

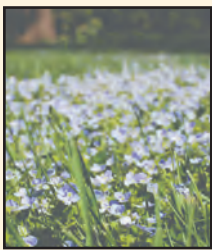


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# Growing a God-loving child

Children able to seek after God when Christ, Word are foundations of home

By Denise George  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Scripture tells us that two things will last forever. The first is God's Word (Matt. 24:35). For parents to build a strong spiritual infrastructure for their children's lives, Christ must be the foundation of the home.

The second thing that will last forever is your child's soul (John 6:47; Rom. 6:23). Our children are born to live forever and they will live either with God or separated from God. We hope and pray our children will have an eternal relationship with God and

we rejoice when we see the fruit of the Spirit in their young lives.

When parents and grandparents strive to help their children develop a loving, lifelong relationship with God through Jesus Christ, they leave them a lasting legacy and an unsurpassable inheritance.

Here are seven simple ways parents and grandparents can help grow a God-loving child:

**1. Bible study**

Children need to see their parents and grandparents as spiritual leaders in their lives. Set aside a time

each day for family devotions. Read Scripture together. Discuss biblical stories and truths. Teach them how to make God's Word practical in everyday life.

**2. Prayer**

By teaching your children to pray, you help them develop a natural, conversational relationship with God that will grow as they mature in their faith. Start them praying young so prayer will become as natural to them as breathing.

Pray together as a family. Show them how important prayer is to you

by being exemplary in your own prayer life. Let your children hear you pray for them and for guidance in their spiritual upbringing.

**3. Creative prayer**

Prayer time with your children need not be long, complicated and boring. Teach children to enjoy conversing with their Heavenly Father by making prayer times creative and fun. Pray brief sentence prayers before meals with each family member participating. Walk through your neighborhood and pray for the people who live around you. Put Scripture to tunes and sing your prayers. (See 'Teaching,' page 13)

**Christian Home Week is May 14-20.**

**Southern Baptist Convention**  
annual meeting preview

Phoenix, Arizona

COMING NEXT WEEK



# COMMENT

## Hard to be a Christian

It is hard to be a Christian in the public square. Ole Miss head football Coach Hugh Freeze got in trouble recently simply by inviting people to worship with him at Pinelake Church, Oxford, Mississippi, where he is an active member.

Dan Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A, continues to have opposition to his business because he said on a radio show that he supports traditional marriage.

And who can forget the employee of the Hoover Chamber of Commerce who was fired for wearing a Ten Commandments pin on the lapel of his suitcoat?

People opposed to Christian values it seems will go to whatever length necessary to silence any voice or eradicate any vestige of Christian faith.

### Using social media

Recently the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) sent a letter to the University of Mississippi (Ole Miss) chancellor Jeffrey S. Vitter protesting a Palm Sunday tweet posted by Freeze that read, “Hope you have the chance to worship today with others. Looking for a place near Oxford? Join us @PinelakeOXF 9:15 or 11:00.”

The Sunday prior to that Freeze posted a tweet that read, “Life is precious and short and today is a gift from God, who never changes.”

An FFRF lawyer charged Freeze was playing off his popularity as the university’s head football coach to promote religion. The lawyer urged the university to ban Freeze from using his Twitter account to write about his Christian faith and about God.

### ‘Free Exercise Clause’

FFRF stresses the “No Establishment Clause” of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution that requires government not to favor one religion over another or religion over no religion. At the same time the organization ignores the “Free Exercise Clause” of the same amendment that generally prevents government



### THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

from interfering with one’s religious expressions or activities.

Just because Freeze is a university employee he, nor any other employee, does not lose First Amendment rights to engage in religious conversation or activities as individuals. He is free to say what he wants on his own Twitter account and on his own time. Using his identity as a head football coach does not change that.

Still it takes determination on the part of the Christian employee not to be dissuaded by the bully-like actions of groups like FFRF and to put up with all the guff such organizations produce. It is just another example of why it is hard to be a Christian in the public square.

Few people argue about the quality of the product produced by Chick-fil-A. In 2016 the American Customer Satisfaction Index Restaurant Report rated Chick-fil-A best in customer satisfaction. But Cathy’s support of traditional marriage continues to prove costly.

In 2015, Johns Hopkins University’s student government opposed adding a Chick-fil-A outlet to their campus because support of traditional marriage constituted “micro aggression” against lesbians and gays.

A year later the University of Nebraska at Kearney scuttled plans for a restaurant on campus because the chain’s “corporate values are not aligned with our values.” It did not matter that Chick-fil-A was the most requested restaurant by students at the school.

Most recently students at a Catholic school in Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, charged having a Chick-fil-A on campus was “a threat to the safety of LGBTQ students.”

### Defended by LGBT activists

Interestingly Cathy’s company has not been accused of discriminating against gay/homosexual individuals and has even been defended by prominent LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) activists such as Shane L. Windmeyer, according to The Christian Post.

Evidently these universities want to turn everyone who believes in traditional marriage into an enemy who must be banished. It seems these efforts are bent on silencing every voice that does not endorse the LGBT lifestyle.

How ironic that on university campuses where diversity is supposed to be a value, where understanding is supposed to be promoted through interactions, where various views are supposed to be tested in the crucible of life experiences, where diversity is supposed to be encouraged — that in these places people who reject the biblical standard of traditional marriage resort to strong arm tactics to ban a business whose owner disagrees with them.

But again it is hard to be a Christian in the public square.

Sometimes it is easy to write about what happens in faraway places like Nebraska or Maryland or Pennsylvania. But to be fair the same kind of problems exist in the heart of the Bible Belt — right here in Alabama.

In 2004 this publication did a number of articles about the Hoover Chamber of Commerce employee who was fired. The employee said he wore the Ten Commandments pin to show his

belief in the right to acknowledge God publicly. His supervisor said it was a political statement.

In 2004 display of the Ten Commandments was a hot topic in Alabama.

No chamber member ever complained about the pin, according to a chamber spokesperson at the time, but the employee was still fired after he refused to stop wearing it.

### In the public square

Then U.S. Rep. Spencer Bachus said, “Equating the wearing of a religious symbol with making a political statement is outrageous.”

But the young man was still fired because it is hard to be a Christian in the public square. It always has been and it may always be.

Perhaps that is why Jesus said to a would-be follower in Luke 9:62, “No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.” Even when circumstances are difficult, the Christian is to rejoice in hope and persevere in tribulation (Rom. 12:12).

The writer of Hebrews urged: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for He who promised is faithful” (Heb. 10:23).

Jesus is faithful to us. We can be faithful to Him even when it is hard.

So we applaud you Coach Freeze and Mr. Cathy and all the others who faithfully stand for Christ privately and in the public square. ✝

*“Jesus is faithful  
to us. We can be  
faithful to Him even  
when it is hard.”*

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# 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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# 'Rejoice in His fellowship'

## Senior Adult Evangelism Conference not lost on hesitant 25-year-old

By Maggie Walsh  
The Alabama Baptist

I didn't expect much. When I was assigned to cover part of the Senior Adult Evangelism Conference, I wouldn't say I was exuberant. I had an ever-mounting to-do list and I had already decided what I would tackle that Monday, which just so happened to be May 1, the day of the conference. So when I saw the assignment waiting for me in an unread email on Friday morning, all I could think was, "There goes my plan."

But as I drove into work Monday, I was ready. I had decided it would be a productive day. Then mid-morning, a transformer blew outside our office — the working theory is a too-curious squirrel decided to see what electricity was all about — causing my computer to need a two-hour break to recover.

I was less than pleased. But regardless of all I hadn't gotten done that day, shortly after 1 p.m. I headed the half-mile down the road to First Baptist Church, Birmingham, for the conference.

Like I said, I didn't expect much from the conference. After all it was geared toward senior adults and I'm the 25-year-old who's preoccupied with her to-do list and seriously considering taking up squirrel hunting within the Birmingham city limits.

So as I found a seat in the back of the packed sanctuary, I thought I would take notes, smile politely and slip out right after the message.

I didn't expect the enthusiasm of the white- and gray-haired participants around me to be contagious.

I didn't expect Squire Parsons' rendition of "Sweet Beulah Land" to bring me to tears.

And I didn't expect the sermon by longtime evangelist Junior Hill to be just what I needed to hear.

Hill placed his walking canes on the podium after slowly making his way up the steps of the stage and took a moment before he began.

"They say when you get old, three things happen to you," he said. "First you get feeble, then you get forgetful. And number three ... ?"

Silence. When we all began to laugh, a gleeful little grin crept across his face and you could tell he was utterly delighted by our laughter. To see that kind of childlike joy in a man of his ... maturity ... was unusual. He caught my attention.

Hill went on to say that he has never seen



Photo by Neisha Roberts

Evangelist Junior Hill shares the afternoon and closing message at the 2017 Senior Adult Evangelism Conference at First Baptist Church, Birmingham, on May 1.

such despair as he does today as he travels the country. Citing low baptism and church closing statistics, he said, "I don't have to tell you these are bad times. But the problem with bad times is we don't always react the right way."

Most of the time we start fretting, Hill said, defining "fretting" as an inner vexation that stirs you up. But Psalm 37 has some thoughts on fretting, he said.

First we're to "refrain from fretting."

"Fretfulness corrupts the spirit," Hill said. "When you fret, you're hurting yourself more than the person you're fretting toward. ... It's

corrupting, contagious and confusing to sinners.

"The Bible says, 'Let your light so shine before men and let them see your good works,'" he said, referring to Matthew 5:16. But so often our fretfulness gets in the way of our light. Was he talking specifically to me right here? It felt like it.

Hill went on to say that we're to "rely upon His faithfulness." Telling stories of how people have given him hundred dollar bills over the years that

he just held on to until he met the person who needed it, Hill reminded us that God faithfully provides what we don't have.

"For over 30 years I've been giving away that hundred dollar bill and every single time I've ever given it away it always comes back."

Making his last point, Hill reminded those of

us in attendance to "rejoice in His fellowship."

"This is the gist of what I've been trying to say — if you ever get your desire before your delight, there will never be any delight when you get your desire. We often pray in an if-then scenario. [But] when we can pray above all things that God is the source of our contentment then God miraculously gives you what you didn't know you needed or wanted when you get your desire in the right place."

Age doesn't prohibit you from being used in big ways by God, Hill said. "Do what you can for Jesus and don't fret while He's doing something."

### His timing is perfect

The beautiful thing about God is that He can use an aging evangelist to remind those of us in our 20s and those in their 70s that His timing is perfect, that He has always provided and that He has never forgotten you.

And then the combined choirs of Heritage Baptist Church and Eastern Hills Baptist Church, both in Montgomery, sing "He's an On-Time God" to close the service.

So many times I put God in a box — like in my church box or my quiet-time box — and then get surprised when He's in my work box or some other box where I didn't put Him.

On May 1, I opened my cover-this-conference box and was engulfed by the grace and love of Christ all over again. My fretting stopped and I was challenged.

While the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions' office of evangelism planned the conference for senior adults, it was a conference for any adult who needed to be reminded of the power of the God we serve. ✠



Alabama Baptist pastor Mike Shaw (left) & LifeWay's Dan Garland also spoke.

Photo by Neisha Roberts



# In honor of MOTHERS

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## How did your mother make a difference in your life and what advice would you share with new and young mothers today?

Compiled by Carolyn Tomlin

**M**y mother set an example for me as she was always at church, Sunday School or missions activities — usually I was too — and most of the time mom was teaching either children or adults. I especially remember her teaching Vacation Bible School and how the children

loved her. Mom was involved in Woman's Missionary Union and always had some missions activity going. Watching her and seeing how much she enjoyed serving in our church made me want to follow in her footsteps. I did and still enjoy serving God wherever I'm needed in our church.

"I'd say to younger mothers just to be there and be involved so your child sees you enjoying church and serving others. Teach a class your child is in or one with other children. Do your best to attend worship and other activities at the same time your child is involved in some learning experience and try your best not to be a drop-off parent. Always talk about what your child learned when at church and make learning about Jesus a daily occurrence, not just on Sundays.

"As a former school teacher, children's minister and editor of preschool and children's missions education materials, the best advice for any parent is to model Christlike behavior for your child. Pray with your child, reach out to help others and let your child participate too. Give regularly of your time and money, and teach your children to do the same."

**Rhonda Galyean, retired editor of Mission Friends, national Woman's Missionary Union**

**M**y mother, Ruth Dunham Jones, had a powerful influence on what I do now. She grew up in a poor family with eight kids. Her father died while she was very young. Ruth and her brothers and sisters were pushed from pillar to post and often had little to eat. Understanding

hunger, Ruth always made a point during her adult life to be sure those around her always had enough food. That desire to see people loved and cared for has encouraged me to help feed up to 4,500 hungry kids and adults in Central Alabama each month."

**Jim Jones, co-director of Alabama Childhood Food Solutions (ACFS), Sylacauga**

**A**s a grandmother I often speak to young adults, especially young mothers. I advise them to work diligently to have enough food for their families. Nutrition makes a difference in how kids learn and develop their self esteem. Mamas make the difference. To raise a godly child, make sure you love 'em, hug 'em, tell them about Jesus as often as you can and take 'em to church."

**Linda Jones, co-director of ACFS**

**I**'ve always admired my mother, Wilene Wyse, because she is an energetic woman. At age 19 my mother moved to Washington and got a job as a general's secretary at the Pentagon because she wanted to do her part during World War II. At age 92 she still has the same energy and spirit to be an active woman."

**Denise George, author and speaker from Birmingham** ✠

### Activities for young children

Fathers and other family members can help young children honor their mothers through these simple activities.

**1. Bring mother breakfast in bed on her special day.** Muffins, yogurt topped with fresh fruit, juice and coffee served on a fancy plate is a simple way to say, "I love you, Mom!"



Photo by Carolyn Tomlin

**2. Summer annuals potted in an attractive planter.** Purchase easy-care annuals, such as marigolds, petunias, salvia or impatiens. With some help

from an adult, this gift (with a little tender loving care) can last for weeks.

**3. Daily "to-do" list.** Write simple chores, such as "take out the trash," "feed the pets," "keep my room neat," "wear a smile" and "set the table for meals" on slips of paper. You may add others that are developmentally appropriate.

Place these in a box and ask mother to pull out one chore each day. The child agrees to perform this task when asked. (Carolyn Tomlin)

**Scripture to be honored throughout life — Proverbs 31:28: "Her children rise up and call her blessed."**

MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 14.

When

# Mother's Day HURTS

## Be sensitive to those experiencing grief, sadness this Mother's Day

By Denise George  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start the "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children. In May 1908 her unmarried daughter, Anna Jarvis, organized the first official Mother's Day celebration to honor the sacrifices her mother and other mothers made for their children. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation to make Mother's Day a national holiday to honor all mothers. Since then Americans have set aside the second Sunday each May to celebrate motherhood.

On May 14, Southern Baptist churches in Alabama and across the nation will celebrate Mother's Day during worship services. Mothers will be recognized, asked to stand and receive applause, presented with fresh flowers and honored in a glowing and complimentary sermon. Surrounded by loving families, mothers will be thanked for their hard work in rearing children; their strong devotion to family; their loving spiritual guidance, nurture and prayers; and commended for teaching their children biblical values. For most mothers, Mother's Day is a highly anticipated and wonderful day of celebration, joy, cards, chocolate and flowers.

But for others in the congregation, like Jackie and her husband, Mother's Day might be a painful time.

The couple is infertile. They have tried for years without success to have children. On Mother's Day, they will go to church

but sit silently in the pew feeling sad, frustrated and left out. Several well-meaning church members will probably pat their shoulders and say things like: "Are you ever planning to have children?" or "You know your biological 'clock' is ticking." Others more sensitive to their pain will tell them to "just relax" or "be patient." "It will happen in God's good time," they might say.

Sheila's mother died recently after a long struggle with cancer. Sheila is still numb with deep grief. After the Mother's Day church service, Sheila will go home and cry.

Another Christian couple in the congregation just buried their newborn. The grieving couple will decide to skip the church worship service this year and spend Mother's Day at home. They believe that attending church on this particular Sunday will be far too painful.

Others will sit quietly in the congregation during the Mother's Day service. They may smile and applaud

the honored mothers but inside they feel sadness and pain. Some of these women are suffering from recent miscarriages, have lost babies to SUID (Sudden Unexpected Infant Death), are struggling with the pain and guilt of abortion or are dealing with an unmarried teenage daughter's unplanned pregnancy. Others are grieving wayward, drug-addicted and/or imprisoned children; babies/grandbabies given up for adoption; or are remembering an unhappy childhood with an unloving or abusive mother.

On Mother's

Day this year, how can churches celebrate and honor the congregation's hard-working, nurturing mothers who bring up godly children and, at the same time, recognize and respond sensitively to those in the worship service who are hurting and grieving?

### How the Church can respond

► During the service, without publicly recognizing the individuals, have a special prayer time for the hurting women and couples in your congregation, including:

- infertile couples
  - those who have miscarried a child
  - couples who have birthed a stillborn baby or lost a child to SUID
  - couples whose children of varying ages have died
  - those who have recently lost a mother to death
  - mothers of wayward, runaway or unchurched and lost children
  - mothers of unmarried teens with unintended pregnancies
  - mothers who have chosen to give their child up for adoption
  - divorced mothers currently in child custody battles
  - women who suffer the guilt and pain of an abortion
  - those who grew up with abusive or neglectful mothers
  - caregivers who are struggling to care for an aging or mentally-ill mother
- Encourage members of the congregation to remember hurting women by sending them

### UNINTENDED TEENAGE PREGNANCIES

*More than 750,000 American teens become pregnant each year. Eighty-two percent of these pregnancies are unintended. Two to 5 percent of unmarried pregnant teens choose adoption as an option.*

cards, letters or emails offering inspiring messages such as "I'm praying for this" or "I'm thinking of you."

► As a church, Bible study class or individual, send flowers to mothers who have just lost a child or mother.

► Be aware of hurting mothers and couples in the congregation and be sensitive in your conversations with them. ✝



# Highest Methodist council rules gay bishops violate Church law

According to a ruling made by the United Methodist Judicial Council on April 28, the United Methodist Church (UMC) has not changed its stance on homosexuality.

The 6-3 decision means the UMC Western Jurisdiction's 2016 election of Karen Oliveto to the position of bishop violates Church law, according to *The Christian Post*. Oliveto may be removed from her position pending further proceedings, although she "remains in good standing."

The council's decision read in part, "It is not lawful for the college of bishops of any jurisdictional or central conference to consecrate a self-avowed practicing homosexual bishop. ... Under the long-standing principle of legality, no individual member or entity may violate, ignore or negate Church law."

## Special session

The Western Jurisdiction elected Oliveto, the first openly gay candidate, in July 2016 to the position of bishop over the UMC Mountain Sky Area, which has about 400 congregations across Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming and one in Idaho.

The Judicial Council heard arguments on both sides of the case April 25 at the beginning of its spring meeting in Newark, New Jersey. Following the decision, the council also announced its plan to hold a special session on whether the Church will amend its official position on homosexuality at its General Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, in February 2019, the *Post* reported.

The council also decided in separate rulings that the New York and Illinois regions must ask candidates about their sexuality and rule out those who are gay or "in any other way violating the Church's standards on marriage and sexuality," *The New York Times* reported.

UMC developed the original policy on homosexuality in 1972 when it declared that "self-avowed practicing homosexuals"

may not be ordained because "the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching."

This policy has triggered a fear of division within UMC, according to news sources, especially after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay "marriage" in 2016.

## Abiding by UMC law

David W. Graves, bishop in residence for the Alabama-West Florida Conference, released a statement April 30 saying the topic of gay bishops has been a topic of discussion for months in local meetings and that "some ... are pleased with the (recent council) decision and others are not."

"However, the United Methodist Church polity and doctrine have not changed," Graves wrote, noting that only the General Conference can change the "Book of Discipline," UMC's resource of the denomination's law and doctrine.

"Again my counsel to you is this: we must stay focused on the mission and ministry of making disciples," Graves said.

He added that the Alabama-West Florida Conference "will abide by the 'Book of Discipline'" and asked that Methodists join him "as we win people to Christ, see the unseen, transform lives and change this corner of the world."

Debra Wallace-Padgett, bishop over the North Alabama Conference, said in an April 29 statement that UMC, like today's culture itself, is "not of one mind about this decision."

She urged those in the denomination to be "gracious in our conversations and actions" and "respectful of perspectives different than our own."

"In the midst of our current denominational climate, I urge all United Methodists to stay the course, confident that Jesus Christ is Head of the Church," she said. "Keep focusing on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." (TAB)

# Roberts wraps up time with TAB, accepts position with Lifeline Children's Services

As a child, Neisha Roberts' father would hand her his camera on vacations and outings, encouraging her to capture the world around her through its lens. That sparked her love of photography, which grew into a love of photojournalism.

Before coming to *The Alabama Baptist* (TAB) in 2011, Roberts spent two years in Thailand serving with the International Mission Board as an overseas correspondent. Since coming to TAB, Roberts, who was named assistant editor at the start of the year, said she's learned a lot — both professionally and personally.

"The people that I've met through the paper and through work throughout the state have been part of the growing process. Each relationship has taught me

something different," Roberts said.

Jennifer Davis Rash, TAB's editor-elect, said the learning has gone both ways.



ROBERTS

"In the midst of a constantly changing work environment, Neisha has learned all aspects of a communications ministry. ... [And she] has won awards in photography and writing and has taught our staff, including me, how to be better photographers," Rash said.

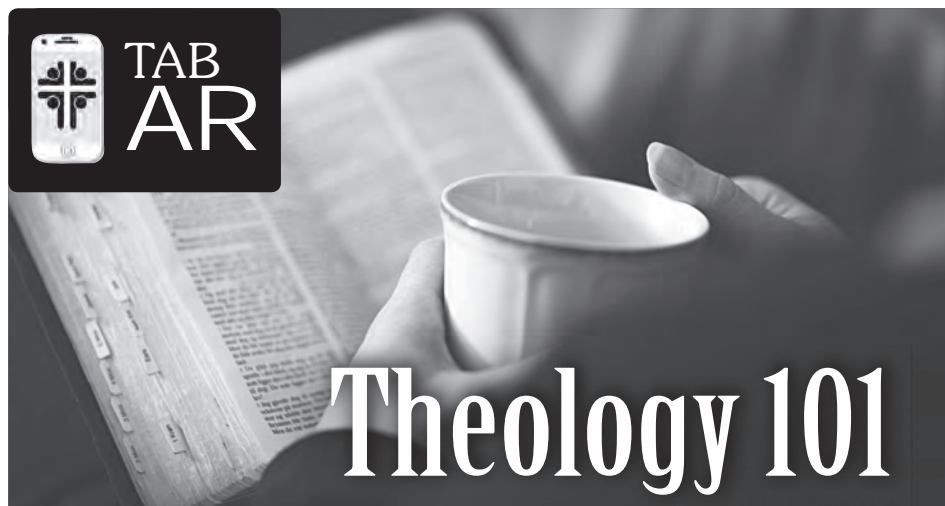
"It is her deep love for photography and children that made this new opportunity that came her way so perfect."

Roberts — a graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee — is the new (un)adopted coordinator for Lifeline Children's Services as of May 8.

"We are so excited to see how God is going to use her," Rash said. (TAB)



TAB  
AR



# Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

## Soteriology

# Salvation as Sanctification

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

For the past few weeks *Theology 101* has given attention to various ways we might understand the beginning of the Christian life.

Drawn from a variety of common analogies, we have seen the onset of one's Christian experience in terms of spiritual birth, adoption, redemption, conversion, justification, reconciliation and forgiveness. These truths all primarily address the beginning point of salvation. These are instantaneous actions of God on our behalf when we turn from sin in sincere repentance and trust Christ as Savior and Lord in personal faith.

However, we are keenly aware that there is more to being a Christian than the starting point, as blessed as that occasion is.

This week we move on to think of salvation in terms of its continuation throughout life. The theological term for the progression of the Christian life is "sanctification."

## Progress in salvation

The truth about forgiveness in last week's study is a good transition point for thinking about sanctification.

Just as the beginning of the Christian life involves forgiveness of sins, so its progress also involves continuous or repeated confession of our sins and their cleansing. The reality of forgiveness of sins is a necessary linkage between the onset of salvation and our progress in salvation.

As in last week's discussion about forgiveness, we often describe the initial forgiveness of sins as having to do with the penalty that hangs over unconverted sinners. Obviously salvation viewed both as justification and as forgiveness deals with two very closely related truths. Although from the beginning of a Christian conversion experience we have been delivered from the eternal consequences of sin (that is, sin's penalty), we need to be continuously cleansed and delivered from sin's power in our lives. This is the point of 1 John 1:9, which was penned by one forgiven sinner to an audience of

forgiven sinners — from an apostle of Christ to readers who were followers of Christ: "If we (Christians) confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

While our eternal relationship with God has been settled since conversion, our ongoing fellowship with Him requires regular confession of sin. The goal of sanctification might be viewed as living a life of meaningful fellowship within a secure relationship. We could also say that sanctification is the process of our cooperation with God's ongoing work in freeing us from the practice of sin and enabling us to become more like Christ. We also might think of sanctification as the process of spiritual growth. Said yet another way, we could speak of sanctification as the process by which imputed righteousness that has been credited to us at conversion gradually becomes imparted righteousness that shows up in conduct, outlook, actions and attitudes. Viewed this way we might say that a close link may be seen between salvation as justification and as sanctification. Many of us are helped by simply thinking of sanctification as growth in likeness to Christ.

For most of us the actual growth in likeness to Christ does not happen as smooth upward progression. Rather we find that spiritual growth occurs in "starts and fits" in which we deal with struggles, lapses, regressions, omissions, inconsistencies and other assorted failures that are interspersed with seasons of revival, renewal, cleansing and rededication. More about sanctification next week. ✠

*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.*



# Dealing with disappointment

## Adults (relating to each other/God)

### Can we live peacefully again?

Jake and Kelly have lived next door to Matt and Mindy for years. They have shared summer picnics, holiday visits and friendly conversations. Lately the relationship between the neighbors has been strained.

Matt and Mindy's children are teenagers. They regularly have friends over while their parents are at work. Matt usually works late and Mindy is often on the go with other activities so the boys are generally unsupervised. When they play basketball, the words coming from the backyard are not words Jake and Kelly want their younger kids to hear.

Kelly fears the boys may be making some other poor choices as well. She wants Jake to talk to Matt but he refuses. Kelly is afraid to bring up the subject to Mindy so she has just avoided the neighbors altogether. Still Kelly feels more anxious every day. She just wants peace with her neighbors again. Is that possible?

### 'Relationships must be given highest of values'

By Carrie Brown McWhorter  
The Alabama Baptist

**F**or many of us life is not overly challenging. We live in comfortable houses with family we love. Perhaps we have the blessing of going to a job that is fulfilling and rewarding; we have found a church that has become for us a family of faith and a community of great support; we have hobbies we enjoy and friendships we treasure. As the popular T-shirt says, "Life is good."

But what about when we hit an obstacle? What if we are laid off from that job? Or if we find ourselves in conflict with our neighbors, church members or even our own family? What if we have put our lives and relationships on "auto pilot" but suddenly find that we are no longer "on track"? What do we do then?

"Even with the best of intentions, human relationships can corrode or become tangled and if we are honest we also know that we don't always have the best of intentions," writes Douglas Stone, author of "Difficult

Conversations: How to Discuss What Matters Most."

Rod Marshall, president and CEO of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH), added that healthy relationships are not effortless. They require us to be "relationally intentional," he said.

An important first step in nurturing a relationship is to keep communication channels open. When a conflict arises, no matter how minor, it can be easy to avoid the other person or give them the silent treatment. However, such behaviors communicate a lack of respect for the other person and allow us to avoid responsibility for our own role in the strained relationship.

#### Neglecting conflict

In "An Essential Guide to Interpersonal Communication: Building Great Relationships with Faith, Skill and Virtue in the Age of Social Media," authors Quentin J. Schultze and Diane M. Badzinski write, "When negative conflict brews we're quick to indict others yet slow to admit our part in the mess."

Rather than blaming others, they sug-

gest a self-assessment of motives: "What do we desire when we withhold communication from others or when we disparage them? What do we really want? Recognition? Respect? Love? Understanding? Our communication reflects our desires, especially what we seek from others and for ourselves."

#### Taking necessary steps

Hiding doesn't solve conflict. Intentionally engaging with the other person can be a good first step toward restoration of the relationship.

A second necessary step toward intentional relationship building is honesty.

Marriage and family therapist Larry Mark said, "A central theme throughout the Scriptures is the necessity of truth in our relationships — with both God and others. Paul affirms that when we speak the truth in love in spiritual community, then we grow up and together mature into the character of Jesus (Eph. 4:15). New life and new community in Jesus is known by putting off falsehood and speaking truthfully to one another (Eph. 4:25)."

Honesty is not always easy, however. (See 'Take,' page 8)

Honesty is not always easy, however. (See 'Take,' page 8)





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## How should Christians deal with disappointment as children of God?

By Rod Campbell, MAMFT, LPC-S  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

**T**he whole of Psalm 31 relates to the obstacles, conflicts and disappointments life can bring. Over the course of 24 verses, David takes us on an emotionally rich journey concerning his relationship with himself, his neighbors, his adversaries and God. The verses include phrases like “deliver me” and “rescue me,” along with descriptions of grief, despair and pain that affect the body, spirit and soul.

Jesus even quoted this psalm from the cross when He said, “Into Thy hands, I commit My spirit.”

Verses seven and eight are especially meaningful to followers of Jesus who are dealing with disappointment.

In these verses, the psalmist writes: “I will rejoice and be glad in Your steadfast love, because You have seen my affliction; You have known the distress of my soul and You have not delivered me into the hand of the enemy; You have set my feet in a broad place.”

I love these verses and they have been a great source of encouragement to me over the last few months. There are five truths about dealing with disappointment in these verses.

**1. God takes notice of His children.** The word used for “seen” here can mean to behold, to consider, to perceive. It is not a reactive noticing, as though God is responding to

some surprising noise. It means God looks intently on our affliction. Imagine that we are in pain, suffering a wound of body or spirit and God is there. He sees us — really sees our affliction. He does not turn away, does not ignore, does not shut out the noise.

**2. God knows the distress of our souls.** This word for “know” means intimate knowledge. This means that through the sufferings of Christ, God the Father knows suffering. When He sees us, He does not walk away but instead draws closer, actually sympathizing with us in our pain. He knows the pain and he knows us — intimately.

**3. God does not reject us.** God sees us. God knows us. Yet God does not reject us. How beautiful. God’s Word assures us that our greatest fear — that if we are truly known, we will be found unworthy — will not come true with God. This verse assures us that God does not abandon His children.

**4. God grants us freedom.** To be put in a “broad place” is a figure of speech that means we are given freedom from distress and anxiety. It also means we have the freedom to express our distress and give voice to our affliction. Scripture does not require us to ignore our feelings and rush through the process of grief. God certainly does not expect us to “pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.” Neither is the concept “fake it ’til you make it” taught anywhere in the Bible.

**5. God’s love is steadfast.** The opening phrase of verse seven reassures us of God’s steadfast love in the face of disappointment. People in our lives often disappoint us. We

may even be disappointed in God because it seems He was not there for us in a difficult time. No matter the source of our disappointment, we must work to combat those thoughts and feelings with what we know to be true in Scripture — we can rejoice and be glad in His steadfast love in the face of disappointment.

Like many of David’s psalms, Psalm 31 begins with verses of lament, grief, pain, anguish and sorrow before returning to a place where David can again rejoice and offer praises to God.

However, we do a great disservice to others and to ourselves when we impose a limited time frame on that process. Just because we can read Psalm 31 in a matter of five minutes doesn’t mean it took David only five minutes to get from the lament of verses 1–13 to the praises of 19–24.

Coping with disappointment is a process that can take weeks, months and even years, but the Bible tells us God is always there for us and with us, even in the midst of disappointment and affliction.

Whatever the source of your suffering, however deep the distress of your soul, you can know that God will restore you and His mercies are new every morning. All of us can know with certainty that God ultimately restores His children to a place of freedom. And in this freedom, we can deal with our disappointments as a child of God who ultimately can depend on God for all of our needs.

*EDITOR’S NOTE — Rod Campbell serves as director of Pathways Professional Counseling, the counseling ministry of the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries. He has been a licensed professional counselor since February 2008.*

## Take intentional steps to make amends

(continued from page 7)

“Expressing yourself can be difficult and trying but it gives the relationship a chance to change and to become stronger,” writes Stone and his colleagues from the Harvard Negotiation Project.

A third intentional step toward a healthier relationship is providing encouragement to those who are struggling with disappointment.

Schultze and Badzinski write, “Encouraging words open opportunities for us. They inspire us to try something new, to excel at a talent, to offer and accept forgiveness, to love others and ourselves, to see ourselves in a new, more promising light.”

Encouragement moves the focus from self to others and fosters a sense of hope. Words of encouragement, even in small amounts, “hearten us and give us courage to move forward, even in dispiriting times,” they write.

Affirming words do not have to be complicated, just heartfelt. Genuine praise, giving credit for a job well done, a kind word in front of others and even a simple “thank you” can boost the confidence of another by affirming your confidence in them.

### Prioritizing relationships

Intentionality in relationships may seem like hard work — that’s because it is.

Tom Holladay, author of “The Relationship Principles of Jesus,” writes, “If we had enough time to do everything, everything could be a priority. But we don’t have enough time to do everything.”

Priorities involve choices so if relationships are going to be a priority, we must make intentional choices to maintain and strengthen them, even in the face of conflict and disappointments. Fortunately Jesus showed us the way, Holladay writes. When questioned about the greatest commandment, Jesus answers with a response that tells us how to prioritize our relationships — love God, love others.

“When Jesus spoke about the priority of relationships, He could not have been clearer. He taught that relationships must be given the highest of values — and thankfully He also taught us how to give our relationships the highest value.”

# Are you on cruise control?

## How to handle relationships when life takes unexpected twists, turns

By Rod Marshall, Ed.S., LPC-S  
Special to The Alabama Baptist

**C**ruise control is a wonderful invention. If you set your cruise control on a long interstate trip, you will likely get better gas mileage and decrease your chances of getting a speeding ticket. However, if you are driving up a steep mountain, not only is cruise control unhelpful, it's downright dangerous. The twists and turns of mountain driving require a higher level of intentionality than highway driving.

For many of us, our lives are like highway driving. We have navigated relationships with co-workers or family members for so long that all we have to do is what we have always done. It has worked in the past and we can expect it to work in the future.

But what about when we encounter unexpected twists and turns? When the way we have done relationships no longer seems to lead to the same outcomes? How do we react when we find ourselves disappointed in the day-to-day interactions with those closest to us?

### Relating to others

Beginning in childhood and extending into adulthood, most of us have 1 of 4 ways of relating to others, ways that are commonly referred to as "relational attachment." Our style of relating is connected to and influenced by our style of relational attachment. Most of us will have 1 of these 4 attachment styles that is most characteristic of how we relate to others most of the time.

### Secure attachment

Typically possessing good self-esteem (a generally positive view of self) and good sociability (a generally positive view

of others), securely attached individuals would generally agree that most people can be trusted and they generally find it relatively easy to become emotionally close to others.

### Anxious or preoccupied attachment

In anxious attachment style we find people with lower self-esteem (a sometimes negative view of self) and good sociability (a generally positive view of others). Anxious style attachment may result in an individual thinking they would very much like to be close to others but feeling reluctant to allow as much emotional closeness as they seek.

### Dismissive-avoidant attachment

In dismissive-avoidant attachment style we find people with good self-esteem (a generally positive view of self) and lower sociability (a sometimes negative view of others). These individuals are often comfortable with their lack of close emotional relationships and may highly value independence and self-sufficiency.

### Fearful-avoidant

Typically possessing low self-esteem (a sometimes negative view of self) and low sociability (a sometimes negative view of others). This style of attachment is most common in individuals who have experienced trauma or loss in their formative years

of development. They frequently deal with a strong desire to be emotionally close to others but a fear that this closeness will result in them being hurt. It also is common for this attachment style to have difficulty expressing their emotions.

Most people have a secure attachment style most of the time in most of their relationships. However, it is possible for an individual to operate out of one of the attachment positions only some of the time



or only in some specific relationships.

When you are securely attached and you are dealing with someone who also is securely attached, that is like highway driving — set the cruise control and relax. However, when you realize your relationship strategies have stopped working, it is possible that either you or those with whom you are interacting are operating from one of the insecure attachment positions.

When that happens there is hope for change. With the help of loving, caring individuals or a trusted therapist, we can learn to interact in healthy ways and move into a fifth category of relating called "learned security." We do this through examining our histories, raising awareness of our current unhealthy relating styles and practicing healthy relationship strategies.

### Relating to God

Our adult attachment style is greatly influenced by our childhood experiences. The way we were parented, the safety and comfort of our childhood environment and the early relationships we had with key adults will influence our adult style of attachment.

Recent research indicates our attachment style also can influence our relationship with God.

Securely attached individuals seek secure attachment with a Heavenly Father who they believe to be trustworthy.

Individuals with an anxious attachment style may believe that

God is looking for an opportunity to punish or reject them yet they may be deeply drawn to pursue a relationship with God.

Individuals with a dismissive attachment style may not value their relationship with their Heavenly Father and may be reluctant to seek God's face through Bible study and community within a Christian fellowship.

Individuals with a fearful-avoidant attachment style may believe God is seeking to punish them and they are not likely to believe that pursuit of a relationship with God is a high priority.

The good news is that whether we are thinking in terms of our relationships with others or our relationship with God, we can have a secure attachment style. At the very least we can develop learned security. By being intentional and taking positive steps to improve our relationships, we can relationally interact from a position of good self-esteem and good sociability even in cases where that does not seem to come naturally to us.

*EDITOR'S NOTE — Rod Marshall is president and CEO of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH). Before this role, he led ABCH's counseling ministry, Pathways Professional Counseling, for nearly two decades.*

### BOOKS TO READ

► **"Attachments: Why You Love, Feel and Act the Way You Do"** by Tim Clinton and Gary Sibcy

► **"Take Your Life Back: How to Stop Letting the Past and Other People Control You"** by Stephen Arterburn and David Stoop

► **"As Silver Refined: Learning to Embrace Life's Disappointments"** by Kay Arthur

► **"Uninvited: Living Loved When You Feel Less Than, Left Out and Lonely"** by Lysa TerKeurst

► **"You'll Get Through This: Hope and Help for Your Turbulent Times"** by Max Lucado

(Compiled by Carrie Brown McWhorter)

## Leadership expert Maxwell urges adding 'value to others' at UM banquet

The difference between living a life of "success" or one of "significance" depends upon where you choose to add value, *New York Times* best-selling author and international leadership expert John Maxwell told University of Mobile (UM) students and supporters at the 12th annual UM Scholarship Banquet on April 27.

"Success is when I add value to myself. Significance is when I add value to others," explained Maxwell during an evening at the Mobile Convention Center. He is among many speakers of national prominence UM has featured while raising funds for student scholarships.

UM President Dr. Timothy L. Smith thanked supporters for providing scholarships for students, including many in the 650-member audience who established endowed scholarships.

"At the end of the day it's about the students and how we can partner together to strengthen the opportunity for students to engage in a university such as University of Mobile, where they are in a Christ-centered academic community," Smith said.

Maxwell has sold more than 26 million books in 50 languages and in 2014 was identified as the No. 1 leader in business by the American Management Association and the most influential leadership expert in the world by *Business Insider* and *Inc.* magazine.

"Good intentions will never take you anywhere you want to go," Maxwell told those in attendance. "Only intentional living will get



UM photo  
International leadership expert John Maxwell (right) talks with student leaders during a visit to the University of Mobile prior to his presentation at the Scholarship Banquet on April 27.

you the things you want in life. When you're intentional you can add value to everything you do and to every person you meet."

Deciding how best to add value to others involves making decisions that include where to invest your time as well as your financial resources, according to Maxwell.

### Character, competence

He said two qualities he looks for first in an organization he supports financially are "competence" and "good character." Maxwell noted the university's purpose of higher education that transforms hearts, Smith's vision for the future and his own experience earlier that day on campus with university leadership and students. "This is an organization that has both character and competence," Maxwell said.

Maxwell emphasized the lasting

impact of transformational change, explaining that when you train, you educate people; but when you transform, you change people.

On campus prior to the banquet Maxwell met several UM Ambassadors and spoke to students at Ram Hall. He advised them to develop a plan for growth and learning that continues throughout their lifetime.

He related how he determined to become a leadership expert and to accomplish that goal in five years through consistent daily learning. But something unexpected happened when he realized he had fallen in love with the learning process, according to Maxwell.

"I quit asking the question 'how long it would take' and started asking the question 'how far can I go,'" Maxwell said. "Be growth-oriented, not goal-oriented." (UM)

## Executive order on 'promoting free speech, religious liberty' to enforce protections

President Donald Trump signed the much-anticipated religious freedom executive order "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty" on May 4 — the National Day of Prayer (see story, this page). The order says:

► The administration's policy will be to enforce vigorously the "robust protections for religious freedom" in federal law.

► The Department of Treasury, which includes the Internal Revenue Service, will not penalize a person, house of worship or other religious organization for speaking "about moral or political issues from a religious perspective," thereby providing relief from a six-decade-old law known as the Johnson Amendment.

► The secretaries of three federal departments will consider revising rules to protect the freedom of conscience of religious objectors to the abortion/contraception mandate imposed by the Obama administration.

### Marriage not included

The executive order does not include protections for faith-based and other federal contractors who have established their employment practices on a biblical sexual ethic. Nor does it protect individuals and institutions from being penalized by the federal government for acting in support of their belief that marriage is only between a man and a woman.

"Freedom is not a gift from

government; it is a gift from God," Trump said in remarks before signing the order, according to christiannews.net. "Our Founding Fathers believed that religious liberty was so fundamental that they enshrined it in the First Amendment of our great and beloved Constitution.

"We will not allow people of faith to be targeted, bullied or silenced any more," he said. "And we will never, ever stand for religious discrimination."

Former Southern Baptist Convention president Jack Graham was among the religious leaders who prayed and stood behind Trump while he spoke and signed the order during a White House Rose Garden ceremony. (BP, TAB)



TAB AR

BP photo by Shawn Hendricks

Nashville-area residents gather for prayer and worship at the Southern Baptist Convention building during the 66th annual National Day of Prayer on May 4.

## Southern Baptists active in National Day of Prayer

From 45,000 or more venues including public parks, courthouses, churches, community centers, government buildings and the like, concerted pleas went up to God for America on the 66th annual National Day of Prayer. And at least seven Alabama cities hosted the annual Bible Reading Marathon in the days leading up to and coming out of the day of prayer.

"O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act!" was the organized cry drawn from Daniel 9:19 on May 4, that birthed



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Don Campbell of The Baptist Church at McAdory, McCalla, participates in the Birmingham Bible Reading Marathon.

perhaps hundreds of thousands of individual prayers for various aspects of society, including governmental sectors and leaders, families, media, businesses and religion, according to event organizers.

"For Your Great Name's Sake," also taken from Daniel's prayer, was the national theme.

Along with the Bible Reading Marathons in Birmingham, Heflin, Montgomery, Oneonta, Ozark, Troy and Tuscaloosa, prayer services were held around the state and across the nation.

Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) President Steve Gaines called Christians to prayer and

offered "A Prayer for America." "As Southern Baptists we believe that we should pray and ask God to bless our nation and its leaders," Gaines said in introducing his prayer. "We should pray for our leaders and

for every citizen of our nation, asking the Lord to forgive our sins and to guide us in His will in the future. We should also confess the sins of our nation and beseech the Lord to be merciful and gracious to every person in our country."

The National Day of Prayer Task Force's official service was held in the evening at

National Statuary Hall in Washington with task force chairperson Anne Graham Lotz delivering the keynote address. Ronnie Floyd, SBC immediate past president and pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, also participated in the service.

Congress established the national event by a joint resolution in 1952 under then President Harry S. Truman, amending the resolution in 1988 under then President Ronald Reagan to set the annual event on the first Thursday in May. Every annual observance is accompanied by an official proclamation by the sitting president, this year President Donald Trump. (BP, TAB)



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



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## BIRMINGHAM

► **East Gardendale Church, Gardendale**, will host a fish fry May 20, 11 a.m.–1 p.m. There will be food, music, a car show and inflatables with fun and fellowship for everyone. Hayley Barber, Miss Alabama 2016, will be in attendance and will be available for pictures and auto-

graphs. For more information call 205-608-0889.

## BALDWIN

► **Perdido Church** will host a southern gospel concert May 20, 7 p.m. with the Lookin' Up Quartet of Pensacola, Florida. A love offering will be received. For more information call Lana

Langford at 251-294-0195. Wes Bates is interim pastor.

## PLEASANT GROVE

► **Antioch Church, Brookwood**, will celebrate homecoming May 28. Spoken For will perform special music at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Dwight Kizziah will speak at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will follow the service and there will be more music in the afternoon. For more information call 205-861-5288.

## WASHINGTON

► **Chapel Hill Church, Millry**, will celebrate homecoming May 21. Church members will perform special music at 10 a.m. and Eric Copeland will speak at 11 a.m. A business meeting will be at 11:45 a.m. and lunch will follow at noon. Mike Chatham is pastor.

## OTHER

► Gov. Kay Ivey appointed Alabama Baptist pastor **Joshua Pendergrass**

as her communication director, effective April 19. Pendergrass recently left the pastorate of Bethany Church, Crane Hill. He previously served as pastor of Cedar Mount Church, Pinson, and churches in Tennessee and Kentucky. He holds a bachelor's degree from Lambuth University in Jackson, Tennessee, and a doctorate from Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University in Montgomery. He and his wife, Leslie, have one child. †



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### CHURCH POSITIONS

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#### SENIOR PASTOR

Full time for FBC Chalkville, Birmingham, Alabama. Please send resumé to: 2100 Old Springville Rd., Birmingham, AL 35215, Attn: Burl McWaters or email [fbcchalkville@att.net](mailto:fbcchalkville@att.net).

#### PASTOR

James Memorial Baptist Church (Etowah County) is accepting resúmes for a part-time/full-time pastor. Please email to: [rachel@jamesmemorialbc.org](mailto:rachel@jamesmemorialbc.org) before May 31.

#### PASTOR

Saraland Baptist Church in Saraland, Alabama, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resúmes to: P.O. Box 749, Saraland, AL 36571 or contact Autrey Key at 251-675-6681.

#### BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Macedonia Baptist Church in Russellville, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational pastor. Please send

resúmes to: Pastor Search Committee, 37050 Hwy 724, Russellville, AL 35654.

#### BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Pineywood Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational pastor. Requirements will be discussed between the candidate and church committee. Please forward resumé with references to: [office@pineywoodonline.com](mailto:office@pineywoodonline.com).

#### PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER OR FULL-TIME MUSIC/SENIOR ADULT MINISTER

Sardis Springs Baptist Church, Athens, Alabama, is seeking God's will for a part-time music minister or full-time music/senior adult minister. Please send resumé to: 18310 AL Hwy 251, Athens, AL 35613 or email to: [sardis1@integrity.com](mailto:sardis1@integrity.com) (with subject line: music minister applicant).

#### BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER TO STUDENTS

Mount Philadelphia Baptist Church in Cordova is seeking a minister to students. The ideal candidate is called to youth ministry with a desire to invest in the lives of students. Email resumé to: [fred.mpbcc@outlook.com](mailto:fred.mpbcc@outlook.com).

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# Montgomery church sees God's hand in Asian church partnerships

By Grace Thornton  
The Alabama Baptist

A couple of years ago Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery, decided to make good on its desire to reach the nations in a big way. It sent two of its own, youth pastor Adam Bishop and his wife, Erin, to New York City to start a church plant among Asians.

But the people of Heritage Baptist had no idea that was just the beginning of what God had in mind, said Teman Knight, pastor of Heritage. Recently the church opened its doors and its facilities to a sister congregation right there in Montgomery — All Nations Baptist Church, a Korean congregation led by Pastor John Yi.

"Seeing what God is doing in New York gave us a visional view of trying to reach people in the River Region and at the same time all over the world," Knight said.

"We've celebrated this, trying to make our Acts 1:8 missions statement come true."

Heritage first got involved in the New York church plant by taking missions trips to work with Urban Nations, a parachurch group located there.

"There really wasn't a church plant for that particular segment of the Asian population and the vision kind of grew out of that," Knight said. The church committed to take about three trips a year to help out, and they sent the Bishops — and the church was born.



Photo courtesy of Teman Knight

Pastor John Yi (second from left) serves All Nations Baptist Church, Montgomery, which recently formed a partnership with Heritage Baptist Church, led by Pastor Teman Knight (second from right).

For some time, about 60–70 people attended a Tuesday night Bible study. The church had its first Sunday morning worship service April 2 and held some of its

first baptisms that day, Knight said.

"It's been two big months for us as a church, with our church plant in New York ... and our ... partnering with Asians here too," he said.

A lot of excitement has surrounded the idea of reaching an ethnic background in Montgomery similar to the one in New York City, he said. "We're excited about this opportunity and what (God's) doing."

Yi, who also serves as the catalytic missionary for Asian church plants for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said he

praises God for the blessing of the partnership with Heritage.

"Our numbers are not many — we have around 30," he said, noting that they had been meeting at a much smaller facility. But Yi said he is hoping the partnership and the new place to meet will bring more people through the doors of the church.

All Nations meets at 3 p.m. at Heritage and already several new Korean families have come.

"We had been praying for a new place to meet and it is an answer to prayer to partner with such a missions-minded church," Yi said. "It's better than a blessing — it's a divine appointment." ✝

**For more information about Heritage Baptist, visit [www.hbcm.net](http://www.hbcm.net).**

## Lillian's Bayside breaks ground



Photo courtesy of Tom Harris

Bayside Baptist Church, Lillian, breaks ground on its new sanctuary April 23. A special service was held with guests Rick Barnhart (left) of the State Board of Missions and Rick Ellison (right), director of missions for Baldwin Baptist Association. Donnie Dickens (center) is pastor.

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# Teaching children

## Lead by example to show kids Christ in everyday life

(continued from page 1)

Use crayons and paper to draw your prayers. Look through a photo album or scrapbook and pray for family and friends pictured there. Write a poem to God and read it aloud.

### 4. Set an example

When children start crawling, most parents drop to their knees and make a home-safety-search, making sure the child's crawling space is safe, electrical outlets are plugged, cleaning chemicals are out of reach, etc. Many new parents also drop to their knees and conduct a "spiritual-safety" search, examin-

ing their own personal relationship with God, their habits in daily life, their language, their actions toward others, etc. Why? Because little eyes are watching, little ears are listening and young impressionable minds and hearts are learning how to live and conduct their own lives.

### 5. Create teachable moments

In daily life use every opportunity to teach your children about God. Point out a rainbow and tell them the story of Noah, his ark

and God's promises. Watch flowers bud and bloom in springtime and teach them about Christ's

resurrection and new life. Light a candle at mealtimes and talk about the "light of the world" (Matt. 5:14).

Answer your child's questions using biblical truths, stories and examples. When encountering awkward situations, show your children how a Christian responds. When someone purposely hurts or betrays you, teach your children about forgiving others. When you make a mistake, let your child hear you ask for God's forgiveness.

### 6. Attend church

Become active members of a Bible-teaching church, worshipping God and serving others together as a family. Enroll your children in a regular Bible study class where they can learn with children their own age. Make going to church a time to anticipate with joy, carefully weeding out the stressful moments that preparing for services can cause. Take time to prepare children for worship. After church, talk with them about what they learned.

## HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR CHILD

- **Pray for their salvation.** (John 3:16)

- **Pray they will thirst after righteousness.** (Matt. 5:6)

- **Pray they will remain pure.** (Ps. 119:9; 1 Thess. 4:3)

- **Pray that while they are in the world they will not become of the world.** (John 17:15)

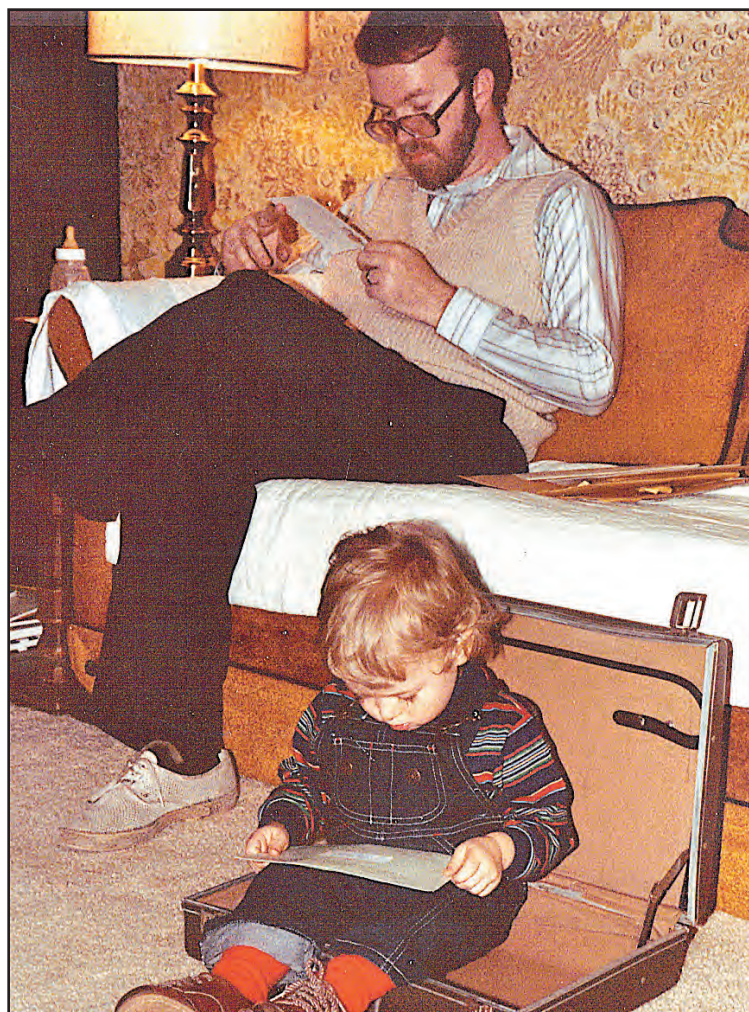


Photo courtesy of Denise George

In 1982 when Timothy (on sofa) and Denise George's son, Christian (in briefcase), was a toddler he liked to mimic his dad while reading the mail. Christian George, originally from Alabama, is now curator of Midwestern Seminary's C.H. Spurgeon Library.

### 7. Christian fellowship

Children naturally admire grown-ups and often mimic their ways. Carefully choose the adults your child spends time with, making sure they are spiritually in tune with your family's biblical beliefs and practices. As a family enjoy Christian fellowship with family and friends often, interacting with others who can help you grow God-loving children.

**EDITOR'S NOTE —** Denise George is the author of 31 books, including "Teach Your Children to Pray" (Christian Focus Publishers). She is married to Timothy George, founding dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham. In August the Georges will become grandparents for the first time. ✠



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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For May 14

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

**Bible Studies for Life** By James Riley Strange, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Religion, Samford University

**LOYAL?**  
**Matthew 26:63-75**

**Affirmed by Scripture (63-64)**

Once Jesus was arrested, the Sanhedrin had to have a reason for His arrest but they had no good cause. So they found people who falsely accused Jesus and said He claimed He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. This was not an accurate claim, as Jesus actually said, “destroy this temple and I will raise it again in three days” in John 2:19, indicating He would be killed and be raised in three days.

Jesus refused to answer these false accusations but when the chief priest asked Him if He was the Son of God, He answered affirmatively and added that they would see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven. This was surely a claim the Sanhedrin was glad to hear, because this was clearly blasphemy in their eyes.

The notion of the Son of Man comes from Daniel 7:13; it was a title associated with the Messiah. Further, the notion of the Son sitting at the right hand of the Lord comes from Psalm 110, another Messianic reference. Jesus was clearly identifying Himself not only as the Messiah but also as God. This is why the high priest declared Jesus was guilty of blasphemy, because they knew He claimed to be God but they didn't believe it. The punishment for blasphemy according to Jewish law was death. Now all they needed was to get the Romans to carry out their sentence.

**Denied by His Opponents (65-68)**

Now Jesus was mocked by those around Him. The Jews did not believe Jesus was the Messiah because He did not fit their expectations of what the Messiah would be like. Most of the Jews expected the Messiah to be a political leader who would overthrow the Romans and restore Israel to glory as in the days of David. They certainly did not expect someone who would ignore the minute laws of the Pharisees and undermine their scriptural views. What the Jews failed to realize was that the Messiah would have to suffer and die for the people. The rescue the Messiah would bring was a spiritual victory, a forgiveness of sins. This is seen in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 for example.

But this risen Messiah will return again to judge the nations. We can take solace in the fact that Christ is going to return and bring an eternal peace for His people. This gives us a confidence in facing trials and it gives us a motivation to tell others about Christ so they can experience the forgiveness of sins and an eternal hope.

**Abandoned by His Friends (69-75)**

Just as Christ predicted, Peter denied Him. This was a tragic time in the life of Peter. To betray your best friend and Lord is a horrible experience but it is one we do every time we sin. Jesus restored Peter and used him in mighty ways to establish the Christian Church.

In the same way, whenever we disobey God and do our own thing, God forgives us when we repent. Some Christians have difficulty thinking God can forgive them or can use them when they have sinned in serious ways but if God can use Peter certainly He can use us too. The next time you sin, repent and be quick to ask for forgiveness. Embrace God's grace and move forward in victory. †

**LIFE AT WORK**  
**Colossians 3:22-4:1**

Today's passage comes in a section of Colossians that is similar to the passage in Ephesians we read last week. This type of instruction is called a “household code” and we find it in books written by Greek and Roman writers as well. These passages reveal some important realities of Paul's world. The first is that many Romans considered the household to be the building block of their society, in which all other relationships (social, political and even divine) reflected the household's hierarchy and the duties that members had toward one another: the subordinate members to the dominant ones and the dominant to the subordinate. The second reality is that slaves were members of the household. Hence “household” and “kin” were not synonyms.

This is a difficult passage, for we want Paul to tell Christian slave owners to release their slaves and to condemn altogether the institution of slavery, upon which the Roman economy and educational system depended. Unlike former slaves in Alabama, Roman slaves could expect to be released, but similar to Alabama before emancipation, Romans practiced chattel slavery. Roman slave owners had unimpeded access to their slaves — they could have sex with them, beat them and kill them if they wished. “Chattel” and “cattle” come from the same root. Roman slaves were movable property.

How then do Christians in Alabama read this passage? First we acknowledge slavery still exists. You may know someone who ministers to people who have been trafficked or you may be involved in such a ministry yourself. In light of that knowledge, we say Paul's instructions do not pertain to the enslaved. Rather, Jesus proclaimed the release of the captive, which we understand to mean the abolishment of slavery. Similarly we say

that people who work in conditions in which supervisors or the system itself treats them unjustly have the right to change their situations.

Throughout the passage the same Greek word is translated as “master” and “Lord.” Paul is saying that the Lord — Jesus — is master of both the subordinate and the dominant person.

**Do your work with integrity and dependability to those over you. (3:22)**

The one to be feared is not the earthly lord, or one in authority, but our heavenly Lord. In Proverbs 1:7 the phrase “fear of the Lord” is equated with knowing God. It is not terror but an understanding of God and of God's desire for righteousness. Three times Paul refers to himself as the Lord's slave at the start of a letter (usually translated “servant;” see Rom. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Titus 1:1). We all are enslaved either to sin and death or to Christ. Being slaves of Christ requires that we, like Christ, surrender our wills to God's will (see Phil. 2:5-8; Rom. 5:18-19). Dependability and integrity, therefore, are not merely virtues; rather they reveal our willing subordination to God.

**Do your work enthusiastically for Christ. (3:23-25)**

It is natural to want to please those in authority. If, however, we perform our tasks for the Lord, we might end up displeasing our earthly masters. Indeed, dependability and integrity might demand it. Verse 22 should be read in light of verse 23.

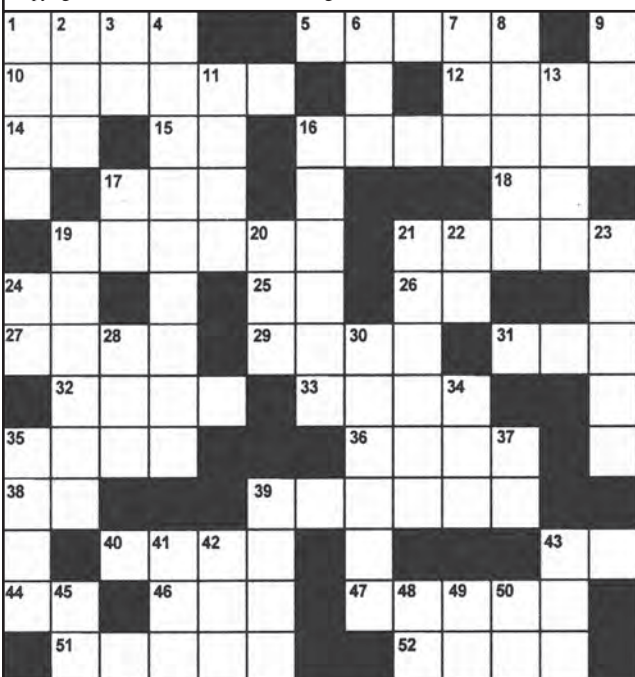
**Do what is right and just as Christ does with you. (4:1)**

The injunction for earthly masters to treat their slaves justly and fairly is built on the idea in 3:25 that “there is no partiality” (i.e. with God). Humans may place a value on whether or not they are in a position of dominance but God doesn't. We will all be judged by the same standard. †

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## Christian Crossword

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**Across**

- Hid from \_\_\_ and from generations. (Col. 1:26)
- \_\_\_ is your reward in heaven. (Matt. 5:12)
- The \_\_\_ shall come and take our place. (John 11:48)
- I will not \_\_\_ to speak of anything. (Rom. 15:18)
- For example.
- Missouri.
- \_\_\_ thy son, he shall build my house. (1 Chron. 28:6)
- David ... feigned himself \_\_\_. (1 Sam. 21:12, 13)
- \_\_\_ I my brother's keeper? (Gen. 4:9)
- The power of \_\_\_. (Esther 1:3)
- As \_\_\_ obeyed Abraham. (1 Pet. 3:6; alt. spelling)
- How can these things \_\_\_? (John 3:9)
- Truth \_\_\_ consequences.
- Ambush between Bethel and \_\_\_. (Josh. 8:12)
- All sailors can tie a \_\_\_.
- An authoritative standard.

- Into captivity unto \_\_\_. (Amos 1:5)
- Where are the gods of ... Hena and \_\_\_? (2 Kings 18:34)
- Amos, the son of \_\_\_. (Luke 3:25)
- A middle point between extremes.
- A unit of dry measure.
- Above-ground subway.
- \_\_\_ and Bartholomew. (Matt. 10:3)
- \_\_\_, Tekel, Upharsin. (Dan. 5:25)
- Let us \_\_\_ over unto the other side. (Luke 8:22)
- These \_\_\_ght Milcah did bear to Nahor. (Gen. 22:23)
- Prefix having to do with the earth.
- I write not these things to \_\_\_ you. (1 Cor. 4:14)
- Simeon that was called \_\_\_. (Acts 13:1)
- In the top of the rock \_\_\_. (Judg. 15:8)

**Down**

- Height times width.
- \_\_\_ and Magog. (Rev. 20:8)
- But a certain \_\_\_. (Luke 10:33)
- City in Brazil.
- Why make ye this \_\_\_, and weep? (Mark 5:39)
- Absalom's sister. (2 Sam. 13:1)
- As a \_\_\_ gathereth her chickens. (Matt. 23:37)
- Drifts off to sleep.
- Rome. (Ital.)
- The excellency of Carmel and \_\_\_. (Isa. 35:2)
- Pray ye to the Lord for \_\_\_. (Acts 8:24)
- Jacob called the name of the place \_\_\_. (Gen. 32:30)
- A free electron.
- Hannah ... bare a son, ... called ... \_\_\_. (1 Sam. 1:20)
- They fled before the men of \_\_\_. (Josh. 7:4)
- Speed it up!
- Book. (abbr.)
- Eggs.
- Whitewater.
- 1,101 in Roman numerals.

- What the hand wrote on the wall. (Dan. 5:25)
- Kitchen Police. (abbr.)
- Balak brought Balaam unto the top of \_\_\_. (Num. 23:28)
- In the white of an \_\_\_. (Job 6:6)
- Formerly.
- Jewel.
- I am glorified \_\_\_ them. (John 17:10)
- Cursed is \_\_\_ that curseth thee. (Num. 24:9)
- But also to die \_\_\_ Jerusalem. (Acts 21:13)
- Mom.



**MUSIC**



# Media reviews

## Want to know GOD?

By Jenni Ingram  
Member, First Baptist Church, Gantt

Think of the person you love most in this world. If you were asked, would you voluntarily be tortured and die to save that person? Most of us would immediately say “of course.” We would do anything for them.

Now let me ask you this: have you told them about repentance, surrender and salvation? Have you told them that Jesus loves them just as they are, where they are, no matter what they have done? Have you planted this seed and watered it regularly?

If you are a Christian you are commanded to tell others about Jesus, to be His disciple. Our command comes from Jesus’ very lips in a message known as the Great Commission. You can find it in Acts 1:8.

In this passage Jesus says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

This is one reason that I enjoy writing this column. Before I took on this endeavor I prayed, “OK, Lord, I have no idea what I am going to say but I want people to know the peace and love that I feel. Please give me the words.”

It is my fervent hope and prayer that one of these columns touches someone somewhere. I may not have ever personally met you, but God created you. You may have felt emptiness, loneliness or a feeling of no purpose. I can tell you how to fill that void. God sent Jesus to save you, the Holy Spirit to guide you and disciples to lead you to a relationship with your Savior, Jesus Christ.

Please accept His invitation today. †

### Jordan Feliz “The River” (Deluxe Edition) Centricity Music, 2017

They say you can’t cross the same river twice. But apparently you can buy “The River” twice, if you’re so inclined.

A year after the stellar success of his 2016 solo album, “The River,” Jordan Feliz (formerly of hard rock outfit A Current Affair) has released “The River Deluxe Edition.” In this case “deluxe edition” means five additional



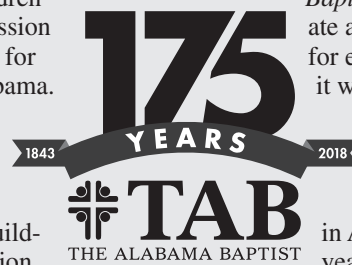
tracks and four remixes (“Beloved,” “The River,” “Never Too Far Gone,” “Satisfied”) and a live version of “Best Of Me.”

Of course when you’re the Dove Award 2016 winner for New Artist of the Year, you can probably get away with that kind of thing. There’s a reason the R&B-infused title track stuck around for weeks at No. 1 on several Billboard Christian charts. It’s incredibly catchy. And hey maybe even catchy enough to purchase twice. †

In April 1866 following the end of the Civil War, the need for schools for African-American children caused a discussion about the need for change in Alabama. Unfortunately there were little funds for anything other than rebuilding and education was not a top priority for everyone. The majority of African-American children lived in rural areas and most

schools could only be found in cities.

The editor of *The Alabama Baptist* was passionate about the need for education and felt it was our “solemn duty” to help. Southern Baptists had been working in Africa for many years as missionaries with the African people and they continued their work in Alabama with the recently freed slaves. (TAB)



## REFLECTIONS



### Meet the reviewer

Jeremy Henderson reviews music for The Alabama Baptist. He is co-host of *Rich and Jeremy in the Mornings on Wings 94.3 FM*, editor of *The War Eagle Reader* and attends Parkway Baptist Church, Auburn.



[news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org)

If you have an album you would like reviewed, email a link to [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org) or mail a CD to: TAB, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209.

## WHAT ARE YOU READING?



### Alabama Baptists share about what they are currently reading

#### WANDA BERGERON

*The Alabama Baptist*

“From Dream to Destiny: The Ten Tests You Must Go Through to Fulfill God’s Purpose for Your Life” by Robert Morris

I just started reading this book and so far I love it. The marketing blurb notes how God has given each of us a dream but because most people never see their dreams come to pass they never fulfill God’s destiny for their lives.

The promotion of Robert Morris’ book says the book deals with 10 character-building tests that Joseph went through and that we must pass as well to realize our dreams.

Morris is pastor of Gateway Church in Texas and is one of the overseers of Church of the Highlands. †

Tell us what you are reading, a quick summary of what it is about and your response to it so far. Email [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org) or visit [www.thealabamabaptist.org/submissions/what-are-you-reading/](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org/submissions/what-are-you-reading/) and fill out the form. You may also mail your information to: 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209.

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First Baptist Church, Van Buren, Missouri, is located in one of the areas ravaged by the late April flooding in the state. Floodwaters topped 40 feet in Van Buren.

BP photo

# Quick response

## April storms pummel 5 states; DR volunteers step up

**S**torms severely hammered at least five states over the last weekend in April, but Southern Baptist Disaster Relief (SBDR) was ready to assist.

At press time, floodwaters in Missouri continue to climb banks, close roads and wash over entire towns but Missouri Baptists remain ready to assist their communities in drying out.

With some parts of the state seeing rain clocking in at more than a foot over the last weekend in April and more rain falling at the start of May, Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens declared a state of emergency April 29. Since that time authorities have conducted hundreds of evacuations and more than 30 rescues. According to media reports, at least five people have lost their lives.

The previous record flood in Van Buren, Missouri, was 29 feet; this flood has reached beyond 40 feet. Carter County Sheriff Richard Stephens said 100–150 homes and about 30 businesses in the area have been impacted by floodwater. At the start of May the city was under a curfew from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. As the flood waters begin to recede there, the mud remains.

SBDR volunteers including chaplains, assessors and mass care workers across the state were set on standby for a response once the waters recede farther but two recovery teams have already been called to Neosho. John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, issued an immediate response to the flooding.

### Prayers, support

“I’m writing to ask you to support Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief efforts in the wake of significant flooding across southern Missouri,” he said. “Further we are learning that a number of Missouri Baptist churches are under water. I am in contact with the pastors of these churches.”

And while Missouri faces rising floodwaters, Southern Baptists are continuing to assess damage in four other states where tornadoes and storms killed at least 14 people and injured dozens, according to Mickey Caison, North American Mission Board

(NAMB) executive director of disaster relief.

SBDR directors in Arkansas, Illinois, Mississippi and Texas sent assessment teams to communities damaged by the storms.

In Texas both the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention and the Texas Baptist Men (TBM) of the Baptist General Convention of Texas assessed damage where CNN reported at least four deaths and 49 injuries caused by four tornadoes, one about a mile wide. More than 5,000 homes were in the monster April 29 storm’s path, according to Canton Mayor Lou Ann Everett.

### Assessing needs

TBM was busy determining needs in hard-hit Canton and Van Zandt County, TBM disaster relief vice president Ralph Rogers said.

“We have had assessors out in the Canton area which was where a majority of the damage was with the tornadoes,” Rogers said. “A lot of the damage was commercial property and then a lot of rural, out in the country and no houses.”

TBM will likely deploy chainsaw and tarp units as needs are properly assessed, Rogers said.

In nearby Wills Point, Texas, LifeHouse Fellowship cancelled April 30 services and responded to areas damaged by tornadoes, according to the church’s Facebook page.

“We will set our church up as a collection site,” the Southern Baptist church announced April 29, seeking donations of gift cards, bottled water, toiletries and cleaning supplies. The next morning the church posted a request for chainsaws and volunteers to “start cutting trees and cleaning the landscape.”

Arkansas, which saw entire towns overtaken by floodwaters, suffered at least five deaths. Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson declared a state of emergency April 30. Other death counts at press time include two each in Mississippi and Tennessee, also the result of flooding and heavy winds.

The weekend storms also drenched areas from Louisiana northeast into Illinois with seven inches to a foot of rain, according to CNN. (BP, TAB)

## PERSECUTED CHURCH

Compiled from Wire Services



### Fines, raids increase on churches in Kazakhstan

TEMIRTAU, Kazakhstan — Police recently raided two Baptist meetings for worship on Easter in the Kazakhstan central city of Temirtau and the southern city of Taraz. Officers issued four fines totaling about nine months’ average wages. Fines for meeting for worship are increasing, according to Baptists in the area.

Also in the southern city of Almaty, a court banned a Protestant church from meeting for three months (from April to July). The court also fined the church for holding a meeting for worship in a place other than its registered address. An Indian citizen associated with the church is appealing against a fine and deportation order.

An official of Almaty’s Religious Affairs Department, Karshyga Malik, said the administrative cases against the church and the Indian citizen were among 33 it had launched since the beginning of 2017. The cases were to punish those who meet without state permission, meet in places without state permission, distribute religious literature without state permission or talk to others of their faith without state permission.

Police raids on congregations of the Council of Baptist Churches are frequent. Yet they choose to meet for worship without seeking state registration.

Council of Baptist Churches’ Dmitry Yantsen told Radio Free Europe’s Kazakh Service of a “new wave” of raids against their communities across Kazakhstan. Many of the Council of Baptists Churches have been served fines by police with no court hearing. (F18, TAB)

### Russia among worst religious freedom violators

WASHINGTON — The State Department should add Russia to its list of the worst violators of religious freedom, a U.S. commission declared in its annual report.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) comes out with its own list of shame each year, citing the most abusive countries in a lineup consistently longer than the State Department’s.

On April 26, USCIRF recommended that the U.S. should designate Russia as a “country of particular concern,” for wielding an anti-extremist law to violate the religious freedom of Muslims and other minorities.

Most recently Russia banned Jehovah’s Witnesses, labeling them “extremist” and ordering the state to seize their properties.

“They’re treating these people like they’re terrorists,” said Tom Reese, a Jesuit priest who chairs USCIRF, referring to Russia’s treatment of the Witnesses. “They’re pacifists, they don’t want to be involved in politics and they just want to be left alone.”

Globally “the commission has concluded that the state of affairs for international religious freedom is worsening in both the depth and breadth of violations,” Reese said. (RNS)

### Muslim extremists destroy pastor’s farm

NAIROBI, Kenya — A pastor in eastern Uganda is without his home, farm and church building after a band of nine Muslim extremists armed with swords and clubs rampaged through his property March 27, he said.

“As they were approaching, they were shouting ‘Allah Akbar’ and immediately started cutting down the trees on my farm and thereafter pulled down the church building,” said Pastor Christopher James Kalaja.

Kalaja, of Agape Sanctuary International Church, reported the case to Kaderuna police, but officers initially took no action, he said. Unable to elicit any police help the pastor filed suit in Budaka District court March 28.

The legal action prompted police to visit the site and they then summoned the suspects.

“Since then I have been receiving threats that they will come for my life, that they will soon destroy me completely,” Kalaja said.

Police have not arrested any suspects, he said. Currently he and his family have taken refuge in the home of a friend. (MS)