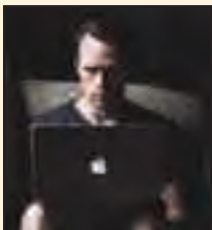




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Photo courtesy of the County of Kauai Facebook page

The small town of Hanalei, on the north shore of Kauai, in Hawaii, experienced severe flooding from Hurricane Lane.

# ‘Outpouring of love’

## Hawaii sees ‘incredible witness’ from local churches amid hurricane, fire

**T**hough Hurricane Lane dumped more than four feet of rain on some parts of Hawaii, the state’s Baptists say the storm will be remembered for God’s protection far more than destruction or injury.

Prayers for Hawaii offered by fellow believers “have been amazing,” said Darrell McCain, disaster relief director for the Hawaii Pacific Baptist Convention (HPBC). “God has

answered the prayer by just taking a Category 4 storm and basically destroying it before it had a chance to do any more damage. We’re real thankful for that.”

### Spared from more damage

Lane weakened and spared the islands from the damage some anticipated.

Still, on the Big Island more than 50 inches of rain fell in one location between noon Aug. 22 and 4 a.m. Aug. 26, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported. The resultant flooding led to evacuations and water rescues along with landslides and road closures.

Mudout and chainsaw crews from the HPBC and the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention began work Aug. 29 on more than 30 flood recovery jobs on the Big

Island. Disaster Relief leaders also assessed whether crews are needed on Maui, where a brush fire charred some 2,000 acres stoked by Lane’s winds.

The fire caused some of the most significant damage associated with Lane as more than 50 Maui residents lost their homes, according to the *Maui News*.

The flames came within yards of Maui’s Lahaina Baptist Church on Aug. 24, but firefighters were able to save the facility from damage, Pastor Jay Wright told Baptist Press.

In the fire’s wake, about 10 Maui churches of various denominations banded together to collect donations of food and personal items, Wright said. Church members went door to door in the affected area and asked,

“Can we provide you food, water, clothes or cleaning?” One church assembled a chainsaw crew to help clean up damage.

“The outpouring has been incredible,” Wright said. “Churches that might not even agree [on all theological issues] came together in order to serve our community — an incredible witness.”

### Community help

The *Maui News* noted the response of Lahaina Baptist and neighboring Waiola Church and quoted one local resident as stating, “It’s just astounding what happened. The community is the one taking these [evacuees] in.”

On the Big Island, Pastor Alan Tamashiro of Puna Baptist Church said flooding prevented some church

(See ‘God,’ page 3)

To watch the videos from this week’s issue, visit our YouTube channel or use the HP Reveal app on your phone or tablet and hover over the segments marked “AR.”

# COMMENT

## Bearing One Another's Burdens

The pastor search committee of this rural Baptist church was excited about their recommendation for a new pastor. The candidate was known to the congregation and liked by all. Only the formality of approving the salary and benefits remained before the final vote could be taken and the new man welcomed by the church.

But formalities can sometimes become bumps in the road.

The confusion was not about the proposed salary. It was about the pastor's vacation. The pastor search committee recommended two weeks of vacation including one Sunday. A member sitting on the back row of the church questioned the recommendation. Two weeks means 14 days, he observed. That meant the pastor should have two vacation Sundays.

The pastor search committee did not see it that way and the debate quickly escalated into heated exchanges. One of the committee members who had not spoken to that point stood to defend the committee's recommendation. When the member on the back row stood to respond, the committee member sitting a row in front of him suddenly turned around and knocked the questioning member flat in his seat.

What followed was a knock-down, drag-out fight between the two men, both faithful Christians and leaders in the church.

### Christian humility

Afterwards both men were embarrassed. The pastor search committee member, a deacon, was embarrassed he had lost his temper and had swung at his fellow church member. He felt he had disgraced himself, the committee and the church. The other member was ashamed that he had become argumentative and let the disagreement grow from a definition of what constituted two weeks of vacation into a personal crusade where he had to win the argument.

In a rare sense of Christian humility, both felt they had contributed to the unfortunate incident. Neither blamed the whole episode on the other.

Still, fighting in church is wrong. It falls into



### THOUGHTS By Bob Terry

the category of what Galatians 5:20 describes as "enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions" and more. It is a manifestation of what the preceding verses call the "sinful nature" (Gal. 5:17). How should the church respond to the situation? How should the church respond to the two men who brawled in the back of the sanctuary?

Members of the church, where I was serving as interim pastor at the time, were halting their efforts to deal with the situation. They did not want to "stick their nose in where it did not belong." They feared offending, maybe driving off, both men and their families. At the same time they recognized that to do nothing clouded the boundaries between what was acceptable in church as opposed to what secular culture might allow.

The church found guidance in Galatians 6:1-3 and the verses about bearing one another's burdens.

Fighting was out of character for both men. "If a man should do something wrong, my brothers, on a sudden impulse" (v. 1) seemed to accurately describe the situation. Some translations of this passage omit terms like "sudden impulse" but the passive voice of the verb in Greek implies the idea of surprise, so the translation is appropriate. In this case, neither man was habitually aggressive. The fight was not premeditated. It was abnormal behavior for both.

Verse 1 continues, "you who are endowed with the Spirit must set him right again very gently." Again the Greek is helpful. The verb translated "set him right" is used to describe setting a broken bone. It has no connotation of punishment. It is about restoration or making whole again.

The task facing the church was to find a way to hold the men accountable for their actions as well as to restore them to participation in the fellowship. That meant helping them overcome their sense of embarrassment, shame and failure.

This church had its "Holy Joes" and "Pious

Pollys" who wanted to say, "I told you so." A few had the spirit of Shakespeare's Shylock and wanted a "pound of flesh" for the men's transgressions.

But the Bible says people are to be restored "very gently." Restoring one caught up in sinful behavior is to be done for the good of the body of Christ.

After all, when one part of the body of Christ hurts, the whole body suffers (1 Cor. 12:25-26). Restoration is to be done with sensitivity and consideration, not with self-righteousness and superiority.

Restoration is led by "you who are endowed with the Spirit." The reference is not to a special class of Christians. Too many churches have members who think themselves superior to others in terms of biblical knowledge and knowing the will of God.

***"Restoration is led by 'you who are endowed with the Spirit.' The reference is not to a special class of Christians."***

That is exactly the attitude the Apostle Paul condemns in this passage. "We must not be conceited," he writes. Later in the same verse he adds, "Look to yourself, each one of you: you may be tempted too."

Those endowed with the Spirit point to the members of the church whose lives evidence the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). These are the ones (both men and women) whose lives evidence the abilities to walk with love, patience, kind-

ness, fidelity, gentleness and more beside the one who has suddenly and unexpectedly been caught in sinful behaviors.

As if to summarize this entire section that begins with a description of the sinful nature in chapter 5, the writer says in verse 2, "Help carry one another's burdens." The verb form is imperative. It is a command, not an option. In other words, the responsibility of the church is to help those caught up in sinful behavior on their journey back into full fellowship with the church.

### Helping carry heavy burdens

That is a difficult journey. The weight of failure is heavy. Fellow believers have the privilege of helping the fallen carry that heavy burden as their brokenness is mended. When we do what the Apostle Paul says, "in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." This is a serious matter.

"Help carry one another's burdens" means much more than helping the wayward, but it certainly includes that responsibility.

The church in question stumbled its way into restoring both families to full fellowship and the experience strengthened the church family. Doing what the Bible says, even when it is difficult, has a way of doing that.✝

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"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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# Staying safe online

## Cybersecurity professionals talk about keeping homes, workplaces safe

By Michael J. Brooks  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**K**risti Bush of Spanish Fort began her career as a child abuse investigator and now speaks to various groups about the menace of social networking.

"The question isn't 'if' but 'when' your children and mine will be impacted by inappropriate internet activity," Bush said. "Children are naturally curious. Because of this, parents must restrict their children's activities and set rules, just like we do at age 15 when they begin to drive a car. We don't just say, 'Here it is; enjoy yourself.' We talk with them and teach them to be careful to protect themselves and others."

Bush was one of two presenters at the Cyber Security for Houses of Worship conference sponsored by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department, the Shelby County Law Enforcement Chaplains Association and the Shelby Baptist Association. The conference was held at New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, on Aug. 25.

According to the FBI, some 750,000 child predators are online, and therefore parents must be proactive with electronic devices, Bush said.

"Social media isn't good or bad in and of itself," Bush said. "It's all in how it's used. 'Screen brave' is used to describe a user taking on more boldness or even another identity online. Some of this leads to cyber-bullying and some, unfortunately, leads to even more terrible consequences."

Bush said Facebook has popularized the term "friend," but this is a misnomer.

"The predator can pretend to be a friend and lure unsuspecting children with affirmations such as 'you're cool and beautiful and fun.' And sometimes the predator lures children with gifts," she said.

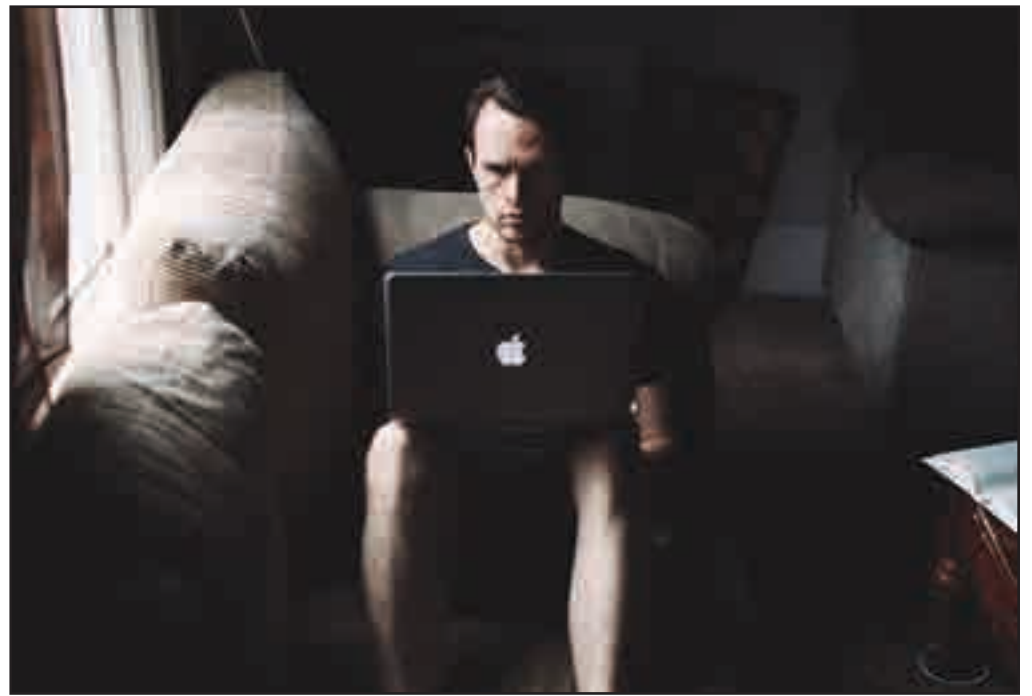
### Children easily ensnared

Bush showed a video recorded by law enforcement demonstrating how 12- and 13-year-old girls are ensnared with promises of friendship, and agree to clandestine meetings with strangers posing as friends.

She said both iPhones and Android smartphones have settings for restrictions and entering codes only the parents should have, and the iPhone allows parents to search unseen items with key words like "hidden," "private photos," "photo vault" and "secret."

Proactive parents can stop children from making decisions that will haunt them for years, she said.

"A child can be labeled a sexual offender no matter their age if they take or send inappropriate pictures. Depending on the judge, this can remain on their record for 15 years or 25 years or life. Think of how 25 years can impact a teenager: no scholarships, no military service and maybe no job since social media is the new resumé. We're all 'young and dumb' as we grow up, but now there's a much larger



Unsplash.com

and more public platform for dumb things."

Bush advises young people to remember the phrase "3-2-1-Stop" before posting anything online since what they post can come back to hurt them years later.

### Cybercrime is costly

Reed Warner, cybersecurity team leader for a Birmingham insurance company and a certified intrusion analyst, spoke about internet security at home and at work.

"We had more than 300,000 cybercrime complaints in America in 2017, and it's estimated that cybercrime will cost us \$1.5 trillion this year," he said.

Warner said malware is the umbrella term for software designed to steal personal information. The interconnectedness of home electronics makes users more vulnerable to security threats, which is reason for caution.

Not opening unsolicited emails and attachments is one precaution people can take,

Warner said. Backing up important data to cloud storage or to an external storage device is another.

Warner also urges people not to use old passwords again and suggests using a pass phrase instead of a password.

"For example, 'orange' is a simple password, but a phrase such 'I/like/to/eat/oranges/on/Monday' is much better. And there are several good password storage apps available so we don't have to remember them all," he said.

Keith Brown, church and community ministries director for Shelby Association and a volunteer law enforcement chaplain, said he surveyed pastors about their safety needs and online security was one area of interest. He said the sponsoring organizations plan to continue offering safety events like this every six months.

For more information, contact Brown at 205-669-7858 or email keith@shelbybaptist.org.

## 'God has spared us,' local pastor says; damage 'should be a lot worse'

(continued from page 1)

members, including the congregation's worship leader, from attending worship Aug. 26. Flooding also canceled praise band rehearsal Aug. 24. So Puna Baptist worshipped acapella and sang from hymnals.

Because of Hurricane Lane and a lava flow that has caused damage on the Big Island since May, a resurgence of worshipping the Hawaiian volcano goddess has occurred among some residents. But Tamashiro said he has seen a resurgence of

a different spirit: "the spirit of the Cooperative Program," Southern Baptists' unified method of funding missions and ministries in North America and across the globe.

"We really are thankful and grateful and very humbled by the outpouring of love from our brother and sister churches across the nation," Tamashiro said.

Fellow Big Island Pastor John Endriss of Engage Church in Hilo said damage "should be a lot worse," given the 40 inches of rain that fell over three days. "God has spared us." (BP)

**Grandparents' Day is Sept. 9.**

Making the family's traditional sausage balls is a favorite grandfather and grandson activity.

# Gift from God

## 9 ways to share love of Jesus with grandchildren

By Carolyn Tomlin  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**G**randchildren are a gift from God. If you are fortunate enough to have a precious grandchild or grandchildren, you are blessed. Get to know these little ones. Spend time together. What are some suggestions for sharing the love of Jesus with your grandkids? Here are some ideas:

**1. Give the gift of time:** Spending money on expensive gifts isn't what makes grandchildren happy. It's you they need. The gift of time is a precious commodity that only you can give.

### Experiences

**2. Plan experiences as gifts:** What will your grandchildren remember about the gifts you've given? Chances are, they won't recall the Christmas or birthday present within a few weeks. What if you asked them to name a place to travel or event they would like to attend? An individual trip, just grandparents and one child planning, scheduling and packing, could make a memory they will tell their own children one day.

**3. Bible Trivia — Q&A:** When my granddaughter was about 10 years old, I developed a Bible

game where she had to find the answer on the internet. To make this more fun, one day I asked the question and she gave the answer. The next day, she was responsible for the question and I provided the answer. This game not only brought us closer together, but it provided computer skills and helped develop an expertise in research.

**4. Volunteer for missions opportunities:** Have you considered volunteering for a church missions trip along with a grandchild?

Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief goes to places where natural disasters have changed communities. People need help. Some jobs are more suited to adults but others are open to children. For example, children can help with cleanup after tornadoes or winter storms by carrying small limbs and debris to the street for pickup.

Children also can hand out Christian tracts and tell people that "Jesus loves you." The need for missions is everywhere — even in your own community.

**5. Facebook, email, YouTube:** If you live a distance from grandchildren, don't allow the miles to separate the love of family. Fortunately, with modern technology, it's easy to connect through email and social media. Share Christian music and favorite recording artists through YouTube videos. Guide children to learn about the way this artist uses their Christian witness for others.

**6. Watch wholesome family movies:** Check with LifeWay for Christian movies that are age-related to your grandchild. As you watch, pause the movie in different places and ask: What do you think will happen next? Could a different decision be made? What would be the consequences of this action?

**7. Master the art of photography:** Schedule a time when you can both take a camera, hike and

**"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."**

Proverbs 22:6



Photo by Carolyn Tomlin

explore God's world. Plan for evening sunsets, morning dew, songbirds at a feeder and dozens of other things He created for us to enjoy.

### Christian concerts

**8. Attend Christian concerts:** Youth and teens love music! Offer to purchase tickets to a Christian music concert and attend with your grandchildren. Who knows, you might just become a fan of this generation's music.

**9. Find opportunities to teach Bible lessons:** Who would have ever thought that a bar of soap and a plastic knife could teach

about Jonah? But you can carve a piece of soap into a fish and tell the Bible story while you and your grandchild are whittling away. ✝

### Meet the author

Carolyn Tomlin writes for the Christian magazine and newspaper market. She teaches the Boot Camp for Christian Writers. Tomlin believes that a day spent with a grandchild is one of the best!

## Wholesome Alabama activities

Across the Yellowhammer State, there are unique and wholesome opportunities for grandparents and grandchildren to enjoy time together. Visit these websites for ideas near you:

► **Alabama state parks:** Scattered across the state, Alabama's state parks offer inexpensive lodging, picnic areas, swimming, horseback riding and other interests for children of all ages. [www.Alapark.com](http://www.Alapark.com)

► **Alabama caverns:** The northern highlands of the state offer restful and peaceful views of mountains, caves and rivers. It's a good place

for grandchildren to learn the magnitude of God's handiwork. [www.VisitLookoutMountain.com](http://www.VisitLookoutMountain.com)

► **Wildlife:** Alabama is fortunate to have an abundance of wildlife across the state. Pack your camera and capture God's creatures — both large and small. [www.OutdoorAlabama.com/watchable-wildlife](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com/watchable-wildlife)

The time of childhood is so brief and those years are gone too fast. If God has blessed you with a grandchild or grandchildren, take time to give each youngster the best gift possible — yourself. (Carolyn Tomlin)

## UNTIL THEN

# SENIOR ADULT REVIVAL

September 24 - 26, 2018 | South Campus Chapel

10:30 - Noon



**HAROLD FANNING**  
Evangelist



**RICK STONE**  
Worship Pastor



**BECCA GILLIAM**  
Pianist & Soloist

I will sing about the Lord's faithful love forever; I will proclaim  
Your faithfulness to all generations with my mouth. Psalm 117

Whitesburg Baptist Church South Campus  
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# Baptist NEWS BRIEFS

COMPILED FROM WIRE SERVICES

## Hunt to lead NAMB evangelism group

ALPHARETTA, Ga. — Johnny Hunt, longtime pastor of First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia, and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention, will join the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as senior vice president of evangelism and leadership. Hunt and NAMB announced the news Aug. 26.

Hunt shared in worship services at his church Sunday morning that he will walk with the church through the transition and begin serving full time with NAMB at the beginning of 2019. NAMB trustees will vote on Hunt's role at their upcoming meeting Oct. 2.

The group Hunt will lead is set to focus on championing the cause of evangelism among Southern Baptist churches and pastors. It will also equip pastors with tools and leadership skills that will allow them to lead their churches to become more evangelistically active.

On Aug. 12, NAMB announced formation of the Evangelism and Leadership group, and that Jim Law would serve as its executive director. Law, who has served as executive pastor of First Baptist, Woodstock, for nearly 28 years, will begin serving at NAMB on Oct. 1. He will handle day-to-day leadership for the group while Hunt casts a vision for evangelism among Southern Baptists and mobilizes pastors and churches. (BP)



HUNT

## LifeWay's Rainer announces retirement

NASHVILLE — Thom Rainer, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resource, announced Aug. 28 that he will retire.

Rainer told LifeWay trustees of his plans during a regularly scheduled meeting. He said he will step down when a new CEO is named or at the end of August 2019, whichever comes first. LifeWay trustee chairman Jimmy Scroggins named a seven-person presidential search committee during the board meeting. The committee will be led by Kent Dacus, vice president of student services at California Baptist University. The search committee will receive questions and names for consideration at presidentialsearch@LifeWay.com.

Rainer, 63, has led LifeWay since February 2006. During his tenure LifeWay has rebounded from a decline in curriculum sales, expanded its global publishing reach and moved to a new location in Nashville. Rainer praised the organization and its people.

"The past 13 years have been some of the most blessed years of my life," Rainer said. "I love LifeWay and the incredible men and women who serve the Lord with joy and hard work, while equipping the Church for her mission of making disciples."

But he said it was time for him to move into a new phase of life and "pass the baton of leadership to a new generation."

Rainer said he hopes to spend more time with his family and plans to begin a nonprofit organization dedicated to church revitalization, a subject he has often addressed through his popular website and more than two dozen books. (BP)

## ERLC apologizes for posting video

NASHVILLE — Calling the decision an "embarrassing" but "honest mistake," the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) of the Southern Baptist Convention has issued an apology for posting a video comparing animals to unborn babies.

The 50-second video featured Fordham University theology professor Charles Camosy stating that "nonhuman" animals "merit our serious attention" and included animal rights activists under the pro-life umbrella.

ERLC vice president for communications Daniel Darling apologized, explaining that the video, part of footage from the annual March for Life, was posted by someone on his team without approval and does not reflect the ERLC's views. (TAB)



123rf.com

If you enjoy being outdoors, working in the fresh air and sunshine and being a part of God's good earth, then gardening is for you.

# Senior adults offer vital ministry force in church, community

By Carolyn Tomlin  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Billy Graham, an American evangelist, died in February 2018 at age 99. Graham ministered to U.S. presidents as well as the poor and homeless. Even beyond retirement age, his crusades brought in thousands and led people to Christ.

Laura Ingalls Wilder, the author known for the "Little House on the Prairie" series, captured the attention of American school children by the stories of her childhood and youth. Born in 1867, Wilder was 65 when her first book was published and 76 when the eighth book came off the press. The ninth and final manuscript was found after Wilder's death and published in its original draft form in 1971.

Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., who retired from the U.S. Supreme Court in 1932 at the age of 90, once said, "Old is fifteen years older than I am now."

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than 16 percent of Alabama's 4.8 million people are over the age of 65. The average life expectancy in the United States is 81 years for women and 76 years for men.

## No one is too old

In 2 Corinthians, Paul tells the Christians at Corinth that regardless of your age or your circumstances in life, God expects us to be faithful. No one is ever too old to serve the Lord. God can use seniors in miraculous ways. Never let it be said, "We have served our time."

Rick Evans, pastor of Dalraida Baptist Church, Montgomery, said he believes in his church's strong and active senior adult program known as "New Beginnings."

The program encourages those in the fellowship who are 55 and over to develop mature spiritual growth and to enhance their lives. That includes small group studies, evangelistic outreach and fellowship events.

"Approximately 50 percent of our congregation are seniors," Evans said. "In our church, we believe fellowship is essential. Like other areas, we have widows and widowers who enjoy an active program our church provides. Our homebound ministry has volunteers who deliver literature, make monthly visits and provide a monthly meal."

What are some ways you can get involved in your own church and community as a senior?

**More than 16 percent of Alabama's 4.8 million people are over the age of 65.**

U.S. Census Bureau

**1. Organize a senior adult Bible study.** Retirement offers many opportunities to develop a deeper relationship with God.

**2. Make new friends.** Do you have new neighbors in your community? If they do not have a church home, invite them to attend and worship with you.

**3. Rekindle an old hobby or develop a new one.** Hobbies range from needlepoint, collecting coins and refurbishing antiques to crossword puzzles and adult coloring books.

And getting involved in these can help you meet others who love these hobbies too — another opportunity to share the gospel.

**4. Volunteer your services.** People need people. Tutor in schools, participate in after-school programs, distribute last quarter's literature to assisted living homes or nursing homes or assist your church librarian.

**5. Participate in a community garden.** Many urban areas provide garden space for low-economic groups. If you enjoy being outdoors, working in the fresh air and sunshine and being a part of God's good earth, then gardening is for you.

**6. Work from home.** If you're homebound or do not have transportation, make a list of things you can do to serve both God and others. For example, send birthday, sympathy and get-well cards to those in your church. Access the computer to listen to church services. Use social media to stay in touch with your congregation. Phone a friend just to say "hello" and "I'm praying for you."✠



# Across ALABAMA'S Associations

## BIRMINGHAM

► **Hillview Church, Birmingham**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m. Chip Wise will share special music, and Randy Atkinson will speak. A potluck lunch will follow the service. Gene Carver is pastor. ► **Vestavia Hills Church** will celebrate **Pastor Gary Furr** and his 25 years as pastor Sept. 16, 10 a.m. A reception will follow that evening, 4–5:30 p.m. Furr and his wife, Vickie, have three children.

## BLOUNT

► **Pleasant View Missionary Church, Holly Pond**, will hold its regular third Sunday night singing Sept. 16, 6 p.m., featuring Canaan's Crossing. For more information call 256-796-5986. Randy Burtram is pastor.

## BUTLER

► **Danny Dean** is the new director of missions for **Butler Association**. He began Sept. 4.

## CALHOUN

► **Angel Grove Church, Jacksonville**, will celebrate its 130th anniversary Sept. 16, 10 a.m. Previous members of the church will return to perform and speak. Lunch will follow the service. Jerry Starling is pastor.

## CLARKE

► **Irby Weaver** is the new pastor of **West Bend Church, Coffeerville**, where he previously served as interim pastor.

## COFFEE

► The **Enterprise Military Support Group** will begin meeting again Sept. 18, 7 p.m. at **Church on Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise**. The group will meet weekly on Tuesday nights. For information call 334-894-6411. John Granger is pastor.

## COLBERT-LAUDERDALE

► **William Brewer** recently celebrated his 10-year anniversary as pastor of **Fairview Church, Florence**. Brewer began at Fairview in Aug. 2008. He also has served at Waterloo Church; First Church, Elgin; and First Church, Cloverdale. Brewer's wife, Dolores, died in March. They have three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## COVINGTON

► **Hopewell Church, Andalusia**, will hold a revival Sept. 16–19. Services will be at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 6:30 p.m. Monday–Wednesday. Lamar Duke will be the guest speaker, and Randy and Sandra Hunt will lead worship. Barry Wilkinson is pastor.

## ETOWAH

► **Thomas Winborn** is the new pastor of **Twelfth Street Church, Rainbow City**. His first Sunday will be Sept. 9. He previously served at Welsh Church, Frostburg,

Maryland. Winborn and his wife, Carol, have five children.

## GENEVA

► **Maple Avenue Church, Geneva**, will host its monthly 39ers CLUB on Sept. 11, 11 a.m. Teddy Ward will be the speaker for the meeting. For reservations call 334-684-9617. ► **New Hinson Church, Slocomb**, will host Big Mo & Family on Sept. 16, 6 p.m. and Sept. 17–19, 7 nightly. For more information call 334-996-3097. Bryan Klobe is pastor.

## MONTGOMERY

► **Eric Smith**, pastor of **Vaughn Forest Church, Montgomery**, has accepted a position as a missionary with the For All Mankind Movement. His last Sunday at Vaughn Forest will be Oct. 28. Smith has served at Vaughn Forest since January 2016. He previously served at Vertical Church, Jackson, Mississippi. Smith and his wife, Krystal, have one child.



SMITH

## NORTH JEFFERSON

► **Jesse Carr** is the new pastor of **Sharon Heights Church, Birmingham**. He previously served at Walker Road Church, Morganton, North Carolina. Carr and his wife, Amy, have one child.

## SHELBY

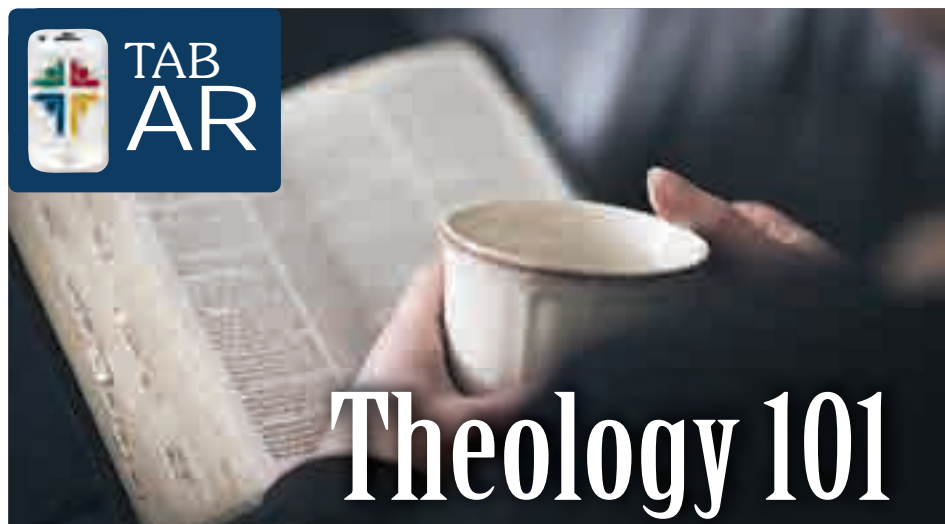
► **Chelsea Village Church and Shelby Association** commissioned **Chase Rogers** and **Redeemer Church, Helena**, as a new church plant Aug. 19. Redeemer Church officially launches in September. Scott Slayton is the pastor of Chelsea Village Church and Hugh Richardson is director of missions of Shelby Association. ► **Siluria Church, Alabaster**, will host missionaries Greg and Michelle Mullins on Sept. 16, 11 a.m. The Mullins have lived in Swaziland, Africa since June 2014. Prior to moving to Africa, Greg was an Alabaster firefighter for 15 years. Michael Brooks is pastor.

## ST. CLAIR

► **Cedar Grove Church, Leeds**, will celebrate its 175th anniversary Sept. 9, 10:30 a.m. Tours of the chapel and fellowship hall will be offered 9–10:15 a.m. and 1–3 p.m. A light lunch will follow the service. Bill Abrams is pastor.

## OTHER

► **Nehemiah Teams**, a partner of the International Mission Board, will hold a build party Oct. 6–14 in Mentone. Individuals and teams are invited to participate in building trail shelters for the missions training center. No prior construction experience necessary. For more information go to [nehemiahteams.com/buildparty](http://nehemiahteams.com/buildparty).



# Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

## The Scriptures

# Divine Intention

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

**W**e have noted in the past five weeks of Theology 101, given the divine inspiration of the Bible, we have truth that can be trusted; given the divine revelation in the Bible makes God known, we should treasure it; given the divine instruction that comes to us from the Bible, we should believe and obey it; given the divine illumination of the Holy Spirit making God's truth in the Bible understandable, we give ourselves to reading and studying it in order to understand God's revealed truth; and given the divine authority residing in the Bible, we seek to receive it as the supreme standard by which all truth claims are to be evaluated.

In this final session concerning the Holy Scriptures, we give attention to what we may term the divine intention of God's word. That is, its message should be taken to the ends of the earth. After all, the Bible is God's love letter to His world.

The prophetic vision voiced by Isaiah expresses the divine intention in these words, "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9b). In similar words Habakkuk 2:14 expresses the same vision, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."

### 'In all the world'

Jesus connected the divine intention for the gospel to be taken to all the world by declaring, "This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matt. 24:14). Christ clearly commanded that the preaching of the gospel should extend to all nations, telling His followers in every generation, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matt. 28:19a).

Hence, it is the duty and privilege of

every believer, as well as the mandate to every church, to seek to make disciples of everyone everywhere. God's intention has always been that the earth should be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. The whole inhabited world is the object of God's saving love (John 3:16). The coming of Christ into the world and bearing the sin of the world is the focal point of that saving love.

The good news of salvation through faith in Christ is the most needed news a waiting world will ever hear. Since God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9), the saving message of the Bible must be shared in all places to all people.

### Bad and good news

The bad news of the gospel is that sin separates everyone from God. Consequently, apart from saving faith in Christ every person is spiritually lost. The good news of the gospel is that God in His love is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance from sin and to personal faith in Christ as Savior.

The Bible, in fact, ends with the reminder that the Church is the bride of Christ in order to end its message with the declaration in Revelation 22:17, "The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come!'"

God's ongoing intention is that His people (the bride of Christ) take His word of gracious invitation to all the world (under the direction and empowerment of the Holy Spirit). ☪

*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.*



Alabama Baptist STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS



1 MISSION

ONE MISSION: The Great Commission ONE PROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANY MINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

news and features about missions and ministries from the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions | (800) 264-1225 | alsbom.org

PRAYING FOR STATE MISSIONS

By now, you've hopefully heard a great deal about the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, now in its third year. The gifts received help support five Great Commission Ministries: Alabama WMU, Disaster Relief, Church Planting, Partnership Missions and Church Revitalization.

In addition to the offering, these Great Commission Ministries are strengthened and undergirded by the Week of Prayer for State Missions, scheduled this

year for September 9-16. The highlighted stories and prayer points in this year's Prayer Guide will



certainly inspire you but hopefully also motivate you to action.

You'll meet a college sophomore who already has more missions experience than many will have in a lifetime, thanks in part to two generations of missions leaders who

have invested in her. You'll learn how First Baptist, New Brockton, received encouragement through a church revitalization effort and how First Baptist, Monroeville, is connecting to an unreached people group a half a world away through an Alabama Journeyman.

You'll see firsthand how disaster relief volunteers are helping bring hope and healing to families from Alabama to Texas and Florida to Puerto Rico and beyond, and how participants at two Alabama WMU events helped enrich the lives and

ministries of our nearly 80 Alabama church planters.

If you haven't already, please download your church's promotional and educational

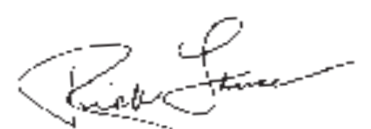
By Rick Lance  
State Missionary



materials at Myers-Mallory.org. Then plan to participate in the Week of Prayer for State Missions September 9-16 or whenever best fits your church's calendar. And last, please give sacrificially to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering, knowing that

your gift will have an eternal Kingdom impact.

For more information about the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering and Week of Prayer for State Missions or to request resources, please contact Kathryn Helms, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 325; (334) 613-2325; khelms@alsbom.org; or visit Myers-Mallory.org.



1 Corinthians 4:1-2



Looking for a special event for your senior adults? How about a tour of your new State Board of Missions office facility! To arrange your group's tour time, please contact Charleen Hobbs at (334) 613-2231 or chobbs@alsbom.org.

# It Just Makes Sense

Even ants know that accomplishing great things requires working together. Let's follow their example and see what we can build together.



Stronger Together

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

## Alabama Church Planter Network Dinner

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, SAMFORD UNIVERSITY

**CHURCH PLANTERS** and wives or anyone interested in planting are invited to this event. Childcare will be provided.

**OUR SPEAKER:**

Kenny Grant was born and raised in Brunswick, Ga. He has served as pastor/planter for churches in both Brunswick



and Savannah, Ga., for many years. A former Marine drill instructor, Kenny has a unique style of teaching and preaching.

He communicates the Word of God with insight, clarity, passion and conviction. Often punctuated with humor, his impactful messages always leave his audiences informed, inspired and equipped to apply God's Word to their daily lives.

Currently, Kenny serves as the senior pastor at Calvary Baptist Temple, Savannah. Kenny's teaching ministry has

extended to a wide range of groups and events throughout the United States. Kenny's wife, Shirley, "completes him." They are the parents of four children: Kenetha, Gina, Kenny, Jr., Kameron; and four grandchildren.

**SCHEDULE:** Registration, 4:30-6 p.m.; dinner, 6-6:30; worship led by Worship Band from New Beginnings Church,

6:30-6:45; inspirational message by Kenny Grant, 6:45-7:15. From 7:15 to 8:30, wives' session will be led by Susan Lovett; planters/pastors will be led by Kenny Grant. Dismissal is at 8:30 p.m. to pick up children from childcare.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION:** [plantalabama.org/dinner](http://plantalabama.org/dinner)

*For more information, please contact State Missionary Lamar Duke (lead church planting strategist) at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 332, or (334) 613-2332, [lduke@alsbom.org](mailto:lduke@alsbom.org).*

ALABAMA BAPTIST  
**free**  
order your 2018-2019  
RESOURCE DIRECTORY



**THIS 16-MONTH CALENDAR**

(Sept. 2018–Dec. 2019) has State Board of Missions events and emphases already printed with plenty of room for you to add your church's events. It also includes an alphabetical listing of ministries and services along with directories of associational, state and SBC contacts.

**Limit 20 copies per church.**

To order, please call, fax or e-mail your request to Charleen Hobbs at **1.800.264.1225**, ext. 231; direct at **334.613.2231**; **334.288.2693** (fax); [chobbs@alsbom.org](mailto:chobbs@alsbom.org); or order online at [alsbom.org/rd](http://alsbom.org/rd).

Be sure to include your name, church name, mailing address and number of guides needed **up to 20**.

**FOCUS on One Mission**

One Great Sunday is no longer a singular event, but a 24/7 training resource. Plan your training/ leadership development events using these videos as resources any time of the year.



**Fresh content is now available in numerous Great Commission Ministries including:** 55+ Ministry, Associational Clerks/Secretaries, Bible Drill, Bivocational Minister's Finances, Church and Community, Church Building, Church Clerks/Secretaries, Church Compensation, Church Evaluation, Church Planting, Church Revitalization, Church Tax Requirements, Communications Tips, Cooperative Program, Deaf Ministry, Disaster Relief, Disciple-Making, Discipleship Training, DOM Leadership, Evangelism, Family Ministries, Legal Issues, Literacy, Men's Ministry, Personal Money Management, Protecting Children from Abuse, Royal Ambassadors, Singles Ministry, Social Media, Stewardship, Student Missions, Sunday School, W.M.U., Women's Ministry, Worship Leadership and Youth Ministry.

For more information, please go online to **onegreatsunday.org** or contact State Missionary Daniel Edmonds at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 285, or (334) 613-2285, [dedmonds@alsbom.org](mailto:dedmonds@alsbom.org).



## HOW ONE ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY ASSISTED WITH CHURCH PLANTING IN HIS ASSOCIATION

Terry Long, who serves the Choctaw Baptist Association, shared with me several months ago that he was burdened about the need for an African-American church plant in his area.

After several conversations and a trip over to share with the leadership of the association, it is now becoming a reality.

While there, we toured the building where Terry has now begun a Bible study with four the first week and 14 the second!

Several churches and the association have already begun to give toward this effort.

A group from First Baptist Church, Prattville, linked arms with a local team to lead a mission Vacation Bible School in July led by Steve and Becky Marcereau.

Terry says, "Henry Blackaby was right: Just find where God is at work and join Him!"

There is still a lot of work to be done in Choctaw County, such as finding the planter/pastor for this new church and getting him through the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions process for funding. This involves assessment of his readiness to plant, training, and coaching.

**I cannot wait to see what the Lord will do through this new work in the future!**

By Lamar Duke  
State Missionary



State Missionary Lamar Duke (lead church planting strategist) may be contacted at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 332, or (334) 613-2332, [lduke@alsbom.org](mailto:lduke@alsbom.org).

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

# SENIOR ADULT SINGIN'

Tuesday,  
September 11,  
Northbrook  
Baptist  
Church,  
Cullman

When did you last have a foot-tapping, laughing, singing, good old time? Ready for another one?

That's what happens at Senior Adult Singin's! Come worship and rejoice in song.

For more information including cost or to register, please go online to [alsbom.org/senioradultsingin](http://alsbom.org/senioradultsingin) or contact State Missionary Eileen Mitchell at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 221, or (334) 613-2221, [emitchell@alsbom.org](mailto:emitchell@alsbom.org).

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

Thursday, **October 18**,  
First Baptist Church, Birmingham  
Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery

Friday, **October 19**,  
First Baptist Church, Opelika  
Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne

# SENIOR ADULT CHOIR + CELEBRATIONS +

Online Registration: **alsbom.org/seniorfest**

For more information, please contact Ministry Assistant Sharon Cleveland at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 279, or (334) 613-2279, [scleveland@alsbom.org](mailto:scleveland@alsbom.org).



# Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering

WEEK OF  
**PRAYER**  
FOR STATE MISSIONS  
SEPTEMBER 9-16, 2018

**YOUR GIFTS HELP SUPPORT THESE  
GREAT COMMISSION MINISTRIES:**

- ALABAMA WMU
- DISASTER RELIEF
- CHURCH PLANTING
- PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS
- CHURCH REVITALIZATION

[myers-mallory.org](http://myers-mallory.org)



Alabama Baptist  
STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS

**State Goal:  
\$1,000,000**



# Faithful

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION  
**NOVEMBER 13~14, 2018**

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • TRUSSVILLE, ALABAMA

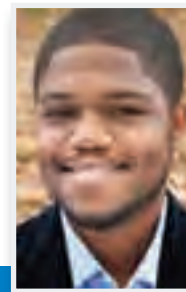
**FEATURED  
SPEAKERS:**



**Albert  
Mohler**



**John  
Thweatt**



**Terrence  
Jones**

**THE TUESDAY EVENING SESSION** will feature **Albert Mohler**, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, with worship led by an intergenerational choir involving current Children's Honor Choir members, alumni members of the Children's Honor Choir over its 20-year history, and members of the Alabama Singing Men and Women.

**OTHER HIGHLIGHTS** include Tuesday morning's President's Address by **John Thweatt**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pell City, and Wednesday morning's Convention Sermon by **Terrence Jones**, pastor of Strong Tower at Washington Park, Montgomery.

**HOTEL GUIDE** The following hotels have offered special rates to those attending the State Convention Annual Meeting. Remember to ask for the Alabama Baptist State Convention rate when you call. Rates listed do not include taxes. This information is provided as a service and is not intended to be a recommendation of any kind. If you have problems making a reservation or securing the posted rate is at any of these hotels, please contact Doug Rogers at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 319, or drogers@alsbom.org.

**CONVENTION HOTEL:**

**Hilton Garden Inn, Trussville**  
 3230 Edwards Lake Parkway, Trussville  
 205-655-5222  
 Free WiFi and breakfast buffet  
 Only 3 miles from FBC Trussville  
 \$124 + tax

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites**

Birmingham NE - Trussville  
 5911 Valley Rd., Trussville  
 205-655-2700  
 Free WiFi and breakfast buffet  
 Only 1.7 miles from FBC Trussville  
 King: \$89.99+tax  
 2 Queens: \$94.99+tax  
 King Suite: \$104.99+tax  
 2 Queens Suite: \$109.99+tax  
 Ask for group code ABC  
 Reserve by October 29

**Drury Inn & Suites Birmingham Lakeshore**

160 State Farm Parkway, Birmingham  
 205-940-9500  
 5% rate discount  
 Free WiFi and breakfast buffet  
 Ask for corporate code 324960

**Drury Inn & Suites Birmingham Grandview**

3510 Grandview Parkway, Birmingham  
 205-967-2450  
 5% rate discount  
 Free WiFi and breakfast buffet  
 Ask for corporate code 324960

**Courtyard Marriott**

3665 Roosevelt Blvd., Birmingham  
 205-661-2280  
 Free WiFi  
 \$109 + tax  
 Reserve by October 21

**CHILDREN'S HONOR CHOIR AUDITIONS**

Auditioned choir consisting of 150-165 children, grades 4-6, from Alabama Baptist children's choirs throughout the state. Must have audition forms and CDs/digital files received by **Thursday, November 1, 2018**. Forms and audition sample for preparation are available online at [alsbom.org/chc](http://alsbom.org/chc).

**Tour Dates:** March 1-3, 2019

**Locations:** Panama City, Fla., and Enterprise, Ala.

For more information, please contact Ministry Assistant Cindy Parrish at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 230, or (334) 613-2230, [cparrish@alsbom.org](mailto:cparrish@alsbom.org).

Saturday, November 3  
Central Baptist Church,  
2801 Highway 31 South,  
Decatur

**NORTH ALABAMA CHURCH LIBRARY CONFERENCE**

**Theme: THE REACH OF CHURCH LIBRARIES**

Breakout conferences will include every aspect of church library work—administration, collection development, weeding, processing, Bible repair, automation with Concourse and Atrium, promotion of all sorts, and classification and cataloging. Church history, cardmaking, the Cricut machine, and making something useful out of useless materials will also be offered. A LifeWay book store will be available.

Joan Deneve, author of three books in *"The Redeemed Side of Broken"* series, will be our guest speaker. The day begins with registration at 8 a.m., general session at 8:30 followed by breakouts. We'll dismiss at 3:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, visit [cbcd.booksys.net](http://cbcd.booksys.net), or contact Eva Nell Hunter at (256) 353-5912 or (256) 303-7739 or [enhunter1946@gmail.com](mailto:enhunter1946@gmail.com).

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

Tuesday, October 23,  
10 a.m.-3 p.m. •  
WorldSong Missions  
Place, Cook Springs

**Fall Missions Festival for Adults**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:  
Wednesday, October 15**

Join us to experience a different culture through food, customs, missionary testimonies and activities. Held on the beautiful campus of WorldSong, we'll pray together and enjoy other special activities. The Fall Missions Festival for Adults is open to adults of all ages.

For more information, including costs, go online to: [AlabamaWMU.org/FMFforadults](http://AlabamaWMU.org/FMFforadults) or please contact Kathryn Helms at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 325, or (334) 613-2325, [khelms@alsbom.org](mailto:khelms@alsbom.org).

Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries

THEME: *Do Everything in Love*  
"Let all that you do be done in love."  
- 1 Corinthians 16:14

**57th annual conference**  
March 10-13, 2019  
Shocco Springs

GENERAL CONFERENCE LEADER: Allison Wilks, Prattville  
MUSIC/WORSHIP LEADER: Jeremiah & Kirsten Ross, Paducah, Ky.

Make plans now to join us for a time of spiritual, professional and personal growth through worship, study, fellowship and educational breakout sessions.

For more information, go online to [alabamabaptistsecretaries.com](http://alabamabaptistsecretaries.com) or check out the Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries Facebook page or please contact Dawn Chapman, **AABS President** 2018-2019, at (334) 285-4731, [dawn@millbrookbaptist.com](mailto:dawn@millbrookbaptist.com).



The Troy L. Morrison LeaderCare & Church Health Awards will be given to those individuals who have demonstrated evidence of leadership that has advanced the church in four key areas of kingdom growth: spiritual growth, ministry advancement, missions involvement and numerical growth.

**You're invited to nominate recipients in three categories:**

- New work (church less than 10 years old)
- Established work (church older than 10 years)

•Bivocational (church where the pastor holds dual employment)

For more information, go online to [alsbom.org/leadership](http://alsbom.org/leadership) and click on Leadership Resources to access award information and download a nomination form. You may also contact Ministry Assistant Debbie Dickey at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 218, or (334) 613-2218, [ddickey@alsbom.org](mailto:ddickey@alsbom.org). Nominations must be received **by mail** no later than Friday, September 21, 2018.

ONE MISSION: The Great Commission ONE PROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANY MINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries



**Friday and Saturday, October 12-13**  
(register by October 4)

**or October 19-20** (register by October 11)  
**WorldSong Missions Place, Cook Springs**

FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1-6 AND LEADERS

Fall Missions Festival for Children offers a fun way to expose children in your church to missions here and around the world. Participants will experience another culture through food, customs, crafts and other fun activities led by young adults who have a heart for children and missions. Activities will begin at 5 p.m. Friday and conclude at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. The cost includes meals, lodging and all programming.

For more information, including costs, go online to: [AlabamaWMU.org/FMFforchildren](http://AlabamaWMU.org/FMFforchildren) or please contact Shannon Mayes at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 226, or (334) 613-2226, [smayes@alsbom.org](mailto:smayes@alsbom.org).


# Abide

FAITHFUL LIVING IN EVERY STAGE

An experience for women in their 20s and 30s

"...and they shall abide; for now shall He be great unto the ends of the earth."  
Micah 5:4b ASV

featuring



Bible study with author

**Katie Orr**

experience time away at WorldSong to connect with God and connect with others as together we find the beauty of abiding in Jesus in the midst of the chaos of everyday life

**SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2018**  
WorldSong Missions Place, Cook Springs  
Check in 6-7pm Friday, event starts at 7pm

For more info and cost:  
[AlabamaWMU.org/abide](http://AlabamaWMU.org/abide)



**Thursday, September 13 • 9 a.m. - Noon**  
**Twelfth Street Baptist Church, Rainbow City**

Join other worshipers as we praise God through song, pray to God for revival and prepare our hearts for God's message that day.

Special guests include Mat Alexander, senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Gadsden, and Craig Carlisle, director of missions of the Etowah Baptist Association.

You will want to browse the many displays set up by various ministry leaders at the ministry fair. No meals are provided and there is no cost. **Just come!**

For more information, please contact State Missionary Eileen Mitchell at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 221, or (334) 613-2221, emitchell@alsbom.org.

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries



**Alabama Singing Men Retreat**

A gathering time of ministers of music and laymen from Alabama Baptist church choirs to fellowship and learn music to be sung at the annual State Convention meeting and on a spring tour. Contact Shocco to make reservations.

For more information about membership, please contact State Missionary Keith Hibbs at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 217, or (334) 613-2217, khibbs@alsbom.org.

**Alabama Singing Women Retreat**

A gathering time of women from Alabama Baptist church choirs to fellowship and learn music to be sung on an annual tour in November which culminates with a performance with the Alabama Singing Men at the annual State Convention meeting in November. Contact Shocco to make reservations.

To obtain an application for membership, please contact Mary Minor at marylminor@bellsouth.net. For other information, please contact Janet Ormond at janetormond@bellsouth.net.

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries

**FINANCIAL ISSUES  
CONFERENCE**  
**SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2018**  
**SHOCCO SPRINGS**

Treasurers, financial secretaries, administrators and committee members will find this conference packed with helpful information and answers to your questions.

You will choose the breakout sessions you need the most.

**REGISTRATION/COST:** Please contact Shocco Springs at 1-800-280-1105, or visit shocco.org. Costs quoted will be per person for conference fees, meals and room.

For other information, please contact State Missionary Lee Wright at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 241, or (334) 613-2241, lwright@alsbom.org.

**abundant Living**

Gardendale First Baptist Church,  
316 Mountain Crest Pkwy.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16,**  
**9:30-3 PM (DOORS OPEN AT 9)**

For more information, please contact State Missionary Eileen Mitchell at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 221, or (334) 613-2221, emitchell@alsbom.org.



(augmented reality)

- 1** Download the HP Reveal app from your app store.
- 2** Tap the icon at the bottom of the screen.
- 3** You will see pulsating dots, which indicate the app is searching for a target. Once it finds a target the dots will turn to a bull's-eye. The bull's-eye will remain until the augmented reality image loads.
- 4** Look for *The Alabama Baptist* (TAB) augmented reality logo (example shown above). Hold your device over the logo and watch the paper come to life.
- 5** Each week when TAB arrives, look for the AR logo to watch the video extras through the app.

# Law prohibiting 'dismemberment abortion' in Alabama ruled unconstitutional in August

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**  
The Alabama Baptist

The U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals on Aug. 22 upheld a lower court's ruling that Alabama's law prohibiting "dismemberment abortion" is unconstitutional.

In response to the appeals court ruling, Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey released a statement saying she "was supportive of the bill when it passed through the Legislature in 2016, and I signed it as president of the Senate. I am disappointed in the court's ruling ... however, we should not let this discourage our steadfast commitment to protect the lives of the unborn."

## 'Disappointed'

In a separate statement, Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said he is "disappointed that the 11th Circuit sided with the lower court in this case, but it is encouraging that the court

recognized the State's important and legitimate interests in ending barbaric abortion procedures — in this case, procedures that literally tear apart babies living inside their mothers' wombs."

In a dissenting opinion to the U.S. Supreme Court's 2000 *Stenberg v. Carhart* decision, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that in dismemberment abortions, "The fetus, in many cases, dies just as a human adult or child would: It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb. The fetus can be alive at the beginning of the dismemberment process and can survive for a time while its limbs are being torn off."

The Alabama Unborn Child

Protection from Dismemberment Act was signed into law by former Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley in May 2016 and was set to go into effect Aug. 1, 2016. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson

**"We should not let this discourage our steadfast commitment to protect the lives of the unborn."**

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey

blocked the law before it went into effect after two abortion clinics, the West Alabama Women's Center in Tuscaloosa and the Alabama Women's Center in Huntsville, filed a lawsuit against the state.

In its ruling, the appeals court noted, "In our judicial system, there is only one Supreme Court, and we are not it. ... Our role is to apply the law the Supreme Court has laid down ... The result is that we affirm the judg-

ment of the district court."

Senior U.S. Circuit Judge Joel Dubina wrote in a special concurring statement in the ruling that he agrees with other judges and justices.

## Precedents

"The problem I have, as noted in the Chief Judge's opinion, is that I am not on the Supreme Court, and as a federal appellate judge, I am bound by my oath to follow all of the Supreme Court's precedents, whether I agree with them or not," Dubina wrote.

In his statement Marshall said he appreciates Dubina's statement and will consider carefully whether to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for review of the most recent ruling.

Ivey in her statement seemed to support an appeal to the high court, adding, "This ruling clearly demonstrates why we need conservative justices on the Supreme Court." ✝

## TAB CLASSIFIEDS

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

### CHURCH POSITIONS

**ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ SENIOR ADULT MINISTER**  
First Baptist Church, Guntersville, is seeking a part-time associate pastor/senior adult minister. Send resumé to: First Baptist Church, ATTN: Joel Samuels, 1000 Gunter Ave., Guntersville, AL 35976, or email: [jsamuels@gvillefbc.org](mailto:jsamuels@gvillefbc.org).

**PASTOR**  
Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Geneva, Alabama, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé to: 1009 W. Maple Avenue, Geneva, AL 36340, or email to: [maple000@centurytel.net](mailto:maple000@centurytel.net).

**PASTOR**  
First Baptist Church of Foley is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resúmes to: Sharon Collins at [scollins@fbcfoley.com](mailto:scollins@fbcfoley.com) or P.O. Box 307, Foley, AL 36536.

**PASTOR**  
FBC of Spanish Fort is a traditional conservative church in search of a pastor to preach God's inerrant word and guide us as we spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please send resúmes to: [firstbaptistosf@bellsouth.net](mailto:firstbaptistosf@bellsouth.net).

**PASTOR**  
York Terrace Baptist Church is

seeking a full-time pastor who will lead the church under God's direction to be a lighthouse in the Shoals area. An energetic, tireless worker who inspires the church to serve in the same way. Relevant ministerial experience is preferred. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, York Terrace Baptist Church, 1401 E. 30th Street, Sheffield, AL 35660.

**BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER**  
Hopewell Baptist Church, Hanceville, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational music minister. Send your resumé to: Hopewell Baptist Church, ATTN: Ed Hart, P.O. Box 423, Hanceville, AL 35077. [eedhart@yahoo.com](mailto:eedhart@yahoo.com).

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC**  
Montevallo First Baptist Church, Montevallo, Alabama, is searching for a paid, part-time minister of music. They will supervise the planning and leading of our worship services in an energetic, blended style. Their primary additional responsibility will be to lead the choir ministry and choir rehearsals. Interested persons should send a resumé to: [mfbcbellsouth.net](mailto:mfbcbellsouth.net) or mail resume to: MFBC, P.O. Box 46, Montevallo, AL 35115.

**YOUTH/STUDENT MINISTER**  
Calvary Baptist in Russellville, Alabama, is seeking a full-time youth/student minister. Inquiries send resúmes to: [Wade4Calvary@icloud.com](mailto:Wade4Calvary@icloud.com).

**STUDENT MINISTER**  
FBC Silverhill is presently searching for a part-time student minister to lead 7th grade-college. [Info@Silverhill.org](mailto:Info@Silverhill.org) or P.O. Box 246 Silverhill, AL. 36576. 251-945-5182.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF YOUTH**  
Montevallo First Baptist Church is searching for a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to: Montevallo First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 46, Montevallo, AL 35115 or email to: [mfbcbellsouth.net](mailto:mfbcbellsouth.net).

### OTHER POSITIONS

**KEYBOARD PLAYER**  
New Beginnings (Graysville) is looking for an experienced keyboard player. Needed for Sunday AM, Sunday PM and Wednesday PM services. Please send resúmes to: [secretary@nbccbaptist.com](mailto:secretary@nbccbaptist.com).

**PIANIST**  
First Baptist Church, Union Grove, is seeking a pianist. Send resúmes to: FBC Union Grove,

P.O. Box 125, Union Grove, AL 35175, ATTN: Personnel Committee.

**ASSOCIATIONAL MISSION STRATEGIST**  
The Northshore Baptist Association (Southeast Louisiana) is seeking resúmes for an associational mission strategist (DOM). Interested persons should visit [www.northshorebaptists.net/search](http://www.northshorebaptists.net/search).

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# My JESUS Story

By Jenni Ingram  
First Baptist Church, Gantt

One of my favorite songs is “Redeemed” by Big Daddy Weave — specifically the part of the chorus that says, “so I’ll shake off these heavy chains, wipe away every stain.”

When I came to Jesus 15 years ago, I gave every sin in my past to Him and allowed Him to take it. And as we are told in 1 John 1:9, “He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

In my heart I know this to be true, and my entire relationship with Jesus is based on this truth. But have you ever noticed how scheming the enemy is? He will

throw in your face everything bad you have ever done to make you think that you are guilty and unworthy of God’s love and amazing grace. He will let us become so immensely burdened by all of what is going on in this world to the point where we are afraid to step outside our front door.

We are told in 1 Peter 5:8 that “the enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.” He knows what buttons to push, what sins to haunt us with and how to make us doubt and fear. But hallelujah, in Psalm 5:11 we are given this comfort: “But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread Your protection over them, that those who love Your name may rejoice in You.”

Take heart dear friend, I have read the end of the Book. God — and all of us who are His children — win the war! ✠

## Kelley’s ‘Baptist blues’ sermon garners lots of discussion

Chuck Kelley’s New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) chapel sermon on “the Baptist blues” was not an attack against anyone in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), he said Aug. 29, but an attempt to foster unity by getting “conversation on the table.”

“A confluence of unprecedented circumstances” has given rise to “the Baptist blues” among some Southern Baptists, Chuck Kelley said Aug. 21 in NOBTS chapel.

“If people are unaware of the simmering divisions in our convention, we’re never going to be able to fix them,” Kelley, NOBTS’s president, said in an interview. “The reality is they are there. I think not talking (through) our feelings about the convention has made some of the divisions deeper.”

Kelley’s chapel sermon had garnered more than 3,500 views on NOBTS’s YouTube channel and was the subject of numerous blogs and social

media posts at press time. In the sermon, Kelley read an entry from his journal on the SBC, recounting circumstances that have led “so many people” to ask, “What in the world is going on with the Southern Baptist Convention?”

“I don’t even recognize the Southern Baptist Convention anymore.”

He countered such negativity by stating, “There has never been a more important time for us to come together as the body of Christ, working on the Great Commission together.”

Reflecting back on the sermon, Kelley said he “might change a thing or two about the way [he] said” some things. But he stands by the emphases of the message.

In general terms, “traditionalists” are the Southern Baptists

expressing concern with the convention’s direction, and “the growing Reformed group” is “very excited and pleased with

what’s happening in the SBC,” Kelley said.

Positive and negative feedback on the sermon was expected and “is a very accurate reflection of where the SBC is today,” Kelley said.

“The thing that probably surprised me and disappointed me the most is people who said they had no idea anybody was concerned about the state of the SBC.”

Kelley underscored the need for Southern Baptists to reemphasize the Great Commission so other conversations of lesser importance don’t take precedence. (BP)

**“There has never been a more important time for us to come together.”**

**Chuck Kelley  
NOBTS president**

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# ALABAMA

## UPDATES

PEOPLE, CHURCHES MAKING NEWS ACROSS THE STATE

### *Paris to retire from Sherwood*

After 37 years of preaching, Don Paris said he's "humbled and very thankful" that God saw fit to use him.

"It's been good, and it's been challenging," he said. "By the grace of God I've made it this far, and it's been wonderful."

Paris, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church, Huntsville, will retire at the end of September.

Paris began his ministry in Kentucky after seminary and then went to Tennessee.

He came back to Alabama 21 years ago to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Wedowee, where he served for 13 years. He then accepted the pastorate of Sherwood Baptist.

The church will hold a retirement lunch for him after the morning service Sept. 30.

"During the time I have known Pastor Don Paris, I have found him to be a very humble servant of God," said Charlie Howell, executive director of missions for Madison Baptist Association.

Howell said Paris' ongoing ministry in his own community and beyond has had an eternal impact.

"On our recent associational missions trip to the Williamsburg, Kentucky, area, Don led the team that held a Vacation Bible School (VBS) in a church that never had one before," Howell said. "The church had a great VBS experience and 12 children trusted in Christ as their Savior and Lord."

Paris said he and his wife of 40 years, Susie, have grandchildren in the Huntsville area, so they probably won't stray too far in retirement. But he has been

training to become a transitional pastor and plans to continue preaching in that type of role or whatever God gives him the opportunity to do.

"Who knows what the future holds, but we know Who holds it," Paris said. (Grace Thornton)

### *Griffin marks 25th anniversary*

Pastor Robert Griffin says he's so grateful that for the past 25 years, he's had the freedom to preach God's word unhindered at Highland Baptist Church (HBC), Clanton.

"In fact, the good folks at HBC have always expected me to preach the Word," he said.

Highland Baptist honored Griffin on Aug. 19 for his quarter century of service at the church. During the morning service, they presented him with a plaque and a gift. Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, and Larry Felkins, director of missions for Chilton Baptist Association, also presented Griffin with certificates of appreciation.

Griffin also is an outstanding Bible teacher — "one of the best," Felkins said — and has served as a New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary extension director for 18 years.

As part of the celebration, the congregation also gathered for a meal and presented Griffin with cards and gifts. A former church member returned to bring the special music, and Lance preached a special message.

"It was an amazing day," Griffin said. (Grace Thornton)

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\*The Children's Oncology Group is a global, international, cross-institutional and multi-disciplinary research organization committed to finding better ways and providing the highest quality of care for children with cancer.

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# WHAT ARE YOU READING?



123rf.com

Alabama Baptists share about what they are currently reading

## STEPHEN KEENE

*Pastor of Discipleship, Glory Fellowship Baptist Church, Jasper*  
**God & Churchill: How the Great Leader's Sense of Divine Destiny Changed His Troubled World and Offers Hope for Ours** by Jonathan Sandys, Wallace Henley, James Baker

Excellent examination of the faith that steeled Churchill's resolve to fight Hitler and Nazism. Recommend for anyone passionate about history and their faith.

**Destroyer of the Gods: Early Christian Distinctiveness in the Roman World** by Larry W. Hurtado

I can't recommend this book enough. It is a needed text for the modern church as it examines what made the early church distinctive in its early Roman context. The book examines the critiques of Roman culture to the early Christians and how the church, by its careful, faithful and steadfast loyalty to Christ, was the "destroyer of the gods" of ancient Roman paganism.

**Crucible of Faith: The Ancient Revolution That Made Our Modern Religious World** by Philip Jenkins

This is an excellent examination for anyone wanting a laser-focused, heavily researched — yet accessible — history of the Intertestamental Period. 📖



Photo by courtesy of MercyMe

Bart Millard (third from left) and Dennis Quaid (fourth from left), along with Millard's MercyMe bandmates, celebrate the release of the movie 'I Can Only Imagine' about Millard's life.

# 'Sharing my story'

## Millard shares response to watching 'I Can Only Imagine'

By Michael Foust  
 Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Seeing his family's life portrayed for the first time on the big screen — warts and all — was "odd" for MercyMe's Bart Millard but, perhaps surprisingly, not too difficult. The story of Millard's childhood and young adult years was the focus of this year's hit movie "I Can Only Imagine" (PG), which shocked Hollywood by finishing in the top four during its first three weekends and ending its run with more than \$83 million, making it the sixth highest-grossing movie of all time. It was released on DVD and streaming platforms in June.

Millard said he's been public about the relationship between him and his father, who abused him as a child before coming to Christ later in life. He died shortly thereafter.

"It wasn't hard (to watch on screen) just because I've been sharing my story and using the stage as therapy for 23 years, and I've told some version of this story for at least 18 years," Millard told a room of faith reporters, referencing the 2001 single release of the song "I Can Only Imagine."

### Complicated emotions

That song and other MercyMe tunes, such as "Dear Younger Me," helped him work through those complicated emotions. At one point in his life, Millard hated his dad. But they became great friends after his father repented — to the point that Millard could say he truly loved him.

Yet that doesn't mean it was easy for Millard to watch the movie being filmed. The first scene he watched on set involved his father — played by Dennis Quaid — being told he has cancer.

"I just wasn't ready for it," Millard said. "And it really hit hard for me. And when they would say 'cut,'

Dennis would lock eyes on me and come find me. He would go: 'Are you okay?' And I was like, 'Yeah.' And I said, 'Well, luckily it didn't happen exactly this way.'"

Advice from Quaid helped Millard grow comfortable with the film. Millard said Quaid told him to keep some stories about his father's life private — that is, don't reveal everything in the movie about his personal life. Quaid also advised Millard to let the filmmakers do their job so that the movie flows and is entertaining.

### 'I was OK'

"As long as the spirit of the movie is there and the redemption story (is there), let them do what they need to do," Quaid said, according to Millard.

"When he told me that, I was OK," Millard said. "In fact, I was more than OK. It allowed me along the way to separate myself and in some ways to be able to watch as a fan."

The "harsher things" in the movie — the arguments and battles with his dad, for example — are "pretty much incredibly true," Millard said.

Wanting accuracy with the character, Quaid would approach Millard on set and ask what his dad might think about a specific line or scene.

"He knew there were some (scenes) that were more emotional than others for me," Millard said.

Other parts of his life had to be rearranged in the film to compact the timeline and make it fit within two hours.

Millard has enjoyed the impact the movie has had on others. After he screened it the first time with an audience, male moviegoers approached him.

"(Several) men came up to me and said, 'I feel like I was given permission to deal with issues that I've had for a long time.' And so that was really good." 📖

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Photo by Sue Oliver

Elk hold court at Montana's Gardiner Baptist Church. With just six members, the debt-free church — located near Yellowstone National Park's north entrance — is raising money for a two-story community building on its two acres in the town of 875 people.

# Kingdom work

## Near Yellowstone, 6-member church impacts the world

**M**ost churches would consider closing their doors if their active membership dipped to six people, but Gardiner Baptist Church (GBC) is holding steady.

The debt-free church in the town of 875 people located near Yellowstone National Park's north entrance is raising money for a two-story community building on its two acres to serve as a food pantry, thrift store and medical clinic, with emergency housing upstairs. Other ministries include supporting the local food bank, providing space to medical facilities in town and inviting community use of the church's playground. The GBC House Band, with pastor Britton Gray as lead vocalist, also performs once a month in the basement of a local restaurant called the Two-Bit Saloon and Grill.

"We're trying to connect with those who think they're unworthy to go to church," said Linda Gray, the pastor's wife. "We've worked really hard at being a place for the down and out."

Though GBC has an online presence, the church's building and playground on the town's main thoroughfare often are the first awareness visitors have that Southern Baptists minister year-round to local residents, hundreds of seasonal workers and multiple thousands who venture to Yellowstone each year through the north entrance.

### Working together

Five to 10 people visit GBC each week during the summer months — more when a missions team is in town — so in 2017 the average Sunday worship attendance was 22. Members, missions teams and Yellowstone visitors help the church conduct block parties, outdoor concerts, Bible distribution, five-day kids' camps and other outreach activities.

"One of the things Southern Baptists do really well is cooperate together in God's kingdom work,"

Britton Gray said. "We've seen that here at Gardiner Baptist Church."

Gray is bivocational, also serving as structural fire chief responsible for the 1,600 buildings in Yellowstone, including lodging for 20,000 guests and vehicle accidents on the park's 466 miles of roads traveled by more than 4 million visitors a year.

His job and the church's location lead to opportunities to reach out to all kinds of people, but building relationships requires getting out and meeting and greeting people in order to expose the lost to the truth of the gospel, he said.

### God has been faithful

God has been faithful in everything, from sending people to keeping the bills paid, said church member Sue Oliver.

"We stay on our knees constantly, asking God to move people's hearts and help us reach this lost community," Oliver said.

Alongside the challenge of staying open are the needs of people dealing with the financial struggles of living in a high-value area, Linda Gray said.

Many rentals that once were affordable have been turned into expensive vacation rentals by new owners, meaning that local people often work two or more jobs to make ends meet to avoid losing their housing.

"When they ask for help, Gardiner Baptist Church is there to help them," Linda Gray said. "We've given people rent money, money to pay for dental work for a young girl being teased at school. We've kept the heat on, paid for medications."

When asked how that was possible in a church with such limited resources, she shook her head and smiled.

"God does it," Linda Gray said.

"We're Gideon's Army," Britton Gray said. "God gets the glory. It's just amazing how God works." (BP)

## RELIGION in America

Compiled from Wire Services

### Honor killing leads to death penalty in Texas

HOUSTON — A conservative Muslim has been sentenced to death in what prosecutors described as the honor killings of his daughter's American husband and an Iranian women's rights activist in Texas.

Ali Mahwood-Awad Irsan, a naturalized American citizen from Jordan, was found guilty of capital murder in July in the 2012 fatal shootings of his son-in-law, Coty Beavers, and his daughter's best friend, Gelareh Bagherzadeh.

Jurors in Houston deliberated for just 35 minutes — after five weeks of testimony — before reaching the verdict, according to the Associated Press. The sentencing phase of the trial took another two weeks.

Prosecutors said the 60-year-old father became enraged after his daughter, Nesreen Irsan, married Beavers, a 28-year-old Christian, and converted to Christianity. Investigators said Bagherzadeh had encouraged the marriage.

Irsan's wife, Shmou Alrawabdeh, testified at trial that her husband tried to "clean his honor" with the killings and also planned to kill their daughter, Nesreen, who had obtained a protective order from her family.

The couple's son, Nasim, is awaiting trial on a capital murder charge in the two killings as well. Police say Nasim Irsan participated in the two killings and shot Bagherzadeh in her car. (TAB)

### Mormon leaders oppose marijuana bill

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — On Aug. 23, a general authority of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) expressed the organization's official position against Proposition 2, a medical marijuana initiative that's scheduled to be on the ballot in Utah in November.

In May the Mormon church announced it had "grave concerns about this initiative and the serious adverse consequences that could follow if it were adopted." At the time the LDS Church, which is a majority faith in Utah, urged voters to educate themselves and "to make their own judgment."

The recent announcement sent to church members said the proposition creates "a serious threat to health and public safety, especially for our youth and young adults, by making marijuana generally available with few controls."

Polls taken prior to the May announcement found that three-quarters of Utah voters were in favor of legalizing medical marijuana in the state. However, support for the November ballot measure had dropped in a June poll.

In the past, once the LDS Church has taken a strong stand on a political issue, Mormons have tended to fall in line with the Church's position, such as Proposition 8 in California in 2008 and the Equal Rights Amendment in 1974. (RNS)

### Bob Smietana named RNS editor-in-chief

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Religion News Service (RNS), an independent news service on religion, spirituality and ethics, has appointed Bob Smietana as its editor-in-chief, effective Sept. 4.

Smietana has been a senior writer for *Facts & Trends*, a magazine and website of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, and a religion writer for *The Tennessean* daily newspaper in Nashville.

Smietana also has been a longtime RNS correspondent, senior news editor with *Christianity Today* and features editor for the Evangelical Covenant Church's magazine *The Covenant Companion*. He is a former president of RNS' Board of Managers and a former president of the Religion News Association. He has garnered numerous reporting awards from the Religion News Association, Evangelical Press Association, Associated Church Press and Tennessee Press Association.

Of the opportunity to lead the nonprofit RNS, Smietana said, "The American religious landscape is being transformed before our eyes. ... RNS is perfectly positioned to document that transformation and to help our readers navigate this new world." (BP)