

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST



March 20, 2014
Vol. 179, No. 12

Reporting. Connecting. Inspiring.

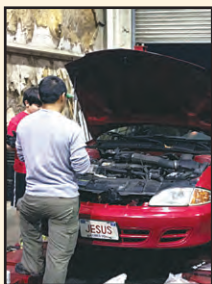
Toll free 1-800-803-5201
www.thealabamabaptist.org

INSIDE



Alabama Baptist students serve in Sandy Rebuild effort in N.Y.

◆ Page 5



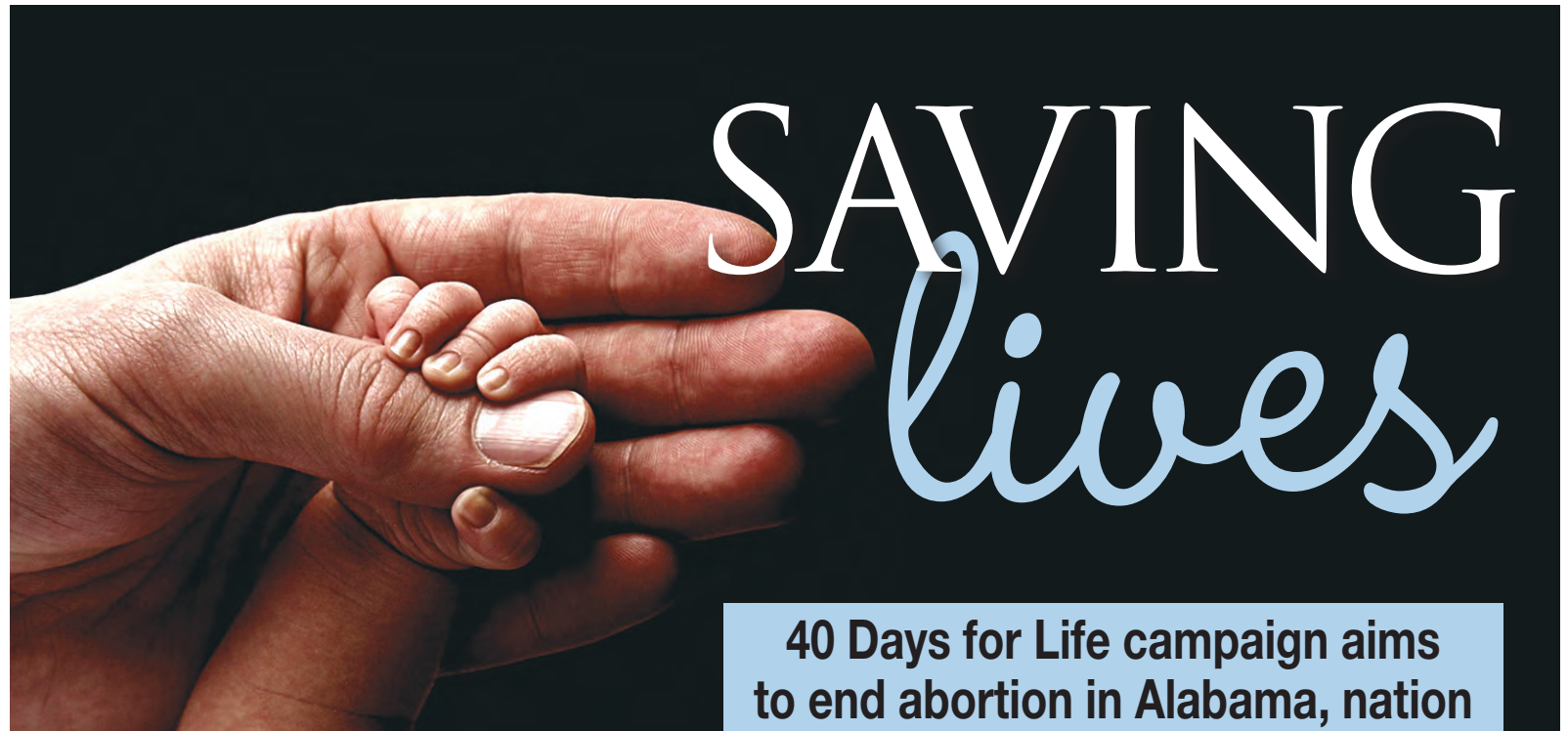
Alabama Baptist churches serve God by serving others through car care ministry

◆ Page 7



Snowtown Baptist Pastor Smith creates coffee outreach ministry

◆ Page 17



40 Days for Life campaign aims to end abortion in Alabama, nation

123rf.com

By Julie Payne
The Alabama Baptist

A few months ago, a young mother in Alabama visited an abortion clinic with her parents in tow. Standing outside this particular clinic was a man displaying a "Choose Life" sign that pictured a tiny baby being held in the palm of a hand. This same family later approached the man and informed him that his sign had caused them to change their minds about the abortion.

A baby's life was saved.

Stories just like this one are happening across the country thanks in part to the current 40 Days for Life campaign to help save the lives of the unborn.

The pro-life campaign's vision is to access God's power through prayer, fasting and peaceful vigil to end abortion. Since the movement began, across the United States "8,245 babies ... have been saved, 48 abortion centers have closed and 88 abortion workers have left the industry," said Claire Chretien, campaign director of 40 Days for Life in Tuscaloosa.

In Alabama, 40 Days for Life is currently taking place through April

13 in Tuscaloosa and four other cities: Birmingham, Huntsville, Mobile and Montgomery.

For each Alabama location, a vigil calendar website is available where a participant can sign up for an hour of prayer on the sidewalk in front of the abortion location.

'Adopt a day'

"We encourage and help support churches and other groups who wish to 'adopt a day' and cover all hours for that day," noted Ed Carrick, lo-

cal coordinator for 40 Days for Life efforts in Birmingham. "Our constant presence offers a clear sign to the community that abortions take place in this location and that those of us participating are asking for God's mercy in changing the hearts and minds of all those who work there and who are tempted to facilitate abortions."

Carrick noted that each 40 Days for Life location also typically conducts a launch gathering, a midpoint rally and a closing rally.

"Over the last five years, 40 Days has witnessed God working in the community in many ways," he said. "We see more and more people overcome their fear and come out to the sidewalk. We see more churches involved each year."

And in these five years Carrick said locally they have seen about 250 babies saved from abortions. "Cars will drive by and stop to show us an infant in a car seat and thank us for being there when they chose not to keep their abortion appointment," he added.

Chretien, who also serves as president of the pro-life student group "Bama Students for Life" at the University of Alabama, said Tuscaloosa is home to the state's busiest abortion facility, West Alabama Women's Center. In 2012 alone the center performed nearly 40 percent of all abortions in the state, Chretien said.

"Last fall, our prayer campaign was so successful that the West Alabama Women's Center repeatedly reduced its hours, meaning it was committing fewer abortions," she noted, adding that during that time-frame six babies she knew of were spared due to the campaign's

(See 'Rooted,' page 8)

Since 2008:

1 abortion facility in the state has closed.

3 abortion workers in Birmingham have left the industry.

About **250** babies have been saved in Birmingham alone.



BAPTIST CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Coming next week:
Baptist Campus Ministries in the community college setting



COMMENT

Overcoming a Spirit of Fear

Have you ever wanted to speak up for Jesus in some public setting but ended up coerced into silence by a spirit of fear? It is not a unique experience. It happened to people around Jesus and it happens to people today.

All four of the New Testament Gospels tell the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem to the accolades of the crowd. The incident is usually called the “Triumphal Entry,” a term associated with the honors bestowed on a conquering hero returning from battle.

In Jesus’ case, His entry was before the battle. In fact, the entry set the stage for the battle that followed. It was as if Jesus was goading the Jewish leaders in their own stronghold with His version of a “Triumphal Entry.”

John 11:45–57 tells about the Jewish leaders plotting to kill Jesus. The passage says orders were given to find this Galilean so He could be arrested. We even read that Jesus could no longer move freely among the Jews (v. 54) meaning He knew about the dangers and so did the others in Jerusalem.

Prophecy fulfilled

Yet in open defiance of these entrenched leaders, Jesus set the stage for confrontation. He arranged for a donkey and her colt to be brought to Him. Coats were laid across the colt and Jesus started riding down the Mount of Olives toward Jerusalem on a donkey. It was exactly as the prophet Zechariah had declared, “See your King comes to you righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey” (Zech. 9:9).

Jesus would not enter Jerusalem as a criminal in chains. He would enter as the King of Peace, the One who breaks the bow of war and proclaims peace to the nations.

The symbolism was not lost on the throng of people, estimated at more than 2 million, who



THOUGHTS
By Bob Terry

had crowded into the Holy City for Passover. They knew of Jesus and His mighty works. It was even said He raised the dead, most recently a man named Lazarus in nearby Bethany. Jesus’ teachings left others speechless. Even the temple guards were captivated by what He said.

The most-asked questions were whether this Jesus was the longed-for Messiah and if He dared show Himself in Jerusalem during Passover.

Suddenly there He was, winding His way down the Mount of Olives on a curvy path seated on a donkey. The reaction was electric. People rushed to Him like He was a modern-day rock star. They began shouting “Hosanna,” which means “save now.” They called Jesus the “Son of David” and “He that comes in the name of the Lord,” both obvious messianic references. The cry “Hosanna in the highest” was a cry for the Highest to “save now.”

The spectacle must have been something to behold. Instead of carpets on which conquering heroes rode their mighty steeds, people laid their coats in front of the plodding donkey. Then they cut palm branches and laced the path with their green leaves.

The crescendo of the noise resonated off the Mount of Olives across Mount Moriah where the

temple stood and echoed back from Mount Zion. The crowd seemed poised to proclaim Jesus as their king and Messiah right there.

Then Scripture offers a glimpse of the slightest change in the crowd’s testimony once confronted by Jerusalem’s rulers.

“Who is this?” asked the leaders of the city and the crowd responded, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee” (Matt. 21:11).

What the crowd said to the Jewish leaders was true but it was not enough. Jesus or Joshua, the same Hebrew word, was a common name shared by many in the crowd. Prophet — many claimed to be a prophet and some were even false prophets. From Nazareth — but Scripture records in John 1:46 the scornful question, “Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?” In Galilee — but society knew that “a prophet does not come out of Galilee” (John 7:52).

In the presence of city rulers there was nothing about King or Son of David or the One who comes in the name of the Lord. There were no pleas for God to “save now” or acknowledgments of the coming kingdom of our father David.

In a moment of crisis and opportunity, the spirit of fear toned down the crowd’s witness concerning Jesus. How like us. In the workplace or a social setting or even among family, the spirit of fear causes us to weaken our witness to the saving power of Jesus Christ in our lives and the importance of the teachings of the Holy Bible to our lives.

Living in God’s power

If a job description for the spirit of fear existed it would say the function of the spirit of fear is to intimidate Christians so the work of Christ in them and through them will cease. That is why Proverbs 29:25 calls the spirit of fear a “snare.”

The apostle Paul goes further. He wrote in 2 Timothy 1:7 that “God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, of love and of a sound mind.” Christians do not have to fear the power of man. Rather we have a holy fear of God Himself. Because of faith in God, we overcome the spirit of fear and live in God’s power and God’s love.

Today some seem bent on forcing Christians to keep personal faith in God confined to their private devotional lives and their commitment to the ethical teachings of God’s Word within the walls of a church building. To succumb to such pressures would be like the Palm Sunday crowd toning down their witness to Jesus from Messiah to prophet.

The “spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind,” which God provides to believers, demands that we share the love of God in the public square as well as in our private lives. We cannot tone down our witness to God or to His Word. We cannot live with a spirit of fear.

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR

INCONSISTENCIES

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s (SBC) Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and champion of “convictional kindness,” complained that the disappearance of “fornicate” from our vocabulary cedes the moral imagination to the sexual revolutionaries because it is not compatible with “premarital sex.”

However, in response to the issue of same-sex “marriage,” he stated: “The increased attention to the question of marriage also gives us the opportunity to love our gay and lesbian neighbors as Jesus does.”

It would seem that the words “gay”

and “lesbian” cede moral authority and common sense. And if he doesn’t like “premarital sex,” why does he have no problem with “gay” instead of homosexual? Aren’t both unbiblical?

When a Christian photographer expressed misgivings about photographing a same-sex wedding, Moore agreed that it was inappropriate. But he had no problem with photographing weddings of the unequally yoked, divorced, adulterers, etc., because those weddings had no “obvious deviations.”

Even more confounding is that he did not support the Starbucks Coffee Company boycott because it would “hurt the company, by depriving it of

revenue.”

Do we really want to forfeit our religious liberties when corporate revenue is at stake?

With so much convictional kindness and acceptance going around, the SBC is hosting a “sex summit” in April that will focus on “how the gospel shapes a person’s identity, redeems sexual desire and sets free people held captive by sin.”

The gospel has nothing to do with redeeming sexual desire. They probably need to worry less about the redemption of sexual desire and affirmation of (See ‘Letters,’ page 18)





"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 — \$13.75
Individual — \$22.25

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

DR. BOBBY S. TERRY
EDITOR

Jennifer Davis Rash
Executive Editor

Neisha Fuson
Editorial Assistant
for Online Communications

Julie Payne
News Writer

Lauren C. Grim
Designer

Wanda Bergeron
Local Editions

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.

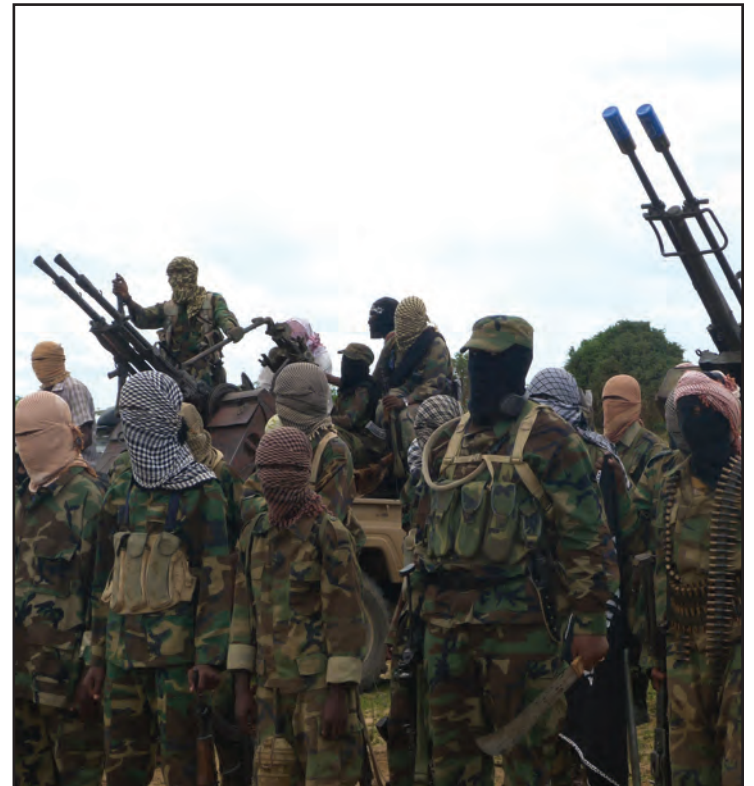
Full member of
Alabama Press Association

'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

Rebel group Al Shabaab is part of the militant
Islamist group Al Qaeda, based in Somalia.
On March 4, members of the group publicly
beheaded a mother of two and her cousin in
Barawa (Lower Shebelle Region of Somalia)
after discovering they were Christians.

Christians beheaded



wikiinpics.com photo

Islamic extremist group Al Shabaab increases attacks on Christians in Somalia

Islamic extremists from the rebel Al Shabaab militia publicly beheaded a mother of two girls and her cousin in southeastern Somalia after discovering they were Christians, sources said.

In the port town of Barawa in the Lower Shebelle Region, the extremists called residents to the town center March 4 to witness the executions of the 41-year-old mother, Sadia Ali Omar, and her 35-year-old cousin, Osman Mohamoud Moge, the sources said.

Before killing them, an Al Shabaab militant announced, "We know these two people are Christians who recently came back from Kenya — we want to wipe out any underground Christian living inside of mujahidin [jihadists'] area," according to an area resident.

Omar's daughters, ages 8 and 15, were witness to the slaughter, sources said, with the younger girl screaming and shouting for someone to save her mother. A friend helped the girls, whose names are withheld, to relocate to another area.

"We are afraid that the Al Shabaab might continue monitoring these two children and eventually kill them just like their mother," the area resident said.

The militants from Al Shabaab — which has vowed to rid the country of the Christian fel-

lowships, which meet secretly as leaving Islam in Somalia is punishable by death — became suspicious of Omar and Moge due to their irregular attendance at Friday mosque prayers, sources said.

"The two people who were killed on many occasions did not take Friday prayers seriously, especially Omar, who claimed that she was praying in her house," an area resident said.

Another source noted of Al Shabaab, "They have [spies] everywhere in Somalia."

Somalis who have lived in Christian-majority Kenya are especially suspect. The sources said Omar lived in the Nairobi suburb of Eastleigh for seven years; her husband became ill in 2011 and returned to Somalia, where he died. Omar and her cousin Moge, who helped take care of her daughters, left Kenya for Somalia in January 2013.

Barawa reportedly came under Al Shabaab control in 2009.

The recent event was just one of many simi-

lar stories that have taken place involving Al Shabaab militia.

In the capital city of Mogadishu, gunmen who said they intended to kill a Christian for spreading his faith shot him to death, according to an area resident. Two men armed with pistols shot Abdikhani Hassan seven times as he approached his home after closing his pharmacy in Dharkenley District on Oct. 20, 2013.

Al Shabaab, the Somali cell of Al Qaeda, was suspected of killing Fatuma Isak Elmi on Sept. 1, 2013, inside her home in Beledweyne, Hiran Province in south-central Somalia. Her husband had received a threatening note that morning believed to be from the Islamic extremist group and was away at the time of the murder.

Al Shabaab's attack on the upscale Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, on Sept. 21, 2013, killed at least 67 people, with dozens still unaccounted for.

On April 13, 2013, Al Shabaab militants shot Fartun Omar to death in Buulodbarde, 12 miles from Beledweyne. Omar was the widow of Mursal Isse Siad, killed for his faith Dec. 8, 2012, in Beledweyne. He had been receiving death threats for leaving Islam.

Siad and his wife, who converted to Christianity in 2000, had moved to Beledweyne from Doolow eight months before. The area was under government control and there was no indication that the killers belonged to the Al Shabaab rebels, but the Islamic extremist insurgents were present in Buulodbarde, and Christians believed a few Al Shabaab rebels could have been hiding in Beledweyne.

In Barawa on Nov. 16, 2012, Al Shabaab militants killed a Christian after accusing him of being a spy and leaving Islam. The extremists beheaded 25-year-old Farhan Haji Mose after monitoring his movements for six months.

Mose drew suspicion when he returned to Barawa in December 2011 after spending time in Kenya, according to underground Christians in Somalia. (MS)

According to Operation World, Somalia has a 0.33 percent Christian population. The Al Shabaab group seeks to 'wipe out any underground Christians.'



wikiinpics.com photo

Across ALABAMA'S Associations

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

BIRMINGHAM

► **Lakeside Church, Birmingham**, will hold a senior adult luncheon April 8. The senior adults also will have BBA Fun Day on April 10. For information about these events or to make reservations, call the church at 205-822-1240. Greg Corbin is pastor.

DALE

► **Dale Association** will sponsor The Horse Whisperer event in Ozark on March 28 at the Dale County AG PLEX located just off Highway 123 South at the intersection of Highway 231 South. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. but it is recommended to arrive early for a good seat. Door prizes will be given to several individuals. Families are welcome. Kenneth Hale is director of missions.

ELMORE

► **B.R. (Billy Ray) Johnson** is the new pastor of **Santuck Church, Wetumpka**. He holds a bachelor's



JOHNSON

degree from Samford University in Birmingham and a master's in religious education and doctorate in educational ministry from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He previously served in churches in Alabama, Arkansas and Florida. He and his wife, Charlene, have three children.

EAST CULLMAN

► **Daniel's Chapel Church, Eva**, will host the Fellowship Quartet in concert March 30, 1:30 p.m. The church also will hold Spring Revival, April 14-16, 7 p.m. nightly. Daniel Wilson, pastor

of West End Church, Clanton, will speak. For information call Albert Dean Estes at 256-784-5329. Tim Aris is pastor.

FRANKLIN

► **First Church, Russellville**, will hold the Priscilla Shirer Simulcast Live from New Orleans on April 5, 9 a.m.-4:35 p.m. Registration will be 8-8:45 a.m. Call 256-332-2065 to register. Lunch and snacks will be included. Patrick Martin is pastor.



SMITH

PINE BARREN

► **Harold Smith** is the new pastor of **Awin Church, Pine Apple**. He and his wife, Twyla, have two children.

MONTGOMERY

► **Andy Hepburn** has resigned as pastor of **Taylor Road Church, Montgomery**. ► **Catoma Church, Montgomery**, will hold a fifth Sunday sing March 30, 5:30 p.m. with Glory Bound. A finger food fellowship will follow the service. Chad Underwood is pastor.

MORGAN

► **Strait Way Quartet** from **Cullman** will sing at **Southwest Church, Hartselle**, on March 30, 5 p.m. For information call 256-773-5994. Dewitt Crowe is pastor.

MUD CREEK

► **Sparks Gap Church, Bessemer**, will hold a fifth Sunday singing March 30, 1:30 p.m. with Crimson Stained. Everyone is invited. Johnny Thacker is pastor.

SIPSEY

► **Big Hill Church, Gordo**, will hold a gospel singing March 30, 6 p.m. Guest singers will be The Latham Family and The Tunnell Sisters. Trey Kelly is pastor.

TALLAPOOSA

► **Pleasant Ridge Church, Dadeville**, will hold Celebration Day on April 6, 10:45 a.m. to celebrate the paying off of its bank loan. A celebration dinner will be held prior to the note burning. Everyone is welcome. Jimmy Allen is pastor.

TENNESSEE RIVER

► **Allen Hays** is the new pastor of **Calvary Church, Scottsboro**. He holds a bachelor of arts in history from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a master of divinity and doctor of ministry from New Orleans Seminary. He previously served as children's minister, student minister and pastor



HAYS

in churches in Alabama and Mississippi. He and his wife, Mandy, have three children.

TUSKEGEE LEE

► **Wallace Chapel Church, Cusseta**, will host Christian comedian Billy Bob Bohannon on April 6, 11 a.m. Lee Pike is pastor.

WINSTON

► **New Hope Church, Haleyville**, will hold April Awakenings on April 7, 14, 21 and 28, 7 p.m. Eddie Davidson, pastor of First Church, Hamilton, will speak April 7; Kevin Hamm, pastor of Gardendale First Church, will speak April 14; Israel Price, pastor of Mount Zion Church, Hamilton, will speak April 21; and Tim Anderson, pastor of Clements Church, Athens, will speak April 28. Ritchie Emerson is pastor. ► **Sardis #2 Church, Ad-dison**, will hold revival April 6-9, Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday at 7 p.m. Zac Reno will speak. Mackey Watts is pastor.



FBC Tanner marks 50th anniversary, looks ahead

First Baptist Church, Tanner, which began as a mission, marked its 50th anniversary Jan. 5.

The Limestone Baptist Association church celebrated its anniversary Jan. 26 with an extended morning worship service and a fellowship meal, said associate pastor Keith Turberville.

A committee headed by Sandra Johnson planned the day's events, which featured the vocal talents of Ronnie Sims, former worship leader of the church, and Thad Prater, a former member. Turberville said Ray McElhaney, pastor emeritus, gave reflections on his 37 years as the church's pastor.

The message of Pastor Gary Enfinger was on "Preparing for the Future" and referenced 2 Kings 4:1-7, Turberville said.

During the celebration, Limestone Association Director of Missions Robert Fullerton presented a plaque to the church and Nancy Beasley, representative for the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a certificate.

In 1962, a survey in the Tanner community revealed the need for a Baptist church there, Turberville said. Capshaw Baptist Church in Limestone Association started the mission church, which met in homes and a restaurant before constructing its own building.

First, Tanner, began with 31 charter members, eight of whom were present at the recent anniversary celebration, Turberville said.

"Our vision is to continue to reach our community and our area for Christ," Enfinger said. "Our desire is to be a church that continues to minister not only in its local community but also in the areas our church reaches." (Leigh Pritchett)

FBC Dadeville celebrates 175th anniversary

First Baptist Church, Dadeville, celebrated its 175th anniversary Dec. 8, 2013, with guest speaker Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

During the 10 a.m. service Lance delivered the message and various songs "from the past and present" were showcased, Pastor Gary Wiggins said.

Calvin Milford, representative from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque to the church. And since the church qualified as a historical marker because of its age, a historical plaque had been installed outside the day before and was unveiled for the anniversary.

In addition, the Tallapoosa Baptist Association church had a PowerPoint presentation of some of its history and had "an entire room set up for a walk-through history of the church," Wiggins said.

First, Dadeville, continued its celebration after the anniversary service with a special lunch. "We had a really great team of folks who worked hard on making [the anniversary day] special," Wiggins noted.

He added that looking to the future of the church, his vision is to continue building on the foundations that have been laid and fulfill the Great Commission. (Julie Payne)

Boaz's Bel Air Baptist marks 50 years of service

Bel Air Baptist Church, Boaz, celebrated its 50th anniversary Jan. 19 with an afternoon celebration service.

Teresa Nelson, church clerk and member for 49 years, said a regular morning service took place, then an anniversary luncheon, followed by a special anniversary service. Between 100 and 150 people attended, she said, and the youth choir provided special music.

Wendell Dutton, Alabama Baptist Historical Commission representative, presented the Marshall Baptist Association church with a certificate commemorating the milestone. Dan Nelson, church member and Teresa's husband, read memories written and submitted by former and current church members and church member Gerald Cofield put together a slideshow about the church's history.

Two former pastors and the families of two deceased pastors, as well as charter members, were recognized during the service.

Pastor Nick Mitchell said Bel Air Baptist was a mission church plant by Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Albertville, so Mount Vernon Baptist's current pastor David Martin also attended the service.

Mitchell said he hopes the next 50 years resemble the last 50. "The (anniversary) day was wonderful and to see the amount of lives touched in this place was just awesome." (Neisha Fuson)

Alabama Ministries

Southeastern Bible College

The Commission on Accreditation of the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) announced the accreditation of Southeastern Bible College in Birmingham has been reaffirmed for 10 more years, through 2024.

ABHE is one of 12 institutional accrediting agencies that function under the Council for Higher Education Accredita-

tion and the U.S. Department of Education. Southeastern has held accreditation with ABHE since 1962.

Southeastern President Don Hawkins said, "Our aim has been to equip men and women to serve as pastors, missionaries, Christian educators, counselors and other vocational ministry fields as well as to prepare students for graduate school and to train lay leaders for local churches."

(Southeastern Bible College)

SPRING BREAK *missions*

Alabama Baptist students serve in Sandy Rebuild effort, other areas

It is spring break time, and some Alabama Baptist students are choosing missions and ministry for their week's agenda.

A Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) group from Troy University, along with state missionary Chris Mills, headed to Staten Island, N.Y., to help in the continued Sandy Rebuild effort through Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBD R).

Troy University student Ellen Barker, a member of Hepzibah Baptist Church, Troy, assisted in the work by doing what she described as small jobs and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

"I really enjoyed this missions opportunity," she said. "Even though we were there to help rebuild from Hurricane Sandy, our ultimate purpose was to share the Word with New York and start planting God's seed."

"Even though we didn't talk as much about our faith to the family we helped as we'd hope we would be able to, we got to demonstrate our Christian lifestyle," Barker said. "I know the family will always remember the people who helped them in a time of need. ... Hopefully we planted a seed that someone behind us will start to cultivate."

Ronda and Randy Corn, who are helping coordinate volunteers in the area, will welcome nearly 200 students from more than six states during a two-week period to assist in the cleanup and rebuild work on the island.

When the Corns arrived in Staten Island in November 2012 — just five days after

Hurricane Sandy made landfall — they didn't think they would still be there today.

"Randy and I have been here since the beginning," Ronda Corn said, "and we plan to stay until the end. There's still such a mess here. Homes are gutted and unlivable. People are displaced. Below the surface there is just so much hurt. Time has passed and media attention has faded, but the people here still need so much help."

Serving under local construction team leaders and fellow SBD R volunteers, students will hang Sheetrock, tile floors, install doors, put up walls — anything to help homes become livable once again.

"The students work with a construction team leader and learn a lot about skilled labor," Corn said. "It's hard work but really an awesome experience."

The experience is a stark contrast to the way many college students spend spring break. SBD R built a volunteer village on a three-acre field on Staten Island, complete with shower, kitchen and water units. Students will camp in tents built specifically for Sandy Rebuild workers. With New York closing out one of its roughest winters yet, volunteers face the difficult challenge of braving the elements.

"Weather conditions this season haven't made our work easy, and we've tried to prepare students for the potential wet and cold weather

we've seen all season," Corn said. "They're all still excited to serve. For all of us, it's not about the project itself; it's about the



Photo courtesy of Chris Mills

Josh Bailey, a Troy University Baptist Campus Ministries student, volunteers during his spring break. Here he's working on a home in Staten Island, N.Y.



Photo courtesy of Chris Mills

Troy University Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) students and a Birmingham Baptist Association feeding unit team serves during spring break in Staten Island, N.Y. The BCM team is working with local construction teams and SBD R volunteers.

people. That's been our motto from day one, and keeping the hearts of the people we're serving in mind has helped tremendously on the difficult days."

It's not just the hearts of the people they're serving but the hearts of the college students as well that the Corns and their team hope to see changed. "Our main goal is that the gospel goes out to the people, both the ones we're serving in Staten Island and the college students here doing the work," Corn said. "There are opportunities for the body of Christ to minister both inside and outside our camp."

Mills agreed.

"March equals Spring Break for Alabama college students," he said.

"The stories of the impact of Spring Break missions continues to encourage me — from students leading locals to Christ to student missions teams connecting locals [to] a church to students seeing the great opportunity to obey the Great Commission and give of their time on their campus, this summer and beyond to make a Great Commission impact. So often, those are the stories that come out of Spring Break missions opportunities."

"The Sandy Rebuild effort was a vivid picture of partnering to make an eternal

impact," said Mills, noting the students partnered with SBD R personnel from NAMB and state conventions, including a feeding team from Birmingham Baptist Association.

"The collegiate disaster relief effort allowed these students from Troy University the opportunity to help finish out a basement area that was flooded during Sandy ... and also sought to encourage the family by sharing the hope of Christ," he said. "The Ukrainian family that owned the home expressed gratitude for the students' work."

"I believe that students will walk away from this effort with a great image of this partnership and the impact that is made as we work together with the

same purpose — to make His name known among all nations."

Students have virtually year-round service opportunities now with Sandy Rebuild. To explore more about assisting in New York, visit www.namb.net/sandy.

Other Alabama Baptist students are spending their spring breaks serving in Gulf Shores; New York City; Nashville; Wichita, Kan.; Texas; Ireland and Portugal. A BCM group from University of South Alabama also spent a week in mid-March in Miami. (TAB, BP)

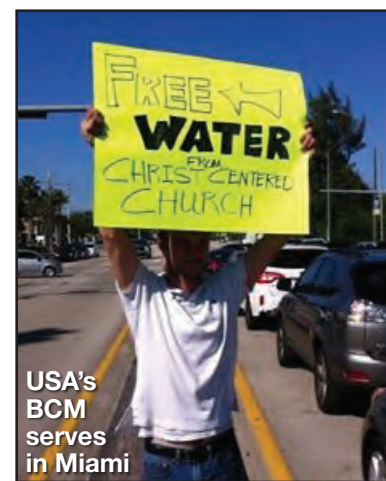


Photo courtesy of Chris Mills

"I believe that students will walk away from this effort with a great image of ... the impact that is made as we work together with the same purpose."

**Chris Mills, Alabama Baptist state missionary
Collegiate and student ministries**

Unattached believers

'Nones' who believe in God but reject religious brand growing

In recent surveys, the religious "nones" — as in "none of the above" — appear to lead in the faith marketplace. In fact, "none" could soon be the dominant label U.S. adults pick when asked to describe their religious identity.

Today "nones" include many more unbranded believers than atheists and an increasingly diverse racial and ethnic mix.

A February survey by the Public Religion Research Institute of Americans (PRRI) found:

- ▶ 21 percent are "unaffiliated" (PRRI's umbrella term for a diverse group including atheists, seculars and people who still say they believe in God).

- ▶ 20 percent are Catholic.
- ▶ 19 percent are white evangelical.

"Nones are dancing on the razor's edge of leading," said Robert P. Jones, CEO of PRRI.

Meanwhile the Pew Research Center's cumulative findings, based on 16,000 interviews in numerous 2013 surveys, found a slightly different split:

- ▶ 22 percent Catholic
- ▶ 20 percent nones (a mix of people who say they believe "nothing in particular," unaffiliated believers and unbelievers)
- ▶ 18 percent white evangelicals

However, both Jones and Greg Smith, director of U.S. religion

surveys for Pew, caution this is really a statistical three-way tie for both research firms once the critical margin of error for each survey is considered.

Meanwhile all the subcategories of Protestants — white and black evangelicals, plus the mainline faithful — still add up to a plurality (48 percent), although each has "distinctive social and political beliefs, attitudes and opinions," Smith said.

Major societal change

"The nones are clearly growing as a share of the population. It's a big, important, fundamental change in U.S. society, regardless of what's causing it and whatever else is happening," Smith said.

He noted other forces at play include immigration rates and religious switching. About half of Americans switch their religion, leave one or find one at least once in their lifetime.

Today's young adults are starting out more unaffiliated than any prior generation of 20-year-olds.

Jones identified another force in shifting religious demography: "There are fewer white evangelicals among millennials (ages 18 to 33) because younger Americans today are more racially and ethnically diverse."

PRRI's 2012 American Values Survey broke the nones into three

groups including atheists and agnostics (36 percent) and those who say they are "not religious" (39 percent).

However, there has been a surge in the third group, the "unattached believers," who believe in God but reject a religious brand (23 percent), Jones said. That group also is significantly more likely to include minorities.

"These are people who, by many traditional measures of belief in God and the Bible, look like people who are affiliated. But in the survey they say they are not attached to a formal religious tradition," Jones said.

These "unattached believers" likely contributed to a surprising finding in the recent PRRI survey on attitudes toward lesbians and gays. While every religious group moved toward more acceptance of gay "marriage" in the last decade, 26 percent of the unaffiliated said "gay 'marriage' goes against their religious beliefs," up from 18 percent in 2003.

Put another way, atheists, agnostics and secularists did not shift toward religion or opposition to gay "marriage," but that third group now contains more "unattached believers" who bring with them their more traditional notions of sexuality, and they're now standing under the same umbrella. (RNS)

Someone You Should Know

By Leigh Pritchett, *The Alabama Baptist*

Bob Smith



*Whitesburg Baptist Church, Huntsville
Madison Baptist Association*

FAVORITE VERSE: Psalm 40:3

FAVORITE HYMNS: "There Is a Fountain" and "How Can I Keep from Singing Your Praise"

HOBBY: Golf

SMITH

FAMILY STATUS: Married to wife of 37 years, Vickie; children: Blake, Tucker, Maggie and Graham; two grandchildren

Bob Smith, 59, has been in music ministry for 43 years. For 30 years, he served churches in Florence and Huntsville as minister of music. December 2013 marked the 10th anniversary of his music evangelism ministry, Bob Smith Ministries Inc. (bobsmithmusic.org). His ministry seeks to promote praise and worship, to engage people of all ages and abilities in that worship experience and to be an encouragement to music ministers. "I travel about 45-47 weeks a year," said Smith, who also takes as many as eight missions trips annually.

A: When I was on a church staff, I was fortunate to be in growing churches. In my ministry, the church I went to next was smaller than the one before. It was by God's design. Making time for your personal walk and time for people is what you have to do.

Q: How do family members support you?

A: The biggest support is my wife. She understands. She knows this is what God has called me to do.

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

A: Senior adults have so much to offer. That's where I see my ministry going, real ministry to senior adults. They have all this ability, wisdom, time and resources. I don't think we're tapping into it as much as we could. They have a whole lot more to offer than we tap into.

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

A: The ministry I have is a dying ministry in many ways. So many churches don't utilize the gifts of evangelists. It's still in Scripture. Evangelists are struggling because churches don't utilize those gifts. There are only a handful of music evangelists in the Southern Baptist Convention. The future for me is reinventing myself so that I have a ministry that the local church can use.

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

A: Everything. Without Christ, there is nothing else. He saved me; He redeemed me; He gave me a goal in life. 🙏

Q: What does the ministry demand?

If you know of a person who should be featured as "Someone You Should Know," send his or her name, a contact number and the reason you think he or she should be featured to: Someone You Should Know, c/o The Alabama Baptist, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209 or news@thealabamabaptist.org.

REFLECTIONS

"MY PARENTS ARE REWORKING THE BUDGET HOPING TO FIND ENOUGH MONEY SO WE CAN TITHE TO THE CHURCH WITHOUT HAVING TO USE FAITH OR STUFF LIKE THAT."



EVANGELISM CONFERENCE DVDs

If you purchased DVDs at the recent State Evangelism Conference in Montgomery, please contact MasterSound Media to obtain a replacement. The video quality on the DVDs purchased onsite was not up to our standards and we would like to send you a re-mastered replacement, at no charge to you. (There are no problems with the audio CDs.)

**MasterSound Media
806-852-2101**

**betty@
mastersoundmedia.com**

Car care 101



Alabama Baptist churches serve God by serving others through car care ministries

By Anna Keller
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Knowing how to care for a car — and what questions to ask related to its maintenance and what mechanical advice to trust — is a daunting task for many people, and so several Alabama Baptist churches have established ministries to reach out to people and help arm them with car care advice they can trust.

“We began doing car care Saturdays a year ago, and up to this point we’ve done three of them with a fourth planned for March 22,” said Keenan Braden, minister of singles at Gardendale First Baptist Church. “Our car ministry focuses on the single ladies of our church — especially single moms.”

At Gardendale First, the church provides free oil changes and inspections during each Saturday event, and if the volunteers detect something more critical during the inspection they help the car owner know the best way to remedy the

issue. The church has a partnership with the NAPA Auto Parts store in Warrior, which provides oil and filters for the ministry at cost. In addition to the inspection, the church offers a Car Care 101 class, where participants are instructed on general car care and maintenance knowledge, helping to build confidence of all who take the class.

Learning the basics

“They go over things like the importance of proper tire care, the meaning of the gauges on the dash of your car and which ones mean ‘pull over now,’” Braden said. “They even go over basics like how to change a tire.”

First Baptist Church, Pell City, recently launched a similar program after being inspired by a church in Tennessee that has a car care ministry. Member Matt Mosley is heading up the outreach, which will provide basic maintenance checks for single mothers, widows or anyone else who isn’t knowledgeable about car care and is looking for advice they can trust to be fair.

“What really got me fired up about this ministry is that the men behind it aren’t deacons and we aren’t elders — we’re laymen from the church who know cars,” Mosley said. “I grew up in a house full of mechanics and know that it’s easy for folks to get cheated and taken advantage of. These guys all have a heart for helping people.”

The initial event will be held at First, Pell City, and the church has established partnerships with an Express Oil Change and Advance Auto Parts in Pell City, both of which are donating labor, providing discounts and more. The plan is for this event to be held monthly, and eventually Mosley hopes the church can invest in building an on-campus shop

to enable them to provide more extensive repair work for people.

“For now, we’ll do a basic inspection of the car, check levels, recommend services,” Mosley said. “If they need additional work done they can go in the same day or at a later period.”

Willowbrook Baptist Church, Huntsville, has provided more than 100 cars to single mothers and widows through its In His Name Car Ministry, and the church also provides a free quarterly oil change for single moms, widows and wives of deployed soldiers thanks to its In His Name Oil Change Ministry.

The oil changes take place four times each month and are held in the church parking lot. The church makes things comfortable for both the men volunteering their service as well as the women who are there for car help by putting out breakfast, coffee and juice for all to enjoy.

‘A perfect opportunity’

“My involvement in the program is to head up a team of women who visit with the women while their cars are being worked on,” said Barbara Merchant, a member of Willowbrook Baptist. “If they say something like, ‘Why do these men do this?’ it’s a perfect opportunity to lead in to serving God by serving others.”

Merchant said it also warms her heart to see how many of the men who volunteer with the ministry bring their sons along to teach them how to work on cars and help others, too.

“The women are so appreciative and the men go above and beyond just an oil change,” she said. 🙏



Gardendale First Baptist Church, which started a car care ministry in 2013, provides free oil changes and car inspections during each Saturday event. The church also has a partnership with the NAPA Auto Parts store in Warrior, which provides oil and filters at cost.

Top photo courtesy of Ric Callahan/bottom photo courtesy of Keenan Braden

Top: FBC Pell City recently launched a car care ministry.
Bottom: Gardendale FBC offers a Car Care 101 class where participants are instructed on general car care.

Photo courtesy of Keenan Braden

'ROOTED IN love'

Alabamians encouraged to participate in local vigils

(continued from page 1)
presence outside the facility.

At press time there were about 3,000 people in Alabama who had signed up for the 40 Days for Life vigil calendar and email reports, and approximately 700 were in the Birmingham area, Carrick said.

In Tuscaloosa, roughly 50 students are participating alongside numerous area churches, Chretien reported.

Students, churches and families will pray outside the West Alabama Women's Center, asking God for an end to abortion in Tuscaloosa.

This is the second time Bama Students for Life has led Tuscaloosa's 40 Days for Life campaign.

"We led the fall 2013 campaign as well, and we participated in the vigils as a club ... before we began leading the campaign," Chretien said.

The current 40 Days for Life events in Alabama began just one day after state legislators passed several abortion restrictions March 4. Four measures passed the House of Representatives and still need to go through the Senate and be signed by Gov. Robert Bentley to become law, according to a CNN report.

One of the bills, sponsored by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin, R-Indian Springs, would require doctors to check for a fetal heartbeat

before performing an abortion, and if a fetal heartbeat is detected, the abortion would be illegal and a doctor performing one would be guilty of a felony, according to al.com.

"The pre-born are the most vulnerable and defenseless among us; they are truly the 'least of these' who Jesus tells us to serve," Chretien said. "To believers and nonbelievers alike, I would say 40 Days for Life is rooted in love. We love all people, whether they are pre-born, mothers facing a crisis or abortion workers."

No deadline

There is no deadline to participate in 40 Days for Life — people can even join on the very last day, April 13, if they choose. For more information about joining the efforts in Alabama and to access a specific location's vigil schedule, visit <http://40daysforlife.com/location.html> and click on the location nearest you. ☞



Photo courtesy of Ed Carrick
Alabamians participate in 40 Days for Life's launch candlelight vigil March 4.

Baptist NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED FROM WIRE SERVICES

Former SBC representative's struggle with ALS ends

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Former Southern Baptist representative Mary Harper no longer has to fight ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). After a two-year battle, Harper, 43, died Jan. 20.

In 2006, Harper and her husband, John, and two daughters moved to Central Asia to share the gospel with Muslims. Within a year after arriving in Central Asia, the Harpers had already seen their first new believer.

By 2012, the Harpers were in the prime of their ministry but ALS changed everything and Mary Harper was given a diagnosis of three to five years to live. They returned to the United States and settled in Missouri.

The Alabama Baptist's Oct. 17, 2013, article "Southern Baptist representative shares hope in midst of ALS diagnosis," shared the Harpers' calling to missions, their journey while overseas and return to the U.S. as Mary Harper's condition worsened.

Pastor Abedini shackled and denied care

Pastor Saeed Abedini, a U.S. citizen, was moved to a private hospital in Iran but was shackled and denied medical care, prompting the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), which is working for his freedom, to say his case took a turn for the worse.

The next day, March 13, ACLJ reported that Abedini, imprisoned for his Christian faith, had been released from the shackles and was allowed to receive visitors again. He had not been treated, though, for severe abdominal ailments resulting from beatings by Iranian prison guards.

Abedini's wife Naghmeh, on Facebook, asked believers worldwide to pray and even "fast from something" until March 20, which marks the Iranian New Year, a day when the Islamic republic often grants clemency to prisoners of conscience. ☞

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

2014 marks 275th anniversary of Brainerd's conversion

One night on one of his many missions trips, David Brainerd barely survived a fall from his horse on a rocky path. His horse broke her leg, and he had to shoot her. He then walked 30 miles to the next house.

This episode was among countless ones Brainerd (1718–1747) experienced in his ministry to Native Americans. He suffered from tuberculosis (TB) and from frequent illnesses because of his arduous travel (15,000 miles on horseback during his short life). His bouts with deep depression contrasted with heights of spiritual emotion.

Despite debilitating health problems, Brainerd was one of America's first and most influential missionaries. This year marks the 275th anniversary of his conversion.

Born in Haddam, Conn., Brainerd

was orphaned at the age of 14. Although he grew up in a Christian home, he wasn't converted until he was 21 while living in the home of the pastor of Haddam's Congregational Church. Brainerd spent long hours praying and fasting but still lacked peace with God.

On July 12, 1739, while walking in a solitary place, he finally experienced God's grace. "I was brought to see myself lost and helpless," he recorded in his journal. "Unspeakable glory seemed to open to the view and apprehension of my soul. ... My soul was so captivated and delighted with the excellency, loveliness, greatness and other perfections of God, that I was even swallowed up in Him. ... The way of salvation opened to me with such infinite wisdom, suitableness

and excellency. ... If I could have been saved by my own duties or any other way that I had formerly contrived, my whole soul would now have refused it. I wondered that all the world did not see and comply with this way of salvation entirely by the righteousness of Christ."

Called to pursue the ministry, he entered Yale College. But in 1740 he had to withdraw because of the first symptoms of TB. When he returned to Yale, he was expelled for telling a tutor he had "no more grace than a chair."

Soon God gave him a burden to minister to Native Americans. He started working with the Indians along the Delaware and the Susquehanna rivers in April 1743. After two years, discouraged by his lack of success, he began work

with other Indians in Crossweeksung, N.J., and saw an immediate response to the Christian message.

By the fall of 1746, he was coughing up blood. The great theologian-pastor Jonathan Edwards took him to his home in Northampton, Mass. Edwards' daughter Jerusha served as Brainerd's nurse, and the two fell in love. Brainerd died Oct. 9, 1747, at the age of 29. Jerusha died a few months later.

After Brainerd's death, Edwards edited and published "The Life and Diary of David Brainerd." It has influenced generations of missionaries — including William Carey, Adoniram Judson and Jim Elliot — and has never been out of print.

Brainerd's complete devotion to Christ is epitomized in one of his many famous quotes: "All I want is to be more holy, more like my dear Lord." ☞

By Joanne Sloan

Joanne Sloan, a member of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, has been a published writer of articles and books for 30 years. She has a bachelor's degree double majoring in history and English from East Texas State University (now Texas A&M–Commerce) and a master's degree specializing in English from the University of Arkansas (1978).



BRAINERD



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Doctrine of Christ

Jesus: The Incoming Christ

By Jerry Batson, Th.D.
Special to The Alabama Baptist

The Word that became flesh in His incarnation remains the Word of proclamation. He who is the proclaimed Word desires to be for each of us the Word of personal experience. The primary purpose for the proclamation of Christ is to bring people into a saving relationship with Him.

The onset of this saving relationship can be described as the incoming of Christ into our lives. This way of describing it can be seen most clearly in the familiar words of Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with Me." No greater promise can fall on the ears of a person who, because of sin, is separated from the life of God than Jesus' word, "I will come in to him." Christian experience begins with the incoming of Christ.

'Many rooms'

The evening before His crucifixion Jesus sought to calm the troubled hearts of His disciples with the familiar promise, "In My Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" (John 14:2). Jesus' word *monai* (a plural noun translated variously as rooms, mansions or abiding places) is the same one He used later that evening in its singular form. He promised, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him" (John 14:23). The singular form of *monai* is His term for "home" in the latter promise.

Jesus' earlier future promise is that believers have a prepared "room" awaiting us at the Father's house in heaven. In the meanwhile, until our future gathering into our heavenly home, Jesus said it is possible for us to prepare a place for Him to make His

"home" here and now in our hearts. One of the more distinctive and distinguishing doctrines of our Christian faith is that our Savior through the person and presence of the Holy Spirit will enter our hearts and be at home there.

Spiritual benefits

The Bible tells us of many spiritual benefits that happen at the very outset of the Christian life when we invite Christ to enter and be at home in our lives. We are immediately forgiven of our sins — freely, fully and forever. Our forgiveness is free to us but at great cost to Him. Not only are we forgiven, but we also are given eternal life immediately as God's gift to us. Even as we are living out our Christian lives we are in possession of eternal life. That life begins not when we die, but when we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord. Those who have Christ in their hearts have eternal life already.

At the time of Christ's entry into our hearts, we are justified in God's eyes. This means that we who are guilty are immediately declared to be right with God. At the time of Christ entering our hearts His perfect righteousness is accredited to us. Sin's penalty is lifted; we are no longer under condemnation. At the incoming of Christ into our lives we also are reconciled to God. The enmity that had separated us from God because of sin is taken away. Enemies are made God's forever friends at the incoming of Christ. 🙏

Jerry Batson, retired associate dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University and professor at several schools of religion, is pastor of First Baptist Church, McCalla.



On the front lines

Ministry spreads amid unrest in Venezuela

As tensions escalate amid anti-government protests across Venezuela, Southern Baptist representatives and their Venezuelan Baptist partners are ministering to Venezuelans on both sides of the conflict.

One Venezuelan Baptist pastor goes to the front lines of the protests, praying with demonstrators and their opponents at barricades protesters have erected in Caracas, the capital city. He also visits Venezuela's National Guard and police stations to pray for their forces, even though some of them have been accused of alleged human rights violations against protesters.

At a barricade where he went to pray with demonstrators, the pastor "put the skids on an attack on protesters," reported Matthew Starr, a Southern Baptist representative serving in Caracas.

Residents of a nearby barrio (slum) approached, carrying sticks and stones, ready to attack demonstrators. The barrios of Caracas — stretching up the mountains surrounding the city — are considered bastions of support for the socialist government.

"He went across to the attackers and said he was a Baptist pastor and was praying with folks from both sides, sharing their need for God to take control of the situation," Starr recounted. "This diffused the [conflict] and they didn't carry out the attack."

"Pray for this pastor as he's making this his ministry during this crisis," Starr added. "He's also asking other pastors to get involved."

Another front-line ministry is happening through a Baptist church located near the main protest area in Caracas. Every morning some church members prayerwalk the area before protests begin in the afternoon.

Although church leaders cancelled prayer meetings at their building for security reasons, they asked members to pray together in homes and invite their neighbors to join them.

One family shared that five non-Christian

neighbors showed up for a prayer meeting in their home.

"Many unsaved Venezuelans are realizing they just don't have the spiritual resources to face the crisis," Starr observed.

The latest crisis erupted in early February when students in western Venezuela staged demonstrations after a female university student allegedly was raped. Protesters demanded the government address Venezuela's crime issues; the country has the fifth highest murder rate in the world, according to news reports. They also complained about Venezuela's 56 percent inflation rate — the world's highest — and a shortage of basic goods like milk, cooking oil and toilet paper.

Widespread demonstrations

After police detained some students, anti-government demonstrations spread to Caracas and other cities.

Venezuela has been deeply divided politically for nearly 15 years, a rift that began as the late President Hugo Chavez ushered in socialism during his 14-year presidency. That rift widened after the March 2013 death of Chavez and the bitterly contested election in April 2013 of his hand-picked successor, Nicolás Maduro.

"There's been a lot of discontent in the country, even before the protests broke out," Starr noted. "[The unrest] has just been building."

"A fuse has been lit, but we just don't know how long the fuse is," a Venezuelan pastor told Starr six months ago.

So far at least 20 people have been killed in violence surrounding the protests, according to news reports.

After the first of those deaths, the National Baptist Convention of Venezuela issued a statement condemning the violence and urging democratic solutions. The statement also asked Christians around the world to pray for Venezuela, calling for "heartfelt and ongoing prayer to God, imploring Him to shine His face over us, to heal our nation and to help us to face and transform the present circumstances for the good of all Venezuelans." (BP)



Reuters photo

Anti-government medical students scuffle with national policemen during a march demanding medical supplies for hospitals in Caracas, Venezuela, on March 10.

New phenomenon

Survey finds growth, vitality in multisite church model

The vast majority of multisite churches are growing, according to a new study, and they are seeing more involvement from lay people and newcomers after they open an additional location.

Nearly one in 10 U.S. Protestants attends a congregation with multiple campuses, according to findings released March 11 in the "Leadership Network/Generis Multisite Church Scorecard."

The report cites new data from the National Congregations Study, which found there were 8,000 multisite churches in the U.S. in 2012 — up from 5,000 in 2010 — including churches with more than one gathering on the same campus.

Multisite churches typically operate with a main campus headed by the senior minister and one or more satellite locations. In some settings, participants at the satellite location watch the same sermon that's beamed in from the central location but have their own dedicated on-site pastor, music or small group meetings.

The scorecard examined 535 responses to a survey — six responses were from Alabama — of multisite churches that had created worship space in a separate setting. Among the findings:

- ▶ By the end of 2013, the average church has grown 14 percent since it went multisite.
- ▶ The vast majority (88 percent) report increased lay participation after having multiple locations.
- ▶ It's still a relatively new phenomenon: 60 percent opted for the multisite model in the last five years.
- ▶ Almost half (47 percent) have a location in a rural area or a small town.
- ▶ One in three (37 percent) started being multisite through a merger of different congregations.

Although megachurches (congregations with 2,000 or more weekly participants) were pioneers of the

multisite concept, churches with as few as 50 people and as many as 15,000 have tried this approach, said Warren Bird, director of research at Leadership Network, a Dallas-based church think tank.

Multisite also is an international phenomenon: One-third of the congregations on Bird's list of international megachurches are multisite.

The report points out some of the challenges of juggling more than one campus for worship. Researchers found in 2010 that one in 10 multisite churches they surveyed had closed a location.

In this new survey, some said rented space in public schools — popular options for multisite churches — are "one of the toughest places to launch" an additional site.

"I can only guess that the climate of churches renting public facilities is getting more and more difficult with the number of school boards that are declining to rent either on Sundays or to religious groups on the increase," Bird said.

Jim Sheppard, CEO of Generis, an Atlanta-based consulting firm that sponsored the report,

warned that it is important to have a "good, sound contract" in whatever location a church picks to set up a temporary worship space.

"If your initial location is a public school, don't overestimate the relationship," he wrote. "People can change, politics can get involved and you might be forced out sooner than expected."

Multisite church leaders report that they are finding a greater percentage of "unchurched" people in their new locations than at the original location.

"Historically a church's greatest impact on the community is in its early years, and so the same thing is happening with a new campus," Bird said. (RNS, TAB)

"Historically a church's greatest impact on the community is in its early years."

**Warren Bird
director of research
Leadership Network**



New law requires ultra-Orthodox to serve in military

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament passed a controversial law March 12 requiring a significant number of ultra-Orthodox, or haredi, young men to serve in the military or perform civilian national service starting in 2017.

For 65 years yeshiva students (those who study at a Jewish institution that focuses on the study of traditional religious texts like the Torah) were given military service exemptions. Those exemptions have created a deep rift in Israel, where nearly all men and women are drafted for up to three years of military service. Almost all of Israel's 1.7 million Arab citizens are exempt from the draft.

The law's advocates view military service as a stepping-stone toward the integration of the haredi community into Israeli society. The community's norms encourage large families and Torah study over secular skills and employment.

The draft law codifies a 2012 High Court ruling that invalidated the long-standing military exemption for draft-age ultra-Orthodox men enrolled full time in yeshivas. Despite the court ruling, the government had repeatedly delayed the yeshiva students' conscription, fearing a political backlash from the country's religious parties and their constituents, who staged a huge demonstration against the law in Jerusalem and a smaller one in Manhattan recently.

The law falls short of conscripting all yeshiva students. More than 1,000 students deemed especially gifted will be permitted to continue their yeshiva studies, while 2,000 will be required to perform civilian national service.

The delay until 2017 means all 30,000 yeshiva students who are now of draft age will receive an immediate service exemption and be permitted to enter the workplace if they wish. An additional 20,000 students currently 18 to 22 years old will receive an exemption at age 24 provided they stay in yeshiva until then.

Czech Republic professor Halik wins Templeton Prize

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — Tomas Halik, a Roman Catholic priest and philosopher, onetime Czech political activist and an advocate for religious freedom and interfaith dialogue, won the 2014 Templeton Prize on March 13 for religious and spiritual progress.

Halik, 65, has in recent years been increasingly active in building bridges between people of different faiths. Saying he dislikes dogmatic figures on either end of the religious spectrum, Halik said his work is aimed at "seekers," the segment of those asking questions about religious and spiritual issues but unaffiliated with religion or atheism.

"Let it be said over and over again: faith is not a question of problems but of mystery," Halik said in a statement issued by the John Templeton Foundation, based in West Conshohocken, Pa. "We must never abandon the path of seeking and asking."

Halik has taught the sociology of religion at Charles University in Prague since 1997. He also has authored numerous books, with a number focusing on dialogue between atheists and those grounded in a particular religious tradition. One of his books, "Patience With God," was named the European Theological Book of 2009-10.

Alabama Baptist GIVING



Year to Date through Feb. 28, 2014

FEBRUARY

CP Challenge Budget Goal	\$3,475,000
CP Challenge Budget Gifts.....	\$3,065,483
Under Goal for Month	\$409,517

YEAR TO DATE

CP Challenge Budget Goal	\$6,950,000
CP Challenge Budget Gifts.....	\$7,464,958
Over Goal for Year	\$514,958

The monthly and year-to-date totals include CP base, CP state causes and SBC causes.



Photo courtesy of Shalom Baptist Church

MOBILE'S SHALOM BAPTIST BAPTIZES FAMILY OF 4 GENERATIONS

Shalom Baptist Church, Mobile, in Mobile Baptist Association baptized a family of four generations Feb. 16. Pictured here (l to r) are the mother Hattie Reed, daughter Barbara Sullivan, granddaughter Stacey Byrd and great-granddaughter Kevlyn Byrd. Bobby Morton is pastor.



Church Report for 2013

BAPTISMS, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS FOR CHURCHES

The following report reflects the Cooperative Program (CP) receipts, designated offerings and baptisms for Alabama's more than 3,200 Baptist churches during 2013.

Churches are listed alphabetically according to association. This report is based on statistics compiled by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM). Baptism totals are from the Annual Church Profile for the 2012-13 Association Year.

Blank spaces in the baptism column indicate that a church did not provide a total. CP and designated offering totals are from the SBOM accounting office, January-December 2013.

The SBOM reported total receipts for 2013 — including CP gifts and designated offerings — at more than \$64 million. CP gifts accounted for nearly \$40 million of that total.

For more information, call Bobby DuBois at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 219, or email him at bdubois@alsbom.org. (SBOM)

Alabama Crenshaw	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethel	1	\$1,370.00	\$0.00
Bradleyton	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,315.00
Brantley	8	\$5,093.50	\$5,928.68
Calvary	0	\$60.00	\$0.00
Chapel Hill	0	\$910.40	\$3,456.25
Danielville	8	\$1,447.90	\$9,337.13
Dozier	0	\$540.00	\$1,512.88
Friendship	0	\$3,680.62	\$126.53
Glenwood	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland Home	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jocuin	4	\$2,200.00	\$3,745.00
Luverne First	9	\$9,000.00	\$5,010.61
Magnolia	4	\$104.00	\$3,317.00
Mt Zion	4	\$12,691.32	\$3,819.37
New Ebenezer	2	\$2,259.24	\$2,021.35
New Harmony	0	\$1,000.00	\$3,256.00
Oakdale	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Panola	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Patsburg	4	\$2,000.00	\$3,720.00
Pleasant Home	2	\$1,979.38	\$1,173.31
Rock Hill	0	\$994.45	\$994.43
Rutledge First	0	\$3,921.25	\$1,139.00
Siloam	0	\$100.00	\$0.00
South Luverne	9	\$37,336.00	\$3,465.10
Spring Hill South	0	\$6,653.00	\$1,000.00
Union	11	\$6,000.00	\$2,436.25
Weed	1	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
Alabama Crenshaw Totals	69	\$99,741.06	\$57,973.89

Autauga	Baptism	CP	Designated
Autaugaville	9	\$47,979.97	\$43,439.67
Bethel	2	\$2,943.19	\$50.00
Bethesda	2	\$1,500.00	\$4,240.00
Bethlehem	0	\$833.00	\$3,144.00
Big Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Billingsley	6	\$7,027.32	\$4,357.00
Boone's Chapel	33	\$8,185.55	\$6,203.75
Calvary	2	\$5,548.13	\$2,193.61
Camellia	10	\$21,193.57	\$9,748.84
County Line	0	\$4,660.00	\$3,320.00
Crestview	7	\$14,577.38	\$937.00
East Memorial	12	\$0.00	\$25.00
Evergreen Baptist	2	\$2,090.00	\$1,967.00
Fresh Rain	24	\$0.00	\$0.00
Glynnwood	12	\$85,212.43	\$40,425.45
Indian Grave	0	\$12,215.97	\$10,003.00
Jones	0	\$9,900.00	\$2,403.60
Liberty	6	\$5,738.35	\$2,491.00
Living Faith Church	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Marbury	8	\$2,661.30	\$728.00
Milton	0	\$936.16	\$351.00
New Prospect	3	\$689.90	\$776.00
New Vision	8	\$2,326.89	\$7,020.56
Pine Level First	0	\$4,875.48	\$4,111.55
Pleasant Hill	5	\$4,585.41	\$766.31
Possey Cross Road First	3	\$3,919.42	\$240.00
Pratt Court	2	\$2,774.05	\$3,322.86
Prattmont	8	\$32,148.61	\$27,923.71
Prattville First	58	\$424,470.02	\$205,183.84
Primera Iglesia Hispana	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pueblo De Dios	7	\$531.54	\$615.00
Unity	0	\$4,712.55	\$6,226.16
Wadsworth	1	\$12,457.23	\$3,097.27
White Pond	1	\$10,464.22	\$16,008.81
Autauga Totals	232	\$737,157.64	\$411,320.05

Baldwin	Baptism	CP	Designated
3Circle Church	127	\$14,750.00	\$1,100.00
Barnwell	10	\$14,118.18	\$1,727.00
Bay Minette First	8	\$264,910.95	\$63,441.14
Bayside	0	\$5,407.32	\$3,901.79
Bethel	6	\$8,992.47	\$7,700.51
Bromley	1	\$1,574.82	\$0.00
Calvary Bay Minette	0	\$2,567.28	\$670.28
Calvary Foley	1	\$7,383.35	\$6,302.00
Crossroads at Belforest	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Crossway Christian Fellowship	1	\$3,487.00	\$575.00
Crosswinds Church	0	\$133.00	\$0.00
Daphne	3	\$2,091.83	\$2,050.00
Durant Chapel	4	\$21,631.73	\$17,432.80
East Pointe	16	\$58,187.86	\$18,743.86
Eastern Shore	18	\$136,119.93	\$63,255.60

Eastwood	1	\$4,304.30	\$1,832.00
Elberta First	0	\$4,786.00	\$1,661.17
Fairhope Avenue	0	\$12,663.40	\$2,199.55
Fairhope Community Church	0	\$760.00	\$5,170.00
Fairhope First	60	\$209,359.14	\$80,598.36
Faith Family Fellowship	7	\$42,415.08	\$13,346.88
FBC Summerdale	6	\$15,002.49	\$4,300.72
Fish River	3	\$15,551.22	\$4,098.59
Foley First	9	\$45,549.64	\$38,011.15
Friendship	3	\$13,191.99	\$17,337.23
Grace	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Green Acres	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gulf Shores First	0	\$104,973.84	\$42,191.15
Hamilton	2	\$8,747.15	\$6,657.72
Iglesia Cristiana Dulce Refugio	0	\$83.00	\$0.00
Impact	0	\$1,489.89	\$234.22
Josephine	0	\$0.00	\$1,577.00
Jubilee	43	\$112,015.71	\$39,162.50
Lagoon	14	\$4,273.66	\$7,348.38
Lifeway Community	0	\$620.93	\$0.00
Lillian First	0	\$3,303.41	\$1,816.00
Loxley First	11	\$39,035.30	\$7,639.65
Magnolia Springs	3	\$10,357.75	\$4,110.12
Miflin	8	\$300.00	\$578.57
Montgomery Hill	0	\$1,589.75	\$5,269.25
New Horizon	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life	5	\$9,111.00	\$1,880.15
New Providence	8	\$1,950.00	\$2,650.00
Orange Beach First	5	\$33,870.00	\$20,620.00
Oyster Bay	5	\$20,031.00	\$10,503.00
Perdido	10	\$1,925.00	\$6,256.00
Perdido Beach	0	\$681.98	\$1,696.00
Pine Grove	5	\$11,979.93	\$9,276.99
Pleasant View	2	\$10,919.37	\$6,234.76
Point Clear First	0	\$116.72	\$599.54
Robertsdale First	14	\$24,074.41	\$1,776.73
Romar Beach	11	\$8,809.34	\$2,000.00
Shell Banks	3	\$3,292.92	\$6,066.54
Silverhill First	4	\$32,971.61	\$8,171.80
Southside	6	\$15,196.98	\$9,296.45
Spanish Fort First	3	\$22,851.48	\$6,680.48
Spanish Trail	0	\$1,897.00	\$1,788.00
Stapleton	6	\$30,612.78	\$7,863.00
Stockton First	2	\$15,060.14	\$4,265.93
Styx River	0	\$1,385.32	\$20.00
Three Rivers	26	\$1,763.90	\$78.00
Trinity	0	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Vernant Park	0	\$11,978.42	\$2,163.72
Whitehouse Fork	0	\$3,384.00	\$2,225.00
Baldwin Totals	486	\$1,456,892.65	\$584,152.28

Barbour	Baptism	CP	Designated
Anderson	0	\$99.00	\$0.00
Belcher Bethel	6	\$0.00	\$1,759.47
Bethlehem	0	\$1,579.56	\$0.00
Calvary	1	\$2,519.58	\$1,810.00
Christian Grove	0	\$500.00	\$1,950.00
Clayton	1	\$15,481.79	\$4,944.00
Clio	3	\$406.68	\$0.00
Corinth	1	\$497.03	\$784.14
Emmanuel	2	\$2,609.69	\$1,076.00
Eufaula First	10	\$92,061.00	\$34,649.45
Evergreen	1	\$6,780.06	\$1,868.00
Lake City	3	\$5,554.65	\$3,728.69
Louisville	1	\$18,507.13	\$6,417.34
Mt Zion	0	\$3,398.43	\$2,170.00
Parkview	10	\$48,340.28	\$15,906.95
Pine Level	7	\$5,287.83	\$950.00
Pleasant Hill	0	\$300.00	\$555.00
Pleasant Plains	0	\$3,092.85	\$1,425.00
Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$240.00
Spring Hill	0	\$1,939.00	\$550.00
Sykes Creek	3	\$0.00	\$120.00
Union	1	\$2,228.16	\$1,340.44
Barbour Totals	50	\$211,180.72	\$82,244.48

Bessemer	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bethel	7	\$33,000.00	\$14,366.71
Calvary	16	\$0.00	\$437.61
Canaan	41	\$95,679.09	\$37,486.76
Christian Walk	0	\$0.00	\$100.00
Concord	2	\$23,560.89	\$14,733.33
Concord Highland	3	\$22,301.00	\$6,106.00
Cornerstone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cottage Hill	0	\$7,960.00	\$3,122.34
Crossway	0	\$5,301.38	\$4,706.00
Dolomite	0	\$0.00	\$1,162.00
Eastern Valley	0	\$13,275.61	\$6,860.04
Edgewater	1	\$6,127.21	\$3,398.01
Ezra	9	\$21,679.94	\$2,312.12
Fairfield Highlands	3	\$39,310.52	\$7,738.60
First Missionary Baptist	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Flint Hill	19	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Grace Life	29	\$40,000.00	\$40,710.93
Grant St.	7	\$183.37	\$10,091.59
Hopewell First	7	\$750.00	\$509.00
Hueytown	6	\$34,637.82	\$8,058.25
Industrial City	5	\$1,789.75	\$1,802.00
Living Faith	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Maytown	6	\$45,747.43	\$40,929.11
McCalla First	4	\$300.00	\$1,607.00
New Faith	0	\$2,877.00	\$438.00
New Hope	0	\$900.32	\$2,850.48
North Highlands	28	\$11,498.25	\$24,317.67
Pleasant Ridge	14	\$67,602.26	\$28,599.66
Pleasant Valley	2	\$2,094.81	\$1,318.70
Raimund Heights	4	\$675.00	\$2,934.30
River Road	14	\$1,659.41	\$1,679.00
Rock Mountain Lakes	8	\$15,034.13	\$2,275.00
Seventh Street	1	\$1,216.00	\$3,368.69
Shady Grove	1	\$9,390.78	\$6,791.14
Southcrest	1	\$30,145.74	\$15,263.59
Sylvan Springs First	0	\$999.96	\$600.00
Tannehill Valley	25	\$61,992.83	\$14,837.26
The Baptist Church at McAdoo	14	\$80,128.42	\$20,621.00
The Station	28	\$33,568.18	\$600.00
Union	1	\$1,167.45	\$2,080.00
Valley Creek	46	\$46,982.91	\$14,653.70
Vineland Park	4	\$750.00	\$920.00
West Highland	8	\$0.00	\$2,105.00
Wilkes	0	\$1,282.60	\$550.00
World Overcomers Christian Ch	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bessemer Totals	365	\$762,770.06	\$353,040.59

Bethel	Baptism	CP	Designated
Amwell	0	\$11,281.30	\$2,859.00
Beaver Creek	0	\$552.00	\$3,000.00
Bethlehem	0	\$5,054.00	\$8,749.45
Calvary	6	\$5,677.04	\$7,333.89

Catherine	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
County Line	0	\$1,875.02	\$5,480.09
Demopolis First	12	\$71,152.00	\$43,044.98
Dixon's Mills	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,070.00
Fairhaven	5	\$45,321.98	\$15,260.13
Forest Hill	20	\$9,136.25	\$1,730.00
Friendship	3	\$0.00	\$668.00
Hoboken	2	\$1,343.53	\$12,898.59
Hope	2	\$2,964.65	\$2,289.99
Jefferson	0	\$1,150.00	\$2,446.76
Lamson	2	\$844.87	\$1,679.29
Linden	1	\$25,221.09	\$22,156.00
Myrtlewood	1	\$2,583.81	\$931.26
Nanafalia	0	\$2,951.30	\$375.00
Nicholsville	1	\$1,609.74	\$1,926.84
Oak Grove	0	\$1,889.05	\$3,931.00
Old Union	0	\$400.00	\$1,300.00
Pine Hill	3	\$25,320.00	\$13,525.57
Providence	2	\$12,157.98	\$12,120.35
Rangeline	2	\$8,645.04	\$2,978.50
Sardis	0	\$5,789.00	\$4,610.00
Shiloh	1	\$6,693.72	\$12,978.98
Sunny South	1	\$1,834.08	\$6,931.52
Sweet Water	1	\$13,928.51	\$570.00
The Church At Putnam	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thomaston	3	\$20,456.85	\$13,448.20
Union Grove	0	\$300.00	\$895.00
Vineland	0	\$374.00	\$0.00
Wayne	0	\$261.54	\$448.73
Westside	0	\$3,188.34	\$880.00
Yellow Bluff	0	\$349.50	\$1,048.50
Bethel Totals	70	\$291,506.19	\$210,765.62

Bethlehem	Baptism	CP	Designated
Barbara Locklin	0	\$1,100.00	\$2,663.00
Eastwood	12	\$31,174.33	\$28,865.57
Enon	0	\$3,798.23	\$7,960.00
Eureka	0	\$2,947.00	\$1,447.00
Excel	3	\$38,496.61	\$29,924.80
Fountain	0	\$2,722.19	\$3,942.20
Frisco City First	0	\$11,347.89	\$16,540.10
Goodway First	9	\$11,505.01	\$7,849.90
Little River	2	\$7,179.90	\$7,828.06
Mexia	9	\$34,735.23	\$12,896.74
Mineola	10	\$4,530.55	\$10,918.75
Monroeville First	5	\$87,939.07	\$58,988.80
Mt Olive	4	\$300.00	\$2,219.00
Mt Pleasant	7	\$9,167.24	\$18,633.94
Oak Grove	10	\$15,275.87	\$7,657.21
Old Salem	8	\$8,209.00	\$4,108.00
Peterman First	1	\$6,995.28	\$1,595.00



Church Report for 2013

Welcome #1		\$0.00	\$200.39	Sunny Eve		\$0.00	\$0.00
Welcome #2	2	\$0.00	\$500.00	Ten Island		\$0.00	\$0.00
Whitesville		\$0.00	\$500.00	United Fellowship	3	\$3,890.11	\$0.00
Blount Totals	83	\$4,455.00	\$78,364.18	Valley		\$0.00	\$0.00
				Wayside		\$0.00	\$0.00
Bullock Centennial	Baptism	CP	Designated	Weaver First	16	\$25,423.46	\$5,526.01
Eastside	6	\$2,917.46	\$2,983.00	Wellington First	14	\$4,587.00	\$16,329.00
Indian Creek	0	\$1,536.04	\$1,887.00	West Anniston		\$400.00	\$1,300.00
Inverness	1	\$4,335.76	\$4,200.00	West Park Heights	7	\$11,508.20	\$5,506.48
Liberty	3	\$878.00	\$300.00	West Point	6	\$9,616.00	\$2,901.91
Loflin	4	\$1,951.39	\$70.00	West Side	2	\$12,613.00	\$6,392.15
Macedonia	1	\$11,193.50	\$7,628.52	West Weaver	5	\$11,874.00	\$6,174.86
Midway	0	\$2,596.29	\$4,050.00	Westwood	11	\$16,533.33	\$5,321.76
Mt Carmel	1	\$3,357.43	\$3,024.00	Whites Gap		\$0.00	\$0.00
Union Springs First	3	\$17,475.59	\$13,980.37	Woodland Park		\$600.00	\$0.00
Bullock Centennial Totals	19	\$46,241.46	\$38,122.89	Calhoun Totals	660	\$1,354,848.28	\$757,549.39

Butler	Baptism	CP	Designated	Carey	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Antioch East	8	\$34,804.73	\$15,249.26	Ashland First	2	\$56,000.00	\$15,567.00
Antioch West	4	\$2,363.06	\$8,171.13	Barfield	17	\$5,469.63	\$17,078.63
Bethel	3	\$600.00	\$15,500.00	Belview	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Brushy Creek	6	\$12,104.63	\$2,016.51	Big Springs	0	\$3,460.46	\$2,221.43
Calvary	4	\$1,411.61	\$3,810.00	Bowden Grove	0	\$1,414.00	\$2,392.00
Central	0	\$189.09	\$1,075.86	Clairmont Springs	0	\$1,790.13	\$0.00
Damascus	1	\$1,731.70	\$1,731.70	Concord	4	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
East Greenville	0	\$589.16	\$792.87	Corinth	3	\$1,303.96	\$3,260.40
Ebenezer East	2	\$4,586.28	\$5,018.00	County Line	3	\$4,203.18	\$440.00
Forest Home	1	\$6,545.00	\$7,424.29	Cragford	0	\$300.00	\$1,100.00
Garland	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Delta	2	\$6,194.22	\$6,113.84
Georgiana First	5	\$7,559.97	\$55.00	Good Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gravel Hill	3	\$1,794.00	\$3,158.00	Hatchett Creek	0	\$450.00	\$1,650.00
Greenville First	11	\$47,165.99	\$21,802.18	Horn's Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	Liberty	4	\$3,968.00	\$2,569.50
Liberty	3	\$6,199.42	\$3,130.00	Lineville	5	\$31,767.83	\$10,903.87
McKenzie	1	\$2,021.00	\$5,887.09	Lystra	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Midway	0	\$500.00	\$600.00	Macedonia	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Olive East	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mellow Valley	2	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Mt Olive West	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Millerville	8	\$4,200.42	\$2,975.00
Mt Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Moriah	0	\$109.35	\$437.36
Mt Pleasant	2	\$19,525.43	\$11,655.27	Mt Olive	0	\$0.00	\$450.00
Pleasant Hill	7	\$821.15	\$1,202.00	Mt Pisgah	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sardis	0	\$835.26	\$1,555.00	Mt Zion	6	\$1,410.00	\$8,604.00
Shackleville	0	\$5,016.69	\$0.00	New Fellowship	0	\$1,800.00	\$1,750.00
Shiloh	7	\$0.00	\$592.00	New Hope West	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southside	12	\$28,800.00	\$15,758.50	Oaks Chapel	2	\$320.00	\$890.00
Spring Creek	3	\$4,237.53	\$3,058.57	Olive Branch	0	\$0.00	\$750.00
Spring Hill	1	\$808.80	\$1,391.81	Rock Springs	0	\$1,680.52	\$1,296.07
Welcome	0	\$140.00	\$485.50	Sardis	0	\$120.00	\$700.00
Butler Totals	84	\$191,079.50	\$136,120.54	Shiloh	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Spring Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Union	0	\$0.00	\$1,407.00
				Carey Totals	60	\$127,961.70	\$85,056.10

Cahaba	Baptism	CP	Designated	Central	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Calvary	0	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	Bethesda	0	\$1,000.00	\$520.00
Ephesus	0	\$950.00	\$2,890.00	Bluff Springs	0	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Faith Chapel	0	\$2,919.92	\$1,395.00	Candler Mountain	2	\$0.00	\$3,400.00
Friendship	0	\$200.00	\$1,341.00	Concord	1	\$558.00	\$1,764.00
Hopewell	0	\$6,236.60	\$4,181.00	Goodwater	1	\$3,016.08	\$2,707.33
Medline	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Grimes Chapel	7	\$4,091.32	\$3,390.00
Mt Olive	0	\$0.00	\$100.00	Hollins	3	\$4,880.05	\$2,077.00
Newbern	0	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	Kellyton	18	\$12,714.98	\$13,841.58
Ocmulgee	6	\$2,834.00	\$500.00	Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Flat	0	\$3,000.00	\$7,625.00	Mt Moriah	1	\$2,370.48	\$2,572.12
Pine Grove	2	\$5,722.50	\$3,504.50	Mt Olive	2	\$1,662.00	\$490.67
Pisgah	0	\$7,370.75	\$7,990.00	New Providence	10	\$1,924.00	\$2,600.00
Siloam	5	\$22,557.75	\$7,816.00	Newsite	5	\$4,498.00	\$1,306.47
Uniontown Baptist	2	\$5,284.61	\$5,736.91	Poplar Springs	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cahaba Totals	15	\$57,576.13	\$45,629.41	Providence	3	\$14,888.23	\$4,180.66

Calhoun	Baptism	CP	Designated	Cherokee	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alexandria	1	\$19,627.97	\$6,036.50	Bethel	8	\$600.00	\$0.00
Angel Grove	8	\$9,848.31	\$5,889.91	Calcedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Anniston First	1	\$15,666.70	\$12,687.32	Cedar Bluff First	6	\$9,910.87	\$11,718.04
Antioch Bynum		\$2,380.00	\$2,527.16	Centre First	13	\$45,000.00	\$18,530.26
Antioch Oxford	36	\$39,516.87	\$26,031.54	Dalley Street	1	\$0.00	\$1,501.63
Asberry	3	\$0.00	\$3,600.00	East Centre	4	\$3,365.93	\$460.00
Bethlehem		\$0.00	\$100.00	Enon Grove	1	\$2,842.56	\$3,566.30
Blue Mountain	2	\$8,938.03	\$6,670.00	Fair Haven	3	\$2,291.00	\$967.00
Boiling Springs	8	\$200.00	\$2,000.00	Faith, Gaylesville	1	\$0.00	\$250.00
Bonny Brook		\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith, Piedmont	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bynum		\$4,090.67	\$4,555.61	Faith, Gaylesville	4	\$20.00	\$80.00
Calvary	4	\$2,915.00	\$4,535.00	Friendship	13	\$4,511.30	\$2,855.00
Cedar Springs	27	\$2,909.67	\$4,762.52	Gaylesville First	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cheaha	2	\$1,410.62	\$2,585.00	Liberty	0	\$100.00	\$225.00
Chosea Springs	0	\$0.00	\$1,693.00	Melrose	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coldwater	4	\$4,013.09	\$1,675.46	Moshawh	0	\$746.75	\$665.20
CrossRoads Baptist		\$2,224.73	\$575.00	Nazareth	0	\$200.00	\$1,000.00
DeArmanville First	2	\$1,550.00	\$1,563.00	New Bethel	7	\$250.00	\$3,188.25
Duke First		\$1,898.00	\$900.00	New Prospect #2	11	\$4,682.00	\$3,328.50
Emmanuel		\$0.00	\$0.00	Noah	0	\$1,464.76	\$3,661.90
Eulaton First	17	\$2,655.46	\$4,312.12	Parkers Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview Heights Northside	2	\$4,028.00	\$2,959.50	Pilgrim Rest	0	\$370.30	\$970.30
Faith		\$2,701.65	\$5,526.87	Pine Grove	15	\$29,523.69	\$76,505.10
Friendship		\$0.00	\$0.00	Pisgah	0	\$812.00	\$1,025.00
Gladeview	1	\$14,897.58	\$4,096.91	Pleasant Arbor	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Golden Springs	38	\$238,089.81	\$118,016.37	Providence	7	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Grace	2	\$6,000.00	\$27,125.40	Rock Run	0	\$1,823.75	\$621.00
Greenbrier Road	1	\$9,597.63	\$8,770.42	Round Mountain	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Harmony	0	\$2,400.00	\$2,261.20	Salem	0	\$6,772.00	\$4,202.50
Hatcher Avenue		\$0.00	\$0.00	Sand Rock	11	\$20,196.25	\$986.00
Hebron	0	\$200.00	\$866.95	Sand Valley	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hill Crest	106	\$95,457.87	\$28,237.46	Sandy Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Holley Cross Roads	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Servants Heart	1	\$168.72	\$100.00
Holley Springs		\$0.00	\$0.00	Shady Grove	3	\$2,338.15	\$1,640.00
Iron City	9	\$31,029.11	\$4,029.24	Shiloh	14	\$2,496.45	\$16,019.96
Jacksonville First	31	\$135,108.61	\$46,056.69	Slackland	9	\$22,507.04	\$18,019.96
Lakeview	15	\$2,500.00	\$9,578.25	Tates Chapel	1	\$6,150.53	\$6,585.04
Leatherwood	31	\$27,300.00	\$13,148.00	Unity Hill	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Living Stones		\$0.00	\$0.00	Cherokee Totals	142	\$172,467.60	\$191,444.58
Lloyds Chapel		\$1,382.55	\$0.00				
Mamre	5	\$1,602.83	\$2,312.83	Chilton	Baptism	CP	Designated
Meadowbrook	11	\$77,657.46	\$37,582.80	Alpine	1	\$2,588.78	\$2,737.31
Mt View	4	\$453.84	\$2,125.34	Bel Lane	5	\$14,406.66	\$5,137.36
Mt. Gilead	4	\$4,104.87	\$2,082.00	Bethsalem	5	\$24,309.00	\$20,547.00
Mt. Zion	110	\$66,247.26	\$22,416.90	Cane Creek	0	\$2,453.02	\$1,250.00
Nances Creek		\$8,230.90	\$3,833.00	Center Hill	11	\$6,238.16	\$3,781.47
New Haven	2	\$14,521.36	\$15,569.76	Chenestnut Creek	0	\$78.15	\$78.15
New Hopewell	1	\$1,150.00	\$300.00	Clanton First	9	\$108,952.90	\$45,683.02
New Liberty	1	\$0.00	\$1,259.76	Collins Chapel	1	\$13,389.83	\$5,121.28
New Oak Grove	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Concord	1	\$9,292.49	\$4,679.00
Northside Piedmont		\$0.00	\$1,200.00	Corinth	0	\$996.00	\$1,998.80
Oak Bowery	1	\$1,300.00	\$2,164.29	Ebenezer	7	\$22,849.00	\$19,200.52
Oak Grove	0	\$2,940.74	\$3,087.60	Faith	14	\$6,496.65	\$4,796.41
Oak Hill	0	\$325.00	\$0.00	Floyd	3	\$1,182.00	\$1,582.00
Oakridge		\$0.00	\$0.00	Friendship	0	\$8,863.38	\$5,363.22
Ohatchee First		\$4,307.64	\$3,348.56	Highland	1	\$7,624.34	\$9,869.49
Oxford First	27	\$96,084.99	\$56,373.80	Hillcrest	3	\$21,865.00	\$5,958.30
Parker Memorial	20	\$139,351.45	\$108,100.62	Jimson First	11	\$42,360.92	\$16,941.31
Pelham	7	\$600.00	\$0.00	Liberty Hill	6	\$21,688.00	\$5,279.10
Philadelphia		\$0.00	\$2,874.00	Lomax First	0	\$2,061.22	\$5,065.59
Piedmont First	13	\$61,987.33	\$30,998.21				
Pleasant Ridge	3	\$0.00	\$650.00				
Pleasant Valley		\$0.00	\$3,145.50				
Plum Springs	6	\$1,495.33	\$3,140.00				
Post Oak Springs	4	\$3,729.00	\$3,395.00				
Profile		\$764.26	\$632.85				
Rabbittown	0	\$2,878.72	\$0.00				
Roberts Chapel	4	\$0.00	\$0.00				
Ruhama	8	\$3,292.27	\$0.00				
Saks First	15	\$75,640.00	\$39,153.00				
Southside		\$0.00	\$780.00				

Macedonia	1	\$11,146.65	\$9,326.56	Fulton First	2	\$5,491.95	\$8,748.32
Maple Springs	0	\$1,300.00	\$115.00	Good Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Maplesville	2	\$12,690.00	\$2,697.00	Gosport	0	\$600.00	\$5,105.00
Mars Hill	5	\$4,538.86	\$13,875.04	Grace	0	\$3,428.77	\$2,640.00
Mineral Springs	5	\$27,903.74	\$18,348.74	Grove Hill	6	\$13,000.00	\$18,017.73
Mount Bethel	4	\$5,120.34	\$1,100.00	Hopewell	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Carmel #1	3	\$3,553.75	\$1,475.36	Horeb	0	\$4,986.50	\$350.00
Mount Carmel #2	5	\$3,526.39	\$2,942.40	Jackson First	7	\$66,029.00	\$20,810.36
Mountain Creek	1	\$6,072.96	\$6,805.29	Liberty	0	\$4,883.51	\$4,388.53
Mt Pleasant	0	\$2,477.91	\$7,874.65	Midway	0	\$13,706.04	\$5,238.83
New Cedron	16	\$23,424.00	\$8,101.50	Mt Gilead	3	\$300.00	\$3,135.55
New Covenant	0	\$0.00	\$1,824.07	Mt. Vernon	1	\$0.00	\$1,240.00
New Harmony	0	\$942.62	\$2,243.75	New Faith	7	\$2,839.89	\$171.00
New Salem	0	\$800.00	\$2,185.00	New Prospect	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Oak Grove	1	\$1,782.37	\$399.21

RATIO OF BAPTISMS 2013

Top 26 Churches

1. Rock Springs, Chilton	1 to 1.23
2. LifePoint Brindlee Mountain, Marshall	1 to 1.67
3. Three Rivers, Baldwin	1 to 1.88
4. Arkadelphia, West Cullman	1 to 2.00
Blocton Third, Bibb	1 to 2.00
5. West Highland, Bessemer	1 to 2.13
6. Pleasantfield, Walker	1 to 2.14
7. Agape Cristiana, Birmingham	1 to 2.40
West Mobile Bible Fellowship, Not Member	1 to 2.40
8. Fresh Rain, Autauga	1 to 2.58
9. Triune, Etowah	1 to 2.62
10. Central, West Cullman	1 to 2.73
11. Old Blue Creek, Pleasant Grove	1 to 2.80
12. Shiloh, Butler	1 to 2.86
13. Moyeville, Escambia	1 to 2.92
14. Maranatha, Walker	1 to 2.95
15. Lifeline, Not Member	1 to 3.00
Orion, Salem Troy	1 to 3.00
Mineola, Bethlehem	1 to 3.00
New Hopewell, St Clair	1 to 3.00
16. Victory Hill, Marshall	1 to 3.07
17. Calvert, Mobile	1 to 3.08
18. Community Life, Madison	1 to 3.13
Macedonia, Walker	1 to 3.13
19. Forest, Pickens	1 to 3.17
Emeus, West Cullman	1 to 3.17



Church Report for 2013

Enterprise	0	\$5,264.37	\$6,092.86	Covington	Baptism	CP	Designated	Nazareth	17	\$51,926.49	\$22,324.00	East Liberty	Baptism	CP	Designated	Titus First	0	\$5,550.00	\$3,365.00
Faith	1	\$10,521.92	\$6,929.24	Adellum	2	\$3,600.00	\$2,618.83	New Canaan	4	\$0.00	\$2,121.00	Abanda		\$0.00	\$0.00	Tunnell Chapel	0	\$1,837.61	\$1,594.07
Gordon First	0	\$0.00	\$1,063.50	Andalusia First	10	\$89,366.78	\$87,684.16	New Genesis	0	\$25.00	\$0.00	Antioch		\$0.00	\$430.00	Wetumpka First	26	\$80,004.00	\$21,365.72
Grandview	7	\$59,951.76	\$16,365.92	Babbie	3	\$12,688.12	\$11,309.79	New Harmony	6	\$2,861.00	\$5,143.25	Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$513.87	Elmore Totals	311	\$904,810.81	\$400,405.12
Heritage	8	\$21,131.67	\$19,010.54	Beda	24	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Home		\$0.00	\$450.00	Beulah	11	\$14,784.01	\$3,937.73	Escambia	Baptism	CP	Designated
Hodgesville	0	\$2,043.06	\$5,088.24	Bethany	23	\$45,727.70	\$23,917.26	New Hope		\$0.00	\$0.00	Blanton	5	\$2,204.91	\$1,506.70	Alco	3	\$3,604.64	\$390.87
Kinsey	1	\$17,500.00	\$10,255.00	Beulah	1	\$2,121.87	\$1,612.02	New Life		\$0.00	\$0.00	Calvary	2	\$6,932.30	\$6,678.99	Altmore First	2	\$12,630.79	\$14,567.00
Liberty	1	\$4,733.21	\$396.00	Blue Springs	2	\$4,249.00	\$1,534.75	Northside		\$0.00	\$0.00	Center	0	\$600.00	\$1,200.00	Bethel	0	\$322.50	\$558.75
Madrid	0	\$10,722.02	\$2,789.27	Brooks	4	\$765.06	\$1,621.27	Oak Grove	4	\$4,111.98	\$11,206.00	Cornerstone		\$925.00	\$1,836.78	Booneville	4	\$3,651.45	\$1,150.00
Malvern	7	\$25,735.95	\$4,183.29	Buck Creek	3	\$6,590.00	\$650.00	Pilgrim Rest		\$0.00	\$0.00	Couseta	3	\$4,897.24	\$6,447.86	Brewton First	5	\$125,843.94	\$44,948.44
Memphis	27	\$178,279.17	\$39,456.00	Carolina	7	\$30,791.46	\$69,650.00	Pine Ridge	4	\$1,692.96	\$1,567.00	Fairfax First	0	\$20,336.66	\$7,045.62	Brooks Memorial	7	\$20,612.65	\$8,934.55
Mt Ararat		\$0.00	\$218.39	Cedar Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill	3	\$3,731.61	\$6,568.20	Fairview	3	\$23,757.00	\$7,141.32	Calvary		\$3,103.06	\$511.00
Mt Gilead	2	\$116,736.56	\$81,547.83	Conecuh River	4	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Portersville	18	\$953.00	\$0.00	Five Points	0	\$1,017.00	\$655.00	Canoe First	0	\$0.00	\$1,335.00
Mt Pleasant	4	\$5,571.00	\$6,556.00	Damascus	0	\$1,446.81	\$1,080.00	Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana	12	\$2,463.65	\$2,589.00	Grace	0	\$6,240.00	\$1,695.75	Catawba Springs	8	\$22,622.89	\$10,783.62
Mt. Enon	4	\$1,200.00	\$2,360.55	East Highland	2	\$1,488.93	\$1,008.00	Prospect		\$0.00	\$0.00	Happy Valley	12	\$626.34	\$2,030.00	Cedar Hill		\$3,966.00	\$2,113.61
New Providence	0	\$1,550.95	\$2,170.22	Enon	2	\$0.00	\$1,050.00	Providence	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Huguley	0	\$1,007.50	\$904.00	Community Mission		\$360.00	\$0.00
Old Webb Road	3	\$2,866.32	\$1,419.00	Fairmount	1	\$13,566.68	\$12,964.12	Rainsville First	8	\$6,005.59	\$15,361.73	Jackson Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$50.00	Cross Point		\$0.00	\$0.00
Pathway	1	\$6,130.30	\$4,322.49	Floralia First	11	\$19,482.82	\$6,467.46	Ruhama	11	\$4,200.00	\$9,790.00	Johnson Chapel	0	\$2,368.19	\$1,480.00	Damascus	0	\$23,167.00	\$16,640.00
Pilgrim Home	24	\$33,286.35	\$7,581.25	Gantt First	6	\$25,067.44	\$13,491.07	Second	11	\$28,916.64	\$5,667.00	Lafayette First	0	\$26,181.48	\$9,205.96	East Brewton First	10	\$10,889.92	\$3,187.30
Pilgrim's Rest East	0	\$99.50	\$99.50	Harmony	9	\$15,926.13	\$9,338.64	Skirum	0	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	Lafayette Heights	9	\$21,468.91	\$5,448.71	Elim	1	\$4,770.25	\$1,508.81
Pilgrim's Rest West	0	\$5,283.69	\$1,900.00	Hopewell	9	\$17,175.92	\$11,547.83	Tenbroeck	0	\$2,904.61	\$4,000.00	Laurel First	12	\$19,092.77	\$6,249.00	Flomaton First	5	\$23,584.37	\$12,331.00
Pleasant Grove	2	\$0.00	\$70.00	Judson	2	\$5,061.00	\$302.00	Union Grove	7	\$12,249.96	\$3,983.06	Laurel	2	\$2,519.93	\$2,045.62	Huxford	1	\$2,588.00	\$3,908.00
Pleasant Hill	3	\$5,481.27	\$3,259.62	Liberty Home	0	\$2,106.20	\$5,016.19	Union Hill		\$1,050.57	\$0.00	Midway	2	\$396.00	\$1,401.00	Judson		\$2,903.41	\$871.32
Pleasant Plains	3	\$15,183.65	\$9,099.60	Lockhart	5	\$6,587.52	\$7,989.40	Valley Head	7	\$1,150.00	\$1,801.00	Milltown		\$0.00	\$0.00	Liberty		\$0.00	\$0.00
Poplar Springs	0	\$2,866.32	\$700.00	Mill Creek	0	\$1,814.72	\$2,099.71	Vernon	0	\$2,249.00	\$750.00	Mt Zion	0	\$1,898.00	\$7,102.00	Little Escambia	5	\$25,644.00	\$10,799.86
Rainbow Meadows	8	\$5,476.83	\$1,071.75	Mobley Creek	0	\$3,899.00	\$14,544.00	Wills Valley Community Church	13	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope	0	\$758.97	\$780.96	Lottie	4	\$1,492.06	\$1,317.00
Rehobeth	13	\$33,390.39	\$28,630.80	Mt Gilead	6	\$7,837.16	\$6,742.53	DeKalb Totals	315	\$437,466.50	\$284,345.21	Plant City	1	\$1,922.21	\$4,821.19	Magnolia		\$0.00	\$748.42
Ridgecrest	80	\$192,375.00	\$194,958.65	Mt Pisgah	2	\$6,271.16	\$5,371.58					Pleasant Hill	0	\$1,232.00	\$2,647.00	Moyeville	13	\$0.00	\$320.00
Selma	10	\$13,750.00	\$11,681.43	New Hope	1	\$2,123.00	\$1,145.00					Providence	0	\$3,555.00	\$3,403.00	New Beginnings	1	\$1,229.50	\$2,292.51
Smyrna	3	\$4,881.21	\$2,630.00	New Song Community	6	\$0.00	\$0.00					River View	4	\$3,409.94	\$2,123.66	New Bethlehem	1	\$706.73	\$2,264.06
(d) South Lena		\$0.00	\$14,000.00	Northern Heights	2	\$854.00	\$2,139.60					Rock Springs	1	\$11,708.18	\$5,510.19	Nokomis		\$1,465.00	\$1,110.00
Southside	11	\$71,358.86	\$46,598.31	Northside	1	\$2,611.79	\$1,839.45					Shawmut First	3	\$23,417.90	\$5,495.86	North Brewton	0	\$18,654.94	\$11,254.26
St. James	12	\$2,296.63	\$0.00	Oak Grove	5	\$1,508.00	\$767.00					Shiloh	0	\$812.12	\$0.00	Pleasant Grove		\$365.00	\$0.00
Taylor Baptist	6	\$3,799.00	\$1,392.00	Oakey Ridge	4	\$4,173.20	\$5,388.91					Sunset Heights	1	\$4,723.01	\$2,784.40	Poarch	4	\$600.00	\$2,588.00
Union Hill	3	\$4,589.35	\$2,185.00	Opp First	13	\$50,093.94	\$57,216.71					Valley First	13	\$650.00	\$5,445.00	Presley Street		\$2,037.00	\$4,501.00
Watermark	18	\$6,000.00	\$8,351.20	Philadelphia	0	\$275.00	\$0.00					Victory	2	\$5,702.40	\$2,566.33	Robinsonville	2	\$5,239.58	\$4,494.34
Wayside	2	\$6,131.66	\$2,716.58	Pigeon Creek	2	\$1,568.54	\$200.00					Waverly	0	\$0.00	\$2,583.81	Sardis	2	\$3,811.15	\$3,595.00
Webb	1	\$5,899.11	\$3,901.28	Pleasant Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00					West End	18	\$15,676.89	\$14,401.54	Unity		\$4,358.75	\$4,711.00
Columbia Totals	388	\$1,585,164.88	\$862,081.55	Pleasant Home	3	\$10,636.03	\$11,895.12					West Side	0	\$1,480.88	\$1,015.00	Wallace First	1	\$1,350.66	\$482.00
				Rawls	5	\$3,024.21	\$19,592.45					East Liberty Totals	105	\$233,939.00	\$132,855.77	Zion Hill	7	\$2,563.56	\$1,191.00
Conecuh	Baptism	CP	Designated	Red Oak	0	\$7,652.00	\$4,105.00									Escambia Totals	86	\$334,138.80	\$175,405.72
Arkadelphia	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	River Falls	16	\$5,156.94	\$2,302.36												
Belleville	3	\$300.00	\$5,598.75	Salem	0	\$467.78	\$1,643.74												
Bermuda	0	\$0.00	\$2,102.00	Sanford First	0	\$435.00	\$1,135.00												
Bower Memorial	6	\$12,670.50	\$10,059.42	Searight	0	\$263.82	\$620.00												
Brooklyn	0	\$860.00	\$12,955.00	Southside Andalusia	9	\$66,210.30	\$12,553.00												
Castleberry	0	\$537.61	\$943.52	Southside Opp	6	\$35,529.62	\$18,009.39												
Cedar Creek	0	\$2,320.86	\$1,967.00	Sweet Home	2	\$2,086.80	\$740.70												
Evergreen	4	\$25,049.87	\$50,770.00	Sweet Water	0	\$2,515.81	\$11,118.64												
Holly Grove	0	\$195.00	\$510.00	Victory	0	\$1,100.00	\$1,600.00												
Jones Chapel	0	\$368.72	\$876.54	West County Line	5	\$3,058.00	\$2,668.00												
Lenox	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	West Highland	0	\$4,079.00	\$4,978.00												
London	4	\$1,700.13	\$5,476.56	Westside	4	\$2,651.91	\$1,562.00												
Long Branch	4	\$200.00	\$200.00	Westview	16	\$38,380.50	\$17,441.57												
Lyeffion	0	\$2,238.86	\$1,697.47	Zion Hill	4	\$2,992.46	\$1,711.00												
Midway	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Covington Totals	242	\$573,079.13	\$487,983.25												
New Home	3	\$650.00	\$600.00																
New Hopewell		\$0.00	\$0.00	Dale	Baptism	CP	Designated												
New Hope	0	\$1,367.00	\$0.00	Ariton	8	\$10,723.20	\$6,528.80												
Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$1,257.00	Bethel	9	\$7,584.67	\$3,614.00												
Old Town	2	\$403.59	\$2,023.58	Camp Ground	12	\$24,789.73	\$9,710.02												
Olive Branch	0	\$2,972.00	\$2,370.00	Cedar Grove	1	\$5,367.00	\$1,892.15												
Repton	0	\$800.00	\$3,280.00	Center Ridge	7	\$3,796.59	\$10,053.27												
Sepulga	0	\$1,605.34	\$4,140.34	Chalkhead	5	\$15,703.50	\$6,776.58												
Skinerton	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Daleville	6	\$14,933.60	\$6,583.70												
Sweet Home	14	\$5,117.78	\$1,150.00	Ebenezer	0	\$306.50	\$153.26												
Conecuh Totals	43	\$59,357.26	\$107,977.18	Elam	0	\$2,604.70	\$4,181.30												
				Haven of Grace Fellowship	2	\$4,113.39	\$0.00												
Coosa River	Baptism	CP	Designated	Hillcrest	2	\$5,811.66	\$1,865.00												
Alpine	0	\$838.64	\$7,019.16	Level Plains First	8	\$28,524.07	\$13,174.08												
Berniston	1	\$118.26	\$2,215.32	Logan Road	2	\$6,155.15	\$5,078.25												
Blue Eye	6	\$0.00	\$0.00	Midland City	0	\$3,141.19	\$1,973.44												
Bon Air	0	\$4,266.80	\$5,149.08	Midway	1	\$3,900.00	\$8,675.00												
Brecon First	0	\$903.70	\$1,330.70	Morgan	0	\$2,400.00	\$3,079.86												
Browns Chapel		\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Enon	2	\$1,934.00	\$3,197.00												
Calvary	6	\$9,531.19	\$2,981.54	Mt Pisgah	0	\$2,400.00	\$2,044.00												
Cartersville	0	\$0.00	\$335.00	Mt Zion	10	\$4,775.36	\$5,305.00												
Central	3	\$10,864.67	\$14,062.36	New Hope	0	\$8,285.00	\$4,339.00												
Chandler Springs	0	\$4,289.80	\$1,429.92	Newton	1	\$5,364.58	\$3,654.78		</										



Church Report for 2013

Berry	5	\$5,461.00	\$3,888.39
Bethel	1	\$2,490.26	\$0.00
Caines Ridge	1	\$0.00	\$400.00
Chapel Hill	1	\$2,471.64	\$602.99
Concord	1	\$1,105.00	\$1,105.00
Covin	0	\$3,141.93	\$1,501.50
Fayette First	10	\$49,913.56	\$43,073.49
Grace	12	\$13,283.80	\$1,320.70
Macedonia	0	\$3,158.62	\$7,009.90
Mountain Home	0	\$67.50	\$129.50
New River	2	\$1,947.03	\$200.00
Oak Ridge	0	\$618.09	\$400.00
Oakes Chapel	3	\$700.03	\$0.00
Philadelphia	0	\$1,355.25	\$1,165.00
Pilgrim Rest	0	\$1,675.63	\$434.63
Pisgah	0	\$447.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Grove	1	\$3,896.00	\$499.00
Pleasant Hill	3	\$3,340.10	\$5,122.08
Rehobeth	1	\$13,230.86	\$8,011.00
Salem	8	\$450.00	\$5,950.00
Sand Springs	2	\$4,087.17	\$5,000.00
Shady Grove	0	\$3,800.00	\$920.00
Shepherd	0	\$2,247.29	\$440.00
Southside	47	\$55,411.00	\$18,534.04
Spring Hill	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Unity	7	\$6,315.63	\$2,344.35
Fayette Totals	115	\$180,391.74	\$108,359.57

Franklin	Baptism	CP	Designated
Bear Creek No. One	2	\$2,954.00	\$3,742.00
Belgreen	1	\$1,384.98	\$900.00
Bethel	0	\$2,547.31	\$1,076.00
Calvary	18	\$71,095.73	\$7,099.00
Cherry Hill	0	\$3,100.00	\$7,095.00
CowBoy Church	5	\$3,243.15	\$3,410.25
Crooked Oak	0	\$3,241.80	\$222.15
Divine	10	\$880.00	\$0.00
Duncan Creek	1	\$1,189.00	\$579.00
Ebenezer	0	\$87.26	\$4,362.58
Freedom Community Church	1	\$1,581.36	\$1,086.00
Gravel Hill	3	\$4,047.73	\$1,300.00
Hodges Convention	0	\$1,403.34	\$903.55
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida	1	\$71.16	\$0.00
Jonesboro	1	\$1,060.40	\$199.65
Macedonia	1	\$10,644.36	\$825.00
Mountain View	9	\$12,499.92	\$4,436.25
Mt Hebron	13	\$20,865.00	\$11,917.79
Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Friendship	0	\$240.00	\$240.00
New Harmony	2	\$120.00	\$171.00
North Russellville	0	\$2,483.76	\$0.00
Orange	0	\$5,425.99	\$0.00
Phil Campbell First	10	\$6,221.31	\$6,180.43
Piney Grove Msn.	0	\$851.57	\$0.00
Pleasant Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Primera Iglesia Bautista	0	\$25.00	\$0.00
Red Bay First	10	\$22,083.85	\$19,338.32
Rockwood	2	\$4,240.00	\$1,580.00
Russellville First	10	\$58,854.40	\$23,128.60
South Side	10	\$11,480.36	\$13,536.00
Spruce Pine	5	\$4,712.59	\$5,711.40
Thartpown	3	\$10,786.12	\$25,901.68
Vina First	4	\$6,709.56	\$5,944.75
Waco	1	\$600.00	\$655.00
West Highland	1	\$1,687.00	\$873.00
Franklin Totals	124	\$279,266.01	\$152,414.40

Friendship	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Bethel	3	\$1,200.00	\$2,033.85
Blount Springs	1	\$6,056.11	\$7,937.39
Blountsville	10	\$15,040.59	\$12,257.00
Brooksville	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Center Springs	0	\$1,587.25	\$8,909.48
County Line	4	\$2,052.89	\$1,905.00
Crossroads	14	\$47,080.41	\$15,300.56
Easley	0	\$1,300.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	0	\$499.02	\$900.00
Fowler Springs	3	\$640.00	\$4,936.50
Gethsemane	1	\$6,862.73	\$8,079.89
Hayden First	14	\$37,482.95	\$17,520.01
Hopewell	8	\$16,709.91	\$5,987.00
Lakeview	0	\$4,136.75	\$2,751.83
Lovest Fork	36	\$24,480.00	\$23,441.17
Mt. Tabor	0	\$2,000.00	\$3,058.82
Mulberry	10	\$800.00	\$500.00
Oneonta First	25	\$49,549.66	\$36,820.35
Park Avenue	3	\$3,873.67	\$1,439.50
Philadelphia	6	\$4,278.06	\$4,765.14
Pleasant Hill	0	\$1,637.52	\$270.00
Pleasant Mt	0	\$14,450.99	\$3,992.49
Remlap First	6	\$10,442.04	\$720.32
Snead	7	\$1,158.97	\$927.60
Straight Mountain	0	\$0.00	\$1,822.31
Trinity	21	\$400.00	\$535.00
Union Hill	21	\$34,385.46	\$41,348.39
Village Springs	2	\$2,964.96	\$6,076.24
Zola	3	\$609.02	\$300.00
Friendship Totals	198	\$291,678.96	\$214,535.84

Geneva	Baptism	CP	Designated
Adoniram	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Antioch	0	\$1,200.00	\$4,290.00
Bellwood	0	\$1,800.00	\$2,851.00
Bethesda	0	\$140.00	\$0.00
Christian Home	1	\$1,830.83	\$850.00
Coffee Springs First	7	\$6,558.10	\$3,690.62
Corinth	0	\$100.00	\$0.00
Devco	0	\$1,200.00	\$200.00
Eden	0	\$2,000.00	\$812.00
El Bethel	8	\$16,788.29	\$22,029.51
Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$25.00
Friendship	0	\$275.00	\$0.00
Geneva First	14	\$14,957.25	\$14,967.51
Hacoda	0	\$679.96	\$1,083.00
Hartford	7	\$55,192.49	\$25,990.97
Maple Avenue	9	\$15,695.89	\$13,480.84
Mt Calvary	2	\$6,670.00	\$2,278.00
New Covenant	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hinson	2	\$15,037.49	\$11,046.55
New Home	0	\$1,799.12	\$550.00
New Prospect Hartford	0	\$2,718.00	\$274.00
New Prospect Mari	3	\$4,568.38	\$5,210.25
New Teamon	12	\$1,779.56	\$1,165.00
Piney Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Hill	1	\$8,927.24	\$4,867.15
Reese	0	\$0.00	\$619.72
Samson First	12	\$2,748.00	\$20,269.04
Shiloh	21	\$22,900.87	\$5,441.19
Slocumb First	18	\$53,908.58	\$14,846.43
St. Elizabeth	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trinity	0	\$200.00	\$400.00
Union	1	\$8,643.26	\$4,325.00
Geneva Totals	120	\$248,318.31	\$161,562.78

Hale	Baptism	CP	Designated
Akron	0	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Antioch	8	\$7,435.27	\$3,490.00
Community	7	\$1,100.00	\$3,726.00
Concord	0	\$1,649.50	\$2,838.50

Gallion	17	\$33,580.94	\$18,963.43
Greensboro	6	\$40,294.34	\$30,422.89
Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$250.00
Mountville Baptist	6	\$35,656.64	\$12,099.03
Mt Hebron	0	\$4,670.00	\$4,200.00
New Haven	3	\$3,303.12	\$4,387.38
New Hope	0	\$4,017.00	\$2,976.00
Pleasant Hill	3	\$4,391.56	\$2,575.93
Rhodes Chapel	0	\$549.00	\$3,200.88
Hale Totals	50	\$137,847.37	\$89,832.04

Judson	Baptism	CP	Designated
Abbeville First	7	\$36,608.04	\$24,842.67
Adoniram	0	\$2,587.75	\$1,027.00
Balkum	0	\$6,572.44	\$7,097.44
Bethlehem	13	\$29,048.22	\$10,192.25
Calvary	4	\$15,673.77	\$5,672.84
Camp Springs	3	\$5,057.00	\$2,460.00
Concord	4	\$3,750.00	\$3,241.10
Fellowship	0	\$600.00	\$4,200.00
Haleburg	3	\$12,998.00	\$10,123.00
Headland First	7	\$80,971.91	\$71,043.43
Hebron	5	\$2,400.00	\$15,359.00
Judson	6	\$11,409.44	\$7,867.39
Newville	0	\$3,833.34	\$2,205.56
Oakey Grove	0	\$2,602.89	\$6,312.04
Old Zion	7	\$1,315.31	\$8,558.00
Pleasant Grove	4	\$10,943.00	\$8,727.00
Sardis	11	\$10,036.65	\$6,905.24
Shorterville	2	\$5,508.82	\$9,938.76
Tolbert	1	\$1,795.68	\$2,845.91
Trinity	1	\$8,795.00	\$10,356.22
Union Springs	6	\$14,800.88	\$6,522.20
Judson Totals	84	\$267,308.14	\$225,497.05

Lamar	Baptism	CP	Designated
Academy	2	\$0.00	\$2,679.92
Antioch	0	\$1,425.00	\$2,350.00
Beaverton	3	\$788.00	\$3,151.00
Calvary	1	\$4,722.34	\$4,567.90
Cedar Grove	0	\$200.00	\$2,543.73
Corinth	0	\$844.00	\$1,844.00
Detroit First	3	\$5,078.24	\$3,464.84
Fellowship	1	\$4,516.63	\$4,493.50
Fernbank	0	\$640.00	\$1,445.00
Friendship South	1	\$0.00	\$372.17
Kennedy	17	\$21,821.12	\$20,128.79
Lighthouse	4	\$475.00	\$725.00
Millport	3	\$5,507.00	\$7,634.00

LOTTIE MOON GIFTS 2013
Top 25 Churches

1. Montgomery First, Montgomery \$324,091.28
2. Shades Mountain, Birmingham \$259,943.01
3. Whitesburg, Madison \$205,030.02
4. Lakeview, Tuskegee Lee \$195,742.38
5. Ridgecrest, Columbia \$183,559.33
6. Dawson, Birmingham \$157,439.37
7. Prattville First, Autauga \$144,917.11
8. Opelika First, Tuskegee Lee \$133,290.25
9. Hunter Street, Birmingham \$121,960.63
10. Willowbrook, Madison \$109,722.68
11. Mount Zion, Madison \$105,894.42
12. Central Decatur, Morgan \$88,424.61
13. Pell City First, St Clair \$86,958.73
14. Gilliam Springs, Marshall \$84,137.70
15. CrossPoint, St Clair \$78,569.74
16. Parker Memorial, Calhoun \$72,724.38
17. Calvary Dothan, Columbia \$68,034.96
18. Birmingham First, Birmingham \$66,406.00
19. Arab First, Marshall \$64,106.22
20. Carolina, Covington \$62,150.00
21. Golden Springs, Calhoun \$61,510.08
22. Decatur First, Morgan \$60,154.65
23. Andalusia First, Covington \$57,909.81
24. Calvary, Tuscaloosa \$55,851.42
25. Pelham First, Shelby \$54,660.01

Mt Pisgah	1	\$100.00	\$300.00
Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$300.00
Mulberry Springs	0	\$1,899.36	\$2,565.00
Pleasant Grove	2	\$906.00	\$600.00
Pleasant Ridge	0	\$1,964.50	\$2,164.50
Riverside	1	\$2,091.78	\$800.00
Shiloh	2	\$7,314.00	\$7,301.44
Springhill	3	\$11,512.91	\$31,289.02
Sulligent First	6	\$21,578.85	\$25,521.38
Union Chapel	38	\$1,277.00	\$976.00
Vernon First	0	\$13,923.22	\$20,461.51
Lamar Totals	84	\$108,297.95	\$147,678.70

Limestone	Baptism	CP	Designated
Armcore First	4	\$17,183.72	\$5,482.23
Athens First	23	\$157,662.62	\$97,615.45
Belmor	0	\$3,538.71	\$3,242.00
Capshaw	39	\$89,537.61	\$28,805.11
Cherry Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clements	74	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Community	30	\$3,830.00	\$731.25
Concord	7	\$8,615.25	\$3,375.00
East Highland	6	\$2,434.65	\$500.00
Ebenezer	0	\$0.00	\$1,050.00
Elk River	7	\$1,350.00	\$0.00
Elkmont	0	\$2,632.94	\$2,213.28
Elkton Road	14	\$0.00	\$13,452.62
Elkwood	0	\$835.15	\$200.00
Emmanuel	1	\$49,513.36	\$18,796.40
Enon	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairview	22	\$18,652.00	\$23,919.34
Faith	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Hispanic Mission	0	\$546.36	\$0.00
First Union	4	\$2,199.96	\$1,885.74
Lindsay Lane	54	\$153,118.00	\$43,925.10
Mays Memorial	3	\$7,683.82	\$3,125.53

Midway	11	\$11,998.70	\$4,418.00
New Bethel	4	\$4,334.00	\$0.00
New Hope	4	\$5,649.44	\$1,340.00
Oakdale	13	\$7,339.00	\$2,000.00
Piney Grove	7	\$37,270.59	\$23,062.11
Pleasant Grove	1	\$1,946.98	\$4,145.46
Poplar Creek	4	\$0.00	\$150.00
Round Island	20	\$1,800.00	\$4,836.84
Salem Springs	20	\$35,420.36	\$25,760.19
Sardis Springs	19	\$78,855.34	\$42,529.33
Shanghai	1	\$1,501.58	\$3,626.67
Southside	1	\$0.00	\$5,125.00
Tanner First	14	\$35,321.16	\$23,089.50
The Grove	11	\$12,348.00	\$11,752.00
Truth	11	\$984.00	\$2,233.00
West Highland	5	\$7,833.33	\$2,551.66
Woolley Springs	10	\$44,039.58	\$42,152.00
Limestone Totals	443	\$805,676.21	\$449,140.81

Lookout Mountain	Baptism	CP	Designated
Demaris	0	\$767.00	\$1,376.00
Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$800.00
Little River	6	\$0.00	\$570.00
Mill Creek	6	\$0.00	\$720.00
Mt Bethel	0	\$1,500.00	\$933.00
Mt Calvary	2	\$455.96	\$1,195.00
Mt Zion	2	\$905.40	\$100.00
Mt. Vernon	9	\$3,607.39	\$1,600.00
New Bethel	0	\$2,200.00	\$8,396.01
Pleasant Valley #1	0	\$2,549.60	\$634.00
Pleasant Valley #2	1	\$1,194.58	\$2,840.00
Shady Grove	0	\$500.00	\$3,620.00
Southeast	1	\$0.00	\$550.00
Unity	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Victory	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Welcome Hill	1	\$1,736.00	\$100.00
Yellow Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lookout Mountain Totals	29	\$15,415.93	\$24,434.01

Madison	Baptism	CP	Designated
Agape International	0	\$1,095.60	\$175.00
All Nations Church	4	\$5,566.13	\$3,502.13
Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethany	0	\$304.33	\$2,980.98
Bethlehem	49	\$9,912.61	\$1,330.00
Bethlehem	3	\$5,616.70	\$8,665.00
Bevill's Chapel	5	\$0.00	\$11,465.71
Brownsboro	16	\$11,333.00	\$7,761.50
Calvary	0	\$0.00	\$595.00

Lighthouse	5	\$6,999.96	\$1,444.60
Locust Grove	12	\$6,547.83	\$13,632.29
Mable Hill	5	\$600.00	\$100.00
Madison First	9	\$13,214.27	\$21,660.16
Meadow Drive	6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Meridianville First	17	\$52,902.42	\$14,333.28
Monte Sano	0	\$3,540.00	\$7,410.00
Morningside	0	\$8,382.59	\$5,473.00
Mount Zion	48	\$372,200.32	\$203,401.41
Mountain View	5	\$4,814.11	\$620.00
Murphy Hill	13	\$1,635.09	\$652.26
Neeley's Chapel	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Birth Missionary	0	\$150.00	\$0.00
New Hope First	3	\$15,000.00	\$2,770.00
New Market	10	\$10,532.37	\$5,005.00
New Salem	5	\$1,585.56	\$6,387.00
Northside	0	\$774.48	\$472.39
Oak Park	1	\$16,912.00	\$6,179.00
Oakley	7	\$2,640.61	\$9,144.80
Owens Cross Roads	12	\$0.00	\$5,024.45
Patterson Road	0	\$0.00	\$120.00
Pineview	22	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Springs	4	\$13,675.00	\$17,693.00
Rivertree Church	16	\$10,630.99	\$700.00
Sherwood	6	\$32,383.00	\$10,649.75
Ships	8	\$0.00	\$20.00
Southside	2	\$96,946.44	\$46,544.62
Sweetwater Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Brook	10	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Fellowship of Faith	28	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Well Church	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trinity	6	\$13,704.46	\$2,209.51
Union Grove	0	\$8,654.00	\$1,466.85
University	6	\$64,950.18	\$56,105.80
Victory Fellowship	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wall Highway	9	\$80,142.30	\$23,799.87
Wears Chapel	5	\$0.00	\$705.00
Weatherly Heights	3	\$710.58	\$18,143.35
West Mastin Lake	4	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
Westlawn	3	\$8,898.00	\$2,254.70
Whitesburg	109	\$387,219.59	\$293,651.62
Willowbrook	309	\$290,190.00	\$67,244.02
Winchester Road	1	\$26,025.00	\$1,753.00
Woodland Hill	11	\$3,308.55	\$6,483.80
Madison Totals	1174	\$2,005,140.52	\$1,331,628.44



Church Report for 2013

Sipsey	Baptism	CP	Designated
Arbor Springs	5	\$6,160.00	\$8,879.13
Bethabara Missionary	16	\$5,065.67	\$5,579.51
Bevan Chapel	3	\$500.00	\$3,275.82
Big Hill Missionary	0	\$380.42	\$9,239.00
Cross Roads Missionary	9	\$3,462.00	\$2,775.50
Dunn's Creek	0	\$2,887.52	\$4,409.52
Hopewell	1	\$0.00	\$600.00
Macedonia Missionary	1	\$100.00	\$1,672.00
Moore's Bridge	0	\$1,473.00	\$2,586.10
Mt Hebron	2	\$1,703.00	\$1,527.00
New Hope	12	\$6,943.12	\$3,709.90
Rock Solid Missionary	18	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spring Hill	0	\$500.00	\$491.50
The Peoples Church	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Zion Community	4	\$1,082.00	\$600.00
Sipsey Totals	71	\$28,256.73	\$45,344.98

St Clair	Baptism	CP	Designated
Arbor	9	\$6,777.27	\$3,485.85
Ashville First	9	\$37,078.81	\$26,851.32
Bethany	2	\$100.00	\$53.00
Bethel	28	\$50,000.00	\$16,555.90
Broken Arrow	0	\$461.46	\$238.00
Calvary	8	\$9,344.22	\$3,326.02
Cedar Grove	13	\$13,063.04	\$13,071.01
Central	5	\$16,497.00	\$22,973.00
Chandler Mountain	40	\$6,547.52	\$7,316.98
Cook Springs	0	\$3,554.59	\$579.13
Cool Springs	7	\$1,608.00	\$2,501.36
Cosco Valley	0	\$2,828.00	\$1,700.00
Corinth	2	\$685.57	\$1,391.69
Cropwell	12	\$55,243.19	\$12,929.96
CrossPoint	34	\$17,000.00	\$117,929.61
Eden Westside	69	\$7,947.00	\$5,644.57
Evering Star	3	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Fairview #1	2	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Friendship	8	\$6,961.56	\$7,772.07
Grandview	6	\$3,500.63	\$6,479.78
Greensport	1	\$11,008.89	\$5,895.50
Gum Springs	0	\$0.00	\$300.00
Happy Home	6	\$3,429.47	\$2,277.84
Heritage	2	\$453.06	\$465.00
Lister Memorial	1	\$0.00	\$363.20
Macedonia #1	6	\$2,782.05	\$6,039.55
Macedonia #2	7	\$1,844.85	\$566.00
Markeeta	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
McEntyre	0	\$2,332.96	\$2,622.49
Mineral Springs	3	\$2,226.00	\$909.00
Moody First	16	\$68,474.29	\$34,890.33
Mt Moriah	4	\$4,295.00	\$5,321.00
Mt Olive #1	6	\$962.56	\$1,863.82
Mt. Pisgah	10	\$18,418.95	\$15,675.20
Mt. Pleasant	7	\$4,950.00	\$1,241.00
New Hope	25	\$46,982.19	\$6,340.31
New Hope, Argo	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hopewell	2	\$1,960.86	\$1,161.00
New Lebanon	0	\$9,447.00	\$1,650.00
New Prospect	2	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Oak Grove #1	0	\$1,687.00	\$0.00
Oak Grove #2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Odenville First	1	\$8,019.00	\$7,234.00
Palestine	0	\$30.00	\$94.00
Pell City First	30	\$133,057.40	\$127,548.79
Pine Forest	1	\$1,532.28	\$804.95
Pinedale First	0	\$300.00	\$300.00
Piney Grove	0	\$0.00	\$22.00
Pleasant Grove	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Valley	8	\$2,208.00	\$200.00
Poplar Springs	0	\$0.00	\$533.00
Prescott	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Providence	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ragland First	5	\$3,098.24	\$292.64
Red Hill	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Reeves Grove	0	\$0.00	\$2,450.97
Refuge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Riverside	2	\$1,743.56	\$3,354.50
Seddon	34	\$5,209.67	\$2,107.15
Son Rise Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Spring Valley	11	\$27,838.96	\$21,196.60
Springville First	5	\$40,885.03	\$47,068.16
St. Clair Springs	1	\$1,041.80	\$3,090.84
Steele	4	\$8,867.62	\$8,456.69
Sulphur Springs	2	\$17,426.26	\$4,920.00
Tailors	2	\$100.00	\$1,134.83
Whites Chapel	10	\$1,769.23	\$537.94
St Clair Totals	475	\$673,600.08	\$574,647.55

Sulphur Springs	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alken Grove	0	\$120.00	\$600.00
Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel	21	\$57,043.21	\$26,270.72
Calvary	3	\$7,394.00	\$4,687.52
Cane Creek	0	\$0.00	\$448.00
Elveste	0	\$360.00	\$1,000.00
Empire	0	\$0.00	\$4,794.76
Good Hope	0	\$974.97	\$974.97
Harmony	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Kilgore	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Little Vine	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Brook	1	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Mt High	0	\$1,778.33	\$1,590.29
Mt Hope	0	\$966.37	\$468.00
Mt View	0	\$0.00	\$144.40
New Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$482.92
New Canaan	2	\$0.00	\$750.00
New Temple	1	\$28,730.02	\$371.00
Pisgah	0	\$2,400.00	\$0.00
Quinton	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sulphur Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temple Hill	0	\$4,241.57	\$905.00
Union	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sulphur Springs Totals	28	\$104,028.47	\$47,487.58

Tallapoosa	Baptism	CP	Designated
Alexander City First	10	\$85,000.02	\$41,013.54
Bay Pine	7	\$1,839.00	\$2,547.53
Bethany	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel	2	\$3,110.00	\$6,889.00
Beulah	5	\$6,459.60	\$2,505.00
Calvary	7	\$600.00	\$575.84
Calvary Heights	1	\$1,976.11	\$3,000.94
Camp Hill	7	\$12,211.28	\$6,508.89
Corner Memorial	0	\$4,813.78	\$3,113.00
Dadeville First	3	\$41,587.96	\$19,364.67
Daviston	4	\$1,308.22	\$6,180.97
Eagle Creek	0	\$5,879.98	\$1,747.35
Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Good News	0	\$0.00	\$1,020.00
Hackneyville	0	\$1,192.20	\$600.00
Hillabee	1	\$22,523.11	\$10,497.46
Horseshoe Bend	1	\$1,756.00	\$1,193.00
Jacksons Gap	42	\$16,095.40	\$10,205.86
Lake Martin	2	\$19,192.41	\$10,958.92
Lake Pointe	1	\$7,753.74	\$1,283.50
Lebanon	4	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mountain Springs	0	\$2,491.18	\$4,227.96
Mt Carmel	5	\$5,068.34	\$2,846.00
Mt Zion	5	\$4,444.30	\$5,435.16

Ruhama	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shiloh	0	\$15,505.46	\$3,113.00
Skyland Blvd.	20	\$45,959.45	\$16,887.55
Taylorville	11	\$35,985.86	\$17,748.00
Temple	0	\$1,902.15	\$0.00
The City of Refuge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
The Lighthouse	0	\$984.35	\$376.00
Tuscaloosa First	34	\$295,331.65	\$90,603.72
Union Grove	0	\$600.00	\$700.00
Unity	8	\$2,733.51	\$1,300.01
Upper Room	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Valley View	75	\$83,244.00	\$49,908.76
Vance	0	\$3,776.53	\$2,510.61
Wildwood	1	\$100.00	\$776.00
Woodland Park	0	\$900.00	\$0.00
Yellow Creek	2	\$2,963.83	\$0.00
Tuscaloosa Totals	509	\$1,481,214.14	\$664,958.01

Tuskegee Lee	Baptism	CP	Designated
Airview	12	\$2,664.90	\$50.00
Auburn First	0	\$903.70	\$14,920.15
Carville	14	\$24,356.30	\$8,179.44
Central	15	\$5,224.20	\$3,812.80
Chewacla	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Concord	1	\$200.00	\$392.00
Cowboy Church of Lee County	2	\$3,707.33	\$100.00
Cubahatchie	3	\$1,200.00	\$2,408.00
East Tallassee	0	\$1,184.46	\$7,109.21
Elam	7	\$12,101.00	\$3,078.00
Farmville	14	\$12,000.00	\$7,889.96
Focus	0	\$382.52	\$95.63
Grace Heritage	0	\$575.00	\$0.00
High Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Journey Church of Valley	17	\$250.00	\$0.00
Lakeview	52	\$0.00	\$655,250.85
Liberty	9	\$1,370.05	\$1,965.30
Loachapoka	0	\$2,472.92	\$308.00
New Life Auburn Korean	1	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
(d) North Ridge	0	\$4,454.87	\$1,113.77
Northside	0	\$3,507.57	\$3,878.89
Notasulga First	4	\$11,872.55	\$6,746.15
Opelika First	63	\$493,458.45	\$161,891.83
Parkway	4	\$81,197.70	\$34,914.25
Pepperell	1	\$7,601.83	\$3,146.00
Pleasant Grove	8	\$12,572.68	\$13,516.43
Pleasant Springs	5	\$1,925.00	\$200.00
Providence	25	\$76,844.71	\$28,403.11
Purpose	7	\$4,736.00	\$0.00
Reeltown First	0	\$8,361.58	\$4,210.77
Ridge Road	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
River Road	8	\$950.00	\$970.00
Rock of Ages	1	\$10.00	\$90.00
Rocky Mount	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem First	3	\$5,017.00	\$4,733.00
Salem Macon	5	\$4,125.31	\$1,258.73
Society Hill	2	\$420.00	\$557.50
Tuskegee First	0	\$4,148.48	\$4.00
Union Grove	4	\$1,255.94	\$656.00
Wallace Chapel	1	\$365.00	\$0.00
West Auburn	0	\$208.00	\$250.00
Tuskegee Lee Totals	287	\$809,825.13	\$973,699.77

Walker	Baptism	CP	Designated
Aldridge Community	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Antioch	2	\$4,291.85	\$3,964.15
Argo	5	\$6,353.21	\$0.00
Barton Chapel	16	\$0.00	\$200.00
Blooming Grove	5	\$916.67	\$3,213.56
Boldo First	1	\$0.00	\$2,803.28
Burnwell	1	\$600.00	\$100.00
Calvary	0	\$1,024.00	\$250.00
Cane Creek	0	\$0.00	\$25.00
Carbon Hill First	2	\$4,583.35	\$5,193.04
Cedar Hill	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Coal City	0	\$0.00	\$30.00
Cordova First	13	\$5,719.14	\$2,180.00
Corinth	3	\$500.00	\$505.00
Crossway Baptist	6	\$5,990.35	\$2,110.00
Dora First	0	\$14,068.65	\$2,012.00
Dora Second	0	\$1,776.00	\$428.53
Dutton Hill Missionary	0	\$700.00	\$0.00
Eastside	3	\$4,241.60	\$1,805.00
Edgill Grove	9	\$19,642.69	\$1,675.43
Eldridge	3	\$1,146.40	\$2,584.29
Farmstead	24	\$89,010.13	\$16,597.34
Fern Springs	0	\$3,925.00	\$2,500.00
Friendship	1	\$1,186.26	\$1,959.54
Glory Fellowship	7	\$32,906.12	\$0.00
Goodsprings	1	\$100.00	\$1,978.14
Gorgas	2	\$0.00	\$240.00
Grace	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hermon	0	\$141.06	\$400.00
Jasper First	12	\$158,406.17	\$59,311.73
Kansas	9	\$3,650.08	\$2,547.00
Liberty Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lupton First	4	\$0.00	\$420.00
Macedonia	16	\$1,576.66	\$400.00
Manchester	0	\$600.00	\$0.00
Marantha	21	\$20.00	\$0.00
Mountain Valley	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Carmel	6	\$7,535.00	\$1,925.50
Mt Philadelphia	4	\$11,341.52	\$10,350.03
Mt Pisgah	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Vernon	7	\$82,895.14	\$29,541.46
Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$1,313.00
Mt. Joy	3	\$1,534.28	\$0.00
New Bethel #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Canaan	1	\$10,457.27	\$2,774.53
New Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Prospect	9	\$33,736.00	\$4,599.25
New Vision	2	\$513.00	\$0.00
New Zion Missionary Baptist	3	\$4,279.99	\$10,026.36
Northside	18	\$64,909.42	\$41,230.26
Oakman Central	12	\$1,251.00	\$745.00
Oakman First	0	\$0.00	\$460.00
Odom Memorial	6	\$2,880.00	\$4,659.00
Parrish First	3	\$28,374.00	\$7,280.00
Philadelphia	3	\$7,756.00	\$2,510.58
Pleasantfield	7	\$200.00	\$800.00
Providence	7	\$2,122.45	\$1,361.60
Pumpkin Center	2	\$4,033.64	\$3,844.10
Samaria	3	\$1,170.10	\$2,439.48
Saragossa	2	\$5,582.84	\$2,429.72
Shady Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Starview	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sumiton	1	\$1,020.00	\$6,399.00
Sunlight	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Townley First	2	\$3,651.91	\$2,379.00
Union Chapel	1	\$0.00	\$697.91
Union Grove	0	\$184.66	\$150.00
Westside	9	\$21,202.00	\$3,305.00
Walker Totals	286	\$660,755.61	\$259,273.81

Washington	Baptism	CP	Designated
Antioch	5	\$92.75	\$384.98
Chapel Hill	0	\$7,857.76	\$13,887.77
Chatam Baptist	20	\$59,257.15	\$9,762.00
Escatawpa	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fairhope	3	\$4,778.85	\$253.50

	\$573.62	\$1,430.00	Azales City Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$6,879.00	\$4,928.00	Bethany	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethel	\$120.00	\$0.00
3	\$2,462.23	\$2,805.67	Bethsaida	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	\$3,924.00	\$0.00	Birmingham	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$1,711.07	\$554.00	Brannon Springs	\$0.00	\$0.00
9	\$56,473.00	\$7,818.46	Calvary	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	\$5,229.00	\$3,450.00	Calvary	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$4,174.00	\$2,670.00	Cedar Grove	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	\$5,087.72	\$2,433.91	Christway	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	\$30,362.00	\$4,035.00	Church of the Valley	\$2,875.00	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Church on a Hill	\$0.00	\$0.00
1	\$4,421.00	\$1,250.00	Cleveland First	\$11,763.69	\$1,200.00
0	\$1,361.22	\$2,511.18	Community	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$1,897.00	\$2,728.00	Community Center	\$0.00	\$0.00
15	\$9,802.09	\$4,544.44	Covenant	1 \$5,250.02	\$1,784.00
	\$0.00	\$0.00	Covenant Community Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	\$300.00	Covenant Grace	\$100.00	\$0.00
5	\$3,703.69	\$3,822.74	Cross Roads	\$0.00	\$0.00
1	\$3,806.00	\$991.00	Crosspoint Christian Church	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	\$3,670.07	\$4,750.06	Crossroads	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	\$9,008.00	\$8,351.00	Crossroads Community	\$0.00	\$0.00
	\$4,145.28	\$1,899.05	Crosstown	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Dewey Heights	\$0.00	\$0.00
12	\$7,786.46	\$6,550.07	Dothan Country Fellowship	\$3,917.12	\$0.00
	\$854.93	\$0.00	East Chapman	\$0.00	\$1,753.30
4	\$197.00	\$402.63	Faith	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	\$2,578.57	\$2,979.07	Fall City	\$0.00	\$0.00
0	\$2,100.00	\$1,021.00	Fellowship	\$0.00	\$0.00
06	\$244,193.46	\$96,413.53	Fellowship	\$7,622.26	\$4,072.20
			Fourdom	\$2,560.00	\$62.00

COMMUNITY

Coffee CLUB

Snowtown Baptist Pastor Smith creates outreach ministry to unite community

By Julie Payne
The Alabama Baptist

On the first Tuesday of each month at Snowtown Baptist Church, Dora, you better plan to get there early to get a good parking spot.

When Pastor Dennis Smith opens the church doors on that particular morning, a community outreach known as Community Coffee Club takes over, filling the hallways with laughter, conversation and fellowship among neighbors.

It all started when after becoming the pastor of the small Mud Creek Baptist Association church almost six years ago, Smith was inspired to unite the several denominations in the area that weren't associating with one another.

Several community outreaches ensued — a combination Thanksgiving/Christmas feast, a Valentine's Day banquet and a successful horse whis-perer event in late 2012 that drew a staggering crowd reaching between 2,000 and 3,000 people.

This idea of uniting the community was then further implemented when someone suggested to Smith the concept of a coffee club. It wasn't long before Community Coffee Club formed with the help of Smith and some of Snowtown Baptist's members, and this April will mark its first anniversary.

"We realized that people in our community, although they had lived together all of their life, just didn't know each other," Smith explained. "So in the process of creating [Community Coffee Club], we found that people who

lived down the street from each other now know each other and they're now fellowshiping with each other and it ... makes no difference what religion they are or what church they go to ... they come here knowing they can gather together in good fellowship for a good clean time."



Photo by Neisha Fuson

Mike Dyer, member of Calcedonia Baptist Church, Gardendale, provides special music during the March Community Coffee Club.

Both the church's name and name of the community were purposefully left out of the club's name because the group's aim is to be all-inclusive. "We don't want to eliminate anyone," Smith said.

Community Coffee Club includes a 10-minute devotional, a program with special entertainment — future plans include bringing in an Elvis impersonator — and a meal. And true to its name, there is never a shortage of hot coffee to enjoy.

Most participants are members of Snowtown or other area churches. But people don't have to be a member of a church at all to attend, Smith said, noting the full point of the club "is to fellowship."

Barbara Spears, a member of Hillview Baptist Church, Birmingham, who helps with the club's programs and attendance record, agreed. "It's getting to know your neighbors," she

said of its purpose. "This is one time a month we can get together and get to know each other."

At the March event, which took place March 4 at 10:30 a.m., Smith welcomed the more than 30 people in attendance, telling them there are no boundaries and no walls. "We come together this morning in Christian fellowship, praising the Lord," he said. Participants were

then led in an opening song, which is a tradition in Community Coffee Club.

After a volunteer-led devotional, Mike Dyer, a member of Calcedonia Baptist Church, Gardendale, provided the day's entertainment. He sang several gospel songs while participants tapped their feet, clapped and even sang along with him to some of the familiar tunes.

The celebratory feeling continued even to the conclusion of the event when Smith recognized several participants with recent birthdays and asked them to come to the front of the room so the group could sing "Happy Birthday." And after the closing prayer, everyone was invited to enjoy further fellowship over lunch.

'Let the walls drop'

Smith said Community Coffee Club began with 15 people, and since its inception he has collected more than 100 names of people who have attended at one time or another. Some months close to 50 people will attend, Smith said. "Every month has been absolutely great," he added.

In fact, the group has grown to the point that they have considered moving it to a larger location, but there's no intention of moving at this time, Smith noted.

"I feel we'd lose a certain element if we do that; the intimacy of being together in this smaller area really adds to what we're trying to accomplish, and what we're trying to accomplish is: 'Let the walls drop,'" he said.

"We don't want to worry" with what denomination people are, he added. "When we come in here it's Jesus Christ, and that's it." ☛

Mary Anderson shared the devotional message at the March 4 Community Coffee Club at Snowtown Baptist Church, Dora. Every month, neighbors in the community gather together to fellowship, regardless of denominational boundaries.



Photo by Neisha Fuson



Photo by Neisha Fuson

Pastor Dennis Smith of Snowtown Baptist Church, Dora, visits with a participant at the Community Coffee Club held at his church March 4.



sxc.hu

LETTERS

(continued from page 2)
sodomites and more about the redemption of mankind from his sins through the blood of Jesus Christ.

John Morgan
Maplesville, Ala.

WHY 'UP IN AIR'?

In the Feb. 27 issue, there is an interesting story about same-sex "marriage" in the state and country — "Defining marriage: Lawsuit targets same-sex 'marriage' ban in Alabama." I cannot understand why so many people are up in the air about that issue when it does not hurt any other person. There are so many other very important issues in the news today that do hurt other people very badly all of their lives.

Why do Christians and church members not get busy and spend their time, energy, money and

votes trying to do something about some of the real problems that ruin people's lives?

A.M. Pack
Enterprise, Ala.

AMERICA TODAY

Our founding forefathers were men of faith, and they founded this nation on biblical, Christian principles. Today we have left this foundation and have sunk to an all-time moral low.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1963 that it is unconstitutional to have prayer and Bible reading in public schools, in 1973 that a woman had the right to abort a baby she doesn't want, in 2003 that all laws against sodomy are unconstitutional and in 2013 that the statement of one man and one woman in the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional. All of these rulings have contributed to the decay of morals of this na-

tion.

Today homosexuals have come out of their closets and are making demands for their rights, and they are permitted in many places to have same-sex "marriages." This is an abomination unto God. I was born in 1929 before the Great Depression. I grew up in the Depression and have seen five wars, a time of prosperity, a great recession and now a great moral decay. I have seen a lot of changes through the years but nothing as bad as now.

I am deeply troubled that we have become an amoral nation, and I fear for our children, grandchildren and future generations.

I am concerned how long God will tarry with His wrath.

Eugene R. Thomason
Pell City, Ala.



Complaints filed against United Methodist bishop who presided over same-sex wedding

Complaints have been filed against a United Methodist bishop who presided over a same-sex wedding of two men in defiance of his denomination's rules prohibiting such ceremonies.

Retired Bishop Melvin G. Talbert is the highest clergyman to have broken the church's official laws and the only known bishop to do so.

He officiated at the Oct. 25, 2013, union of two men in Birmingham, even after the local bishop and the executive committee of the Council of Bishops urged Talbert not to go ahead with the ceremony.

Days later, the denomination's Council of Bishops requested com-

plaints be filed against Talbert.

According to a statement from the Council of Bishops on March 13, Talbert "has violated the sacred trust of his office."

Disciplinary process

Reached at his Nashville home, Talbert, 79, said church policy requires him to remain silent about the disciplinary process. But he said he was "delighted" that the New York Annual Conference announced March 10 it had averted a trial for Thomas Ogletree, the minister who presided at the marriage of his son to another man.

"I hope this is a way forward," Talbert said. "This matter will not

be resolved until those discriminatory passages are removed from the Book of Discipline."

Church law calls homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching." The denomination bans clergy from performing and churches from hosting "ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions."

The church's disciplinary process could lead to a trial and the loss of Talbert's clergy credentials. Several other United Methodist clergy face possible trials as the denomination grows increasingly polarized over church law over ministry to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. (RNS)

Order of Shofar nominees sought

The University of Mobile (UMobile) School of Christian Ministries is seeking nominees for the prestigious Order of the Shofar award. This award honors Alabama Baptist State Convention ministers for faithful service who might otherwise go unrecognized.

In essence, this is an award for unsung heroes in ministry, according to Douglas Wilson, dean and professor of Christian ministries at UMobile.

Anyone may nominate a minister for consideration. Download nomination forms at www.umobile.edu/academics and go to School of Christian Ministries for a link, email dwilson@umobile.edu or call the School of Christian Ministries office at 251-442-2406.

Deadline for nominations is April 1. (UMobile)

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE 49TH ANNUAL

April 4, 5, 6

Eufaula Pilgrimage

Please join us for Alabama's Oldest Tour of Homes.

1-888-383-2852 • www.eufaulapilgrimage.com

Group rates available. Active and retired military free with a valid ID.

"MS. O" FROM SHOCCO REMEMBERED

RENA ODESSA HILL MEACHAM

March 19, 1916 – March 12, 2014

Mrs. Odessa Meacham peacefully went to be with her Lord on March 12, 2014, one week prior to her 98th birthday. She was a long-time member of First Baptist Church, Talladega, and began working at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center at age 74, where she served

dining room. Shocco visitors and fellow employees

lovingly knew her as "Ms. O." She demonstrated an extraordinary work ethic and will be remembered as a lady who encouraged all those around her with her kind, gentle Christ-like spirit.



Memorials may be sent to Shocco Springs, 1314 Shocco Springs Road, Talladega, AL 35160 or FBC Talladega, P.O. Box 696, Talladega, AL 35161.

— Paid Advertising —

YOU ARE HEARTILY INVITED TO SHARE AN AFTERNOON

Praise Celebration

Saturday, April 5, 2014 • 2-4 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Monroeville • Fellowship Hall
389 Pineville Road • Monroeville, AL 36460



1964

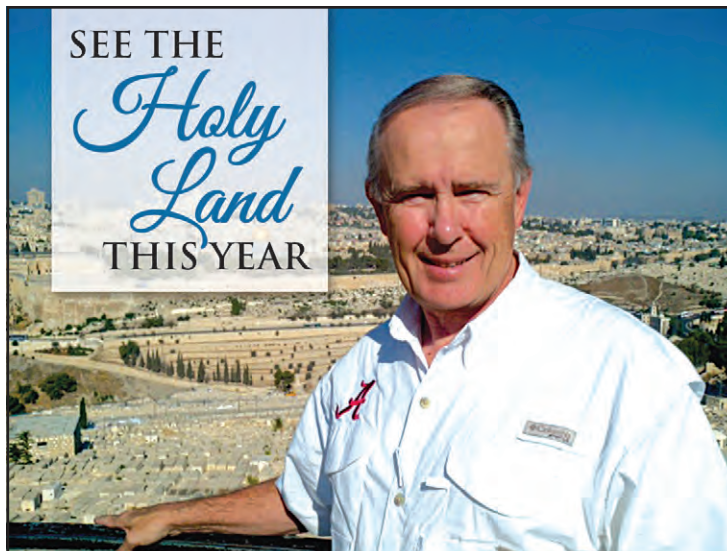
Rev. John William Marks Sr.

Praising God and celebrating
50 years in gospel ministry.



2014

SEE THE
Holy Land
THIS YEAR



JUNE 14-21, 2014

The Southeastern Bible College Grand Tour of the Holy Land

Join FMR State Senator Hank Erwin
and Southeastern Bible College President Don Hawkins

FOR A FREE BROCHURE:

Call Premier Venture Travel at 205-620-0116 or visit
www.pilgrimtours.com/groups/southeasternisrael.htm



TRAIL RIDE

AT LAKE MARTIN

Along the beautiful trails around Lake Martin at
Russell Lands in Alexander City

APRIL 12, 2014 • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Stables at Russell Crossroads, Alexander City, Ala.

Bring along an unchurched friend and enjoy a fun-filled day on your horse, with beautiful scenery and great fellowship! There will be a morning trail ride, followed by an exceptional lunch, and then an afternoon ride on a different trail. The rides will be divided into three different trail groups of 20 horses each, allowing plenty of open space, fresh air and safety for all. Registration is limited to the first 60 horses. A Gospel presentation will be shared during the day, so prayerfully consider who you will invite!

COST: \$25, INCLUDING LUNCH

REGISTRATION REQUIRED • Toll-free:

1-800-264-1225 ext. 258 • **Direct:** 334-613-2258

Email: anelson@alsbom.org

(Coggins test required by state law.

Please – no stallions.)



Alabama Baptist Convention
State Board of Missions

This event is made possible by gifts of
Alabama Baptists through the
Cooperative Program.

CAMPUS News



UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE

► **University of Mobile Performing Arts Series Presents 'Les Miserables' March 21-22:** The University of Mobile (UMobile) Performing Arts Series will present two performances of the musical masterpiece "Les Miserables" on March 21 and 22.

A cast of students, faculty, alumni and members of the Mobile community are featured in the classic, based on the novel by French poet and playwright Victor Hugo, with music by Boublil and Schoenberg.

Performances begin at 7 p.m. each night at the Saraland Per-

forming Arts Center at Saraland High School.

► **'Mobile Passion Play' Uses Music, Drama to Depict Life, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ:** The University of Mobile (UMobile) is partnering with Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, to present "Mobile Passion Play" April 11, 12 and 13 at Dauphin Way Baptist.

"Mobile Passion Play" is a full-stage dramatic presentation that depicts the life of Jesus Christ. Telling everything from His birth to His resurrection, the 'Passion Play' will be portrayed through music and drama with a realistic biblical set.

For more information, call 251-442-2383.

JUDSON COLLEGE

► **Judson Equestrians Win National All-Academic Awards:** Members named the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association National (IHSAN) All-Academic First Team (achieving a GPA of 3.8 or higher, based on a 4.0 scale) are: Senior Rebecca Malphurs, of Dothan; junior Brienne Culp, of Brunswick, Ohio; and freshman Katie Gehr, of Waukesha, Wis.

Team members named to the IHSAN All-Academic Second Team (achieving a GPA of 3.5 or higher, based on a 4.0 scale) are: Junior Kayla Syck, of Deatsville; and sophomore Dakota Runnels, of Gainesville, Fla.

► **Judson College's Kappa Delta Epsilon Chapter Adds Members:** Three members were recently initiated into Judson College's Beta Rho chapter of Kappa Delta Epsilon (KDE), an honorary professional education fraternity.

The new members include Angie Crowe, Kristi Metty and Heather Waterhouse.

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

► **Actor David Payne Brings 'An Evening with C.S. Lewis' to Samford:** "An Evening with C.S. Lewis," the one-man play created and performed by actor David Payne, will be presented April 1 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Leslie S. Wright Fine Arts Center's "Signature Series" at Samford University in Birmingham.

"An Evening with C.S. Lewis" has proven to be a popular show for audiences the world over," said Sean Wright, director of the Wright Center. "I know Birmingham is going to enjoy this glimpse at a man whose work we've all enjoyed."

Tickets are available online at tickets.samford.edu or by calling the Samford Arts box office at 205-726-2853.

'Day of Prayer' for students

Gov. Robert Bentley has proclaimed March 28 "Day of Prayer Over Students Across Alabama." First Priority, joined by Moms in Prayer, will coordinate this prayer emphasis.

First Priority, which coordinates hundreds of local school Christian campus clubs, is encouraging Alabamians to pray for students as they are faced with challenges such as

peer pressure to abuse drugs and alcohol, negative influences in the media, school violence and gang activities, fear and low self-esteem.

First Priority and Moms in Prayer are offering churches and communities resources to get involved with "Day of Prayer."

For more information, visit www.gofirstpriority.com or call 205-871-8886. (First Priority)



MARKET PLACE

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

CHURCH POSITIONS

SENIOR PASTOR: Bethlehem Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky., prayerfully seeks full-time senior pastor for multi-cultural community. Send resumé to: Jerry Phelps, Bethlehem Baptist Church, 5708 Preston Highway, Louisville, KY 40219. Information: www.bethlehembaptist.com. Profile listed under Working with God/Pastor Search Committee.

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

BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR: Flatwoods Baptist Church in Northport, Ala., is seeking a bivocational music director who will serve the church by planning and leading our worship/music ministry. The music director will be responsible for coordinating with all the church staff in planning, scheduling and directing the music program and ministries of the church. We are seeking someone who is a talented and passionate leader to plan and conduct a God-inspired music ministry. Send resumé to: fwbcpersonnel@hotmail.com.

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC: Westwood Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala., is currently seeking resumé for the position of minister of music (part-time). Services include blend of contemporary and traditional music. Email your resumé to: steve.potts@wbclive.com or call 205-798-3341.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC: We are prayerfully searching for God's direction in the leadership of our choir, praise team and congregation. We are blended in worship style. Experience preferred but not necessary. If interested, please send resumé to: Ryans Creek Baptist Church, 24849 Co. Rd. 222, Bremen, AL 35033.

PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER: Meek Baptist Church in Arley, Ala., is seeking a godly man to lead our choir and congregation in blended style worship. Email resumé: meekbaptist@att.net. www.meekbc.com.

PART-TIME MUSIC/CHOIR DIRECTOR: Pleasant View Church, Foley, seeks a part-time music/choir director to work with choir and other musicians. Great opportunity for retiree or music student. Information at 251-943-1845 or pleasantview@gulfnet.com.

TWO POSITIONS: Currently accepting resumé for bivocational minister of music and bivocational youth director, Sylacauga, Ala., area. Send resumé to: Committee, P.O. Box 2447, Sylacauga, AL 35150.

STUDENT MINISTER: First Baptist Church, Locust Grove, is accepting resumé for a full-time student minister. The scope of the student ministry is grades 6-12. A complete job description may be viewed online at www.fbclocustgrove.com by going to the "Students" page. Please send resumé to: Student Minister Search Team, 2950 Tanger Boulevard, Locust Grove, GA 30248, or email: craig.bowers@fbclocustgrove.com.

STUDENT PASTOR: FBC of Jacksonville, Ala., is seeking a student pastor

(grades 7-12) who will provide vision and leadership for a multisite church with two campuses. Send resumé to: FBC, P.O. Box 400, Jacksonville, AL 36265 or dstaples@fbcjville.org. Deadline is March 31.

STUDENT MINISTER: First Baptist Church, Dothan, Ala., is seeking and praying for God's person to fill a student minister position for students in grades 7-12, as well as the college-aged students. If interested, please feel free to forward your resumé to our Youth Advisory Committee Chairman, Courtney Mann. courtneymann@fbcdothan.org.

FAMILY PASTOR: FBC Valley, Ala., is seeking a full-time family pastor. This position will work to disciple our children, youth, as well as work with parents. Please send resumé to: tammy@fbcvalley.org.

BUSINESS

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

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

MOVING? LOCAL, STATEWIDE OR LONG DISTANCE: Coleman American/Allied Van Lines. Special rate and programs for Alabama Baptist minis-

ters, staff and church members. Contact Gary Washington at 205-540-7470 or gary.washington@covan.com.

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

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

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

FOR SALE

BOARDING HOME: Boarding and care home for senior adults in Munford. A Christian-operated business. Pays for itself. Great ministry opportunity. Call 256-315-2735.

Want to know God?

Pastor Chad Manion
Salem Baptist Church, Brundidge

I grew up spending Saturday mornings watching Bugs Bunny cartoons. One of the recurring scenes shows Bugs tunneling under the ground and popping out of his rabbit hole expecting to have arrived at his destination. He soon realizes he is not where he thought he would be. He then pulls out his map and exclaims, "I knew I should have taken that left turn at Albuquerque."

Many of us can identify with hoping to have arrived at a particular destination in life only to realize we took a wrong turn somewhere. There is one wrong turn that all of us have taken. It is the path of sin. Our sin is disobedience to God's commands. It is falling short of His requirements. As a result, we become separated from God. Life apart from God has no real direction. Without God life has no real meaning or purpose. However, God has given us a road map that will lead us back to Him. The first stop on God's road map is realizing that sin is our problem. We have all sinned (Rom. 3:23). The result of sin is death. This death is not just physical death, it is spiritual too. The good news is that God has given us the eternal life through the gift of His Son, Jesus (Rom. 6:23).

Jesus did something for mankind that we could never do for ourselves. He paid the price for our sins. Jesus is the only person who ever lived and kept God's commands. His perfect sacrifice pays for all the wrong turns you have ever made (Rom. 5:8). Your life can have a new direction and a new meaning and purpose as you begin a relationship with Jesus. You can do this by praying a simple prayer. The Bible says to "call upon the name of the Lord" (Rom. 10:13). Salvation is not earned, but it can be received. There are two turns you must make in order to be saved. First you must repent. To repent is to turn away from sin. Admit your sins to God. He already knows about them anyway. The second turn is faith. When you turn away from sin, you must turn to Jesus. Trust that Jesus has taken your sins away through His death on the cross. Would you like to know God? Turn your life over to Him today. 🙏

Impacting lives



Photo by shh Photography

Conecuh County's Evergreen Baptist Church, pictured here, is where Dennis R. Culbreth heard the gospel, accepted Christ and was later ordained. The church was planted by Alexander Travis (see photo of original building below).

FBC Jasper Pastor Culbreth shares about 'the most influential man I never met'

I was speaking for a chapel service at one of our Southern Baptist missions agencies a number of years back and started my message with the following statement: "Perhaps the man who has influenced my life for the best was a man I never met and who is buried just south of my backyard." I definitely got some strange stares that morning, but I did have their interest.

That man, Alexander Travis, was a native of Edgefield District, South Carolina, who, as an adult, came to Conecuh County in 1818, the year before Alabama was admitted as a state. He carved a farm out of the wilderness that soon proved to be successful. He came from a great family, and he and other members of his family truly had an impact on the state of Alabama and beyond. His nephew, William Barrett Travis, also a Conecuh County native, was the commanding officer of the Alamo. Alexander Travis' farm soon grew to become a large plantation in Conecuh County that provided for his financial needs, but more importantly, freed him up to become a pioneer church planter for southwestern Alabama and Florida.

Life-changing message

He was the only Baptist preacher in that county and set about starting new churches and impacting people's lives with the life-changing message of the gospel. He started churches throughout Conecuh County and in the surrounding counties. He even founded First Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla. Interestingly he did most of his traveling to the churches by walking many miles on foot. He



By Dennis R. Culbreth
Special to
The Alabama Baptist

Dennis R. Culbreth is senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Jasper, www.jaspersfbc.org. This article first appeared in

Jasper's *Daily Mountain Eagle*.

used his horse for plowing during the week and felt he must give the horse a break. He founded churches with colorful names such as Murder Creek Baptist Church. He helped in founding the towns of Sparta and Evergreen. He took the lead in encouraging the start of local schools in the areas where he planted churches and was instrumental in founding the Alabama Baptist Convention and Howard College (now Samford University in Birmingham). He worked with fellow Alabama Baptists in the founding of the Domestic and Indian Mission Board, a Southern Baptist missions institution originally located in Marion. This mission board is now known as the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention and is located in Alpharetta, Ga.

NAMB, as it is known in Southern Baptist circles, is one of the largest missionary sending agencies in the world.

He planted Evergreen Baptist Church. That is the church where my parents were members and the church where I was trained in Sunday School, where I heard God's Word proclaimed and where I accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord and was baptized. I was called into the ministry under the ministry of Sam Granade and Jack Williamson, both longtime pastors of that church. I was ordained to the ministry through that church. I received my undergraduate degree from Samford University, which was formerly Howard College, many years removed from Marion and now located in Birmingham.

It is amazing how the life of one man who died at the age of 62 in 1850 while serving Beulah Baptist Church, a church he had planted, still impacts others' lives. He was buried in the Beulah Church cemetery, and a beautiful marble monument was erected by the people whose lives were changed by the gospel of Christ. That monument is still standing in the abandoned cemetery today (the church was destroyed by a tornado long ago) and is located in the woods behind my childhood home.

What will be our legacy?

One man affected for good, individual families, whole towns, a region of the state and a whole denomination.

Have you ever thought what will be your legacy? How can you be used to make a difference in this world? For what will you be remembered?

There are a couple of lessons we can learn from this man and many other pioneers like him:

1. He put God first in his life. He accepted Christ as his Savior and Lord and because of that changed life, he served our Lord.

2. He was not afraid of hard work. He used the living he made with his plantation

to support the spreading of the good news of Jesus Christ across the southern part of the state and beyond. He died in the saddle serving Jesus.

3. He invested in the future knowing that he would never reap the benefit of his work.

4. He was faithful to the end.

That brings me to ask you what difference you have made with your life.

1. Is the world a better place because of the life you have lived?

2. Have you experienced the life-changing new birth Jesus describes in John 3? The

reason Travis could have such an impact is because of that change.

3. Are you willing to sacrifice so that others can hear the life-changing message of the forgiveness of Jesus Christ?

You can do that by your willingness to serve and sacrifice so that others may hear.

One of the greatest dangers in our churches in America today is the consumer-driven attitude by many in our congregations.

They ask, "What can the church do for me?" Perhaps a better question to ask would be, "What can I do to serve God and my local congregation?" Let us remember as believers that we are not on a cruise ship to heaven, but we are fellow servants serving God through our lives and ministries until Jesus takes us home to heaven. To tweak the words of a former United States president, "Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your Lord."

People like Travis have made Alabama a better place to live, but more than that, he helped change lives forever.

Though I never met him personally, his life and ministry changed my life forever and for the better. Because of the foundation he laid throughout his ministry, I found Jesus Christ. Have you? 🙏



Photo courtesy of Evergreen Baptist Church

Evergreen Baptist's original building was located across the street from the current building.

"It is amazing how the life of one man who died at the age of 62 in 1850 while serving Beulah Baptist Church, a church he had planted, still impacts others' lives."

Pastor Dennis R. Culbreth
FBC Jasper

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For March 23

Explore the Bible

By Robert Olsen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries, University of Mobile

GUARD YOUR SPEECH

Proverbs 17:27–28; 21:23; 18:19–21;
11:13; 26:20–24; 10:18–19; 12:17–19;
25:11–13; 31:8–9

Think Before You Speak

(17:27–28; 21:23)

We live in an era of immediacy. We have fast food, high speed Internet, fast online shipping and immediate communication abilities such as Facebook and Twitter. However, with this ability to let the world know our immediate thoughts, we gain insight into ideas and opinions that are quite controversial and inadvisable. Many times we hear that a certain famous individual made some offensive comment via Twitter only to come out later and say that his Twitter account “got hacked” in an attempt to take back what was said.

The problem is that these people are failing to abide by Proverbs 17:27–28: “The intelligent person restrains his words, and one who keeps a cool head is a man of understanding. Even a fool is considered wise when he keeps silent, discerning when he seals his lips” and also Proverbs 21:23: “The one who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble.”

We demonstrate wisdom when our words and silence give evidence of careful thought and discretion. As Christians, we need to consider what we say so that we best glorify God. Speaking before we think often gets us into trouble and does not demonstrate self control, which is one of the fruits of the spirit. If we want to best reflect Christ, we need to realize that our words need to reflect Christ.

Recognize the Power of Words

(18:19–21)

One of the reasons that Christians need to think before they speak is that words have the power to really damage relationships. Once something is said, it cannot be taken back. If we get angry and use harsh words, we can cause irreparable damage. Christians are to be loving and trustworthy and if we speak harshly, we undermine the witness that we have for Christ.

Bible Studies for Life

By Catherine Lawrence
Department of Religion, Samford University

PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK

2 Corinthians 8:10–15; 9:1–5

This week’s lesson continues our focus on giving. Christians have the opportunity to give generously from our incomes to support the work of God’s kingdom. Generous giving is a response to God’s generous love for us. Out of the rich and abundant grace we have received in Christ, we give.

As noted last week, these truths are made clear in 2 Corinthians 8:1–9:15. Here Paul wrote to the Corinthian church about its participation in a collection being taken up among the Gentile churches to aid poverty-stricken believers in Jerusalem. Earlier this church had eagerly committed itself to the task of giving to the collection, and yet the believers had not finished the task. The apostle thus encouraged the Corinthians (and by extension all believers) in their giving by attempting to spur them into action.

(8:10–11)

(9:1–5)

Paul exhorted the Corinthian church to follow through on its commitment to participate in the collection. Apparently the believers at Corinth had expressed their desire to participate in the collection a year earlier and had even begun to collect money (8:10–11; 9:2). Yet for some reason they had not finished the task. Paul therefore urged the Corinthians to let their initial eagerness to give be matched by their actual giving (8:11).

Though their desire to give was commendable, still the believers must complete the giving itself. By doing so, the Corinthian church would make good on its promise to contribute to the collection (9:5) and would spare both themselves and Paul the embarrassment of Paul being proved wrong in his boasting to the Macedonians of the Corinthians’ readiness to give (9:2–4).

(8:12–15)

Paul continued to exhort the Corinthian believers by addressing the relative amount of their giving. The apostle assured the Corinthians they only needed to give in accordance with what they had rather than with

what they did not have (8:12). The fact that Paul addressed this particular issue suggests it was a point of concern for the Corinthians, and it perhaps was the reason the Corinthians had not finished their giving. In other words, the Corinthians may have worried that their contribution to the collection, given in accordance with their means, was too small. But Paul explained that having the desire to give and then giving according to one’s means is acceptable to God, regardless of the resulting size of the gift.

The apostle further clarified to the Corinthians that the collection was not intended to be burdensome to them. That is, the point of the collection was not to provide relief for others while leaving the Corinthians with less. Rather the Corinthians’ present abundance would help to balance out others’ needs, and later, if the need arose, others’ abundance would balance out the Corinthians’ needs (8:13–14). In this way, all needs would be met.

Paul had boasted to the Macedonians of the Corinthians’ eagerness to give to the collection. In fact, the Corinthians’ zeal to give had stirred the Macedonians also to give (9:2). Likewise in 2 Corinthians 8:1–5 Paul had noted the example of the Macedonians’ generous giving in difficult circumstances in order to motivate the Corinthians to finish their own giving.

It seems the eagerness of the Corinthians and the generosity of the Macedonians each served as an encouragement to the other. These passages offer no hint that either group sought to promote itself by its giving. Rather the genuine desire to participate in the collection and the generosity that flowed from that desire simply proved to be a winsome encouragement to others to do the same.

May Christians today not underestimate the potentially powerful influence our own faithful and generous giving may have upon others. As we give to the work of God’s kingdom out of the abundant grace we have received, others sometimes take notice and are encouraged in their own giving by our example.

Christian Crossword

Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

Across

1. Poetic foot.

5. I looked through my ____ ment. (Prov. 7:6)

9. Shall be in ____ of the judgment. (Matt. 5:21)

11. Thou hast ____ d all things. (Rev. 4:11)

14. By me if any man ____ in. (John 10:9)

16. Alma ____.

17. Indefinite article.

18. Belonging to the talking horse.

20. Continent. (abbr.)

21. Baby's first word.

22. Shade tree.

24. Let us make man in our ____ ge. (Gen. 1:26)

27. Poet Eliot's initials.

28. The shortest month.

29. He who now letteth will _____. (2 Thess. 2:7)

30. Quiet, please.

32. Effectual ____ prayer. (James 5:16)

33. Alabama. (abbr.)

35. When they ... had gone six ____ s. (2 Sam. 6:13)

Down

1. Money earned on account. (abbr.)

2. He is of ____ , ask him. (John 9:21)

3. Sea. (French)

4. One in a monastery. (abbr.)

5. Medicine measure.

6. ____ yourselves likewise. (1 Pet. 4:1)

7. The wicked are like the troubled _____. (Isa. 5:20)

8. Ye shall ____ no manner of blood. (Lev. 7:26)

9. Quickened, who were ____ in trespasses and sins. (Eph. 2:1)

10. There was one ____ , a prophetess. (Luke 2:36)

12. The father of such as dwell in ____ s. (Gen. 4:20)

13. Historical periods.

15. Savings document.

18. Paul, called unto him the disciples, and ____ d them. (Acts 20:1)

19. Let the woman learn in _____. (1 Tim. 2:11)

22. The ____ fervent prayer. (James 5:16)

23. Southern general.

25. Not with eyeservice, as ____ pleasers. (Eph. 6:6)

26. Characteristic.

30. To practice boxing.

31. Lest he ____ thee to the judge. (Luke 12:58)

33. To whom be glory for ever, _____. (Rom. 11:36)

34. Jonathan ... had a son ____ of his feet. (2 Sam. 4:4)

36. Midpoint. (British var.)

38. Will never be ____ for by sacrifice. (1 Sam. 3:14)

43. Roman numeral for 6.

46. Printer's measure.

47. We shall ____ him as he is. (1 John 3:2)

49. Naval vessel insignia.

50. Thought added to a letter.

Media reviews

MUSIC

By Rick Sharp

UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE

Our God Is Faithful: Live Worship From The University of Mobile
8Eighty Music

The University of Mobile (UMobile) launched its music production label, 8Eighty Records, in August 2013. “Our God Is Faithful” is the label’s first release and it’s a great one. Recorded live at Ram Hall on the UMobile campus, the record includes original music written by the students as well as covers of popular worship songs.



On my first listen I was struck by the energy, the excellent performance and the quality of the live recording. This record is chock-full of high-energy worship music, and the recording professionals have done an outstanding job of capturing both the performance as well as the energy of the live event. I’m not familiar with Ram Hall nor its acoustic properties, but judging from the dramatic sense of space captured on the live recording, I must assume the hall’s acoustics are first-rate. Either that or the recording engineers are geniuses. I suspect both are true. I encourage you to seek out this new release. A video of the event is available on YouTube. Highly recommended.

SUMERLIN

Runaways
Dream Records

I guess I’m getting older. Sumerlin’s new project, “Runaways,” is described by its label as “a mix of power pop and ambient textured rock music.” Hmm. Certainly I hear a mix of power pop (I do know what power pop is) mixed with the roar of grunge (albeit melodic grunge).



It’s the ambient-textured rock that has me scratching my head, although after the first listen, I think I’m beginning to understand. There are even some touching, piano-led ballads. No matter. “Runaways” is a captivating mix of good lyrics, energetic playing, edgy vocals and real creativity. In all this is a very satisfying record. The band does a good job of being, in their words, “culturally relevant and spiritually significant.”

You won’t find a lot of overt Bible-based lyrics here. What you will find are gripping descriptions of people yearning for truth, tempering modern life with a search for the Eternal. Maybe not for everybody but perhaps closer to the realities of forging a spiritual life than we older ones might like to remember.

JASON GRAY

Love Will Have The Final Word
Centricity

Jason Gray’s new album “Love Will Have The Final Word,” produced by Jason Ingram and Cason Cooley, continues Gray’s highly introspective, questioning musings set to simple and emotionally moving acoustic musical vehicles. This is a worthy addition to his last album, “A Way to See in the Dark,” that was named Album of the Year by critics and produced three top-five singles.



Gray co-wrote all the songs on this new project, receiving help from an all-star team including Ingram, Andy Gullahorn, Ben Glover, Josh Wilson and Nichole Nordeman.

Centricity’s press release includes this description of the new album — “This is an album that bravely avoids trite and simple platitudes thrown at our very real and complex circumstances. It’s an album that recognizes our loneli-

est of lows and our most hopeful highs. It’s an album that knows when to show empathy, when to give advice and when to just come alongside and grieve.”

This is a vulnerable and honest record, served up simply and beautifully. 🙏



Photo courtesy of Fair Trade Services

The songs on Phil Wickham’s newest album, ‘The Ascension,’ were inspired by the Songs of Ascent passages found in the Book of Psalms.

‘Focused on the Lord’

Wickham shares reality of gospel at concerts

By Leann Callaway
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Singer/songwriter Phil Wickham hopes the songs on his newest album, “The Ascension” — which were inspired by the Songs of Ascent passages found in the Book of Psalms — will take listeners higher and draw them closer to the Lord as the lyrics drive home the gospel message.

“After listening to these songs, my prayer is that people will want to know more about the message they just heard,” Wickham said. “The theme of this album is a longing to know more about God and a desire to run toward Him.”

During its first week of sales, the album claimed the No. 2 spot on the Soundscan Christian Albums Chart and also placed in the Top 40 on the Billboard 200.

But the accolades and achievements aren’t what motivate Wickham.

By sharing the gospel through music, he has been given many opportunities to share the plan of salvation at his concerts.

“My desire is that these songs are effective in leading people to Christ,” he said. “My priority at concerts is to share the reality of the gospel, the

importance of the cross and about the excitement and the hope we have in heaven. By the end of the concert, I hope that people are thinking about God’s grace, love and mercy, and I hope that they are also thinking about the sacrifice that has been given to us through Christ.”

As a teenager, Wickham learned to play the guitar from his father. After a few months of lessons, he started leading worship for his youth group at church.

“From there, doors started opening for me to play at different events and eventually led me to where I am today,” he said. “For a while, I was really hesitant to pursue music on a full-time basis because I knew it was a huge responsibility to lead people in worship and write songs that would convey the right message. I didn’t want to mess up, and I didn’t want to take things into my own hands.

“So I spent a long time praying that my desires and musical abilities would always remain focused on the Lord and used for His glory. That continues to be my prayer today, as I’ve found that one of the best ways of connecting with people is to share the truth of God’s Word by putting it in a song.” 🙏



“I’ve found that one of the best ways of connecting with people is to share the truth of God’s Word by putting it in a song.”

Phil Wickham
singer/songwriter

Church planter Scott Blanchard coaches Upward Basketball through Lakepointe Church in suburban Detroit. Blanchard, who is legally deaf, approaches challenges as opportunities in his ministry.

'He can use anyone'



Photo by Scott Blair/NAMB

Partially deaf church planter reaching Detroit's unchurched for Christ

Scott Blanchard is familiar with all the public perceptions of Detroit and its surrounding area: Metro Detroit is dying. No one wants to live in the city. The Church can't survive — much less thrive in the Motor City.

But the fact is, the Detroit-area native and Southern Baptist church planter just doesn't buy those perceptions. During the past three years as he has planted Lakepointe Church in Macomb, Mich., just outside Detroit, he has seen a different story take root.

In its brief lifetime Lakepointe Church has grown to more than 200 in attendance on most weekends. The church has seen 52 people baptized — and they have even begun the process of planting a daughter church.

Not only has Blanchard successfully planted and grown a church in one of the toughest-to-reach metro areas in North America, he has done so despite being 80 percent deaf. Even though his hearing loss has led to a

speech impediment, Blanchard thinks it actually helps him when communicating the gospel. Church attendees have to listen carefully to get everything he says.

It also has provided a variety of outreach connections with families impacted by disability.

"I think God uses me to inspire people to serve Him," Blanchard said. "If God can use me, He can use anyone."

Blanchard is one of six missionaries featured by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as part of its 2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO) promotion. Detroit is one of 32 Send North America cities NAMB is bringing special emphasis and resources to in its effort to help Southern Baptists start 15,000 new

churches in 10 years. Half of NAMB's financial support comes from AAEO.

Blanchard moved back to metro Detroit from Florida in 2008, just months after the economic meltdown devastated the nation as a whole — but also Detroit and its auto industry in particular. Over the next year an entire team of people from Florida sold their homes and came to help Blanchard in the planting process.

"For me, I looked at it as the perfect opportunity for us to come up here and

be a fresh breath of air," Blanchard said. "We're trying to be very community focused. We want the community to know that we're here for them. We want to help."

The new church has largely leaned upon large events to attract people to hear and respond to the gospel. In the past three years Lakepointe has used everything from college athletes to famous actresses to war heroes to Easter egg drops to connect with the community. Vacation Bible School also has been a key outreach for the church.

In fall 2013, the church had its largest worship service yet when 376 people came to hear 1980s sitcom — and recent "Survivor" — star Lisa Whelchel share her testimony. Eight people made professions of faith at the worship service.

Lakepointe focuses on reaching people who wouldn't normally attend church — people who've either never attended church regularly or have been disconnected for some time.

Brian Pannebecker attended worship service for the first time when a state senator he worked for had been invited to the church. The legislator couldn't attend so Pannebecker took his place. The worship service impacted him so much that he kept coming back.



Photo by Todd McInturf/NAMB

Scott Blanchard, his wife, Karen, their son, Nathan, and daughter, Abigail are helping connect Lakepointe Church to the community where Blanchard planted the church in suburban Detroit.

"God has become more central in my life since coming to Lakepointe," Pannebecker said.

"I have become closer to God through understanding the Bible. He has worked in my life to make me more focused on what He wants me to do with my life for Him, and I have become aware that I need to serve God, not myself."

Blanchard credits the generosity of Southern Baptists through AAEO and the Cooperative Program for helping his young church thrive.

"I truly believe that really helped us to be where we're at today because I was able to put everything that I have — all my time and energy — into Lakepointe Church," Blanchard said.

"Annie Armstrong was a huge part of that, the faithful support from NAMB. I really believe that impacted our community, impacted our church. It's encouraging to know that people are giving and that people believe in church planting and believe we can still grow and reach people."

Important partnerships

Blanchard said partnerships — whether it has been with Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and AAEO or partnerships with individual churches — have been critical. In the early days his monthly rent for the school where the church meets was three to four times the amount of money given through church members.

Blanchard doesn't just appreciate the gifts of Southern Baptists. He is training his church to be generous as well. In an attempt to train his congregation to demonstrate a similar passion for missions,



Photo by Todd McInturf/NAMB

Church planter apprentice Jimmy Jones (left) of Auburn Hills, Mich., and Lakepointe Church lead pastor Scott Blanchard talk at the outreach table prior to worship services.

he asks his church to give to an annual "Greater Things" offering. A portion of that springtime offering goes to local church planting, AAEO, international missions and other ministries. Blanchard encourages church members to store up their change throughout the year and pour it into a large bucket at the church during a special "Greater Things" worship service.

"It's teaching our people generosity," Blanchard said. "It's teaching our people to help other people and other organizations in our city and outside of our city. We've been privileged to be a part of other churches through that offering."

For more information about Blanchard and his ministry, including a video, visit www.anniearmstrong.com. (NAMB)

**FIRMLY
PLANTED**
ROOTED IN THE GOSPEL



North American Missions

Alabama goal: \$6,100,000
National goal: \$70,000,000

**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®
anniearmstrong.com