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participate in
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Hostility toward Christians

123rf.com

Recent events in Yemen, Sudan reminder to pray

Alabama Baptists know the heartbreaking result of a gunman in Yemen all too well. Southern Baptist missionary and Alabama native Martha C. Myers, a physician serving in Yemen, died at the hand of a gunman in 2002.

Myers and two others were killed at Jibla Baptist Hospital, which is about 160 miles inland from the site of a recent attack that left 15 people dead.

The latest murders took place March 4 at a retirement home established by the late Mother Teresa. Among those killed were four Catholic nuns, four nurses, four security guards and three cleaning staff, media network Al Jazeera reported. A priest was kidnapped and remained missing at press time.

No group had claimed responsibility at press time, but news reports indicated there were four gunmen who entered the facility on the pretext of visiting their mothers. They moved from room to room, handcuffing the victims and shooting them in the head, according to news reports.

Yemen is No. 11 on the countries of concern list provided by Open Doors USA, a nonprofit organization focused on serving persecuted Christians around the world.

And just across the Red Sea from Yemen a different kind of persecution was happening in Sudan (No. 8 on the countries of concern list) around the same time in early March.

Members at six different churches found their church doors sealed off with new locks keeping everyone out, according to Open Doors.

“The Sudanese authorities have closed off meeting places of Christian congregations serving refugee communities in the capital of Khartoum,” an Open Doors representative said.

‘Concerns are mounting’

“Currently they are also holding two Christian pastors they arrested in December (2015) with no formal charges. Concerns are mounting for their well-being.”

The representative asked for prayer for the Church to find a way to continue ministering despite the efforts by the government to thwart their work.

Calls for prayer and worldwide response also came following the murders in Yemen.

Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd said, “There is a legitimate attempt at genocide against religious minori-

ties in the Middle East and I call upon the United States government and other world leaders to respond more forcefully and immediately to protect these terribly endangered people.”

Pope Francis called the victims martyrs and victims of “indifference, of this globalization of indifference, that does not care,” CNN reported.

The Pope “prays that this pointless slaughter will awaken consciences, lead to a change of heart and inspire all parties to lay down their arms and take up the path of dialogue,” according to Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin.

Since Yemen erupted into civil war in March 2015, more than 6,000 people have been killed, 28,000 injured and 2.5 million internally displaced, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Christian persecution continues to increase, Open Doors reported, noting 2015 was the worst year on record. “According to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbors simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.” (BP, Jennifer Davis Rash)

Update related to IMB field personnel

The number of Southern Baptist missionaries leaving the field may not be so close to the 1,000 count after all.

International Mission Board (IMB) officials have confirmed that “multiple” missionaries have already rescinded their decision to take the hand raising opportunity (HRO) incentive package. The total number of those rescinding will not be released until after the April 21 deadline.

IMB officials also clarified two statements reported in the March 3 issue of *The Alabama Baptist* (TAB).

The original news reports coming from IMB about the 30 staff members losing their jobs because of the closing of the communications department indicated the decision was separate from the incentive packages. However, since that time an IMB official said, “The announcement that the RVA communications center would be closing was made the day before the HRO details were announced. ... Some (communications staff) took the HRO, some took other positions in the home office and some chose not to take the HRO and remain as IMB employees until the communications center closes April 29. Those in this final group are eligible for severance benefits under IMB policy.”

TAB also incorrectly reported that other missionaries had left the field since the deadline for the HRO incentive. The IMB official said, “No missionaries have separated from IMB since Feb. 22.” (TAB)

Annual giving report
of Alabama Baptist churches



SEE PAGES 6–11

COMMENT

The Great Commission: Where Are We Now?

Let's take a moment to review a very important report card. The report card will tell us how Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) churches are doing in their efforts to fulfill the Great Commission in our nation.

To understand the grades on the report card, one must begin with the text of the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:18–20. Based on His authority as the Risen Lord, Jesus gives a very clear command. It is not a recommendation, a request or a suggestion. It is a command to go outside the huddle of believers and make disciples among all nations, noting that He will always be present with us as we go about the task.

Making disciples

I want to particularly call your attention to how Jesus explained making disciples. His explanation gives us a way to measure our progress in fulfilling the Great Commission, or our "grade." The mark of progress for the Great Commission is not how many hear the gospel, nor is it simply making the gospel known to a growing number of people. According to the text, we measure progress by making disciples who are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who know and obey the commandments of Jesus; and who are themselves going to make yet more disciples as this text directs His disciples to do.

I call your attention now to a stunning chart on the Great Commission progress of SBC

GUEST
EDITORIAL
By Chuck Kelley



churches (see below). The chart begins on the left in 1880 and concludes on the right with the most recent church year for which data is available, 2014. Note the "Churches" line, which indicates the total number of SBC churches. It is generally positive with a sustained, clearly upward trend over a long period of time. The decade of the 1920s, which included the Great Depression and the embezzlement of about \$1 million from the then-Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) is the only time that upward trend line was interrupted. The "Baptisms" line indicates total SBC baptisms. You will note the explosive growth in baptisms, outstripping the growth in number of churches that began around 1930. And then you see when the two lines crossed about the year 2000, creating an ever-widening gap between the number of

churches and the number of baptisms. We are about 15 years into the longest decline in baptisms in SBC history. We have more churches but they are reaching fewer and fewer people. Do I have your attention? Let me suggest some conclusions.

► Lostness in North America is having a bigger impact on Southern Baptists than Southern Baptists are having on lostness. Put another way: The world is having a bigger impact on the behavior of Southern Baptists than we are having on the behavior of the world. In addition to the decline in baptisms, for several consecutive years we are down in membership, down in worship attendance and down in Bible study attendance. We have fewer people and the people we have left are less engaged.

► What does this mean in terms of our influence on the nation? Southern Baptists are becoming a shrinking presence with a diminishing voice in our nation.

► What are the implications of this for the fulfillment of the Great Commission in North America? Southern Baptists are closer to losing the South than we are to reaching North America. If we lose the South, then we eventually lose nearly everything. Consider the graph of our baptisms per 10,000 people in the population (see chart, page 3).

Reaching Millennials

Clearly we are losing ground relative to the population. Millennials are the largest generation in the history of the United States. Can you see them in this graph?

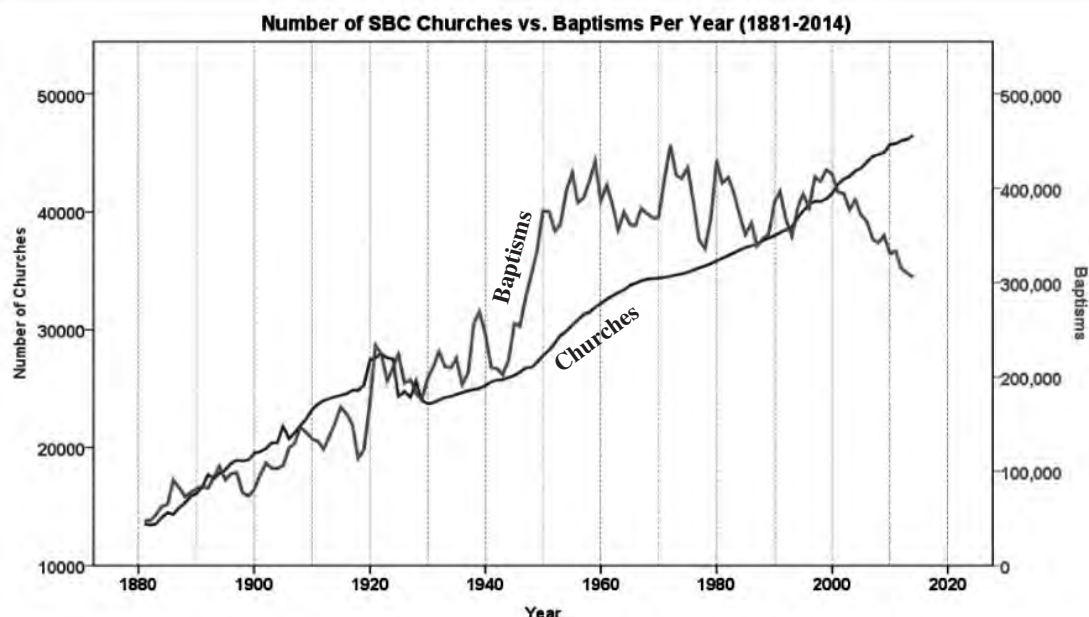
► Consider the economic implications for financial support for Great Commission activities. Time will take away the disciples now forming our congregations. If we stop adding new disciples from our communities to our congregations now, then we will stop adding new dollars to Great Commission budgets in the future. To have enough dollars to take the gospel to the ends of the earth, SBC churches have to make disciples of the lost in their communities.

► The steadily growing gulf between the number of our churches and the number of our baptisms reveals a true life-or-death question for our future: What can we do to improve the Great Commission health of our churches?

Live distinctively in the culture

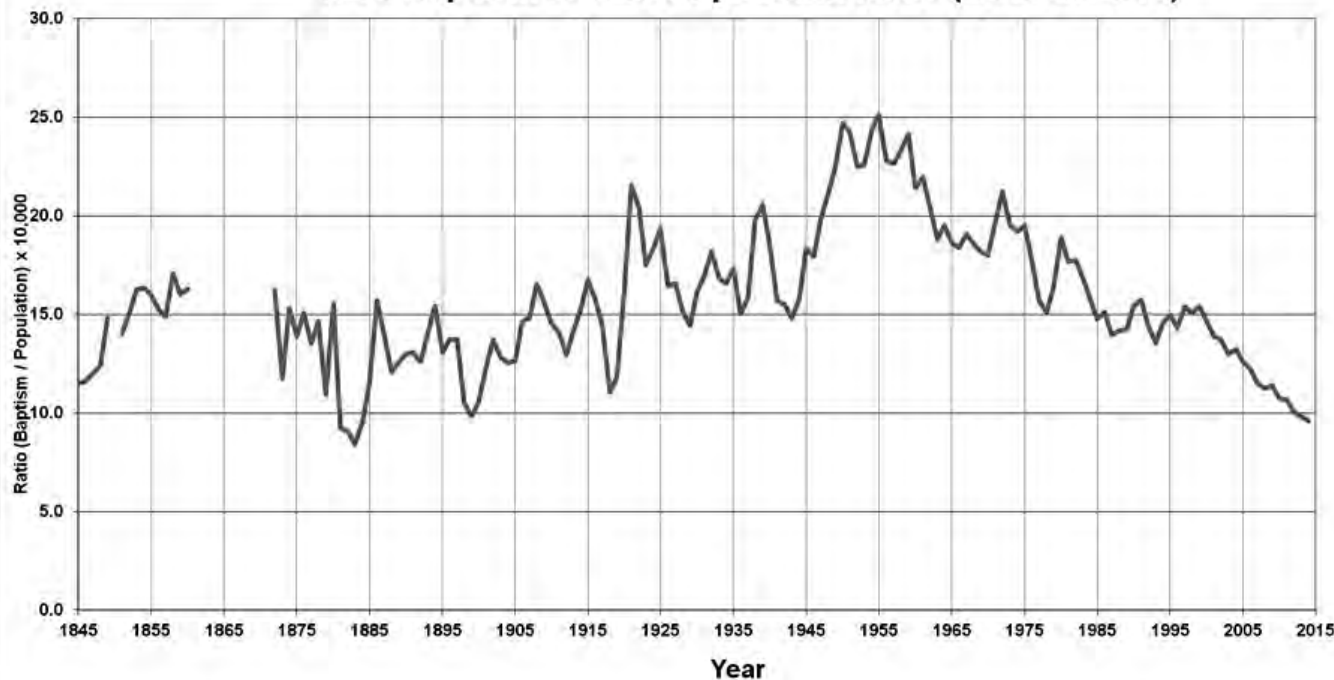
I offer some brief suggestions on the way forward from our present situation. We must own the problem and acknowledge the need for our churches to reach their communities for Christ. Second we must live distinctively in the culture. The foundation for every fruitful evangelism strategy is the living illustration of a life transformed by the gospel. If we fail in discipleship we will inevitably fail in evan-

Progress in Churches & Baptisms



Progress in Baptisms Per Population

SBC Baptism to U.S. Population Ratio (1845 to 2014)



gelism. Third we must provide and promote strategies (note the plural), resources (note the plural) and training. A building site needs more than tools. It needs blueprints. A work site needs more than blueprints. It needs tools. A work site needs more than blueprints and tools, it needs trained people who know how to read the blueprints and use the tools. You cannot build a house without all three. But all of this is a moot point and useless if God does not move. We must seek a spiritual awakening, a great movement of the Spirit of God in our churches and across our land. Whether we know it or not we are at the point of desperation for God to move.

Do not be naïve

William Carey is father of the modern missionary movement and was a great British Baptist leader

of the 18th century. While on a sabbatical years ago, my wife and I visited a number of William Carey sites where he lived and ministered. One Saturday we visited a church where he preached before going overseas. We found an elderly couple there that Saturday afternoon. They showed us around, letting me stand behind his pulpit and telling us about his ministry there. When I asked why they happened to be there on a Saturday afternoon, they explained they had come to make all things ready for a big Sunday. When I asked what the big day was all about, they told us they were having a baptism, one baptism. I asked how long it had been since their last baptism in that church, and they said 30 years. Thirty years, a generation between baptisms in the church of the founder of the modern mission-

ary movement. If you think Southern Baptist churches or your church could never become like that British Baptist church, you are naïve.

The Wailing Wall

The Western Wall in Jerusalem is often called the Wailing Wall because it is all that remains of the glorious temple that stood there during the time of Jesus. Seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, Jews and others gather at that wall to weep and remember the glory that once was as they pray for the day when that glory that will be restored. If we do not improve the Great Commission health of our churches, only one question remains: To what wall will our grandchildren go to weep and remember who Southern Baptists once were and what Southern Baptists once did to fulfill the Great Commission?

EDITOR'S NOTE — Chuck Kelley is president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of numerous articles, training materials and books including "How Did They Do It? The Story of Southern Baptist Evangelism" and "The Roman Road" tract, teacher's guide, learner's guide and training video. ¶

TAB
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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

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"If we do not improve the Great Commission health of our churches, only one question remains: To what wall will our grandchildren go to weep and remember who Southern Baptists once were and what Southern Baptists once did to fulfill the Great Commission?"

More than 600 participate in state WMU's Renew conference



Photo courtesy of Candace McIntosh

More than 600 participants gathered at the Alabama Woman's Missionary Union Renew conference to learn what it is like to live in a different culture. Renew, held Feb. 27 at Westwood Baptist Church, Alabaster, featured guest speakers Chris Adams, Allison Wilks, Heather Messick and a believer from South Asia. Participants also prayed over 12 International Mission Board missionaries who have recently taken the Voluntary Retirement Incentive and are now in Alabama.

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

Email your information to news@thealabamabaptist.org; fax it to 205-879-6026 or call 1-800-803-5201. Church announcements should arrive three weeks prior to the event.



ALABAMA UPDATES

PEOPLE, CHURCHES MAKING NEWS ACROSS THE STATE

Snyder retires after 23 years at Shelby Association

For 23 years Debbie Snyder has been what she calls a "connector of dots," bringing churches and needs together as Shelby Baptist Association's (SBA) ministry development director. She retired Feb. 29.

Snyder began her ministry with SBA when then-director of missions Charles Stroud came to her with the idea of leading community ministries beginning with literacy training. She recalls the first enrollee was a truck driver.

"He couldn't even read the 'Wrong Way' signs on the highway," she said with a laugh. "Now this ministry is even more significant since there are 60 countries represented in Shelby County."



SNYDER

During Snyder's tenure a ministry center also was founded at Community Baptist Church, Maylene, now called The Daily Bread Shop. "We've done community assessments to learn the needs and then we encourage churches to find a need that matches their giftedness," she said. "I've been privileged to have a front-row seat and to see how God makes it all come together."

Snyder previously served in community ministry positions with Birmingham Baptist Association and Peninsula Baptist Association in Virginia. She earned her education from Mars Hill University in North Carolina and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

She and her husband, Sam, have one daughter. (Michael J. Brooks)

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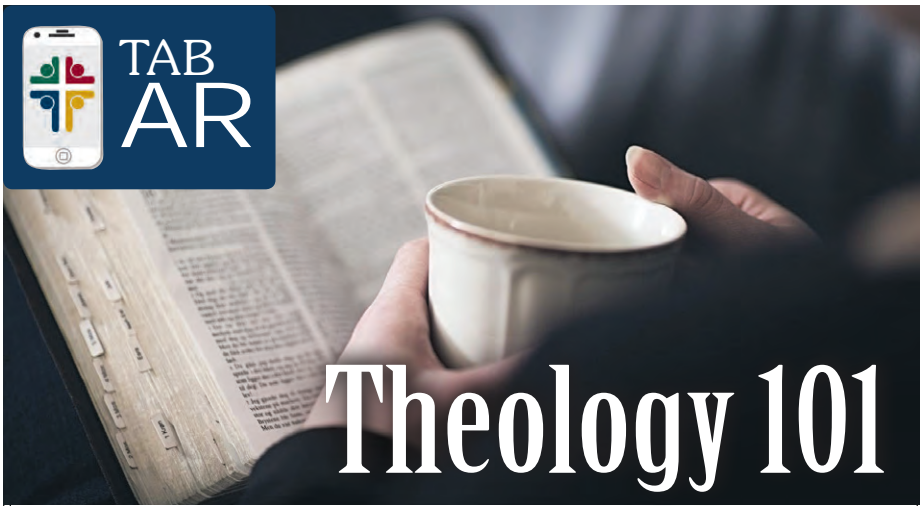
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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Knowing God

God Is Loving

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

If the predominant emphasis on God's nature in the Old Testament is upon His holiness, the balancing New Testament emphasis is upon His love. If His holiness emphasizes His "otherness" or distinction from us, God's love points to His intimate involvement with us. "Love" is another of the one-word descriptive terms applied to God. Already in previous weeks we have noted that God is Spirit and that He is holy. This week we add another single word to describe God: "love" (1 John 4:8, 16).

God's love is, of course, not absent in the Old Testament. We can best account for His creation of us humans by attributing it to His unmotivated love. Love in its purest expression seeks an object upon which to bestow itself. Our best response to the question as to why God created us in His own image and likeness is that He is love. God made us in order to love us and to have us freely love Him in return.

While God often impressed on Israel His holy nature, He did not withhold from them the truth of His love. For example after Moses broke the original stone tablets containing God's commands, God gave Israel replacement tablets. On that occasion God passed before Moses and gave him this reminder of His divine attributes, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands" (Ex. 34:6-7).

Perfect demonstration

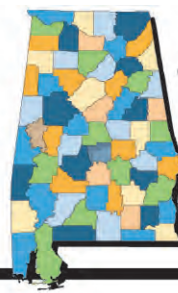
While the Old Testament contains numerous intimations of God's loving nature, the most perfect declaration of His love came by way of a perfect demonstration of it. God sent His only Son as the ultimate expression of His love and then offered Him as the sacrifice for our sins. Whether we ponder the cradle or the cross, the message of God's love sounds forth with clarity and compulsion.

As a master Teacher, Jesus uniquely put truth at street level so ordinary people might grasp it. He did this often by use of parables. Perchance His best-known parable is the one about a loving Father, a parable we know by the traditional title, "The Prodigal Son." In many ways the father of the prodigal is the main character. The father in the parable mirrors the Father in heaven. The prodigal's father loved his son. Nothing that the son could do was able to turn off that love. God's love for us is steadfast love. Nothing any of us has ever done or could ever do can make God stop loving us. He does not indulge us but He will not cease loving us.

Divine love

God's love for us is our best pattern for knowing how to love others. Divine love is the purest of all loves. What we humans sometimes call love is more akin to lust. It puts us at the center, from which position we seek to grasp to ourselves and for ourselves. Love that deserves to be called such is not grasping but giving. This truth lies at the core of one of the best loved and most quoted New Testament verses, "For God so loved the world that He gave ..." (John 3:16). God's example reminds us that love is more than an emotion to be felt or sentiment to be verbalized, although love surely ought to include both feelings and words. Love is supremely something that we do, demonstrating itself in deeds that take the focus off of us and puts it on others as objects being loved. ✠

Jerry Batson is a retired Alabama Baptist pastor who also has served as associate dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University and professor of several schools of religion during his career.



Across ALABAMA'S Associations

BESSEMER

► **Buddy Majors** is the new interim pastor of **First Church, McCalla**. He previously served as interim music minister for First, McCalla. He also served at Clayridge Church (now The Cross Church), Clay; Grace Life Church, Muscle Shoals, and West Highland Church, Bessemer. Majors holds a bachelor's degree from Samford University in Birmingham and a master's degree from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Mary Ruth, have two children and four grandchildren.



MAJORS

COFFEE

► **New Hope Church, Brundidge**, will host gospel singing group 11th Hour in concert March 25, 7 p.m. A love offering will be received. For more information call Judy Atkinson at 334-894-5892. Lanny Shepard is pastor.

MOBILE

► **Dauphin Way Church, Mobile**, and the University of Mobile Performing Arts Series will present the concert "Saviour: The Story of God's Passion for His People" on March 19-20. Performances are at 7 p.m. March 19 and 4 p.m. March 20. For more information call 251-442-2383. Blake Newsom is pastor.

ETOWAH

► The sanctuary choir of **Immanuel Church, Hokes Bluff**, will present the Easter musical "Champion of Love" arranged by Russell Mauldin on March 27,

10 a.m. The musical features a blend of classic songs of the Easter season and worship songs by Chris Tomlin, Michael W. Smith and Phil Cross. Everyone is invited to attend. Anthony Copeland is pastor.

SARDIS

► **Mount Carmel Church, Coffee Springs**, will hold an Easter sunrise service and cantata March 27. The sunrise service will be at 6:15 a.m. and the cantata will be at 11 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. James Preachers is pastor.

TALLAPOOSA

► **Steve King** is the new pastor of **First Church, Alexander City**. He previously served as pastor of Ozark Church. He also served at Mount Hebron West Church, Elmore. King holds a bachelor's degree from Jacksonville State University, a master's degree from New Orleans Seminary and a doctoral degree from Luther Rice Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia. He and his wife, Donna, have two children.



KING

TUSCALOOSA

► **Unity Church, Tuscaloosa**, will hold an Easter sunrise service March 27, 6:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend. Joseph Morrison is pastor. ✠





Church Report for 2015

BAPTISMS, COOPERATIVE PROGRAM RECEIPTS FOR CHURCHES

The following report reflects the Cooperative Program (CP) receipts, designated offerings and baptisms for Alabama's more than 3,200 Baptist churches during 2015.

Churches are listed alphabetically according to association. This report is based on statistics compiled by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM). Baptism totals are from the Annual Church Profile for the 2014-15 Association Year.

Blank spaces in the baptism column indicate that a church did not provide a total. CP and designated offering totals are from the SBOM accounting office, January-December 2015.

The SBOM reported total receipts for 2015 — including CP gifts and designated offerings — at more than \$62 million. CP gifts accounted for more than \$38 million of that total.

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

(SBOM)

Alabama Crenshaw	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Bethel	0	\$1,144.00	\$0.00
Bradleyton	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,061.00
Brantley	2	\$6,472.50	\$6,005.50
Calvary	0	\$60.00	\$0.00
Chapel Hill	10	\$1,709.17	\$5,761.06
Danielville	3	\$1,079.75	\$7,775.92
Dozier	3	\$540.00	\$2,073.73
Friendship	1	\$1,684.54	\$531.00
Glenwood	1	\$1,600.00	\$1,000.00
Highland Home	6	\$250.00	\$0.00
Joaquin	8	\$2,200.00	\$3,110.00
Luverne First	1	\$9,000.00	\$4,435.00
Magnolia	0	\$247.50	\$548.01
Mt Zion	5	\$13,403.36	\$4,591.64
New Ebenezer	10	\$2,715.16	\$2,474.00
New Harmony	0	\$1,200.00	\$1,554.00
Oakdale	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Panola	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Patsburg	0	\$1,500.00	\$4,490.00
Pleasant Home	2	\$1,401.73	\$1,151.30
Rock Hill	2	\$1,668.30	\$1,668.26
Rutledge First	4	\$2,868.00	\$728.00
Siloam	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
South Luverne	11	\$43,838.09	\$5,668.25
Spring Hill South	0	\$7,727.00	\$1,125.00
Union	6	\$6,000.00	\$2,490.25
Weed	0	\$200.00	\$1,200.00
Alabama Crenshaw Totals	73	\$109,709.10	\$60,441.92

Bethel	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Bethel	0	\$1,144.00	\$0.00
Bradleyton	0	\$1,200.00	\$2,061.00
Brantley	2	\$6,472.50	\$6,005.50
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Rock Hill	2	\$1,668.30	\$1,668.26
Rutledge First	4	\$2,868.00	\$728.00
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South Luverne	11	\$43,838.09	\$5,668.25
Spring Hill South	0	\$7,727.00	\$1,125.00
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Weed	0	\$200.00	\$1,200.00
Alabama Crenshaw Totals	73	\$109,709.10	\$60,441.92

Birmingham	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Adamsville	0	\$1,100.00	\$1,805.00
Agape	5	\$27,359.50	\$21,724.72
Agape Cristiana	1	\$3,050.40	\$13,961.60
Agape Missionary	2	\$2,510.00	\$1,568.00
Argo	11	\$33,669.48	\$27,651.91
Berney Points	0	\$2,976.93	\$4,611.91
Birmingham First	4	\$9,559.05	\$13,904.78
Bluff Park	0	\$8,354.28	\$8,864.04
Brewster Road	0	\$4,742.63	\$4,633.56
Brewster Road Community	1	\$4,865.54	\$20,526.70
Brook Hills Deaf	15	\$42,856.94	\$20,082.27
Brookwood	12	\$4,865.54	\$12,087.27
Cahaba Heights	0	\$78,329.74	\$70,082.37
Celebration Church	0	\$250.00	\$3,675.00
Center Point First	13	\$13,992.00	\$17,264.50
Central	9	\$15,294.05	\$5,558.15
Central Missionary	0	\$6,980.00	\$4,181.13
Central Park	0	\$6,297.46	\$1,310.00
Chalkville First	2	\$835.91	\$421.00
Christ Fellowship	0	\$2,813.00	\$305.00
Christ First Community	5	\$6,200.00	\$1,109.52
Christ for the Nations	1	\$1,910.85	\$4,200.85
Christ Missionary	0	\$3,300.00	\$1,960.00
Clearview	8	\$705.23	\$4,748.51
Covenant Community Fellowship	0	\$2,091.19	\$1,339.96
Birmingham Totals	737	\$3,836,871.52	\$2,218,281.57

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Center Point First	13	\$13,992.00	\$17,264.50
Central	9	\$15,294.05	\$5,558.15
Central Missionary	0	\$6,980.00	\$4,181.13
Central Park	0	\$6,297.46	\$1,310.00
Chalkville First	2	\$835.91	\$421.00
Christ Fellowship	0	\$2,813.00	\$305.00
Christ First Community	5	\$6,200.00	\$1,109.52
Christ for the Nations	1	\$1,910.85	\$4,200.85
Christ Missionary	0	\$3,300.00	\$1,960.00
Clearview	8	\$705.23	\$4,748.51
Covenant Community Fellowship	0	\$2,091.19	\$1,339.96
Birmingham Totals	737	\$3,836,871.52	\$2,218,281.57

Blount	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Allgood	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Austin Creek	2	\$0.00	\$125.00
Bethlehem	0	\$0.00	\$850.00
Bethsada	0	\$0.00	\$262.05
Concord	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Corinth	0	\$0.00	\$150.00
Edgewood	2	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Fridays Crossing Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friendship #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Harmony	5	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hendrix	1	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
High Mound	6	\$0.00	\$1,550.00
Holly Springs	0	\$0.00	\$500.00
Hopewell	1	\$0.00	\$1,800.00
Jones Chapel	1	\$0.00	\$1,105.00
Liberty Hill	0	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Macedonia	1	\$3,133.00	\$648.00
Mountain Grove	4	\$0.00	\$655.75
Mt Carmel	1	\$0.00	\$1,875.00
Mt Hebron	0	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Mt Pleasant Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Nectar	0	\$0.00	\$800.00
New Bethel	2	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
New Emmaus	0	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
New Home #1	2	\$0.00	\$250.00
New Home Boaz	0	\$0.00	\$4,719.38
New Prospect	4	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Old Philadelphia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Oneonta Second	1	\$0.00	\$1,298.00
Pilgrim Rest	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Bluff	11	\$0.00	\$4,800.00
Pine Grove	6	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Pleasant Hill #1	0	\$0.00	\$200.00
Pleasant Valley	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant View	10	\$2,196.00	\$31,497.78
Robin Hill	0	\$0.00	\$4,000.00
Roswell Creek	0	\$0.00	\$600.00
Shady Grove #1	0	\$0.00	\$2,030.00
Shady Grove #2	0	\$0.00	\$2,117.00
Shiloh	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shoal Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tails Gap	6	\$0.00	\$2,200.00
Twenty Fifth Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$443.32
Union Grove #1	66	\$150.00	\$1,951.67
Valley Grove	0	\$0.00	\$4,258.26
Warrior Creek	4	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Warrior River	0	\$0.00	\$331.00
Welcome #1	0	\$0.00	\$603.57
Welcome #2	1	\$0.00	\$500.00
Blount Totals	160	\$5,479.00	\$88,920.78

2015 Church Receipts

These figures are unaudited and are subject to change.

Cooperative Program	\$38,454,304.07
Lottie Moon	\$10,598,808.99
International Mission Board	\$321,119.61
International Mission Board Designated	\$6,554.67
World Hunger	\$621,822.73
North American Mission Board	\$7,135.70
Annie Armstrong	\$5,754,399.69
Associational Missions	\$1,746,744.51
Ala. Children's Homes & Family Ministries	\$2,905,691.13
ALCAP	\$165,500.13
American Bible Society	\$1,077.69
State Causes	\$137,696.25
State Missions	\$55,060.90
Kathleen Mallory	\$530,339.94
SBC Causes	\$264,434.78
Disaster Relief	\$212,230.19
All Other Designated	\$861,269.23
Total Receipts for 2015	\$62,644,190.21

Birmingham	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Uriah First	0	\$7,132.05	\$14,586.14
Bethlehem Totals	54	\$290,771.01	\$82,081.62

Birmingham	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Crestway	0	\$10,023.51	\$0.00
Dawson	59	\$501,408.58	\$196,937.30
Deerfoot	0	\$34,693.72	\$27,969.95
Del Rio	0	\$550.00	\$600.00
Destiny Covenant	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Docena	0	\$60.00	\$60.00
East Gardendale	5	\$21,880.00	\$10,656.85
East Lake	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eastside	2	\$23,837.63	\$8,690.25
Fairview	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
(d) Faith 280	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fellowship	0	\$542.00	\$446.10
Forestdale	0	\$750.00	\$1,438.00
Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fullness Christian	0	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Fulton Dale First	17	\$25,897.70	\$5,244.00
Good News	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grace Community	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Grantswood	0	\$2,940.60	\$2,451.68
Greater Grace Missionary	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Green Valley	0	\$93,329.00	\$89,197.55
Hilldale	6	\$37,042.00	\$8,820.00
Hillview	1	\$8,154.93	\$2,172.05
Hoover First	2	\$20,212.45	\$12,573.00
Huffman	8	\$38,014.73	\$57,132.88
Hughes Memorial	1	\$4,342.45	\$2,808.00
Hunter Street	74	\$403,920.00	\$252,058.60
Integrity Church	0	\$650.00	\$1,275.00
Irondale First	7	\$14,149.60	\$3,650.00
Katherwood	0	\$164.86	\$2,816.62
Lake Highland	1	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Lakeside	12	\$225,731.25	\$157,070.83
Lakewood	0	\$4,616.30	\$7,822.76
Leeds First	17	\$59,517.12	\$38,598.80
Liberty Park	5	\$139,679.74	\$44,406.28
McElwain	4	\$2,585.46	\$20,723.24
Mountain Brook	18	\$20,000.00	\$4,540.00



Church Report for 2015

Heritage	4	\$16,022.07	\$13,034.50	Beulah	2	\$1,580.90	\$1,053.94
Hodgesville	4	\$2,734.59	\$8,202.21	Blue Springs	6	\$3,063.00	\$600.00
Kinsey	1	\$18,000.00	\$12,429.00	Brooks	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
Liberty	5	\$6,934.51	\$2,034.30	Buck Creek	12	\$11,661.00	\$985.00
Madrid	0	\$15,203.65	\$5,496.12	Carolina	9	\$17,474.73	\$78,660.00
Malvern	7	\$26,398.28	\$4,913.45	Cedar Grove	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Memphis	17	\$171,936.59	\$27,275.00	Conecuh River	0	\$0.00	\$250.00
Mt Ararat	5	\$0.00	\$978.00	Damascus	1	\$1,714.37	\$1,369.50
Mt Enon	4	\$3,900.00	\$4,317.49	East Highland	0	\$2,402.26	\$420.00
Mt Gilead	12	\$115,925.70	\$26,424.00	Enon	1	\$356.25	\$1,668.75
Mt Pleasant	0	\$6,349.00	\$7,014.00	Fairmount	2	\$11,002.21	\$6,814.50
New Providence	0	\$1,631.84	\$2,431.50	Florida First	15	\$23,069.25	\$4,784.00
Old Webb Road	0	\$3,335.66	\$1,064.00	Gantt First	1	\$18,190.92	\$12,045.48
Pathway	0	\$11,440.13	\$6,041.00	Harmony	12	\$20,740.14	\$11,191.40
Pilgrim Home	7	\$30,796.70	\$6,167.19	Hopewell	7	\$20,943.60	\$13,673.79
Pilgrim's Rest West	2	\$5,724.92	\$2,725.00	Judson	2	\$3,973.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Grove	3	\$0.00	\$269.00	Liberty Home	4	\$1,729.48	\$2,829.48
Pleasant Hill	2	\$6,490.92	\$4,161.95	Lockhart	10	\$5,653.26	\$6,685.60
Pleasant Plains	0	\$12,279.85	\$5,163.00	Mill Creek	8	\$2,452.33	\$3,116.29
Poplar Springs	0	\$1,786.00	\$560.00	Mobley Creek	0	\$3,727.00	\$13,490.00
Rainbow Meadows	7	\$4,973.65	\$51.22	Mt Gilead	4	\$8,177.81	\$4,906.68
Rehoboth	4	\$47,753.74	\$30,751.99	Mt Pisgah	0	\$2,257.33	\$1,861.93
Ridgecrest	72	\$179,609.87	\$119,834.50	New Hope	1	\$1,552.97	\$400.00
Selma	16	\$7,200.00	\$6,764.60	New Song Community	9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Smyrna	1	\$4,064.68	\$1,980.00	Northern Heights	2	\$0.00	\$2,490.51
Southside	11	\$62,592.01	\$47,728.38	Northside	1	\$2,162.99	\$1,743.36
St James	17	\$2,644.10	\$0.00	Oak Grove	2	\$1,915.00	\$500.00
Taylor Baptist	0	\$931.00	\$491.55	Oakey Ridge	4	\$4,794.81	\$6,459.68
Union Hill	11	\$5,980.84	\$2,733.68	Opp First	4	\$52,408.32	\$55,125.73
Watermark	53	\$4,000.08	\$6,613.20	Philadelphia	0	\$300.00	\$0.00
Wayside	0	\$7,261.58	\$6,415.87	Pigeon Creek	8	\$1,183.40	\$100.00
Webb	1	\$7,534.84	\$4,978.53	Pleasant Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Columbia Totals	372	\$1,507,182.54	\$721,689.17	Pleasant Home	7	\$10,295.34	\$7,942.67
				Rawls	4	\$2,938.07	\$9,095.43
				Red Oak	8	\$8,081.00	\$3,200.00
				River Falls	2	\$3,930.00	\$5,810.00
				Salem	2	\$520.24	\$2,129.20
				Sanford First	0	\$245.00	\$54.00
				Southside Andalusia	1	\$35,634.43	\$8,828.94
				Southside Opp	5	\$38,139.13	\$16,200.70
				Sweet Home	1	\$2,007.86	\$400.00
				Sweet Water	3	\$2,443.34	\$9,311.98
				Victory	0	\$100.00	\$100.00
				West County Line	0	\$1,836.50	\$3,737.26
				West Highland	3	\$3,671.00	\$5,585.00
				Westside	0	\$667.12	\$1,653.00
				Westview	27	\$40,045.08	\$26,339.00
				Zion Hill	7	\$4,224.44	\$4,838.11
				Covington Totals	242	\$546,322.03	\$458,101.46
				Dale			
				Ariton	17	\$12,485.60	\$7,790.90
				Bethel	10	\$9,134.80	\$4,144.05
				Camp Ground	6	\$20,487.63	\$5,208.31
				Cedar Grove	0	\$6,194.95	\$2,812.00
				Center Ridge	1	\$4,340.09	\$9,113.07
				Chalkhead	6	\$12,591.06	\$11,734.72
				Daleville	3	\$11,786.20	\$11,084.67
				Ebenezer	3	\$1,822.84	\$186.42
				Elam	1	\$1,897.81	\$813.35
				Haven of Grace Fellowship	69	\$6,926.88	\$0.00
				Hillcrest	2	\$5,152.35	\$1,100.00
				Holmes	14	\$2,455.00	\$0.00
				Level Plains First	15	\$28,891.96	\$13,660.00
				Logan Road	4	\$5,628.04	\$2,872.50
				Midland City	0	\$3,334.00	\$1,800.00
				Midway	0	\$3,600.00	\$5,780.00
				Morgan	1	\$2,400.00	\$2,100.00
				Mt Enon	3	\$3,280.00	\$3,675.00
				Mt Pisgah	1	\$2,715.95	\$2,240.36
				Mt Zion	5	\$4,991.16	\$3,300.00
				New Hope	2	\$5,130.00	\$5,134.00
				Newton Baptist Church	4	\$4,944.00	\$6,695.52
				Ozark	16	\$57,138.96	\$18,811.85
				Peniel	0	\$2,450.00	\$5,689.30
				Pinckard	7	\$19,793.02	\$25,328.56
				Pleasant Grove	1	\$48,348.19	\$36,280.63
				Pleasant Ridge	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Post Oak	1	\$3,016.28	\$1,635.00
				Providence	4	\$12,720.56	\$6,616.87
				Ridgecrest	7	\$18,939.80	\$2,149.00
				Rocky Head	7	\$7,803.71	\$7,728.74
				Rocky Mount	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Salem	8	\$1,165.98	\$1,973.00
				Southside	0	\$6,382.32	\$4,546.25
				Union Baptist Church	0	\$200.00	\$900.00
				Dale Totals	199	\$334,173.39	\$212,904.07
				DeKalb			
				Allen Memorial	4	\$2,392.00	\$9,050.00
				Antioch	11	\$25,363.03	\$5,616.60
				Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$645.00
				Beulah	2	\$2,086.21	\$2,415.00
				Broadway	9	\$61,180.05	\$30,058.36
				Chavies	0	\$4,691.20	\$4,073.50
				Collinsville	0	\$2,725.00	\$6,286.00
				Corinth	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Crossville First	2	\$19,564.72	\$3,501.51
				Fellowship	2	\$2,117.20	\$0.00
				Flat Rock	0	\$0.00	\$787.20
				Fort Payne First	7	\$92,556.33	\$48,121.32
				Friendship	4	\$0.00	\$820.00
				Fyffe First	0	\$12,557.15	\$2,935.50
				Gault Avenue	0	\$0.00	\$3,348.46
				Geraldine First	4	\$18,622.70	\$14,678.46
				Grace Chapel	4	\$1,004.30	\$876.00
				Gravel Hill	2	\$4,132.01	\$2,209.76
				Guest	21	\$975.00	\$160.00
				Harvest Time	0	\$0.00	\$50.00
				Highland	0	\$1,253.00	\$200.00
				Hopewell	2	\$261.09	\$397.65
				Kelly's Chapel	3	\$3,022.00	\$4,179.60
				Kilpatrick	0	\$181.00	\$0.00
				Kilpatrick Hispanic	0	\$275.00	\$0.00
				Lathamville	0	\$0.00	\$3,395.37
				Lea's Chapel	2	\$3,902.80	\$520.00
				Liberty	6	\$6,000.00	\$1,616.00
				Liberty Hill	0	\$11,017.85	\$25,867.61
				Macedonia #1	3	\$6,529.60	\$2,925.00
				Macedonia #2	4	\$0.00	\$2,075.00
				Maranatha	1	\$3,014.56	\$1,498.00
				Mirvale	3	\$1,200.00	\$1,646.52
				Moon Lake	3	\$6,094.00	\$3,476.00
				Mt Carmel	6	\$2,903.93	\$3,699.21
				Mt Flat	2	\$2,960.00	\$792.00
				Mt Hermon	0	\$2,300.50	\$1,550.12
				Mt Olive	1	\$600.00	\$808.16
				Mt Pleasant	1	\$0.00	\$2,415.84
				Mt Tabor	1	\$289.45	\$800.00
				Mt View	7	\$4,063.07	\$773.82
				Mt Zion	0	\$500.00	\$1,887.00
				Nazareth	12	\$41,929.49	\$28,993.31
				New Canaan	1	\$0.00	\$2,366.00
				New Genesis	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				New Harmony	16	\$3,771.00	\$5,539.00
				New Home	0	\$0.00	\$300.00
				New Hope	3	\$0.00	\$0.00
				New Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00

Northside	2	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	Cornerstone	0	\$300.00	\$1,080.00
Oak Grove	5	\$4,713.73	\$3,387.00	County Line	1	\$1,356.84	\$2,181.84
Pilgrim Rest	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cusseta	0	\$5,495.49	\$4,030.65
Pine Ridge	8	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fairfax First	4	\$12,719.30	\$2,385.00
Pleasant Hill	2	\$3,494.58	\$4,395.93	Fairview	3	\$20,498.00	\$7,481.04
Portersville	4	\$827.00	\$150.00	Five Points	0	\$94.00	\$925.00
Primera Iglesia Bautista Hispana	9	\$1,425.40	\$1,124.00	Grace	0	\$3,534.00	\$1,216.70
Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Happy Valley	5	\$1,300.00	\$100.00
Providence	0	\$0.00	\$252.56	Huguley	0	\$930.00	\$847.00
Rainsville First	18	\$7,917.21	\$16,914.15	Jackson Memorial	0	\$55.45	\$50.00
Ruhama	13	\$3,150.00	\$6,276.00	Johnson Chapel	5	\$2,657.33	\$3,259.62
Second	2	\$31,397.99	\$9,161.00	Lafayette First	1	\$24,614.86	\$8,524.11
Skirum	1	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	Lafayette Heights	3	\$18,785.16	\$4,887.05
Tenbroeck	0	\$3,331.03	\$600.00	LaNett First	6	\$19,389.92	\$10,037.50
Union Grove	17	\$12,745.92	\$3,504.34	Lanier	4	\$2,316.58	\$2,358.45
Union Hill	3	\$1,416.17	\$990.00	Midway	1	\$0.00	\$343.05
Valley Head	11	\$1,800.00	\$2,554.36	Milltown	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vernon	1	\$2,100.00	\$510.00	Mt Zion	0	\$1,576.00	\$5,481.00
Wills Valley Community Church	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope			

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Pisgah	1	\$970.00	\$220.00	Bethlehem	15	\$29,027.02	\$12,940.00	Haven	2	\$21,171.53	\$6,406.54	Antioch	8	\$0.00	\$1,814.05	Trading Post	0	\$186.60	\$0.00
Pleasant Grove	2	\$3,693.00	\$350.00	Calvary	19	\$17,984.78	\$9,327.37	Hayes Chapel	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Antioch at Martling	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Union Grove #1	23	\$1,650.00	\$3,842.39
Pleasant Hill	0	\$3,419.69	\$2,735.75	Camp Springs	3	\$3,007.50	\$5,244.15	Hazel Green First	22	\$21,123.94	\$24,924.97	Arab First	15	\$88,444.87	\$59,081.16	Union Grove #2	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rehoboth	0	\$11,990.91	\$8,313.00	Concord	0	\$3,156.39	\$6,295.33	Highlands	0	\$2,600.00	\$10,800.00	Bakers Chapel	1	\$5,456.71	\$2,488.00	Union Grove First	8	\$11,598.29	\$8,435.97
Salem	0	\$800.00	\$3,633.00	Fellowship	1	\$8,000.00	\$7,000.00	Hillwood	4	\$57,118.29	\$734.00	Beech Spring	1	\$528.49	\$151.80	Valley View	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sand Springs	0	\$4,031.32	\$4,500.00	Haleburg	7	\$15,099.31	\$7,810.00	House of Hope and Restoration	7	\$800.00	\$300.00	Bel Air	2	\$1,225.00	\$661.00	Victory Cornerstone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shady Grove	3	\$500.00	\$5,000.00	Headland First	4	\$91,603.73	\$33,311.29	Huntsville First	3	\$96,232.37	\$189,730.94	Bethany	13	\$17,666.64	\$25,926.40	Victory Hill	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shepherd	0	\$2,696.71	\$337.00	Hebron	3	\$2,500.00	\$13,650.45	Huntsville Park	1	\$300.00	\$1,094.00	Bethlehem	34	\$34,112.78	\$2,500.00	Victory Missionary	37	\$0.00	\$1,600.00
Southside	13	\$60,750.00	\$20,483.42	Judson	0	\$10,976.00	\$7,864.50	Huntsville Korean	9	\$28,208.08	\$6,424.00	Bethsaida	0	\$9,016.54	\$11,178.40	Warrenton	0	\$2,046.72	\$1,311.68
Spring Hill	1	\$100.00	\$300.00	Newville	2	\$1,358.62	\$901.50	Hurricane Grove	7	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Beulah	17	\$17,027.80	\$14,185.40	Westside Arab	0	\$0.00	\$250.00
Unity	0	\$8,079.48	\$1,244.66	Oakey Grove	1	\$1,756.74	\$3,715.00	Jackson Way	17	\$38,116.07	\$27,422.13	Boaz First	23	\$112,842.40	\$84,069.38	Westside Boaz	11	\$2,696.84	\$3,488.20
Fayette Totals	62	\$184,720.03	\$103,906.72	Old Zion	2	\$1,500.00	\$9,257.00	Korean First	0	\$1,000.00	\$1,130.00	Brindlee Mountain	8	\$8,014.80	\$3,499.25	White Oak	1	\$501.71	\$1,000.00
				Pleasant Grove	6	\$12,225.00	\$8,150.62	Lakewood	23	\$4,501.00	\$7,023.95	Butler	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Marshall Totals	728	\$857,074.06	\$606,093.07
				Sardis	9	\$9,379.45	\$9,442.08	Liberty	0	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	Caill Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00				
				Shorterville	0	\$5,515.84	\$8,435.00	Life's Journey	0	\$2,952.57	\$0.00	Carlisle	0	\$6,000.00	\$4,400.00				
				Tolbert	0	\$776.82	\$2,167.87	Lighthouse	11	\$6,999.96	\$1,520.70	Central	2	\$9,062.42	\$6,876.84	Mobile	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
				Trinity	7	\$8,718.00	\$9,364.00	Locust Grove	10	\$3,692.61	\$6,156.84	Chapel Hill	1	\$5,256.39	\$100.00	3Circle Midtown	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Union Springs	1	\$13,955.67	\$5,235.31	Mable Hill	34	\$600.00	\$0.00	Clear Springs	0	\$1,076.78	\$2,461.48	3Circle Semmes	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
				Judson Totals	95	\$280,557.93	\$196,816.38	Madison First	0	\$16,800.00	\$19,307.00	Connect Church	9	\$9,640.73	\$110.00	Airport Blvd.	1	\$20,246.91	\$12,455.45
								Madison Korean	0	\$390.00	\$200.00	Cornerstone	11	\$4,644.42	\$6,245.94	Anchor of Hope Community	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
								Meadow Drive	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cowboy Church	0	\$758.30	\$0.00	Axis First	0	\$4,331.22	\$1,834.83
								Meridianville First	17	\$66,036.30	\$12,898.51	Creek Path	6	\$13,016.04	\$13,846.88	Azalea	5	\$5,947.15	\$5,015.49
								Monte Sano	7	\$381.00	\$4,846.00	Douglas	10	\$700.00	\$980.15	Bayou LaBatre First	1	\$18,967.61	\$23,100.95
								Morningside	3	\$0.00	\$4,867.25	Eagle Rock Ministries	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bayou Sara	12	\$38,660.38	\$28,938.60
								Mount Olive	6	\$4,461.18	\$3,910.44	East Alberville	9	\$0.00	\$0.00	Berean	2	\$20.00	\$10.00
								Mount Zion	58	\$364,019.87	\$266,407.83	East Lake	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethel	13	\$14,249.26	\$10,613.09
								Mountain View	0	\$1,270.00	\$0.00	Eastside	0	\$723.28	\$0.00	Big Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
								Murphy Hill	4	\$1,488.67	\$237.50	Fairview	14	\$0.00	\$0.00	Boe Road	0	\$0.00	\$460.00
								Neeley's Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Rock	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cambodian Mission	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
								New Birth Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Free Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cedar Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
								New Hope First	0	\$13,750.00	\$2,862.00	Gethsemane	5	\$0.00	\$500.00	Celeste Road	0	\$1,218.00	\$4,629.70
								New Market	5	\$9,354.14	\$6,180.00	Gilliam Springs	14	\$95,870.96	\$120,941.25	Gilicasaw First	8	\$1,000.00	\$3,078.00
								New Salem	8	\$0.00	\$7,964.00	Grace	15	\$200.00	\$1,187.00	Churchula	0	\$400.00	\$816.00
								Northside	0	\$426.11	\$240.00	Grace Fellowship	0	\$2,764.26	\$185.00	Citronelle First	4	\$10,313.54	\$6,564.82
								Oak Park	0	\$19,443.00	\$6,255.00	Grant First	18	\$5,500.00	\$2,900.00	Citronelle Memorial	5	\$9,198.52	\$6,593.03
								Oakley	3	\$2,693.00	\$8,724.00	Guntersville First	19	\$29,491.11	\$20,653.63	Cloverdale	6	\$7,480.80	\$6,686.49
								Owens Cross Roads	6	\$400.00	\$6,369.65	Haney's Chapel	0	\$2,959.66	\$1,885.00	College Park	3	\$13,025.31	\$13,064.74
								Pineview	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Happy Hill	1	\$1,628.61	\$2,559.28	Cottage Hill	207	\$16,500.00	\$26,476.48
								Pleasant Springs	3	\$11,735.00	\$13,395.05	Happy Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Crawford	5	\$47,993.71	\$38,675.48
								Rivertree Church	28	\$5,000.00	\$300.00	Hebron	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Creola First	5	\$19,901.03	\$5,947.71
								Sherwood	15	\$27,814.00	\$7,275.00	High Point	0	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Cross Point	0	\$3,466.88	\$4,026.24
								Shippis	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hillcrest	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Crosspoint Church of Mobile	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
								Simple Church	11	\$11,203.64	\$770.00	Honeycomb	1	\$1,482.56	\$495.00	Cypress Shores	3	\$3,996.00	\$7,390.00
								Southside	5	\$122,022.90	\$33,427.83	Hustleville	1	\$0.00	\$654.00	Dauphin Island	0	\$10,359.20	\$9,085.51
								Sweetwater Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Liberty Hill	0	\$641.62	\$1,200.00	Dauphin Island	14	\$27,500.00	\$49,074.00
								The Brook	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	LifePoint Brindlee Mountain	4	\$550.00	\$0.00	Dawes First	21	\$20,929.56	\$20,603.96
								The Fellowship of Faith	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	LifePoint Church	177	\$150.00	\$0.00	Dawson	51	\$11,000.00	\$22,100.00
								Trinity	0	\$3,192.61	\$5,586.00	Messiah Baptist Haitian	1	\$80.00	\$0.00	Ebenezer	22	\$0.00	\$2,100.00
								Union Grove	1	\$9,615.00	\$1,306.30	Mountain View	2	\$5,145.00	\$500.00	Emmanuel	3	\$10,227.97	\$4,062.78
								University	1	\$53,208.91	\$25,994.39	Mt Calvary	7	\$6,827.48	\$6,548.88	Faith Baptist of Wilmer	0	\$240.20	\$0.00

Franklin	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts																
Bear Creek No. One	0	\$2,465.78	\$1,651.00	Shorterville	0	\$5,515.84	\$8,435.00	Life's Journey	0	\$2,952.57	\$0.00	Carlisle	0	\$6,000.00	\$4,400.00	3Circle Midtown	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belgreen	0	\$1,631.21	\$1,033.04	Tolbert	0	\$776.82	\$2,167.87	Lighthouse	11	\$6,999.96	\$1,520.70	Central	2	\$9,062.42	\$6,876.84	3Circle Semmes	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel	1	\$2,429.53	\$626.41	Trinity	7	\$8,718.00	\$9,364.00	Locust Grove	10	\$3,692.61	\$6,156.84	Chapel Hill	1	\$5,256.39	\$100.00	Airport Blvd.	1	\$20,246.91	\$12,455.45
Branches Church	1	\$1,901.09	\$666.25	Union Springs	1	\$13,955.67	\$5,235.31	Mable Hill	34	\$600.00	\$0.00	Clear Springs	0	\$1,076.78	\$2,461.48	Anchor of Hope Community	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Calvary	18	\$70,518.96	\$4,860.00	Judson Totals	95	\$280,557.93	\$196,816.38	Madison First	0	\$16,800.00	\$19,307.00	Connect Church	9	\$9,640.73	\$110.00	Axis First	0	\$4,331.22	\$1,834.83
Cherry Hill	0	\$2,750.00	\$1,981.00					Madison Korean	0	\$390.00	\$200.00	Cornerstone	11	\$4,644.42	\$6,245.94	Azalea	5	\$5,947.15	\$5,015.49
Cowboy Church of Franklin Co.	7	\$4,616.69	\$3,845.70					Meadow Drive	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cowboy Church	0	\$758.30	\$0.00	Bayou LaBatre First	1	\$18,967.61	\$23,100.95
Crooked Oak	0	\$2,807.22	\$100.00					Meridianville First	17	\$66,036.30	\$12,898.51	Creek Path	6	\$13,016.04	\$13,846.88	Bayou Sara	12	\$38,660.38	\$28,938.60
Divine	8	\$1,920.00	\$0.00					Monte Sano	7	\$381.00	\$4,846.00	Douglas	10	\$700.00	\$980.15	Berean	2	\$20.00	\$10.00
Duncan Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00					Morningside	3	\$0.00	\$4,867.25	Eagle Rock Ministries	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethel	13	\$14,249.26	\$10,613.09
Ebenezer	0	\$574.73	\$4,317.24					Mount Olive	6	\$4,461.18	\$3,910.44	East Alberville	9	\$0.00	\$0.00	Big Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gravel Hill Missionary	3	\$5,091.57	\$1,400.00					Mount Zion	58	\$364,019.87	\$266,407.83	East Lake	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Boe Road	0	\$0.00	\$460.00
Hodges Convention	0	\$868.68	\$595.70					Mountain View	0	\$1,270.00	\$0.00	Eastside	0	\$723.28	\$0.00	Cambodian Mission	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Iglesia Bautista Nueva Vida	11	\$0.00	\$0.00					Murphy Hill	4	\$1,488.67	\$237.50	Fairview	14	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cedar Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jonesboro	0	\$894.67	\$1,535.55					Neeley's Chapel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Faith Rock	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Celeste Road	0	\$1,218.00	\$4,629.70
Macedonia	0	\$9,873.64	\$1,140.00					New Birth Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Free Home	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cypress Shores	3	\$3,996.00	\$7,390.00
Mountain View	9	\$10,083.26	\$3,179.00					New Hope First	0	\$13,750.00	\$2,862.00	Gethsemane	5	\$0.00	\$500.00	Dauphin Island	0	\$10,359.20	\$9,085.51
Mt Hebron	2	\$20,433.00	\$5,950.57					New Market	5	\$9,354.14	\$6,180.00	Gilliam Springs	14	\$95,870.96	\$120,941.25	Dauphin Island	14	\$27,500.00	\$49,074.00
Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00					New Salem	8	\$0.00	\$7,964.00	Grace	15	\$200.00	\$1,187.00	Dawes First	21	\$20,929.56	\$20,603.96
New Friendship	7	\$240.00	\$240.00					Northside	0	\$426.11	\$240.00	Grace Fellowship	0	\$2,764.26	\$185.00	Dawson	51	\$11,000.00	\$22,100.00
New Harmony	6	\$70.00	\$0.00					Oak Park	0	\$19,443.00	\$6,255.00	Grant First	18	\$					



Church Report for 2015

Church	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts				
Cloverdale	0	\$3,200.00	\$505.00	Mud Creek	0	\$165.00	\$3,135.00	McWilliams	0	\$447.40	\$274.44	Bethlehem	0	\$1,510.58	\$796.91	Community	27	\$55,723.88	\$0.00
Dalraida	13	\$47,052.36	\$25,418.00	New Providence	0	\$3,263.85	\$4,938.56	New Providence	0	\$0.00	\$81.20	Calvary	1	\$1,080.00	\$1,003.00	Concord	6	\$15,854.00	\$1,959.00
Eastdale	0	\$6,000.00	\$2,496.30	Oak Grove First	0	\$8,264.68	\$10,687.40	Riverview	0	\$11,576.00	\$6,148.00	Corinth	4	\$7,839.93	\$6,498.99	Crossbridge	1	\$18,718.17	\$5,550.99
Eastern Hills	15	\$186,220.54	\$62,209.39	Oak Grove Missionary	5	\$1,657.16	\$761.00	Vredenburgh Baptist	0	\$2,526.88	\$983.00	Dutton	1	\$3,834.68	\$1,045.00	Crosscreek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Eastmont	44	\$412,085.97	\$47,500.94	Pine Ridge	9	\$2,222.16	\$3,399.00	Pine Barren Totals	10	\$68,900.98	\$60,850.98	East Brow	11	\$8,587.30	\$12,169.74	Crossroads	1	\$0.00	\$0.00
Engaged Christian Church	4	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Hill	0	\$2,121.16	\$866.21					Ebenezer	10	\$15,899.84	\$9,351.74	CrossWay	4	\$4,480.25	\$0.00
Faith and Grace	0	\$25.00	\$0.00	Quinton	7	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Grove	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Five Points	0	\$117.00	\$517.00	Dogwood	35	\$35,071.76	\$36,036.86
First Southern	4	\$916.45	\$1,292.64	Rock Creek	15	\$0.00	\$200.00	Abernath	3	\$3,000.00	\$350.00	Flat Rock First	4	\$3,017.00	\$1,111.44	Double Oak Community Church	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friendship	0	\$5,156.60	\$0.00	Smithville	8	\$4,476.00	\$9,903.00	Antioch	0	\$577.18	\$385.56	Dunnaway Faith	3	\$3,237.00	\$2,069.00	Friendship	0	\$0.00	\$1,100.00
Friendship Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Snowtown	2	\$2,210.00	\$3,787.00	Big Hurricane	0	\$2,311.83	\$0.00	Enon	5	\$791.15	\$710.00	Enon	12	\$9,419.16	\$7,529.49
Gateway	4	\$13,982.77	\$6,200.00	Sparks Gap	1	\$0.00	\$1,857.30	Davis Creek	5	\$1,413.33	\$2,458.14	Happy Home	7	\$2,000.00	\$5,083.91	Fountain	5	\$21,896.25	\$7,625.00
Hayneville	6	\$17,533.78	\$10,194.75	West Jefferson	5	\$10,867.00	\$4,540.00	East Brookwood	4	\$0.00	\$240.00	Henagar	9	\$24,166.23	\$46,288.14	Grace Montevallo	1	\$980.60	\$995.00
Heritage	11	\$67,677.62	\$18,451.65	Williamsburg	0	\$0.00	\$700.00	Enterprise	4	\$300.00	\$1,601.50	Hodge	6	\$5,330.47	\$10,396.43	Grande View	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland Avenue	3	\$0.00	\$6,839.00	Mud Creek Totals	77	\$56,835.70	\$78,450.47	Evergreen	27	\$49,231.93	\$16,985.25	Ider	6	\$21,946.93	\$11,058.00	Harpersville First	4	\$5,645.65	\$1,940.67
Highland Gardens	2	\$3,480.28	\$6,091.00					Friendship	2	\$554.37	\$520.00	Mt Zion	0	\$4,483.47	\$2,171.00	Helena First	5	\$650.00	\$1,290.00
Hunter Station	1	\$6,143.82	\$2,280.00	Muscle Shoals	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Hepzibah	18	\$5,000.04	\$7,307.76	New Bethel	3	\$1,491.03	\$0.00	Indian Springs First	0	\$9,836.41	\$6,244.25
Lakeview	0	\$3,320.00	\$5,470.00	Abbie	0	\$1,503.08	\$607.00	Lakeview	8	\$6,882.02	\$4,965.00	New Home	25	\$21,075.41	\$8,408.69	Klein	0	\$2,827.00	\$1,686.00
Lapine	0	\$4,809.95	\$2,017.98	Berea	1	\$3,220.64	\$9,400.00	Liberty	4	\$712.00	\$1,536.00	New Sardis	1	\$750.00	\$623.10	Liberty	27	\$218,470.56	\$78,705.79
Letchatchee	1	\$6,000.00	\$5,639.00	Bethany	11	\$1,991.97	\$1,026.42	Little Hurricane	3	\$0.00	\$232.00	Pisgah	9	\$5,668.01	\$9,781.68	Lighthouse Community	1	\$2,288.00	\$1,622.00
Lowndesboro	0	\$4,763.00	\$6,279.00	Calvary	2	\$6,900.87	\$2,098.26	Midway	0	\$1,244.42	\$1,257.45	Pleasant Hill	5	\$6,870.73	\$12,903.24	Macedonia North	1	\$9,986.00	\$3,505.00
McGehee Road	1	\$22,964.73	\$8,794.04	Chalybeate Springs	0	\$4,876.00	\$2,065.00	Mission Baptist	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant View	6	\$500.00	\$2,145.78	Macedonia South	9	\$823.26	\$732.92
Montgomery First	130	\$667,588.52	\$296,573.53	Courtland	10	\$12,015.57	\$11,910.59	Old Blue Creek	6	\$196.32	\$113.00	Poplar Springs	2	\$396.00	\$5,102.50	Mayberry	1	\$1,110.26	\$270.56
Morningview	7	\$7,796.12	\$20,469.91	Donald	1	\$7,522.00	\$2,405.45	Pleasant Grove	6	\$4,919.87	\$1,833.90	Rosalie	3	\$1,609.29	\$3,762.61	Meadow Brook	20	\$60,463.79	\$49,060.73
Mount Zion	3	\$3,708.58	\$6,208.58	Enon	10	\$39,207.00	\$5,892.00	Poplar Springs	0	\$0.00	\$400.00	Section	0	\$3,670.00	\$3,670.00	Montevallo First	0	\$19,451.00	\$7,622.00
Mountain Hill	0	\$11,759.75	\$17,985.34	Faith Midway	5	\$16,341.10	\$1,954.00	Prudes Creek	4	\$930.41	\$1,935.00	Spring Hill	0	\$727.00	\$500.00	Mountainview	0	\$800.00	\$200.00
Open Acres	4	\$250.00	\$1,050.00	Family	16	\$912.10	\$20.00	Reno	13	\$7,616.47	\$2,251.92	Stamp	5	\$7,765.00	\$3,900.00	Mt Signal	0	\$3,507.06	\$2,412.12
Pike Road	2	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	Fish Pond	4	\$1,307.35	\$1,441.00	Pleasant Grove Totals	107	\$86,890.19	\$44,374.48	Sylvania	7	\$4,850.00	\$6,716.85	Mt Zion	3	\$0.00	\$400.53
Pine Level	0	\$1,155.06	\$607.00	Flower Hill	0	\$220.00	\$400.00					Union Grove	0	\$1,295.19	\$0.00	North Shelby	23	\$116,590.08	\$86,954.46
Pinedale	0	\$11,334.62	\$5,792.21	Friendship	0	\$3,229.26	\$2,499.73	Randolph	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Unity	0	\$300.00	\$475.95	North Shelby Vietnamese	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pintala	10	\$7,607.77	\$19,384.05	Gum Springs	0	\$0.00	\$500.00	Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$300.00	Sand Mountain Totals	133	\$164,672.24	\$170,420.40	Northside	3	\$13,894.11	\$14,268.29
Ridgecrest	8	\$49,895.23	\$10,601.20	Harmony	5	\$11,006.45	\$1,055.00	Bethel East	0	\$0.00	\$550.00	Oak Grove	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oak Mountain	1	\$4,888.56	\$11,889.93
River Bend	2	\$100.00	\$500.00	Hillsboro	5	\$1,800.00	\$2,772.00	Big Springs	7	\$4,611.35	\$1,293.00	Palmetto	49	\$246,516.83	\$89,581.46	Pelham First	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sampey Memorial	7	\$4,000.00	\$8,000.00	Moulton	4	\$60,800.45	\$35,125.54	Calvary	0	\$0.00	\$2,139.40	Chapel Hill	3	\$3,871.30	\$220.36	Pleasant Grove	3	\$4,719.13	\$7,974.57
Snowdown	9	\$1,825.21	\$5,093.67	Mt Hope	6	\$6,000.00	\$6,889.99	Community Life	0	\$0.00	\$0.00					Pleasant Site	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Southlawn	4	\$1,300.00	\$1,589.50	Mt View	8	\$10,549.00	\$2,752.10	Corinth	0	\$0.00	\$0.00								
St. James	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Center	3	\$1,728.92	\$568.86	Fellowship	0	\$600.00	\$600.00								
Steep Creek	32	\$2,390.00	\$550.00	New Hope	2	\$6,552.00	\$16,405.80	Gold Ridge	0	\$825.00	\$2,935.00								
Strong Tower	0	\$150.00	\$0.00	New Zion	2	\$0.00	\$65.00	Herren's Grove	0	\$0.00	\$200.00								
Taylor Road	5	\$128,287.96	\$25,626.47	Okolona	4	\$5,596.20	\$2,818.05	High Pine	3	\$5,432.08	\$3,731.05								
The Church at Eastern Oaks	3	\$600.00	\$1,800.00	Old Town Creek	12	\$4,822.32	\$1,030.00	Levens	0	\$500.00	\$1,000.00								
The Church at Pike Road	1	\$7,289.77	\$200.00	Owen Chapel	10	\$3,535.91	\$1,200.00	Liberty East	0	\$0.00	\$0.00								
Thorington Road	7	\$39,833.50	\$7,228.26	Pleasant Grove	25	\$44,000.00	\$49,105.75	Macedonia	0	\$0.00	\$0.00								
Trinity Memorial	3	\$2,157.00	\$3,175.00	Providence	4	\$15,643.14	\$8,244.09	Malone	0	\$0.00	\$0.00								
Valley Park	2	\$203.68	\$1,459.05	Smyrna	4	\$0.00	\$994.00	Mt Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$200.00								
Vaughn Forest	73	\$120,182.76	\$34,264.40	Sulphur Springs	0	\$3,564.54	\$2,374.65	Paran	0	\$600.00	\$620.00								
(d) Venture	0	\$0.00	\$3,800.00	Town Creek First	8	\$0.00	\$2,313.00	Pleasant Grove	1	\$650.00	\$1,633.00								
Victory Baptist	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Valley Grove	4	\$5,952.10	\$2,202.24	Providence	0	\$0.00	\$1,633.00								
Westside	23	\$1,050.00	\$81.00	Wear	0	\$4,195.47	\$2,289.34	Roanoke First	4	\$1,597.49	\$7,956.30								
WWJD Ministries	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Wheeler Grove	17	\$3,291.50	\$200.00	Rock Mills First	0	\$1,615.71	\$635.00								
Yarbrough Street	4	\$0.00	\$0.00	Muscle Shoals Totals	183	\$288,084.94	\$180,424.86	Rocky Branch	5	\$6,182.39	\$6,300.07								
Montgomery Totals	467	\$1,654,832.06	\$735,634.64					Shiloh	0	\$5,033.47	\$3,985.00								
Morgan	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	North Jefferson	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Antioch	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Friendship	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Prospect	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Agape	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Beechwood	3	\$27,793.85	\$4,190.02	Mt Carmel	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Providence	0	\$300.00	\$200.00
Austinville First	4	\$3,600.00	\$4,141.60	Black Creek	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Brookside First	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Nebo	3	\$1,672.00	\$5,254.00	Riverchase	0	\$0.00	\$11,145.50
Bell Springs	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Brookside First	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Calcedonia	2	\$4,455.10	\$1,269.85	Mt View	8	\$9,740.00	\$11,636.86	Riverside	8	\$10,584.82	\$8,508.87
Bethlehem	1	\$17,658.32	\$7,272.93	Calcedonia	2	\$4,455.10	\$1,269.85	Cardiff	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Zion	2	\$2,400.00	\$5,017.78	Ryan Baptist Church	2	\$354.23	\$255.00
Blue Springs	1	\$4,020.00	\$3,572.00	Castle Heights	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cardiff	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Forest Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Shelby First	17	\$11,948.00	\$16,896.00
Cave Spring	0	\$11,250.00	\$6,594.40	Cedar Mount	1	\$1,209.39	\$880.93	Castle Heights	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Gum Springs	0	\$1,200.00	\$970.00	Shiloh	9	\$19,589.92	\$4,501.37
Cedar Ridge	0	\$10,726.00	\$1,918.00	Cedar Mount	1	\$1,209.39	\$880.93	Central Gardendale	0	\$2,200.00	\$617.20	Highland	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	South Shelby	0	\$0.00	\$9,900.00
Central	0	\$117,460																	

Church Report for 2015

Church Name	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Church Name	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Church Name	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Church Name	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Corinth	0	\$718.22	\$1,338.69	Calvary	10	\$53,979.60	\$427.00	High Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bellview Heights	5	\$0.00	\$123.00
Cropwell	20	\$55,730.18	\$26,495.02	Calvary Stevenson	0	\$1,153.96	\$1,153.94	Journey Church of Valley	4	\$450.00	\$0.00	Bethany	4	\$20,484.23	\$14,214.97
CrossPoint	17	\$18,999.96	\$261,078.38	Center Point	16	\$36,934.42	\$48,998.70	Lakeview	40	\$0.00	\$625,987.43	Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$2,400.00
Eden Westside	60	\$3,965.00	\$5,701.72	Central	1	\$3,382.69	\$294.10	Liberty	1	\$1,246.41	\$2,397.00	Bethlehem West	13	\$5,406.96	\$10,137.64
Evening Star	0	\$0.00	\$3,300.00	Edgefield	1	\$4,483.77	\$1,711.50	Loachapoka	0	\$0.00	\$537.00	Bethsada	2	\$4,147.00	\$0.00
Fairview #1	0	\$0.00	\$1,350.00	Emmanuel	0	\$312.62	\$0.00	New Life Auburn Korean	0	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	Bremen	0	\$0.00	\$423.45
Friendship	15	\$18,425.84	\$8,472.77	Fairfield	1	\$1,514.55	\$600.00	Northside	0	\$3,258.88	\$3,672.83	Brickyard	1	\$347.67	\$3,811.04
Greensport	1	\$12,987.06	\$6,743.90	Freedom	0	\$800.00	\$500.00	Notasuga First	4	\$9,022.90	\$6,192.56	Calvary	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Gum Springs	2	\$0.00	\$300.00	Friendship	0	\$300.00	\$550.00	Opelika First	57	\$472,673.37	\$144,845.95	Central	2	\$300.00	\$0.00
Happy Home	3	\$3,686.17	\$2,467.48	Halls Chapel	1	\$543.00	\$3,253.00	Parkway	20	\$96,316.38	\$43,263.35	City on a Hill	3	\$7,505.62	\$6,344.19
(d) Heritage	0	\$300.00	\$925.00	Harmony	1	\$2,042.72	\$2,842.70	Pepperell	0	\$8,883.42	\$4,939.81	Cold Springs	0	\$0.00	\$90.00
Lister Memorial	5	\$0.00	\$1,371.05	Helton Memorial	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Pleasant Grove	1	\$11,387.75	\$12,391.78	Corinth West	1	\$1,416.34	\$2,124.52
Macedonia #1	3	\$2,696.04	\$5,307.65	Hollywood	0	\$2,448.00	\$2,047.88	Pleasant Springs	0	\$2,398.38	\$2,120.00	Crosshaven	26	\$1,800.00	\$8,029.67
Macedonia #2	3	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hopewell	1	\$4,477.54	\$1,413.38	Providence	24	\$72,337.44	\$23,811.24	Cullman First	71	\$108,659.08	\$93,630.94
Markeeta	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Larkinsville	0	\$3,680.09	\$2,316.75	Purpose	0	\$5,012.00	\$0.00	Damascus	0	\$777.50	\$970.00
McEntyre	0	\$3,260.09	\$3,705.03	Matthew's Memorial	0	\$965.76	\$379.00	Reeltown First	6	\$10,467.34	\$5,793.67	East Battleground	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mineral Springs	0	\$1,778.73	\$1,139.87	Mt Ararat	0	\$100.00	\$500.00	Ridge Road	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Ebenezer	1	\$5,665.65	\$12,923.43
Moody First	24	\$53,469.58	\$28,163.73	Mt Carmel	1	\$1,149.66	\$10,363.15	River Road	3	\$600.00	\$1,500.00	Ereus	40	\$900.00	\$1,210.00
Mt Moriah	3	\$5,382.00	\$4,858.82	Mt Nebo	3	\$600.00	\$925.00	Rock of Ages	5	\$110.00	\$245.00	Fairview West	2	\$1,495.36	\$5,875.62
Mt Olive #1	11	\$800.00	\$1,200.00	Mt Pleasant	3	\$50.00	\$505.00	Rocky Mount	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Garden City	14	\$300.00	\$0.00
Mt Pisgah	15	\$22,466.24	\$9,695.55	New Covenant	4	\$600.00	\$0.00	Salem First	0	\$1,332.00	\$855.00	Good Hope	5	\$20,200.57	\$15,064.96
Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church	0	\$1,910.99	\$700.00	New Home	2	\$70.00	\$40.00	Salem Macon	3	\$3,617.34	\$1,355.20	Harmony	0	\$1,914.37	\$587.90
New Beginnings Fellowship	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	New Hope	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Society Hill	0	\$455.00	\$517.00	Jones Chapel	8	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope	15	\$40,075.19	\$5,225.16	New Life	4	\$1,489.59	\$1,106.19	(d) Tuskegee First	0	\$12,341.07	\$10,953.00	Kinney Grove	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Hope, Argo	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Oak Grove	0	\$100.00	\$200.00	Union Grove	0	\$1,235.00	\$1,803.88	Liberty	8	\$8,585.00	\$5,337.00
New Hopewell	0	\$615.64	\$718.76	Paint Rock	7	\$7,960.52	\$6,916.11	Wallace Chapel	6	\$290.00	\$0.00	Living Faith	17	\$15,599.08	\$12,300.00
New Lebanon	0	\$8,038.00	\$2,500.00	Providence	1	\$2,858.35	\$2,700.00	West Auburn	0	\$0.00	\$465.42	Logan	5	\$3,222.50	\$2,617.00
New Prospect	0	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Roaches Cove	6	\$2,600.00	\$3,707.00	Tuskegee Lee Totals	210	\$801,600.83	\$937,742.11	Macedonia	4	\$6,677.00	\$3,895.00
Oak Grove #1	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Rudders Chapel	18	\$79,068.71	\$25,061.16	Walker	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Missionary Grove	3	\$8,971.00	\$6,807.95
Oak Grove #2	6	\$0.00	\$0.00	Shiloh	9	\$7,174.00	\$4,748.02	Aldridge Community	11	\$3,928.20	\$3,266.40	Mountain Grove	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Odenville First	2	\$2,167.00	\$2,000.10	Stevenson First	5	\$14,590.00	\$4,030.50	Antioch	15	\$6,142.75	\$1,000.00	Mountain View	4	\$4,159.56	\$553.25
Palestine	0	\$153.00	\$282.75	Swearingin	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Argo	15	\$6,142.75	\$1,000.00	Mt Hope	5	\$10,517.67	\$5,295.00
Pell City First	42	\$140,425.18	\$130,960.84	Trinity	2	\$20,319.58	\$13,828.00	Barton Chapel	7	\$1,872.00	\$2,001.15	Mt Joy	1	\$4,378.55	\$2,884.43
(d) Pell City Second	0	\$0.00	\$446.56	Victory	0	\$0.00	\$600.00	Blooming Grove	7	\$1,872.00	\$0.00	Mt Nebo	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pine Forest	0	\$2,427.75	\$1,140.50	Willow Street	6	\$13,811.43	\$0.00	Boldo First	13	\$3,818.61	\$1,980.00	Mt Pleasant	2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pinedale First	0	\$300.00	\$300.00	Woodville	2	\$0.00	\$2,200.00	Burnwell	0	\$450.00	\$1,000.00	New Freedom	3	\$4,128.48	\$4,107.32
Piney Grove	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Tennessee River Totals	128	\$297,469.21	\$170,367.02	Calvary	0	\$905.00	\$400.00	New Mt Zion	11	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pleasant Grove	1	\$0.00	\$400.00	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Calvary	0	\$905.00	\$400.00	New Prospect	6	\$300.00	\$470.00	
Pleasant Valley	0	\$139.42	\$600.00	Tuscaloosa	Baptism	CP	Carbon Hill First	5	\$5,000.04	\$4,863.30	New Union	3	\$0.00	\$2,150.00	
Poplar Springs	0	\$325.00	\$0.00	A New Beginning	6	\$88,838.10	\$23,605.79	Cedar Hill	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	Northside	0	\$7,321.13	\$10,904.08
Providence	13	\$2,373.13	\$0.00	Alberta	11	\$32,856.00	\$10,336.29	Coal City	4	\$6,137.89	\$3,094.75	Panama	6	\$1,098.59	\$1,383.69
Ragland First	0	\$0.00	\$2,004.45	Bellview	6	\$88,838.10	\$23,605.79	Cordova First	4	\$6,137.89	\$3,094.75	Ryans Creek	9	\$15,018.76	\$20,540.61
Red Hill	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethany	3	\$9,927.67	\$14,427.43	Corinth	7	\$5,535.26	\$75.00	Salem	0	\$2,616.00	\$4,029.00
Reeves Grove	0	\$0.00	\$2,645.72	Bethel	0	\$0.00	\$3,329.31	Crossway	7	\$5,535.26	\$865.00	Sardis	6	\$13,401.11	\$9,899.52
Refuge	2	\$0.00	\$0.00	Beulah	0	\$25,150.00	\$2,250.00	Dora First	0	\$18,034.31	\$3,465.00	Seventh Street	4	\$7,750.30	\$0.00
Riverside	2	\$0.00	\$441.27	Big Sandy	3	\$22,580.00	\$23,735.11	Dora Second	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Shady Grove	0	\$0.00	\$550.00
Seddon	47	\$5,500.00	\$3,142.78	Buhl	4	\$0.00	\$0.00	Dutton Hill Missionary	10	\$1,100.00	\$44.40	Shelton Grove	0	\$2,090.00	\$2,202.00
Son Rise Missionary	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Calvary	19	\$87,196.57	\$45,131.77	Eastside	10	\$3,839.05	\$1,152.00	Smith Lake	6	\$6,023.00	\$2,918.50
Spring Valley	4	\$18,401.64	\$10,093.90	Carrolls Creek	24	\$48,588.00	\$32,059.07	Edgill Grove	7	\$17,442.41	\$618.22	Southside	0	\$5,900.00	\$2,500.00
Springville First	12	\$36,544.90	\$22,314.64	Chapel Hill	12	\$72,687.03	\$7,250.00	Eldridge	2	\$1,034.49	\$2,979.67	Spring Hill	6	\$8,564.00	\$6,429.00
St. Clair Springs	3	\$8,411.95	\$1,889.36	Circlewood	16	\$104,092.08	\$10,081.51	Farmstead	13	\$76,942.00	\$9,915.54	St. John	3	\$65.00	\$715.00
Steele	8	\$16,220.00	\$7,382.00	Coaling	16	\$24,128.04	\$12,554.52	Fern Springs	0	\$3,170.00	\$2,000.00	Stouts Mountain	7	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sulphur Springs	2	\$100.00	\$1,184.06	Corinth	4	\$613.06	\$0.00	Friendship	8	\$22,093.60	\$3,413.02	Sulphur Springs	1	\$1,883.16	\$1,847.78
Taylor	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Cornelius Chapel	4	\$1,800.00	\$1,570.00	Glory Fellowship	8	\$22,093.60	\$500.00	Valley Springs	3	\$0.00	\$3,110.00
St Clair Totals	436	\$671,688.23	\$682,561.80	Cottondale	4	\$1,800.00	\$1,570.00	Goodsprings	0	\$50.00	\$1,574.22	West Point	20	\$31,585.02	\$8,336.00
Sulphur Springs	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts	Covenant Chapel (SBC)	3	\$3,351.35	\$1,880.00	Gorgas	0	\$0.00	\$240.00	West Side	0	\$430.00	\$2,091.01
Aiken Grove	0	\$120.00	\$600.00	Crestline	3	\$3,351.35	\$1,880.00	Grace	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	White Oak	0	\$3,061.20	\$2,930.80
Antioch	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	CrossWay	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Hermon	0	\$0.00	\$500.00	West Cullman Totals	350	\$367,553.58	\$326,368.69
Bethel	25	\$65,875.23	\$10,069.03	Duncanville	4	\$9,048.26	\$6,738.84	Jasper First	14	\$153,200.00	\$59,125.00	Winston	Baptism	CP	Designated Gifts
Calvary	0	\$9,398.00	\$4,990.00	East McFarland	8	\$1,200.00	\$2,792.24	Kansas	0	\$3,751.42	\$930.00	Addison First	1	\$14,203.36	\$6,999.94
Cane Creek	0	\$0.00	\$220.07	Eastview	0	\$1,045.00	\$10,336.29	Lupton First	0	\$0.00	\$420.00	Antioch	2	\$1,100.00	\$1,000.00
Elvester	0	\$360.00	\$0.00	Emmanuel	7	\$13,401.56	\$13,345.56	Macedonia	2	\$2,158.37	\$1,168.75	Arley First	37	\$25,062.62	\$21,078.24
Empire	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fellowship	0	\$600.00	\$0.00	Manchester	0	\$0.00	\$400.00	Beech Grove	4	\$2,000.00	\$250.00
Good Hope	0	\$824.05	\$0.00	Five Points	31	\$51,649.08	\$46,837.23	Maranatha	7	\$0.00	\$0.00	Bethel #1	7	\$2,961.00	\$1,141.00
Harmony	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	Flatwoods	4	\$21,247.00	\$6,545.40	Mt Carmel	1	\$7,504.00	\$1,968.82	Bethel #2	3	\$1,713.00	\$2,213.00
Kilgore	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Fleetwood	9	\$9,689.91	\$0.00	Mt Joy	1	\$1,858.58	\$865.00	Bethlehem	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Little Vine	1	\$0.00	\$25.00	Forest Lake	4	\$35,959.29	\$17,938.71	Mt Philadelphia	4	\$11,172.12	\$7,874.37	Church Of The Forest	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt Brook	1	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	Galgal	1	\$5,209.08	\$9,543.03	Mt Pisgah	2	\$0.00	\$576.00	Concord	2	\$8,042.11	\$2,750.00
Mt High	0	\$1,636.54	\$2,329.54	Good Shepherd	5	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Vernon	6	\$82,863.13	\$29,265.50	Corinth Heights	13	\$2,500.00	\$2,741.00
Mt Hope	1	\$805.25	\$400.00	Grace	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Mt Zion	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	Delmar	0	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mt View	0	\$0.00	\$1,945.70	Grace Connection	18	\$									

UMobile sophomore wins national championship

University of Mobile (UMobile) sophomore Jonina Brinson won the NAIA National Championship in long jump and All-American honors at the 2016 NAIA Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field National Championships.

Brinson landed the National Championship title on her third and final jump March 3.

UMobile head cross country coach Andy Canegitta said Brinson won the title with a leap of 5.77 meters. She also earned All-American honors in the 60-meter dash and triple jump, finishing sixth in the triple jump with a mark of 11.65 meters and seventh in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.62.



Photo courtesy of UMobile
Jonina Brinson

Brinson's win is UMobile's first track and field championship since 1995 and the first individual championship in any sport since 2000.

Canegitta said the time the team spends in practice and Bible study is important to competition.

"The closer you are as a team, the better you perform," he said. "The closer you are with God, the better you perform because it gives you a comfort level that through God

all things are possible." Brinson said of her faith and competing, "My faith is everything. You can't do anything without God. It's important to keep Him first and all the honor goes to Him." (UMobile)

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- 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.
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Heroes of the Faith

March 2016 marks 225 years since Methodism founder's death

John Wesley (1703–1791), one of the major figures in Christianity, founded Methodism.

March 2016 is the 225th anniversary of his death.

He was the 15th of 19 children born to Samuel and Susanna Wesley in Epworth, England, on June 28, 1703. His father was an Anglican rector. His mother faithfully taught her 10 surviving children religion and morals.

John Wesley continued his education in 1713 at the Charterhouse School in London. In 1720 he entered Christ Church College at Oxford and received a master of arts degree. He then was ordained as an Anglican minister.

While at Oxford he joined a group founded by his brother, Charles, whose members vowed to lead holy lives. Because of their methodical habits of

study and devotion, their detractors mockingly named the group the “holy club.”

In 1735, James Oglethorpe invited John Wesley to come to Savannah, Georgia, as the colony's chaplain and Charles Wesley to be his private secretary. On the voyage to the colonies the faith of a group of Moravian Christians aboard the ship made a deep impression on John Wesley, making him uncertain about his salvation.

In Georgia, Charles Wesley became so disheartened about his work that he returned to England after six months. But John Wesley stayed two years despite having problems with the colonists.

On the evening of May 24, 1738, John Wesley had a conversion experience while at a meeting on Aldersgate Street in Lon-

don. “One was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans,” he wrote. “About a quarter before nine ... I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.”

He became a prolific preacher after witnessing evangelist George Whitefield's successful open-air preaching. On April 1, 1739, John Wesley preached outside to 3,000 people. He became an evangelist who proclaimed salvation and holiness to the lower classes and the unchurched. For the next 50 years he traveled in carriages and on horseback in rain and snow more than 250,000 miles and preached around 40,000 sermons. He

was relentless in spite of anti-Methodist mob attacks. In addition to preaching in England, he made 42 tours to Ireland and 22 tours to Scotland. “The world is my parish” became his motto.

Just as when he was a student, John Wesley did his work methodically. He organized groups of people into home societies, then classes of 12 people to study the Bible and give to the poor and then larger groups of connections, all under a superintendent. He formed administrative districts and circuits and started quarterly meetings and annual conferences. Even though he remained an Anglican, his practices provided the foundation for the Methodist Church.

He died after a short illness in London on March 2, 1791. His last words were “The best of all is that God is with us.” ✠

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).



WESLEY

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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. Copy deadline is two weeks before publication.

CHURCH POSITIONS

PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Cherokee, Alabama, is accepting resumés for a full-time pastor. Send resumés to the church office. Email to: secretary@firstbaptistcherokee.org. 256-359-4325.

MINISTER OF MUSIC & EDUCATION

Union Hill Baptist, Oneonta, is seeking a full-time worship leader for a growing fellowship with two blended Sunday morning services. Educational experience should include small group ministry and discipleship for all ages. Please submit resumés to: 2919 Co. Hwy. 39, Oneonta, AL 35121. 205-274-9232. bbarnett@otelco.net.

WORSHIP MINISTER

New Beginnings Community Church in Graysville is currently searching for a worship minister. This position is a part-time position. All interested parties, please email your resumé to: secretary@nbccbaptist.com.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC

Turnerville Baptist Church, Mobile County. Contact Bro. Jason Meaux

at jmeaux@turnervillebaptist.org.

YOUTH MINISTER/ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Purpose Baptist Church, a fundamental, conservative congregation in Opelika, Alabama, is seeking a youth minister/associate pastor. We will consider bivocational as well as full-time applicants. Apply online at tgrantham@purposechurch.net.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS

First Baptist Church of Columbus, Mississippi, is seeking a minister of students. Experience preferred and seminary degree desirable. Salary range: \$50,000 to \$55,000. Please email resumés to: jlautz@cableone.net or mail to: First Baptist Church, ATTN: Minister of Students Search, P.O. Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703. Please submit resumés by March 29.

YOUTH PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Alexander City, Alabama, is announcing the opening of a full-time staff position for minister to students. We are praying for the Lord to call His chosen man for our youth, grades 7 through 12. The search committee is at work receiving resumés at: P.O. Box 400, Alexander City, AL 35011. 256-234-6351. spsc@fbc-ac.org.

MINISTER OF CHILDREN

Mount Zion Baptist Church (www.mzbc.net) located in Huntsville, Alabama, is seeking a full-time minister of children to develop, promote and implement a comprehensive process of religious education for children. We are an Acts 1:8 church driven by the vision to reach people for Christ. We have a combined attendance of over 1,000 in both blended and contemporary services. The ideal candidate will have a bachelor's degree and a demonstrated passion, vision and calling to children's ministries. Please send resumés to: Mount Zion Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Chair, 228 Mount Zion Rd., Huntsville, AL 35806, or mzbcsearchchair@gmail.com.

OTHER POSITIONS

WEEKDAY EDUCATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Valley View Baptist Church is seeking a full-time weekday education program director. Submit resumé/questions to: jennifer.freind@valleyviewbaptist.com. The deadline for resumés is April 6.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The Calhoun Baptist Association

requests resumés for the position of director of missions. Please send your resumé to: ATTN: DOM Search Committee, CBA, 1130 Woodstock Ave., Anniston, AL 36207.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For March 20

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

UNIFIED Acts 2:41-47

Devoted (41-42)

The men and women who heard Peter's message responded by being baptized. This baptism was not in order to be saved. This is clear throughout the Bible — salvation is not based upon any work we can do. If our salvation depended upon baptism, this would imply that a work was needed to complete God's salvation. If this is the case, what do we make of the thief on the cross who accepted Christ as his Savior? (Luke 23:43). Jesus said, "Today you will be with Me in paradise," not, "Sorry you can't enter heaven — you haven't been baptized." Baptism is an external sign of an inward change. The change we experience once we have accepted God's salvation causes us to be obedient to the teachings of Christ. One of these teachings is to be baptized.

It also is important to recognize how the believers gathered together to eat, fellowship, pray and study the apostles' teachings. This is often carried out today in the form of small group Bible studies and it is a valuable aspect of the Christian life. It is necessary to have a community of believers to share life with. We support each other by helping physically and spiritually; physically by sharing our belongings with each other and spiritually by praying for each other.

The early Christians devoted themselves to the teachings of the apostles' which for us would be the gospels and epistles but they also studied the Old Testament. This is a great example for us.

Reading the Bible is a central aspect of the Christian walk. Knowing what we believe is an important aspect of Christianity because proper doctrine is vital.

Otherwise we can be led astray by false teachers.

Together (43-47a)

One thing to note is that the idea of having everything in common does not equate with socialism or communism. It is often said by people who advocate socialism that the early Church was socialistic. The main difference, however, is that the early Church shared out of a willful desire to do so.

The Church ought to be known by the love it has for each other. Therefore if someone in the church lacks a car and someone can lend them a car, they ought to do so without expecting anything in return. This is one way the world can see the Holy Spirit at work in our lives — by our commitment to one another.

There is a difference between being forced to distribute one's belongings and desiring to distribute one's belongings. Christians should be known by their willingness to help others and share what God has provided for them. However, even this has its limits. In 2 Thessalonians 3:6 and following, Paul tells the Thessalonians to act responsibly with their possessions: "If anyone isn't willing to work, he should not eat."

Growing (47b)

Note that the Church grew by adding the people who were saved. Salvation is the key to becoming part of the Church. It is not based on birth, location or race. Every believer is a part of the Church and the Church needs to do everything in its power to decry injustices such as racism that can inhibit believers from worshipping together.

Because salvation is free to every race and the Church is comprised of all who are saved, the Church cannot allow racism to play a role in how it operates. Racism is antithetical to the gospel. †

Bible Studies for Life By Jim Barnette, Ph.D. Samford University and Brookwood Baptist Church, Mountain Brook

OUR NEED FOR PROTECTION John 10:7-15, 27-30

Jesus is the Door through whom we enter into abundant life. (7-10)

Verses 7, 9 and 10b present the positive image of Jesus as the gate, whereas verses 8 and 10a present the contrasting negative image of the thief. There is a singleness, an exclusiveness about Jesus' declaration that He is the gate. One scholar calls this "the offense of the particular." He is the sole entrance by which the sheep can enter the fold and join the flock. There is no other way for them to have access to the truly abundant life.

Jesus makes it clear that the abundant life He offers includes the gift of eternity. In verse 9, Jesus explicitly identifies Himself as the means of salvation.

Here Jesus employs Old Testament imagery. The promise of entering through the gate to find salvation echoes Psalm 118:19-20, and the promise of finding pasture recalls the pastoral imagery in Psalm 23:2.

The three verbs identified with the thief in verse 10a all warn against his destructive and fatal effect on the flock, whereas verse 10b restates the central affirmation of the gospel: Jesus came to save us to new life.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who gave His life because He cares for us. (11-13)

Here the focus shifts to Jesus' self-revelation as the Good Shepherd. The adjective "good" also has the meaning of "model" or "true."

The reference point for what constitutes a model shepherd is set by the image of God as the Good Shepherd in Ezekiel. According to Ezekiel 34:11-16, God the Good Shepherd cares for the sheep,

feeds them, rescues them, protects them and tends to the weak and injured.

Thieves and robbers are obviously wicked; the hired hand is not wicked just more committed to his own well-being than to the well-being of the sheep. When care for the flock is neither too difficult nor too dangerous he is willing to work and receive his pay. But when he sees the wolf coming, when there is danger to his own skin, he checks out and abandons the sheep to their own devices.

Never will the Good, True Shepherd forsake those whom He has committed to protect.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd who keeps us secure. (14-15, 27-30)

The result of Jesus knowing His sheep and His gift to them of eternal life is that they shall never perish. This result speaks to Jesus' power over the shifty thieves and the marauding wolves that seek to snatch away His sheep. The ultimate security of the sheep is sealed thanks to Jesus the Good Shepherd.

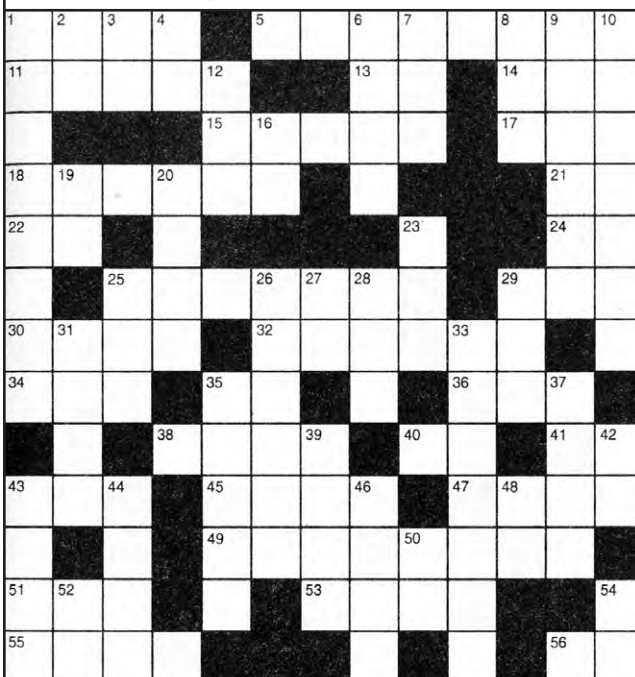
Jesus declares the inseparable unity of His work and that of His Father: "I and the Father are one." The Greek word for "one" is neutral, not masculine, so that Jesus is not saying that He and God are one person, nor even of one nature or essence.

Rather, Jesus is saying that He and God the Father are united in the work they do. The Father and the Son share fully in their work and power. And no enemy, however strong he might seem, can snatch any of the sheep from Jesus' hand because His Father, who has given them to the Good Shepherd, is greater than all enemies.

The mighty sign of that holding power will be Jesus' resurrection from the dead. To be kept in Jesus' hand is to be held by the Father's hand for they are One. †

Christian Crossword

By Arlene Walker Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



Across

1. ___ not. (Gen. 15:1)
5. Climbed up into a ___ tree. (Luke 19:4)
11. Storage under roof of a house.
13. ___ the right hand of God. (Rom. 8:34)
14. Cast the ___ on the right side. (John 21:6)
15. ___ unto God. (Rom. 6:11)
17. One little ___ lamb. (2 Sam. 12:3)
18. Three electrodes in an electron tube.
21. Good ___ bad. (2 Cor. 5:10)
22. ___ answered. (John 9:36)
24. Registered nurse. (abbr.)
25. Shalt ___ in thine heart. (Rom. 10:9)
29. A woman's name.
30. Repulsive.
32. Drowsy.
34. Thou maintainest my ___. (Ps. 16:5)

35. He saith among the trumpets, ___. (Job 39:25)
36. Ribbed dress fabric.
38. Way of walking.
40. ___ in peace. (Acts 16:36)
41. As many ___ received him. (John 1:12)
43. Clever, cunning.
45. Mary hath chosen that good ___. (Luke 10:42)
47. My people are ___ to backsliding. (Hosea 11:7)
49. Bird providing sport and food.
51. Love worketh no ___. (Rom. 13:10)
53. One way to tie shoes.
55. The ___ of the valleys. (Song of Sol. 2:1)
56. ___ good unto all. (Gal. 6:10)
3. Many shall rejoice ___ his birth. (Luke 1:14)
4. Rhode Island. (abbr.)
6. Buried him in the ___. (Gen. 50:13)
7. Past tense of "eat."
8. Love ___ another. (1 John 4:7)
9. Put in other words. (John 6:68)
10. Words of ___ life. (John 6:68)
12. Ungentlemanly.
16. Last Entry. (abbr.)
19. In the case of.
20. My son, ___ my voice. (Gen. 27:8)
23. They shall ___ God. (Matt. 5:8)
25. Bacon, lettuce and tomato. (abbr.)
26. O.T. prophet who wrote about the Messiah.
27. Short for "elevated railway."
28. Short for "veterinarian."
29. Yes.
31. Purpose.
33. Prove validity of a will.
35. ___ are ye if ye do them. (John 13:17)

Down

1. ___ in that which is least. (Luke 16:10)
2. Suffix meaning "little."

37. So ___ eth my soul after thee, O God. (Ps. 42:1)
39. Journey.
42. Street. (abbr.)
43. That we should ___ into Italy. (Acts 27:1)
44. They shall ___ as lions' whelps. (Jer. 51:38)
46. Large container for liquid.
48. Prefix.
50. ___ much the more. (Heb. 10:25)
52. Long Island. (abbr.)
54. ___, I am with you always. (Matt. 28:20)



'Beauty from brokenness'

Christian artist Jody McBrayer returns to performing with renewed purpose

By Leann Callaway
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

After traveling and performing with the Dove Award-winning group Avalon for more than a decade, musician Jody McBrayer knew that something had to give — physically, emotionally and spiritually.

As McBrayer felt his life spiraling out of control while battling heart disease, clinical depression and marital troubles, he placed his hope and trust in the Lord as the only One who could put the pieces of his broken heart back together again.

"When my wife and I told my doctor about the struggles we were facing being on the road fulltime, he said if I didn't make some changes it would kill me," McBrayer acknowledged.

"He was right and I was completely exhausted. That's what led to the decision to put the music industry behind us and focus on our family."

'Better understanding'

"I'm so glad we made that decision. It saved our lives and our marriage. It brought us to a healthier place where we had a better understanding of one another and who we were supposed to be in Christ and as a couple."

While reflecting on the challenges and changes over the years, McBrayer realizes the valuable lessons he learned about God's protection and provision.

"My health wasn't great and I was spiraling into this dark place," McBrayer admitted. "I went to a Christian counselor because I wanted some practical health advice about what I could do. One of the best pieces of advice I received was that my main responsibility each day was to wake up every day and keep breathing. This reminded me that's what we are all called to do each day because God has a plan and purpose for my life.

"It also reminded me to let go of the past and focus on the future. Even if it was just one breath at a time, that's what I would focus on. Now it's been three years and so much has taken place to get me to where I am today."

Making significant strides toward the healing process, McBrayer has returned to performing music in hopes of connecting people to Christ as their source of strength and security.

"Here I am now making music again after several years being off the road and dealing with my own struggles because I want people to remember that we serve a God who doesn't expect us to be perfect or act like we have it all together — He wants us to lay down our burdens at His feet.

"When we place our trust and hope in Christ, He can set us free and use our testimonies and talents for His glory. Now I've come into a place where I'm realizing that I just want to be used by God to reach others. It's not about my own happiness or fulfillment."

With a renewed sense of purpose for music and ministry, McBrayer released a solo album, "Keep Breathing," on Feb. 12 which chronicles his journey of rediscovery and redemption through reflective songs.

"I want this record to be something that encourages people," McBrayer said. "The songs were written with that purpose in mind because I know what it's like to sit and look at a mirror and think that the world is done with you, and think you've

disappointed so many people and you have no right to stand on a platform again or sing to anyone.

"I know what it's like to feel inadequate and brushed aside. I know what it's like to feel like ... you can't physically do what you've been called to do. I really wanted to make a record that I could pour my heart and soul into and remind people that God can bring beauty from brokenness."

Through his music and message, McBrayer

hopes to encourage people who are experiencing doubts, struggles and trials that God still is at work and is with them every step of the way.

"With these songs I want people to take away the fact that there is a real God and He is working in their lives," McBrayer said. "Even though sometimes it may not feel like God is doing anything in our lives or listening to our prayers, He always is. Sometimes part of the refin-

"Sometimes God just wants you to be grateful for the little things and then He can use you for the great things."

**Jody McBrayer
Christian artist**



Jody McBrayer

Photo courtesy of Bozeman Media

ing and shaping process takes us through some things that really stink. If you can just hold on, keep breathing and put one foot in front of the other, it's as simple as that. I've learned to be thankful for each day that my heart is still beating and I am still taking breaths."

'Grateful for the little things'

"I've learned just to take one step at a time. I'm very grateful, and I know that's how God works. Sometimes God just wants you to be grateful for the little things and then He can use you for great things.

"I may sell half the records that I did with Avalon, but I know that this is where I'm supposed to be right now and this is the message that I'm supposed to share to encourage others going through similar struggles.

"God has shown me that it's okay to move forward. I think sometimes we allow our past to take hold of us and never step out of the boat. I was in the boat forever and now I've stepped out in faith. Even though there are treacherous seas I have to look straight ahead and keep my eyes focused on Jesus. ... I'm working on keeping my eyes fixed only on Him."

As a result of the vulnerability and

authenticity expressed in the songs featured on McBrayer's new album, listeners around the country are already resonating with his first radio single, "This Is A Son."

"This is a perspective song about how sometimes we don't look people in the eye who are struggling and often write them off as wasted and nameless," McBrayer said. "Then we find out they have a past and a story. We forget that this is a son who has a heart and a soul in need of love. He needs someone to see beyond what life has thrown at him because he is someone's child. This song reflects on the fact that Mary sat and watched her son die on the cross. The Son who had a heart for everyone in need of love and the One who sees beyond everything we have done."

Opening doors

"My favorite part about performing music again is the chance to make connections with people and the ways that the songs can open doors to what is going on in people's lives. That's the point of ministry and the connection we strive to make as Christian musicians — tearing down that wall between the stage and the audience, getting in there and seeing if you can help some people." ¶

'In the palm of His hand'

Blue Wahoos pitcher trusts God in 'the ups and downs'

By Bill Sorrell
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Tim Adleman sees the divine in the minor league grind.

"I just believe that the everyday grind of a minor leaguer is in God's plan for you. I know that He has a plan for me and there is no need to worry or stress; that He is going to take care of me," said Adleman, a right-handed pitcher for the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. "I trust the ups and downs are all for good and God has you in the palm of His hand."

Adleman's arm helped the Blue Wahoos, the Double-A Southern League affiliate of Cincinnati, go from worst to first in the 2015 season.

Finishing with the worst first-half league record, they went 38-32 to win the South Division in the second half, making the playoffs for the first time since the franchise was founded in 2012. They lost to Biloxi in the division series.

Going 7-3 in the second half after a 2-7 first half, Adleman finished with a 2.64 Earned Run Average (ERA), the league's third best. He finished with 113 strikeouts and second in team victories. He was named a Southern League All-Star.

Pensacola manager Pat Kelly said, "To be a winning club you have to have a couple of guys like that. ... Besides being a quality person, [Tim] has been a quality pitcher for

us. You know that you are going to get a solid outing every time he goes out.

"He is the leader of the pitchers. We have got some young pitchers who are feeling their way through the league right now. He is able to guide them not only on the field but off the field."

'Invaluable'

Having Adleman, 28, as a Christian leader in the clubhouse is "invaluable" Kelly said. "I think he shows (faith) by example. He doesn't preach. He goes about his business the right way. The younger players see that and obviously they see his faith in chapel and in different situations."

Attending baseball chapel on a weekly basis, Adleman said he and other players share faith experiences and provide accountability. He said temptations have made him a stronger Christian.

"I try to become a better Christian each day through my actions and my work," said Adleman,

who said players know he is a Christian by "the way I act, the way I treat people and the way I carry myself."

His parents, Randy and Cindy Adleman, "instilled Christian beliefs in me as a little kid," Adleman said. "I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to forgive our sins. God gave His son to save us. Jesus means to me eternal life."

After graduating from Georgetown University in Washington where he majored in health care management and policy, Adleman was drafted in the 24th round of the 2010 First-Year Player Draft by Baltimore.

At Georgetown, his 224 career strikeouts were the best in school history. As a junior in 2009, he led the team in ERA (5.72), opposing batting average (.296), win-loss percentage, wins (four), strikeouts (66) and starts (14).

Before Georgetown, Adleman was all-state at Wakefield High School in Raleigh, North Carolina. He also played basketball and led his team to a 4-A state championship.

Playing for the Aberdeen (Maryland) IronBirds in the New York-Penn League, Adleman was an all-star in 2010. He had 62 strikeouts in 68 innings. He played for Delmarva in 2011 before the Orioles released him in 2012.

Adleman played for independent teams in 2012 and 2013.

Pitching for the

New Jersey Jackals in the Canadian-American Association, he had a 1.46 ERA and 62 strikeouts in 49 innings in 2013.

With Pensacola in 2014, Adleman went 3-8 with a 2.85 ERA. In June 2015, Adleman was named the Southern League Pitcher of the Week after throwing eight shutout innings in a victory over Mississippi.

In February, Adleman was in Goodyear, Arizona, preparing for the 2016 season.

Jeff Fassero, who was Pensacola pitching coach last season and is now with the Reds' Triple-A Louisville team, worked with Adleman for more than a year. "It is a pleasure to work with him. He has a great attitude. He has got great determination. As a big-league pitching coach, I would love to have him on my staff," Fassero said.

Major league pitching is Adleman's goal.

"I want to play baseball as long as I can in order to glorify Him," he said. "When I put my faith in the Lord, all things are possible." ✠



Photo by Barrett McClean/Pensacola Blue Wahoos

Tim Adleman

Conference set on applying gospel to everyday life

Gospel-centered cultural engagement will be the theme of the third national conference sponsored by the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

"Onward," ERLC's 2016 National Conference, will be held Aug. 25-26 in Nashville. The conference's title corresponds to that of ERLC President Russell Moore's latest book, "Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing the Gospel."

The event will focus on helping Christians apply the gospel of Jesus to interaction with various aspects of a culture that is growing increasingly hostile to that message while remaining faithful to the Bible. Conference topics to be addressed will include the arts, politics, sports, race, sexuality, marriage, parenting, Millennials and everyday life.

Apply the gospel

Moore said that with this conference ERLC wants "to equip Christians to apply the gospel to everyday life."

"That's why we have invited an amazing lineup of speak-

ers to cover an ambitious set of topics. In an increasingly complex world we must prepare Christians to engage the culture without losing the gospel."



Among the other speakers will be Matt Chandler, pastor of The Village Church, Dallas, Texas; Andy Crouch, executive editor of *Christianity Today*; Bryan Loritts, pastor of Abundant Life Christian Fellowship, Mountain

View, California; Gabe Lyons, founder of Q Ideas; Andy Stanley, founder and pastor of North Point Ministries in Atlanta; Jackie Hill-Perry, poet and artist with Humble Beast Records; Darren Patrick, pastor of The Journey Church, St. Louis, Missouri; Gregory Thornbury, president of The King's College; Alissa Wilkinson, chief film critic at *Christianity Today*; and Jemar Tisby, president of the Reformed African-American Network.

Registration and further conference information is available at <http://erlc.com/events/nationalconference2016>. The main sessions will be live streamed at erlc.com. (BP)



Church building in Turkey attacked by 4 men

SAMSUN, Turkey — Four men detained by police for attacking a church building in the Black Sea region of Turkey in late February shouted jihadist slogans when released from jail, a marked departure from past harassment, church leaders said.

On Feb. 25 the four Muslims went to a building rented by the Agape Church Foundation in Samsun. They rang the doorbell and banged on the door with their fists and then tried to kick the door open. No one answered the door and the men destroyed a security camera before leaving.

Pastor Orhan Piçaklar reported the incident to police because of its menacing nature. The anti-Christian motive of the attack became apparent when the accused yelled "Allahu Akbar (God is greater)," the jihadist victory slogan, as they were released.

"They attacked us knowing that they would get caught — they even looked at the security camera and smiled," Piçaklar said. "Later (March 1) they went to the police and turned themselves in and [March 2] they were set free.

"We are working to be extra vigilant and careful," he said. "In the meantime, the police have been extra vigilant as well. In the past the police have only maintained a presence at the church but in the last days they've been staying outside my house." (MS)