

# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

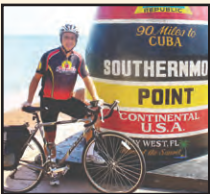


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BP photo

**DOOR TO DOOR** — Megan Hunter (center), a short-term volunteer from the University of Mobile, invites a Filipino villager to attend a presentation given by her missions team.

## Building community Filipino hospitality helps UMobile students share

Evelyn Riviera has a question for the five American university students gathered around her front door.

“Is it true that Americans don’t eat rice?” she asks. “They just eat bread?”

Her visitors laugh. Sitting on wooden benches under her thatch awning, they make small talk, chatting about American culture and Filipino food. In the course of conversation, the University of Mobile students tell Riviera a story about Christ healing a cripple. She’s never heard it.

The volunteer missions team’s approach to sharing its faith is simple. It doesn’t hold Vacation Bible Schools or medical clinics. It doesn’t attract crowds with music or spectacles. Instead it arrives in a village and asks to stay for several days, building relationships and hanging out.

The team members live as the people they came to minister to live. They

sleep in hammocks, take bucket baths and wash their clothes in pans of water. Whenever they travel from village to village, they huddle in boats and ride the Oras River. They visit people who live so deep in the jungle that no roads reach their homes.

This method of witnessing allows villagers to open their homes with true Filipino generosity.

### Hanging out

In the first village the team members visit, they stay in a family’s home. They chat with the parents, play with the children and become part of the community. Team leader Megan Hunter of First Baptist Church, Fairview, said she cherishes the time hanging out with several Filipinos outside their home. They relax and laugh and talk about Jesus.

“It was a lot of fun to study the Word of God with them, to hear their questions, to see it kind of start to click with them,” she said. “But most of all, (I loved) just the community that we had there with those people — all crowded in that one little room around a light bulb. We didn’t have a TV. We didn’t have games. We didn’t have any of that. We had each other and the Word of God.”

As the team members travel from

village to village, they find most people will listen to stories from the Bible. However, the villagers rarely comprehend the gospel message.

Most of the country’s population adheres to a mix of Catholicism and animism. In many of the homes the team visits, there are calendars depicting Mary and Jesus and shrines containing idols of the Santo Nino, or Christ as a child. In the Filipino belief system, people earn heaven. They believe they must compensate for their sin by giving to the poor or helping those in need. They can’t easily grasp the idea that God would give anyone salvation as a gift.

After visiting Riviera, the team encounters direct conflict with the area’s traditional belief. In the cinderblock home of another villager, Adam Morris of Bayside Baptist Church, Harrison, Tenn., explains salvation. The student tells a man that one must ask forgiveness from and dedicate his or her life to Jesus Christ to receive salvation.

“Because Jesus is God and because He is perfect, He is able to forgive sins,” Morris said. “Does all that make sense, or do you have any questions about it?”

The man does have a question. (See ‘Students,’ page 7)

## Alabama Baptists respond to Tennessee Valley storm damage

The scene was eerily similar to April 27, said Ann Fullerton, wife of Robert Fullerton, director of missions for Limestone Baptist Association.

When the Aug. 3-4 storms rolled through the Tennessee Valley, the number of toppled trees and resulting damage were about the same in some areas, she noted.

Trees fell on roofs, debris littered roadways and power was knocked out across Colbert, Limestone and Madison counties.

But this time, Alabama Baptist disaster relief teams did not have to triage their efforts across a devastated state and were able to get to work immediately.

“We have about a week’s worth of work to be done,” said Kyle Jeffreys, who is coordinating disaster relief efforts in the area. “We have mostly large trees that need to be removed.”

The chain saw teams on the ground immediately were from Limestone, Morgan and Madison Baptist associations. And at press time, other teams around the state had been put on alert in case more help was needed.

According to the National Weather Service, the storms, which began around 11:30 p.m. Aug. 3, carried large hail, heavy rain and 50-plus mph winds. The storms continued throughout the night and into the late morning hours of Aug. 4, initially leaving 25,000 homes without power.

Lightning from the storms created a fire that destroyed Athens Church of God, and winds flipped a small plane at Pryor Field Regional Airport in Decatur. A Tusculumbia woman died when a tree fell through her mobile home’s roof.

For more information on disaster relief efforts in the area, call the state disaster relief office at 1-800-264-1225 or visit [www.sldr.org](http://www.sldr.org). (TAB)



Photo courtesy of Ron Warren

**TOPPLED TREES** — Alabama Baptist disaster relief volunteers help clear storm debris.

# COMMENT

## The Importance of Baptist Higher Education

College students began to slowly gather in the basement room of the Daniel House in London, where they prepare their own evening meals. Some had “take-aways” from a nearby grocery store. Some made sandwiches. Others heated leftovers from lunch, and some stuck prepackaged meals in the microwave. Students can be creative when it comes to food.

It was a typical evening during a summer session at Samford University’s overseas study center. My wife, Pat, was teaching the first summer session, and I was there with my grandson for a 12-day stay. This particular evening was the first Sunday the students had been in London. The conversation that evening was about where the students had gone to church.

Some students had joined a faculty member who always attends the same church when he teaches in London. Others had gone with another faculty member to hear a pastor whose most recent book was considered a “must-read.” Still others had gone to smaller, nearby churches in the Kensington area — some Baptist, some not.

One student talked about the difference between her home church’s service and the more liturgical service she experienced that morning in London. Another shared disappointment that the pastor where she worshiped read Scripture but did not develop the text in the sermon. Others talked about the depth or Bible-centeredness of the sermons they heard. For some, worship had been a good experience, for others, only average.

It could have been an experience from former days in Alabama when families gathered around the dinner table after Sunday worship and all shared about what they had experienced at church that day. But this was a group of college students thousands of miles from home who, on their first Sunday in London, chose to participate in organized worship and cared enough to reflect on and share their worship experiences.

During the week, a number of students participated in Evensong services at many of the area’s famous cathedrals. Around the tables, they talked about their experiences. And as the next Sunday neared, I saw announcements from various faculty members about where they would be worshipping and invitations for students to join them. As the table conversation again demonstrated, most of the students did.

One of the questions I asked myself was whether the spiritual concerns and insights of this group of students were typical of students



### THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

in overseas study programs conducted by various state universities. Somehow I doubt it.

Not all the students attended church on Sunday just as not all the young people in our churches participate in worship every week. But the vast majority did. Participation was encouraged. Students felt comfortable talking with one another and faculty about their experiences, their spiritual lives, their relationship with God.

### Critical period of life

That is one of the values of Baptist colleges. In this critical period of life, Baptist colleges provide a general atmosphere that reminds all of God’s presence in His world. Baptist colleges provide regular reminders of the need for God in every facet of one’s life. Baptist colleges provide specific encouragement for students to have a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptist colleges offer an array of resources for Christian living from classes about the Bible to dorm prayer groups to missions service opportunities.

At Baptist colleges, the Christian faith is a normal part of life — all of life. That is not true everywhere.

Two studies done decades apart both found that students who choose a Baptist college have higher religious values and values in keeping with traditional Christian understandings than students who opt for other kinds of colleges and universities. I imagine that is still true.

Students come to schools like Samford University, the University of Mobile (UMobile) and Judson College because they are looking for places that provide opportunity to nurture their relationships with God as well as develop them academically.

Baptist colleges began as a place to train young men and women for Baptist ministry. Both Samford and Judson continue their enviable legacies, dating back more than 150 years of preparing ministers for Baptist churches, missions service and denominational leadership. More recently, UMobile, founded in 1961, has joined that task and is doing great work.

But Baptist higher education has expanded beyond ministerial training. Now Baptists recog-

nize the value of providing education in a Christian context for the young people who will be the lay leaders of our churches and the leaders of business and society.

Baptists want every student to have the opportunity for the best academic education and professional training available and in places where faith in God is a normal part of life. That is why Alabama Baptists invest in all three of our schools through Cooperative Program giving. In addition to these ongoing gifts, Alabama Baptists also give liberally to the schools for scholarships, buildings and other endowment needs.

Another important means of support is prayer. Every Alabama Baptist can pray for the three cooperating Baptist schools. We can pray for the students, faculties and administrations. Alabama Baptists pray because they care, and out of those prayers grow all other kinds of support.

Together Alabama Baptists can pray that God will always bless us with Baptist schools that recognize Him in all of life, remind of His lordship in every part of life, encourage a personal walk with Him through faith in Jesus Christ throughout life and provide resources for living the Christian life.

With such schools, Alabama Baptists will always have students who gather around tables like those in the Daniel House and in your house and openly share about what they experience in worship.

**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 Julie Payne, Correspondent, TAB

### Clyde 'Bill' Jones

First Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove  
Birmingham Baptist Association

**FAVORITE HYMN:** "Beulah Land"  
**HOBBIES:** Playing golf and reading  
**FAMILY STATUS:** Married to Mary Edith for 47 years; one son, Michael

Clyde "Bill" Jones, 72, is a deacon at First Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove. He taught the sixth-grade boys' Sunday School class until 1995. Jones also has directed a senior adult men's class that he continues to teach.

#### Q: How did you come to know the Lord?

**A:** Back in my teenage years, there was a small church in Bessemer that was forming a softball team. They found out that I could play right field. I joined this softball team. One of the requirements was ... you had to attend church [something like] twice a month. I came under conviction one Sunday night. I just knew I had to do something. The next week, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior. I was 18 ... at the time.

#### Q: What difference has Christ made in your life?

**A:** My wife for one thing. I think He led me to her. ... I think I've been blessed a lot more than I deserve. We were in the tornadoes that came through Pleasant Grove awhile back. ... We were huddled up in our basement. He (Jesus) has always been with me and blessed me, and I really don't know why, but I sure am appreciative of it.

#### Q: What led you to serve at your church?

**A:** My name was put there for some reason, and I feel like it was the Lord wanting me to do this.

#### Q: What do you get from serving the Lord?

**A:** I think the Lord wants me to do that. A lot of the people I teach are friends and good people. ... I feel in my heart that's what the Lord wants me to do right now.

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

**A:** I'm going to drop off some of it and stay with a good bit of it as long as I can.

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.

# Missions on the move

## Missionary bikes north to south across US, visits churches along the way

By Anna Keller  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Lee Bradley is not your average missionary.

While home in the United States for the past few months, Bradley trained for and completed a bike ride from the northernmost part of the country to the southernmost point. During the 43-day 2,738-mile trip, he stopped at churches to share about the work he has been doing in Albania for the past 15 years.

"I started my trip in Angle Inlet, Minn., and worked my way down through nine states to get to Key West, Fla.," said Bradley, whose home church is Liberty Baptist, Duncanville. "I planned my stops around churches where I could speak, which meant I had to do some zigzagging."

One of his many stops was at Calvary Pines Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, Minn. Bob Lemen, an elder at the church, spent time with him during the early part of his visit and checked in with him once his ride was complete.

"From his comments, it kind of reassured me to the kind of people Americans really are," Lemen said. "He talked about people going out of their way to give him a ride when he had a flat tire and how no one ever tried to run him off the road. The Lord was really good to him, because he had some severe thunderstorms to the north and south of him, but they didn't hit where he was."

### 'Be bolder'

Bradley first gained an interest in biking in 2005 and did a ride across Alabama the following year. During that trip, he also spoke at various churches, but this time around, he wanted to "be bolder and go to some places where Southern Baptists aren't so strong."

By spreading his ride across nine states, Bradley was able to share his testimony and message with churches he wouldn't have interacted with otherwise.

"In some cases, I had connections with the churches, but in some cases, I didn't," Bradley said. "I looked up different associations and contacted the directors (of missions), and they acted as intermediaries and helped me schedule talks."

Even though he started out working as a church planter in Albania, Bradley got involved with the Albanian Bible Institute in Durres and has served as its director for the last five years.



Photo courtesy of Lee Bradley

**TO THE SOUTH** — At the conclusion of his 2,738-mile trip, Lee Bradley, a missionary to Albania, stands at the southernmost point of the United States, located in Key West, Fla. The trip took him 43 days to complete.

In Albania, where Christians number a mere three-tenths of the population, creating trained Christian leaders is a difficult task.

This year, the institute is restructuring its curriculum to target people currently in the workplace who want to take evening classes.

It'll also be extending its resources and training into other cities, helping to cast a wider net.

Lemen was interested to learn about the state of Christianity in Albania during Bradley's talk at his church.

"Essentially the people had learned to believe in nothing. If you just start preaching the gospel, they might listen, but they're probably just being polite," he said. "It's friendship evangelism to the extreme."

Bradley returns to Albania on Sept. 7 and plans to continue building relationships



Photo courtesy of Lee Bradley

**WAY UP NORTH** — Southern Baptist missionary Lee Bradley started his 43-day 2,738 mile journey at the 'most northerly post office' in Angle Inlet, Minn.

as he's done for 15 years in hopes that his school can continue be a tool for training native Albanians to lead local churches.

For more information about the institute, visit [www.albanianbibleinstitute.com](http://www.albanianbibleinstitute.com).



Photo by Chris Mills

**EMERGING LEADERS** — Seventeen new and returning young women along with their leaders attend the Emerging Leaders Forum (designed to enhance and develop leadership skills of girls grades 9–12) hosted by Alabama WMU on July 22–23.

# Liberty Park member helps restore ranch residents' home, jobs

By **Sammie Jo Barstow**  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

After 45 years in the construction business and numerous personal building projects, Bill Perry, who lives in Huffman, had a huge collection of tools.

But health problems requiring dialysis five days a week made it impossible for Perry to use the saws, wrenches, hammers and various other tools that were sitting idle in his workshop.

So he began to think about what to do with all those tools. He hoped they could be used in a significant way to help someone. The tornadoes that ripped through Alabama on April 27 provided the unexpected answer. Before the storms, Perry was not familiar with Alpha Ranch, a not-for-profit, interdenominational ministry that provides residential independent living for 20 young men who "are having a difficult transition into adulthood," according to Gary Liverett, founder and director of the facility near Ashville. But in a matter of days, Perry would have the chance to make a lasting contribution to the ranch's residents.

## Multiple crises

The morning of April 27, Liverett was facing multiple crises. As the early morning storm clouds gathered near the ranch, he experienced crushing chest pains. His wife and

daughter rushed him to the nearest hospital, about 30 minutes away.

Liverett learned he had suffered a heart attack and needed several stints. The weather was not his primary concern at the moment, but he was aware that tornadoes were occurring throughout the area. Cell phone service was down, and it was a few hours after the storm passed that his wife found out that the young men at the ranch, as well as several family members and neighbors, had taken shelter in their daughter's basement.

That was good news because the ranch was destroyed. The Liveretts' home, the young men's living space, the barn and the workshop were all gone.

"That was the darkest day of my life and then the brightest," Liverett said of being told about the destruction and then realizing his family and the young men in his care were safe.

Although a few small tools from the 6,000-square-foot workshop were found, the majority of the tools were missing. This loss of equipment was serious because much

of the ranch's funding comes from construction work done by residents under Liverett's supervision.

When Perry learned that his church, Liberty Park Baptist, Vestavia Hills, in Birmingham Baptist Association, had committed to help restore the ranch, he knew this was a God-given opportunity.

Perry notified Church Adminis-

trator David Lucas that he wanted to donate his tools. He, Lucas and church member Ralph Stephens loaded Lucas' pickup truck and had to make a second trip to take all the tools to the ranch.

"Without Mr. Perry's donation of tools and what was given to our ranch by others in Liberty Park Baptist and in the community, I honestly don't know if I would have had the courage to start rebuilding," Liverett said. "Seeing 23 years of hard work wiped away in about 30 seconds was almost more than I could bear."

But Perry doesn't want to be singled out.

"I had a purpose in giving away those tools," he said. "I felt that the ranch and those people working out there had given so much of themselves, and I knew it was up to me to help them. They suffered a devastating blow, and we needed to do what we could for them. God gets the glory for anything we were able to do."

The ranch is in the rebuilding stage. And not only will Perry's tools be used after the workshop is

completed but they also are being used in the actual reconstruction of the workshop and other buildings.

Scott Guffin, senior pastor of Liberty Park, and Liverett both were impressed with Perry's spirit in giving away his lifetime collection of tools.

"Mr. Perry is a World War II veteran and a man who spent his entire life and career working with his hands," Guffin said. "He's one of those men who can make or fix anything. He can rest assured that his tools are going for an important cause rather than just being doled out in a yard sale."

## Overwhelmed

Liverett said he was overwhelmed by Perry's generosity.

"The spirit with which he gave us the tools was just profound. He was so excited that they were going to be used in the shop with these guys. I just remember him saying that he knew so many boys need a hands-on experience and may not have the opportunity so he was glad to give our boys the chance to have that."

How did Perry feel about driving away from the ranch and leaving his tools there? "Well, good," he said. "I felt really good about it. It made me feel like I was able to help somebody. You know, that's what our Lord said for us to do. We're to serve Him by serving others." ❧



Photo courtesy of Liberty Park Baptist Church

**REBUILDING** — Bill Perry visits Alpha Ranch as it is being rebuilt with the use of his donated tools. The property was destroyed by the April 27 tornadoes.

# LIFE

In 2010, almost 21,000 people in Alabama testified to their new-found life in Christ through baptism. Your gifts through the Cooperative Program open the door for more and more people each year to hear the gospel and respond to Christ's offer of life everlasting.

For more information and resources about the Cooperative Program, please contact State Missionary Jim Swedenburg, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 283, [jswedenburg@alsbom.org](mailto:jswedenburg@alsbom.org).

Bruce Squires baptizes a new believer during a recent State Evangelism Conference.



# BAPTISTS RESPOND

to areas devastated by April tornadoes

**Huffman Baptist Church** in Birmingham Baptist Association has scheduled Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief Training Aug. 26–27 for men and women. This training is not limited to Alabama disasters, so please consider this opportunity if you are willing to be deployed at the call of any natural disaster nationwide requiring immediate relief efforts, church officials explained.

Registration deadline is Aug. 23. Go to [www.sbd.org](http://www.sbd.org) and click on the training tab. For questions contact John Cook, BBA disaster relief coordinator, at [johnc@bbaonline.org](mailto:johnc@bbaonline.org) and 205-796-4715; or John Hayes, District 11 disaster relief coordinator, at [jghayes@bellsouth.net](mailto:jghayes@bellsouth.net) and 205-675-6557.

Huffman Baptist Church is located at 700 Huffman Road, Birmingham, AL 35215.



FBC Fultondale

Photo courtesy of Judy McGuirk

**First Baptist Church, Fultondale,** and **Gardendale Church of the Nazarene** co-hosted the “We Survived” block party July 30 from 5–8 p.m. in the First, Fultondale, parking lot.

Hamburgers and hot dogs were served while live music and children’s activities kept the block party exciting. There was a gift card giveaway every 30 minutes and a grand prize gift card giveaway at 8 p.m.

The block party was held as a way to minister to the people that still deal with the aftermath of the tornado — even today — in the Fultondale and Gardendale area.

The Smith family survived the tornado that passed through the area but their home received severe damage. The Sheetrock on the ceiling needed replacing, windows were blown out, water damaged much of the home’s floor-

ing and the deck was destroyed. The home also received destruction invisible to the eye — a gas leak.

Randy Donaldson, member of **Canaan Baptist Church, Bessemer**, has spent the last 34 years working for Alagasco and was sent to check on the gas leak at the Smith home.

After having the leak fixed and saying good-bye, Donaldson could not seem to get the family and their situation out of his head.

A few weeks later, Bessemer Baptist Association church had a lead on a house in Concord where they planned to go **assist in rebuilding** after the storm. On the way to check out the site, Donaldson asked the driver, “Where are we headed?”

“Smith road,” the driver said.

“Their names wouldn’t happen to be Smith would it?” Donaldson asked.

“Yeah, you know them?” the driver responded.

“It was just a powerful statement of how God works,” Donaldson explained later.

A team of 25 Canaan members worked on the Smiths’ home July 25–29 repairing the ceiling, replacing flooring, installing windows and rebuilding the deck.

Canaan Baptist also ministered to the Pleasant Grove community with a **“Bouncing Back Block Party”** held at Pleasant Grove Middle School on July 30.

From 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m., 40 Canaan volunteers grilled hotdogs, ran game booths and kept the line moving for kids anxiously awaiting a tiger to be painted on their cheek.

Canaan Baptist also gave away four children’s bikes, school supplies, Bibles and toys.

More than 130 people attended the block party and nine people — both children and adults — made a decision to follow Christ after Canaan Pastor Morgan Bailey shared the gospel message.

Russ Price, Canaan’s children’s minister, said the thing that will stick with him the most are the smiles he saw that day.

For more information on **disaster relief** volunteer opportunities, a disaster relief training schedule, resources for your family and church and a way to donate to the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief Effort, visit [www.sbd.org](http://www.sbd.org).



Photo by Adrianna Anderson

**UNIQUE MINISTRY** — Volunteers from across the state work to assemble and deliver storage units for tornado survivors’ to have a place to store their salvageable belongings.

## Recovery effort Sheds built, delivered as ministry to survivors

By Courtney Searcy  
The Alabama Baptist

When people displaced by tornadoes gather what is left of their possessions and begin to rebuild, where do they keep their salvaged belongings?

Westmont Baptist Church, Birmingham, partnered with Pathfinder Mission, a ministry associated with Gateway Baptist Church, Montgomery, to provide the answer to that question: sheds.

Teams from Bethsalem Baptist Church, Billingsley, and Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church gathered with Westmont Baptist volunteers July 16 to assemble 18 of these storage units from prefabricated parts prepared by volunteers at Pathfinder’s headquarters in Eclectic.

Then they delivered them to homeowners in the Pleasant Grove area. That day, only eight or nine homes were scheduled to receive sheds. However, as they delivered them, they encountered others in need.

To qualify, homeowners had to be registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and have proof that they lived on the property before the April 27 tornado.

Many receiving the storage units didn’t believe they were free until volunteers drove away without leaving a bill. The act of kindness opened doors to share the gospel and give Bibles to several unchurched families and individuals.

Brad Eubank, pastor of Bethsalem Baptist, said the experience moved some of the volunteers from his church to tears as they recounted stories from their day. He said ministering to people who had been

through so much was an emotional experience for them.

“Sometimes it’s hard to find the right spot for a church to fit in to minister. ... It’s great to find a place to serve in a unique way,” Eubank said.

The unique ministry began in 2005, when Pathfinder began to assist in disaster relief on the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina. Volunteers met a woman who had

her property cleared and her belongings recovered but needed a place to store them.

The April 27 tornadoes revived a need for the sheds, and the effort evolved into a collaboration of countless individuals.

Charley Elgin, co-founder of Pathfinder, had connections with Westmont and Bethsalem,

which had members eager to meet any needs possible. Westmont has worked toward disaster recovery alongside churches such as Pleasant Grove Presbyterian since the tornadoes hit.

### Cooperative effort

Monetary donations from across the country linked more and more people to the ministry. Each shed costs about \$300.

While builders were obviously key players in getting the sheds prepared, cooks from Westmont prepared and served meals to them.

“This was a joint effort. Really and truly, I don’t know how many people were involved. This has been a corporate effort of Christians in the Kingdom to put this together,” said C.B. Scott, pastor of Westmont.

For more information, visit [www.pathfindermission.org/AlabamaShedsFromGod.html](http://www.pathfindermission.org/AlabamaShedsFromGod.html).



# Across Alabama's Associations

## BESSEMER

► The J.O.Y. Fellowship of **The Baptist Church at McAdory, McCalla**, will host The Amazing Grays senior adult choir from First Church, Pleasant Grove, Aug. 23. Harold Newberry is director and Gloria Hayes and Betty Reeves are accompanists. Bill McCall is pastor. ► **Eastern Valley Church, Bessemer**, will celebrate its 83rd homecoming Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m. Former member John Roy, of Greenville, S.C., will speak. Uplifted will sing. There will be a covered-dish luncheon after the service, and Uplifted will be in concert. John Mooney is pastor. ► **River Road Church, Hueytown**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. New Vision Quartet will sing after the fellowship lunch. Steve Latham is pastor.

## BIBB

► **Schultz Creek Church, River Bend**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 21, 10:30 a.m. with Evangelist Stan Huguley. Men of Music will sing in the morning and afternoon. Schultz Creek will hold revival Aug. 22-24, 7 p.m., with Evangelist Henry Cox. Paul Davis is pastor.

## BIRMINGHAM

► Members and friends of the former **Belcher Memorial Church, West End**, will celebrate their annual homecoming Aug. 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Eastern Valley Community Center. ► **Robinwood Church** will hold its annual yard sale Aug. 11-13, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. On Aug. 14, 11 a.m., New Hope Missionary Church, Tarrant, will worship with Robinwood. On Aug. 21, 11 a.m., gospel singer Richard White will perform. Dale Creel is pastor.

## CLARKE

► **Evergreen Church, Jackson**, will host its third annual women's conference, Be Still and Know, Aug. 20, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Tracy Lewis of Mercy and Grace Ministries of Hattiesburg, Miss. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided. For information call Kim Shaw at 251-769-0845 or Alicia Conerly at 251-589-0769. Howard Gaston is pastor.

## COFFEE

► **New Ebenezer Church, Elba**, will hold revival Aug. 14-17 with Travis Johnson. Services will be Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7. The Johnson Trio will provide special music.

## COOSA RIVER

► **Blue Eye Church, Lincoln**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 21. Worship will begin at 11 a.m. with special singing fol-

lowed by dinner on the grounds. Gospel group Holy Destiny will perform during the afternoon singing at 1:30 p.m. For information call 256-268-7025. Jacky Morgan is pastor. ► **Immanuel Church, Talladega**, will host Kingsmen of North Carolina Aug. 19, 7 p.m., to kick off revival, which will be Aug. 21-24 with Evangelist Ronnie Forbus. Services will be at 6:30 p.m. For information call Charlotte Wiggins at 256-268-2573. Jim Maxwell is pastor.

## ELMORE

► **Mount Hebron East Church, Eclectic**, named Rudolph Holley deacon emeritus July 24. Bob Williamson is pastor of the church.

## FRANKLIN

► **First Church, Russellville**, will celebrate its 144th homecoming Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. Larry Dover, director of missions for Franklin Association, will bring the message. A fellowship luncheon will follow the service. Barry Holcomb is pastor.

## MOBILE

► **Michael Chad Massey** is the new senior pastor of **First Church, Dawes**, in Mobile. Massey comes from First Church, Unadilla, Ga. He and his wife, Amy, have two children.



MASSEY

## MORGAN

► **Lebanon Church, Falkville**, will hold revival Aug. 14, 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., with Harold Fanning. Randy Ashley is pastor of the church.

## NORTH JEFFERSON

► **First Church, Mount Olive**, will host ONE Focus Boot Camp with ONE Focus Living author and speaker Scotty Sanders Aug. 18, 10 a.m. To register visit [www.onefocusliving.com](http://www.onefocusliving.com). Doug Moore is pastor.

## PICKENS

► **Carrollton Church** will hold revival Aug. 14-17 with Evangelist Steve Hale. Services will be Sunday at 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7. A nursery will be provided. For information call the church office at 205-367-8577. Tommy Winders is pastor.

## SAND MOUNTAIN

► **New Home Church, Pisgah**, will host Sisters (formerly known as The Ruppess) in concert Aug. 14, 6 p.m. For information call the church office at 256-451-3992 or e-mail [nhbcsecretary@farmerstel.com](mailto:nhbcsecretary@farmerstel.com).

com. David Smith is pastor.

## SIPSEY

► **Bethabara Church, Northport**, will hold revival Aug. 21-24 with Billy Reeves, pastor of Hilltop Church, Northport. Services will be Sunday at 5 p.m. and weeknights at 7. Mac McGrath is pastor.

## TENNESSEE RIVER

► **Jay Vanderbur** is the new student minister at **First Church, Scottsboro**. Vanderbur, a Greensburg, Ind., native, comes from First Church, Stockbridge, Ga. He and his wife, Sara, have four children. Kevin Wilburn is pastor.



VANDERBUR

## TUSKEGEE LEE

► **First Church, Reeltown**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 21, 10 a.m. Todd Helms and his guest singers will sing that morning and after the fellowship meal. Pastor Joshua Cook will bring the message.

## WASHINGTON

► **Fairhope Church, Tibbie**, will hold revival Aug. 21-24 with Randy Byrd. Services will be Sunday at 11 a.m. and weeknights at 7. Sonny Hoven is pastor.

## Alabama updates

People, churches making news across the state

### Wolf honored for 20 years of service at FBC Montgomery

A new church will soon be built in India in honor of a Montgomery pastor.

In celebration of Jay Wolf's 20th anniversary as senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, church members donated more than \$30,000 to build the church. It will become the seventh church First, Montgomery, has funded in India.

The announcement was made during a celebration church members dubbed Jay Day on July 17.

Wolf became pastor of First, Montgomery, on July 1, 1991, after having served seven years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va.

Prior to that, he served as associate pastor of First, Montgomery, for three years.

Also during the service, the church's new education building was named the Jay and Mary Ruth Wolf Kingdom Resource Center, both in honor of Wolf's leadership and his wife's partnership and contribution to his ministry.

The building, dedicated June 13, 2010, features state-of-the-art preschool and children's education facilities, along with adult Sunday School and discipleship space.

In response to the new name, he noted, "The facility is not simply a building but a tool that is designed to help people follow Jesus and become devoted disciples who expand God's Kingdom."

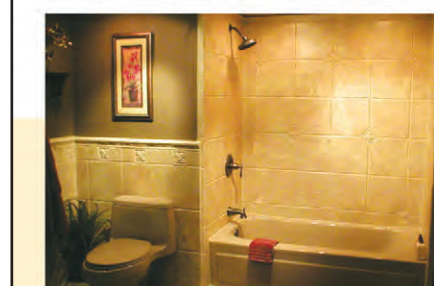
In addition, Wolf was presented with a plaque listing the church's missions expeditions over the last 20 years. During his tenure, thousands of volunteers have traveled on hundreds of missions trips to 55 countries. The plaque will hang in the church's missions center.

The service also included a 30-minute video chronicling Wolf's tenure, primarily through the use of sermon clips dating back to his first year as pastor, and the presentation of a marble stone inscribed with Hebrews 12:1-2, one of his favorite Scriptures.

Wolf called the recognition "an exquisite celebration of the beauty and blessings of serving Christ together." He said, "If encouragement could be transformed into water, we were standing under Niagara Falls!"



WOLF



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## Colleges help students avoid 'spiritual obesity'

By Courtney Searcy  
The Alabama Baptist

**B**ible studies. Worship services. Small groups. Chapel services. Accountability groups. Bible courses.

Students at private Christian universities can load their plates with an endless buffet of "spiritual food."

Yet when they take in all that soul food without exercising their faith, it can lead to "spiritual obesity," said April Robinson, minister to students in the area of community and campus involvement at Samford University in Birmingham.

It's easy for students to soak up the resources on campus without getting out into the community and exercising their faith. Campus becomes what many students refer to as a "bubble."

"All students in that age range (18-24) have to work hard to see beyond their immediate life," Robinson said.

She added that on a Christian campus, the constant community of believers multiplies the challenge. "It can be ironic that Christians tout the gospel — which talks about going and making disciples — but we can become very insulated in our faith," Robinson said. That's why Samford University

Ministries pushes students to get off campus and into the community, she said. It partners with neighborhoods to offer long-term service projects for students to participate in. "We want to encourage students' inner life with Christ but also want to encourage an external relation of faith," she noted.

Scott Bullard, assistant professor of religious studies at Judson College in Marion and former director of campus ministries, said he tries to quell some of the frustration students express about the insulation they feel on a Christian campus.

*"I don't see it as optional for Christians to serve."*

Scott Bullard  
Judson College

"They've been given the gift of time to pull away from society to think and to learn," he said. Yet Bullard said serving the community is a calling from God expressed in the entire narrative of the Bible. "This isn't the icing on the cake; it's the cake. I don't see it as optional for Christians to serve," he said.

One way Judson helps students answer the call to serve is through Restoration, a one-week missions trip initiated by a few students who wanted to use their free time to engage the community. Students stay on campus an additional week at the close of the semester and work on service projects in Marion.

Furthermore professors can apply for

funds to take service-based trips related to their coursework through the office of faith-based service-learning. Criminal justice students might visit prisoners, and education students might lead tutoring programs.

"I have enjoyed the way service-learning brings different groups of people together. I have worked with young children, teens, the elderly and people of different races and backgrounds. I have come to learn that while there is so much diversity, we all have basic human needs that need to be fulfilled," one student wrote on the faith-based service-learning blog.

### 'Live missionally'

Megan Hunter is the campus ministries coordinator at the University of Mobile (UMobile). As a recent graduate, she experienced firsthand how easy it is to get into a "bubble" of believers and forget to engage the lost on campus. She said the campus ministries staff encourages students to "live missionally" and form relationships with the unbelievers they might not know at UMobile.

"If you just surround yourself with believers all the time, you're not living out the gospel," Hunter said, explaining that Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners.

UMobile campus ministries tries to host service projects and events that anyone would feel comfortable attending on cam-

pus, regardless if they are believers or not.

Non-Christians feel comfortable coming to serve the community, and it opens up doors to "explaining the bigger picture of Christianity and what the Bible says about service and love," Hunter said.

Schools like Judson, UMobile and Samford provide unique opportunities for students to get out of the "bubble" and live out their growing faith through missions and service projects. "It's helpful in getting students outside of their comfort zone. A lot of our students are white, upper or middle class, Baptist young women, and it's the first experience they have had with diversity and poverty," said Susan Jones, director of faith-based service-learning at Judson (see story, page 9).

Students return to campus and reflect on how the service impacts their spiritual lives, Jones said, noting that on campus, they can be nourished with spiritual food to prepare them for more service. Robinson added, "Going out into the community can become toxic without a healthy life of worship, study and prayer. A life of worship, study and prayer can become sterile and stagnant without any outreach."

This need for balance leads Robinson to encourage students to think of their faith in terms of fitness: "Be mindful of what you're taking in and what you're working out."

## Students converse with villagers, see hunger for gospel

(continued from page 1)

"If I ever want to go to heaven, what do I need to do?" he asks.

Morris repeats that the man simply needs to ask for forgiveness, but the villager wants a more involved answer. He said he always prays.

He is always nice to his neighbor. What more can he do?

Samantha Parrott of The People of Mars Hill, Mobile, said most of their listeners ask the same question: What can they do to get into heaven?

### God will do the rest

Nicole Hill, of Chunchula, said she feels resigned and learned to relinquish control to God.

They shared the gospel. Now God will do the rest.

"We could tell them all day long what we believe, but God is the one who will help

change their perspective," she said. "I trust ... that He's going to do that."

Although few seem to understand the message, the students see signs of hunger for the gospel in their listeners. Jacob Fowler of Capshaw Baptist Church shared a Bible story with a man who immediately asked to hear another one. Morris added after one Bible study, a woman said she had never heard such a message in all of her 60 years.

From conversations with these people, it seems to Morris that they simply feel honored the team traveled so far to share a spiritual message.

"The fact that we cared enough to come all the way around the world to share this message with them that we believed so strongly in — that in itself spoke to them," he said.

"Through that, we got to share the gospel with them." (BP)



BP photo

**JUNGLE LIFE** — Taking advantage of their day off in Aroganga, a village on Samar Island in the Philippines, Megan Hunter (left) and Nicole Hill wash their laundry.

# Baptist Campus Ministries events

On Alabama college and university campuses this fall, Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) will welcome new and returning students with events designed to intentionally engage and involve them in a life-changing ministry experience. BCM is a Great Commission ministry of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and local Baptist associations and is made possible by gifts from Alabama Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program. If you have questions about any BCM group or event, please contact the Baptist campus minister for that campus by going to [www.thestudenthub.org](http://www.thestudenthub.org).

## Alabama A&M University

- ▶ *Aug. 13:* Church festival on the campus quad, 5:30 p.m.

## Auburn University

- ▶ *Aug. 13:* Dinner and a movie, AU BCM, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 15:* War Eagle Game Night/Fellowship, AU BCM, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Burger Drop-In, AU BCM, noon  
1st fall BCM worship with Pierced Holy in concert, AU BCM, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 17:* 1st Wednesday lunches, AU BCM, noon and 1 p.m.  
1st Weekly Lunch Devo, School of Veterinary Medicine, noon
- ▶ *Aug. 18:* Concourse Outreach Freshmen Insight Kickoff, AU Baptist Student Center (Freshmen Bible study and fellowship), 7 p.m.  
Global Café, AU Baptist Student Center (International student ministry), 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 19:* Girl's and Guy's Night Out, AU Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 20:* Field Day Mania, AU

- Baptist Student Center, 2 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* King's Acres Local Outreach Ministry, AU Baptist Student Center, 3 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* BCM Discipleship Life Groups Kickoff, AU Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.  
Worship, AU Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 26-27:* BCM Fall Retreat
- ▶ *Aug. 28:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 29-Sept. 1:* Concourse Outreach

## Auburn University at Montgomery

- ▶ *Aug. 15:* Coke booth on the quad, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Bowling, Brunswick Lanes, 8-11 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Coke booth on the quad, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Manhunt (capture the flag), Baptist Student Center, 8-11 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 17:* Cookout on the quad, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Broom hockey, Eastdale Mall, 9-10:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 18:* Free pizza, Baptist Student Center, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Scavenger hunt, Baptist Student Center, 8-11 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* RESONATE (student worship), Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* UpStream (freshman Bible study), Baptist Student Center, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 2-4:* BCM beach retreat, Panama City Beach

## Jacksonville State University

- ▶ *Aug. 26:* Dorm move in
- ▶ *Aug. 29:* Survival B for freshmen and transfers, 1-3 p.m.

- BCM Game Night, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* Pancake breakfast, Baptist Student Center, 8-11 a.m.  
Welcome party, Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 1:* Meet to go to first JSU football game
- ▶ *Sept. 6:* Celebration student worship, Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 7:* Agape Lunch, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

## Samford University

- ▶ *Aug. 26:* Freshmen move in
- ▶ *Aug. 27:* Church Connections
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* Shiloh: A Worship Gathering
- ▶ *Sept. 1-2:* FreshMin Retreat

## Shelton State Community College Fredd Campus

- ▶ *Sept. 1:* First Thursday Lunch, Unity Center Building 400, noon-1 p.m.

## Shelton State Community College Martin Campus

- ▶ *Aug. 23:* BCM Breakfast to Go in the Atrium, 7:45 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* Get on Board Day, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 6:* First Tuesday Lunch of the Semester, Room 2410, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## Southern Union Community College/Opelika

- ▶ *Aug. 13:* Dinner and a movie with AU BCM, 6 p.m.

- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 15:* BCM fellowship/discipleship groups on campus, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
War Eagle Game Night/Fellowship with AU BCM, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Burger Drop-In with AU BCM, noon  
BCM worship begins with Pierced Holy in concert, AU Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 17:* Free lunch at AU BCM noon and 1 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 18:* BCM fellowship/discipleship groups on campus, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Freshmen Insight Kickoff, (freshmen Bible study and fellowship), AU BCM, 7 p.m.  
Global Café (international student ministry), AU Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 19:* Girl's and Guy's Night Out, AU Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 20:* Field Day Mania, AU Baptist Student Center, 2 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* King's Acres Local Outreach Ministry, AU Baptist Student Center, 3 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* BCM Discipleship Life Groups Kickoff with AU BCM, 6 p.m.  
Worship, AU Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 26-27:* BCM fall retreat
- ▶ *Aug. 28:* Worship in local churches

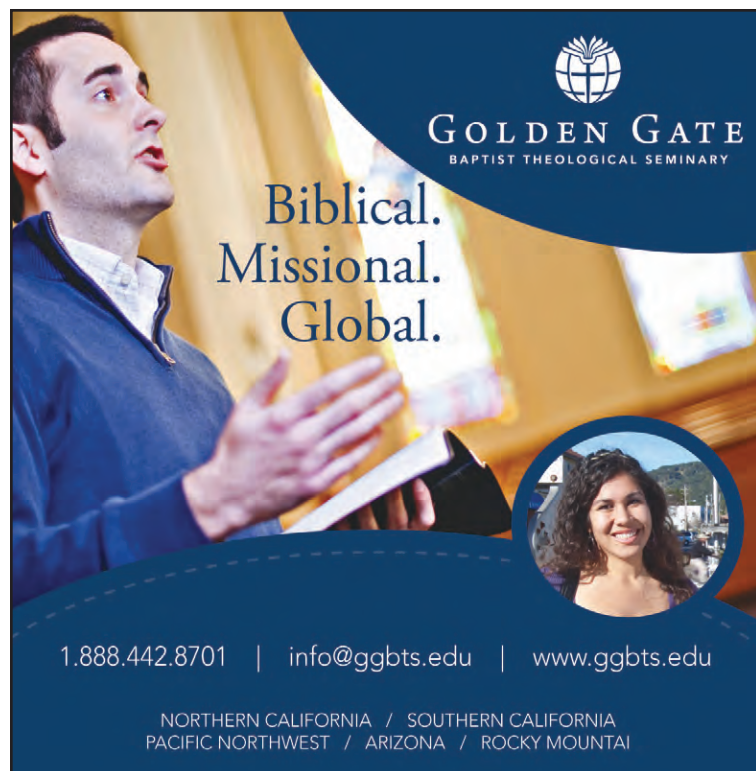
## Troy University

- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Concert on campus, 8 p.m.

- Pancake supper, Baptist Student Center, 11 p.m. following concert
- ▶ *Aug. 15:* SURVIVAL for freshmen and transfers, Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Games on the quad, 2-5 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 17:* BCM luncheon, 11 a.m. and noon
- ▶ *Aug. 18:* Broom hockey, Montgomery Eastdale Mall, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 20:* All Nations Church, Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Alpha Omega Worship, Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 26-28:* Beach retreat, Panama City Beach
- ▶ *Aug. 29:* Progressive supper with five area churches, 5 p.m.

## University of Alabama

- ▶ *Aug. 20:* Dorm move in 7:30 a.m.-noon and 12:30-5 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Dorm move in, 12:30-5 p.m.  
Ultimate frisbee on the quad, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* Survival for freshmen and transfer students, 6:45-10:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Discovery (weekly worship)/Open House, Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 24:* Free steak lunch and midday devotion, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 25:* Ice cream and church tailgate, 7-9 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 26-27:* Back to School Retreat
- ▶ *Aug. 29:* Transfers Taste of (See 'BCM,' page 16)



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# Judson College

## Faith-based service-learning part of Judson experience

By Michael J. Brooks  
Judson College

Susan Jones backpacked through Europe, slept in refugee camps in Asia and learned to carry firewood balanced on her head in Africa before following her passion back to Perry County.

Jones returned to Judson College, her alma mater, in 2007 to work as director of faith-based service and learning and recently took additional responsibility as assistant vice president for student services.

Though many schools now have service-learning programs, Jones said faith-based service-learning has a deeper component.

“Critical reflection about the service project and oneself is a vital part of service-learning,” she said, “but we also seek to reflect on what Christ’s message of redemption and reconciliation means as we interact with a world of overwhelming need.”

Jones, a Florence native, graduated from Judson in 2002 with a degree in biology and minors in chemistry and religious studies. She earned a master’s degree in global health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham before studying theology and missiology at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.

Jones said she felt a call to missions and ministry at Judson while working on the same types of projects she now coordinates.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Perry County is among the poorest counties in the state with a median household income of just above \$24,000 — about 40 percent below the state average — and 31 percent of its residents live below the poverty level.

Judson President David Potts frequently exhorts students and faculty to engage the community through service. Judson freshmen begin engagement before their first classes when they participate in Marion Matters each fall as a part of Welcoming Week, working in groups with faculty and staff throughout the community.

“The work of faith-based service-learning at Judson College places students in dialogue with the poor of the Black Belt and in meet-



Photo courtesy of Judson College

**CLEANING UP** — A Judson team prepares for a service project in Perry County. Pictured are (l to r) Haley Gates, of Aliceville; Roy Barnett, a Marion pharmacist and Judson trustee; Sarah Fowler, of Marion; and Courtney Hatcher, of Geneva.

ing critical needs of children and families, thus providing a hand up,” Potts said. “The beauty ... is that ... the giver and receiver are both blessed by the exchange. Students and faculty alike find meaning in authentic service — living the exhortation of Christ in the ... Gospel of Matthew.”

Judson has been named to the President’s Community Service Honor Roll for each of the last four years — the highest federal award given to colleges and universities for service and civic engagement.

Through faith-based service-learning, Judson students have provided health care screenings, income tax filing clinics and GED preparation classes for the people of Perry County. Students have placed books in the hands of more than 1,500 local children and contributed countless hours to improving children’s lives through their work in area schools. Judson students also have given

time for home-building through a local self-help housing program.

Additionally Judson faculty have taught classes at Francis Marion High School, giving high schoolers experience with college-level teaching and encouraging them to consider higher education after high school.

Judson service-learning has received grants from the Christ is Our Salvation Foundation and Mountain Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Jones said she has three goals in service-learning — learn more about the community where one lives and the world, learn more about who God is in relation to what one has seen and grow in self-awareness and in ability to integrate knowledge and service.

Recent graduate Ashley Wigley Smith, of Hattiesburg, Miss., believes her college experience was enhanced through service-learning. “During my time at Judson, service-learning helped me combine the passion that I felt in the classroom with the compassion that I felt for the community,” she said.

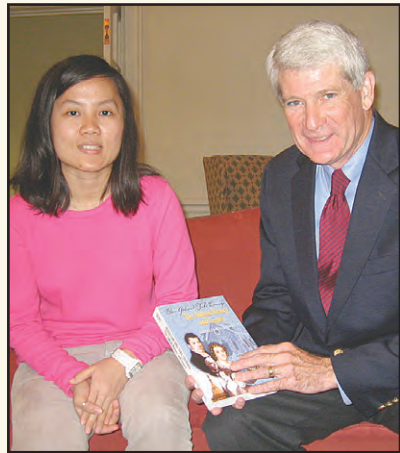


Photo courtesy of Judson College

**SPIRITUAL DESCENDANT** — Judson College student Sau Nam (left) of Burma and President David Potts discuss Rosalie Hunt’s book, ‘Bless God and Take Courage: The Judson History and Legacy.’

## Judson’s 3rd Burmese student finds sisterhood

Sau Nam is a spiritual descendant of Adoniram and Ann Judson, who first took the gospel to Burma (now known as Myanmar). She is the third Burmese student at the college named for Ann Judson.

“Every year, our Baptist churches have Judson Sunday on the day closest to July 13,” Nam explained. “That is the day the Judsons landed in Burma in 1813 and brought the story of Jesus to us.”

Nam, 26, studied at the Myanmar Institute of Theology in the state of Kachin, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in religious studies in 2006. She was invited to teach English at the Kachin Theological College (KTC), and the school’s president, Saga Hkyen Naw, encouraged her to attend Judson as his daughter had done.

Ruth Aung Ra Saga was the first Burmese student to study at Judson, graduating in 2005. She later earned a theological degree at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham.

“Dr. Saga made me stand in an assembly of the entire student body and faculty and promise that I’d come back to teach in Burma when I finished my study in America,” Nam said with a laugh.

KTC has a vision to institute a liberal arts program, and offering English is a significant part of the plan.

Nam is majoring in English education at Judson and hasn’t yet chosen her minor, although she’s considering counseling.

Nam has enjoyed speaking about Baptist work in Burma in local churches. She’s part of the Judson Singers and traveled with the choir to North Carolina last spring.

She hopes to make an international trip with the group next year, visa permitting.

“I’ve made many friends at Judson College,” she said. “There is a sisterhood here, and I’m glad to be part of it.” (JC)



JONES

## Judson College’s 2011-12 Chapel Schedule

SEPT. 6

**James Earl Massey**  
adjunct professor of preaching,  
Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham

SEPT. 13

**Travis Coleman Jr.**  
pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Prattville

SEPT. 20

**John Nicholson**  
pastor, Siloam Baptist Church, Marion

SEPT. 27

**Rosalie Hunt**  
retired missionary and Judson  
biographer, Guntersville

OCT. 4

**Candace McIntosh**  
executive director, Alabama WMU,  
Montgomery

OCT. 11

**Hymn-Sing, George**

and **Leah Washburn**  
Judson College, Marion

OCT. 18

**Matthew S. Kerlin**  
minister to the  
university, Samford  
University, Birmingham

OCT. 25

**Kay Ivey**  
lieutenant governor of Alabama,  
Montgomery

NOV. 8

**Sonny Moore**  
pastor, First Baptist Church,  
Enterprise

NOV. 15

**Angela Dennison**  
professor of social work,  
Judson College, Marion

NOV. 29

**Dwight Woods**

*pastor, Berean Baptist Church,  
Marion*

JAN. 10-11

**Christian Emphasis Week,**  
**John Maxwell**  
Belhaven University, Jackson, Miss.

JAN. 17

**Timothy George**  
dean, Beeson Divinity School,  
Birmingham

JAN. 24

**Billie Jean Young**  
artist-in-residence, Judson  
College, Marion

JAN. 31

**Mary Kay Beard**  
Encourager Ministries, Birmingham

FEB. 7

**Rick Lance and Keith Hibbs**  
Alabama Baptist State Board of  
Missions, Montgomery

FEB. 14

**Lonette Berg**  
executive director,  
Alabama Baptist Historical  
Commission, Birmingham

FEB. 28

**Tommy Chesser**  
pastor, Raimund Heights Baptist  
Church, Bessemer

MARCH 6

**Kelli Wise**  
associate justice, Alabama  
Supreme Court, Montgomery

MARCH 27

**Roger Willmore**  
pastor, Deerfoot Baptist Church,  
Trussville

APRIL 3

**Bob Terry**  
editor, The Alabama Baptist,  
Birmingham



## Samford looks forward to year 'full of promise' as it welcomes 4,700 students this fall

Each August, Samford University welcomes new and returning students in phases. Early arrivals include student athletes, band members, residence life workers and others. By late August, the campus is alive with faculty and students eager to begin a fresh semester. This year is no exception.

"The new academic year is full of promise at Samford, with a stronger enrollment, academic programs, physical plant, financial footing and commitment to our mission," Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said.

"The members of our faculty and staff look forward to continuing their 170-year-old tradition of welcoming new students into our classrooms and our lives," Westmoreland said. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 29.

Of Samford's many strengths, none is more pervasive than the commitment to its mission: to nurture people for God and learning.

"Our commitment to our mission drives all aspects of our work," Westmoreland said. "From deci-

sions regarding hiring to our plans for residence life and everything between, we try to take into account the convergence of the love of learning with the love of God.

"As people of faith and as members of the larger academic community, we believe that we find in Christ the greatest example for all areas of human development, including the life of the mind," said Westmoreland, adding that Samford remains grateful to Alabama Baptists — a group of whom founded the school in 1841 — and friends throughout the world for enabling its important work.

This fall's expected total enrollment will be more than 4,700 strong, with a freshman class that looks to include more than 700 for the fifth consecutive year. Preliminary data show that the student body will hail from 60 of Alabama's 67 counties and claim 45 states and the District of Columbia as home.

International students will include 30 from China in a new program that underscores Samford's goal to promote intercultural and

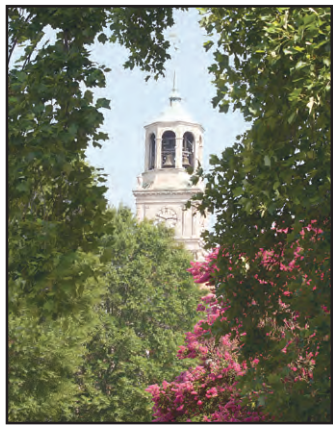


Photo courtesy of Samford University  
**NEW LANDSCAPING** — The colorful campus of Samford University is ready to welcome new and returning students.



Photo courtesy of Samford University

**WRIGHT CENTER PRESENTS** — Samford University's Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center marks 35 years in 2011 with a new performance series.

international understanding. After attending a bridge program to enhance their language and cultural skills for success in college, the students will enroll as undergraduates in a variety of majors.

### Academic news

Veteran faculty will welcome 22 new colleagues, including Brock School of Business Dean J. Howard Finch. Other appointments include U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Brian Landry, Ph.D., commander and professor of aerospace studies in Samford's Air Force ROTC Detachment 012.

This fall, many new programs, curriculum emphases and guest lecturers will enhance the learning experience for students in all academic areas.

Howard College of Arts and Sciences' Davis Lecture Series will examine ancient Rome when author Garrett Fagan discusses his book "The Lure of the Arena" on Oct. 13. This fall, the college takes a leadership role in Birmingham Area Consortium for Higher Education's new Cultural Passport program that will connect college students to Birmingham's rich cultural resources.

The School of the Arts' emphasis on church music and worship leadership adds a dimension with a new worship leadership minor to prepare students for part-time and volunteer music ministry. An innova-

tive REACH conference Sept. 8–9, with such leaders as Gloria Gaither, will explore how today's musicians can reach others for Jesus Christ.

Brock School of Business continues a successful mentoring program that enters its fifth year with record participation by 77 students and 77 business professionals. This fall, the school begins a new tradition with its inaugural Rite of Passage ceremony, a celebration of student admission into the business program.

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has a boost for its student recruitment efforts through a newly received \$805,595 federal grant designed to help ease the national shortage of nursing educators (see story, page 17).

The grant will provide loans for graduate and doctoral students pursuing an advanced degree with the intent to teach in a school of nursing.

Samford's Adult Degree Program continues to offer a bachelor's degree or paralegal certificate through evening classes. Its bachelor of science in interdisciplinary studies is designed especially for working adults.

### Improved facilities

Pittman Hall, a residence hall for women, has undergone a major renovation and expansion. One of the early buildings built on the Homewood campus in the 1960s,

Pittman has been updated to meet current design and code standards. The construction project, on schedule to be completed for Freshman Move-in Day on Aug. 26, added a new wing with 56 beds for a total 155-bed capacity.

Vail and Smith residence halls for freshmen also received interior renovations and new landscaping. Across Lakeshore Drive, the new track and soccer complex that was dedicated last spring will see its first full academic year of spirited competition by Samford athletes.

### Samford in service

During the summer, many students put feet to the Great Commission by serving on missions fields around the world. More than 100 undergraduates worked in 32 countries and 10 states. An additional 31 graduate students in Samford's Beeson Divinity School fanned out to 15 countries, including the tiny Pacific Ocean island of Yap.

Closer to home, many students, faculty and staff continued disaster relief efforts that began for some within hours of the devastating April 27 Alabama tornadoes. Several hundred employees and students selflessly gave time, energy and resources to help their neighbors in need, once again demonstrating that Samford is a place where learning and working intersect securely with the love of God. (SU)

## Wright Center celebrates 35 years as arts venue

Samford University's Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center celebrates its 35th anniversary in 2011 with a new performance series, a welcome back to several longtime community partners in the arts and an inaugural partnership season with three new arts groups.

The new Wright Center Presents series will offer four shows during 2011–12: The Midtown Men, featuring music of the 1960s, Oct. 21; living gospel legends Blind Boys of Alabama and special guests Sara and Sean Watkins on Nov. 18; the spell-binding Peking Acrobats on March 27; and the internationally acclaimed Ballet Hispanico on March 30.

The fall schedule will also include a Samford School of the

Arts production of Irving Berlin's classic holiday musical, "White Christmas," Dec. 1–3.

The 2,600-seat concert hall will be the setting for upcoming productions by long-standing Samford partners Opera Birmingham and Alabama Ballet. Patrons of Alabama Dance Festival, Alabama Symphony Orchestra's SuperPops series and the Birmingham Music Club will enjoy new Samford partnerships.

More than two dozen major events are scheduled for the venue during the 2011–12 season, including Samford's popular Step Sing student production Feb. 16–18.

For information on Wright Center events, visit [www.samford.edu/wrightcenter](http://www.samford.edu/wrightcenter) or call 205-726-2853. (SU)

## Visit days

Any day is a great day to visit the University of Mobile (UMobile), especially during a UMobile Visit Day! Observe a class; talk with professors, staff and students; experience college life — and earn a \$2,000 scholarship.

UMobile Visit Days are

- ▶ Sept. 23, 2011,
- ▶ Oct. 21, 2011,
- ▶ Nov. 11, 2011,
- ▶ Feb. 10, 2012 and
- ▶ March 16, 2012.

Or schedule a campus visit at a time that is convenient for you. To schedule a visit or for more information, go to [www.umobile.edu/visit](http://www.umobile.edu/visit) or call UMobile enrollment services at 251-442-2222 or 1-800-WIN-RAMS.

A \$2,000 scholarship is available to new traditional undergraduate students who attend a UMobile Visit Day, apply for admissions and enroll at UMobile.

This scholarship awards \$250 per semester for up to eight consecutive semesters, excluding the summer semester. Only one UMobile Visit Day Scholarship is available per person.

## Connect online

It's easy to be linked to University of Mobile (UMobile) news and events online.

- ▶ Website: [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu)
- ▶ Facebook: [www.facebook.com/universityofmobile](http://www.facebook.com/universityofmobile)
- ▶ Twitter: [www.twitter.com/umobileneeds](http://www.twitter.com/umobileneeds)
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- ▶ Twelve23 Movement: [www.twelve23.org](http://www.twelve23.org)
- ▶ YouTube: [www.youtube.com/universityofmobile](http://www.youtube.com/universityofmobile)

# university of mobile

## UMobile celebrates 50 years of 'changing lives to change the world'

It was 50 years ago — Nov. 14, 1961 — that the Alabama Baptist State Convention approved the establishment of the University of Mobile (UMobile), then called Mobile College. A few weeks later, Alabama Gov. John Patterson signed the charter giving official state recognition to the school's founding.

It was a dream and a hope for Alabama Baptists. At first, it was a school with no campus, no buildings, no faculty and no students, as founding President and now Chancellor William K. Weaver Jr. recalled. But God's hand was upon the college.

Today, with more than 10,000 alumni using their talents and influence throughout the world, about 1,700 current students embracing the vision of "changing lives to change the world" and one of the most beautiful campuses in the South, UMobile is a dream realized.

Alabama's youngest Baptist university will celebrate its 50th year in a variety of ways as students arrive on campus for Ram Rush new student orientation and as classes begin Aug. 22.

Among the highlights is Project Serve, a university-wide day of service that celebrates the school's culture of service. On Sept. 16, the entire student body, faculty and staff will volunteer throughout the Mobile area. The event will build on the university's ongoing commitment to Christian service and be a visible reminder of the call upon each person's life to be God's hands and feet in a lost world.

The celebration continues with the seventh annual UMobile Leadership Banquet featuring former U.S. Secretary of State and Alabama-native Condoleezza Rice. The Nov. 10 event, which last year featured former President George W. Bush, raises funds for UMobile's scholarship fund and highlights themes of leadership, patriotism and faith. For information on tickets, visit [www.umobile.edu/banquet](http://www.umobile.edu/banquet) or call 251-442-2212.

The annual Christmas Spectacular! musical extravaganza presented by the Center for Performing Arts (CPA) will be held nightly Nov. 30–Dec. 1 at Dauphin Way Baptist Church. More than 20 performing ensembles will present concerts in a variety of musical styles.

The new School of Worship Ministries will expand opportunities in the growing area of worship leadership, and student ensembles will lead worship locally and at churches and other locations throughout the region. The musical theater program will present three shows: "1940s Radio Christmas," "Mousetrap" and "Beauty and the Beast." For more information on the CPA performing schedule, visit [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu) or call 251-442-2420.

The Center for Leadership De-



Photo courtesy of the University of Mobile

**RELAXING ATMOSPHERE** — University of Mobile students enjoy being outdoors on the campus's new Ram Plaza.

velopment and the twelve23 Movement continue to expand and exert influence as UMobile President Mark Foley shares the vision of America transformed — a nation where God is honored. New e-mail newsletters with a Christian perspective on topics such as education and current events are among the many projects of the center. For more information, visit [www.twelve23.org](http://www.twelve23.org) or call Joe Savage, director of the center, at 251-675-7551.

Recent improvements to campus include a five-acre intramural complex featuring a softball field and two football fields with bleachers and lights. The complex will allow the growing intramural program to continue to expand and provide a place for nighttime events including concerts and outdoor movies. A new field house for softball and batting cages for baseball are also additions to campus. The new Ram Plaza, adjacent to Ram Hall, provides a relaxed and beautifully landscaped outdoor area for students to gather.

UMobile is offering a new concentration in graphic design, complete with a new computer lab with Apple iMac computers, Wacom tablets and Xante graphics printers.

The university continues to take the lead in missions, both at home and abroad, with vibrant University Missions and campus ministry programs such as Urban Plunge 48-hour inner-city missions; the Bridge, which assists North American Mission Board church planters; Youth Hostel Missions monthlong immersion and relationship-building in Europe, the Philippines and Turkey; and University Missions, which sends students as well as church groups and individuals on

weeklong missions trips. Among the many missions experiences still being planned for the coming year are trips to India, Czech Republic, Greece, Australia, Brazil, Ireland, Chile, Uganda, Finland, Portugal, Wales and Angola. For information on how individuals or church groups may join a UMobile missions team, call the School of Christian Studies at 251-442-2255 or e-mail [ctaylor@umobile.edu](mailto:ctaylor@umobile.edu).

### New faculty members

New faculty include Gail Shelly, professor of chemistry; Charise Lindsay, associate professor of music; Lila Finney, associate professor of education; Luke Brekke, assistant professor of history; Jeremiah Sullins, assistant professor of psychology; Stephanie Hulon, assistant professor of education; Joyce Woodburn, assistant professor of education; Rachel Counselman, instructor in English; Joanie Brittingham, instructor in music; Marla Lourdes Baumer, instructor in Spanish; and Jason Breland, artist-in-residence in worship leadership. Also joining UMobile is Roy Patton, men's soccer coach.

With more than 40 areas of study, UMobile students have a varied and strong academic program that integrates learning, faith and leadership. Courses are offered through the College of Arts and Sciences; the schools of business, Christian studies, education, nursing and worship ministries; the CPA, the Center for Adult Programs; and the graduate school.

For information on admission, call enrollment services at 1-800-WIN-RAMS or 251-442-2222 or e-mail [umadminfo@umobile.edu](mailto:umadminfo@umobile.edu). (UMobile)



## Why I chose a Baptist university

By Amy Wright  
Senior, Global Business  
University of Mobile

Attending a Baptist university empowers me to change the world. After dual-enrolling at a large public university for a year, I knew it wasn't for me. It was easy to feel marginalized in the impersonal atmosphere characterized by a curriculum designed to restructure my faith-based worldview into a more "open-minded" perspective.

But that's when I came to the University of Mobile (UMobile), a Baptist institution that

unites quality academics with a Christian worldview. This university does more than provide an excellent liberal arts education. It cultivates firmly founded beliefs, values and convictions that set its graduates apart from the morally indifferent status of our culture.

I have the Alabama Baptist State Convention to thank for UMobile. Chartered and continually supported by Baptists and their generous gifts through the Cooperative Program, my university



WRIGHT

and my faith-based education exist because Baptists do. My distinctively Christian college education strengthens my faith and sharpens my reason so I can use the two together as the hands and feet of Christ in a broken world. The University of Mobile makes changing the world possible.

That's why I chose a Baptist university. (UMobile)

**BACK TO CAMPUS**

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- October 21, 2011
- November 11, 2011
- February 10, 2012
- March 16, 2012

Additional visit days are available any weekday - just call for an appointment!

Schedule your Visit Day today at [www.umobile.edu/visit](http://www.umobile.edu/visit)

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**university of mobile**

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\*A \$2000 visit scholarship is only available to new students who attend a visit event, apply for admission, and enroll for the upcoming fall semester. This scholarship awards \$250 per semester for 8 consecutive semesters attended. Only one UMobile Visit Scholarship available per person.



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### FALL EVENTS

September 22

This section will feature church, business and community events such as a hayride, trunk or treat, carnival, fall festival, pumpkin patch, etc.

Churches contact Pam Holt at 205-870-4720, Ext. 113 or pholt@thealabamabaptist.org.  
Businesses contact James Plunkett at 205-747-0564 or jplunkett@thealabamabaptist.org.

**Deadline to reserve your space is September 9.**

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# BACK TO CAMPUS

## BCM events on Alabama colleges

(continued from page 8)  
 Tuscaloosa, Baptist Student Center, 5:30 p.m.  
 Freshman Journey Groups (small group Bible studies), Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 30: Discovery (weekly worship), Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 31: Church road trip, 5 p.m.

### University of Alabama at Birmingham

▶ Aug. 12: Leadership team meets for prayer and outreach planning  
 ▶ Aug. 13: Help freshmen move in to dorms  
 ▶ Aug. 15: BCM Welcome Party, Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 16: Baptist Medical and Dental Fellowship, Lecture Room C Volker Hall, 12 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 18: ABLAZE collegiate worship, Baptist Student Center, 8:30 p.m.  
 Church ice cream social, Baptist Student Center, 10 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 19-20: Welcome retreat, Camp WorldSong  
 ▶ Aug. 21: Worship in local churches  
 ▶ Aug. 23: UAB Survive and Thrive (Freshman Bible study), Baptist Student Center, 8:30 p.m.

### Jeff State Community

### College – Shelby Campus

▶ Aug. 23: Campus Ministries lunch, HSB Room 152, 12:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 25: ABLAZE collegiate worship, UAB Baptist Student Center, 8:30 p.m.

### University of Alabama at Huntsville

▶ Aug. 12: Dorm move in (1st-year students), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 13: Dorm move in (returning students), 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 14: Festival of Food and Fellowship, University Center, 8–10 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 16: Celebration, Baptist Student Center, 8:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 17-18: Free muffins, University Center, 8–10 a.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 18: Free lunch, Baptist Student Center, noon  
 ▶ Aug. 20: Helping Hands for Huntsville, University Center parking lot, 8 a.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 26-28: Weekend getaway, Gatlinburg, Tenn.

### University of Montevallo

▶ Aug. 27: Church progressive dinner, Baptist Student Center, 4:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 28: Video scavenger hunt, Baptist Student Center, 4 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 30: Resonate Worship,

8 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 31: Cafe Escape Lunch, Baptist Student Center, 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m.  
 Frisbee at Orr Park, 3:15 p.m.  
 ▶ Sept. 1: Late nite movie, 10 p.m.  
 ▶ Sept. 2: Man of God Camping Trip; Girls' Night Out  
 ▶ Sept. 5: Freshman Family Groups, Baptist Student Center, 8:30 p.m.  
 ▶ Sept. 6: Resonate Worship and church fair ice cream fellowship, Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.

### University of North Alabama

▶ Aug. 20: Move in day at the dorms  
 ▶ Aug. 24: Free Chick-fil-A lunch, BCM, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 25: Free ice cream, BCM,

9–11 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 26: Cookout on campus at the amphitheatre, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 29: Progressive dinner, BCM, 5 p.m.  
 ▶ Sept. 12-15: Fall revival  
 ▶ Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Fall retreat

### University of South Alabama

▶ Aug. 20: Dorm move in, Info Table and TRASH Team, Epsilon Dorms and Stokes Hall, 9 a.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 21: Parents/new student breakfast, worship and church connections, Baptist Student Center, 9 a.m.  
 Beat the Heat, Fun, Games, Refreshments and FiSH  
 Freshman Group sign-ups, USA Intramural Fields, 2 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 22: BCM open house,

Baptist Student Center, 8 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 23: MERGE Worship Kickoff, Baptist Student Center, 7 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 24: BCM Community Table, USA Cafeteria, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 25: Outdoor Living Room, Humanities Courtyard, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 26: Church road trip, Baptist Student Center, 6 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 27: (Not your ordinary) Beach day, Dauphin Island, 10 a.m.

### University of West Alabama

▶ Aug. 17: Welcome lunch and Bible study, SUB Tigers Den, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.  
 ▶ Aug. 18: Get on Board Day, S.U.B., 2–4 p.m.

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**Blue Mountain College** FOUNDED 1835  
 The Board of Trustees at Blue Mountain College, a coeducational liberal arts Christian college affiliated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention, announces the search for its next president and invites nominations and applications for the position. Dr. Bettye Rogers Coward, the seventh and first female president, will retire from Blue Mountain College on June 30, 2012, when she will have completed 11 years as president. Dr. Coward led the College in a functioning planning process, extensive refurbishing of campus facilities, increasing enrollment, growing the endowment significantly, establishing the college's first graduate program, and developing a campus-wide wireless internet and course management system while maintaining a debt free situation. These accomplishments position a new president to take this Christian institution of higher education to new heights of excellence. Blue Mountain College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate and masters degrees.  
**Desired Qualifications:** The successful candidate will be a member of a Baptist church affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention, hold an earned doctorate and/or a successful tenure related to the nature of leading an institution of higher learning, and be an effective communicator. The college is seeking a president who has a passion for students and their development and a capacity for shaping and communicating an institutional vision in ways that are compelling to donors, the media, and the community and to other college constituents. He/she will be expected to be an effective manager of resources.  
**Challenges:** The next president of Blue Mountain College will build upon the foundation developed by the current Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, and staff and take the institution to new heights of excellence. The new president, through hers/his leadership, will work with all of the college's constituent groups to expand the influence and educational opportunities of the college in the region and beyond.  
**To Apply:** Go to [www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu) and follow the application process as found on the Presidential Search section. The Presidential Search Committee is committed to the highest standards of professionalism in working with candidates, sources, and references, respecting the need for confidentiality. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

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## Samford receives federal grant for students who intend to serve as nursing educators

Samford University's Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing has received a federal grant designed to help ease the national shortage of nursing educators. Samford is the only nursing program in north Alabama to receive the funds and one of only two — the other is the University of South Alabama — in the state.

The \$805,595 grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will provide loans for graduate and doctoral students pursuing an advanced degree with the intent to serve as faculty in a school of nursing.

The Nurse Faculty Loan Program (NFLP) addresses a critical need in health care, according to Associate Dean Jane S. Martin. Students who receive the loans for master's or doctoral degree programs can have up to 85 percent of their loan forgiven in exchange for service as a full-time nursing faculty member at an accredited school of nursing.

### Allows for new students

The 2011 grant will fund up to 25 new students, Martin said. Currently 47 Samford nursing graduate students receive funds from the loan program, and students can continue to receive loans as long as they maintain good academic standing.

The Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing hopes to extend NFLP funds to every qualified nurse edu-

cator student in the 2011-12 year, Martin explained.

The NFLP was approved by Congress in 2002, and Samford was one of the first 55 nursing schools from across the United States to receive funds.

For academic year 2011-12, 110 NFLP grants were awarded to institutions across the United States and Samford received the sixth largest award.

To date, Samford has received more than \$2 million in NFLP grants.

"There is a national shortage of both nurses and nurse educators, and the NFLP provides a great incentive to pursue a career in education," Martin said.

"Without highly trained educators, we cannot adequately prepare future generations of nurses."

The nursing educator shortage impacts a school's ability to admit qualified applicants, Martin explained.

According to a study by the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), nursing schools turned away more than 67,500 qualified applicants in 2010.

More than two-thirds of the

schools participating in the survey cited faculty shortages as a primary reason for not accepting all qualified applicants, she noted.

"To date, 103 Samford students have benefited from NFLP grants and are serving as nursing educators across the country," Martin said.

*"To date, 103 Samford students have benefited from NFLP grants and are serving as nursing educators across the country."*

Jane S. Martin  
Samford University

"Our unique online curriculum allows us to extend our efforts to address the nursing faculty shortage far beyond Alabama."

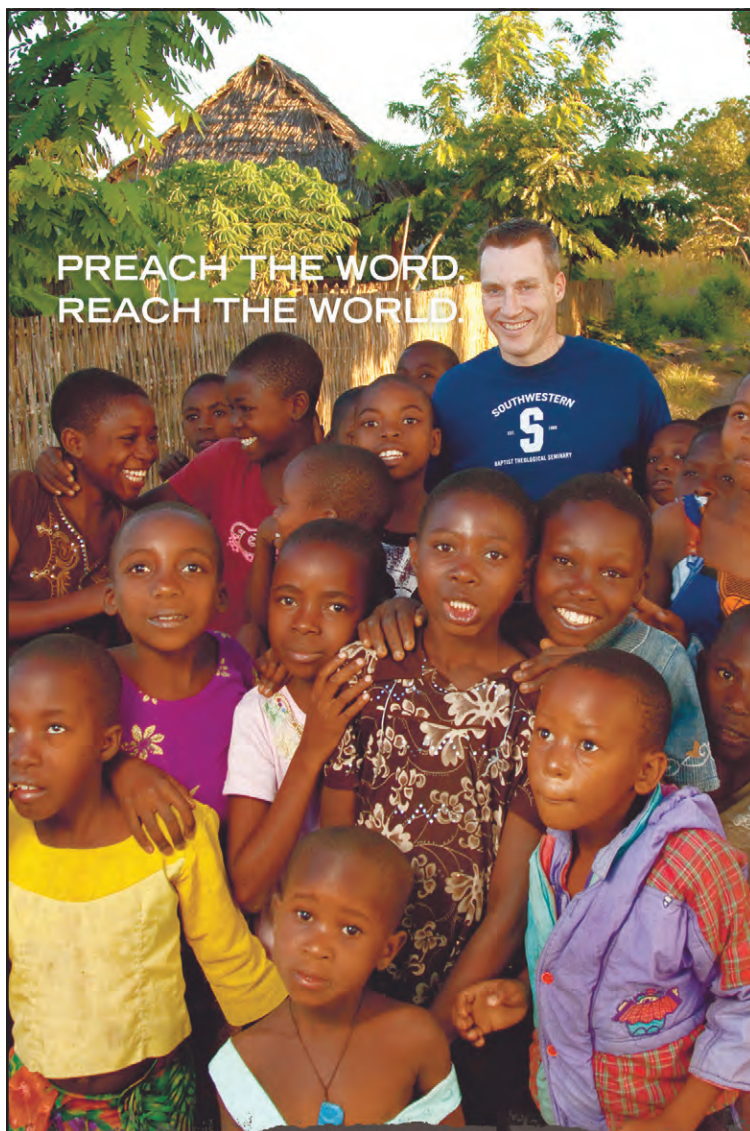
In a September 2010 study by the AACN, 880 faculty vacancies were identified in a survey of 556 nursing schools with baccalaureate and/or graduate programs across the country,

according to Martin.

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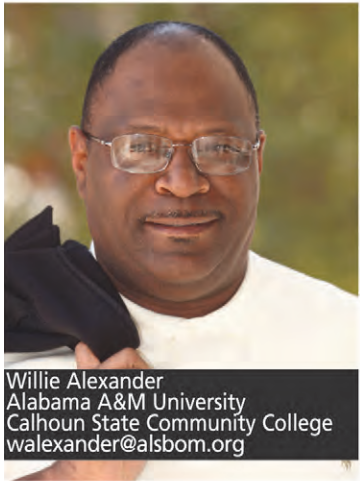
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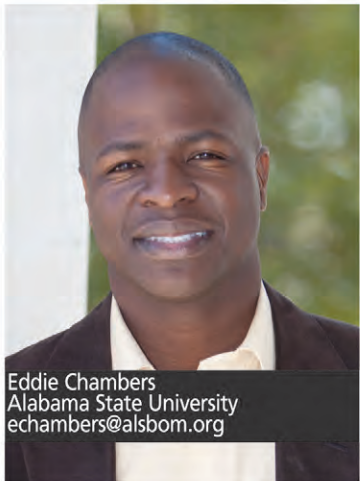


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# Loving Muslims

## Faith in Jesus changes hate for 'terrorists' to prayer for their salvation

By Cade Rutledge  
Christian living in Pakistan

When I first heard about the death of Osama bin Laden from people at the mosque in my neighborhood, I was in shock. Little did I know we were both living in the same country — Pakistan.

When I turned to the Internet for more information, I noticed a Facebook friend in America had updated his status: "Never forget 9/11."

Rest assured, I haven't.

In fact, I vividly remember that Tuesday morning like it was yesterday. On a rooftop in New York, I bore witness to my generation's Pearl Harbor.

My older brother was working on the 82nd floor when Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower. He survived and joined thousands of ash-covered New Yorkers in a mass exodus across the Brooklyn Bridge. On the other side of the bridge, thousands anxiously awaited.

### Discussing Osama

In the days that followed bin Laden's death in Pakistan, all anyone could do was wait to see what would be the end result of this major event. Many people avoided the subject everyone else in the world wanted to talk about.

In the university classes I was teaching overseas, that silence didn't last long. My students have always been open to discussing issues of faith, ethics and worldview. They'll express opinions about Is-

lam that would surprise anyone. They want freedoms of expression and religion. They want choice.

Most here didn't support Osama bin Laden or his cause. However, when I asked in class whether Islam is compatible with globalization, they answered reluctantly because they didn't want to be perceived as bad Muslims. This thinking prohibits people from pursuing freedom, love and peace. But peace doesn't come from Hollywood or not practicing Islam — it comes only from Jesus.

I know this struggle for peace from personal experience. After my family was attacked on 9/11, we waved flags, posted pictures of the New York skyline and chanted U-S-A at baseball games. We wanted to "get those terrorists" and show our solidarity as Americans.

All of that changed for me in September 2003 when I met Jesus.

God replaced my "American" identity with one grounded in His Son. Where I placed my security was no longer in my passport but in His eternal Word.

I used to constantly ask myself, "How can we possibly love the lost — the Muslim terrorists — who attacked my city?" Our answer should always be "yes, we can" because our Jesus-centered faith demands it. Our Christian response must never resemble the world's.

I still have heartfelt emotions for Pakistan, especially as I watched the online debate following bin Laden's death. Another Facebook

friend posted: "I'm a Christian and I'm happy Osama is dead."

Juxtaposing his reaction with his faith made me wonder how much of our response is more American than it is Christian; more from our fallen nature than from God.

### Similar to Saul

The early church felt the same way about Saul as we do about today's terrorists. But look at what Paul left behind in Jesus' name. I believe it can happen again because God can transform even the hardest of hearts. He did mine.

God opened my heart to become friends with someone whom I previously thought was my enemy. He looks like any other Pakistani but this man killed Americans as a member of a terrorist group. That is, until he found a Bible and read, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." That's a truly radical thought, especially for someone taught to "kill your enemies and fight back."

My friend now disciples a group of men with similar backgrounds, all of whom he led to Christ. Recently he was beaten nearly to death for sharing the gospel, but it hasn't deterred him.

I believe individuals such as my friend can change the world like Paul did. This change will come from a place we least expect and from a people we can't imagine being anything but our enemy.

More information available at [www.lovingmuslims.com](http://www.lovingmuslims.com). (IMB)

## 2011 Ramadan Prayer Guide

August 1 began the fasting month of Ramadan for Muslims. The following guide is offered as a way Christians can pray daily for the salvation of Muslims during this month.

✦ **Aug. 10:** Ask that believers would be bold and take every opportunity to share Christ.

✦ **Aug. 11:** Ask for new believers to see how they can remain in their culture, being salt and light and obedient to the commands of Christ.

✦ **Aug. 12:** Lift up believers asking they would hold firm and true to I AM in the face of opposition and pressure.

✦ **Aug. 13:** Ask that He will use the seeds planted during this season to bear His fruit in the fullness of time.

✦ **Aug. 14:** Ask that the simplicity of the Good News would draw many to I AM during this fasting month.

✦ **Aug. 15:** 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 speak of the dark veil that covers the hearts of those without I AM. Ask that the veil would be removed and many would experience newfound freedom in Him.

✦ **Aug. 16:** According to Romans 10:20 ask that He would seek those who are not looking or asking for Him.

✦ **Aug. 17:** Muslims often associate Christianity with Western culture. Muslims often believe Christians are being deceived. For many Muslims, the word "Christian" signifies materialism, a lack of spirituality and moral failure. Ask that the Father would provide true followers of Jesus for them to see.

✦ **Aug. 18:** Muslims often believe that the Book has been altered and corrupted. Ask that many would be drawn to read the Book and would be unable to forget the truth of its promises.

✦ **Aug. 19:** Muslims believe Jesus was conceived miraculously by God in the womb of Mary. They believe Jesus is a prophet but did not die on the cross. Ask that those fasting would be confronted by the Truth of the Word that became flesh.

✦ **Aug. 20:** According to 2 Corinthians 4:4 the god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers so they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ. Seek the Father, asking that His light penetrate the darkness of those fasting this month.

✦ **Aug. 21:** Muslims all over the world pray memorized ritual prayers toward Mecca five times a day. Ask that as they pray God will reveal that He is the Way,

the Truth and the Life and that no man can come to the Father except through the Son.

✦ **Aug. 22:** Muslims believe the Holy Trinity implies a belief in three gods. Many Muslims believe the Christian Trinity is made up of the Father, Mary and the Son. Ask that God's Spirit would break through false concepts about the Trinity, replacing them with truth.

✦ **Aug. 23:** Muslims believe there is a Day of Judgment for all people. Ask that the Lord would provide someone to tell them the truth about this coming day and that Jesus is the Judge.

✦ **Aug. 24:** This week those fasting anticipate a special night of the month, commonly referred to as the Night of Power. They ask forgiveness for their shortcomings firmly believing that Allah accepts their prayers more readily during this night. Ask that God in His mercy would reveal that forgiveness is found only in Jesus Christ.

✦ **Aug. 25:** Ask that the power of I AM override the Night of Power so people will be freed from the darkness.

✦ **Aug. 26:** It is believed that on the Night of Power angels and spirits descend and carry out the commands of Allah. Muslims are often encouraged to pray through the night for blessings and forgiveness. Ask that families and communities will testify of Jesus visiting them and calling them to follow Him.

✦ **Aug. 27:** Because many expect visions, dreams, signs, wonders and proper interpretations during this season and particularly during the Night of Power, ask that people will experience these and be led to seek I AM.

✦ **Aug. 28:** It is tradition as Ramadan comes to an end that children return to the home of their parents, asking forgiveness for wrongs that have been committed against them. Pray that as they seek to honor their earthly fathers they will see the Living God as their Father and desire His forgiveness.

✦ **Aug. 29:** It is also tradition to ask forgiveness from friends, coworkers and neighbors for wrongs against them. Jesus alone offers forgiveness. Ask that this truth be planted in the hearts of Muslims.

✦ **Aug. 30:** As the month of fasting comes to an end, Muslims prepare to celebrate with family, friends and neighbors. Continue to pray for their spiritual eyes to be opened.

Source: IMB

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# Church leaders challenge state's immigration law

Leaders of the Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic churches in Alabama filed a federal lawsuit Aug. 1 to stop enforcement of the state's new immigration law, which they say could strike at the core of their ability to worship.

The lawsuit was filed by Henry Parsley, bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama; William Wilimon, bishop of the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church; Thomas Rodi, Roman Catholic archbishop of Mobile; and Robert Baker, Roman Catholic bishop of Birmingham.

According to the lawsuit, "the bishops have reason to fear that administering of religious sacraments, which are central to the Christian faith, to known undocumented persons may be criminalized under this law."

The new law is set to go into effect Sept. 1. The Justice Department

also sued Aug. 1 to challenge the law. A federal judge has combined this lawsuit with the lawsuit filed by the church leaders and another filed by a coalition of civil rights groups.

The church leaders' lawsuit names Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley, Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange and Madison County District Attorney Robert Broussard as defendants in the civil lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court for northern Alabama.

## 'Humbly bound'

"Motivated by God's mandate that the faithful are humbly bound to welcome and care for all people, the leaders of the Episcopal, Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches of Alabama respectfully request this Court to stop the enforcement of Alabama's Anti-Immigration Law," the lawsuit states.

The lawsuit states that it seeks

to prevent "irreparable harm" to the 338,000 members of the three churches in Alabama. It calls Alabama's new law "the nation's most merciless anti-immigration legislation."

"If enforced, Alabama's Anti-Immigration Law will make it a crime to follow God's command to be Good Samaritans," according to the lawsuit.

The law, if enforced, will place Alabama church members in the "untenable position of verifying individuals' immigration documentation" before being able to pro-

vide things such as food, clothing, shelter and transportation to those in need, according to the lawsuit.

Among the lawsuit's other claims are that the new law violates:

- ▶ The First Amendment rights of church members.

- ▶ Rights of Alabama residents to freely assemble "and welcome all people to the altar."

- ▶ The ability of the churches to freely contract through the management of denominational thrift stores and church day cares and the performance of marriages, baptisms, and counseling services. (RNS)



**M**ake every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Hebrews 12:14

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### CHURCH POSITIONS

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**TWO POSITIONS: MINISTER OF MUSIC & STUDENT MINISTER:** Ozark Baptist Church is accepting resumés for two positions, a minister of music and student minister. Mail resumés to: Ozark Baptist Church, 282 S. Union Ave., Ozark, AL 36360. Please specify what position you are applying for.

**WORSHIP PASTOR:** Woodward Avenue Baptist Church, Muscle Shoals, is seeking a worship pastor who has a heart and passion for worship and music ministry as his primary vocational calling. The qualified candidate will have experience in leading and will display an understanding of blended worship using piano, organ, praise team and band, as well as a worship choir. Experience in leading a fully developed church music ministry is preferred. A bachelor's degree is required, and a seminary master's degree in worship or music ministry is preferred. Send resumé to Dr. Robert Paul, senior pastor, 801 Woodward Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661.

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S. 8th St., Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 ATTN: Dawn Lee or via e-mail at dlee@fbfirst.net.

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**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR:** Nazareth Baptist Church, Rainsville, is prayerfully seeking a part-time music director. Please send resumés by Aug. 19th to: Amy Blevins at Nazareth Baptist Church, P.O. Box 541, Rainsville, AL 35986.

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## Want to know God?

By Pastor Edwin F. Jenkins  
First Baptist Church, Athens

The people who first imagined the "got milk?" campaign successfully attracted the attention of countless millions. No doubt many people who noticed the unique advertising effort found themselves persuaded. Everyone was asked if he or she had an adequate intake of the healthy liquid.

Another area that captures the attention of most of us has to do with love. That brief four-letter word probably has been defined and redefined by virtually all of us. Some of us do so intentionally and some unintentionally.

Permit me to suggest that no person can come to an ultimate understanding of love until he or she is introduced to the author of love. The author of love? Yes, indeed. The author is also the embodiment of love. How so? He is one and the same. Who is he? God. God is "love" (1 John 4:16).

The big love issue is whether you — or any person, for that matter — have come to a personal realization of love. That personal realization becomes a reality through a personal relationship with the author (originator) of love. Would you like to know how you can have a personal relationship with God?

God loves you so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for you. His Son, Jesus, died on the cross of Calvary because of your sin, my sin and all humankind's sin.

His death was necessary to pay the price for our sin, our failure to meet God's perfect standard of holiness.

We have rebelled against God.

Jesus willingly laid down His life for us. However, three days after He died, He rose from the dead, authenticating that the price for sin had been paid. He conquered death, which is the penalty for the violation of God's holiness by humankind.

You can experience a personal love relationship with God through Jesus. Admit you are a sinner and repent of your sin. Believe in Jesus. Confess Him as Savior and Lord. By so doing in faith, you will receive the gift of ultimate love.

Got love? Get Jesus and you will have love.

## About Alabama

### Balancing the Federal Budget

By Jim Williams  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

The federal government has spent more than it has taken in during 44 of the last 50 years. The last balanced budgets occurred in the four-year period from 1998 to 2001, and there were two earlier instances in the 1960s. While the nation's government never has been required to balance outlays against receipts, the continuing budget deficits and rising debt have created momentum for a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

#### Help from states

Perhaps the states can point the way on this issue. Forty-nine state governments operate under some form of balanced budget requirement. (In Vermont, the lone exception, balanced budgets are also the rule; state officials say they need no legal limit.) The fiscal discipline that balanced budgets help to enforce is considered a fundamental strength of state government.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, state balanced budget rules comprise three types of limits:

- ▶ Requiring the governor to propose a balanced budget.
- ▶ Requiring the legislature to adopt a balanced budget.
- ▶ Preventing deficit spending during the year.

Alabama is one of 29 states that employ all three measures. The first two are based on estimates and can be uncertain;

however, the third is a "fail-safe" limit that ensures control over spending. Here's how it works in Alabama: The state cannot pay a bill unless there is sufficient money in the account from which it is to be paid. The governor must prorate state spending in midyear, if necessary, to prevent deficits. And unpaid bills are canceled at year-end if no money is available in the state Treasury to pay them.

A number of balanced budget proposals have been introduced in Congress. They would limit not only total federal outlays but also tax increases and debt; however, they would allow Congress to override the limits during wartime or by "supermajority" votes of three-fifths to two-thirds of the members. In addition to requiring a balanced budget, some of them would limit federal spending to a certain percentage of the nation's economy. However, the proposals do not indicate how Congress will control open-ended spending for such programs as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, which account for a large share of the federal budget. Enforcing spending limits would be critical, as it has proven to be for state balanced budget procedures.

*EDITOR'S NOTE — Jim Williams is executive director for the nonprofit, nonpartisan Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama. Jim may be contacted at [jwwillia@samford.edu](mailto:jwwillia@samford.edu).*

# Helena's Crossbridge Church finds success with 3 lead pastors

By Sondra Washington  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Church plants are quite common among Alabama Baptists. So is two churches merging to have a greater impact for Jesus in their community. But three pastors sharing the leadership role in one congregation is so unique that even the pastors involved never saw it coming.

Last spring, when doctors told Morrell Aldridge, founder of Crossbridge Community Church, Helena, in Bessemer Baptist Association, that he had six months to live after being cancer-free since 2007, he began praying for God to send someone to help lead his church. On the other side of Helena, Shelby Baptist Association church planter Bruce Squires and his small Hope Church congregation were plugging along trying to make a difference in their city.

For one year, Aldridge and Squires had been praying with other community pastors for revival in Helena after the mayor told them about the "astronomical rate of suicide" in the surrounding areas, Squires said.

#### Praying for leadership

At the same time, Aldridge had reconnected with good friend Harris Cook after he returned from doing long-term missions in Venezuela. While Cook did not want to take the helm at Crossbridge, he began co-leading the church with Aldridge. Soon the pair began praying for a younger, more permanent pastor to lead the congregation as

they approached retirement age.

God brought Squires to Aldridge's mind. Hope Church was sponsored by Riverside Baptist Church, Helena, where Aldridge was founding pastor and Squires served as staff evangelist before being called into ministry. After the two congregations began praying about merging, God began working out the details.

Early this year, the two churches joined and have been experiencing an excitement that is flowing outside the church walls and into the community.

"If God hadn't been in it, I would have never thought of it on my own," Aldridge said. "A lot of people don't understand how three of us do that (lead Crossbridge). ... We cover each other's backs. ... All of us have different talents. We just let the one who is stronger become the leader."

While their church leadership structure may be strange to some, Squires said it is biblical.

"We serve equally as co-pastors from preaching to ministering to our congregation," he said. "In your New Testament churches, you had a co-pastor relationship. There's lots of enthusiasm on our team and in the church. ... We follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. ... We just seek Him (God) and follow Him and do what He wants us to do."

Aldridge said the atmosphere

inside the church has been like "a little piece of heaven on earth," giving the co-pastors time to work in the children's ministry one Sunday each month — an opportunity they would not have if there were only one pastor.

"We're not perfect; nobody's perfect but through the blood of Jesus, He brings us to a point of usefulness in His Kingdom," Aldridge said. "I'm honored to be associated with this church. They have learned to be people of faith."

Since the merger, Crossbridge also has strengthened its ministry to Helena, sponsoring a prayer rally to bring attention to the community's suicide problem.

"There were probably 150 people at the prayer rally," Squires said. "What we have been experiencing is a revival of God's people. There's a lot of praying and seeking God. ... Everybody in the church took ownership and it all came together. ... We want to let people know that no matter what life holds for them, there is hope in Jesus Christ."

Currently Crossbridge is seeking to join Shelby Association. But no matter what happens in the future, Aldridge is thankful for what has been done at the church he has led since its birth seven years ago.

"God let me smell my flowers before I go," he said. "It's a peace that God has given me. I have no fear."

*"We cover each other's backs. ... All of us have different talents."*

Co-pastor Morrell Aldridge  
Crossbridge Community Church



Photo courtesy of Catoma Baptist Church

#### CATOMA HOLDS NOTE-BURNING CEREMONY

Catoma Baptist Church, Montgomery, holds a note-burning ceremony July 24 to celebrate the final payment on its Christian activity center. The building includes six classrooms, a conference/meeting room, gym/fellowship hall and a commercial kitchen. Chad Underwood is pastor.

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For August 14

## Explore the Bible By Douglas K. Wilson Professor of Christian Studies, School of Christian Studies, University of Mobile

### FOLLOW ORDERS

#### Jeremiah 42:1-6, 9-10, 19-22; 43:2

Christians often say we want to know God's will. In reality, we want God to bless us in what we want to do. God is aware of our actions, but He also knows our attitudes. May God's Word, which separates the thoughts and intents of the heart, reveal His truth for each of us.

In this week's passage, Jeremiah confronts the attitudes of Judah's refugees, who have already determined to flee to Egypt, against the words of God. Though they gave the impression that they were seeking God's will, their minds were made up (Jer. 41:17).

#### Seek Spiritual Guidance (42:1-6)

Survivors from Mizpah, including army officers, fled after the Babylonian-appointed governor had been murdered. Though they intended to find safe haven in Egypt, they sought out Jeremiah's counsel and intercession. Specifically they inquired, "Where shall we go and what shall we do?" They committed to receive the word gladly, whether it was favorable for them or not. Jeremiah's response was to pray for them but also to instruct them to obey the word.

Students without direction between semesters or after graduation often ask for the same kind of counsel. "Where shall we go and what shall we do?" They discern that God is leading them to participate in a short-term missions trip or an international service project. Then, before the ink is even dry on their application, they determine that they do not want to go. Discerning God's will is not a multiple-choice exam. Those who seek spiritual guidance must obey or face serious consequences.

#### Receive an Unpopular Response (42:9-10)

When you are seeking God's will, are you willing to follow if it means going in a different direction than you planned? According to Jeremiah 41:17, the refugees were "on their way to Egypt." Jeremiah's counsel was to stay in the land and not fear the Babylonians. Such a plan was in complete contrast to their life trajectory.

Once again, we see how words that describe Jeremiah's calling (Jer. 1:10) are tied to the messages he delivered. In an earlier lesson, we saw how God was going to build up and plant (Jer. 31:28). These very words were promised as the fruit of obedience if the travelers remained where they were. Both implicitly and explicitly, however, God warned that fleeing to Egypt would result in being torn down and uprooted.

How would you react to the following instructions? "Surrender your plans. Trust me as I lead to the place you fear the most. If you obey me, I will bless you. If you ignore me, I will reject you."

#### Don't Be Deceived (42:19-22)

Jeremiah was not deceived by the refugees' empty plea for God's counsel. God knew their intent had always been to travel to Egypt, regardless of the prophet's response.

Though they had an escape plan, there was no escape. The refugees fled from the Babylonians after rejecting their governor, only to face a more serious judgment by ignoring their King's counsel. Disaster was in store, for they sought God's will with no intention of following it.

#### Watch Out for Wandering (43:2)

In response to Jeremiah, the leaders called him a liar. They determined that he had a political agenda and simply wanted to gain favor with the Babylonians by handing over these outlaws to the governing authorities. Instead of listening to God's word, they took Jeremiah and Baruch into custody and took them to Egypt as prisoners. They had wandered so far from God that they rejected godly counsel as political and warranted bad behavior as appropriate (Jer. 43:4-6).

Robert Robinson, as a 22-year-old lyricist, recognized his propensity to stray from God when he wrote in "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing": "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it/ Prone to leave the God I love." Lest we think that those refugees did something we would never do, beware. If a hymn writer, who longs for God to draw near, can wander away, then so can you. So can I.

## Bible Studies for Life By James R. Strange Assistant Professor of Religion, Department of Religion, Samford University

### FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER

#### Colossians 3:12-13; Philemon 8-22

This week, we'll look at passages in two New Testament letters: Colossians and Philemon. Colossians is a letter from Paul and Timothy to the Christian congregations in Colossae, an important city in Phrygia, which was a region in western Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). Philemon is an epistle that Paul wrote to a single individual. These two very different books have much to say about what Christian congregations have to do in order to get along. No matter how much some present-day congregations might feel threatened by the world, these books remind us that often the greatest threats to community cohesion — and therefore to community survival — come from within. After all, ancient Christians wouldn't have to be told to forgive one another in so many New Testament books if there wasn't a constant need for them to do just that.

#### Christ Is the Example (Col. 3:12-13)

Why did Paul and Timothy feel that they had to provide the Colossians with an example of how to forgive? It must be because forgiveness comes so unnaturally to many. When someone wrongs another, often the first impulse is to seek retribution or cut off contact. It seems that even Christians rarely seek forgiveness and that people seldom actually forgive. And what is the result? Does revenge ever really settle the score, or does it become self-perpetuating, leading to more of the same? Does keeping resentment bottled up truly result in Christian unity, or isn't it really the case that pent-up anger festers?

Paul and Timothy used the quintessential Christian model for doing right: Jesus Christ. The same idea is expressed even more starkly in Romans 5:8, 10: Christ died for us while we were still sinners; we were reconciled to God while we were His enemies. In the same way, sometimes we forgive even if the offender fails (or refuses) to acknowledge the offense. After all, God, through Christ, forgave before anyone sought forgiveness.

#### Love Is the Motive (Philemon 8-16)

Why do we forgive one another, even if the

offense is real? We do it because we love one another. Last week, we decided that Christian love is something acted out whether or not it is felt, and Jesus provided the model then as well. In Philemon, Paul asked an influential Roman to take back Onesimus. The context suggests that Onesimus was a slave who escaped from Philemon (15) and may have stolen from him before his escape (18-19).

Paul did not overtly condemn the practice of chattel slavery, and unfortunately some Christians (most infamously the Baptist pastor Richard Furman) once used this and other Scriptures to build biblical defenses for slavery. We have since learned how to read God's message of redemption as an indictment of slavery, but Paul was focusing on the issue of reconciliation between Christian brothers. Evidently Onesimus had become a believer and "useful" to Paul (11) during his imprisonment.

Note that Paul made his appeal on the basis of love: Philemon's love for him and the love that he should express toward his new brother in Christ, Onesimus. Although Paul could describe his feelings about Onesimus with a metaphor for strong emotion (12), he appealed to Philemon to show love to his former slave by freeing him (16) and returning him to work with Paul (13-14). The offenses were real but Paul also thought real reconciliation was possible.

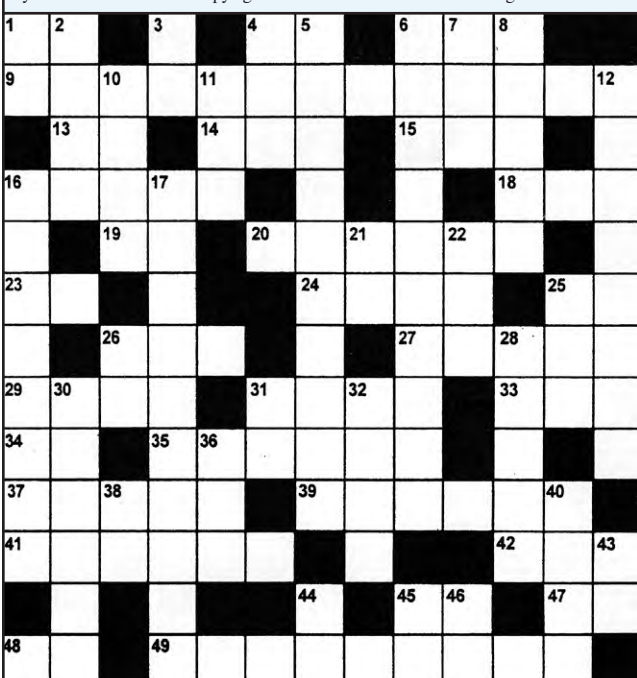
#### Restoration Is the Goal (Philemon 17-22)

Restoration is not always possible. The offending party might refuse to admit that he or she has done something wrong. Nevertheless restoration remains the goal, as Paul expressed in these verses. In either case, the offended party must let go of resentment. If both sides are willing to move beyond the pain of the offense, then all the better. The word for the party that was wronged is "forgive."

Nowhere did a biblical author claim that this is easy. If it were, then there would be no need to keep telling people to do it. Remember Christ did it first and He makes it possible for us to follow His example.

## Christian Crossword

By David Greenlee Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



### Across

- I \_\_\_\_\_. (name of God)
- Father.
- A deity or idol.
- Fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22)
- Satan went \_\_\_\_\_ and fro. (Job 1:7)
- Small, humanlike mythical being.
- Prefix of negation.
- \_\_\_\_\_ from God the Father. (Gal. 1:3)
- Moses' second book. (abbr.)
- \_\_\_\_\_, every one that thisteth. (Isa. 55:1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ fell from Saul's eyes. (Acts 9:18)
- Peter wrote \_\_\_\_\_ the scattered Jews. (1 Pet. 1:1)
- I will ... have mercy on \_\_\_\_\_. (Jer. 33:26)
- Indefinite singular article.
- Hiram's navy brought this animal to Solomon. (1 Kings 10:22)
- Traveled with Rebekah.

- (Gen. 24:59)
- Something small in the eye.
- The spirit descended in this form. (Matt. 3:16)
- This animal spoke to Balaam. (Num. 22:28)
- In him is \_\_\_\_\_ darkness. (1 John 1:5)
- Used to kill Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
- Pilate found no \_\_\_\_\_ of death in Jesus. (Luke 23:22)
- Relationship of Martha and Mary to Lazarus. (John 11:1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ his money. (Gen. 42:27)
- Built the ark. (Luke 17:27)
- Peleth's son. (Num. 16:1)
- Year of the Lord. (Latin abbr.)
- Ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ gods. (Gen. 3:5)
- Love thy \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 5:43)
29. Ancient city.
31. The spirit descended in this form. (Matt. 3:16)
33. This animal spoke to Balaam. (Num. 22:28)
34. In him is \_\_\_\_\_ darkness. (1 John 1:5)
35. Used to kill Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
37. Pilate found no \_\_\_\_\_ of death in Jesus. (Luke 23:22)
39. Relationship of Martha and Mary to Lazarus. (John 11:1)
41. \_\_\_\_\_ his money. (Gen. 42:27)
42. Built the ark. (Luke 17:27)
45. Peleth's son. (Num. 16:1)
47. Year of the Lord. (Latin abbr.)
48. Ye shall be \_\_\_\_\_ gods. (Gen. 3:5)
49. Love thy \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 5:43)
2. Something small in the eye.
3. King of Bashan. (Num. 21:33)
4. King of Assyria. (2 Kings 15:19)
5. Set your \_\_\_\_\_ on the things above. (Col. 3:2, plural)
6. Fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22)
7. Gold. (Spanish)
8. Eats.
10. A just and perfect man. (Gen. 6:9)
11. The pure in heart ... shall \_\_\_\_\_ God. (Matt. 5:8)
12. Fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22)
16. Sound in faith, charity, and \_\_\_\_\_. (Titus 2:2)
17. Jesus was moved with \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 9:36)
21. \_\_\_\_\_, Lord God! (Jer. 4:10)
22. Ostrichlike bird.
25. Donkey.
26. Alabama. (abbr.)
28. Brought food to Elijah. (1 Kings 17:6)
30. My soul \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord. (Ps. 34:2)
31. It is lawful to \_\_\_\_\_ well. (Matt. 12:12)
32. Rebekah's face covering. (Gen. 24:65; modern spelling)
36. Golf ball supporter.
38. Opposite of down.
40. Lion's call. (1 Pet. 5:8)
43. Name of an altar. (Josh. 22:34)
44. See 3 down.
45. 21-verse prophet. (abbr.)
46. If we say we have \_\_\_\_\_ sin. (1 John 1:8)



## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Pakistani Muslims convicted for beating Christian to death

MIAN CHANNU, Pakistan — Three Muslims convicted of killing a Christian in Pakistan's Punjab province for refusing to convert to Islam last year have been given life sentences, according to attorneys for the European Center for Law and Justice (ECLJ) in Pakistan.

The Sessions Court in Mian Channu on July 7 convicted Ghulam Rasool, Amjad Iqbal and Kashir Saleem of torturing and killing Rasheed Masih on March 9, 2010, and sentenced them to life in prison, which in Pakistan is 25 years. The court also ordered each convict to pay \$1,153 to Masih's family. A fourth suspect, Muhammad Asif, was acquitted.

"The ECLJ also plans to file an appeal in the Lahore High Court concerning the acquittal of the fourth defendant," said Asif Aqeel, director of the Lahore-based, ECLJ-supported Community Development Initiative. "The callous treatment by the police presented lots of challenges in proving that Masih was killed by the defendants. However, extensive work by our legal team in Pakistan and in the United States resulted in a conviction for the three defendants in this case."

Aqeel said Masih's brother, Asi, said that Muslim businessmen were jealous of Rasheed Masih's success as a potato merchant in Mian Channu, Khanewal district because he was a Christian.

When the 36-year-old victim met with the defendants at their farmhouse to discuss business, they asked him to convert to Islam. When he refused, the four Muslims beat him to death with iron rods, Aqeel said. Pastor Iqbal Masih of the Mian Channu Parish of the Church of Pakistan said last year that Rasheed Masih was a devoted Christian, and that both he and his brother Asi had refused the Muslims' pressure to convert to Islam. The Muslims had been threatening both brothers for six months before the murder, according to Asi Masih.

### Chinese church leader gets two years in labor camp

SUQIAN CITY, China — A key leader of the Chinese House Church Alliance has been sentenced to two years in a labor camp as part of a crackdown on illegal worship, ChinaAid reported July 25.

Pastor Shi Enhao, deputy chairman of CHCA, was sentenced to "re-education through labor" — an extrajudicial punishment that requires no conviction or trial — because of his position in an influential umbrella group of Chinese house churches.

ChinaAid, a group that monitors religious freedom in China, reported that Shi's current charge is for "illegal meetings and illegal organizing of venues for religious meetings."

According to ChinaAid, the labor camp sentence is not the first police action against Shi in Suqian City, which is 500 miles south of Beijing and home to more than 5 million people. The pastor was detained by police March 31 and held for 12 days.

Then, the Suqian Public Security Bureau detained the pastor June 21 for "suspicion of using superstition to undermine national law enforcement," ChinaAid reported, noting that criminal detention is the first step in a legal process that usually ends in a criminal offense and a prison sentence.

Shi's family has served the church in China for four generations, and since the investigation of illegal churches his three daughters and their husbands also have been threatened by police, ChinaAid reported.

### Church warned not to meet without state permission

SUMGAI, Azerbaijan — After a police raid in Azerbaijan's port city of Sumgait in mid-June, a judge gave the leader of a Baptist church, Pastor Pavel Byakov, a verbal warning not to meet for worship without state permission.

The judge also warned that for a second "offense" Byakov will be fined, said church members who asked not to be named for fear of state reprisals. A large quantity of literature confiscated in the raid has been given to the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations to decide whether the material is legal.

Prolonged delays in dealing with applications for legal status still continue, over one-and-a-half years after the deadline for processing applications. In defiance of Azerbaijan's international human rights commitments, unregistered religious activity is illegal. Two religious communities — Cathedral of Praise Protestant Church and Baku's Jehovah's Witness community — have challenged the state committee's failure to re-register them through the courts, and Cathedral of Praise gained a court ruling July 27 that they should be re-registered.

# Christian rocker returns to his roots

## Camp's latest worship album meant to 'minister with the gospel'

By Leann Callaway  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

With his latest album, "We Cry Out: The Worship Project," Christian rock singer Jeremy Camp is bringing his musical journey full circle by returning to his worship roots. "I started off leading worship, and I feel like God has given me a renewed heart for worship songs over the past few years," Camp said. "The way these songs have been ministering to my heart has been really special, and I wanted to share that with others."

This album features popular worship songs such as "You Never Let Go," "Everlasting God" and "Mighty to Save," along with original songs designed to lead young worshippers before God's throne.

While leading worship and performing at events around the country, Camp's goal is to offer more than a concert. He desires to provide students and young adults a life-changing encounter with God.

"So many people today are feeling helpless and don't know where to turn," Camp said. "My prayer is that they will be led to Jesus and will seek Him with all their heart. If they only knew the power of lifting up the name of Jesus, cry-



Photo courtesy of BEC Recordings

**BACK TO WORSHIP** — With his latest album, 'We Cry Out: The Worship Project,' Christian rock singer Jeremy Camp said he wanted to share with others the songs that have been ministering to his heart.

ing out to Him, seeking His face, spending time and intimacy with our King — how different their lives would be."

As Camp shares his life experiences and personal struggles in hopes of leading people to Christ, his message and music are being well received by all ages.

"I recently got a box filled with 20 letters from a fourth-grade class," he said. "Their teacher

plays my music at school, and each kid wrote about how a different song has spoken to them. That blew me away and I'm going to write back to them to thank them for ministering to me and let them know that I'm praying they will fall more in love with Jesus.

"When I felt God calling me to music, it was an opportunity to share His Word and to minister with the gospel. For those who already have a relationship with Christ, I hope they will desire to know Him more. For those who don't, I hope they will come to know Him. That's why I always share my testimony and the gospel as much as I can at events. I always want to share Scriptures, new things that God is teaching me, and try to be sensitive to how the Holy Spirit is moving. I truly hope people walk away with a deeper desire to draw closer to the Lord."

For more information, visit [jeremycamp.com](http://jeremycamp.com).

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# Music video in Mumbai

## Christian artist goes to India, writes song to encourage missions

When Micah Watson came to India for the first time, he never thought he would be back, let alone recording a music video with his band there one year later.

The daunting task of sharing Jesus with the 22 million people of Mumbai — India's largest city — haunted him so much that all he could do was talk about it for a year after his first trip to India. He shared with his family and friends and even his audiences at Micah Watson Band concerts.

Watson thought he would be seeing a lost world up close and personal, having grown up in a missionary family in Israel. But somehow the singer-songwriters' trip to Mumbai was different from anything he had experienced.

Watson thought he would be writing songs and experiencing the city from a safe distance. Instead, from the moment he slung his guitar over his shoulder and left the airport, he found himself face to face with life in India.

The devastating poverty in Mumbai overwhelmed him. Dirty children swarmed around him in the slums. Being a father of four, Watson wanted to pick them up, play with them and protect them. Even though the trip was a step far outside of his comfort zone, the test of faith had only just begun.

Watson was caught off-guard when the team leader said they would be going out two-by-two to share the gospel and pray for the sick.

Even though he sings weekly in front of crowds, Watson doesn't feel he has an "outgoing" personality. And while he shares with concertgoers about God's work through his songs from the stage, he struggles sharing the gospel one-on-one.

"God, I need you to put words in my mouth," Watson prayed, and soon the prayer was being answered as people began



BP photo

**MUMBAI SLUMS** — Christian musician Micah Watson pauses while filming a music video in Mumbai to play with the children of the slums of Mumbai, India's largest city with 22 million people.

inviting him into their homes.

On that first trip to Mumbai, God stirred Watson to realize more than ever that the Holy Spirit is working all around the world.

"God went before us and is behind us working," Watson said. "When you go on a trip like this, you're just becoming a part of what God is already doing. You're not creating a new thing. We just need to tap into what God is doing."

After that first trip, Watson shared about India at all his concerts in the southern United States, with his song "Your Hands, Your Heart, Your Voice" resulting from the year of talking about what God is doing in India.

When Watson returned to Mumbai's slums to make a music video for the song, the trip was different — even when people stopped and stared, forming a crowd around him. Even though trash covered the streets and dirty children roamed wild, Watson's heart and voice

reached out to everyone as he shared the gospel.

"As overwhelming as it is that there are so many people," Watson said, "it's more overwhelming that God knows each one of them."

Music is the one art form people can't ignore, Watson said, voicing his goal to use music to stir people's hearts toward what God's doing in the world.

"If you can get songs in front of the church that are focused on missions, on what God is doing in the nations," Watson said, "if you can get that rolling around in people's heads, then maybe more people would give, go and pray."

"When people hear the song 'Your Hands, Your Heart, Your Voice,' I hope they will stop and realize, 'Hey, I have to go and be God's heart and hands.' It's not just a lovely thought for someone else. You don't do your Christian duty at 18 and that's it. We're commanded to do it." (BP)

## In face of terrorism, Norway 'demonstrates love'

A Norwegian bishop addressing the recent bombing and shooting attacks in Norway said his country has "countered this insane terrorism by demonstrating love and solidarity."

"We have brought out a social capital we maybe even did not know was there. We must rebuild our trust in human beings as fellow human beings," said Church of Norway Bishop Tor Singaas of Nidaros at the opening of the annual St. Olav Festival in Trondheim on July 28.

On July 22, Anders Behring Breivik bombed a government building in Oslo, then massacred youths at a nearby summer camp, killing 76 people in all, accord-

ing to law enforcement officials.

Since the attacks, Norwegian priests and church workers have joined in caring for the survivors and the victims' families, with churches opened for people seeking comfort and community.

### Center for mourners

Oslo's Lutheran Cathedral, situated a few blocks from the damaged government buildings, has become a center for mourners to light candles.

Outside the cathedral, flowers cover large areas and also the street.

As Norwegian police finish the complex task of identifying victims, burials will begin to take

place all over the country, most of them in Church of Norway churches and chapels.

On July 24, Oslo Cathedral changed its regular service into a televised "Mass of grief and hope."

"We will not let fear paralyze us," said Church of Norway Presiding Bishop Helga Haugland Byfuglien in her homily.

Preaching to a packed cathedral, and with Norway's royal family and political leaders present, Byfuglien said, "In the midst of the gruesome, something beautiful is emerging: the God-given ability of every human being to show goodness and charity. This makes us see glimpses of God." (RNS)

## Religion In America

Compiled from Wire Services

### Education does not alter religious beliefs, study shows

LINCOLN, Neb. — The old wisdom: The more educated you are, the less likely you will be religious. But a new study says education doesn't drive people away from God — it gives them a more liberal attitude about who's going to heaven.

Each year of education ups the odds by 15 percent that people will say there's "truth in more than one religion," says University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Philip Schwadel in an article for the Review of Religious Research. Schwadel, an associate professor of sociology, looked at 1,800 U.S. adults' reported religious beliefs and their education.

People change their perspective because, as people move through education levels, they acquire an ever-wider range of friendships, including people with different beliefs than their own, Schwadel says.

For each additional year of education beyond seventh grade, Americans are:

- ▶ 15 percent more likely to have attended religious services in the past week.

- ▶ 14 percent more likely to say they believe in a "higher power" than in a personal God.

- ▶ 13 percent more likely to switch to a mainline Protestant denomination that is "less strict, less likely to impose rules of behavior on your daily life" than their childhood religion.

- ▶ 13 percent less likely to say the Bible is the "actual word of God." The educated, like most folks in general, tend to say the Bible is the "inspired word" of God, Schwadel says.

Schwadel's findings dovetail with findings by Barry Kosmin of Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., a co-author of the American Religious Identification Survey statistics on religious beliefs and the behavior of people with master's degrees, doctorates and professional degrees.

### Women show deep drop in church attendance

VENTURA, Calif. — Women, long considered the dominant pew dwellers in the nation's churches, have shown a dramatic drop in attendance in the last two decades, a new survey shows.

Since 1991, the percentage of women attending church during a typical week has decreased by 11 percentage points to 44 percent, the Barna Group reported Aug. 1.

Sunday School and volunteering among women also has diminished. Two decades ago, half of all women read the Bible in a typical week — other than at religious events. Now 40 percent do.

The survey also found a marked stepping away from congregations: a 17 percent increase in the number of women who have become "unchurched."

They found that the percentage of women who strongly believe the Bible is accurate in all it teaches declined by 7 percentage points to 42 percent. And those who view God as "the all-knowing, all-powerful and perfect Creator of the universe Who still rules the world today" dropped from 80 percent to 70 percent.

"Women used to put men to shame in terms of their orthodoxy of belief and the breadth and consistency of their religious behavior," wrote Barna. "No more; the religious gender gap has substantially closed."

### Episcopalians turn to social media for growth

NEW YORK — The Episcopal Church is urging congregations to embrace social media websites like Facebook and Twitter in a push to highlight the Internet as a tool for church growth.

The church released a 12-page white paper, or instruction guide, July 20 listing "best practices" for how congregations can make use of social media. The release comes after church leaders grew concerned that some congregations are still mystified by the Internet.

"Episcopal congregations already know they need to be online and active in creating local excitement about their mission and ministries. ... What they may not know is how easy the web has become to use," said Episcopal advertising executive Jake Dell in a press release.

The guide, titled "Social Media and the Episcopal Church: A New Way to Tell a 2,000-Year-Old Story," stressed the need to remain relevant in an increasingly digital world.

"At a time when participation in organized religious communities is declining across the board, you simply can't afford not to create a strong online presence," the guide reads.

The guide also hinted that digital media could serve as a tool for evangelism, noting, "Increasingly, this spiritual invite begins online. People search for a church online because they want to be assured they will like it before they set foot inside." (AP)