

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

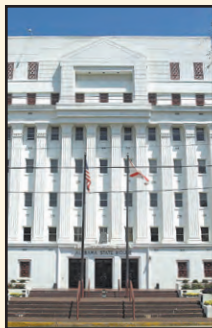


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Photo by Doug Rogers

DEDICATE — Praying at the future site of Pastor Paul's church, Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Par La Foi, are (l to r) Pastor Paul; Rick Lance, executive director of the SBOM; Francky Jeune, a Haitian pastor; and Mel Johnson, disaster relief strategist for the SBOM.

'Time for the harvest'

Haitian Baptists set goal for 1.5 million 'saved souls'

By Doug Rogers
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

A team of four Alabama Baptist state missionaries recently visited Haiti to begin making plans for the next stage of ministry in the earthquake-ravaged country.

Rick Lance, executive director; Mel Johnson, state disaster relief strategist; and Doug Rogers and Chris Mills, communications strategists, met with Haitian Baptist and Florida Baptist leadership in Jacmel Sept. 7-9 to provide encouragement and map out a strategy for the coming year.

While in Jacmel, the team visited two church sites and an orphanage. For Lance, it was an opportunity to see firsthand the initial results of Alabama Baptist volunteer efforts.

"I'm proud of Alabama Baptists for the work that's been done and appreciative of the teams that have gone into

Haiti," Lance said. "I'm so encouraged by what's already been done and look forward to greater things in the future." To date, more than 100 Alabama Baptists have volunteered in Haiti.

The Haiti Baptist Convention is made up of six associations, each with its own director. The work is headed up by Pastor De Louis Labranche, director of ministry, a role roughly equivalent to Lance's.

Labranche thanked Alabama Baptists for the work they're doing and shared his vision for Haiti with the team. "This is the time to claim Haiti for Christ and Christ for Haiti," he said, noting they have a goal of reaching 1.5 million souls for the Lord. "We ask you to help us in your prayers, because this is the time for the harvest in Haiti."

Indeed, since the earthquake in January, 164,000 professions of faith have been recorded in Haiti and more than 200 churches have been started — six in Jacmel alone. "The people's hearts are very open to the gospel of Jesus Christ," Labranche said.

Another cause for celebration can be seen at the Baptist church led by Pastor Paul, who has worked with many of the volunteer groups and has been instrumental in the church plants

in Jacmel. More than 250 people routinely attend Pastor Paul's church, and they have outgrown their space, leading them to begin construction on a larger building.

Alabama Baptists' work in Haiti is a result of a partnership with Florida Baptists, who have had a missions presence in Haiti for 15 years. In May, (See 'Committed,' page 3)



Photo by Doug Rogers

COMMITTED — Pastor Paul is Alabama Baptists' main contact for ministry work in Jacmel, Haiti.

Two state executives oppose Ezell

In an unprecedented move, two state convention executive directors challenged the North American Mission Board (NAMB) presidential nominee, Kevin Ezell, senior pastor of Highview Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., just prior to NAMB's vote on him.

David E. Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, opposed Ezell's nomination in a Sept. 9 open letter to NAMB's trustees and urged them not to elect him. Trustees were scheduled to vote during a Sept. 14 special called meeting. The result of this meeting will be reported at www.thealabamabaptist.org.

"This is not meant as a personal attack on Dr. Ezell," Hankins wrote. "I would have the same concern about any candidate for NAMB who had



HANKINS

a similarly poor record" of supporting Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program (CP) channel of missions and ministry along with another key source of NAMB funding, the annual Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) for North American Missions.

Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, agreed.

CP commitment

"Dr. Hankins has a gracious and kind assessment of the situation, and he is also clearly logical," Turner said. "It seems surprising to me that the search committee would recommend someone whose level of support for the North American Mission Board through the CP and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering could not sustain the work of NAMB were it to be duplicated widely across the [Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)]."

"While I have met Dr. Ezell and been impressed with his personality and his preaching, I would hope that the new president of NAMB could be an example of commitment to the Cooperative Program as called for by the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering."

(See 'Despite,' page 11)

COMMENT

Quran Burning Debate Shows Double Standard

One could almost hear an audible sigh of relief when Pastor Terry Jones and members of the Dove World Outreach Center announced they would not burn copies of the Quran on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

The threat of this small independent church in Gainesville, Fla., to burn the Muslim holy book had become a worldwide issue. Demonstrations against the action were held in several nations where Muslims make up a majority of the population. President Obama called the action a "recruitment bonanza for al-Qaida." Gen. David Petraeus warned it "could cause significant problems" for American troops he leads in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

On Sept. 9, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates called Jones and asked him not to go through with the Quran burnings. Obviously the action's consequences could have been severe. The decision not to follow through with the burnings was both wise and prudent.

But almost overlooked in the ferment over the threat to burn copies of the Quran is the double standard that American society, and most of the world, practices when it comes to Islam and Christianity.

On Sept. 7, a group of Baptist leaders held a news conference in Washington, where they declared, "We stand by the principle that to attack any religion in the United States is to do violence to the religious freedom of all Americans." We agree. Religious freedom is for all Americans, not just those who happen to be among the majority.

'Appalled by such disrespect'

Referencing the church's threat, the group added, "As religious leaders, we are appalled by such disrespect for a sacred text that for centuries, has shaped many of the great cultures of our world and that continues to give spiritual comfort to more than a billion Muslims today."

Again we agree. Jesus taught believers to love God and their neighbors as themselves. His command, as well as the principle of religious liberty for all, should teach us that there is no justification for burning or desecrating anyone's sacred religious text.

But here we ask a question. Where were these voices when the deputy mayor of Or-Yehuda, Israel, organized students to burn several hundred copies of the New Testament in May 2008? Or when the deputy mayor went on Israeli radio and TV giving interviews about the campaign?



THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

Where were the voices of Christians, Jews and Muslims to protest the "disrespect" for Christians' sacred text?

In May 2009, the U.S. military seized the private property of an airman stationed at the U.S. air base in Bagram, Afghanistan. The property consisted of about 200 Bibles printed in Pashto and Dari, the two primary languages of the area. The airman said his church in the United States had raised money, printed the Bibles and sent them to him to distribute if he had opportunity.

The military defended the seizure, calling it "force protection," and burned the Bibles. Interestingly at least one Baptist at the news conference publically chided the airman for "proselytizing by the military." He had nothing to say about the military's "disrespect" for the sacred text of his own faith.

Last Halloween, a Baptist church in North Carolina burned Bibles it considered heresies — anything but the King James Version — and America winked at it. *The Washington Post* gave the event a small inside story. Type in "Bible burning" on YouTube, and one can see an array of videos in which people burn Bibles for a variety of reasons. One person even campaigns in favor of Bible burnings because the Bible is "babble." Where is the outcry over "disrespect" for Christians' sacred text?

This double standard has been around for decades. In the 1980s, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) used taxpayer money to support artists producing what have to be described as blasphemous works. One of the more notorious was a work by Andres Serrano. It was a photograph of a crucifix submerged in a transparent container filled with urine. Another was David Wojnarowicz's painting of Christ with a crown of thorns on His head and a drug needle stuck in His arm.

The then-head of the NEA admitted the works were "repulsive or blasphemous" but argued they "sought deeper meanings."

When Christians attempted to express their pain at seeing such depictions of their Savior and the mocking way their faith was treated, defenders accused them of trying to "hold all artists to one standard of belief." Defenders argued loud and long for freedom of artistic expression and speech.

One said, "If the United States does not allow tolerance, our fragile democracy will fly apart like ... Yugoslavia."

That concern for tolerance was not evidenced in 2009 when Yale University edited out images of 12 cartoons of Muhammad from a scholarly book titled "The Cartoons That Shook the World" by Jytte Klausen. The cartoons were originally published by a Danish newspaper in 2005. Reaction in the Muslim world was violent. More than 100 people were killed in demonstrations. Danish embassies were set ablaze in Syria, Lebanon and Iran.

Klausen sought to examine the event from a scholarly viewpoint, but university officials would not allow the cartoons to be printed. Officials said they feared reprinting the cartoons could result in further violence. Concerns from academic organizations about free speech and giving in to perceived intimidation fell on deaf ears.

Here in Alabama, too

Interestingly one of the newspapers that reprinted the cartoons later apologized to any Muslim offended by them. Can anyone imagine a newspaper apologizing for printing a cartoon that offended Christians' spiritual sensitivities?

The double standard is here in Alabama. In one school district, a Muslim mother complained about a song her child learned at school and the song was dropped. A Christian mother's concern about a book her child was asked to read was met with ridicule by officials of the same district.

Religious freedom is important. Freedom of speech is important. Tolerance is important. But these principles should be equally applied to those whose religion is in the majority and those of minority faiths. A double standard is not right, not even in the face of violence.

Follow Bob Terry on
twitter
@drbobterry

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

"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

Frank Cobb

Pleasant Grove Church, Jackson
Clarke Baptist Association

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16

FAVORITE HYMN: "Follow Me"

HOBBIES: Golf

FAMILY STATUS: Married to Mary for 67 years; three sons, Joe, Bill and Danny; nine grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren



COBB

At 85, Frank Cobb is still doing yard work and maintenance for Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Jackson.

Q: What was your childhood like?

A: Just a ... little boy who grew up without a father. [He] died when I was 11.

Q: How did you come to know the Lord?

A: I was lead by my mother to go to church ... until I was 16 years old. I didn't become saved until about six years ago.

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

A: I've been a Sunday School teacher for six years, deacon, song leader, maintenance worker at the church and keep the yard up.

Q: What have you gotten from those ministries?

A: Learning more about the Lord.

Q: How have churches changed over the years?

A: Young people just don't get involved anymore. They find other things to do.

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

A: Circumstances could change and I may have to reduce my activities.

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

A: It's made me a better person.

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.

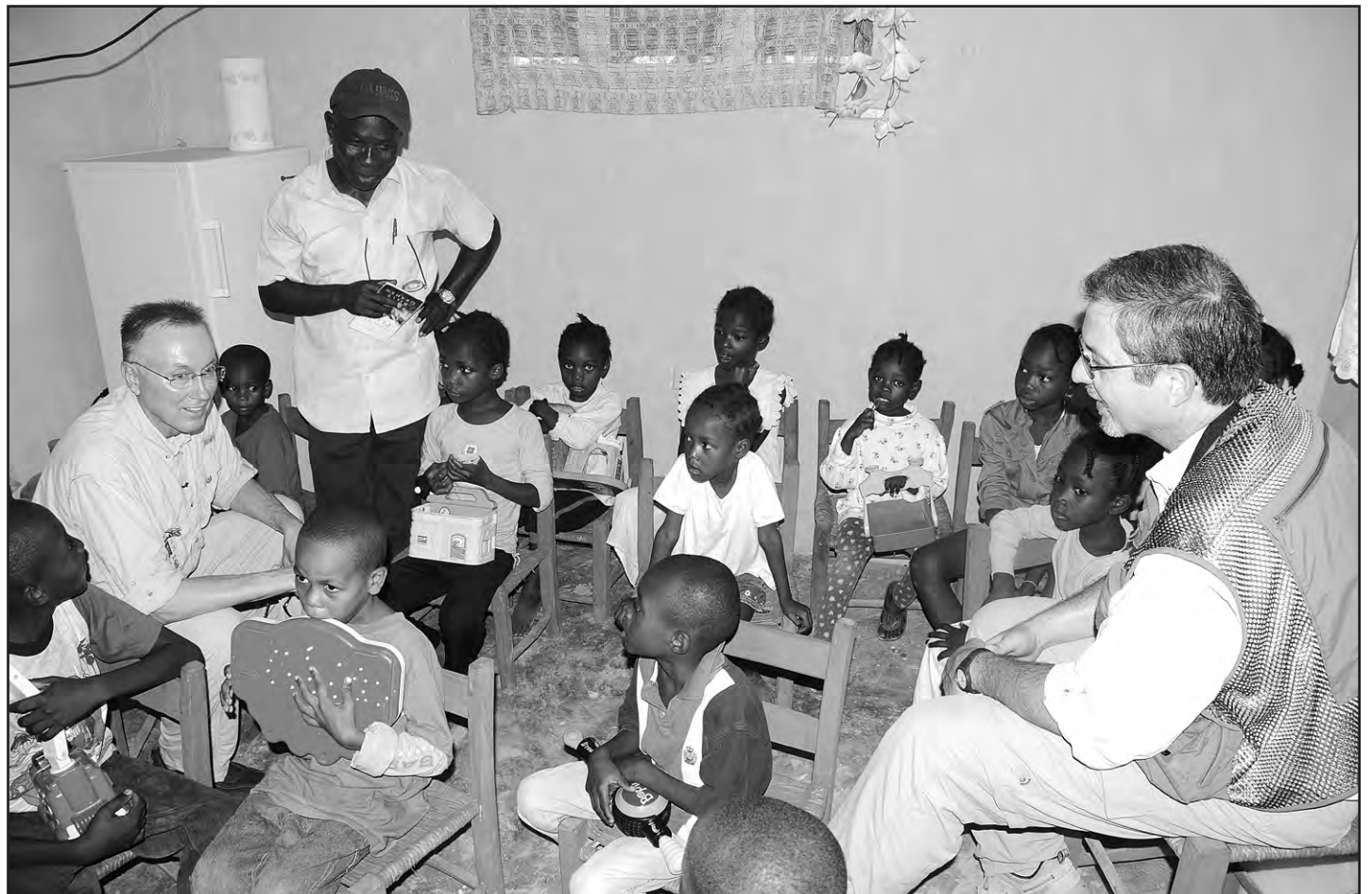


Photo by Doug Rogers

FELLOWSHIP — Rick Lance (left), executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM), and Mel Johnson (right), disaster relief strategist for the SBOM, visit with children in Voice of Hope orphanage. Francky Jeune (second from left) is a pastor in Jérémie.

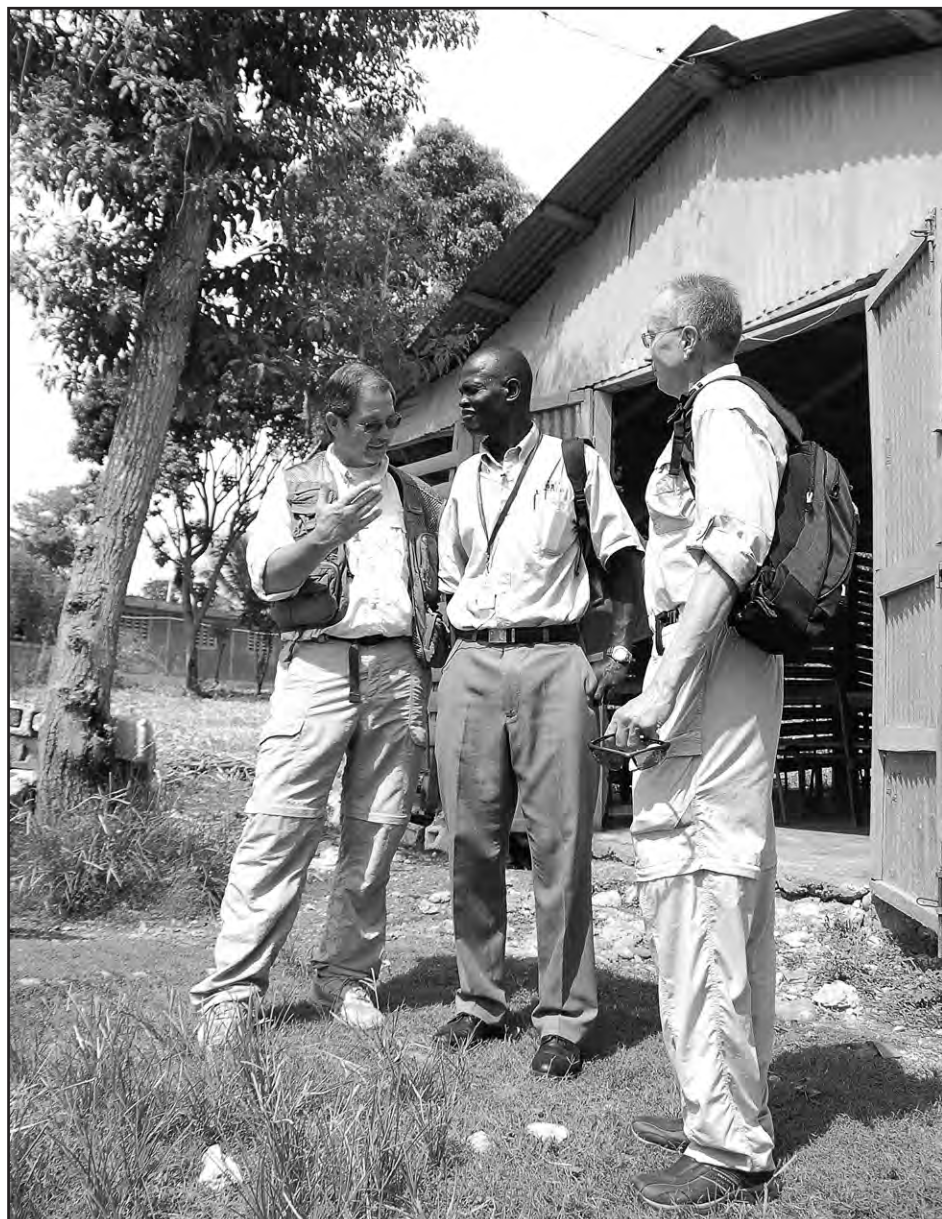


Photo by Chris Mills

STRATEGIZE — Mel Johnson (left) and Rick Lance (right) visit with Pastor Paul outside of his church, Eglise Evangelique Baptiste Par La Foi, in Jacmel, Haiti.

Committed

Alabama Baptists plan for long-term effort

(continued from page 1)

Alabama Baptists agreed to adopt Jacmel, a city approximately 25 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince. While Jacmel was affected by the earthquake, it also received thousands of new residents as many Haitians fled the capital city.

Dennis Wilbanks, associate director of partnership missions for the Florida Baptist Convention, is grateful for Alabama Baptists' work in Jacmel. "It has made such a difference and kept the Church strong during this time of spiritual awakening," he said.

Wilbanks pointed out that Haiti's pastors are hurting, too, having lost loved ones, homes and church buildings. "In the midst of their hurt, they're doing what Jesus called them to do, to minister in their communities. To have volunteers from Alabama come and work alongside these pastors, it gives them encouragement and God strengthens these pastors," Wilbanks said.

The planning trip signaled a change in focus for the work in Haiti, as outlined by Johnson. "Initially our response here in Haiti was very specific — to bring relief to a disaster-ridden country. We're now transitioning to a missions support response," Johnson said.

"God has clearly opened the door now for us to evangelize, disciple and plant churches. We look to have a long-term effort, and our relationships with pastors and Haitian Baptist leaders are very positive. We have a golden opportunity to see a lot more great things come out of this."

To learn how you can be a part of the missions work in Haiti, please visit www.alsbom.org/haiti or call 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 373.

GAMBLING

IN ALABAMA

3 OF 8 IN A SERIES

Who's who in Alabama's gambling circles (Part 1)

In the state Senate:

Sen. Lowell Barron, D-Fyffe, has been a loyal supporter of expanding gambling and sponsored numerous bills toward that effort in past years.

Sen. Zeb Little, D-Cullman, supported the 2009 major "bingo" bill, saying the state code "does not say no gambling; it says no lotteries."

Sen. Myron Penn, D-Union Springs, sponsored a bill in 2008 that would have prevented electronic gambling machines in Macon County from ever being confiscated or declared illegal if it had passed.

Sen. Jim Preuitt, R-Talladega, was one of three state senators to change his no vote to a yes vote on gambling in March (see story, this page). Preuitt, who switched to the Republican party in April, formally withdrew from his reelection bid Sept. 1.

Sen. Quinton Ross, D-Montgomery, sponsored legislation in 2009 that called for a constitutional amendment establishing a "bingo monopoly" and iron-clad electronic gambling operations in eight counties and one town around the state.

Sen. Hank Sanders, D-Selma, sponsored a bill in 2009 proposing a compact between the State of Alabama and the Poarch Creek Indians.

Sen. Bobby Singleton, D-Greensboro, sponsored bills in 2008 and 2009 to specifically expand gambling in Greene County.

Connecting the dots

Investigation of lawmakers' links to gambling industry continues

By Sondra Washington
The Alabama Baptist

Since it began six years ago, slot machine-style gambling has weaved a tangled web across Alabama, linking some of the state's biggest power players with public officials at various levels of state government. Most of these connections lie below the surface. But an ongoing FBI Mobile and Department of Justice investigation threatens to uncover inappropriate relationships and public corruption at the Alabama Statehouse.

Initially media reports linked the federal investigation to a March 30 Alabama Senate vote to legalize and expand gambling. Supporters of the bill did not have enough votes to pass it, but when three senators — Bobby Denton, D-Muscle Shoals; Jim Preuitt, R-Talladega; and Larry Means, D-Attalla — changed their votes, it passed. Lacking the necessary votes, the bill died in the House of Representatives around the same time the investigation was announced April 1. Soon a parade of Republican and Democrat legislators began testifying before a grand jury about their involvement or experience with illegal gambling being called electronic bingo.

Although negotiations made and actions taken during this year's legislative session may have affected the case, at least one senator believes the investigation is much broader than many think.

A wide net

"I think it's a larger thing than just bingo this year," said Sen. Scott Beason, R-Gardendale. "This whole investigation has to do with how things are run overall. I think it's a large widespread investigation. I don't think it's as pointed and focused as some people believe."

Beason thinks the investigation goes back to at least 2009, when he told "authorities" about an inappropriate conversation he had with a lobbyist.

"Some other things happened," Beason added. "All of it together made me uneasy about what might be going on. That's when I talked to the authorities."



BEDFORD

Bedford sponsors this year's 'bingo' bill

Sen. Roger Bedford, D-Russellville, typically stayed in the background when it came to legislative attempts to expand gambling. That is until 2010.

"I felt like it was time to end this controversy," he said, referring to the constant debate over gambling in Alabama.

Bedford decided to join his

counterparts from North Alabama in the House — Marcel Black and Johnny Mack Morrow — in an endorsement of gambling legislation by sponsoring Senate Bill 380.

This bill sought to do several things including change the definition of bingo to include games played on slot machines. (TAB)

Corruption hurts 'democracy, security'

The FBI calls public corruption one of its "top investigative priorities behind only terrorism, espionage and cyber crimes." It believes public corruption impacts "our democracy and national security" and "takes a significant toll on our pocketbooks ... siphoning off tax dollars."

Special Agent Patrick Bohrer, assistant section chief of the public corruption/civil rights program at FBI headquarters in Washington, said on the FBI website, "Corrupt public officials undermine our country's national security, our overall safety, the public trust and confidence in the U.S. government, wasting billions of dollars along the way. This corruption can tarnish virtually every aspect of society. For example, ... corrupt state legislators could cast deciding votes on a bill providing funding or other benefits to a company for the wrong reasons."

Bohrer added that corruption is found

"just about everywhere — at the federal, state and local levels throughout the country."

"I should point out the vast majority of our country's public officials are honest and work hard to improve the lives of the American people," he noted. "But a small number make decisions for the wrong reasons — usually to line their own pockets or those of friends and family."

Bohrer said the FBI has numerous ways to investigate allegations of corruption.

"Our lawful use of sophisticated investigative tools and methods — like undercover operations, court-authorized electronic surveillance and informants — often gives us a front-row seat to witness the actual exchange of bribe money or a backroom handshake that seals an illegal deal ... and enough evidence to send the culprits to prison." (TAB)

While he is unsure if the FBI investigation began after he spoke with the authorities or if it was already under way, he said, "They weren't necessarily surprised when I talked to them."

The FBI would not comment on the status of the public corruption investigation, but Mobile Media Coordinator Douglas Astralaga said typically when the bureau investigates cases, it turns them in to the U.S. attorney's office, which determines whether to "further develop cases through the FBI through subpoenas, grand juries or whatever technique is necessary. (Then), if the case is indicted, it goes to court and follows the court's deadlines." Astralaga added that the time frame "fluctuates depending on the complexity of the case and attorney and court schedules."

Nevertheless Beason said he believes indictments will be handed down in this case.

"If there was nothing there, the investigation

would have ended a long time ago," Beason noted.

A source told *The Alabama Baptist* electronic surveillance was involved in the FBI's investigations because they informed certain people that some of their conversations concerning gambling had been taped. The source also said letters are normally sent to people targeted in federal investigations but it is uncertain if any of the politicians or lobbyists interviewed by the grand jury has admitted receiving any such letter.

Subpoenas issued

Investigators may have collected further evidence for the case. In July, *The Birmingham News* reported that "federal prosecutors probing gambling legislation have subpoenaed the state pay stubs for nearly one-fourth of the Alabama Legislature, Attorney General Troy King and other public officials." The story stated, "The public officials for whom prosecutors have sought pay records are not necessarily targets of the criminal investigation; some are known to be cooperating with investigators, and several already have appeared before a grand jury."

The Justice Department would not confirm or deny any information about the investigation, including whether it is still pursuing the case.

If any Alabama officials are indicted in this case, then they could face serious charges including bribery, extortion, embezzlement, racketeering, kickbacks and money laundering, according to the FBI's website.

Comments from various Alabama legislators after the federal investigation began

Sen. Tom Butler, D-Madison

It (the investigation) seems to be focused on the lobbying effort more than the legislative perspective. Did any lobbyists make any inappropriate offers? Obviously, my vote was no and stayed no from day-one."

Source: *The Huntsville Times*

Rep. Mac Gipson, R-Prattville

Gipson said he did not know anything firsthand. He has not been offered anything and has not seen anything inappropriate. He said he did not know why he was included in the investigation.

"I have been a no vote on that particular issue from the get-go because I didn't like the legislation. It wasn't a good straight up or down vote."

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser*

Rep. Steve French, R-Birmingham

Prior to the gambling vote, certain offers were made to me that I thought were inappropriate. I called the authorities and shared this information. An investigation has clearly resulted and I continue to freely cooperate with authorities and share any information I have."

Source: *The Birmingham News*

Rep. Barry Mask, R-Wetumpka

I'm just sad for Alabama. ... I believe the people deserve better."

"I think there has been a lot of inappropriate things going on since the inception of this bill. It's a sad day for Alabama. ... I just didn't go to (House Tourism and Travel) committee meetings because it's just become a rubber stamp for every gambling bill and liquor bill. ... It ought to be called Gambling and Liquor because that's everything that's in there. So, there's no need for me to go. I've been doing it for three and a half years and just been beating my head. ... I think there is going to be a ... cry next year to get rid of this once and for all. (He expects indictments.) The state deserves better."

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser* video

Sen. Paul Sanford, R-Huntsville

He told *The Birmingham News* that he wore an electronic monitoring device, or "wire," during this year's legislative session to help the investigation. Sanford said, "(Country Crossing Lobbyist Jarrod) Massey offered him \$250,000 in contributions last year if he agreed to support bingo legislation. He said he turned down the offer. Sanford, who contacted federal investigators a week ago

(in April), voted no on the bingo bill that passed the Senate on March 30."

Source: *The Birmingham News*

Sen. Trip Pittman, R-Daphne

There were some political offers that were made that there could possibly be a revenue stream provided to help with the coastal insurance problem (in Mobile County) if I supported the bill." When Pittman was asked who made that offer to him, he said, "They were other legislators. I'm opposed to bingo, so I told them I wasn't willing to negotiate." After speaking to the grand jury, he said, "They are trying to determine if anything improper happened in terms of what people may have been offered for their vote."

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser* video

Sen. Ben Brooks, R-Mobile

They want to know what went on behind the scenes and I'm going to tell them. ... I heard a few things that concerned me and I'm going to tell the jury." According to the AP News, Brooks said "he told the grand jurors he felt intimidated by a full-page negative ad aimed at him that was run by bingo bill supporters in the Mobile *Press-Register* before the vote in the Senate." He said, "I told them nobody offered anything for my vote, but I took that ad as an attempt to scare me."

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser* video and AP News

Rep. David Grimes, R-Montgomery

A taped conversation between VictoryLand Owner Milton McGregor and Lobbyist Bob Geddie was played before the grand jury. According to The Associated Press, McGregor and Geddie discussed how Grimes' vote seemed to be "wavering."

Source: The Associated Press

Rep. Benjamin Lewis, R-Dothan

He said "someone communicated with him concerning legislation to authorize and regulate bingo in a way he felt was inappropriate. He said, "I felt I had a duty to report it (to federal authorities)."

Source: The Associated Press

Sen. Charles Bishop, R-Jasper

I got left out of the loop so I didn't get bribed. I don't really know anything. They didn't talk to me prior. I don't know if I'm here to talk about the bingo bill in the Senate or the problems we had in Walker County."

Source: *Montgomery Advertiser* video



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

SEEKING SUPPORT — Rep. Marcel Black, D-Tuscumbia, addresses the House Tourism and Travel Committee and others about this year's main 'bingo' bill Jan. 20 in the House chamber. Black sponsored the bill which sought to 'retroactively and prospectively' exempt gambling operations statewide from 'liability for state and local sales taxes.' Black has sponsored several gambling-related bills during his years in the Legislature.

House members reverse trend, push Senate to take lead this year

The House of Representatives typically spends very little time debating the "blessed" gambling bill for the year.

But then when those bills don't pass the Senate, it is the House members who take the heat from constituents.

So House members decided that would not be the case during this year's session because 2010 is an election year.

They refused to vote on this year's main bill — House Bill (HB) 507, sponsored by Rep. Marcel Black, D-Tuscumbia, and Rep. John Knight, D-Montgomery — until senators could come to an agreement on their bill.

Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, D-Red Bay, chairs the House Tourism and Travel Committee. He typically helps gambling bills move out of committee smoothly and easily "because this issue is too important for 15 people to decide."

But this year he held the vote until the companion bill — Senate Bill (SB) 380, sponsored by Sen. Roger Bedford, D-Russellville — passed.

And so Bedford got to work.

The first attempt failed, but after a revision, it passed without even being read by everyone who voted.

Sen. Bobby Singleton, D-Greensboro, chairman of the Senate Tourism and Marketing Committee, said he wanted this bill passed quickly.

He and others were willing to pass

it out of committee without seeing the final version, noting they would hammer out the details in debate.

The bill would have legalized slot machines at VictoryLand in Macon County, Greenetrack in Greene County, Country Crossing in Houston County, the Birmingham Race Course, the Mo-



MORROW

mobile Greyhound Park, two locations in White Hall in Lowndes County, one additional location in Jefferson County and two yet-to-be-announced locations in north Alabama.

The bill became a hotly debated topic throughout the legislative session but did not have enough votes to pass the House, so Black chose to pull the bill instead of letting a vote take place.

During the session, representatives from the areas impacted by the bill fought and promised to continue

fighting for legalized gambling in their areas.

Rep. Pebblin Warren, D-Tuskegee Institute, asked that legislators and others not in counties with casino gambling options to let the ones "of us who are" handle this legislation.

Black, the bill sponsor, happened to be one of the leg-

islators not in an area lobbying for gambling.

Rep. James Thomas, D-Selma, said he was tired of people preaching to him.

"I'm not championing either side, but somebody's got to do something," he said. "Don't preach to me. I'll take my chances before the almighty God."

Thomas has fought for and protected the White Hall electronic gambling facility for several years.

Rep. A.J. McCampbell, D-Linden, said, "It's gambling and it's paying. ... I'll fight you for it."

McCampbell represents Greene County, where Greenetrack is. (TAB)

Anti-gambling Sunday is Sept. 19



Next week's focus ...

WHO'S WHO IN ALABAMA'S GAMBLING CIRCLES

Part 2

Across Alabama's Associations

AUTAUGA

► **White Pond Church, White City**, will celebrate its 98th anniversary homecoming celebration Sept. 25-26. 4 By Grace will sing Saturday at 6:30 p.m. A dessert fellowship will follow. The Sunday service will be at 10 a.m. with 4 By Grace. Warren Culver will speak at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow. There will be no evening service. The church also will hold revival Oct. 3-6 with Yogi Taylor. Rick Robertson will lead the music. Services will be Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and weeknights at 7. For information call Pastor Woodie Turner at 334-361-8345.

BALDWIN

► **Robert Klotz** is the new pastor of **Perdido Church**. He has served as a pastoral intern for First Church, Lacombe, La. He is a graduate of Leavell College at New Orleans Seminary. Klotz is married to Heather.

BIRMINGHAM

► The churches of **Birmingham Association (BBA)** will hold The Gathering, its third annual worship and celebration service, Sept. 19, 6 p.m., at Green Valley Church, Hoover. There will be pre-service music and displays of BBA ministries. A mass choir and orchestra from BBA churches will perform. There also will be video testimonies highlighting cooperative missions projects. Jimmy Jackson, pastor of Whitesburg Church, Huntsville, and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, will speak. Mike McLemore is executive director for BBA. Bobby DuBois is interim pastor of Green Valley. ► **Robinwood Church, Birmingham**, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 19, 11 a.m. Former Pastor Wayne Counts will speak. The Royal Masters quartet will sing. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. Lunch will follow the service at 12:15 p.m. There will be an afternoon singing at 1:30 p.m. Dale Creel is pastor.

CHILTON

► **Liberty Hill Church, Clan-**

ton, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 26. There will be singing at 9:45 a.m. The service will be at 11 a.m. Alan Jones will speak. A covered-dish lunch will follow. Kent Dodson is pastor.

CONECUH

► **Evergreen Church** will celebrate its 165th homecoming Oct. 17, 11 a.m. Greg Hart will speak. Lunch will follow. For information call Minister of Students Peter Burmeister at 251-578-1162.

COVINGTON

► **Southside Church, Opp**, will host Harlan Burton in concert Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m. Greg Hart is interim pastor.

DALE

► **New Hope Church, Skipperville**, in the Bertha community, will celebrate homecoming Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m. Walter Draffin, pastor of New Life Church, Auburn-dale, Fla., will speak. A potluck lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. There will be afternoon activities at 1:30 p.m. including a history of the church, testimonials by the oldest active members, music and singing. A nursery will be provided during the morning service and afternoon music and singing. For information call 334-795-6628. Shane Traylor is pastor.

ELMORE

► **Rushenville Church, Ecclectic**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 26, 10 a.m. Jim Jackson, director of missions for Elmore Association, will speak. The Larch Family will provide special music. There will be no Sunday School. You are welcome to dress in attire from the 1900s. A covered-dish lunch will follow. Ron Estes is pastor.

MONTGOMERY

► **Hunter Station Church, Montgomery**, will celebrate its 73rd homecoming Sept. 19, 11 a.m. Ken May, director of missions for Montgomery Association, will speak. Tim Stough and Calvary's

Call will sing. Lunch will follow at noon. There will be singing after lunch. Donald W. Goble is pastor.

MORGAN

► **Lebanon Church, Falkville**, will hold revival Sept. 19-22 with Evangelist William Faircloth. Sheryl Lee will lead the music. Services will be Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7. Randy Ashley is pastor.

ST. CLAIR

► **Mount Pisgah Church, Cropwell**, will hold revival Sept. 26-29 with Evangelist Don Graham. Services will be Sunday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Monday and Tuesday at 7 p.m. and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. For information call 205-525-5273. James Blair is pastor.

WALKER

► **First Church, Carbon Hill**, will be one of many sponsors of Carbon Hill's inaugural citywide festival, Hillfest, Sept. 18. The 9 a.m. to noon festival will include music, food and children's activities. There will be two musical stages, one for gospel and contemporary Christian music and one for country, southern rock, blues and jazz music. The youth of **First Church, Jasper**, will perform on the stage reserved for Christian music. Hillfest also will feature a lawn mower race and a lawn mower parade after the race. For information, contact Jacque Criswell at 205-275-2534. Scott McCullar is pastor of First, Carbon Hill. Dennis R. Culbreth is pastor of First, Jasper.

WASHINGTON

► **Spring Hill Church, Millry**, will celebrate its 70th anniversary Oct. 3, 10 a.m. There will be remarks by former members and leaders and special music. Photos from the church's past will be displayed. There will be a tent outside for children's games and refreshments. Lunch will follow at noon. Kenneth Henson is pastor.

WINSTON

► **Lennon "Bo" Shedd** is the new pastor of **Corinth Heights Church, Haleyville**. He previously served as a full-time evangelist for Bo Shedd Ministries. He holds a bachelor's degree in religion from Athens State University and is currently pursuing a master of divinity at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham. Shedd has one child.



SHEDD

PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



Indian Buddhists assault Christian aid worker, friend

JAMMU, India — A visually impaired Christian and his friend accused drunken Buddhists of abducting and assaulting them after the blind volunteer distributed relief material in a Buddhist-majority town in a region of India devastated by recent floods.

The attackers are still at large after the assault Sept. 1 in the town of Leh in Jammu and Kashmir state's Ladakh region, where flooding and landslides destroyed hundreds of houses and killed around 200 people Aug. 6. The attackers, identified as members of the Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), abducted Ram Kumar Thapa, Stanzin Chospel and his pregnant wife Putali Sherpa because of their Christian faith and beat the men, the victims said. According to the victims' complaints to the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission, LBA members were upset that Thapa was preaching Christianity to displaced residents.

The assailants took Thapa to the LBA office at Soma Monastery, where a Buddhist monk was also present, and beat him again, he stated. He was then moved to a room where he could hear the voice of his friend Chospel with his pregnant wife. The attackers showed Thapa's bruised and bleeding face to Chospel to warn him against continuing as a Christian, Thapa said. Chospel confirmed that he and his wife were taken to the LBA office at the monastery. "They dragged me into a room and gagged my mouth so I could not cry out as they beat me with rubber pipes and rods and fists continuously," Chospel said. "All along they kept telling me to leave my wife and also renounce my faith in Christianity and return to Buddhism." The men released the couple at around 12:30 a.m. after giving them two days to leave Leh or convert to Buddhism, Chospel stated, "or else they will chop my wife into pieces and kill me and also kill my family ... who are still practicing Buddhists."

Somali Christian killed; four children kidnapped

AFGOI, Somalia — Another member of an underground Christian movement in Somalia has been murdered by Muslim militants in a continuing campaign to eliminate converts from Islam. Area sources said al-Shabaab militants entered the house of Osman Abdullah Fataho in Afgoi, 19 miles from Mogadishu in Shibis district, at 10:30 the night of July 21 and shot him dead in front of his wife and children.

Fataho was a longtime Christian deeply involved in the activities of the small secret Christian community, sources said. Area Christians said they suspected someone had informed the militants of Fataho's faith. The assailants abducted his wife and children, later releasing her on the condition that she surrender the little ones to be trained as soldiers, sources said. "We know they have taken the children to brainwash them, to change their way of life from Christian to Muslim and to teach them the Quran," said one source. Abducted were 5-year-old Ali Daud Fataho, 7-year-old Fatuma Safia Fataho, 10-year-old Sharif Ahmed Fataho and Nur Said Fataho, 15.

A Christian leader who attended Fataho's funeral July 22 said that one of the slain man's relatives noted that the militants had targeted him because he had left Islam. The incident has spread fear among the faithful in the lawless country, much of which lies in the grip of ruthless insurgents intent on rooting out any person professing Christianity. Leaders of the Christian underground movement have been forced to flee their homes to avoid being killed by the insurgents, said one leader who along with seven others has temporarily moved to an undisclosed area.

Church re-registration rejected; forbidden to worship

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Cathedral of Praise Protestant church in Baku — which claims 1,500 members — has been unable to meet for worship since its tent was destroyed in an apparent arson attack in January, its pastor Rasim Halilov said. Its re-registration application was rejected because some of its founders had changed since 2002, a decision it failed to overturn in court. The State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations said it cannot use another church for worship. Eight months after the deadline, only 448 communities have gained compulsory re-registration, including 431 mosques and only 2 Protestant churches. Re-registration for the Catholics — who were forced to apply only for their Baku parish, not for a community covering the whole of Azerbaijan — awaits the outcome of discussions between the nuncio and the Foreign Ministry.

VictoryLand restraining order dropped

Macon County Circuit Court Judge Tom Young dropped a temporary restraining order against Gov. Bob Riley's Task Force on Illegal Gambling from raiding VictoryLand on Sept. 8.

This action came after the Alabama Supreme Court once again communicated that the task force could legally raid VictoryLand when it rejected a request by Macon County officials to rehear the court's July 30 ruling that allowed the task force to oper-

ate in its county on Sept. 3.

Attorneys for VictoryLand have said they do not expect a raid because VictoryLand has not operated electronic bingo since Aug. 8, and its 6,000 machines are walled off from public view.

Although no action had been taken by the task force as of press time, task force commander John Tyson said he is watching the situation closely and will "enforce the law" when necessary.

(TAB)

A monthly advertising supplement — September 2010

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

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Blogger accused of insulting Islam released from prison

A Coptic Christian blogger arrested in Egypt on false charges of insulting Islam, then held for almost two years without charge under the country's Emergency Law, has been released from prison.

Hani Nazeer, 31, a high school social worker and blogger, was arrested Oct. 3, 2008, in response to a link to a Coptic website he placed on his web log, "The Preacher of Love."

The Coptic website had a link to an online copy of "Azazel's Goat in Mecca," a controversial book written in response to "Azazel," a novel critical of Christianity.

During his imprisonment, Nazeer said he was beaten, pressured to convert to Islam and was exposed to constant deprivation.

Because of recent reforms to the Emergency Law, Nazeer was released July 22.

Some of the 30 hardened criminals housed with him in a single

cell tried repeatedly to convert him to Islam, he said.

Nazeer said he wasn't tortured individually, but that on one occasion guards beat him and other prisoners with sticks during a visit by a police major.

He said he was able to get a Bible in prison and was even able to discuss Christ with two ethnic Copts who were incarcerated on felony charges.

In May, Egypt amended the Emergency Law to stipulate that only people suspected of committing terrorist acts or of selling illegal narcotics could be arrested.

Azza Taher Matar, a member of the International Relations Unit at the Arabic Center for Human Rights Information, said it is likely that the reforms to the Emergency Law will lead to authorities filing more charges of religious defamation against people in an effort to work around changes to the law. (CD)

Retired Alabama pastor Franklin Eugene 'Gene' Woodruff dies at 76

Franklin Eugene "Gene" Woodruff, a retired Alabama pastor, died Aug. 23. He was 76.

A graduate of Samford University in Birmingham and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Woodruff served as a pastor for 33 years. He held pastorates at Sister Springs Baptist Church, Tyler; New Bethel Baptist Church, Bragg; Calvary Baptist Church, Dothan; and churches in Georgia and Louisiana.

After retiring in 2000, Woodruff served as a supply preacher until his health declined. At the time of his death, he was a member of Memphis Baptist Church, Dothan.

A Georgia native, Woodruff served in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956 before being called to the ministry in 1964.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Norma Dianne; four children; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. (TAB)

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But the summer's activities were not confined to the Shocco campus alone. A second staff missions team this year headed to Guatemala to lend helping hands to work at the Baptist camp there and bring the message of Christ to school children and families in surrounding villages.

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Despite opposition, NAMB search committee firm

(continued from page 1)

Hankins, a former vice president for CP with the SBC Executive Committee, wrote, "There are many excellent pastors with an SBC affiliation who have chosen to go a more independent route with their churches' mission spending."

"I am thankful for every success they have brought to the Kingdom, but I believe, by their negligible cooperative denominational giving, they have removed themselves from consideration as SBC entity leaders," he wrote. "I am concerned that a NAMB president who has chosen the independent model will send a chilling message to the thousands of Southern Baptist congregations who have been led by their pastors and their denomination to believe that generous support for our cooperative

mission funding processes is the good and right thing to do."

Information from the 2009 Annual Church Profile, maintained by LifeWay Christian Resources, lists 121 baptisms at Highview Baptist and primary worship service attendance of 3,260.

'Anemic support'

Highview gave \$140,100, or 2.23 percent, through the CP from undesignated receipts of \$6,270,057. Its total missions expenditures of \$1,350,107 include \$50,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and \$10,000 for AAEO.

Despite Highview's annual \$6 million budget, "the financial contribution of the church through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Offering has been

marginal, at best," Hankins wrote.

"Consequently one has to believe the anemic support of cooperative ministries has been a purposeful decision by the pastor and the church leadership," his letter continued. "Dr. Ezell has indicated he believes this was a better way to reach their congregational objectives. Is that what Southern Baptists believe and what they expect from the leader of the North American Mission Board?"

Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., who served as chairman of the NAMB presidential search committee, rejects the accusation that Ezell is "an independent Baptist."

"Our team finds Dr. Ezell to be a loyal Southern Baptist mission supporter," Traylor said, adding, "I am convinced Dr. Ezell can build NAMB into the mission agency Southern Baptists will be thrilled to support."

Tim Dowdy, chairman of NAMB's board of trustees and senior pastor of Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church, McDonough, Ga., is also looking forward to how Ezell could impact NAMB.

'Loyal Southern Baptist'

"Kevin has been a loyal Southern Baptist, and I believe he will help NAMB continue to work through the long-standing partnerships we have had and help us build new partnerships and new ways of taking Christ to North America," Dowdy said.

But Hankins said those who would presume to lead Southern



"Our team finds Dr. Ezell to be a loyal Southern Baptist mission supporter. ... I am convinced Dr. Ezell can build NAMB into the mission agency Southern Baptists will be thrilled to support."

Pastor Ted Traylor
Olive Baptist Church

Baptist entities ought to have a track record of supporting those entities.

"The greatest stewardship of Great Commission investment and deployment is giving through the Cooperative Program," and that calls on the SBC to adopt goals of giving more than \$100 million annually through the AAEO.

"How can he challenge cooperative support if he has led his church in the opposite direction?" Hankins asked.

He said he was told there were no candidates who had all the credentials of the current nominee and an exemplary track record of CP and AAEO support.

"I do not believe this," Hankins wrote. "There are any number of leaders who possess outstanding leadership skills and meet all the prerequisites, including denominational cooperation and support."

"This is serious business at a serious juncture. No one needs to remind you of the struggles that NAMB has had due to conflict at the executive level," he told NAMB

trustees. "I know you want to get this decision right. Compromising on cooperative missions methodology is not the pathway to getting it right. Please, seek a candidate to lead our national work who possesses all the prerequisites your Southern Baptist family expects and deserves."

Discussions continue

While Hankins and Turner have voiced their concern publicly, what they are saying has been discussed across Southern Baptist circles on blogs, in e-mails and by phone.

"I realize there is an ongoing discussion among Southern Baptists about how we can best express our passion for missions through our giving, and I am sure that will be part of our discussion ... when our trustees meet to discuss Kevin's nomination," Dowdy said.

The full text of Hankins' letter, which has been forwarded to the full NAMB trustee board, can be found at www.thealabamabaptist.org.

(Compiled from wire services)

Evangelicals question Beck's message, agenda

Southern Baptist executive Richard Land was pleased at how religious Glenn Beck's Restoring Honor rally turned out to be. Bishop Harry Jackson, a black evangelical leader, was pleasantly surprised that the Fox News talk show host said things "some of my close friends could have written." In the wake of the conservative commentator's rally on the National Mall on Aug. 28, some evangelical leaders say he sounded all the right religious notes.

But others say Beck's Mormon faith clouds the message.

Some conservative Christians say Beck's leadership at an event attended by evangelicals and other conservatives was nothing short of scandalous.

"The answer to this scandal ... includes local churches that preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and disciple their congregations to know the difference between the kingdom of God and the latest political whim," Russell Moore, dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote on his blog the day after the rally.

'Mormon politics'

"It's sad to see so many Christians confusing Mormon politics or American nationalism with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

There is no doubt that Beck has a following. Gallup has ranked him as the fourth most admired man — just ahead of Pope Benedict XVI — and millions tune in to his daily broadcasts. But, as his religious rhetoric attests, Beck has gone fishing for a new audience recently. Weeks before the rally, he gathered about 20

prominent religious leaders for a dinner at which he said God was leading him to talk about revival in America, Land said. The night before the rally, he held a Divine Destiny event that promised to leave participants with a "strong belief that faith can play an essential role in reuniting the country."

That kind of language has some evangelicals upset. "I believe that Beck used his conservative veneer and doublespeak to co-opt leaders of the religious right," wrote Brannon Howse, founder of Worldview Weekend, which sponsors Christian worldview conferences. Experts say Beck's ability to reach evangelicals will depend on whether he speaks a broad message or delves more narrowly into his Mormon beliefs. "Most evangelicals are friendly toward the idea of American civil religion, and I think Beck's call sort of fit into that stream of history," said Stan Guthrie, editor at large for *Christianity Today*. "I think that as long as he doesn't get too specific about his Mormon faith ... many people will be willing to get on board."

John Green, an expert on religion and politics at the University of Akron, said doctrinal differences between evangelicals and Mormons have historically made it difficult for them to form alliances. Some prominent evangelicals have distanced themselves in the past from Beck because of his Mormonism. In 2008, Focus on the Family founder James Dobson abruptly pulled an interview with Beck after viewers voiced concerns about "theological compromise." (RNS)

Gilbertown's Chappell Hill celebrates 125 years with double attendance

By Ashley Anderton
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Attendance almost doubled at Chappell Hill Baptist Church, Gilbertown, on Aug. 15.

An estimated 65 people gathered to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Choctaw Baptist Association church, which normally has an attendance of 35.

Bill Jackson, a former interim pastor of Chappell Hill Baptist, delivered the morning message. Franklin McLelland, director of missions for Choctaw Association, presented a plaque on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and provided special music.

Afterward those in attendance enjoyed a potluck meal in the fellowship hall.

Like 'home'

For longtime member Pam May, the church is like "home."

Her great-grandparents Asa and Monerva Stewart were among Chappell Hill's 11 charter members.

"The Lord has blessed our family by letting us be a part of Chappell

Hill. For this, I give Him praise," May said.

Pastor Jason Reasor wants the church to be a blessing to younger adults — those under 40 — and their children.

"I've been surprised at the amount of young people not active in church in our community," Reasor said. "I want children to see what it's like to walk with God."

Reaching young families is such a priority, in fact, that Chappell Hill and three other Choctaw Association churches — Gilbertown Baptist; Spring Bank Baptist, Silas; and Cullomburg Baptist — coordinated an Independence Day celebration with food, fun and fireworks to attract them.

Attendance was expected to be around 100, but about 500 showed up for the event.

Of course, Chappell Hill has quite a legacy of children's involvement. For starters, children in the community 125 years ago were at the church almost every day. The first building, used for both school and church, was a one-room log cabin with dirt floors and spilt-log benches.

Until 1910, members worshiped in that cabin, which was on a site behind Chappell Hill's current fellowship hall.

That year, the state constructed a new school building a short distance away and worship services were moved there. Every Friday afternoon, the children cleaned the school in preparation for Sunday worship services.

New church building

In 1927, mule teams cleared the original site and destroyed the log cabin to prepare for a new church building, which was completed the following year.

The present structure was finished in 1962. In 2000, the sanctuary carpet, lights and furniture were updated.

Now the congregation is focused on re-establishing its children's missions programs (Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors) and beginning a youth group, Reasor said.

"If we don't reach the children now, what will happen in this community in 15 years?" he asked. ☛

Montgomery's Eastmont marks 150 years with overflowing crowd

By Sammie Jo Barstow
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Despite several name changes, relocations and even a brush with foreclosure during the Great Depression, Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery, has remained strong and faithful.

On Aug. 15, more than 1,500 current and former members and friends packed the sanctuary and filled the choir loft to overflowing to celebrate the Montgomery Baptist Association church's 150th anniversary. By comparison, Sunday School attendance averages 950.

Pastor Mike Northcutt said the anniversary service was not only a time of celebration but also affirmation as people were reunited with those they disciples years ago.

"Sometimes we forget how big God is and what all He's done in our fellowship," Northcutt said.

"This celebration reminded us that He's working very actively in who we are and what we do. ... We treasure our past. Yet the past is to be a guidepost, not a hitching post. We are even more excited about what God will do tomorrow."

Gene McDonald, chairman of the church's history committee, is focused on the future, too.

"Eastmont Baptist seeks to continue to grow and to be a great ministry in the city of Montgomery," he said.

Recognition

During the service, the church received certificates from Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and Lonette Berg, executive director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Charles Lowery, president of Lowery Institute for Excellence (LIFE) in Pilot Point, Texas,

preached the sermon. LIFE is a nonprofit educational organization that seeks to encourage, inspire and motivate men and women through teaching the essential principles of success in the workplace, relationships and all areas of life.

According to the church history that was written by Cindy McDonald and published earlier this year, in 1860, 28 people requested release from First Baptist Church, Montgomery, in order to form a new church. On Dec. 9, Second Baptist Church was incorporated.

In 1864, the church dedicated a new building on the corner of Adams and Bainbridge streets and became Adams Street Baptist. After moving to Madison Avenue in 1925, the church was known as Citywide Baptist for a short time before being renamed Madison Avenue Baptist.

One family that joined the church after the Madison Avenue move remains part of the church today. Sarah Mae Head, 85, joined the church in 1934 and holds the record for the longest continuous membership.

Her brother, Carl Head, 81, a member since 1935, vividly remembers a time in the late 1930s when the church was nearing foreclosure. The man who held the mortgage, which had a balance of \$10,000, said if the church could raise \$5,000, then he would retire the debt.

According to Head, the church sold pies, cakes and barbecue and undertook other fund-raisers to satisfy the debt.

In 1946, the congregation voted to return to the original name.

In 1967, the church relocated to the Atlanta Highway and seven years later, became Eastmont Baptist. The present sanctuary was completed in 2000.

Alabama Cooperative Program Gifts

Alabama Baptist Giving

Year to Date through August 31, 2010

AUGUST

CP Challenge Budget Goal	\$3,875,000
CP Challenge Budget Gifts	\$2,766,568
Under Goal for Month	\$1,108,432

YEAR TO DATE

CP Challenge Budget Goal	\$31,000,000
CP Challenge Budget Gifts	\$27,527,631
Under Goal for Year	\$3,472,369

Samford University passes halfway point in \$200 million capital campaign

Samford University has passed the halfway point in fundraising for the \$200 million "Campaign for Samford" which was publicly launched in October 2009.

Several estate gifts in early August made a significant impact, according to W. Randall Pittman, Samford's vice president for advancement, but a \$30,000 scholarship contribution that accompanied a larger pledge from a long-time Samford friend pushed the total past the \$100 million mark.

"This campaign has been about gifts of all sizes," Pittman said. "We are grateful for the \$25 and \$50 gifts and pledges we have received

from so many alumni and friends, as well as the significant estate gifts we have received. Every gift — regardless of the amount — is important to Samford."

The new campaign total comes just weeks after Samford ended a near-record fiscal year of giving. Contributions of \$21.6 million made the 2009-10 fiscal year the second-best in history, Pittman said. The record — just over \$23 million — was set the previous year. Campaign gifts and pledges totaled \$94 million at the end of the fiscal year June 30. "A Campaign for Samford" is scheduled to continue through 2014. (SU)



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CHURCH POSITIONS

SENIOR PASTOR: Mountain Park FBC, Stone Mountain, Ga., is seeking a senior pastor. Church averages 550 in attendance with \$1.8M budget. Please send referrals to the pastor search committee, psc@mpfbc.net. www.mpfbc.org.

PASTOR: Fairmount Baptist Church is currently seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumés to: Fairmount Baptist Church, Pulpit Committee, P.O. Box 66, Red Level, AL 36474.

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, Tusculum, AL 35674.

THREE FULL-TIME STAFF POSITIONS: First Baptist Church of DeFuniak Springs, Fla., is currently seeking three full-time staff positions: minister of worship, minister of students and minister of education/senior adults. Candidates should send their ministry resumés to:

First Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor, 216 East Live Oak, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435, or by e-mail to: drbobby@embarqmail.com.

MINISTER OF YOUTH/EDUCATION: El Bethel Baptist Church is currently seeking a full-time minister of youth/education. Send resumés to: El Bethel Baptist Church, P.O. Box 506, Chancellor, AL 36316.

PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR: Hillcrest Baptist Church, Maplesville, seeking part-time youth director. Send resumé to: Hillcrest Baptist Church, 10045 US Hwy 82, Maplesville, AL 36750, or e-mail: jvjsmith@bellsouth.net.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH DIRECTOR: Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Hamilton, Ala., is currently seeking a bivocational youth director. Please send resumé to: blovet@ciscn.com, or mail to: P.O. Box 354, Hamilton, AL 35570.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER/DIRECTOR: Beech Haven Baptist Church in Athens,

Ga., is seeking a full-time minister/director of children with minimum three years leadership experience in preschool/children's program. Submit resumé electronically to: bhbcchildren@gmail.com or mail to: Beech Haven Baptist Church, ATTN: Children's Minister Search Committee, 2390 West Broad Street, Athens, GA 30606. View full job description at www.beechhaven.org/positions.

OTHER POSITIONS

PIANIST: Montevallo FBC, Montevallo, Ala., needs a pianist for blended worship services. Contact Terry Davis, 205-222-3131. mfbcbellsouth.net.

BUSINESS

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Want to know God?

By Pastor Joel Farrow
First Baptist Church, Chalkville

On a recent missions trip, I was reminded of Jesus' amazing grace. I was sitting between my wife and a middle-aged Vietnamese woman on her way from America to visit her family. During a 14-hour plane trip, you have a great opportunity to make a new friend. I did. Our airplane hit bad turbulence halfway through our trip.

My new friend (I'll call her Jane) became very scared after her meal was dumped in her lap by an unexpected "bump."

Jane started crying and trembling as she pulled out her Buddhist prayer beads and began to pray frantically. My heart filled with compassion for her as I saw her fear grow in spite of her intense prayers. I knew her prayers were falling on a false god's deaf ears.

As a divine appointment unfolded, I asked Jane if I could pray for her. She said yes and as my wife leaned over to join us, I voiced a prayer for God's protection and peace. Soon the turbulence ceased and I asked Jane if she was OK. She smiled and said, "Thank you for saving me."

I assured her that I did not save her; it was God. The door was opened for me to dialogue with her about her faith. I introduced her to Jesus, who loves her so much that He died on the cross for her sins and offers her eternal life with Him through faith. Jane didn't trust Jesus as her Savior that day, but I believe with all my heart that she will. I left a New Testament with her and encouraged her to read the Book of John to find out even more about Jesus.

Jesus' amazing grace gives us the opportunity to meet Him just as Jane did. Maybe this is yours. You must first acknowledge sin in your life and the fact there is a devastating penalty for it — a separation from God, now and eternally. Jesus paid that penalty for us by dying on the cross. He was buried and was resurrected three days later, displaying God's power over sin and death. God offers us His unconditional love if we turn from our sin, trust in Jesus as our Savior and accept the gift of salvation He offers. I invite you to experience this amazing grace.

The shoestring challenge

Experts offer advice to churches experiencing lean times

By Kristen Padilla
The Alabama Baptist

The economy is suffering for just about everybody but it is very localized," said Jim Swedenburg, director of the office of Cooperative Program and stewardship development for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM).

And for churches in places where the economy is suffering more, in turn, leading to a decline in giving, creating a budget for next year can be challenging.

"The first question a church has to answer is what is our mission," Swedenburg said. "You may have to cut those things that are not critical. There's nothing in a church budget that's not important to someone, but in lean years, we have to ask ourselves the question what is important to everyone and, most importantly, what is important to God. That has to be the first priority."

So how can a church make it through its budget year when facing economic challenges?

Reporting from a variety of sources, Swedenburg suggests

▶ Looking at debt. Can a loan be refinanced, or can its term be changed? Because interest rates are currently very low, this may be a good time to refinance a loan or mortgage.

▶ Conserving utilities. A church can save money on utility bills by holding all church-related meetings on the same night or moving to a four-day workweek.

▶ Delaying equipment purchases. A church may want to wait for a "fatter" economic year to purchase equipment like computers or a new sound system.

▶ Cutting back on comforts. If a church buys coffee for Sunday School classes, then it can ask the classes to provide their own coffee. If a church buys breakfast for the youth group on Sunday mornings, then it can ask youth volunteers to take turns providing breakfast.

Media, events

▶ Looking at money spent on media and promotion. A church can save money on printing and postage by using e-mail to send special announcements to members. Youth and college ministries can use Facebook as a tool to share announcements instead of mailing printed promotional material.

▶ Cutting back on events or productions. Instead of funding events like a youth camp or retreat, missions trip or senior citizens trip, the church can ask members to pay for them. In turn, the church can plan events closer to home with less cost. A church also may want to consider not having a Fourth of July fireworks show, an Easter play or a Christmas program for a season until finances get better.

But there are some budget items

Resources on church budgeting available from the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

- ▶ "Building a Church Budget Bridge for the Kingdom"
- ▶ "Building a Church Budget Wall Together for the Kingdom"
- ▶ Budget Toolbox for Churches
- ▶ Great Challenge Budget: Charting Your Course

Contact the office of Cooperative Program and stewardship development at 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 304, or glacey@alsbom.org.

Church newsletter savings option

For more information about the local edition service of *The Alabama Baptist*, visit www.thealabamabaptist.org or contact Debbie Campbell at 1-800-803-5201, Ext. 106, or dcampbell@thealabamabaptist.org.



Swedenburg said a church shouldn't cut.

▶ Do not cut back on benevolence ministry. It is during the toughest economic times that people need the most help and will look to the church for it. This is a big part of a church's mission.

▶ Do not cut personnel. "I'd never recommend you lay off somebody or cut staff unless there is absolutely no other choice," he said. Instead consider instituting a hiring freeze and reassigning duties. Some people might be willing to work fewer hours if their family is not dependant on their income. If a church is short a staff member, then enlist volunteers to help. Volunteers are great at answering phones, running errands, folding bulletins, etc.

"These are short-term strategies," Swedenburg said. "I'm not suggesting that they do these things permanently but maybe until they get back on track."

While short-term fixes can be helpful in a crunch, a church also must look at the longterm when possible.

That's the strategy that Ken Munday, a church adviser team leader, and Kent Singletary, a momentum coach, both for Dave Ramsey's corporation The Lampo Group Inc., say is the most important.

Like Swedenburg, Munday and Singletary said the first thing a church needs to do is look at its mission and reevaluate everything it does according to that.

Munday and Singletary suggest

▶ Not ignoring personnel expenses when looking at cuts. Munday and Singletary would not say a church should or should not cut personnel, since each church's situation is different. However, if a church is having to make some cuts, personnel should be examined along with every other area of the budget.

▶ Getting out of debt. Munday and Singletary suggest not refinancing since that may cause the length of the loan — amortization — to extend. If a church only has 10 years left on a loan, then it will not want

to refinance a loan that will extend it back to 30 years. Instead they suggest selling the church building and renting or joining another congregation if need be or cutting back in other places so that the church can get out of debt sooner.

▶ Not cutting attraction factors. Singletary suggests asking the question: Do I want to cut one big thing so I don't have to cut the little things? If a church cuts too many small expenses like providing coffee for its Sunday School classes or providing a free lunch for college students, it may do more damage in the long run of hurting the church's "attraction" features.

▶ Not attaching a person's name to a program. When looking at which programs to cut, Singletary advises not attaching a person's name to the program. The church may be less likely to cut it, even if it's a program that does not fit in with the overall mission of the church.

▶ Dialoguing with others. Munday suggests talking about these issues at a safe place like a weekly, associational meeting with other pastors. By brainstorming with others, a church can have more ideas on how to save in the present but also how to plan for the future.

▶ Setting up an emergency fund. "Like individuals need emergency funds, churches need emergency funds. Now's a hard time to build one, but it's a great time to plan for one," Singletary said.

Swedenburg noted that while the economy has hit everyone hard, "Alabama Baptists have done a better job of dealing with this because members have been faithful in giving."

And helping individuals learn to make wise financial decisions contributes to faithful giving, he said.

Faithful giving

Munday agreed.

"You help the lay people and eventually that helps the church," he said. "Stop telling your church to give but teach them how to manage their own personal budgets ... then giving happens. It's a win-win situation."

Munday and Singletary suggest "Financial Peace" by Dave Ramsey. Swedenburg suggests "It's A New Day for Financial Freedom" put out by the Southern Baptist Convention and Crown Financial Ministries and Christian Money Management put out by LifeWay Christian Resources, both available through the SBOM.

For help with a church budget, contact Swedenburg at 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 283, or contact The Baptist Foundation of Alabama at 1-334-394-2000.



Photo courtesy of Northside Baptist Church

NORTHSIDE CHURCH HONORS INSTRUMENTALISTS
Northside Baptist Church, Cullman, recently honored its instrumentalists for a combined 79 years of faithful service. Pictured are (l to r) Jeff Harris, music director; Carmen Parker, pianist; Ashley Parker, trumpeter; and Melinda Mason, organist.

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RESOURCES:

Your Guide to Today's New Music, Books and Movies



Sound Bites By Southern Gospel News

THE CRABB FAMILY *Grand Finale: The Ultimate Concert Experience* New Haven Records

Thanks to the magic of video productions, you can go back home again. I know we are all thankful that the Gaither series has captured memories of our special friends and moments we want to revisit over and over again.

This two-hour worship experience was recorded at the sold-out historic Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville. This is an extremely high quality DVD featuring 18 songs, including several No. 1 hits.

The song list includes "Greater Is He," "Please Forgive Me," "Please Come Down to Me," "Through the Fire," "I've Come to Take You Home," "I'd Rather Have Jesus," "The Lamb, the Lion and the King" and many others. "Redeemer" is included as a bonus track. Crabb Family fans also will love the special "Meet The Crabb Family" feature.

When The Crabb Family retired, they not only retired a family full of some of the best singers in the business but they also retired the best southern/country band in the business. Thankfully all of the family has continued to bless us in his or her separate ministries.



This concert DVD experience took me back to the Crabbfest days. As the emcee for every Crabbfest, I saw it all firsthand — the Crabb kids hit the stage, the crowd went crazy, the music and the Spirit flowed and we'd all sing along. Truly great days.

(Les Butler)

TRIBUTE QUARTET *For This Time* Independent

You've heard the expression "jack-of-all-trades." Tribute Quartet explores a range of styles under the traditional male quartet umbrella.

"For This Time" gets under way with a light midtempo swing song titled "I Love Living in Grace." Tribute's version is similar to Liberty Quartet's. Up next is a slightly more aggressive track titled "I've Been Blessed." "Calvary Wins Again" follows with piano and strings on the first verse and a slow build to a fully orchestrated ending. "That's Why I Love Him So" is slow-paced with a predictable lyric but good harmony on the choruses.

"He Said That" pulls out all the stops with an arrangement featuring hot guitar fills. Baritone Josh Singletary is featured on a subdued ballad titled "That's What Makes



Grace So Amazing." There's an Old West mood throughout "His Tomb Is Empty" with a chorus that shifts between major and minor tonal centers.

"For This Time" includes five more songs for 12 total. "For This Time" is a strong CD, but there's room for improvement in the areas of song selection and pacing. The group sounds great vocally, and the production quality is very good. Tribute will only get better as they continue to refine their skills.

(David Bruce Murray)

THE HOPPERS *Unforgettable* Independent

The Hoppers obviously have a passion for songs of days gone by. As a result, those older songs, albeit dressed in new arrangements and given a slightly slicker modern sound, have been very good to the group — think "Stepping on the Clouds," "I've Come Too Far to Turn Back" and "Shouting Time." It should come as no surprise that when they get together to record a "new" CD of "old" songs, The Hoppers are going to approach their task with straight-on professionalism.

Thus southern gospel music fans are enjoying The Hoppers' latest studio effort, "Unforgettable." The song list is sure to bring back grand memories as it includes "O It Thrills Me," "The Holy Hills," "Going Home," "In the Sweet Forever," "I Never Shall Forget the Day," "Oh



Come Angel Band," "Thank You Lord for Your Blessings on Me," "I'd Rather Have Jesus," "The Love of

God," "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and "Just As I Am."

To ramble on about this recording would be pointless. Just know that anyone who enjoys classic songs "done right," should make sure "Unforgettable" is in their collection.

(Danny Jones)

THE BOWLING FAMILY *Shine* Big Ten House of Music

I'm sure The Bowling Family was a bit nervous as they started working on "Shine," the follow-up to the hit-packed "Faith to Believe." Not to worry! "Shine" is worthy of carrying the Bowling name.

I appreciate the fact that Mike

and Kelly Bowling, along with Kelly's sister and former Crabb Family band mate Terah Crabb-Penhollow, keep it "Southern." This is a southern gospel album with a splash of Hinson-like country — and that's Mike's sweet spot.

With 13 songs, there are lots of favorites to choose from. My favorites include "How Blessed," "Sailing on Home," "Tell Them That I Love Them," "Pray Anyway," "Half That's Never Been Told," "He's Leading Me Each Step of the Way" and "I Still Glory in the Cross."

Lots of good songs from today's best songwriters, stellar singing with top-notch production, make "Shine" another fine release carrying the Bowling name!

(Les Butler)



Book Reviews

By Matthew Stephens

Butterfly Life in a Caterpillar World: Discover the Unbound Joy of the Butterfly Life

Betty Moni. San Antonio, Texas: IMD Press, 2007. 365 pp. (Paperback).

Betty Moni is honest and to the point. In this book, she uses humor to address some of the struggles she has dealt with in her life. She also

points out that we can begin again in a world that constantly focuses on fleshly desires. Targeting a female audience, Moni gives advice on topics such as fear, uncertainty and frustration. She tells stories, shares poems and focuses on specific biblical teachings.

Moni compares humans stuck in a world of evil and ugliness to a

butterfly's first form as a caterpillar. Through this comparison, she paints a picture of how Jesus transforms us into a different person.

The book will leave you asking the question "Do I want to live like a butterfly?" Moni, who is now a recording artist and inspirational speaker, also wrote "Where to Go When It Hurts."

Movie Reviews

By Matthew Stephens

To Save a Life

Director Brian Baugh

The movie "To Save a Life" is an inspiring story of how one person can make a difference.

"To Save a Life" tells the story of Jake Taylor, a young man who has everything going for him. He has a basketball scholarship, the ideal girlfriend and all the right friends. But faced with the demands of

the "in" crowd, Jake, portrayed by Randy Wayne, decides he is too good for his best friend from childhood, Roger, portrayed by Robert Bailey Jr. Isolated and mistreated, Roger finally takes his anger to the extreme when he shows up one day on campus with a gun. Jake's last-ditch effort cannot stop Roger and a tragedy unfolds that literally rocks Jake's world. He can't stop asking

the question that is literally eating him up inside: Could I have saved Roger?

"To Save a Life" doesn't shy away from the real struggles facing teens today. It is rated PG-13 because of its portrayal of some of these issues like teen sexuality, abortion, drug and alcohol abuse and suicide. "To Save a Life" is now available on DVD and Blu-ray.

Christian Marketplace Top Ten Best Sellers

Fiction

1. **Take Four**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
2. **The Shack**, William P. Young (Windblown Media)
3. **Her Mother's Hope**, Francine Rivers (Tyndale House)
4. **Predator**, Terri Blackstock (Zondervan)
5. **Take Three**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
6. **Redeeming Love**, Francine Rivers (Waterbrook/Multnomah)
7. **Gathering Storm**, Bodie and Brock Thoene (Summerside Press)
8. **Twilight's Serenade**, Tracie Peterson (Bethany House/Baker Publishing Group)
9. **A Lineage of Grace**, Francine Rivers (Tyndale House)
10. **Lydia's Charm**, Wanda E. Brunstetter (Barbour)

Bibles

1. **Text Bible – NKJV** (Thomas Nelson)
2. **NIV Adventure Bible** (Zondervan)
3. **Outreach New Testament – ESV** (Crossway)
4. **NIV Outreach Bible** (BIBLICA/Authentic Media)
5. **Gift and Award Bible – KJV** (Thomas Nelson)
6. **Share the Good News Outreach Bible – ESV** (Crossway)
7. **Thinline Bible – NIV** (Zondervan)
8. **God's Princess Bible** (Thomas Nelson)
9. **NIV Adventure Bible** (Zondervan)
10. **NIV Gift Bible** (Zondervan)



Compass Direct photo

ACT OF VIOLENCE — A weapon used in the 2008 violence in Kandhamal district, Orissa state lies on damaged Bible. It was a weapon like this one that was used to kill Bikram Nayak.

Justice served

Court in India convicts legislator in second murder case

A Hindu nationalist legislator was arrested Sept. 9 after a court pronounced him guilty of playing a major role in the murder of a Christian during anti-Christian carnage in Orissa state's Kandhamal district in August 2008.

The Fast Track Court II in Kandhamal convicted Manoj Pradhan of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the murder of a 30-year-old Christian Bikram Nayak, who succumbed to head injuries two days after an attack by a mob in the Raikia area of Budedi village on Aug. 25, 2008.

Judge Chitta Ranjan Das sentenced Pradhan to six years of rigorous imprisonment for "culpable homicide not amounting to murder" under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code and imposed a fine of \$335 for setting houses ablaze.

Pradhan, who contested and won the April 2009 state assembly election from jail representing Kandhamal's G. Udayagiri constituency, was not initially accused in the police complaint in Nayak's murder, but his role emerged during the investigation, according to *The Hindu*.

One of the primary suspects in violence that followed the assassination of Hindu nationalist leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati on Aug. 23, 2008, Pradhan was initially arrested in December 2008. The violence began a day after Saraswati's killing when Hindu nationalist groups blamed Christians for his murder, although Maoists (extreme Marxists) claimed responsibility for it.

In spite of the recent conviction, the Orissa state unit of the BJP said

the case against Pradhan was weak.

"Pradhan was merely present at the scene of crime," Orissa BJP President Jual Oram told Compass Direct news service.

Pradhan was named in at least 12 police complaints concerning murder and arson. But after he won the election, he was released on bail.

This is the 36-year-old Pradhan's second conviction. On June 29, Kandhamal's Fast Track Court I sentenced him to seven years in jail in a case concerning the murder of another Christian, Parikhita Nayak, also from Budedi village, who was killed on Aug. 27, 2008. Though not convicted of murder, Pradhan was found guilty of rioting and causing grievous hurt in the case.

The June 29 judgment led to his arrest, but the Orissa High Court granted him bail eight days later. The BJP will challenge the convictions in a higher court, Oram said.

Intimidation

In August, Kanaka Rekha Nayak, widow of Parikhita Nayak, complained that despite the conviction of Pradhan and an accomplice, they were immediately given bail and continued to roam the area, often intimidating her.

Nayak was among 43 survivors who on Aug. 22-24 testified in Delhi before the National People's Tribunal (NPT), a private hearing of victims of the Kandhamal violence organized by the National Solidarity Forum, a confederation of 60 nonprofit groups and people's movements.

Nayak said local politicians, including Pradhan, hit her husband with an axe. Her husband's body

was later chopped into pieces, she recalled as she sobbed during testimony at the tribunal, headed by Justice A.P. Shah, former chief justice of Delhi High Court.

The fast track courts, which are set up especially to hear cases related to the anti-Christian violence, have acquitted Pradhan in seven cases for lack of evidence. Three more cases are pending against him.

The NPT tribunal asserted that between August and December 2008, about 2,000 people were "forced to repudiate their Christian faith."

The tribunal cited government figures asserting that during the violence from August to December 2008, more than 600 villages were ransacked, 5,600 houses were looted and burned, 54,000 people were left homeless, and 38 people were murdered in Kandhamal alone. It also noted that human rights groups estimated that more than 100 people were killed and "an un-estimated number suffered severe physical injuries and mental trauma."

As many as 295 church buildings and other places of worship, big and small, were destroyed, and 13 schools, colleges and offices of five nonprofit organizations damaged, it said, adding that about 30,000 people were uprooted and living in relief camps, with many of them still displaced.

The Christian community was deliberately targeted by Hindu nationalist groups such as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (World Hindu Council), the Bajrang Dal and the active members of Bharatiya Janata Party," the tribunal concluded. (CD)

World of Religion

Compiled from Wire Services

Pastor, wife slain at church where Lottie Moon served

PENGLAI, China — A Chinese pastor and his wife were slain Aug. 31 at Penglai Christian Church, where Lottie Moon, an icon of Southern Baptist missions work, served in the early 1900s in Penglai, China.

Pastor Qin Jia Ye and his wife Hong En He, both in their 80s, were killed in the church's office Aug. 31.

The suspect — a 40-year-old former church member — was arrested within an hour of the early morning incident.

The couple's violent death is a shock to many, both in China and the United States.

The church was closed for 49 years after communists came to power at the end of World War II, reopening in 1988 with only 20 people.

Qin reported 300 baptisms several years in a row. Today, there are 3,600 members. Chinese newspaper accounts state that the suspect entered the church office carrying an ax and struck the pastor and his wife, killing them both.

The church eventually outgrew Moon's original structure and built a modern 1,500-seat sanctuary next to it with the help of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, Marietta, Ga.

"From the moment I met Pastor Qin, I could sense a Christlike spirit," said Bryant Wright, Johnson Ferry senior pastor and current Southern Baptist Convention president.

"We are incredibly saddened by this tragic event, but we know one of the Lord's faithful servants is with Him forever in Heaven."

Qin graciously acted as tour guide for a large number of Southern Baptist leaders passing through Penglai and wanting to connect with the community where Moon served.

Wanda S. Lee, executive director of national Woman's Missionary Union, visited the church during a 1997 China tour. In spite of numerous church responsibilities, Qin and his wife welcomed the group warmly, Lee said. It was obvious they were well loved and respected, she said.

Kremlin icon hidden after Russian Revolution unveiled

MOSCOW — A fresco of Christ on the Kremlin Wall in Moscow plastered over after the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution has been rediscovered and presented in a ceremony attended by Patriarch Kirill I of the Russian Orthodox Church and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

"The history of these icons is a symbol of what happened with our people in the 20th century," said Kirill at the ceremony held Aug. 28.

"It was claimed that true goals and values and genuine shrines were destroyed, and that faith had disappeared from the lives of our people."

The fresco of Christ is located over the Spasskaya, or Saviour, tower of the Kremlin, near St. Basil's Cathedral on Red Square. Experts say it dates to the middle or second half of the 17th century.

Another icon, that of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker, on the nearby Nikolskaya tower at the opposite end of Red Square, is also being restored.

Both icons were covered up by restorers who sought to save them from the Bolsheviks, who wanted to destroy them during their revolution against tsarist rule.

Majority of Quebec residents support euthanasia

MONTREAL — More than 70 percent of the residents of Quebec support the legalization of euthanasia and assisted suicide, according to a recent survey.

The *Montreal Gazette* reported Aug. 22 that 71 percent of respondents said "yes" to the following question: "Do you believe decriminalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide is the right way to help people die with dignity?" Only 16 percent said "no," and 13 percent said they were undecided. The poll was conducted for the newspaper.

Americans are far more opposed to doctor-assisted suicide. A 2009 Gallup survey showed that 56 percent of adults called doctor-assisted suicide "morally wrong" while 39 percent called it "morally acceptable." Previous Gallup polls had it closer to a 50-50 split.

Canadian law forbids euthanasia and assisted suicide, but a Quebec provincial committee was to solicit public comment in September on the legalization of both, according to *The Gazette*.

In euthanasia, a physician administers a lethal dose of drugs that takes a patient's life. In assisted suicide, a doctor does not administer a fatal dose but prescribes drugs for a patient to use in taking his own life.