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'True deterrent' against 'bingo'

Bill would increase penalty to felony for all involved

By Sondra Washington
and Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

If traditional paper bingo — complete with a live caller — is the only form of legal bingo in Alabama, then why do casino-style facilities with slot machine-type gambling machines continually surface under the guise of “bingo”?

Rep. Allen Farley, R-McCalla, thinks it is because there's no real reason for them not to — the punishment for breaking the law in this case is only a misdemeanor offense and a maximum \$6,000 fee. He's ready to intensify the punishment, and he has filed House Bill (HB) 414 to make that happen.

“They can make the \$6,000 in just a few hours in some locations,” said Farley, a retired Jefferson County assistant sheriff. “And with a misdemeanor, you won't lose any rights.”

Without a deterrent, it is worth the risk of being shut down and facing these two penalties because of the amount of money the business owner can make, he said, noting the typical electronic gambling machine brings in \$1,000 per day.

“If they just stay open one week, they make more than most make in a lifetime,” Farley said.

But his bill would make possession of 10 slot machines or gambling devices, possession of illegal gambling records and the promotion of and conspiracy to promote illegal gambling a felony. It also would allow law enforcement to “seize and condemn” property being used in illegal gambling and then sell it and keep the proceeds.

The “seize and condemn” option is similar to how drug busts are handled, Farley explained. When drugs are found, the law enforcement officials working the case are able to sell the items related to the drug bust if they are seized and condemned. The proceeds of what is sold go to buy

State attorney general urges Legislature to strengthen punishment for illegal gambling

By Luther Strange
Special to The Alabama Baptist

As the attorney general of Alabama, I have a sworn duty to enforce the law as it is written and interpreted by the Alabama Supreme Court. Law enforcement officials across the state share that duty, but many times, our jobs are made difficult when the penalties are so weak they do very little to deter the criminals. The worst example of this weakness is found in our criminal statutes that deal with illegal gambling. In the wake of several announcements made by the owners of shuttered casinos that they will reopen, it is clear that Alabama will once again come under siege by gambling interests that are bent on causing our state to spiral back into the gambling problems of the past. Now more than ever, quick action needs to be taken by the Legislature to stiffen the penalties for illegal gambling offenses. Law enforcement needs the tools to win this battle. Casino owners who stand to rake in millions of dollars from the gambling losses of working people are not going to stop until the law imposes felony prison time and heavy fines for promoting illegal gambling.

The Alabama Constitution strictly prohibits lotteries and games of chance. But over the years, narrow amendments have been passed to our constitution that allow nonprofit organizations in some counties and cities to play the traditional game commonly known as bingo in order to raise proceeds for their charitable causes. The Alabama Supreme Court, however, has made it clear

that none of the bingo amendments allows for-profit casinos to operate Las Vegas-style gambling facilities in thinly veiled attempts to skirt our laws against slot machines and other forms of illegal gambling. In addition, several criminal statutes in the Alabama code make it a crime to possess slot machines or to promote illegal gambling. But the penalties for violating the criminal statutes are so weak that the criminals are willing to repeatedly engage in illegal gambling activity because they stand to make millions of dollars.

Alabama has a long history in dealing with the corruption that comes from illegal gambling. The illegal gambling that was allowed to exist in Phenix City in the 1940s and 1950s led to the murder of Attorney General-elect Albert Patterson. The governor was then forced to declare martial law in the city, and the National Guard was sent in to stomp out the corruption. Many of the Phenix City gamblers fled to Tennessee. Some of those very people later participated in the murder of Sheriff Buford Pusser when he began to crackdown on illegal gambling in McNairy County, Tenn.

Just a few decades later, my predecessor stood idly by and allowed illegal gambling to spread across Alabama like kudzu in the form of so-called “electronic bingo.” Of course, that “electronic bingo” is not bingo at all, but slot machines in disguise. The result in turning a blind eye led to more than 100 “electronic bingo” casinos in Alabama by 2008, with more than 50 being operated in (See ‘Give,’ page 3)



STRANGE

law enforcement equipment, he said. This is not true with gambling busts. And in both cases, a lot of resources, time and money go into building the case to make the busts, Farley added.

“We have not created a law. We are just putting the penalty where it should be,” he said. “We are making the penalties here the same as other offenses that affect the community in a similar way.”

Farley has 44 co-sponsors for this bill, which is in the House Judiciary Committee.

Other moral and social issues facing the state Legislature this session cover illegal drugs, abortion, human trafficking and Alabama's policy on enforcing laws established by other states.

◆ Rep. Patricia Todd, D-Birmingham, filed HB25, authorizing the “medical use of marijuana” for patients “who have been diagnosed by a physician as having a debilitating medical condition.” Rep. K.L. Brown, R-Jacksonville, filed a similar bill, HB66, which he hopes will be called

the Alabama Medical Marijuana Patients Rights Act and will allow the use of marijuana for patients with “a serious medical condition.” Both bills are in the House Health Committee.

◆ Several lawmakers filed bills attempting to further regulate the sale of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, which are used to make methamphetamine. HB363, sponsored by Rep.

Blaine Galliher, R-Gadsden, passed from the House on March 15 and now goes before the Senate, where several similar bills previously had been filed.

◆ Several pro-life bills also were filed at the Statehouse. A public hearing for HB112 was set for March 21. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Ed Henry, R-Decatur, would “prohibit (See ‘Legislators,’ page 16)

Japan marks 1 year after tsunami

When Nobuko Tanno closes her eyes, she sees tsunami waves rushing in and destroying her village along Japan's northeastern coastline. She sees cars floating and houses coming off foundations. She hears the roar of the water and desperate cries for help.

Her normally stoic face contorts a little with the flood of memories, and she quickly opens her eyes.

Remembering that fateful day one year ago, March 11, 2011, is still hard. She fixes her gaze on the odd-shaped

frame on the white wall in her refurbished home. It immediately brings a smile and a contented sigh escapes.

By her reaction, you'd expect the framed object to be a peaceful painting, but it's just a section of the dry-wall where Southern Baptist disaster relief teams signed their names and wrote Bible verses as words of encouragement. For Tanno, however, it's a priceless masterpiece, a reminder that there is hope for the future.

“After the tsunami, my husband and (See ‘Japanese,’ page 4)

COMMENT

Where Am I Blind?

I would not allege that the jurors in the recent gambling corruption trial are blind. I did not hear a word of testimony at either of the two trials that resulted in acquittals on all charges for Milton McGregor and five co-defendants. What I do know is that several people involved in the scheme to expanded legalized gambling in Alabama pleaded guilty to trying to bribe public officials and that public officials understood bribes were being offered and so testified.

I would not allege that only the blind fail to see that the partners of those who confessed to illegal activity and are already serving prison sentences for their actions are also guilty of the same crimes. All the partners worked from a common strategy. They presented a united front as they schemed to expand their gambling empires. They planned their efforts together. Of course, being guilty and proving guilt in a court of law are two different things.

Still for McGregor and others to argue that promising or providing financial support to public officials who promise to vote for one's bill is "just the way the game (of politics) is played" is a nondefense. It turns a blind eye to the fact that a difference in quantity can become a difference in quality. For example, a church may say it has a recreation program because it has a pingpong table in the basement, but the quantitative differences between that and a church that has a full-blown recreation program, complete with a family life center and a director of church recreation, make a qualitative difference.

Said another way, there comes a point when the quantity of support offered public officials who support one's positions can cross from innocent to criminal.

Some of the perpetrators acknowledged they knew they were doing wrong. Some public officials knew wrong was being done. It is hard to believe that everyone involved did not see the illegal implications of what they were doing. Perhaps they, too, were blind.

John Carroll, dean of the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in Birmingham, said, "I think there are enough facts (that) with a particular jury and a particular set of prosecutors, you may have gotten a conviction" (*The Birmingham News*, March 11). That observation did not come from one with a blind eye about legal matters. It came from one with a keen eye from years of service as a magistrate judge.

But the outcome was an acquittal, and that could be the outcome for any number of reasons.



THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

In the American system, even justice is supposed to be administered with a blind eye.

According to the July 21, 2010, *Birmingham News*, VictoryLand, one of McGregor's casinos, took in \$637 million in revenue in the four years before it was shut down in 2010. Gross profits amounted to \$503 million. Charitable contributions totaled \$4.4 million. That is less than 1 percent of what is called "charitable bingo gambling."

Blind to inconsistencies

The News reported July 27, 2011, that McGregor's income for 2009 was \$28.3 million. The year VictoryLand was closed, he lost \$2.5 million.

Now McGregor is bragging he will reopen all his gambling sites and plunge the state back into another fight over the role of gambling in Alabama. In a full-page ad in the March 11 *Birmingham News*, he thanked God for the jury verdict and friends who stood by him during his time of persecution.

Evidently McGregor is blind to the inconsistency of offering thanks to God for his acquittal and announcing his intention to return to activities that violate basic principles of God's Word and undermine the moral fiber of society as a whole.

Preying on others' base instincts in order to greedily gather riches to oneself is not a virtue found in the Bible.

Unfortunately McGregor is not the only one blind to the evils of legalized gambling. Space does not permit a full report on gambling's evils. This publication has outlined those many times. Suffice it to say that every academically credible study concludes that gambling does not pay for itself when compared to the social costs it inflicts on society.

Still, in Alabama and Mississippi — places where I have lived and served, places where Baptists make up a sizable percentage of the state's population — legalized gambling is a reality. That fact is a shameful indictment of Baptists for neither state could have approved gambling without Baptist votes.

Baptists, like others, seem willing to turn a blind eye to the cultural evils fostered by gambling and its violation of basic Christian teachings in return

for the promise of a few low-paying jobs or not having to adopt a fair and adequate tax structure for their respective state.

Baptists, like others, turn a blind eye to Christian social responsibility by rationalizing that while they will never gamble, neither will they stand in the way of someone who may want to gamble.

Spiritual blindness is not limited to gambling. The response of some readers to previous columns advocating care for the hungry and hurting among us has been to label such concerns "liberal" or part of the "social gospel."

Such responses show blindness to the teaching of God's Word to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and heal the sick. One is not made right before God by such activities, but such actions demonstrate that one is right with God (Matt. 25:31ff).

Proverbs 29:7 makes that point. There the writer declared, "The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern." Often we are blind because we are not righteous. God forgive us.

It is impossible to write about others' spiritual blindness without wondering about one's own spiritual blindness. Jesus warned against the self-righteous in Matthew 7:3 when He talked about those who rail against the sawdust in their brother's eye but ignore the beam in their own eye.

Thus the title of this column. Where am I blind? Please pray for me that I will be open to God showing me areas where I am blind. And together we can pray that God will help us all to be about bringing light to a dark world that prefers to live as if it were blind to the evils that abound.

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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

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Give law enforcement tools to win 'bingo' battle, Strange says

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one town alone. Out-of-state gambling interests constructed and opened multimillion-dollar casinos in absolute defiance of Alabama law. The confusion created by a lack of law enforcement action also led to the expansion of Native American gambling on tribal lands in Alabama. Another governor was once again forced to re-establish the rule of law with a task force to stop the illegal activity. This led to expensive and lengthy law enforcement actions, followed by several trials. Along the way, state police encountered numerous local judicial officials who, at the request of local casino bosses, issued outrageous restraining orders — orders that were overturned time and time again by the Alabama Supreme Court. In the midst of the crackdown, the federal government also embarked on a lengthy investigation that resulted in several guilty pleas, revealing that numerous legislators were offered bribes in exchange for their votes on legislation designed to empower the gambling interests.

I never want to see those scenarios played out again, but I fear that is exactly what lies ahead if the Alabama Legislature fails to act quickly by passing a bill designed to deter large-scale illegal gambling.

House Bill 414 would create a much-needed deterrent designed to discourage individuals and other entities from promoting, advancing and profiting from illegal gambling. The purpose of the bill also would be to restore consistency in our criminal code and to treat illegal gambling in the same manner that existing law treats other crimes. The maximum penalties for the crimes of promoting illegal gambling and the possession of more than 10 slot machines would be increased from class-A misdemeanors to class-C felonies. Lawbreakers would be faced with the threat of being charged with a felony, and that prospect certainly would go a long way in deterring their criminal activity. With fewer individuals willing to break the law, law enforcement officials could then refocus their efforts on other crimes. For those willing to take the risk, prosecutors could pursue felony charges and a conviction would truly mean facing tough consequences.

My job and my duty is to uphold the rule of law, but the Legislature must provide law enforcement the ability to effectively deal with large-scale illegal gambling by passing House Bill 414. The fight against illegal gambling in this state is not and should never be about politics. It is not about whether I believe gambling is good or bad. This is about the rule of law, pure and simple. But under current law, the reality is that gambling interests stand to make millions of dollars in illegal gambling profits while risking only a slap-on-the-wrist misdemeanor charge. There must be serious consequences for those who openly defy the law.



Photo by Chris Carter

Is anyone left?

Believers ponder movement of gospel in Syria, ask for prayers

By Ava Thomas
International Mission Board

For a long time, Syrians were complacent. At least that's how one person familiar with Syria described the people of the war-torn country.

"[Syrians were] a people who felt they were more blessed than others because natural disasters and wars had not been a part of their modern history," Dan David said.

But over the past year, war has broken out, bloodshed has escalated and people have run for the country's borders with their children in arms.

"The news coming out of Syria — and there is much of it — shows their situation is bleak," said Natalie Shepherd, a Christ follower who lived and worked in the country.

But there's a big question mark over how much Good News is making it into Syria, David said. The chances are slim that many Christ followers from the outside are left in country to share the gospel.

Seven percent of the population is "Christian," a title that's more indicative of a passed-down identity than personal relationship with Christ, David said. It's a long heritage — Syria's capital, Damascus, is the place where Paul met up with Christ followers for the first time as a fellow believer rather than a persecutor, according to Acts 9 in the New Testament.

"During the first century A.D., the news about Jesus went into all Syria (Matt. 4:24), but only centuries later this cradle of Christianity became the cradle of Islam," David said.

Over the past several decades, the gospel has been shared with small pockets of the people, with rough starts and stops.

"Today — as far as we can tell — less than 1 percent of the population of Syria knows Jesus," Shepherd said. "Pray that millions of Syrian families who live inside and outside the country will begin to follow Jesus during this monumental upheaval in their homeland."

"Fear and apprehension about what will happen next is eroding most Syrian families' sense of well-being, leaving them with a huge deficit of hope," she said. "Many Syrian families face desperate physical needs for warmth, food and shelter, permeated by emotional trauma — the death of loved ones, gunfire night and day and the bombing of their homes."

Recent news images show the city of Homs bombed out, people freezing in the snow and struggling to get the injured to medical care. On March 8, CNN footage showed some injured people chained to beds in hospitals.

The Syrian death toll from the past year teeters around 8,500, according to The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

"Now most of the people in Damascus and all over the country are living their daily lives in fear and uncertainty as the country is being torn apart by fighting, arrests, torture and death," David said. "This is a time when good news is desperately needed."

And many are finding him as they flee into other countries, Christian leaders say.

"People are running across the border into Lebanon, leaving everything behind, bringing only the clothes they are wearing," said Josef, a pastor in Lebanon.

And as they do, they've been met by believers happy to share with them the reason they have hope, Josef said.

"You can't share the gospel as freely in Syria, so these people have never heard it before," said Sam Lawson, a Christian worker in the Middle East. "In a short period of time, we've been able to share with the same num-

ber of Syrians that it would take us months and months to share with in Syria."

Some have believed, and house groups grow stronger by the day among the refugees, he said.

"There are several key families where the believers are focusing and investing their time, and the gospel continues to go out wherever they go," Lawson said. "But the enemy attacks in various ways, so a key prayer request ... is that nothing distracts from the Word going out among the refugees, and that it will bear lasting fruit."

They are also praying that new Syrian believers will take the gospel back with them into their country as they return.

Believers in the region ask for Christians in the West to pray for Syria every time they see that nation in the news:

► Pray that the believers in the country would know God's peace and be courageous in sharing hope and truth with their families and neighbors.

► Pray that the people of Syria would have dreams and visions of Jesus Christ and seek to know more about Him.

► Pray that believers in neighboring countries will have strength, protection and wisdom as they seek to meet the physical and spiritual needs of refugees.

► Pray that what the enemy means for evil will be used for good so that many Syrian families will hear the gospel and be saved.

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



Photo by Chris Carter

WAITING FOR TRUTH — A Syrian woman prays in the mosque built around the mausoleum of Shiite saint Sayyida Ruqayya.



BP photo

JAPAN

1 year after the
tsunami

Japanese open hearts to Baptist volunteers post-tsunami

(continued from page 1)

I tried to clean up. By ourselves, we couldn't do much. It was overwhelming," Tanno recounted. "Then the yellow shirts (Southern Baptist workers) came to my door. They treated my house like it was their own.

"Their attitude was 'thank you for letting us serve you.' I was really surprised at their servant heart," Tanno said of the five different teams from California, Washington, Oregon, Missouri and Canada who worked on her home throughout the year.

Tanno points to a verse, Jeremiah 33, on the wall. "That is my favorite. It was the first one," she said.

Mickie Lee from Clovis Hills Community Church, Fresno, Calif., smiles when her friend mentions Scripture. Lee, who came with two different disaster relief teams and stayed on to serve as an interpreter, remembers when Tanno was skeptical. Lee says Tanno is not yet a believer but is studying the Bible a team gave her, starting with the verses on her wall.

Southern Baptist teams, known in this part of Japan by their yellow attire, responded to the world's first triple disaster — a magnitude-9.0 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis — within days. They have kept a steady presence ever since by working through the Tohoku Care ministry of the International Mission Board (IMB).

Teams from 15 states have done everything from mudding out houses and rebuilding to hearing survivor stories and hosting banana split parties. Others have made their impact from afar. A group of Girls in Action from Georgia made rag dolls so teams could hand out toys to children who lost all of their belongings. Women in Louisiana made 4,000 Christmas stockings for IMB missionaries and Southern Baptist disaster relief teams from the States to hand out to the tsunami survivors as a way to share the Christmas story.

Survivor Ryouichi Usuzawa says the Tohoku Care volunteers are different in that they meet more than just physical needs, but also emotional and spiritual needs. They often do this simply by "listening" to survivors, like Usuzawa.

Like more than 323,000 other Japanese, Usuzawa was forced to move to temporary housing when her home was destroyed last March. Usuzawa's new community is among the largest, with 2,164 households.

"After we all moved to temporary housing, we just stared at the floor. We had so much grief. It was such a pathetic situation that my heart broke. Then the volunteers came and listened," Usuzawa said. He looks back at a new green building and adds, "The reason this community building was set up was so people could come together and share their suffering — encourage one another."

Next phase of healing

Through the Japan Disaster Response fund, Southern Baptists provided three community buildings in different locations along the coast. Arkansas Baptists paid for decks to go up around the buildings, providing more gathering space for outreach events, and a team from Tennessee did the construction work. Usuzawa says the buildings provide a place for the next phase of Japan's healing — "heart care" — to begin.

"I see this building every day and it's a sig-

nal to me that Southern Baptists in America are telling us to 'hang in there' ... that they care about us," she said.

IMB emeritus missionaries Gerald and Brenda Burch stress that the willingness of Southern Baptists to unselfishly give their money, time and prayers have survivors and fellow Japanese volunteers taking notice.

Welcoming Jesus

"The steady flow of Southern Baptists since the tsunami has opened doors," Gerald said. "Before it was hard to talk to anyone. Now, when they open the doors of their small temporary houses and see our faces and yellow vests, the countenance on their faces changes."

One Japanese homeowner reflected this change right before the eyes of two Hawaii Baptist disaster relief workers, Leonard Higa of First Baptist Church, Pearl City, and David Blair of Lahaina Baptist Church.

Higa, a 70-year-old carpenter, speaks Japanese and at every opportunity, tried to engage the homeowner in conversation.

"She was standoffish," Higa said, remembering the first few days. "I knew she wasn't interested in my message, so David and I worked hard to plant seeds by caring for her physical needs. We knew the Holy Spirit would grow these seeds and God would send someone behind us to follow up."

When lunchtime arrived, she quietly brought in pumpkin soup for the workers covered in sawdust. She eventually joined in the conversations and spent days sharing meals and her own story of survival and grief. At one point, she admitted that she wished she were an American so she could be joyful like them.

"We aren't happy because we are Americans," Higa responded. "We are joyful because we have Jesus in our hearts. You can have the same."

The homeowner looked at Higa for a second then nodded her head, indicating she was ready to welcome that same joy into her heart. (BP)



BP photo

OPEN DOORS — IMB journeyman Anson Onishi (left) talks with a Japanese woman in the government's temporary housing. Onishi helped translate as Southern Baptist disaster relief teams delivered benches and other supplies to tsunami survivors.

Japanese artist's exhibit reflects gratitude, message of hope

An abstract piece of pottery — a lopsided hurricane lamp with holes letting out the inner light — sits in the middle of the art exhibit.

The artist, Shiro Ogasawara, beams as he points to it and explains it was in the kiln when the magnitude-9.0 earthquake hit Japan on March 11, 2011. The tsunami waves came soon after, wiping out most of the town of Ofunato and washing his kiln away. He found it months later, blocks from his destroyed home and buried in mud, with just a few items intact.

Surrounding the lamp in the exhibit are pieces Shiro has made post-tsunami to offer encouragement to his community. One drawing depicts the Chinese year of the dragon and says, "Let's hang in there this year and do our best." Another dragon drawing is meant for the entire world, specifically Tohoku Care, saying, "We are thankful for your help and support."

"For each phase of our recovery process, Tohoku Care has been there for us," the retired schoolteacher and community leader said about the International Mission Board's (IMB) Japan disaster response ministry.

"Initially our emotions went up and down," Shiro said, noting that Ofunato lost around 460 people in the disaster. "I was depressed but received encouragement through the prayers of volunteers. Looking back, meeting Tohoku Care was God's leading to bring us together."

IMB missionaries first met Shiro and his wife, Ritoko, when they were delivering relief supplies such as clothes, toilet paper and blankets. The Ogasawaras had a tent set up as a distribution site for their neighborhood and quickly became the contact point for IMB relief efforts in Ofunato.

"The first time Tohoku Care came, they asked if they could pray. It made my wife cry," Shiro remembered. "Every time they came, she wanted them to pray. Because of her tears, I knew she needed emotional care as well as physical."

Ritoko said those prayers eased the pain in her heart and helped her start moving

forward. The couple invited Southern Baptist disaster relief teams working through Tohoku Care into their home for tea as a way to say thanks. Ritoko served them in cups Shiro dug out of the rubble from their old house. The visits meant so much to the couple that Shiro drew diagrams of where the workers sat and wrote their names. The diagrams decorate their wall.

"We'll never forget the relationships we have made. When people hear the name Tohoku Care, something warm rises in their hearts. We will never forget the help that we have received," Ritoko said. "If we didn't have this disaster, I would never have met Lana [Oue]. The disaster brought us together."

IMB missionary Lana Oue pats her friend on the hand in appreciation. She and her husband, Tak, have spent a lot of time sitting around the table with the Ogasawaras. Their relationship has advanced in the last year from simply providing relief supplies to friendship to sharing stories from the Bible.

"Several meetings back, our friends brought us a New Testament," Shiro said. "I opened it and read it and asked, 'What does it mean?'"

Shiro's art now reflects what he reads from his new Bible. He points to a drawing of cherry blossoms. He felt cherished and loved after reading 1 Corinthians 13:13 and drew the flowers. He takes the drawing off the wall and hands it to Tak and asks the Oues to explain the passage.

The men pull out their matching yellow New Testaments and start a deep discussion. Shiro marks the verse with a red pen and jots down a few notes so he can go back to it later when he has more time to think.

Lana said the Ogasawaras have not made a decision to follow Jesus but have taken the first steps, studying the Bible and asking questions. In the hardest-hit tsunami areas, missionaries say less than 1 percent regard themselves as evangelical Christians.

The Oues pray their friends will one day share the gospel with their neighbors and fellow tsunami survivors. (BP)



BP photo

RECOVERY — Japanese tsunami survivor and artist Shiro Ogasawara hand paints cards with a message of hope.

Quakes hit 3 days after tsunami anniversary

Only three days after the one-year anniversary of the devastating tsunami, Japan was rocked by two major earthquakes. On March 14, a magnitude-6.8 quake hit Northern Hokkaido Island and a magnitude-6.1 earthquake hit south of Tokyo, according to the *International Business Times*.

Fortunately no tsunami warning was is-

sued and no nuclear plants were harmed this time, according to Reuters.

It's been barely a year since a magnitude-8.9 earthquake hit Japan's northeastern coast and caused a 23-foot tsunami, which killed nearly 16,000 people and left more than 5 million homes without electricity and nearly 1.5 million with no access to water, sources say. (TAB)

Healing

Tokyo Baptist woman focuses on ministering to tsunami survivors

By Susie Rain
Baptist Press

The piles of rubble and debris are gone. Cars deposited atop apartment buildings and ships stranded on streets by the March 11, 2011, tsunami have been carted off. The "smell of death" has been replaced by the fragrance of fresh cut-pine and construction.

Yoko Dorsey is so excited about the changes that she makes a big sweeping motion with her arms and asks in her loud cheery voice, "What do you think?" The 60-year-old's smile crinkles her round face.

I was here a year ago, but I don't recognize the neighborhood anymore. I stare at the empty lots, trying to numb my welling emotions. Dorsey understands and slips her arm around me.

"I know," the short Japanese woman whispers softly up to my ear.

Answered prayers

"Remember our first trip and how we cried together on this very street?" Dorsey asked, referencing the assessment trip from Tokyo Baptist Church soon after the disaster struck 250 miles north of the city. "Remember we prayed for God's guidance in reaching this neighborhood? Well, He's answering our prayers. Come see!"

Our paths first crossed two days after Japan's magnitude-9.0 earthquake and tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis. Dorsey was the first person to arrive for the meeting and has never stopped working since, even moving from Tokyo to an apartment as close as she could get to the Okaido community in the city of Ishinomaki — 40 minutes away.

Most people in this area did not receive government help because everything wasn't destroyed. So, volunteer teams from Tokyo Baptist Church shoveled out toxic mud, carted off debris and now help the community with construction. She grabs my arm and pulls me out the door. We are late for Bible study. We walk to a green pre-fabricated home in the middle of the neighborhood.

"I don't know who painted that," Dorsey said, shaking her head and smiling at the blue and white logo of Tokyo Baptist Church and cross

painted on the aluminum siding of this church plant. "I came back from Tokyo one time and it was there. The people are really getting involved and making it their own."

Dorsey pulls out her thick Bible and begins discipling these new believers. Four have made decisions to follow Jesus since December.

"No one was open to Jesus here in the beginning. I talk about Jesus but they say, 'What is Jesus?'" Dorsey remembers. She gives a sly smile and adds, "So, I follow my favorite verse (Matt. 7:7) and knock and believe the door will open. I knock on all of the doors."

Tsuneko Nakashio tells me God sent His helping hand through Dorsey and the Tokyo church. In fact, the relationship saved her life.

The new Christian looks down at the ground and swallows hard before diving into her story of survival.

Nakashio quietly admits that a few months after the disaster she was looking for a place to kill herself among the giant piles of rubble when she heard laughter. She saw Tokyo Baptist Church volunteers working and Dorsey invited her to join them. She followed them to a worship service and there, the darkness and gloom began to fade.

"People need to know why the darkness is gone," Dorsey said.

We sit in comfortable silence, letting Dorsey's one-sentence lesson about the importance of a testimony sink in. Then out of the blue, my friend asks if I remember Nakashio from my previous visits.

"She have joy in her face now. You probably remember her walking around with a 'lady duck face' when she was sad," Dorsey said, squashing her lips out to look like a duck's bill.

Adoration radiates from Nakashio's face as she sits laughing with her spiritual mentor.

There are more smiles and tears here than I've seen in all of my trips to northeastern Japan since the tsunami. People are no longer suspicious but open and welcoming to outsiders.

Dorsey's eyes twinkle as I finally realize why she's so excited — God is answering our prayers. (BP)



BP photo

BASIC NECESSITIES — Yoko Dorsey (center) of Tokyo Baptist Church and IMB emeritus missionary Gerald Burch provide warm blankets to tsunami survivor Setsuyo Oginome in Ishinomaki, Japan. The government provides limited support for survivors whose homes were damaged but not deemed uninhabitable.

Across Alabama's Associations

BESSEMER

► **Canaan Church, Bessemer**, will present the Easter musical "The Living Lord's Supper" April 1, 6 p.m. The church also will hold a Good Friday service with the observance of the Lord's Supper April 6, 6:30 p.m. Morgan Bailey is pastor. ► **Tannehill Valley Church, McCalla**, will hold an Easter worship service called "Our God Reigns!" April 1, 10 a.m. Jonathan Reaves is pastor.

COFFEE

► **First Church, Elba**, will present "Christ in the Passover" March 29, 6:30 p.m. Bruce Rapp of Jews for Jesus will recreate the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection. For information call 334-897-2246. Michael Woodham is pastor. ► **Westside Church, Elba**, will hold revival March 25-28, 6 p.m., with Grant Barber. For information call 334-897-2520. Ken Wilson is pastor.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

► **Lookout Mountain Association** will hold a horse whisperer evangelistic event March 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Cherokee County youth livestock arena at Sand Rock High School. Bring your lawn chairs. For information call 256-505-1631.

Lloyd Borden is director of missions.

MORGAN

► **Flint Church, Decatur**, will hold spring revival April 15-18 with Don Ledbetter, of Fayetteville, Ga. Services will be Sunday at 6 p.m. and weeknights at 6:30. For information visit www.donledbetter.org. Richard L. Richie is pastor.

SAND MOUNTAIN

► **New Home Church, Pisgah**, will hold a movie night March 25, 6 p.m. "Courageous" will be shown. There will be a nursery for babies and children's church for children. For information call 256-451-3992 or email nhbsecretary@farmerstel.com. David Smith is pastor.

ST. CLAIR

► **St. Clair Association** will hold a Vacation Bible School (VBS) clinic April 22, 1:30-4 p.m., and April 23, 6-8:30 p.m., at First Church, Moody. The sessions will be identical. A nursery will be provided for children birth through three years old. Pastors and VBS directors and their teams are invited. Kristin Simpson is associational VBS director, and Ben Chandler is director of missions for St. Clair Association. Brad Moseley is pastor of First, Moody.

SULPHUR SPRINGS

► Bethel

Church, Dora, will hold spring revival April 15-18 with Phil S. Walker, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, Madison, Miss., and adjunct professor for New Orleans Seminary. Services will be Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7. There will be a morning Bible study Monday and Tuesday on "How to Grow More Intimate With God" at 11:45 a.m. For information call 205-648-2917 or visit www.bbcdora.com. John Foles is pastor.

WEST CULLMAN

► **Fairview West Church, Hanceville**, will hold spring revival April 1-4. Services will be Sunday at 6 p.m. and weeknights at 7. Ray Davis will speak Sunday, Kerry Cleghorn Monday, Billy Gable Tuesday and Wayne Wisener Wednesday. Trueman Davis is pastor.

Please submit news items for "Across Alabama's Associations" at least three weeks prior to the event.



Mexia celebrates 100 years with 200 attendees

Mexia Baptist Church in Bethlehem Baptist Association commemorated its 100th anniversary last fall with a weekend celebration that included a Saturday cookout and a special Sunday service.

"It was just a wonderful weekend. ... It was a huge undertaking," said Susan Loftin, chairwoman of the centennial anniversary planning committee. "It was better than we ever envisioned it would be."

Approximately 200 attendees enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings, and the microphone was open to anyone who wished to share a few words. Each former pastor in attendance spoke and reminisced.

In addition, deacon Charles Wiggins brought his horse and buggy for everyone to enjoy and others brought antique cars.

The following morning during the service, a representative from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission presented a plaque and a family in the church donated 100 long-stemmed red roses to commemorate the church's 100 years.

The choir sang special hymns, and a men's quartet — comprised of both current and former church members — sang old gospel songs. Former Mexia Baptist Pastor Reuben Grimes presented a 15-minute concert.

Q.T. Curtis, retired Mexia Baptist pastor, brought a sermon and sang his signature song, "I'd Rather Have Jesus."

A 55-page anniversary book full of memories and photographs was created for the occasion and passed out to the estimated 300-400 people in attendance. "It was really a treasure and everybody loved it," Loftin said.

The book ends with photos of the church's "future" — current Mexia Baptist children pictured in Bible school.

Pastor Wayne McMillian said the vision for the church is "to reach out to the community with our lives."

The State Board of Missions joins with the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention in encouraging churches to give 1% more through the Cooperative Program.

If each Alabama Baptist church increased the total percentage of undesignated gifts given through the Cooperative Program by 0.2% per year for 5 years, the result would be a 1% increase or \$614,000 per year!

Together we can do more to impact the Kingdom.

For information and resources about the Cooperative Program, please contact State Missionary Jim Swedenburg, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 283, jswedenburg@alsbom.org.

Churches break tradition, make unchurched comfortable

Ron Williams is the pastor of Church at the GYM in Sanford, Fla. As the Baptist church's name implies, Williams' congregation meets, well, in a gym.

Williams said the goal is to remove the "stained glass barriers" for people who might not be comfortable in traditional church settings.

"I think all the trappings of traditional religion can make it difficult for people to start coming," he said. "You can invite someone and they will say, 'I don't have any clothes to wear to church.'"

To make people feel more comfortable, Williams wears jeans. In the warm Florida climate, some members wear shorts.

Sanford native Sandy Adcox, 38, had not been to church in 18 years before she attended Church at the GYM last March.

"I've never in my life felt more comfortable in a church," she said.

Comfortable is becoming common as churches take advantage of new, nontraditional spaces in movie theaters, skating rinks, strip malls and old warehouses, among others.

Aaron Coe, vice president for mobilization for the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board, cited several factors for the shift, including a move

away from traditionalism and the economic advantages of leasing space instead of building a church.

"We've seen everything from art galleries to schools," he said.

After meeting in an intermediate school for three years, leaders of Celebration Church, Hoover, in Shelby Baptist Association, realized that God was calling them "to a greater concentration of people." So the church moved its adult and children's services into two theaters in Rave Motion Pictures.

'A turnoff'

"Many times a traditional church building is a turnoff to unchurched people," Pastor David Bradford said. "So if a church can begin meeting in a building that is frequented by people all week long, it is not such a hard step to worship."

The word unchurched is used to describe those who have no church home.

Fred Muse, pastor of CrossWay Baptist Fellowship, Pelham, in Shelby Baptist Association, also sees using a nontraditional building as a matter of stewardship. His

congregation meets in the Pelham YMCA.

"As a church plant with limited resources, we couldn't afford to build a building, but it helped us focus on what the real Church is," he said.

They may not have steeples or stained glass, but the nontraditional churches say they are finding success tapping into a segment of society that may otherwise have been lost. At these churches, attendees often are greeted with coffee and doughnuts.

The Bridge in Flint, Mich., set up in a strip mall anchored by a grocery store. "We do a lot of things that are really different," Pastor Steve Bentley said.

Perhaps the most different: The interdenominational church recently opened a tattoo parlor. "We want to be relevant to people's lives," Bentley said.

The church uses video clips to illustrate its messages on Sundays. "We break with tradition, but we don't break with Scripture," Bentley said. "It's all about presenting the information in a different way."

Bradford said Celebration Church is similar in its worship services.

"Because we are a movie theater church, we are heavy in videos and graphics," Bradford noted. "We try to be very culturally relevant and culturally mindful of the people who are unchurched and where they are in life."

Church at the GYM is an outlet of Sanford's Palmetto Avenue Baptist Church, which Williams described as a contemporary

service that appeals to the baby boomer generation.

The new church is a more modern interpretation — an experiment that aims to encourage attendance among the under-40 crowd, he said.

Celebration Church is seeing success in reaching this generation.

"Most times, the people we reach are usually 35 and under," Bradford said. "We've only been meeting here for a month full time, and we've found we had a few guests come in the front door ready to watch a movie and

(then) see the church and come to church instead."

Muse noted, "It takes different types of churches to reach different types of people because we are commissioned to reach all people for the gospel. ... We really want to get back to the heart of the Christian mission and that is reaching

people for the cause of Christ to build the kingdom of God and make disciples."

A 2010 Gallup Poll found that church attendance was on a slight incline: 43.1 percent of Americans reported weekly or almost weekly attendance. Older people were the most likely to attend, while 18- to 29-year-olds were among the least active.

"As evangelicals, we don't believe the building is the Church; the people are the Church," Coe said.

"The building itself has taken on less importance."

Meeting at the YMCA provides CrossWay members opportunities to minister to families and children already connected to the facility.

Reaching people

"Sometimes churches have to leave their buildings to do missions work," Muse said. "We meet in a facility where we can do missions in our own backyard."

Bradford said it all comes down to reaching people far from God. "We simply want to see changed lives for Jesus." (RNS)

"We really want to get back to the heart of the Christian mission and that is reaching people."

Fred Muse

CrossWay Baptist Fellowship, Pelham

"I think all the trappings of traditional religion can make it difficult for people to start coming."

Ron Williams

Church at the GYM, Sanford, Fla.

Former Cahaba Baptist Association DOM Julius I. Poellnitz Jr. dies at 89

Julius I. Poellnitz Jr., former director of missions (DOM) for Cahaba Baptist Association, died March 8.

He was 89.

A Marengo County native, Poellnitz was a World War II Air Force veteran and retired from the Air Force Reserve.

He served as pastor of Pisgah Baptist Church, Selma, from 1977 to 1983 and



POELLNITZ

great-grandchildren. (TAB)

DOM for Cahaba Association from 1983 to 1996. Poellnitz was also active in various civic and church organizations and a member of Big Hill Baptist Church, Gordo.

He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Sadie; two daughters; four grandchildren; and six

Someone You Should Know

By Julie Payne
Correspondent, TAB

HARRIET "SUE" DAWSON

Center Point Baptist Church, Scottsboro
Tennessee River Baptist Association

FAVORITE VERSE: Philippians 4:13

FAVORITE HYMN: "Kneel at the Cross"

HOBBY: Playing dominoes with friends

FAMILY STATUS: Widowed for 31 years

after 35 years of marriage to Nip; two sons, Dennis and Kevin; one granddaughter; and two great-granddaughters



DAWSON

Harriet "Sue" Dawson has been an active member of Center Point Baptist Church, Scottsboro, for 48 years. She taught a preschool class at the church for 40 years and is active in Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

Q: How did you come to know the Lord?

A: It was the first year I was married at a revival meeting in Woodville, Ala., in 1947.

Q: How did you get involved in ministry?

A: After [my husband] was saved and joined the church, I

taught preschool. I just loved working with children. [I would] still be working with children if I was able.

Q: How do your family members support you?

A: My family members support me real good. I have two precious daughters-in-law that are just like daughters to me. If I didn't have the Lord and my family members, I wouldn't have made it as long as I have.

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

A: For as long as I live and I am able to get there, I will be at church. I will be in WMU, in Discipleship Training and in worship.

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

A: It seems like He's always been a part of my life. Since I lost my husband, I don't know how people live without the love of the Lord and the church.

If you know of a person 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.

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Starting something new

Presbyterian 'breakaway' groups signal 'seismic shift'?

There's a popular saying in church-planting circles: It's easier to make babies than to raise the dead.

That principle applies to denominations as well, said Paul Determan, who helped found the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO) in January.

"We thought it was easier in the long run to create something new rather than to keep on trying to modify existing forms," he said.

The "existing form," in Determan's case, was the Presbyterian Church (USA), which remains the nation's largest Presbyterian denomination despite a decades-long plunge in membership.

The ECO may steepen that decline.

Thousands of conservative Presbyterians, upset over the PC (USA)'s vote to lift its ban on partnered gay and lesbian clergy last year, are eyeing the new group. Planning for the ECO, which will not ordain sexually active gays and lesbians, preceded the gay clergy vote, Determan said.

The Anglican Church in North America (ACNA) formed in late 2008, five years after the Episcopal Church consecrated an openly gay bishop in New Hampshire. In 2010, a year after the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to allow partnered gay and lesbian clergy, conservatives formed the North American Lutheran Church.

The question now is whether these breakaway groups signal a seismic shift in American Protes-

tantism, or just a few fissures in the theological terrain.

Leaders of all three new denominations say the gay clergy issue was only the breaking point for conservatives, after years of dissatisfaction with overbearing bureaucracies, membership losses and liberal theology.

"When orthodox and conservative Christians made homosexuality their flash-point issue, and they lost those struggles, in many ways they had no choice but to create these new structures," said Mark Tooley, president of the Institute for Religion & Democracy, a Washington-based advocacy group.

In some ways, the rifts are nothing new. American Protestants have been splintering since Roger Williams left Plymouth Colony in the 1630s, said Nancy Ammerman, a sociologist of religion at Boston University.

'Burgeoning movement'

"What we may be experiencing at this point is the limit of that movement to draw a lot of diversity under one umbrella," said Ammerman, author of "Pillars of Faith: American Congregations and Their Partners."

Archbishop Robert Duncan, ACNA's leader, said the new denominations herald a burgeoning movement.

"There is a Reformation going on in the Christian church, particularly in the West, and particularly in the mainline Protestant denomina-

tions," he said. Duncan's ACNA seeks to supplant the Episcopal Church as the U.S. branch of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

But some religion scholars say the new denominations are heading down a demographic dead end unless they can broaden their appeal beyond conservatives upset over pro-gay church policies.

"Public opinion about gays and lesbians and gay marriage are changing so dramatically that at some point in the future — 10 years, let's say — it's not going to matter very much," said Robert Wuthnow, a sociologist and director of the Center for the Study of Religion at Princeton University.

Wuthnow and other scholars say American Protestantism provides fertile ground for offshoots, with the membership losses often encouraging the outgrowth.

"People worry that they may be on the wrong track and decide to start something new," Wuthnow said.

The Episcopal Church, ELCA and PC (USA) have lost members for years, as have many North American denominations, conservative and liberal alike.

The Anglican Church in North America counts 719 member congregations; the Episcopal Church has more than 7,000. The North American Lutheran Church counts about 300 congregations, compared to the ELCA's nearly 10,500. The ECO is just getting off the ground, while the PC (USA) has more than 11,000 churches.

"The size is not as important to me as the faithfulness of what we've been challenged to do and to be in terms of our identity," said NALC's Bishop John Bradlosky. (RNS)

"There is a Reformation going on in the Christian church, particularly in the West."

Archbishop Robert Duncan
ACNA

Baptist News Briefs

Compiled from Wire Services

New council created for SBC Executive Committee

NASHVILLE — An African American Advisory Council has been created to communicate the perspectives of black churches and their leaders to Southern Baptist Convention entity leaders, Executive Committee President Frank S. Page has announced.

"Part of the work of the Executive Committee is ... to provide quality connections and relationships," Page said in a statement to SBC LIFE, journal of the Executive Committee (EC). "I am very excited about working with the members of this council, which includes Ken Weathersby who is helping with all of our ethnic groups in raising awareness and involvement of our ethnic brothers and sisters in Cooperative Program promotion and development."

Weathersby is the North American Mission Board's (NAMB) presidential ambassador for ethnic church relations.

The African American Advisory Council will be a three-year initiative (2012–2015) established by Page, as EC president, and Kevin Ezell, as NAMB president, in an ongoing effort, as SBC LIFE described it, "to engage the many faces of the SBC in meaningful dialogue about working together as full and equal partners in the harvest."

"[T]he council will enable the presidents and staff of the EC and NAMB to maintain vital contact with the African American Baptist family through participation in strategic meetings and personal conferences," SBC LIFE reported.

Election of Luter would 'put money where mouth is'

NEW ORLEANS — A New Orleans pastor seeking to become the Southern Baptist convention's first black president says his election would add credibility to a 1995 resolution that apologized for the denomination's past support of slavery and segregation.

Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said March 11 on NPR's "All Things Considered" that since adopting a Resolution On Racial Reconciliation On The 150th Anniversary Of The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Atlanta, the nation's second-largest faith group has tried to let the public know it "is not just a convention that ... is lily white and that is not open to folk who are not white."

"And they've done that, I think, successfully," Luter said. "I think what this election would do, if I am elected, it will say, 'Hey, we're not only talking this thing; we're putting our money where our mouth is.'"

Ethnic congregations made up 18 percent of SBC churches in 2008, with African-American and Hispanic congregations leading the way at 6 percent each of SBC churches, followed by Asians and other ethnic groups making up 3 percent each.

LifeWay trims back Church Resources Division

NASHVILLE — LifeWay Christian Resources' Church Resources Division has a new leader and a slimmer staff, with several positions being eliminated and the loss of about 30 employees.

Eric Geiger was approved by LifeWay trustees as vice president of the division in February and within a few days implemented a reorganization.

Geiger — author, speaker and former executive pastor — came to the position in an interim capacity in the fall to determine what changes needed to be made. "They wanted to do some new things in curriculum and other areas, new things in digital and leadership, but the structure and some of the resources didn't allow that," LifeWay spokesperson Marty King told *The Alabama Baptist*.

LifeWay president Thom S. Rainer told employees, "I believe these changes are necessary because the new opportunities they make possible are exciting and bode well for the future of LifeWay. But that didn't make the personnel decisions easy."

Fla. assoc. asks church with sex-offender to resign

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Baptist Association (JBA) is seeking a member church's resignation after the church hired a convicted sex-offender to provide pulpit ministry in January.

According to a statement by JBA lead missionary strategist Rick Wheeler and moderator David Tarkington on March 2, the "pastoral staffing decision" of Christ Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church in Jacksonville has caused the Florida association to initiate conversations with the congregation resulting in a "mutual understanding that it is necessary for CTMBC to leave" the association.

The person at the center of the controversy is Darrell Gilyard, a once-prominent and former Southern Baptist preacher who completed a three-year prison sentence in December for sex crimes against minors, according to the *Florida Times-Union*.



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Church Report for 2011

BAPTISMS, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS FOR CHURCHES

The following report reflects the Cooperative Program (CP) receipts, designated offerings and baptisms for Alabama's more than 3,200 Baptist churches during 2011.

Churches are listed alphabetically according to association. This report is based on statistics compiled by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM). Baptism totals are from the Annual Church Profile for the 2010-11 Association Year.

Churches showing a N/A (not available) response for baptism or giving totals did not report in those areas. CP and designated offering totals are from the SBOM accounting office, January-December 2011.

The SBOM reported total receipts for 2011 — including CP gifts and designated offerings — at almost \$69 million. CP gifts accounted for more than \$40.5 million of that total.

For more information, call Bobby DuBois at 1-800-264-1225, Ext. 219, or e-mail him at bdubois@alsbom.org. (TAB)

Alabama Crenshaw	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethel	0	\$1,406.00	\$0.00
Bradleyton	3	\$1,200.00	\$1,230.00
Brantley	4	\$4,848.00	\$5,214.70
Calvary	0	\$60.00	\$0.00
Chapel Hill	2	\$1,053.00	\$4,619.89
Danielville	10	\$1,552.48	\$7,043.25
Dozier	N/A	\$540.00	\$2,035.01
Friendship	2	\$3,090.71	\$260.00
Glenwood	0	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Highland Home	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jocuin	0	\$2,200.00	\$3,257.00
Luverne First	6	\$1,000.00	\$5,525.55
Magnolia	7	\$275.00	\$3,424.00
Mt. Zion	15	\$12,473.00	\$3,167.00
New Ebenezer	3	\$3,009.14	\$3,785.16
New Harmony	0	\$800.00	\$1,557.00
Oakdale	0	\$0.00	\$400.00
Panola	N/A	\$0.00	\$25.00
Patsburg	0	\$1,000.00	\$3,475.00
Pleasant Home	0	\$1,841.06	\$1,289.86
Rock Hill	1	\$1,065.95	\$1,674.65
Rutledge First	4	\$3,598.27	\$1,619.55
Siloam	N/A	\$200.00	\$0.00
South Luverne	9	\$24,855.00	\$13,649.00
Spring Hill South	2	\$5,221.60	\$2,680.00
Union	10	\$5,500.00	\$4,517.00
Weed	0	\$200.00	\$870.00
Alabama Crenshaw Totals	82	\$76,989.21	\$81,318.62

Autauga	Baptism	CP	Designated
Autaugaville	1	\$48,578.44	\$40,138.93
Bethel	2	\$2,550.07	\$0.00
Bethesda	1	\$1,093.00	\$4,953.26
Bethlehem	2	\$1,418.00	\$4,854.00
Big Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Billingsley	6	\$6,432.06	\$2,926.45
Boone's Chapel	15	\$10,535.83	\$6,343.51
Calvary	4	\$5,751.09	\$2,840.00
Camellia	5	\$37,510.51	\$13,877.86
County Line	0	\$5,525.00	\$1,450.00
Crestview	7	\$11,145.56	\$780.00
East Memorial	15	\$25,586.64	\$17,363.70
Evergreen Baptist	6	\$1,825.00	\$1,511.00
Fresh Rain	7	\$150.00	\$326.00
Glynnwood	21	\$73,887.24	\$24,358.70
Indian Grave	7	\$21,055.32	\$8,333.00
Jones	0	\$9,900.00	\$2,880.25
Liberty	5	\$3,767.92	\$2,316.50
Marbury	2	\$2,034.45	\$1,010.97
Milton	0	\$1,095.24	\$622.72
Mount Sinai	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Prospect	1	\$648.10	\$609.36
New Vision	2	\$2,032.92	\$9,714.62
Pine Level First	18	\$4,534.88	\$3,996.88
Pleasant Hill	1	\$5,595.13	\$645.41
Possey Cross Road First	10	\$3,884.31	\$987.32
Pratt Court	4	\$1,742.01	\$2,694.09
Prattmont	25	\$36,583.45	\$26,019.83
Prattville First	36	\$392,015.90	\$167,069.86
Primera Iglesia Hispana	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pueblo De Dios	0	\$331.13	\$833.84
The Church at Pine Level	N/A	\$1,778.54	\$0.00
Unity	5	\$5,520.05	\$6,808.15
Wadsworth	4	\$10,456.01	\$3,138.25
White Pond	2	\$7,635.04	\$10,905.14
Autauga Totals	217	\$743,568.84	\$370,309.60

Baldwin	Baptism	CP	Designated
Barnwell	N/A	\$15,348.24	\$1,134.60
Bay Minette First	22	\$272,185.45	\$93,869.14
Bayside	2	\$3,820.20	\$2,328.13
Bethel	8	\$9,083.48	\$8,079.74
Bromley	N/A	\$1,466.53	\$1,467.00
Calvary Bay Minette	N/A	\$3,714.38	\$1,218.65
Calvary Foley	3	\$2,426.00	\$4,350.00
Church On the Eastern	106	\$27,500.00	\$577.00
Crossroads at Belforest	N/A	N/A	N/A

Crossway Christian Fellow.	0	\$2,767.00	\$0.00
Daphne	2	\$8,459.36	\$3,697.00
Durant Chapel	3	\$19,386.90	\$19,492.75
East Pointe	8	\$53,096.56	\$15,005.00
(d) East Wind Ministries	N/A	\$75.00	\$0.00
Eastern Shore	42	\$124,289.47	\$102,679.79
Eastwood	N/A	\$3,931.77	\$2,165.50
Elberta First	N/A	\$5,161.00	\$1,462.69
Fairhope Avenue	3	\$14,856.16	\$4,152.39
Fairhope Community Church	0	\$560.00	\$628.82
Fairhope First	45	\$222,137.04	\$55,956.67
Faith Family Fellowship	10	\$42,968.31	\$9,955.00
FBC Summerdale	5	\$9,720.54	\$10,925.00
Fish River	13	\$13,415.48	\$3,768.11
Foley First	12	\$45,210.00	\$30,534.92
Friendship	3	\$18,315.61	\$14,735.43
Grace	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Green Acres	6	\$0.00	\$166.79
Gulf Shores First	13	\$98,965.91	\$28,744.74
Hamilton	8	\$9,656.19	\$2,915.99
Josephine	N/A	\$1,575.00	\$2,737.00
Jubilee	27	\$93,759.50	\$28,592.80
Lagoon	8	\$3,816.63	\$71.25
Lifeway Community	13	\$1,512.48	\$0.00
Lillian First	6	\$12,227.74	\$4,678.16
Loxley First	12	\$37,190.66	\$10,015.21
Magnolia Springs	5	\$5,343.71	\$5,474.54
Miflin	N/A	\$2,366.00	\$851.00
Montgomery Hill	0	\$838.00	\$6,352.00
New Horizon	N/A	\$0.00	\$325.00
New Life	3	\$8,165.00	\$1,500.00
New Providence	1	\$1,950.00	\$3,400.00
Orange Beach First	16	\$32,223.00	\$20,713.42
Oyster Bay	4	\$17,651.00	\$14,952.31
Perdido	0	\$1,400.00	\$6,065.05
Perdido Beach	4	\$599.80	\$1,319.08
Pine Grove	6	\$8,989.75	\$4,694.10
Pleasant View	14	\$8,740.64	\$3,579.77
Point Clear First	0	\$494.71	\$1,784.57
Robertsdale First	40	\$21,127.11	\$12,627.41
Romar Beach	7	\$3,000.00	\$2,185.00
Shell Banks	4	\$2,508.27	\$4,270.05
Silverhill First	7	\$29,331.22	\$6,214.60
Southside	4	\$15,291.28	\$12,873.90
Spanish Fort First	4	\$19,898.70	\$5,630.00
Spanish Trail	3	\$4,003.00	\$2,862.00
Stapleton	8	\$27,456.16	\$10,888.98
Stockton First	9	\$13,749.75	\$3,010.87
Styx River	0	\$1,073.17	\$0.00
Three Rivers	3	\$1,356.26	\$25.00
Trinity	1	\$1,100.00	\$0.00
Vernant Park	4	\$14,436.25	\$4,710.81
Whitehouse Fork	15	\$2,475.00	\$1,616.00
Baldwin Totals	547	\$1,430,166.37	\$611,750.73

Barbour	Baptism	CP	Designated
Anderson	0	\$671.00	\$0.00
Belcher Bethel	11	\$0.00	\$1,255.86
Bethlehem	0	\$1,684.24	\$730.00
Calvary	6	\$2,400.00	\$5,510.00
Christian Grove	0	\$500.00	\$1,445.00
Clayton	2	\$15,756.67	\$8,030.11
Clio	0	\$322.26	\$0.00
Corinth	0	\$1,245.30	\$915.00
Emmanuel	3	\$2,301.49	\$800.00
Eufaula First	8	\$135,600.00	\$31,208.27
Evergreen	0	\$6,083.37	\$1,050.00
Lake City	2	\$5,423.84	\$3,644.65
Louisville	0	\$16,245.36	\$7,256.04
Mt. Zion	4	\$3,890.91	\$3,635.00
Parkview	4	\$47,120.34	\$18,038.73
Pine Level	4	\$6,840.62	\$1,795.00
Pleasant Hill	0	\$300.00	\$309.00
Pleasant Plains	0	\$3,109.06	\$1,423.00
Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spring Hill	2	\$2,784.00	\$750.00
Sykes Creek	9	\$0.00	\$120.00
Union	4	\$1,232.02	\$742.80
Barbour Totals	59	\$253,510.48	\$88,658.55

Bessemer	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethel	11	\$33,800.00	\$14,771.85
Calvary	15	\$0.00	\$0.00
Canaan	32	\$92,759.63	\$43,569.59
Christian Walk	N/A	N/A	N/A
Concord	4	\$20,687.02	\$18,195.08
Concord Highland	0	\$19,562.00	\$7,629.00
Cornerstone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cottage Hill	3	\$6,791.00	\$2,300.15
Crossway	5	\$6,435.72	\$7,336.75
Dolomite	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eastern Valley	3	\$16,350.00	\$4,021.07
Edgewater	N/A	\$2,637.44	\$2,009.44
Ezra	N/A	\$6,575.40	\$1,225.72
Fairfield Highlands	2	\$45,394.81	\$12,350.60
First Missionary Baptist	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Flint Hill	27	\$6,000.00	\$1,000.00
(d) Garywood	N/A	\$0.00	\$16,000.00
Grace Life	32	\$45,000.00	\$45,383.86
Grant St.	13	\$183.37	\$12,205.09
Hopewell First	N/A	\$600.00	\$0.00
Hueytown	6	\$37,237.64	\$17,078.98
Industrial City	0	\$1,589.29	\$860.00
Living Faith	N/A	\$200.00	\$0.00
Maytown	7	\$47,166.35	\$44,067.20
McCalla First	4	\$0.00	\$1,192.08
New Faith	3	\$3,717.27	\$1,255.93
New Hope	0	\$1,327.26	\$3,790.99
North Highlands	10	\$23,885.44	\$27,270.32
Pleasant Ridge	14	\$63,850.86	\$41,377.55
Pleasant Valley	6	\$5,802.85	\$2,450.60
Raimund Heights	0	\$0.00	\$702.25
River Road	16	\$1,995.23	\$1,181.89
Rock Mountain Lakes	2	\$10,015.99	\$2,611.00
Seventh Street	2	\$1,400.00	\$5,407.22
Shady Grove	2	\$10,798.26	\$6,969.01
Southcrest	1	\$30,346.88	\$12,992.77
Sylvan Springs First	0	\$2,031.01	\$1,434.24
Tannehill Valley	10	\$52,405.52	\$17,233.35
The Church at McAdory	4	\$59,469.46	\$25,521.27
The Church at Ross Station	22	\$22,620.16	\$0.00
Union	0	\$2,027.67	\$3,339.00
Valley Creek	55	\$40,347.39	\$12,663.05
Vineyard Park	0	\$450.00	\$1,755.00
West Highland	0	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Wilkes	0	\$0.00	\$192.00
World Overcomers Christian	N/A	N/A	N/A

Bessemer Totals	321	\$721,460.92	\$421,543.90
Bethel	Baptism	CP	Designated
Airmwell	3	\$5,924.30	\$2,006.00
Beaver Creek	0	\$1,216.36	\$2,000.00
Bethlehem	1	\$4,917.00	\$7,638.20
Calvary	1	\$6,412.68	\$7,420.50
Catherine	0	\$250.00	\$1,200.00
County Line	9	\$1,782.16	\$4,658.38
Demopolis First	8	\$80,470.78	\$43,671.34
Dixon's Mills	0	\$1,200.00	\$895.00
Fairhaven	19	\$45,047.26	\$21,122.97
Forest Hill	7	\$6,976.14	\$3,026.43
Friendship	1	\$4,637.55	\$2,201.66
Hoboken	7	\$1,086.51	\$9,778.65
Hope	0	\$3,288.00	\$2,446.00
Jefferson	0	\$325.00	\$1,037.00
Lamison	0	\$1,007.19	\$1,847.09
Linden	9	\$24,500.04	\$23,327.82
(d) Mission of French Creek	N/A	\$120.00	\$0.00
Myrtlewood	0	\$3,126.65	\$1,147.20
Nanafalia	0	\$3,136.80	\$1,500.00
Nicholsville	3	\$2,012.99	\$2,339.65
Oak Grove	2	\$2,113.91	\$4,931.00
Old Union	0	\$400.00	\$1,400.00
Pine Hill	1	\$23,210.00	\$35,525.61
Providence	13	\$12,674.11	\$9,917.00
Rangeline	0	\$8,161.14	\$3,933.50
Sardis	1	\$5,258.00	\$3,930.00
Shiloh	6	\$5,733.84	\$12,908.48
Sunny South	2	\$3,789.23	\$8,187.79
Sweet Water	3	\$13,902.01	\$9,197.47
The Church At Putnam	0	\$600.00	\$300.00
Thomaston	4	\$14,676.99	\$9,662.72
Union Grove	0	\$300.00	\$1,425.00
Vineyard	3	\$932.57	\$317.22
Wayne	0	\$257.16	\$659.11
Westside	1	\$3,246.37	\$937.00
Yellow Bluff	0	\$448.54	\$1,945.70
Bethel Totals	104	\$293,141.28	\$244,241.49
Bethlehem	Baptism	CP	Designated
Barbara Locklin	0	\$1,100.00	\$4,685.00
Eastwood	12	\$30,253.40	\$29,153.47
Enon	5	\$2,649.66	\$6,425.50
Eureka	0	\$2,320.00	\$1,134.00
Excel	13	\$43,165.23	\$32,866.75
Fountain	0	\$2,284.25	\$3,792.70
Frisco City First	2	\$15,933.35	\$12,452.67
Goodway First	2	\$10,387.95	\$7,359.20
Little River	1	\$7,669.00	\$9,544.08
Mexia	26	\$26,671.63	\$7,576.81
Mineola	0	\$3,563.48	\$7,688.83

Four Points	12	\$6,793.00	\$11,492.00
Haysop	1	\$3,551.07	\$3,744.07
Johnstown	1	\$4,199.00	\$3,206.80
Lowerytown	10	\$0.00	\$6,022.71
Lucile	2	\$2,339.06	\$3,140.53
Marvel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mt. Carmel	5	\$848.15	\$2,297.13
Mt. Moriah	1	\$718.26	\$1,238.52
Mt. Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hebron	0	\$1,701.69	\$2,516.80
Old Union	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pineview	11	\$13,630.80	\$658.30
Pondville	0	\$2,311.50	\$7,170.70
Randolph	0	\$9,577.09	\$5,018.26
Rehobeth	2	\$1,528.25	\$4,726.09
Schultz Creek	12	\$10,916.27	\$8,092.00
Shady Grove	10	\$2,572.00	\$3,643.27
Shady Grove #2	1	\$33.00	\$0.00
Six Mile	0	\$1,815.12	\$2,285.79
Smith Hill	4	\$0.00	\$500.00
Thomas Mill	4	\$2,116.50	\$2,816.50
West Blocton First	6	\$1,101.00	\$2,250.00
Woodstock First	12	\$21,119.58	\$11,965.38
Bibb Totals	133	\$198,889.96	\$154,335.26

Bigbee	Baptism	CP	Designated
Beulah	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christian Valley	5	\$1,500.00	\$4,908.00
Clinton	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cuba	2	\$9,622.17	\$5,853.18
Epes	0	\$0.00	\$500.00
Eutaw	5	\$15,825.50	\$3,141.00
Friendship	0	\$750.00	\$2,305.00
Gainesville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Larkin Memorial	N/A	N/A	N/A
Livingston First	10	\$37,292.99	\$13,207.81
Old Belmont	0	\$0.00	\$2,270.00
Shorts	N/A	\$100.00	\$100.00
Siloam	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sumterville	0	\$900.00	\$1,625.00
Ward	0	\$1,511.45	\$3,514.00
West Greene	0	\$250.00	\$750.00
York	0	\$12,089.71	\$11,551.49
Bigbee Totals	23	\$79,841.82	\$49,725.48

Birmingham	Baptism	CP	Designated
Adamsville	0	\$10,293.64	\$4,821.93
Agape	N/A	N/A	N/A
Agape Cristiana	N/A	\$5,653.24	\$3,625.31
Agape Missionary	N/A	N/A	N/A
Argo	N/A	\$2,674.00	\$7,431.00



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Pleasant View	11	\$1,564.00	\$19,336.46
Robin Hill	2	\$0.00	\$1,566.25
Roswell Creek	5	\$0.00	\$600.00
Shady Grove #1	1	\$0.00	\$1,043.00
Shady Grove #2	2	\$0.00	\$2,584.00
Shiloh	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shoal Creek	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tails Gap	1	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Twenty Fifth Avenue	1	\$474.35	\$1,537.45
Union Grove #1	0	\$0.00	\$100.00
Valley Grove	8	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Warrior Creek	3	\$0.00	\$1,772.00
Warrior River	N/A	\$0.00	\$100.00
Welcome #1	N/A	\$0.00	\$212.19
Welcome #2	4	\$0.00	\$500.00
Willsville	N/A	\$0.00	\$279.00
Blount Totals	147	\$2,563.35	\$68,468.11

Bullock Centennial	Baptism	CP	Designated
Eastside	4	\$3,647.63	\$3,323.00
Indian Creek	0	\$3,335.84	\$6,714.00
Inverness	0	\$3,515.40	\$2,744.01
Liberty	1	\$901.00	\$300.00
Loflin	1	\$1,382.34	\$324.90
Macedonia	0	\$16,086.46	\$10,045.70
Midway	0	\$3,029.55	\$10,025.00
Mt. Carmel	0	\$3,468.78	\$3,629.58
Union Springs First	2	\$15,789.77	\$14,237.90
Bullock Centennial Totals	8	\$51,176.77	\$51,344.09

Butler	Baptism	CP	Designated
Antioch East	10	\$29,614.88	\$17,696.70
Antioch West	4	\$2,015.89	\$8,539.59
Bethel	1	\$520.00	\$0.00
Brushey Creek	10	\$4,055.08	\$3,605.08
Calvary	0	\$1,510.70	\$3,080.00
Central	10	\$862.53	\$477.74
Damascus	21	\$1,494.50	\$2,647.10
East Chapman	0	\$1,318.68	\$535.00
East Greenville	0	\$830.41	\$742.82
Ebenezer East	1	\$3,445.00	\$4,582.00
Forest Home	1	\$4,563.00	\$14,556.45
Garland	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Georgiana First	0	\$6,741.13	\$1,357.00
Gravel Hill	0	\$1,563.00	\$4,378.19
Greenville First	6	\$43,931.95	\$26,525.61
Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$12,500.00
Liberty	2	\$7,275.41	\$3,116.85
McKenzie	1	\$2,000.00	\$5,540.63
Midway	1	\$500.00	\$4,410.25
Mt. Olive East	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Olive West	11	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Pleasant	6	\$16,917.36	\$31,280.00
Pleasant Hill	3	\$565.38	\$1,300.00
Sardis	0	\$715.58	\$630.00
Shackleville	0	\$2,848.69	\$0.00
Shiloh	0	\$569.00	\$228.00
Southside	12	\$28,800.00	\$15,969.14
Spring Creek	5	\$3,733.48	\$3,080.50
Spring Hill	3	\$1,144.78	\$2,103.78
Welcome	0	\$280.00	\$440.50
Butler Totals	108	\$167,816.43	\$169,322.93

Cahaba	Baptism	CP	Designated
Calvary	0	\$150.00	\$600.00
Ephesus	0	\$950.00	\$4,390.00
Faith Chapel	0	\$3,450.72	\$2,628.03
Friendship	9	\$750.00	\$1,250.00
Hopewell	0	\$7,584.24	\$9,242.00
Medline	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt. Olive	0	\$50.00	\$350.00
Newbern	0	\$500.00	\$500.00
Ocmulgee	8	\$5,100.00	\$1,385.00
Pine Flat	0	\$2,500.00	\$9,840.00
Pine Grove	9	\$6,386.03	\$3,736.87
Pisgah	0	\$7,997.51	\$10,496.00
Second Baptist	0	\$1,090.14	\$0.00
Siloam	7	\$21,067.70	\$14,398.98
Uniontown Baptist	1	\$11,318.27	\$6,426.94
Cahaba Totals	34	\$68,894.61	\$65,443.82

Calhoun	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alexandria	8	\$20,691.63	\$6,097.31
Angel Grove	9	\$10,371.11	\$5,193.79
Anniston First	1	\$18,916.30	\$23,097.43
Antioch Bynum	N/A	\$2,384.96	\$2,333.96
Antioch Oxford	11	\$37,473.20	\$9,014.90
Asberry	N/A	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
Bethlehem	3	\$2,256.90	\$300.00
Blue Mountain	2	\$9,982.40	\$6,496.50
Boiling Springs	7	\$200.00	\$300.00
Bonny Brook	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bynum	0	\$5,164.32	\$9,192.23
Calvary	4	\$3,242.59	\$6,085.08
Cedar Springs	23	\$2,180.41	\$3,483.22
Cheaha	3	\$1,545.78	\$115.00
Chosea Springs	1	\$0.00	\$1,620.00
Coldwater	1	\$5,990.46	\$3,957.00
CrossRoads Baptist	5	\$2,753.52	\$745.00
DeArmanville First	1	\$780.00	\$1,517.00
Duke First	N/A	\$4,690.00	\$2,020.00
Emmanuel	N/A	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Eulaton First	29	\$4,166.02	\$2,900.60
Fairview Heights Northside	0	\$6,550.00	\$6,050.25
Faith	1	\$4,741.13	\$7,610.58
Friendship	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gladeview	0	\$16,446.53	\$2,930.00
Golden Springs	21	\$193,114.07	\$71,194.21
Grace	18	\$8,000.00	\$29,435.46
Greenbrier Road	13	\$5,394.82	\$5,547.01
Harmony	7	\$0.00	\$1,826.86
Hatcher Avenue	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hebron	2	\$200.00	\$683.10
Hickory Street	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hill Crest	107	\$88,590.41	\$27,932.28
Holley Cross Roads	26	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holley Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Iron City	20	\$42,870.35	\$11,980.00
Jacksonville First	25	\$130,231.14	\$56,630.54
Lakeview	1	\$3,500.00	\$9,975.54
Leatherwood	28	\$25,200.00	\$14,305.00
Lloyds Chapel	N/A	\$1,160.20	\$0.00
Mamre	9	\$1,814.93	\$2,114.93
Meadowbrook	21	\$82,819.08	\$35,615.92
Mt. Gilead	N/A	\$3,805.63	\$1,739.00
Mt. View	N/A	\$481.27	\$1,717.50
Mt. Zion	75	\$39,639.92	\$16,145.58
Nances Creek	4	\$7,543.89	\$7,497.40
New Haven	7	\$1,801.27	\$13,465.94
New Hopewell	2	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
New Liberty	1	\$570.46	\$1,043.08
New Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Noble Street	N/A	N/A	N/A
Northside Piedmont	20	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Oak Bowery	5	\$1,200.00	\$3,837.50
Oak Grove	1	\$3,013.84	\$3,885.40

Oak Hill	N/A	\$300.00	\$0.00
Oakridge	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ohatchee First	N/A	\$5,680.03	\$3,601.29
Oxford First	56	\$98,005.65	\$46,225.85
Parker Memorial	3	\$135,599.58	\$114,633.89
Pelham	5	\$0.00	\$600.00
Philadelphia	N/A	\$0.00	\$4,392.20
Piedmont First	22	\$56,147.56	\$19,265.56
Pleasant Ridge	0	\$0.00	\$955.00
Pleasant Valley	N/A	\$0.00	\$2,579.00
Plum Springs	8	\$442.54	\$1,775.00
Post Oak Springs	5	\$8,305.00	\$2,914.00
Profile	N/A	\$710.52	\$532.89
Rabbittown	6	\$2,770.67	\$0.00
Renovation	N/A	N/A	N/A
Roberts Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ruhama	0	\$3,410.91	\$1,532.00
Saks First	18	\$66,330.71	\$43,815.07
Southside	2	\$0.00	\$925.00
Sunny Eve	7	\$0.00	\$0.00

CHURCHES RANKING IN TOP 20 Ratio of Baptisms 2011

1. Macedonia, Hale Assoc. 1 to 1.00
South Lena, Columbia Assoc.
Delmar, Winston Assoc.
Shannon First, Birmingham Assoc.
Grace, Winston Assoc.
2. Southside, Limestone Assoc. 1 to 1.03
3. Holley Cross Roads, Calhoun Assoc. 1 to 1.08
4. Sunny Eve, Calhoun Assoc. 1 to 1.14
5. New Life Auburn Korean, Tuskegee Lee Assoc. ... 1 to 1.43
6. Central, Butler Assoc. 1 to 1.50
7. Trading Post, Marshall Assoc. 1 to 1.67
8. Millport, Lamar Assoc. 1 to 1.82
9. New Life, Alex City, Tallapoosa Assoc. 1 to 1.94
10. Skyline, Tennessee River Assoc. 1 to 2.00
First Hispanic Mission, Limestone Assoc.
11. Mount Olive West, Butler Assoc. 1 to 2.09
12. Duck Springs, Etowah Assoc. 1 to 2.14
13. Pilgrim's Rest East, Columbia Assoc. 1 to 2.43
14. Herren's Grove, Randolph Assoc. 1 to 2.50
East Walnut, Etowah Assoc.
15. Faith Rock, Marshall Assoc. 1 to 2.66
16. Primera Iglesia Bautista, Marion Assoc. 1 to 2.73
17. Pleasant Grove, St. Clair Assoc. 1 to 2.78
18. Emeus, West Cullman Assoc. 1 to 2.83
19. Central Avenue, Etowah Assoc. 1 to 2.86
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida, Franklin Assoc.
20. New Jerusalem, East Cullman Assoc. 1 to 2.88

Ten Island	N/A	N/A	N/A
United Fellowship	4	\$9,962.20	\$330.00
Valley	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayside	5	\$0.00	\$524.53
Weaver First	5	\$18,980.68	\$5,890.02
Wellington First	5	\$6,057.00	\$21,061.00
West Anniston	1	\$400.00	\$1,475.00
West Park Heights	4	\$12,651.01	\$6,437.12
West Point	3	\$10,666.00	\$4,135.25
West Side	5	\$12,506.00	\$7,341.50
West Weaver	4	\$10,376.00	\$6,951.00
Westwood	30	\$20,055.77	\$8,247.52
Whites Gap	N/A	N/A	N/A
Woodland Park	0	\$600.00	\$25.00
Calhoun Totals	720	\$1,298,436.37	\$731,596.79

Carey	Baptism	CP	Designated
Ashland First	5	\$56,207.38	\$13,951.87
Barfield	5	\$5,299.96	\$17,338.96
Bellview	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Big Springs	9	\$3,138.57	\$3,311.19
Bowden Grove	0	\$1,169.00	\$809.00
Clairmont Springs	0	\$1,715.27	\$0.00
Concord	1	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
Corinth	3	\$1,088.53	\$2,721.31
County Line	0	\$0.00	\$360.00
Cragford	0	\$300.00	\$900.00
Delta	3	\$4,713.38	\$5,101.39
Good Hope	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hatchett Creek	0	\$250.00	\$1,780.00
Horn's Memorial	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	0	\$2,792.71	\$2,482.25
Lineville	13	\$32,618.71	\$21,198.80
Lystra	4	\$399.05	\$273.00
Macedonia	31	\$250.00	\$47.00
Mellow Valley	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Millerville	0	\$3,760.18	\$1,270.00
Mt. Moriah	9	\$605.50	\$1,398.50
Mt. Olive	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Mt. Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Mt. Zion	1	\$2,850.00	\$10,460.00
New Fellowship	N/A	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00
New Hope West	N/A	N/A	N/A
Oaks Chapel	6	\$400.00	\$1,493.31
Olive Branch	4	\$0.00	\$1,980.00
Rock Springs	0	\$2,310.88	\$2,053.43
Sardis	4	\$120.00	\$900.00
Shiloh	1	\$0.00	\$600.00
Spring Hill	0	\$0.00	\$142.60
Union	0	\$0.00	\$1,204.58
Carey Totals	101	\$121,789.12	\$96,977.19

Central	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethesda	0	\$787.00	\$420.00
Bluff Springs	0	\$0.00	\$1,400.00
Candler Mountain	5	\$0.00	\$4,166.50
Concord	2	\$1,580.50	\$3,105.50

Alexis	1	\$361.00	\$122.00
Bethel	3	\$600.00	\$123.90
Calcedonia	2	\$708.29	\$56.75
Cedar Bluff First	3	\$18,955.76	\$11,794.38
Centre First	9	\$41,363.56	\$18,420.38
Dalley Street	2	\$1,860.80	\$1,425.00
East Centre	5	\$2,837.55	\$645.00
Enon Grove	2	\$3,132.73	\$3,132.74
Fair Haven	4	\$1,895.34	\$568.00
Faith	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Faith	3	\$0.00	\$800.00
Farill	0	\$0.00	\$100.00
Friendship	4	\$6,170.17	\$1,090.16
Gaylesville First	0	\$0.00	\$151.00
(d) Leesburg	0	\$863.83	\$0.00
Liberty	5	\$0.00	\$200.00
Melrose	0	\$422.91	\$0.00
Melrose	0	\$1,395.65	\$361.00
Nazareth	0	\$300.00	\$1,296.00
New Bethel	18	\$375.00	\$1,880.50
New Prospect #2	3	\$4,592.00	\$4,250.41
Noah	9	\$1,062.42	\$3,599.10
Parkers Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pilgrim Rest	0	\$315.08	\$415.08
Pine Grove	19	\$28,117.44	\$6,120.90
Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Arbor	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Providence	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rock Run	0	\$2,768.00	\$406.55
Round Mountain	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem	0	\$5,372.00	\$3,787.52
Sand Rock	11	\$9,590.81	\$300.00
Sand Valley	1	\$140.00	\$1,120.00
Sandy Creek	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Servants Heart	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shady Grove	8	\$2,807.75	\$3,693.00
Shiloh	1	\$3,900.00	\$13,925.00
Slackland	6	\$21,803.47	\$13,948.46
Tates Chapel	2	\$5,800.00	\$5,629.00
Unity Hill	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cherokee Totals	143	\$167,511.56	\$99,361.83

Chilton	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alpine	5	\$2,716.85	\$3,401.85
Bel Lane	7	\$17,121.18	\$5,981.96
Bethsalem	22	\$30,861.00	\$30,160.25
Cane Creek	4	\$2,591.30	\$950.00
Center Hill	13	\$7,326.40	\$10,443.21
Chestnut Creek	0	\$838.05	\$838.05
Clanton First	10	\$105,670.96	\$39,189.39
Collins Chapel	20	\$16,210.06	\$2,431.00
Concord	0	\$11,696.38	\$4,292.50
Corinth	0	\$966.00	\$2,018.79
Ebenezer	3	\$17,612.00	\$13,816.00
Faith	1	\$5,579.25	\$6,316.49
Floyd	0	\$1,217.00	\$1,858.00
Friendship	0	\$12,652.03	\$4,443.21

Highland	0	\$7,856.11	\$12,510.50
Hillcrest	1	\$18,122.67	\$4,390.60
Jamison First	10	\$43,876.01	\$21,556.05
Liberty Hill	1	\$24,051.00	\$7,011.64
Lomax First	0	\$2,137.82	\$2,500.00
Macedonia	4	\$10,173.59	\$13,196.99
Maple Springs	1	\$1,700.00	\$435.00
Maplesville	3	\$13,472.16	\$2,138.00
Mars Hill	2	\$1,245.00	\$3,812.73
Mineral Springs	7	\$21,650.80	\$11,745.99
Mount Bethel	6	\$5,245.27	\$1,439.00
Mount Carmel #2	1	\$3,429.81	\$3,246.33
Mountain Creek	0	\$4,612.53	\$4,924.55
Mt. Carmel #1	2	\$3,207.56	\$1,724.00
Mt. Pleasant	0	\$5,583.36	\$13,681.21
Mulberry	8	\$21,448.00	\$7,154.22
New Cedron	0	\$1,500.00	\$1,854.88
New Covenant	0	\$0.00	\$902.66
New Harmony	0	\$491.23	\$3,085.33
New Salem	8	\$196.93	\$1,855.85
Northside	0	\$0.00	\$120.00
Oak Grove	1	\$5,760.04	\$6,756.00
Old Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Chapel	13	\$16,840.81	\$3,125.00
Pilgrim Rest	3	\$3,453.28	\$2,605.88
Pleasant Grove #1	25	\$10,304.00	\$10,646.22
Pleasant Grove #2	0	\$5,366.00	\$2,525.33
Pleasant Hill	1	\$4,115.10	\$1,875.00
Pleasant Valley	0	\$5,124.00	\$8,773.79
Poplar Springs	3	\$5,185.57	\$1,723.00
Primera Iglesia Hispana	0	\$590.00	\$0.00
Providence #1	9	\$1,728.36	\$10,928.33
Providence #2	12	\$15,500.00	\$15,315.00
Refuge	0	\$1,371.00	\$747.00
Rock Springs	3	\$3,779.24	\$199.99
Samaria	9	\$1,500.00	\$1,217.77
Sardis	0	\$2,312.96	\$1,208.88
Shiloh	3	\$5,588.37	\$7,510.33
Thorsby First	12	\$29,702.10	\$5,830.33
Union Grove	17	\$1,949.00	\$9,059.55
Union Springs	17	\$31,684.10	\$34,457.88
Verbera	19	\$9,984.29	\$10,029.99
West End	9	\$74,049.73	\$92,322.88
Chilton Totals	295	\$672,697.26	\$472,286.11



Church Report for 2011

Mt. Pleasant	21	\$5,373.00	\$9,097.50	Family Fellowship	N/A	N/A
Muscle Shoals	19	\$14,277.73	\$14,278.06	Fayetteville	0	\$6,118.00
New Bethel	12	\$16,164.00	\$650.00	Five Points	2	\$10,215.00
New Hope	N/A	\$0.00	\$1,988.00	Friendship	N/A	\$101.00
New Sockwell	0	\$2,395.00	\$100.00	Hepzibah	7	\$40,999.03
Nitrate City	1	\$3,572.04	\$1,317.31	Hope	N/A	N/A
North Highland	N/A	\$1,200.00	\$1,850.00	Immanuel	3	\$959.34
Parkview	12	\$1,500.00	\$6,700.00	Ironaton	N/A	\$789.18
Pride	3	\$1,101.62	\$68.28	Lincoln	6	\$16,121.00
Rogersville First	7	\$44,693.65	\$26,121.93	Marble City	6	\$28,063.36
Sheffield First	3	\$23,641.49	\$14,864.46	Mignon	3	\$6,865.17
Southside	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mountain View	3	\$0.00
Spring Valley	3	\$8,579.79	\$7,519.88	Mt. Ida	N/A	\$3,058.33
Springfield	2	\$576.09	\$4,608.72	Mt. Olive	15	\$5,343.01
The Bridge Christian	16	\$4,943.56	\$447.50	Mt. Sharon	11	\$700.00
The Village	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mt. Vernon	1	\$1,400.00
Three Forks Missionary	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Munford	86	\$9,000.00
Tusculumia First	4	\$27,089.44	\$23,272.93	New Hope	7	\$1,367.96
Underwood	39	\$88,083.37	\$15,975.08	Oak Grove	3	\$190.00
Valdosta	2	\$6,031.25	\$6,272.62	Oak Grove First	7	\$30,675.92
Valley Grove	36	\$21,155.00	\$7,776.83	Odena	9	\$33,322.91
Washington Park	N/A	\$475.00	\$5,100.25	Oldfield	6	\$0.00
Waterloo	N/A	N/A	N/A	Patton Chapel	2	\$2,505.31
Westside	18	\$1,274.17	\$1,010.00	Plainview	N/A	\$673.45
Whitehead	1	\$6,216.00	\$4,039.68	Pleasant Grove	1	\$9,415.08
Woodmont	25	\$106,960.68	\$49,746.55	Providence	1	\$356.00
Woodward Ave	17	\$74,761.18	\$48,901.81	Refuge	18	\$4,596.79
York Terrace	10	\$54,832.29	\$13,120.00	Ridgeview	N/A	\$3,137.10
Zion Hill	1	\$900.00	\$2,408.03	Rocky Mount	2	\$662.00
Colbert-Lauderdale Totals	545	\$1,322,363.37	\$615,812.12	Russell Chapel	8	\$6,920.18

Columbia	Baptism	CP	Designated			
Antioch	8	\$3,358.98	\$2,253.75	Shelvin Rock	N/A	\$615.25
Bay Springs	17	\$43,186.71	\$19,379.21	Shiloh	0	\$1,302.08
Bethel	21	\$134,548.34	\$44,382.19	Southside	5	\$14,294.96
Bethlehem	0	\$16,723.27	\$17,385.62	Stemley	N/A	\$600.00
Bluff Springs	1	\$20,379.26	\$15,851.46	Stockdale	8	\$2,610.09
Calvary Cottonwood	1	\$3,285.73	\$100.00	Sycamore	2	\$12,000.00
Calvary Dothan	70	\$254,101.93	\$81,345.87	Sylacauga First	20	\$67,999.92
Cedar Springs	0	\$6,625.03	\$4,763.32	Sylvan	3	\$1,867.76
Center	0	\$905.00	\$700.00	Talladega Creek	6	\$1,200.00
Cloverdale	17	\$36,457.02	\$53,851.74	Talladega First	2	\$48,680.45
Columbia First	0	\$24,070.10	\$20,953.30	Talladega Springs	1	\$1,701.63
Cottonwood First	3	\$1,413.29	\$1,400.00	Tallasahatchie First	0	\$5,142.52
Cowarts	15	\$5,549.00	\$947.75	Trinity	3	\$3,491.40
Dothan First	11	\$212,860.40	\$70,786.63	Union Springs	0	\$230.00
Ebenezer	5	\$14,109.76	\$2,377.00	Village Street	N/A	N/A
Enterprise	1	\$5,400.33	\$5,288.27	Westside	6	\$0.00
Faith	2	\$7,898.90	\$7,999.87	Westview	1	\$1,200.00
Gordon First	0	\$0.00	\$441.50	Winterboro	1	\$3,109.00
Grace Point	0	\$100.00	\$647.00	Coosa River Totals	302	\$477,943.65
Grandview	19	\$64,413.58	\$14,831.58			
Heritage	6	\$38,691.79	\$23,804.13	Covington	Baptism	CP
Hodgesville	2	\$3,303.91	\$1,710.00	Adellum	0	\$5,857.73
Kinsey	8	\$18,000.00	\$7,613.00	Andalusia First	7	\$115,116.03
Liberty	1	\$4,930.00	\$160.00	Babbie	6	\$12,088.35
Madrid	5	\$12,560.74	\$4,244.23	Beda	3	\$4,115.50
Malvern	16	\$32,975.37	\$4,980.01	Bethany	11	\$37,010.76
Memphis	30	\$144,920.10	\$30,230.75	Beulah	0	\$2,154.48
Mt. Ararat	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Blue Springs	0	\$3,239.00
Mt. Enon	12	\$6,500.00	\$3,697.00	Brooks	0	\$1,807.76
Mt. Gilead	3	\$114,744.41	\$96,051.19	Buck Creek	2	\$6,213.00
Mt. Pleasant	0	\$6,919.00	\$5,489.00	Carolina	5	\$28,297.51
New Providence	3	\$1,044.20	\$975.00	Cedar Grove	0	\$0.00
Old Webb Road	4	\$2,694.20	\$1,112.09	Conecuh River	5	\$0.00
Pathway	0	\$7,457.08	\$2,564.00	Enon	1	\$1,576.21
Pilgrim Home	1	\$32,236.65	\$7,737.40	East Highland	0	\$966.53
Pilgrim's Rest East	7	\$217.37	\$217.37	Enon	0	\$1,796.00
Pilgrim's Rest West	0	\$6,358.75	\$2,790.00	Fairmount	3	\$16,652.43
Pleasant Grove	0	\$0.00	\$116.00	Florida First	30	\$18,428.66
Pleasant Hill	0	\$5,852.83	\$2,790.80	Gantt First	0	\$16,756.68
Pleasant Plains	1	\$12,376.89	\$3,332.42	Harmony	18	\$19,903.04
Poplar Springs	2	\$2,538.00	\$900.00	Heritage	N/A	\$0.00
Rainbow Meadows	3	\$5,083.51	\$956.00	Hopewell	7	\$21,281.22
Rehobeth	5	\$24,425.42	\$29,990.01	Judson	2	\$4,291.00
Ridgecrest	69	\$219,313.25	\$64,248.79	Liberty Home	0	\$1,640.37
Selma	15	\$13,850.00	\$9,434.80	Lockhart	2	\$5,229.49
Smyrna	1	\$5,906.93	\$1,580.54	Mill Creek	1	\$1,988.43
South Lena	34	\$1,580.50	\$797.10	Moble Creek	2	\$3,631.00
Southside	8	\$62,902.99	\$47,925.49	Mt. Gilead	2	\$8,151.18
St James	13	\$1,473.20	\$0.00	Mt. Pisgah	2	\$6,429.18
Taylor Baptist	2	\$3,327.00	\$1,182.00	New Hope	1	\$1,913.30
Union Hill	11	\$3,363.90	\$2,672.35	New Song Community	30	\$200.00
Watermark	39	\$1,916.66	\$12,653.12	Northern Heights	0	\$900.00
Wayside	3	\$1,000.00	\$3,312.35	Northside	3	\$2,103.76
Webb	2	\$4,308.10	\$4,057.67	Oak Grove	4	\$1,279.00
Columbia Totals	497	\$1,667,559.30	\$745,010.67	Oakey Ridge	5	\$2,697.28

Conecuh	Baptism	CP	Designated			
Arkadelphia	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pigeon Creek	6	\$631.03
Bellevue	0	\$300.00	\$18,879.00	Pleasant Grove	10	\$0.00
Bermuda	0	\$100.00	\$1,565.00	Pleasant Home	12	\$9,260.25
Bower Memorial	5	\$11,932.89	\$9,810.29	Rawls	0	\$3,193.25
Brooklyn c/o Allene Ward	0	\$860.00	\$13,783.50	Red Oak	6	\$7,639.00
Castleberry	0	\$487.34	\$1,287.56	River Falls	6	\$2,983.50
Cedar Creek	0	\$1,835.80	\$7,481.50	Salem	0	\$338.42
Evergreen	5	\$24,424.30	\$83,704.57	Sanford First	0	\$250.00
(d) Fairview	N/A	\$128.45	\$0.00	Searight	0	\$995.36
Holly Grove	0	\$130.00	\$340.00	Southside Andalusia	8	\$56,875.67
Jones Chapel	0	\$959.76	\$2,091.82	Southside Opp	9	\$31,077.72
Lenox	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Sweet Home	2	\$1,342.00
London	0	\$1,542.84	\$5,778.60	Sweet Water	0	\$2,693.67
Long Branch	1	\$300.00	\$300.00	Victory	12	\$100.00
Lyffion	0	\$1,125.29	\$843.92	West County Line	6	\$4,161.00
Midway	0	\$0.00	\$300.00	West Highland	2	\$9,734.00
New Home	2	\$600.00	\$600.00	Westside	0	\$2,108.81
New Hopewell c/o Adams	0	\$0.00	\$910.00	Westview	10	\$39,925.75
New Providence	14	\$2,132.72	\$195.00	Zion Hill	1	\$4,522.80
Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$2,466.80	Covington Totals	247	\$578,132.50
Old Town	2	\$1,578.71	\$2,247.63			
Olive Branch	0	\$3,356.00	\$4,124.50	Dale	Baptism	CP
Repton	0	\$200.00	\$2,030.00	Arton	8	\$10,086.45
Sepulga	0	\$1,844.05	\$38,124.05	Bethel	13	\$11,429.68
Skinnerton	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Camp Ground	6	\$22,479.64
Sweet Home	3	\$5,165.91	\$800.00	Cedar Grove	1	\$6,203.14
Conecuh Totals	33	\$59,004.06	\$197,663.74	Center Ridge	18	\$3,922.85

Coosa River	Baptism	CP	Designated			
Alpine	0	\$134.88	\$11,604.67	Chalkhead	2	\$13,986.14
Berniston	0	\$750.00	\$1,646.50	Daleville	8	\$16,231.35
Blue Eye	N/A	\$0.00	\$403.70	Ebenezer	0	\$268.80
Bon Air	0	\$3,014.72	\$4,848.89	Elam	0	\$2,129.40
Brecon First	1	\$1,173.45	\$1,669.45	Haven of Grace Fellowship	0	\$225.10
Browns Chapel	N/A	N/A	N/A	Hillcrest	4	\$6,706.08
Calvary	0	\$8,669.95	\$2,662.98	Level Plains First	20	\$38,523.83
Cartersville	2	\$0.00	\$350.00	Logan Road	5	\$5,981.60
Central	8	\$11,589.66	\$13,770.26	Midland City	1	\$3,155.54
Chandler Springs	6	\$602.70	\$200.90	Midway	0	\$3,600.00
Childersburg First	3	\$18,070.83	\$6,760.20	Morgan	7	\$1,925.00
ChristPoint Community	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt. Enon	2	\$1,529.00
County Line	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mt. Pisgah	7	\$240.00
Cragdale	2	\$93.93	\$1,009.05	Mt. Zion	6	\$7,217.24
Dry Valley	0	\$9,486.00	\$8,967.15	New Hope	1	\$6,772.00
Eastaboga	10	\$31,212.35	\$14,592.90	Newtown	0	\$4,679.24
Eastside	2	\$0.00	\$251.50	Ozark	15	\$47,041.40
Eureka	N/A	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Peniel	0	\$2,772.28
Faith Church of Deaf	2	\$2,445.00	\$7,094.00	Pinckard	9	\$19,567.52

Providence	5	\$16,555.80	\$13,135.46
Ridgecrest	19	\$17,336.62	\$2,359.52
Rocky Head	0	\$5,798.85	\$8,553.94
Rocky Mount	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem	0	\$1,221.18	\$1,713.00
Southside	0	\$6,756.23	\$8,276.50
Vision	2	\$200.00	\$2,000.00
Dale Totals	172	\$342,658.73	\$222,689.47

DeKalb	Baptism	CP	Designated			
Allen Memorial	2	\$2,380.00	\$2,778.00	Antioch	16	\$9,990.78
Antioch	16	\$9,990.78	\$6,343.63	Bethel	0	\$2,875.00
Beulah	3	\$2,234.62	\$623.00	Broadway	19	\$77,757.80
Broadway	19	\$77,757.80	\$20,463.94	Central	0	\$653.00
Central	0	\$653.00	\$140.00	Chavies	1	\$5,342.10
Chavies	1	\$5,342.10	\$6,618.00	Collinsville	9	\$3,350.00
Collinsville	9	\$3,350.00	\$6,618.00	Corinth	N/A	N/A
Corinth	N/A	N/A	N/A	Crossville First	1	\$20,950.79
Crossville First	1	\$20,950.79	\$6,766.43	Fellowship	N/A	\$4,136.52
Fellowship	N/A	\$4,136.52	\$0.00	Flat Rock	2	\$0.00
Flat Rock	2	\$0.00	\$691.00	Fort Payne First	14	\$106,153.48
Fort Payne First	14	\$106,153.48	\$46,797.66	Friendship	N/A	\$0.00
Friendship	N/A	\$0.00	\$1,230.00	Fyffe First	1	\$12,051.04
Fyffe First	1	\$12,051.04	\$5,754.85	Gault Avenue	N/A	\$0.00
Gault Avenue	N/A	\$0.00	\$4,800.20	Geraldine First	18	\$25,892.89
Geraldine First	18	\$25,892.89	\$4,373.00	Gravel Hill	3	\$4,336.01
Gravel Hill	3	\$4,336.01	\$1,380.00	Guest	10	\$300.00
Guest	10	\$300.00	\$0.00	Harvest Time	N/A	\$0.00
Harvest Time	N/A	\$0.00	\$100.00	Highland	0	\$1,344.00
Highland	0	\$1,344.00	\$895.00	Hopewell	0	\$1,616.00
Hopewell	0	\$1,616.00	\$866.00	Kelly's Chapel	0	\$3,042.30
Kelly's Chapel	0	\$3,042.30	\$3,763.00	Kilpatrick	0	\$805.00
Kilpatrick	0	\$805.00	\$1,000.00	Lathamville	0	\$0.00
Lathamville	0	\$0.00	\$2,367.87	Lea's Chapel	4	\$3,995.53
Lea's Chapel	4	\$3,995.53	\$1,500.00	Liberty	1	\$8,713.32
Liberty	1	\$8,713.32	\$2,588.12	Liberty Hill	2	\$12,770.89
Liberty Hill	2	\$12,770.89	\$15,472.34	Macedonia #1	2	\$6,285.00
Macedonia #1	2	\$6,285.00	\$3,300.00	Macedonia #2	9	\$0.00
Macedonia #2	9	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Maranatha	N/A	\$8,937.38
Maranatha	N/A	\$8,937.38	\$1,258.00	Mirvale	1	\$0.00
Mirvale	1	\$0.00	\$2,567.85	Moon Lake	9	\$9,026.96
Moon Lake	9	\$9,026.96	\$3,542.01	Mt. View	N/A	N/A
Mt. View	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mt. Carmel	9	\$2,937.62



Church Report for 2011

Greenwood	0	\$100.00	\$400.00
Harvestfield Church	19	\$5,500.00	\$3,502.94
Heath	3	\$1,987.00	\$0.00
Heritage	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hokes Bluff First	8	\$59,500.18	\$40,988.47
Hopkins Chapel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Iglesia Bautista Hispana	0	\$263.15	\$623.15
Immanuel	2	\$18,485.47	\$16,080.89
Ivalee	4	\$13,702.19	\$2,326.05
James Memorial	7	\$19,932.74	\$14,251.83
Keener	0	\$6,896.00	\$3,850.00
Kyle Avenue	3	\$231.77	\$0.00
Kyuka	0	\$3,469.95	\$8,778.00
Lakeview	1	\$6,624.80	\$6,023.48
Lookout Avenue	0	\$481.31	\$1,155.00
Louis Street	0	\$6,294.62	\$3,205.21
Macedonia	2	\$17,886.94	\$5,919.26
Malone	7	\$6,544.55	\$475.00
Meadowbrook	34	\$143,369.51	\$20,976.00
Midway	1	\$2,155.00	\$616.00
Mountain View	1	\$300.00	\$15.00
Mt Olive	1	\$2,354.00	\$2,600.00
Mt. Carmel	7	\$2,447.92	\$1,133.25
Mt. Pisgah	1	\$130.00	\$640.00
New Harmony	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hope	0	\$300.00	\$1,980.45
Noble Hill	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Gadsden	8	\$15,219.63	\$6,851.40
North Glencoe	29	\$42,374.42	\$21,166.32
North Highland	0	\$2,496.49	\$7,806.89
Northside	0	\$2,084.70	\$2,292.00
Oak Park	N/A	N/A	N/A
Paden	5	\$19,082.84	\$9,929.75
Pine Grove	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Hill	4	\$25.00	\$455.00
Pleasant Valley	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rainbow City First	N/A	\$5,074.49	\$12,318.45
Reed Memorial	N/A	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Riddles Bend	2	\$1,500.00	\$5,556.00
Riverbend	3	\$8,648.20	\$4,409.65
Rockledge	0	\$1,724.71	\$950.00
Sibertown	6	\$5,456.20	\$2,269.48
South Gadsden	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Highland	0	\$500.00	\$1,120.50
Southside	36	\$85,463.00	\$43,460.21
Southside First	6	\$12,354.70	\$3,886.00
Stowers Hill	2	\$10,176.02	\$4,020.00
Triune	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Twelfth Street	18	\$34,092.37	\$29,091.07
Union #3	53	\$0.00	\$743.00
Walnut Grove	5	\$2,714.38	\$2,538.00
Walnut Park	N/A	\$6,202.00	\$2,470.73
Webster's Chapel	9	\$0.00	\$125.00
West End	0	\$1,117.00	\$1,215.00
White Springs	19	\$46,540.71	\$19,204.95
Whorton Bend	10	\$7,675.05	\$1,480.77
Etowah Totals	612	\$1,050,053.48	\$527,640.25

Fayette	Baptism	CP	Designated
Ashcraft Corner	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bankston	2	\$0.00	\$257.00
Beaver Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belk	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Berry	5	\$6,554.00	\$4,325.00
Bethel	2	\$1,489.15	\$2,575.78
Caines Ridge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chapel Hill	0	\$2,069.97	\$2,073.86
Concord	0	\$150.00	\$0.00
Covin	0	\$3,230.35	\$2,781.00
Fayette First	15	\$52,166.53	\$34,201.64
Grace	0	\$10,367.00	\$881.00
Macedonia	4	\$2,466.31	\$8,216.60
Mountain Home	0	\$165.00	\$232.00
New River	0	\$1,847.78	\$200.00
Oak Ridge	0	\$667.68	\$400.00
Oakes Chapel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Philadelphia	1	\$1,256.25	\$1,200.00
Pilgrim Rest	0	\$1,198.98	\$181.54
Pisgah	0	\$430.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Grove	0	\$2,876.00	\$670.00
Pleasant Hill	4	\$3,445.93	\$3,381.74
Rehobeth	2	\$14,232.48	\$10,032.00
Salem	2	\$0.00	\$5,206.00
Sand Springs	0	\$4,860.88	\$5,500.00
Shady Grove	4	\$4,230.00	\$1,000.00
Shepherd	1	\$2,154.64	\$350.00
Southside	10	\$52,121.00	\$8,833.00
Spring Hill	3	\$277.09	\$0.00
Union Grove	1	\$1,381.24	\$928.95
Unity	6	\$6,912.10	\$2,861.57
Fayette Totals	64	\$176,550.36	\$96,288.68

Franklin	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bear Creek No. One	4	\$4,284.56	\$3,813.11
Belgreen	1	\$6,507.32	\$2,146.35
Bethel	0	\$2,594.35	\$727.00
Calvary	29	\$72,204.13	\$10,020.76
Cherry Hill	2	\$2,985.00	\$12,375.00
Crooked Oak	0	\$3,431.08	\$303.00
Divine	5	\$600.00	\$0.00
Duncan Creek	0	\$1,090.15	\$122.00
Ebenezer	0	\$545.38	\$4,022.74
Freedom Community	3	\$1,641.75	\$170.40
Gravel Hill	0	\$5,011.96	\$1,400.00
Hodges Convention	3	\$2,024.00	\$724.94
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida	7	\$77.02	\$550.30
Jonesboro	0	\$876.51	\$450.00
Macedonia	0	\$8,057.99	\$1,802.71
Mountain View	7	\$11,499.96	\$8,142.46
Mt. Hebron	14	\$25,498.00	\$20,689.01
Mt. Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Friendship	5	\$240.00	\$240.00
New Harmony	1	\$120.00	\$455.00
North Russellville	17	\$1,502.25	\$2,868.00
Orange	1	\$2,691.64	\$0.00
Phil Campbell First	3	\$11,199.37	\$9,337.00
Piney Grove Msn.	0	\$967.48	\$0.00
Pleasant Hill	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Primera Iglesia Bautista	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Red Bay First	11	\$24,496.77	\$21,122.00
Rockwood	5	\$4,450.00	\$1,359.00
Russellville First	4	\$53,746.37	\$21,316.05
South Side	5	\$8,940.31	\$2,801.95
Spruce Pine	9	\$9,400.06	\$8,999.27
Tharptown	8	\$11,132.28	\$22,748.69
Victory Hill	0	\$2,969.00	\$5,084.00
Vina First	8	\$6,560.94	\$5,090.75
Waco	0	\$600.00	\$720.00
West Highland	0	\$1,962.10	\$840.90
Franklin Totals	158	\$289,908.33	\$170,442.39

Friendship	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethel	19	\$600.00	\$7,054.00
Blount Springs	3	\$5,479.32	\$8,692.47
Blountsville	2	\$12,807.22	\$4,508.78
Brooksville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Center Springs	0	\$960.00	\$1,740.00

County Line	1	\$1,654.42	\$850.00
Crossroads	8	\$37,542.75	\$12,772.00
Easley	0	\$650.00	\$895.00
Fellowship	0	\$320.40	\$750.00
Fowler Springs	11	\$660.00	\$7,116.08
Gethsemane	3	\$7,311.15	\$7,739.26
Hayden First	22	\$30,586.22	\$25,134.24
Hopewell	14	\$14,834.59	\$7,556.00
Lakeview	2	\$1,255.52	\$935.72
Locust Fork	31	\$27,950.00	\$22,160.55
Mt. Tabor c/o Weaver	0	\$1,200.00	\$5,004.79
Mulberry	5	\$200.00	\$0.00
Oneonta First	14	\$69,608.21	\$36,924.92
Park Avenue	5	\$2,957.85	\$1,551.50
Philadelphia	11	\$6,554.46	\$4,143.47
Pleasant Hill	0	\$1,494.50	\$250.00
Pleasant Mt.	7	\$13,633.70	\$2,789.45
Remlap First	7	\$10,654.06	\$2,100.32
Snead	10	\$1,225.69	\$901.29
Straight Mountain	1	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Trinity	4	\$0.00	\$855.00
Union Hill	18	\$26,293.10	\$15,654.25
Village Springs	2	\$4,071.66	\$9,267.91
Zola	0	\$370.17	\$300.00
Friendship Totals	200	\$280,874.99	\$189,147.00

Geneva	Baptism	CP	Designated
Adoniram	0	\$75.00	\$25.00
Antioch	0	\$1,200.00	\$3,380.00
Bellwood	0	\$1,650.00	\$1,705.00
Bethesda	0	\$381.00	\$50.00
Calvary/Geneva	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christian Home	0	\$1,053.21	\$760.00
Coffee Springs First	9	\$9,776.77	\$3,726.86
Corinth	0	\$175.63	\$0.00
Devco	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eden	0	\$2,000.00	\$1,898.08
El Bethel	2	\$27,786.83	\$46,117.30
Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$50.00
Friendship	0	\$275.00	\$0.00
Geneva First	10	\$15,586.32	\$18,504.77
Hacoda	0	\$429.37	\$893.02
Hartford	17	\$46,156.85	\$26,232.28
Maple Avenue	13	\$14,816.57	\$14,773.58
Mt. Calvary	1	\$5,196.99	\$3,039.00
New Covenant	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hinson	7	\$16,723.15	\$8,156.85
New Home	N/A	\$1,248.93	\$0.00
New Prospect Hartford	0	\$2,808.00	\$713.00

TOP 25 CHURCHES

Lottie Moon Gifts 2011

1. Opelika First, Tuskegee Lee Assoc. \$223,369.00
2. Lakeview, Tuskegee Lee Assoc. \$222,231.41
3. Whitesburg, Madison Assoc. \$219,873.41
4. Shades Mountain, Birmingham Assoc. \$200,820.00
5. Mount Zion, Madison Assoc. \$173,173.91
6. Montgomery First, Montgomery Assoc. \$164,722.69
7. Trussville First, Birmingham Assoc. \$130,796.92
8. Dawson Memorial, Birmingham Assoc. \$112,263.13
9. Willowbrook, Madison Assoc. \$108,795.20
10. Prattville First, Autauga Assoc. \$106,219.52
11. Hunter Street, Birmingham Assoc. \$103,714.22
12. Central Decatur, Morgan Assoc. \$90,988.17
13. Decatur First, Morgan Assoc. \$87,441.93
14. Cullman First, West Cullman Assoc. \$82,576.66
15. Birmingham First, Birmingham Assoc. \$70,000.00
16. Parker Memorial, Calhoun Assoc. \$69,135.75
17. Green Valley, Birmingham Assoc. \$66,744.68
18. Mount Gilead, Columbia Assoc. \$66,510.18
19. Eastern Shore, Baldwin Assoc. \$62,908.00
20. Carolina, Covington Assoc. \$60,750.00
21. Tallassee First, Elmore Assoc. \$60,476.00
22. Pell City First, St. Clair Assoc. \$58,644.25
23. Lakeside, Birmingham Assoc. \$55,275.99
24. Liberty, Shelby Assoc. \$54,446.75
25. Tuscaloosa First, Tuscaloosa Assoc. \$52,572.10

New Prospect Mari	1	\$3,670.00	\$4,499.00
New Tarnon	15	\$5,570.57	\$2,725.00
Piney Grove	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pleasant Hill	4	\$6,826.61	\$4,013.05
Reese	5	\$0.00	\$739.42
Samson First	16	\$2,748.00	\$10,881.80
Shiloh	9	\$21,782.52	\$6,441.70
Slocumb First	9	\$53,456.54	\$13,546.18
St. Elizabeth	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trinity	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Union	0	\$7,642.36	\$4,366.00
Geneva Totals	128	\$249,038.22	\$177,236.89

Hale	Baptism	CP	Designated
Akron	0	\$2,100.00	\$1,275.00
Antioch	12	\$6,110.10	\$4,025.00
Community	11	\$1,200.00	\$2,286.50
Concord	1	\$1,788.27	\$4,385.00
Gallion	21	\$27,177.72	\$11,862.36
Greensboro	9	\$60,516.32	\$39,900.45
Macedonia	44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Moundville Baptist	4	\$40,333.61	\$9,787.64
Mt. Hebron	0	\$5,275.00	\$3,240.60
New Haven	2	\$1,585.50	\$2,748.50
New Hope	0	\$3,938.00	\$1,435.00
Pleasant Hill	4	\$5,182.61	\$3,173.44
Rhodes Chapel	0	\$457.20	\$780.00
Hale Totals	108	\$155,667.33	\$84,899.49

Judson	Baptism	CP	Designated
Abbeville First	3	\$34,848.00	\$24,160.05
Adoniram	0	\$3,205.99	\$2,209.25
Balkum	2	\$3,806.85	\$4,006.85
Bethlehem	19	\$27,509.27	\$8,028.25
Calvary	2	\$28,024.21	\$5,106.95

Camp Springs	4	\$3,000.00	\$3,877.23
Concord	0	\$4,800.00	\$3,375.68
Fellowship	3	\$0.00	\$1,941.00
Halebrook	0	\$10,177.00	\$9,993.00
Headland First	6	\$76,447.90	\$59,045.96
Hebron	0	\$2,400.00	\$11,421.00
Judson	6	\$12,367.52	\$7,874.75
Newville	1	\$4,520.00	\$1,411.00
Oakey Grove	0	\$2,275.00	\$3,340.00
Old Zion	12	\$1,281.32	\$7,655.00
Pleasant Grove	2	\$13,367.00	\$14,608.50
Sardis	6	\$5,961.66	\$3,670.86
Shorterville	1	\$5,761.60	\$13,243.00
Tolbert	1	\$2,559.81	\$3,172.86
Trinity	3	\$9,644.00	\$14,257.01
Judson Totals	76	\$267,050.14	\$208,901.13

Lamar	Baptism	CP	Designated
Academy	2	\$0.00	\$3,030.40
Antioch	0	\$810.00	\$2,125.00
Beaverton	0	\$602.00	\$2,408.00
Calvary	N/A	\$4,563.72	\$4,740.97
Cedar Grove	0	\$180.00	\$2,469.06
Corinth	N/A	\$614.15	\$2,014.15
Detroit First	13	\$4,785.39	\$2,150.00
Fellowship	5	\$5,184.81	\$3,838.00
Fernbank	0	\$286.98	\$1,061.61
Friendship South	0	\$0.00	\$475.09
Kennedy	11	\$24,666.93	\$29,067.82
Millport	45	\$7,242.17	\$6,607.12
Mt. Pisgah	0	\$100.00	\$300.00
Mt. Zion	N/A	\$0.00	\$300.00
Mulberry Springs	0	\$1,894.12	\$1,291.00
Pleasant Grove	1	\$895.00	\$700.00
Pleasant Ridge	6	\$1,604.00	\$1,804.00
Riverside	1	\$1,914.73	\$1,100.00
Shiloh	1	\$8,157.50	\$8,356.00
Springhill	2	\$16,943.40	\$31,864.85
Sulligent First	4	\$24,809.66	\$28,435.53
Union Chapel	7	\$1,200.00	\$2,359.00
Vernon First	5	\$16,338.05	\$26,256.50
Lamar Totals	103	\$122,792.61	\$164,754.10

Limestone	Baptism	CP	Designated
Admore First	11	\$30,994.87	\$7,367.05
Atlanta First	28	\$140,128.27	\$83,203.10
Belmont	1	\$7,800.86	\$3,819.37
Capshaw	52	\$105,986.10	\$34,193.02
Cherry Grove	8	\$0.00	\$0.00

Lookout Mountain	Baptism	CP	Designated
Demaris	7	\$536.00	\$1,104.00
Friendship	3	\$0.00	\$1,300.00
Little River	2	\$0.00	\$683.84
Mill Creek	1	\$0.00	\$720.00
Mt. Bethel	0	\$1,500.00	\$1,100.00
Mt. Calvary	1	\$350.72	\$714.35
Mt. Vernon	5	\$2,948.14	\$1,600.00
Mt. Zion	2	N/A	N/A
New Bethel	1	\$2,000.00	\$11,030.80
Pleasant Valley #1	0	\$3,172.47	\$732.00
Pleasant Valley #2	1	\$1,343.70	\$2,740.00
Shady Grove	0	\$735.00	\$495.00
Unity	N/A	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Victory	12	\$0.00	\$0.00
Welcome Hill	0	\$1,253.00	\$200.00
Yellow Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lookout Mountain Totals	35	\$13,839.03	\$23,419.99



Church Report for 2011

Crosspoint	13	\$0.00	\$2,376.06	Valley Park	0	\$203.35	\$2,161.00
Cypress Shores	2	\$7,095.10	\$10,766.19	Vaughn Forest	191	\$55,440.45	\$0.00
Dauphin Island	3	\$7,408.32	\$7,031.51	Victory Baptist	3	\$40.00	\$200.00
Dauphin Way	34	\$284,034.34	\$111,695.60	Westside	12	\$100.00	\$0.00
Dawes First	1	\$9,966.25	\$17,266.55	WWJD Ministries	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dayspring	88	\$11,750.00	\$16,186.83	Yarbrough Street	2	\$900.00	\$1,125.00
Ebenezer	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Montgomery Totals	589	\$1,691,706.08	\$854,959.85
Emmanuel	134	\$9,612.32	\$3,533.88				
Faith Baptist of Wilmer	N/A	\$143.47	\$136.36	Morgan	Baptism	CP	Designated
Faith of Grand Bay	N/A	\$0.00	\$500.00	Agape	N/A	N/A	N/A
Faith of Mobile	N/A	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	Austinville First	0	\$8,666.20	\$12,315.87
Fellowship	3	\$4,102.00	\$3,362.00	Bell Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forest Hill	3	\$272.00	\$751.50	Bellview	N/A	\$22,692.64	\$7,968.50
Friendship	31	\$52,650.00	\$67,982.10	Bethlehem	N/A	\$1,071.40	\$2,443.80
Fulton Road	17	\$9,971.47	\$27,121.71	Blue Springs	N/A	\$3,316.00	\$2,107.98
Gateway	21	\$100.00	\$618.10	Cedar Ridge	1	\$14,018.00	\$5,514.00
Georgetown	0	\$300.00	\$1,260.00	Central Decatur	54	\$45,420.21	\$177,576.80
Government Street	21	\$40,044.13	\$24,221.50	Central Park	10	\$84,441.49	\$25,210.96
Grand Bay First	13	\$31,521.32	\$22,884.90	Chapel	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gulforest	2	\$0.00	\$502.00	CSBC	23	\$0.00	\$10,022.00
Haven Woods	22	\$5,892.70	\$6,496.00	Danville	17	\$6,001.65	\$48,046.71
Heron Bay	19	\$6,018.01	\$3,862.81	Decatur Baptist	61	\$24,000.00	\$33,626.62
Higher Ground	16	\$6,708.97	\$4,873.00	Decatur First	34	\$168,599.92	\$135,941.97
Highpoint	28	\$4,800.00	\$1,800.00	Deer Springs	6	\$0.00	\$750.00
Hollinger's Island	10	\$14,141.30	\$14,432.00	East Highland	12	\$106,761.73	\$45,739.63
Indian Springs	10	\$1,000.00	\$4,785.65	Falkville	3	\$17,319.74	\$22,838.50
International	5	\$600.00	\$1,150.00	Fellowship	3	\$2,428.93	\$2,478.18
Irvington First	3	\$3,804.00	\$6,633.07	Fifth Avenue	2	\$3,969.51	\$4,615.61
Kushla - Bethany	12	\$1,771.59	\$3,274.25	Flint	8	\$15,989.78	\$5,594.25
Lafitte	26	\$20,357.24	\$10,238.83	Forest Hill	2	\$0.00	\$400.00
Lambert Grove	N/A	N/A	N/A	Grace Point	4	\$2,400.00	\$2,326.95
Laos	0	\$26,988.83	\$3,968.12	Gum Springs	N/A	\$1,000.00	\$1,395.00
Lockler Memorial	2	\$3,613.97	\$3,789.96	Hartselle First	12	\$98,859.96	\$72,052.00
Luke 418 Fellowship	10	\$6,000.00	\$31,249.56	Highland	0	\$5,129.72	\$1,271.56
Manor	9	\$4,833.66	\$6,719.38	Hopewell	N/A	\$400.00	\$1,600.00
Moffett Road	6	\$67,151.09	\$49,672.08	La Casa	N/A	N/A	N/A
Myers Memorial	2	\$5,120.08	\$6,280.07	Lebanon	1	\$22,293.50	\$7,840.00
Navco	0	\$1,012.00	\$2,523.00	Liberty	0	\$788.06	\$960.57
New Home	N/A	N/A	N/A	Liberty/Lacey's Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Home Citronelle	N/A	\$890.00	\$2,110.00	Lifepoint	3	\$25,772.34	\$7,478.22
New Hope	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Light of Life	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Jerusalem	N/A	N/A	N/A	Memorial	0	\$5,542.00	\$3,429.00
New Liberty Park	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mt. Carmel	0	\$1,643.64	\$904.68
New Pilgrim	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt. Nebo	0	\$1,221.00	\$3,991.00
North Mobile First	156	\$239,675.85	\$52,821.27	Mt. View	0	\$0.00	\$600.00
Orchard	3	\$1,542.91	\$7,670.64	Mt. Zion	2	\$7,477.00	\$7,170.50
Parkway	N/A	\$1,114.79	\$1,071.11	New Canaan	12	\$29,842.42	\$20,896.51
Pavilion of Praise	N/A	N/A	N/A	New Center	4	\$23,035.18	\$19,711.41
Pine Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A	New Friendship	N/A	\$443.00	\$3,095.00
Providence	N/A	N/A	N/A	New Salem	N/A	\$1,111.59	\$0.00
Riverside	0	\$3,791.13	\$4,075.36	Oak Forest	N/A	\$0.00	\$250.00
Sage Avenue	13	\$19,089.09	\$5,658.87	Oak Park	N/A	\$3,750.00	\$500.00
San Souci	N/A	N/A	N/A	Oak Ridge	5	\$4,112.00	\$300.00
Saraland	N/A	\$0.00	\$5,495.00	Parkview	28	\$88,560.97	\$27,892.77
Satsuma First	38	\$105,704.83	\$441.01	Pine Ridge	2	\$5,000.00	\$1,792.00
Semmes First	4	\$21,645.59	\$11,160.38	Pines	N/A	N/A	N/A
Seven Hills	10	\$12,228.70	\$9,393.03	Pleasant Hill	10	\$7,219.00	\$10,059.51
Shadow Lawn	3	\$8,631.24	\$4,125.58	Pleasant Valley	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shalom	13	\$1,063.40	\$980.60	Point Mallard Pkwy.	N/A	\$24,020.00	\$2,277.00
Shiloh	7	\$8,647.44	\$11,214.92	Rock Creek	7	\$0.00	\$19,327.13
Smithtown	N/A	\$0.00	\$674.28	Rock Springs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Snow Road First	9	\$25,595.05	\$15,358.56	Ryan	2	\$5,768.38	\$6,256.00
Sonrise	7	\$20,427.71	\$9,752.93	Serenity	N/A	\$351.00	\$1,000.00
South Mobile	N/A	\$7,206.00	\$5,497.50	Shady Grove	1	\$15,928.00	\$14,892.25
Spice Pond	3	\$2,916.00	\$1,090.94	Shiloh	26	\$53,599.04	\$2,975.00
Spring Hill	13	\$334,711.93	\$108,643.06	Shoal Creek	0	\$34,120.99	\$25.00
Springhill Avenue	15	\$2,288.35	\$5,896.34	Sixteenth Avenue	3	\$5,760.00	\$3,437.00
St. Elmo First	3	\$7,256.59	\$5,721.16	Soul Harbor Missionary	N/A	N/A	N/A
Still Water Cowboy Church/N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	South Chapel Hill	N/A	\$2,243.56	\$1,474.03
The Cornerstone	N/A	\$2,315.00	\$3,714.54	Southside	1	\$66,573.79	\$20,823.01
Theodore First	5	\$9,654.90	\$7,007.43	Southwest	5	\$13,976.80	\$9,557.56
Tillman's Corner First	66	\$166,966.97	\$59,276.61	Stoney Acres	N/A	\$641.91	\$0.00
Travis Road	8	\$10,542.26	\$5,783.76	The Upper Room	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trinity	0	\$0.00	\$1,005.00	Trinity	21	\$49,407.70	\$13,696.41
Turnerville	14	\$21,416.43	\$13,624.99	Tunsel Road	13	\$2,100.00	\$4,767.00
Union	0	\$16,574.92	\$22,266.04	Unity	2	\$655.00	\$1,145.00
Vietnamese Obedience	N/A	\$500.00	\$500.00	Valhermoso	N/A	\$1,200.00	\$2,944.00
West Chickasaw	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Vestavia Hills	N/A	\$3,000.00	\$1,400.00
West Jordan	N/A	\$0.00	\$676.00	Walden Chapel	4	\$1,436.83	\$1,993.99
West Mobile	48	\$36,254.46	\$37,300.68	Walnut Grove	N/A	\$5,906.33	\$1,183.24
Wilmer First	100	\$62,040.77	\$11,886.64	West Hartselle	15	\$88,253.39	\$36,460.65
Woodridge	54	\$75,025.00	\$55,065.86	West Point	N/A	\$540.00	\$0.00
Zion	0	\$1,339.00	\$1,903.00	Westmeade	47	\$164,667.93	\$53,332.10
Mobile Totals	1273	\$2,144,281.48	\$1,189,001.14	Morgan Totals	476	\$1,400,449.23	\$937,674.43

Montgomery	Baptism	CP	Designated	Mud Creek	Baptism	CP	Designated
All Nations	N/A	N/A	N/A	Adger	N/A	\$485.00	\$1,337.00
Bethel	3	\$20,958.76	\$18,858.08	Bayview	2	\$0.00	\$3,077.19
Bible Missionary	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Big Creek	7	\$1,185.00	\$315.00
Brewer Memorial	3	\$0.00	\$5,990.84	Birmingham	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bridgeview	1	\$1,466.34	\$0.00	Crossroad	9	\$28,640.25	\$14,985.02
Brookwood	2	\$3,117.00	\$1,782.89	Dogwood Grove	2	\$3,522.32	\$8,306.65
Capitol Heights	2	\$38,119.43	\$19,563.26	Johns	0	\$600.00	\$600.00
Catoma	4	\$0.00	\$8,340.85	Labuco	0	\$242.00	\$1,184.00
Central Community Christian	8	\$100.00	\$50.00	Liberty	4	\$1,123.91	\$3,159.92
Chisholm	0	\$6,156.42	\$1,489.00	McNeil	8	\$1,132.31	\$1,414.74
Cloverdale	2	\$15,439.24	\$9,543.94	Mud Creek	0	\$180.00	\$3,420.00
Dalraida	21	\$48,168.73	\$35,562.22	New Providence	0	\$4,943.47	\$5,587.00
Eastdale	6	\$20,082.68	\$5,849.87	Oak Grove First	10	\$15,238.59	\$30,280.97
Eastern Hills	16	\$230,540.77	\$56,384.17	Oak Grove Missionary	0	\$1,770.46	\$933.00
Eastern Oaks	3	\$600.00	\$828.50	Pine Ridge	10	\$2,430.96	\$593.00
Eastmont	17	\$123,387.49	\$59,654.13	Pleasant Hill	0	\$3,627.37	\$1,802.70
Faith and Grace	1	N/A	N/A	Rock Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Southern	N/A	\$2,485.91	\$3,373.26	Smithville	25	\$6,382.31	\$11,379.27
Friendship	4	\$10,527.89	\$1,695.09	Snowtown	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,820.00
Friendship Missionary	N/A	N/A	N/A	Sparks Gap	6	\$0.00	\$100.00
Gateway	21	\$7,152.72	\$2,602.50	Union Hill	49	\$75,170.04	\$2,665.04
Hayneville	5	\$26,025.50	\$11,092.90	West Jefferson	1	\$10,937.00	\$4,485.35
Heritage	29	\$64,102.25	\$40,574.35	Westside	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland Avenue	2	\$0.00	\$7,051.13	Williamsburg	0	\$0.00	\$600.00
Highland Gardens	2	\$3,339.73	\$5,143.00	Mud Creek Totals	133	\$158,810.99	\$99,045.85
Hope Community	0	\$666.89	\$283.89				
Hunter Station	1	\$8,835.75	\$2,800.00	Muscle Shoals	Baptism	CP	Designated
Lakeview	3	\$9,670.00	\$4,395.24	Abbie	0	\$619.00	\$0.00
Lapine	2	\$5,256.21	\$2,850.00	Berea	7	\$3,000.00	\$8,720.71
Letohatchee	0	\$4,800.00	\$8,507.00	Bethany	5	\$2,738.64	\$1,084.84
Lowndesboro Baptist	1	\$5,434.00	\$4,489.42	Calvary	3	\$7,838.28	\$3,811.00
McGehee Road	1	\$34,200.65	\$6,837.50	Chalybeate Springs	0	\$4,201.00	\$2,754.28
Montgomery First	122	\$607,121.88	\$359,322.26	Courtland	15	\$11,993.30	\$11,894.83
Morningview	7	\$94,050.79	\$30,217.50	Donald	1	\$9,854.00	\$2,642.00
Mountain Hill	10	\$8,913.77	\$12,844.56	Enon	10	\$29,362.00	\$5,154.78
Mt. Zion	5	\$2,928.74	\$5,279.02	Faith Midway	16	\$17,988.69	\$2,795.56
Open Acres	11	\$550.00	\$2,620.00	Fish Pond	0	\$633.50	\$1,600.00
Pike Road	5	\$3,800.00	\$1,663.31	Flower Hill	3	\$240.00	\$628.00
Pine Level	0	\$1,275.11	\$1,975.00	Friendship	0	\$5,439.18	\$1,796.05
Pinedale	0	\$8,354.90	\$6,152.00	Gum Springs	2	\$0.00	\$500.00
Pintaila	11	\$7,207.62	\$8,049.69	Harmony	3	\$10,828.34	\$5,727.39
Ridgecrest	6	\$62,196.93	\$29,731.66	Hillsboro	2	\$1,800.00	\$2,400.00
River Bend	0	\$100.00	\$500.00	Moulton	12	\$59,707.89	\$33,906.48
Sampey Memorial	2	\$5,480.00	\$9,049.00	Mt. Hope	11	\$7,721.68	\$3,817.00
Snowdown	3	\$1,800.00	\$6,020.00	Mt. View	10	\$11,395.75	\$1,488.35
Southlawn	0	\$0.00	\$1,678.59	New Center	6	\$3,123.23	\$1,159.10
St. James	N/A	N/A	N/A	New Hope	4	\$9,336.00	\$8,418.10
Steep Creek	0	\$4,249.00	\$1,305.00	New Zion	3	\$7,910.00	\$350.00
Taylor Road	22	\$106,498.70	\$33,442.68	Okolona	2	\$4,980.52	\$1,740.23
Thorington Road	13	\$28,399.48	\$12,512.35	Old Town Creek	5	\$7,949.66	\$4,645.00
Trinity Memorial	3	\$1,661.00	\$5,195.20	Owen Chapel	3	\$2,891.99	\$1,700.00

Parkway	5	\$2,203.55	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill	0	\$2,761.50	\$3,679.89
Pleasant Grove	18	\$48,000.00	\$47,035.70	Reform First	0	\$20,524.80	\$14,189.03
Providence	11	\$15,362.97	\$4,836.51	Spring Hill	6	\$1,148.34	\$3,331.12
Smyrna	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Stansel	4	\$5,696.56	\$6,124.16
Sulphur Springs	0	\$4,103.26	\$2,751.13	Union Chapel	10	\$1,744.70	\$123.85
Town Creek First	2	\$0.00	\$3,385.00	West End	0	\$7,636.97	\$4,861.65
Valley Grove	15	\$5,938.00	\$720.00	Pickens Totals	143	\$300,560.70	\$200,005.40
Wear	2	\$3,768.83	\$1,330.00				
Wheeler Grove	8	\$3,463.00	\$550.00	Pine Barren	Baptism	CP	Designated
Muscle Shoals Totals	187	\$304,392.26	\$167,902.04	Awin	N/A	\$390.00	\$670.60
				Beatrice	2	\$7,868.00	\$5,

Numbers in this report
provided by the
Alabama Baptist State
Board of Missions.
1-800-264-1225

Want to know God?

By Pastor Roger White
Liberty Baptist Church, Crossville

Even in this world of quick answers, people are still searching for something that satisfies their hunger. It is a hunger that eats away at their very soul, yet all the things of this world that we feed ourselves simply leave us hungry and searching.

The Bible teaches us that God has what we are searching for. The one thing that will not leave us longing for more is Jesus.

The Word of God teaches us that God loves us so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, so that whoever believes upon Him shall have everlasting life (John 3:16).

But the Bible also says all of mankind is under the penalty of sin (Rom. 3:9). Yet God, who knows all things, chose to extend His love toward us (Rom. 5:8). Imagine loving someone who doesn't love you back, having that knowledge in advance and still loving him or her. Man, that is love beyond understanding.

If you want to know God — better yet, if you want Him to become your Savior and Lord — then all you must do is realize you are a sinner and that even in your sinful state, Jesus died for you.

Jesus said anyone who comes to Him, He will not cast out (John 6:37). So if you ask Jesus, then He will save you today, regardless of who you are or where you are in life.

To know God, to believe that He is true and His Word is true and His love is pure, brings to your soul peace that is described as full of joy. God's love is precious and filling to the heart.

Books seek to reclaim Christian intellectual tradition

A new book series to help collegians integrate faith and scholarship will make its debut in April. It is co-written by Timothy George, dean of Samford University's Beeson Divinity School.

In "Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual Tradition: A Guide for Students," published by Crossway, Union University President David S. Dockery and other Christian leaders aim to demonstrate that vibrant, world-changing Christianity is not anti-intellectual but assumes a long tradition of vigorous Christian thinking and a commitment to the integration of faith and scholarship.

Dockery, the series editor, said this integration is essential to the preparation of the next generation of leaders in the church, the academy and the world.

"This is a timely series that meets an important need as secular culture grows in its indifference to Christianity," Dockery said, "and as the Christian world continues to be confused about its own beliefs, heritage and tradition."

Thomas Kidd, a history professor at Baylor University, called the series "an exciting project that will freshly introduce readers to the riches of historic Christian thought and practice."

"As the modern secular academy struggles to reclaim a semblance of purpose, this series demonstrates why a deeply-rooted Christian worldview offers an intellectual coherence so badly needed in our fragmented culture," Kidd said. "Assembling a formidable cohort of respected evangelical scholars, 'Reclaiming the Christian Intellectual

Tradition' promises to supply must-read orientations to the disciplines for the next generation of Christian students."

Robert Sloan, president of Houston Baptist University, said the series meets a significant need both for students and for ministers and academics who are "charged with the responsibility to help us all think and live faithfully as followers of Christ in a deeply flawed world."

The first book in the series, "The Great Tradition of Christian Thinking: A Student's Guide," co-written by Dockery and George, will be released in April. The book introduces an approach to the Christian tradition that is not simply a historical overview, but will help students engage with contemporary challenges to their

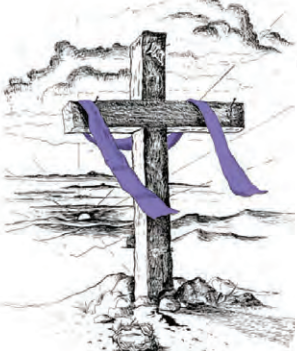
faith in various academic fields.

Four other books in the series also will be released in 2012: "The Liberal Arts: A Student's Guide" by Gene C. Fant Jr., Union's vice president for academic administration, in May; "Literature: A Student's Guide" by Louis Markos, professor of English and honors at Houston Baptist University, in June; "Political Thought: A Student's Guide," by Hunter Baker, associate dean of arts and sciences at Union, in July; and "Philosophy: A Student's Guide," by David Naugle, professor of philosophy at Dallas Baptist University, in September.

Additional books in the series on other academic subjects are expected to be published after the first five. (BP)

"This is a timely series that meets an important need as secular culture grows in its indifference to Christianity."

David S. Dockery
Union University



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Easter Egg Hunt
April 7, 2012 • Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church • 1343 Hueytown Road Hueytown, AL
205-491-3771 • 1:00 PM CFLC Lower Parking Lot
Preschool Egg Hunt 1:30 • Grades 1-5 Egg Hunt 2:45
** In case of rain, the hunt will be inside the CFLC.
Inflatables • Tattoos • Games • Drinks • Cotton Candy • Popcorn

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: First Baptist Church of Mt. Olive, Mt. Olive, Ala., is seeking full-time pastor. Master of divinity preferred; 5-10 years experience as pastor at a Southern Baptist church. Please submit resumes by mail to: Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church of Mt. Olive, 3200 Mt. Olive Road, Mt. Olive, AL 35117, or email resumes to: sheila@fbcmo.org.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR: Presently searching for bivocational pastor at Heritage Baptist Church in Pell City, Ala. Send resume to: Henry Grogan, 921 Hill Top Street, Pell City, AL 35125.

PASTOR OF WORSHIP & MUSIC: First Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, a traditional, downtown church, is seeking a full-time pastor of worship and music. The salary range is around \$38,000 plus benefits. Please mail resumes to: Personnel Search Committee, 529 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, or email: search@fbcbcr.com.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC/YOUTH: Dwight Baptist in Gadsden, Ala., is seeking God's man to lead our music and youth ministry. Resumes may be submitted to: 520 N. 29th St., Gadsden, AL 35904, ATTN: Jay Stewart or e-mail: jaystewart@comcast.net. Deadline for resumes is April 6.

MINISTER OF RECREATION: Full-time position. Resumes may be emailed to: mike@fbcdathan.org or mailed to: First Baptist Church, ATTN: Mike Golson, P.O. Box 2025, Dothan, AL 36302. Principal function: the minister of recreation is responsible for the complete operation of the family life center as well as the planning, conducting and evaluation of all activities/recreation programs for all ages.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC: Seeking bivocational minister of music to work with choir and small congregation that desires to grow. Clayridge Baptist Church, Clay, Ala. Contact Ron Hudgens, ronhudgens@JCDH.org, 205-913-9480.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS: Clearview Baptist Church in Pinson, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister to students working with students in the 6-12 grades. Please send resumes or inquiries to: Clearview Baptist Church, Student Minister Search Committee, 5271 Old Springville Road, Pinson, AL 34126 or connie@clearviewbaptist.com.

YOUTH PASTOR & CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR: Underwood Baptist Church in Montevallo is currently seeking a part-time youth pastor to work with our 7th-12th grade students. Also, seeking a part-time children's director to work with our 1st-6th grade students. Please mail resumes to: UBC, 4480 Highway 22, Montevallo AL 35115.

FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR: Shiloh Baptist Church, Somerville, Ala. (Morgan County) Please email resumes to: DrCharlesOwens@aol.com, or send to: Dr. Charles Owens, Shiloh Baptist Church, 3941 Hwy 36 E, Somerville, AL 35670.

OTHER POSITIONS

PIANIST: FBC Oneonta is now searching for a church pianist for choirs and worship. Church music experience preferable. If interested, please contact the church with your information at 205-625-3191, or email at moses@oneontafbc.org.

BUSINESS
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PORTUNITY: Christian Values Green Technology Company seeks mature business professionals for high-income opportunity. Home-based office. Hands-on support and apprenticeship-style training. For complete information, call Paul at 888-710-6994.

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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.

CHURCH LOANS & CONSTRUCTION
CHURCH LOANS: 3.0-4.5%: Perfect refinance option. Also available for construction and purchase. Call H.R. Ellis at AG Commercial Capital, 334-549-3408 or 1-800-792-0922, Ext. 2222.

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.

TRAVEL/VACATION

AFFORDABLE BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS: Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Ala. Rent direct — Christian family owners. Lowest prices on the beach. Call 205-556-0368, 205-752-1231 or 251-752-2366. www.gulfshorescondos.com.

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

FOR SALE

CHEVROLET BUS: 2007 Chevrolet Starcraft bus, 34-passenger with 12,000 miles. White/blue/silver, very clean. Wonderful for church trips or bus ministry. Call Cassie at 256-750-3888 for appointment.

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OLIVE TREES: Israeli olive trees for sale. Imported to Alabama from the Sea of Galilee region. Being green housed and ready to sell. Call for directions: 256-702-3335.

MISCELLANEOUS

HOMESCHOOL EXPO — MONTGOMERY: June 28-30, 2012 — Montgomery Convention Center. Learning and fun for whole family. Exhibitors and workshops. Learn to homeschool, Worldview Teen Track, KidsZone. 1-888-264-7763, www.alabamahomeschoolexpo.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

Legislators tackle more 'pro-family' issues

(continued from page 1)
health insurance coverage of elective abortions unless the insured has paid additional monies for a separate rider" and allow Alabama to opt out of "allowing abortion coverage by exchange participating health plans." Several similar bills also address this matter including SB10 and SB335, sponsored by Sen. Greg Reed, R-Jasper, and SB20, sponsored by Sen. Shadrack McGill, R-Scottsboro. SB10 is awaiting a third reading. HB493, sponsored by Rep. Jack Williams, R-Birmingham, seeks to exclude ectopic pregnancies from the definition of abortion. SB12, sponsored by Sen. Clay Scofield, R-Guntersville, would require physicians to do an ultrasound and display the images to the pregnant woman before performing an abortion. It has passed from the Senate Health Committee and is awaiting

a third reading. HB418, sponsored by Rep. April Weaver, R-Alabaster, and co-sponsored by 16 other representatives, would require ultrasounds and a "verbal explanation of the ultrasound" before an abortion. The two House bills are currently in the health committee. SB6 and SB96, sponsored by Sen. Gerald Allen, R-Tuscaloosa, would establish the Abortion-Inducing Drug Safety Act and make it "unlawful to administer any abortion-inducing drug to a woman without her receiving an exam by a physician." Also SB105, sponsored by Sen. Cam Ward, R-Alabaster, and HB375, sponsored by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin, R-Indian Springs, and co-sponsored by eight others, address the rights of health care professionals to refuse to perform any medical services that violate their conscience.

► HB47, also sponsored by Williams, addresses human trafficking by requiring lounges to post the Na-

tional Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline information and adding a \$50 fee for every violation of this policy. The bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

► Ward is sponsoring SB84 to prohibit the application of foreign laws that are in violation of Alabama laws and policies. The bill has passed from the Senate Judiciary Committee and is awaiting a third reading. Joe Godfrey, executive director of Alabama Citizens Action Program, said SB84 would strengthen public policy and could affect how or if the state recognizes activities legalized in other states like same-sex "marriages."

Overall Sen. Scott Beason, R-Gardendale, is pleased by the positive issues being considered. He said, "The leadership is much, much more pro-family than it was a few years ago. There is a different philosophical view or bent."

Former TAB board chairman dies

Herman L. "Bubba" Scott, former chairman of the board for *The Alabama Baptist*, died March 11. He was 84.

Scott served in the Navy after high school and graduated from Troy State University (now Troy University).

He was head football coach at Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham from 1963 to 1965 and executive director for the Alabama High School Athletic Association from 1966 to 1991.

Scott served as the state Baptist paper's board chairman from 1998 to 2001 and was a member of First Baptist Church, Montgomery.

"Bubba was an extraordinarily disciplined follower of Jesus Christ, and he made a massive difference for the Lord and countless young lives," said Jay Wolf, pastor of First, Montgomery. "He was deeply loved and will be greatly missed."

Scott was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Dot.

He is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. (TAB)

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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.

HE IS RISEN!
An Outdoor Easter Drama

Please join us Easter morning for the Easter Sunrise Service of Providence Baptist Church. This event will be held in the new outdoor amphitheater adjacent to the church on Easter Sunday morning April 8th at 6:00.

- Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Please dress warmly and bring a lawn chair.

6197 County Road 97 Clanton, AL. For directions to the church please call 755-4126.

You are also invited to a dress rehearsal April 1st at 3p.m.

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PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services

Egyptian priest jailed after mob attacks his church

ASWAN, Egypt — A priest in Egypt was sentenced to six months in jail for a minor construction violation at his church building, while no one in a mob that burned the same structure down has been arrested.

Pastor Makarious Bolous of the Mar Gerges Church in Aswan was sentenced March 4. Bolous said the ruling, coupled with the absence of prosecution against those who burned down the church building, is clear evidence of persecution and a legal double standard between Christians and Muslims.

The lower court that made the ruling also fined Bolous \$50. He remained free March 6 awaiting appeal. Local government officials said the building was 2.5 meters taller than what they had approved on a series of architectural drawings for the church building. On Sept. 30, 2011, some 3,000 villagers set fire to and then demolished the Mar Gerges building and razed four nearby homes and two businesses, all Christian-owned.

The tension in El Marenab village began the last week of August, when Muslim extremists voiced anger over the renovations at Mar Gerges. On Oct. 9, thousands of people marched through the streets of Cairo in protest over that and other attacks on Christians, a demonstration that turned into a blood bath after counter-protestors opened fire and soldiers ran over protestors with riot-control vehicles. Of the 27 people killed, at least 23 were Christians.

Pakistani refuses Islam, charged with 'blasphemy'

FORT ABBAS, Pakistan — A young mother has been falsely accused of "blaspheming" Muhammad, the prophet of Islam, because she rebuffed attempts by relatives who had converted to Islam to force her to renounce her Christian faith, family members said. Police in Khichiwala, Bahawalnagar district, in Punjab province, charged 26-year-old Shamim Bibi, mother of a 5-month-old girl and resident of the village Chak No. 170/7R Colony, in the Fort Abbas area, under Section 295-C of Pakistan's "blasphemy" statutes after neighbors accused her of uttering remarks against Muhammad.

She was arrested Feb. 28. Speaking ill of Muhammad in Pakistan is punishable by life imprisonment or death under Pakistan's internationally condemned blasphemy laws.

Shahbaz Masih, her brother-in-law, said one of the two men named as witnesses has denied hearing anything from Shamim Bibi that supports the charge. Bahawalnagar superintendent of police investigation Irfan Ullah acknowledged that one of the two witnesses had admitted to not being present at the alleged "crime" scene at the time of the alleged remark.

"The other witness is standing by his claim, and she has produced nothing so far which can prove her innocence," Ullah said. He vehemently denied that police had caved in to pressure from local Muslims and had registered a case in undue haste.

Christian arrested, accused of 'forceful conversion'

TAMIL NADU, India — State police on Feb. 21 arrested a Christian after Hindu extremists from the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) accused him of forceful conversion and beat him in Thuvakudi, Trichy district. The Global Council of Indian Christians (GCIC) reported that the Hindu extremists made the accusation against Sahayam Chidambaran after arguing with his brother, pastor John Chidambaran. The pastor's neighbor had demanded part of his church land, and after a quarrel had broken a water pipeline.

When the pastor filed a police complaint, the neighbor brought about 10 extremists from the RSS to attack the pastor and falsely accuse him of fraudulent and forced conversion. They also beat his daughter, Mercy, who had to be rushed to the hospital for treatment, reported the GCIC. Police assured the pastor that they would amicably settle the matter and also took a statement from him, but the neighbor along with an RSS leader identified only as Mahendra subsequently attacked the pastor's brother and raised the same false accusation to get him arrested and jailed.

Sajan K. George, president of the GCIC, told Compass today that the Christian remained in jail at press time and that he and his team was working for his release. "We are expecting that he will be out from the prison in two days time," he said Feb. 28.

Chick-fil-A stirs college opposition

The student senate at Northeastern University, in Boston, voted recently to end negotiations to bring fast-food chain Chick-fil-A to campus after students protested over the company's affiliation with several Christian organizations the students say have an "anti-gay" agenda.

The Atlanta-based company, dogged for months by accusations of homophobia, insists it is "not anti-anybody" but instead simply wants to "graciously serve great food and have a positive influence on all who come in contact with

Chick-fil-A." But students from at least 10 campuses aren't buying it. Incensed over the company's Christian values, they opposed new franchises and lobbied for the removal of existing restaurants on campuses across the country.

Contradicting principles

At Northeastern, the student body eagerly embraced Chick-fil-A's proposal to become a vendor in the student center until a small group of students complained about the organizations to which the company contributes through its WinShape

Foundation. Led by senior Taylor Cotter, a member of the school's student senate who spent almost a year opposing the company's interest in coming to campus, the students circulated a petition and gathered 300 signatures — about 1.5 percent of the student body. Despite the relatively small opposition, the school's student government quickly voted to end negotiations with the company. School administrators supported the decision, saying the company's principles contradicted Northeastern's respect for diversity and support for the gay community.

Responding with their own written statement, company representatives said they were disappointed over the school's "hasty" decision: "We are not anti-anybody and Chick-fil-A [has] no agenda, policy or position against anyone as some reports continue to represent."

Chick-fil-A also has faced opposition at Duke University, Bowling Green State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Gainesville State College, Indiana University South Bend, Mississippi State University, Texas Tech University, the University of North Texas and New York University. (BP)



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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For March 25

Explore the Bible

By Cecil Taylor
Dean, School of Christian Studies, University of Mobile

CHRISTIANITY 101: ACCEPT OTHERS

Luke 4:31-37; 5:12-16

Casting Out a Demon (4:31-37)

On a Sabbath in Capernaum, a major trade center on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus again entered a synagogue. The people were “amazed” because He spoke with authority higher than the highest human authority they knew. Even the Hebrew prophets cried, “Thus says the Lord!” And a rabbi typically cited earlier important rabbis who agreed with the point he wanted to make. This custom was a lot like citing precedents in court or quoting authorities in a research paper. Jesus did neither. He spoke on His own authority.

Jesus also acted with authority in dealing with evil spirits. Many modern Westerners prefer to explain demon possession either as a first-century superstition or just another name for mental illness or epilepsy. However, anyone who adopts this view faces an insuperable difficulty. He or she must explain what there was in either superstition or illness that gave this demonized man such clear insight into Jesus’ character and purpose. Clearly Jesus and the New Testament writers took demons seriously. Indeed, in this very chapter, Luke distinguished between the healing of disease and the exorcising of demons (4:40-41).

A man with an “unclean demonic spirit” spoke for the spirits within. “What to us and to you?” (literally) meant “Why bother us?” or “Leave us alone!” The unclean spirit recognized whom Jesus was and what He came to do. Besides Matthew’s version of this story, the title “Holy One of God” appears only one other place in the New Testament (John 6:69), where it indicates Jesus as coming from beyond this world and belonging to God in a special sense. Clearly the demon addressed Jesus as the divine Son of God. How ironic that the demons readily recognized Jesus while the religious leaders of the day remained stone-blind. “Have you come to destroy us?” shows the unclean spirit knew Jesus had come to destroy it and its Dark Lord and set up God’s kingdom (10:18; Rev. 20:10).

Jesus commanded the demon to be silent and come out of the man. With raging strength, the demon threw the man to the ground but departed without injuring him. Note that Jesus followed no magic formula, appealed to no higher power and used no magic paraphernalia as the other exorcists of His day did. Jesus just laid His naked word on the nasty thing and it had to leave. A word from Him was all it took. The New Testament’s major message is that in Jesus Christ, the demons have met their Master.

Cleansing a Leper (5:12-16)

Leprosy in the Bible was not always true leprosy (Hansen’s “*Lepra bacillus*”). Chronic psoriasis vulgaris, syphilis, pemphigus and dermatitis herpetiformis, smallpox and fungal infections as well as the pyodermas were included under the general label “leprosy” (cf descriptions of leprosy in Leviticus 13). Because these skin diseases were considered contagious and incurable, lepers were shut away from society. Also leprosy was considered a sign of moral uncleanness (Num. 12; 2 Kings 5:19-27; 2 Chron. 26:16-21), and the separation meant lepers had no part in the fellowship of God’s people. It was illegal even to greet a leper, much less to touch one.

In one town, a man covered with leprosy, i.e., in an advanced stage, came to Jesus, not requesting cleansing but simply stating, “If you will, you can cleanse me!” Jesus not only spoke to the leper but also touched him. “I will. Be cleansed!” “Immediately” indicates the cure was instantaneous.

A threefold command Jesus gave the man: 1. “Tell no one.” At this stage of His ministry, Jesus did not want to attract men by miracles but wanted to draw them by His word. 2. “Show yourself to the priest,” i.e., who served as a public health official. 3. “Offer the sacrifices the law specifies” (cf Lev. 14).

The miracle hints at Jesus’ personal identity. According to several commentaries, the rabbis said, “It is as difficult to cleanse leprosy as to raise the dead.” The point? Only God could do either. If only God can cleanse leprosy but Jesus cleansed it, then Jesus must be God. They should have known who He was.

Bible Studies for Life

By James R. Barnette
Associate professor of religion, Department of religion, Samford University

I THANK YOU

Psalms 107:1-9, 33-38, 43

Psalms 107 is a direct response to the concluding plea in Psalm 106:47, which is the end of Book IV. Psalm 107 continues using one of the key words found threaded throughout Psalm 106: “steadfast love.” This word, which is “hesed” in the Hebrew, occurs in the first and last verses of Psalm 107, and it appears in the second of the Psalm’s two refrains (verses 8, 15, 21, 31).

Considering this Psalm’s structure, it is helpful to think of it as a sermon on God’s unfailing love, beginning with an invitation for congregational response (verse 1-3), followed by four illustrations (verses 4-9, 10-16, 17-22, 23-32) and concluding with a hymnlike summary based on the four illustrations (verses 33-42) and a challenge to hear what has been said and remember God’s steadfast love.

Invitation to Give Thanks (1-3)

Verse 1 ties Psalm 107 to 106 and introduces its major theme: steadfast love. The people described in this Psalm needed God’s help, either because of their own folly or because of circumstances beyond their control. They called upon the Lord and He delivered them. The “redeemed” are those who were “gathered” from exile. The term “redeemed” is used elsewhere to name those who returned from Babylonian dispersion (see Isaiah 43:1; 44:22-23; 52:9). However, “redeemed” also remembers the custom that obliged a kinsman to step in to rescue his close relative from debt or slavery. Indeed this is what God did for us through His Son.

Reasons to Give Thanks (4-9)

While these verses may be understood as the experience of any person or a group, there are also allusions that relate the experience to Israel’s experiences of exodus/wilderness and return from exile. It is significant to note that lostness, hunger, thirst and exhaustion are all images that Jesus would later employ as He offered Himself as the Way, the Bread, the Water of life and the Giver of rest. In Middle Eastern thought, the desert and the sea are symbolic of chaos. Thus two acts of salvation

from sin (verses 10-16, 17-22) are coupled with two acts of salvation from chaos (verses 4-9, 23-32). The verb “cried” validates the place of crying to God for help, acknowledging our dependence on Him. When we cry to Him in our times of trouble, He hears us, and His steadfast love comforts and strengthens us. Verse 8 calls readers to “give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful deeds towards men.” This verse is the second refrain, which is repeated verbatim in verses 15, 21 and 31 and echoes phrases from the Psalm’s first line.

Response of the Thankful (33-38, 43)

Here the approach changes and the focus is not on people in crisis but on the Lord. He can turn the garden into a desert and the desert into a garden (see Isaiah 35:1-2; 41:18). God can judge the land because of the wickedness of the people who live there (see Genesis 19:24-28). He also can heal the land and bless it because of the people’s faith and obedience. Verses 33-43 offer poetic description of the return from exile. Earthly sovereigns are made subject to God’s sovereignty as part of His great reversal of fortunes. Verses 33-38 recall the desert scene of verses 4-9, but now it is not humanity that gets lost and found but humanity’s habitat that dies on them or presents them with abundance. This attention to God’s power over habitat reminds us of just how far we are from being masters of our own fate. Verse 43 asserts that wisdom consists of heeding the lesson of the preceding illustrations. Those who renounce self-sufficiency and cry to God will be the beneficiaries of His blessings, which reveal His enduring steadfast love. This message is diametrically opposed to what North American culture seems to teach people. We are taught to pull ourselves up by our bootstraps when we are down. We are taught that our security rests in careful planning, investment and management. We are taught to be self-made people — no need to cry to God for help. Seldom does it occur to us that our very lives depend on God. Hence the simple but radical message of Psalm 107: There is ultimately no such thing as self-sufficiency, for our lives depend on God and His love.

Christian Crossword

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Across

1. Outer covering of a fruit or seed.
4. Thou and all thy ____ shall be saved. (Acts 11:14)
8. Mom.
10. A vessel ... meet for the master's _____. (2 Tim. 2:21)
11. Made upon the ____ of the robe. (Ex. 39:24)
12. That the ____ men be sober, grave, temperate. (Titus 2:2)
14. ____ thee hence, Satan. (Matt. 4:10)
15. To make a mistake.
16. Ear _____.
17. Suffix used to make a comparative word.
18. Let his ____ be desolate. (Acts 1:20)
20. Felines.
21. National Hockey League. (abbr.)
23. The men went up and viewed _____. (Josh. 7:2)
24. There is none other but _____. (Mark 12:32)
26. We have seen his ____ in the east. (Matt. 2:2)

Down

28. ____ be thy name. (Matt. 6:9)
31. Pound. (abbr.)
32. Woes, troubles.
33. Behold, it ____ very good. (Gen. 1:31)
34. Sound a cat makes.
36. New York City baseball team.
37. ____ thee, escape thither. (Gen. 19:22)
38. Standing Room Only. (abbr.)
39. A period of time.
41. ____ hath washed my feet with tears. (Luke 7:44)
43. Negative.
45. It is a ____ thing that the king requireth. (Dan. 2:11)
46. Children of Gad called the altar _____. (Josh. 22:34)
47. A group of people working together for a common goal.
49. ____, ego, superego.
50. That they may be one, as we _____. (John 17:11)
51. Your children ... received ____ correction. (Jer. 2:30)
52. My covenant shall ____ fast with him. (Ps. 89:28)
53. ____ angel of the Lord.

Down

1. Very big.
2. One who uses.
3. ____ me not to wander from thy commandments. (Ps. 119:10)
4. Ye tithe ... all manner of _____. (Luke 11:42)
5. Athaliah, daughter of _____. (2 Kings 8:26)
6. We.
7. Belonging to our planet.
8. Note sent as a reminder.
9. Anno Domini. (abbr.)
11. ____ the furnace. (Dan. 3:19)
13. Ye would not have condemned the _____. (Matt. 12:7)
16. ____ is a lion's whelp. (Deut. 33:22)
18. I will rain ... great _____. (Ezek. 38:22)
19. Neither/_____.
20. One who calls.
22. 22nd letter of Greek alphabet.
24. I will not be an _____. (Isa. 3:7)

25. Eddie, Teddy, Edward.
27. A pain in the neck. (2 words)
29. Do not your ____ before men. (Matt. 6:1)
30. World War. (abbr.)
34. ____ and Pa.
35. One who cultivates a garden.
37. Is anything too ____ for the Lord? (Gen. 18:14)
40. A sneak attack.
42. ____ that were lepers. (Luke 17:12)
44. One type of grain.
48. Master of Arts. (abbr.)
50. ____ angel.

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Religion In America

Compiled from Wire Services

Evangelist calls his end-of-world prediction 'sinful'

OAKLAND, Calif. — Radio evangelist Harold Camping has called his erroneous prediction that the world would end last May 21 an "incorrect and sinful statement" and said his ministry is out of the prediction business.

"We have learned the very painful lesson that all of creation is in God's hands and He will end time in his time, not ours!" reads the statement signed by Camping and his staff and posted on his ministry's website.

"We humbly recognize that God may not tell His people the date when Christ will return, any more than he tells anyone the date they will die physically."

The "March 2012" letter, which included multiple mea culpas, was released with a note from the board of California-based Family Radio.

The group intended to mail it to listeners first, but immediately posted it "to avoid confusion" after it was leaked online.

The letter makes no reference to Camping's explanation last year that he had miscalculated by five months and the world would instead end on Oct. 21, 2011.

Military atheists to celebrate their lack of religion

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — After more than a year of planning, atheists in the military will stage a public festival and rock concert celebrating their lack of religious beliefs at North Carolina's Fort Bragg, one of the largest U.S. military bases.

Dubbed "Rock Beyond Belief," the event is believed to be the first of its kind to highlight "freethought" — atheism, humanism and skepticism — on a U.S. military base.

Organizers hope the March 31 event will lead to broader recognition and support of nonbelievers in the armed forces, where they say they receive little support and often discrimination from an overly Christianized military.

"This is perhaps the first step in a new direction away from the evangelical proselytism that has permeated the military for decades," said Sgt. Justin Griffith, an atheist serving at Fort Bragg and the event's chief organizer.

Griffith said the concert is a "bitter pill" for some of his superiors on base, which is home to the storied 82nd Airborne Division. Base officials expect approximately 5,000 people to attend.

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'I work for the Lord'

Ky. widow begins Hispanic ministry after husband's death

While some Kentuckians perhaps were viewing the influx of Hispanics with a wary eye in the 1990s, Garnett Jones placed a large sign beside the front door of her white frame house in Georgetown that read, "bienvenidos, amigos."

"Welcome, friends."

That welcoming spirit continues today.

In 2010, the Hispanic ministry that originally began in her home involved 18 different nationalities, including immigrants from Ethiopia, India, Jordan and Ghana and refugees from the Congo.

"Congolese refugees who come to the U.S. may have a university degree from South Africa, but they have never used an ATM or had a bank account," Jones said.

"I take them shopping, teach them to drive and loan my car for driver's tests."

Jones said she first heard God's call to missions at age 16. She and her husband, Clarence, a pastor, worked in ministries ranging from inner city to Appalachia. "I loved being a pastor's wife," she said.

After 36 years of marriage, Clarence died suddenly, leaving Garnett alone.

"Lord, you know me better than I know myself," she prayed. "Please help me find something to do."

She was not prepared for the answer. "God moved me to study Spanish at age 67."

The following summer, Jones went on a missions trip to Ecuador. After she came home, she began working with a Hispanic ministry. The next summer, she returned to Ecuador to study Spanish with a private tutor and at a language institute. Later, she worked as a teaching assistant to Hispanics in Dry Ridge and taught English to Hondurans in Cincinnati.

The third summer Garnett went to Ecuador to work in a medical clinic, she was injured when she fell down a mountain.

'Prayed aloud'

"They used two tree trunks and horse blankets to make a stretcher to carry me up the mountain," she said. Following surgery, however, she developed complications.

"A doctor said my leg was so badly injured that amputation might be the only solution."

When the Hispanic community back in Williamstown heard about her accident, they prayed aloud over and over, "Let Garnett's antibiotics start working."

And her leg began to heal.



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After Jones was well enough to return to Kentucky, she became a Mission Service Corps missionary. Gradually, her home in Georgetown developed into a school and social center for Hispanics.

"The Hispanic women brought their children and we studied English in the kitchen" she said.

In the evening, she taught classes for the men and women who worked outside the home.

Her home also became a place where her Hispanic friends could

invite loved ones for birthday parties and other special occasions.

Eager to serve, Jones approached internationals in grocery stores or Walmart, asking whether they spoke English and inviting them to her classes.

"In 14 years, I never had an inter-

national that was not receptive," she said.

She has found students in other unusual places. Once, while Jones was posting a notice for English classes for Hispanics, a motel owner asked her, "What agency do you work for? Who pays you?"

"I work for the Lord," she answered. The man asked Jones to teach English to his 60-year-old wife, a Pakistani, who could not converse with anyone.

"It was so neat to see how the Hispanic women welcomed her," Jones recalled.

She also enrolled several Chinese students the day she went to a local Chinese restaurant to post a bulletin for Hispanics.

A certified instructor for English as a Second Language, Jones teaches three evenings a week for the local school district and every Wednesday at Georgetown Baptist Church.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Georgetown Baptist purchases materials and provides other support for the Wednesday classes.

Jones has become an advocate for internationals.

She contacts lawyers, helps with legal papers, provides information about immigration laws, attends court hearings and helps obtain visas.

Reassurance

"I recorded 100 questions and answers on CDs to study for citizenship," she said.

"The internationals know enough to converse but these words are unfamiliar." She also interprets at doctor and dentist offices and provides comfort and reassurance.

On Sunday evening, Jones teaches 14 children at Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, a Hispanic church she helped plant that meets in the basement of Gano Baptist.

"We began the church with two people and now we have 40 to 50," she said.

With the help of a businessman, she founded the Georgetown/Scott County Hispanic Initiative, an organization of local citizens and community leaders that addresses issues related to the Hispanic community.

Currently, she serves as president.

Jones doesn't seem to be thinking of slowing down anytime soon.

"I don't see anything in the Bible that we are supposed to retire," she said.

"Jesus was compassionate about people's needs. There are people all around us who are hurting."

Mission Service Corps is a North American network of self-funded servants who assist state/regional Baptist conventions, local Baptist associations, and individual congregations and ministries. (BP)



Photo courtesy of Shepherd's Clinic

TRANSFORMING LIVES — A Shepherd's Clinic worker shares electrocardiogram results with a patient. The Baltimore ministry provides health care for people without insurance.

Serving the underserved

Baltimore clinic provides health care to working poor

It's Tuesday afternoon in what at first looks like a typical doctor's office. Then there is something different: laughter.

Welcome to Shepherd's Clinic, a small brick building in a busy Baltimore neighborhood. Its mission is to provide health care for those without insurance. The suggested donation for an office visit is one hour's wage for patients who are working and \$9 if they are unemployed.

The idea started with an emergency room assistant at nearby Union Memorial Hospital who noticed about one third of the patients they saw were people who didn't qualify for government assistance yet could not afford private insurance.

Beginning in a two-room area in a row house basement in 1991, Shepherd's Clinic has grown to 10,000 square feet. In 2008, the Joy Wellness Center was added, offering a more holistic health approach that includes yoga lessons, massage therapy and cooking classes.

Except for four full-time and seven part-time workers, everyone is a volunteer. Doctors volunteer their expertise, while college students fulfill field-placement requirements for premed and social-work degrees.

Beyond health care

Executive Director Jack Vandenhengel, former pastor of Baltimore's Seventh Baptist Church, said the benefits of Shepherd's Clinic go beyond health care.

"Shepherd's Clinic is responsive to deep human need," he said. "This work is so relational. It not only meets the needs of patients, but the needs of ongoing goodwill to volunteers and staff. I get up in the morning because I know it'll

make a difference in somebody's life health wise, but it also makes your day."

Vandenhengel, onetime director of Christian social ministries for Baltimore Baptist Association, also views the clinic as an expansion of social justice. "I've always grown up reading about justice, peace, the underdog," he said. "And this place is where the underserved are served."

Clinical Care Coordinator Kema Goodwin, a former labor-and-delivery nurse and now a six-year veteran of Shepherd's Clinic, coordinates procedures, handles casework, manages volunteers and delivers direct services.

"There's no red tape here," she said. "Our staff is so small that we can implement things pretty quickly. I love that patients know who we are, and we know who they are."

Intake Specialist Jessica Sousa, the first face patients see when they walk in, began volunteering at Shepherd's Clinic once a week after hearing Vandenhengel speak at Goucher College while she was a student.

Drawn at first by Vandenhengel's enthusiasm, she later decided a premedical program was not for her. An opportunity for a full-time job opened up, and Sousa started working full time at Shepherd's Clinic in July.

"I've had a lot of different jobs and worked my hardest at all of them, and the hard work goes so much farther here," Sousa said.

"This became my oxygen during my first post-baccalaureate year," she said. "A lot of people who are going through transition

periods often turn to volunteer here because of the encouragement. People here are just unbelievably grateful."

One patient came to the clinic because her pre-existing hypertension, arthritis and reflux prevented her from being insured. "I used to work in the health-care field and the atmosphere was always so sterile," she said. "But here it's not. The place doesn't feel medical, and it started ministering to me immediately."

'Moved'

Not only was "Mrs. P." treated, but she referred her friend to a Shepherd's Clinic doctor. The friend was quickly diagnosed for thyroid cancer and underwent surgery at Union Memorial Hospital, a low-cost procedure thanks to the partnership with Shepherd's.

Vandenhengel said "you can't help but be moved" by knowing that Shepherd's Clinic saves lives.

Jamie Spitzer, a 24-year-old volunteer who works with the International Rescue Committee in refugee resettlement, describes the clinic as a positive atmosphere for workers and patients alike. "I think it's a really supportive and empowering environment," she said. "All the providers here are really inspiring. All of the care is very holistic. The doctors are considering the person as a whole."

"Twenty years later, the place still drives me wonderfully crazy," said Vandenhengel, the clinic's co-founder. "Since we started it, this place has stirred my juices. I am pumped about what this place does because it transforms people's lives." (ABP)

World of Religion

Compiled from Wire Services

Witchcraft child abuse growing concern in Britain

LONDON — British police say they have investigated more than 80 witchcraft-based child abuse cases in the last decade and warned that the practice is "far more prevalent" than previously believed.

Authorities say the belief in witchcraft is widespread and growing in some African immigrant communities in Britain.

The disclosure came as a couple from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Magalie Bamu and Eric Bikubi, were sentenced to life in prison for torturing and drowning the woman's 15-year-old brother, Kristy Bamu.

Police said the two were convinced that the youth was a witch who had cast a spell on another child. They added that Bikubi had a "lifelong obsession" with a form of witchcraft known as kindoki and believed he had a special ability to detect evil.

Scotland Yard officials said they had probed 83 cases involving ritualistic or "faith-based" crimes in the past 10 years, and believe those cases represent only a small part of the true total of witchcraft practices in Britain.

Detective Superintendent Terry Sharpe, who heads a police team code-named "Project Violet" that tackles religion-based child abuse, said that "the intelligence from the community is that it's far more prevalent than the reports we are getting."

Previous cases include "exorcism ceremonies;" torture; attacks with knives, sticks, metal bars and hammers; drowning and disembowelments. The cases involve beliefs brought into Britain from Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Israeli postal workers refuse to deliver New Testaments

TEL AVIV, Israel — Israeli postal workers outside Tel Aviv are refusing to deliver thousands of copies of the New Testament and other Hebrew-language Christian materials.

Israel media reported in March that dozens of religious and secular Jewish mail deliverers jointly informed their supervisors that disseminating the materials goes against their religious beliefs.

The workers, who deliver mail in Ramat Gan, assert that delivering the items would be tantamount to proselytizing and therefore a violation of Jewish law.

It was not immediately clear who is mailing the materials. Proselytizing is a sensitive issue among Jewish Israelis, who feel the Jewish people have already lost too many adherents to the Spanish Inquisition, the Holocaust and other times of Jewish persecution.

Israel's anti-missionary law prohibits offering people monetary incentives in order to convince them to adopt another faith. It also bans proselytizing to minors. It does not prevent the dissemination of written material. The Israel Postal Company said that it is "a governmental company operating in accordance to the postal law, which obligates us to distribute any mail it receives. The Israel Postal Company has no right or ability to choose what it can or cannot distribute. Therefore, the mail will be distributed according to the law."

Italy considers taxing church-owned properties

VATICAN CITY — Pinched by the global recession and tough-love budget demands of the European Union, the Italian government is looking for extra revenue and has its eyes set on commercial properties owned by the Roman Catholic Church.

On Feb. 15, the government of Prime Minister Mario Monti announced it wants to revise rules on the tax-exempt status of church-owned commercial property. Though the exemption also applies to other not-for-profit entities, such as trade unions, political parties and religious groups, the Catholic Church is its largest beneficiary.

The exemption, introduced in 1992, has sparked a heated debate, especially after the Euro crisis and Italy's staggering debt forced the government to introduce sweeping austerity measures, including a sharp rise in the pension age.

Critics say the current rules give church-owned businesses, such as hotels and restaurants, an unfair advantage over their competitors.

Church officials respond that purely commercial church businesses must already pay taxes in full and that the exemption is aimed at helping social institutions like schools and hospitals, not at giving the Catholic Church an unfair advantage.

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