

# THE ALABAMA BAPTIST



Oct. 15, 2015  
Vol. 180, No. 41

Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

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

## INSIDE



Alabama Baptists mobilize Disaster Relief teams for flooded SC

◆ Page 3



Volunteers minister to community during A Day of Hope in Tuscaloosa

◆ Page 4



University of Mobile president Foley announces retirement

◆ Page 7



TAB augmented reality



# CREATION didn't just happen

Photo by Gary Gao

## Nonreligious Americans see evidence of creator, LifeWay study shows

Life didn't just happen, most Americans say — and a surprising number of nonreligious people agree, a newly released study says.

More than 4 in 10 of the nonreligious believe physics and humanity point to a creator, LifeWay Research finds. A third say human morality indicates a creator who defines right and wrong. The study, released Oct. 7, is based on a survey taken Sept. 26–Oct. 5, 2014.

And although the nonreligious are less likely than other Americans to see evidence of a creator, they are more likely to agree (46 percent) than disagree (40 percent) with the statement: “Since the universe has organization, I think there

is a creator who designed it.”

Traditional evidences for belief in a creator resonate with most Americans including many of the nonreligious, said Ed Stetzer, executive director of Nashville-based LifeWay Research.

“People who seek to set out reasons to believe, often called apologetics, have historically framed their argument in similar ways,” Stetzer said. “The large number of nonreligious people agreeing with some of these arguments points us to a surprising openness to classic apologetic arguments. Or put another way, even nonreligious people are open to the idea there is a creator.”

### Complex universe

Human life and a complex universe are powerful indicators of creation, Americans say. In a survey of 1,000 Americans, LifeWay Research found almost 8 in 10 (79

percent) believe the existence of human life means someone created it, while 72 percent think the organization of the universe shows a creator's design.

Mary Jo Sharp, assistant professor of apologetics at Houston Baptist University in Texas, said, “The infinitesimal odds that life arose by blind chance is a formidable argument.”

Americans are less certain whether a creator defines right and wrong. A smaller majority, 66 percent, says people's moral values attest to a creator who determines morality.

Stetzer said, “Similar moral threads across cultures are evidence for many that someone has imprinted a common standard upon the human conscience. However, it is worth noting the moral argument has less sway here, perhaps because of our changing views on what is and is not moral.”

Many atheists, agnostics, and those with no religious preference find the existence of human life to be a persuasive argument for a creator, with 43 percent agreeing: “The fact that we exist means someone created us.” However, a larger share (48 percent) disagrees.

### ‘Standard of goodness’

The existence of good and evil is a less compelling argument for the nonreligious. More than half (53 percent) disagree with the statement: “Since people have morality, I think there is a creator who defines morality.” Nevertheless, a third of the nonreligious (33 percent) think human morals point to a creator who defines right and wrong.

Sharp, an author and speaker in the field, said, “The existence of good and evil is difficult to explain from an atheistic worldview because in that view there is no stable external grounding outside of humans for a standard of goodness.”

(See ‘Americans,’ page 12)

**8 in 10**  
believe the existence  
of human life means  
someone created it.

# COMMENT

## The Pastor's Uniform

**D**oes your pastor wear a uniform? Most Baptists answer “no” to such a question. Baptist pastors usually wear regular clothes so they do not advertise themselves as clergy. At the same time, we hope no one is ever surprised to learn someone dressed in regular clothes is a pastor.

What about on Sunday morning? Does your pastor wear a “uniform” then?

Before answering that question, consider that most churches have expectations of how their pastor will dress when he stands to preach. Those expectations vary from church to church but sad stories abound about what happens when a pastor dresses differently than a church expects.

### Four ‘uniforms’

Generalizations are dangerous but observations indicate Baptist churches have at least four distinct “uniforms.”

Most traditional is the coat and tie. Many of us were reared in churches where the pastor wore a coat and tie every Sunday. Lots of Alabama Baptist churches still expect their pastor to be decked out in a coat and tie. The pastor's dress reflects the dignity of the occasion. Members may not be expected to dress like the pastor, but as the leader of the congregation the unwritten expectation is the pastor will wear a coat and tie.

A second uniform is the sweater vest over a shirt with no tie. Frequently churches with this uniform are trying to move away from a formal setting for worship. The goal is a more relaxed atmosphere for Sunday morning while staying in touch with the traditional dignity of the service.

### Contemporary worship setting

The polo shirt tucked into khakis or even jeans has become the uniform of some churches. The pastor in a polo is the church's signal that Sunday morning worship is a time to



THOUGHTS  
By Bob Terry

lighten up, put aside the demands (even the dress demands) of the workweek and enjoy a time with family and friends in a contemporary worship setting.

For others the uniform is an untucked shirt and pair of jeans. The style symbolizes a type of freedom the congregation attempts to incorporate into the entire worship experience.

Uniforms do not necessarily reflect a certain generation. Millennials and Baby Busters alike wear shirts untucked. Generation Xers and Boomers can equally be polo pastors or sweater-vest types.

Economics is not always a determinant. The same uniform will be found in churches from inner city to suburbia to open-country churches.

One will even see the different uniforms during denominational programs. One speaker may wear a coat and tie, another a polo shirt and still another a jacket over jeans with shirt-tails hanging down or just an untucked shirt.

### Culture of the church

The culture of the church seems to be the determining factor. And let one violate that culture and the cost can be high. Coat and tie churches have often been accused of being intolerant of more relaxed dress. But let a speaker wear a coat and tie into a shirt-tales out church and watch the reaction of the congregation.

All of us seem to have difficulty accepting someone who doesn't wear the “right” uniform.

Recently I heard of a church that dismissed

its pastor because he wore a tie too often and the members did not like the image of such formal dress. I hope there were other reasons but that is what was reported.

The Bible speaks of a uniform for pastors and other Christians but this uniform has little to do with coats, ties and which way one wears a shirt.

In the Old Testament, Isaiah asks God to array him in a “robe of righteousness” (Isa. 61:10). In other verses the prophet asks for a “helmet of salvation” and zeal for a mantle (Isa. 59:17). In Chapter 11, he asks for “faithfulness the belt about his waist” (v. 5). Job pleads that justice would be his turban (Job 29:11) and Psalm 132:9 asks that priests be clothed with joy.

The New Testament offers additional guidance in Ephesians 6:13–17. There the Bible calls for Christians to “put on the full armor of God.” Specifically mentioned

are the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, feet fitted with readiness, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.

If a pastor were clothed in righteousness with faithfulness tied around his middle and zeal slung over his shoulder would anyone care what kind of shirt he had

on? If the pastor were known for the joy of the Lord in his heart and justice in his actions would anyone care if he wore a polo shirt or a tie?

### Truth and righteousness

Pastors who are fitted with readiness, who protect their members with the shield of faith and guide them with the sword of the Spirit should not have to worry about having on any other uniform. Truth and righteousness are their protection.

May God hasten the day when the primary concern of churches is that their pastor, as well as themselves, have on the uniform advocated in the Bible and stop worrying about the culturally accepted uniform of a congregation.

A shirt worn over a pair of jeans doesn't make one passionate for the Lord just as a coat and tie does not make one holy or righteous. That comes only when we put on God's uniform, the whole armor of God. 🙏



123rf.com

Have you  
tried it yet?

TAB augmented  
reality is here.  
Check out page 10  
for more details.



"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: 205-879-6026. **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 Roberts  
Editorial Production Coordinator

Maggie Walsh  
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), Baptist News Global (BNG), 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, 2013, 2014  
as judged by Associated  
Church Press, Evangelical  
Press Association or Religion  
Communicators Council

# Mobilized to serve



TAB  
augmented  
reality

## Alabama Baptist DR puts on yellow shirts, heads to South Carolina

**W**hen the rain continued to fall on the East Coast recently and the water began to seemingly come up from the ground, South Carolina Disaster Relief knew it would need help. It issued a request for support and Alabama answered.

Record-setting rainfall from Hurricane Joaquin has caused disastrous flooding, breached 14 dams and, at press time, caused 19 confirmed fatalities in South Carolina.

Within a few hours of the request for help, Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief deployed four mudout teams, an administrative personnel team and a feeding unit that will primarily be tasked with feeding Alabama volunteers.

A team of 10 chaplains, apart from the ones already embedded in other teams, also will be deployed to work during four different weeks.

The teams will work out of North Trenholm Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina.

Mel Johnson, disaster relief strategist for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said he anticipates a long-term deployment that will involve rotations of teams for the next 6-8 weeks.

And that is just for cleanup, he said. "This will be a lengthy disaster relief response and then a much more lengthy rebuild and recovery response after that.

"Southern Baptists could be there for a year or two," Johnson said, noting there may be opportunity and need for additional volunteers a little later in the process.

Right now the best way to help is to stay in communication with your disaster relief coordinator if you are a trained volunteer.

In-kind donations such as bottled water and other supplies are well stocked and not



Photo by Raz Bradley

Baptist Collegiate Ministry students help set up a Disaster Relief feeding unit at Riverland Hills Baptist Church, Columbia, South Carolina.

needed at the moment, Johnson explained. So giving monetarily would be the most effective means of support, he said. "That way we can provide what is needed in the community very specifically."

The initial four mudout teams came from Cleburne, Sand Mountain, Bessemer and Columbia Baptist associations. The first feeding unit deployed was made up of volunteers from Elmore, Autauga and Montgomery Baptist associations. The teams began arriving Oct. 11 and started their work early Oct. 12.

"As I think about the crisis currently taking place, I quickly remember 2011 and how South Carolina Baptists sent tremendous sup-

port and mass feeding, cleanup and recovery teams and chaplain teams," Johnson said. "They came to serve us and we are grateful we can minister to them in their hour of need."

### How to help

To give to the South Carolina relief fund, visit [sldr.org/scflood/](http://sldr.org/scflood/) or mail checks to State Board of Missions Flood Relief, P.O. Box 11870, Montgomery, AL 36116.

One hundred percent of the donations collected for this crisis will be forwarded to South Carolina and used to help those affected by the flooding. (TAB)

## Ministry Tips



### YOUR CHURCH MESSAGE SIGN

By Chip Warren  
Minister of education, FBC Albertville

**A**lmost every church in our state has an outdoor church sign. Many have space for a changeable message, whether it's a lighted letter board or digital. Either type can be quite effective if utilized correctly. Here a few tips to be good stewards of your outdoor sign.

► Communicate to your community the various "doors" through which they

may enter your church. "Doors" are the ongoing ministries and attractional events. Give dates and times.

#### The purpose

► Avoid cute sayings. Keep in mind the purpose of your sign.  
► For a lighted message board, be sure all letters and numbers are the same color.  
► Be sure the sign is well maintained. Faded paint, peeling lettering, algae in the

tracks, burned out lights and poor landscaping send a poor first impression about your church.

► Any information that is permanently on your sign needs to be large enough to be read by a passing vehicle. Your sign professional can advise you on the size of lettering.

► Keep the message up to date. Once an event is over, do not leave it on the message board. ☞

Teams from various churches in Tuscaloosa work on a wheelchair ramp at the home of Mia Dixon, a 13-year-old with cerebral palsy, during A Day of Hope.

# Day of HOPE



Photo courtesy of Tuscaloosa Association

## Volunteers work together on building projects to share love of Jesus with Tuscaloosa

By Neisha Roberts  
The Alabama Baptist

She's just 13 years old but she deals daily with the obstacles stemming from cerebral palsy, like not being able to get in and out of her Moundville home because there is not a stable ramp for her wheelchair. That is, until recently.

Mia Dixon may be wheelchair bound but that means nothing to her spirit and smile, which are clearly not bound by the disorder. Her family's home was one of many building projects completed through A Day of Hope (ADOH) on Oct. 3, one outlet of The Hope Initiative.

The Hope Initiative is a program created by Tuscaloosa Mayor Walter Maddox in 2009 as a partnership between the "City of Tuscaloosa and the faith-based community to focus on long-term improvements in areas with high crime rates."

The second ADOH (or ADOH2) was Oct. 3 but many of the 67 projects were worked on throughout the week and completed that Saturday, according to Eric Boykin, missions strategist for Tuscaloosa Baptist Association and director of The Hope Initiative.

### 'Gospel ministry'

"We love building decks and helping people in need but (ADOH) isn't a construction ministry. This is gospel ministry," Boykin said. "We want to show the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways and we want everything done and said through ADOH to exalt Him."

Partially funded through the Southern Baptist Convention and the Alabama

Baptist State Board of Missions, ADOH2 projects were nearly all "partnership projects," where if a homeowner could, they might have given \$100 toward the project, a sponsoring church might have given \$100 and then ADOH2 covered the rest. Boykin estimated \$20,000 worth of work was completed through ADOH2.

Some of the projects included replacing roof shingles on a retired Air Force veteran's roof; removing drywall and replacing windows on a retired Tuscaloosa Police captain's home; cleaning up the playground and landscaping at Hay Court Apartments; and cleaning and repairing parts of Paul Bryant High School in Cottondale.



Photo courtesy of Tuscaloosa Association

Volunteers work at Paul Bryant High School during A Day of Hope on Oct. 3.

Teams made up of volunteers from churches, groups throughout the city and even some businesses like BLG Logistics worked on the projects and some locations had multiple teams working together at one time.

That was the case with Kelvin W. Croom's team from College Hill Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, an African-American church that has applied for Tuscaloosa Association's watch care program.

Croom, who has served as pastor of the church since 1994, said about eight volunteers from his church worked alongside people of different ethnicities and denominations to help clean up and improve the landscaping at Paul Bryant High School.

"It was good to see people come outside of their church walls and give back to the community," Croom said.

Jamin Carter, missions and evangelist pastor for Northriver Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, also helped lead his church to

serve during ADOH2, spearheading about six projects.

Together his 45-50 volunteers worked to pull weeds, spread mulch and plant flowers at The Phoenix House; added porch rails, built a porch and reinforced a porch in Wood Village; cleaned up trash on Crescent Ridge Road and helped build the Dixon porch and wheelchair ramp.

Carter, who participated in 2014 ADOH, said it meant so much to the team to help finish the ramp and see Mia Dixon use it for the first time, smiling as

she went up and down on her wheelchair.

"It's all about giving hope. We're told in the Bible we're to love God and love our neighbor and in order to do that we have to be actively involved in their life," Carter said, which is part of why he's led his church to serve in ADOH for two years.

And after cleaning up 20-plus bags of trash off of Crescent Ridge Road, Carter said he and his team hope they conveyed to residents at the end of the road, "You're not forgotten and you are loved" — a message that could have easily rung true for all the ADOH2 projects. ❧

## TAB augmented reality



Watch your complimentary  
Ministry Training Institute  
lecture here



Photo by Bryan Gill

As part of your subscription to *The Alabama Baptist*, you will receive a complimentary eight- to 10-minute lecture taught by Samford University's Ministry Training Institute each week. Use your Aurasma app to watch the seventh of an eight-part series on part of the book of Revelation by placing your mobile device over this photo. App instructions noted on page 10.



**“The people I met over the years at The Alabama Baptist and (have) become friends and family with meant more to me than the money I could’ve made in any other business.”**

**Thomas Felder**  
TAB’s head of maintenance

## Part of the FAMILY

Photo by Neisha Roberts

### Felder celebrates 40 years of ministry, friendship at *The Alabama Baptist*

By Grace Thornton  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**T**homas Felder has an old brass key in his pocket that’s been there since 1975. Hudson Baggett, editor of *The Alabama Baptist* at the time, handed it to him just a month or so after the newspaper’s building was completed.

Felder’s been part of the family ever since.

“It’s been a really, really good 40 years here at *The Alabama Baptist*,” he said. “People come and go, but it’s still like family.”

He means it.

When he left his stationery delivery job to head up maintenance for *The Alabama Baptist* building, he gained parents, brothers and friends, he said.

#### Key to the house

“Mrs. (June) Baggett, she asked me to start working some at her house too, and she became like my mom,” Felder said. “Her sons were like my brothers. I used to go over every Christmas and eat dinner, sit down and just have a good time with them.”

That wasn’t normal in those years not too long after integration happened in the South, he said.

He was part of the family. He had a key to the Baggetts’ house too, and that’s where he was working nearly 20 years later when he got the news that Hudson Baggett had died unexpectedly the day after the state convention annual meeting in Mobile.

“That was really a blow to me,” Felder said.

He sat with the family at the funeral.

And he continued to care for June Baggett until she died in 2007, keeping her

house in order even after she moved into a smaller residence. Like a son, he took her to weddings, funerals and the occasional dinner.

“The day she went into the hospital the last time, I went to the house and couldn’t get her to come to the door. I thought she was resting, but she had fallen [and] I didn’t know it,” Felder said. “I came back a little later and they were rolling her out to the ambulance.”

He told her he’d tried to come in earlier but couldn’t get her to come to the door.

“As they were rolling her away, she reached out to me and said, ‘Thomas, do you not have a key?’ and I said no, and she was telling one of her sons, ‘Give Thomas a key right now.’”

She passed away about a week after that. “That was really a blow to me. She was like my mom and she treated me just as good as my mom,” Felder said.

He’s grateful for that. And he’s grateful that June Baggett changed the course of his life.

“I started out saying I wanted a big business,” Felder said. “But I got kind of sidetracked when Mrs. Baggett asked me to clean her house.”

It’s a good thing, he said.

“The people I met over the years at *The Alabama Baptist* and (have) become friends and family with meant more to me than the money I could’ve made in any other business,” he said. “It was about the

friendships. They were genuine.”

And they anchored him through many a tough time.

A few years after Bob Terry was named editor of the paper in 1995, Felder watched Terry walk through a season of grief. Terry’s first wife, Eleanor, died in 1998 from injuries sustained in a traffic accident in South Africa.

The strength Felder saw in Terry encouraged him several years later when Felder’s grandson was killed.

“I remember going to the funeral (for Eleanor Terry) and seeing how strong he was,” Felder said. “I was looking at him and I wondered, ‘How can he be so strong and still have the faith?’”

The faith he’d seen in Terry challenged him to lean on God, he said.

“That’s why I say it’s a big blessing to be here, to gain strength from people like him,” Felder said.

Terry said the blessed feeling is mutual.

“Thomas has a caring heart that endeared him to the Baggett family and to the rest of us who are privileged to work with him,” he said. “I have seen Thomas care for others at great cost and inconvenience to himself. He is an encourager, a tireless worker.”

And he always seems to have a smile on his face even when he’s going through illness and grief, Terry said. “Thomas never loses sight of the Lord Jesus as the source of his strength.”

The son of a Methodist minister, Felder grew up in church with his nine siblings.

“My dad didn’t play — he was strict,” Felder said with a laugh. “We had a good upbringing. We’re all still in church.”

His three daughters and seven grandchildren turned out great too, he said. Two of his granddaughters are scholarship athletes at the University of Alabama. Another is a talented high school basketball and volleyball player.

“They are all good kids and have done well,” Felder said.

They come by it rightly, Terry said.

#### Multitalented

“Few people are as multitalented as Thomas. He can do many things and when he can’t do something, he knows someone who can,” Terry said. “Thomas and the services he provides are a great asset to the ministry of *The Alabama Baptist*. More importantly, he is a friend.”

For Felder, that friendship is the best part.

“I remember the times I’d come up here really late at night and Johnnie Sentell (former associate editor) would be up here,” he said. “We’d be up here until about 1 in the morning talking. People come and go, but for the past 40 years, we’ve all been like family. It’s just peace when you come to work.” ☪



Photo courtesy of Mark Baggett

Thomas Felder (right), longtime head of maintenance at *The Alabama Baptist*, and the late June Baggett were like family.

# Across ALABAMA'S Associations

To submit news items, email [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org) or call 205-870-4720, ext. 100, at least three weeks prior to the event.

## BESSEMER

► **Grace Life Church, Bessemer**, will host a pumpkin patch event at Shadow Lake in McCalla on Oct. 17-18 and 24-25. Oct. 17 and 24 will be open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Oct. 18 and 25 will be open 1-5 p.m. There will be hayrides, face painting, inflatables, a petting zoo, crafts and a new maze. The church also will host a trunk or treat Oct. 31, 5 p.m. For more information visit [yourgracelife.com/pumpkinpatch](http://yourgracelife.com/pumpkinpatch). Joel Frederick is pastor. ► **Seventh Street Church, Bessemer**, will celebrate its 93rd homecoming Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m. Pastor Sam Davidson will speak. A covered dish luncheon will follow. For more information call 205-428-4077.

## BLOUNT

► **Pleasant View Missionary Church, Holly Pond**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. Special music will be provided by 2nd Mile, of De Kalb, Mississippi. Lunch will follow. For more information call 256-796-5986 or 256-590-4468. Randy Burtram is pastor.

## CALHOUN

► **Buddy Nelson**, pastor of **First Church, Anniston**, will retire Jan. 31, 2016. He and his wife, Becky, will remain in McClellan. They have two children and three grandchildren. ► **Oak Bowerly Church, Ohatchee**, will host musical evangelist Frank Jones in concert Oct. 18, 6 p.m. Sam Fordham is pastor.



NELSON

## COFFEE

► **New Hope Church, Brundidge**, will celebrate its 175th homecoming Oct. 25, 10 a.m. Pastor Lanny Shepard will share the message. Faye Allen will lead music and lunch will follow the service. For more information call 334-894-5892.

## COLBERT-LAUDERDALE

► **Sammy Gilbreath** is the new associate pastor for congregational growth and development for **Highland Church, Florence**.

He will serve in a part-time position for one year, with option to extend. Gilbreath will continue his part-time role as director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Mission's office of evangelism. He and his wife, Carol, have two children and four grandchildren. John Brock is pastor.

## CONECUH

► **Long Branch Church, Andalusia**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 25, 10:30 a.m. Ray Armstrong will be the guest speaker. The Good News Singers, of Andalusia, will provide special music. Lunch will follow. Billy Croley is pastor.

## DEKALB

► **Kelly's Chapel Church, Fyffe**, will have "Tailgate Sunday" on Oct. 25, 11 a.m. Siran Stacy, former University of Alabama running back, will be the guest speaker. Wear your favorite team's jersey. For more information call 256-996-3651. Daniel Lawson is pastor.

## LIMESTONE

► **First Church, Ardmore**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 25, 10 a.m. Lunch in the family life center will follow. Alan Hughes is pastor.

## MOBILE

► **Union Church, Grand Bay**, will celebrate homecoming Oct. 18, 10 a.m. A fellowship meal will follow. Bobby Williams will be the guest speaker. David Walley is pastor.

## MONTGOMERY

► **Ridgecrest Church, Montgomery**, will host revival services Oct. 25-28, 6:15 nightly with the theme "Rise Up." Guest speakers will be: Mark Harrison (Oct. 25), Daniel Wilson (Oct. 26), Herbert Brown (Oct. 27) and Teman Knight (Oct. 28). For more information call 334-277-0011. Mike Green is pastor.

## WALKER

► **Dutton Hill Church, Parish**, will host Joe McKeever on Oct. 18, 11 a.m. McKeever previously served as director of missions for New Orleans Baptist Association and is cartoonist for *The Alabama Baptist* and Baptist Press. Carl Uptain is pastor.

## WASHINGTON

► **Wagarville Church** will celebrate homecoming Oct. 18, 10:30 a.m. Lunch will follow. Joshua Purvis is pastor. ☪

# ALABAMA UPDATES

PEOPLE, CHURCHES MAKING NEWS ACROSS THE STATE

## FBC Opelika's minister to children retires

The first through sixth grade children's ministry at First Baptist Church, Opelika, has seen "significant numerical and spiritual growth" since Kathy King, minister to children, has been serving the church.



KING

King, who came on staff in January 1993, retired from her position Aug. 31.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Auburn University and completed a program in children's ministry through New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

King has served alongside her husband, Mike, who is the church's executive pastor.

Mike King said of his ministry partner and wife, "God has used her to touch the

lives of so many children and their families. ... And during her ministry she has established herself as a leader among leaders."

She served through the Alabama Preschool and Children's Ministers Organization in several leadership positions, including two terms as president. She also mentored 18 ministry interns throughout her time at First, Opelika.

Kathy King also contributed to a children's ministry leadership book, "Kidmin Leadership," by Jim Wideman.

She and her husband have two children and three grandchildren. (Neisha Roberts)

## REFLECTIONS

### DEEP SOUTH HIGHWAYS



## DON'T FORGET!

Annual Enrollment Period is **OCTOBER 15 - DECEMBER 7**

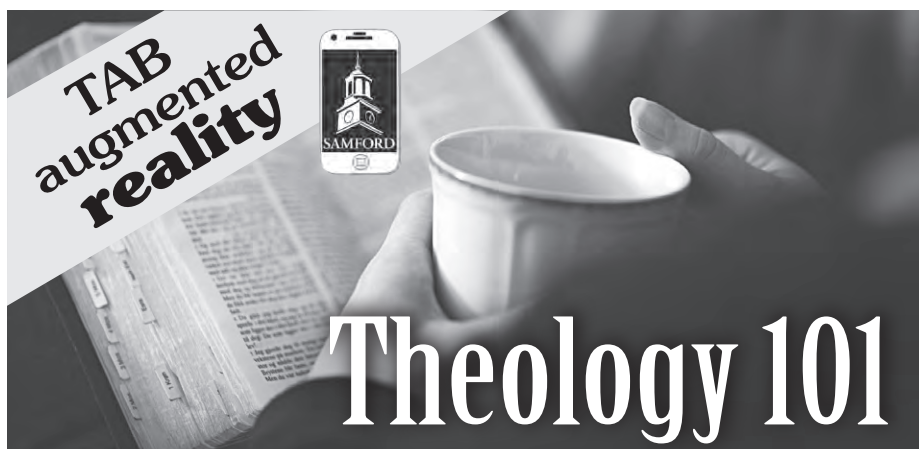
VIVA MEDICARE

Membership has its *Perks*

- ✓ Plans starting at \$0 per month<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ Preventive screenings included in every plan
- ✓ One-on-one Guardian Agent support
- ✓ Dental and Vision on some plans
- ✓ Highest Member Satisfaction Score<sup>2</sup> of any Medicare Advantage Plan in Alabama
- ✓ No referrals needed to see most contracted specialists
- ✓ See more perks at: [makingmedicareeasy.com](http://makingmedicareeasy.com)

VIVA MEDICARE 1-888-830-VIVA (8482) or TTY users dial 711  
 Mon - Fri: 8am - 8pm, Oct. 1 - Feb. 14: 7 days a week, 8am - 8pm

<sup>1</sup>You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. <sup>2</sup>Based on the 2016 Medicare and You Handbook of Alabama. VIVA MEDICARE is an HMO plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Alabama Medicaid Agency. Enrollment in VIVA MEDICARE depends on contract renewal. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information contact the plan. Limitations, copayments, and restrictions may apply. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium, and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. The Formulary, pharmacy network, and/or provider network may change at any time. You will receive notice when necessary. H0154\_mcdoc1607A CMS Accpeted 10/11/2015



# Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

## The Word of God Across the Ages

### The Written Word

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

**T**he Old Testament books that comprised the written Scriptures during Jesus' ministry began to be added to as the Holy Spirit inspired apostles and their associates to commit the preached word to written documents. In the course of their lifetime, those who were eyewitnesses to the ministry of Christ along with some of their close associates were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write four Gospels which bear witness to God's incarnate Word.

The missionary outreach of the gospel through the ministries of witnesses like Paul, Peter, James and Jude occasioned inspired letters or epistles to be written.

In addition the early record of the advance of the gospel was committed to a written record through the efforts of Luke. Thus the book of Acts, recording some of the acts of some of the apostles, was added to the Gospels and epistles as part of the written Word of God.

#### 'By way of reminder'

The practical necessity for the written Word was the passing away of the eyewitnesses, resulting in the need for what Peter explained in 2 Peter 1:13-15: "I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things."

The reality that the eyewitnesses of Christ's ministry would not live indefinitely necessitated a permanent account in the written Word of God. Those writings soon became recognized as divinely inspired and as containing the continuation of the unfolding truth of God that Jesus said would follow His own earthly ministry. Early churches began reading these writings and recognized in them the inspiration of the Spirit of truth and accepted them alongside the Old Testament

books as God's inspired and authoritative Word.

The Church has used the term "canon" to speak of God's written Word. This term comes from a Greek word meaning "rod," a straight stick such as might be used as a standard for measuring. The Canon of Holy Scripture is the books comprising the Bible which are the writings inspired by God as His authoritative Word, the standard by which all truth claims are to be measured.

#### 'Closed canon'

Christians have commonly added an adjective to this term and speak of the Bible as a "closed canon." This phrase means Christians generally hold that only the original books of the Bible constitute the written Word of God. Later religious writings do not possess the nature of Holy Scripture and thus should not be received as authoritative for belief and practice.

With the Old Testament written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, these canonical writings were subsequently translated into other languages. Copies were handwritten for centuries before the invention of the printing press made possible their mass production. The written Word is now available in uncounted languages and dialects as well as in multiple translations and paraphrases. Its availability has kept pace with the invention of modern means of communication such as audio recordings and electronic editions.

It is good to hold fast to a belief that the Bible is the God-written Word but it is better to act on that belief by reading, studying, obeying and sharing it. 📖

*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.*



## UMobile President Foley to retire in 2016; search for successor begins

**A**fter more than 17 years as president of the University of Mobile (UMobile), Mark Foley announced Oct. 8 that he will step down as head of the Baptist-affiliated college in 2016.

"Since accepting the position of president of the University of Mobile in 1998, it has been my determination that part of my responsibility is, at the appropriate time, to lead the institution carefully and effectively into the hands of my successor," Foley said. "Just as in a relay race, the key to winning is an effective handoff. I believe now is the time to begin that handoff."

Foley announced his retirement during the Oct. 8 meeting of the university's board of trustees.

Board Chairman Terry Harbin said Foley came to UMobile during a critical transitional time and led the school through a period of significant growth.

"Dr. Foley led us to a much more solid spiritual and financial footing, while upgrading facilities, programs and the university's stature in the community. Additionally through his influence, Dr. Foley has expanded the understanding of the university's mission and goals far beyond the borders of our traditional Baptist constituency and into the community at large," Harbin said.

In a letter to students, faculty and staff, Foley said he will continue as president

until July 31, 2016, or until a successor is in place. Harbin said the board has formed a search committee and that the process to select the university's fourth president is expected to take six to nine months.

Foley said, "Between now and then we will press our mission forward. Remember to win the race one must enter the hand-off zone at full stride."

Foley has served as president of UMobile since 1998 and is the third president of the university since its founding in 1961. He led the move to intentionally integrate learning, faith and leadership in all areas of university life while raising academic standards, building new

residence halls, establishing successful programs such as the Center for Performing Arts and leading the university to national rankings.

During his tenure the university invested \$44.8 million in capital projects, including a recent \$7 million campus enhancement program that was the most far-reaching campus-wide improvement of buildings and grounds since the 1970s.

Under Foley's leadership, the university gained recognition in national rankings including *U.S. News & World Report*, America's Best Christian Colleges, America's Best College Buys, Military Friendly School, The 50 Best Christian Colleges in the U.S. and more. (UMobile)



FOLEY

## Linden Baptist completes fundraising campaign



Photo courtesy of Linden Baptist Church

Linden Baptist Church in Bethel Baptist Association celebrates the completion of its three-year fundraising campaign, Journey of Faith, to pay off several construction projects including a fellowship hall and office complex. During the service held this summer the many volunteers who helped make the construction process possible were honored and the new three-year campaign, Challenge to Victory, was started. This new fund will help raise money for future construction needs. A fellowship lunch followed the celebration service, which the church called Legacy of Faith. Billy Harris is interim pastor.



Photos by Neisha Roberts

# Small act of kindness

## Pleasant Ridge uses Moon Pies to reach community

If you drive by Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Hueytown, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a Monday in October then be prepared to roll down your window for Over the Moon Mondays, an outreach ministry that lets drivers know “God loves you and so do we (at Pleasant Ridge Baptist),” said Jane Bellew, chairwoman of the church’s activities committee. As cars approach the stoplight in front of the church they are greeted by beaming men, women and children and handed a Moon Pie and a church flyer. Through this small act of kindness, church members are connecting with people in their community and showing the love of Jesus through sincere smiles and welcoming words.

Over the Moon Mondays is a follow-up to Sweet Tea Tuesdays, a similar outreach that traded out Moon Pies for Milo’s Tea in June. On Oct. 5, more than 500 Moon Pies and flyers were given to passers-by. (TAB)



“PLACING ARTISTRY IN YOUR HANDS”

**ACADEMY OF THE ARTS REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

*Classes for adults and children*

For 10% off art courses, use code: ARTS10  
 Art 205-726-2739 • Music 205-726-4049  
[www.samford.edu/go/ota](http://www.samford.edu/go/ota)

**SAMFORD ACADEMY of the Arts**

- Piano
- Photography
- Painting
- Antiques
- Voice
- Drawing
- Creative Writing
- Other Instruments

CLASSES

**Children's of Alabama®**

proudly presents a fun & engaging **Mom-Daughter event:**

**girl·ology®**  
 CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

**Something New About You**

for 4th & 5th grade girls and their moms\*  
\*or mom-substitute

**Sunday, October 18, 2015**  
 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Canterbury United Methodist Church  
 350 Overbrook Drive, Birmingham, AL 35213

\$75 per parent-child pair  
**Pre-Registration is REQUIRED**

register or learn more...  
[www.girlology.com](http://www.girlology.com)

## Free Legacy Conversations Workshop - Schedule Yours Today!

A service offered by The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.



A Legacy Conversations workshop provides an interactive way for your church members to become intentional about the Legacy they are leaving.

Using the actual life story of fellow Christians as a guide, we will walk through how our relationships, expertise and resources can be used to impact the lives of others and contribute to Kingdom work. At the end of the workshop, each member will be eligible to receive FREE\* estate planning as a service of The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

**CALL US TODAY AT (334) 394-2009 to schedule your free workshop!**

\*The estate planning service is free. However, drafting of estate documents such as a Last Will and Testament, will incur a reduced fee as charged by one of our network attorneys.



P.O. Box 241227 | Montgomery, AL 36124  
 (334) 394-2000 | [tbfa@tbfa.org](mailto:tbfa@tbfa.org)  
[www.tbfa.org](http://www.tbfa.org)



Famous Christians from previous centuries

# Heroes of the Faith



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).

## 2015 marks 125th anniversary of Salvation Army co-founder's death

**C**atherine Booth (1829–1890) was known as “The Army Mother.”

This year is the 125th anniversary of her death. It also marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of The Salvation Army.

She was born Jan. 17, 1829, to Methodist parents, John and Sarah Mumford, in Ashbourne, England. Her father was a lay preacher and carriage maker. When Booth was young, her father moved the family to London.

Her mother homeschooled her, giving her a strong sense of religious and moral conviction. During her childhood Booth read through the Bible several times. As a teen she spent much time in bed because of a spinal curvature and tuberculosis, often writing magazine

articles against the dangers of alcoholism. She became a supporter of the national Temperance Society.

From an early age, she attended Wesleyan Methodist classes. In 1850, she became a Methodist Reformer and led a girls' Sunday School class.

In 1851 she met William Booth, also a Methodist Reformer, and they married June 16, 1855, at Stockwell Green Congregational Church (now Stockwell Green United Reformed Church) in London.

Catherine Booth believed women could be preachers. Women then didn't speak in meetings. With her husband's encouragement, she wrote a pamphlet, “Female Ministry: Or

Woman's Right to Preach the Gospel,” which argued that men and women were equal before God.

In January 1860 while William Booth was preaching, she asked to “say a word.” She was such an eloquent speaker that she became a partner in her husband's work. In great demand as a preacher, she won many converts to Christ.

They began The Christian Mission in 1865 in London's East End. William Booth preached to the poor and Catherine Booth to the wealthy, which produced financial support for their ministry.

In 1878 the mission's name was changed to The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army's goal was to meet both spiritual and physical needs of people.

In 1881 a London survey discovered that on one weeknight 17,000 people worshipped with The Salvation Army compared to 11,000 in all of London's other churches combined.

While Catherine Booth worked tirelessly spreading the gospel, helping the poor and advocating social causes, she had eight children. The Booths' children carried on the work of The Salvation Army after their parents' deaths.

Catherine Booth died of breast cancer Oct. 4, 1890, in London. Around 36,000 friends and converts attended her funeral. William Booth died in 1912 and was buried next to her.

From its humble beginnings in London, The Salvation Army is now active in 127 countries and has 1.15 million members. ☪



BOOTH

## NAMB trustees approve new compassion ministry, \$4 million gift to IMB budget

**T**rustees of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have approved the establishment of Send Relief — a new compassion ministry to offer Southern Baptists opportunities to meet physical needs and serve underprivileged communities.

Also during their Oct. 7 meeting, NAMB's trustees approved a \$4 million budget reduction so the entity can send funds to assist International Mission Board's (IMB) missionaries.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell, commenting on the Send Relief initiative, noted shortly after trustees closed their meeting in Salt Lake City, “Imagine 40,000 Southern Baptist churches engaged to meet needs in their communities and across North America. Send Relief will give churches hands-on opportunities to alleviate suffering and transform lives.”

### Combat hunger, poverty

Send Relief will launch in 2016 and include compassion ministries to combat hunger, poverty, serve children through foster care and adoption, combat human

trafficking, minister to migrants through international learning centers and meet inner-city needs with construction and medical teams.

NAMB trustees approved David Melber as vice president of Send Relief. Melber has led Crossings Ministries camp outreach in Kentucky since 2003.

Melber said, “Send Relief is going to be an ideal way for us as Southern Baptists to meet a real need — not only for the physical side but to proclaim the gospel, see people come to Christ and help be part of the church planting effort.”

NAMB's disaster relief team will be part of Send Relief and continue to have its own director. The mission board will continue to serve as coordinator of national disaster relief responses.

The \$4 million budget reduction will assist IMB missionaries during NAMB's 2015–16 fiscal year. Ezell requested the action in response to the IMB's announced reduction in personnel

of up to 15 percent in order to address ongoing revenue shortfalls.

The SBC Executive Committee must approve the proposed assistance before NAMB can transfer funds to IMB.

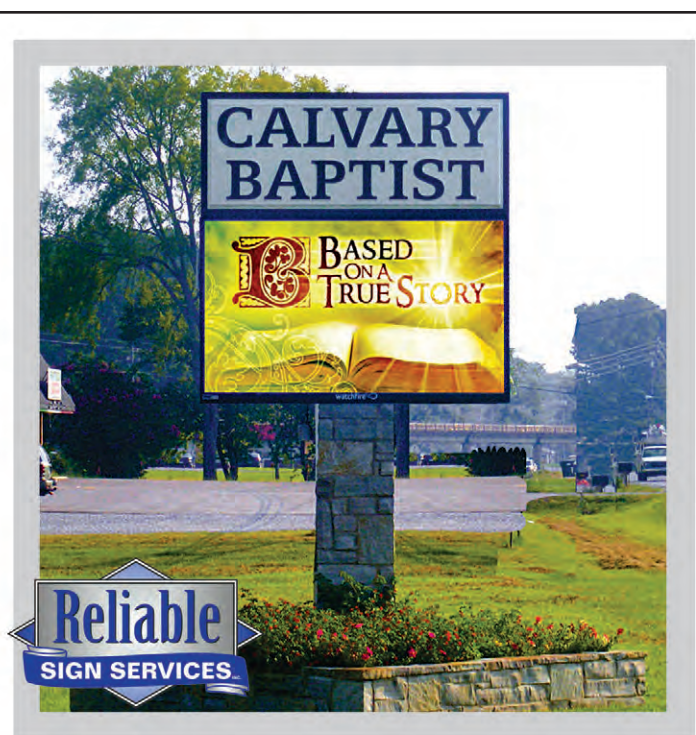
Trustees also authorized several other position and structure changes in addition to Melber's in Send Relief. Carlos Ferrer will serve as executive vice president, Kim Robinson will serve as vice president of marketing and ministry support and Clark Logan will serve as chief financial officer. All three men have been promoted from other roles at NAMB.

Ezell also pointed to downsizing that has allowed more resources to go to the field, better counting and tracking of Southern Baptist church plants and a tripling of resources NAMB sends to Canada.

“There are church planters all over North America who, because of your leadership, are being taken care of better than they ever have,” Ezell said to trustees. (BP)



EZELL



“Our church sits off the road. We upgraded to show the communities we're still an active church. We believe God has used our sign to reach the community. Reliable Signs walked us through every step and installed it. We're well pleased with their quality work and customer service. We would highly recommend Reliable Signs.”

— Pastor Chuck Lackey  
Calvary Baptist Church, Odenville

[www.reliablesigns.com](http://www.reliablesigns.com)  
1.800.729.6844 • 205.664.0955

# Youth Choir Festival hosts more than 600 students

By Doug Rogers  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

More than 600 middle and high school students and their church leaders from around the state gathered together for the annual Youth Choir Festival on Sept. 27 at First Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Choirs from 18 churches representing 13 associations led a service of worship which featured four combined choir anthems and one combined ensemble song.

Scripture readings and prayers led by students were featured as well as a focus on student missions work during the past year.

## 'About discipling students'

According to Keith Hibbs, director of the office of worship leadership and church music for the State Board of Missions (SBOM), "Youth choirs are alive and well in Alabama. This festival is not only an encouragement to churches wanting a vital student choir ministry, but also a reminder that choir is really about discipling students by teaching sound theology through lyrics, developing musical skills, encouraging group building and providing missional activities."

SBOM helped organize the event this year. 🙏



Photo by Doug Rogers



**TAB**  
augmented  
reality

## Follow these instructions

- 1 Download the Aurasma app from your app store.
- 2 Choose the "ALBaptist" profile under channel and tap "Follow." You will only have to do this one time. (Any ALBaptist options will allow you to follow *The Alabama Baptist*.)

- 3 Tap the [ ] icon at the bottom of the screen.

- 4 You will see pulsating dots, which indicate the app is searching for a target. Once it finds a target the dots will turn to a bull's-eye. The bull's-eye will remain until the augmented reality image loads.

- 5 Hold your device over a page or image in *The Alabama Baptist* (TAB) marked as augmented reality and watch the paper come to life.

- 6 If the image is slow to load at any point, then it may be your data speed or Wi-Fi strength. Change locations and try again.

- 7 Each week when TAB arrives, open the app and hold your device over the augmented reality articles.

## TAB\* CLASSIFIEDS

For information about placing a classified ad, contact the advertising department of \*The Alabama Baptist at 205-870-4720, ext. 102, or [ads@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:ads@thealabamabaptist.org). Copy deadline is two weeks before publication.

### CHURCH POSITIONS

#### PASTOR

Liberty Hill Baptist Church in Hampton, Georgia, is accepting resumés for full-time pastor. Please email your resumé to: [LHBCpastorsearchcommittee@yahoo.com](mailto:LHBCpastorsearchcommittee@yahoo.com). Deadline for resumés is Nov. 1.

#### MINISTER OF MUSIC & EDUCATION

First Baptist Church of Mount Olive is seeking a minister of music and education to lead a growing congregation in blended worship and discipleship programs. Bachelor's required and two to five years experience preferred. Send resumés to: [Stephanie@fbcmo.org](mailto:Stephanie@fbcmo.org).

#### MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

FBC of Blakely, Georgia, is seeking a full-time minister of music and worship to replace the current retiring minister of music. We will receive resumés until Dec. 1. Please send resumés to: [ldrew@fbcblakely.com](mailto:ldrew@fbcblakely.com).

#### SONG LEADER

East Huntsville Baptist Church is looking to hire an energetic song leader leading us in a blend of traditional and contemporary music. Send resumé to: East Huntsville Baptist Church, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 808 Maysville Rd., Huntsville, AL 35801.

#### MUSIC/WORSHIP DIRECTOR

Mount Enon Baptist Church, small church in Dale County,

Alabama, is in search of a part-time music/worship director. Contact Lomax Kelly at 334-795-6679.

#### PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC

Raleigh Avenue Baptist Church in Homewood is seeking a part-time music minister. Send resumés to: RABC, ATTN: Personnel Committee, 309 Raleigh Ave., Homewood, AL 35209 or [jeantowry@rabc.org](mailto:jeantowry@rabc.org).

#### TWO POSITIONS

Mulberry Baptist Church is seeking to fill two bivocational leadership positions — minister of music and youth minister. For more information and to send resumés, contact Andy Mims: [amims279@gmail.com](mailto:amims279@gmail.com) or 205-755-6816.

#### ASSOCIATE PASTOR/STUDENT MINISTRIES

FBC Florence is accepting resumés for the full-time position of associate pastor/student ministries. Send resumé to: FBC Florence, 209 North Walnut St., Florence, AL 35630.

#### YOUTH MINISTER

University Baptist Church is seeking a full-time youth minister. Send resumés to: University Baptist Church, ATTN: Ashley Barrios/Search Committee, 904 Me-nard St., Thibodaux, LA 70301, or email: [ubc@ubcthobodaux.net](mailto:ubc@ubcthobodaux.net).

#### YOUTH PASTOR

Church seeking a called bivocational youth pastor. Send resumé to: Calvary Baptist, 7570 15th Street Rd., Concord, AL 35023,

ATTN: Roger or [boazroger@gmail.com](mailto:boazroger@gmail.com).

#### BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTER

River View Baptist located at 1311 California St., Valley, AL, is looking for a bivocational youth/children's minister. Church phone number: 334-756-3078. Send resumé to: Pastor, River View Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1472, Valley, AL 36854.

#### OTHER POSITIONS

#### SECRETARY/TREASURER

Mount Zion Baptist Church in Warrior, Alabama, is seeking a secretary/treasurer. Send resumés through October to: 2427 Corner Rd., Warrior, AL 35180. Phone 205-647-1938 for details.

#### BUSINESS

#### GREAT PRICES

Stair-lifts, walk-in tubs, lift-chairs and lightweight take-apart scooters. We service Alabama. 1-800-682-0658.

#### CHURCH CONSTRUCTION SERVICE

Lewis Webb Builders, Inc., active in church construction service for over 30 years. Remodel, rehab, repair. Call 334-285-9302.

#### 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.reliable-signs.com](http://www.reliable-signs.com). 1-800-729-6844, 205-664-0955.

#### TRAVEL/VACATION

#### BIBLE LAND TRAINING TOURS

Send your pastor away. Special rates for "Double Honor Bible Land Training Tours" that will forever enhance his preaching and passion for the Lord. [www.pilgrimgtours.com](http://www.pilgrimgtours.com). 1-800-322-0788.

#### ORLANDO VACATION HOME

Incredible family vacation home 15 miles from Disneyworld. 5 BRs, 3 BAs, sleeps 10. A home away from home. Private pool facing conservation area. [www.orlandovacationoasis.com](http://www.orlandovacationoasis.com).

#### LOG CABIN

Lake Guntersville area, beautiful view and fully furnished. Discounts to ministers. Log on to [www.paradisevista.net](http://www.paradisevista.net) to see pictures. Call for reservations at 205-540-3600.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

#### JUDGMENT DAY

Evangelistic drama. Cottage Hill Baptist, Pleasant Grove, AL 35127. Oct. 24-25, 6-10 p.m. Oct. 26-27, no presentation. Oct. 28-29, 6-9 p.m. Oct. 30-31, 6-10 p.m. Reservations: 205-744-8521.

# WHAT WILL BE YOUR Legacy?

When you die, what will be your legacy? You may have certain physical possessions that you want to leave to your children or grandchildren. Or, you may want to leave a legacy gift to help your grandchildren with educational expenses. But might you also want to leave a legacy of ministry that will outlast all your physical possessions?

Do you have an up-to-date will? We have partnered with a fellow ministry called PhilanthroCorp to assist you in thinking through your estate plan and your legacy gifts. This estate design service is available at no cost to you, though there may be costs associated with your attorney. It is a convenient and easy process that takes place in the comfort of your home or office and is conducted entirely over the phone. Your identity and your privacy will be completely protected and preserved.

For the last 124 years, hundreds of faithful stewards have entrusted their money and possessions to their families and to ministries about which they have passion. Your Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries has greatly benefited from many of these legacy gifts. Ask yourself this important question, "If death occurred tonight, am I confident that what God has entrusted to me would be used in a way that would advance His Kingdom?" If your answer is "No" or if you are not sure, let us send you some free information to help. **Call Bob Dewhurst at 205-982-1112 or email [bdewhurst@alabamachild.org](mailto:bdewhurst@alabamachild.org).**



Alabama Baptist  
**CHILDREN'S HOMES**  
& Family Ministries

## GRACE gifts

Memorials are listed below (the name of the deceased is bolded).

**Barnett, Mrs. Cecil Jordan**, Tuscaloosa: Joan Larkin  
**Boswell, Jackie Sue**, Greenville: Pine Hill BC  
**Boyington, Viola**, Bay Minette: Faye Salter Parker  
**Braswell, Ronald Gray**, Demopolis: Bethlehem BC of Linden  
**Brown, Barto "Skip"**, Birmingham: Mrs. Marjorie Kay Nix,  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Wray Pearce  
**Cassity, Ted**, Gallion: Providence BC of Gallion  
**Cobb, Mr. Alison**, Spanish Fort: Wayne & Faye Parker  
**Cochran, Josephine "Jo"**, Knoxville, TN: Mrs. Majorie Kay Nix,  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Wray Pearce  
**Dilling, Bix**, Greenville, SC: Mrs. Marjorie Kay Nix  
**Godwin, Annie**, Brewton: Mr. & Mrs. Nick Yuhasz

**Jay, Mary Blanche**, Andalusia: Weldon & Jolene Boyington,  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ottis Reynolds  
**Lindsey, Virginia D.**, Birmingham: Mr. & Mrs. J. Wray Pearce  
**McGilberry, Laura M.**, Arlington: County Line BC of Pine Hill  
**Malden, James**, Bay Minette: Durant Chapel BC of Bay Minette  
**Nichols, Annie Merle Shumate**, Selma: Mr. & Mrs. Harold Edwards  
**Norris, Linda**, Birmingham: Mrs. Marjorie Kay Nix,  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Wray Pearce  
**Posey, Martha Pearl**, Red Level: Mr. & Mrs. Ottis Reynolds  
**Reid, Austin**, Cullman: Mrs. D.E. Lollar  
**Salter, John E. & Katherine Ryland**, Bay Minette: John T. Salter,  
 Faye S. Parker, Elaine Roley  
**Singleton, Mrs. Ineal**, Linden: Providence BC of Gallion  
**Stanley, Jackie**, Bessemer: Concord BC of Bessemer  
**Weatherly, Maynita**, Pine Hill: TEL Joy Class of Pine Hill BC,  
 Mildred G. Ratcliffe, John & Alice Shirah  
**Wiley, Ruth**, Madrid, IA: Centreville BC

## THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who made a Grace Gift to Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. To learn more about Grace Gifts or how to make one, visit [alabamachild.org/give](http://alabamachild.org/give) or call 205.982.1112.

# Americans 45 and older more likely to see evidence of a creator

(continued from page 1)

Not surprisingly, Christians — particularly evangelicals — overwhelmingly say they see compelling proof of a creator.

As evidence, 91 percent of Christians and 95 percent of evangelicals point to the existence of humanity, while 81 percent of Christians and 85 percent of evangelicals cite the structure of the universe.

They are slightly less confident that the existence of morality proves a creator who determines moral values, with 77 percent of Christians and 83 percent of evangelicals saying human morals indicate a creator who defines right and wrong.

## Sharp uptick

Although most American adults of all ages believe in a creator, a sharp uptick emerges at midlife. On every measure Americans 45 and older are more likely to see evidence of a creator than those 18–44.

The gap is widest on the question of morality. Three-quarters of those 45 and older agree the presence of human moral values indicates a creator who defines right and wrong, an opinion shared by only 57 percent of adults 44 and younger.

Disagreement is twice as common among Americans 18–44 (34 percent) as those 45 and older (17 percent).

Younger Americans also are more likely than those 45 and older to believe human life may exist without a creator. Eighty-six percent of those 45 and older agree the presence of human beings points to a creator; only 1 in 10 disagrees. Among those 18–44, however, 72 percent believe human life is evidence of a creator and nearly a quarter (22 percent) disagree.

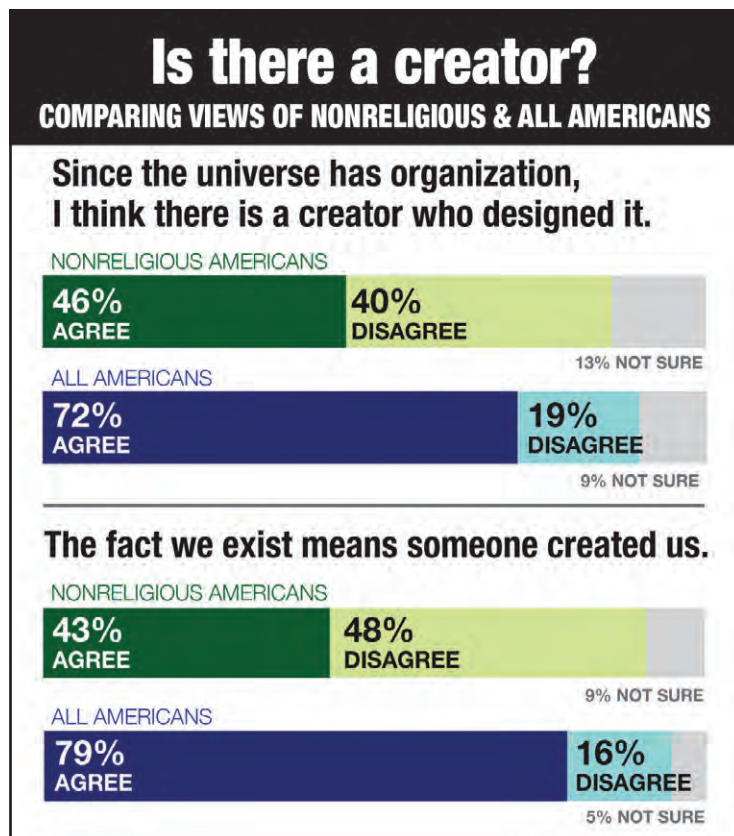
## Orderliness

More than three-fourths of those 45 and older (77 percent) consider the orderliness of the universe to be a sign of a creator, a view held by two-thirds (66 percent) of those 18–44.

LifeWay Research also found differences by gender and geographic region.

Men (22 percent) are more likely than women (17 percent) to disagree that the structure of the universe points to a creator. Women, meanwhile, are more likely (85 percent) than men (73 percent) to believe the existence of human life means someone created it.

The survey found a surprising



alignment of opinion between the usually dissimilar Northeast and South. Northeasters (87 percent) and Southerners (82 percent) are more likely than those in the West (71 percent) to view the presence of human life as an indication of a creator.

Similarly those in the Northeast (72 percent) and South (69

percent) agree more often than Westerners (58 percent) that human morals point to a creator who defines morality.

Northeasters (75 percent) and Southerners (74 percent) also are more likely than those in the Midwest (64 percent) to see the organization of the universe as evidence of creation. (BP)

## A reverse mortgage testimony

By Bro. Max and Carolyn Youngblood, retired pastor and wife

After more than 50 wonderful years in the ministry in Alabama, Carolyn and I found ourselves with a mortgage with more than 20 years left to pay. (Part of the reason for this comes from living in a pastorium for most of those years. Those years resulted in not having any equity in a home. Churches, if you are not already doing so, please consider giving your staff a housing allowance.)

I had heard of Reverse Mortgages but did not think we would qualify since we had less than 50 percent equity in our home. After I saw Jimmy Dixon's article in *The Alabama Baptist* I decided to give him a call. Jimmy came to our home and we had a great time of fellowship and gained a great deal of information on the subject. We were still skeptical but we completed an application.

To shorten a long story, that was more than 5

years ago, and we never left our home for any part of the process. We also received enough cash to do the things we needed to do.

Carolyn and I highly recommend this to anyone 62 or over that could use this kind of help. It has been an answer to prayer for us.



Max and Carolyn

A word from Jimmy: This past year we've seen several changes in the reverse mortgage world. In the last couple of months, FHA has made some changes but the reverse mortgage is still benefiting tens of thousands each year. If you didn't qualify for a reverse before, perhaps you do today, so please give me a call and I'll be glad to run the numbers for you.

For a free brochure or more information, call Jimmy Dixon direct at 205-567-4800 or email [jdixon@mcgowinking.com](mailto:jdixon@mcgowinking.com). Like *The Alabama Baptist*, Jimmy covers our state helping seniors improve the quality of their lives. He is a Sunday School teacher and deacon at Valley Creek Baptist Church, Hueytown.

— Paid Advertising —

## OCTOBER IS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MONTH.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Promotional resources are available at [cooperativeprogramresources.org](http://cooperativeprogramresources.org).

PUT THE **FUN** BACK IN DRIVING WITH THE **F-SPORT SERIES**

**\$449\***  
PER MONTH

\*\$3,000 down, 36 months, \$10K per year, plus tax, fees and 1st payment

2015 NX 200t F-Sport

REINHARDT  
75<sup>TH</sup> DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY  
EST. 1940  
LEXUS

911 Eastern Boulevard / Montgomery  
334-270-0605 / [www.reinhardtlexus.com](http://www.reinhardtlexus.com)

# ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION PROGRAM

P.R.A.Y. / Nov. 17–18, 2015 / Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne, Alabama

## TUESDAY MORNING 8:15–12:00

PIANIST ..... Frank Jones  
 WORSHIP LEADER ..... Keith Hibbs  
 8:30 Pre-session Music..... Alabama Singing Men and Women  
 8:35 Call to Prayer..... Travis Coleman  
 8:45 Call to Order..... Travis Coleman  
**GREETINGS**  
 Baldwin Baptist Association .....Rick Ellison  
 Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne.....Stuart Davidson  
 Congregational Music ..... Keith Hibbs  
 Invocation..... Rex Kent  
 8:55 Enrollment of Messengers..... Billie Davis  
 9:00 Committee on Order of Business ..... James Mercer  
 9:05 Committee Appointments..... Travis Coleman  
 9:10 Memorial Service ..... Wayne Scott  
 9:20 Alabama Baptist Ministers  
 Benefit Society ..... Mike McLemore  
 9:25 Introduction of Resolutions.....James Sampley  
 9:30 Congregational Music ..... Keith Hibbs  
 9:35 Miscellaneous Business  
 9:50 **RECOGNITIONS**  
 Recognition of Former  
 Convention Presidents..... Rick Lance  
 Recognition of New Pastors and  
 New Church Staff Members.....Bobby DuBois  
 10:00 Audit and Insurance Committees .....Bobby DuBois  
 10:05 Special Music ..... Alabama Singing Men and Women  
 10:15 P.R.A.Y. .... Scott Guffin  
 10:35 Cooperative Program Recognitions .....Jim Swedenburg  
**PRAYER IMPACTS STUDENTS**  
 10:50 Samford University .....Andrew Westmoreland  
 University of Mobile .....Mark Foley  
 Judson College .....David Potts  
 Education Commission .....Ken May  
 Board of Aid to Students  
 in Church-Related Vocations.....Mike Bedford  
**PRAYERFUL WORSHIP**  
 11:20 Presentation of Convention President ..... Rick Lance

11:25 Special Music ..... Ronnie McCarson  
 11:35 President's Address ..... Travis Coleman  
 12:00 Benediction .....Teman Knight

## TUESDAY AFTERNOON 1:30–4:35

PIANIST ..... Frank Jones  
 WORSHIP LEADER ..... Tony Higginbotham  
**WORSHIP**  
 1:30 Pre-session Music..... Eastern Shore Baptist  
 1:40 Call to Prayer..... Travis Coleman  
**PRAYER ENCOMPASSES OUR WORLD**  
**REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS**  
 1:50 Report of Executive Director ..... Rick Lance  
 2:10 State Board of Missions Recommendations  
 2:50 Praying for our State Missionaries  
 3:00 Convention Recognitions  
 3:15 P.R.A.Y. .... Stuart Davidson  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
 3:35 Resolutions Committee .....James Sampley  
 3:55 Committee on Boards and Commissions ..... Mike Goforth  
 4:05 Committee on Committees..... Buddy Champion  
 4:15 Committee on Time,  
 Place and Preacher .....Mark McCullough  
 4:25 Miscellaneous Business  
 4:35 Benediction ..... Jim Cooley

## TUESDAY EVENING 6:45–8:30

**PRAYERFUL WORSHIP**  
 6:40 Pre-session music..... Frank Jones  
 6:45 Call to Prayer..... Travis Coleman  
 6:55 Recognitions..... Rick Lance  
 7:00 P.R.A.Y. .... Veritas  
 7:45 Message.....Ronnie Floyd

## WEDNESDAY MORNING 8:15–12:15

PIANIST ..... Frank Jones

WORSHIP LEADER .....Collin Clardy  
**WORSHIP**

8:30 Pre-session Music ..... Collin Clardy and PraiseBand  
 8:40 Call to Prayer ..... Travis Coleman  
**PRAYER ENABLES MINISTRY**  
 8:50 Alabama Baptist Children's  
 Homes & Family Ministries .....Rod Marshall  
 Shocco Springs Conference Center .....Buster Taylor  
 Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers... Ray Burdeshaw  
 Alabama WMU .....Candace McIntosh  
 9:20 P.R.A.Y. .... Dale Huff  
 9:40 Election of Officers  
**PRAYER INSPIRES SHARING**  
 9:50 *The Alabama Baptist*..... Bob Terry  
 Alabama Baptist Historical Commission...Lonette Berg  
 The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.....Barry Bledsoe  
 Alabama Citizen's Action Program ..... Joe Godfrey  
 Christian Life Commission..... Jim Graham  
 10:20 Resolutions Committee Report.....James Sampley  
 10:35 Previously Scheduled Business/Election of Officers  
 if needed  
**PRAYERFUL WORSHIP**  
 10:45 Congregational Music.....Collin Clardy  
 10:55 Introduction of Convention Preacher  
 and Alternate Preacher ..... Travis Coleman  
 Special music ..... Anna Sailors  
 Scripture..... Henry Cox  
 11:05 Convention Sermon ..... Buddy Champion  
 11:40 Introduction of Convention Officers..... Rick Lance  
 11:50 Benediction, Adjournment ..... Rick Marshall

## TO REQUEST MESSENGER CARDS

- ▶ Call Sandy Harmann: 1-800-264-1225 ext. 266
- ▶ Email: sharmann@alsbom.org
- ▶ Website: <http://cards.alsbom.org>

Advertise in *The Alabama Baptist*  
 Email Bill Gilmore at [bgilmore@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:bgilmore@thealabamabaptist.org).

**MERCYME**  
GREATER THAN TOUR

**88.1 WAY-FM**  
also on 99.5 [wayfm.com](http://wayfm.com)

FEATURING  
 PHIL WICKHAM  
 TIM TIMMONS  
 JOHN LYNCH

MERCYME.ORG | COMPASSION | GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2015 / 7 PM**  
 Von Braun Center Arena / 700 Monroe Street / Huntsville, AL

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE VBC BOX OFFICE AND AT WAYFM.COM

LOGOS | DR. RAMSAY NUWAYHID FACIAL ESTHETICS & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

# Annual meeting business Officers to be re-nominated for second terms

By Neisha Roberts  
 The Alabama Baptist

Although there are no known contested elections taking place at this year's Alabama Baptist State Convention (ABSC) annual meeting, the nominations and elections are just as important.

*The Alabama Baptist* has confirmed the following pastors are being re-nominated as ABSC officers.

For president: Travis Coleman Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Prattville, will be nominated by Rick Marshall, pastor of Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Montgomery.

Coleman said, "If the messengers so please I'll look forward to serving a second term. I have enjoyed serving the first year and one of the great highlights was attending a number of

meetings of various entities and getting to know the diversity of people across the state that have a passion for their assignment."

For first vice president: John Thweatt, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pell City, said he would be willing to be nominated for a second term as first vice president and said it would be a privilege to do so. Buddy Gray, pastor of Hunter Street Baptist Church, Hoover, will nominate Thweatt.

For second vice president: Tim Cox, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Chelsea, also confirmed he will be nominated for a second term as second vice president. Greg Pouncey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Tillman's Corner, in Mobile, will nominate him.

Elections will take place Nov. 18 during the ABSC annual

meeting at Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne (see schedule, above).

Along with electing new officers, Alabama Baptists will vote on proposed resolutions.

At press time, no resolutions had been submitted to the resolutions committee, according to James Sampley, chairman of the committee and minister of senior adults and missions for CrossPoint Baptist Church, Trussville.

## Landscape of nation

"You can see the landscape of what's going on in our nation and world and be able to tell what resolutions will likely be turned in," Sampley said.

Every submitted resolution, he said, will be carefully looked over by the committee and "given the care it deserves and prayed over."

Resolutions may be submitted to the convention's recording secretary by the adjournment of the opening session of the annual meeting Nov. 17. ☞

Follow us on Twitter  
**@AlabamaBaptist**

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For October 18

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

### WHEN GOD CALLS Genesis 12:1-9

#### God Calls (1-3)

God challenges Abram to abandon the normal sources of personal identity and security: his family and country. To obey, Abram must trust God implicitly.

His agonizing decision is further compounded by the vagueness of God's command. God does not reveal to Abram where He will lead him.

This call to forsake all is like the call of the gospel. Jesus says, "Whoever loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me" (Matt. 10:37). He also says, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it" (Mark 8:35). The gospel calls us to rest all of our hope on the Word of Christ and nothing else. When Jesus calls us, He does not guarantee the future or even tell us what it will be like. He does promise that He will take us to be with Him, which is the ultimate land. He does promise forgiveness and that He will never leave us. But Jesus never says it will be easy on earth.

God makes remarkably rich promises to Abram but they were promises he would never experience in full because their ultimate fulfillment would come through his offspring, first in believing in Israel and then in the Church. God prophesies personal blessings for Abram. The first blessing to make Abram a great nation stands in tension with Sarai's barrenness. The second blessing is to make Abram's name great. Ironically this is what the builders of the Tower of Babel sought for themselves. By faith Abram is going to receive what never truly comes by self-serving effort. His great name is a gift. This endowment with a name is clearly royal language, and Abram is viewed here as a regal figure.

God also prophesies global blessings for Abram. In verse 3 there is more than the law of retribution at work in God's curse-for-curse, blessing-for-blessing promise. It is true that those who bless Abram will be blessed. God Himself will curse those who dishonor Abram. Today those who align themselves against the Church, "Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29), will not fare well.

Abram's call ends with a promise that "all the families of the earth" will be blessed in him. The buildup to this blessing is explicit. Abram alone is blessed. Then Abram's name is used as a blessing. Next those who bless Abram are blessed and finally all the families of the earth are blessed in Abram. Sadly Abram's descendants, the children of Israel, never really did rise to the task. It was only in Christ, the ultimate seed of Abram, that the fulfillment came and blessing went out to all people (Gal. 3:8-9). So the gospel, our good news, was announced 4,000 years ago to Abram in Ur. This gospel announced in advance to Abram and fulfilled in Christ is now the Church's responsibility to proclaim to all peoples of the earth.

#### Abram Goes (4-9)

Abram obeys God's call and departs Haran for the land God will show him. He migrates with everything he possesses from northern Mesopotamia to Canaan. The Lord appears to Abram at Shechem and promises the land to his descendants, although he is still childless. In response Abram builds an altar to the Lord.

Abram's next stop is only 21 miles to the south, near Bethel and Ai. Once again he builds an altar to the Lord and calls upon the name of the Lord. Proclaiming the Lord's name includes extolling His great attributes and mighty works. ☞

## Bible Studies for Life By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D. Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University

### DEVELOP CONVICTION Daniel 1:3-5, 8-13, 17-19

The great religious significance of figures like David and Solomon and places like Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee and the Jordan tends to mask the fact that the nation of Israel is a tiny country that never became a genuine empire. Indeed one of the main reasons the nation was able to flourish during the time of kings like David and Solomon was simply that the empires to the east (Mesopotamia) and west (Egypt) were in periods of decline. When that decline reversed course in the 8th century B.C. the impact on Israel would be real and immediate.

After a long and brutal siege, armies from the Assyrian empire destroyed the Israelite capital of Samaria in 722 B.C., permanently ending the northern kingdom's political independence. The southern kingdom of Judah held on somewhat longer but its days too were numbered. In 597 B.C. the Babylonian empire conquered Judah, sending thousands of people into exile. More waves of exiles would follow until Nebuchadnezzar finally destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in 587 B.C. A succession of empires — Persia, Greece, Egypt, Syria, Rome and others — would dominate Israel all the way into the 20th century.

The political subjugation of Israel had profound effects on the ability of Jews to live out the precepts of the Torah. After all, foreign kings could demand subservience not only to their state but also to their gods. Empires could regard the particular religious practices of conquered peoples as a threat to the cultural cohesion of their larger realms. Those who, like the Jews, insisted on maintaining their religious identity could face profound persecution.

The book of Daniel was written to give guidance to Jews who faced this kind of

situation. It was meant to instruct the people on how to deal with foreign rule and inspire them with examples of figures who had done so themselves.

#### Culture wants assimilation. (3-5)

In the opening chapter of Daniel, we find ourselves at the beginning of the Babylonian Exile. Having conquered Jerusalem, King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that some of the best of the Judean youths should be trained to serve in the royal court. Much of the youths' training was designed to assimilate them into Babylonian culture. Their names were changed from the Hebrew Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah to the Babylonian Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were taught the Babylonians' language and literature.

#### Draw the line. (8-13)

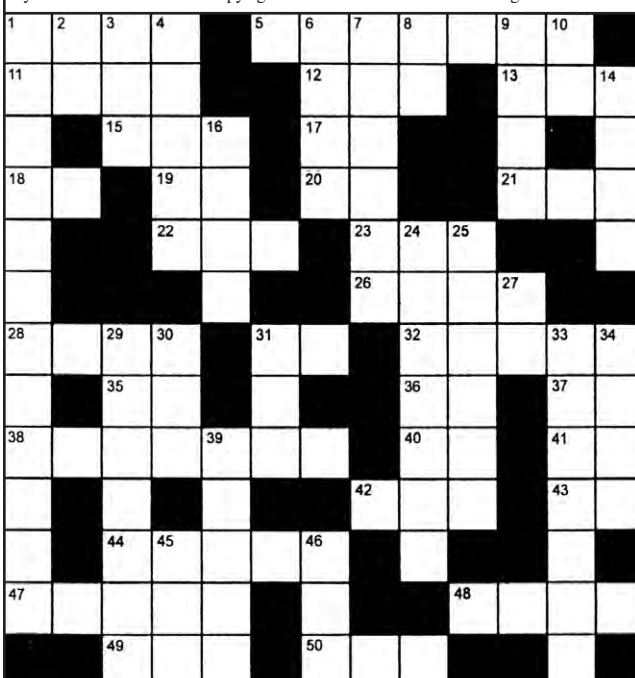
While the youths adopted most customs one thing they could not do was eat the king's food. To eat the king's food would have been to violate the Torah's commands about keeping kosher. The Law specified what animals could be eaten and how those animals must be prepared. The king's meat would not have followed these regulations and Daniel and his companions knew eating it would have violated God's command. Here they had to draw a line.

#### Serve and stand for the Lord. (17-19)

The youths' resolve not to be defiled did not mean they had to needlessly provoke the wrath of those left in charge of them. Their task was to find a way to be both faithful and wise at the same time. They did this by securing their supervisor's permission to eat a diet of only vegetables. When the youths remained healthy and even thrived on their new diet, the crisis was averted. But other challenges would still remain. Very soon the youths would have to decide just how far they would go to remain faithful to their beliefs. ☞

## Christian Crossword

By Susan F. Weimer Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



### Across

- I would thou wert \_\_\_ or hot. (Rev. 3:15)
- \_\_\_ us from evil. (Matt. 6:13)
- \_\_\_ my voice. (Ex. 19:5)
- \_\_\_ thou at my right hand. (Ps. 110:1)
- Behold, \_\_\_ is the accepted time. (2 Cor. 6:2)
- To make a hole.
- Audiovisual. (abbr.)
- District Attorney. (abbr.)
- There is none righteous, \_\_\_ not one. (Rom. 3:10)
- Not A, E or O.
- A sharp, shrill bark or yelp.
- In the beginning \_\_\_ . (Gen. 1:1)
- He hath put a \_\_\_ song in my mouth. (Ps. 40:3)
- Rejoice, and be exceeding \_\_\_ . (Matt. 5:12)
- The mountain of \_\_\_ . (Deut. 34:1)
- The ratio of the circumference of a circle

### Down

- Whom Sarah bare to him, \_\_\_ . (Gen. 21:3)
- Prefix meaning "in."
- Purple Heart. (abbr.)
- Bachelor of Arts. (abbr.)
- Unto one he gave five \_\_\_ . (Matt 25:15)
- \_\_\_ that hath an ear. (Rev. 2:7)
- Alabama. (ZIP code abbr.)
- Not happy.
- Football defensive lineman. (abbr.)
- They were not afraid of the king's \_\_\_ . (Heb. 11:23)
- Belly button.
- The \_\_\_ of all evil. (1 Tim. 6:10)
- Emergency Medical Service. (abbr.)
- The \_\_\_ of joy for mourning. (Isa. 61:3)
- For as many as are \_\_\_ by the Spirit. (Rom. 8:14)
- As \_\_\_, and behold we live. (2 Cor. 6:9)
- \_\_\_ said to Jacob, Feed me. (Gen. 25:30)
- Lead them unto \_\_\_ fountains of waters. (Rev. 7:17)
- And \_\_\_ repented the Lord that he had made man. (Gen. 6:6)
- \_\_\_ thou not the oppressor. (Prov. 3:31)
- Roseanna's nickname.
- Jesus \_\_\_ . (John 11:35)
- None is \_\_\_, save one. (Luke 18:19)
- Adah bare to Esau \_\_\_ . (Gen. 36:4)
- Have \_\_\_ their robes. (Rev. 7:14)
- Doctor of Arts. (abbr.)
- Unto all and upon all them that \_\_\_ . (Rom. 3:22)
- That they all may be \_\_\_ . (John 17:21)
- Delivered it from the \_\_\_ of corruption. (Isa. 38:17)

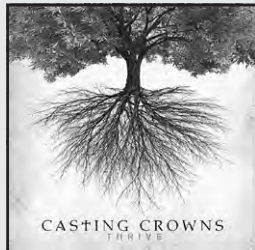
- Whose name in the Hebrew tongue is \_\_\_ . (Rev. 9:11)
- I will \_\_\_ on the name of the Lord. (1 Kings 18:24)
- In his hands the print of the \_\_\_ . (John 20:25)
- Democrat. (abbr.)
- Hew thee \_\_\_ tables of stone. (Deut. 10:1)



# TOP 10

downloaded albums from iTunes

## CHRISTIAN & GOSPEL



**1. Thrive**  
By Casting Crowns



**2. Brave New World**  
By Amanda Cook



**3. Lead Us Back: Songs of Worship**  
By Third Day



**4. How Can It Be**  
By Lauren Daigle



**5. Walls**  
By Gateway Worship



**6. RUN WILD. LIVE FREE. LOVE STRONG.**  
By for KING & COUNTRY



**7. Empires**  
By Hillsong UNITED



**8. Everyday Jesus**  
By Anthony Brown & group therAPy



**9. Unashamed**  
By Building 429



**10. Saints and Sinners**  
By Matt Maher

Source: [popvortex.com](http://popvortex.com) at press time

## All Things New



Photo courtesy of Merge PR

# Believing HIS truth

## Contemporary band emphasizes transformation in Christ

By Leann Callaway  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

The contemporary Christian band All Things New desires to use music as a vehicle to spread the gospel.

The group is made up of lead singer Garrett Hornbuckle, guitar player Jeff Stein, drummer Luke Wycuff and keyboard player Drew Moenning.

During concerts the group emphasizes the message of 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here."

Their sophomore album, "The Good News," features songs celebrating the gospel message.

"There is so much brokenness in this world but there is something powerful when you put the gospel and music together," Hornbuckle said. "It really changes lives. Some people would be hesitant about walking into a church so it's easier for them to walk into a concert venue with friends. From there they can hear about the hope of Jesus and be transformed."

Their radio single, "Can't Hold Me Down," is currently the second most added song at Adult Contemporary Radio as well as New and Active on the National Audience chart.

The song is based on Romans 16:20, "The God of peace will soon crush satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you."

"No matter how hard the battle is that we are facing, we will never lose with God on our side because our God is undefeated," Hornbuckle said. "A

lot of people including myself have listened to the lies from the enemy that they are not good enough. Believing the truth will set us free because God's Word declares that we are His children and co-heirs with Christ. My prayer is that we will all grasp that truth and live it out; that nothing can hold us down."

### 'Be the Change Tour'

All Things New is currently on the "Be the Change Tour" along with the bands OBB and SHINEBRIGHT. In November the group will be performing at the Christian Educators Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida.

"God wants us to live a new life and experience the freedom that comes from a personal relationship with Him," Hornbuckle said. "Our songs are just words and lyrics but what really changes lives is the Spirit of God moving through those songs. We've heard powerful stories of redemption and reconciliation that encourages us to keep pressing on."

"From this album and our concerts, I hope people will realize that they are worthy and loved by God unconditionally. A lot of people struggle with identity, insecurity and self-image. When we are playing shows our goal is to speak against the lies from the enemy and share the truth that comes from God's Word that we are redeemed because of what Jesus has done on the cross by defeating death."

"The whole record is about simple truths of the gospel: that we are loved, forgiven and there is grace. We are accepted and loved because of Jesus." ❧



**Enjoy a free month on us!**

**PARABLES**  
TELEVISION NETWORK

We want to introduce you to Parables TV, the only Christian entertainment network featuring on demand and streaming television.

Right now you can start watching movies, television shows and interesting documentaries on Parables TV anytime and anywhere with your favorite devices including your tablet, phone, computer or television.

For your free month, visit <http://parables.tv/welcome-alabama-baptist-members>

# Honoring God on the field

## Tuskegee senior wide receiver is team's spiritual leader

By Bill Sorrell  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Initiated into his college football team, Travis Hawkins walked around the first week at Tuskegee University in 2011 with shaved eyebrows.

"That was definitely embarrassing," said Hawkins of the experience shared by other freshman football players.

Now a senior wide receiver for the Golden Tigers, the 22-year-old Hawkins has grown into the team's spiritual leader.

Tuskegee head coach Willie Slater said, "He tries to walk it every day. To me that is what being a Christian is all about, living your life rather than talking about it. He is the spiritual leader of our team. He is a great person. You can tell God has control of his life. We have a great group of young men who are trying to be a positive influence for this world."

Along with leading team prayers, Hawkins also leads a Wednesday Bible study for Tuskegee students, not only football players.

He also speaks to youth groups and tells them about his life of sin and the mistakes he made before coming to Christ on Aug. 12, 2007.

"The sin I was in, I saw how it affected my family," Hawkins said. "I wanted to turn my life around. I knew the Bible and I knew [accepting Christ] is what I needed to do if I was going to live righteously."

### Staying close to God

"God gave me enough grace to cover that. Now I try not to make the same mistakes. In college there is a lot of sin and it has taught me to try to stay away from that and follow God. I am trying to maintain purity. There are a lot of temptations," he said. "Trying to stay close to Him has gotten me through a lot of struggles."

"Jesus means everything. He has given me another chance, another opportunity through His grace and mercy. I try to put Him first by the way I live my life."

Tuskegee strength and conditioning coach Andre Brunson said, "He talks to the guys, along with Coach Slater, about being spiritual. Coach Slater (a member of Montgomery's Bible Fellowship Apostolic Church) is a spiritual guy."

Colossians 3:23 — "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart as working for the Lord, not for

men" — provides Hawkins' on-field motivation.

"I try to give that — Colossians 3:23. I have learned to never give up and push myself and always rely on God. Football is a chance to honor Him on the field. That is what I want to do. I try to work harder than anybody possible in any sport."

Hawkins' work ethic, determination, passion for the game, skill and speed helped lead the Golden Tigers to Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference championships in 2012 and 2014.

During the 2014 season, Hawkins finished sixth on the team with 11 receptions and third with 320 receiving yards (29.1 yards per catch). He also plays on special teams and runs on the track team.

Brunson said, "Travis has great speed, great strength and is an all-around good player."

Hawkins was recruited by the Golden Tigers after a stellar high school career at North Cobb High School in Acworth, Georgia, leading Cobb County in all-purpose yards. A quarterback, he passed for 1,800 yards, rushed for 750 yards and scored 22 touchdowns his senior season.

Hawkins said helping his teammates to "a lot of wins" last season was memorable. The Golden Tigers finished 9-3 and were in the NCAA Division 2 playoffs. They started this season with a 4-1 record.

His goals are to win another conference championship, a national championship and play in the NFL.

"I continue to work hard and trust God through it. I think His purpose for me is to be an athlete and use the talents He has given me and take it as far as He allows me to."

And he knows that he is being watched.

"People look up to football players. People certainly expect football players to be a certain way. I think you are held to a higher standard when you claim to be a Christian because people are certainly watching you. They want to see if you are living the life you say you are."

Baptized at Marietta Christian Church in Georgia, he now attends Auburn Tuskegee Christian Church, Auburn.

"The church I go to really holds me accountable. It has helped me become more genuine in my walk with God and tested me in ways I never knew that I could be pushed to grow in. It's been a blessing," he said.

"I am grateful that God has given me the opportunity to be able to play the game and I try to honor Him with everything that I do." ❧



Travis Hawkins Photo courtesy of Tuskegee University

## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Church buildings set on fire in Tanzania

BUKOKA, Tanzania — Three church buildings were set ablaze Sept. 22 in an area of northwestern Tanzania where Muslim extremists have issued threats, pastors said.

A pastor of 1 of the 3 churches whose buildings were gutted, Vedasto Athanas of Living Water International Church, said area Christians are worried and frightened as such attacks have increased each of the past few years. "What is worrying us is that the burning of the three churches happened within a span of two hours," he said.

Also burned were the buildings of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God and the Evangelical Assemblies of God. All three churches are located in the Kashfa village area of Bukoba District, church leaders said.

Living Water's congregation numbers about 350, the Pentecostal Assemblies of God has 300 members and the Evangelical Assemblies of God Tanzania has 200.

"We have lost everything in our churches — the buildings, the chairs and musical instruments," Athanas said. "Our members have nowhere to worship."

Another church leader, who requested anonymity, said authorities have refused to grant local churches permission to construct worship centers on the pretext that lands are designated only as residential areas.

"We do request for prayers at this difficult moment," Athanas said.

Tanzania's Muslims, 31 percent of the total population, are largely tolerant but have become increasingly polarized between moderates and extremists, according to Operation World. Christians make up 54 percent of the country's population. (MS)

### Hindu extremists beat pastor, church members

MADHYA PRADESH, India — A pastor in Madhya Pradesh state in India is recovering after Hindu extremists beat him unconscious in September and left him in a pool of blood, sources said.

About 20 Hindu extremists in Fattiguda, Jhabua, on Sept. 10 kicked, punched and beat with a club Pastor Ajmer Singh Damor of Shalom Church after storming into a prayer meeting at the home of Tihiya Vasunia, church leaders said.

"Pastor Ajmer remained unconscious for about five hours, and the local doctors transferred him to the district hospital due to the severity of his injuries," area Christian leader Amiya Jal said.

"He was treated in the hospital for more than a week."

Most of the Christians at the gathering scattered and escaped harm, but the Hindu extremists also abducted and beat church member Dilu Katara before releasing him later that evening. Katara received hospital treatment for abrasions and internal injuries. The assailants also beat Damor's wife, Runita, but she was able to flee with their 18-month-old baby, according to an area Christian leader.

Yelling that all Christian worship meetings must cease, the assailants destroyed household items and slaughtered one of Vasunia's goats, church leaders said.

Police registered a First Information Report against the attackers after the intervention of area Christian leaders, but it does not include the damage to Vasunia's house and the killing of his goat, church leaders said. (MS)



Find us on  
Facebook

The Alabama Baptist  
newspaper.