



The Alabama Baptist

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Vol. 184, No. 27
Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



Foster care and adoption offer unique gospel opportunities
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SBC messengers write thank you notes to local teachers
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To watch the videos from this week's issue, visit our YouTube channel "TAB Media."



Photo by Phil Brown

Ten-year-old Zak McCullar (center) of FBC Carbon Hill participates in the 2019 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Birmingham as a messenger from the church where his dad Scott (left) serves as pastor. Zak took the business sessions seriously and didn't miss a vote.

Heart of a child

Alabama 10-year-old leads way for special emphasis

By Carrie Brown McWhorter
The Alabama Baptist

On July 21, Southern Baptists will observe the first-ever Children's Ministry Day, a Sunday set aside to recognize children's ministry workers and encourage young people to be more involved in ministry.

At the 2018 Southern Baptist

tist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Dallas, then 9-year-old Zak McCullar of Carbon Hill suggested a children's ministry emphasis day be added to the SBC calendar.

Motion approved

The motion was referred to the SBC Executive Committee (EC) for consideration and the EC agreed.

Messengers to the 2019 annual meeting in Birmingham affirmed the EC's proposal to designate the third Sunday in July through 2023 as Children's Ministry Day.

Standing on the SBC annual

meeting stage June 11 with EC president and CEO Ronnie Floyd, the now 10-year-old McCullar charmed messengers as he thanked them for supporting his motion.

"I'm so thankful that the Lord has used me to do His works," said McCullar, a member of First Baptist Church, Carbon Hill, where his dad Scott is pastor.

"And I feel blown away that 9,000 or more complete strangers would be so friendly



Photo by Marc Ira Hooks

Alabama's Zak McCullar (right) stands on stage with SBC Executive Committee president Ronnie Floyd and thanks messengers for supporting his motion to add a children's ministry emphasis day to the SBC calendar.

and agree with my motion."

The new Children's Ministry Day joins Children's Missions Day, held in February, as special opportunities for churches to help children better understand what ministry and missions are all about, said Heather Keller, national (See 'Inaugural,' page 11)

TAB to host 'Beauregard Strong' Benefit Night for Lee County tornado victims

Earlier this year *The Alabama Baptist* staff was excited to host several evenings of music and entertainment at our Servant/Leadership Appreciation Night events held across the state.

Now another evening of entertainment is planned for Aug. 2. Hosted by Providence Baptist Church, Opelika, in Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association, the event begins at 6 p.m.

An enhanced version of the lineup of comedy, music and illusion is planned, but this time the focus is to provide encouragement and financial help to those whose lives were changed forever by the March 3 tornadoes that struck the Beauregard and Smiths Station communities in Lee County.

Response to tragedy

Twenty-three people were killed that day and hundreds were left homeless. In the aftermath volunteers staged out of Providence Baptist, where Rusty Sowell is pastor.

Sowell and Providence Baptist were honored recently by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) for the church's response to the tragedy.



NEW GROUND

NAMB President Kevin Ezell also announced private donors were providing \$20,000 toward the church's effort to build a permanent memorial to those who died.

The *TAB* benefit night is one of the ways you can help those recovering from the devastation of the tornadoes.

Donations and gift cards will be taken at the door, and all proceeds will be used by Providence Baptist to help with the recovery and rebuilding efforts taking place across the county.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. No reservations are necessary. The event is family-friendly for all ages.

Lineup of entertainers:
▶ Pianist Frank Jones



BELL



GARRARD



JONES



WILBURN

- ▶ Illusionist David Garrard
- ▶ Comedian Mickey Bell
- ▶ Gospel trio New Ground
- ▶ Comedian Aaron Wilburn

Bell said the evening will be a time to enjoy fellowship and encouragement with one another in a "fun and relaxed way."

If you wish to donate to the recovery efforts in Lee County but cannot attend the benefit visit www.providencealive.com. (*TAB*)

FBC Trussville to host Child Protection Workshop

When it comes to protecting children, youth and other vulnerable people, your church can never be too prepared. That's why the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions is partnering with GuideStone Financial Resources

to sponsor the Child Protection Workshop on July 18 at First Baptist Church, Trussville, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The workshop is designed to equip churches and ministries with the tools they need to protect their most at-risk members from sexual abuse.

The speakers are Greg Love and Kimberlee Norris, a husband-and-wife team of attorneys who are experts in legal matters related to sexual abuse of children. They have been providing crisis response to ministries and churches nationwide for years and run an organization called MinistrySafe that offers resources

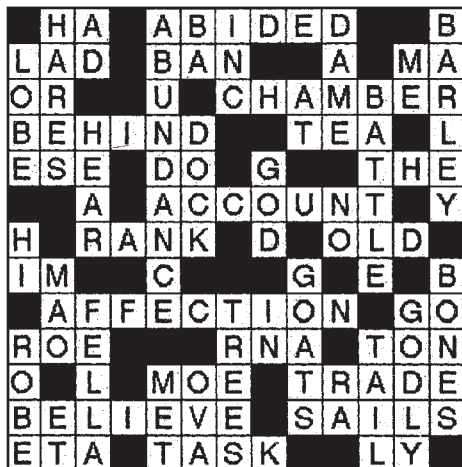
for churches on this subject.

"We can't stop it everywhere but we can say, 'Not with my kids, not on my watch, not in the name of Jesus in my ministry,'" Norris said.

The Child Protection Workshop will cover these and other topics:

- ▶ Awareness — what you need to know
- ▶ Safety system — what you need to do
- ▶ Getting the tools and preparing
- ▶ Effective screening process.

To learn more or to register for the workshop visit alsbom.org/event/child-protection-workshop. (Grace Thornton)



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.



Listen to the *TAB* News podcast anywhere you get your podcasts or visit thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts/.



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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MY RASHIONALE

By **Jennifer Davis Rash**
President and Editor-in-Chief

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Becoming, remaining teachable removes layers of frustration

The continuing education class requirement aggravated my friend not so much for the financial cost but because of the time investment.

Even though he holds multiple educational degrees, he's not a fan of classroom-style learning and was not excited about sitting through this particular seminar class. And boy did his impression take an even worse turn after experiencing the class.

"The instructor, what an idiot," my friend said. "I knew more than he did. It was a total waste of time."

My friend outshines most in his field and likely did know more than the instructor, but I challenged him on his attitude because there had to be at least one tidbit he took away from the class. It's like many classes we attend for various reasons. We might sit through hours of presentations merely to walk out with one new piece of information but that means we did learn something.

Granted I'm no fan of wasting time nor listening unnecessarily to a speaker whose content is drawn out or isn't helpful but I always expect to learn something — and sometimes I learn a lot — from others no matter their level of experience, age or position.

I've also experienced some situations where I've learned what not to do and that's a good lesson as well. Remaining teachable and eager to keep learning will keep us young at heart and sharp mentally, even as our physical bodies age and slow down.

Remaining teachable also cuts down on frustrations because there will always be something new to face.

I remember when smart TVs first came on the market. I didn't know they take a minute to boot up and kept turning the one I was using on and off, on and off before I learned it wasn't like the older-style TVs.

And who has driven one of the newer-model, eco-friendly cars and thought something was wrong when you stopped at a red light for the first time?

These cars are built with start-

stop technology which allows it to move into a gas-saving idle mode when the brake is fully pressed. It starts back up when you press the gas again.

While I quickly learned how the start-stop technology works and easily adapted to it, it sure would have been nice for the rental car company representative to share that tidbit the first time I drove one of these cars.

So many of these random technology upgrades are instinctive to our younger friends. They flow naturally into each new release and the rest of us can learn from them. But that

doesn't mean they can't learn from those they are teaching.

Basic life lessons that come with time and the ability to grasp all sides of a situation are two areas the younger among us can learn from those who have been around a bit longer.

And beyond learning for personal growth a willingness for all of us to listen to each other helps foster community.

Seeking to understand another's position or concern doesn't mean we have to support it, but it does prevent misconceptions that only lead to harm.✚

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Anyone else tempted to drive to the U.S.-Mexico border to find ways to help, assess the situation for yourself?

I had planned to share about the expanded role of women in Southern Baptist life in this week's column but the humanitarian crisis taking place at the U.S. border changed my mind.

On the role of women, I commend Kathy Litton's comments in the article about her new SBC role on page 14 to you.

For the humanitarian crisis, I'm not properly equipped to outline a solution but I do know the situation pulls at all of our hearts no matter our stance on how best to deal with the overall issue of illegal immigration.

I'm confident none of us want anyone's child to be afraid or lacking basic securities, care and love. It's one thing to be in the dark about sufferings happening around us; it's another to know

about it and choose to sit back and do nothing.

After all with knowledge comes responsibility — but then there's the problem of determining exactly what it means to be responsible.

We know we should be the ones responsible to care for ourselves and our families which also means protecting them.

We know we are called to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength" and "love your neighbors as yourself."

But how do we reconcile these specific responsibilities when it comes to the border crisis?

We can help with immediate actions to alleviate some of the suffering but we can't stop there.

Our country's leaders must set aside their political agendas to find a workable solution. They've done

it before and are more than capable of doing it now, but I do think they need to know we will not punish them for sitting across the table together to figure it out.

We also must remember to pray for all involved and determine ways we might help with current ministry efforts.

West Brownsville Baptist Church is one church ministering in the Texas Rio Grande Valley. The church recently began serving as an overflow respite center to shelter migrants and has lots of needs related to that role.

We are researching the best ways to contribute, send supplies and provide teams to help.

If you are interested in assisting the efforts, then reach out to us for suggestions by calling 1-800-803-5201, ext. 103.✚

Your Voice



Share your comments, letters to the editor, blog excerpts, social media posts

True or false: Filtering daily information flow

Do you remember those infernal true-false tests in school? They were good in one way. Always a 50% chance of getting the correct answer. Odds of a right response improved greatly if you studied for the test.

Daily you take true-false exams on information thrown your way. And lots of stuff flows from news outlets, social media, hallway conversation, family interaction, email, over the backyard fence, etc. Sometimes you can only guess at the true or false nature of data you receive.

Filtering news is necessary when so much of it exists. Consider some common sense sifters when sorting truth from error.

▶ Never believe everything you see or hear. Just because it appeared on your favorite news channel or preferred social media outlet does not make it so. In fact even the mainstream media now admits to the existence of “fake” news. If it’s way too outrageous to believe, don’t.

▶ Check the facts. Do you trust the origin of the comments? Is it

reputable? Do other outlets agree? If not go to a trusted authority to confirm or deny.

▶ Take care not to believe something to be true or false based on your prejudices. You are not the final authority on most things. You can define your own truth. But that doesn’t make it true.

▶ Acknowledge the ultimate source of all truth to be Jesus. He declared, “I am the ... truth” (John 14:6) and His truth “will set you free” (John 8:32). John said “grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (1:17).

When confused about truth or error in your world be assured that the One who is the true light exposes and explains it all.

▶ Determine what part you will play in setting the record straight. Perpetuation of a falsehood advances no worthwhile cause and can be hurtful. Set your sights on furthering truth which honors your Christian calling.

Prepare yourself for a daily true-false pop quiz. What will your report card show?

EDITOR’S NOTE — Darryl Wood is a retired pastor who lives in Vincent. In addition to supply and interim work, he serves on the State Board for Alabama Baptists. He writes a regular column called “A Personal Word from a Retread Pastor,” which he posts to his social media pages. He is a member of Liberty Baptist Church, Chelsea, in Shelby Baptist Association.

My Jesus Story

You may have read in previous columns that I am not a patient person and that God is still working on that with me. I also frequently urge people to keep praying and ask God for the desires of their hearts, just be prepared that sometimes the answer is yes, no or wait.

Well, I saw something the other day online that really spoke to the lack of patience in my life. It was anonymous but I think it was heaven sent: “Joseph waited 13 years, Abraham waited 25 years, Moses waited 40 years, Jesus waited 30 years. If God is making you wait you are in good company.”

Look at the things these men had to accomplish in the time

while they were waiting: God moved Joseph into a position where not only was he vindicated to his brothers, he was in a position to save thousands of lives; Abraham waited for Isaac to be born and while he did he was prepared to be the father of a great nation; Moses had to wait so his character could be transformed into one fully devoted to God; and Jesus had to wait because He had a mission to complete here on earth.

I don’t know about you but I don’t mind being included in this company.

Jenni Ingram
Gantt Baptist Church
Gantt, Ala.

We detest [human trafficking] because it flagrantly violates the unalienable rights that belong to every human being. Every person, everywhere, is inherently vested with profound, inherent, equal dignity. ... We cannot fall short on this challenge.

Mike Pompeo
U.S. Secretary of State

There’s a race in today’s culture to the heart of every child and the first one there wins. If we can disciple and raise up and empower kids and teens, they’re actually the best way to reach our city.

Jim Britts
Pastor and church planter
Oceanside, Calif.

When the church rises up and knows who she is in Christ and knows she is forgiven, redeemed, loved and chosen, she is going to operate differently.

Alex Kendrick
Writer and film director

Laughter really is the best medicine. Laugh with your friends often, and even laugh at yourself. Nothing negative can come from a good laugh.

JoAnna Garrett
Student
University of Mobile

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“Pastors and church staff need to be in the community with people.”

THOM RAINER
 Founder and CEO of Church Answers

If you dare do something, expect obstacles. If you dare say something, expect criticism. If you dare to stay the same as you are now, expect disappointment.

Read constantly.

Listen intently.

Learn daily.

Act swiftly.

Think positively.

Love faithfully.

Follow Christ passionately!

Scott Dawson

Author and founder

of Scott Dawson

Evangelical Association

Many times when I make a mistake or say something that I should not say, I think, “If I only had an undo key to correct the error.” ...

For those of us who believe and trust in Jesus, we have been granted a divine key that erases our mistakes: “I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more” (Isa. 43:25). That key activates the grace of God that has been revealed to us through His Son, Jesus Christ, once we admit that we have made a mistake. “Repent, then, and turn to God,” Scripture instructs us, “so that your sins may be wiped out” (Acts 3:19).

Robert Lopez

Co-founder of Church2Church fellowship of Hispanic Baptists

As long as you are angry and as long as you have not forgiven, it’s a cancer of the soul that rots you

from within. And it doesn’t hurt the other person that you’re angry at, it destroys you.

James Dobson

Author, pastor and founder of Focus on the Family

Racial division is a real problem that demands real solutions that can lead to real transformation. These divisions that have been caused by racism, classism, sexism and every other “ism” are not new in our time. A lot of the New Testament was written about the same types of divisions that we are facing today.

Dhati Lewis

NAMB vice president and author of “Advocates: The Narrow Path to Racial Reconciliation”



Photo courtesy of Liberty Baptist Church
 Tim Cox is pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Chelsea, and president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention.

Leverage your influence

Pastors, how many times have you been asked to make an announcement on Sunday morning? When reminded the announcement is already in the bulletin, on the website and social media, and promoted in small groups the reply is often, “It is different coming from you. You are the pastor. They listen to you.” Hmm.

The reality is that God has given the man of God called out to serve as a “pastor” in the local church a measure of influence. Local church ministries can testify to the value of the pastor’s support in word and deed. Missional partnerships beyond the walls of the local church ask for the pastor’s support.

Pastors, let me encourage you to leverage your influence with two continuous talking points:

► The gospel. Proclaim it every week, rightly dividing the word of God. Share your personal stories and challenge others to do the same.

► The Cooperative Program (CP). Talk about the CP. Overflow fresh examples of how the CP is having Kingdom impact in and through your local context. Challenge your church to grow in giving through the CP.

Leverage your influence for gospel impact.

—Tim Cox

From the *Twitterverse*

@MyEasternShore

What are your actions saying? Choose kindness and share a little love today! While you’re at it, invite a friend to come to church!

@JackieHillPerry

Be honest with God. He can handle it.

@LWGenerosity

“Lead with your own story and your own transformation and you will have passionate staff member[s] that follow your lead because of your transparency.”
 @GunnarJohnson @MortarStone

@JamieKDew

After several weeks on the job and countless hours with key leaders here on campus, I’ve been delighted to meet and discover so many talented and godly people

here @NOBTS. What a great blessing to be here & work with this team! Looking forward to great things in the days to come!

@DustinBenge

World population: 7.6 billion
 Mobile phone users: 5.1 billion
 Internet users: 4.3 billion
 Social media: 3.4 billion

Instead of retreating from and complaining about these platforms, believers need to use them for gospel advance and disciple-making.

“Redeem the time” (Eph 5:16).

@shadesmtn

Don’t allow fear to rob your faith and separate you from the truth of God’s promises.

@Rgallaty

I’ve seen far too many Christians who are more than willing to travel

around the world to volunteer for a week in an orphanage, but who cannot bring themselves to take the risk of sharing Jesus with the co-worker who sits day after day in the cubicle right next to them.

— [Lee] Strobel

@SHoddeMiller

If there is a slippery slope toward liberalism, there is an equally slippery slope toward legalism, and perhaps that is why Jesus calls it the narrow way.

@AdamGreenway

One of my prayers for Southern Baptist life is that we will recapture the ability to differ on nonessential/tertiary matters and embrace one another as brothers/sisters rather than engage one another as combatants. Let’s believe the best, not assume the worst, about each other.

‘Protect the vulnerable’

Foster care and adoption offer unique gospel opportunities



Photo by Jessica Ingram

.....

Rod Marshall (left), president and CEO of the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries, was joined by Jedd Medefind, president of the Christian Alliance for Orphans, for 15 interviews conducted throughout the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting and preceding Pastors Conference on June 10–12 in Birmingham.

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J.D. Greear, president of the SBC and pastor of The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, joined **Todd Unzicker**, sending pastor at The Summit Church, to discuss how fostering children can affect one’s Christian walk. “The best way to grow in your relationship with Jesus is to love someone else,” Greear said. “What better way than to bring someone into your home?”



GREEAR (LEFT) & UNZICKER

David Platt, former Alabama Baptist pastor and now pastor of McLean Bible Church, Washington, D.C., joined his wife, **Heather**, to discuss the need for a passion for adoption and foster care



THE PLATTS

among churches. “God is passionate about the fatherless,” David said.

“Are foster parents missionaries?” Rod Marshall, president and CEO of the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes, asked **Kevin Ezell**, president of the North American Mission Board, and his wife, **Lynette**. “Absolutely,” Kevin said. “They go through many challenges. It opens doors that otherwise wouldn’t be opened.” And there are many ways other people can support the ministry of foster parents, Lynette said. “Everyone can do something,” she said. “Do a diaper drive at your church. Senior adult groups, youth groups want to do something. Every single person can do something. Get up. Put legs to it. Prepare a meal. Do something.”



THE EZELLS

Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM), spoke on the ways SBOM has joined with the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes to “protect the vulnerable” in Alabama Baptist churches including the MinistrySafe program and Pathways Professional Counseling.



LANCE



THE CHITWOODS

Paul Chitwood, president of the International Mission Board, was joined by his wife, **Michelle**, to discuss how fostering brings numerous opportunities to share the gospel. “We’ve never had more lost people in our home than when we started fostering — children, social workers, biological parents,” Paul said. “We had many, many, many opportunities to share.”

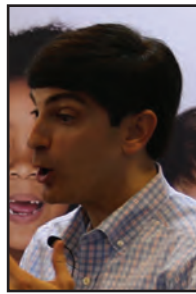
Danny Akin, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, North Carolina, and his wife, **Charlotte**, talked about implementing a “whole comprehensive pro-life ethic” including foster care and



THE AKINS

adoption. “We are against abortion but also care about what happens to children after they are born,” the couple said.

Blake Kersey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Decatur, and trustee for Pathways Professional Counseling, spoke on the impact the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes had on him the first time he visited. “I had no clue about the level of involvement and types of ministries you do,” he said. “It was a no-brainer that we should get involved. It was not a question of should we get involved, it was a question of how much we could get involved in that Kingdom effort.”



KERSEY

Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director for national Woman’s Missionary Union, and **Emily Swader**, with WorldCrafts, discussed the partnership between the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes and WorldCrafts. Swader discussed how churches can host benefits to support artisans and the Children’s Homes. “For us it’s a theological issue. We are commanded to care for the poor, the foreigner, the orphaned,” Wisdom-Martin said.



WISDOM-MARTIN (LEFT) & SWADER

David Melber, vice president of Send Relief, and his wife, **Tera**, talked about how parenthood and fostering impact a Christian’s understanding



THE MELBERS

of the gospel. “I have never been more aware of the fact of Romans 5:8,” Tera said. “No matter what, I would give my life for my children. It’s taught me so much about how Christ in His sacrificial humbleness left the throne for me. It’s made my salvation that much sweeter.”

Kevin Smith, who serves as executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, was joined by his wife, **Pat**, to discuss how important a supportive community is for foster parents. “Come alongside a family who are adoptive parents,” Kevin said. “Give them a night out. A gift card to a restaurant.” His wife agreed. “It is important to have community to help you,” Pat said.

Buddy Champion, pastor of First Baptist Church, Trussville, said he works to inform the congregation about the importance of foster care and the work done by the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes at Vacation Bible School this year. “We raised money for Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes at Vacation Bible School this year,” he said. “Raising awareness among children then raised the awareness among the parents.”



CHAMPION

Todd Wilson, pastor of Grace Covenant Baptist Church, Birmingham, and his wife, **Lori**, have served as foster parents for nearly 10 years. “We love working through the Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes,” Lori said. “The training, the prayers, it’s nice to know that you are there to support and encourage.”



THE WILSONS



THE SMITHS

Three spontaneous interviews with Stuart Davidson, pastor of Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Montgomery; SBOM state missionary and foster parent Scooter Kellum and his wife, Chelsea; and Jedd Medefind also took place. Videos of all the interviews can be found at alabamachild.org/SBC19.

Parenting your kids

What all children need to hear: Expressing love to your child

By Steve Trader
TH.M, MS, LPC, NCC
Special to The Alabama Baptist

Have you ever met a parent who was not a good parent? I think we all may have. At times we also may feel as though we are not doing a good job in parenting our children. This can be frustrating to say the least.

Tragically so many of us fail to see the results we want when it comes to our own parenting situations.

What can we do to become the parents we all desire to be?

The answer is to model ourselves after the greatest parent of all, God the Father. We need to do what He did with His

Son, the Lord Jesus. At the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3 we hear powerful words of affirmation spoken to the Son by the Father.

All children need words of affirmation from their parents. Sadly many may never hear anything but words of criticism and harshness.

What were these powerful words spoken on that special day?

Matthew 3:16–17 says, “After being baptized Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold a voice out of the

heavens said, ‘This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.’”

In that passage the Father said



15 ways to show your child love

1. **Teach** your child about the love of God.
2. **Read** a book together.
3. **Sing** songs with each other.
4. **Hug** your child often.
5. **Pray** with your child daily.
6. **Listen** to your child sympathetically when he or she is frustrated.
7. **Write** your child a note of love and encouragement.
8. **Play** games with your child that they want to play.
9. **Kiss** your child goodnight.
10. **Eat** meals together as a family (preferably at the dinner table with no other distractions).
11. **Allow** your child the opportunity to help you.
12. **Provide** your child with as much stability as possible.
13. **Make** your child a priority in your daily life.
14. **Create** a special name for your child that is positive and loving.
15. **Say**, “I love you” — often.

Source: Steve Trader



123rf.com

two things every child needs to hear and every parent needs to say.

1. **“I love you!”** (“*This is my beloved Son.*”)

Children need to know mom and dad love them. You would be amazed how many people I have talked to through the years admit that one or both parents never said these powerful and precious words. More often than not it is their father who never said these words.

How tragic this is for a family. People long to know they are loved. This is a great need all people have and many never receive. Parents, tell your children you love them.

2. **“I am proud of you!”** (“*with whom I am well-pleased*”)

Parents, let your kids know you are proud of them. Let them hear those exact words.

A man shared with me he told his adult daughter these words just recently. He had never said this before. He said, “She broke down crying over the phone and said how much that meant to her.”

When these words are spoken a

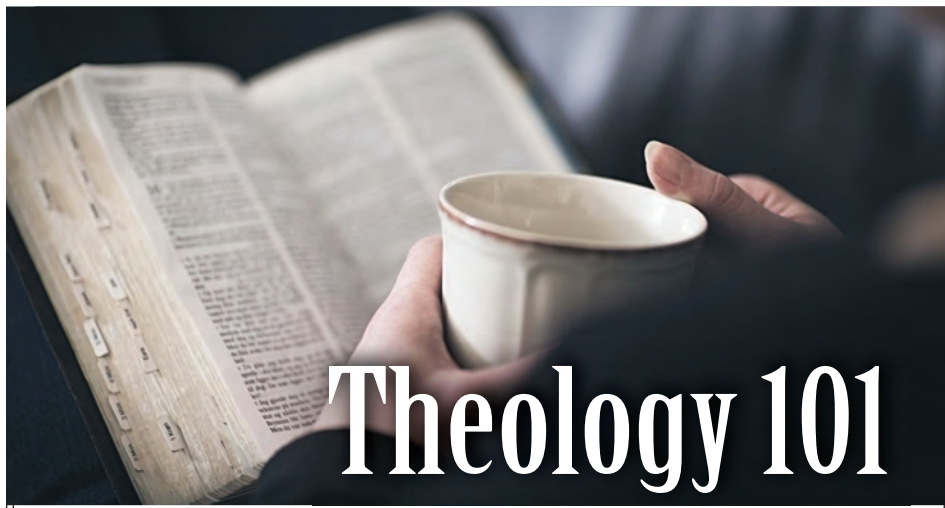
child feels approval. Many people spend their entire lives seeking the approval of mom and dad. Parents, tell your children you are proud of them.

Make the most of time

When it comes to parenting, the days may seem long but the years will be short. Make the most of your time with your children and with other children in your life by speaking powerful and life-transforming words to them.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Faith & Family is a monthly look at important spiritual, cultural and relational issues facing today’s families. For more articles on contemporary topics like these go to PathwaysProfessional.org/blog.

Steve Trader is a nationally certified licensed professional counselor serving Southwest Alabama for Pathways Professional Counseling, a sister ministry of Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries.



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Thinking about images

An Image Diminished

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

Sometimes when we think about images in religious terms we call to mind idolatrous religions. For example the history of Israel in the Old Testament seems like a running battle through the generations with the temptation to adopt pagan images as a part of the nation's religious devotion. Such images were but human imaginations.

The results were always lifeless gods who could not hear or help just as the psalmist said about Israel's idolatrous neighbors: "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths but do not speak; eyes but do not see. They have ears but do not hear; noses but do not smell. They have hands but do not feel; feet but do not walk; and they do not make sound in their throat," concluding with the indictment about the idolaters themselves, "Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them" (Ps. 115:4-8).

Godlike abilities

By contrast God created human beings in His own image so like Him we can speak, see, hear, smell, feel, walk and talk. Sadly these godlike abilities become employed in ungodly ways.

Sin, in the form of disobedience to God, resulted in the distorting and degrading of godlike abilities. We often call this the fall. Sadly the result of this turn of events has meant all generations have come short of the glory of God.

Christians often speak of the result of the fall in terms of total depravity. This phrase can be easily misunderstood and misstated.

By it we do not mean that every human being is as totally depraved or as totally wicked as is humanly possible.

Most sinful persons have some admirable traits and often demonstrate morally acceptable actions and attitudes.

Redeeming love

Rather the phrase means the totality of our humanity has been affected by sin and disobedience. Across the board all aspects of our being and behavior have been tainted in some way by a sinful nature.

Thus God's image has been seriously affected in all of us. No part of our human nature has escaped being defaced or diminished in some way.

In His redeeming love God has provided a way His image and likeness can be restored in sinners. His creative dream that humans reflect His own image can be recaptured. We speak of this as the way of salvation. In following weeks Theology 101 will explore further the hope that God's image and likeness can be restored.✠

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.



Mandrell names three 'heart killers' for pastors

The movie "Rudy" is familiar to many — the story of a young man who wasn't especially large or talented but dreamed of playing football for Notre Dame.

As Rudy fought his way into the school and onto the practice team, his dad repeatedly told him he would never be able to play for the Fighting Irish.

"Rudy's dad is a professional dream squasher," said Ben Mandrell, newly elected president of LifeWay Christian Resources (see story, this page), who spoke June 10 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors Conference in Birmingham.

But when Rudy's dad finally walks into the stadium on the day Rudy will run out with the team, his first words are one of Mandrell's favorite moments in film history. The cynical father takes in the view and says, "This is the most beautiful sight these eyes have ever seen."

"One of the gifts God has given us is the ability to see," Mandrell said. "We make bucket lists of things we want to see."

Pure in heart

Reading from Matthew 5:8 he said the pure in heart are blessed for an incredible reason — they will get to see God.

"If you get your heart right you get a Rudy's dad moment," Mandrell said. "There's nothing you should desire more than to see Him."

So how do you do that? Mandrell said it's vital you purify and guard your heart.

"Jesus said provocative things like if you're looking at a woman lustfully you're already committing [adultery] in your heart. It's what happens ... in your heart that is a wretched abomination to God," he said.

He named three heart killers for pastors:

1. Secretly pining for power.

"Our hearts are plagued with envy," Mandrell said, noting that social media only makes that problem worse.

Pining for power "is a constant temptation in a connected world," he said, adding pastors should invest

their lives in doing what is right in front of them. "Whatever God has called you to do, do it with all your might."

2. Entertaining the thought of adultery.

"Let's just be really honest about this temptation shall we? We all secretly think we're immune to this," Mandrell said. "Because we believe that we don't keep our guard up."

He recounted the steps that lead to adultery as outlined in family resources by author and pastor Tommy Nelson:

- ▶ Eliminate intimacy from your marriage.
- ▶ Encounter a woman you admire and enjoy that relationship.
- ▶ Expedite the relationship and express feelings.
- ▶ Experience infidelity.

3. Spilling negativity at home.

Mandrell told the story of a pastor whose son had grown up and grown bitter toward the church.

"That pastor said, 'I can't tell you exactly why my boy walked away from the church but this I do know — my wife and I would often speak ill of the saints in the kitchen and my son, his heart began to turn,'" he said.

Watching his dad daily destroy the people he carried out ministry with changed the son, Mandrell said.

"We have to guard the hearts of the next generation of church leaders and the way we do that is show self-control in the way we process those emotions with our spouses."

To watch the full sermon visit sbcpc.net. (Grace Thornton)



MANDRELL

Mandrell selected as LifeWay president

Ben Mandrell, pastor of Storyline Fellowship, Arvada, Colorado, has been elected as the 10th president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

The vote was held during a special called trustee meeting in Atlanta on June 28.

Mandrell will succeed Thom S. Rainer, who served as LifeWay's president from February 2006 to February 2019. (TAB)

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Inaugural Children's Ministry Day set for July 21

(continued from page 1)
 Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) children's missions consultant.

"We feel that Children's Missions Day, promoted by WMU, and Children's Ministry Day, promoted by LifeWay, will walk hand in hand as we celebrate children and what God is doing in their lives," Keller said.

Scott McCullar said Children's Ministry Day will be a day to thank all the workers who help with children's ministry, from nursery workers to children's church workers, those who teach Vacation Bible School and children's Sunday School, along with recognizing the role children can play in evangelism.

Some ideas for honoring children's volunteers include:

- ▶ Write notes to or make cards of appreciation for children's staff and volunteers.
- ▶ Highlight volunteers on the church website or social media pages.
- ▶ Give gift cards to favorite restaurants or stores.
- ▶ Design a special shirt for volunteers.
- ▶ Create a personal photo album of children's programs and activities.
- ▶ Offer VIP parking for volunteers.
- ▶ Plan a breakfast or other recognition meal to recognize volunteers.
- ▶ Acknowledge volunteers with a flower or small

gift during the July 21 worship service.

Children's workers are important, Zak said.

"Jesus does a whole lot through children and through children's workers, and children are vital to sharing the gospel," he told SBC messengers.

When Zak addressed the EC in February about the motion, he said, "I think children's ministry workers should be thanked by this day. And I want children to be recognized for the work we do to share Christ, even though we are young."

Trish Jackson, missions lifestyle strategist for Alabama WMU with a focus on preschoolers through students, agreed.

"All leaders, especially our children's missions leaders, are [integral] to the work of the church," Jackson said. "Alabama WMU is very proud of our own Zak McCullar for his motion that has led to Children's Ministry Day on the SBC calendar."

For ideas on how to celebrate Children's Ministry



Photo by Scott McCullar

Jennifer Rash (right) of *The Alabama Baptist* and co-host of the TAB News podcast interviews Zak McCullar on June 12 following the closing prayer of the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham.

Day contact Trish Jackson at tjackson@alsbom.org or 334-613-2224.

What Zak has planned

What will Zak's church be doing on the first Children's Ministry Day? They are actually scheduled to be on a missions trip that day, so the church will be celebrating a week later on July 28 with whatever Zak decides is best for the day.

To hear more from Zak and Scott McCullar check out the July 11 episode of

the TAB News podcast.

TAB News co-host Jennifer Rash sat down with Zak immediately following the closing of the recent SBC annual meeting to chat about his faith story, his take on participating in the meeting and what it has been like to become a fan favorite in SBC life.

Listen to the podcast anywhere you get your podcasts such as iTunes, Stitcher, etc., or find it at www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts.



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3 stories you should know



Photo by Travis Frontz

This year for the first time in at least two decades Baptist churches in every state sent messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam also were represented among the 8,183 messengers who attended the meeting June 11–12 in Birmingham, which drew a total of 13,502 participants, including guests, staff and exhibitors, said Bill Townes, convention manager. Alabama led in messengers sent with 1,380 messengers attending from 498 churches.

SWBTS responds to sexual abuse lawsuit

Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) in Fort Worth, Texas, is committed to protecting survivors of abuse and being a safe place for the vulnerable, SWBTS President Adam W. Greenway said in response to a lawsuit filed by a former student who alleges being raped by a fellow student.

“... I realize in a Genesis 3 world that there may be times when our seminary may fall short of expectations,” Greenway said. “In any and every area where this has been the case, I am sorry. It is my resolve for our seminary to do better.

“... It is important that the Southwestern Seminary community know that we take these matters seriously and are committed to our campus being a safe place for the vulnerable and for survivors of abuse,” Greenway said. (BP)

Battle over abortion rights continues between states

Pro-choice legislators and governors in at least four states have responded to the wave of laws in several other states — including Alabama — to restrict or ban abortion. The pro-choice laws being passed are allowing for expansions of abortion rights.

Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo signed into law June 19 a bill that protects the right to abortion until the moment of birth. Her action followed the enactment of other laws striking down abortion restrictions in Illinois, Maine and Vermont.

The battle between pro-life and pro-choice legislators is ultimately about an attempt to reverse the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that legalized abortion.

Alabama legislators recently passed the most restrictive abortion law in the country. (TAB)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

State, international missions advocate Ann Cushing dies at 88



Ann Claire Weed Cushing, wife of retired state missionary Harrell Cushing, died June 12. She was 88.

A Florida native, Ann Cushing graduated from Carson-Newman College (now University) in Jefferson City, Tennessee, and did master’s level work at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

Through the years she was involved in Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) and served as a literacy missions leader for Samford University in Birmingham; a trustee for the North American Mission Board; and a longtime ESL teacher for First Baptist Church, Montgomery, and Montgomery Baptist Association. She helped lead marriage enrichment and prayer retreats and led overseas worship for annual missionary meetings in 16 nations, serv-



CUSHING

ing in 62 nations over the course of her life.

Her church recently honored her with a brick on national WMU’s new Walk of Faith.

She is survived by her husband; daughters, Charlotte, Connie and Jama; and six grandchildren. (Grace Thornton)

Former Southern Baptist missionary pleads guilty to sexual assault of minor



Former Southern Baptist missionary, minister and state convention worker Mark Aderholt pleaded guilty July 2 in a plea deal related to the sexual assault of a minor two decades ago.

Aderholt, 47, pleaded guilty to assault causing bodily injury, said Sam Jordan, a communications officer with the Tarrant County, Texas, District Attorney’s Office. Aderholt surrendered to authorities the same day to begin serving 30 days in jail and 24 months’ probation, and was levied a \$4,000 fine in confessing to the Class A misdemeanor.

Aderholt was originally charged with four counts of sexual assault of a child under 17, a second-degree felony, in crimes that alleg-

edly occurred in 1996 against a 16-year-old Anne Marie Miller. She met Aderholt, she told the court, while searching the America Online website for help organizing a See You at the Pole event during her junior year in high school. Aderholt, then a 25-year-old Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student, responded to her online search.

Miller agreed to the terms of Aderholt’s plea deal, adjudicated in the 297th District Court of Tarrant County.

Aderholt served as a missionary with the International Mission Board from 2000 to 2008 and later on the staffs of two Arkansas churches. He was arrested in the Miller case in 2018 in South Carolina, where he had served on staff of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. (BP)

Circlewood Baptist pastor celebrates 40th anniversary at church



Circlewood Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, recently honored Herb Thomas on his 40th anniversary as pastor. He has served at Circlewood Baptist since April 15, 1979.

News near you

BIBB ASSOCIATION

▶ **Bibbville Baptist Church, Woodstock**, will celebrate its 140th homecoming July 14 at 10 a.m. The Waylighters will be guest singers. Everyone is invited to join. Andy Rayborn is pastor.

BLOUNT ASSOCIATION

▶ **Pleasant View Missionary Baptist Church, Holly Pond**, will host its summer revival July 21–26. The Sunday service will begin at 6 p.m. featuring The Baileys. Monday through Friday services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day. Matthew Fallen will be the guest evangelist. Lunch will be served each day following the morning service and a prayer band will sing at 6:45 p.m. each night. For more information call 256-796-5986. Randy Burtram is pastor.



WASHBURN

CAHABA ASSOCIATION

▶ **George Washburn** is the new pastor of **Hopewell Baptist Church, Marion**. Washburn has served Hopewell Baptist since 1998 as worship leader and has served as the

church's interim pastor since February 2018. He also has served at Uniontown Baptist Church and several churches in Louisiana. Washburn also is the director of library resources at Judson College and serves as vice moderator and associational music director for Cahaba Baptist Association. He holds degrees from Auburn and Troy universities as well as a master's degree and doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Washburn and his wife, Leah, have two children and three grandchildren.

SHELBY ASSOCIATION

▶ On June 9, **Oak Mountain Baptist Church, Pelham**, honored **Johanna Chaimowitz Eagle** for her 100th birthday. Eagle was born June 11, 1919, in Poland, to Martin and Schene Chaimowitz.

In 1937 her family fled pre-war Germany to the United States. Johanna married Harry Eagle in 1940 in Brooklyn, New York. She and her husband have one son, three grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

"She is a faithful member of Oak Mountain Baptist and her testimony is 'God is good,'" said Scott Martin, member of Oak Mountain Baptist.



EAGLE

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Malvern Baptist Church** will hold revival services July 21–24. Scott Cox will be the guest preacher and Bruce Spivey will lead worship. Sunday services will be held at 11 a.m. and 6:30

p.m. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7 p.m. A covered-dish luncheon will follow the Sunday afternoon service. Hosea Parker is pastor.

ST. CLAIR ASSOCIATION

▶ On May 26 the old church bell at **Cool Springs Baptist Church, Ashville**, was rung to kick off its

150-year anniversary celebration. Former pastor Bill Watts was the guest speaker. Special music was brought by the Wyatt and Murphree families.



Photo by Lonette Berg

Gerald Glenn presented a commemorative plaque to Jonathan Jones and David Murphree, great-great grandsons of charter members, on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Two Sunday School rooms were used as history rooms displaying photos and artifacts.

"Everyone worked together to make it a wonderful day," said church member Judith Abernathy. Curry Harris is pastor.

TUSCALOOSA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Carrolls Creek Baptist Church, Northport**, will host a homecoming celebration July 14 at 10:45 a.m. Randy Pate, pastor of Taylorsville Baptist Church, will be the guest preacher. All past and present members are invited to the service and fellowship meal. Alan Roggli is pastor. ✝

— NEWSBRIEFS —

"He has blessed the church family with 40 years of unselfish service and dedication to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," said deacon chairman O.N. Todd. "The church family is looking forward to many more years with Brother Herb as pastor."



Photo courtesy of Circlewood Baptist

Thomas (left) was presented with a proclamation by church member and former probate judge of Tuscaloosa County Hardy McCollum (right) at the celebration. (TAB)

Judson adds new vice president role, promotes long-time staff members

Kevin Kirk has been named vice president for enrollment and communication at Judson College, a new position at the Marion campus. He comes to Judson from Howard Payne University (HPU) in Texas where he previously served as associate vice president for enrollment management.

Judson's new president Mark Tew supervised Kirk in his previous role as provost at HPU.

Along with overseeing the work of enrollment and admissions, Kirk also will supervise the areas of financial aid and marketing and communications.

Working with Kirk will be Mary Amelia Taylor who has been named associate vice president for marketing and communications.

Taylor has served as marketing and web communications specialist at Judson since 2011. In her new role Taylor, a 2009 Judson graduate who also holds a master of arts in southern studies from the University of Mississippi, will supervise the college's creative services and marketing personnel in addition to developing enrollment materials, coordinating media communication and aligning all of Judson's image-based and print-based messages.



TAYLOR



KIRK

Another long-time staff member Betty Ann Middlebrooks also received a promotion to vice president of business affairs.

Middlebrooks has worked in Judson's business office for the past 15 years.

She has an extensive background in business operations, having worked in varying personnel, payroll and office management capacities at H.B. Zachary Construction in south Texas, Jitney Jungle and Marion Manufacturing.

When Royal Harvest Foods opened in Marion in 1989, Middlebrooks joined the plant as office manager and became plant manager nine years later. She served in that role until 2004 when she joined Judson's business office.

In her new assignment Middlebrooks will continue to supervise the business office staff as well as prepare reports for the board of trustees, the alumnae association executive board, the board of governors and the board of advisors and more. (Judson, TAB)



MIDDLEBROOKS

New voices can positively shape SBC, Litton says

By Carrie Brown McWhorter
The Alabama Baptist

In her new role as registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Kathy Litton will help shape the response of the convention to issues such as sexual abuse. “Shaping” is an important word, she said.

“It’s not about power but about partnership,” she said. “It’s about hearing from women about local church work and seeing the global work of the gospel through their lens. There’s love in that language because women are indispensable in Great Commission work.”

Litton is director of planter spouse development for the North American Mission Board and a member of Redemption Church, Saraland, where her husband, Ed, is pastor. She became the first woman elected to the position of SBC registration secretary in a close vote during the Tuesday afternoon session of the SBC annual meeting June 11.

She called this year’s annual meeting a “hopeful” one, noting the overall positive tone of the business meetings, panel discussions and related meetings, including the first-ever SBC Women’s Leadership Network gathering.

‘Very grateful’

“I do love our denomination and am very grateful for its role in my life spiritually,” Litton said. “I think having more women’s experiences shaping our denomination is important.”

Litton is hopeful her voice, along with other diverse voices increasingly being included in SBC life, will continue shaping a positive future for the denomination so others can benefit.

In addition to her responsibilities related to registering messengers for the annual meeting, Litton will serve on the Credentials Committee, newly tasked with determining whether churches are in friendly cooperation with the SBC according to their approach to concerns within the church about sexual abuse, racism or homosexuality. The committee’s role is to respond to allegations, not

to look for them, but the process is taking the convention to unfamiliar territory, Litton said.

“This is going to create tension for us at some level because we are local churches that have autonomy and are choosing to cooperate together. Autonomy driven too far can create some unhealthiness yet oversight is not who we are either.”

Recent SBC actions to address sexual abuse in churches have highlighted the collaborative approach of the convention, she said.

“Our mechanism for creating solutions has come from different places — the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission is involved, the Sexual Abuse Study Group is involved — and in reality that brings the best of our worlds together to help create churches and environments where we’re more proactive about problems and we’re also suggesting solutions to prevent incidents from happening.”

That dual approach of prevention and accountability will help the denomination “engage in healthier ways on the issue of sexual abuse for the greater good of the kingdom of God, the safety of all the individuals who walk into the spaces of our churches and the reputation of churches in their communities,” Litton said. 🌱



LITTON

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PASTOR

Camellia Baptist Church, 201 Woodvale Rd., Prattville, AL 36067, prayerfully seeking God’s choice for a full-time pastor. All applicants should have previous senior pastor experience and have earned a masters of divinity. Resumés with photo may be mailed: ATTN: Pastor/Search. www.cbcprattville.org.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Greensport Baptist Church in Ashville, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational pastor with previous experience who is missions-minded and has been called by God. We are a small country church trying to make a difference in our community. The church has a 3 bedroom/2 bath parsonage. We are seeking a pastor with excellent preaching and pastoring skills, able to lead us in reaching younger families and individuals while maintaining a good relationship with our senior members. Our church follows guidelines set forth in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Candidates should be willing to be involved in the SBC and the local St. Clair Association. Potential candidates should email resumés to: retrofed51@gmail.com.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Enterprise Baptist Church, Ashford, Alabama, is accepting applications for a bivocational pastor. We are seeking a pastor with a strong passion and sincere calling to lead all ages in worship, disciple and mentor new Christians and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. Email to: ebcashfordal@gmail.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Small church in western Jefferson County, Sylvan Springs, Alabama, looking for bivocational, part-time minister of music for three blended services per week. Send resumés to: First Baptist Sylvan Springs, 5692 Birmingham Road, Sylvan Springs, AL 35118, ATTN: Search Committee.

BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER & PIANIST

Southside Baptist Church, Mon-

roeville, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational music minister and a pianist. Send resumés to: P.O. Box 9, Monroeville, AL 36461 or email to: sbch@frontiernet.net.

STUDENT MINISTER

Central Baptist Church in north Little Rock, Arkansas, is accepting resumés for the position of full-time student minister. The deadline to submit a resumé is Aug. 8. Please email your resumé to: cbcstudentresume@gmail.com.

STUDENT PASTOR

Mauldin First Baptist Church, Mauldin, South Carolina, is seeking to hire a full-time student pastor. Primary duties include overseeing the ministries of students and their families from sixth grade through college. Applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree, and three years of experience is preferred. Please submit resumés and/or questions to: wleonard@fbcmauldin.org.

YOUTH MINISTER

Cottage Hill Baptist Church (Bessemer Association) is seeking candidates to restart the youth ministry. Please email resumés to: lorettamconnell@gmail.com.

OTHER POSITIONS

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONARY

Clarke Baptist Association is seeking God’s choice for an associational missionary. Candidates shall have a commitment and sense of calling to missions service. Send resumé to: 16183 Hwy 43, Grove Hill, AL 36451 or cbamoffice@gmail.com. Resumés will be accepted through July 31.

HOUSEPARENT

If you want to make a significant difference in the lives of at-risk youth, the Baldwin County Sheriffs’ Boys Ranch is seeking a missions-minded, married couple for a relief houseparent, live-in position. Benefits include housing, salary, insurance and paid vacation. Inquire at 251-989-6392. Apply to join our team at <https://boysandgirlsranched.org/employment.html>.

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MINISTRIES

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Leading 'from the heart of a pastor'



Photo by Hannah Muñoz

Ronnie Floyd (left) shares with Samford University President Andrew Westmoreland his goal to stay true to himself as the newly elected CEO of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee. 'I come from the heart of a pastor and I will hopefully always lead from the heart of a pastor,' Floyd said. Samford hosted a series of interviews in the exhibit hall during the SBC annual meeting in Birmingham in June. Watch the full videos of this and other interviews at samford.edu/news/2019/Samford-at-the-2019-SBC-Convention.

Silicon Valley trip inspires UM School of Business students

A trip of a lifetime has sent University of Mobile (UM) students back to Mobile feeling encouraged, inspired and more equipped to be business professionals.

Five students in the school of business and Katie Allred, assistant professor of software and development and digital media, went to Silicon Valley on May 14–18 to meet Christians who work in some of the world's best-known high-tech companies.

The students were part of the Good Work Agency at UM where Allred serves as director. Good Work Agency is a student-run marketing firm that helps churches, nonprofits and small businesses be more effective online. This gives students the opportunity to work in a marketing firm environment before graduating.

Along with eating IN-N-OUT

cheeseburgers and taking pictures on the Golden Gate Bridge these students met with Christians who work at Facebook, Abide and Instagram.

Sophomore Avery Wilhite was encouraged by visiting San Francisco. Wilhite says the trip, "Showed me that not only the academic tools that I gain during college are important but the spiritual tools are important too, as they help equip me for ministry."

Fun and educational

While at Facebook the students met with the "Christians@Facebook" group which meets often in the middle of their day to participate in worship together. Wilhite says the trip was extremely fun and entertaining while being highly educational.

For more information about the Good Work Agency visit goodworkagency.org. (UM)

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

By Joanne Sloan

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



Tyndale was first person to translate New Testament into English

William Tyndale (1494–1536), a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation, was the first person to translate the New Testament into English. He was martyred for his faith.

This year is the 525th anniversary of his birth.

He was born to Richard and Tebota Tyndale in 1494 in Gloucestershire, England. His father was a landowner and merchant.

In 1515 he received his master's degree from Oxford University. When he studied theology he was horrified that reading the Bible was not included.

He returned to Gloucestershire and became a tutor and a popular preacher who taught from the

Bible. For doing so he was accused of heresy. No action was taken.

Once a Catholic told Tyndale: "We were better without God's laws than the Pope's." Tyndale answered, "I defy the Pope," and added, "If God spare my life, ere many years I will cause a boy that drive the plow to know more of the Scriptures than you."

He knew Greek, Latin, Spanish, French, German and Hebrew. He wanted to translate the New Testament from Greek into English.

To obtain permission he went to London in 1523. Unable to receive permission he knew he had to leave England.

In 1524 he moved to Germany. He probably translated the New Testa-

ment into English in Wittenberg. The printing of the New Testament was started at Cologne and finished at Worms in 1526. Copies were smuggled into England. In 1526 the

bishop of London burned copies of the New Testament but it continued to circulate.

In 1528, Tyndale began his translation of the Old Testament from Genesis through First Chronicles and Jonah from Hebrew into English. He also authored other works which were all

written in secure places that neither King Henry VIII nor church officials could pursue him. The places he hid are still unknown.

In May 1535 Henry Phillips, an Englishman and a supposed friend,

betrayed him. Tyndale was arrested and imprisoned in the castle of Vilvoorden, Belgium, for more than 500 days under inhumane conditions.

Unfair trial

In an unfair trial he was tried for heresy and treason and was convicted. On Oct. 6, 1536, he was strangled and then burned at the stake in the prison yard. His last words were "Lord, open the king of England's eyes."

His prayer was answered the next year when Tyndale's New Testament was printed in England with the king's permission.

His work constitutes much of the translation of the King James Version of 1611 and of the English Revised Version of 1885. 🇺🇸



TYNDALE

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Event and location is followed by SBOM contact person and extension. For more information on these events, call 1-800-264-1225 or (334) 613-2 + the extension, or visit alsbom.org.

JULY

- 15-19 **Missions Adventure Camps for Girls, Boys & CITs**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
- 15-19 **Mix MusiCamp@Shocco**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Keith Hibbs, ext. 217
- 15-19 **Missions Adventure Camp for Girls, Boys & CITs**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
- 16 **Church Financial Issues**, Tennessee River Baptist Association Office, Scottsboro, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 18 **Church Financial Issues**, Northport BC, Northport, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 18 **Child Protection Workshop**, First Baptist Church, Trussville, Lee Wright, ext. 241
- 19-20 **SPEAK, Eastmont, Montgomery**, Scooter Kellum, ext. 280
- 22-26 **Missions Adventure Camp for Boys & Teen Boys**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
- 23 **Church Financial Issues**, Calhoun Baptist Association Office, Anniston, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 25 **Church Financial Issues**, Mobile Baptist Association Office, Mobile, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 26-27 **Equip...for Missions, for Ministry, for Life**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Pat Ingram, ext. 292
- 26-27 **Missions Adventure Camp for Lad & Dad**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223

AUGUST

- 1-3 **Alabama Church Planting Basics**, Glynwood, Prattville, Lamar Duke, ext. 332
- 2-3 **The Summit: For Church Leaders**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Jamie Baldwin, ext. 240
- 2-3 **English as a Second Language Workshop**, Prattville FBC, Kristy Kennedy, ext. 311
- 4 **Social Issues Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
- 4-8 **Collegiate Week**, Falls Creek, Oklahoma, Mike Nuss, ext. 276
- 6 **Church Financial Issues**, Dale Baptist Association Office, Ozark, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 8 **Church Financial Issues**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 12 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, Lindsay Lane, Athens, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 13 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, Samford University, Birmingham, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 13 **Church Financial Issues**, CrossPoint, Trussville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 14 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 15 **Biblical Church Revitalization**, University of Mobile, Mobile, Daniel Wilson, ext. 343
- 17 **Called Conference**, Glynwood, Prattville, Monica Thompson, ext. 227
- 18 **Read The Alabama Baptist Sunday**
- 18-25 **Royal Ambassador Week**, Monica Thompson, ext. 227
- 20 **Church Financial Issues**, Northbrook, Cullman, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 22 **Church Financial Issues**, Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association Office, Opelika, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 22 **Uplink on the Road**, Dawson Memorial, Birmingham, Scooter Kellum, ext. 280
- 29 **OneDay for Worship Leaders**, Hunter Street, Hoover, April Brewer, ext. 279

SEPTEMBER

- 2 **Labor Day**
- 3 **The Heart of Leadership: Becoming a Leader People Want to Follow**, SBOM Facility, Prattville, Debbie Dickey, ext. 218
- 5 **Get Acquainted Day**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Rita Goldman, ext. 249
- 8 **Single Adult Sunday**, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 8-15 **Week of Prayer for State Missions and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering**, Laura Glass, ext. 226



JULY 19-20
EASTMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
MONTGOMERY

SPEAKERS



Tom Richter



D.A. Horton



Billy Young

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SBC messengers write thank you notes to local teachers

Gathered at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) showed its appreciation to local teachers during the annual meeting June 11-12. Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin was presented a

check for \$250,000 through Send Relief to assist local teachers in buying school supplies. Messengers and guests in attendance also wrote thank you notes to local teachers during the opening minutes of the meeting.

"These schoolteachers are going to hear here in a few weeks that they've got an unexpected fund to be able to buy school supplies with and they're getting a card from a Southern Baptist they've never met telling them that

they are loved and prayed for," said SBC president J.D. Greear.

That is "being a fragrance of the gospel," he said, adding it will "hopefully spawn some gospel conversations for local ... churches."

Gospel Above All post-cards were distributed to those attending the opening session to write the notes.

Birmingham Metro Baptist Association took the lead on delivering the cards to schools. (Grace Thornton)

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*June Hudson, Sign Committee Member
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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS 1994 - 2019

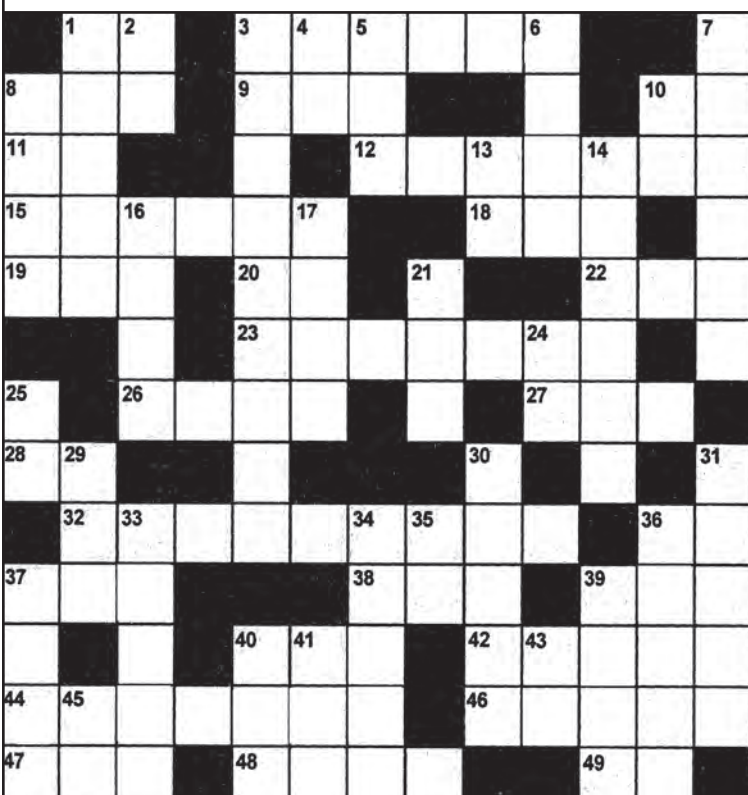


Photo by Phil Brown

Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting pray over the appreciation notes they wrote to local teachers.

Christian Crossword

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Across

- Expression of satisfaction.
- Stayed.
- God heard the voice of the _____. (Gen. 21:17)
- A prohibition.
- Mom.
- One ____ the other.
- Joseph ... entered into his _____. (Gen. 43:30)
- The child Jesus tarried _____. (Luke 2:43)
- Drink originally from China.
- Compass direction.
- ____ not this folly. (Judg. 19:23)
- The people sin against ____ Lord. (1 Sam. 14:33)
- As they must give _____. (Heb. 13:17)
- ____ and good. (Gen. 41:5)
- And they did eat of the ____ corn. (Josh. 5:11)
- I am (contraction).
- Set your ____ on things above. (Col. 3:2)
- Let not the sun ____ down on your wrath. (Eph. 4:26)
- Deliver thyself as a ____ from the ... hunter.

Down

- Rabbits.
- Not B.C.
- The ____ of their joy. (2 Cor. 8:2)
- What a sheep says.
- Incorporated. (abbr.)
- English noblewoman.
- Three measures of ____ for a penny. (Rev. 6:6)
- Part of the ear or brain.
- He walked with _____. (Mal. 2:6)
- In a certain place.
- Ribonucleic acid.
- 2,000 pounds.
- Larry, Curley and ____.
- Their ____ hath been to feed cattle. (Gen. 46:32)
- That all men through him might _____. (John 1:7)
- What a boat needs if it has no motor.
- Estimated Time of Arrival. (abbr.)
- Of your daily _____. (Ex. 5:19)
- Added to a word to make it an adverb.

- When kings go forth to _____. (2 Sam. 11:1)
- Ye therefore ____ them not. (John 8:47)
- A place to tie a boat.
- He that is of ____ heareth. (John 8:47)
- There had been ____ rain. (1 Kings 17:7)
- Hello.
- Former Chinese leader.
- Take ye a kid of the ____ for a sin offering. (Lev. 9:3)
- Full of dead men's _____. (Matt. 23:27)
- Guy, pal, a good ____.
- All the ____ of the field are withered. (Joel 1:12)
- Not out.
- Reverence and ____ fear. (Heb. 12:28)
- They put on Jesus a scarlet _____. (Matt. 27:28)
- Take it by the _____. (Ex. 4:4)
- Martha ... went and ____ him. (John 11:20)
- Eggs.
- Egyptian god.
- "Entertainment Tonight." (abbr.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For July 14

Explore the Bible

By Jay T. Robertson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



CONFIDENCE 2 Timothy 1:3–14

According to tradition Paul wrote this second letter to Timothy from an underground chamber in Rome's Mamertine prison. Based on the end of 2 Timothy, it seems Paul had already received a court hearing (4:16–18) and expected to be executed soon (4:6–8). As Paul neared the end of his life on earth he wrote his son in the faith to bolster his confidence in the Lord and the gospel. He wanted Timothy to finish strong.

Heritage (3–5)

Paul expressed his love for Timothy by thanking God for him and by interceding for him. Even with the end of his life in sight Paul was not finished yet. He wanted to finish strong. He had important work to do — praying for his disciple, Timothy. Perhaps you are confined to your home and can no longer get out and go as you once did. Never forget that praying for others is important work.

Timothy not only had a mentor but he also had a godly mother and grandmother. Timothy, like these ladies, possessed a sincere faith. A genuine faith makes a difference in how you live. External transformation is the evidence of an internal regeneration.

These women taught the Scriptures to Timothy from his infancy (2 Tim. 3:15). After coming to faith in Christ their understanding of Scripture was Christ-centered. They came to understand the Scriptures “are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus” (3:15).

Gifted (6–7)

Paul knew the fire of Timothy's charisma (the gift of God's grace that enabled the younger man to serve as the apostle's representative) was burning low. Ephesus was not an easy place to serve the Lord. In his first letter Paul instructed Timothy to remain in Ephesus. Apparently, Timothy desired an easier place to serve.

Paul reminded him to rekindle into a living flame the divine gift of ordination. The flame had not

gone out but it was burning slowly and had to be agitated to white heat. The times were serious. Paul was about to step into eternity. Timothy must carry on the gospel mission faithfully. The gift of the Holy Spirit must not be quenched.

Paul encouraged Timothy to fight his tendency toward fearfulness. The Holy Spirit is not the Spirit of fear but of power, love and sound judgment. Paul's advice to Timothy applies also to us.

Avail yourself of this unlimited, never-failing power and you will proclaim God's truth. Avail yourself of this never-ending love and you will comfort God's children. Avail yourself of sound judgment and you will wage battle against cowardice.

If a person fears Satan's persecuting power more than he trusts God's ability and readiness to help he has lost his mental balance.

Unashamed (8–12)

When we are not ashamed to proclaim the gospel and we fulfill our responsibility to guard the unchanging gospel, we should expect to suffer for the gospel. Paul exhorted Timothy not to be ashamed of the gospel. We are bold about that which we are passionate about. As we grow in our relationship with Jesus the more passionate about Him we become.

Paul also exhorted Timothy to suffer for the gospel. We too should be willing to suffer for the gospel by the power of God because the gospel is worth it.

The gospel is worth it because God saves, sanctifies and glorifies sinners by His grace not according to their works. The gospel is the only remedy for humanity's sinful condition.

Loyal (1:13–14)

We are to be guardians of the gospel. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we follow the pattern of sound teaching. We're not called to be creative; we're called to be faithful. We are to preserve, protect and proclaim the one true gospel that saves sinners.✠

Bible Studies for Life

By Roy E. Ciampa, Ph.D., S. Louis and Ann W. Armstrong
Professor of Religion, Samford University



MENTORING: HOW TO EQUIP AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS 2 Timothy 2:1–2; 3:10–17

Mentoring requires an intentional relationship. (2:1–2)

Paul had met Timothy in Lystra and recruited him to be a missionary partner during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:1–4). Over the following 15 years or so Timothy had been Paul's constant companion and missionary helper. Paul mentored Timothy through the most challenging ministry and life circumstances.

He sent Timothy as his emissary to carry out his work in places he couldn't go to himself (see Acts 19:22; Phil. 2:19; 1 Thess. 3:2). Paul refers to Timothy as his “true son in the faith” (1 Tim. 1:2), his “beloved and faithful child in the Lord” (1 Cor. 4:17; 2 Tim. 1:2) and as his “brother and co-worker” (1 Thess. 3:2). Timothy is even named as a co-sender or co-author of several of Paul's letters (see 2 Cor. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philemon 1:1).

Timothy witnessed Paul's life and ministry in times of great blessing and in times of setbacks, and he was well prepared to pass on Paul's teachings to the next generation so they could benefit from them as well.

Paul indicates the choice of people to mentor is not to be taken lightly; they must be faithful people who will be able to teach others just as they and Timothy had been taught (v. 2).

Timothy learned to be intentional in building relationships with those who would receive his mentoring just as Paul had been with him. That is a key for us as well in any mentoring role we might have.

Mentoring involves walking together in life's ups and downs. (3:10–13)

Through the years Timothy observed Paul in all kinds of circumstances. He benefited from the opportunity to observe not only what Paul said (“my teaching”) but also how he lived (“my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience,

love, endurance”) including in the most extremely difficult circumstances with all the persecution he experienced and the suffering he endured.

He observed Paul's confidence in God and how God had shown up and rescued Paul repeatedly. Paul had known good times and bad (see Phil. 4:12) and Timothy was there to see how he dealt with both.

Timothy learned from Paul about the cost of discipleship: how this world treats those who seek to live godly lives as disciples of Christ.

Those experiences prepared Timothy to live for Christ after Paul was gone and to serve as a mentor for others as well.

Mentoring encourages us to stay grounded in God's word. (3:14–17)

Timothy had been taught well by his mother and grandmother (2 Tim. 1:5) and Paul recognized the crucial role of the Holy Scriptures for coming to faith in Jesus Christ and to mentoring any disciple of Christ.

Given the practical needs of Timothy's community, Paul's statement about biblical inspiration emphasizes the practical benefits of having the divinely revealed teaching we need (including the need to be rebuked and corrected by Scripture when appropriate) and the benefits of being trained in righteousness so we can live lives that reflect God's character as people equipped to do “every good work” — those good things God commands us to do in each circumstance in which we find ourselves.

We can all benefit from having a godly mentor and from serving as one for someone who has less experience in his or her Christian walk than we do.

Such opportunities to walk together with Christ through good times and bad and to seek to remain grounded in God's word each step of the way can be the key to following our Lord and continuing to grow in Him.✠



Media reviews

MOVIES

'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse' leads streaming lineup

By **Michael Foust**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Superhero movies are popular in our culture but they're also often violent and sometimes profane.

They're also loved by young children even if they never have watched one and even though the PG-13 content would give many of them nightmares.

I've lost count of the number of times I've told my children: "No you can't go with me" to watch the latest Marvel or DC movie.

But this month Netflix offers families an animated superhero movie so good it won an Oscar and was beloved by adults too.

"Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (PG), now streaming, tells the story of a teenage boy — Miles Morales, not Peter Parker — who gets bitten by a spider and develops superhero skills.

"How could there be two Spider-Men?" he asks, referencing the role already taken by Parker.

The plot then grows even more strange as Miles dis-

covers there are multiple "Spider People" in this "Spider-Verse."

That's because the evil villain Kingpin is creating a machine that permits travel into multiple universes so he can resurrect his wife and child.

He also wants to kill every Spider-Man.

The plot sounds complicated but it works on the big screen.

The film has no sexuality and only one coarse word (h-ll).

The violence also is toned down significantly although it's still

a major part of the plot. (For example it has more violence than the "Incredibles" series.)

It includes a family-centric story led by the exemplary relationship between Miles and his parents. Even the villains understand the importance of family.

Real-world parents who hate the violence in superhero movies should avoid "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." But if you're looking for a toned-down version of a Marvel or DC film this is it.



'Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse'

Photo courtesy of Sony

Meanwhile the pending presence of Disney Plus — the streaming platform launching Nov. 12 — is already being felt on Netflix and other platforms.

Disney is pulling its popular content in preparation for its own service. This means the next few months may be slow-going for family-friendly offerings.

June nevertheless has a few other solid entries:

For adults/teens

▶ **"Batman Begins, The Dark Knight"** (Netflix) —

These two films from 2005 and 2008 are dark. And violent. And occasionally coarse. But they raise questions about justice, revenge and family that may be worth exploring. (Batman's parents were murdered when he was young.) Both are rated PG-13.

▶ **"Mission: Impossible"** (Hulu) — It's the first film

in the series and one of the least entertaining but it's still pretty good. Actor Tom Cruise performs his own stunts, some of which are downright death-defying. Rated PG-13 for some intense action, violence and some strong language.

For children

▶ **"Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa"** (Netflix) — Alex,

Marty and his friends learn that life in the wild is tougher than expected. This film has a few angles I didn't like — a hippo romance and



a fight between a grandma and an animal among them — but it stays within the family-friendly realm. Rated PG for some mild crude humor.

▶ **"Dr. Seuss' The Grinch"** (Netflix) — The story is innocent.

More importantly moviegoers learn the Christ-centric meaning of Christmas. Yes it's OK to watch this one

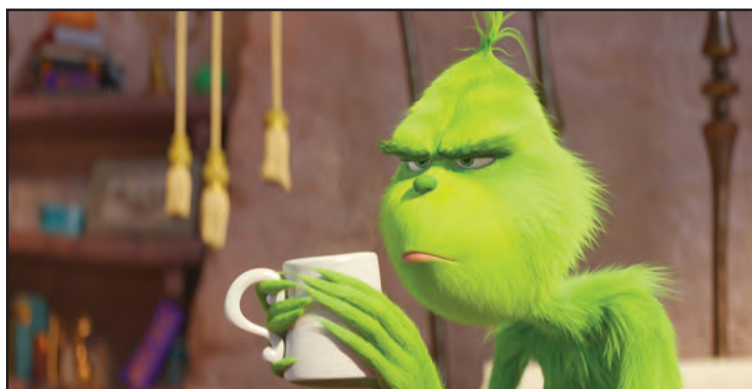
Meet the reviewer

Michael Foust covers the intersection of faith and entertainment as a media reviewer for The Alabama Baptist. He also is the husband of an amazing wife and the father of four young children.

during summer. Rated PG for brief rude humor.

▶ **"Ralph Breaks the Internet"** (Netflix) — Two video game characters travel through the internet to try and save a friendship and career. It includes positive messages about forgiveness and reconciliation. It also warns us about the perils of the internet. Rated PG for some action and rude humor.

▶ **"Ant Bully"** (Hulu) — A boy learns lessons about bullying the hard way when he is shrunk down to the size of an ant. Rated PG for some mild rude humor and action. 🌟



'Dr. Seuss' The Grinch'

Photo courtesy of Illumination

‘Meet them where they are’

WMU of Virginia street ministry shines light of Christ in prostitution zone

By **Trennis Henderson**
WMU National Correspondent

A small group of volunteers gathers two nights a month in south Richmond, Virginia, to walk a mile-long strip of the city and minister to prostitutes and others they cross paths with along the way.

The volunteers meet in the park-

ing lot of a nearby fast-food restaurant about 11 p.m. for a brief time of orientation and prayer before heading out two by two along a street dotted with aging motels, used car lots and the occasional pawnshop or tattoo parlor.

Some might say this isn't your typical Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) ministry project.

On a recent night, one of the ministry volunteers noted, a shooting had been reported in the area earlier in the evening. A few blocks away group members saw several police cars and an ambulance parked in front of one of the motels.

Rather than deter the team the situation sparked one of them to stop and pray for those involved, including praying for the motel manager by name.

Valerie Carter Smith, executive director of WMU of Virginia, organized the street ministry more than



Photos by Pam Henderson

Valerie Carter Smith (second from left), executive director of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, leads a brief orientation and prayer time as volunteers prepare to minister to prostitutes in Richmond.

a decade ago while she was serving on staff in a local congregation. Pat Eggleston joined the ministry effort a few years later helping coordinate and lead the volunteer effort.

‘Unscripted opportunity’

As the ministry volunteers strike up conversations with young women and young men they pass on the streets, “we just meet them where they are,” Eggleston said. “This is a very unscripted opportunity. Each person injects his or her own personality based on just how the Spirit leads us and the person we encounter,” she said.

While the volunteers watch for

signs of individuals being trafficked, “most of the young people we meet here are substance abusers,” Eggleston said. “Most of them are here because of their drug addiction and they are prostituting to make the money.”

While such tangible results as professions of faith, rescuing underage girls from the streets or helping drug addicts get into treatment facilities have been limited over the years, Smith said, “God spoke and said, ‘Your call is to be in the trenches, to be light in darkness, to be obedient to that.’ This is my calling. I’m just here to share the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

How to pray:

▶ Pray the young men and women in prostitution across the country will experience the love of Christ and will find freedom.

▶ Pray for the safety of Valerie Carter Smith and the volunteers with WMU Virginia street ministry. (TAB)



Volunteer coordinator Pat Eggleston displays a pair of gloves and 3:16 bracelets she and other volunteers distribute as part of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia's street ministry in Richmond.