

# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST



Nov. 7, 2013  
Vol. 178, No. 44

Reporting. Connecting. Inspiring.

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

## INSIDE



**FBC Hokes Bluff partners with former youth minister to plant church in St. Louis**

◆ Page 3



**Tibbie Baptist family invests in people of Mexican town, takes 7 trips in 2 years**

◆ Page 5



**BCMs, students build relationships with, minister to internationals on campus**

◆ Pages 8-9

**Main photo:** Chaplain Charles Clanton leads a simple worship service near Bien Hoah, South Vietnam, in January 1970. Many Vietnam chaplains had to be prepared to hold worship services at any time and in any place. About 300 Southern Baptist chaplains served in the Vietnam War.

**Small photo:** Chaplain Steve Gantt interacts with Vietnamese children during the Vietnam War. Gantt said chaplains and doctors often assisted local churches with food and medical supplies when time permitted.



Photo courtesy of Charles Clanton

# 'He kept me going that night'



Photo courtesy of Steve Gantt

## Vietnam War chaplains helped soldiers through tumultuous era

**A** rmy chaplain Charlie Clanton found it difficult to look at the severely burned young soldier at a makeshift medical evacuation station in Vietnam. The soldier's face had been charred beyond recognition by a Viet Cong grenade launcher attack.

As Clanton, a Southern Baptist chaplain during the Vietnam War, walked to the gurney and bumped it, the young soldier opened his eyes.

"Sir, you were right the other night," the soldier told Clanton.

"Right about what?" Clanton asked, not sure which worship service the young man had attended. Later he realized it had been a service

two weeks earlier when he had taught on Psalm 23 in a quickly assembled worship service in the mess hall.

"The other night when you told us about 'the valley of the shadow of death.' I was there that night, sir," the young man said. "And God kept me going."

### 'Worthwhile' ministry

Later that night the young man died on a helicopter en route to the hospital.

"That statement to me, a young minister — 'What you're telling me is right; what God said He would do He did; He kept me going that night' — that really helped me see that my

ministry [in the Vietnam War] was worthwhile," Clanton said.

Clanton would later win a Silver Star for his term in Vietnam for leading troops through hostile territory and back to base camp after an injury to a commanding officer.

The year 2013 marks the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. Although U.S. involvement there began in the early 1950s, the U.S. first sent ground troops to the Southeast Asian country in 1965 to help the South Vietnamese push back communist aggression. U.S. troops officially left Vietnam in March 1973 after eight years of stateside social unrest over the war.

(See 'Chaplains,' page 7)

Veterans Day  
is Monday, Nov. 11.

# COMMENT

## Don't Be Like Shebna

**D**o you know people who became so filled with their own importance that they used their position and authority for their own benefit rather than for the benefit of others?

Shebna was that kind of person. His story is found in Isaiah 22:15–25. One could change the name and think his tale was a modern-day news story.

Shebna was a steward to Hezekiah, king of Judah. In the Bible, a steward was one who handled the property or administered the affairs of another. Remember Joseph was made a steward of the Egyptian Pharaoh after interpreting the Pharaoh's dreams. In Genesis 45:8, Joseph described himself as "lord of his (the Pharaoh's) entire household and ruler of all Egypt." Obviously the king's steward was a position of great authority and power.

The account of Isaiah 22 is set during a time of great danger. Sennacherib, king of Assyria, was threatening Jerusalem. Hezekiah rallied the nation to seal off the water supply from the invaders and channel it into the city. He strengthened the walls, fortified the towers and made weapons for the people (2 Chron. 32).

### Feeling of entitlement

As the steward of Hezekiah, Shebna was supposed to be leading the efforts to prepare the city against the enemy. Instead he ordered workers to cut out a tomb for him. Evidently the tomb was in a prestigious location. Isaiah the prophet asks Shebna, "Who gave you permission to cut out a tomb for yourself here?" (vs. 16).

More importantly, the prophet asks, "What are you doing here?" Shebna had his workers outside the walls of the city. They were not working on the water supply. They were not working on the walls. They were not making weapons. They were where they were not supposed to be doing what they were not supposed to be doing. No wonder Isaiah asked, "What are you doing here?"

Evidently Shebna's position had gone to his head. He felt entitled to ignore the commands of his king. He felt warranted to ignore the needs of the people. His view of himself placed his desires above all else, even above society's norms about who could be buried among the kings.



THOUGHTS  
By Bob Terry

Shebna's ego must have been as massive as some modern-day politicians who assume the privileges of office allow them to do whatever they want. How contemporary are the stories of embezzlement and corruption by so-called public servants who turn opportunity for service into an occasion of private gain.

How many like Shebna are those who trade heavy responsibilities for public good for the chance to advance a personal scheme? Here is another story where trust is trampled underfoot in pursuit of a secret agenda.

Fill in the names — governors, county commissioners, legislators, school board members, businessmen, even preachers. The names are different. The stories are the same.

Isaiah told Shebna that God was going to take hold of him, roll him up in a ball and throw him away because he was "a disgrace to his master's household" (vs. 18).

Eliakim was to replace him. Notice that Eliakim was to be "a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the house of Judah" (vs. 21). Eliakim would reclaim the proper role of a steward. He would be concerned about the affairs of the king he served and the people whom the king served.

Again it sounds like today's speeches by newly elected officials after a purge of

corruption and abuse by public officials.

As tempting as it is to point fingers at others, Shebna's story speaks to every Christian today because every Christian is a steward of the King of Kings. Each one of us has been given the opportunity to handle the property and administer the affairs of God related to that entrusted to us.

The Psalmist declares, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Ps 24:1). In Psalm 95:4–5 the writer affirms, "In His hands are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it and His hands formed the dry land."

Humankind has been made stewards of God's creation, accountable to Him for personal stewardship of individual property and collectively for what humanity does to creation as a whole.

***"Humankind has been made stewards of God's creation, accountable to Him for personal stewardship of individual property and collectively for what humanity does to creation as a whole."***

Whether one considers the individual or collective responsibility, all must be done remembering one's responsibility to God. As stewards of God, there is no room for private agendas or personal schemes, no room for avarice and greed.

Part of one's stewardship is returning to God through tithes and offerings what God has entrusted to us. Tithes were brought to the "storehouse" — the temple and the tabernacle before that. All of the tithes were given to the temple for use in various ways. One was not free to determine how he would use what rightfully belonged to his master — to God. To do so would be to

commit the sin of Shebna. The privilege of being a steward would be corrupted into a false sense of entitlement to use the property of the master according to one's own whims and imagination.

### Being like Shebna

When one succumbs to such temptation, one acts like Shebna. And like Shebna, one can expect the same outcome. One will be rejected and thrown away because one has already thrown away loving God with heart and soul, mind and strength, which is evidenced in obedience. Instead one has chosen to love self and one's selfish schemes more than living in faithful trust as a steward of all God has entrusted to one's keeping.

One's salvation may not be in question but one's usefulness as a steward certainly is.

Despite his days of prominence, Shebna was a pitiful character. Resolve not to follow his path and be a faithful steward doing the will of God with all He entrusts to us.

## UPDATE

### to Bob Terry's Oct. 31 editorial "Today I Am Grieving"

*Mary Dee Enloe died Oct. 29 and her funeral was appropriately held on All Saints Day, Nov. 1.*



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

(ISSN 0738-7741;  
USPS 011-080)

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

A team from FBC Hokes Bluff leads a backyard Bible club in St. Louis, Mo., during a missions trip in July 2013. During the trip, three backyard Bible clubs were held and at least 65 children and 23 adults attended. The team worked with Steve Renner, former youth minister of the church and current church planting apprentice with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Renner is currently working to plant a church in Overland, Mo., through NAMB's Send North America strategy.



Photo courtesy of FBC Hokes Bluff

# Prayer is key

## FBC Hokes Bluff partners with former youth minister to plant church in St. Louis

By Julie Payne  
The Alabama Baptist

**E**ric House, pastor of First Baptist Church, Hokes Bluff, couldn't sleep. God was keeping him awake because there was something he needed to do.

It all started when House began talking to a North American Mission Board (NAMB) official in 2012 about Send North America, a coordinated

national strategy through NAMB to reach people through new church plants in 32 specific cities in the U.S.

First, Hokes Bluff, was no stranger to missions efforts — it had seen several missionaries come out of its church in the past and had ongoing involvement in short-term missions trips. But the church hadn't had anyone serve on the missions field long term in the past 15 years.

While gaining information from NAMB about Send North America and realizing the importance of planting churches in the Send North America cities, House began thinking of someone who stood out as a potential church planter — his church's youth minister, Steve Renner.

Renner is originally from St. Louis, Mo., which just happened to be one of the 32 Send North America cities. "I knew his skill set would be excellent for church planting," House said.

Convicted that he needed to talk to Renner, House said God wouldn't let him sleep one night. Renner, who at the time had only been at First, Hokes Bluff, for a year and a half, was doing a great job in his role at the church

and it would be hard to let him leave. But House knew that Renner had the "heart of a pastor," House said.

And Renner said "church planting had been on my heart for a long time," noting the discussion with House further confirmed what God had already placed on his heart.

Renner and his wife, Katie, then prayed about it and soon after traveled to Atlanta to talk with NAMB officials about the possibility of becoming church planters.

In September 2012, the First, Hokes Bluff, congregation was informed of what the Renners were led to do and was asked if they would be the couple's sending church.

As the sending church, First, Hokes Bluff, committed to give 3 percent of its budget for three years to help the new church plant. In addition to the financial component, the church also had 34 people travel to St. Louis in July 2013 on a missions trip after the Renners moved there in June. The missions team part-

nered with the Renners to clean the yards of senior adults and hold three backyard Bible clubs, along with other outreach projects. Seventeen people accepted Christ during that week, House said.

"We want to take one or two missions trips each year to go up there (to St. Louis) and help [the Renners]," House noted of the church's ongoing involvement. "We're excited to be a part of this."

Steve Renner, who is currently a church planting apprentice with NAMB, is working to start the church plant in Overland, Mo., a city in St. Louis County with a population of about 16,000.

During the week, he works with a church in a neighboring suburb for 25 hours and also puts in about 25 hours of church planting work. The Renners have started a Bible study on Wednesday night and in April 2014 they hope to begin conducting preview services in preparation of officially launching the new church plant — slated to be called Family Life Church — in September 2014.

"We've been doing outreach, (the) Bible study (and) we just did a community barbecue at a park ... as an outreach event," Steve Renner noted of their current work in the community. "(We're) just trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus to people."

He said one thing he has learned about church planting is to be flexible, noting there's a tremendous amount of excitement involved with the work but challenges that come with it as well. Through it all, prayer is key, he said.

### Importance of prayer

"The No. 1 priority that we put forward in this walk is prayer," he noted. "We could have a million dollars to build a nice facility ... to hire the people ... but in the end only God can change a person's heart. ... If we're not praying, it doesn't matter how much money we have."

Steve Renner noted First, Hokes Bluff, has been "so supportive" as the sending church and serves as an example of what Send North America is all about. It's a regular-sized church "yet they recognize they have a part in what is going on" with church planting, he said.

He added that if every church got behind Send North America, there would be many new churches planted. "Everybody can have a part in what's going on," he said.

For more information on church planting through Send North America, visit [www.namb.net/overview-why-send](http://www.namb.net/overview-why-send). ☛

**"(We're) just trying  
to be the hands  
and feet of Jesus  
to people."**

**Steve Renner  
church planter  
from FBC Hokes Bluff**



Reuters photo

A church worker assesses the damage inside the burned Salvation Army church that was set ablaze by rioting youths in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa on Oct. 5.

# Should the church arm itself?

## Kenyan pastors ask for guns amid violence

As attacks on Christians mount in Kenya's coastal region, some evangelical pastors in the Mombasa area no longer may be willing to turn the other cheek. Worried about attacks against their churches and congregations, some pastors are asking for rifles to protect themselves from suspected Islamic extremists.

The violence intensified when two evangelical pastors were killed inside their churches. Charles Mathole, 41, was killed Oct. 20 as he prayed inside Vikwatani Redeemed Gospel Church. The next day, East African Pentecostal Church pastor Ibrahim Kithaka was found dead about 35 miles north of Mombasa.

Christian leaders blame the attacks on increased radicalization of Muslim youth. The attacks have occurred amid protests by Muslims that they were being targeted in Nairobi's war against terrorism.

### How to 'love your enemies'

"Our many churches are not under any protection. They do not have walls or gates. The government should issue AK-47 rifles to every church so that we can stop them from being burnt, our property from being looted and our pastors and Christians from being killed," said Lambert Mbela, a pastor at Vikwatani, during Mathole's funeral.

Three weeks before the latest murders, Muslim youth torched a Salvation Army church in the Majengo area in Mombasa to protest the killing of the popular Sheikh Ibrahim "Rogo" Omar and three others by unknown gunmen Oct. 4.

Some church officials in Kenya say the request for arms reflects a growing frustration with the rising insecurity, but others say the move contradicts traditional biblical teachings on nonviolence or could put churches and congregations at more risk.

Nik Ripken, the world's leading expert on the persecuted church in Muslim contexts, questioned the wisdom of Kenyan pastors arming themselves.

Ripken, who served with his family for years in Kenya, said he has "a deep love for Kenyans" and is "standing beside Kenyan believers in this time of challenge." But he and his family are praying for "the very soul of Kenyan Christianity," he said, and that involves a bigger question than self protection.

It's about Jesus' command to "love your enemies," which is no longer an abstract word for Kenyan believers, Ripken said. "How does one love their enemies when they blow up your malls, churches, leaving blood on the ground and calluses in your heart?"

He asked for prayer for believers in Kenya as they struggle with the reality of "turning the other cheek."

"The real issue is a deeper, spiritual response, whether we will love our enemies and lay down our lives that they might live," Ripken said. "It is our job, as followers of Christ, to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us. It is my prayer that we stand with Kenyans and that we will not play into the hands of those espousing evil."

Al Qaeda, he said, wants pastors to arm themselves and fight back, something that could incite tribal war.

Years ago, Ripken asked a group of Kenyan pastors if violence broke out in Kenya as it did in Rwanda during the genocide, what would happen?

"The reply from these pastors who were believers from three tribes was, as they looked at each other, 'Baptists would kill Baptists,'" Ripken said, noting that the response hurt and shocked him. Tempting Kenyans to act on prejudice, he said, "is what Al Qaeda desires as they act as an unwitting tool of Satan."

"Are we asking ourselves the right question? One question could be should we arm ourselves with weapons against terrorism? Another question might be should we fill ourselves with the Holy Spirit, sharing the love of Jesus with those who have made themselves our enemies?"

*EDITOR'S NOTE — Name has been changed for security reasons. (RNS, TAB)*

## in Loving Memory

of Alabama Baptist leaders, friends

### William Melvin Kilpatrick

#### Longtime Alabama Baptist pastor dies at 81

William Melvin Kilpatrick, who served in ministry for at least 60 years, died Sept. 6. He was 81.

Kilpatrick attended Howard College in Birmingham (now Samford University) and Mercer University in Macon, Ga.



KILPATRICK

He began serving a Florida Baptist church as pastor at age 16. He later served as pastor of Bethany Baptist Church, Huntsville; First Baptist Church, Gantt; Zion Hill Baptist Church, Andalusia; and Damascus Baptist Church, Lockhart, before retiring.

Kilpatrick also shared the gospel message at more than 70 revivals during his lifetime.

He was a member of Zion Hill Baptist at the time of his passing.

Kilpatrick was preceded in death by one child. He is survived by his wife of nearly

61 years, Joan; four children; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

(Neisha Fuson)



"ALABAMA'S MORAL COMPASS"

Alabama Citizens Action Program

ALCAP serves as a resource for churches and others working to make Alabama a safer state for each and every citizen.

**ALCAP Sunday is Nov. 10.**

#### It assists with:

- Fighting expansion of alcohol and gambling
- Providing speakers for churches, community gatherings, youth meetings and camps
- Monitoring legislation
- Providing informal chaplaincy ministry to the State House
- Character education in schools

[www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) • 205-985-9062



Photo courtesy of the Richardsons

Finley Richardson (center), 8, says she wants to keep returning to Reynosa, Mexico, 'because my friends are there.'



Photo courtesy of the Richardsons

The Richardson family — Kristen (right), Finley and Brent — read a story from one of the children's Bibles they are preparing to take to children in Reynosa, Mexico.

# 'What Jesus is asking us to do'

## Tibbie Baptist family invests in people of Mexican town, takes 7 trips in 2 years

By Alicia M. Atcheson  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**Y**our family is my family." The parting words of Mayra Zayas Cruz, a mother of six, sum up the motivation behind an Alabama family's seven trips in two years to Reynosa, Mexico.

Brent and Kristen Richardson think of the people there as family members. Their 8-year-old daughter, Finley, does too.

If proof were needed, the walls of their house in Tibbie are covered with the faces of Reynosa's residents.

The Richardsons first made the 1,000-mile journey to Reynosa in December 2011 with Rick Hagans of Harvest Evangelism in Opelika.

They've taken six trips since, all with their daughter.

"If Finley can't go, we don't go," Brent Richardson said. "It is important that we do this as a family. For us, we want to be able to show Finley the love of Christ through what we are doing."

The Richardsons say the relationships Finley has built with the children in Reynosa have led to relationships with the children's parents.

"On the trips we've been on, Finley is the only American child there. The children flock to her," Brent Richardson said.

Finley met a young girl named Dulce on her first trip. The two quickly became

friends. She met the rest of Dulce's family and introduced her parents as well.

Now Dulce's mother, Mayra, thinks of Finley as one of her own. Finley keeps in touch with Dulce and her other friends in Reynosa. She mails them pictures she has drawn and sends video messages through others traveling to the village.

The Richardsons took a copy of "The Beginner's Bible, Bilingual English/Spanish edition," on their first trip. Finley read the Bible to the children in what the Richardsons call "redneck Spanish." While the pronunciations weren't always correct, the children were enthralled by the children's Bible.

### Giving away Bibles

"They have Bibles in Reynosa, but they don't have children's Bibles," Brent Richardson said.

On their second trip, Finley gave her Bible to one of the children who asked to keep it. On the two trips that followed, the family bought and gave away more than 200 of the Bibles — funded by money Finley asked for on her birthdays instead of gifts.

They are gathering more Bibles now to take with them in December.

When asked why they have returned to Reynosa so frequently, Finley replied, "Relationships. I want to go back because my friends are there."

Someone recently asked Kristen Richardson when she thought her family would stop going to Reynosa. "I asked the individual

when they planned to stop visiting their mother. These people are like family to us. We're not going to stop going," she said.

This mindset didn't come overnight.

Before their first trip to Reynosa, "we had all the usual excuses ... mainly that we were just too busy," Brent Richardson said.

His wife agreed. "We gave to missions but really had no desire to go ourselves," she said. "But then we read David Platt's book 'Radical.' It really put us back to Scripture. It led us to ask what is it that Jesus is asking us to do specifically."

After prayer, the family decided that before they went on another vacation they would go on a missions trip.

Soon after, Hagans preached a revival at their church — Tibbie Baptist in Washington Baptist Association — where the Richardsons serve as youth leaders. While there, he told the congregation about Reynosa and an upcoming missions trip.

"After meeting Rick, we just felt like it fit," Brent Richardson said.

During their first trip to Reynosa, the Richardsons worked alongside more than 50 volunteers with Harvest Evangelism. Most of their time was spent sorting donated clothing and shoes. They also visited an orphanage and provided Christmas presents for the children.

On subsequent trips, the Richardsons have not gone with a group but simply as a family.

"We spend most of our time with children because that's where our passion is. We make a plan for each day and just spend time with them," Kristen Richardson said.

After a while, the Richardsons noticed that the children were not going home for lunch each day. Now during their week-long trips, the family typically prepares

75 to 120 sandwiches per day, in addition to snacks.

Through donations they have received, the Richardsons also have purchased groceries and coolers for families, clothing, hygiene items and children's books. On one trip they used funds to paint a local church's building. According to the Richardsons, the members of this church, mostly young 20-somethings with children, spend a lot of their time going further into Mexico to serve others.

"We wanted to bless them because they were busy blessing others," Kristen Richardson said.

The Richardsons' love for the people of Reynosa is infectious.

Several teenagers in their youth group asked to go to Reynosa earlier in 2013. During spring break the family made the journey with nine teenagers in tow. Four of those teens journeyed back with Kristen and Finley Richardson in July.

"There is no perfect or right time to go," Kristen Richardson said. "If you're waiting on the right time, you may miss out on some of life's biggest blessings." ❧



Photo courtesy of the Richardsons

Kristen Richardson says the children of Reynosa, Mexico, are 'where our passion is.'

*"If you're waiting on the right time (to go), you may miss out on some of life's biggest blessings."*

Kristen Richardson

# Across ALABAMA'S Associations

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

## BIRMINGHAM



WAID

► **Caleb Waid** is the new minister of students for **Lakeside Church, Birmingham.** He previously served as minister of students at **Ridgecrest Church, Trussville.**

Greg Corbin is pastor. ► **The Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham,** will host The Gospel at Work conference Nov. 22–23, beginning at 7 p.m. Nov. 22. This

**The Alabama Baptist will not publish Across Alabama's Associations in the Nov. 21 issue because of state convention coverage. Email [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org) to submit your church announcements for the Nov. 28 issue.**

conference is for every Christian with a workplace, and those who hope to have one soon, and helps Christians live extraordinary, gospel-centered lives in their workplaces. Speakers include Harry Reeder, pastor of Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham; David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills; and Greg Gilbert, pastor of Third Avenue Church, Louisville, Ky. For information or to register visit [www.thegospelatwork.com](http://www.thegospelatwork.com).

## BLOUNT

► **Pleasant View Missionary Church, Holly Pond,** will hold a third Sunday night singing Nov. 17, 6 p.m. with The Singing Ambassadors from Fayetteville, Tenn. For information call 256-796-5986. Randy Burtram is pastor.

## COLUMBIA

► **Malvern Church** will celebrate homecoming/Harvest Day on Nov. 10. Former pastor John Anderson will speak for the 10:30 a.m. service. There will be special music and a covered dish dinner will follow the service. Hosea Parker is pastor.

## LIMESTONE

► **Clements Church, Athens,** will celebrate its 20th anniversary Nov. 17, 9 a.m.–noon. Everyone is invited and lunch will follow the service. For information visit [www.clements baptist.org](http://www.clements baptist.org). Tim Anderson is pastor.

## MOBILE

► **San Souci Church, Bayou La Batre,** will hold revival Nov. 17–20. Sunday will be at 10 a.m. with Jerry Brown, chaplain of the Mobile Police Department; Monday at 6:30 p.m. with Fred Wolfe, pastor of Luke 4:18 Fellowship; Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. with David Gill, pastor of First Church, Theodore; Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. with Bernie Maret, port chaplain of Mobile and chalk artist. There also will be special music each service by music evangelist Phil Willis. For information call 850-758-7962. Sharber Smith is pastor.

## WINSTON

► **Houston Church** recently opened its time capsule after 50 years. In it, they found a copy of *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper, along with other items. Jerry Baker is pastor.



## Elmore Association celebrates 100th anniversary

Elmore Baptist Association celebrated its 100th anniversary Oct. 20 with the theme Celebrate Our Past, Affirm Our Present, Embrace God's Future.

Jim Jackson, who has served as director of missions (DOM) for 18 years, said the day combined a celebration with the regular annual meeting.

Held at First Baptist Church, Wetumpka, the morning service featured several speakers, with messages focused on the past, the present and the future of the association. Wayne Smith, former pastor of Millbrook Baptist, and John MacLaren, former Elmore Association DOM, both focused on the past. Jackson shared about the present and reported on missions partnerships and church starts in the association. Derek Gentle, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tallassee, focused on the future.

Special music was performed by Laurie Harris, James Bush, Kevin Boyer and the Daughtery Family.

Lonette Berg, executive director for the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented the association with a plaque, as did Rick Barnhart, director of the office of associational missions and church planting for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

A fellowship lunch followed the morning service along with an anniversary cake and ice cream.

Jackson said about 225 people attended the morning festivities and in the afternoon the annual meeting was held.

He said Elmore Association is involved in church planting in the area, in Maryland and in Guatemala. The association is currently focusing on planting an African-American church in Tallassee, Jackson said. First, Tallassee, and Journey Church, Millbrook, are working in collaboration with the association to start the new church and are close to deciding on a church planter and finalizing the covenant for the church plant. (Neisha Fuson)

## Florence's Forest Hills celebrates 50 years

Forest Hills Baptist Church, Florence, marked a half-century of ministry Sept. 22 at its "Celebrating 50 Years" service with a "very large crowd" of 260 people, Pastor Rich Hardeman said.

In fact, the church televised the 10:30 a.m. service into an overflow room to accommodate the crowd, he noted.

Hardeman delivered the sermon and Jerry Armor, representative from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque to the Colbert-Lauderdale Baptist Association church.

"We had a marvelous worship time led by our worship leader, Mike Price," Hardeman said, noting a memorable part of the day was the opportunity to meet some of Forest Hills Baptist's charter members. "It was good to connect with those folks," he said.

A time of fellowship followed the service with a dinner on the grounds.

Hardeman acknowledged how the church "came together and worked so very hard for this. We have a loving, caring church that really pulled together and ... made this a special day," he said.

When speaking of his vision for the future of the church, Hardeman noted the importance of reaching out to young families, adding Forest Hills recently began a preschool program in August 2013 that is already growing. (Julie Payne)

## Sulligent's Academy Baptist marks 75 years

Academy Baptist Church, Sulligent, celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 8.

The Lamar Baptist Association church hosted five former pastors at the celebration service and each one shared a short message. Alabama Baptist Historical Commission representative Angie Cooper presented the church with a commemorative plaque.

A fellowship lunch followed the service and Lelial Hollis, chairman of the deacons, said the day was well attended with more than 80 people.

Keith Rhudy, who recently began serving as the church's bivocational pastor, said it was an "enjoyable day to connect the past of the church with the present."

And as for the future, Rhudy said he hopes the church "continues to be a lighthouse in the community for the glory of Jesus Christ." (Neisha Fuson)

## Someone You Should Know



By Leigh Pritchett  
Correspondent, TAB

### RON TROTMAN

First Baptist Church, Montgomery  
Montgomery Baptist Association



TROTMAN

**FAVORITE VERSE:** Psalm 23

**FAVORITE HYMN:** "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

**HOBBIES:** Buying/selling real estate

**FAMILY STATUS:** Married for 52 years to Dot; two sons, Ronny and Jeff; and seven grandchildren

**F**or 21 years, Ron Trotman actively defended our country by serving as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Through the years, he taught 12th grade boys in Sunday School, sang in the choir and was a deacon and church training director. He also took a missions trip to the Mississippi Gulf Coast after a hurricane. Now at 73, he serves by helping with his church's outreach program, visiting on Sunday afternoons with newcomers who attended the worship service that morning.

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

**A:** My dad. He was a strong influence. He was a Baptist preacher. I had a lot of respect

for him, watching him, the way he talked, the way he acted.

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

**A:** My family lived in Baton Rouge, La., at the time. I accepted Christ when I was 9 years old at an RA camp in Bluff Creek, about 20 miles north of Baton Rouge.

**Q:** What does the ministry work demand?

**A:** It demands reading of the Bible. I often say that is our rule-book for guidance, telling us to go witness.

**Q:** What do you get from your ministry work?

**A:** I'm fulfilled by my ministry work. I wish I could do more.

**Q:** What difference will your

ministry work make for you in the future?

**A:** When the Lord opens the door for a ministry opportunity, you better take it. It's later than you think.

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

**A:** They're great, tremendous. My wife helps me find references in the Bible I need for teaching.

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

**A:** Tremendous. Tremendous. I took a Bible course several years ago. Those verses (the plan of salvation) are sort of the guide to my life today. When I have problems, I go back to the Bible and find specific things that He's telling us to do.

## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Sudan accused of helping seize property from church

JUBA, South Sudan — After months of bulldozing or taking over church buildings on the pretext that they belong to South Sudanese who are no longer citizens of the country, authorities are aiding a Muslim businessman's effort to take over church property in Khartoum North.

Sudan's police and security forces broke through the fence of Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church on Oct. 5, beat and arrested Christians in the compound and asserted parts of the property belonged to the Muslim investor accompanying them, Hisham Hamada El-Neel, sources said.

Police and personnel from the National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS) broke onto the property aboard a truck and two Land Cruisers. They arrested some of the Christians as well as Pastor Dawood Fadul of the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SPEC); they were all released later that day.

Authorities asserted El-Neel had signed a contract giving him a right to invest in land that is part of the church property. Church members were not told who gave him the contract, and they suspect the government is behind the move.

Because of its treatment of Christians and other human rights violations, Sudan has been designated a Country of Particular Concern by the U.S. State Department since 1999, and in April, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended the country remain on the list in 2013.

### Baptist pastor faces one year in jail in Kazakhstan

ASTANA, Kazakhstan — Because Pavel Leonov refused to pay a fine for leading a religious community without state permission in East Kazakhstan, the Baptist pastor was jailed for 24 hours, Forum 18 News Service reported.

At press time, he still refused to pay the fine, equivalent to two months' average salary, according to police.

On Oct. 28, a criminal case was opened against him. Leonov now faces a possible maximum punishment of one year's imprisonment.

Leonov is one of more than 100 people known to have been fined so far in 2013 for — among other "offenses" — leading or participating in religious meetings without state permission; sharing their faith with others without being personally registered as "missionaries;" or distributing religious literature away from state-licensed venues.

A Prosecutor's Office official told Forum 18 that: "It's not the Soviet system. This is the Kazakh system."

# 'Peace came over me'

## Chaplain recalls worship on blood-soaked hill

Chaplain Parker Thompson can recall the moment — more than 60 years ago — he knew he was where God wanted him as an Army chaplain in the Korean War.

With the war's end in sight in the summer of 1953, fighting grew furious as the two sides hammered out an agreement over the transfer of prisoners of war.

On the backside of a blood-soaked hill near some of the deadliest fighting of the war, Thompson waited for 10 to 20 troops — whoever could make it — to join him for an impromptu worship service. In those moments, with life and death "tenuous" he would later say, the young Army chaplain stopped to ponder his calling.

"A peace came over me," said Thompson, a Southern Baptist chaplain who was then 27. "This is my place. I wouldn't trade this hillside for any church or pulpit in America. That never left me."

He is one of an estimated 120 Southern Baptist chaplains who served during the Korean War.

"Chaplain Parker Thompson is truly one of our nation's heroes, one of our last remaining military chaplains who brought the presence of the Lord to our troops on the blood-soaked battlefields of the Korean War," said Doug Carver, executive director of the North American Mission Board's chaplaincy team and a former U.S. Army two-star general.

Born into a family with a long and distinguished history of military service, Thompson wanted to be a soldier as long as he can remember. But as Thompson began to read his Bible and become active in

Calvary Baptist Church, St. Louis, Mo., he sensed a growing call to ministry, then specifically chaplaincy.

"It just came over me: Do you want to spend your life as an Army officer or do you want to share what God has given you?" Thompson recounted.

War broke out in Korea in June 1950, and just four days after his May 1951 seminary graduation, Thompson began his paperwork for entrance into the Chaplain Corps. After a short stint in the reserves, he

began serving on active duty as an endorsed chaplain of the Southern Baptist Convention. He arrived in Korea in November 1952.

Besides the obvious dangers and encumbrances of war — he was wounded five times during combat — ministry during much of the Korean War wasn't much different than a civilian pastorate, Thompson said. He spent much of his time planning worship services, counseling soldiers and getting to know the troops.

"Most of my sermons were evangelistic in nature," Thompson said. "The soldiers were facing life-and-death situations."

Because chaplains were expected to minister on the front lines of the war, they faced many of the same challenges fellow soldiers faced, but without the aid of firearms.

"I can honestly say without reservation, if I knew then what I know now, I'd do it all over again," Thompson said.

"It was the greatest experience not only being a chaplain to our young men and women, but then to come back enriched from that experience and being able to serve as a pastor for 31 years in two different Baptist churches." (NAMB)



THOMPSON

## Chaplains offer 'ministry of presence'

(continued from page 1)

Clanton was one of an estimated 300 Southern Baptist chaplains in a 10-year period who served in the war. Southern Baptist chaplains played a key role in providing spiritual guidance and support for more than 530,000 American soldiers. The North American Mission Board (NAMB), then called the Home Mission Board, is the endorsing entity for Southern Baptist chaplains in both military and civilian roles.

Chaplain Steve Gantt, who served in Vietnam for a year in the late 1960s, said many soldiers told him they felt safer when the chaplain was around. "I didn't necessarily feel like that," Gantt said with a laugh. "But I did have a chance to tell them that God cares for you — even in this hellish place. That was repeated time and time again."

Both Gantt and Clanton gave a similar description of their ministries. Besides leading worship services wherever they found a place, chaplains counseled soldiers, officiated memorial services, visited the wounded and spent time with their makeshift congregations.

### Where others can't go

Chaplains Clanton and Gantt continued their ministry on active duty with the Army until retirement in the early 1990s. Clanton now serves as pastor to senior adults at First Baptist Church, Sumter, S.C. Gantt serves as the transitional pastor of Sandy Level Baptist Church, Blythewood, S.C.

NAMB serves as the endorsing entity for Southern Baptist chaplains in the military. Southern Baptists have 1,355 endorsed military chaplains and a total of 3,547 endorsed chaplains, includ-

ing those who serve in hospitals, prisons and other settings.

"Military chaplains can go places that the local church cannot go," said Otis Corbitt, director of missions for Covington Baptist Association and a National Guard Chaplain who was deployed to Iraq in 2010.

"The ministry of presence that chaplains provide takes the love of God to ships, airfields, fighting positions and forward operating bases," he said.

Several dozen military chaplains serve in Alabama, and three Alabama Army National Guard chaplains are currently deployed overseas, Corbitt said. One of those, Ken Harrison, is pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, Deer Park.

According to NAMB, Alabama also has 20 military chaplains in the Army, Air Force and Army Reserve. (NAMB)

## Baptist NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED FROM WIRE SERVICES

### Southwestern Seminary trustees end faculty tenure

FORT WORTH, Texas — Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary trustees concluded a process to end faculty tenure during their fall meeting Oct. 16.

Trustees unanimously approved changes to the seminary's bylaws and policies to eliminate the future extension of tenure to faculty. Elected faculty who already have tenure are unaffected and will retain the rights and privileges of tenured faculty.

The decision comes after ongoing dialogue among the board. At their spring meeting in April, trustees passed a motion requesting their policies and bylaws subcommittee to bring recommended revisions to the fall meeting.

In 2007, Sheri L. Klouda, a former theology professor, filed a federal employment lawsuit against Southwestern, alleging breach of contract. She claimed she was wrongly dismissed from a tenure-track position because she is a woman.

The case was dismissed in March 2008.

# BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES



Photo by Chris Mills



Photo by Chris Mills

**Left:** More than 100 American and international students representing nine schools across Alabama participate in the International Friends Retreat in October.

**Above:** Shannon Hughes (left), BCM campus minister at Auburn University, dialogues with a student during a small group session at the retreat.

## BCMs, students build relationships with, minister to internationals on campus

By Amy Jackson  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

While numerous students across Alabama campuses spend summers and spring breaks serving on international missions trips, many have found that they can serve the nations right at home on their college campuses. With the rising number of international students traveling to the United States for collegiate education, campus ministries and college students are now able to minister to students from around the world.

Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) on campuses across Alabama and other ministry groups have had the opportunity to work with international students and build relationships with them. BCM also provides a place where international students can meet other students, find friends, work on language acquisition skills, learn about American culture and hear the gospel.

Several BCMs participate in conversation cafés, where American students meet with international students to work on their conversation skills and help them practice English.

Brad Bensinger, BCM campus minister at Troy University, explained that he encourages BCM students to get connected with the conversation partners program affiliated with their university. Conversation clubs and cafés give students the chance to help internationals in an extremely practical manner while building relationships with the hope of being able to share the gospel.

BCMs also have been able to serve inter-

national students by partnering with other campus organizations. For example, Auburn University's BCM provides a meeting place for the Auburn Chinese Christian Fellowship. This organization, with more than 100 members, meets at the Auburn BCM center to fellowship, study the Bible and worship. The BCM also has been able to open its doors to several other international student organizations.

Some students have been working through other creative ways to reach international students on their campuses. Lauren Haley, a student at the University of Montevallo, hopes to be able to host an international food event at the campus BCM in the future. She envisions international students coming to the BCM center to cook various cuisines from their countries and hopes that, while cooking, they can interact with each other and build relationships.

Several BCMs also are equipping local families and churches to partner with them in their ministry to international students. One program at Troy University encourages families to invite three international students and one American student into their homes for dinner and game nights.

Anna Kathryn Carter, a student at Troy University, said it is a good idea for families to invite international students into their

homes around the holiday season, because many cannot travel home to be with their families. Carter shared that having international students spend time with her family back home for Christmas break was a great opportunity to share the gospel with them and the meaning behind the holiday season.

*"The way of reaching out to internationals is a lifestyle — going where they are, eating their food, speaking their language."*

Anna Kathryn Carter  
student, Troy University

Ministry to international students has been a state-wide focus in recent days. In October, the Alabama Baptist State Convention and Woman's Missionary Union hosted an event at WorldSong Missions Place called the International Friends Retreat. The retreat's goal was to develop relationships with international college students through various teaching times and activities.

More than 100 American and international students participated, representing nine schools across Alabama. There also were several gospel presentations.

Haley and others said they trust God planted seeds and that He will use others to follow up with the gospel presentations made throughout the weekend.

The focus, however, was not just on large group sessions or presentations. Many of the activities on the retreat, which included zip-lining, canoeing and hiking, were low pressure and meant to start conversations and help people make connections.

Shannon Hughes, BCM campus minister at Auburn University, said, "It was those conversations waiting for the zip-line or at the bonfire where international students roasted marshmallows for the first time where the really important ministry happened. That was what the weekend was really all about."

Ministry to internationals across the state doesn't stop with events; the focus of international ministry is building relationships and living life day-to-day with students from other cultures, with hopes of making Christ known.

"The way of reaching out to internationals is a lifestyle — going where they are, eating their food, speaking their language," Carter said.

Bensinger expressed a desire that, as students build relationships and engage with those from other cultures, they would be reminded of God's good creation and God would continue to put students in positions "where they can experience and see the world ... to experience these other cultures and to know that God created us and desires a relationship with all of us, regardless of our backgrounds."

BCMs continue to encourage students to mobilize and reach out to those around them, both Americans and internationals — and God has brought the ends of the earth to campuses throughout the state and is opening doors for students to minister to the nations for His glory.

As Haley said, "[Y]ou start in your neighborhood, because Christ said to love your neighbor as yourself. We start in our Jerusalem." ☞



# MINISTRIES

*continue to make an impact across the state*

## University of Alabama BCM director shares about how 'the nations are in Alabama'

By **Kimberly Andrews**  
Director, Baptist Campus Ministry  
University of Alabama

**W**hy should we invest in the lives of international students studying in the U.S.? According to thetravelingteam.org, only 10 percent of international students are reached by ministries while in the U.S., and 80 percent of international students will return to their countries having never been invited to an American home. Forty percent of the world's 220 heads of state once studied in the U.S.

My first taste of international student ministry on an American college campus was as a seminary student. As part of a class requirement, I volunteered with the local university's Baptist Student Ministry each Thursday for their international student night. The programming was simple — pizza and conversation with internationals in the student center. The conversations were mostly about nothing. However, through the "nothing" we laughed a lot, and true friendships were built. I loved the opportunities to show them around the city; introduce them to new sites, new foods and new people; and talk to them about the Bible.

### Great Commission mindset

As a campus minister, I want to introduce students to those same kinds of friendships. I want them to develop a Great Commission mindset with the knowledge that to reach the nations, we don't have to get on an airplane. We just have to be intentional and obedient with the opportunities we have.

On Sept. 5, the University of Alabama (UA)/Shelton Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) launched English Café. Each Thursday evening, international students are invited to BCM for coffee and conversation where trained volunteers are given conversation guides with questions focused on a different topic each week. While the

conversation topics are intentionally not gospel-centered, volunteers are encouraged to meet with internationals outside of English Café in order to build relationships with the ultimate goal of sharing the gospel.

I am excited to report that in the first four weeks we trained 30 collegiate and adult volunteers and have hosted 75 international students at English Café. We are overwhelmed by the response and the relationships being

formed because of English Café. God continues to answer specific prayers related to our international student ministry. Kendall Yates, a teacher at UA's English Language Institute (ELI) and member of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, volunteers as our English Café coordinator. This was her vision, and we are pleased to partner with her in this way.

**ANDREWS**

Other teachers in the ELI have offered their students class credit if they attend English Café. Local Tuscaloosa Baptist churches are catching the vision as well and are sending us volunteers and desserts to share on Thursdays.

I ask that you pray for English Café. Set reminders to pray each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. and pray specifically for the salvation of students like:

▶ **J** — a Colombian student who returns home in November;

▶ **O** — a Japanese student who comes every week and is open to gospel conversations and who is leaving in December;

▶ **A** — a Muslim student from Saudi Arabia with three children who acknowledges that Yates has "something" different in her life;

▶ **Y** — a Chinese student who has been invited to dinner in a volunteer's home.

The nations are in Alabama, and we have the opportunity to make an eternal impact in the lives of future world leaders if we will make ourselves available. 🙏



Photo by Brooke Mills

Students participate in the plank walk at the International Friends Retreat.

## Student relates to internationals in foreign country

By **Brandon Anderson**  
Student, University of North Alabama

**O**ne of the last things Jesus said before He returned to Heaven was this: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19). For more than 2,000 years, our brothers and sisters in the faith have carried His message of grace throughout the world, sacrificing so much to carry out His command. Now the opportunity has never been easier. We do not just have to go into the world; the world is coming to us.

During the first weekend of October, I went with my Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) group from the University of North Alabama to WorldSong Missions Place in Cook Springs for the kickoff of the first International Friendship Retreat. Countries represented at the retreat included Lithuania, the United Kingdom, China, Vietnam, South Korea, India and the United States. It was a great time for me and my friends to build our friendships through team-building activities and learning sessions.

At one of the sessions, I was reminded how many of the students from different countries felt homesick and how difficult it might be for them to share these feelings with American students. Many of the students I encounter at my school live close enough to their hometowns to visit their families over the weekend or break. But for

a lot of international students, they have traveled very far and are unable to see their families for a long time, and many may have difficulty fitting in.

That was what first motivated me to be a part of the international ministries through BCM. I feel like I relate to international students in a small way. I grew up in Southeast Asia, so by coming to the United States, I also felt like I was moving into a foreign country even though I'm an American citizen.

So when I meet with my international friends, I want them to know that I have an idea of what they are going through and want to offer to help them cope with their loneliness in any way I can.

For American students who might not be aware of the challenges that internationals go through, programs like the International Friendship Retreat can provide an aid in understanding how to relate to international students and recognize some of their needs. In my experience,

what many international students want and need is a feeling of acceptance. They want to know that American students care about them and are willing to spend time with them. They want to know what American culture is like, just like many Americans desire to learn about other cultures when they visit foreign countries. American Christians can provide a great service to internationals. Not only can they help internationals adjust to living in America, but they can also serve as witnesses for Jesus Christ. 🙏



**ANDERSON**

# 'True minister of encouragement'

## UMobile's Cecil Taylor retires, but his mission, ministry continues

**W**hen Cecil Taylor retired in summer 2013 from the University of Mobile (UMobile), the former School of Christian Studies dean knew his mission hadn't ended. There was still work to be done — the Lord's work.

His June 30 retirement marked the end of one chapter of service and the opening of new missions fields for the founder/director of the school's University Missions program. Cecil and wife, Reeda, a 2010 UMobile graduate with a bachelor of science in nursing, will use their talents to serve God based out of their new home near family in Marshall, Texas.

The couple has looked toward this day for many years. Reeda Taylor earned her nursing degree at UMobile specifically in order to do medical missions when her husband retired.

### Passion for missions

Missions work has always been a passion for Cecil Taylor — one he passed on to students.

"I've come to think the Lord planted me ... at the University of Mobile so I could plant missions here," Taylor said.

He started the University Missions program in the summer of 1992 when he led the

first team of five students to Esmaraldas, Brazil, to help build a chapel.

Since then, University Missions has raised funds and sent teams to build 21 chapels for Baptist missions congregations in Brazil "from foundation to finish."

The 2013 University Missions Report tells a cumulative "by the numbers" story of influence. From 1992 to 2013, University Missions has:

- ▶ Formed, trained and sent 132 teams;
- ▶ Involved 1,624 people;
- ▶ Gone to 49 nations;
- ▶ Raised more than \$4.4 million, including team expenses, construction funds, building supplies and gifts-in-kind;

▶ Recorded 13,143 first-time professions of faith, plus many others uncounted;

▶ Created an experience that led more than a dozen churches and associations in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida to begin their own missions programs; and

▶ Planted a heart for missions in too many people to number.

When Taylor announced his retirement, the accolades poured in. Among them was a letter from Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

It read, in part: "Like one of my favorite biblical characters, Barnabas, Dr. Taylor is a true minister of encouragement. ... Cecil and his family will be remembered by Alabama Baptists for his ministry of encouragement among us."

Parker Windle, a 2004 graduate who is youth pastor at Emmanuel International Church of Paris, said, "Two things happened when I was at Mobile. I started to love God's Word and I developed a heart for the nations. Dr. Taylor was one of the main reasons both happened."

Doug Wilson, current dean of the School of Christian Ministries, said, "Only eternity will tell how many students [Dr. Taylor] touched to answer God's call to missions and ministry."

To keep in touch with Taylor, email him at [drct@aol.com](mailto:drct@aol.com). (UMobile)



CECIL & REEDA TAYLOR

## 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](mailto:ADS@THEALABAMABAPTIST.ORG). COPY DEADLINE IS TWO WEEKS BEFORE PUBLICATION.

### CHURCH POSITIONS

**TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE:** Southside Baptist Decatur, Ala., is seeking a full-time minister of education and youth and part-time children's minister. Resumes may be sent to: [pam@southsidebaptist.net](mailto:pam@southsidebaptist.net). ATTN: Search Committee.

**PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER:** Meadow Drive Baptist Church in Huntsville is seeking a part-time music minister. No experience necessary, but it might be helpful. Outgoing, fun-loving individual who loves the Lord and His people will be just fine. Call Steve at 256-337-0663 for more details.

**TWO PART-TIME MUSICIANS:** Pleasant View Baptist Church, Foley, seeks two part-time musicians: one to lead choir and congregation and another to accompany our adult choir and congregation on the piano. Our worship is traditional/blended. Information/application at 251-943-1845.

**YOUTH MINISTER:** Bethany Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational youth minister. Please send resumes to: Bethany Baptist Church, ATTN: Youth Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 7, Horton, AL 35980.

**PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER:** Gethsemane Baptist Church is seeking a part-time/bivocational youth minister. Resumes may be sent to: [gethsemanebaptist@yahoo.com](mailto:gethsemanebaptist@yahoo.com) or Personnel Committee, GBC, P.O. Box

9, Hayden, AL 35079 (no phone calls).

**CHILDREN'S MINISTER:** Taylorville Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., is seeking a full-time children's minister. Please email resumes to: [jnelson@taylorvillebaptist.org](mailto:jnelson@taylorvillebaptist.org), or call 205-758-0868 for more information.

**CHILDREN'S DIRECTOR:** First Baptist Church of Piedmont is accepting applications for interim or part-time children's director. Please mail resumé to: 105 North Main Street, Piedmont, AL 36272, or email to: [info@piedmontfbc.org](mailto:info@piedmontfbc.org).

### OTHER POSITIONS

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** A Christian-based ministry in Decatur, Ala., is searching for an executive director. The primary areas of responsibility will be administrative, staff and fund development and community/public relations. This is a permanent, full-time, salaried, at-will position. Salary is \$30k-40k, commensurate with experience. The organization is a Christian, pro-life ministry proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and providing practical, emotional and spiritual assistance to women, men and children who face pregnancy-related issues who are threatened by abortion or who suffer harm from abortion. The executive director must be an evangelical Christian with a demonstrated personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and adhere to a strong pro-life viewpoint. Cover letter and resumes

may be mailed to: Executive Director Search, P.O. Box 1130, Decatur, AL 35602, or emailed to: [lifecdj@gmail.com](mailto:lifecdj@gmail.com).

### 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](mailto:gary.washington@covan.com).

**FOR SALE NEW & USED STAIR-LIFTS:** 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](http://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.

### TRAVEL/VACATION

**BIBLE LAND DEPARTURES:** 100s of Bible Land departures catering to Southern Baptists — Israel, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Britain, Jordan, Egypt, etc. [www.pilgrimgtours.com](http://www.pilgrimgtours.com), 1-800-322-0788.

**ALASKA TOUR:** Alaska tour by Deluxe Touring Coach round-trip from Georgia. 31 days, June 16-July 16, 2014. 20 years of Alaska experience. Great references. 34 already signed up. Only 10 spaces left. For information: [www.GeriGadderTours.com](http://www.GeriGadderTours.com) or call 229-638-0960.

**LOG CABIN:** Lake Guntersville area, beautiful view and fully furnished. Discounts to ministers. Log on to [www.paradisevista.net](http://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](http://HolidayBeachResort.com).

## Want to know God?

**Pastor Ben Hayes**  
Southside Baptist Church, Decatur

Once upon a time, I believed that everyone wanted to know God, but then I grew up. What I discovered was that most people want to know about God while only some people want to really know Him. I was guilty of living in a fairy-tale world like lots of other people today who believe that there are many ways to know God. Some believe that their good works bring them an introduction to God. Others believe that church membership does the trick.

The Bible says otherwise. We can only know God through an intimate relationship that begins with a broken heart because our sin has separated us from God.

When we experience that kind of godly sorrow, we turn from our sin and we turn to God — that is repentance. What follows is the surrender of our will to God's will that says the only way to salvation is through the sacrifice of Jesus, His Son, on the cross. Jesus died because the cost of sin, yours and mine, is death, but on the third day God brought Him back to life.

By trusting in faith the fact that we are forgiven because Jesus paid the price for our sins, by believing that God raised Jesus from the dead and by accepting His gift as the way we become one with God, we enter into that intimate relationship. We truly know God. We know His love. We know His grace. We know His power. We know His holiness.

But how do we do that? From Genesis to Revelation, people receive God's mercy when they cry out to Him.

That's what you need to do. Tell Him that your heart is broken because you have broken His heart. Tell Him that you want to be forgiven of your sin. Tell Him that you believe that Jesus died for your sins and rose again. Tell Him that you want Jesus to be your Master and your Savior.

Then tell Him thank you because the Bible says, "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Rom. 10:13). And then you, too, can live happily ever after.



# Rashional thoughts

By Jennifer Davis Rash  
The Alabama Baptist

Executive editor • jrash@thealabamabaptist.org

## Smashed by one who was 'smashed'

The nice older gentleman wasn't thrilled about driving me up and down the rows of smashed vehicles, but he did it.

"I'm telling you, they picked up your car yesterday," he kept saying. "It's not here."

But the "they" — my insurance company — assured me the car was still in the impound lot in north Birmingham. I had actually been looking for it all day. No one seemed to know where my car was.

As we drove around, I was shocked at how many wrecked cars were stored there as well as several cars that weren't wrecked. The gentleman explained that the red suburban I pointed out was "in jail."

The owner had outstanding traffic tickets and his vehicle will be impounded until he pays up, the gentleman said. "That's why I say it's in jail."

We turned another corner and I saw my Hyundai Sonata parked right in the middle of the only large puddle of muddy water in the lot. The gentleman shook his head. He couldn't believe it was really there. We soon figured out the mystery behind the confusion over my car's location, but before we could celebrate my new friend scowled again.

### Good Samaritans

He was attempting to build a bridge to my car to remove the items I came to retrieve and ended up soaking his tan non-waterproof work boots. He drew the line at attempting to get my tag off the trunk, which now permanently sits perched straight up like a disfigured hatchback rear door wannabe.

And while he had had a long day, the gentleman encouraged me amid the inconveniences that come with a car accident. He likes to keep the customers happy and that isn't always easy, he said. "They aren't always happy when they come to see me."

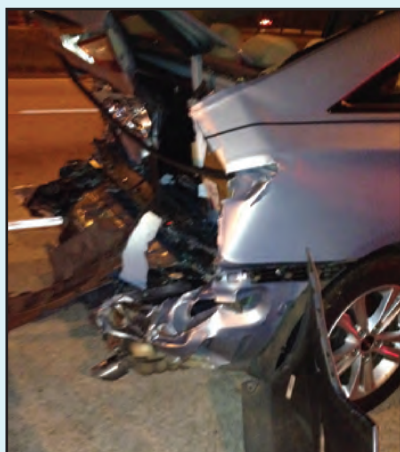


Photo by Haley Piersol

And he is probably right. The back and forth that comes when several businesses are involved in any type of transaction can be frustrating. There have certainly been unorganized moments as I've worked through the aftermath of my car accident, but in almost every situation the person working with me has been extremely nice and willing to help.

Even at the scene of the accident, complete strangers stopped to help me after a drunk driver caused chaos on I-59 North and left two of us spinning out of control. They helped me get out of the car and guided me to safety.

My friend, Haley, saw the accident and came back to stay with me — for almost four hours. My family, friends, co-workers, church family, Baptist buddies and more have reached out to me. The result could have been so much worse, but I walked away and am able to tell you about it.

So many others don't get that chance, and to think that this happened during Red Ribbon Week — the annual national alcohol and drug prevention campaign.

I'm not sure how to convince people not to drink and drive, but I know our friends at Alabama Citizens Action Program (ALCAP) are sure trying.

Nov. 10 is ALCAP Sunday. Consider taking up an offering to help this group with its efforts. Visit [www.alcap.com](http://www.alcap.com) for more information.

# Rashional Extras...

To read previous columns by Jennifer Davis Rash, visit [www.rashionalthoughts.com](http://www.rashionalthoughts.com)

## A Captivated Heart

By Kelcie Kinchen  
Student, University of Mobile

It seems the days fly by lately. I wake up Monday morning, reluctantly I might add, then I blink and it's Sunday night again. Somewhere in between the blur of the week, we become exhausted and worn out. We run ourselves ragged trying to perform to get some sort of reward. Whether it's later hours in the office seeking a promotion or a little girl twirling in her new dress for Daddy, we are all doing something in hopes of getting the reward we seek.

Many of us do that in our Christian walk. At some point we have all been guilty of letting the overflow of "good deeds" overshadow the view of the heart issue we tend to turn a blind eye to. I will be the first to admit that I have fallen to the lie in a season of my life, thinking that the more I do, the more God will love me and reward me. It took some deep heart searching to find out the true desire of God's heart and the result shocked me and tore apart every idea I had of earning what I want from the world's standpoint. The fact is God wants you to do nothing. That's right, nothing.

All your hours of serving and giving your time away cannot compare to the time He wants with you doing nothing. It is in those intimate times that we simply seek His face and not His reward, that our hearts align with His for a moment and we see a glimpse of the true vision He wants us to see.

I love the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38-42. ... The way Mary is described grips my heart and makes me want to be a woman like she was with a heart captivated by the guest in her home. My heart yearns to be a woman like Mary sitting at the feet of the Savior of the world enthralled by everything He says and the essence of who He is. This is a picture of how God desires us to be with Him and the way the world we live in has made us think we have to be to earn that relationship with Him that He promises from the beginning.

There is a time for service and giving our lives away in His name, but before any of that can take place we have to connect on a heart level with the One who we do all of that in, otherwise it is all in vain.

"A person's call is ... first and foremost to God Himself. That strong and vibrant relationship with God then shapes every motivation, every action and every opportunity to use the resources he or she possesses."

**"Leading by Design: Follow Jesus' example in leading twelve types of people"**

Andrew Westmoreland with Patrick Springle

### Strive for 5

- 5 Healthy meals a day
- 5 Fruits and veggies a day
- 5 Workouts a week
- 5 iThirst video devotionals a week
- 5 New Testament chapters a week

Rondie Wilks  
[www.livingfitonline.com](http://www.livingfitonline.com)

Your Aug. 1 Rashional Thoughts was very moving. It was very well done in regard to transparency as well as personal privacy.

Vicki Ann Love Foster  
Fairhope, Ala.

Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength — carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.

Corrie ten Boom

### KEEP ME IN THE LOOP

If you blog and have not appeared in Rashional Extras yet, then be sure to send me a link to one of your favorite pieces. I'd love to read what you are writing. Email [jrash@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:jrash@thealabamabaptist.org).



### SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

► **Shea Summerlin Named Miss Samford University 2014:** Shea Summerlin, a junior chemistry major from Montgomery, was crowned Miss Samford University 2014 on Oct. 25.



SUMMERLIN

Summerlin, 21, will represent Samford in the Miss Alabama scholarship pageant in June. Her pageant platform is All In for Alzheimer's. She presented a piano performance of "Prelude No. 21 in B-Flat Major" during the talent competition. She is the daughter of Sandra and Larry Summerlin.

### UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE

► **Tickets Available for Christmas Spectacular:** The 11th annual Christmas Spectacular presented by the University of Mobile (UMobile) Center for Performing Arts will be held Nov. 21-24 at 6:45 p.m. at Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile.

Tickets may be purchased at [www.itickets.com](http://www.itickets.com) (search Christmas Spectacular), the UMobile Center for Performing Arts offices in Martin Hall on campus, Dauphin Way Baptist Church weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and during store hours at LifeWay Christian Store at 3233 Airport Blvd. in Mobile.

Tickets can also be purchased on a space-available basis at the door on the night of each performance. For more information, call 251-442-2420.

### JUDSON COLLEGE

► **Support for Literacy:** What started out as a \$500 donation from Judson College education professor Gwen McCorquodale's Sunday School class grew into a benefit concert bringing in enough money to put a new book into the hands of every Albert Turner Sr. Elementary School student and more than 1,000 new books in the Marion school's library.

When McCorquodale's Sunday School class at Vestavia Hills Baptist Church wanted to support literacy learning in Perry County, fellow classmate Michael Dulin, a Birmingham concert pianist, suggested a benefit concert.

Dulin performed in the spring as part of the church's annual "Arts on the Mountain" concert series and raised more than \$7,000.

## Samford trustees approve major academic changes

Several significant academic changes were approved by Samford University's board of trustees executive committee in their regular fall meeting Oct. 30.

Trustees gave approval to the names of two new schools in the College of Health Sciences: School of Public Health and School of Health Professions. A department of physical therapy was approved in the School of Health Professions, and a department of public health was approved in the School of Public Health. Creation of doctor of physical therapy and master of public health degrees was approved in the respective schools.

Additionally trustees approved a name change for the Department of Speech-Language Pathology to Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and the creation of two new degrees in the department: a bachelor of science in communication sciences and disorders and a master of science in speech language pathology.

The creation of a non-degree dietetic internship certificate program was approved in the School of Public Health.

And two new funds for the McWhorter School of Pharmacy were approved — The Ray R. and Peggie L. Wood Endowed Scholarship Fund and an International Pharmacy Education and Development Fund. (SU)

**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

**World's Largest Walk-in Bath Store**

Wholesale prices Starting at \$2,399

Extra large tubs in stock!

10,000 sqft showroom!

Handicap showers!

**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

**1-800-264-4902** [www.LuterSupply.com](http://www.LuterSupply.com)

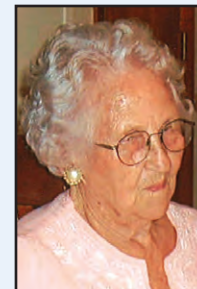
## Alabama updates

People, churches making news across the state

### Sebring marks 70 years of teaching Sunday School

The senior adult ladies class of Center Point Baptist Church, Scottsboro, honored its teacher, Velma Sebring, on Aug. 25 for 70 years of teaching Sunday School.

During the morning worship service, the class presented Sebring with a quilt they made her. The quilt included photos of every member of the class, along with a message to Sebring that said "Number one teacher." A celebration tea was held that afternoon with about 200 people.



SEBRING

As part of the celebration, several Sunday School classes personalized banners with special messages to Sebring, which were displayed in the church's fellowship hall.

Sebring, who is Center Point's oldest active member, first began teaching at Randall's Chapel United Methodist Church, Scottsboro, in 1938. She joined Center Point a few years later and has since served in several roles at the Tennessee River Baptist Association church, including her very first role as a Sunday School helper.

Sunday School class member Virginia Bradford was led to the Lord at age 11 by Sebring. "She taught children for a lot of years" and then decided to teach adult ladies, Bradford said. "She's a wonderful teacher. She is always prepared." (Julie Payne)

### UMobile reaffirms 'distinctively Christian' focus

The University of Mobile board of trustees unanimously reaffirmed the university's "distinctively Christian" focus during its fall meeting Oct. 22.

The action comes nearly a decade after trustees first approved the Statement of Christian Affirmation as a guiding principle of what it means to be a "distinctively Christian" university.

The process to fully integrate a Christian worldview into all areas of the school continues across the academic program, as faculty intentionally integrate Christian ethics and values across academic disciplines. Throughout the university, campus life programs intentionally explore Christian perspectives on various issues.

The Statement of Christian Affirmation is posted on the university's website at [www.umobile.edu](http://www.umobile.edu). (UMobile)

## Reverse Mortgage News

By Jimmy Dixon

When I started writing this article years ago, I had no idea I would get to meet so many pastors and their spouses. I have truly been blessed by getting to know them. A few weeks ago, a title agent and I were at the home of a retired pastor and wife to close their reverse mortgage. When we finished, the pastor asked if he could pray for me and he prayed while I was traveling down the interstate. Let me tell you, I was moved by his compassion and love and I thank God for putting me on his heart!

The latest thing we see coming in the reverse mortgage world is what FHA calls "means testing."

Starting Jan. 1, they want us to check on our applicants and make sure they have the "means" to pay for homeowners insurance and property taxes (unless they're exempt). We have never considered the homeowners credit score and income before but, when 2014 gets here (2 months), I believe we will. If you have concerns about your credit score and income, you can avoid this change by applying before Dec. 31. Since the Christmas rush will be here soon, please call today while I have time to help you.

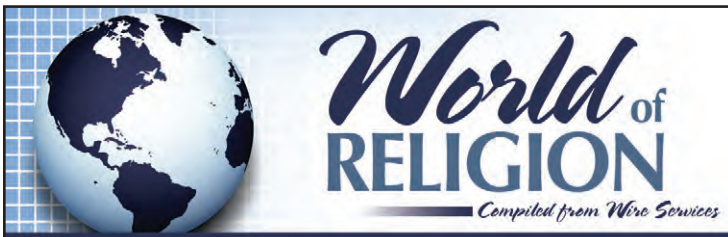


Jimmy Dixon

Remember, like *The Alabama Baptist*, Jimmy covers our great state helping seniors improve the quality of their lives. He is an active deacon and Sunday School teacher at Valley Creek Baptist Church, Hueytown. If you have questions or would like a free brochure or quote, call him direct at 205-567-4800, or email [jdixon@mcgowinking.com](mailto:jdixon@mcgowinking.com).



— Paid Advertising —



**Brazil's police take Bible classes to reduce stress**

BRASILIA, Brazil — Amid concerns about police brutality, Brazilian military police officers are taking Bible study classes during their working hours to help them deal with stress and improve their personal and family lives. The initiative teaches officers how to apply biblical concepts to everyday family matters and encourages them to search for biblical examples that give advice, guidance and solutions about family issues, including how to rear children, handle finances and build personal relationships.

The Moral Education Program was launched as a pilot project in the capital Brasilia by the Federal District Military Police in partnership with the Sao Paulo-based University of the Family.

The Christianity-based course has hit controversy with critics arguing it is inappropriate for Brazil as a secular state — with a stated policy of neutrality on religion — to promote Christian teachings in a public institution. The military police is the civilian wing of the security forces and responsible for law and order on the streets, attending crime scenes and arresting suspects. But a representative from the military police said while the secular state makes it clear that it will not favor one religion over another, it also means the state will not interfere with the operation of any religion.

**Report: U.S. tapped cardinals' phones ahead of conclave**

ROME — The National Security Agency (NSA) spied on cardinals as they prepared to select the new pope — perhaps including even Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, who emerged from the spring 2013 conclave as Pope Francis, a leading Italian news magazine reported Oct. 30. The news magazine *Panorama* said the same NSA eavesdropping program that angered leaders in Germany, France, Spain and Mexico also listened in on calls to and from the Vatican, including the phones in the Santa Marta guesthouse that housed Bergoglio and the rest of the College of Cardinals. Pope Francis still lives in the guesthouse, but the magazine did not speculate whether the phones there were still tapped.

The Vatican declined to comment at length about the report. The chief spokesman, Federico Lombardi, issued only a short statement saying, "We have heard nothing of this and are not worried."

**Indian court mulls over whether yoga is religious**

NEW DELHI — The Supreme Court of India is weighing whether yoga has a religious element, as it decides if public schools may teach the ancient discipline in the country where it originated.

India's school policy considers yoga an integral component of physical education. But the court is considering arguments that yoga has a religious component. The issue is complicated because India is a secular democracy but has pockets of Hindu nationalists who would like to force their way of life on others.

The issue is affecting other countries too. In July a California judge ruled that the teaching of yoga in public schools does not establish a government interest in religion. The decision came after parents sued the Encinitas Union School District to stop yoga classes introduced to elementary schoolchildren.

# 'Transformative' experience

## New Hope Publishers launches online Bible study community

**E**ver wanted to know more about the author behind the Bible study your women's group was doing? New Hope Publishers recently launched a new online community — New Hope Women in Bible Study — at [NewHopeDigital.com/women](http://NewHopeDigital.com/women) to help women do just that.

The site is geared toward individuals, ministry leaders and others interested in resources and practical ways to engage women in Bible study and grow small groups while also getting to know the authors behind the studies.

It was launched during an event Oct. 24–26 in Birmingham that drew more than 40 women from New Hampshire to Arkansas — mostly women's ministry and small group leaders. Women heard from and visited with renowned Bible study authors to gain skills and information about Bible study resources.

The new website "is a space where women using New Hope Bible studies as individuals or in small groups can meet authors, interact with one another, have access to unique content and learn more about New Hope Bible study resources and authors," explained Andrea Mullins, publisher of New Hope, a publishing arm of national Woman's Missionary Union.

Also launched at the event was [NewHopeInteractive.com](http://NewHopeInteractive.com). Through a partnership with HelloMogo Digital Book Lab, New Hope is one of the first publishers to offer Bible studies in an interactive workbook format that allows readers to develop their own online or desktop library of interactive Bible study workbooks.

There are four Bible studies currently available at [NewHopeInteractive.com](http://NewHopeInteractive.com) with this interactive workbook feature.

"Transformative" is how Bonnie Gorman, a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Huntsville, described the launch weekend.

"This experience is much like when I went through the 'Live a Praying Life' Bible study," Gorman said. "It brought me a renewed sense of peace, strength and freedom to live a Christ-centered life with purpose."



Photo courtesy of New Hope Publishers

Author Jennifer Kennedy Dean (right) signs copies of her book, 'Live a Praying Life.'

Jennifer Kennedy Dean, author of "Live a Praying Life," spoke at the opening session.

Along with Dean, authors such as Debra Berry, Edna Ellison, Kathy Howard, Brenda Ladun and Kimberly Sowell led conferences on their Bible studies and topics such as trusting God, spiritual growth, suffering, restoration and the importance of being an encourager.

**'Essential' to know writer's theology**

A panel discussion offered insight and practical considerations related to women's Bible studies. On the panel were Berry, Ellison and Howard, along with Dawn Stephens, who serves as minister to women and women's small groups at The Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham.

When choosing Bible studies, each on the panel agreed it is essential to know the theology of the writer and whether or not the content is from a reputable source known for being consistent with what the Bible teaches.

They also underscored the value of knowing your audience. (WMU)

Visit our booth at the Alabama Baptist State Convention



TRAINING LEADERS  
IMPACTING COMMUNITIES

Do you want to ...  
Make a difference in your community ...  
Increase your ministry effectiveness ...  
Learn more about the Bible ...  
If so, Heritage Bible College is for you.

Bachelor of Arts in Religion • Master of Arts in Religion

Master of Arts in Religion includes emphases in Bible, Ministry or Youth & Children's Ministry



HERITAGE BIBLE COLLEGE  
6806 Whitesburg Dr. SE • Huntsville, AL 35802  
256-704-5678, ext. 355 • [HeritageBibleHSV.org](http://HeritageBibleHSV.org)



Your parents want to stay in the place they call home. We can help.

Whether you are looking for someone to help you or a loved one a few hours a week, or need more comprehensive assistance, Home Instead can help.

- Companionship
- Light Housekeeping
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminders
- Alzheimer's Care
- Personal Care

Each Home Instead Senior Care franchise office is independently owned and operated. © 2013 Home Instead, Inc.

Call for a free, no-obligation appointment:  
Huntsville . . . 256.883.3080  
Florence . . . 256.764.4316

Serving North Alabama



[HomeInstead.com](http://HomeInstead.com)



**C**arry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:2

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For November 10

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

### DOUBTING JESUS' POWER? John 9:8-11, 13-17, 35-41

#### Feeling Uncertain (8-11)

Jesus is passing by, having escaped an attempted stoning following His climatic declaration, "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58). He meets a blind man who would station himself near the temple so he could get enough money to survive, depending on the mercy of others. Jesus sees him and His disciples are not moved to help but to talk. They wish to engage in a theological discussion about the problem of pain, suffering and evil.

The disciples buy into the commonly held view of the day that all sickness and hard times are due to sin in the person's life. The disciples ask Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus takes advantage of their question to drive home two important spiritual truths. Jesus answers His disciples, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him." First we must understand what really matters. We must do the works of God while we can. Our time is limited. What do you need to do today to be obedient?

Second we must understand who really matters. Jesus makes a mixture of spit and dirt, applies it to the man's eyes and commands him to go to the pool of Siloam and wash. Siloam means "sent." He who is the true "Sent One" sends this man to the pool of Sent. The water will cleanse his eyes just as certainly as Jesus will cleanse his soul. The blind man obeys Jesus and is healed. The man born blind meets the Light of the World and now he sees.

The people are amazed and confused, astonished and puzzled and curious and skeptical. The people are uncertain about how the man born blind can now see. The man born blind who can now see is a walking testimony to the power of God.

#### Resisting the Truth (13-17)

What should have been the occasion of a great celebration now becomes the occa-

sion for an evil inquisition. The neighbors of the healed man take him to the Pharisees because it was the Sabbath day when Jesus opened his eyes. This is not the first time Jesus has violated their Sabbath laws.

Jesus violated their man-made religious traditions by working on the Sabbath (making clay) and by healing on the Sabbath when it was not a life or death situation. This is unacceptable. Religious protocol has been violated, regardless of the greatness of the miracle.

The Pharisees repeatedly questioned the man, resulting in division among the Pharisees. Instead of rejoicing in the miracle, some attack the miracle-worker. Many of the Pharisees condemned the Light. Others, however, cannot escape what has occurred.

As for the blind man, all he can say at this point is that Jesus is a prophet. His sight grows stronger, but for those who condemn and reject the Light, their sight only grows weaker.

#### Refusing to See (35-41)

The Jews throw the healed man out of the temple, and the Lord of the temple finds him. Light received will result in greater light. In verses 9:35-39 we see four characteristics of spiritual sight. First spiritual sight requires divine initiative. The Pharisees shut him out but Jesus seeks him out. Second spiritual sight responds in faith. The man's response reveals a heart divinely prepared to believe. Third spiritual sight recognizes Jesus as the Christ. He recognizes that Jesus is the Anointed One, the promised Son of Man. Fourth spiritual sight results in worship. The only appropriate response to this truth is worship.

Light received will result in greater light, but Light rejected will result in greater blindness. Revelation brings responsibility. The more you know the greater is your accountability. Respond to what you receive and God will give you more. Reject what you receive and you will lose even that. Spiritual blindness receives judgment, refuses to admit its blindness, rejects spiritual sight and results in doom.

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

### STEP IN 1 Samuel 25:2-42

This story comes not long after the story covered Oct. 20. The idea of vengeance is in both stories: it is not for humans to exact, but for God. In chapter 24, David did not seek revenge, but this week he is ready to wipe out innocent people. The author might present David as Israel's greatest king, but he doesn't plaster over David's faults. David needs to be corrected. Don't let it escape your notice that a relatively powerless but wise woman steps in, and David acts righteously in response to her initiative. Within the limited powers available to her, she takes up the role of prophet, speaking God's message to the king. Given what David is prepared to do to avenge an insult, her courage also stands out.

#### Verse 2

The towns Maon and Carmel sit near Hebron at the northern end of the Negev desert. Sheep shearing happens in the spring.

#### Verse 3

"Nabal" means "fool" (see v. 25). "Abigail" means something like "her father's joy." Both names are fitting.

#### Verses 4-11

David, who is still hiding from Saul, must rely on hospitality in order to feed his men and himself. David asks for help on a "feast day," probably a yearly festival associated with sheep shearing. After making preparations for the festival, perhaps Nabal will have enough left over to feed David and his men. David points out that, despite the fact that they are armed, his men have done no wrong to Nabal's servants but have treated them well, even protecting them (see v. 16).

Nabal indeed has plenty (18 and 36) but violates accepted rules of hospitality by rudely turning away David's men and hence David as well. He also lies when he implies that he doesn't want to take food away from his men (11). The food is for his own feast (36).

#### Verses 12-13

The insult infuriates David and he acts the bully, much like the king who is hunting him. A coward who will murder innocents because his feelings have been hurt has supplanted the brave lad who slew the giant.

#### Verses 14-17

Nabal's servants know that he has made a bad mistake. Note that they do not confront him. Rather they go to his wife, Abigail, who must have proved her good judgment and intelligence before.

#### Verses 18-22

That turns out to be a wise decision, for Abigail does indeed fix the problem. She doesn't confront bloodthirsty David with the injustice of his intentions but prepares a meal for him and sends it ahead. Recall Jacob and Esau in Genesis 32:2-21. Unlike Esau, David is not mollified.

#### Verses 23-31

Note what Abigail does when she meets David: she does not present the food as a bribe to keep David from killing her household. Rather she says it is a thank-you gift, as if he has already decided to put away his anger (26). He doesn't do that until verse 32.

Abigail speaks prophetic words to David. His enemies (Saul) will indeed die like Nabal (26, 38) and be slung "out as from the hollow of a sling" (29). David will indeed be "prince over all Israel" (30).

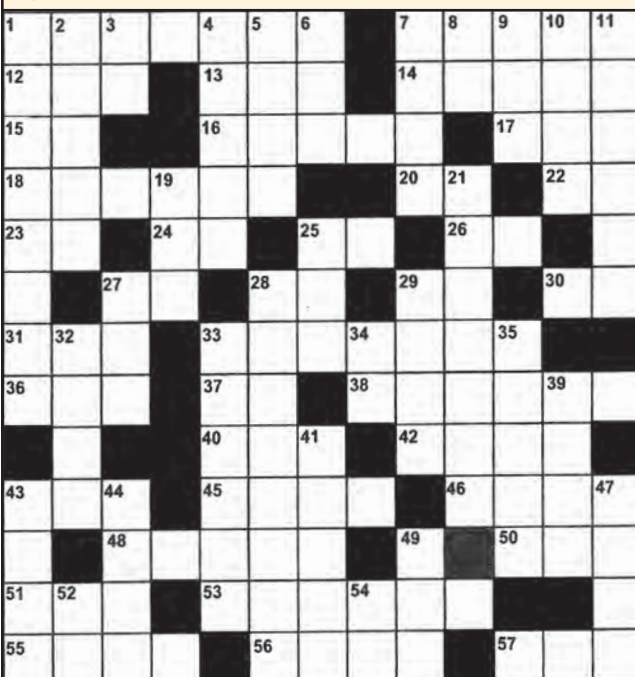
#### Verses 32-42

As a result of Abigail's actions, David realizes that revenge is not his to take. The lesson will not stick (see chapter 30). The text suggests that Nabal is sorry for his actions before God strikes him. Verse 39 foreshadows 2 Samuel 11:1-27, when David will commit adultery and murder the woman's husband.

There are two important lessons this week. First sometimes even Davids act unjustly and must be corrected. Second even those with little power can (and must) step in to speak truth to those who have all the power.

## Christian Crossword

Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



### Across

- Daniel the \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 24:15)
- \_\_\_\_\_ stilled the people. (Num. 13:30)
- Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ long? (Isa. 6:11)
- Iron \_\_\_\_.
- Not live by bread \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 4:4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ I my brother's keeper? (Gen. 4:9)
- The family of \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam. 10:21)
- Measure of weight.
- A pharaoh.
- Middle Atlantic state. (abbr.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ will we sing. (Ps. 21:13)
- I am \_\_\_\_\_ the Father. (John 14:10)
- How \_\_\_\_\_ it that ye have no faith. (Mark 4:40)
- Go up \_\_\_\_\_ Jerusalem. (Acts 25:9)
- Old Testament. (abbr.)
- Saint. (abbr.)
- That it shall \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 27:25)
- Social Security. (abbr.)
- Yes. (Spanish)

- Samuel ran to \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Sam. 3:5)
- He looked on the \_\_\_\_\_. (Num. 24:21)
- Variation of aeon.
- And the Lord shut him \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 7:16)
- To scheme. (2 words)
- Disc jockeys. (abbr.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ he is come. (John 4:25)
- Long \_\_\_\_.
- To the slaughter, like \_\_\_\_\_. (Jer. 51:40)
- Christ \_\_\_\_\_ me. (1 Cor. 1:17)
- Elimelech's wife. (Ruth 1:2)
- Standard in golf.
- Long, narrow fish.
- Type of acid.
- Nos.
- Orderly.
- Mine enemy and my \_\_\_\_\_. (sing.) (Ps. 27:2)
- Periods of time.
- Asian holiday.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and Abel.
- American League. (abbr.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ sat in the gate of Sodom. (Gen. 19:1)
- Seth called his son's name \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 4:26)
- Name Rachel called Benjamin. (Gen. 35:18)
- \_\_\_\_\_ thou on my right hand. (Matt. 22:44)
- \_\_\_\_\_ coat of many colors.
- Number of lepers. (Luke 17:21)
- All manner of \_\_\_\_\_. (Matt. 12:31)
- The sons of Rachel: Joseph and \_\_\_\_\_. (Gen. 35:24)
- Put away (on a boat).
- \_\_\_\_\_ ago.
- Cross over the brook \_\_\_\_\_. (1 Kings. 2:37)
- Consider \_\_\_\_\_ in thine heart. (Deut. 4:39)
- Let us not \_\_\_\_\_ as do others. (1 Thess. 5:6)
- Was one \_\_\_\_\_ a prophetess. (Luke 2:36)
- I will \_\_\_\_\_ all thy borders

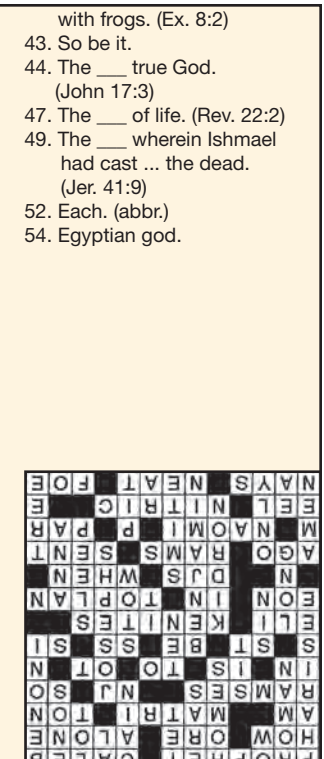




Photo by Rick Sharp

Casting Crowns connects with the audience at Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, as part of its 'Acoustic Sessions' tour Oct. 25.

## Casting Crowns stops in Huntsville on 'Acoustic Sessions' tour

By Martine Bates Sharp  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**T**o someone walking into Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, it looked and sounded like a concert was about to begin. A ticket booth, merchandise tables, some vendor displays and a band warming up inside the auditorium all served as clues to what was about to happen.

But the stage didn't look quite like a setting for a concert. In the middle of the stage sat a sofa, several comfortable chairs and a coffee table decorated with the kind of items found in most dens.

The concert Oct. 25 was part of the Casting Crowns "Acoustic Sessions" tour, and the set was carefully planned, according to band founder and lead vocalist Mark Hall, to get into an intimate setting with the audience and share the raw basics of the songs.

"I think there's something really honest about taking songs down to the lyrics and a few guitars, a mandolin ... and re-creating those moments the songs first came out of — to take all the production away and all the bells and whistles and just hear the song as it was when the artist wrote it," Hall said.

Casting Crowns, all youth ministers out of Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church, McDonough, Ga., have been

recording together since 1999, first recording CDs for the youth in their church. A few years later, they were asked by well-known Christian artist Steven Curtis Chapman and Mark Miller from the group Sawyer Brown to expand their music.

Hall noted that he was hesitant at first but secured an agreement that the band members could remain with their jobs as youth ministers and only tour Thursday through Saturday, enabling them to be at church with their youth on Sundays and Wednesday nights. They still continue this practice after numerous successful CDs and Dove, Billboard Music and Grammy awards.

### Student ministry dedication

The group's dedication to youth ministry is unmistakable. The music, which is written primarily by Hall, generally grows out of a need to "draw a picture" that the youth can understand. The group sees their music as an extension of student ministry.

"I don't feel any more legit coming to Huntsville playing than I do back home working with my youth," Hall said. "When we started touring, we wondered how it might work, how we could connect with people we might not see again, instead of a youth group that you work with week after week."

The band was able to connect easily to the audience at



Photo by Rick Sharp

More than 2,000 people fill the sanctuary of Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville, for the Casting Crowns concert.

Whitesburg Baptist, drawing the 2,000-plus people in the sanctuary into their inner circle and giving the feeling of listening to a group of friends sitting around talking.

In the end, Hall made it clear that it wasn't just about the music.

"Just repeating words on a screen is not worship. God, we don't want to just sing songs to You — we want our lives to be a song." ❏

***"Just repeating words on a screen is not worship. God, we don't want to just sing songs to You — we want our lives to be a song."***

**Mark Hall**  
lead vocalist, Casting Crowns

## 'Acoustic Sessions' sound is 'un-messed-with'

**T**hose of us who are a little older remember the MTV Unplugged series. While the end musical result of "Acoustic Sessions" might be similar, any comparisons end there. If you've ever thought how cool it would be to sit down with Casting Crowns in your living room and just hang with them while they bang out some of your favorite songs from the last 10 years, you have an idea of what their "Acoustic Sessions" tour is all about.

So how do Casting Crowns' signature songs sound as acoustic-only live versions? Un-messed-with.

With all of the electronic "enhancements" stripped away, each song lives or dies on its lyrical and melodic merit, and their signature songs fare well in that light. This is pretty close to what the songs must have sounded like as they were being written. I didn't detect any sonic enhancements in the live concert. This is what good musicians sound like when they jam without help from electronics.

As this "Acoustic Sessions" CD and tour are called Volume 1, we're tantalized with the prospect of another acoustic record and tour. I and millions of others are ready. (Rick Sharp)



IMB photo

The few Christians in this small Songhai village face persecution on a daily basis from their Islamic neighbors. This has not stopped them from meeting together to share God's Word and pray.

# Family of God

## Songhai believers support, pray for each other

**W**hen Ibrahim's wife died, his Songhai community refused to bury her because she was a Christian. She, like Ibrahim and other believers, faced daily persecution from their Muslim neighbors. Most Songhai believers do.

"We'll treat your wife like we would a dog or a donkey — she's just an animal that should rot," they told Ibrahim.

The Songhai people are primarily Muslim with many beliefs rooted in animism. International Mission Board (IMB) representative John Smythe and his wife spent three years sharing the gospel and discipling Songhai believers in Ibrahim's village. One of Smythe's greatest fears in leaving the village was that the Songhai church might crumble.

Soon after they left, Ibrahim faced the huge challenge of defending his faith while grieving for his wife. Determined to bury his wife, Ibrahim began digging her grave as Muslim villagers yelled insults at him. When his Christian brothers heard what he was doing, they came to help. That day was a turning point for the Songhai believers as they united to be His heart, His hands and His voice.

One of Ibrahim's close friends, Boubacar, commented that he greatly admired Ibrahim's loyalty to Christ that day. The believers showed the inspiring power of a true family of Christ.

Boubacar is a follower of Christ who experienced a radical transformation. Once a gang leader

who had demonstrated hostility toward missionaries in his village, he felt an internal struggle to accept or deny God's Truth one night. He decided to become a Christian, and his past life quickly became history.

After hearing God's Word concerning marriage, he broke off an engagement to a woman who would have become his second wife. He stopped smoking and drinking and started witnessing to other villagers in action and word.

He realized that "anytime you go out, people will be watching you. ... Do your best to do good, because sometimes you will even hear the Muslims saying Christians are righteous, that they are faithful."

The Songhai church is small but full of dedicated believers like Ibrahim and Boubacar who cling to the gospel. The Smythes helped lay a solid foundation for the church to grow in their village before moving on. They also left audio Bible recordings the church depends on to hear the Word of God as they meet to study and discuss the gospel.

"The church has continued to grow and understand what it means to be the church: loving one another, sharing what they have with one another," Smythe said. "They have their challenges just as every church has its challenges, but they're facing those with prayer and through God's Word. ... Their greatest desire is that all their village will know the name of Christ."

**"[The Songhai church's] greatest desire is that all their village will know the name of Christ."**

**John Smythe  
Southern Baptist  
representative**

*EDITOR'S NOTE — Some names have been changed for security reasons. (IMB)*

## RELIGION in America

Compiled from Wire Services



### American Jews say others face more discrimination

WASHINGTON — American Jews say they face discrimination in the U.S., but they see Muslims, gays and blacks facing far more.

Findings from the recently released Pew Research Center's landmark study on Jewish Americans help make the case that Jews find themselves an accepted minority.

"While there are still issues, American Jews live in a country where they feel they are full citizens," said Kenneth Jacobson, deputy national director of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

Most American Jews are descendants of the great migration of Jews to the U.S. from 1880 to 1920. Today they make up little more than 2 percent of the population, but their influence is outsized. Jews make up 10 percent of the U.S. Senate, and they lead major cities, corporations, philanthropies and arts organizations.

The ADL's 1964 benchmark survey, conducted by University of California researchers, showed that 29 percent of Americans held hard-core anti-Semitic views. The ADL's latest poll, in 2011, found that 15 percent did.

### Air Force Academy drops 'so help me God' from oath

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Air Force Academy cadets will no longer be required to include the words "so help me God" when taking their annual Honor Oath.

On Oct. 25, officials at the Colorado Springs, Colo., campus announced its 4,000 current cadets would be allowed to opt out of the final phrase of their honor code.

"We work to build a culture of dignity and respect, and that respect includes the ability of our cadets, Airmen and civilian Airmen to freely practice and exercise their religious preference — or not," said Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson, the academy's superintendent.

The current oath reads: "We will not lie, steal or cheat, nor tolerate among us anyone who does. Furthermore, I resolve to do my duty and to live honorably, so help me God."

Honor oaths at other U.S. military academies do not include the word "God."

### Methodist court sidesteps changes to gay policies

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Church's highest court issued three rulings in late October that do not change church policy toward gays and lesbians but allow bishops to accept resolutions expressing dissent from church teachings.

The Judicial Council affirmed a resolution approved by New York Bishop Martin McLee that celebrates congregations and individuals that "provide for the pastoral needs of same-sex couples within the United Methodist Church."

It said that the resolution is "aspirational" and does not call for action that contradicts the Book of Discipline, the United Methodist book of doctrine and laws, which defines homosexual conduct as "incompatible with Christian teaching."

The court also affirmed a California-Pacific Annual Conference resolution that calls for operating as if church law regarding homosexuality does not exist.

### Religious songs not allowed in New Jersey schools

BORDENTOWN, N.J. — Students won't be allowed to sing religious holiday songs at concerts in a south-central New Jersey school district.

Bordentown Superintendent Constance J. Bauer issued a statement on Oct. 18 saying that some of the selections were questioned and that "religious music should not be part of the elementary program."

The statement added that the district solicitor is reviewing the decision, mentioning how the U.S. Supreme Court in 2010 declined to hear an appeal of a similar situation.

The judges said public school administrations can determine which songs are appropriate according to constitutional guidelines to create a secular "inclusive environment."



Find us on  
**Facebook**

The Alabama Baptist  
newspaper.