



Oct. 3, 2013
Vol. 178, No. 39

Reporting. Connecting. Inspiring.

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

INSIDE



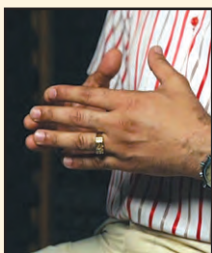
Faith and Family: Parents can pray, learn to work together, counselor says

◆ Pages 4-5



State's Baptist Campus Ministries have 'immense missions field' among students

◆ Page 7



Believers in closed countries risk it all to study Scripture

◆ Page 9



Reuters photo

A police officer tries to secure an area inside the Westgate Shopping Mall where gunmen went on a shooting spree in Nairobi on Sept. 21. A missionary family of seven was separated and trapped in the mall during the attack but was reunited five hours later.

Prayed for 'protective bubble'

Trapped missionaries recount mall shooting rampage in Nairobi

International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries Chris and Jamie Suel, along with their five children, had only been in the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, for a few minutes when terrorists burst in firing automatic weapons and throwing hand grenades.

The Suels had split up to shop on that day, Sept. 21. It was only after five harrowing hours that they were reunited.

For three hours Jamie Suel and the four youngest children hid behind stacks of packaged flour in a storage area.

"I remember thinking on the way in that the flour would be good,

protective from bullets," she said. They heard the sounds of hand grenades, machine guns and helicopters as they hid.

As the attack on the mall commenced, Chris Suel and the older son tried to find the rest of their family. But they had to turn back as bullets struck the escalator they were on, ricocheting everywhere. They hid in a store that shut and locked its doors.

Keeping contact

"The gunshots kept going non-stop for 10 minutes," Chris Suel said. When they stopped he was able to reach Jamie by phone and learn she and the four children with her were OK.

"For the next five hours grenades and gunshots could be heard," he said. "We were getting phone calls telling us that it was a terrorist attack, and terrorists were pretending to be police to lure people from their hiding spots."

Using her cellphone, Jamie managed to maintain contact with her husband and other members of the Kenya Baptist Mission.

"After a while, some men identifying themselves as police started yelling that it was OK, it was clear, come out, it was OK," Jamie Suel said. "I didn't trust it at all. I called Chris, and while everyone else left he told me that it was not clear and I should not leave. After hanging up I heard a barrage of gunfire. I

thought they had been massacred. I prayed God would put a protective bubble around us so we would not be seen or heard."

Eventually when all seemed clear, she and the four children made their way to safety. Two hours later, Chris and the older son were able to flee and join them at the nearby home of another IMB couple, the Yateses.

"We are certain that among the greatest moments of joy of our lives is when Jack and I spotted Jamie and the younger kids walking toward us, and then as we received the gift of giving them hugs," said Bert Yates, who serves in Nairobi with her husband, Jack.

(See 'Peace,' page 3)

Coming next week:



Dealing with the
world's hunger problem

A World Hunger Sunday emphasis

COMMENT

Hunger — No Respector of Persons

Hunger is no respector of persons. It plagues rural families in Alabama's Black Belt. It stalks children living in the inner cities of the state's metropolitan areas. It afflicts a growing number of seniors tucked away in neatly kept homes in suburbia.

Across the state almost one in five households (18.2 percent) experienced food insecurity from 2009 to 2011. That was the fourth highest rate in the nation. The failing economy continues to impact hunger. A decade ago, the percentage of Alabama households with "very low food insecurity" was 3.3 percent. Now it has more than doubled to 6.8 percent.

In 2011, 54 percent of Alabama's public school students received free or reduced-price school lunches. Alabama ranks first among states for percentage of children living in poverty. Nationwide the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that 18 million children lived in food-insecure households in 2012. That was a 15 percent increase over 2011.

The growing life expectancy of seniors has created the unintended consequence of outliving one's financial resources. In 1935 when Social Security was adopted, the average life expectancy was 61. Now it is 77. For many seniors food stamps (now called SNAP) supplement what they are able to provide for themselves, but hunger among seniors is still one of the fastest growing social problems in the United States.

Spike in food prices

Worldwide the problem of hunger is even bleaker. According to research by the Christian organization Bread for the World, almost 21,000 people die from hunger-related causes every day. Children make up about 16,000 of these. That is one child dying from hunger every five seconds.

The World Bank estimates that the spike in food prices a few years ago together with the economic recession that continues to grip the world forced nearly 150 million people into poverty. That means today there are about 1.5 billion people who live on less than \$1.25 a day. About 870 million of those live in hunger.

Such numbers may be too big to grasp but the death of a single child is heart wrenching. And it is a tragedy every time the lack of proper nutrition impairs a child's mental development or stunts physical growth for a lifetime.

Alabama Baptists understand God's com-



THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

mand to feed the hungry. In Deuteronomy 15:11, Moses spoke for God when he said, "For there will never cease to be poor people in the land; that is why I am commanding you, 'You must willingly open your hand to your afflicted and poor brothers in your land.'" Matthew 25:35-40 even ties judgment to caring for the hungry and needy.

The Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission concludes its section on hunger by observing, "God's Word is clear that we are to minister to the poor and needy as part of our Christian lifestyle. We must not view it in any other way."

Alabama Baptists join with other Southern Baptists to minister to hungry and hurting people in our state, our nation and around the world by supporting the World Hunger Offering.

This year the offering has been renamed. It is being called the Global Hunger Relief Offering. A spokesman said the new name was an attempt to make the offering more appealing to younger Baptists because offering totals have been dropping despite the severe needs. That may be true nationwide, but in Alabama, World Hunger Offering totals have grown four of the last five years. In 2013 Alabama Baptists gave \$809,952, or more than 10 percent of the total given by all Southern Baptists.

Regardless of the name, the guidelines for the offering remain the same. Every dollar given to Global Hunger Relief goes directly to relief efforts. No funds are taken out for administration or promotion — these are provided through the Cooperative Program, the primary giving channel for Southern Baptist missions efforts.

The offering is divided 80 percent to international projects through the International Mission Board (IMB) and 20 percent for domestic

hunger relief efforts through the North American Mission Board (NAMB). NAMB in turn considers funding requests for hunger-related projects from state conventions including Alabama.

Another benefit of Baptist efforts is that relief funds are not thrown at problems. Baptist representatives are there for the long haul. Baptists hope to show the love of God through their relief efforts and hope to build relationships that will open doors for sharing what God has done for all who will believe through Jesus Christ. In addition to caring for the hungry, Baptists long to start churches that will carry on efforts to make Christian disciples.

Some of the upcoming offering will help Baptists respond to emergencies such as the current Syrian refugee crisis. Working with trusted partners, Baptists are in their second year of providing emergency food packets, hygiene kits, basic shelter materials and small amounts of medicines to these refugees.

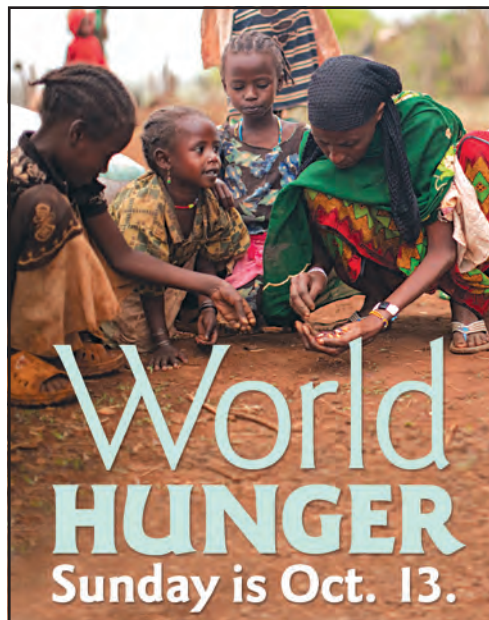
Most of the funds help integrate hunger relief into community development. In rural China, for example, diarrhea caused by polluted drinking water contributes to the death of more than 30,000 children each year. Using funds provided by World Hunger Fund, now the Global Hunger Relief Offering, a small factory making inexpensive ceramic water filters was started in 2009 that produced 7,000 filters per year.

The results were so successful that Baptist partners now hope to enlarge the plant and increase production to more than 30,000 filters per year. Making 80,000 filters annually is a possibility. Tens of thousands of lives are being saved because Baptists helped make water filters possible.

Obedient to God's command

Across the nation and around the world Baptists are helping hungry people regardless of race, gender, age or religion because hunger is no respector of persons. Baptists are being obedient to God's command to care for the hungry by demonstrating God's love in meeting physical and spiritual needs.

Alabama Baptists play a key role in Global Hunger Relief when they give to this special offering scheduled Oct. 13 and when they work through their local churches and other community efforts to help the hungry and hurting who live around them.



Follow Bob Terry
Twitter
@drbobterry





"If ye continue in My word, then ... ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make ye 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 at additional mailing offices.

**PRINT
SUBSCRIPTION RATES**
Church Budget — \$13
Individual — \$20.95

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

**DR. BOBBY S. TERRY
EDITOR**

Jennifer Davis Rash
Executive Editor

Grace Thornton
Assistant Editor

Neisha Fuson
Editorial Assistant
for Online Communications

Julie Payne
News Writer

Lauren C. Grim
Designer

Wanda Bergeron
Local Editions

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), Forum 18 (F18), Morning Star News (MS).

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.

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.

**Full member of
Alabama Press Association**

**'Nation's Top Regional
Christian Newspaper'**

1999, 2004, 2007, 2008,
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
as judged by Associated
Church Press, Evangelical
Press Association or Religious
Communicators Council

Peace and healing



Photo courtesy of Rosslyn Academy

Students at Rosslyn Academy, a Christian school in Nairobi that many children of missionaries attend, hold prayer services in response to three days of national mourning declared by Kenya's president.

After attack, missionaries say 'only Christ can penetrate this evil'

(continued from page 1)

"When Chris and their older son escaped, they were sent to the other end of our street and a coworker collected them."

The Yateses live only a block from the mall. For four days, the tragic events of the mall's takeover and hostage crisis unfolded around them.

By the time it was over, hundreds of people were traumatized, more than 175 wounded and anywhere from 70 to 200 dead. Kenyan authorities continue the grim task of recovering victims buried beneath the rubble of the internally collapsed building. A combination of multiple explosions and intentionally set fires caused sections of the mall to give way.

Militants of the Somali-based al-Shabaab organization seized the mall in retaliation for what they called Kenya's interference in internal Somali affairs. They used automatic weapons and hand grenades to seize hostages and take control of the modern upscale mall.

'A surreal experience'

Bert Yates and her husband heard the gunfire and explosions and watched as helicopters hovered over their house for 72 hours before the crisis was over.

"I would often stop, especially after times of sporadic blasts and firing, and think how calm and normal things were in our house and garden," Bert Yates said. "People were suffering only a short distance away in ways that I could not even imagine. To be so close, but so

separated, was a surreal experience, eerie. But really, there is no good defining word."

Terrorists managed to hold off Kenyan security forces for four days before Kenya's president Uhuru Kenyatta was finally able to announce the end of the ordeal.

Debbie McFerron, an IMB missionary who lives a two-minute walk from the mall, sent out continuous reports and prayer requests as events unfolded over the four days. Using Facebook and a personal blog she and her husband maintain, she said, "Hearing barrages of gunfire, the blasts of grenades and the roar of low-flying police and army helicopters were all constant prayer reminders."

Now in the aftermath of the event, McFerron said, "Pray that even as people's thoughts ran to God during the crisis, they would continue to run to God as daily life resumes."

Not far from Westgate mall is Rosslyn Academy, a Christian school that many children of missionaries attend. Students there initiated outdoor prayer services Sept. 25 in response to three days of national mourning declared by President Kenyatta the day before.

"It has been extremely difficult for the Rosslyn community and for Kenya," a school spokesman said. "While we are grateful that none of our staff or students lost their lives, a few students were seriously injured and at least one lost a beloved parent. The support of the teachers and the community has been amazing, but the days ahead will be hard."

**"Pray ... that
believers will have
opportunities to
share the hope they
have within them."**

**Tim Cearley
Alabama Baptist
IMB missionary**

GODfest to minister to, equip women

First Baptist Church, Montgomery, is set to start a new women's ministry called October GODfest.

The ministry will take the form of a weekly Monday night Bible study held at the church through the month of October. Designed to both encourage and equip women for ministry, the studies will be led by Tanya Goodson McLemore, who also serves as a Sunday School teacher to adults and director of older children's choir at the church.

October GODfest hopes to bring "revival of women on mission for

Christ in their personal lives," according to a press release.

"We hope to minister to women's needs. ... We would also like to equip women to minister to others through their individual and collective gifts and talents."

The inaugural Bible study schedule is: "Knowing Yourself," Oct. 7; "Knowing God," Oct. 14; "Knowing Your Call," Oct. 21; and "Knowing How to Live Your Call," Oct. 28. Worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. with teaching from 7-8 p.m.

Visit www.montgomeryfbc.org/womensrevival to register. (TAB)

Autism: Unlocking the Mystery

Parents and educators interested in learning more about autism may want to check out the Oct. 22 conference on the topic at Gardendale First Baptist Church (south campus).

Autism: Unlocking the Mystery is being sponsored by the Autism Society of Alabama in collaboration with the Birmingham City Schools special education department and the

Ed.S. candidates in the Autism Spectrum Disorder program at UAB.

Tommy Bice, Alabama's state superintendent of education, is the keynote speaker. Other speakers will cover topics such as transitioning an autistic child from middle school to high school to adulthood.

For more information or to register, visit www.unlockingthemystery.com. (TAB)



Parenting styles

Parents can pray, learn to work together, counselor says

Finding a compromise...

Rob and Jen are first-time parents of a 14-month-old girl. In their first few months as parents, they have already realized that they handle parenting issues very differently. Jen and her sister grew up in a very strict, rules-oriented family, while Rob's parents were very permissive with their five rambunctious boys. On a handful of occasions, Rob and Jen have argued about their parenting decisions, and they know they are only getting started. They want to stop arguing and find a compromise that will work for both of them as they parent their daughter, but how do they reconcile their very different pasts and move forward together?

By Lisa Keane
Pathways Professional Counseling
www.pathwaysprofessional.org

Oh the joys of parenthood. It never fails to amaze me how many decisions there are in the world of parenting. Everywhere parents turn, there is a decision to make.

What should we feed our child? How soon should we start this or that? What should we do about a certain issue?

As parents face each new decision, conflict is bound to arise. Sometimes the smallest of issues can develop into an all-out battle between spouses.

Parents seeking to resolve the conflict and find a compromise should take an honest look at their own family history, communicate with each other and spend time praying together.

An individual's parenting history greatly influences how that person will parent his or her own children. As a parent, you must be willing to evaluate your own upbringing and communicate your feelings about your childhood experiences. One way to do this is to spend some time sharing stories and talking about the different facets of your childhood.

Another thing parents can do is research different parenting styles and their outcomes. In most parenting literature there are four common parenting styles. It is important to

remember that all of these parenting styles fall on a continuum and we rarely fit exactly into one type. The four types are:

▶ **Authoritative** parenting is a more balanced style of parenting where parents are attentive. Authoritative parents are focused on strengthening their relationship with their child and on teaching their child appropriate behaviors. In authoritative parenting, the older the child, the more influence he or she has in family decisions. However, the parents always maintain a majority vote in family decisions. Authoritative parents clearly communicate their expectations, and when children meet these expectations, they earn rewards. When the expectations are not met, there are reasonable consequences. There is a balance between relationship and rules.

▶ **Authoritarian** parents are very strict.

They focus on rules, often at the expense of the parent-child relationship. If a parent says "because I said so" more than a few times a week in response to their child's inquiries about family rules, that parent may be a more authoritarian parent.

A different focus

▶ **Permissive** parents focus on the relationship, often at the expense of the rules. Children of permissive parents are sometimes hard to be around for parents who practice one of the other styles of parenting. Permissive parents often see their children as "able to do no wrong." As a result, their children are generally accustomed to getting their way and have great difficulty dealing with frustration. Permissive parents may have poor self-esteem and are often uncomfortable with

their own personal limitations and challenges.

▶ **Uninvolved** parents neglect both the relationship and the rules. Their children are perhaps the most unfortunate in that often they will be neglected both emotionally and relationally.

While all parents must decide which approach they will take with their children, most research suggests that an authoritative approach to parenting generally produces well-adjusted children who have healthy relationships.

Typically children raised by authoritative parents are energetic, friendly, self-reliant, cheerful and achievement-oriented.

Ultimately your goal is to work together with your spouse to parent your child in a way that glorifies God. As parents, our job is neither to raise perfect children nor to be perfect ourselves. Our job is to point our children to Christ in the way we love and guide them.

Leslie Fields, in her book "Parenting is Your Highest Calling" and 8 Other Myths That Trap Us in Worry and Guilt" (Water-Brook Press, 2008), states this very eloquently: "If I pursue God first as my highest call and am satisfied in His love, then I am freed not to love my children less but to love them rightly."

As parents, we must seek God in our decision making and not only work to communicate with our spouses but to communicate with God about the decisions we have to make. Seek out God's guidance together and pray for the wisdom only He can provide. ❏

An individual's parenting history greatly influences how that person will parent his or her own children. As a parent, you must be willing to evaluate your own upbringing and communicate your feelings about your childhood experiences.

Generational influences

Parents' childhood experiences affect their reaction to children

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

In our media-saturated culture, parenting advice abounds. Experts regularly share their philosophies and tips on morning television shows. Thousands of books and websites and dozens of magazines are devoted entirely to the subject of parenting, and headlines like “Tackle Tantrums,” “How to Find the Right Preschool” and “Why Can’t I Say No?” appeal to parents’ deepest desire — to raise children who are emotionally, physically and spiritually healthy.

One aspect of parenting that is often overlooked, however, is generational influence — how the way you were parented affects your own parenting approach.

Adults who grew up in authoritarian households, for example, may feel pressured to allow their own children more freedom at the expense of their family values. Tim Kimmel, author of “Faith Based Parenting,” writes that even well-meaning Christian parents can fall victim to the boundary-less culture around them. On the other hand, adults raised by permissive parents may follow another extreme, setting restrictive boundaries for their children’s choices in friends, entertainment, sports, education and spiritual lives “hoping that they have somehow made it safer for their children to go through life,” Kimmel writes. But this is a false hope, he said.

“Since how children turn out is far more contingent on what is going on inside them than outside them, unnecessarily tight boundaries undermine the desire of the Holy Spirit, who is working to build a sense of moral resolve in their hearts,” he writes.

Most researchers agree that authoritative par-

enting, in which children are given a voice in family decisions while parents retain the power to set boundaries, is the ideal parenting style for raising healthy, well-adjusted children. However in order to achieve an emotional balance as a parent, adults must understand how their childhood experiences affect their current relationship and interactions with their children.

In the book “Parenting From the Inside Out,” child psychiatrist Daniel Siegel writes that left-over or unresolved issues from one’s childhood can trigger strong emotional reactions even in relatively routine parenting situations, such as when the family is running late or when a child acts out in public. A parent may “lose it” with her kids but later feel that she overreacted.

Childhood experiences

Many childhood experiences can influence an individual’s actions and emotions into adulthood, Siegel writes. For example, a child who internalized her parents’ constant worries about money may find herself unwilling to spend money on her own children. Or a parent who as a child was shuffled from caregiver to caregiver because of the serious illness of a parent or sibling may struggle to attach to his own child years later without fully understanding why. The common factor is that the adult has an overly emotional response based not on the current situation but rather on childhood experiences that may not even be conscious memories.

In these cases, the adult often blames himself for not acting as he should, and as a result the parent-child relationship is affected.

“At these times, we’re not acting like the parent we want to be and are often left wondering why this role of parenting sometimes seems to

‘bring out the worst in us,’” Siegel writes.

Understanding one’s own parental influences can help parents recognize and change undesirable responses to their own children, Siegel suggests. He offers several questions for self-reflection, including the following:

▶ How did you get along with your parents early in your childhood? How did the relationship evolve throughout your youth and up until the present time?

▶ How did your parents discipline you as a child? What impact did that have on your childhood, and how do you feel it affects your role as a parent now?

▶ How did your parents communicate with you when you were happy and excited? Did they join with you in your enthusiasm? When you were distressed or unhappy as a child, what would happen?

▶ How have your childhood experiences influenced your relationships with others as an adult? Do you find yourself trying not to behave in certain ways because of what happened to you as a child? Do you have patterns of behavior that you would like to alter but have difficulty changing?

▶ What impact do you think your childhood has had on your adult life in general?

Honest self-reflection can help a parent recognize the patterns of the past and make changes to improve the parent-child relationship in the present, Siegel suggests.

However the goal is not simply for parents and children to get along, Kimmel said. “The real test of a parenting model is how well equipped the children are to move into adulthood as vital members of the human race . . . engaged in the lives of people in their culture (and) gracefully representing Christ’s love.” ☞

How parents view God can affect their perception of authority

By **Rod Marshall**
Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries

Researchers have long thought that there are four distinct parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, permissive and uninvolved. While parents generally exhibit some combination of these four styles, most practice one dominant style.

As Christians, we believe God is our Heavenly Father. So what are the theological implications of the four parenting styles? Is there one that is more clearly a Christian approach to parenting?

Scripture clearly teaches that God is not uninvolved in the lives of His children. Psalm 68:5 describes God as a Father to the fatherless, and Jesus referred to God as Father almost 200 times throughout the Gospels. Isaiah 40:1 speaks of God’s desire to “comfort” His people, just as a parent might do in the wake of disciplining a child. It seems clear that Scripture reveals God in the role of Heavenly Father.

That is not to say we will always feel comforted. We may have long periods of spiritual hunger and darkness in which we feel neglected by God. For most Christians, these “dark nights of the soul” (a term introduced by St. John of the Cross in a poem in the 16th century) end in resolution and reassurance of God’s presence and activity in the lives of believers. “Dark night” seasons may be purposeful to facilitate greater dependence on

God, or they may be in response to unconfessed sin or a lack of repentance. It is critical to note that the dark night seasons are not indicative of an uninvolved God.

Likewise orthodox Christians rarely view God as a permissive God. He is not so focused on His desire to have a relationship with us that He is willing to completely set aside all His expectations. Christians who have been influenced by “pop theology” may have the idea that God wants nothing more than for them to be happy. They may use their belief in a permissive God to excuse all manner of immoral living. A permissive God is clearly the invention of an immature and selfish society and is inconsistent with God as revealed in Scripture.

Many people view God as an authoritarian Heavenly Father. This view focuses on the divine attribute of holiness. Because God is holy, He has the expectation that we also be holy (Lev. 11:44, 1 Pet. 1:16). However God’s expectations of us do not contradict His desire to be in relationship with us. Romans 5:8 says that “while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

God recognizes that we are unable to be holy on our own. Therefore He has made a way for us to enter into His presence. The great lengths God has gone to so we may be in relationship with Him reveal the value He places upon us. A strictly authoritarian God would lose His desire to be in

relationship with us if we were not able to follow His rules.

Most parenting research reveals that the best parenting style for raising healthy children is the authoritative parenting style. I would argue that the authoritative parenting style is also the most reflective of our Heavenly Father.

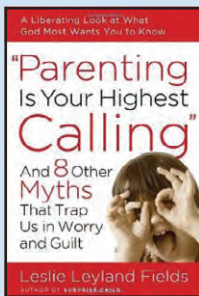
High expectations

Authoritative parents are not weak. Their expectations of their children are high. They do not easily give in, but they do take into account the feelings and needs of their child. They are strong yet gentle. Christian authoritative parents use parenting as an opportunity to demonstrate the Fruit of the Spirit. When they are angry or disappointed with their children, it is at that very moment that they exhibit “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” (Gal. 5:22–23).

God has clearly communicated His expectations to His children. There are rewards for meeting His expectations and consequences for falling short. As parents, however, we reflect our Heavenly Father when we parent our children with a healthy balance between relationship and rules.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Rod Marshall is president and CEO of Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries, www.alabamachild.org. ☞

Authoritative parenting resources



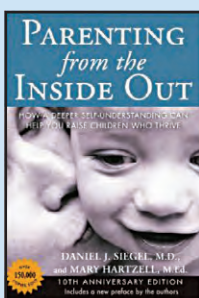
“‘Parenting is Your Highest Calling’ and 8 Other Myths That Trap Us in Worry and Guilt”

by Leslie Leyland Fields



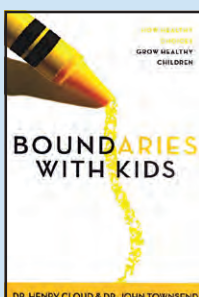
“Grace-Based Parenting”

by Tim Kimmel



“Parenting From the Inside Out”

by Daniel Siegel and Mary Hartzell



“Boundaries with Kids”

by Henry Cloud and John Townsend

Across ALABAMA'S Associations

To submit news items, email news@thealabamabaptist.org or call 205-870-4720, ext. 112, at least three weeks prior to the event.

BIRMINGHAM

► **Hilldale Church, Center Point**, will hold a community yard sale Oct. 5, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Rent a space (two parking spaces) and a 6-foot table. Vendors are welcome and may sell new or used items and crafts but not food. The church also will hold a children's event Oct. 5, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. There will be games and prizes, face painting, an art center and more. Contact the church for information on these events at 205-853-3000. Ron Pate is pastor.

CENTRAL

► **Weogufka Second Church** will celebrate homecoming Oct. 13, 10 a.m. Former pastor John Gordy will speak. Music and singing will feature Weogufka Second members. Lunch will follow. To help the church recognize World Hunger Day they ask that you bring a nonperishable food item that will be used to help families in the area. Brandon Baird is pastor.

COVINGTON

► **East Highland Church, Andalusia**, will celebrate its 67th homecoming Oct. 6, 11 a.m. Former pastor Roger Lee will speak and a fellowship lunch will follow. Hank Roberts is pastor. ► **Southside Church, Opp**, will hold a blood drive in memory of Shaun Johnson on Oct. 9, 1–6 p.m. Call 334-493-6340 to schedule a donation appointment. Stewart Young is pastor.

ESCAMBIA

► **James Hill** is the new pastor of **Nokomis Church, Atmore**. He has 36 years in the ministry and previously served as pastor of Fairhope Avenue Church, Fairhope, for more than 17 years. He and his wife, Peggy, have three children. ► **Sardis Church, Atmore**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 13, 10 a.m. There will be singing by the Master's Trio and former pastor Bobby Smith will speak. Lunch will follow in the fellowship hall. The public is invited. Earle Greene is interim pastor.



HILL

DALE

► **Camp Ground Church, Ozark**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 6 beginning with Bible study at 9:15 a.m. Worship will follow at 10:30 a.m. Tim Bates will speak and a covered dish lunch will follow. All former and current members, pastors,

friends and family are invited. For information call the church at 334-774-2071 or visit www.campgroundbaptistchurch.org. Al Sonanstone is pastor.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

► The churches of **Lookout Mountain Association** will celebrate Outreach Saturday on Oct. 19 with the goal of each church making a doorstep visit to 20 homes. This annual effort has proven fruitful and is a growing experience for everyone involved. Lloyd Borden is director of missions. ► **New Bethel Church, Collinsville**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 13, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. with lunch served. Former pastors will speak. Daniel Lawson is pastor.

MONTGOMERY

► **Snowdown Church, Montgomery**, will celebrate its 62nd annual homecoming/revival Oct. 13, 11 a.m. Pastor Steve Campbell will speak and a covered dish lunch will follow. Special singing will open revival at 6:30 p.m. with Harlan Burton, followed by a message from Carmen Falcione. Revival will continue 6:30 nightly through Oct. 16.

NORTH JEFFERSON

► **Glenn's Chapel Church, Gardendale**, will celebrate its 73rd homecoming Oct. 6. Regular services will be at 10:55 a.m. and lunch will follow at noon. The afternoon service will begin at 1:30 p.m. with special guest singer Tim Samson. All former members are invited. Thomas Perkins is pastor.

SELMA

► **Selma Association** will hold a missions fair Oct. 14, 4–7:30 p.m. at Lion's Fair Park. There will be music from Four by Grace, balloons, popcorn and snow cones. Tom Stacey is director of missions.

TUSKEGEE LEE

► **Providence Church, Opelika**, will hold a fall festival on the East campus Oct. 19, 10 a.m.–noon. There will be hayrides, bouncy houses, face painting, puppets, a petting zoo, fishing booth, cake walk, crafts, games and food (including a pie contest). Live music will be provided by Bro. Billy Bob Bohannon. Rusty Sowell is pastor.

WASHINGTON

► **Reed's Chapel Church, McIntosh**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 13. Sunday School will be at 10 a.m. and worship service at 11 a.m. Pastor Ricky Turner will speak. Lunch will follow the services. Everyone is invited to attend.

WINSTON

► **Grace Church, Haleyville**, will hold a camp meeting Oct. 19 beginning at 9 a.m. Glenn Bridgemon, Mark Kimbrell, Joe Spiller and John Stancel will speak and there will be special music during the service. Lunch will be served at noon. Ricky Thrasher is pastor.

TUSCALOOSA

► **Alberta Church, Tuscaloosa**, has called **Cyndi Dent** as part-time children's ministry director. A native of Tuscaloosa, Dent is a senior at the University of Alabama where her major is elementary education. Larry Corder is pastor.



DENT

OTHER

► Members of the former **Mount Moriah Fellowship Church**, located on Mount Moriah Drive on the Butler-Wilcox county line, will celebrate homecoming called Second Sunday on Oct. 13, 11 a.m. Frank M. Barker, pastor emeritus of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, will speak. Lunch will follow (bring a covered dish and serving pieces). The Mount Moriah church board will meet in the sanctuary at 1:15 p.m. The JGD Trust Inc. meeting will be at 1:45 p.m. For information call 205-879-7849 or email maryalice@carmichael1.com.



North Highland celebrates 50 years, pastor retirement

North Highland Baptist Church, Tuscumbia, held a dual-purpose celebration Aug. 18 — retirement of Pastor Paul Cummings and the church's 50th anniversary.

Cummings was recognized and honored during the morning service and he then formally recognized Daniel Dulaney, the incoming pastor for the Colbert-Lauderdale Baptist Association church. Dulaney's first day was Aug. 25.

A fellowship lunch followed the morning service, then at 1:30 p.m. the anniversary service was held. Special music was provided by the choir and solos by church members. Pictures of charter members and the church throughout the years were displayed. Gary Pace, charter member and deacon for North Highland Baptist, said around 70 people attended.

Jerry Armor, Alabama Baptist Historical Commission representative, and Eddy Garner, director of missions for Colbert-Lauderdale Association, presented the church with commemorative plaques.

As for the future, Dulaney said, "My hope for the church is that we will stay focused on prayer and God's Word. ... We want to be salt and light in our community and throughout the entire Shoals area." (Neisha Fuson)

Fort Payne's Allen Memorial marks 75 years

Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Fort Payne, celebrated its 75th anniversary Aug. 18, the very day the DeKalb Baptist Association church was founded in 1938.

Musical presentations were featured during the service that began at 10 a.m., and Pastor Ken James said the program was "well planned."

James also noted that during the service, several missionaries and former pastors from Allen Memorial Baptist were recognized.

Special guests attending the service included the mayor of Fort Payne, Larry Chesser, as well as Ken Clement, director of missions for DeKalb Association. "We had a full house," James said, adding that at least four states were represented by guests.

Lonette Berg, executive director for the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque for the church's 75 years of ministry, and James made a challenge for Allen Memorial's future.

A lunch followed the service in the fellowship hall, which James noted was "decorated like a Ritz Carlton." (Julie Payne)



Photo courtesy of Coffee Baptist Association

COFFEE ASSOCIATION HOLDS ANNUAL PRAYER WALK, 595 ATTEND

'Praying on site with insight' was the theme for the 2013 Coffee Baptist Association annual prayer walk at Coffee County schools, coordinated by the association's Woman's Missionary Union. A group of 595 people gathered Aug. 24 at Zion Chapel High School in Jack to pray for students, teachers, bus drivers, principals and others connected to the school system.

The Cooperative Program

in action in Alabama



State's Baptist Campus Ministries have 'immense missions field' among students

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Brant Bonds isn't just being dramatic — his life really would look a whole lot different if it wasn't for Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM).

For starters, he wouldn't have met his wife, Allison, at a BCM student week at Ridgecrest in North Carolina.

But he also likely wouldn't have grown in his walk with God the way he did, or develop a sense of calling to missions — or move his family to Brazil.

"Baptist Campus Ministries has had a huge impact on my life and will forever hold a special place in my heart," said Bonds, who was part of the BCM at Auburn University during his time there as a student. "During my college years, the BCM helped me grow tremendously in my walk with Christ through its discipleship and evangelism focuses and its emphasis on the importance of being involved in a local church."

BCM also grew a strong love for missions in Bonds' heart. He served as a student summer missionary to western Canada, and during his time there God clarified his call to ministry, Bonds said. After he graduated from Auburn, he enrolled at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham.

"While there, I began to think on the big impact BCM had on my life and how the college campus is such an immense missions field," Bonds said. "I sensed God calling me into campus ministry."

He served nearly a decade total as the associate campus minister at the University of South Alabama in Mobile, then at Auburn University before feeling a tug toward the international missions field.

"God would have had to call me away from BCM ministry because I love it so



Photo courtesy of Blaine Thompson

Blaine Thompson, a student at UAB, speaks to an English class during a recent trip to Asia. Thompson says Baptist Campus Ministries exposed him to local and international missions work and opened his heart to God's calling for his life.

much and because college campuses are such large and important missions fields. And that is what He did," Bonds said.

CP is 'our only lifeline'

Steve Thompson, campus minister at Auburn for the past 17 years, said Bonds is one of many students who have found that BCM "provided an opportunity to grapple with faith and come to an understanding of their own personal faith."

"There are many students who have then gone on to serve faithfully in their chosen vocations, some of which were Christian vocations," said Thompson, who served 11 years as campus minister at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) before moving to Auburn.

Mike Nuss, director of the office of collegiate and student ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said BCM is a "perfect picture of the Cooperative Program (CP) at work in Alabama."

"Gifts from Alabama Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program give every church the ability to minister on one of Alabama's greatest missions fields — the college and university campus," Nuss said. Thompson agreed, noting that "the CP is our only lifeline, the only mechanism to fund campus ministry personnel and student centers" in Alabama.

It's a fact he tried to keep in front of his sons as they grew up in a family serving in a CP-funded capacity.

"Any time I have had an opportunity to share at a church (about BCM's impact), I've tried to take one of them with me," Thompson said. "I wanted to help them visualize how we're funded and who it is that's funding us so we can be appreciative of the sacrificial giving of so many people across Alabama."

His son Blaine said he got that message loud and clear. He saw how important BCM was and thus the funding that kept it going.

"Growing up with my dad and around that culture, it came to light how important the college experience is ... it represents the first time a student is outside their parents' house and at a crossroads to choose to

go one way or another," he said. "BCM is a really good way of helping students stay grounded in an impressionable part of their life."

Now as a student at UAB, Blaine Thompson is experiencing that firsthand.

"It has made a really, really big impact on my life," he said. "Through BCM I was exposed to domestic and overseas missions, and that opened doors to what I believe is God's calling for my

life," he said. "I feel like I'm being called to a career overseas."

BCM helped him at a time when he was "kind of finding my own faith," he said, noting that the relationships he's built and emphasis on church involvement has helped guide him through his time in college.

Bonds asked for prayer for BCMs and their campus ministries "as they are salt and light for Jesus on college campuses."

"God uses BCMs in a mighty way to reach students for Christ," he said.

For more information, visit www.one-missionstudents.org.



Photo courtesy of Steve Thompson

Steve Thompson (right), campus minister at Auburn University, has taken many groups of students on trips overseas to expose them to international missions.



BONDS



Photo by Julie Payne

Jason Underwood

Need for control

Privatization of alcohol sales not the answer, attorney says

By Julie Payne
The Alabama Baptist

While teenage drinking is at a historic low and the rate of alcohol use among seniors in high school has fallen 25 percentage points since 1980, “we still have problems,” said attorney Jason Underwood. Approximately 80,000 deaths each year in the U.S. are related to excessive alcohol use, he noted.

Underwood spoke during the Sept. 24 meeting of the American Council on Alcohol Problems (ACAP) — a federation of 37 state affiliates promoting the reduction of alcohol advertising, availability and consumption in the U.S. — at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Privatization of alcohol sales, which has been informally discussed among state legislators, is not the answer to eliminating the social ills caused by alcohol abuse, said Underwood, who handles government relations for Sazerac, the largest privately held manufacturer of alcoholic beverages in the U.S.

With privatization “you get less tax revenue and more problems associated with increased drinking,” he said.

Privatization is when private companies handle alcohol sales and distribution rather than being in a “control state,” where the state sells and distributes heavier beverages at local Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) stores. Alabama is a “control state.”

Joe Godfrey, executive director of ACAP-affiliate Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP), said Alabama currently ranks among the highest in revenue in alcohol sales and among the lowest in consumption.

“The fact that [control] keeps consumption low is the thing that concerns us (ALCAP) the most,” he said. “When you take away controls, consumption goes up.”

“The fact (is) that we’re talking about an addictive, mind-altering drug that must be

controlled, even to the point that (liquor) manufacturers recognize the need for control,” Godfrey said.

In his presentation, Underwood cited the example of Washington state, which privatized in 2012 as a result of a statewide referendum led by Costco, who contributed roughly \$25 million to the winning campaign.

Negative impacts

Alcoholic beverage sales in Washington state have increased by more than 40 percent since it privatized, he said, noting teen drinking and shoplifting also have increased. Individual stores reported losing as much as \$50,000 in the first three months of privatization, he added.

Also speaking at the ACAP meeting was James Angel, a professor in the department of kinesiology at Samford University

in Birmingham, who outlined the negative impacts of alcohol.

There are several specific health risks of chronic heavy drinking, he said. They are: anemia, cancer, cardiovascular disease, cirrhosis, depression, alcoholic liver disease, alcohol dementia, seizures, gout, high blood pressure, infectious disease (heavy drinking suppresses the immune system), nerve damage and pancreatitis.

Angel also noted that adolescents and young adults are at an increased risk to alcohol’s harmful effects, especially if binge drinking. And according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 90 percent of all alcohol consumed by teens is done while binge drinking, he said.

For more information about ACAP, visit www.sapacap.com, and for more information on ALCAP, visit www.alcap.com.

Living with a Reverse Mortgage

By Jimmy Dixon

“What is it like to have a reverse mortgage?” Max and Carolyn Youngblood (a retired pastor and wife) have answered:

“Carolyn and I took out a reverse mortgage a little over two years ago after reading Jimmy Dixon’s article in *The Alabama Baptist*. Jimmy came to our home and he was most knowledgeable, kind and patient — a true Christian gentleman.

We decided to apply because we had a mortgage that was a struggle to pay each month. Plus there were some improvements that we wanted to make to our home. Since we closed on our reverse mortgage, life is better because we no longer have any

monthly payments and our home looks so much better.

Each month we receive informative statements from the lender. We are pleased that we have a reverse mortgage and we highly recommend Jimmy to you.”

Remember, like *The Alabama Baptist*, Jimmy covers our great state helping seniors improve the quality of their lives. He is Bible study director and an active deacon at Valley Creek Baptist Church, Hueytown. For a free brochure, quote or DVD, contact him directly at 205-567-4800 or jdixon@mcgowinking.com.



Max and Carolyn



Jimmy Dixon

— Paid Advertising —



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER
NMLS
#207518

in Loving Memory

of Alabama Baptist leaders, friends



Jack Randolph Brown

Former Dale Association DOM Brown dies

Jack Randolph Brown, former director of missions (DOM) for Dale Baptist Association, died Sept. 12. He was 83.

Brown, a native of Mount Vernon, served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War.

He earned a bachelor of arts degree and master of arts degree from the University of Alabama and master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Brown served as pastor of several Baptist churches in Alabama and Mississippi during his ministry. He also served more than 12 years as DOM for Dale Association and later as associate DOM for Tuscaloosa Baptist Association for three years.

He was a member of Carrolls Creek Baptist Church, Northport, and in 2005 received the Northport Outstanding Religious Leader Award.

Brown is survived by his wife of almost 60 years, Naomia; one daughter; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Brett. (TAB)



BROWN

Norman Clapp

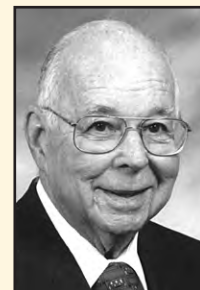
Former Alabama Baptist pastor Clapp dies

Norman Clapp, who served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Michigan and Pennsylvania, died Sept. 4. He was 95.

Clapp, originally from Vermont, attended Bob Jones University while it was located in Cleveland, Tenn.

He was called as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Mobile, in 1946 and served as pastor for four years. In 1950, Clapp became the first full-time pastor of Spring Hill Baptist Church, Mobile. During his 22-year tenure, Clapp saw 962 people baptized and five buildings erected for the church. He later helped start Hillcrest Baptist Church, Mobile, in the 1980s — a mission church of First Baptist Church, Mobile.

Clapp is preceded in death by his wife, Ida. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. (Neisha Fuson)



CLAPP

Follow us on Twitter
@AlabamaBaptist

YOUR PRIORITY IS MINISTRY
OURS IS GETTING YOU THERE

THEBUSCENTER.COM

Search our Huge Inventory of New & Used Buses

- Nationwide Delivery
- Online Pricing
- Onsite Bus Graphics
- Quick & Easy Leasing or Financing

800-367-9463 ALABAMA'S PREMIER BUS DEALER
A DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION SOUTH

ATTENTION PASTORS

YOU host a Body 4 Believers event.
WE put money into a church ministry of your choice.

Our ministry wants to give back to your ministry by creating an incentive program that encourages your congregation to actively participate in the efforts of inviting others to this event. We help you teach your congregation how to lose weight and become healthy. In return, we put money into a ministry of your choice. Every pastor has at least one ministry within their church raising money for a great cause.

Our goal is to partner with you by being involved with your community outreach efforts. By hosting **Body 4 Believers**, you are creating an event your church members can use to invite the unchurched families in your area.

Body
4
Believers

205-497-9630
www.body4believer.com
body4believers@bellsouth.net

Want to see your news in *The Alabama Baptist*?
Email your information to news@thealabamabaptist.org.

Apply today @ www.hlg.edu/admissions

Southern Baptist Heritage

50% TUITION SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARSHIP QUALIFICATIONS:

- Active member of a Southern Baptist Church
(Church recommendation required)
- Full-time, degree-seeking enrollment
- Meet all admission guidelines
- Residential student at HLGU

"Hannibal-LaGrange University's heart for the Lord is both encouraging and refreshing to be around, which makes for a unique college environment. I love my HLGU and I am so glad God led me here!"

- Arielle Willis



Hannibal-LaGrange
UNIVERSITY

Knowledge for Service

Hannibal, MO | 800.HLG.1119

www.hlg.edu

For more information scan the code



IMB photo

Persecution among church leaders in closed countries is 'really intense' right now, a Christian worker overseas says. While some are fleeing, others are receiving theological training to go back and train others.

Despite dangers

Believers in closed countries risk it all to study Scripture

Paul is a former Muslim who has come to know Christ. In his home country, converting to Christianity is illegal. He was recently imprisoned, released and re-arrested for continuing to evangelize.

The second time he was arrested, the authorities took the deed to his house and his identification papers, which they kept until a harsher punishment was meted out. Strangely, through a clerical error, his papers and his house were returned to the family before his sentencing. Paul took that as confirmation from God that he should leave his home country and seek asylum somewhere else. He is currently in a safe place.

Bob is a Christian worker overseas. He has begun a training center for men like Paul in the country where he lives. His biggest challenge is creating theological training for men who are living in life-threatening conditions.

"We have to take a lot of security measures in order to have classes. Even here in this country where Christianity is legal, there are spies from closed countries that make our contact with those believers very dangerous," Bob said. "If we can keep them out of jail, we have about four students that are pretty active."

Currently they have one other student missing. Bob said he assumes he is in prison or at least under so much scrutiny that he is immobilized.

Paul is a key player in Bob's vision for the training center. He plans to go to Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS) in Wake Forest, N.C., and get his education so he can come back to his region of the world, be a full-time teacher and preacher and train his own people at Bob's training center. His experiences and perspective will be invaluable.

"Americans aren't always answering the theological questions our nationals are asking," Bob said. "We need resources (men like Paul) from countries that better match the environment from whence these men and women come."

The training center currently partners with SEBTS to help these men get a master of arts in intercultural studies. The ultimate goal is to have a national on

staff at the seminary to serve as an adjunct professor and help the students with their language. It is difficult to convey spiritual truth in a second language.

For this reason Bob is building the center with a three-generational vision.

"The first step will have to be in English because working with an accreditation board limits our flexibility with the kinds of classes offered. Those guys are the struggle generation," Bob explained. "The vision is to have those guys turn around and teach the next generation, which won't need the language or cultural understanding. The third generation will be more cultural and indigenous."

Relentless efforts

Regardless of the difficult environment the home country offers, these men and women are relentless in their efforts to share their faith. Bob said people are coming to faith as a result of dreams and visions and as a result of reading Scripture. He wants to ensure that, as new believers read the Bible, they have the tools to understand the original languages and preserve the integrity of the text.

"You can't teach what the Bible means until you know what the Bible says" is Bob's mantra in class. He wants to teach these followers of Christ what the Bible means.

Please pray for Bob and his ministry to persecuted church leaders. "The time of persecution is really intense right now. It has led to a significant exodus of church leaders, leaving a tremendous void," Bob said. "There is still a great deal of response to the gospel, but getting leaders trained and put back in place to operate safely and effectively is quite a challenge."

Pray that Bob can identify the right people to come out for training and that it will not alert the authorities.

Pray for Bob's team as they are seeking to expand their partnerships to help leaders get what they need to be Kingdom effective.

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

Future bright for Christian institutions in Myanmar

By Jack Brymer
Samford University

For 200 years, Christian education in Myanmar, formerly Burma, has endured through all kinds of challenges and the future is as bright as the promise of God, according to Samuel Ling, principal of Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT).

In a plenary session of the annual meeting of the Consortium for Global Education held Sept. 18-20 at Samford University in Birmingham, Ling traced the history of the institution back to Adoniram and Ann Judson, the first American Baptist missionary couple who arrived there July 13, 1813.

"Burma is Baptist country," he told the international educators. "The country is changing to a more democratic, freer nation and offers new life in the future, but education is still important," he said.

About 140 international educators attended the meeting from 40 universities including 10 from other nations.

'Transformational'

In introducing the plenary session titled Myanmar — Celebrating 200 years of Christian Education, Jeanna Westmoreland, Samford's first lady, told of studying about the Judsons in missions organizations in her church as a youngster. These memories be-

came special to her during a recent visit to the country with Samford faculty member Rosemary Fisk and several students. "It was transformational," she said. "Tremendous changes are taking place there."

Fisk, who was unable to attend the session due to illness, first visited Burma in 2001 on a tour that retraced the route of the Judsons. "I saw the potential for a transformative study abroad experience for Samford students, and in 2004 and 2007 took groups back," she said. "We read accounts by missionaries learning the Theravada Buddhist culture and works by Burmese Buddhists who had encountered westerners."

Fisk returned in 2011 as part of a Fulbright appointment to Hong Kong, where she lectured at MIT.

"I saw that the Christian institutions somehow have been able to keep an educational system going with no resources from the government," she said. "My goal now is to create a sustainable Samford-MIT partnership that builds on our Baptist heritage for the benefit of both institutions and creates more opportunities for all of us to think about the role of religion in a de-

mocracy. I do believe that Myanmar is now on the road to democracy; hence, I can begin to use the government's preferred name instead of my beloved Burma."

The current institution began in 1927 with three students and was founded by the Myanmar Baptist Association. Today the private Baptist institution has 620 undergraduate and 447 graduate students with membership and/or affiliations in several international organizations, including Samford University. Of its 447 graduate theology students, 245 are male and 202 are female.

Principal Ling called Myanmar a "colorful nation" with eight major ethnic groups and 135 dialects. The student body includes 22 ethnic groups, 11 denominations and four religions — Christian, Buddhist, Muslim and Hindu.

The consortium, which is headquartered in Atlanta, signed agreements with two new members during the session — Bashkir State Pedagogical University in Ufa, Russia, and American College of Thessaloniki in Greece. Representatives of both institutions encouraged study abroad, claiming statistics indicate that students who

do earn better grades and mature faster.

Several Samford faculty with international experience contributed to workshops dealing with special subjects. Former Samford faculty Charles (Chuck) Sands, now provost of California Baptist University, and Michael Hogue, acting dean of the McWhorter School of Pharmacy, co-led a session focused on the intentional missions service learning opportunities in which the two institutions are engaged, specifically in the health-care education area.

'Academic engagement'

"It has become very popular in higher education for institutions to expand their global student exchange and study abroad initiatives," Hogue said. "However, Baptist institutions have a unique opportunity to be intentional in providing educational opportunities abroad which are clearly centered on Christian missions service."

Sands added that intentionality in international learning options for health-care professions is critical. "We go back to the same places every year because we value relationships," he said. "This also ensures follow-up, and our experience is that the long-term institutional relationships also tend to provide much more intentional academic engagement through service as well." ■

Want to know God?

Pastor Jerry Henry
First Baptist Church, Fairhope

Philippians is an amazing letter in the Bible. It is only four chapters long, but it is full of insights into the Christian life. What is amazing is that the letter was written by Paul while he was in a situation of difficulty. While in a prison cell and in the hands of a fanatic ruler, Paul wrote about the joy of the Lord. He was either crazy or he knew a power that shows up in painful moments.

I heard about a man who was driving down a street and somebody yelled, "Pig." The man took that as an insult and turned to yell back. When he did, he hit a pig and totally wrecked his car. What had been given as a warning was taken as an insult. If he had just listened, he would have avoided a messy wreck.

The story of the church of Philippi begins with a prayer meeting by the riverside. A group of women was there every Sabbath to pray for God's work in their lives and in the life of the city. The leader of that group was a lady named Lydia, a successful businesswoman. She was in the high fashion world and rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous.

As successful as she was, something was missing in her life. She felt God was the answer, but she didn't know how to reach Him. Then Paul showed up. God led him to this place. He may have hoped for a citywide crusade with the leading men of the city. What he received was a prayer meeting outside the city with a group of pagan women.

Paul shared the good news of Jesus. His message included the fact that all have sinned and need the payment of our sin — the cross. Instead of being insulted, Lydia opened her heart and surrendered her life to receive Christ as her Savior. It was an exciting moment. She was the first convert in Europe. Here was a successful businesswoman who found the joy only Jesus gives.

Avoid the messy wreck of a life without God. Hear the message of God's love in Jesus and accept His salvation. It is amazing how many people keep hitting pigs. However Paul knew the Christ who takes the messy wrecks of life and puts back together what sin tears apart. The joy that Christ gives is like no other. ■

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: Four Points Baptist Church in Centreville, Ala., is now accepting resumés for a full-time senior pastor. Please send resumés to: Audie Hodgens, 382 1st Ave. N., Centreville, AL 35042.

SENIOR PASTOR: Piedmont FBC is currently seeking a full-time senior pastor. Send resumés to: Kip McFry, 605 Piedmont Avenue, Piedmont, AL 36272, or email to: fbcpastorsearchteam@gmail.com.

PASTOR: Axis First Baptist Church is seeking a God-led, spirit-filled individual for the position of pastor. Send resumés to: P.O. Box 98, Axis, AL 36505.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR: Grace Baptist in Montevallo is seeking God's direction for a bivocational pastor. Please email resumés to: gracebaptistmontevallo@gmail.com or call 205-602-3847.

MUSIC MINISTER: Shades Crest Baptist Church, a 1,200-member CBF/SBC congregation in Birmingham, Ala., seeks an experienced minister to lead a multifaceted music and worship ministry. SCBC values traditional worship that is blended with contemporary elements in order to honor God and meet the needs of people. Successful candidates should have a graduate degree in music, experience in leading a music program including fully graded choirs and orchestra, and a commitment to serve on a pastoral team. If interested, send resumés and cover letter by Nov. 15 to: sbcmusicsearch@gmail.com, or by mail to: Search Committee, Shades Crest Baptist Church,

452 Park Ave., Birmingham, AL 35226.

WORSHIP LEADER: Grace Baptist in Montevallo is seeking God's direction for a worship leader to lead our congregation in praise and worship. Please email resumés to: gracebaptistmontevallo@gmail.com or call 205-602-3847.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC: Liberty Baptist Church, Hartselle, Ala. Prefer blended/traditional music. Send resumés to: Liberty Baptist Church, 1206 Lane Road NW, Hartselle, AL 35640.

WORSHIP LEADER & ACCOMPANIST: Pleasant View Baptist Church, Foley, seeks musicians to lead and accompany our adult choir and worship music. Worship is blended-traditional. Information/application at 251-943-1845.

OTHER POSITIONS

ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR: Southeastern Bible College is accepting resumés for admissions director until Nov. 1. Qualifications: minimum bachelor's degree and five years experience in student recruitment or marketing. For more information, see www.sebc.edu. Resumés to: Kristie Harrick, Dean of Students, SEBC, 2545 Valleydale Road, Birmingham, AL 35244, or emailed to: kharrick@sebc.edu.

HOUSE PARENTS: Christian couple needed to serve as relief house parents at the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes in Decatur. Position is full-time with benefits. Couple must be committed to Christian walk and willing to be flexible in work schedule. Typical

schedule is 6 days on in cottages, 3 days off. HS diploma or GED required. Contact Dr. Michael Smith at 256-355-6893 or dmsmith@abchome.org.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS: The Tallapoosa Baptist Association is seeking a director of missions. Please forward resumés to: TBA Search Team, Box 308, Dadeville, AL 36853 or email: gwig@att.net. Deadline: Oct. 1.

BUSINESS

MOVING? LOCAL, STATEWIDE OR LONG DISTANCE: Coleman American/Allied Van Lines. Special rate and programs for Alabama Baptist ministers, staff and church members. Contact Gary Washington at 205-540-7470 or gary.washington@covan.com.

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

TIME TO REPLACE THAT OLD CHURCH SIGN?: Reliable Sign Services, a Christian-operated, full-service sign company for two decades, is ready to assist you as you expand your church sign ministry. From electronic message boards to traditional signs, Reliable will fabricate and install statewide or ship anywhere. www.reliablesigns.com. 1-800-729-6844, 205-664-0955.

CHRISTIAN VALUES BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: Christian Values 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.

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

TWIN RIVERS RESORT — RETREAT CENTER: NE Georgia Mountains. Churches/families. 10 fully equipped cabins and lodge. Room for 65 to meet, sleep and eat. 866-754-2010. www.twinriversresort.net.

TRAVEL/VACATION

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.

DESTIN OR PENSACOLA BEACH FRONT RESORT: Fully furnished, luxury beachfront resort. Great rates. Family-oriented condos sleep 4 to 8. Call 1-800-874-0402. HolidayBeachResort.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

CHURCH ORGAN: Gulbransen Premier Theatre Organ — mahogany wood. Would like to donate to a church in need of an organ. Needs tune-up and will need to pick up from my residence. Please call P. Hill at 205-243-8521 if interested.



ALABAMA BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Legacy

protect.
nurture.
restore.

Straight Talk about Wills

If you pass away without a will or other such document, the state will decide how to disburse your estate. And if you have minor children, the state will decide who will raise them. If you want to leave certain assets to specific persons or make charitable gifts to

various causes, without a will, the state will follow its own agenda and disregard yours.

Most states have their own written policies for distributing estates. A portion of your assets will go here and another portion there – persons and places you may not want to provide for. The state will assign someone to oversee the probating of your estate. It will all be done “by the book.” No special gifts to people outside your family. No special gifts to ministries you would want to honor. No concern for your thoughts and desires.

In effect, the state says, “You did not create a will while you were living and now it’s too late. We will take over and make our own fair and just decisions.”

Just imagine the difficulties this may cause for your family or friends. Imagine this added expense for an additional layer of oversight. Imagine people you never knew making decisions about your most personal items.

There are many reasons people never create a will: fear of death; uncertainty about estate distribution; family conflicts; difficulty doing an estate inventory; inconvenience; expense; procrastination; no lawyer; etc. However, the plain fact is, no excuse is justified if it allows you to die without a will.

You don’t need all the answers to get a will started. You can begin with what you know and make changes and/or additions as you progress. Better to have something workable in place than nothing at all.

PhilanthroCorp feels so strongly about this that we have a ministry in place to help you create or update your will. To learn more, please visit our website at www.abchlegacy.org/pg. There, you will also find the Estate Plan Organizer, a resource that will walk you through developing estate planning goals and instruct you on the best way to implement them.

Grace Gifts

MEMORIALS:

Robert “Bob” Lewis Begeman, Bay Minette:

Bob & Martha Robertson

Viola F. Boyington, Bay Minette: Faye Salter Parker

Chris Carpenter: Priscilla Carpenter

Mr. Allison Cobb, Spanish Fort:

Wayne & Faye Parker

Agnes Earline Copeland: Adult 1 SS of Northside

BC of Selma; Clifford & Sara Melton

John & Leona Crepps, Mobile: Johnnie Gentry

Leroy Crepps, Mobile: Johnnie Gentry

Bobby Daniels, Repton: Eastwood BC of
Monroeville

Elvie Dewberry, Valley: Pleasant Grove BC of Salem

Jean Driskell: Jane Turner

Dennis Dunaway, Brewton:

Judge & Mrs. Joe Brogden

Donald Dunn, Bay Minette:

Bob & Martha Robertson

J. Trice Edgar, Gilbertown:

Mr. & Mrs. James D. Evans

Gene T. Gentry, Tuscaloosa: Johnnie Gentry

Joe T. Gentry, Tuscaloosa: Johnnie Gentry

Barbara Ruth Dobbs Green, Marion Junction:

Adult 1 SS of Northside BC of Selma;

Clifford & Sara Melton

Alice Kirchharr Grubbs, Robertsdale: Velma House

Ruth Harmon, Hueytown: Nancy & Jimmy Gilmore

Harry Jeffcoat, Birmingham: Marjorie Kay Nix

Juanita Byrd Jones, Attalla: Mary Lou O’Barr

Vivian Kennedy: Jane Turner

June Jernigan Killingsworth:

Ottis & Betty Reynolds

Betty & Tommy Lovoy, Valley Grande: Adult 1 SS

of Northside BC of Selma; Clifford & Sara Melton

Betty Jean Lucas, Andalusia: Alice Lucas

Barbara Dunn McCord: The Velma House Family

O.D. Mason, Jr., Butler: Mr. & Mrs. James D. Evans

John T. Mitchell, Saraland: Wayne & Faye Parker

Thelma P. Russell, Selma: Ken & Betty Schroeder

John & Katherine Salter: John T. Salter,

Faye Salter Parker, Elaine Salter Roley

John E. Salter: John T. Salter, Faye Salter Parker,

Elaine Salter Roley

Katherine Ryland Salter: John T. Salter,

Faye Salter Parker, Elaine Salter Roley

Douglas Linn Smith, Texas: Adult 1 SS of

Northside BC of Selma; Clifford & Sara Melton

Marvin Rudolph “Rudy” Smith, Bay Minette:

Bob & Martha Robertson

Anne Sowder, Somerset, KY: Pine Hill BC

Sara Sudduth: Joan A. Larkin

Rev. Herbert Summerlin, Repton:

Johnnie Gentry

Eunice Irene Turberville, Franklin:

Eureka BC of Franklin

Bertie Waldrep: Jane Turner

Nancy M. Williams, Birmingham:

Mr. & Mrs. J. Wray Pearce

David Wilson: New Salem BC of New Site

Wanda Prystup Wilson, Livingston: Joan A. Larkin

Dot A. Wright, Pine Hill: Pine Hill BC

HONORS:

Jeff Bowling, Russellville:

Curtis & Jeanette Grissom

Diane Martin Childress:

Gwen Price and Jewel Avery Family

Jean “Nuie” Martin:

Gwen Price and Jewel Avery Family



Alabama Baptist
CHILDREN'S HOMES
& Family Ministries

P.O. Box 361767
Birmingham, AL 35236-1767

Telephone: (205) 982-1112
Toll Free: (888) 720-8805

www.alabamachild.org
www.pathwaysprofessional.com



Rashional thoughts

By Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

Executive editor • jrash@thealabamabaptist.org

Do our small drops in the bucket count?

The little boy's story on the morning news program captured my attention as I was scurrying around to get ready for the day. I reacted exactly like the astute news producers knew so many watching would — I was inspired.

The cute 11-year-old (with red hair and freckles, I might add) had anonymously donated all his savings — \$10.03 — to a local police department on Sept. 13 of this year after learning about the courage of police and firefighters who helped during the 9/11 tragedy 12 years ago.

The sixth grader said he had been saving his money since April to do something to make a difference, according to www.today.com. "It might not be a really big difference but at least it's something," he told reporters. "If every person would do that, we would have such a great world. It would be awesome."

A few news segments later, Tom Brokaw featured his wife Meredith's recent project in Malawi. She taught a group of women who work in a kitchen that feeds 300 orphans three times a week how to can and preserve tomatoes and then to set up a business selling them.

The women previously struggled to feed the orphans and themselves when tomatoes weren't in season, but no longer. Their business is now supplying 15 supermarkets and a few upscale lodges with canned tomatoes, and they are making a living for their families as well as making sure the orphans are fed.

"The kitchen project is representative of what works here," Tom Brokaw reported. "Not handouts, but local solutions to local problems. The women have made the most important investment they could in their children and their future. And it all started with tomatoes from their backyards."

Meredith Brokaw added, "What [we] are doing is such a small drop in the bucket. But the fact is, if you do nothing, there wouldn't even be that

drop in the bucket. So I'm not a believer in saying this is just such a small project it doesn't matter. I think it matters.

"We're all used to giving aid to people. Aid after aid and not seeing a lot of results," she said. "So by changing aid to innovation where they take on the project and do it themselves, it's just a world of difference."

I don't know the faith background of the Brokaws nor the sixth grader in Wisconsin, but I know they are grasping what we as followers of Jesus Christ have known and practiced for a long time. We contribute financial gifts above our tithes to assist ministries and missions to make a difference in the world. We give of ourselves to serve, teach and encourage others. We help develop resources to give others a chance.

Giving beyond self

And while our ultimate goal is to share the Light so that every person has the opportunity to understand and accept eternal life in heaven, we also get to make a difference for people while living their lives here on earth.

As I watched these two news stories, I asked myself what and to whom I was donating financially. I also asked myself what non-monetary resources, such as time and service, I was giving to others.

I admit I sometimes think my "small drop in the bucket" really can't make a difference, and then I am reminded of what Jesus said in Luke 21:1-4:

"Jesus looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the offering box, and He saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. And He said, 'Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.'"

Maybe it's money, maybe it's time, maybe it's knowledge — what, where and to whom are you giving beyond yourself? ☞

What topics are
on your mind?

Email jrash@
thealabamabaptist.org

Rashional Extras...

So Much Rubble

But there is so much rubble and my strength has given out
Where my faith should be strengthened, instead is fear and doubt
The promises I make to You over and over again
I cannot consistently keep, for I am laden down with sin
"Take no thought of your life, what you shall eat or drink
Seek first His Kingdom" and at sin, no longer wink
Lord I want to do Your will and please You in every way
I want to live a holy life and mean the words I say
But it seems as if I continually lose control
How can victory come to me if I never feel whole?
This void in my life I try so hard to fill
Leaves me feeling empty, yet I hear You say, "Be still!"
I heard a story about a sad and depressed clown
He made others laugh, but he himself felt down
I understood how he felt when his makeup was removed
I wondered if the tears he cried left tracks or shallow grooves
I wondered how his heart felt when he received the applause of men
Only to return home feeling, "This battle I cannot win?"
Did his family know what he was going through
Did he long for someone to tell his secrets to?
Then I hear You, Abba, speak so sweetly to me
My child, I paid the price, and you I have redeemed!
My eye is on the sparrow, I see each one that falls
And you are worth so much more, I hear you when you call
I am the Lord Jehovah, the LORD that Healeth Thee
In Me and only Me can you find lasting victory!
The void you try to fill will never be satisfied
For I alone can fill you, provide what's missing deep inside
Your sins I have forgiven and provided a way for you to escape
You must seek Me first and foremost, no longer hesitate
For this is your year of victory, wait My child you'll see
The failure you experience will draw you closer now to Me!

Catherine Williams
Birmingham, Ala.

Our journey in this fallen world constitutes an obstacle course that constantly tests our ability to trust God. Wise people learn to count their limited days and then discern what really counts. ... How can I best utilize those days to make the maximum earthly and eternal impact? The answer emerges in Psalm 90:16, "Let Thy work appear to Thy servants." Our gracious heavenly Father invites us to see His work and join Him. If I stay close to Jesus so I can see His activity and join His timeless task of redeeming lost and broken people, then my days will count.

Pastor Jay Wolf
FBC Montgomery

Character — Doing the right thing even when it counts more than we want to pay.

Michael Josephson
charactercounts.org

Don't give up

While being a pastor's wife for so many years, I learned a lot about people. As I observed their actions, I discovered both good and bad traits — more good than bad I must say.

One area I noticed was the people who were free with their words as they praised other people. I liked that and have always tried to remember that few things motivate others more than warmhearted recognition and approval.

Could Christ's cause be hindered because we don't take the time to praise with our words and offer our prayers of support to workers in God's kingdom?

Without words of appreciation one might develop the attitude of the people in the following poem (author unknown):

I've taught a class for many years;
Borne many burdens — toiled through tears.
But folks don't notice me a bit;
I'm so discouraged — I'll just quit.
Sometime ago I joined the choir
That many folks I might inspire;
But folks don't seem moved a bit
And I won't stand it. I'll just quit.
I've led young people day and night
And sacrificed to lead them right.
But folks won't help me out a bit
And I'm so tired, I think I'll quit.
Christ's cause is hindered everywhere
And folks are dying in despair.
The reason why? Just think a bit;
The Church is full of folks who quit.

Betty Baggott
Montgomery, Ala.

"The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway. Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway. For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

Mother Teresa

UPCOMING TOPICS

include the pros and
cons of multitasking.
Send us your experiences
with and suggestions on
this topic. Email jrash@
thealabamabaptist.org
or comment at www.rashionalthoughts.com.

Servant-minded

UMobile's Project Serve 2013 'shows the gospel of Christ more than any lecture ever could'

Ember Langley was looking forward to seeing Harry, a resident of the Mobile L'Arche community where people with intellectual disabilities live, work and share their lives together. The Miss University of Mobile 2013 met Harry a year ago when a team of University of Mobile (UMobile) students participated in Project Serve, the university's annual campus-wide day of service to the community.

But Harry wasn't there. "Last year at Project Serve I had the time of my life hanging out and dancing with Harry at the L'Arche home," she posted Sept. 20 on the social media site Instagram, along with a photo of herself and Harry.

"I went back to the L'Arche home today for Project Serve 2013 and found out Harry passed away

not too long ago from a heart attack.

"Today I had the pleasure of painting at one of the houses Harry lived in," she wrote. "This is why I love Project Serve. This event truly makes an impact on your life and community."

Langley was among more than 1,100 students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees who moved the classroom to the community for service projects at 63 locations throughout Mobile and Baldwin counties Sept. 20. Students signed up for service teams from their academic areas, athletic programs, student organizations and university support staff offices.

Using talents

Many projects matched students' majors or talents with opportunities for service. Education students volunteered at various schools, among them the Regional



Photo courtesy of UMobile

UMobile President Mark Foley and students in the College of Arts and Sciences visit a hospital pediatric patient.

School for the Deaf and Blind in Mobile where they played with children who clasped hands with their newfound friends on the playground. Art students painted a mural at an elementary school, and Center for Performing Arts students sang at assisted living centers and nursing homes. Nursing students packed 425 boxes of food at Prodissee Pantry, which provides a food and health services hub for the community of Spanish Fort.

Students in the College of Arts and Sciences donated school supplies to the USA Children's and Women's Hospital schoolroom and visited with patients. School of Christian Ministries students mowed grass, cleaned gutters and clipped bushes for the elderly in Chickasaw. Athletes worked alongside coaches and UMobile board of trustees chairman Fred Wilson on four homes for Habitat for Humanity. RamCorps brass and percussion group performed, shared testimonies and prayed for youth at Strickland Youth Center

in Mobile, resulting in several young men who professed their faith in Jesus Christ. Nontraditional adult students in the Center for Adult Programs worked on the grounds at a fire station in Prichard, where a UMobile student serves as a fire chief.

The event and the accompanying social media buzz caught the attention of local news crews and organizations such as Alabama Nonprofits, which tweeted, "It looks like @umobilenews is having a great day of service. Check out #project-serve13 @ #project-serve to see their great work."

UMobile Student Government Association president Seth Brasher said, "Project Serve means the

world to us as students. It is the physical example of our university living out James 2:18: 'Show me your faith without deeds and I

will show you my faith by my deeds.' Project Serve reminds us and reaffirms that we are a servant-minded, Christian university."

Brasher, a senior majoring in worship leadership, added, "To see that our president will cancel classes is one thing. To see our entire faculty working alongside their students, that shows the gospel of Jesus Christ more than any lecture ever could."

The day began at 7:30 a.m. with a breakfast and rally in front of J.L. Bedsole Library on campus. After a send-off from UMobile President Mark Foley and a group photo, teams departed to various locations to serve.

"Look into the eyes of the people you are helping," Foley told the teams, emphasizing that the day was about making personal connections and influencing lives — those of the students as well as people in south Alabama communities.

Foley said the university takes a practical, hands-on approach to cultivating life change in its circle of influence, through classroom learning and community service alike.

"The University of Mobile mission of 'Changing Lives to Change the World' isn't about education alone — it's about transforming the nation by meeting both spiritual and physical needs of people. Through Project Serve, UMobile impacts thousands of lives by being the hands and feet of the gospel of Christ throughout the community," Foley said. (UMobile)



Photo courtesy of UMobile

UMobile board chairman Fred Wilson (left) and student Megan Archer work on a home for Habitat for Humanity.

LEEDS STAINED GLASS, INC.

SINCE 1995

Toll-free 888.699.9679

AL local: 205.699.9679

Call for **FREE on-site consultation**

Ask for Terry Barnes, Owner

information@LeedsStainedGlass.com

Visit www.LeedsStainedGlass.com for online gallery!



Thompson Sound, Inc.

Installing Excellence in
SOUND • LIGHTING • VIDEO

256.974.SOUND (7686)
www.thompsonsound.com

Our goal in business and in life is to glorify Jesus Christ and spread the good news of His grace.

Like us

World's Largest Walk-in Bath Store

Wholesale prices Starting at \$2,399

Best Bath

Extra large tubs in stock!

Luter's Supply
Tylertown, MS

- 18 walk-in baths on display
- Hundreds in stock
- 5 brands & over 70 models
- 60 years in business
- Free shipping on walk-in tubs

10,000 sqft showroom!

Handicap showers!

1-800-264-4902 www.LuterSupply.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For October 6

Explore the Bible By Jay T. Robertson Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries, University of Mobile

THE POWER TO SAVE John 4:39-54

Tell Others You Believe (39-42)

In the first section of John 4, Jesus crosses geographical, racial, gender and religious barriers to engage in conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well. As a result of their conversation, the woman leaves her water jar and runs back to town and says: "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" (4:29). She explains how Jesus knows everything about her life and still offers her eternal life. The people of Sychar immediately go to see Jesus for themselves.

Many Samaritans believe that Jesus is the Messiah because of the woman's testimony. Upon hearing Jesus for themselves, many more people believe Jesus to be the Messiah and "the Savior of the world." Jesus is the only Savior there is. Jesus is God's Plan A to save sinners in the world. God does not have a Plan B. Jesus is the only Savior for all the peoples of the world. Jesus' large-scale harvest among the Samaritans marks the first indication of the universal scope of His saving mission. The early church engaged in a Samaritan mission as well (Acts 8:4-25). The pattern of Jesus' mission according to John — from Judea (Nicodemus, John 3:1-15) to Samaria (4:1-42) to the Gentiles (4:46-52) — anticipates the post-Pentecost mission of the early church (Acts 1:8).

Jesus' harvest of Samaritan believers occurs because the woman at the well believes that Jesus is the Messiah and she goes and tells the people in her town. Whom have you introduced to Jesus lately? Every Christian is commanded to make disciples by telling unsaved people about Jesus. If our churches are going to reach new people and be obedient to the Great Commission, we must get back to sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources, said nine out of 10 unchurched people would come to church if in-

vited. That's incredibly encouraging. Rainer also shares that only one out of five churchgoers invites anyone to church in the course of a year. May the Holy Spirit motivate you to tell others about Jesus.

Challenge Others to Believe (43-48)

After spending two days in Sychar, Jesus heads to Cana in Galilee. A Gentile centurion in Capernaum hears that Jesus is back in Galilee, and because his son is very sick, he goes to Jesus on behalf of his son. He asks Jesus to come down and heal his son. Jesus says, "Unless you [all] see signs and wonders you will not believe." Jesus' statement is not only to challenge the royal official but also the Galilean people ("you" is plural). In John's Gospel, too much interest in the raw miracles themselves is spiritually dangerous.

Some people may become fixated on signs and wonders and fail to see that they point to Jesus. Hence those people fail to believe in Him. This does not mean, however, that John views "signs" in and of themselves negatively. To the contrary, Jesus' miracles are one of the primary means God uses to bring people to faith in Him. They often lead people to follow Jesus or place their faith in Him as the Messiah.

Jesus' words also are intended to challenge the Gentile centurion to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. He obviously knows enough about Jesus to travel from Capernaum to Cana to request Jesus' help. Now Jesus challenges him to place his faith in Him.

Guide Others to Believe (49-54)

Jesus says, "Go; your son will live." This statement indicates not just that Jesus knows a miracle is going to happen but that Jesus Himself is going to heal the centurion's son. The centurion believes the word Jesus speaks to him and returns home to Capernaum. The next day some of his servants meet him and joyfully inform him that his son is recovering. Upon hearing this great news, he shares with his family and others about Jesus and they too believe in Jesus. With whom will you share the good news of Jesus?

Bible Studies for Life By James Riley Strange Associate Professor of Religion, Samford University

THE PRESSURE OF RETALIATION James 5:1-11

this sin when we follow our craving (see 1:14-16; 3:13-18; 4:1-10).

Verses 7-8

James writes to people who are closely connected to agriculture. "Early and late rains" (see Deut. 11:14; Jer. 5:24) refer to the seasonal rains in Israel that begin in October and end in April or early May. Farmers relied on them; hence, the entire society did too. Because drought endangers lives, every year people anticipated the start and end of the season with some anxiety.

Verses 9

Evidently anxiety about Jesus' return caused some to complain about one another. See 3:1-12 and 4:11.

Verses 10-11

James frequently uses examples from figures of the past (compare 2:23-25; 5:17-18). Many of the biblical prophets famously suffered physical and emotional agony for speaking in the name of the Lord (Elijah, Jeremiah and Hosea are examples). We can recall examples of similar suffering by Christians in the Civil Rights movement in Alabama. "We call blessed" recalls 1:12.

James gave us the phrase, "the patience of Job." "Endurance" is probably a better word because although Job endured, he was not such a patient fellow. Recall that, when asked to wait patiently for change, Martin Luther King Jr. often refused, all the while telling Civil Rights leaders to make their demands in love. James, who calls for patience, expected Jesus to return soon. King and others, on the other hand, anticipated a just society that James never envisioned.

Today's lesson challenges. There are words of harsh condemnation for believers who act just like anyone else when we amass wealth (and Americans are very wealthy), and they remind us that in Alabama we still have work to do to erase hatred and social inequities. We do well to remember that James thinks little of belief unless deeds give it life (2:14-26; see especially 2:19). So let us continue to do the tasks that God has set before us.

I am writing this lesson Sept. 15, the 50th anniversary of the bombing of one of our sisters: 16th Street Baptist Church, Birmingham. It is appropriate to hear James' words about endurance and to remind ourselves how Christians in Birmingham have borne witness to its power over the past half century. James 4:17 serves as a transition to today's passage and should be read with it.

Verses 1-3

James' condemnation of "you who are rich" picks up what he said in 1:9-11 and 2:1-6. Many Jewish groups called themselves "the poor," meaning those who relied on God alone. Hence, outsiders were "the wealthy." James adopts the same idea. Today's wealthy Christians, however, run the risk of behaving like outsiders when they use wealth's power to oppress. We should pay attention to James' pointed words.

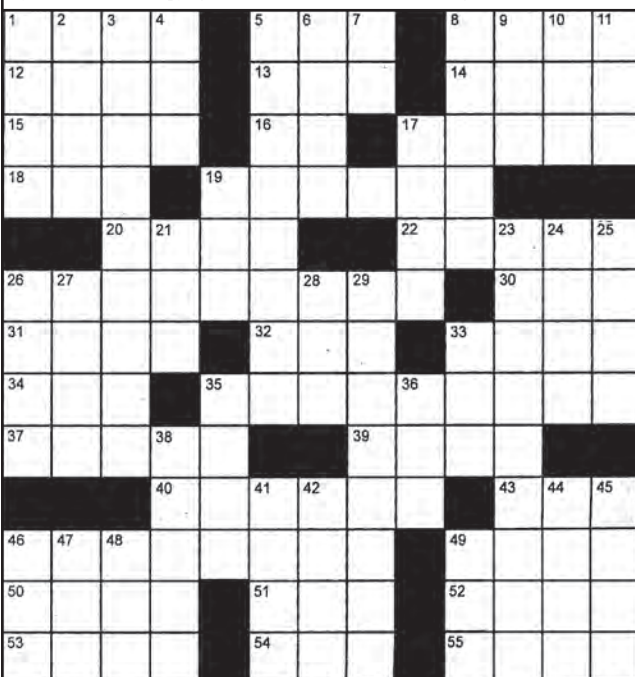
In 4:13-16 James said wealth is a gift from God (compare 1:17), lest we think we deserve it. Now he warns the oppressing wealthy not to covet their riches, for rather than giving us whatever we think wealth brings, riches will do the opposite when Jesus returns (see vv. 8 and 9). What we think brings security will rot and rust; what we hope will preserve us will eat away at us; what we want to free us and give us power will serve as evidence against us at our judgment. The word "treasure" in verse 3 must be ironic.

Verses 4-6

"The laborers" probably refers to James' fellow Christians, whom nonbelievers are persecuting. James could literally be condemning those who defraud laborers, or he could be referring to any kind of oppression of the powerless metaphorically (see 2:6-7). As in James' day, we wealthy believers should remember that we commit

Christian Crossword

By Lee Esch Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



Across

- Silas' cellmate. (Acts 16:25)
- _____ aloud, spare not. (Isa. 58:1)
- From whence come _____ and fightings among you? (James 4:1)
- Straight mark.
- Grassy meadow.
- Against. (prefix)
- Mine entrance.
- Each. (abbr.)
- Fork prongs.
- Longing.
- Documents.
- There is a _____ for the silver. (Job 28:1)
- Musical exercise.
- All _____ of God. (2 Cor. 5:18)
- Nothing.
- Ritual.
- Environmental watchdog. (abbr.)
- Buddies.
- Before. (poetic)
- Acceptable. (as a proposed law)
- Grassy plant.
- Carbonated beverage.
- Renew _____ spirit within me.

(Ps. 51:10)

- Depot. (abbr.)
- The Spirit of the Lord God _____ (Isa. 61:1)
- A Great Lakes state.
- Thy _____ is like a tower of Lebanon. (Song of Sol. 7:4)
- Golfer's requirement.
- Display model. (abbr.)
- Raced.
- A Great Lakes province. (abbr.)
- Biblical garden. (Gen. 2:8)
- Female sibling. (abbr.)
- Every good _____ bringeth forth good fruit. (Matt. 7:17)
- Swine.
- Compass direction.
- Not embarrassed.
- A seasoning herb.
- Otherwise.
- Three. (Spanish)
- The laborer is worthy of his _____. (Luke 10:7)
- Military address. (abbr.)
- A police arrest record.
- Cushion.
- Air. (prefix)
- Child.
- They _____ upon me with their mouths. (Ps. 22:13)
- Reach hither thy hand, and thrust it _____ my side. (John 20:27)
- Federal agents. (for short)
- Brethren, the _____ is short. (1 Cor. 7:29)
- Twelve o'clock.
- _____ and outs.
- He it is to whom I shall give a _____. (John 13:26)

Down

- Can _____ well on an instrument. (Ezek. 33:32)
- Assistant.
- Not welcomed.
- _____ down your nets for a draught. (Luke 5:4)
- Immediately his leprosy was _____. (Matt. 8:3)
- Thou knewest that I _____ where I sowed not. (Matt. 25:26)
- Young adult. (abbr.)
- Beltline.
- Feminine name.
- A set path. (abbr.)





Lao officials threaten Christians with expulsion

HUAY, Laos — Local authorities in Laos are threatening Christians in three villages with expulsion unless they renounce their faith, with residents in one village calling the converts “pigs and dogs,” according to an advocacy organization.

In a public meeting of Christians and others in Huay village of Atsaphangthong District, Savannakhet Province, local officials Sept. 21 ruled that Christians will be expelled for converting away from indigenous beliefs and practices, a representative from Human Rights Watch for Lao Religious Freedom (HRWLRF) said. “The Christians met among themselves and made a decision to reject the authorities’ decision.”

At press time authorities had yet to respond to the Christians’ refusal to renounce their faith, said the HRWLRF representative. He added that the Christians have continued meeting for worship in homes in spite of the ruling. The order contradicts religious freedom guaranteed under Laos’ constitution, the Christians say.

In Nongdaeng village in Borikan District, Borikhamsai Province, a Christian told the HRWLRF representative that local officials threatened 11 families with eviction if they did not renounce Christ. The village chief had summoned representatives of the 11 families Aug. 30 and ordered all 50 of the Christians to recant their faith and return to their traditional (animist) religion. On Sept. 21, the Christian families gathered and decided to stand firm, continuing to practice their faith and exercising their religious freedom, he said.

Churches in Uzbekistan raided, property seized

KARSHI, Uzbekistan — After a Baptist congregation in Uzbekistan’s southern city of Karshi had religious literature and church property confiscated in three police raids so far in 2013, court bailiffs arrived in late July.

Court bailiffs seized a church’s piano, pulpit, carpet, refrigerator and 17 benches, as well as privately owned property, to meet unpaid fines imposed on homeowner Svetlana Andreychenko because the congregation chooses to meet without the compulsory state registration.

Andreychenko told the bailiffs “she had not and will not pay the fine since she does not think she is guilty of a violation,” church members said.

When one of the bailiffs was asked why he and his colleagues took away church-owned property that did not belong to Andreychenko, he was unable to answer.



Photo courtesy of Newsite Baptist Church, Sylacauga

SYLACAUGA’S NEWSITE HONORS TREASURER, CLERK

Newsite Baptist Church, Sylacauga, in Central Baptist Association recognized Leverne Bice (left) and Loraine Sherrill (right) for their years of service Sept. 15. Bice has served for 34 years as treasurer and Sherrill has served for 20 years as church clerk. Don Evans is pastor.

‘I had Him all along’

Samford University alum Tony Hale wins Emmy Award

By Doug Rogers
Special to The Alabama Baptist

Not many schools can count an Emmy winner among their graduates. Thanks to Tony Hale, now Samford University can. Hale, a 1992 Samford graduate, was the surprise winner of the Emmy for Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series for his role as Gary Walsh in the HBO series “Veep,” awarded during the Sept. 22 live telecast. It was an experience Hale labeled as “mind-blowing” and “surreal.”

Born in West Point, N.Y., Hale spent his formative years in Tallahassee, Fla., where he and his family were members of First Baptist Church. As a teenager, he became involved with Young Actors Theatre, an organization he saluted in his Emmy acceptance speech. Through opportunities at Young Actors Theatre and his church, he began to realize his love for acting.

After graduating from Tallahassee’s Leon High School, Hale enrolled in Samford University in Birmingham, and it was during his college years he committed his life to Christ. But at Samford he pursued journalism rather than theater because, he says, he didn’t know if he could make a living as an actor and wanted a career he could fall back on.

But the acting urge never left and in 1995 he packed his bags for New York after obtaining a graduate degree from Regent University in Virginia and even spending a short time as a youth minister. During his eight years in New York, he made a living off commercials and the occasional guest spot on popular shows like “The Sopranos” and “Dawson’s Creek.”

But two other even more significant things happened in New York. He and 10 others founded The Haven, a community of artists whose mission is to encourage and equip artistically minded individuals to be more effective for Christ in their various areas of influence. And it was at one of The Haven’s gatherings that he met his future wife, Martel Thompson, an Anniston native and herself an Emmy winner (for makeup on “All My Children,” 2003).

The two were married in May 2003 in the midst of Hale being cast in the Fox sitcom “Arrested Development.” This meant a move to Los Angeles, with

Thompson having to leave her successful job as a makeup artist for “Saturday Night Live.” “Arrested Development” ran for four seasons and has recently been given new life on Netflix. Hale’s character of Buster Bluth is a favorite among the show’s fans.

Hale says the success of “Arrested Development” taught him an unexpected lesson. “I always thought the ultimate thing in life would be to have a sitcom, and that would completely satisfy,” Hale told *RELEVANT* magazine in 2003. “Now that I have it, it doesn’t. It’s great, and I’m very blessed to be in the position I’m in, but it doesn’t completely satisfy. Whatever someone’s ‘ultimate’ is, it will never fully satisfy. Only God can do that, and I had Him all along.”

When Hale speaks to Christian audiences, he continues to use that experience to remind people to be content where God has placed them and that true satisfaction comes from Christ.

Since “Arrested Development” ended its network run, Hale has not lacked for work, appearing in a variety of successful films and television programs, leading to his role in “Veep.” He is often asked how he lives out his Christian faith in the entertainment industry. Surprisingly to some, he says he doesn’t feel a tension between the two.

‘Showing the love of Christ’

He told *RELEVANT* magazine, “It’s about showing the love of Christ wherever you are. In comedy, there’s a lot of cynicism because some of the really good comedy comes out of extreme brokenness. A lot of people in this industry are hurting, and you find it’s a good opportunity to show the love of Christ to those around you.”

Hale remembers his Samford days fondly and enjoys returning to Birmingham as often as he can. In a 2011 interview, he told Brad Radice, Samford’s director of media relations, “When I was here at Samford, it was such a fantastic time and I had such great opportunities.” His advice to students? Don’t put too much pressure on yourself in college to have everything all figured out. “It’s up and down, it’s an emotional roller coaster, but it unfolds itself in time.”

Calming words from a man who, at least these days, has quite a bit of activity swirling around him. 📖



Tony Hale

commons.wikimedia.org

False blasphemy accusations need penalty, group says

Pakistan’s constitutionally mandated Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) told the government Sept. 18 that anyone who wrongly accuses a person of blasphemy against Islam must be executed — a measure intended to protect innocent people who are often killed by mobs.

The CII demanded the measure after endorsing Pakistan’s blasphemy laws, which allow a death sentence for people found guilty of

desecrating the Quran, the Prophet Muhammad, mosques or Islamic beliefs.

Charges of blasphemy are sometimes leveled to settle scores or acquire property, a *Pakistan Today* editorial said Sept. 20.

Former Punjab Governor Salman Taseer and former Minorities Minister Shahbaz Bhatti were assassinated in 2011 for demanding the blasphemy laws be reformed to remove the option of execution

and retain only the existing punishments of imprisonment and fines.

CII decided that falsely accusing someone of blasphemy “is totally un-Islamic in nature and is also tantamount to blasphemy,” the *Pakistan Tribune* reported.

CII member Allama Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi said the amendment would ensure “nobody dares to use religion to settle personal scores,” Pakistan’s *Nation* newspaper reported. (RNS)

Walking with the Lord

Baltimore Orioles' Davis strives for godliness

Three years ago, life was so different for Chris Davis.

The Baltimore Orioles' slugger was adrift on a sea of uncertainty, searching for answers as swells of career failure buffeted him. Yes baseball is just a game. But it also was Davis' livelihood, and his ship was taking on water fast. Retirement by age 25 was a painfully realistic option.

Called up on Sept. 11, 2010, by the Texas Rangers for his third major league stint that season, Davis was struggling. His greatest asset — his power — was virtually nonexistent. In 14 games to finish the season, he totaled one home run, one RBI and hit .211, which actually raised his season batting average to .192.

The Rangers, en route to the first of two straight World Series appearances, left him off their postseason roster. Ten months later Davis was traded to the Orioles, carrying with him the dreaded "4A player" label — a prospect who dominates Triple-A but can't solve the big leagues.

In a shocking transformation over the last two seasons, Davis, 27, suddenly has become one of the major league's premier sluggers. Through late September, the left-handed first baseman aptly nicknamed "Crush" Davis was leading the league in home runs (52) and was ranked second behind Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in RBI (137), slugging percentage (.631) and on-base-plus-slugging percentage (.999).

In 2012, he led the Orioles to their first playoff berth since 1997 with what was then career highs in home runs (33) and RBI (85). He earned American League player of the month honors in April, became a first-time All-Star in July and graced the cover of *Sports Illustrated* in August. This all raises the question: What happened?

'Consistency'

Davis, a soft-spoken Texas native, credits regular playing time as the driving factor behind his career resurgence.

"Just consistency," he said. "Being in the lineup every day and knowing where I'm going to hit in the lineup, being at first base."

Could it be that simple? Can the transformation from unwanted aging prospect to bona fide superstar really boil down to a couple hundred more at-bats a year? It seems so, considering Davis' natural abilities that just needed to be unlocked.

But for a Christian like Davis, his remarkable career path also speaks to a sovereign God.

"Looking back, I've grown so much not only as a man but as a Christian, knowing that there are times when it looks like there's no end in sight, no light at the end of the tunnel, but if you continue to put your faith in God, He'll never steer you wrong," he said.

After being drafted by the Rangers in the fifth round in 2006, Davis immediately began bullying minor league pitching, hitting .302 with 74 home runs and 233 RBI in 275 minor league games over his first three professional seasons. He debuted for Texas in June 2008 at age 22 and clubbed 17 home runs with 55 RBI and a .285 batting average over the next 80 games. The future looked bright.

But the 2009 season was a disaster. When he was optioned to Triple-A in early July, Davis was hitting .202 and leading the majors with 114 strikeouts in 80 games.

Spiritually Davis was floundering. He grew up attending First Baptist Church, Longview, Texas, and was baptized at age 6. But for a long time, Christianity was more ritual than relationship to him. He thought it was about church attendance and managing guilt. He didn't fully understand yet the glorious realities of the gospel.

But the Lord was mercifully working on his heart. A humbling trip to the Dominican Republic for winter ball after the 2010 season helped refocus his faith. So did getting engaged to his wife Jill and the friendly counsel of former Rangers teammates David Murphy and Josh Hamilton, who encouraged him to spend time with God every day.

"It was more of a daily routine, making sure I was in the Word and praying and knowing what it meant to walk with the Lord," Davis said.

"I got to the point where, when I was at the field, I was going to work hard and do everything I could to be the best player I could be, and when I went home, I was going to enjoy my time," he said. "I was going to enjoy being around my friends, my wife, and really try not to think about what was going on in baseball."

The trade to Baltimore gave Davis a fresh start. In his first full major league season in 2012, he exploded. As the Orioles made their long-awaited playoff push, Davis hit .320 with 10 home runs and 20 RBI in the final month of the regular season.

In 2013, he appeared poised to challenge for only the second Triple Crown title since 1967 but a cold stretch in July nixed those plans (Davis is still a strikeout connoisseur), but he has produced a season for the ages.

On Sept. 13, he hit his 50th longball of the season, tying Brady Anderson's single-season franchise mark from 1996 and joining Babe Ruth (1921) and Albert Belle (1995) as the only players in major league history with 50 home runs and 40 doubles in a season.

Davis has taken his sudden stardom in stride. He has loftier goals than baseball fame.

"I just want to be known as a godly man," he said. "That's more important than any legacy on the field or numbers you leave behind. What will they say about me as a person?" (BP)



Chris Davis

BP photo

RELIGION
in America
Compiled from Wire Services



Moody drops alcohol, tobacco ban for employees

CHICAGO — The Chicago-based evangelical Moody Bible Institute has dropped its ban on alcohol and tobacco consumption by its 600-some faculty and staff, including for those who work in its radio and publishing arms.

The change in August reflected a desire to create a "high trust environment that emphasizes values, not rules," spokeswoman Christine Gorz said. Employees must adhere to all "biblical absolutes," Gorz said, but on issues where the Bible is not clear, Moody leaves it to employees' conscience.

Employees may not drink on the job or with Moody students, who are not allowed to drink while in school.

Ten years ago in suburban Chicago, Wheaton College lifted the ban on student dancing and now allows faculty, staff and graduate students to drink, though not on campus. Other schools, including Huntington University in Huntington, Ind., and Asbury Seminary in Wilmore, Ky., have changed their stances on employees and drinking in the past five years, said Jennifer Woodruff Tait, managing editor of *Christian History Magazine*.

Forty percent of evangelical leaders said they "socially drink alcohol," according to a 2010 survey of evangelical leaders conducted by the National Association of Evangelicals. In a survey of mostly Southern Baptists, the Southern Baptist Convention's LifeWay Research found that 29 percent of Southern Baptist congregants drink alcohol, compared with 3 percent of Southern Baptist pastors.

House bill to protect advocates of traditional marriage

WASHINGTON — Conservatives are rallying around a House bill designed to protect religious people who advocate for traditional marriage — a belief they say is held in increasing contempt.

But supporters of same-sex "marriage" say the bill actually protects the discriminators — individuals and nonprofits that would deny gay people benefits or services simply because they are "married" to a same-sex partner.

More than 60 House members — mostly Republican — have signed on to the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act, which was introduced Sept. 19 by Rep. Raul Labrador, R-Idaho.

The bill signifies a shift in strategy for gay "marriage" opponents: Increasingly resigned to the reality that they're unlikely to stop gay "marriage," they're now trying to blunt its impact by carving out explicit protections for dissenters.

"This bill affirms that a person's religious belief in the importance of natural marriage should be treated with tolerance and respect by the federal government," said David Christensen, vice president for government affairs at the Family Research Council, which is promoting the bill.

The National Organization for Marriage, Focus on the Family, the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Concerned Women for America and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are also supporting Labrador's bill.

Transgender professor asked to leave Christian college

AZUSA, Calif. — A California Christian university has asked a professor who was once its chair of theology and philosophy to leave after he came out as transgender.

Heather Clements taught theology at Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, Calif., for 15 years, but in 2012 he began referring to himself as H. Adam Ackley. Ackley, 47, has two children and is in the process of getting a divorce.

"This year has been a transition from being a mentally ill woman to being a sane, transgendered man," he said.

Ackley, who is in his third year of a five-year contract at a school that does not use the tenure system, said university policies seem to be silent about transgender issues, except that "humans were created as gendered beings."

"I did not get a sense directly from the individuals with whom I was speaking that they had a theological problem with transgender identity," Ackley said.

University spokeswoman Rachel White declined to discuss Ackley's employment, citing confidential personnel matters.

Ackley said he and the university have agreed to part ways and the university said it will continue to pay him through the academic year.