

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

Nov. 17, 2011
Vol. 176, No. 45

Reporting. Connecting. Inspiring.

Toll free 1-800-803-5201
www.thealabamabaptist.org

INSIDE



Southern Baptists help young refugees in southern Europe

◆ Page 3



Judson's annual hymn sing 'like a family' event

◆ Page 5



Alabama Baptists continue long-term recovery, ministry efforts in Haiti

◆ Pages 6-7

UMobile Leadership Banquet hosts Rice

Former US secretary of state speaks candidly about faith, difficult times

Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told University of Mobile (UMobile) students that her Christian faith is inseparable from the decisions she makes and is the source of her optimism in the face of difficulties.

A deeply religious person whose father and grandfather were ministers, faith is "so integral to me that I don't even think of it as inseparable from anything that I do or any decisions that I make," Rice told more than 400 students gathered for a Q-and-A session prior to the seventh annual UMobile Leadership Banquet for the school's scholarship fund Nov. 10.

Students used social media including Twitter and Facebook to ask questions of Rice, a native of Birmingham who became the first black woman to serve as secretary of state. She served during the administration of President George W. Bush.

Rice, now a political science professor at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., fielded questions ranging from her most embarrassing moments to the one word she would want to be remembered by: "perseverance."

Responding to a question about how faith factored into her role as secretary of state, Rice said, "It's not that you say, 'Well, is this the right thing to do?' It's that you ask for guidance, are always aware that you have a higher power to which to appeal."

'Continually optimistic'

She said faith makes one recognize how fortunate and blessed he or she is and reminds one to care about people who are not as fortunate or blessed.

"The best part about being a person of faith is that I could be continually optimistic even in hard times. When you go through very difficult times, I don't know how people who can't appeal to that Holy Spirit get through those hard times. I know as (Abraham) Lincoln said, 'There are times when ... you have nowhere else to go than your knees.' That is very deeply engrained in me."

She encouraged students to use their college years to discover what they are passionate about.



Photo courtesy of the University of Mobile

Q-AND-A — Condoleezza Rice fields questions that were texted, emailed or posted on Facebook with moderator Neal Ledbetter, director of campus life for the University of Mobile, at the student Q-and-A in Ram Hall on Nov. 10.

"You have one really important task while you're in college, and that is to find what you're passionate about — not what job or career or major you want, but what are you passionate about?"

She told students to keep searching until they discover their passion and "when you find your passion, don't let someone else define it for you by saying, 'You ought to be (this) because of your race, color, background or circumstances.'"

Then "once you have found some-

thing you love, put your heart and soul into working and being really, really good at it," she said.

Find a role model and mentor, she said. "Nobody does it completely on their own. ... Your role models don't have to look like you. If I had been waiting for a black female Soviet (expert) role model, I'd still be waiting," she said.

Later that evening at the banquet, Rice told the audience of nearly 900 that education is the great equalizer and UMobile is developing servant

leaders who can be the optimistic leaders of the future.

"That's what places like this are in the business of doing — transforming lives. Not just giving people a way to get a job, but giving people whole new horizons of who they might be and what they might do. Here at the University of Mobile, and other colleges of faith, (students) are taught to make that transforming leap through both faith and reason, that faith and reason are not enemies of one another. That, (See 'Faith,' page 4)

Rod Marshall named new Children's Homes president

Rod Marshall has been named the new president and CEO of the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH), effective Feb. 1, 2012.

He was unanimously selected during the ministry's Nov. 11 board meeting.

Marshall is currently vice president of counseling for ABCH.

He began working with the agency in 1995, as a licensed professional counselor, and became the director of Pathways Professional Counseling in 1999.

Licensed by the state of Alabama

as a professional counselor, Marshall is also a board-certified counseling supervisor, a registered play therapist, a registered play therapist supervisor, a national certified counselor and a board-certified professional Christian counselor.

Marshall earned his bachelor of arts in religion and human relations at Samford University in Birmingham and his master of arts and educational specialist in community counseling at the Uni-

versity of Alabama at Birmingham.

He completed additional graduate studies in counselor education at Mississippi State University in Starkville.

Search committee chairman and former chair of the ABCH board Dr. Merrill Barron said while there were many qualities that recommended Marshall to the committee, his experience was a key factor in its



MARSHALL

decision.

(See 'Marshall,' page 12)

COMMENT

A Difference in Worship

It was a frightening experience standing in the Taoist temple in Tainan, Taiwan. The walls were painted with murals that made Dante's "Inferno" look like a children's story. Every imaginable way human beings could be tortured was detailed in the murals with hideous beasts inflicting pain and suffering with glee.

I was in Tainan visiting Southern Baptist missionaries with whom I would work for the next three years as coordinator of a state partnership missions program called Bold Mission Taiwan. The year was 1980. The missionaries took me and other members of the leadership team to the temple to help us better understand the spiritual climate faced in this seaport city.

The gods, the afterlife, ways to gain favor with the gods or what awaited the disobedient were all graphically outlined in the murals.

To call the experience "dark" would be an understatement. The presence of evil was pervasive. All the messages were foreign to the gospel. But residents of the community regularly flowed in and out of the temple to offer prayers and sacrifices that they hoped would help them escape a fate like one depicted in the paintings.

Like most temples in Taiwan — Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian — this temple never closed. People came every part of every day. They came as often as they liked and stayed as long as they liked. The experience was personal so it did not matter if anyone else was present or what else was going on.

At some temples, worshipers made loud noises by throwing coins against metal shelves to get the gods' attention. The money was gathered and used to support the temple. At others, fireworks were a regular feature. Prayer wheels were common. All were colorful with the fiery Chinese reds, yellows and greens.

Among the many challenges related by the missionaries were the differences in the concept of worship. While most Chinese saw worship as an individual act, Christians gathered to worship as a corporate community. While the local practice was to worship anytime one wanted, Christians emphasized attending a Sunday morning service with a set beginning time. While common worship was done at one's own pace, Christians went through a set program in which everyone engaged in the same activity at the same time.

Temple leaders talked about how many people came to the temple in the course of a week. Christians reported how many people attended a particular service.



THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

Most of us agreed with the notion that Christians in Taiwan were at a decisive disadvantage when it came to worship. Now I know we were wrong.

We were wrong because we embraced the wrong definition of worship. Worship is not attending a service. Worship is encountering God.

Certainly corporate experiences are important for Christians. Corporate experiences encourage believers. They build up the Christian community. They advance the witness of the faith and enable service in the name of our Lord.

Worship experience

But participating in a corporate experience is not the same thing as participating in a worship experience. Worship is more than music. Worship is more than sermonizing.

Worship is meeting God. Even the term carries the idea of humility for it comes from words meaning to "fall down before" or "bow down before." Worship involves a mind centered on Christ and includes a heart open and repentant before God.

Worship carries the idea of reverence before God and submission to His will. Worship is done in the Spirit so bodily position is not an issue. Worship is done in truth, never in pretense. Worship is a private, personal experience.

Many of us have forgotten what our Baptist forefathers knew from experience. Corporate worship takes place primarily because of the private worship experience of those participating in the corporate experience. In other words, if one does not have private, personal worship experiences with God during the week, then it is unlikely one will have a corporate worship experience with Him during Sunday morning worship.

Baptists of yesteryear promoted family altars and personal devotional time. My earliest memory of an Alabama Baptist church is one that met quarter time. The church had Sunday School each

week, but the preacher came only once a month to lead corporate services. Later "preaching" was held every other week.

Families were expected to read the Bible and pray together each day. In addition, everyone was encouraged to have a private devotional time when he or she got alone with God to read His Word and pray. Like for the Chinese in Taiwan, worship was an individual act. Worship was done anywhere at anytime. Worship was done at one's own pace. It did not depend on what else was going on. And worship was expressed in different ways.

Today many Baptists pay more attention to the Sunday morning corporate experience than to members' daily individual worship experiences. More important than how many people attend a particular service may be how many of those people have daily devotional times with God during the week. How many people open God's Word just to allow Him to speak His truth to their hearts? How many people allow that day's Bible reading to inform their prayer life? To give expression to the longings of their hearts?

As a preacher of the Word, I know the importance of serious study of Scripture. But there is also a time for simply opening the Bible and letting God speak. Yes, worship can happen in the midst of study but study is not worship. Worship also can happen in the midst of a corporate service, but a corporate service is not worship. Worship is meeting God and that is done on an individual basis.

Worship begins with each of us spending time alone with God in Bible reading and prayer. It begins with opening ourselves to Him personally and privately rather than checking off a list of things a Christian is supposed to do. Worship begins with gratitude to God for what He has already done and obedience to what He wants to do today and tomorrow.

When Christians renew their private, personal worship times with the Lord, then, I believe, we will see a difference in the quality of our corporate worship experiences before Him. Maybe we really will have corporate worship when we gather together on Sunday mornings.

Letters to the Editor

GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

Turn on the TV, listen to people's conversations, check out Facebook: At every juncture these days, you hear God's name being used as a byword or

as slang. "Oh my God" or "OMG" is heard, read or written too often. I cringe when I hear it because it disrespects a holy God.

When I was teaching in high school

and heard a student use God's name like this, I would ask with a smile, "Are you praying?" Shocked and puzzled, they would say, "No." I then would reply,

(See 'Letters,' page 15)



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

(ISSN 0738-7741; USPS 011-080)
© The Alabama Baptist, Inc.

is published weekly except for one week in July and December by The Alabama Baptist, Inc., at 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209. Phone: 205-870-4720. Statewide phone: 1-800-803-5201. Fax: 205-870-8957. Web site: www.thealabamabaptist.org. E-mail: news@thealabamabaptist.org or circulation@thealabamabaptist.org. Periodicals postage paid at Birmingham, Ala., and other locations.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Alabama Baptist, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209. **ADDRESS CHANGE:** Send old and new addresses, and name of church to Circulation Department, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209. Allow two weeks.

Someone You Should Know

By Julie Payne, The Alabama Baptist

Rosa Thomas

First Baptist Church, Dothan
Columbia Baptist Association

FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE: John 3:16

FAVORITE HYMNS: "Amazing Grace" and "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

HOBBIES: Reading and working in the yard

FAMILY STATUS: Widowed after 29 years of marriage to Shelley; one son, John



THOMAS

Rosa Thomas earned a degree in library science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She was recently recognized by First Baptist Church, Dothan, for 46 years of volunteer

service to the media library, where she served as director.

Q: What can you share about your personal testimony?

A: It has always been a matter of Christ being in my life. I just don't remember a time I wasn't active [in church]. I joined the [Baptist] church in my hometown at about 11 years old in Blountstown, Fla.

Q: What can you tell us about the First, Dothan, Media Library?

A: We have an active children's reading program. We've done everything we can to promote reading.

Q: What led you to serve as a volunteer for the library?

A: I think they needed help in the library, someone with a library background. When I first came to First Baptist, they asked me to work there. It's been my blessing to work with so many wonderful people.

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

A: I'll help her (the new director) and get her trained. She has some good people working in the library to help her.

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 or news@thealabamabaptist.org.



IMB photo

EAGER TO LEARN — Refugees sit in the main room of a center in southern Europe, waiting for an English lesson to begin. Before the lesson, the center shows the 'JESUS' film, which it hopes will raise questions or interest.

Providing hope

Southern Baptists help young refugees in southern Europe

Many Afghan families, desperate for a better life, pay fortunes to a highly developed network of smugglers who help them escape difficult situations. Often they send their children alone to freedom before the rest of the family can follow.

A quick scan of a refugee center in southern Europe tells the story. The ratio of children to adults is about 11-to-1.

A teenage boy, hair falling over his eyes, stands in the back of the room. He's come for the food, but he stays for the company. He finds the refugee center a safe place to find companionship.

The center, manned by Southern Baptist workers, offers practical help to families. The youngest children play with plastic farm animals while older siblings color pictures of superheroes and butterflies. Their parents are freed up for a few minutes to participate in English classes. After a meal, they are invited to stay for Bible study; at least half do so. One Hazara family from Afghanistan is eager to stay. They have been the recipients of two life-changing gifts during their migration. The first, a Bible, was given to the young father in a seemingly unlikely place: Iran. The second gift came from Christian workers in Europe who realized the man's son needed glasses.

Through the kindness of strangers, the family was drawn to the refugee center where the gospel is preached daily.

Now this family chooses to worship with

the Persian church in town. Though they are in limbo — immigrants who have yet to find a home — they are settled and free in a way they have never been before.

Most Afghan and Iranian refugees are on the move due to threats and persecution.

Dina is a mother who fled Iran after her husband was arrested for crimes against the state. She would have been arrested as well had she stayed, and there would have been no one to care for her 2-year-old daughter.

Dina was able to escape with her child, but other parents have no choice but to send their older children to Europe alone with the aid of smugglers. Workers at the refugee center tell about a 14-year-old boy who came through on his way from Afghanistan to France. He had an uncle there with whom he hoped to connect, but he was traveling without parents or siblings. His story is typical.

One Afghan family of six fled Iran because of discrimination and limitations on their children's schooling. They could not receive an education beyond grade 5.

After nearly two years in Turkey, they were smuggled by boat to Greece. The large family was separated in the course of the journey, and two of the children went missing.

Another mother of a 6-year-old boy tells of her journey: "It was very bad; our suffering was so great. We went across the mountains and now my son is afraid of the mountains.

WEEK OF PRAYER

for International Missions and
International Missions Study
Dec. 4-11

HISHEART HISHANDS HISVOICE



**LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING**
National Goal: \$175 million
Alabama's Goal: \$11.5 million

He does not want to go outside. He can no longer control himself."

The trauma has left the boy incontinent. "We, the pastor and a Persian worker laid hands on the little boy and prayed for his healing. Please pray with us," the worker said.

She added: "Only God can give these people life and hope."

Southern Baptists' gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program help Southern Baptist workers around the world share the gospel. Give to the offering through your local Southern Baptist church or online at imb.org/offering, where there are resources for church leaders to promote the offering. Download related videos at imb.org/entirechurchvideo. (IMB)

Alabama Cooperative Program Gifts

ALABAMA BAPTIST GIVING

Year to Date through October 31, 2011

OCTOBER

CP Challenge Budget Goal
\$3,641,666

CP Challenge Budget Gifts
\$2,609,613

Under Goal for Month
\$1,032,053

YEAR TO DATE

CP Challenge Budget Goal
\$36,416,660

CP Challenge Budget Gifts
\$33,942,567

Under Goal for Year
\$2,474,093

'Faith and reason together' the way to advance human condition, Rice says

(continued from page 1)

indeed, we are called to love the Lord God with our hearts and our minds, by Scripture," she said.

"Because the students here are taught to bring faith and reason together, they have a firm foundation not just of knowledge but of how to use that knowledge in a way that will advance the human condition," she said. "That is why the work that is done to make them servant leaders is also so important."

Rice said the nation is going through difficult times, but she is encouraged because young people at UMobile and across the nation are understanding that they should be devoted to something bigger than themselves.

"Our job is to tell them that it's alright to want to think of and work for a world not as it is, but a world as it should be," she said.

"If you are educating young people in faith and reason, educating them in servant leadership, educating them in the transforming power that that brings, then you are also educating the optimists of the future. The Lord knows we need optimism," she said.

Rice said the world has been shocked, is chaotic and cries out for leadership.

"Someone will lead. I believe, very strongly. ... It had better be the United States of America that does. ... It is absolutely critical that this country, which is, after all, the most compassionate, the



Photo courtesy of the University of Mobile
FAITH, LIFE — Condoleezza Rice speaks at the UMobile Leadership Banquet.

most generous and the freest on the face of the earth will also be the most powerful. I firmly believe that, once again, we will make the impossible seem inevitable in retrospect," she said.

Supporting the students

Rice thanked the audience for supporting UMobile and contributing to the school's scholarship fund on behalf of its students.

"One day, they will show you that they will not accept the world

as it is. And having done that, they will remake the world as it should be," she said.

Mark Foley, president of UMobile, said, "We were very pleased to host Dr. Rice at the University of Mobile and bring to our city and our community a person of such stature who is also a person of such faith."

"It was clear in my reading of Dr. Rice's two books that there is a very definite stream of faith in her life, and a great dependence upon the influence of Christ in her life and, in particular, in her responsibilities during the most difficult days in our nation's life," he said.

"There is a high level of correspondence of thought between the positions articulated by Dr. Rice regarding education, foreign policy, leadership and faith, and that represented by the University of Mobile."

The banquet included entertainment provided by student ensembles in the Center for Performing Arts and concluded with a special presentation to Rice.

The university commissioned an original musical arrangement of three of Rice's favorite hymns, arranged and performed by assistant professor of music Duane Plash. The piano solo, titled "Testament of Hymns," included the hymns "I Need Thee Every Hour," "His Eye Is on the Sparrow" and "In the Garden." Rice was presented with the musical score and a framed copy. (UMobile)



Birmingham's Liberty Park celebrates 125 years

Several special guests with personal ties to Liberty Park Baptist Church, Birmingham, helped it celebrate its 125th anniversary Nov. 6 during the two morning worship services.

Former Minister of Music Craig Biondi led worship. Pastor Emeritus Jim Bruton delivered a church history segment titled "Our Story." Pastor Scott Guffin described Bruton's message as a challenge for the future. "It was brief but so powerful and impactful," Guffin said.

Woodlawn-native and former Florida State football coach Bobby Bowden served as the main speaker, and Guffin said Bowden's message included a lot of humor, insight and encouragement. Bowden spent the first five years of his life at Woodlawn Baptist Church (now Liberty Park Baptist) and his parents were members of Woodlawn Baptist for years.

Birmingham Baptist Association, the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and the Alabama Baptist State Convention each presented a certificate of recognition to Liberty Park Baptist.

Outside the sanctuary, the hallways were filled with historical church photographs, some dating back to the 1800s. Guffin acknowledged the volunteers who helped make the celebration a memorable event. He cited the planning teams involved, from those assisting with food to the décor. "Everything was beautiful," he remarked.

"It turned out [to be] a made [to] order, perfect day," Guffin said of the great weather, adding the church fed close to 600 attendees.

FBC Citronelle marks 125th anniversary

It's been 125 years since First Baptist Church, Citronelle, was founded. On Oct. 2, the church celebrated this milestone anniversary during the morning worship service.

Three former ministers each delivered a 15-minute message to the congregation. The wife of one of the former ministers sang during the service, and the choir also performed some special music. A representative from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Thomas Wright, executive director of missions for Mobile Baptist Association, both presented First, Citronelle, with a certificate.

"We're just trying to stay true to the Word and the gospel and trying to win our city to the Lord," Senior Pastor Elbert Charpie said.

"One of our current themes is to try to build some community among believers of all denominations," he added, reporting that First, Citronelle, will present a Christmas program with six local churches participating.

Charpie said the church also is trying some innovative things with its Sunday morning worship service. The service now begins with the message, followed by a time of testimony, the Lord's Supper, worship time and prayer.

REVIVE THIS NATION

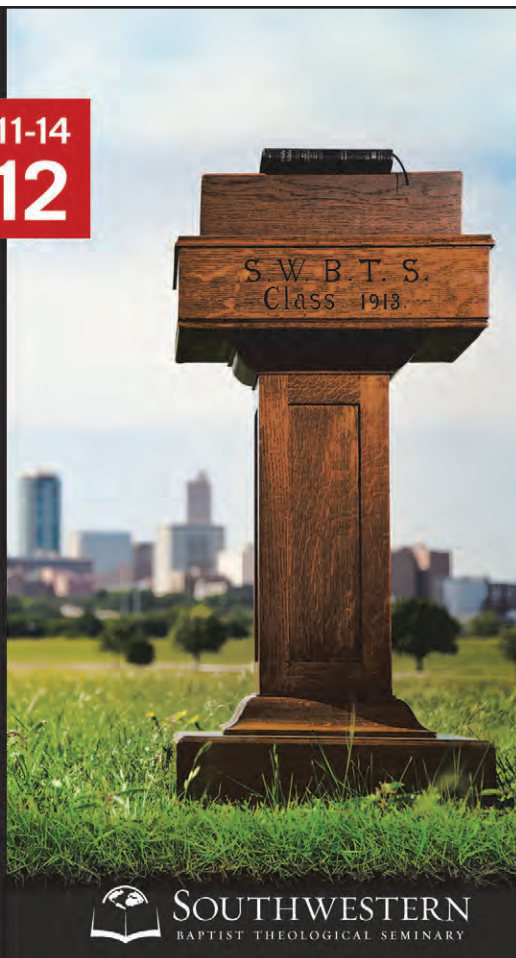
MARCH 11-14
2012

From street corners and front doors to pulpits and pews, Southwestern continues to preach the Word and reach the world.

Since 1959, more than 5,500 students and faculty have spent a week during the spring semester preaching revivals and ministering in more than 4,850 churches. We are eager to go and preach once again and to partner with churches to provide opportunities.

- Southwestern Seminary recruits churches to hold revival meetings in the spring and pays for the preacher's roundtrip transportation to these churches.
- The host church provides meals, lodging and local transportation for the preacher while they are on the field.
- Revival meetings generally begin on Sunday morning March 11 and end on Wednesday evening March 14, 2012, providing the preacher with five preaching opportunities. Alternative formats for the revival meeting are available if there are circumstances which prevent this schedule.
- The preacher partners with the pastor to engage lost people from the host community in evangelism during the weekdays.
- The program has been expanded to send revival preachers to all 50 states.

APPLY ONLINE AT
SWBTS.EDU/REVIVETHISNATION



SOUTHWESTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

IT'S THE SEASON TO SAY ... MERRY CHRISTMAS AND I LOVE YOU.



Consider giving your wife, husband or loved one a gift that will turn their bathing area into a safe experience. Our **affordable power lift seat** will safely lower you into the tub and then safely return you to a chair-height position. The power lift seat will work in any bathtub and features a suction cup system to prevent the chair from slipping. Best of all, this system is travel-friendly! Call Charlie today to find out more.

ALABAMA SAFETY BATH
334-312-1825 • 1-855-849-5048 (toll-free)
www.alabamasafetybath.com
www.dreambathsalabama.com

Judson's annual hymn sing 'like a family' event

It began as a last-minute substitute but has grown into one of the most popular events on the Judson College campus.

Judson's director of library services, George T. Washburn, remembers when a member of the college's chapel committee called to say several of the students responsible for the upcoming student-led chapel had a field trip to make and asked if Washburn and his wife, Leah, could provide a musical program instead.

"We agreed and decided to do the traditional Sunday night hymn sing common in many of our churches," Washburn said. "It was so well received that the one we did on Oct. 11 was the eighth annual event."

Among the hymns students requested were "The Old Rugged Cross," "It Is Well With My Soul," "Sweet Hour of Prayer," "How Great Thou Art" and "In the Garden."

Sarah Smith, a junior from Ashland, said the hymn sing is a time to bond with her Judson sisters.

"We all participate and we sing

together," she said. "It's like a family. In fact, it reminds me of family because I sang the old hymns with my grandmothers."

Sophomore Rebecca O'Neal, of Chatom, echoed the "grandparent" connection.

"My grandfather loved the old hymns," she said. "I was raised on them and miss them. I think churches ought to use them more."

Washburn said he's surprised that in an age when many churches have moved to contemporary music and choruses, students love to sing the old hymns.

"Many of the modern praise choruses simply repeat a phrase over and over and may not teach us much about God or ourselves," he said. "There's so much good music the church has in her history and we shouldn't neglect it."

Washburn, who earned a degree in church history at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, said one value of the old hymns is they shaped the theology of Christians over the years.

"The old hymns sometimes are



Photos courtesy of Judson College

A TIME TO BOND — Judson College students participate in the school's annual hymn sing Oct. 11.

wrong on theology, but most often, they're quite good," he said.

Washburn serves Hopewell Baptist Church, Marion, as a bivocational music minister but doesn't claim to be a musician by training.

"I grew up learning and loving hymns," he said. "My wife is the musician in our family. I just follow her lead on the piano."

Leah Washburn, who serves as Hopewell Baptist's pianist, grew up in Selma and began piano lessons at

age 8 with piano teacher Ruth Hicks Boutwell.

"Ruth's students always came to Judson in February for piano festivals and judging," Leah Washburn said, "so my first experience playing at the college was as a child. I majored in music one semester at [the University of] Montevallo but really didn't want to learn to play the organ as they required, so I changed my major to home economics."

She now works as office manager in Judson's admissions department. She also accompanies the college's Faith ensemble and frequently plays and sings in weekly chapel.

George Washburn is a proponent

of using all types of music in worship, suggesting that the popular Christmas hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" is actually a Gregorian chant.

He said he also enjoys sharing the background stories of how some hymns came to be written, like "Amazing Grace."

"Sometimes it's the tune, sometimes it's the text and sometimes it's the story that is most gripping," he said. "The story of John Newton, the slave trader who came to Christ, makes his hymn, 'Amazing Grace,' so loved."

"Music done well honors God and touches people's lives," he said. (JC)



GEORGE T. WASHBURN



Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching

- Opportunity for spiritual growth
- Practical instruction, personal coaching, peer interaction and ministry-related projects
- Outstanding Theology and Missions faculty
- Residence seminars at Stephen Olford Center's beautiful, 18-acre, retreat-like setting in Memphis, Tenn.



THE STEPHEN OLDFORD CENTER
AT UNION UNIVERSITY

dmin@uu.edu | 901.757.7977
uu.edu/dmin

EXCELLENCE-DRIVEN | CHRIST-CENTERED | PEOPLE-FOCUSED | FUTURE-DIRECTED



Photo courtesy of North Valley Church

NORTH VALLEY BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW BUILDING

North Valley Church (NVC), Margaret, breaks ground for its new children's building Oct. 16. The 9,500-square-foot facility will include a children's worship center, student ministry space, additional Early Learning Center classrooms and space for the growing NVC school program. Pictured are (l to r) Russ Donaho, minister of worship and outreach; Sam Moore of Moore Construction; Paul Moore of Moore Construction; Senior Pastor Chris Crain; Marisa Taylor, Early Learning Center director; Michael Ethridge, associate pastor; and Doug Strickland of Moore Construction.

HOPE in HAITI

Alabama Baptists continue long-term recovery, ministry efforts in Jacmel



Photo by Scotty Goldman

Teams focus on construction, medical needs, evangelism, discipleship

By Gary Hardin
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

When the January 2010 earthquake inflicted severe damage in Haiti, Alabama Baptists responded immediately through disaster relief ministry. After the disaster relief work wound down in the summer of 2010, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM) formed a ministry partnership with Jacmel, a large region in southern Haiti.

To date, 43 teams from Alabama Baptist churches have provided short-term missions ministry in Jacmel. Teams focus on church construction, medical needs and evangelism-discipleship ministries.

In March, a 10-member team from Hopewell Baptist Church, Andalusia, constructed a church in less than a week.

Phyllis Walters knew the team had work to do when, on the first day, it worshiped with the Haitian Baptist congregation while sitting on 2-by-4 boards nailed to posts under two tarps.

"We started our construction of a building for this church on Monday, and by Thursday, we had the work completed," Walters said. "We even had enough lumber left to build 14 benches for the people to sit on and also a pulpit for the church's pastor. He was so excited to be able to preach from a pulpit."

'God showed up and showed out'

Her husband, Glen, was amazed at how quickly the construction project came together.

"Whenever we needed something, it was there. God showed up and showed out," he said.

A 15-member medical team from Guin and Winfield found it accomplished much in a short time frame as well. It treated 1,100 people in less than five days in June.

"It was amazing how the Lord gave us strength," said Teresa Markham, a nurse and member of First Baptist Church, Guin. "We treated people at three different locations and turned no one away."

First, Guin, sent four other members to do church construction and orphan ministry. "The effect on our church was wonderful," Markham said. Paul Radosevich, associate pastor for mission and family life at First Baptist Church, Decatur, has seen the effect a missions trip to Jacmel can have.

Just a few weeks ago, a team of nine men from First, Decatur, built a church, handed out audio Bibles and showed the "JESUS" film.

"By the end of the week, our team members were drained both physically and spiritually, but we know God used us," Radosevich said.

For Hopewell Baptist, one trip wasn't enough. Pastor Barry Wilkinson organized a six-member evangelism-discipleship team that ministered in Haiti in July. Women on the team taught Bible studies for Haitian women in the mornings; men taught Bible studies for men in the afternoons. Team members also did children's ministries after lunch each day.

"Some of our people had never taught adults before," Wilkinson said. "It was a real faith-stretching time for them."

Opportunities abound for Alabama Baptist churches to minister in Haiti in the latter half of 2012.

Scotty Goldman, an associate in the SBOM office of global missions who coordinates teams, said there is a critical need for dental teams. He also mentioned a need for pastors to help with a pastors conference.

"We wish to take several pastors from Alabama to teach Old Testament, New Testament and personal evangelism to Haitian pastors," Goldman said.

For more information, visit www.alsbom.org/haiti.

“It was amazing how the Lord gave us strength. We treated people at three different locations and turned no one away.”

— Teresa Markham, FBC Guin



Photo by Doug Rogers

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES — A member of a FBC Decatur construction team receives help from a Haitian boy while wiring a new church.

HOPE in HAITI



TOMMY & JOY SCHWINDLING

Montgomery couple see 'God's hand at work' in Jacmel

Just five months into their new roles as on-site coordinators of Alabama Baptists' partnership with Jacmel, Haiti, Tommy and Joy Schwindling know the work being done is making a difference.

"Alabama Baptists are ministering in Jacmel, and you can see God's hand at work every day," Tommy Schwindling said.

The Schwindlings, who quit their jobs, sold their home and moved to Haiti to live out a missions call they have had since a trip to Africa in 2009, have two responsibilities in Jacmel.

First they serve as the point people for missions teams coming to Jacmel to work.

Second they co-direct Children's Hope Orphanage (see story, this page), a ministry of First Baptist Church, Montgomery, their home church.

'Not always easy'

When teams arrive in Haiti, the couple arrange for transportation, translators and meals.

They also oversee the Alabama House, a home rented by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM) to house volunteers.

But serving in earthquake-damaged Haiti is no picnic. "Haiti is a Third World country. It's not always easy here," Tommy Schwindling said. "We've had challenges but the Lord always puts people in our path that we need at that time."

Joy Schwindling added, "Our relationships with the Haitian people are the most important tools we have for sharing the Word of God."

Scotty Goldman, an associate in the SBOM office of global missions, said, "They are essential to Alabama Baptists' ministry partnership with Jacmel. Plus Tommy is a Mr. Fixit who can do most anything." (TAB)

'A heart for orphans'

Children's Hope Orphanage continues to grow, plans for phase 2

When a group from First Baptist Church, Montgomery, took its first missions trip to Jacmel, Haiti, in August 2010, it discovered 16 orphaned children who had been living in a tent since the January earthquake.

"Our hearts were burdened for these orphans. We knew we needed to take the first step of getting the orphans out of a tent and into a ... home," Andy and Tanya Birchfield explained.

God provided a temporary home.

Some months later, another group from First, Montgomery, traveled to Jacmel seeking land to purchase for a permanent residence. Four acres were obtained through a Canadian ministry, the Manna Care Foundation.

God led the church to Martie and Charley Elgin, who lead the work of Pathfinder Mission, an extension of Gateway Baptist Church, Montgomery.

The couple agreed to be in charge of the construction of a permanent residence for the orphans, who by this time numbered 18.

The Elgins began the first phase of Children's Hope Orphanage by converting five huge shipping containers provided by the foundation into boys' and girls' housing units, shower and bath facilities, a kitchen and an eating area that also has space for tutoring. An orphan ministry of First, Montgomery, also is named Children's Hope.

Put together by God

Today church members Tommy and Joy Schwindling (see story, this page) direct the orphanage, along with Samuel Lafalaise, who was caring for the children when the First, Montgomery, group found them.

The now 19 children who live in the orphanage are enrolled in school and taught English.

Plans call for the second phase to begin in January 2012.

That phase will provide several permanent homes with house parents caring for about 10 orphaned children each and a Children's Hope school.

"God has put all this together," Tanya Birch-



Photo by Doug Rogers

STORY TIME — A local Haitian pastor shares a Bible story with the children in the orphanage's newly constructed dining room. He also helps with homework and teaches English.

field said excitedly. "It shows He has a heart for orphans."

Alabama Baptists have a heart for orphans, too. "We have had numerous volunteers involved in ministry with the children — backyard Bible clubs, medical care and construction on phase one," said Scotty Goldman, an associate in the office of global missions of the Alabama Baptist

State Board of Missions. "As construction of phase two begins, we will be looking not only for teams but individuals who can help with framing, electrical work and plumbing. Ten minutes with the kids will make you glad you came!"

For more information, call Goldman at 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 387. (TAB)



Across Alabama's Associations

BIRMINGHAM

► Calvin Kelly resigned from Valleydale Church, Birmingham, on Nov. 6, effective Nov. 20, the same day a celebration of his 27 years as pastor will be held.

LIMESTONE

► Lindsay Lane Church, Athens, will host Dennis Swanberg Nov. 27, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Dusty McLemore is pastor.

MONTGOMERY

► The JOY Singers senior adult

choir of First Church, Montgomery, will present "Jesus Through the Eyes of Joseph" Nov. 27, 6:15 p.m. The choir is directed by Theresa Gordon. Julie McDougal is the pianist, Sara Jo Bagley is the organist and Jim Young is the narrator. For information call 334-834-6310. Kenny Hoomes is minister to senior adults. Jay Wolf is pastor.

WEST CULLMAN

► Southside Church, Cullman, will celebrate its 25th anniversary Nov. 20, 9:30 a.m. Dale Huff of the State Board of Missions will speak.

There will be special music. Lunch will follow. Perry Knight is pastor.

OTHER

► Union Hill Church, Bessemer, is partnering with UAB West for the annual Iron Bowl Food Drive to benefit people in the Bessemer, Hueytown and Oak Grove areas. Food can be dropped off at the hospital main entrance or at Union Hill from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. through November. Mickey Bell is pastor.

Carpenter Bus Sales

going the extra mile since 1953

Lowest Payments Ever!!

Capacity	2 Years	4 Years	6 Years
15 (#11161)	\$776	\$647	\$608
26 (#10316)	\$851	\$709	\$667
33 (#11074)	\$1,540	\$1,283	\$1,207
44 (#11076)	\$1,997	\$1,664	\$1,565

- (1) Over 150 New & Used Buses in Stock
(2) Nation's #1 Church Bus Dealer
(3) Local Warranty Program

*Due at signing includes: first payment, \$150 inception fee with no security deposit. Tax, title and insurance are extra. 15,000 free miles per year per bus. Customer is responsible for excessive wear and excess mileage at \$.50 per mile in excess of the 15,000 yearly free miles. Customer pick-up and return location is Franklin, TN. No sales tax included. All stock units are subject to prior sale. End of lease return bus to Carpenter Bus Sales or purchase at fair-market value. Subject to credit approval by TCF Equipment Finance.

LifeWay
CHURCH BUS SALES
Biblical Solutions for Life
A Service of LifeWay Christian Stores

800-370-6180 • www.CarpenterBus.com

Christian Evangelists

advertising package



"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

Ephesians 2:8

A music ministry team of First Baptist Church, Prattville, Ala.



To book 4 By Grace, contact Pam Haseltine:
info@4bygraceonline.com
334-578-4954

4 By Grace is a quartet called to share God's grace to a world that needs to hear His message. It is through our tight harmonies, ordained songs and our testimonies that God uses us to share the message of grace.

Inspirational Singer / Speaker

Evangelist Marolyn Ford • 6083 Surrey Hollow Cove • Memphis, TN 38134

Worship Service AM-PM
Seminars/Conference/Crusade
Speaker/Singer • Banquets/Retreats
Promotional Sunday • Senior Adult Meeting

901-372-7647 • 901-848-5257
marolynford@bellsouth.net
www.marolynford.com



Hear Keith's Sermons at
www.KeithFordham.com

Call Keith at
770-461-5998 or 404-375-9492

P.O. Box 249
Fayetteville, GA 30214



It's Time for Revival!

Evangelist **Keith Fordham**

Jerome Rewis Ministries

Jesus used miracles to captivate large crowds while sharing the Gospel. As an evangelist, Jerome also attempts to bring the Gospel to life! He uses illusions as an effective tool to captivate audiences and congregations from ages 8 to 80 as he illustrates the Gospel through sight as well as hearing.



PREACHING • ILLUSIONS

Revivals • Evangelistic crusades
Banquets • Special events

706-581-7770 • www.jeromerewisministries.org
jeromerewisministries@gmail.com

DRAWING THE NET
the preaching ministry of Daryl O'Barr

REVIVALS | MEN'S CONFERENCES | HARVEST DAY



www.drawingthenet.org
678.414.9371 | docobarr1@bellsouth.net



Want to know God?

By Director of Missions
Jim Jackson
Elmore Baptist Association

Whether we like it or not, in this country, we are already into the “political season.” The president and those who would like to defeat him next November are involved in speeches, rallies and debates.

Each one running for the office wants our vote. As he or she describes the problems our nation faces, he or she is saying to us, “Believe me!” — “Vote for me.” As he or she proposes solutions to the problems, he or she is saying, “Trust me!” — “Vote for me.”

Beneath our problems as a nation and individuals is our search for truth about ourselves and God. The difficulty in our search is our willful sin and rejection of God. We refuse why God made us (to fellowship with Him) and how He designed us (to serve Him). Whether we understand or know it, we are driven by a desire to know God and have a personal relationship with Him, and we can do nothing to make it happen.

The desire to know God in a personal way moves people to search through religion, philosophy, nature or books. There may be truth in each of these places, but ultimate truth is found in God. We need to hear from Him, know Him and fellowship with Him.

In response to our need, God has provided a way. “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” (2 Cor. 5:19). God came to His world in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

As Jesus came and lived among us, He said in words and lifestyle, “Believe me; trust me.” Jesus said, “Believe me” — “My word is true and trustworthy.” Jesus said, “Trust me” — “I have come to seek and save the lost.”

We must believe that in Christ alone can the barrier of sin between God and us be broken down. Through faith, we must trust that His word and life are the only way to salvation and hope for the future.

Jesus said, “Have faith in me when I say that the Father is one with me and that I am one with the Father. Or else have faith in me simply because of the things I do” (John 14:11 CEV).

Churches in Turkey reach out to earthquake survivors

By Ava Thomas
International Mission Board

Fatma's family is sockless, homeless and, at the moment, mostly hopeless.

“We had only just moved here from Afghanistan into a new house when it happened,” she said of the 7.2-magnitude earthquake that shook eastern Turkey

Oct. 23, killing about 600 people.

She hasn't felt safe in her home since — and neither do the others who share an open lot with her in Van, living in tents between cracked buildings.

It's hard to blame them. Dozens of “micro” to “minor” aftershocks shake the area daily.

The country is positioned on

several major fault lines. Many people lost family and friends in the quake.

Fear is rampant, so survivors sleep outside in sub-freezing temperatures without proper clothing and run the risk of bronchitis — and worse — from the cold and from smoky fires lit inside their tents.

Some homes still standing could crumble at any moment, but officials say some homes are safe to live in — they just can't coax everyone back inside.

Their task will prove even harder now that a second quake — a 5.6 magnitude tremor — took down at least 25 weakened buildings in Van on Nov. 9, just 17 days after the first quake.

So far, the death toll stands at nine from that quake, with 23 others rescued alive from the rubble and about 100 more still missing, according to BBC News.

Most of the buildings that collapsed were empty, so rescue crews are focusing on two hotels and one apartment building that have people trapped inside.

Many of those trapped are journalists and international relief

workers, as Van had become the hub for aid workers helping after the Oct. 23 quake.

But not all the manpower has been coming from the outside.

Providing round-the-clock help is the small evangelical church in Van, which is cooking meals for neighbors sleeping in tents around the church.

Churches from other cities in Turkey have also sent volunteers who, through the coordination of the Van church, help with food distribution, medical care and other needs.

People gather at the church daily by the dozens, and believers feed them and share Christ's love with them.

“There aren't many of us, and we are tired, but we are doing all we can,”

said Coban, a member of the Van church.

“They see the love and they are able to hear why we do this.”

For information on how to help the people of eastern Turkey, visit gobgr.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Names have been changed for security reasons. (IMB)

“They see the love and ... are able to hear why we do this.”

Coban
Church member
Van, Turkey

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

Our Standard is Christ

BEYOND YOUR BEST



Excel beyond your highest goals. At Belhaven University, you will find yourself in a place where top-rated faculty and a nurturing environment converge to bring you to your best... then propel you beyond what you believe is achievable.

Nationally recognized academics. Vibrant campus life. Christ-centered worldview. The faith-affirming support to become more. Aim for excellence from God's perspective. Visit Belhaven University...your place to discover your purpose.

www.belhaven.edu
Schedule a personal visit to Belhaven University
or attend our next Discover Day.

Alabama Baptist State
Convention Annual Meeting
Mobile Area • Paid Advertising

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT

ALABAMA CRUISES ★ *Really dine on the water*
Public Dinner Cruises
Friday and Saturday evenings
February through November
and nightly in December.
Sailing from Bellingrath Gardens.
Reservations required.
www.alabamacruises.com • 251-972-1244



FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
Marriott
950 West I-65 Service Road South • Mobile, AL 36609
251.316.0029 (phone) • 251.316.0974 (fax)



Devoted.

Pam Holt is devoted to providing top-notch customer service and marketing ideas. Contact Pam today and set up a no-obligation consultation to find out how *The Alabama Baptist Church Resource Guide* can help you grow your business.

205-870-4720, Ext. 113
pholt@thealabamabaptist.org



THE MUSEUM OF MOBILE RECOVERY

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER RECOVERY OPERATION
SEPT. 11-DEC. 2, 2011

THE WORKING White House

200 Years of Tradition and Memories
SEPT. 17-NOV. 27, 2011
111 S. Royal Street • Mobile, AL 36602
In Historic Downtown Mobile
251.208.7569 • museumofmobile.com

VOICE YOUR OPINION

SPEAK UP on issues in the Baptist world by writing a letter to the editor of *The Alabama Baptist*.

Remember to:

- Include your name and address
- Focus on issues, not people
- Be as concise as possible



The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.
Lamentations 3:25-26

Baptist Health System Launches Texting Service for ER Wait Time

Baptist Health System's (BHS) hospitals are putting information about emergency care directly into the hands of consumers — the hands holding the cell phone.

Just text a message containing your zip code to 437-411 to "Know Before You Go."

In a matter of seconds, a reply provides the current emergency room wait time at the Baptist Health System hospital nearest that zip code.

BHS launched "Know Before You Go" texting October 31 for all four of its hospitals: Princeton Baptist Medical Center (Birmingham); Shelby Baptist Medical Center (Alabaster); Walker Baptist Medical Center (Jasper) and Citizens Baptist Medical Center (Talladega). The new service offers a real time reflection of the wait time at the hospital and is accessible to 140 zip codes in greater Birmingham communities served by BHS hospitals.

"How Long?"

"Patients and families always want to know

how long the wait will be," said Dr. Kent Taub, medical director of Walker Baptist's emergency department. "With this ER texting service, they'll have the answer before they even arrive at the hospital. It's convenient and practically instantaneous, so I think it will definitely contribute

to a more positive experience for our emergency patients."

"Patients who have serious medical emergencies such as stroke, cardiac conditions and trauma are always seen immediately," added Dr. Jeremy Rogers, medical director of Princeton Baptist's emergency department. "But for non-emergent

patients, ER texting provides valuable information before they arrive."

Second Text Offers More Information

A second text, depending on the patient's zip code, will provide information about the nearest Baptist Health Center (BHC). This may help avoid an emergency room visit for non-emergency care. If he wishes,

**The new service
offers a real time
reflection of the wait
time at the hospital
and is accessible
to 140 zip codes in
greater Birmingham
communities served by
BHS hospitals.**



the patient can call or choose the option to be automatically connected to the BHC Clinic, where an appointment can be scheduled for the next — or often even the same — day.

"It's an alternative to the ER if you don't have a life-threatening or other serious emergency," said LeAnn Sullivan, marketing manager for BHC. "Some people use the ER for primary care because they don't have a physician. For those families, this is an opportunity to build an important health care relationship with a family health care provider. And, it can help avoid acute care situations that often lead to a true emergency situation."

Patients Approve

The latest emergency department patient satisfaction scores rated all four BHS hospitals in the survey's highest "good to excellent" category. And the hospitals anticipate that the convenience

and instantaneous information offered through the new ER texting service will increase patient satisfaction even more.

In Case of Emergency

In conjunction with "Know Before You Go," Baptist Health System launched a new health series on WBRC Fox6 called "In Case of Emergency."

The TV segments feature the medical directors of the emergency departments at the four BHS hospitals: Dr. Jason Begue (Citizens); Dr. Heinz Dueffer (Shelby); Dr. Jeremy Rogers (Princeton); and Dr. Kent Taub (Walker). Each week one of these physicians discusses common conditions frequently treated in hospital emergency departments.

"In Case of Emergency" airs on FOX 6 every Monday during morning programming and again each Thursday during the 9 p.m. news broadcast.

baptisthealth system

Answering the call.

Citizens | Shelby | Princeton | Walker
Baptist Medical Centers



facebook.com/
BaptistHealthFoundation

1-877-222-7847

Visit us online at www.bhsala.com



youtube.com/
BaptistHealthSystem

PEOPLE WATCHING
IS LESS ENJOYABLE
WHEN THEY'RE ALL SICK.

ER WAIT TIMES.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO.

TEXT YOUR ZIP CODE TO 437-411

 baptisthealth system



Marshall 'well prepared' for new role

(continued from page 1)

"We felt that his years of service to the ministry and the part he has played in developing the statewide counseling ministry of ABCH well prepared him for this leadership role," Barron said.

Marshall will replace current President and CEO Paul Miller, who will retire Jan. 31, 2012, after 39 years with the ministry.

"Rod is a very experienced, knowledgeable and capable child

care professional, and I am confident he will provide excellent leadership," Miller said.

Marshall said, "I am honored and humbled to have been selected by the trustees of ABCH to succeed Paul Miller as the next president/CEO of this great ministry."

"I sincerely thank you for the opportunity to provide leadership into the next chapter of the wonderful story of Alabama Bap-

tist Children's Homes & Family Ministries. My prayer is that I, like many before me, will simply be found a good and faithful servant."

(ABCH)

FOLLOW US ON
Twitter
@AlabamaBaptist



DASHING THROUGH THE SPRINGS

Talladega, Alabama
Saturday, December 10, 2011

Join us in the 5K Run/Walk at Shocco Springs!

REGISTRATION

Registration forms and race information available at
www.shocco.org

Register online at www.active.com

Early Registration: Adults \$15 and Kids \$8
On RaceDay: Adults \$20 and Kids \$10

Come experience a unique run in a natural setting!
Proceeds will benefit the Shocco Springs Mission Fund
which supports local and international mission projects.



SHOCCO SPRINGS
BAPTIST CONFERENCE CENTER

256.761.1100 | www.facebook.com/shocco

Would you like
to be a vendor?

Hosting a booth is free, but we do require you to register before the event. This is a good opportunity for vendors. Email us at smckleroy@shocco.org.

How to Volunteer?

If you are interested in volunteering, email lcowart@shocco.org.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFER

Give the GIFT that inspires

Give The Alabama Baptist.
A gift they will enjoy all year!



Save up to 40% on gift subscriptions. Choose either the print edition or online edition for family and friends.

Purchase a print edition at the regular price of \$20.95 and give up to 2 additional gift subscriptions, either print (\$13) or online (\$8.50).

Purchase an online edition at the regular price of \$14.95 and give up to 2 additional online subscriptions for \$8.50 each.

E-mail: circulation@thealabamabaptist.org
or call 205-870-4720, Ext. 118 (local)
or 1-800-803-5201, Ext. 118 (statewide).

Visa or MasterCard accepted

MARKET PLACE

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

CHURCH POSITIONS

PASTOR: Jamestown First Baptist Church located in South Central Kentucky is seeking her next senior pastor. JTFBC is a strong leadership church with a core body mix of creative, missioned and biblical people. Grace and mercy characterizes our church over engaging cultural warfare. We cooperate with the SBC in our missions giving and are focused in reaching all peoples. Our next pastor will be distinctively Baptist with an ability to communicate and relate to a theologically/economically diverse audience. JTFBC is giving first consideration to those who hold an M.Div. or higher and demonstrate creative communication coupled with successful church growth. If interested, please send a resumé and a DVD or CD to: Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 308, Jamestown, KY 42629-0308. Deadline for resúmes is Dec. 1.

PASTOR: Good Hope Baptist Church of Purvis, Miss., is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resúmes to: Kristi Nelson by e-mail kristi@goodhopepurvis.com or mail to: P.O. Box 1117, Purvis, MS 39475.

PASTOR: Siberton Baptist Church is now accepting resúmes for a full-time pastor. Please mail all resúmes to: Siberton Baptist Church, c/o Pulpit Committee, 627 Jones Street SE, Attalla, AL 35954.

PASTOR: First Baptist Church of Bridgeport

is now receiving applications for a pastor. Please send resúmes to: FBC of Bridgeport, ATTN: Pastor Search Team, P.O. Box 277, Bridgeport, AL 35740. Deadline for receiving resúmes is Nov. 30.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR: Fultondale First Baptist Church is looking for a bivocational pastor that will lead our church in spiritual growth and recovery from the damage of the April tornado. Please send resúmes to: P.O. Box 595, Fultondale, AL 35068.

MINISTER OF MUSIC/EDUCATION: FBC Haleyville is seeking minister for worship and congregational discipleship for a strong, active church family. Contact 205-486-3762 or jcooley@fbchaleyville.org.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF CHILDREN: Cedar Grove Baptist. Oversee curriculum implementation for Sunday morning and evening classes, Wednesday night classes, VBS, GA/RAs. Birth through 5th grade. steven@cedargroveleeds.org.

OTHER POSITIONS

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS: Salem-Troy Baptist Association is accepting resúmes for a full-time director of missions. Mail resumé to: Salem-Troy Baptist Association, P.O. Box 242, Troy, AL 36081. Deadline: Jan. 20, 2012.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS: Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association is now accepting resúmes. Please mail resúmes to: Tuscaloosa County Baptist Association, c/o DOM Search Committee, 4300 Highway 69 North, Northport, AL 35473. Deadline for resúmes: Nov. 21.

BUSINESS

BAILEY BROTHERS MUSIC COMPANY: Serving Alabama for 25 years. Audio, video and lighting integration systems installed, serviced and repaired. Insured and bonded contractor. We provide solutions for small or large houses of worship. Call Montgomery at 334-262-7827 or Birmingham 205-271-7827.

FOR SALE NEW & USED: Lift chairs, stairlifts, car lifts, scooters and walk-in tubs. \$500 and up and power wheelchairs. We service Alabama. 1-800-682-0658.

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTION: egive-usa.com — Good stewardship made easy. Please call or email us for a free brochure. 1-866-303-6623 or brad@egive-usa.com.

CHURCH SIGNS: Reliable Signs offers design, fabrication, installation and service. All types of signs from electronic messaging to traditional. Statewide coverage. Christian-owned. Many church references available. www.reliablesigns.com. 800-729-6844, 205-664-0955.

CONSTRUCTION

CHURCH BUILDING PROJECTS: Let Webb Builders help your church expand its facilities. Large or small projects. Your plans or use our custom-design building services. State licensed with 25+ years experience. Call Webb Builders, Inc., 334-285-9302. Millbrook, Ala. Numerous church references available.

CONFERENCES/RETREATS

CHRISTIAN RETREAT: Stoney Creek, new 52-acre, Christian-based retreat facility perfect for family reunion rentals, church gatherings, weddings and receptions. Amenities galore. Reservations: 256-338-5583. www.stoneycreekalabama.com. Vinemont, Ala.

TRAVEL/VACATION

ORLANDO VACATION HOME: 4 BRs, 2 1/2 BAs and pool. 10 minutes to Disney. 20 minutes to Universal and Sea World. \$125/night. www.orlandovaca.com. 303-808-2978. Robert.

LOG CABIN: Lake Guntersville area, beautiful view and fully furnished. Discounts to ministers. Log onto www.paradisvesta.net to see pictures. Call for reservations at 205-540-3600.

FOR RENT/SALE
49-PASSENGER COACH BUS FOR

SALE: Year: 1996 Van Hool; model: T-840; body: coach; engine: M11Cummins; transmission: automatic; luggage: over head and under floor; price: \$45,000; pictures available at www.cropwellbaptist.org. Contact: Mike at 205-338-6174 or 205-288-8107.

AUBURN CONDO: 2 BRs, 2 1/2 BAs, laundry room with washer and dryer. Great location off South College Street. Sale price \$134,000 or lease \$600 per month. 256-234-1104.

RESORT CONDO: For rent: Resort condo near Disney World. Can arrange other condos in major resort areas. For sale: Timeshare at a great price. Call 334-413-8433 for more information.

BEAUTIFUL LAND FOR SALE: 351+/- beautiful acres for church retreat. Additional 30+/- acres for natural park. Great location in Pinson, Jefferson County, Ala., 30 minutes to Birmingham. \$3,250 per acre. Call Tom, 205-307-8320 or 205-655-7205.

MISCELLANEOUS

SALVATION STORY: ATHEIST FIRE-FIGHTER FINDS CHRIST: Action packed. Perfect gift for unsaved friends, sons, grandsons. Free shipping. \$16.95 4L Press, Box 5975, Marysville, CA 95901. www.outofthefirebook.com.

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

by Jennifer Davis Rash • executive editor • jrash@thealabamabaptist.org

Healing a hurting heart

How can it be that my heart hurts so much? I do care for all of them deeply, but the pain that exists is theirs, not mine. Still I hurt as if it were my own.

Call after call, email after email, personal story after personal story and all in just a few months time — so many close friends and family members feeling such intense levels of loss.

One dear friend buried her 21-year-old son just days after another friend buried her 14-year-old daughter. Another has been told that it's only a matter of time for her 2-year-old. Yet another fears this could be her child's fate also.

One lost her husband because he doesn't want to be married any longer; another is losing his wife for the same reason. One lost his wife to Alzheimer's; another is losing his to cancer.

Two families are losing their adult children — one a young man, the other a young woman — to lifestyles that mock their family's Christian faith and value system. One mother lost her teenage son to stubbornness and rebellion. Another family is working through lost trust and forgiveness.

Various levels of pain

Three young women feel the loss of not yet finding their life mate.

A handful of others lost income and struggle to pay the bills; another lost a large amount in a business investment.

The situations are all different, but they all revolve around pain, loss and a broken heart.

I know I can really never know the extent of the pain because it is



their pain, but I do know that I have hurt for them at such an intense level. In every case, I've wanted to rush to them and take the pain away, do anything I could to heal their heart. But I know I can't do that. Only God can care for them at that level. It is their pain to bear, and they have to decide to set their face toward the wind and push through the hurt, even with the multitude of layers and setbacks, in order to find healing.

Touched by the Lord

And while it has been an honor for me to be part of the prayer and emotional support for each of them, it also has taken me on a journey of personal pain as I moved from care and concern to grieving in a sort of vicarious way I've never really experienced before. I took on each situation as if it was my own, and in doing so, I've uncovered a few areas of personal pain I really didn't want to face. Doing this has taken a lot out of me emotionally, but the result is proving to be positive growth in me spiritually.

My time with the Lord has been so much more enriched and intense as I've pleaded on their behalf as well as my own. My spirit has been truly broken as I've wept for them and gained an increased sensitivity to the hurts of others. The Book of Psalms has come to life for me like never before, and the words of songs have ministered to me like only a few other times in my life.

The pain is deep and real; the temptation is to hide and avoid it. I'm learning a lot about just how much one's heart can hurt and how much one can draw closer to Jesus through the pain. I also know I'm not alone. So many of us mask deep hurts every day as we weave through the many activities of life.

Share your stories and how a psalm or a song ministered to you during your time of need by emailing me at jrash@thealabamabaptist.org. I would love to share your stories as well as the specific Scriptures and words of songs in an upcoming Rashional Extras.

Rashional EXTRAS ...

What topics are on your mind?

Email jrash@thealabamabaptist.org

In July's Rashional Thoughts column, "Finding God amid the routine," you asked what God was teaching us.

Whereas you collect memories in photographs, I recommend also capturing them in electron word pictures in the form of biographies of parents, ourselves and special friends. Inserted photos can play a big part.

God invented memory for preservation before He gave us cameras. Good writing takes more work than one click, but it is very educational for both writer and reader, allows godly interpretation and may even delay Alzheimer's. Memories are transient unless you record them.

Bob Cosby, M.D.
Birmingham, Ala.

Dealing with stress during the holidays

1. Acknowledge your feelings. If someone close to you has recently died or you can't be with loved ones, realize that it's normal to feel sadness and grief. It's OK to take time to cry.

2. Reach out. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events. Volunteering your time to help others also is a good way to lift your spirits.

3. Be realistic. The holidays don't have to be perfect or just like last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones.

4. Set aside differences. Try to accept family members and friends as they are. Set aside grievances until a more appropriate time for discussion. And be understanding if others get upset when something goes awry. Chances are they're feeling the effects of stress, too.

5. Stick to a budget. Before you go gift and food shopping, decide how much money you can afford to spend and stick to it.

6. Plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Plan your menus and then make your shopping list.

7. Learn to say no. Saying yes when you should say no can leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed.

8. Don't abandon healthy habits. Don't let the holidays become a free-for-all. Overindulgence only adds to your stress and guilt. Have a healthy snack before holiday parties so that you don't go overboard on sweets. Get plenty of sleep and physical activity.

9. Take a breather. Make some time for yourself. Spending 15 minutes alone, without distractions, may refresh you enough to handle everything you need to do.

10. Seek professional help if you need it. Despite your best efforts, you may find yourself feeling persistently sad or anxious. If these feelings last for a while, talk to your doctor or a mental health professional.

— Mayo Clinic staff
www.mayoclinic.com/health/stress/MH00030

Have we recognized that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? If so, we must be careful to keep it undefiled for Him. We have to remember that our conscious life, though it is only a tiny bit of our personality, is to be regarded by us as a shrine of the Holy Spirit. He will look after the unconscious part that we know nothing of; but we must see that we guard the conscious part for which we are responsible.

— Oswald Chambers

"My Utmost for His Highest"

"We have become so engrossed in the work of the Lord that we have forgotten the Lord of the work."

A.W. Tozer

Well-known 20th-century preacher and author

UPCOMING TOPICS include reviewing our New Year's resolutions for 2011. Be sure to send me your successes and failures alike, as well as what you've learned through working toward those resolutions. jrash@thealabamabaptist.org

Bradleyton Pastor Castleberry dies at 68

James Michael "Mickey" Castleberry, pastor of Bradleyton Baptist Church, died Nov. 9. He was 68.

Castleberry graduated from Howard College in Birmingham in 1966, the year after it became Samford University, and from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 1969. He received his doctor of ministry from Luther Rice Seminary in 1978.

Castleberry began preaching at 15 years old and served as pastor of Brewer Memo-



CASTLEBERRY

rial Baptist Church, Cecil; Pike Road Baptist Church, Montgomery; First Baptist Church, Wetumpka; Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Trussville; and Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, prior to his service at Bradleyton Baptist.

"He did the [church] service for five years, and we just loved him so much and he loved everybody here," said Leo Pritchett, a deacon at Bradleyton Baptist. "He was just a godly person. God sent him to us."

In 1972, Castleberry was elected vice president of the Alabama Baptist Pastors Conference. He also served as a member of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. In addition, Castleberry took on 11 interim pastorates and founded the nonprofit organization Mickey's Ministries, where he served 10 years as president.

He was a member of Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Castleberry is survived by his wife of 41 years, Joette; two sons; and grandchildren. He was preceded in death by twin grandchildren.

(TAB)



SERVICE | SELECTION | PRICING
WE'VE GOT IT ALL!

CHURCH **BusCenter.com**

Just a few clicks
and you'll find
the right bus
for your needs
AND your budget!

- Special Financing Offers
- Exceptional Service Facilities
- Dedicated Warranty Personnel
- Full Inventory of Replacement Parts

800-367-9463

A DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTH

Christian Entertainers

advertising package

Brother Billy Bob "The Baptist" Bohannon



MINISTRIES

- Christian Humor/Music
- Billy Bob's Unusual Bible Knowledge
- Christian Speaker
- Biblical Drama

Bro. Billy Bob is available for church groups, family groups or civic groups for banquets, fellowships, casual evening services, retreats, conferences, rallies, etc.

He also has a book, "No Really My Name Is Brother Billy Bob Bohannon" and a new one to be released in January 2011, "My Name is Still Brother Billy Bob Bohannon," and two CDs, "I've Got To Be Kidding" and "Your Feet Don't Stink to Me." Visit www.brobillybob.com for more information.

334-745-0588
bkpreach@yahoo.com
www.brobillybob.com



Christian motivational messages!
Comedy magic that will amaze you!

This show is fun for seniors, youth and everyone in between.
Hear why I wear a cross on my shirt at all my shows.

901-270-8880 • www.kiddavie.com

VENTRILOQUIST Stephen Knowles

has entertained millions for more than a decade in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and he is now available to bring his unique, clean comedy to your church. Perfect for Upwards banquets, couples dinners or other special events. Share an evening of faith and fun with

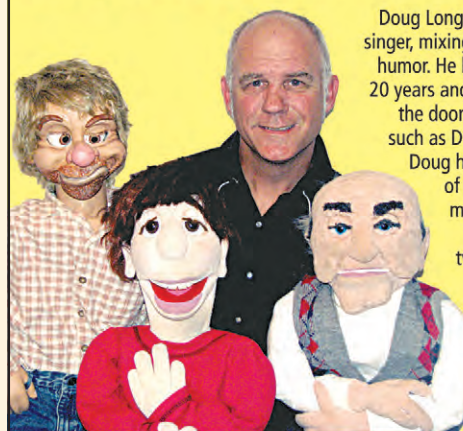
The Man With Many Voices.



865-712-3593 • bookaventriiloquist@yahoo.com
www.stephenknowles.us

Feet with Purpose Ministries Presents

DOUG LONG-N-FRIENDS



Doug Long is a Christian comedy ventriloquist/singer, mixing southern gospel with puppets and humor. He has been a puppeteer for more than 20 years and his experience has led him through the doors of great entertainment companies such as Disney and the Jim Henson Company. Doug has been puppeteering since the age of 12, and God called him to a singing ministry at the age of 16. He thought, "What a great idea to combine the two for one great ministry of sharing the gospel." Doug and his friends also do corporate events. Whether it's sharing the gospel or providing clean family entertainment, Doug Long-N-Friends has an evening of laughter to fit your needs.

www.feetwithpurposeministries.com • 334-332-7185

Alaska Cruise

& Canadian Rockies Vacation

Price Reduced
\$1000
per couple**

Hosted by Mississippi Baptist
Minister Billy Williams

15 Days *Departs May 29, 2012* from **\$1898***

Visit the last of the wilderness-like areas in North America all from the comfort of your deluxe motor coach and cruise ship. Fly into Seattle for a night, then drive through Washington's evergreen forests past stunning mountains to Vancouver, B.C., where you'll board your 5-STAR cruise ship the **ms Volendam**, for your seven-day **Holland America Line** cruise. Travel through a wondrous maze of forested-island and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Glacier Bay, and Ketchikan. From Vancouver you'll start your scenic six-day motor coach tour to Calgary. You'll visit Kamloops, BC; Jasper and Jasper National Park; Banff and Banff National Park; Columbia Ice Fields; Lake Louise; Athabasca Glacier; Bow Falls; and Calgary. Your YMT Chaplain is Rev. Billy Williams, taking his ninth trip with YMT as a Baptist Chaplain. ** Price lowered by changing departure date from July 12 to May 29, 2012. *Price per person, double occupancy; includes taxes. Based on inside category M stateroom, and subject to availability; space is limited and cabins are confirmed on a first received bases with deposits. Airfare is extra.



For details, itinerary, reservations and letter from your chaplain with his phone number call 7 days a week:

1-800-736-7300

Letters

(continued from page 2)

"You had best be if you are using God's name in my classroom." I would use this as a teaching moment. I would gently explain, "Using God's name like that is breaking a commandment: 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain' (Ex. 20:7); 'in vain' means without proper purpose or reverence."

Most of the time, the student would say something like "I didn't know that," "I didn't mean to do that" or "I didn't know that was cursing."

We live in the Bible Belt, and most people attend church or at least to some degree stand in awe of God. Many people who are using God's name so casually mean no harm and are God-fearing, church-going people who would never say other curse words.

They would never think of themselves as cursing, but somewhere down the line, we, as a na-

tion, have lost our reverence for the name of God.

In the Old Testament days, God's name was so revered people wouldn't even say it. When the scribes wrote Yahweh or God, they would change quills or writing instruments out of respect.

Parents, maybe we need to remind our children that some things are too holy to be used casually. Maybe we even need to reconsider what we are teaching them by example.

Barbara Eubanks
Boaz, Ala.

SBC NAME CHANGE

I have been reading with great interest the proposed idea about renaming the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) to something "less regional," as the proponents would call it.

What they really mean is something "less offensive." One interesting point I noticed in this whole situation is that, once again, in their infinite wisdom, the SBC has appointed people from megachurches and large organizations to ponder the "earthshaking" decision as to whether or not to change the name and what to change it to.

It seems that the smaller churches are neither smart enough nor important enough to participate in this matter (not that they would

want to). It seems that the name "Southern" is too regional, "Baptist" is too denominational and "Convention," in their case, is an oxymoron.

If the name is too offensive, I submit that it is probably offensive because of the doctrine and not because of the name. What's next in the committee agenda? Tell pastors not to preach "offensive" messages? I truly believe that is coming to this country. If not by the SBC, then via the U.S. government.

Is it any wonder that small churches are dropping out of the SBC for that very reason? When you have an organization as large as the SBC, many entities will slither in under the guise of Christianity and try to promote their agenda, leaving the gospel in their wake.

I submit that this is nothing more and nothing less than a movement to be "politically correct" so as not to be offensive to the masses.

As Adrian Rogers once said, "It doesn't matter who you offend as long as you please God; and it doesn't matter who you please if you offend God." Political correctness should go out with the rest of the trash.

Dale Morgan
Jack, Ala.

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



MUSIC

Ryan travels around the U.S. providing inspirational music whether it is leading services with worship and praise, full concert or a blend. The goal is to prepare ones heart to be touched by God. CCM Magazine hails singer/songwriter Ryan John as "fresh and inspired," while ChristianityToday.com calls his latest record, "Beautiful Scars," "... a promising beginning for this Alabama native." Hear for yourself what all the buzz is about. Pick up a copy of "Beautiful Scars" at your favorite Christian retailer or visit www.ryanjohn.com. Book Ryan for your next music event by calling 334-260-0735.



SPEAKING/ EVANGELISM:

Ryan travels the U.S. speaking at revivals, retreats and regular services. A traveling guest speaker at age 13, a church pastor by age 17 and a licensed and ordained minister at 18, Alabama native Ryan John is among the most charismatic and effective young ministers of his time. Touching people of all ages with God's truth, Ryan's calling is to help spread the message of true love that one can only experience through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Have Ryan at your next church event by calling 334-260-0735 or visiting www.ryanjohn.com.



WWW.RYANJOHN.COM • 334-260-0735

Family Matters

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

A Home of Their Own

By Erin Tunnell, ABCH Communications Manager

"I felt like that for me and my kids' sakes, if I owned my own home, no one could ever come tell me to leave."

The women who enter the family care program of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH) have different reasons for doing so, including abuse, divorce, and job loss. But they all have three things in common: they have children, no permanent place to live, and a desire to get their lives back in order.

But Sonya Moore had an additional goal for herself and her two daughters: owning her own home. "I wanted Gretchen and Gabby to know they always had a home no matter what," she said.

"No matter what" has included holes in the walls of their home where rats and roaches could enter, abuse, divorce, and then homelessness as Sonya tried to leave her abusive husband. But because everything they owned was in her husband's name, Sonya had no car to leave with and owned no home to go to. She kept returning to him because she felt that was the only way she would be able to keep her children.

After five years of trying to leave, the moment that propelled Sonya to action was when social workers with Alabama Department of Human Resources interviewed her children about possible abuse in their home. "I was scared, and scared that I'd lose the kids." She went to Safe House, a full-service domestic violence and sexual assault center that provides temporary housing and other support services for victims.

They lived there 15 months, but needed an option that would allow Sonya to prepare for life on her own. That's when Sonya heard about ABCH's family care program and the Pilot House. Through family care, she and her daughters would have a stable place to live for up to one year. Instead of paying rent, she would pay money into a savings account that would then be returned to her when she graduated from the program, giving her a nest egg to start her new life with.

She had reservations at first, however. It was scary to read the rules and expectations and to know if she didn't follow them she would have to leave. It was scary to have to put her trust in strangers. And lastly, "If it sounds too good to be true, it's usually not true."

Love in Action

But Sonya quickly discovered that the family care workers were genuine. "(House managers) Ms. June and Mr. Woody showed me, not just through helping me, but through their actions and love and dedication for other people that that's what God is about," Sonya recalled. And the house became a safe haven for her girls. "For the first time my children could really go to sleep and not be worried about if somebody was going to do something to my car or break in or whatever."

The budgeting and parenting skills classes gave Sonya a firm foundation on which to begin rebuilding her life. And Social Worker Jennifer Ervin met regularly with Sonya, helping to keep her focused on her goal of home ownership.

Sonya said the journey has also brought her into a closer relationship with God. She became a Christian at age 12, but the abuse by her own parents, a first marriage that ended because of his adultery and then the abuse by her second husband made her feel God had left her.

It wasn't until she arrived at the Pilot House that she was able to see how God had been present throughout her life, working to help her. "He was always there for me. He put people in my path to help me and at times I didn't choose that help." Sonya and her two youngest daughters are still active in church today.

And Sonya has fulfilled her home ownership dream, becoming the first graduate of the family care program to buy her own home upon leaving the Pilot House. She is proud of her townhome where her girls have their own rooms and they all have peace of mind.

"I want people to know that the money they donate, whether it be 10 or 100 dollars, that money has so much more than a monetary value because they're giving people a chance to better themselves," Sonya said.

Her daughters are grateful for the Pilot House and family care, too. Her oldest was in a pageant in early October, and was asked if she had one million dollars, what would she do with it and why? Her answer? "I would donate it to the homeless shelters like the Pilot House and Safe House who help families stay together."



2011 ANNUAL OFFERING



Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6

The 2011 goal for the Annual Children's Homes Offering is \$2.55 million. Please encourage your church to give.

* Graphic represents giving totals as of press time.



OLSON

Foster Care Expands to Montgomery

Montgomery children in need have a new resource in Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH). We are offering foster care services in the Greater Montgomery Area and are seeking foster families in Montgomery, Autauga and Elmore counties.

"I have been encouraged by the renewed interest Alabama Baptists have shown to become involved in care for children through foster care, adoption, etc. So I was very encouraged when a group from the Montgomery area invited us to join in caring for children in the area," said Paul Miller, ABCH president/CEO. "We're looking forward to partnering with the Montgomery Baptist Association, churches, families and individuals who are serious about doing good for the less fortunate children in the area."

To that end, ABCH has hired social worker Bobbi Olson to manage the program in Montgomery. Olson brings a variety of experience to the job, including 15 years working in the social services arena, 9 of which have been spent serving foster children through the Alabama Department of Human Resources. She received her licensure in 2002.

Those interested in supporting the new program, either through monetary resources, or by serving as foster families, should contact Olson at 334-430-7569 or bolson@abchome.org.



Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries
P.O. Box 361767
Birmingham, AL 35236-1767
Telephone: (205) 982-1112
Toll Free: (888) 720-8805



On Facebook? Find us there at:
[Facebook.com/AlabamaChild](https://www.facebook.com/AlabamaChild)
[Facebook.com/PathwaysProfessionalCounseling](https://www.facebook.com/PathwaysProfessionalCounseling)



Are you on Twitter? Follow us at:
[Twitter.com/AlabamaChildOrg](https://twitter.com/AlabamaChildOrg)
[Twitter.com/PathwaysCounsel](https://twitter.com/PathwaysCounsel)

www.alabamachild.org
www.pathwaysprofessional.com

TIS THE SEASON TO SAY ... MERRY CHRISTMAS AND I LOVE YOU.



Consider giving your wife, husband, or loved one a gift that will turn their bathing area into a safe and therapeutic experience. Our **Ultra Deluxe walk-in Tub** is engineered to provide a safe environment to protect your loved ones from dangerous falls while relieving aches and pains.

-  22 self-cleaning hydrotherapy jets
-  In-line heater thermostatic control
-  Back and spine hydro massage
-  Hip and thigh hydro massage
-  Foot and calf hydro massage
-  Hand-held extendable shower wand

Call CHARLIE today and see how ALABAMA SAFETY BATH can change how you feel.

ALABAMA SAFETY BATH
334-312-1825 • 1-855-849-5048 (toll-free)
www.alabamasafetybath.com
www.dreambathsalabama.com

Ask about our no money down, no interest 12 months same as cash program*
*Approved credit through Enter Bank Corp.

CALL TODAY! SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DISCOUNT WITH THIS AD!
Before you Buy, Compare our Price to Premier, Safe Step and Safety Tubs!

Boaz's Sardis Church sees 54 saved at tent crusade

Fifty-four Alabamians closed their eyes and bowed their heads. Some had tears softly trailing down their faces. They made decisions to follow Christ at a tent crusade held by Sardis Baptist Church, Boaz, Oct. 16-19.

The Marshall Baptist Association church held the crusade to reach the lost rather than a revival to inspire church members, Pastor Mike Goforth said.

Each night, Marc Ivey, of Lynchburg, Va., led worship and Evangelist Tim Williams, of Prattville, brought the message.

Monday night was Operation Andrew night when people were encouraged to bring a nonbelieving friend. Tuesday night was aimed at reaching youth, and 44 youth walked forward to accept Christ that evening. Eleven were youth who attend the church.

The other 10 decisions were a mix of adults and children and came on different nights of the crusade.

Forty Sardis Baptist members were trained by Goforth how to

pray with and answer the questions of each person who came forward.

The church followed up with the new believers.

After seeing such results, Goforth was reassured that tent crusades still serve a purpose in witnessing to nonbelievers. There were many people who attended the crusade who would never have set foot in a church building, he said, but were interested in the "old-timey feel" of a tent crusade.

"[The crusade] was a great thing, and it just shows that if we get the people here that don't know Christ, there's still power in the gospel," Goforth said.

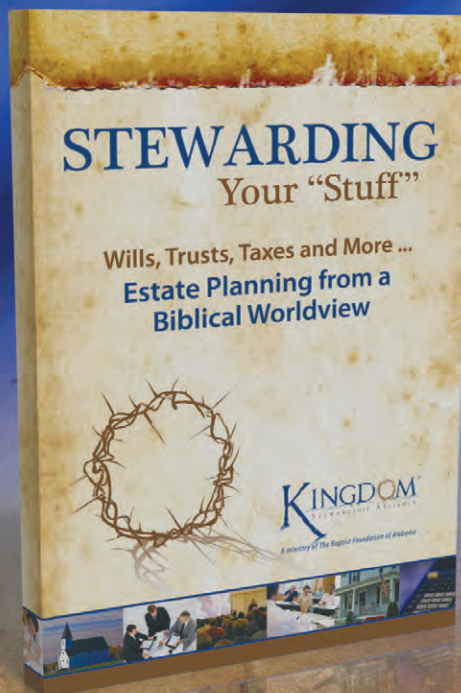
Randall Stoner, director of missions for Marshall Association, was thrilled to hear the results from the event.

"I just praise the Lord for the effort put in by [Sardis] to reach out to the community ... and for what was accomplished," Stoner said. "It just shows tent crusades are still necessary and valuable for the kingdom of God." (TAB)

KINGDOM STEWARDSHIP ALLIANCE

An equipping ministry of The Baptist Foundation of Alabama

**Let us help you build an
Estate Stewardship Ministry
within your church!**



The Stewarding Your "Stuff" workshop includes a review of Biblical stewardship along with practical information concerning wills, trusts, healthcare powers of attorney and more.

The workshop is taught by a representative from The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.



Barry Bledsoe



Bill McCrary



Rodney Bledsoe



Nathan McCarthy



- ☐ I would like more information on planning a Stewarding Your "Stuff" workshop at my church.
- ☐ I would like information on how my church can implement LegacyLinc or FoundationLinc on our church website.

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

Approx. # of Members: _____

Any information given is private and confidential.

MAIL TO:

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama
P.O. Box 241227 • Montgomery, AL 36124
(334) 394-2000 • tbfa@tbfa.org

Visit us at
www.kingdomstewardshipalliance.org
www.tbfa.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For November 20

Explore the Bible

By Robert Olsen

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, School of Christian Studies, University of Mobile

DO YOU STRIVE FOR PEACE WITH OTHERS?

Romans 14:13-23

Ceasing Criticism (13-15)

One main mark of a Christian is love. Christians are to love their neighbor, whom-ever it may be, but Christians are to show love especially to one another. Unfortunately Christians have a tendency to quarrel with one another and create factions because we still possess our sin nature. We can think back to Paul in Romans 7 and remember how he still struggled with sin. Showing love to one another means we have to live at peace with one another. Since there are aspects in life that the Bible does not address (styles of worship, for example), we are bound to have differing opinions. So what are Christians to do when there are differences of opinion? When Chris-tians disagree over a nonessential area of doc-trine, the stronger brother in Christ needs to forsake his freedom for his brother's sake. If a Christian prefers to have a rock band style of worship and is in the midst of other Christians who prefer a piano with hymns, then for their sake, he or she needs to give up the right to contemporary worship and, out of love for his or her fellow Christians, worship with hymns. This preserves unity in the church and avoids putting a stumbling block in the path of weak-er brothers.

Pursuing Priorities (16-18)

Another example in which Christians dif-fer in opinion is alcohol. Many Christians in America believe that drinking alcohol is a sin. The Bible sets the parameters for alcohol: Christians must follow the laws of the land, so there can be no underage drinking, and Christians are not to get drunk (see Ephesians 5:18). However, there is one more situation in which Christians may not drink, and that is when it becomes a stumbling block to other Christians. Since many Christians are offend-ed by alcohol, what profit is there in drinking it if it is going to create strife? Paul said, "The kingdom of God is not about eating or drink-ing but about righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Since this is what Christians

are to strive for, their opinions need to be set aside for the sake of unity.

Helping Others (19-21)

Followers of Christ need to be willing to deny themselves. Christ demands that they do this when they follow Him; they also do this when they deal with one another. If a Chris-tian chooses to drink alcohol in the presence of others who believe it to be wrong, then how is this advancing God's Kingdom? Instead of creating unity, this is creating anger, pain and factions. This is not uplifting but rather put-ting a stumbling block in front of their fellow Christians. We must pursue peace and do what we can to assure that there is peace. Many churches are torn apart over petty issues such as the color of carpet in the sanctuary, whether to buy new hymnals and the like. Christians are to be known by their love for one another; therefore each follower of Christ needs to put others and their interests ahead of his or her own.

Keeping Quiet (22-23)

On questionable matters, Christians need to keep their beliefs to themselves if it means keeping the peace. This is not to be confused with crucial matters. For example, if there are members in the church who believe that all religions lead to God or Jesus is not God, then these issues need to be addressed. These are core Christian beliefs that, if allowed to persist, can actually keep people from being saved. Paul was not addressing such concerns in this passage. Issues of eating and drinking do not inhibit salvation; however, Paul did insist that they can create stumbling blocks that can, in fact, hinder one's faith. Indeed Paul said if you choose to go against your conscience in these questionable matters, then you are sinning, and if you encourage others to go against their conscience, then you are causing them to sin. So if you believe that al-cohol is fine to drink and you convince others who do not share this view to do the same, then you are sinning and you are forcing them to sin. Therefore it is better to keep your opin-ion on the matter to yourself and avoid partici-pating in such behavior.

Bible Studies for Life

By Eric Mathis

Instructor of Church Music and Worship Leadership, School of the Arts, Samford University

RESPOND TO DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Numbers 20:1-13; Psalm 106:32-33

In this four-week study of events in Moses' life, we are being challenged to deepen our walk with God. This week, we will look at Moses' response to the Israelites complaints they had no water. Just as Moses and the Is-raelites became easily frustrated, so do we become frustrated by difficulties in our lives. This study helps us find a way to honestly re-spond to difficulties we may encounter in life.

Don't Idolize the Past (Num. 20:1-5)

Numbers 20 is the retelling of a similar story from Exodus 17:1-7. In both stories, the Israelites had a water shortage in the wilder-ness and complained about it. They gathered themselves against Moses and Aaron (2) and delivered a series of complaints in the form of questions (3-5). Specifically the Israelites compared their current condition to their past condition, what they called "this wretched place" (5). It seems they had forgotten their past days of slavery as well as God's provi-sions for them in recent travels. They looked at their days in Egyptian slavery with rose-tinted glasses because they had water there.

The cycle of complaint and rebellion is common throughout the Book of Numbers, and it comes as no surprise in this narrative. However, earlier complaints such as their get-ting tired of manna were petty (11:4-6). No water in the desert seems to be a legitimate concern that needs attention, yet the manner in which the Israelites presented the concern is unfair. Their concern developed into a com-plaint and then a gross exaggeration about the actual reality of the past.

As a result, the Israelites were unable to live in the present and failed to trust God's provi-sions in their more recent journeys. How often do we, in our lives, trust so much in the past that we fail to trust God in the present? This is certainly the choice the Israelites made, and it made their situation appear worse than it actu-ally was.

Don't Lose Your Temper

(Num. 20:6-11; Ps. 106:32-33)

Moses and Aaron responded to the people's

complaints by leaving the assembly and con-sulting God for guidance (6). God told Moses to take the staff, assemble the people and tell the rock to give water (7-8).

Moses and Aaron followed God's com-mand (so it seems in verse 9) but everything went wrong. Moses gathered the congrega-tion, questioned it and then struck the rock with his staff (10-11) and water came forth. The people and their livestock drank; God provided water and their complaint was an-swered (11).

In spite of the water God provided, the psalmist remembered this event negatively because the people angered God at the waters of Meribah (106:32-33). Meribah, the loca-tion of the story, means "Quarrel," and it is here the psalmist said Moses became bitter and "spoke words that were rash." The effects of Moses losing his temper were remembered long after his death. Yet, even though Moses did not obey God completely, God still pro-vided. Thus we must remember that God's ac-tions are not hindered by our actions. This is good news.

Don't Fail to Trust the Lord

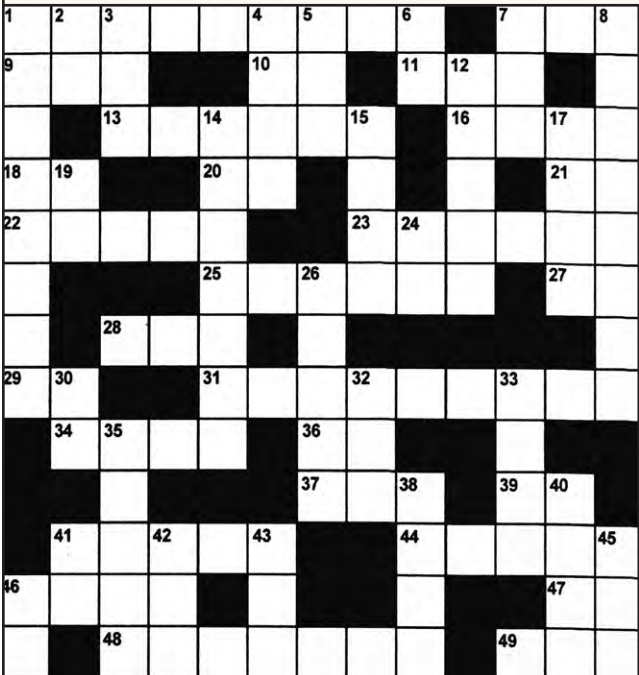
(Num. 20:12-13)

While God provided water for the Israel-ites, the psalmist was right that He was an-gered. God prevented Moses and Aaron from entering the promised land with the Israelites and cited their lack of trust as the reason. Mo-ses and Aaron trusted themselves to solve the problem — hitting the rock rather than talk-ing to it — and prevented God from making Himself holy before the Israelites. They made a small mistake that had significant conse-quences for each of them.

It is impossible to read this story without hearing Christ's words in Matthew 16:18. There, Christ told Peter, (whose name means "rock") "On this rock I will build my church." Christ's rebuke of Peter echoes again the re-ality that human leadership is frail. Even the most trusted people can fall into disobedience and so can we. Our challenge is to continually discern and seek God's will so that we train ourselves to trust in Him at all times.

Christian Crossword

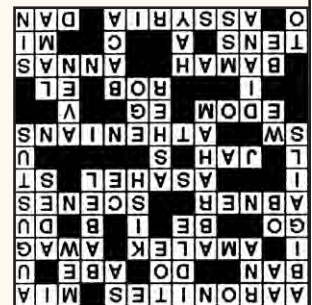
Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



- Across
1. Johoiada was leader of the _____. (1 Chron. 12:27)
7. A serviceman who did not return from war may be one of these.
9. To forbid.
10. Learn to ____ well. (Isa. 1:17)
11. Abraham would be called this today.
13. Remember what ____ did. (Deut. 25:17)
16. A wise guy.
18. Speak unto ... Israel, that they ____ forward. (Ex. 14:15)
20. He will ____ a wild man. (Gen. 16:12)
21. Familiar form of *you* in German.
22. ____ the son of Ner. (2 Sam. 3:25)
23. Parts of a play.
25. Sons of Zeruah, Joab, Abishai, and _____. (2 Sam. 2:18)
27. Saint. (abbr.)

28. Extol him ... by his name _____. (Ps. 68:4)
29. Compass direction.
31. All the ____ and strangers. (Acts 17:21)
34. Judah and _____. (Jer. 9:26)
36. For example. (abbr.)
37. Thou shalt not ... _____. (Lev. 19:13)
39. Elevation. (abbr.)
41. The name thereof is called _____. (Ezek. 20:29)
44. ____ and Caiaphas being high priests. (Luke 3:2)
46. Captains over _____. (Deut. 1:15)
47. 1,001 in Roman numerals.
48. Carried them captive to _____. (2 Kings 15:29)
49. From ____ to Beer-sheba. (Judg. 20:1)
2. Antiaircraft. (abbr.)
3. Ribonucleic acid. (abbr.)
4. Not working.
5. Upon the great ____ of their right foot. (Ex. 29:20)
6. South America. (abbr.)
7. The sound a kitten makes.
8. A decree from Caesar _____. (Luke 2:1)
12. The beginning of his kingdom was _____. (Gen. 10:10)
14. Sarah died ... and ____ came to mourn. (Gen. 23:2)
15. King Saul's father. (1 Sam. 10:21)
17. Fruit drinks.
19. Obstetrician. (abbr.)
24. Chemical Engineer. (abbr.)
26. And Leah ... called his name _____. (Gen. 30:13)
30. ____ are labourers together with God. (1 Cor. 3:9)
32. ____, id, superego.

33. The young men of _____. (Ezek. 30:17)
35. Made silver shrines for _____. (Acts 19:24)
38. Passing through the valley of _____. (Ps. 84:6)
40. An Eastern monk.
41. To ____ or not to be.
42. Manuscripts. (abbr.)
43. The ____ is withered away. (Isa. 15:6)
45. Which taketh away the ____ of the world. (John 1:29)
46. Their cry came up ____ God. (Ex. 2:23)



RESOURCES:

Your Guide to Today's New Music and Literature



Sound Bites

By Rick Sharp

DAVID IAN
Vintage Christmas
Prescott Records

Rock guitarist Dave Ghazarian of the group Superchick has produced a very satisfying Christmas album in the traditional jazz trio format.

Released under the abbreviated name David Ian, the new record features vocals by Acacia and Andre Miguel Mayo. Ian's primary instrument here is piano — he does break out jazz guitar a few times — and if you didn't know that he began studying jazz piano at the age of 5, you might be surprised by the depth of his technique and the emotion in his interpretation.

We don't expect rock guitarists



who leap from their amplifiers to be any good at this kind of New York swing, but don't be fooled. This is traditional jazz that holds its own with some of the masters.

Almost everything here is traditional Christmas staple. The only original song, "Christmas Time With You," appears twice, first as a solo by Mayo, then as a contra-point duet with Mayo and Acacia. That's not a complaint.

In this time of overprocessed, frenzied arrangements, simple, perfectly crafted jazz renditions are just the thing to remind us of the perfectly simple plan of salvation put into place 2,000 years ago.

JEFF BJORCK

The Wondrous Gift: A Pure Piano Christmas

Pure Piano Music, BMI

Fans of piano music will find much to enjoy on Jeff Bjorck's lat-

est CD, "The Wondrous Gift." Comprised entirely of classic carols, Bjorck's performance on a well-recorded Yamaha C7 concert grand piano is at once contemplative, innovative in interpretation, sound in technique and just plain beautiful. His recording engineer, Bill Pearson, wasn't afraid to let the depth and wonderfully full lower registers of the C7 come through on these recordings, and it adds immediacy to all of the selections.



Many of your favorite carols are here in the 12 included tracks, along with a few that aren't often heard, such as "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" and "Coventry Carol."

Few instruments can be as evoca-

tive as a solo piano. Bjorck has concentrated since 1997 on producing solo piano recordings, and with "The Wondrous Gift," he has given piano lovers a Christmas gift of his own.

FFH

One Silent Night
62 Records

Popular pop group FFH has released its first Christmas album just in time for the season.

Included are favorites like "I'll Be Home for Christmas," "Jingle Bell Rock" and others, all recorded in its signature highly processed Nashville style. These will be perfect for background listening during the season; all are well done.

Three original tunes are here as

well. "One Silent Night," the album's first single, is easily the best of this new crop. My first listen produced both chill bumps and tears.

Time will tell if this will become a new Christmas classic. "The Birthday of a King" and "Glorious Impossible" are the other new songs, both solid efforts, but without the impact of the title tune. After 13 records and countless radio hits, FFH has developed a musical formula that its many fans love. The group's first Christmas album will certainly add to its fan's holiday joy.



Book Reviews

By Martine Bates Sharp, Ed.D.

Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus

Mike Slaughter. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011. 112 pp. (Paperback).

According to Mike Slaughter, who bills himself as "lead pastor and chief dreamer" of a church in Ohio, Christmas has been "hijacked and exploited." So we'll cut back a little on our spending and give a little more to Lottie Moon. That will make things better, right?

Right. But there is more. While "Christmas Is Not Your Birthday" exhorts readers to focus on "the broader missional meaning of Jesus' birth," it also goes a step further. Je-

sus' wish list, contends Slaughter, would include feeding the hungry, caring for the sick and visiting the imprisoned — not just sending a check to support those who do.

The author pulls no punches as he lays out the case for where he believes our focus should be. Although the narrative gets a little difficult to stay with at times, the point is clear and the message is convicting.

Taking Back Christmas and Other Family Celebrations

Lettie Kirkpatrick Burress. Cleveland, Tenn.: Derek Press, 2011. 114 pp. (Paperback).

There has been a movement in the last few years to restore the real meaning of Christmas through sa-

cred concerts, bumper stickers and saying "merry Christmas" instead of "happy holidays." This new book by Lettie Burress fits in well with the movement.

Having grown up in a dysfunctional home, Burress was determined that her children would have a completely different experience. She used "teachable moments in the daily-ness of life" to guide her children; the practice she developed with God's leadership extended to using holidays "to proclaim faith and truth" to her children.

This book is a result. Well organized and easy to use with short, practical ideas, it's the kind of book that becomes thumbed through and well worn, with dog-eared pages and notes written in the margins.

Movie Review

By Phil Boatwright

The Mighty Macs

Quaker Media

It's 1971 and future Hall of Fame coach Cathy Rush is a woman ahead of her time. She's about to make sports history.

"The Mighty Macs," now in select theaters, is based on the inspiring true story of Rush and the original women's basketball Cinderella team: tiny Immaculata College and their improbable run toward sports history, winning the first three

women's college basketball national championships.

Basketball movies are as alike as, well, football movies. But every so often, one comes along with a message, a performance, or a subplot that raises it above the norm. Indeed, the good ones usually provide a metaphor for life ("Hoop Dreams," "Hoosiers," "Coach Carter"). I'm not sure I'd put it alongside "Hoosiers," but Mighty Macs has valuable messages (perseverance saves the day, teamwork, and "You gotta have

heart, miles and miles of heart"), and at some point someone said, "Let's make this family friendly."

Devoid of crudity or exploitive sexuality, the story centers on reminding us how to play the game of life. And despite the fact that it's as familiar as a Three Stooges rerun, the makers infuse their story with humor, lively pacing and a respect for Christian values. "The Mighty Macs" is moving and thoughtful.

It is rated G, and I found nothing objectionable. (BP)

Christian Marketplace

Top Ten Best Sellers

Fiction

1. **Courageous**, Randy Alcorn, Alex Kendrick and Stephen Kendrick (Tyndale House)
2. **The Mercy, Rose Trilogy Series #3**, Beverly Lewis (Baker)
3. **Shadow in Serenity**, Terri Blackstock (Zondervan)
4. **The Healing, Kentucky Brothers Series #2**, Wanda E. Brunstetter (Barbour)
5. **Love on the Line**, Deeanne Gist (Baker)
6. **The Brotherhood, Precinct 11 Series #1**, Jerry B. Jenkins (Tyndale House)
7. **Learning, Baily Flanigan Series #2**, Karen Kingsbury (Zondervan)
8. **Forbidden, Books of Mortals Series #1**, Ted Dekker and Tosca Lee (Hachette)
9. **Wonderland Creek**, Lynn Austin (Baker)
10. **House of Secrets**, Tracie Peterson (Baker)

Nonfiction

1. **Heaven Is for Real**, Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent (Thomas Nelson)
2. **Jesus Calling**, Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson)
3. **Not a Fan**, Kyle Idleman (Zondervan)
4. **Every Day a Friday**, Joel Osteen (FaithWords)
5. **Crazy Love**, Francis Chan (David C Cook)
6. **The Well**, Mark Hall and Tim Luke (Zondervan)
7. **Radical**, David Platt (Waterbrook/Multnomah)
8. **The Resolution for Men**, Stephen Kendrick, Alex Kendrick and Randy Alcorn (B&H)
9. **One Thousand Gifts**, Ann Voskamp (Zondervan)
10. **Jesus Calling, Deluxe Edition**, Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson)



BP photo

SERVICE — Missouri Baptist team member Floyd Hansen (left) pulls a tarp tight as Chris Baker hammers in a nail while building a makeshift storage room to protect supplies from the coming winter in Japan.

‘Yellow shirts’

Southern Baptist disaster relief teams give Japan hope

Everything changed on March 11 for Eiko Tanno. It was the day a 9.0-magnitude earthquake hit the northeastern coast of Japan — the day she lost hope.

Tanno was working in her home office when the ground started shaking and shimmying.

Then came the tsunami warning.

Her and her neighbors rushed to higher ground and watched as powerful walls of water took out entire neighborhoods and anyone in its path. Tanno’s house intact. The water overtook the first floor but didn’t climb higher.

“The tsunami took away my livelihood,” the middle-aged Tanno said seven months after Japan’s historic triple disaster that included an earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis. “My business was downstairs, and it was ruined. My house was not totally destroyed so I was not given access to temporary housing.”

For months, Tanno traipsed through the mud and toxins in her home. No matter what she did she couldn’t escape the rotten smell of dead fish or the piles of rubble outside her windows.

It was a depressing living situation until a group of strangers knocked on her door.

“The day the yellow shirts came to my neighborhood, my life changed and I felt hope again,” Tanno said.

Southern Baptist disaster relief teams, known in this part of Japan by the yellow clothing they wear, cleaned out the mud and toxins caked over Tanno’s bottom floor as well as every house left standing on her block.

Today’s team — “yellow shirts”

from Missouri — installs insulation and hammers in flooring. They laugh and tease as they work. They stop to bow in respect to neighbors coming in to inspect the progress and soon have their new Japanese friends laughing.

David Price of Calvary Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo., marvels over the fact that disaster relief teams from different states have come to Japan during the past six months with the same purpose — to share Christ’s love through service. Just a few hours farther up the coast, another team from Georgia conveys the same message by clearing debris and sifting through rubble for personal items that can be salvaged.

“It’s overwhelming to think that each of our teams has been a tiny piece of God’s plan to reach out to the Japanese,” Price said, noting that teams from Canada, Texas, California, Alabama and every state in between have been part of the International Mission Board’s Tohoku Care disaster relief project.

Rebuilding the muddy wastelands of the northeastern Tohoku region is expected to cost hundreds of billions of dollars and take up to a decade. The Japan Fire Department

estimates more than 111,000 buildings and homes were destroyed with around 656,920 damaged.

Darrell Barrett of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church, Hiawassee, Ga., said it is easy to get caught up in the vast destruction that stretches for hundreds of miles.

“It’s easy to desensitize in situations like this so we can get the

work done,” Barrett said, bending down and placing a perfect teacup he recovered onto a pile of salvageable household items. He picked up a framed picture of a 10-year-old girl and added, “Then you find something like this and it all of a sudden becomes personal. You start wondering about the family who lived in this house — if they are alive ... if they are in heaven.”

Witnessing through work

Missionaries said the Tohoku area has been closed to the gospel for hundreds of years. Less than 1 percent claimed to be evangelical Christians prior to the tsunami.

“I don’t have the gift of speaking,” Tim Beck of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Toccoa, Ga., said, “but God has given me other gifts to use. He gave me abilities in construction. He uses this avenue to reach people in need. That’s my witness.”

These simple acts of service and respect for Japanese culture are slowly moving hearts. Tanno acknowledges that from the very first knock on her door, she knew the yellow shirts were different. They didn’t ask for anything and their help came with “no strings attached.” She was skeptical at first, as were her neighbors. But they soon realized these teams were different from other volunteers working in their area.

“In our neighborhood, we love the yellow shirts,” she said enthusiastically. “They help us without asking for anything in return.”

She shyly admits her favorite part of the day is when the yellow shirts pack up their tools and ask her to join them for prayer. She doesn’t understand why, but it gives her a peaceful feeling. Somehow, she knows everything is going to be OK. (BP)

Religion In America

Compiled from Wire Services

Two black seminaries worship with hip-hop

WASHINGTON — It’s hard enough to get young people out of bed and into the pews on a Sunday morning, but two leading black seminaries think they have found a way to grab the next generation: hip-hop.

“If we’re going to take young people seriously, we have no choice,” said Alton B. Pollard III, dean of the Howard University School of Divinity.

“When we talk about what’s happening in the lives of young people, that’s a subterranean culture that some of us just don’t know how to get with.”

Fo shizzle.

Howard’s recent annual convocation featured the rocking beat of Christian hip-hop artists Da’ T.R.U.T.H. and Sean Simmonds, and professors are using spoken word — poetry performed as social commentary — to examine the New Testament.

At Vanderbilt University Divinity School in Tennessee, several professors analyze hip-hop music in their classes as they study protest music. At Northern Seminary in Illinois, the 2005 book “The Hip-Hop Church” is used in courses on youth ministry.

“In order to be relevant, in order to do youth ministry, you can’t do ministry without engaging hip-hop,” said Maisha Handy, who has taught a course on hip-hop and Christian education for two years at Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center.

Howard’s Pollard concedes that seminaries “have come a little late to the dance,” but says it’s better to embrace hip-hop rather than be intimidated by it. And though some might cringe at the genre’s misogynistic, violent and drug-related undertones, it’s not all that different from the church’s initial reaction to jazz or the blues.

Evangelicals call for cutbacks on nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON — The National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) on Nov. 8 called for greater precautions with nuclear weapons and a renewed effort toward disarmament.

“The rules have changed in the past 25 years,” NAE President Leith Anderson said. “Nuclear weapons don’t serve as a deterrent to the dangers of our post-Cold War era, which include rogue nations and terrorist groups.”

The resolution calls for taking a second look at the Cold War doctrine of deterrence in light of shifting global politics, and challenges the United States to pursue new negotiations with Russia and other nuclear countries.

It does not, however, call for unilateral disarmament.

The resolution also challenges the Senate to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which would create significant impediments for countries to develop new, usable nuclear weapons. The U.S. is one of only nine remaining nations that must ratify the treaty for it to come into force.

The board of directors of NAE, which represents more than 45,000 churches from more than 40 evangelical denominations, approved the resolution at its semiannual meeting in October.

Supreme Court not reopening roadside crosses case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court announced Oct. 31 that it will not reopen a case in which a lower court ruled that highway crosses memorializing Utah state troopers are unconstitutional.

Dave Silverman, president of American Atheists, which filed the suit in 2005, said he hopes the court’s announcement will bring the case to an end, and lead to an alternative way of honoring troopers who died in the line of duty.

“Erecting divisive religious icons that violate the very Constitution the fallen troopers had sworn to uphold is not the way to honor those troopers who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the citizens of their state,” he said.

The Utah Highway Patrol Association had erected 12-foot white crosses to honor fallen officers since 1998. The atheist group lost its first legal challenge, but the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 2010 that the memorials “have the impermissible effect of conveying to the reasonable observer the message that the state prefers or otherwise endorses a certain religion.”

Are you on
facebook

Become a fan of
The Alabama Baptist
newspaper.