

# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST



Aug. 9, 2012  
Vol. 177, No. 31

Reporting. Connecting. Inspiring.

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

## INSIDE



**Thousands pack restaurants to show support on Chick-fil-A Day**

◆ Page 3



**More than 1,200 students inspired, challenged, encouraged at Youth Evangelism Conference**

◆ Pages 14–15



**Shocco plans to take new character education activity into public schools**

◆ Pages 16–17

# BACK TO CAMPUS

## Churches minister to students seeking community

By Joseph Rhea  
The Alabama Baptist

**W**ith the end of summer fast approaching, upcoming college freshmen are getting restless and excited as they anticipate a new phase in their lives. They pack up clothes hampers, funky storage units and coordinated twin-size bedding. They choose the belongings from their rooms that will make the transition to become part of their new “domestic” life in a dorm room or an apartment. They schedule classes, find new Facebook friends, secure jobs — they begin plugging in to their new lives in their new towns.

They go to college for an education, certainly. They go to prepare themselves for adult life and work. And they go ready for that transitional period between having their lives governed by their parents and making their own futures. After 18 years, even a young adult with a fantastic relationship with his or her parents is hungry for that autonomy.

But what else are they hungry for? What is it that these students will go to school wanting?

College students are hungry for community above all else, said Trace Hamiter, college minister for First Baptist Church, Opelika. More than pizza dinners, more than a place to do laundry, students will come to college looking for a place where they belong — where they know that they are known and accepted.

And everything that seeks their attention on campus will promise, explicitly or implicitly, to satisfy that hunger. The elite, familial bond of a

fraternity or sorority. The roaring vicarious passion of a stadium’s student section. Arts programs, study groups, academic communities — all of them whisper or shout, “You belong here; we know you and we want you as you are.”

Incoming freshmen, Christian and non-Christian alike, are especially hungry for community, said Chad Cossiboom, university minister at Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills. They want to be “connected and invested” somewhere.

### Desire for a ‘family’

Michael Pierce, associate pastor and college minister of Moffett Road Baptist Church, Mobile, described it as students’ desire for a “family.” If anything, incoming freshmen are more sensitive to a feeling of community because they have just uprooted themselves from

their previous life.

That is why it is absolutely essential for incoming freshmen to actively seek community in a local church, these college ministers said.

“Solid Christian community ... is what the church is supposed to be,” Hamiter said. True Christian community is Christ-glorifying and gospel-centered, focusing attention on the one thing that is ultimately important. Communities centered around other things, whether sports, personality or academic success, risk leading students away from Christ if they are not rooted in a community of faith as well.

“There’s so much growth that happens in that first year of college,” said Allen Tate, college pastor at Highland Baptist Church, Florence.

“One thing we emphasize is, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of God ... and all these things will be added to you,’” Pierce said. Students need not be anxious about relationships or grades; rather, they ought to trust God for those things and commit to a God-ordained community, he said.

Many of the difficulties in finding Christian community as a freshman stem from distraction, Hamiter said. Going home over a weekend, late Saturday night hangouts and studies can make students unwilling to get

(See ‘Alabama,’ page 7)



Photo by Luke Howard

Students attend the college Sunday School large group at FBC Opelika in Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association.

# COMMENT

## From Consumerist Religion to Spiritual Commitment

Americans point to their individualism with a sense of pride. This nation is the most individualistic in the world. A study by Craig Shorti published by Intercultural Press places the U.S. on the far end of individualism and China on the far end of group identity. All other nations fall somewhere between these two poles.

Americans focus on the uniqueness of each individual and urge everyone to “be all that you can be.” That ideal is carried into the church with the emphasis for each believer to discover his or her personal calling. Churches stress spiritual gifts inventories, personality tests and the like.

An unintended consequence of this national commitment to individualism is the emergence of a “What’s in it for me?” culture. Commitment to organizations, institutions and even families wanes as people seek personal fulfillment with little or no thought about commitment to anything beyond their own sense of well-being. Satisfying the whims of the consumer seems to be a dominant goal for individuals and for institutions.

In the church, individualism is exhibited as people come to observe what transpires at the church but seldom, if ever, participate. Commitment to churches through membership is dying, even for some longtime participants. And many members are marginal in their participation and service.

A commitment to individualism also plays out in conflict as members battle for personal preferences. It is expressed in “my way or the highway” attitudes, either from leaders who manipulate people who disagree with them out of a church or members who hop from church to church seeking a congregation that will satisfy their personal desires. Frequently church members fail to find that perfect place and stop participating in the community of faith altogether.

Evangelical churches have contributed to this individualistic mindset through preaching that calls people to make decisions rather than become disciples of Jesus Christ. While a time of personal commitment to Jesus Christ is clearly taught in the



THOUGHTS  
By Bob Terry

Bible, debate at the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) correctly pointed out that nowhere in Scripture is there a “sinner’s prayer” to be repeated by the penitent. Instead Jesus used a variety of ways to call people to a life of discipleship.

### An American, not a global problem

One result of preaching for decisions and the individualistic culture of America was illustrated in the recent report on SBC statistics. Cooperating churches boast of nearly 16 million members, but only 6.1 million of those members participate in worship on an average Sunday. That is 38.5 percent. Where is the other 61.5 percent?

Southern Baptists are not alone in this situation. A study by Scott Thumma and William Bird reported the percentage of Sunday morning participants per membership for other major denominations: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — 28 percent; Episcopal Church — 36 percent; United Methodist Church — 42 percent; Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) — 47 percent.

When all churches were grouped by size the result was similar. Churches reporting between 50–99 members average 43 percent in attendance on Sunday morning; 100–249 members — 40 percent; 250–499 members — 36 percent; 500–999 members — 34 percent; 1,000–2,499 members — 29 percent; 2,500 members and up — 28 percent.

In other parts of the world the picture is very

different. When traveling in the country of Belarus I visited a large Baptist church in the town of Kobrin. My first surprise was to see such a large Baptist church building sitting in a prominent place. The second surprise was learning that Baptists comprised the largest religious body in the southern region of this former Soviet Union nation.

When I asked the pastor how many members made up the church he quickly answered about 1,100. When I asked him how many attended each Sunday he replied, “All of them.” I must have looked startled because he then asked me, “Don’t all of your members attend in the United States?”

In most of the world participation in the body of Christ is more similar to the church in Kobrin than the typical Southern Baptist Church in the U.S. For most of the world identification with the gospel makes a difference. To become a Christian is not only to identify with the Risen Lord, it is to identify with the community of faith — the church. And it is to identify with a life of service — through the church and to others.

Among Southern Baptists the doctrinal commitment to the priesthood of all believers is frequently used as justification for a Lone Ranger-type religion reflecting the cultural commitment to individualism. A more biblical understanding is that all believers are to find a place of service within the body of Christ through which they demonstrate God’s love and compassion.

Baptists understand the impact of service. How many times have we witnessed a marginal member transformed by participation in a missions trip? The ministries of the trip were generally the kinds of things that could be done at home. The difference was the intentional approach to service.

When that intentional approach is applied through the local church, it can be just as transforming as serving in a distant setting. Thumma and Bird found, “There are very strong relationships between those who say they are spiritually fulfilled and growing spiritually and those who are highly committed and involved (in the local church).”

Yet they add, “Only around 20 percent of the typical congregation both attends regularly and produces ... marks as a person spiritually growing, engaged and (a) committed follower of Jesus Christ.”

If personal spiritual growth and service to others are so closely tied then perhaps it is time to rethink our traditional approaches. Perhaps it is time to emphasize that a decision for Christ is not the end of a spiritual journey, but the first step in a life of discipleship. Perhaps it is time to raise the bar of church membership and find creative ways to blend mission and calling with volunteer service.

Perhaps a missions field that needs immediate attention by churches of all denominations is the 80 percent of church members stuck in the consumerist religion of individualism who need to experience the spiritual commitment of Christian discipleship.

## Letters to the Editor

### ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

I have read with interest, and some dismay, recent articles in *The Alabama Baptist* pertaining to the growth of Calvinism among Southern Baptists, and I indeed agree there is an “elephant in the room.”

Editor Bob Terry’s fine article of July 19 is very enlightening and encouraging since he points out another way besides Calvinism: the traditional Baptist way of salvation.

My conclusion is the Baptist Calvinists are in the wrong denomination. This group needs to take its questionable beliefs such as infant baptism, etc.,

and affiliate with a like-minded group, thus avoiding future division and dissonance with the Southern Baptist Convention.

George C. Bannister  
Vestavia Hills, Ala.

### THANK YOU

Thank you for being so informative in your presentations of the news. Your July 19 edition was so revealing to everyone of how God is working, especially in distant lands.

We as Americans still have so much for which to be grateful in being able to know and worship God. Hopefully,

through wonderful efforts, others reading this will realize this and not let it slip through our fingers. Your dedication to superb newspaper publishing is a blessing to Alabamians and others.

Please know you are appreciated.  
Mary Morton  
Mobile, Ala.

### ON CALVINISM

In reference to the editorial “There Is Another Way” in the July 19 issue about Calvinism, I appreciate your presenting both sides and informing us of the apathy of the messengers to the (See ‘Letters,’ page 21)



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

(ISSN 0738-7741; USPS 011-080)  
© The Alabama Baptist, Inc.  
is published weekly except for one  
week in July and December by  
The Alabama Baptist, Inc., at 3310  
Independence Drive, Birmingham,  
AL 35209. Phone: 205-870-4720.  
Statewide phone: 1-800-803-5201.  
Fax: 205-870-8957. Website: www.  
thealabamabaptist.org. Email: news@  
thealabamabaptist.org or circulation@  
thealabamabaptist.org. Periodicals  
postage paid at Birmingham, Ala., and  
other locations.

**PRINT SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Church Budget — \$12.50 (plus tax)  
Individual — \$20.95

**ONLINE SUBSCRIPTION RATES**  
Church Budget — \$8.50  
Individual — \$14.95

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairwoman Jane Bellew, Stuart  
Calvert, Travis Coleman, Gary Fenton,  
George A. Foust, Craig Gault, Helen W.  
Mayo, Allan Murphy, Jim Oakley, Larry  
Patterson, Wayne Randall, Bradley  
Rushing, Steve Scoggins, William  
Melton, Amelia Pearson, Judy Stiefel,  
James "Jim" Warren, Rick Lance (ex-  
officio), Mike Shaw (ex-officio).

#### DR. BOBBY S. TERRY EDITOR

Jennifer Davis Rash  
Executive Editor

Neisha Fuson  
Editorial Assistant  
for Online Communications

Julie Payne  
News Writer

Lauren C. Grim  
Designer

Wanda Bergeron  
Local Editions Coordinator

Linda Harrison  
Financial Administrator

Bill Gilmore  
Advertising Director

Debbie Campbell  
Director of Circulation  
and Public Relations

#### NEWS SERVICES

Baptist Press (BP), Associated Baptist  
Press (ABP), Religion News Service  
(RNS), Compass Direct News (CDN),  
Evangelical Press (EP), Forum 18 (F18).

#### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:  
The Alabama Baptist  
3310 Independence Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35209

#### ADDRESS CHANGE

Send old and new addresses,  
and name of church to:  
Circulation Department  
3310 Independence Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
Allow two weeks.

# Making a statement

## Thousands pack restaurants to show support on Chick-fil-A Day

In Chick-fil-A restaurants across the state and nation, customers were waiting 75 minutes for a chicken sandwich when they could have driven down the road to McDonald's and been in and out in five minutes.

It surely seemed strange to at least a few observers, but the folks at jam-packed Chick-fil-A restaurants across the country were making a statement, standing up for a chain that has been criticized by media members, politicians and activist groups because of Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy's support for the biblical definition of marriage.

Carol Diegel, of Hoover, said while eating at one of the Birmingham-area Chick-fil-As, "It's important to come in and support freedom of speech. Mr. Cathy was not attempting to take away anyone's rights. He wasn't trying to make an argument or influence policy. He was simply stating his belief."

"We have to fight for the continued right to speak our beliefs," Diegel said. "Chick-fil-A is the only fast-food restaurant that is closed on Sunday. They're the only fast-food restaurant that is openly Christian. Cathy is a God-fearing Christian man and he deserves to have the support of the Christian community."

"Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day," as organizer Mike Huckabee called it, may have been more successful than even he envisioned. More than 660,000 people had signed up on Facebook to participate.

In some areas, police were on location to direct traffic, with cars backed up on main roads. Churches, too, were getting involved — some ordering Chick-fil-A food to serve at their weekly Wednesday evening meal.

For most if not all day Wednesday, #chick-



Photo by Dwight Davis

**TAKING A STAND** — Customers pack the Chick-fil-A in Birmingham on Lakeshore Drive in support of the restaurant's president, Dan Cathy, and the biblical definition of marriage. Across the nation restaurants were filled to capacity for Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day on Aug. 1.

fila was trending on Twitter. Some people even were pledging to eat at the restaurant for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Heading into the day, Huckabee said the event was not about gay "marriage" — as some had made it out to be — but about free speech and religious liberty. A business owner, he said, should be able to state basic Christian beliefs without being castigated. He stood by that on his radio show Aug. 1.

"We're finding out that people in America still believe that every American — every American — has a right to an opinion," Huckabee said on his radio program. "You don't have to agree with it. You don't have to

like it. But you ought to respect that people have that wonderful right."

The national debate over Chick-fil-A began after media coverage of the company's support of the traditional family. A media storm then ensued, with some gay rights groups calling for a boycott of the company.

Chick-fil-A issued a statement July 19 saying that its tradition is "to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender."

It also noted that it has applied "biblically based principles" to business management and will continue to do so. (BP, TAB)

## What people are saying on

### facebook

What would happen if we showed the same unity in a lack of support for those companies that embrace non-biblical principles? And not just on the issue this controversy was centered on. We really could take back our world for Christ.

**Sandi Logan Price**

Take that same passion and apply [it] to the everyday Christian walk and not when we are just offended. I would love to see the churches packed out like that on Sunday.

**Kc Jackson**

I was proud to be there. I would like to see the same lines and crowds this Sunday in churches everywhere. "God Appreciation Day!" Let's get excited for Jesus Christ in His house as well as the marketplace and everywhere we go.

**Joseph Edward Powell**

I was wondering all day long why my Christian brothers and sisters don't show this same passion for PEOPLE who are

HURTING. What would happen if that kind of "rallying" energy were put into adopting kids or ending hunger or treating our neighbor in a brotherly manner? I am afraid that this event was "easy" with minimal investment and these other things require [long-term] investment ... and many, many folks do not like to invest [long-term] even though it is a biblical mandate. Proverbs 21:13 says, "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be answered." James 1:27 talks about orphans and widows "in distress." Where are the lines to help them?

**Lisa Chilson Rose**

I hope the [Chick-fil-A Christians] will have to ride around the block to find a parking place at their churches this Sunday morning! And that they will be willing to do it!

**Jannie Whitt Smith**

Praying that this will be the beginning of a great revival among Christians, and that we will show our Christian convictions on a daily basis, not just once in a while and on certain days.

**Phyllis McCollough Zorn**

*The Alabama Baptist said: Nearly 670,000 people signed up to participate in yesterday's Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day ... in Alabama alone, sales were said to have quadrupled, with stores having to order more food in the middle of the day. What do you think believers should take away from the message and action that was seen [Aug. 1]?*

I had chills as I stood there in line, sweating, wondering why we always seem to wait for either an invitation or a bully's challenge to stand together in unity ... as the body of Christ when we know that we can do ALL things through Him. We have to GET UP, GET OUT and GO DO whether that's vote or serve or stand for what's right every day. We are living in the last days, and it won't get any easier. Soldiers of Christ, let's pray for and demonstrate unity every day!

**Dianne Richards**

That we can unite over even greater Christian issues that are at hand, glorifying God with our commitment to His commission He has given each of us.

**DavidnBecky Horton**

# 'Done to perfection'

## Paint Rock Baptist creates Babylon-themed VBS

**D**one to perfection." That is how Paint Rock Missionary Baptist Church, Paint Rock, member Betty Putnam described the church's Babylon-themed Vacation Bible School (VBS) that took place July 16–20.

The Tennessee River Baptist Association church, which averages 60 people on Sunday mornings, ministered to 228 kids and adults during its family-oriented VBS.

"God brought them," said Paige Parker, VBS director, on the large turnout. "He's just done a mighty work."

This year Parker has seen an influx of church members wanting to be involved in every aspect of VBS.

Two weeks before VBS, Parker and a team of volunteers were at the church every night, building "palace walls" along the width of Paint Rock Missionary Baptist's new gym and creating a marketplace outside the palace walls with shops and tents.

In this family-focused VBS, parents and children were grouped in eight "tribes" according to families, not ages. Every member of the tribe was encouraged to participate at each station they visited. This included the crafts time, where chil-



Photo courtesy of Paige Parker

**FAMILY-FOCUSED** — Paint Rock Pastor Charlie King presents the gospel to the 'tribes' of Israel during its Babylon-themed VBS.

dren traveled to various booths in the marketplace; the Daniel adventure, a series of short dramas; the palace playground; the tribe time, where the tribe gathered together to talk about "God sightings"; the palace petting zoo that featured a variety of small animals; and the opening and closing celebrations.

The crafts time was also a learning experience for the kids, Parker said. As they moved from booth to booth, Paint Rock Missionary members would pretend to be unbelievers and ask the children

about their faith. "The kids got to practice telling their faith," Parker said.

Parker, who has been VBS director for five years, said she prefers the family-oriented VBS because it is "really cool to see the parents get involved with the kids."

A July 22 celebration service culminated the week with members encircling the congregation and singing VBS songs before receiving their completion certificates and sharing a meal.

(Maggie Walsh, TAB intern)

## in Loving Memory

of Alabama Baptist leaders

### Chester H. Jernigan

#### Former Alabama Baptist pastor Jernigan dies

**C**hester H. Jernigan, former Alabama Baptist pastor, died July 21. He was 81.

A native of Brewton, Jernigan graduated from Howard College (now Samford University), Troy State University (now Troy University) and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He received an honorary doctorate degree from Judson College in 1982 recognizing his pastoral and denominational leadership.



JERNIGAN

Jernigan served as pastor of Southern Baptist churches beginning at 17 years old. During his 63 years of ministry he served as pastor of six Alabama Baptist churches including First Baptist Church, Abbeville, and Forest Park Baptist Church, Montgomery. He also served as pastor in Florida and served several churches as an interim pastor.

Jernigan also served as vice president for development for The Baptist Foundation of Alabama and later as director of development for First Baptist Foundation, a ministry of First Baptist Church, Montgomery.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 61 years, Nelda; two children; and four grandchildren. (TAB)

### Charles Philip Neel

#### Auburn mascot creator Neel dies at 84

**C**harles Philip Neel, creator of Auburn University's mascot, Aubie, and a member of Deerfoot Baptist Church, Trussville, for 32 years died July 25. He was 84.

Neel served two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He was a sports cartoonist for *The Birmingham Post Herald* for 34 years and also was a freelance artist.

Neel served a number of churches as a deacon, Sunday School teacher and youth worker.

He was preceded in death by one son.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 63 years, Lou; four children; 14 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. (TAB)



By Christine Kapurch  
Correspondent, TAB

## Someone You Should Know

### JENNIFER WADDELL

North River Church, Tuscaloosa  
Tuscaloosa Baptist Association



WADDELL

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Psalm 86:11

**FAVORITE HYMNS:** "God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength" and "Bless the Lord O My Soul"

**HOBBIES:** Reading, working out and

traveling

**FAMILY STATUS:** Married to Wayne for 27 years; five children, Brant, Trent, Witt, Grace and Ashleigh Krin (deceased)

**J**ennifer Waddell is the director of Athletes in Action at the University of Alabama (UA). She worked with Campus Crusade for Christ at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge (LSU). After 14 years she moved back to her alma mater, UA, where she leads small groups, servant teams and shares the gospel with student-athletes. She is also serving at the Olympic Games where she is connecting with Olympic athletes and helping at the Legacy Breakfast, which honors one male and one female athlete for their faith and integrity.

**Q: What influences in your life pointed you to Christ at the beginning of your faith journey?**

A: My freshman year at Alabama was pivotal. A gal ... took me under her wing and got me involved in Campus Crusade and her church ... Emmanuel Baptist

Church here in Tuscaloosa. I knew the Lord but had no idea how to walk with the Lord and study the Word.

**Q: When and how were you led into the ministry?**

A: I started out in a small group in Campus Crusade and went on a summer beach project in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., and then I spent a summer in Japan with Campus Crusade. ... God directed my heart to work with college students through Campus Crusade.

**Q: What do you get from the ministry?**

A: Matthew 28:18–20 talks about making disciples who will go to the world and make disciples (2 Tim. 2:2). One of my greatest joys is to see not only my own children, but these young ladies that God has entrusted to me, come to know the Lord personally and grow in their faith.

**Q: How do family members support you?**

A: My family is very supportive of what I do. Wayne was on staff with me for 20 years and very much encourages me to continue to be involved in ministry.

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

A: I hope to continue to lead the women's athletic ministry here until the Lord directs another way.

**Q: What difference will this ministry make for you in the future?**

A: Our prayer ... is to see God raise up Christ followers on every team here at Alabama. ... Our desire is to equip them to share their faith ... learn how to study the Word ... so that no matter where God leads them they can be involved in His kingdom work.



Photo courtesy of FBC Boaz

### FBC BOAZ HONORS CHOIR MEMBERS

The music ministry of FBC Boaz honors two members for their longevity in the adult choir July 8. Helen Gillespie (left) served 62 years before retiring last year. Ken Bagwell is in his 44th year. Tommy Pierce is minister of music, and Richard Pettijohn is pastor.

# 'Organized crime'

By Sondra Washington  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

## Attorney general's office raids Center Stage Alabama, seizes nearly 700 gambling machines, devices

**W**hether lured by dreams of fast money or doubts about law enforcement threats, several Alabama slot machine-style gambling facility owners have re-opened their doors over the past year despite previous raids, court decisions and lack of legislative support. But Attorney General Luther Strange is making good on his promise to shut down any illegal gambling establishments in the state.

On July 25 agents from Strange's office served a search warrant and seized nearly 700 gambling machines and devices and almost \$300,000 from the so-called "electronic bingo" hall at Center Stage Alabama, which was formerly known as Country Crossing, in Houston County.

In a press release Strange said the raid was "the culmination of an investigative process over the last several months."

"My office, along with Houston County District Attorney Doug Valeska, worked to try to resolve this matter with minimal controversy," Strange noted. "We offered

Center Stage an opportunity to resolve this matter by surrendering its machines to the state and allowing a court to determine the legality of the machines. After Center Stage simply refused to compromise or discuss this matter in good faith, we sent the casino a written order to cease and desist its illegal operations. Unfortunately

the casino continued to operate in open defiance of the rule of law and we have been left with no alternative but to treat this as we would any other law enforcement matter."

Assistant Attorney General Sonny Reagan later said, "The items seized at Center Stage by law enforcement will now be the subject of litigation in Houston County Circuit Court. The state will seek the destruction of all illegal gambling machines and ask the court to transfer

all seized monies to the general fund in accordance with state law. Those operating illegal casinos in open defiance of the law should be aware that this office will continue to enforce the rule of law throughout the State of Alabama."

Center Stage was developed by Ronnie

**"The threat here is not merely gambling.**

**It's the organized crime, corruption and economic decay that come with it."**

**Sen. Bryan Taylor, R-Prattville**



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Gilley, who is currently preparing to serve his nearly seven-year prison sentence for a legislative vote-buying scheme and has recently requested to delay reporting to federal prison for "medical reasons and to deal with financial issues at BamaJam Farms," according to the *Dothan Eagle*. For the past several years Gilley has promoted the multiple-day music festival held in Enterprise, which, according to BamaJam2012.com, features "today's most popular acts from dual headline stages set at the pristine 1,600-acre BamaJam Farms, 'Where God and Country Coincide.'" The site called the most recent BamaJam held June 14–16 featuring Tim McGraw, Zac Brown Band, Kid Rock, Alan Jackson, Eric Church, Sheryl Crow and Jamey Johnson "a huge success."

### Future hopes

In the future, Strange hopes Alabama legislators will "put an end to" illegal gambling activity "by simply increasing the penalty for the existing crime of operating an illegal slot machine from a misdemeanor to a felony."

He noted, "Until then, these individuals stand to make millions of dollars in illegal gambling profits while risking only a slap-on-the-wrist misdemeanor charge, and law

enforcement will continue to be forced to expend valuable resources to deal with the growing problem."

For the past two legislative sessions, Sen. Bryan Taylor, R-Prattville, has sponsored bills to increase the penalty for possessing gambling devices from a misdemeanor to a felony, but senators did not pass the bill.

"The threat here is not merely gambling," Taylor told *The Alabama Baptist*. "It's the organized crime, corruption and economic decay that come with it. It's not about the players. It's not about the people who would frequent these establishments. It's about the people who own them and the tremendous harm they are doing our families. Everybody knows that running a for-profit casino is illegal in the state of Alabama but as long as it's a misdemeanor, the penalty is just the cost of doing business."

On the day of the raid, Center Stage's Facebook page stated, "We look forward to re-opening and putting the hundreds of our amazing employees back to work."

According to news reports, Greenetrack in Eutaw and Southern Star, formerly known as Whitehall Entertainment, are both currently operating. Representatives for VictoryLand in Shorter have also promised to re-open their gambling facility. ❧

## Hayneville churches partner for VBS

Cooperation was the refrain of Hayneville Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School (VBS) song as it partnered with Jonathan's House of Prayer, Hayneville, to minister to children across racial and denominational lines in Lowndes County July 15–19.

Darrell Paulk, pastor of Hayneville Baptist, and Sylvester Hardy, pastor of Jonathan's House of Prayer, formed a friendship through their mutual involvement with Olive Tree Ministries, an interdenominational nonprofit organization in Lowndes County.

While battling generational poverty and illiteracy through Olive Tree, Paulk and Hardy's friendship flourished, creating the foundation for collaboration that made the combined VBS possible.

Through Hardy, Paulk became aware that very few African-

American churches in the area have a VBS. Together they decided to rectify the situation.

During Hayneville's Amazing Wonders Aviation VBS, Hardy and 10 volunteers brought 30–35 African-American kids each night.

### 'The kids loved it'

Each of the 120 children enrolled were able to enjoy the week, which included a plane flying over the church one night.

"The kids loved it," Paulk said, expressing his thanks to Dave Goodwin for making the flyer. Goodwin is a member at Hayneville and the personal pilot of Gov. Robert Bentley.

Approximately 240 families attended the family night that concluded the week. That night Paulk received a pie in the face when the girls proved victorious in the battle of the sexes for giving more

money to the missions offering throughout the week. The offering was for Olive Tree Ministries.

"I love how it came full circle with Olive Tree," Paulk said. "Something like this [VBS] has never been done in Lowndes County."

During VBS one child accepted Christ, and many relationships developed with children and workers from both churches, Hardy said. "This opportunity was a real blessing from the Lord."

Both churches responded well to the partnership, Hardy said, and are planning to get "a lot more involved" in the future. Paulk echoed his fellow pastor, saying he received a lot of positive feedback about VBS from his congregation.

The two churches are planning to combine for VBS again next year. (Maggie Walsh, TAB intern)



Photo courtesy of Montgomery Baptist Association

### MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION PROVIDES VBS PLANE

Mark Spain, acquisition specialist for Sumaria Systems, built a 13-foot-long, 15-foot-wide airplane made of wood and fabric for Montgomery Baptist Association's Vacation Bible School (VBS) clinic. Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Montgomery; Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery; Hayneville Baptist Church; Snowdown Baptist Church, Montgomery; Blue Ridge Baptist Church, Wetumpka; and Elizabeth Missionary Baptist Church, Mathews, used the plane.

# Across Alabama's Associations

## AUTAUGA

► **Joey Bentley** is the new pastor of **Liberty Church, Deatsville**. He holds a bachelor of arts in religion/biblical studies from The University of Mobile and is completing his master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as associate pastor of students and seniors for First Church, Satsuma. He and his wife, Kim, have one daughter.



**BENTLEY**

## BIRMINGHAM

► **First Church Roebuck Plaza, Birmingham**, will hold a southern gospel music concert presented by the church sanctuary choir Aug. 12, 4 p.m. Refreshments will follow. James A. Auchmuty is pastor.

## CLARKE

► **Evergreen Church, Jackson**, will host "A Time for Everything" women's conference Aug. 18, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. For information call 251-589-0769. Howard Gaston is pastor.

## COLBERT-LAUDERDALE

► **First Church, Sheffield**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Aug. 19. Jim Warren, former director of missions for Colbert-Lauderdale Association, will

speaking. A fellowship meal will follow. For information call 256-383-7737. Chad Holder is pastor.

## COOSA RIVER

► **Blue Eye Church, Lincoln**, will host Squire Parsons in concert Aug. 19, 6 p.m. For information call 256-268-7025. Jacky Morgan is pastor.

## FRANKLIN

► **First Church, Russellville**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 12, 10:30 a.m. Butch Henderson, associate executive director of Birmingham Association, will speak. A covered-dish lunch will follow. Danny Knight is interim pastor.

## MONTGOMERY

► **Hunter Station Church, Montgomery**, will host Marvin Morrow and The Morris Family in concert Aug. 11, 6 p.m. Food and fellowship will follow. For information call 334-398-3650. Donald Goble is pastor. ► **Trinity Memorial Church, Montgomery**, will host Justified in concert Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m. Doors open at 6 p.m. Stan Holt is pastor.

## TALLAPOOSA

► **Tallapoosa Association** will hold an evangelism rally Aug. 19, 5:45 p.m. at **First Church, Dadeville**. Kevin Hamm, pastor of First Church, Gardendale, will speak. Barry Cosper is director of missions.

## TUSKEGEE LEE

► **Concord Church, Not-**

**sulga**, will celebrate homecoming Aug. 19, 11 a.m. Billy Short will speak. A covered-dish lunch and program by Bro. Billy Bob Bohannon will follow.

## WALKER

► **First Church, Carbon Hill**, will host Sportsman's Banquet 2012 with former University of Alabama football coach Gene Stallings Aug. 18, 6 p.m. at Carbon Hill High School. The meal will include deer burgers, fish, etc., with all the sides. Stallings also will speak at the church Aug. 19, 11 a.m. For information call 205-924-4145. Scott McCullar is pastor.

## WINSTON

► **Liberty Grove Missionary Church, Double Springs**, will hold revival Aug. 12-15. Sunday service will be at 5 p.m. following dinner and Monday-Wednesday services will be at 7 p.m. George Whitten will speak. Ronnie Marbutt is pastor.

Please submit news items for "Across Alabama's Associations" at least three weeks prior to the event. Email news@thealabamabaptist.org or call 205-870-4720, Ext. 112.

## Alabama updates

People, churches making news across the state

### Carson Road Baptist closes doors after 36 years

Carson Road Baptist Church, Center Point, closed its doors this February after 36 years of ministry.

Members unanimously made the decision to close in June 2011, said Tom Cleveland, who had served as pastor since March 2006.

Carson Road's attendance had dwindled under 30 and its funds had dried up. But though the decision to close was a sad one, "We did all we could to hold our heads high," he said.

In its last months the church held special services that drew significant crowds: a special service for Leon Westerhouse, the music evangelist inducted into the Southern Baptist Evangelist "Hall of Faith" in 2008 who led worship for the church, saw 90 people attend. So did the church's Christmas 2011 service. A June 2011 service honoring John Lee Armstrong, a former Samford University football coach who attended Carson Road, saw 165 attendees.

In the last five years Carson Road has also served as an "incubator" for two other churches. New Beginnings Family Baptist Church, Birmingham, rented the church building during 2006, a time when Carson Road was struggling financially. The members of New Beginnings Family Church paid rent and even helped substantially with the church's utility costs, Cleveland said. Greater Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Birmingham, rented Carson Road's building during 2007-2008 and helped pay for its upkeep in the same way. Both churches spent and ended their time with Carson Road in great circumstances, Cleveland said.

In its last years the church also ministered to a nearby housing project providing children with meals and teaching Bible lessons.

JoAnn Armstrong, the wife of John Lee Armstrong and one of Carson Road's charter members, shared in the church's final service. She summarized her words with the quote, "Don't cry because it's over; be happy because it happened." (Joseph Rhea)

### McElwain's Baker to receive Samford fellowship

Jody Baker, minister of education and administration for McElwain Baptist Church, Birmingham, will receive Samford University's James A. Auchmuty Congregational Leadership Fellowship for 2012.

During the spring 2013 semester, Baker plans to pursue her interest in the ministry of health and wellness in congregational settings. She will consult with faculty in Samford's department of kinesiology and nutrition science and attend conferences in Chicago and Niagara, N.Y.

The fellowship is named in honor of a 1957 Samford graduate and the pastor emeritus of Shades Crest Baptist Church, Bluff Park.

Awarded every other year, the fellowship funds sabbatical and ministerial continuing education opportunities proposed by the recipient.

Baker is a 1980 Samford graduate and later earned a master of religious education degree from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. She joined the McElwain church staff in 1981. (SU)



**BAKER**

### Princeton's Yarbrough receives leadership award

Princeton Baptist Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Regina Yarbrough was named the recipient of the 2012 Homer Lloyd Leadership Award during a system-wide Baptist Health System (BHS) key management meeting in July. The award is named in honor of a longtime supporter, friend of the system and Baptist Health Foundation board member and is funded by the foundation.

"Over the years, Regina's lifetime passion for excellence in nursing has been inspired by her faith in God, nurtured by the love of her family and guided by her mentor, Ida V. Moffett," BHS President and CEO Shane Spees said.

Yarbrough, who attends Flint Hill Baptist Church, Bessemer, began her 40-year career in nursing as a staff nurse at BHS where her abilities to lead by example and with great compassion were soon recognized. Since becoming CNO at Princeton Baptist in 2005, she has been instrumental in developing and implementing many programs, including the clinical rapid response team and student nurse intern programs.

She also directed the implementation of two computerized bedside nursing documentation systems and a state-of-the-art electronic hand-washing monitoring system that greatly reduced the hospital's Nosocomial Infection Markers. In 2011 Yarbrough was inducted into the Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame. (BHS)

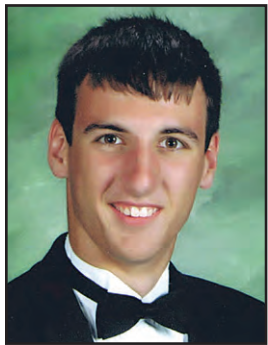


Photo courtesy of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

### MOUNT PLEASANT KIDS DONATE MONEY TO BIKERS THROUGH VBS PROJECT

Children of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Pell City, in St. Clair Baptist Association sit on the motorcycles of members of Pell City Bikers 4 Christ, a chapter of Christian Motorcyclists Association (CMA). The children who attended the church's Vacation Bible School took on a missions project and donated more than \$183 to the local CMA chapter.

## Alabama Baptist college students share about their church experiences



### Bryant Ramey

University of South Alabama  
Moffett Road Baptist Church, Mobile  
Hometown: Robertsedale

**Q:** How did you find out about your church?

**A:** One of my friends mentioned he was giving it a chance and I thought it would be a good thing for us to do, so I went with him that Sunday to visit.

**Q:** What made you decide to commit to the church?

**A:** The Sunday School lesson was the first thing; I hadn't experienced it before, but it seemed everyone was engaged in what we were doing and excited to feel a part of the lesson. And in the church service the worship leader was full of energy and everyone was getting involved in the music, giving praise to God. ... I feel His presence there. And brother Terry (Cutrer's) messages always seem to strike home for me.

**Q:** What difference did being plugged into your church make during your freshman year?

**A:** I felt like I had another family altogether ... now I have a family whether I go home or stay on campus for a weekend. ... It lets me know that I'm not alone, I don't have to hide my beliefs.



### Wynn Morris

University of Alabama  
First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa  
Hometown: Birmingham

**Q:** How did you find out about your church?

**A:** One of my best friends from childhood ... told me about it.

**Q:** What made you decide to commit to the church?

**A:** The Lord answered every prayer I had about (finding) people who would sharpen me. ... It was (also) a combo of having opportunities to serve and upper-classmen mingle with me and care about me — not just small talk, but actually hanging out and reaching out to me.

**Q:** What difference did being plugged into your church make during your freshman year?

**A:** My best friends were in my life group and we're continuing to do life together, and that's reshaped my life. We'd go and hang out rather than getting led to parties or [something else]. We've done ministry together. ... It's redirected my life toward the Lord.



### Ashley White

University of North Alabama  
Highland Baptist Church, Florence  
Hometown: Dallas, Texas

**Q:** How did you find out about your church?

**A:** Our BCM (Baptist Campus Ministries) did a progressive dinner at all the Baptist churches and I started going [after that].

**Q:** What made you decide to commit to the church?

**A:** It was a really welcoming environment — they reached out, showed God's love and brought you in.

**Q:** What difference did being plugged into your church make during your freshman year?

**A:** It's meant the world. ... They are always remembering my name and asking about me; I love the way they invest in my life.

### Sue Kang

Auburn University  
First Baptist Church, Opelika  
Hometown: Huntsville

**Q:** How did you find out about your church?

**A:** I had a bunch of friends a year above me who went to Auburn, and that's where they plugged in and loved it.

**Q:** What made you decide to commit to the church?

**A:** What drew me there was that everyone took time to say "Hey" to me, and random people would come up and talk to me and were really intentional. Community is so important there. ... And I love Trace's (Hamiter, college minister for First Baptist Church, Opelika) preaching; (it's) so based on Scripture and filled with truth.

**Q:** What difference did being plugged into your church make during your freshman year?

**A:** It's made me make my faith my own, realizing what I believe and why. ... It's helped me see where my roots are, and God's taught me so much through the discipleship and the fellowship He let me experience.

## Alabama Baptist churches urge students to get involved

(continued from page 1)

up on Sunday mornings for church (Hamiter included his freshman-year self in that group). Cultivating the discipline to go to bed and wake up is necessary, or a student will find that Sunday after Sunday gets eaten away until the semester is over.

Another potential difficulty is the feeling that college is a temporary place and not a home. That sense can lead students to think that they need not bother getting involved in a community of faith that they will likely leave behind in a few years.

"Four years is not a small time of consequence," said Blake Jenkins, associate college minister of Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa. The college years are an incredibly important time for personal development. And in one's relationship to Christ, "if you're not moving forward you're drifting backward," Jenkins said. To live as a Christian is to move "against the current" of the world, and having true Christian community is essential for that, he noted.

"Some (students) think they'll be hurting their home church's feelings by joining a church" in their college town, Hamiter said. "But any good church will want just the opposite!" A church that genuinely cares about its members will want them to be fed God's Word and be encouraged

by community wherever they are, he said. And because students are usually at a college for at least four years — including some of the most important formative years of their lives — it is all the more important that those years include deep, edifying relationships with other believers.

A third difficulty is finding a suitable church. How can students figure out which church community is most worth joining?

### 'Teaching saturated in the Word of God'

The first thing that all of the ministers recommended was to find a church "that preaches the gospel faithfully," as Cossiboom expressed it. Hamiter described it as "teaching saturated in the Word of God," as opposed to non-expository teaching or "flashy but empty" preaching.

They also recommended students look for a church with an active ministry in which the students could engage. "They're adults, not children," Pierce said. "It's not time for them to sit back, but to plug in in worship and Bible study so they can be used for the Kingdom." The church should be "passionate about discipleship and evangelistic missions," Cossiboom said.

The ministers also recommended finding a church with genuine community, especially with older generations.

"Ministries need to be relational," Pierce said. Loving community will feel like "a home away from home," he added.

Cossiboom added that the potential for genuine relationships with older people is "one of the things only the local church can offer." Students can benefit from a family that temporarily "adopts" them in the classic senses of providing a place to do laundry and an occasional meal; but far more importantly, the familial love that is part of a genuine local body of Christ is a sign that God is present there and will benefit students far more.

The ministers recommended that students avoid joining churches that thrived on hype, entertainment or style.

Hamiter warned that sometimes a flashy or trendy exterior may mask a weak or nonexistent biblical core.

"Look beyond the show," he said.

Cossiboom advised students not to be overly particular about style and not to reject a church because it does not match one's tastes entirely.

Pierce recommended that students not seek out simply the most entertaining church. "Our student ministries are often focused on events and entertainment, and it shouldn't be about that," he said. "It's about a relationship with the living, breathing God of the universe." ■

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

### Alabama A&M University

- ▶ Aug. 11: Church festival, 5:30 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 21: Back to school celebration at New Birth Church, 8 p.m.

### Alabama State University

- ▶ Aug. 15: Welcome day for volleyball team
- ▶ Aug. 27: Culture Shock, BCM worship service, 8 p.m., at Life Science Auditorium
- ▶ Aug. 29: BCM hosts international students

### Auburn University at Montgomery

- ▶ Aug. 13-14: Coke booth on the quad
- ▶ Aug. 13: Bowling
- ▶ Aug. 14: Tie-dye party
- ▶ Aug. 15: Cookout on the quad; broom hockey
- ▶ Aug. 16: Free pizza
- ▶ Aug. 16: Scavenger hunt
- ▶ Aug. 20: Resonate, student worship service; UpStream, freshman Bible study
- ▶ Aug. 31-Sept. 2: Beach retreat

### Auburn University

- ▶ Aug. 11: Free pizza and War Eagle game night, 6 p.m., at the BCM

- ▶ Aug. 12: Worship in local churches
- ▶ Aug. 13: Chewacla State Park beach cookout, 11 a.m., meet at the BCM to carpool
- ▶ Aug. 14: Do drop-in and open house, noon-2 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 14: 1st BCM Connections collegiate worship and link groups, 7 p.m.; Freshman Insight, 7:45 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 15: Free 1st Wednesday lunches, noon and 1 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 16: Outdoor movie, 8 p.m., BCM
- ▶ Aug. 17: Girls' and guys' night out, 6 p.m., meet at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 18: Field Day Mania, 2 p.m., meet at the BCM to carpool
- ▶ Aug. 19: Worship in local churches
- ▶ Aug. 20: King's Acres local outreach ministry, 3 p.m., meet at BCM to carpool
- ▶ Aug. 21: Connections collegiate worship and link groups, 7 p.m., at the BCM; Freshman Insight, 7:45 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 22: Lunch gatherings noon and 1 p.m., at the BCM; 1st weekly lunch/devo, noon, at the school of veterinary medicine
- ▶ Aug. 23: Global Café (international student ministry), 7 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 24-26: Gulf Shores Beach Retreat
- ▶ Aug. 27-31: AU Concourse Outreach

### Birmingham Southern College

- ▶ Aug. 26: BCM will participate in "Opening of School Worship" at Yeilding Chapel, 10 a.m.
- ▶ Aug. 27: BCM welcome party, 7 p.m. Email [chawkins@alsbom.org](mailto:chawkins@alsbom.org).

### Bishop State Community College

- ▶ Aug. 20: BCM meet and greet, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at BSCC main campus, Delchamps Student Center; BCM open house, 8 p.m., Baptist Student Center — FiSH/CORE group sign-ups
- ▶ Aug. 23: MERGE worship kickoff, 7 p.m., Baptist Student Center
- ▶ Aug. 26: Church road trip, 6 p.m., meet at the Baptist Student Center — 5-course meal and 5 new churches
- ▶ Aug. 27: (not your ordinary) BEACH DAY, 10 a.m., meet at the Baptist Student Center — trip to Dauphin Island

### Huntingdon College

- ▶ Aug. 17: Water booth at Ligon
- ▶ Aug. 18: Freshmen service project
- ▶ Aug. 20: Ligon ladies group kickoff, 8:15 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 21: Ace Bowling night
- ▶ Aug. 29: First chapel service
- ▶ Aug. 30: First Emerge worship service

### Jacksonville State University

- ▶ Aug. 24: Assist with dorm move-in
- ▶ Aug. 27: Survival, 1-3 p.m. at the BCM,

for freshmen and transfer students

- ▶ Aug. 28: Free pancake breakfast, 8-11 a.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 28: Celebration — student worship at the BCM, 8 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 29: Agape Lunch, 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 30: Welcome party, 8 p.m., at the BCM

### Judson College

- ▶ Aug. 10-12: Campus Ministry Leadership Council retreat
- ▶ Aug. 19-25: Welcome week
- ▶ Aug. 19: Freshmen move-in
- ▶ Aug. 20: Praise and worship concert event, 6:30 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 21: Upperclassmen move-in
- ▶ Aug. 24: Outdoor Christian concert featuring AWAITING, 8 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 26: Rose Sunday Worship at Siloam Baptist Church, 11 a.m.
- ▶ Aug. 27: 1st AWAKENING of the semester, 7 p.m.

### Northeast Alabama Community College

- ▶ Aug. 22: BCM Back-To-School Encounter Luncheon, introductory Bible study; NACC BCM meets Wednesdays, student center, noon; college Bible study, Wednesdays, various locations, 8 p.m.

### Samford University

- ▶ Aug. 25: Church Connections (Samford cafeteria, meet area churches), 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

# MINISTRY TRAINING

## *Close to Home*

New Orleans Seminary extension centers offer quality, affordable theological training at locations close to home, work and ministry. Flexible class schedules at locations in Birmingham and Montgomery are designed with working students in mind.

## BIRMINGHAM

Meeting at The Church at Brook Hills  
(205) 313-7800



## MONTGOMERY

Meeting at Heritage Baptist Church  
(334) 279-9976



**NEW ORLEANS**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
[www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)

If you want to live and study in a unique urban setting and have daily interaction with our world-class faculty, our main campus in New Orleans is the place for you. Call (800) 662-8701 for more information.

# Ministries events

- ▶ *Aug. 26:* Connections Worship (worship for incoming freshmen in Reid Chapel), 10:30 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 28:* Opening convocation, 10 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 28:* Shiloh (weekly campus-wide worship in Reid Chapel), 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* University Chapel (chapel service in Reid Chapel), 10 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 31–Sept. 1:* FreshMin Retreat (Springville Camp and Conference Center)

## Shelton State Community College

- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Discovery at Forest Lake Baptist Church, 107 18th St., 7–9 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 4:* Tuesday lunch begins, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Room 2410

## Southern Union Community College-Opelika

- ▶ *Aug. 11:* Free pizza and War Eagle Game Night, 6 p.m., at the AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 12:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 13:* Chewacla State Park beach cookout, 11 a.m., meet at the AU BCM to carpool
- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Do drop-in and open house, noon–2 p.m., at the AU BCM — free tacos
- ▶ *Aug. 14:* 1st fall BCM worship and Freshman Insight, 7–8:30 p.m., at the AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 15:* 1st BCM Wednesday lunches, noon and 1 p.m. — free lunch at the Auburn BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Outdoor movie, 8 p.m., at AU BCM courtyard parking lot

- ▶ *Aug. 17:* Southern Union-Opelika BCM meet and greet fellowship, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., in the conference room in the cafeteria
- ▶ *Aug. 17:* Girls' and guys' night out, 6 p.m., meet at the AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 18:* Field Day Mania, 2 p.m., meet at the AU BCM to carpool
- ▶ *Aug. 19:* Worship in local churches
- ▶ *Aug. 20:* Southern Union-Opelika BCM Monday Kickoff, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., in the conference room in the cafeteria; fall semester fellowship and discipleship twice a week on-campus Monday gathering begins
- ▶ *Aug. 20:* King's Acres local outreach ministry, 3 p.m., meet at AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Connections collegiate worship and link groups, 7 p.m., at the AU BCM; Freshman Insight, 7:45 p.m., at the AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Southern Union-Opelika BCM Thursday Kickoff, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the conference room in the cafeteria; fall semester fellowship and discipleship twice a week on-campus Thursday gathering begins
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Global Café (international student ministry), 7 p.m., at the AU BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 24–26:* BCM Gulf Shores Beach Retreat

## Troy University

- ▶ *Aug. 12:* Concert at Barnes and Noble patio, 8 p.m., followed by pancake supper, 11 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 13:* Freshmen Survival, 6 p.m., at the BCM

- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Slip and slide party, 2 p.m., at Hepzibah Baptist Church
- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Table tennis tournament, 6 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 15:* Cookout in the parking lot of BCM, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Broom hockey, 9 p.m., at Eastdale Mall in Montgomery, leave the BCM at 7:45 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Alpha Omega Worship, 8 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* Lunch at BCM, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 24–26:* Beach retreat to Blue Horizon in Panama City Beach
- ▶ *Aug. 27:* Progressive supper to area churches, leave the BCM at 5 p.m.

## University of Alabama

- ▶ *Aug. 20:* Survival for freshmen and transfers, 6:45–10 p.m., at the BCM Student Center
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Discovery at Forest Lake Baptist Church, 7–9 p.m., 107 18th Street
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* Free steak lunch, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., at the BCM Student Center
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Church road trip, 5–8:30 p.m., meet at the BCM Student Center
- ▶ *Aug. 24–25:* Back to school retreat at Camp Hargis in Chelsea, meet at the BCM at 5 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 27:* Freshmen Journey Groups begin, 7 p.m.; at the BCM Student Center
- ▶ *Aug. 27:* Transfers dinner out, 6 p.m., meet at the BCM
- ▶ *Aug. 30:* UA Get on Board Day, 5–10 p.m., UA Ferguson Plaza
- ▶ *Sept. 1:* Game day at the BCM, 7 p.m.

## University of Alabama at Birmingham

- ▶ *Aug. 11:* Move-in assistance to incoming freshmen, 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 12:* Ultimate frisbee on the Green, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 14:* Welcome party at BCM, 6 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 16:* Christian Medical and Health Professionals Ministry meeting in Cudworth Hall, noon; cookout at BCM, 7:45 p.m.; ABLAZE, 8:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 19:* Global Café kickoff (ministry to international students), 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* ABLAZE, 8:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 24–25:* BCM retreat at Camp World-Song

## University of Alabama at Huntsville

- ▶ *Aug. 17:* Freshmen dorm move-in; midnight movie
- ▶ *Aug. 19 and 26:* UAH Goes to Church, 9:45 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 21:* Prayer walk, 4–6 p.m.; 1st Celebration, 8:30 p.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 22:* Muffin handout (Morton Hall and Shelby Center), 8–10:30 a.m.
- ▶ *Aug. 23:* Free lunch, noon
- ▶ *Aug. 24:* Game night, 7 p.m.–midnight
- ▶ *Aug. 25:* Helping Hands
- ▶ *Sept. 7–9:* Fall retreat
- ▶ *Sept. 14:* 40th anniversary banquet, University Baptist Church, 7 p.m.
- ▶ *Sept. 15:* 40th anniversary cookout, 10:30 (See 'BCM,' page 13)



university of  
**mobile**

LEARNING | FAITH | LEADERSHIP

How will you know what college is like?

**VISIT CAMPUS!**

Earn a \$2000\* scholarship by attending a  
University of Mobile Visit Day!

- September 28, 2012 • February 15, 2013
- November 2, 2012\*\* • March 15, 2013\*\*
- November 30, 2012

\*\*Overnight stay is available only to high school seniors or transfer students on these Visit Days.

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

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

800.WIN.RAMS | 251.442.2222  
[umobile.edu](http://umobile.edu)

- f [facebook.com/umadmissions](https://www.facebook.com/umadmissions)
- t [twitter.com/umenrollment](https://twitter.com/umenrollment)
- y [youtube.com/universityofmobile](https://www.youtube.com/universityofmobile)
- p [pinterest.com/umobile](https://www.pinterest.com/umobile)

\*A \$2000 scholarship is available to new traditional undergraduate students who attend a UMobile Visit Day, apply for admissions, and enroll at UMobile. This scholarship awards \$250 per semester for up to 8 consecutive semesters, excluding the summer semester. Only one UMobile Visit Day Scholarship is available per person.



# Judson College

## Judson College's nursing program off to strong start

By Mary Amelia Taylor  
and Michael J. Brooks  
Judson College

For almost 175 years, Judson College students have been making a significant impact on the world around them by combining academics with faith and service. Last November the college added another academic program to equip students to serve when the Alabama Board of Nursing granted provisional approval (initial approval status for new nursing programs) for the Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) program.

The two-year ADN program requires 72 credit hours. Upon completion students will receive an associate degree in nursing and be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN (Registered Nurse) Board Exam.

The first nursing class began clinical rotations this summer after a spring semester in Judson's state-of-the-art classroom facilities and skills lab.

"We had 30 students in our inaugural class and will have about 30-40 new ones in the fall," said program director Kandace Shoults. "And we're adding two new faculty, too, as we move forward."

Shoults said that Judson's administration and board of trustees have been extremely supportive of the program.

"This support has ensured that more-than-adequate resources, time and attention are focused on nurturing and mentoring students and equipping them for service to their communities," she said.

Former college trustee chair Charles Dunkin, of Birmingham, said the trustees talked seriously about the new program for more than two years before giving approval.

"There's a real shortage of nurses in the country and the nursing program here fits like a glove," Dunkin said. "It's a



Photo by Kandace Shoults

**QUALITY HEALTH CARE** — Judson College nursing students Kimberly Clements (left) and Carneicia Rutledge (center), both of Marion, recently spent time at Bibb Medical Center in Brent and with Camille Gibson, RN (right).

natural outgrowth of our science program and it gives Judson another opportunity to serve the community."

Shoults explained that the ADN program is focused on training students in quality, compassionate healthcare.

Because of Judson's unique location in Marion and the college's longtime involvement in service projects in rural settings, emphasis in the program includes training in rural health. The program specifically honors commitment to service in rural areas through a Nursing Loan Scholarship program offering forgiveness of the loan through work in underserved areas.

Judson's nursing program has clinical contracts with Vaughan Regional Medical Center, Bryan Whitfield Memorial

Hospital in Demopolis, Druid City Hospital, DCH and North Harbor in Northport, Bibb Medical Center, Tuscaloosa V.A. Medical Center, Amedisys Home Health, the Perry County Nursing Home, Southland Nursing Home and the Marion Clinic.

Shoults attributed the strong relationships with existing clinical sites to Judson's reputation as a Christian institution and its students' practical adherence to the standard of academic pursuit of truth informed by the example and teachings of Christ.

"Our students live their faith on campus, participate in weekly chapel and are committed to making a difference for Christ on the job," she said.

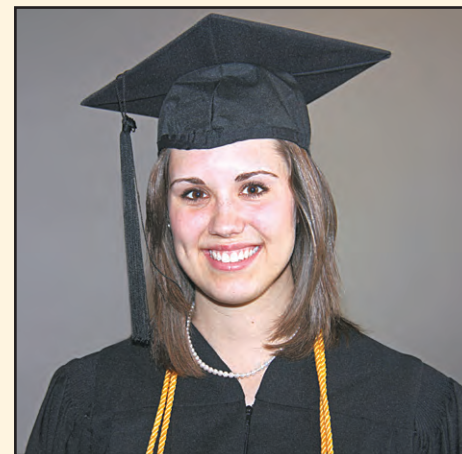


Photo by Bill Mathews

Molly Beasley

## Q&A with graduate Molly Beasley

Molly Beasley, of Cottonwood, graduated from Judson in June as a music major. She was elected to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities" and received the Bible Award for outstanding Christian service at commencement. She is the daughter of Randy and Jeanna Beasley and a member of Selma Baptist Church, Dothan.

**Q: How did you decide to come to Judson?**

A: My guidance counselor at Cottonwood High School suggested I consider Judson, and later admissions staff came and did a presentation at our school. I visited twice and felt this was where God wanted me to be.

**Q: What's unique about a woman's college?**

A: I think our society sometimes focuses on male leadership. I found more opportunities to lead and serve at Judson. I concentrated on my studies and building friendships with other women.

**Q: What leadership opportunities did you have?**

A: I sang in the college choir and the FAITH ensemble, which is Judson's traveling musical group. We are ambassadors for Judson and sang in churches and schools. I served on the chapel committee and enjoyed organizing our weekly chapel. I also found satisfaction in being a prayer partner for others and helping them grow in faith.

**Q: You've been active in missionary work. Is that correct?**

A: Yes. I worked in Alberta, Canada, with the North American Mission Board and traveled to El Salvador and Mozambique with my home church. Last summer I spent two months in Ethiopia with a Judson missions group. It was a special treat to visit Salem, Mass., last February to represent Judson at the 200th anniversary of Adoniram and Ann Judson's departure for Burma. It was an honor to worship with Burmese believers and stand where our first Baptist missionaries left home for the Lord's mission.

**Q: What's next for you?**

A: I'm applying for the Journeyman Program with the International Mission Board as a first step to career missions. I'm interested in ethnomusicology which is writing music for particular groups so they can learn the gospel without cultural barriers. I especially enjoy leading worship and teaching children.

(JC)

## Judson College's 2012-13 chapel schedule

**SEPT. 4**  
**Judi Favor, M.D.**

*Sparks and Favor, PC, Birmingham*

**SEPT. 11**  
**John Killian**

*pastor, Maytown Baptist Church*

**SEPT. 18**  
**Misty Roberts**

*pastor, Marion United Methodist Church*

**SEPT. 25**  
**Mary Kay Beard**

*Encourager Ministries, Birmingham*

**OCT. 2**  
**Laura Lee**

*missionary-in-residence, Judson College*

**OCT. 9**  
**Gary Wiggins**

*pastor, First Baptist Church, Dadeville*

**OCT. 16**  
**Matthew Kerlin**

*minister to the university, Samford University, Birmingham*

**OCT. 23**  
**Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh**  
*Alabama Public Service Commission, Montgomery*

**OCT. 30**  
**Hymn Sing**  
**George and Leah Washburn**  
*Judson College*

**NOV. 13**  
**Ken Headley**  
*Soccer coach, Judson College*

**NOV. 27**  
**Roger Willmore**  
*pastor, Deerfoot Baptist Church, Trussville*

**JAN. 8**  
**James Earl Massey**  
*professor of preaching, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham*

**JAN. 15**  
**Lyle Dorsett**  
*professor of evangelism, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham*

**JAN. 22**  
**Daniel Potts, M.D.**  
*Alabama Neurology and Sleep Medicine, Tuscaloosa*

**JAN. 29**  
**Rick Lance and Keith Hibbs**  
*Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, Montgomery*

**FEB. 5**  
**Rob Jackson**  
*pastor, Central Baptist Church, Decatur*

**FEB. 12**  
**Shane Lee, M.D.**  
*Vaughan Marion Clinic, Marion*

**FEB. 19**  
**Gwen McCorquodale**  
*professor of education, Judson College*

**FEB. 26**  
**Rosalie Hunt**  
*retired missionary and Judson biographer, Guntersville*

**MARCH 5**  
**Henry Cox**  
*pastor, Durant Chapel Baptist Church, Bay Minette*

**MARCH 26**  
**"The Amazing Grays"**  
*senior adult choir, First Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove*

**APRIL 2**  
**Harold Arnold**  
*professor of psychology, Judson College*



## Samford begins 171st year with 'smile on its face'; enrollment expected to top 4,800

Samford University students and employees will have much to smile about as the school begins its 171st year. It is, after all, a place where faith and learning coexist deliberately and in harmony.

"A friend told me many years ago that a Christian university is an institution with a smile on its face," Samford President Andrew Westmoreland said. "It is with that irrepressible optimism that we open our doors for another year of service."

As the start of a fall semester beckons to acquiring new knowledge and lifelong friendships, it also celebrates cherished traditions laid down by generations of students and supporters that span three centuries.

"I am reminded at the beginning of each academic year of the blessings that we enjoy at Samford, many made possible because of the consistent and sometimes sacrificial gifts of Alabama Baptists for more than 170 years," Westmoreland said.

"Despite the problems of this age, I believe that those of us in Christ-centered higher education have never known a time when our services were more necessary, when our people were better prepared to teach and to serve, when our financial resources (never entirely adequate, to be sure) were greater and when our students were hungrier for the substance of hope," said the veteran Christian higher education administrator.

To that end, Samford strives to feed the minds and souls of its students with the wisdom and spiritual

nourishment necessary to go forth and serve a needy world, as Westmoreland challenges graduates at each commencement.

### Numbers of note

Westmoreland and other Samford leaders, including the 42 Alabama Baptists who comprise the board of trustees, are gratified that the school's ambitious six-year \$200 million capital campaign effort has made steady progress. Three years into the campaign, \$138.4 million has been raised.

This fall's enrollment is expected to top 4,800, a new Samford high. More than 2,100 students will live in campus residence halls, another projected record. New and returning students will be welcomed by faculty and staff who spent part of the summer preparing for them in varied ways.

Some nurtured professional associations, such as the nine pharmacy professors who lectured at an Asian conference and discussed possible collaborative research with counterparts at Hong Kong Baptist University School of Medicine. Others assisted a student team that helped economically empower residents of underserved South African townships. Two nursing professors led a student team to Bolivia as part of a missions course. Their trip was chronicled by Lantern Vision video productions for broadcast on an "All Over the World" television program.

All together, hundreds of Samford students and faculty participated in summer missions in 34 nations on six continents. Only

*"I am reminded at the beginning of each academic year of the blessings that we enjoy at Samford."*

**President Andrew Westmoreland  
Samford University**



Photo courtesy of Samford University

**DEDICATED** — Samford University prepares to open doors for another year of service.

Antarctica missed having a smiling Samford presence.

### Academic news

Howard College of Arts and Sciences is supporting its burgeoning ESL (English as a Second Language) program with the launch of the English Language Learner Institute (ELLI), which will facilitate language proficiency for Samford's growing international student population. This fall, Samford will welcome about 180 international students, most of whom call China home.

More than half will attend classes in newly furbished space in Brooks Hall. Facilities include a classroom, seminar room, cultural events lab and office space. Classes focus on English-listening/speaking, reading, writing and grammar.

Samford Arts is enjoying enhanced partnerships with some of Alabama's most respected arts organizations. Collaborations with Alabama Ballet, Opera Birmingham, Birmingham Chamber Music Society, Alabama Symphony Orchestra and others will bring an array of guest talent to Samford stages, and the Wright Center Presents season will offer such performers as Ed Asner and Garrison Keillor. The visiting artists will work with Samford students in master classes, lectures and informal learning opportunities.

Brock School of Business is introducing a new bachelor of arts in economics degree program that

will offer an economics education for students who are pursuing a liberal arts degree in a non-business subject. The business school recently acquired licenses for two Bloomberg data terminals. Considered state-of-the-art for professional money managers, the terminals enhance research and analysis undertaken by students in Brock's Bulldog Fund money management class.

Orlean Bullard Beeson School of Education and Professional Studies is rolling out a new sports and recreation ministry concentration in its department of kinesiology and nutrition science. Created in collaboration with Upward Sports, the program trains students how to use sports and recreation as a platform for ministry. An updated curriculum, materials and technology center reflects education students' specific requests — such as "smart" TVs for group work and presentations — that will help them grow as educators.

Ida V. Moffett School of Nursing will culminate a year-long celebration of its 90th anniversary with a series of events during Homecoming weekend Oct. 12–13. The nursing school had its beginnings in 1922 when the Birmingham Baptist Association purchased a hospital and nursing school from a Birmingham surgeon. It became a part of Samford in 1973 following a merger agreement with Birmingham Baptist Medical Centers.

Samford's McWhorter School of

Pharmacy will welcome more than 120 first-year students who will join about 380 pharmacy upperclassmen. The new students will celebrate the beginning of their professional journey with the traditional white coat ceremony Oct. 5.

Beeson Divinity School looks forward to celebrating its 25th anniversary during this academic year, with major focus in the spring. Its fall calendar of events includes a Sept. 11 conference, Pastoral Praxis for Life, in conjunction with the National Pro-Life Religious Council; and the popular Reformation Heritage Lectures on Oct. 30–Nov. 1.

This fall, Cumberland School of Law begins its 51st year as part of Samford. The law school moved from Lebanon, Tenn., where it was founded in 1847, to Birmingham in 1961. This academic year marks a passage for Cumberland Dean John L. Carroll, who will return to the classroom in June 2013 after 12 years as dean.

### Changing campuscape

Dust is settling and buildings are taking shape to house 300 new student residence bedrooms on the west side of campus. The three new four-story structures and an adjacent parking lot are on the site of former student apartment buildings on Odum Lane. One hundred bed spaces will be available for students in January, with the remaining 200 ready for occupancy in August 2013. (SU)

## Samford 2012 dates to remember

|                   |                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aug. 27</b>    | Fall semester classes begin                        |
| <b>Sept. 29</b>   | Sunset 5K Run sponsored by Samford Legacy League   |
| <b>Oct. 8–9</b>   | Like a Mustard Seed: Small Church Leadership Event |
| <b>Oct. 12–13</b> | Homecoming                                         |
| <b>Oct. 14</b>    | Hymn Sing                                          |
| <b>Nov. 2–3</b>   | Family weekend                                     |
| <b>Dec. 7</b>     | Samford Arts Christmas Showcase                    |
| <b>Dec. 15</b>    | Fall commencement                                  |

*Office of Admission fall preview days:  
Sept. 29, Oct. 20 and Nov. 7*

# university of mobile

## Learning, faith, leadership that change the world

The University of Mobile (UMobile) begins its 51st year with a new residence hall called The Timbers — one of three built during the past eight years to meet the continuing demand for campus housing at Alabama's youngest Baptist university. The UMobile apartments brings on-campus housing to 655, more than doubling the number of residential students since 2004.

It is part of the overall growth of the university, where approximately 1,700 students are drawn to the quality academic program, emphasis in all majors on Christian service and ministry, and the opportunity to be part of the university's goal to revitalize Christian faith and character in America through graduates who are "Changing Lives to Change the World."

### Campus enhancements

When students move to campus Aug. 17 and classes begin Aug. 20, about half of the new residence hall will be completed and filled to capacity with upperclassmen. The remaining apartments will be completed a few months later during fall semester.

Located across from Karlene Farmer Faulkner Hall, the three-story, 39,918-square-foot building includes 24 apartments plus a central lobby and laundry rooms at the end of each hall. Apartments will house four students with their own private bedroom, two shared bathrooms, and a common living area and kitchenette.

UMobile's campus housing has been filled to capacity for several years, and school officials anticipate more residence halls will soon be needed to accommodate the demand for on-campus housing.

Also, renovation on the first floor of J.L. Bedsole Library plus an outdoor patio has added more gathering areas for students and faculty. Bedsole Commons includes a coffee shop, UMobile Spirit Shop selling items such as Rams T-shirts and coffee mugs, a study area with iMac computers and color printers, a small stage and snack items.

Other campus areas that have recently been enhanced include a lighted intramural field with moveable bleachers, a renovated science lab and replacement of the original HVAC system in Weaver Hall, the first building on campus.

A new outdoor clock, a gift of the Class of 2012, has been placed



**CAMPUS LIFE** — About half of the new residence hall (left) at the University of Mobile will be completed when students return to campus this fall. Elementary/early childhood education major Brittney Anderson (right), of Florence, volunteers at a local school during Project Serve in 2011.



Photos courtesy of the University of Mobile

along the path students take from Ram Hall, The Caf and residence halls. The clock joins previous class gifts that add to campus life, including outdoor swings and benches, a Ram statue and outdoor patios.

### Academic update

The new College of Christian Leadership (CCL) serves as the umbrella overseeing UMobile's three schools aimed specifically at preparing graduates for Christian ministry — the new School of Worship Leadership, School of Christian Ministries and Center for Performing Arts/School of Music.

The organizational move expands opportunities for students, with more emphasis on internships, innovation and entrepreneurship in music, Christian ministries and worship leadership, plus new concentrations in areas such as film and theatre, music business, church ministry and technology. Dr. John Roger Breland has been appointed CCL executive director and continues as vice president for project development. Dr. Joe Savage is executive dean of the School of Christian Ministries (formerly named the School of Christian Studies) and Dr. Douglas Wilson is dean. Dr. Cecil Taylor is director of University Missions. Dr. Al Miller is dean of both CPA/School of Music and the School of Worship Leadership, and Bruce Earnest is assistant dean of both schools.

A new five-year integrated degree program allows students to earn both a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and a master's in Business Administration in five years. This program joins other five-year integrated degree programs in Accounting/

MBA, Business Administration/MBA and B.A. in Theology/Master of Arts in Christian Ministries.

Among other leadership positions: Dr. Jan Wood has been named dean of the School of Nursing and Dr. Kathy Sheppard is associate dean. Dr. Lonnie Burnett is assistant vice president for Academic Affairs for planning and evaluation.

### New faculty

College of Arts & Sciences: Dr. Bethany Bear, assistant professor of English; Dr. Matthew Downs, assistant professor of history; Alison Henry, instructor in biology; Dr. Gyromas Newman, assistant professor of communication; Jacob Woodruff, instructor in physics; Dr. Andrew Whitehead, assistant professor of sociology.

School of Education: Dr. Carolyn Corliss, associate professor of education and certification officer; Dr. Enrico Esposito, associate professor of human performance and exercise science.

Center for Performing Arts/School of Music: Steven Dunn, assistant professor of music; Dr. Kathryn Hedlund, assistant professor of music.

School of Nursing: Rebecca Ward, assistant professor of nursing; Darlene Hazard, assistant professor of nursing; Shelley Brown, instructor in nursing.

School of Christian Ministries: Dr. Joe Savage, executive dean and assistant professor of Christian ministries.

New courses this year include an upper-level class in Forensic Science, Business Analytics, Accounting Ethics, Social Media in Business, Exercise Testing and Prescription and Macin-

## Connect to UMobile

*It's easy to be linked in to  
University of Mobile news and events online.*



[www.facebook.com/  
universityofmobile](http://www.facebook.com/universityofmobile)



[www.twitter.com/  
umobilenews](http://www.twitter.com/umobilenews)



[www.youtube.com/  
universityofmobile](http://www.youtube.com/universityofmobile)

► Website: [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu)

► *University of Mobile Magazine*: [www.umobile.edu/  
magazine](http://www.umobile.edu/magazine)

► NewsNet monthly email newsletter: [www.umobile.edu/  
news](http://www.umobile.edu/news)

► Twelve23 Movement: [www.twelve23.org](http://www.twelve23.org)

tosh Literacy for music majors.

### Major events

UMobile's new student orientation, Ram Rush, will be held Aug. 17–25 and includes concerts, athletic events, picnic with UMobile President Dr. Mark Foley, free food and giveaways, concerts, a voter registration drive and activities aimed at helping students get involved in campus life.

Major upcoming events include:

► First Wednesday: Chapel with Dr. Foley, Aug. 22

► Ben Rector in concert: Aug. 17

► Kari Jobe in concert: Aug. 21

► Project Serve: Campus-wide day of service, Sept. 21

► Christmas Spectacular: CPA/School of Music free concert, Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 1, 2

► UMobile Leadership Banquet: April 18

Visit [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu) or call UMobile at 251-442-2222 to learn about more

events as they are scheduled.

### Missions and ministry

In addition to canceling classes Sept. 21 and spending the day volunteering in the community, UMobile students have extensive opportunities for Christian service and ministry locally, nationally and internationally. Just a few of the opportunities available for spiritual growth include the weekly True Spin Bible study, weekend inner-city missions trips and weeklong trips to work with church planters from the North American Mission Board. Students volunteer weekly with various local organizations and respond quickly to serve those touched by disasters.

Also, students may earn course credit through Youth Hostel Missions backpacking across Europe and sharing their faith, and on University Missions trips to places such as Brazil, Thailand, Hungary, Guatemala, Portugal and the Czech Republic. (UMobile)

# BCM events on Alabama colleges

(continued from page 9)  
a.m.–4 p.m., Baptist Student Center

## University of Montevallo

- ▶ Aug. 23: Cookout and frisbee, 1 p.m., at Orr Park
- ▶ Aug. 25: Local church progressive dinner, 4–8 p.m. starting at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 26: “The Amazing Race,” 3:30–6 p.m., starting at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 28: Resonate Worship, 8 p.m. at the BCM

- ▶ Aug. 29: Café Escape lunch and devotional, 11:15 a.m.–1 p.m., at the BCM; foam sword CTF, 3:30 p.m., location TBA
- ▶ Aug. 30: Late night movie, 9:30 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Sept. 3: Freshmen family group kickoff, 8 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Sept. 4: Resonate, 8 p.m.; church fair and ice cream fellowship, 9 p.m.

## University of North Alabama

- ▶ Aug. 17–18: Dorm move-in day

- ▶ Aug. 19: Dinner on the grounds, 5 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 22: Free lunch at the BCM, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 23: The Big Deal at the Amphitheatre, 6 p.m.; ice cream fellowship, 8:30 p.m., at the BCM
- ▶ Aug. 27: Progressive dinner with local churches, meet at the BCM at 5 p.m.
- ▶ Sept. 10: Aftermath — student-led worship, 8 p.m., at the BCM

## University of South Alabama

- ▶ Aug. 18: Dorm move-in: Information table and TRASH team, 9 a.m., Epsilon Dorms and Stokes Hall
- ▶ Aug. 19: Parents/new student breakfast, worship and church connections, 9 a.m., at the Baptist Student Center; Beat the Heat, 2 p.m. — FiSH Freshman Group sign-ups, USA Intramural Fields

- ▶ Aug. 20: BCM open house, 8 p.m., at the Baptist Student Center — FiSH/CORE group sign-ups
- ▶ Aug. 21: MERGE worship kickoff, 7 p.m., at the Baptist Student Center
- ▶ Aug. 22: BCM Community Table, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., USA Cafeteria
- ▶ Aug. 23: BCM on the Plaza, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., USA Student Center Plaza
- ▶ Aug. 24: Church road trip, 5:30 p.m., meet at the Baptist Student Center
- ▶ Aug. 25: (not your ordinary) BEACH DAY, 2 p.m., meet at the Baptist Student Center — fun, sun, dinner and worship

## University of West Alabama

- ▶ Aug. 22: Welcome lunch and Bible study, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., S.U.B. Tigers Den
- ▶ Aug. 23: Get On Board Day, 2–4 p.m., S.U.B.

## Wallace State Community College-Hanceville

- ▶ Aug. 15: Dorm move-in, 8 a.m.–1 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 20: Why BCM?, 12:20 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 21: Burgers and Bibles, 12:20 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 22: Why “I AM?” 12:20 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 23: Why “RADIATE?” 2012–2013 BCM emphasis, 12:20 p.m.
- ▶ Aug. 27: Dinner and a movie, 6:30 p.m.

## BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

Our Standard is Christ

## BEYOND YOUR BEST



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

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

belhaven.edu

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

## Education: ‘Civil-rights issue of our generation’

A new kind of “school choice” agenda is gaining ground as more and more young adults — including Christians concerned about social justice — choose teaching in public schools over more lucrative and less challenging careers.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan reported 1 million new teachers will be needed over the next four to six years as the Baby Boomer generation retires. For that reason he is calling on America’s “best and brightest” to consider public education not only as a job but a call to service in a system that currently under serves the poor.

“This is really the civil rights issue of our generation,” Duncan said in a recent video for Memphis Teacher Residency, a nonprofit organization dedicated to education reform by improving teacher quality

and retention in Memphis, Tenn. “The fight for great public education is a fight for social justice.”

Memphis Teacher Residency is part of Urban Teacher Residency United, a nationwide collective effort to launch and support graduate training for teachers modeled after residencies in which future doctors get real-life experience alongside a mentoring physician after they leave medical school.

Formed in partnership with Baptist-affiliated Union University in nearby Jackson, Tenn., it is an explicitly Christian entry into what is being hailed as a new movement in teacher preparation.

In 2009 Union launched a new master’s degree to train teachers committed to working in an urban environment. Students in the program spend one year (See ‘Today’s,’ page 17)



# MOUNTAIN OF POSSIBILITIES



## Blue Mountain College

FOUNDED 1873

**Blue Mountain College**  
Office of Admissions  
P.O. Box 160  
Blue Mountain, MS 38610  
1.800.235.0136

THE JOURNEY  
BEGINS HERE



www.bmc.edu

# Begin Here.







Through missions and service in their local and global communities, Judson College students are constantly learning what it means to love God and their neighbors in tangible ways.

Weekly chapel services, an 11:1 student/faculty ratio, and rich traditions of sisterhood create a small, supportive campus environment that encourages students in the academic pursuit of truth informed by the light and love of Christ.

Who can Judson College help you become?  
Visit us in Marion, AL, on  
September 22, 2012  
for Preview/Scholarship Day  
and find out!



JUDSON COLLEGE

Knowledge and Faith for a Purposeful Life

www.judson.edu • (800) 447-9472 • admissions@judson.edu







By Maggie Walsh  
Intern, The Alabama Baptist

# YEC2012:

## More than 1,200 students inspired, challenged, encouraged at Youth Evangelism Conference in Montgomery

**T**he anticipation was palpable as the animated chatter of more than 1,200 students grew louder and louder with each second that ticked by.

Unable to contain their excitement for the start of the Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) 2012, they joined in the countdown with 20 seconds left on the clock.

19 ... 18 ... 17 ... 16 ... Each number heightened their exhilaration and the volume of their voices.

By 10 the air in the Vaughn Forrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, sanctuary was buzzing with their pent-up energy, making it impossible not to join in the countdown. 5 ... 4 ... 3 ... 2 ... 1.

Jubilant screams erupted as the growing wave of excitement

broke, each student knowing that the time to be inspired, challenged and encouraged in their Christian walk had finally begun.

The two-day conference, hosted by the office of collegiate and student ministries of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM), is more than just an inspirational weekend, said Keith Loomis, an associate in that SBOM office.

"We see YEC as a gathering of students to be a catalyst to go back home equipped and inspired to share the gospel," Loomis said. "This event is not the end product."

The theme for the weekend was "Inside Out," challenging students from more than 80 churches to genuinely experience a "change of heart, mind and attitude that,

in turn, changes actions," Loomis said.

Dave Rhodes, co-founder and speaker for the interchurch resource ministry Wayfarer, set the stage for this change to occur as he opened the conference in prayer, asking God to give students "the audacity ... to be the answer to Jesus' prayer."

### Praise and worship

Students flooded to the edge of the stage as the lights dimmed and the band Rush of Fools emerged onstage. With hands raised and eyes closed, students raised their voices together in worship, singing, "Let our shout be your anthem; Let your fire fall down."

As Rush of Fools wound down nine young people lined up on the stage to share their testimony, answering the question, "What are you fighting for?"

One by one they came forward and summarized their fight in one word: dependence, love, acceptance, trust, pleasing, security, racism, beauty, control. With each testimony students cheered their support and understanding for the nine who had the courage to reveal their struggles to a room full of strangers.

Chris Brooks, college minister of Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, then took to the stage to help students understand that living a "gospel life" is possible.

"What you value will determine how you live your life," Brooks said, using the parable of the pearl in Matthew 13:46 to show students how value determines what direction their lives take.

Time is the most valuable possession one can have, Brooks said, because it is cumulative. He explained that if you value a specific talent, activity or portion of your life, then you will invest more time in that area.

As a college pastor, Brooks has seen countless students "squander the time, investment and resources [they] have been given" when they get to college. He urged students to value their relationship with Christ, not throw it away for the sake of a different experience.

To illustrate his point, Brooks used a bowl of pearls and a stuffed animal pig.

Christians so often waste the pearls they have, Brooks said, whether it is because of addictions, discontentment, judgmental attitudes, etc. With each reason Brooks threw a handful of pearls at the pig, showing the students how quickly they can lose all that they value (Matt. 7:6).

"Jesus is your hope," he said. "He is the pearl of great price who offers us grace and mercy beyond comprehension."

In closing Brooks encouraged the students to repent of whatever sin was holding them down. He

wanted no altar call, no heads bowed or eyes closed. He simply asked the students to stand at the count of three if they had sin that was hindering their walk with Christ.

When he reached three, dozens of students stood throughout the auditorium, many with tears in their eyes.

As the repentant students filed out, Rush of Fools returned to bring the evening session to a close.

Before intermission everyone in the crowd received a pearl as a reminder of what they have and what they should hold on to.

And thus the weekend began.

"The pig and the pearls was a great explanation on how we get caught up in ourselves," said 16-year-old Seth Stafford of Southside Baptist Church, Dothan. "I was convicted to not just throw things away, but to live for Him."

### Practical advice

Comedic duo Bradley Bean and Jackson Bailey ended the night on a light note, making students and adults alike laugh with their humorous delivery of practical advice.

Day two of YEC kicked off at 9 a.m. with a morning session where Rush of Fools again led a time of worship.

Guys, girls and adults then went their separate ways to participate in the "breakout" session. This was the first time the conference has divided attendees in this way.

Courtney Reichley, director of con-

YOUR CHURCH CAN TAKE AN **online** CLASS  
ON **Revelation** WITH PAIGE PATTERSON



\*GROUP AUDIT  
**\$500**  
FLAT RATE

This fall, Dr. Patterson will be teaching a flexible-access class on the book of Revelation using the newest cutting-edge technology. If you live in Fort Worth, you can join him in the classroom on campus. Or, if you need a more versatile option, join him online from any point on the planet. Textbooks for the class include the Bible, Dr. Patterson's new commentary on Revelation from the New American Commentary series, and others. Your church can enroll an unlimited number of participants for \$500. Sign up today.

\*This group audit rate does not provide course credit.

  
**SOUTHWESTERN**  
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions at  
[admissions@swbts.edu](mailto:admissions@swbts.edu) or 1.800.SWBTS.01



**Renewing MINDS**  
Integrating top-tier academics and Christian faith

**U**nion University faculty members excel as scholars, authors and national speakers. Through award-winning classroom teaching and mentoring, they challenge their students to grow intellectually and integrate their faith in 100 areas of study.

To learn more about Union's Christ-centered academic excellence, visit us online or schedule a campus visit today.

 **UNION**  
UNIVERSITY

**uu.edu 800.33.UNION**  
**Jackson, Tennessee**

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

## BACK TO CAMPUS



Photo by Neisha Fuson

The band Rush of Fools leads students in a time of praise and worship at the Youth Evangelism Conference at Vaughn Forest Baptist Church, Montgomery, on July 27. The two-day conference was hosted by the office of collegiate and student ministries of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

nections for 3DM, led the girls' session as Brooks led the session for guys. By splitting up the genders Reichley and Brooks were able to talk about specific issues affecting their audience.

During this time Rhodes walked the leaders through the 21-day challenge for students and the correlating three-week Bible studies for student groups.

The follow-up studies build on the "Inside Out" theme and prompt students to look up to God, look in at themselves and look out to their missions field.

"The students go home to the greatest missions field — their school campus," Loomis said. His hope is to get students involved in an intentional ministry to impact the world, starting at home and cascading outward.

Kevin Cobb, youth pastor of

Southside Baptist, agrees that the school campus is a vast missions field, as Southside's youth group consists of students from several different schools.

### Spread the Word

"[YEC] allows us to gather in one place and then disperse and use our diverse locations as a way to spread the Word," Cobb said.

Rhodes wrapped up YEC 2012 by speaking about the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) during the final session.

In the parable the foolish servant buries the bag of gold his master gives him, believing the master to be a cruel tyrant when, in reality, he is generous.

"The tragedy of the man in this parable is that his fear and security are based on (his) deception of the master," Rhodes said. "Satan

wants you to keep believing the wrong things about God."

Each student present has the opportunity to maximize his or her life, he said. God empowers His followers to be faithful and make the most of their lives.

"The tragedy of today is that students believe that God is something that He isn't, [and] that keeps them from maximizing their life for Him," Rhodes said. "The biggest barrier to some of us living extraordinary lives is a faulty view of who God is."

Rhodes brought the weekend to a close by asking the question, "Does your view of God compel you to live your life to maximize it for Him?"

SBOM plans to host YEC again next year. For more information, contact Loomis at kloomis@als-bom.org. ☛

**The Baptist College of Florida**  
est. 1943  
"Changing the World Through the Unchanging Word"

**Classes begin August 13!**  
You still have time to register!

Call 800.328.2660 x460  
or go to [www.baptistcollege.edu](http://www.baptistcollege.edu)

**Master's**  
Master of Arts:  
Christian Studies

**Bachelor's**  
Bachelor of Arts:  
Biblical Studies  
Business Leadership  
Christian Counseling  
English  
English Secondary Ed.  
Elementary Education  
History & Social Studies  
History & Social Studies Sec. Ed.  
Leadership & Christian Education

**Associate's**  
Associate of Divinity  
Associate of Arts:  
Christian Education  
Music

Ministry  
Christian Studies  
Ministry Studies  
Missions  
Music

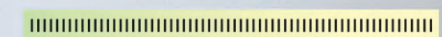
**Bachelor of Music:**  
Contemporary Worship Ministry  
**Bachelor of Music Education:**  
Choral  
Instrumental



## Seminary Track

*Biblical and  
Theological Studies*

You could earn your Bachelors of Arts and M.Div in as little as five years.



[www.boycecollege.com/apply](http://www.boycecollege.com/apply)

# THE Muneris

## Shocco plans to take new character education activity into public schools

This is Samford University.

explore your passion • grow your faith • experience college • play hard



admission.samford.edu  
1-800-888-7218 or 205-SAMFORD

Samford University is an Equal Opportunity Educational Institution/Employer.



Students at Munford High School and Alabama School for the Deaf (ASD) likely had no idea how much impact a simple hula hoop would have on them as they participated in the recent launch of The Muneris Experience.

"The activity, called the Helium Hoop, requires students to place the tip of one finger on the hoop while standing around the hula hoop, and collaboratively they have to place the hoop

on the ground," said Elizabeth Cook, assistant recreation coordinator for Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega and a facilitator for Muneris.

### Team building

The students have to work through the activity by thinking through the exercise and by communicating with others, she said, noting it is more difficult than it first appears.

Helium Hoop is one of nearly 20 different character- and team-

*Be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*

— Romans 12:2



Shorter University provides a transformational experience for students through the *power* of Jesus Christ.

Our Christian faculty and staff guide students on their educational journey while also caring about their spiritual development. We help the students God has entrusted to us be transformed into individuals who are fully prepared to embrace His plan for their lives.



[www.shorter.edu](http://www.shorter.edu)

315 Shorter Avenue, Rome, Georgia 30165  
800-868-6980 • [admissions@shorter.edu](mailto:admissions@shorter.edu)

Traditional • Adult Degrees • Master's Degrees • Online Programs

By Brittney Knox  
Intern, The Alabama Baptist

# Experience

building exercises offered in the new character education program sponsored by Shocco.

Shocco officials used the Alabama Character Builders curriculum of Alabama Citizen's Action Program (ALCAP) as a foundational piece to develop Muneris, which is the Latin word for service.

The name was selected in an attempt to appeal to high school students.

A "cool" name for the program could make all the difference in how it is received, Shocco officials noted.

"This is an activity we have developed that we plan to take into more public schools in the fall that teaches character-based traits as well as teaches about bullying," said Buster Taylor, executive director of Shocco.

While the plan is to develop students in the areas of character, team building and communication, Taylor also hopes this "portable version" of what takes place at Shocco also will provide a glimpse of the things available at Shocco.

Cook added that the curricu-

lum is not able to directly minister to students because it will be used in public school settings, but she hopes the students are able to see Christ in those who are facilitating the sessions.

The sessions are open to schools statewide and can handle 20 to 200 people at a time catering to grades 5 through 12. The activities can be done inside but are better in open spaces outdoors.

There are a variety of character-building exercises to choose from that average about 10 minutes each, and Shocco representatives can facilitate Muneris activities for up to two and a half hours.

## Bullying

Along with general character building among teens, Shocco officials hope the new program will help tame the various forms of bullying that goes on among students and keep victims of bullying from hurting themselves.

One student from ASD wrote in a post evaluation, "I realize I am the bully."

"Hearing that was amazing,"



Photo courtesy of Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center  
A group participates in the Helium Hoop activity as part of The Muneris Experience.

Cook said. "It was great to hear that Muneris was working and to see the benefits of how it impacted the students."

She said group leaders talk

through different elements related to bullying, such as why people do it and what it means to be the "silent person" in the situation.

"We ... discuss the things that can happen to the person being bullied if the silent person does not speak up," she said.

Tamera Hardaway, adjustment specialist for ASD, gives the program a thumbs up.

"We have some issues with

bullying in our school so we wanted them to [deal with] that in their activities as well," she said, noting she heard about the opportunity while attending an unrelated meeting at Shocco.

"Our time with Muneris went very well and the kids were very excited to participate in the activities."

For more information or to schedule a session, call Cook at 1-800-280-1105. ☰

TENNESSEE  
TEMPLE  
UNIVERSITY

Standing for  
the Word of God

At Commencement 2012 President Steve Echols leads the TTU faculty in signing an affirmation of the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*.



Contact us at [www.tntemple.edu](http://www.tntemple.edu) or 423.493.4200

## Today's realities challenge teachers nationwide

(continued from page 13)  
living in Memphis, where they observe and teach at an urban school four days per week while working with an assigned mentor. Afterward they spend three years teaching in Memphis city schools or must repay a portion of their stipend if they drop out early.

Memphis Teacher Residency Director David Montague formerly served two years with Campus Crusade for Christ in East Asia. While the program is unapologetically biblically and faith-based, he says the intent is not to subvert the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state by using the classroom to proselytize.

Instead, Memphis Teacher Residency on its website declares urban education "the single greatest

social justice and civil rights issue in America today."

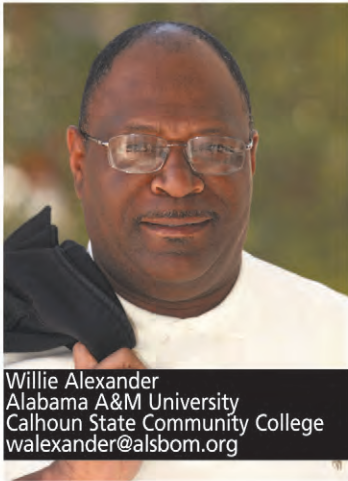
Statistics say half of the 8 million students in urban America will never graduate from high school. The 50 percent who do are on average academically four years behind their suburban peers, and just one in 10 will graduate from college.

Experts say the gap begins in early years of elementary school, and it limits millions of Americans from getting a decent job, perpetuating all sorts of social ills associated with cycles of generational poverty.

Memphis Teacher Residency believes all students can learn, because they are made in the image of God, and that a career of meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged children "is a worthy and noble calling."

(ABP)

# CAMPUS MINISTERS READY FOR FALL



A special breed of state missionary serves on campuses across the state. If you or someone you know is enrolling in an Alabama college or university this fall, consider contacting one of these campus ministers.



Office of Collegiate &  
Student Ministries,  
**1.800.264.1225**,  
ext. 276



Alabama Baptist Convention  
State Board of Missions

# ERLC's Land announces retirement effective October 2013

**R**ichard Land, who led the transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) ethics entity during the denomination's conservative resurgence, has announced he will retire next year after a quarter of a century of service as its head.

Land's retirement as president

of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) will be effective Oct. 23, 2013, he announced in a letter July 31 to the acting chairman of the entity's board of trustees. His retirement is scheduled to take place 25 years from the date he assumed the ERLC's presidency in 1988.

Land, 65, has acted as an outspoken advocate among Southern Baptists for biblical positions on such issues as the sanctity of human life, religious freedom, marriage and race relations. His staunch efforts during his tenure also have made him a leading evangelical Christian voice among social conservatives in this country's escalating cultural battles. *Time Magazine* named him in 2005 as one of America's 25 most influential evangelicals.

He received a doctor of philosophy degree from Oxford University in England, a master of theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor of arts from Princeton University.

Land made it clear he is retiring only from the ERLC, "not from the ministry, or from what is popularly called the 'culture war.'"

"When God called me into the ministry a half century ago, the burden He placed on my heart was for America," wrote Land, who recently began his 50th year in the gospel ministry. "That call and that burning burden are still there. I believe the 'culture war' is a titanic struggle for our nation's soul and as a minister of Christ's gospel, I have no right to retire from that struggle."

Land chose to announce his retirement nearly 15 months before its effective date to provide "plenty

of time for an orderly transition for both the Commission and myself to the next phase of our respective future ministries," he said in his letter to Richard Piles, acting chairman of the ERLC trustees.

The decision comes months after Land made controversial comments about the Trayvon Martin case that resulted in a reprimand and the loss of his radio talk show for the racial tension they caused.

But Fred Luter, who was elected in June as the SBC's first African-American president, considers the Martin remarks a "low moment" that should not diminish Land's commitment to racial reconciliation, especially the 1995 SBC resolution the two men worked on apologizing for Southern Baptists' support of slavery during the Civil War era.

"Richard was very passionate in those meetings about the fact that we do not just want this to be a piece of paper, a resolution; we want it to mean something," Luter recalled of their work together. "I will always remember him as a man who was a major voice in our convention desiring that people would be treated fairly regardless of their race."

Bill Leonard, chair of Baptist studies at Wake Forest University Divinity School, said from a historical perspective, "the Trayvon Martin situation should not be seen as the defining moment for Land on race."

Nonetheless, Leonard said Land's retirement signals a changing of the guard in the nation's largest Protestant body, which is struggling to reach nonwhites and non-Southerners as it faces a declining membership.

"You have to wonder if there is — inside the new, the younger leadership of the convention — a concern that his style of very aggressive, very

public responses is something the convention wants to perpetuate," Leonard said, adding that Land "replaced Jerry Falwell" as the media's go-to voice for conservative evangelicals.

Piles called Land's departure "bittersweet" and thanked Land for his "exemplary" service.

"He is to be applauded for his tireless work for racial reconciliation, the pro-life movement, and traditional marriage, just to name a few of the more well-known issues he has championed," Piles said.

(BP, RNS)



LAND



**LET THE SPIRIT LEAD YOU!**

**We have 2 Morning Worship Services Beginning Sunday, September 9.**

|                                                                                       |                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>8:15-9:15 a.m.</b><br/><b>THE GATHERING</b><br/>Contemporary Worship Chapel</p> | <p><b>10:45-11:45 a.m.</b><br/><b>TRADITIONAL</b><br/>Worship Sanctuary</p> |
| <p>- ALSO -</p>                                                                       |                                                                             |
| <p><b>9:30-10:30 a.m.</b><br/>Sunday Bible Study</p>                                  | <p><b>6-7 p.m.</b><br/>Evening Worship</p>                                  |

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Dr. Johnny Fain      300 West Main Street      Intercessory  
Pastor                      Dothan, AL 36301      PrayerLine:  
334.792.5117 • www.fbcdothan.org      334.673.7207

*Starting a new church is a great challenge and a great blessing. It is often the most difficult, yet rewarding experience that a Christian leader will ever face. Some leaders will refuse the challenge and the blessing as well, believing that they are not equipped to plant a new church.*

## BASIC TRAINING JOURNEY FOR CHURCH PLANTERS

Your State Board of Missions believes that God doesn't just call the equipped, but that He equips the called. That's why we are inviting church planters and their mentors to the Basic Training Journey for Church Planters workshop, **August 23-25**, at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center.

During this workshop, church planting teams will explore the spiritual foundations for church planting, learn to cast a vision for the congregational identity of the new church, and discover how to actually launch and grow a new church plant.

This workshop is a chance to learn about the nuts and bolts of planting a new church. Even more, it is a time for church planters and their mentors to pray and think about the details of how

this new congregation will reach new people for Christ's kingdom. It is also an opportunity to network with other church planting teams and discover how they have overcome similar challenges in their settings.

This year, it is even more exciting because it will be held as a part of this summer's Missions University. The Missions University is an effort to bring together missional workers from all over Alabama to a synergistic training event. It will be a wonderful time of equipping and networking!

Because this event is supported by gifts of Alabama Baptist churches to missions through the Cooperative

Program, the cost for this challenging training event is only \$25 per person!

To register, go online to [www.alsbom.org/missionsuniversity](http://www.alsbom.org/missionsuniversity) or contact Ministry Assistant Brenda Niblett at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 244, or (334) 613-2244, [bniblett@alsbom.org](mailto:bniblett@alsbom.org).



By Otis Corbitt  
State Missionary

For more information about training for church planters, contact State Missionary Otis Corbitt in the Office of Associational Missions & Church Planting: 1-800-264-1225, ext. 332, or (334) 613-2332, [ocorbitt@alsbom.org](mailto:ocorbitt@alsbom.org).



Alabama Baptist Convention  
State Board of Missions

# Following through: let your 'yes' be 'yes'

I was in a Bible study several weeks ago when we turned to the parable of the two sons found in Matthew 21:28-32. You probably know the passage.

Jesus contrasts two sons. One refuses to fulfill the father's command but changes his mind and does as he was asked. The second agrees to obey but fails to do so. Jesus then asks which one actually did the father's will. The reply is the first who ultimately obeyed in action.

Because of the content of this passage and where it is located, I always thought the lesson focuses on the importance of obedience to God, demonstrated by our actions. The point I took away was that God pays as much attention, if not more, to our actions of obedience than our intentions.

For me this has meant following through on my promises to God and being willing to follow God's

*A Thought  
for Women*

By Jean Roberson  
jroberson@wmu.org



leadership wherever it led me. I made the commitment to do so, so God expects follow through.

But what happens if we take this teaching and apply it to our families and our workplace?

When you look at your actions at home, which do you want to be measured by? Your actions or your intentions? Do you sometimes feel misunderstood? Do you mean to listen or spend more time with your family or do you actually do it? Do you mean to be slow

to anger or do you actually do it?

What about at work? Are you known for your actions and your implementation? Or are you known for your ideas and speeches that never become reality? Are you consistent with who you are and what you say you will do?

At church, do you offer to help with something only to respond that it does not fit into your calendar? Do you mean to send that card or make that call but life gets in the way?

Too often we excuse ourselves from following through. We know our own intentions and our own hearts. We meant to do something. We intended to follow through. At the time we were sincere and honest and truly meant it. Surely that must count for something.

However, no one else can see our hearts. It does not matter how close someone is to you. How that person experiences you is through your

actions, your words and deeds.

Perhaps one practical application of this passage of Scripture is that, in our relationships and various roles, we are accountable for our ultimate obedience and our ability to follow through.

Truly, this is easier said than done. But what if that became how we measure ourselves? We might become more judicious about what we offer and, at the same time, more consistent with what we say.

*A Takeaway Value . . .*

Follow through. Let your yes be yes and your no be no.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — Jean Roberson, MSW, LCSW, is a ministry consultant for national Woman's Missionary Union. She serves as team leader for the adult team and director of Christian Women's Job Corps/Christian Men's Job Corps and International Initiatives.

## Want to know God?

By Pastor Stuart Davidson  
Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne

My father has a great saying: "Keep it simple stupid." In a world that is fast and complicated, simplicity is a lost art. The Christian faith is full of complex questions that perhaps we were never meant to know. After all, if we knew everything, why would we need God?

Jesus makes remarkably clear the path to eternal life. First He lets us know that it is God's desire for all people to see salvation (John 3:16; 2 Pet. 3:9).

Next God provides a doorway to salvation through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross (Rom. 5:6; John 14:6). If our sin separated humanity from God, it was the cross of Christ that bridged the gap between the two.

Lastly if we call upon Jesus we will have a heavenly destination that can never be revoked (John 10:27-29; John 14:1-3; Rom. 10:13).

There is no need to over-complicate salvation. You cannot earn it. You cannot buy it. You cannot force it. You just ask for it.

When you receive salvation, it cannot be stolen, lost or demanded from you. However, salvation can be shared. When sharing your salvation, just remember to "keep it simple."

## Slackland Baptist holds youth-led space camp for children

Slackland Baptist Church, Leesburg, brought outer space down to Earth on July 18 for its first Big Brother-Big Sister Space Camp.

The camp was a missions outreach program from Slackland Baptist's youth department to the children's department. The day began at 8 a.m. and concluded at 7 p.m. with an awards ceremony where the children received "diplomas" for completing Space Camp.

Josh Prater, youth pastor at the Cherokee Baptist Association church, said the event was adult-supervised but youth-led. Prater's goal for the camp was to put the youth in a ministry position where they could see that "even though

[they're] growing up, it's still cool to work for Him."

Children from 4 years old to 12 years old launched meteor rockets, bounced on a "Space Jump" and enjoyed craft, recreation and Bible study times.

Anne Shumaker, a member of First Baptist Church, Centre, appeared in a space suit to speak to the children about outer space. A self-professed "space nut," Shumaker was one of the Alabama alternates for the Teacher In Space Program that would have put her on the Challenger Space Shuttle that exploded Jan. 28, 1986.

Shumaker, a retired science and Spanish teacher at Cherokee County High School, told the children about her application process for the program and her lifelong love of space.

"I hope I was able to put a little spark in a child so when they grow up, they'll be interested in space and science," Shumaker said.

Although the camp was a big undertaking, it was well worth it, Prater said. The total attendance for the day was 87 people.

"The goal was to get kids involved and excited about Jesus," Prater said. Slackland's youth department plans to host Space Camp again next year. (Maggie Walsh, TAB intern)

## MARKET PLACE

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

### CHURCH POSITIONS

**SENIOR PASTOR:** Southern Baptist church in Jackson, Ala., is prayerfully seeking God's man for the full-time position of senior pastor. Please send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 685, Jackson, AL 36545.

**MINISTER OF MUSIC:** Wooley Springs Baptist Church in Toney, Ala., is looking for a full-time minister of music. Resumes may be mailed to: ATTN: Search Committee, 28025 Bethel Road, Toney, AL 35773, or email: search@wooleysprings.org.

**BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC WORSHIP LEADER:** Bell Lane Baptist seeking bivocational music worship leader dedicated to lead adult choir and worship in blended service of traditional hymns and praise and worship music. Send resume to: pastortbelllane@bellsouth.net or Bell Lane Baptist Church, 1000 Bell Lane Road, Clanton, AL 35045.

### OTHER POSITIONS

**KEYBOARDIST:** Ridgcrest Baptist Church, Montgomery, is seeking a keyboardist to play for Sunday morning and evening worship services and choir rehearsals. Interested candidates may submit resumes to John Russell at john@rbcmontgomery.com.

**INDEPENDENT SALES ASSOCIATE CONTRACTOR:** The 170-year-old Alabama Baptist is an award-winning

statewide weekly newspaper with more than 200,000 readers. Baptists comprise the largest Christian denomination in Alabama with membership of more than a million. The Alabama Baptist is seeking contract sales people with the ability to develop advertising partnerships with businesses and organizations interested in reaching the key demographics of our readers and growing their business. As an independent sales associate contractor, you would work from your home office with no territory restrictions. The Alabama Baptist, Inc. provides a unique working environment. We are partners with the churches of the Alabama Baptist State Convention working together for the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Each employee is expected to manage his/her personal and professional life in accordance with this relationship and consistent with the traditions of The Alabama Baptist. Send resumes and inquiries to: bgilmore@thealabamabaptist.org.

### BUSINESS

**CHRISTIAN VALUES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY:** 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.

**FOR SALE NEW & USED STAIRLIFTS:** Lift chairs, power wheelchairs,

car lifts, scooters and walk-in tubs. We service Alabama. 1-800-682-0658.

**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.

**DO YOU NEED A CHURCH PIANIST?:** Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by. Hymns, gospel, choruses, etc. Call Worship Service Resources, 1-877-977-6800. Free demo. www.wsrpianocds.com.

### CHURCH CONSTRUCTION

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

### CONFERENCES & RETREATS

**RELATIONSHAPE WORKSHOPS:** Alabama-based, Christian-owned. Offering workshops for marriage, staff or deacon retreats; also congregation "natural gifts" recognition. Featuring the Myers-Briggs personality assessment. www.RelationShape.com, 256-601-6030.

### TRAVEL/VACATION

**GEORGIA MOUNTAIN CABIN:** 2 BRs, 2 BAs, furnished cabin. Wheelchair accessible. \$125/night with 3-night minimum. 6 nights at \$125/night with 1 night free. Located in mountains of Blue Ridge, Ga. Call 941-755-3655.

**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.

**GULF SHORES:** 1/2/3 BR luxury beachfront condos and 4 BR beach resort house. Owner direct saves you \$\$\$! Call Chris at 1-800-713-6435, or cashley945@earthlink.net.

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

### FOR SALE

**RIDGECREST, N.C., LOT:** A piece of heaven. Build your mountain home at Ridgcrest, N.C. Wooded half-acre lot for sale. Power, water, sewer access. \$20,900. Call 406-690-3590.

**BUS:** 2000 V-8 diesel, 17-passenger bus with chair lift. Low mileage. First Baptist Church, Detroit, Ala. Contact Eldred Spruiel, 205-273-4318.

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.



**Hanley & Associates**  
A financial advisory practice of  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Steve Hanley, MBA,  
Financial Advisor  
Pat Waters,  
Client Service Coordinator  
Christy Smitherman,  
Marketing Manager  
Dan Rollo,  
CFP, Financial Advisor

1142 Montlamar Drive  
Mobile, AL 36609 251.345.0601

**Ameriprise**  
Financial

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.,  
Member FINRA and SIPC.

# Letters

(continued from page 2)  
 convention in not wanting to address this problem.

You mentioned that they did not want to risk another confrontation of theology. I was born in 1937 and did not even hear of Calvinism until recently. You ... should have informed us before the intensity of it now.

To accept or even consider accepting it is to nullify all we have been teaching up to now: that Jesus died for all people, that anyone can be saved who comes under the

conviction of the Holy Spirit and that salvation is eternal. Now that is what my Bible teaches.

The problem, as I understand from your article, started when Al Mohler was allowed to hold a position, much less president, at the seminary in Louisville. I have a close friend who is a street evangelist and who withdrew from a Southern Baptist church locally just because of this false religion being advocated there. Thank God for each Southern Baptist church being autonomous as to what we

have to accept from a central organization. I truly enjoy *The Alabama Baptist*, but let's stick to Southern Baptist theology, without permeation of other denominations being involved.

David Weaver  
 Bessemer, Ala.

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — *Baptist involvement with Calvinism did not begin with Al Mohler. Calvinism has influenced Baptist theology at least since the 1630s and has played an important historical role in Baptist life.*

## DECEPTION

Many Southern Baptist church leaders and missionaries will not say "Southern Baptist" in public. They take on various identifications because they feel the title

"Southern Baptist" will turn away potential believers. The result is a radical new doctrine for Southern Baptist Outreach — "Salvation Through Deception" or "Trick 'em and Dip 'em."

However, deception is not endorsed in New Testament guidance on salvation, witnessing or church organization. Those who tried to deceive the church were dealt with in a very severe manner or made the subject of some very strong warnings.

There has been explosive church growth in the Southern Baptist misrepresentations. Deceived believers may indeed be saved because being Southern Baptist is not a salvation requirement. However, discovery of the deception is sure to damage a young Christian who trusted the church for the truth and found a lie hidden in the church office.

Growth through deception tarnishes the name Southern Baptist. It is unbecoming to any Christian organization and is unlikely to gain long-term success.

Ollie Noles

Jacksonville, Ala.

## REFORMED MOVEMENT

I personally think that the Reformed movement is healthy for the Southern Baptist Church. And perhaps, contrary to those who were averse to it, releasing the "Traditional Baptist Understanding of Salvation" was also healthy for the Church. The bringing together of these two doctrines, as well as other beliefs, fosters discussions that can only strengthen the Southern Baptist Church. To fight against it, I believe, can weaken the Church or even cause an irrevocable split.

While I, like Dr. Terry, lament the possibility of "another theological fight" (fight being the operative word), my concern is more about how a few within the Southern Baptist community feel it is necessary to talk down those who have attended the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary under the tutelage of Dr. Albert Mohler, and (even), in some cases (have) gone behind the backs of those men to sabotage their selection by pastor search committees. I think that such talk is more than one simply advocating the old "traditional" doctrine over one they don't believe; I think that it borders on evil. Yes, I know that is a strong word, but I believe that actively working against God's plan is in fact evil. Do we not believe that a pastor is led to a given church by God? And when someone acts in an attempt to thwart God's plan, is that not an evil act? Then it follows that one (who) goes out of his way to dissuade a search committee from selecting a young pastor — because he was trained by a seminary not to this individual's liking — is committing a trespass against God's plan, and I submit that those guilty of such talk are not worthy of any office they may hold. Such an act, I believe, is a form of being blasphemous.

William R. Lee  
 Enterprise, Ala.



**KNOW**  
 WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF **SUSPECTED CONCUSSION**

A concussion is an injury caused by a blow to the head in which the brain moves rapidly and may collide with the inside of the skull. Some mechanisms may include getting hit with an object such as a baseball or colliding with objects such as a goal post or other players. Even minor "dings" or getting your "bell rung" may be of concern as serious injury may result. Symptoms may include: headache, confusion, unsteadiness or any other abnormal behaviors.

Any athlete with a suspected concussion:

- Should be **IMMEDIATELY REMOVED FROM PLAY**
- Should be **urgently assessed medically**
- Should not be left alone
- Should not drive a motor vehicle

**CONCUSSION CLINIC 205.934.1041**  
[www.ChildrensAL.org/concussion](http://www.ChildrensAL.org/concussion)  
 IN CASE OF MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911 OR GO DIRECTLY TO YOUR LOCAL ER



**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



**A Beautiful Bath at a Heavenly Price**

**LIMITED TIME OFFER: Free shower doors (\$700 value) with tub to shower conversion or regular bathtub installation. Offer expires 9/13/12.**

If you have a bathroom that has outdated tile, mold or mildew that you just cannot get rid of, tubs and showers that are stained and look old, call Charlie Thornton at Dream Baths today. We can turn that ugly bathroom into a beautiful one that you can afford in just one day. We are specialists in acrylic bathroom remodeling that is truly beautiful and very easy to maintain and keep clean at a price that nobody will beat. It will never be out-of-date, and there is a lifetime warranty on all work and products used. We give GOD THE GLORY for our success and being able to provide a high-quality product at an affordable price to our customers across the state. **CALL CHARLIE TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE. YOU WILL BE GLAD YOU DID.**

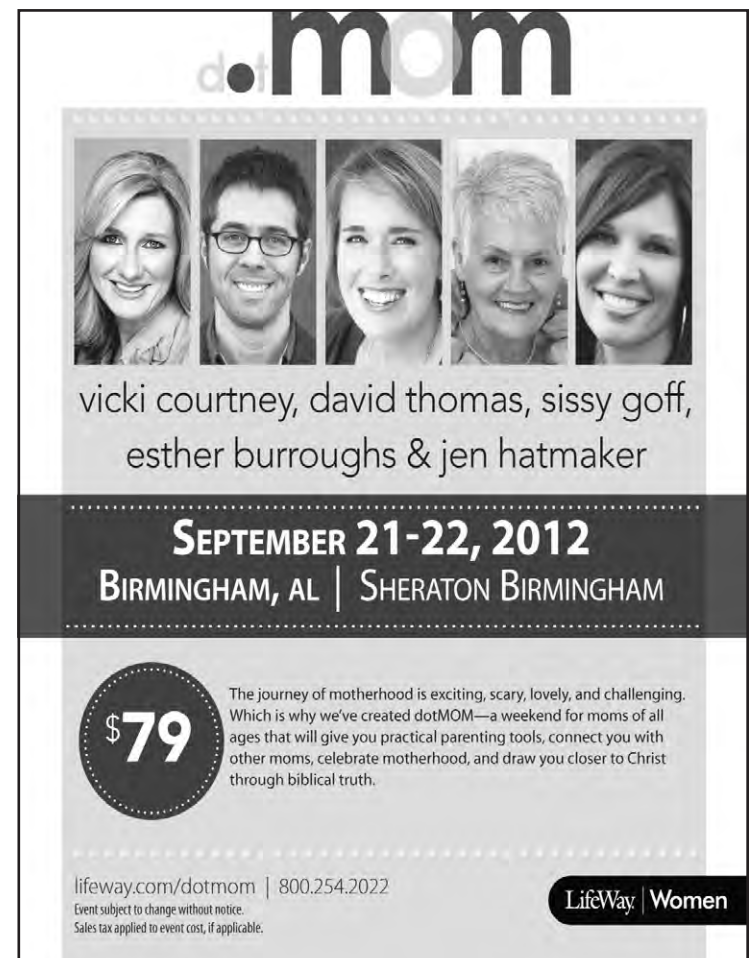
**\$ Ask about our no money down, no interest 12 months same as cash program\***  
 \*Approved credit through Enter Bank Corp.

**sears** Authorized Bathroom Remodeler, Sears Home Improvement

Locally owned and operated in Alabama for more than 25 years

**~ Dream Baths of Alabama ~**

Call 334-312-1825 or 1-855-849-5048 (toll-free) for a free estimate.  
[www.dreambathsalabama.com](http://www.dreambathsalabama.com) • [www.alabamasafetybath.com](http://www.alabamasafetybath.com)



**dotMOM**

vicki courtney, david thomas, sissy goff, esther burroughs & jen hatmaker

**SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2012**  
 BIRMINGHAM, AL | SHERATON BIRMINGHAM

**\$79**

The journey of motherhood is exciting, scary, lovely, and challenging. Which is why we've created dotMOM—a weekend for moms of all ages that will give you practical parenting tools, connect you with other moms, celebrate motherhood, and draw you closer to Christ through biblical truth.

[lifeway.com/dotmom](http://lifeway.com/dotmom) | 800.254.2022  
 Event subject to change without notice.  
 Sales tax applied to event cost, if applicable.

**LifeWay Women**

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For August 12

Explore the Bible By Douglas K. Wilson  
Dean and Professor of Christian Ministries, University of Mobile

**DOMINO EFFECT**  
**Judges 17:1-8, 12-13; 18:30-31**  
Spiritual fervor is waning. Judges who were entrusted with civil and spiritual responsibility are demonstrating that human achievement will never rise to the perfection of the true King of Israel. In fact, the frailty of the leaders reveals that they cannot measure up to the standard of Yahweh's holiness. The title is an apt illustration of the spiritual malaise that grips the tribes after their settlement in the Promised Land. Rather than reflect the holiness of God as instructed at Mount Sinai (Lev. 11:44-45), Israel is blending in to the sexually minded polytheism of the Canaanites. Leaders who should know better are falling like dominos, and the people are following suit. They were doing whatever they wanted (Deut. 12:8).

**Failure in a Family (17:1-6)**  
Syncretism was commonplace in the family of Micah the Ephraimite. His mother uttered a curse when 1,100 pieces of silver went missing. Upon their return (or replacement), she blessed Micah in the name of Yahweh. Out of gratitude for her prosperity she commissioned an idol to be created and overlaid with silver. She spoke blessing and cursing; she mentioned Yahweh and idols. In her mind they were all mixed together. Pressure from outside influences mounts against Christians in the United States, with more venomous remarks aired every day. The Boy Scouts are maligned for their stand on "God and country" and their ban of homosexual scoutmasters, retaining their historic scout oath to keep themselves "morally straight." In recent days government officials made public statements aimed to curtail the expansion of companies who support biblical principles. Believers are expected to remain silent in the public forum, whether in politics, education or business. The only acceptable form of intolerance is directed toward those who adhere to absolute truth. We are truly living in days when everyone does "what is right in his eyes" (see HSCB footnote for 17:6).

**Corruption of a Calling (17:7-8, 12-13)**  
An unnamed Levite born into a tribe set apart for service to Yahweh left his home in Bethlehem. His reasons for leaving are unclear, but his acceptance of unlawful employment demonstrates a character flaw. Had he reached 30, the age when Levitical service began (Num. 4:3)? Had he been expelled from Bethlehem? Why was he wandering, looking for someplace to reside other than home? Micah offered the man a job; he would be Micah's personal priest. Rather than meeting the God-given qualification of being a direct descendant of Aaron (Lev. 9:1), this young man served as a hireling priest who was paid to perform religious rituals at his master's bidding. Micah corrupted God's call upon this man's life. Have you missed God's call on your life? Have you settled for a job that pays the bills but brings no sense of spiritual vitality? Examine your life. Discern whether you are pursuing your agenda or God's agenda for your life.

**Sinfulness of a Society (18:30-31)**  
In time, Danite spies heard about Micah's wealth. They entered Micah's compound, stole his religious paraphernalia and offered his "priest" a job. The man went with them, serving as priest for the entire tribe of Dan. He was moving up in the world. As it turns out, this man was Jonathan (18:30), from the line of Moses. The phrase "son of Gershom" may indicate "descendant" rather than next-generation "son." When an individual, family or society chooses self-determination over the sovereign dominion of God, life becomes increasingly corrupt. The final chapters of Judges hold a common theme: there was "no king in Israel" (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). Yahweh was their King, yet they ignored His revealed word to them. Before long they would openly reject Him as their King (1 Sam. 8:7). Jesus asks, "Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord' and don't do the things I say?" (Luke 6:46). Surrender to the will of your King is the only way to reverse the domino effect. ❏

Bible Studies for Life By Kenneth B.E. Roxburgh  
Chair and Armstrong Professor of Religion, Samford University

**LET YOUR HEART BE BROKEN**  
**Jeremiah 8:4-13, 18-9:1**  
William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army, received a letter from one of his officers indicating the difficulties they were facing in sharing the good news of the gospel in a particularly difficult area. They wrote about all the methods they had used to reach people — preaching on street corners, beating drums, passing out tracts — and said nothing worked. Booth sent them a telegram that said simply, "Try Tears." Jeremiah often felt the burden of sharing God's message of repentance with a recalcitrant people. He expresses his pain in this passage when he declares, "O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my people!"

**See the Problem (8:4-7)**  
In these verses Jeremiah states very clearly the problem of a people who were entrenched in their sinful ways and refused to hear the message he proclaimed with such diligence. He reminds the nation that when people fall down, they automatically want to get up on their feet again. If they take the wrong turn on a journey, they will retrace their steps and get back on the right path. Yet the people of Israel were perpetually backsliding and refused to return to the Lord. Their stubbornness would lead to their downfall. Jeremiah knew that the heart of the problem of life is the problem of the human heart being estranged from God.

**Avoid Superficial Responses (8:8-13)**  
Jeremiah took this problem seriously and never tried to minimize the issues that he was facing. He could assume, in this context of a nation that had received God's word over and over again, that the people knew their spiritual heritage. But throughout Jeremiah's culture, "from the least to the greatest everyone

is greedy for unjust gain; from prophet to priest everyone deals falsely." Their spiritual state had led them to neglect the issues of social justice within society. The priests and false prophets cried, "Peace, peace," trying to tell the people that everything would work out well and they need not listen to prophets of doom like Jeremiah. But Jeremiah knew that "there is NO peace!" The people had become so calloused in their attitude toward sin that "they were not at all ashamed, they did not know how to blush." The book of Exodus reminds us that when people harden their hearts against God they risk the threat of God "hardening their hearts" to the extent that they will never be able to turn back to Him. If the people continue to ignore God's laws, focusing on personal acquisition without thinking about the needs of others and turning their back on God's love, they will enter on a pathway that is wrongheaded and disastrous.

**Reflect God's Brokenheartedness (8:18-9:1)**  
When Jeremiah tells us, "My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick," he is entering into the heart of a God who weeps over the lost, the God who declares that He is "not willing that any should perish." He knew the words of an earlier prophet, Hosea, who declared, "How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender." Jeremiah knew that there was a balm in Gilead, a physician who could cure the people's sinful condition and bring health to a nation that had experienced so much of the generosity of God's love through the centuries. If only they would listen. And Jeremiah was determined that he would not give up on his people and would "weep day and night" until the people would themselves be broken by a sense of their sin and cry to the Lord for mercy! ❏

Christian Crossword

By Teresa Zeek Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |       |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9     |
| 10 |    |    | 11 | 12 |    | 13 | 14 |       |
| 15 |    |    | 16 | 17 |    | 18 |    |       |
|    |    | 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    | 21 22 |
|    | 23 |    |    | 24 | 25 |    | 26 |       |
|    | 27 | 28 |    | 29 |    |    | 30 |       |
| 31 |    | 32 |    | 33 |    | 34 |    | 35    |
| 36 | 37 |    |    | 38 |    | 39 |    |       |
| 40 |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    | 42    |
| 43 |    |    | 44 | 45 |    |    | 46 | 47    |
|    |    |    | 48 |    |    |    | 49 |       |
| 50 | 51 | 52 |    |    | 53 | 54 | 55 |       |
|    | 56 |    |    |    |    | 57 |    |       |

Across

1. He was hidden in the bulrushes. (Ex. 2:3,10)

5. Another name for Saul. (Acts 13:9)

8. \_\_\_ ye into all the world. (Mark 16:15)

10. There was no room in the \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 2:7)

11. To rule \_\_\_\_\_ the day and ... night. (Gen. 1:18)

13. \_\_\_\_\_. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20)

15. Flashing \_\_\_\_\_ lights.

17. He \_\_\_\_\_ there an altar. (Gen. 33:20)

19. Stops nursing.

20. Masculine pronoun.

21. Suffix used to make a comparative word.

24. A very small quantity.

26. Prefix meaning "three."

27. Female deer.

29. The wicked have laid a \_\_\_\_\_ for me. (Ps. 119:110)

32. A set of three.

34. To be carried.

36. Scrooge says, "\_\_\_\_\_ humbug."

38. Minnesota (ZIP code abbr.)

39. It was planted in a good \_\_\_\_\_. (Ezek. 17:8)

40. A swarm of \_\_\_\_\_.

41. Churning of milk bringeth forth \_\_\_\_\_. (Prov. 30:33)

43. Dominion over the fowl of the \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 1:26)

44. Support or brace.

46. Wipe your feet on our welcome \_\_\_\_\_. (Eccle. 8:5)

48. Whoso keepeth the commandment shall \_\_\_\_\_ no evil thing. (Eccle. 8:5)

49. Demonstration model (abbr.)

50. King of Moab. (Judg. 3:17)

53. Yellow tropical fruit.

56. God created the heaven and the \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 1:1)

57. Mary stayed with Elisabeth three \_\_\_\_\_. (Luke 1:56)

5. The express image of his \_\_\_\_\_. (Heb. 1:3)

6. Blessed \_\_\_\_\_ the poor in spirit. (Matt. 5:3)

7. It is vain ... to sit up \_\_\_\_\_. (Ps. 127:2)

8. The king of Debir, one; the king of \_\_\_\_\_. (Josh. 12:13)

9. Putting \_\_\_\_\_ the breastplate of faith and love. (1 Thess. 5:8)

12. Take me some \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 27:3)

14. "Jesus loves \_\_\_\_\_, this I know."

16. I will \_\_\_\_\_ leave thee. (Heb. 13:5)

18. Some trust in \_\_\_\_\_, and some in horses. (Ps. 20:7)

22. Christ has \_\_\_\_\_.

23. Advertisement (abbr.)

25. Saul of \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 9:11)

28. Charity ... toward each \_\_\_\_\_aboundeth. (2 Thess. 1:3)

30. To revise.

31. \_\_\_\_\_, Father, all things are possible unto thee. (Mark 14:36)

33. I am (contraction).

35. The \_\_\_\_\_s shall melt with fervent heat. (2 Pet. 3:10)

37. The first three vowels.

41. Light \_\_\_\_\_.

42. Elkanah's home. (1 Sam. 2:11)

44. They went into one \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Kings 7:8)

45. Second tone of the diatonic scale.

47. It waves thereof \_\_\_\_\_ themselves. (Jer. 5:22)

48. \_\_\_\_\_ God so loved the world. (John 3:16)

49. Rachel's maid, Bilhah's first son. (Gen. 30:6)

51. General Electric (abbr.)

52. Sixth tone of the diatonic scale.

54. I \_\_\_\_\_ THAT I AM. (Ex. 3:14)

55. Let \_\_\_\_\_ man deceive you. (2 Thess. 2:3)

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | I | N | O | M | A | T | H | I | R | E | A | R | T |   |
| S | N | A | N | A | S |   | B | A | N | A | S |   | E | G | L |
| M | A | T |   |   |   |   | F | E | E | L |   |   |   |   |   |
| M | A | T |   |   |   |   | T | R | I | S |   |   | A | I | R |
| R | A | T |   |   |   |   | B | U | T | T |   |   | S | E | E |
| N | T | I | O | S |   | N | W | H | A | V |   |   |   |   |   |
| E | D | E |   |   |   |   | R | I | O |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| S |   |   |   |   |   |   | S | A | N | S |   |   | D | O | E |
| I |   |   |   |   |   |   | A | T | I | O |   |   | A |   |   |
| E | R |   |   |   |   |   | H | E |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| D |   |   |   |   |   |   | M | E | A | N | S |   |   |   |   |
| E |   |   |   |   |   |   | C | H | E | R | E | C | T | E | D |
| N | E | W |   |   |   |   | O | V | E | R |   |   |   |   |   |
| G | O |   |   |   |   |   | P | A | U | L |   |   |   |   |   |

## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Religious literature to face more control in Azerbaijan

AZERBAIJAN — Religious literature — already subject to compulsory prior censorship from the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations — is set to face further, parallel control by Azerbaijan's Tax Ministry. Printed and electronic religious literature and recordings are specifically identified in new legal amendments, alongside literature in general and medicine, as requiring "verification marks" before they can be sold.

Although billed as consumer protection and tax measures, legal specialists and human rights defenders have expressed concern that the real aim of the measures — at least those related to religious literature — is to make it easier to confiscate unapproved religious literature and make publication of religious literature more difficult. The legal amendments are awaiting approval from President Ilham Aliiev.

"This is just the latest measure to restrict religious activity," said a member of a Baku-based religious community who asked not to be identified. Under the amendments to the Consumer Protection Law, certain products cannot be sold unless they have a verification mark. Under the amendments to the Tax Code, the tax authorities will have the right to halt the sale of products being sold without the appropriate marking. Moreover, other existing provisions of the Criminal Code would allow for the prosecution of any company violating the new rules.

However others are suspicious about the intentions of the legal changes. "Formally they speak not about censorship or prohibition of distribution of religious books, but about protection of the rights of consumers," said Eldar Zeynalov, head of the Human Rights Centre of Azerbaijan. He believes that the practical impact of the amendments is likely to be "stronger control over distribution of such materials."

"If previously for confiscation of books, the police needed some preliminary expertise of their content, now the absence of a verification mark would be enough."

### Uzbekistan deports Jehovah's Witnesses for sharing faith

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan — Two Uzbek Jehovah's Witnesses have been deported as punishment for discussing their faith with others. Russian citizen Yelena Tsyngalova was deported on an Uzbek Airlines evening flight from Tashkent to Moscow July 25 after being detained since July 2.

Accompanying her were her two teenage children, one a Russian citizen, the other an Uzbek citizen. Her mother Galina Poligenko-Aleshkina — an Uzbek citizen who is a pensioner with disabilities and who shared the family flat — is now left to fend for herself. Kazakh citizen Oksana Shcherbeneva was deported June 16 immediately after completing a 15-day prison term. Other Jehovah's Witnesses detained and tried with her were jailed and fined.

# Book Reviews

by Martine Bates Sharp and Jennifer Davis Rash

## Nobody's Child

Austin Boyd. *Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2011. 332 pp. (Paperback).*

"Just because we can ... should we?" In this novel, award-winning author Austin Boyd deals with hard questions in a fictionalized format.

The story presents a young woman, desperate to find money for her father's chemotherapy, who allowed her eggs to be harvested for donation to women seeking to become pregnant. Thinking the medical records had been sealed, Laura Ann was horrified when one of the recipients of her eggs tracked her down and was stunned by what happened afterward.

The book moves a bit slowly at first but gathers speed and drama as the story unfolds. By the middle of the book the reader is fully involved — drawn into a story that has a fairly predictable ending but takes unexpected twists and turns along the way.

Be sure to read the book when you have plenty of time; it is one of those vanishingly rare novels that is hard to put down.

The author, who has written several other successful books, is from Huntsville, Ala., where he is active in his church and in pro-life ministries. (Sharp)

## What the Bible Means to Me: Testimonies of how God's Word impacts lives

Catherine Mackenzie, Editor. *Ross-Shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 2011. 138 pp. (Paperback).*

People from around the world and from many different walks of life were asked to share what the Bible means to them; this book is the result.

The testimonies differ quite a bit. For example, a man who worked in a theological college in Asia focused on his favorite book, Proverbs, sharing his favorite verses and those that had impacted his life. A children's author focused on the stories in the Bible. A nurse with multiple sclerosis shared her dependence on the Bible's promises.

Some, like theologian J.I. Packer, you will have heard of. Others, probably not. At least one is from Alabama. The point of having a variety of well-known and unknown people included is well taken: the Bible is not just for some of us but for all, and all benefit from exposure to it.

As an added bonus many of the testimonies are followed by facts about the Bible, like how many language groups do not have a Bible, short introductions to early Bible translators and the first Bible that was divided into verses.

The testimonies are engaging and inspiring to read. This is a book you keep lying around to pick up again and again. (Sharp)

## In Visible Fellowship: A Contemporary View of Bonhoeffer's Classic Work Life Together

Jon Walker. *Abilene, Texas: Leafwood Publishers, 2011. 174 pp. (Paperback).*

Having been exposed to Dietrich Bonhoeffer's life and ideas through frequent references by my pastor, I was eager to read and review this book. It seemed that a book by a contemporary writer from a cutting-edge church like Saddleback would be just the introduction to Bonhoeffer's writing I needed.

It was. "In Visible Fellowship" pulls the themes from Bonhoeffer's book, "Life Together," which is a treatise on life in the body of Christ. Each of the short chapters begins with a quote from Bonhoeffer and one from the Bible, launches into a structured interpretation of Bonhoeffer's idea and ends with questions for thought or discussion. Author Jon Walker's work is

instructive and almost certainly easier to understand than the original.

Walker has worked closely with Rick Warren and has served as editor-in-chief for *Home Life* magazine. He has written one other book presenting Bonhoeffer's work from a contemporary perspective. (Sharp)

## The Boss: Sometimes a Life Transcends a Lifetime

Terry D. Newberry. *Birmingham: Psalm/One Press, 2011. 147 pp. (Hardback, paperback, audio — thebossbook.com).*

True, it is a book filled with leadership tips — some you may actually already know — but it is more than just the latest book summarizing how to be a good leader. It is a story of how a true leader, The Boss, invests in others and how his investment is absorbed by one particular student, Dean — a student who eventually becomes a master of leadership development like The Boss.

Terry Newberry shows off his skill of storytelling in this 147-page book that becomes glued to your hands once you pick it up. I managed to complete the entire book, including every inch of the book jacket, in a little over two hours. I probably could have finished it faster, but I kept stopping to process the life lessons Dean was learning from The Boss. I wanted to think through how I might apply them to my life.

I realized I had learned some of the lessons before, but I was not able to articulate or apply them like Newberry outlines them. I also learned several new life principles that I am eager to put into practice.

All in all, reading this book has already made me a better person.

Simple, straightforward, interesting, easy to read, smooth in its flow, practical, educational, inspirational and coming from one who has a deep faith, a proven leadership development track record and a long list of life experiences — I recommend it to anyone seeking to do or be better, no matter the field or position. (Rash)



Photo by Dwight Davis

### JUDSON COLLEGE THANKS THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

Representatives from Judson College in Marion pose with members of *The Alabama Baptist* staff at the newspaper's office in Homewood following the 5th annual 'thank you' luncheon for *The Alabama Baptist* sponsored by Judson and hosted by Terry Morgan, Bill Mathews and Michael Brooks.

## Want to see your news in The Alabama Baptist?

Email your information to [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org); fax it to 205-870-8957 or call 1-800-803-5201. Church announcements should arrive three weeks prior to the event.





BP photo

Olympian Sarah Scherer said her performance in the athletic world does not define who she is; instead, her definition is from Christ.

# Defined by CHRIST

## USA Olympian Sarah Scherer draws strength from faith

American Sarah Scherer sat in the crowd during the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, cheering on her brother Stephen in the air rifle competition. Shooting had been a bonding activity for the Scherer siblings for eight years at that point. When Stephen picked up the sport, his little 9-year-old sister Sarah wanted to join him. They were practically inseparable inside and outside of the shooting range.

This year, 21-year-old Sarah will be the one grabbing the air rifle to compete in London. She will aim and fire at 40 quarter-sized targets from 10 meters away. She will make every effort to control, relax and steady her body — even her beating heart.

Stephen will be noticeably absent from the audience, however. Two years after his 2008 Olympic competition, he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The heart that Sarah Scherer will try so hard to still during her Olympic competition — the heart whose untimely beat can be the difference between pinpoint precision and catastrophic error in her sport — was practically torn from her body when her brother died. She contemplated giving up shooting entirely.

But through God's grace and the love and support of family and friends Scherer has found the strength to continue her own shooting career. She does it with a heart full of hope and confidence that she and her brother will one day be reunited.

"Knowing that my brother had a faith in Christ and lived for Him, that's the biggest thing for me," Scherer said. "Because of that decision and that choice my brother made, and that trust that I have, I'm 100 percent sure of where my brother is. I know that he's in a much better place, and that I'll see him again in heaven. That's the number one comfort that I've re-

ally experienced coming from my brother's faith."

In the months that followed Stephen's death, Scherer found encouragement from Scripture. Her church family at Southcliff Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, surrounded her and her mother with prayers. Scherer's collegiate small group was especially helpful as she grieved her brother's loss.

"Sarah's small group was kind of an anchor that continually brought her back to what she knew to be true from God's Word, even when she was at her lowest points," said Spencer Plumlee, one of Southcliff's pastors who was the college minister at the time.

Friends emailed or texted her with encouragement. Her small group leader talked with her and listened to Scherer's questions. Through all these things Scherer saw the hand of God upholding her. She heard the voice of God telling her, "I'm here for you. Yes, this is a tough time, but I have a plan, and I'm in control."

"Leaning on Christ through this time has been the only way that I've gotten through it," she said.

Scherer continued to practice and develop her shooting skills on the Texas Christian University shooting team. She felt confirmation from God that He still had work for her to do among that community.

So she kept at it, and her diligence paid off. As she prepares to compete in London, Scherer knows the Olympics may resurrect painful memories of her brother. This was their dream, not just hers, and now he is no longer there to share it with her.

But she is also fully aware of the work God has done in her life, bringing her through trials and tragedy and preparing her for the biggest athletic event of her life. Whatever the outcome, Scherer continues to cling to her Lord.

"My performance ... doesn't define who I am," she said. "My definition is from Christ." (BP)

## Religion In America

Compiled from Wire Services

### Orthodox Church in America leader forced out

SYOSSET, N.Y. — The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) has announced that it forced its controversial leader, Metropolitan Jonah, to resign in July chiefly because he had failed to remove a priest accused of rape.

"In light of the recent widely publicized criminal cases involving sexual abuse at Penn State and in the Philadelphia Archdiocese and the Kansas City Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church, the extent of the risk of liability to which Metropolitan Jonah has exposed the Church cannot be overstated," bishops of the Holy Synod, the OCA's leadership board, said in a statement July 16.

The case concerned a priest who Jonah accepted into the OCA despite knowing about the man's past problems with alcohol and record of violence toward women. Then in February of this year, Jonah, 52, learned that the priest had been accused of rape in 2010 and he did not alert the police or church authorities or investigate the matter, the synod said.

OCA leaders also said Jonah, who was elected metropolitan in 2008, was involved with unnamed others in attempting to keep the alleged victim and a relative of hers from pursuing the case, telling them that "their salvation depended on their silence."

Jonah, in a letter, "begged forgiveness ... for whatever difficulties have arisen from my own inadequacies and mistakes in judgment." Jonah's statement was an effort to clarify rumors that he had been forced to resign over a rape case.

### Arizona pastor jailed, fined for home church

PHOENIX — An Arizona pastor whose at-home worship services and Bible studies regularly drew as many as 80 people has been sentenced to 60 days in jail, ordered to pay a \$12,180 fine and given three years of probation.

In a decision upheld on appeal, the Maricopa County Superior Court found Michael Salman guilty of 67 building code violations. Salman contends the case is about religious freedom.

Phoenix city officials said the case centers on compliance with zoning and building code laws designed to protect the public. After he was ordered to host no more than 12 worshipers at a time at his home, Salman gained in 2008 a building permit to attach a 2,000-square-foot private game room to his home but began using the room as Harvest Christian Fellowship Community Church, according to a fact sheet posted on the city's website. The usage violated the building permit, which prohibits any use of the facility other than a private game room.

"What happened to Michael Salman ... illustrates the absurdity of government officials prosecuting individuals for engaging in religious activity on their private property," John Whitehead said in a Rutherford Institute news release. "That Michael Salman and his family and friends are not allowed to gather in private to study the Bible goes against every founding principle of the United States of America."

### 19 percent without religious affiliation, survey shows

WASHINGTON — Unbelief is on the uptick. People who check "None" for their religious affiliation are now nearly one in five Americans (19 percent), the highest ever documented, according to the Pew Center for the People and the Press.

The rapid rise of Nones — including atheists, agnostics and those who say they believe "nothing in particular" — defies the usually glacial rate of change in spiritual identity.

Barry Kosmin, co-author of three American Religious Identification Surveys, theorizes why None has become the "default category. ... Young people are resistant to the authority of institutional religion, older people are turned off by the politicization of religion and people are simply less into theology than ever before," he said.

Kosmin's surveys were the first to brand the Nones in 1990 when they were 6 percent of U.S. adults. By the 2008 survey, Nones were up to 15 percent. By 2010, another survey, the biannual General Social Survey, bumped the number to 18 percent.

Are you on  
facebook

Become a fan of  
*The Alabama Baptist*  
newspaper.