Arms will

speaking about depression, self harm, addiction and suicide. Wally of the nationally syndicated show "Total Access" on WAY-FM will be the emcee. Concessions and merchandise will be available. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Tickets are available at [www.anightofhope.org](http://www.anightofhope.org), Shiloh Church and the LifeWay stores in Huntsville and Decatur. Jason Moore is pastor of Cave Spring. Charles Owens is pastor of Shiloh.

## RUSSELL

► **Beaver Creek Church, Phenix City**, Pastor Emeritus **Jack W. Kinley** was elected as vice president and chairman of the board of directors for the National Church Conference of the Blind during its annual conference July 25-29 in Indianapolis. The National Church Conference of the Blind is a non-denominational Christian fellowship made up of blind, visually impaired and sighted persons with a membership of more than 300 representing 40 states. Kinley has served as a pastor in several Russell Association churches. He retired from Beaver Creek in 2009. He and his wife, Gwen (deceased), founded the Vision Tape Ministry in 1982. Barry Fleming is pastor.

## SHELBY

► **North Shelby Church, Birmingham**, will host Ken Freeman Aug. 22-25. Services will be Sunday at 10:15 a.m. and nightly at 7. For information call 205-995-9056, visit [www.northshelbybaptist.org](http://www.northshelbybaptist.org) or the church's Facebook page. Allan Murphy is pastor.

# Baptist News Briefs

Compiled from Wire Services

## Baptist theologian, author John Phillips dies at 83

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Theologian and author John Phillips, of Winston-Salem, N.C., died July 25. He was 83.

Phillips was born in Newport, South Wales, in the United Kingdom and wrote and taught about the Bible most of his life. One of his last public appearances before Alzheimer's began to progress was at Deerfoot Baptist Church, Trussville, in 2005.

Roger Willmore, pastor of Deerfoot Baptist, said, "Dr. John Phillips, a friend and colleague of Dr. Stephen Olford's from his childhood in England, was one of Southern Baptist's favorite preachers and authors. ... He was one of my longtime friends and mentors."

Phillips served in the British Army in Palestine during the closing years of the British Mandate for Palestine and witnessed the events that led up to the rebirth of the state of Israel. He moved to Canada after World War II, where he worked for a British bank, married and in time founded a small church.

Later he joined the staff of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he served as assistant director of its correspondence school. He also taught in the evening extension school and spoke regularly over the Moody Radio Network. He also served as director of the Emmaus Correspondence School.

Phillips held a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Rice Seminary. He is best known for authorship of more than 50 books about the Bible, including a complete set of New Testament commentaries, "Exploring the Scriptures" series and his "Introducing People of the Bible" series. His books continue to be best sellers among Bible teachers in America and around the world.

Phillips was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Phillips.

Survivors include his wife, Betty Jean Ferrell Phillips; four children; four stepchildren; 12 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

## Johnny Hunt extends leave of absence from FBC Woodstock

WOODSTOCK, Ga. — Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga., and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, has extended his leave of absence from the church through mid-September, citing physical and emotional exhaustion.

Hunt had been expected to return to the Woodstock pulpit Aug. 8 following his annual July sabbatical. However, Jim Law, senior associate pastor and administrator of the church, announced Hunt and Hunt's wife, Janet, will extend their leave by another six weeks.

The decision came on the counsel of a professional who encouraged the couple to extend their time away from ministerial responsibilities, Law explained.

Reading from a prepared statement, Law noted an "incredibly busy schedule for both of them, particularly the past two years serving our church family while at the same time serving our beloved denomination, they found themselves physically and emotionally depleted."

Law said Hunt is expected to return to the pulpit Sept. 19.

On Aug. 7, the night before his expected return, Hunt sent out a note through Twitter saying he was taking a leave of absence from Twitter and Facebook so he could spend more time with his wife.

Hunt was sidelined earlier this year, in the middle of his second term as president of the denomination, as he underwent successful prostate surgery Jan. 7.

## Criswell College officially separates from FBC Dallas

DALLAS — Criswell College marked the beginning of a new era Aug. 1 as the school officially separated from First Baptist Church, Dallas.

W.A. Criswell, a former pastor of the renowned congregation, launched a Bible institute 40 years ago that he said would be "based on conservative evangelical Christianity as practiced in our church" to train leaders for ministry.

Under terms of the separation, the school immediately operates under the authority of a new board that includes members elected from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the W.A. Criswell Foundation, both of which are affiliated with the college.

In addition to eight trustees nominated from each of those entities, the college names five at-large members and the new board is responsible for ratifying all 21 people.

Previously the bylaws stipulated at least 12 of the 21-member trustee board were to be drawn from among First, Dallas, mem-



Photo by John Swain

## ALABAMA'S SAMMY GILBREATH HONORED FOR HIS WORK WITH GPS

In late July, Thomas Hammond (left), interim vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board (NAMB), and Jerry Pipes (right), NAMB team leader for spiritual awakening/mass evangelism, present Sammy Gilbreath, director of evangelism for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, with NAMB's 'Find It Here' participation award for outstanding work on the God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) effort in Alabama.

# Legal standoff

## Slot machine gambling debate continues in Alabama; lower courts defy high court

By **Sondra Washington**  
The Alabama Baptist

Alabama courts have become the last stand for the state's slot machine gambling industry commonly called electronic bingo.

Since Gov. Bob Riley declared war on illegal gambling and state legislators did not pass a bill legalizing casinos, many of these multimillion-dollar businesses have found themselves in the crosshairs of state law enforcement officials. Although John Tyson, commander of Riley's Task Force on Illegal Gambling, claimed victory with "100 percent" of the state's "slot machine" gambling operations closed at press time, gambling supporters are not going down without a fight.

Shortly after this year's legislative session ended, the task force threatened to raid facilities operating what it considers illegal slot machines. Almost immediately, some facility owners filed lawsuits against the task force attempting to ban its entry. Although several local judges issued one restraining order after another against the task force, Alabama's Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled against their actions, stating that local judges cannot interfere with law enforcement activities.

Most recently, the high court "struck down" several restraining orders issued by Greene County Circuit Judge Eddie Hardaway Jr., who prohibited the task force from entering or raiding Greenetrack casino in Eutaw. When Hardaway continued to issue orders contradicting the Supreme Court's ruling, the justices removed him from the case July 1.

According to their order, reassigning the case to another circuit judge was "advisable to preserve the appearance of justice."

Riley called the Supreme Court's action a "decisive victory" for the task force.

"No one is above the law, and [the] ruling from the Supreme Court reaffirms this basic principle of our state and our nation," he said. "By removing Judge Hardaway from this case, our highest court has sent a message out loud and clear — no longer can casinos in this state run to their favorite local judges to try and stop law enforcement officers from enforcing the law."

### Arrests, hearing

On July 1, about 900 machines were seized from Greenetrack, but not before 17 gambling supporters — including Greenetrack CEO Luther "Nat" Winn; Sen. Bobby Singleton, D-Greensboro; and two county commissioners — were arrested for attempting to obstruct the raid. At a hearing Aug. 11, a district judge threw out all the charges after District Attorney Greg Griggers reportedly said he was not given the information necessary to prosecute the case. Tyson disagreed and said Griggers had all the information he needed since the Supreme Court cleared the way for the task force to enter and raid Greenetrack.

Winn also was charged with striking a female law enforcement official with his vehicle as she tried to prevent him from entering the raid scene but that charge was dismissed. At press time, a Greenetrack employee said the facility had reopened offering "simulcast horse and dog racing," and will provide "paper bingo games" on the weekends. A similar ruling was expected in Macon County after Circuit Judge Tom Young refused to follow the Supreme Court's orders clearing

the way for the task force to raid VictoryLand casino in Shorter. Like Hardaway, Young continually has passed restraining orders against the task force.

At one point, Riley's communications director, Jeff Emerson, called Young's actions a "temper tantrum."

"It is ridiculous that a local judge continues to defy our state's highest court," Emerson said.

But hours before the casino's lawyers were due to respond to the Supreme Court about the task force's latest request to raid the 6,000-machine facility, VictoryLand voluntarily closed its doors Aug. 9. Tyson believes this action was taken because the facility's supporters "could not risk another adverse ruling from the Supreme Court."

On Aug. 11, after the Supreme Court refused to allow the task force to immediately raid VictoryLand, gambling supporters claimed success. Yet Tyson said the Supreme Court denied the task force's request "without any explanation." He said if the facility tried to reopen, then his team would go back to its plans to raid it.

In an explanation to the press, owner Milton McGregor called the task force's actions "legal shenanigans" and an attempt at publicity "before [it] is disbanded." Both gubernatorial candidates — Republican Dr. Robert Bentley and Democrat Ron Sparks — have said they will disband the task force upon entering office.

### Trying to stay open

Many legal experts and gambling opponents across the state believe the barrage of lawsuits and restraining orders concerning Greenetrack and VictoryLand are efforts to stall task force raids in hopes of remaining open throughout the upcoming elections.

"It's their efforts to try to stay open," said Eric Johnston, a Birmingham attorney who has fought the expansion of gambling in Alabama for several years. "It doesn't cost much on the scale that they

make to pay lawyers to file lawsuits and be in court and get injunctions. When you've got local judges giving temporary relief ... that's money well spent to pay those lawyers to do that. ... It becomes the cost of doing business just like paying people to clean a building or bring in food."

Still McGregor maintains that his machines are legal and expressed sadness over the loss of "critical services" provided by the 60 Macon County charities "funded by bingo revenues" including schools, volunteer fire departments, public safety and programs for the needy.

"The system of government in our state has broken down," he said, referring to Riley and his task force. "To the two candidates for governor, we look forward to the day that common sense and the rule of law reign supreme and not the will of just one dishonest man."

Yet a June 30 federal court ruling found that "McGregor and VictoryLand profited sizably from electronic bingo," making more than \$162 million in 2008 but giving less than 1 percent of that to charities. Plaintiffs in this case accused McGregor and Macon County Sheriff David Warren of conspiracy and bribery in interfering with a competing business's plan to open another gambling facility in the county.

According to Alabama's Constitution, bingo games are allowed for charitable purposes only.

"All this talk of how VictoryLand is giving so much money to charities is an illusion, and this federal court ruling completely shatters that illusion," Riley said. "VictoryLand is nothing but an illegal scheme to

enrich Milton McGregor and his cronies, and this federal court ruling lays that out for all to see."

At press time, VictoryLand had reopened, offering simulcast greyhound and thoroughbred racing.

While the task force is advancing in its standoff against gambling in Greene and Macon counties, law enforcement agencies are still battling gambling in other areas.

On Aug. 4, Alabama Bureau of Investigation agents raided four Fulldale businesses housing about 60 illegal slot machines. Last year, Jefferson County District Attorney Brandon Falls warned businesses in his jurisdiction to close any illegal gambling operations or face raids and potential criminal charges.

### In-depth look

Walker County sheriff's officers raided five facilities in their area, seizing more than 150 gambling machines in July. Last October, Circuit Judge Robert Vance ruled the county's electronic bingo games illegal and ordered businesses offering the games to shut down immediately.

For the next eight weeks, *The Alabama Baptist* will provide an in-depth look into the form of gambling known as electronic bingo in Alabama. *The Alabama Baptist* has written numerous, national award-winning stories on gambling. To read past stories, visit [www.thealabamabaptist.org](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org). Click on "Moral & Ethical Issues" on the left-hand side of the home page and then click on gambling at the bottom of the list of topics under that category.

*"To the two candidates for governor, we look forward to the day that common sense and the rule of law reign supreme."*

Milton McGregor  
VictoryLand owner

*"No one is above the law, and [the] ruling from the Supreme Court reaffirms this basic principle ..."*

Gov. Bob Riley

## APPEAL to take place in Birmingham

Duke School of Medicine and Amedisys Home Health and Hospice are co-sponsoring APPEAL (A Progressive Palliative Care Educational Curriculum for the Care of African Americans at Life's End) Aug. 20-21 at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel.

On Aug. 20, breakfast and registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. and the program at 8 a.m. It will end at 5:30 p.m. that day. On Aug. 21, the event will begin at 8 a.m. and last until 2:30 p.m.

APPEAL is a nationally rec-

ognized training program for physicians, health care professionals, church leaders and members of the community. With statistics like blacks are 41 percent less likely to access hospice care than whites and hospice use among blacks decreased by 20 percent from 2006 to 2007, education is the first step toward addressing these alarming trends.

The curriculum will discuss topics like social determinants of health, comprehensive patient evaluation, quality end-of-life care, culturally appropriate communication, pain

treatment and racial disparities, spirituality and end-of-life care and patient-centered decision-making.

Physicians, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, chaplains, clergy, psychologists, counselors, hospital and hospice administrators and family caregivers for blacks at life's end are encouraged to attend.

For more information and to register, visit [www.iceol.duke.edu](http://www.iceol.duke.edu). (TAB)

## Virginia missions volunteer dies in accident in Zambia

Robert "Bob" Finck, a 51-year-old missions volunteer from Fellowship Community Church, Salem, Va., was killed early in the morning Aug. 9 in an automobile accident in Zambia, west of the capital city of Lusaka.

International Mission Board representative Melissa Frady of Tennessee, accompanied by church team leader Tim Rogers, was driving Finck to a hospital after he reported experiencing severe kidney stone pain.

The truck went off the road in Kafue National Park. Finck was thrown from the vehicle and died at the scene. Frady and Rog-

ers received bruises and scrapes.

The accident occurred about 2 a.m. in a remote area of the park. Rogers stayed at the scene, while Frady walked along the road until she flagged down a driver to take her toward Lusaka, where she was able to pick up a cell phone signal and call for help.

Finck, Rogers and five other volunteers from Fellowship Community Church arrived in Zambia Aug. 6 and planned to stay until Aug. 14 to lead a Bible conference and minister to youth and children. They were about five hours from the capital when Finck asked to be taken to the hospital. (BP)



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

**'JUST A TOOL TO REACH OUT'** — Preaching from John 3:16 during the Aug. 8 inaugural sermon in the new sanctuary of Gardendale FBC, Pastor Kevin Hamm challenges members to take the gospel outside the walls of the new building — 'across the street and across the ocean.'

# 'Not a pleasure palace'

## Standing room only crowd attends first service in long-awaited Gardendale FBC sanctuary

(continued from page 1)

"done more with missions in 2010 than in the history of the church."

"We've been all over the world ... to other states ... and in the local area," Hamm said.

In fact, Gardendale FBC is currently reroofing the sanctuary and education building of a Methodist church in nearby Morris.

And Hamm doesn't expect the church's missions participation to slow down any time soon. All proceeds from the new Grounds for Missions Café in the church lobby go to missions. He also made sure those walking through the more than 100,000-foot worship and education center are reminded "what we are about" with a large sign noting the Great Commission. There's also a large globe and Bible monu-

ment in front of the sanctuary and the now-famous 125-foot cross right off I-65 — "our foundational symbols."

"This is not about the building and the seats," Hamm said. "We've got to herald the gospel from this place."

### Seeing it happen

But getting to this place has been a journey said Associate Pastor Mark Harrison, who has been at Gardendale FBC 16 years. "It is overwhelming to finally see it happen."

The nearly \$20-million building is a scaled-down version of where it started in 2001 when then-Pastor Steve Gaines launched the relocation effort. The 145 acres of land,

known as the North Campus, was purchased about a mile from its now South Campus location. In 2003, three softballs fields and a soccer field were built. Then in 2005, Gaines was called to Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.

Building plans were put on hold until Hamm, who came as pastor in 2006, and other church leaders determined it was time to move forward. "We didn't want to rush through this and not think through it properly," Hamm said.

And the plan now is to relocate, but it may take another nine years to get to the next phase, Hamm acknowledged.

Some church members don't like the drawn-out relocation effort.

Some are concerned about the two campus-set up with all the preschool and children at the North Campus and the students, adults and worship at the South Campus. But Hamm said most members of the congregation are supportive.

With 3,400 in three worship services and 2,500 in Bible fellowship (or Sunday School) each week, "we were running out of seats and parking spaces," he said, noting the church was able to return to two worship services. "Now we can reach more."

The South Campus has 1,800 parking spaces, a 250-seat conference room, a music suite and a state-of-the-art media suite. The sanctuary also was built with an expandable wall, allowing for another 1,500 seats if needed.

"There's a sense of gratitude to the Lord and to a lot of folks who made it happen," Hamm said. "We are standing on the shoulders of previous members, staff and pastors who were part of this. I even think of those who've gone on before us. They've paved the way for us to be here."



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash



Photo courtesy of Gardendale FBC

## Want to know God?

By Pastor Terry Sutton  
First Baptist Church, Montevallo

There are some things about God that we may never fully understand until we face Him in eternity; however, the Bible teaches us that God can be known through Jesus Christ and that He taught us through His earthly life what God is really like.

In Luke 15, Jesus drew for us three portraits of the character and essence of God. He enabled us to view God in a clear and beautiful way through the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. The third story is one of great interest to most people because it is referred to as the parable of the prodigal son; however, it clearly communicates what God is like. This story tells us that the God of all creation is like the father in this story. Jesus enabled us to see the beauty of the character of God through this parable.

In this story, Jesus said God is a loving father who will let you walk away from fellowship with Him but it breaks His heart when you do so. Jesus concluded this story of how God responds by telling how the father watches and waits with great anticipation for his son to return. When he sees him coming down the road, he runs to him and receives him with open arms, a kiss and a party.

There are different interpretations as to the meaning of the prodigal son, but no one can dispute the nature of God in this story. He is patient and loving.

In his short story "The Capital of the World," Ernest Hemingway tells a joke about a father who went to Madrid and placed an ad in the newspaper. It said, "Paco, meet me at Hotel Montana noon Tuesday. All is forgiven. Papa." Since Paco is a rather common name in Spain, 800 young men showed up to receive the forgiveness of their fathers.

God can be known and as your Father, He is waiting for your return to offer His forgiveness and love.

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# YEC 21-day challenge gets Klepac out of comfort zone

By Kristen Padilla  
The Alabama Baptist

Getting out of her comfort zone is something 17-year-old Lauren Klepac struggles with. So when she accepted a 21-day challenge at the end of the July Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) at Samford University in Birmingham, it was “a big deal,” she said.

“For the past year, I’ve been seriously praying God would get me out of my comfort zone and be bold, and the 21-day challenge definitely did that for me. And I gained more confidence from doing the challenges.”

The challenge exercise, a new twist to this year’s YEC, was designed to build on the conference and encourage students to reach their communities with the gospel.

“There was a sense of leading from God that we needed to do more to help from this point — not to do a great two-day event but to help take the two-day even home and to take the two-day event to the net level of its impact,” said Kyle Wiltshire, an associate in the office of collegiate and student ministries at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

But why 21 days?

“There are some studies that show that if you do something for 21 days, it will create a habit,” he added.

Klepac, an active youth group member at Eastmont Baptist

Church, Montgomery, not only took the challenge but also created a blog — an online journal — so she could update everyone on her progress.

She began each day by reading that day’s challenge and then coming up with a plan to meet it.

Her first challenge entailed going to her church and prayer walking around the building, specifically praying for God to break down any spiritual walls within the church, such as bitterness and cliques.

“I feel that this task may seem small and minute compared to some of the other tasks to come, but in reality it is one of the most important,” Klepac wrote on her blog. “Not many people realize that the church as a whole needs huge amounts of prayer in order to function properly.”

By day two, she faced her first “interference” in completing a challenge. She had her wisdom teeth removed.

But Klepac adapted.

“Today I was unable to complete the challenge due to the fact that I got my wisdom teeth removed this morning, so I’ve been at home recovering all day,” she wrote. “However, I’ll be going to church Wednesday night

this week for regular service, and I’m going to make an effort to get there early to prayer walk before church starts.”

Klepac adapted other challenges



Photo by Chris Mills

**ACCEPTING THE CHALLENGE** — Lauren Klepac receives her 21-day challenge cards from Sean Thornton of the University of Montevallo at the July Youth Evangelism Conference.

*“Looking back on the 21-day challenge as a whole, I feel that God used me and taught me a great deal of things.”*

Lauren Klepac  
Montgomery

to life situations and to her own circumstances.

For example, the challenge for day five called for inviting a non-Christian friend to play a game either online or in person. Because she doesn’t play video or board games, she “tweaked” the challenge and instead spoke with a friend over Skype, a voice and video call made over the Internet.

After she completed the 21-day exercise, Klepac realized that whether the challenge was prayer walking around school, inviting someone to lunch or coffee or donating time or money to church or

charity, the underlying purpose was “doing something out of love for someone,” she said.

## ‘Loving other people’

“You never know what’s going on in other people’s lives,” Klepac said. “You kind of get caught up in yourself and your own problems, and I think the big thing ... was loving other people and getting more personal with other people you wouldn’t expect.”

She wrote on her blog, “Looking back on the 21-day challenge as a whole, I feel that God used me and taught me a great deal of things.

One of the most important things that I learned is that even the simplest of things can have an impact on someone’s life.

“Something as small as donating a pack of pencils, buying someone lunch or playing a video game with someone can touch them in a way they may have never felt before,” she continued. “God isn’t vague in His message in the Bible — He calls Christians to a higher standard and to be witnesses for Him all over the world. But one other thing that He also calls us to do that is often looked over as being insignificant is to love others.”

## Calif. missions volunteer, pastor’s wife dies in Rwanda

Kim Foreman, a pastor’s wife from San Lorenzo, Calif., died of injuries sustained during an Aug. 3 automobile crash in Rwanda, where she was serving as a missions volunteer.

Foreman, 59, and her husband Chris, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, San Lorenzo, direct Come & See Africa International, which they established in 2005 to promote missions interest in Rwanda. She had been engaged in Africa missions efforts since 1998 and was on her 10th trip to Rwanda when the crash occurred.

Foreman had been in Rwanda since July 19 and was traveling July 31 from Butare to Kigali when the

accident occurred, the *California Southern Baptist* reported. Foreman was thrown from the vehicle and was rushed unconscious to a hospital in Kabgayi. From there she was transported to King Faisal Hospital in Kigali, where she was treated in the intensive care unit. She died Aug. 3 without regaining consciousness.

A native of South Korea, Foreman was a professor of instructional technology at San Francisco State University.

In June 2008, she and her husband broke ground on a center promoting Christian education for students of the University of Rwanda in Butare. (BP)



Photo by Reid Foster

## MONTGOMERY’S HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH MINISTERS TO LOCAL SCHOOL

Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, in Montgomery Association, held a Back to School Bash Aug. 1 at Vaughn Road Elementary School. All 625 students received a backpack filled with school supplies.

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# Committing to the Future

## Princeton Baptist makes commitment to community with expansion and renovation

By Cary Estes

Princeton Baptist Medical Center has been part of the Birmingham landscape since 1922. And the recent groundbreaking to begin an extensive expansion and renovation project at the hospital ensures that the medical center will remain a fixture in Birmingham's West End community for many years to come.

More than 200 people attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the \$57 million project on July 14, and construction on some of the departments to be relocated has already begun. Site work for the new building is scheduled to begin this fall. The project will be worked on in phases, with a final completion date scheduled for early 2013.

"Princeton has provided an incredible level of service to our community for a long time," Princeton President Keith Parrott said. "It's extremely encouraging that Baptist Health System is making a \$57 million investment within the city limits of Birmingham. There is no way we would be making that kind of commitment if we didn't see a very viable, long-term future for a successful hospital here. It really is a tribute to our doctors, our nurses and staff, our volunteers, our donors and our Board. We are fortunate to have very strong and committed physicians and employees; this project will contribute greatly to their ability to provide the high level of care our patients expect and deserve."

The project will create 90,000 square feet of new space. This will allow the hospital to replace all of its surgical suites (and increase the total number from 14 to 16 rooms), all six of its endoscopy suites, day surgery space and all the sterilization areas. There also will be a new hospital entrance, a new chapel and approximately



Architect rendering of Princeton expansion

By TRO Jung | Brannen

\$15.5 million in new equipment. Included in the scope of the project is renovation of 60,000-square-foot of existing space including staff support areas and all the pre-op and post-op patient-care areas. In addition, Parrott said the foundation of the new two-story addition will be built to accommodate three additional stories if future expansion is needed.

"Princeton Baptist has grown tremendously over our 88-year history," Parrott said, "but now, we're just running out of space. We don't have enough room to accommodate the future needs of the community and future advancements in technology. Plus, we are experiencing significant growth in our surgical services. In the past year alone, the volume in surgery has grown about 10 percent, and we are beginning to run into capacity issues."

"Our operating rooms are more than 40 years old. Fortunately, we have been able to update and adapt them from time to time, but they are still small by today's standards. Now, it is becoming more and more difficult to fit all

the technically advanced equipment in these rooms. We owe it to our patients and to the many surgeons who want to practice here at Princeton to provide the most sophisticated, up-to-date facilities possible.

"But our intention is not to stop with the advancements on the Princeton campus," Parrott added. "We are also expanding our community efforts. We're doing more than just investing in the hospital. We're investing in the community."

To view more photos, media coverage and videos on the Princeton expansion and groundbreaking, please visit us at [Facebook.com/BaptistHealthFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/BaptistHealthFoundation) or [Facebook.com/PrincetonBaptist](https://www.facebook.com/PrincetonBaptist).

And to learn how you can play a role in the Princeton Expansion Project, contact the Baptist Health Foundation at 1-877-474-4243 or visit [www.BHSala.com/Foundation](http://www.BHSala.com/Foundation).



Photo by Robert Farley

Helping kick off the Princeton Expansion project at the July 14 groundbreaking ceremony were (left to right) Mark Belcher, chief development officer, Baptist Health Foundation (BHF); Jim Emack, chairman, BHF Board of Directors; Shane Spees, president & CEO, Baptist Health System (BHS); Keith Parrott, president, Princeton Baptist; Wayne Pate, chairman, BHS Board of Trustees.

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# Learn to 'see the world'

## Missions education plants seeds of service, ministry

**D**ixie Thornton spent more than 20 years as an Army wife, often remembering the encouragement of her Girls in Action (GA) leader to "look out the window and see the world."

The words Thornton heard as a girl, coupled with opportunities and activities to learn about missionaries and other people and their cultures through GAs, helped her adjust wherever she lived during her husband's various military assignments.

"As life unfolded, I wanted to be in a Baptist church that was involved in missions education," said Thornton, who now is a Mission Friends leader at First Baptist Church, Maysville, Mo.

GAs is the missions organization for first- through sixth-grade girls that can play a vital role in nurturing a church's heart for the Great Commission.

Mission Friends is the missions organization that focuses on preschoolers. Both are sponsored by national Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

### Finding acceptance

Judy Phillips, children's worship coordinator for First Baptist Church, Madison, Fla., who came from a broken home with a mother who had to work, began attending GAs in the fourth grade. While such circumstances are common now, back in 1959, Phillips felt alone and dejected. But each Monday after school, she walked to West Highland Baptist Church with girls her own age. There she was accepted despite her family background.

"Those leaders took me under their wings. I could feel good about myself," Phillips said. Three years after becoming a GA, she asked Jesus into her life.

Through GA missions activities, Phillips began a life of service that continues more than 50 years later. Among many other things, she's taught GAs and Royal Ambassadors (the missions organization for first- through sixth-grade boys) and served as a Missions Service Corps volunteer through the North American Mission Board (NAMB).

She said her ministry is the heart of what she learned in GAs — tell the good news.

Ann Cushing, a member of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, recalls that it was in GAs where she "learned that there are many lost people in the world, people who need Jesus."

Cushing, a former member of NAMB's board of trustees, credits GAs with helping her have a greater understanding of the work of NAMB as well as the International Mission Board.

Cushing said one of her most precious memories is when her daughter Charlotte came home one summer day from GA camp in Florida and greeted her by saying, "I'm going to be a missionary!"

And so she was. She and her husband, Tim Cearley, served in Africa for more than 25 years.

Carol Causey, director of WMU's missions resource center, said GAs is "a fun environment for girls to be with other girls."

"GA is also hands-on," she continued. "In the classroom, girls engage in active learning through games, crafts, ministry projects and more. In their communities, they share the active compassion of Christ through missions action and witnessing."

Steve Patton, pastor of Fairview Baptist Church, Greer, S.C., underscored the value of missions education, citing two main reasons it is important in the local church.

"First it (missions education) gives a biblical and theological underpinning the children really need to live a missional life," he said.

"Second missions education gives children practical insight in how missions is done both at home and abroad. They learn about missionaries, the people they serve and the many strategies they employ to get the good news out.

"Children will not learn these lessons elsewhere. Neither Sunday School nor any discipleship courses are intended to teach these lessons week in and week out." (BP)

**"Neither Sunday School nor any discipleship courses are intended to teach these lessons week in and week out."**

**Pastor Steve Patton  
Fairview Church, Greer, S.C.**

## Giving to SBC behind last year's pace

**Y**ear-to-date contributions through the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) Cooperative Program (CP) are 3.08 percent below the same time frame last year, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman.

As of July 31, the year-to-date total of \$161,740,215.32 for CP missions is \$5,143,271.88 behind the \$166,883,487.20 received at the end of July 2009.

Designated giving of \$181,934,780.05 for the same year-to-date period is 0.34 percent, or \$624,219.93, behind gifts of \$182,558,999.98 received at this point last year.

Monthly CP receipts totaled

\$16,219,794.91 while designated gifts received in July amounted to \$8,962,365.75.

Month-to-month swings reflect a number of factors, but largely result from the timing of receipts from state conventions.

The end-of-month total represents money received by close of

business on the last business day of each month. For the SBC CP Allocation Budget, the year-to-date total of \$161,740,215.32 is 94.96 percent of the \$170,321,327.19 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The SBC operates on an Oct. 1-Sept. 30 fiscal year. (BP)

## Texas Baptists reduce staff

**S**ix Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) Executive Board employees are losing their jobs, seven unfilled posts are being eliminated and a dozen positions are being reduced from full-time to part-time due to the state convention's current financial situation and the 2011 forecast.

Savings resulting from the staff cuts total \$1,044,000 in salary and benefits for 2011, said Jill Larsen, BGCT treasurer and chief financial officer. The layoffs and cutbacks bring the total BGCT executive board staff — full-time and part-time — to two-thirds the size it was just four years ago. In

correspondence to directors of the executive board, BGCT Executive Director Randel Everett elaborated: "The staffing reduction decisions have been made with a consideration of both the current year financial situation and the forecast for 2011.

As of July 31, Texas Cooperative Program receipts totaled \$19,825,159 — 88.61 percent of budget and 90.14 percent of year-to-date 2009 receipts.

In 2006, the BGCT employed 406 staff, with 315 in full-time positions. After the latest cuts take effect, staff will number 268, with 213 full-time positions. (ABP)

## Religion In America

Compiled from Wire Services

### Black pastors struggle with evangelism, study finds

**NASHVILLE** — Black church pastors are struggling to lead their churches by example in evangelizing the unchurched. A recent study, published in the current issue of *Reconsider*, a LifeWay Christian Resources publication for the leaders of today's black churches, found that 39 percent of pastors say personal evangelism does not come easy for them; only 25 percent strongly agree that they find it easy to share the gospel one-on-one.

LifeWay's findings also uncovered that black churches follow a general market trend in which media are not used effectively to reach those disconnected from the church. The percentage of people reached through media is much smaller than the percentage of those willing to receive church information from a local church.

"In sharing these findings, we at LifeWay believe leaders within the black church can become more aware of their personal and congregation-driven evangelism efforts," said Elgia Wells, who directs LifeWay's black church outreach and serves as pastor of a Nashville-area church. "Our hope is that pastors may feel more open to sharing their struggle with this issue and their congregations may benefit just as much from hearing about this honest admission. Black churches are missing the opportunity to evangelize and connect with those who are open to hear about the gospel."

### Pro-life advocates gain assurance from White House

**WASHINGTON** — Pro-life advocates have received an important assurance from the Obama administration on one aspect of the new health care reform law.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a regulation clarifying that an interim program established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to cover uninsured Americans will prohibit the use of federal funds for most abortions. The White House, however, said the rule would not necessarily apply to other programs under the far-reaching and controversial measure, which was enacted in March.

HHS released the rule July 29, putting to rest a controversy that became public when the National Right to Life Committee reported Pennsylvania's program under the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) would cover legal abortions. New Mexico and Maryland also were reported to have devised plans under the PCIP that would cover elective abortions. The PCIP, also referred to as the "high-risk pool" program, provides coverage to the uninsured who have pre-existing conditions. Under the law, \$5 billion in federal funds is authorized for states to implement such a program until "insurance exchanges" to be administered by the states go into effect in 2014.

### Church of God changes policy on women on councils

**CLEVELAND, Tenn.** — The Church of God, based in Cleveland, Tenn., has decided to permit women to serve on local church councils but has maintained its rule that they cannot be ordained as bishops.

By a narrow vote during its recent general assembly, the denomination changed its policy on congregational councils by deleting the word "male" from its previous statement saying "members of the Church and Pastor's Council shall be loyal male members of the church."

Just prior to the meeting, which concluded July 30, more than 62 percent of the denomination's bishops voted not to consider changing church policy prohibiting women from being ordained as bishops.


Bishop T. Scot Carter, spokesman for the denomination, said women are ordained as pastors in the denomination and are appointed to its national and international boards but cannot serve on the church's bishops-only executive council.

"We reaffirm the value and the historical contribution of women in the life of the Church of God," reads a resolution passed during the assembly.

### Evangelicals condemn church's plans to burn Quran

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** — The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) has condemned plans by a Florida church to burn copies of the Quran on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

"The proposed burning of Qurans would be profoundly offensive to Muslims worldwide, just as Christians would be insulted by the burning of Bibles," the NAE said in a July 29 statement. "Such an act would escalate tensions between members of the two faiths in the United States and around the world."

The Dove World Outreach Center in Gainesville announced its plans on a Facebook page "in remembrance of the fallen victims of Sept. 11 and to stand against the evil of Islam." 

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# Church Resource Guide

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"And for that reason I made a call to Danny because I knew he, as well as his staff, would be knowledgeable about this type of product from the beginning to the end." And again he wasn't disappointed. To illustrate his satisfaction with Amazing Grace Worship Center's latest sign purchase, Blankenship said, "Reliable is more than just the company name, it describes their personnel and the integrity of their business... 'Reliable.'"



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Charlie points out that Dream Baths also provides walk-in safety tubs with hydrotherapy for arthritis, back problems, lupus, muscular dystrophy, fibromyalgia and aches and pains.

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prised and pleased to learn how affordable our prices are and how much we save them compared to other companies. We are proud to be of service to our seniors across the state keeping them safe in their homes," he said.

Charlie and his wife, Debbie, are long-time members of Camellia Baptist Church, Prattville.

For more information call Charlie at 334-312-1825 or visit [www.alabamasafetybath.com](http://www.alabamasafetybath.com) or [www.dreambathsAlabama.com](http://www.dreambathsAlabama.com).

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# 'High-budget' Scientology TV ads could mislead viewers

The Church of Scientology has launched a series of 60-second ads on major cable channels that tell little about its theology and, the ads' tagline notwithstanding, could even be mistaken for an ad for Christianity.

The three commercials have aired on such channels as CNN and can be viewed on YouTube, and have been labeled as well-done even by those outside of Scientology, which is listed as a cult by the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board (NAMB).

"Are the ads effective? They're certainly professional," Seth Stevenson, who rates ads for the website Slate.com, wrote. "You've got to be impressed with the cinematography and editing. The high-budget gloss alone will likely sway a few viewers to visit Scientology's content-rich website."

## Unbiblical foundation

Founded in 1954 by L. Ron Hubbard, Scientology's views on sin, salvation and Christ are unbiblical. Yet none of that is clear in the ads, which instead focus on general themes about life.

"We're all looking for it. Some of us have been looking our whole

lives," a male narrator says in one of the ads, while short snippets of a person gazing out a window, a college student sitting in a class, a person walking down a library aisle, are shown. Everyone looks inquisitive.

"Some think they can buy it. Some think they can wear it. Some travel the world in search of it. Most don't even know what they are looking for, but we all feel it. That aching desire ... that unexplainable emptiness that can only be filled by one thing ... The Truth."

The tagline is then shown: "Tagline: Scientology: Know yourself ... Know life."

That particular ad is labeled "The Search" on Scientology's YouTube channel. The other two ads are labeled "You" and "Life."

"Yes Scientology has beautiful commercials and lofty promises," Tal Davis, NAMB's interfaith evangelism coordinator, wrote in a Baptist Press column.

"But the truth is far from the paradise they portray," he wrote. "The real answers to life's questions are not in some faddish therapy, SciFi religion or 'knowing yourself.' They are only found in the One who claimed to be 'The Way, the Truth, and the Life,' Jesus Christ."

In addition to being unbiblical, Scientology also can be financially costly, he said.

According to NAMB's 4Truth.net website, Scientology does not believe in a personal, omniscient, omnipresent God as do Christians.

"The Church of Scientology International has no clear definition of the nature or person of God," the website says. "References to a Supreme Being are rare in Scientology literature, calling it the 'eight dynamic' or 'infinity.' The Supreme Being is defined in vague, pantheistic terms as embracing the 'allness of all.'"

(BP)

*"Yes Scientology has beautiful commercials and lofty promises. But the truth is far from the paradise they portray."*

Tal Davis  
North American Mission Board

# Letters

(continued from page 2)  
a lousy job of making disciples. Which begs the question how do we expect God to send us more people when we have done a poor job with the ones He's sent? I mean, our people seldom know what they believe beyond that which let them get on the membership rolls.

Internet Monk, I believe it was, said at the announcement of some new "evangelism program" or other, "That's all we are ... evangelistic!" not disciple-makers.

Robert G. Cleveland  
Pelham, Ala.

## AWAKENING NEEDED

Thank you for your continuing, incisive, balanced presentation of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) challenges and needs. It is evident that Southern Baptists need an awakening to prepare us for a renewed Great Commission challenge.

With moderate intelligence and awareness of the condition of our nation and world, I do not see the Great Commission Resurgence reports and plans as a significant step forward.

As you do, I have some "thoughts." "A Million More in '54" was a plan to enroll that many more people in SBC Sunday Schools in one year. It worked. Conversions and baptisms

increased in impressive numbers in 1954 and succeeding years.

A simple plan for simple folks like me would probably work again. How about a new slogan? "Prepared for Heaven in 2011." "Enroll a Million More in SBC Sunday Schools in 2011."

Ralph B. Jernigan  
Jackson's Gap, Ala.

## ACCESSIBLE TO ALL?

I know that it is not mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act that a church facility be handicap-


accessible, but I don't understand Christian people not wanting their church to be accessible to everyone.

I think it is time to stop worshipping 100-year-old buildings and start praying for God's will in making our churches accessible to everyone.


Do you realize that everyone can shop at Wal-Mart but they cannot attend church because they cannot get in the building?

Betty Powell  
Gaylesville, Ala.

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## HEART OF MISSIONS ...

More than 120 people representing **Valley View Baptist Church, Leeds**, in Birmingham Baptist Association; **Calvert Baptist Church** in Mobile Baptist Association; **Westside Baptist Church, Jasper**, in Walker Baptist Association; and a church in North Carolina participated in a Mission Serve project in Mobile July 17-24.

Based in Cumming, Ga., Mission Serve is a faith-based, non-profit organization that exists to strengthen neighborhoods and improve individuals' lives by working to eliminate substandard housing through volunteerism and community involvement. This was the seventh year the organization worked in the Mobile area.

The volunteers were divided into squads of 10-12 to work on homes during the day. At night, they attended worship services led by Steve Brown, pastor of North River Baptist Church, Roswell, Ga., who served as one of the project leaders, along with Clay Lewis, pastor of Calvert Baptist, and Chuck Davis, church development director for Mobile Association. They stayed at First Baptist Church, Satsuma.

**First Baptist Church, Huntsville**, sent a team of 11, including five medical professionals, to the outskirts of Port au Prince, Haiti, on a medical missions trip May 29-June 6.

The team partnered with Baptist representatives Sam and Delores York, who organized a medical clinic offering screenings from doctors and dentists as well as a vision screening. The team also visited people in the community, inviting them to the clinic and sharing the gospel with them, said Mike Pearce, minister of missions and outreach for the Madison Baptist Association church. In all, 900 patients came to the clinic.

led by Director of Missions Mike Olewski, a team from **Washington Baptist Association** traveled to Laramie, Wyo., July 12-15 to do construction work at Trinity Baptist Church. The team was made up of 25 people from three Washington Association churches: Howardton Baptist Church, Tibbie; Fruitdale Baptist Church; and First Baptist Church, Chatom. They put siding on the back of the church and replaced 175 feet of sidewalk around it.

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## Alabama Cooperative Program Gifts

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### JULY

CP Challenge Budget Goal .....	\$3,875,000
CP Challenge Budget Gifts .....	\$3,548,109
Under Goal for Month .....	\$326,891

### YEAR TO DATE

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Under Goal for Year .....	\$2,363,938



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# Ministers urged to rest, take time off

Research indicates that members of the clergy now suffer from obesity, hypertension and depression at higher rates than most Americans, according to *The New York Times*.

Just in the past decade, the newspaper said, the clergy's use of antidepressants has risen and their life expectancy has fallen. A simple solution, some say, is for ministers to take more time off.

### Answering every call

"We had a pastor in our study group who hadn't taken a vacation in 18 years," Rae Jean Proeschold-Bell, an assistant professor of health research at Duke University, told *The Times*. "These people tend to

be driven by a sense of duty to God to answer every call for help from anybody, and they are virtually called upon all the time, 24/7."

Cell phones and social media have added new levels of stress, *The Times* noted, and soaring health care costs have prompted some denominations to launch wellness campaigns urging ministers to get some rest.

"Time away can bring renewal and help prevent burnout," a 2006 directive from the United Methodist Church said. Other denominations have placed a special emphasis on the importance of "Sabbath days," weekdays off in place of Sundays.

"Larger social trends, like the aging and shrinking of congrega-

tions, the dwindling availability of volunteers in the era of two-income households, and the likelihood that a male pastor's wife has a career of her own also spur some ministers to push themselves past their limits," *The Times* said.

### Higher risk

A seven-year study by Duke University examined more than 1,700 Methodist ministers in North Carolina and found that compared with neighbors in their census tracts, the ministers reported significantly higher rates of arthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma. Obesity was 10 percent more prevalent in the clergy group, *The Times* said. (BP)

# Taylor to lead Citizens Baptist Medical Center

Joel C. Taylor has been named administrator of Citizens Baptist Medical Center in Talladega. Taylor will begin his new position Sept. 13.

"Joel's commitment to serving patients and his experience as a leader, along with his motivation, make him a great fit for Citizens Baptist," said Keith Parrott, Baptist Health System north market leader.

As administrator, Taylor will

provide direction and manage the hospital's employees, volunteers, medical staff and community relations. He will also implement short- and long-term objectives for the hospital and nurture the hospital's relationship with the community.

"I am excited to be joining Citizens Baptist and returning to Alabama," Taylor said. "The hospital is poised for growth, which makes this opportunity to serve Talladega and the surrounding communities both a privilege and a challenge."

Taylor comes to Citizens Baptist

from White County Community Hospital in Sparta, Tenn., where he served as chief executive officer for the past two years. He also has served as assistant chief executive officer at Parkway Medical Center in Decatur.

Taylor received a master of science in health administration and a master of business administration from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Birmingham-Southern College. (BHS)



TAYLOR

To the best of our knowledge, all of the ads in *The Alabama Baptist* represent legitimate companies and offerings. However, one should always exercise normal business caution in responding to ads.



We are in the beginning stages of planning for an online edition of *The Alabama Baptist* while also continuing the print edition in its current form. What are your thoughts? Tell us on our Facebook page at *The Alabama Baptist* or e-mail us at [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org).

## MARKET PLACE

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PLACING A CLASSIFIED AD, CALL THE ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT OF *THE ALABAMA BAPTIST*, 205-870-4720, EXT. 102, OR E-MAIL [ADS@THEALABAMABAPTIST.ORG](mailto:ADS@THEALABAMABAPTIST.ORG). COPY DEADLINE IS TWO WEEKS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

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**PASTOR:** Currently seeking pastor for small, mission-minded congregation dedicated to serving the Lord, our communities and others through local and SBC-supported ministries. Strong, active children's and youth ministry. Send resumés to: Pastor Search, P.O. Box 1101, Sylacauga, AL 35150.

**PASTOR:** Calvary Baptist Church currently accepting resumés through Oct. 29 for full-time experienced Southern Baptist pastor. Mail resumés: Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 740236, Tusculumbia, AL 35674.

**PASTOR:** Marshall Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé to: [pastorsearch@marshallchurch.org](mailto:pastorsearch@marshallchurch.org) or Marshall Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Committee, 436 Marshall Church Road NE, Thomson, GA 30824.

**BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER:** First Baptist Church, Rogersville, Ala., is currently seeking a bivocational minister of music/worship leader. Please send all resumés to: First Baptist Church, Rogersville, 222 College Street, Rogersville, AL 35652.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For August 22

## Explore the Bible By Robert Olsen Assistant Professor, School of Christian Studies, University of Mobile

### RELATIONSHIPS: THE LONG-DISTANCE FACTOR

**2 Corinthians 8:1-9; 9:1-2, 7-8, 12-15**

#### Look at Others' Example: Be Generous (8:1-7)

Paul had asked the believers in Corinth to set aside money for the purpose of making a collection for the poor in Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16). However, despite Paul's urging, they did not do this. It seems that some of the traveling preachers who had come through Corinth dissuaded the believers from saving this money, likely in an attempt to take it for themselves. It was these traveling preachers who also tried to convince the Corinthians that Paul did not have adequate credentials to be teaching them, which is why he spends so much of this letter defending himself against these bogus claims. Regarding the issue of giving, Paul held up the Macedonian churches as examples for the Corinthian church to follow, since they gave to the Jerusalem church despite their poverty. Indeed they pleaded with Paul to be allowed to give, which shows the depth of their generosity. The believers in Macedonia understood that God gives to His children so that they can then bless others. What a great example for us today. We also can help our brothers and sisters in need by giving to various ministries, as well as to our church. Missionary activities require money and time, as well as much prayer. We also can spend time listening to others who just need to have fellowship, as well as volunteering at various ministries such as food kitchens and pregnancy support centers.

#### Consider Jesus' Example: Be Loving (8:8-9)

In continuing his appeal for generosity, Paul explained that he was not commanding the Corinthians to give — true generosity is a free expression; it is not forced. However, Paul explained that true love seeks to help others. Therefore, if the Corinthian believers were not willing to give, then could they really love their neighbor? Paul then held up Christ as the prime example of how generosity works through love. Christ, who is God, left heav-

en and came to earth in human form to walk among and die for a sinful people. Christ, though rich, became poor for our salvation. If this is how Christ lived, then are Christians not to do the same? We can always show our love for others by ministering to them with generosity. This might be just sending a card to them, or it may involve more of a sacrifice; and as Christians following Christ's example, we need to be willing to make sacrifices for others' sake.

#### Establish Your Example: Be Eager (9:1-2, 7-8)

Paul had used the Corinthians' eagerness to give as an example to other churches but now they were wavering. Paul admonished them to give as they had intended, not because they were required to do so, but if that is what God had laid on their hearts, then they needed to follow through joyfully, for He loves a cheerful giver. In the same way, when we agree to support a ministry, be it a local food kitchen or a missionary, we need to follow through. If we believe that God can take care of us and does provide for us, then we need to recognize that the money we have is from Him and that He can supply our every need as He sees fit.

#### Think About Results: Be Optimistic (9:12-15)

Paul explained to the Corinthians how their giving had many positive results. Not only would the needs of the Christians in Jerusalem be met but they would also give thanks to God because of the Corinthians' generosity. This gift would also demonstrate their obedience to the gospel of Christ and result in the Jerusalem Christians praying for the Corinthian believers. When we are involved in giving of time, money, etc., we receive benefits as well. When we are involved in supporting missionaries, we also are involved in each of the people with whom they share the gospel. Everything that the people we support do for the sake of the gospel, we do as well. We may never know how our support was able to further the kingdom of God while we live here on earth, but when we get to heaven, we will be able to see the impact our giving had. ☞

## Bible Studies for Life By James Barnette Associate Professor, Department of Religion, Samford University

### DEAL WITH PERSONAL SIN **2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-15; 12:7a, 10-14; Psalm 51:1-4**

Chapter 11 of 2 Samuel represents a most significant transition in the Davidic narrative, shifting from public triumph (2 Sam. 5-10) to personal tragedy (2 Sam. 12-20). The intrusion of serious sin into David's life cuts sharply into his remaining story. Some liken its ominous introduction to the original sin of Adam and Eve.

#### Recognize That Temptation Leads to Sin (2 Sam. 11:2-5, 14-15)

David was walking on the flat roof, which was the preferred part of a house on warm evenings, particularly if a breeze were blowing. David's abode was probably on the highest ground of the old Jebusite fortress, and the rooftop must have offered a commanding view of the city. The woman in question was the daughter of one of David's best fighters, the granddaughter of his most trusted counselor and the wife of one of his most esteemed soldiers. These connections highlight the tragic and destructive enmeshment that adultery can render to so many. The action was quick, which highlights the lack of thought on David's part. He sent; he took; he lay (4). The woman returned and she conceived. There was no conversation, no consideration of consequences. Furthermore there was no hint of caring, of affection, of love — there was only lust. David did not call her by name, nor did he speak to her. The most telling verb is "he took her." The prophet Samuel warned that kings are takers (1 Sam. 8:11-19). David had been given so much and had appeared to manage his gifts effectively. Now he was reflecting the greed of kings whom Samuel had derided.

#### Realize That Sin Must Be Confronted (2 Sam. 12:7a, 10-12)

When David condemned the sin of the rich man in Nathan's parable, he also condemned himself. Even though likely surrounded by "yes-men," Nathan uttered the direct indictment upon the king: "You are the man." Uriah died because of David's sin, and now God declared that death would enter David's life

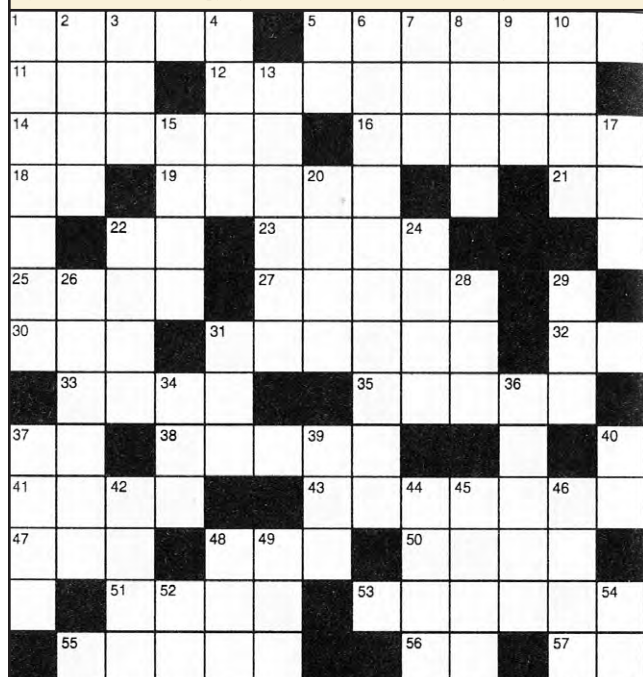
as well. A "sword" was ordained over David's descendants for all time to come. It was by the sword of the Ammonites (9) that David murdered one of his best soldiers. Now David and his family would suffer the carnage of a sword of his own making. The fatal violence in David's family is highlighted in Chapters 13-19 (as well as 1 Kings 1-2). Four of David's sons would face premature death: Amnon, Absalom, Adonijah and an unnamed son. David's beautiful daughter Tamar would be raped by her half brother, and his concubines would be humiliated publicly by Absalom when he captured the kingdom. That Yahweh Himself took personally David's sin is clear: "You despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite." David had exhibited disregard for Uriah, but even worse, he showed disregard for Yahweh and His law. This fact serves as a strong reminder to us that indeed God takes it personally when we miss the mark and dishonor Him.

#### Rejoice That Sin Can Be Forgiven (2 Sam. 12:13-14; Ps. 51:1-4)

David's contrite response was to the point: "I have sinned." In the Hebrew, the confession consists of only two words, meaning "I have sinned against Yahweh." David's words correspond in terseness and directness to Nathan's words in verse 7: "You are the man." Again, in this case, the Hebrew indictment consists of only two words. One might conclude that David had no option: He was caught red-handed and had to confess. But in fact, he did not have to confess. A lesser king would not have confessed; indeed he probably would have had Nathan killed. David's words in Psalm 51 reflect personal ownership of his transgression. Yes, he had sinned against Uriah and Bathsheba. Much worse he had "despised" Yahweh and His law. David's words in verse 4 of the Psalm confirm his correct assessment of the most devastating aspect of his wrongdoing: "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight." David went on to acknowledge that God's verdict upon him was right and that He is "justified when [He judges]." The gospel for David is that while God's ruling is divinely just, it is not too late for him to receive grace and mercy. ☞

## Christian Crossword

By K.B. Liesner Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



### Across

- Hosea's wife.
- Herod ... made an \_\_\_ unto them. (Acts 12:21)
- Shall the \_\_\_ boast itself against him that heweth therewith? (Isa. 10:15)
- A person from Ephesus.
- The borrower is servant to the \_\_\_. (Prov. 22:7)
- Greek god of music, poetry and sunlight.
- Noah builded \_\_\_ altar unto the Lord. (Gen. 8:20)
- The Israelites had to \_\_\_ to living in the wilderness.
- "Praise \_\_\_ the Lord."
- Millimeter. (abbr.)
- Ninth letter of the Greek alphabet.
- \_\_\_ do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Phil. 4:13)
- There was silence in heaven about the \_\_\_ of half an hour. (Rev. 8:1)
- A city belonging to Simeon. (Josh. 19:7)
- To repeat again.
- Verse. (abbr.)
- Hiram's kingdom. (2 Sam. 5:11)
- Get thee \_\_\_, Satan. (Matt. 4:10)

- A city destroyed by the Israelites. (Josh. 8:21)
- O come, let us \_\_\_ Him.
- To judge.
- Our good works are \_\_\_ without faith in God.
- Josaphat's father. (Matt. 1:8)
- A \_\_\_ of thieves. (Mark 11:17)
- For whosoever will save his life shall \_\_\_ it. (Matt. 16:25)
- The first "marked man."
- Put thou my tears into thy \_\_\_. (Ps. 56:8)
- \_\_\_ them into the pot of pottage. (2 Kings 4:39)
- I am; you are; he \_\_\_.
- "A long, long way to run."

### Down

- Where Galatians come from.
- Balak's offering. (Num. 22:40)
- Adam, Isaac, Joseph, Paul, for example.
- A bruised \_\_\_ shall he not break. (Isa. 42:3)
- \_\_\_ that I had wings like a dove. (Ps. 55:6)
- Attaches again.
- The sucking child shall play on the hole of the \_\_\_. (Isa. 11:8)
- From the beginning of the crea\_\_\_. (Mark 10:6)
- How the Israelites kept time: a sund\_\_.
- Take now ... thine \_\_\_ son, Isaac. (Gen. 22:2)
- I will \_\_\_ thee, O Lord, with my whole heart. (Ps. 9:1)
- But he that believeth not shall be \_\_\_ed. (Mark 16:16)
- Poetic form of "over."
- Head of the Catholic church.
- Thou shalt be a father of \_\_\_ nations. (Gen. 17:4)
- Word after "heart," "stomach," and "head."
- Lot dwelled in the \_\_\_ of the plain. (Gen. 13:12)
- An incalculable amount of time.
- Mother of Cain and Abel.
- The color of the dragon having seven heads and ten horns. (Rev. 12:3)
- Isaac's substitute. (Gen. 22:13)
- What Jehoiada commanded set outside the temple gate. (2 Chron. 24:8)
- Eve's husband.
- Let us \_\_\_ with patience the

- race that is set before us. (Heb. 12:1)
- \_\_\_ the hart panteth after the water. (Ps. 42:1)
- Tongues like as of fire ... sat upon \_\_\_ of them. (Acts 2:3)
- \_\_\_, lama sabachthani? (Mark 15:34)
- \_\_\_ wife, not exactly a "pillar" of the church.
- Who his own \_\_\_ bare our sins. (1 Pet. 2:24)
- Though I should \_\_\_ with thee. (Matt. 26:35)
- For to this \_\_\_ Christ ... died. (Rom. 14:9)
- City given to Lot's children. (Deut. 2:9)
- Abbreviation for 42 down.



# RESOURCES:

Your Guide to Today's New Music and Movies



## Sound Bites By Jeremy Henderson

### THE BURCHFIELD BROTHERS

*Times and Seasons*

Best of the Burchfield Brothers

The Burchfield Brothers are fantastic. Jon is beyond expert on classical guitar while brother Ben is a master of something called a Mal-



letKAT — a MIDI percussion instrument similar to a traditional marimba but that can be played with mallets or by hand.

The instrumental variety of “Times and Seasons” doesn’t stop there: there’s the Irish whistle, the harmonica, the violin and several unnamed others, all combining for 12 of the best songs — “Wayfaring Stranger,” “Doxology,” “Amazing Grace” — from 20 years of inspirational, instrumental wizardry.

### CARLOS WHITTAKER

*Ragamuffin Soul*

Integrity

When it comes to rock ‘n’ roll credibility, Carlos Whittaker shouldn’t have a problem.

In 2007, the worship pastor for Atlanta’s Buckhead Church was featured in an episode of TLC’s tattoo parlor-based reality series “LA Ink” getting a tattoo of the conversion of Saul down his right arm.

That’s the kind of exposure most

Christian musicians can only dream about, but one Whittaker didn’t even need.

Thanks to years of non-stop blogging at [www.ragamuffinsoul.com](http://www.ragamuffinsoul.com), Whittaker had a built-in audience

for his same-named debut album of power-chord worship-rock — so built in the record hit No. 1 on the iTunes Top 200 Christian Albums Chart within a day of its April 27 release.

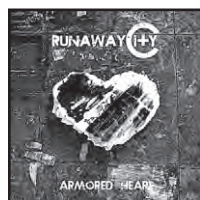
Musically, it’s catchy — nothing new, but nothing bad. Which means that Whittaker’s impact in contemporary Christian music will likely match his powerful impact in Web 2.0.

### RUNAWAY CITY

*Armored Heart*

Vertusent Music Group

The Darling family they ain’t. Hailing from Mount Airy, N.C. (the



real-life Mayberry of “The Andy Griffith Show”), the four members of Runaway City have committed themselves not to bluegrass but completely competent modern rock in the vein of Daughtry and Nick-

elback and Breaking Benjamin and just about every other grittily sung, guitar-driven song on the radio.

Since even straight rock ‘n’ roll can sometimes stump Christian bands, that is actually a compliment. The deceptively catchy songs on the band’s debut (and nicely titled) album “Armored Heart” are large, in charge and nothing if not heartfelt.

Alabamians might be interested in noting that the artwork and layout for the record are the work of Birmingham-based celebrity indie-rock photographer Ryan Russell. Also the album was recorded in Birmingham’s Syncromesh Studios.

### FFH

*Wide Open Spaces*

62 Records

After a three-year hiatus intended to restore their marriage, the husband-wife duo (Jeromy and Jennifer Deibler) of contemporary Christian music mainstay FFH has also completely restored its career.

“Wide Open Spaces,” their 12th album, is a 10-song collection of... of a hard-to-peg sound that might best be described as “pop-worship.” For instance, by the end of the first song, “Undone,” it’s as if Naked Eyes, Kings of Leon and Michael W. Smith are coming out of your speakers at once, and somehow completely in harmony.

Something in the structure of the chorus of the second song, “Hold

## Movie Reviews

By Matthew Stephens

### Preacher’s Kid

Director Stan Foster

Want to see a truly inspirational movie? Check out “Preacher’s Kid.” With a feel of being a modern-day rendition of the biblical parable of the Prodigal Son, it is a movie that will have you giving praise to God.

“Preacher’s Kid” follows the story of a small-town girl named Angie King who leaves her family and her faith behind to pursue a dream of singing stardom. Angie finds herself attracted to Devlin Mitchell, the hunky star of a traveling gospel group, who takes her on the road and into the world of romance and heartbreak. It does not take long before Angie realizes true happiness may lie in the home she left behind.

“Preacher’s Kid” features an all-star cast of black actors, like LeToya Luckett, Durrell “Tank” Babbs and Sharif Atkins, who set the stage for this musical journey.

Overall “Preacher’s Kid” is a wonderful movie that will captivate the hearts of everyone who sees it. “Preacher’s Kid” is now available on DVD and Blu-ray.

Note: Rated PG-13 for thematic material involving some sexual content, violence and brief drug use.

### Sweetpea Beauty: A Girl After God’s Own Heart

Big Idea Inc.

“Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest one of all?” Everyone remembers this famous line from the popular fairy tale “Snow White” by the Grimm Brothers. What about telling the story in a biblical way? Big Idea, the creator of the popular children’s series Veggie Tales, recently released a new movie called “Sweetpea Beauty: A Girl After God’s Own Heart.”

The story is about an insecure Queen blueberry, a mistreated rhubarb maiden and a mirror that is

known for its dark seeds of deception. After a decree is handed down that only the most beautiful can rule the land, Queen blueberry banishes the rhubarb maiden, Sweetpea, to the forest. With the help of a charming prince, a band of merry minstrels and seven snow peas, Sweetpea goes on a mission to save the queen from the deceptiveness of the mirror.

Also on the DVD is a featurette called “Snoodlerella” which is a twist on the classic fairy tale “Cinderella.”

Both movies, “Sweetpea Beauty” and “Snoodlerella,” give a very “veggie” approach on the lesson of true beauty through laughter and are a must-see for all ages. It might have a girly spin but is a lesson that every boy and girl needs to hear. This movie will make you feel good about who you are and will remind you that having God in your life is what means the most.



on to Me,” is somehow reminiscent of U2’s hit single “One,” which was released in 1991, the same year FFH

formed. Just when you think you’ve traced their roots to the 1980s–90s border, the title track kicks in a la early 2000’s Sheryl Crow, with all of the modern, mandolin-pickin’ twang you’d expect of a band based in Franklin, Tenn. The next song? Why it starts with a beat from a lo-fi drum machine, of course.

Overall this is a well-crafted, deeply personal and highly enjoyable record that will take a long time to get old and keep you on your toes till it does. Welcome back.

### ANDREW PETERSON

*Counting Stars*

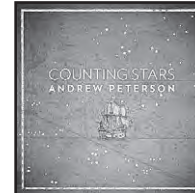
Centricity

His probing, Gary Sinise gaze might play a part, but singer/songwriter Andrew Peterson likely owes at least the musical sway (he’s also

an accomplished novelist) he holds over coffee-shop Christians to his enviably earthy sincerity.

To wit: “The Reckoning,” a soul-felt, psalm-like yearning for Christ’s return, was the spontaneous result of sitting on his front porch watching a storm roll over his house. Having a style that easily translates to, yet transcends, the folk/alt-country scene in his home base of Nashville doesn’t hurt either. Nor should his seventh studio album, which has already received a rousing blogged endorsement from Donald Miller, author of “Blue Like Jazz.”

Recorded in the wind-swept western hills of Washington state, “Counting Stars” will likely feel to Peterson devotees, as member/producer Ben Shive put it, “like a familiar room painted a different color.” Given time, they’ll like that color even better. Recommended. 🌟



## Christian Marketplace Top Ten Best Sellers

### Fiction

1. **Take Four**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
2. **Take Three**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
3. **Predator**, Terri Blackstock (Zondervan)
4. **Her Mother’s Hope**, Francine Rivers (Tyndale House)
5. **The Shack**, William P. Young (Windblown Media)
6. **Edge of Apocalypse**, Tim LaHaye and Craig Parshall (Zondervan)
7. **Take One**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
8. **Redeeming Love**, Francine Rivers (Waterbrook/Multnomah)
9. **Shades of Blue**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
10. **A Lineage of Grace**, Francine Rivers (Tyndale House)

### Nonfiction

1. **Crazy Love**, Francis Chan (David C. Cook)
2. **Jesus Calling**, Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson)
3. **Forgotten God**, Francis Chan (David C. Cook)
4. **Bringing Up Girls**, James C. Dobson (Tyndale House)
5. **The Five Love Languages**, Gary Chapman (Moody)
6. **The Love Dare**, Stephen and Alex Kendrick (B&H Publishing)
7. **Radical**, David Platt (Waterbrook/Multnomah)
8. **So Long Insecurity**, Beth Moore (Tyndale House)
9. **Unnamed**, Chris Travis (Standard Publishing)
10. **Can America Survive?**, John Hagee (Howard Books)



# 'Hunted down'

## Hundreds injure church members in Bekasi, Indonesia

Leaders of a church in West Java, Indonesia demanded justice from police after a fifth attack from Muslim protestors left at least a dozen people injured Aug. 8.

As some 20 members of the Batak Christian Protestant Filadelfia Church in Bekasi gathered for Sunday worship on a church-owned plot of land in Ciketing, at least 300 members of the Islamic People's Forum (FUI) and the Islamic Defenders Front (FPI) broke through a police barricade and ordered them to leave, Theophilus Bela, president of the Jakarta Christian Communication Forum, told Compass Direct. When the church members refused, the protestors assaulted the group with sticks, stones or their bare hands.

### Large, aggressive mob

A report in *The Jakarta Post* reported that as many as 700 protestors took part in the attack on the congregation, which numbers 1,500 in total. A video clip of the attack shown on local broadcasting network Metro Treve confirmed only that a large and physically aggressive mob was present at the site.

Indra Listiantara, a researcher with the Setara Institute for Democracy and Peace, said local residents identified the attackers as members of the FPI who had already attacked the church on previous occasions, including Bekasi FPI leader Murhali Barda, according to *The Jakarta Globe*.

When church members decided to leave, the mob "hunted us down and hit us," church leader Hendrik Siagian told local news magazine *Tempo*.

Those injured included church member Franky Taumbunan, 26, who was kicked several times while

he attempted to protect his elderly father. Berliana Sinaga, 22, suffered bruising after several men hit her in the head and face, the *Post* reported.

Several church members required medical attention, Bela confirmed.

Police chief Iman Sugianto, however, said he blamed the church members as he had warned them not to hold services in the area because they were disturbing the residents, according to the *Post*.

The church has filed charges against the FUI and FPI for assault and defiling a religion, the *Globe* reported Aug. 8. The Rev. Luspida Simanjuntak also demanded that the Bekasi administration offer the church an alternative venue.

Church members only resorted to worshiping on the plot of land in Ciketing after officials sealed a house used for worship in the Pondok Timur housing complex in Jelajen Jaya sub-district, Bekasi, Bela said.

The church purchased a plot of land in Ciketing in 1998 and began to construct a church there after gathering consent from 200 local residents and local officials; a 500-strong mob, however, burned down the partially-completed building in November 2000, he said.

### Temporary place

In June 2007, the church purchased a house in the Pondok Timur housing estate for use as a temporary place of worship while they submitted a formal application to construct a church building in Ciketing. The application, however, remained unanswered for more than a year, while radicals stepped up their protests against the use of the house in Pondok Timur.

In October 2009, the church secured permission from the chief of

Jelajen Jaya sub-district to hold services on the plot of land in Ciketing. The group then built a small structure there to store items such as tables and chairs.

Following protests in Ciketing, local authorities sent an official letter to the church rejecting their building application, Bela said. When church members continued to meet at the house in Pondok Timur, authorities also sealed that building in June.

### Questioned sincerity

Following an appeal from church members, Bekasi Mayor Mochtar Mohammad then reportedly promised to let the group meet in public areas and agreed to send police to safeguard church activities.

But Christians and Muslims alike have questioned the sincerity of such promises. The Aug. 8 attack came just one day after Jakarta Gov. Fauzi Bowo and Jakarta Police Chief Timur Pradopo attended the 12th anniversary celebrations of the Muslim extremist FPI. On Aug. 6, an FPI leader also visited Jakarta police headquarters to offer the Front's assistance in enforcing religious bylaws during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the *Post* reported today.

Following weekend attacks on the Bekasi church and on a congregation of the Ahmadiyah, a Muslim sect, moderate Muslims flooded social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook with criticism of the FPI, demanding that the government take action to prevent further violence.

In an effort to resolve the issue, church members plan to hold their next Sunday service in front of the State Palace, said Judianto Simanjuntak, one of several church legal advisors, the *Post* reported today.

(CD)

## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Two Christian families in Bangladesh extorted, beaten

PINGNA, Bangladesh — Two Christian women in Bangladesh's northern district of Jamalpur said village officials extorted relatively large sums of money from them — and severely beat the husband of one — for proclaiming Christ to Muslims.

Johura Begum, 42, of Pingna village said a member of the local union council, an area government representative and the father of a police officer threatened to harm her grown daughters if her family did not pay them \$217. The police officer whose father was allegedly involved in the extortion was investigating fabricated charges that Christians had paid Muslims to participate in a river baptism May 26. Only six men among 55 converts were baptized by leaders of the Pentecostal Holiness Church of Bangladesh, Christian leaders said, as the rest were intimidated by protesting Muslims. Villagers — backed by a political leader of the ruling Bangladesh Awami League party — also allegedly extorted \$3,597 from another Christian woman, whose husband is a successful fertilizer seller.

After the baptisms in the Brahmanputra River in Mymensingh district, local Muslims beat her husband to such an extent that he was hospitalized. "My husband is a scapegoat — he simply does business," she said. "But he was beaten for my faith and activities."

Police forced one of those present at the baptism, 45-year-old Hafijur Rahman, to sign a statement accusing four of the Christian leaders of offering him and others money to attend, Rahman said. He said that he was illiterate and did not know what he was signing, and that he was not offered any money to go to the baptism service.

For three days after the baptisms, Jamalpur district villagers announced through bullhorns the punishment Christians would receive, chanting things like, "We will peel off the skins of the Christians."

### Persecution triangle gaining in intensity in India

KERALA, India — Tensions between Christians and Muslims in India's Kerala state have reached the boiling point over allegations of widespread coerced conversions to Islam.

Kerala's Communist chief minister, V.S. Achuthanandan, accused an Islamist opposition party of conspiring to turn Kerala into a Muslim-dominated state. "Youngsters are being given money and are being lured to convert to Islam," he told reporters at a news conference. Opposition parties accused the government of playing the "Hindu card" ahead of local elections.

Muslims and Christian minorities in India generally enjoy good relations and see each other as fellow victims of alleged persecution by right-wing Hindu groups. Kerala's population of 31.8 million is 56 percent Hindu, 24 percent Muslim and 19 percent Christian.

The chief minister's statement came after alleged members of the Islamist party Popular Front of India (PFI) cut off a Christian professor's hand July 4 in the central district of Kottayam. India's National Investigation Agency is investigating the role of PFI in terrorism.

According to *Mangalam Daily*, a PFI-backed "Taliban-styled" Shariah court — one of 14 reported Islamic courts in Kerala — had ordered the punishment against Professor T.J. Joseph for allegedly insulting the Prophet Muhammad in a paper.

### Zanzibar Muslims, officials stop church building, erect mosque

MWANYANYA-MTONI, Tanzania — On an island off the coast of East Africa where the local government limits the ability of Christians to obtain land, officials in one town have colluded with area Muslims to erect a mosque in place of a planned church building.

On the Tanzanian island of Zanzibar, Pastor Paulo Kamole Masegi of the Evangelistic Assemblies of God had purchased land in April 2007 for a church building in Mwanyanya-Mtoni, and by November of that year he had built a house that served as a temporary worship center, he said. Soon area Muslim residents objected, said Pastor Lucian Mgaywa of the Church of God in Tanzania. In August 2009, local Muslims began to build a mosque just three feet away from the church plot. In November 2009, Masegi began building a permanent church structure. Muslims invaded the compound and destroyed the structure's foundation, the pastors said. Meantime, construction of the mosque was completed in December 2009.

The planned church building's fate appeared to have been sealed earlier this year when Western District Commissioner Ali Mohammed Ali notified Masegi that he had no right to hold worship in a house.