



The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

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To watch the videos from this week's issue, visit our YouTube channel "TAB Media."



Photo courtesy of Bobby DuBois

New floors, fresh paint and updated furniture greet students at UNA's BCM.

Impactful changes'

BCM students will enjoy updated spaces this fall; more to come

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

University students across Alabama are enjoying renovated Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) facilities made possible in part by the sale of the Auburn University BCM building to the city of Auburn.

That deal, approved by messengers to the annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention (ABSC)

in November 2017, will result in a new BCM at Auburn University, said Bobby DuBois, associate executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM).

Complete improvements

"The Auburn BCM is being built by the City of Auburn, to our specifications, as part of the sale of our former BCM location," DuBois said.

The new facility is expected to be completed around Nov. 1, 2020. The City of Auburn is providing temporary space for the BCM in downtown Auburn, not too far from its historic location, for the duration of the construction phase of the project.

Auburn University's new

BCM is part of a project to complete improvements at all 10 of the Baptist campus centers in Alabama.

The \$3.1 million project budget was provided by the \$1.1 million sale of the Auburn BCM combined with \$2 million from SBOM funds designated for future building needs.

Renovations began in 2018 at BCM buildings for University of North Alabama (UNA), University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH), University of Alabama, Troy

University and University of South Alabama (USA).

Construction at Jacksonville State University (JSU), University of Alabama Birmingham, Auburn University at Montgomery and University of Montevallo BCM buildings was completed in 2019.



Photo courtesy of Bobby DuBois

UAH's BCM includes community space for worship and fellowship.

Most of the campus centers date back to the 1950s and 1960s, DuBois said. The nine renovated centers received a complete overhaul including exterior (See 'Home,' page 16)

As we are celebrating Read *The Alabama Baptist* Day this month we want to hear from our readers.

Why do you read *The Alabama Baptist*?
What do you love about the content provided in print/online?
Do you have any favorite articles or columns?

Let us know your thoughts at news@thealabamabaptist.org.

"I love my subscription to TAB. It keeps me up to speed with what is really going on in our churches. Many thanks for your good work!"

Doug Sweeney
Dean, Beeson Divinity School

"I am loving TAB's coverage of the Border Crisis! It's such a huge, heartbreaking issue that needs to be discussed and I'm so thankful that TAB is helping us all find ways to get involved! It's so encouraging to hear how Southern Baptists are already responding to the situation."

Sarah Gill
Customer relations representative, TAB

"I listen to a lot of podcasts and TAB's podcast is always one on my rotation. The guests are interesting, and TAB does a great job of illuminating ministries I wouldn't otherwise hear about."

Bryan Gill
Director of professional studies, Samford

"I have recently enjoyed the in-depth coverage of issues featured in The Alabama Baptist. It is important we are informed and aware of the things going on around us and have tangible ways to pray and help."

Jessica Ingram
Production manager, TAB



"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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Crossword puzzle grid:

H	I	M	S	E	L	F	A	B	E	I
O	N	E	M	A	D	A	U	S		
N	W	E	I	T	O	P				
O	V	E	R	C	O	M	E	S	F	N
U	E	P	A	A	F	R	O			
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H	O	E	R	A	R	L				
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N	T	O	F	S	P	R	I	N	G	T
C	A	N	F	I	T	S		S	E	E
R	Y	E	S	O		L	B	M	A	
Y	E	S		N	U	M	B	E	R	M

The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

August 18 Sunday

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MY RASHIONALE

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

jrash@thealabamabaptist.org
@RashionalThts



Young adults in transition sometimes need a rope to hold on to

Preparing our Back to Campus issue each year always takes me back to my own college days and how much I grew during those years.

It's sometimes hard to believe that college is where I learned how to use a computer.

I had been exposed to a computer in high school while on the yearbook staff but it wasn't until freshman English class in college that I truly experienced the full use of a computer — and I've never stopped trying to learn more about them since.

College also offered an opportunity to explore various degree programs and potential careers as I attempted to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up.

And then there were the extra-curricular activities like serving in ambassador roles, on the Student Government Association and in the marching band.

College experiences are different for everyone. I loved my campus days and discovered so much about myself and my Lord during those years.

Sometimes college doesn't work out to be the best experience for everyone, however. New freedoms and challenges might be overwhelming and lead to poor choices.

Some students end up coming back home, at least for a while.

But no matter the path young adults take — whether going the college route or not — we do realize this is the time in life when exploration happens.

Who am I? What is important

to me? Why is it important to me? What are my goals and values? These are some of the questions young adults face daily whether they realize it or not.

The transition from being part of a protected environment at home with a youth minister and youth group surrounding them at church is where the “roots and wings” concept Mike Nuss mentions on page 4 will show itself (or not).

And in those years — the young adult transition time — we'd like to offer an online community, a space for believers to gather.

We call it The Rope because we hope it becomes something “to hold on to” during this season of life.

We won't be a replacement parent nor a youth minister but we do hope young adult believers who are strong in their faith will share about real life struggles and how they are holding on to their faith through those moments.

We hope those who gather in this space will encourage each other along the journey.

The content comes from both guys and gals and covers a

multitude of topics. Our goal is to continue diving deeper into the issues important to young adults.

It's also a great place for a young adult to experience the world of blogging and develop his or her writing skills through the editing that will take place.

So if you are a young adult and would like to be a contributor or if you know a young adult who would benefit from engaging with The Rope, email us at therope@thealabamabaptist.org.

And check out The Rope at theropetab.wordpress.com.✝

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Celebrating loyal readers, committed staff and variety of platforms available for sharing content

Thank you for the continued and much appreciated support of *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper and media ministry, known by some as TAB Media.

The staff of *The Alabama Baptist* works hard to be good stewards of all its resources and seeks to maintain an efficient and effective working environment as well as stay connected to the heartbeat of Alabama Baptists.

We strive to produce content and resources that help strengthen and build up believers in and followers of Jesus Christ who happen to live life as Alabama Baptists.

The staff understands that believers who are growing spiritually, learning to create margin in their daily lives and

*We are excited
you are joining
us in this weekly
conversation
related to faith
and life.*

finding healthy ways to deal with difficult life issues are better able to consistently and energetically share Christ and make disciples.

Today's *TAB* offers a weekly print publication, an enhanced PDF version that is emailed

each week, a preview of top stories and online reporting of breaking news as well as a variety of resources at www.thealabamabaptist.org — which has more than 40,000 articles posted.

TAB also maintains an active social media presence through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and produces a weekly radio show — *TAB News* — on WXJC 101.1 FM/850 AM which is then combined with an audio digest of that week's issue and uploaded as a podcast.

Thank you again for your support and personal engagement with the various platforms available through *The Alabama Baptist*.

—Jennifer Davis Rash

Your Voice



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

Helping college students find faith that sticks

By Mike Nuss

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

As a first-generation college student, I left home and began my college years with little thought or preparation, other than knowing a college degree was the required “next step” to prepare me for the future.

That was almost 50 years ago. The college campus (and the world) was a much different place than it is today.

I had no idea then that I would spend most of the next 50 years ministering to college students and college ministry leaders and try-

ing to help guide students as they navigated some of the most critical years of their lives.

As I think back on my days as a college freshman, I realize the advice I was given in 1971 isn't much different than advice I would give college students and their parents today.

I guess the more things change, the more they stay the same! So, here's some advice for today:

► Know what you believe — and stick to it.

Collegiate ministry leaders often tell me that today's college students

are basically biblically illiterate.

Many cannot tell you the basic truths of God's word, explain simple Bible stories or point others to Christ, even though these students grew up in church and have been shaped for years by student ministries.

College students will face many challenges to their faith. I did.

On today's college campus, it's never been more important for students to know the truth of God's word, know what they believe, be able to articulate it and above all — stick to it.

► Find a faith community — and stick with it.

Patterns established by college students in the first three weeks of school are likely to be patterns they stick with for the rest of their college experience. That includes study habits, sleep (or the lack of it) and especially friends or community.

For the freshman away from home, church and family for the first time, finding a new community is essential to success.

I joined a church in my college town the first weekend I was on campus. It was one of the best and most important decisions I made as a student.

That faith community helped me integrate faith and facts, walked with me as I explored a call to min-

istry and was the place I found (and married) my wife.

► Find a church and your local Baptist Campus Ministry to help you continue your faith journey — and stick with it.

► Pray and support your student — stick with him or her and don't stop.

There's a cross-stitched saying on my mother's wall that basically says, “Give your children two lasting things — roots and wings.”

Parents and family, pastors and youth ministers, now is the time.

Make sure they're ready, make sure they have a strong foundation in life and faith, pray for your student like you've never prayed before and then let him or her go.

Perhaps one of the great dangers facing our world today is the inability of today's students to grow up, be adults, make decisions and live life on their own. This is clearly God's design and plan.

Yet we often hold them too tightly and fail to help them become productive, faithful young adults. They're going to make mistakes. We all did.

► Give them roots and wings, encourage, equip and pray — stick with them and don't stop.

Editor's Note — Mike Nuss directs the office of collegiate and student ministries at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. For more information or resources on ministering to college students, contact him at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 276, or mnuss@alsbom.org.



NUSS

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for overhauling *TAB*. It is very interesting, informative and faith strengthening. I congratulate editor-in-chief Jennifer Davis Rash and all of the *TAB* staff. The widespread coverage of Alabama Christian life is appreciated. We look forward to reading *TAB* each week.

Russ Smith
Chelsea, Ala.

I don't get too much involved in things beyond Hopewell Baptist Church and Judson College, both in Marion. God has called me to these two ministries and I focus almost exclusively on them.

My time beyond those is pretty

much limited to the Cahaba Baptist Association.

I keep up with other ministries such as the Alabama Baptist State Convention but do not have time to spend being too involved in them.

I really appreciate that I have the ability to keep up with what is going on through *TAB*. Keep up the good work.

Pastor George Washburn
Marion, Ala.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for the larger print. What a blessing.

Sue Tidwell
Oneonta, Ala.

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“Since the Bible is God’s love letter to us we should be reading it daily.”

JACK ANDERSON

Associational missions director, Alabama Crenshaw Baptist Association

No matter how hard we try to keep everything the same, things will keep changing. Except for one thing. God will never change. He will always be here and He always has been.

Hannah Muñoz
The Rope blog

God has a character and a nature. Of that we are certain. But God’s ways in which he accomplishes his will and way are unpredictable.

Pastor Jerry Light
First Baptist Church, Selma

The local church is a tremendous gift. In the local church, college students can find multi-dimensional discipleship and be led by elders whose very role is to shepherd them. In the local church, college

students can practice love and service in ways that set them up for a lifetime of faithfulness.

J.D. Greear
President
Southern Baptist Convention

When I read of Christian leaders falling morally or, in a most recent case, altogether abandoning the faith, my response — after initial shock and sadness — is always fear and trembling.

Jason Allen
President, Midwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

Praying out loud can be helpful because it keeps you from getting lost in your head. It makes your thoughts concrete. But it is more

than technique; it is also a statement of faith. You are audibly declaring your belief in a God who is alive. Praying aloud ... is just another way of being real in prayer.

Paul Miller
“A Praying Life”

While we can escape the eternal penalty for our sin, we can’t escape the temporal consequences of it. We often do “reap what we sow” on this earth, and Jesus told us if we love Him we should keep his commandments. ... Paul also taught us, “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.”

Otis Corbitt
Associational missions director
Covington Baptist Association



Photo by Alabama WMU

Candace McIntosh is executive director of Alabama Woman’s Missionary Union.

Missions discipleship

Just as we want to prepare our children to become successful adults through school, we also want them to grow into disciples of Christ who live on mission.

One way we do this is by teaching them at an early age what the Scriptures have to say about loving others and sharing the gospel.

As leaders in our Alabama Baptist churches I hope you have included missions discipleship as a top priority for the upcoming ministry year.

Through missions discipleship children are taught biblical principles of God’s love and compassion for the lost.

They experience missions through the eyes of missionaries, other believers and doing missions themselves.

Missions discipleship groups help your church raise up the next generation of disciples who will live out the Great Commission.

To learn more about this curriculum contact us at 334-613-2226 or visit AlabamaWMU.org.

Or join us at our One Day training on Aug. 17. There are three locations: State Board of Missions Facility, Prattville; Central Baptist, Decatur and First Baptist, Satsuma. Register at AlabamaWMU.org.

—Candace McIntosh

From the *Twitterverse*

@ronniefloyd

In your life and church, prioritize reaching your town, city, state, nation and the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Why? People need Jesus and people need Jesus now.

@pastortimmy1

Don’t go to church today looking for something wrong — go to your church looking for Jesus! And when you see Him — nothing will be wrong!!! Jesus will be @ClementsBaptist @Clements_HSV today!!!! I love my church!!!

@drjlskipper

The church is the only institution that exists for its non-members.

@DrDavidAllen

Preachers, contemplate this: An arrow all feathers but no point is

worthless. An arrow all point and no feathers is worthless. Delivery and content both matter in preaching!

@replantingrural

Many pastors in Nowhere, USA, are waking up this morning after a week working another job and juggling family and ministry stuff, probably even wondering if what little time they had left over to study was enough. It’s okay ... give ’em Jesus, love on your people and then take a nap.

@sendrelief

“Foster families should never have to ask for help. They need champions from the church to recognize their needs.” Jedd Medefind of @OrphanAlliance

@SoSayWeAll7

“Mentorship doesn’t happen by

accident ... and it certainly doesn’t happen when each generation is pointing fingers over who’s to blame for societal issues around us.” We need to learn from each other, and older generations need to empower the younger ... and let go of power.

@PriscillaShirer

Receive this. Believe this. ... “For the Lord God is a sun & shield; The Lord gives grace and glory. ... No good thing does He withhold from those who walk up rightly.” Ps. 84:11

A sun — to illumine
A shield — to protect
A generous Savior — giving good gifts and withholding the rest.

@bobgoff

We’ll know we’re growing when our love for people dwarfs our opinions about them.

Back-to-school concert reaches Conecuh youth

A few years ago Tim Covin gathered a bunch of teenagers from his church in Conecuh County and drove a couple of hours north to En Fuego, a one-day music festival in Verbena.

And the whole time they were there he kept thinking — “Why can’t we do something like this where we are?”

“We’re a pretty poor county compared to the rest of the state and a lot of people have spiritual needs too,” said Covin, youth ministry leader for Lyeffion Baptist Church, Evergreen. “Around here mamas and daddies aren’t in church. We’ve got to find a way to teach the students and let them know who Jesus is.”

So with that in mind — and with the support and encouragement of Lyeffion Baptist pastor Larry Johnson and Roshell McMillion, pastor of St. John’s Missionary Baptist Church — the Fire in the Park back-to-school bash was born. It’s vision? To pull together the community and draw in students from across racial and socioeconomic lines to hear the gospel.

Community effort

This year’s Fire in the Park — set for Aug. 10 at 4 p.m. at Municipal Park in Evergreen — will feature actor/speaker Ken Bevel from the movies “Courageous” and “Fireproof” and will offer music and entertainment from Dwayne Rembert, pastor of Flatline Church at Chisholm, Montgomery; King Allico; Big Yae; Crossway Ministries IMPACT Youth and Area51 band.

The event will include free food, snow cones, school supplies and giveaway prizes like PlayStation 4 games.

Last year the back-to-school bash drew 350 to 375 people. They’re hoping for an even bigger crowd this year, said Covin, who also serves as interim pastor of Old Town Baptist Church, Evergreen.

As the vision for the event has developed it’s drawn together a leadership team from across the community’s denominations. Sharon Salter, a member of New Home Free Will Baptist, is serving as event chairman this year.

“Our desire is just to bring this community together,” Salter said. “If we can reach these kids and get them to Christ it will make a profound impact on our county. It’s our desire to see God move in a mighty way here.”

Joey Rodgers, associational missions director for Conecuh Baptist Association, said he’s grateful for the way local churches are coming together to reach the county for Christ.

“An event such as this where we as Christians come together, crossing traditional denominational, social and racial boundaries, provides an example for everyone in our community of the things we can accomplish when we work together for a common goal,” he said.

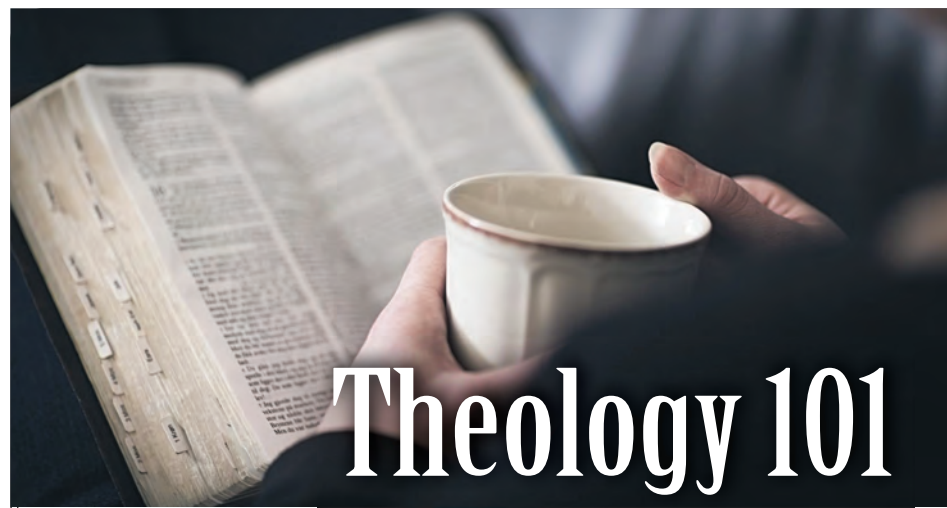
That goal — to give students the opportunity to meet Jesus and live changed lives — can offer “a better foundation for the future of our communities,” Rodgers said. (Grace Thornton)

“An event such as this where we as Christians come together, crossing traditional denominational, social and racial boundaries, provides an example for everyone in our community of the things we can accomplish when we work together.”

Joey Rodgers

associational missions director, Conecuh Baptist Association

For more information, call 251-578-2250 or visit tabonline.org/FireinthePark.



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Images of a Christian

Christians as Soldiers

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

This week Theology 101 continues to use biblically suggested images by which to think about distinctives of the Christian life. Of course, truths gleaned by way of common images are not rooted in the images themselves. Truth is rooted in Scripture. Images are but common and helpful vehicles through which we can glean illustrations of biblical truth applied to life.

Last week the image was that of children; this week’s image is that of a soldier. The admonition of 2 Timothy 2:3–4 employs this image saying, “You therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life that he may please Him who enlisted him as a soldier.” The Apostle Paul referred to Epaphroditus as a “fellow soldier” (Phil. 2:25) as he also did to Archippus (Philemon 2). These expressions imply the apostle also saw himself as a soldier with whom these two men were his fellows.

What then are we to make of this biblical image? For one thing obedience is to be rendered to Christ, the Captain of our salvation. Basic to being a good soldier is obedience to one’s superiors. Such obedience embraces the fact of orders to be obeyed. A good soldier’s response to an order is an immediate, “Yes, sir.”

Also a soldier must engage in warfare. We often identify a trio

of enemies to the Christian life, namely the world, the flesh and the devil. In light of such enemies a Christian soldier has been supplied armor to be worn and weaponry to be taken up.

Most famously is the passage in Ephesians 6:13–18 in which we are enjoined to arm ourselves with God’s provision of truth (the belt), righteousness (the breastplate), the gospel (the footwear), faith (the shield), salvation (the helmet) and the word of God (the sword). All these divine provisions must be bathed in prayer always and with regularity.

As soldiers we are alerted that hardness is to be endured as previously noted in 2 Timothy 2:3–4. Also previously noted is that as a soldier is surrounded by fellow soldiers who offer encouragement so do we belong to a spiritual army in which are examples and fellow warriors who can embolden and support us.

The famed hymn writer Isaac Watts over two centuries ago forged a good and penetrating question for each of us in the title, “Am I a Soldier of the Cross?” To which we might add concerning Christ, “Is He the Captain of my life?” ✠

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.



Transitional stress

Tips for understanding, responding to stress as school starts back this fall

By Kristin Lowrey
and Anne Lawton
Special to The Alabama Baptist

Life is full of changes. Transitions from one stage of life to another are a normal part of life. These transitions are often happy times, like marriage, the birth of a child, starting a new job or moving to a new home. Sometimes the transitions are bittersweet, like sending a child to kindergarten or off to college. These times can bring great joy but they can also be a source of great stress.

Stress affects individuals in many different ways. Stress can cause physiological, emotional and behavioral changes manifested in depression, fatigue, headaches, increased heart rate, high blood pressure, sleeping too much or too little, weight gain or loss, irritability, feeling overwhelmed and/or trouble with concentration and memory.

In children the symptoms are often similar. Stressed children may experience frequent stomachaches or headaches, difficulty concentrating, changes in sleeping or eating, feelings of nervousness, restlessness or dread, difficulty concentrating and/or loss of interest in activities.

Talk about feelings

However, children may not have the vocabulary to express how they are feeling.

Helping your child talk about how he or she feels is a great first step.

For younger children four main

feeling words are helpful for them to be able to identify in themselves — happy, sad, mad and nervous. As a child grows older additional descriptive emotional words are helpful, such as ecstatic, bored, overwhelmed or confused.

Chat daily

Parents have an opportunity to create an encouraging tone with intentional conversations and language that may open doors for deeper discussions and expressions of feelings. Take time daily to chat, perhaps by letting each family member share his or her favorite part of the day and the hardest part of the day.

Stay attuned for signs of transitional stress as your child adjusts to school. Four important areas to consider include sleep, nutrition, exercise and morning routine.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the number of hours children ages 5 to 18 need to sleep ranges from 8 to 11 hours per night depending on the age of your child and your child's individual needs.

It is crucial to know your child's nightly need for sleep and to make sleep a priority even if it means saying no to evening activities.

A balanced diet is essential for students to be at their best for learning and for their body to function properly. Balanced eating may help your student face any emotional challenges during the day.

Some simple nutrition guidelines from the Mayo clinic suggest considering nutrient-dense foods



123rf.com

including protein, fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Incorporate more whole-wheat bread, brown and wild rice, oatmeal and popcorn, and limit refined grains while avoiding added sugar as well as saturated and trans fats. In addition be certain your child is staying hydrated.

Physical exercise

The Mayo Clinic recommends teens and children ages 6 and older get one hour of physical exercise per day. Exercise and movement are a wonderful time to connect with your child and to spend time together.

Finally make the morning routine a priority. When possible a predictable and peaceful breakfast is conducive to checking in emotionally with your student before school.

This may require that backpacks are packed and breakfast is prepped the night before.

Also remember to pray for your children often. Parents have wonderful intentions and some good follow-through, but we need the

Lord's strength for ourselves and for our children. Our Heavenly Father cares about children and truly loves them unconditionally.

Finally know that the challenges our children face can be used by the Lord to shape their character and make them more like Him.

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.

Kristin Lowrey is a licensed social worker and registered play therapist supervisor and is clinical director of children and adolescents for Pathways Professional Counseling, a sister ministry of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries. Anne Lawton served as a counselor with Pathways for more than 10 years and currently volunteers with both Pathways and Alabama Baptist Children's Homes.





BACK to CAMPUS

College credit, missions experiences are options for gap year

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Let's just say you're a parent of a rising high school senior. (Maybe you actually are.)

What would you think if your teenager told you he or she was thinking about taking a gap year between high school and college?

Would you worry about the future? Be concerned about a lack of focus or drive?

Brent Fielder — an advisory board member for Impact 360 Fellows — said parents don't have to be alarmed. It all depends on what your student means by gap year — because the gap year program he's involved with is anything but an unfocused break.

Impact 360 Fellows "is not a traditional gap year in that it's not a year off from school — it's actually

academically rigorous," said Fielder, also an active member of The Church at Brook Hills, Birmingham.

Students come out of the program with college credit and hopefully a better understanding of their faith before they go off to the traditional college experience, he said.

Interested in hearing more? Take a look at what these Christian gap year programs have to offer.

► **Impact 360 Fellows**

During Impact 360 Fellows students live on the program's campus in Pine

Mountain, Georgia. For nine months they spend time in intensive community getting to know Jesus more deeply

"In both secular and Christian history students have always responded to a cause worth dying for."

Jess Jennings
IMB worker

and learning how to live a full life of Christian influence, Fielder said.

Distinguished professors come in to teach weeklong modules on topics like biblical worldview, servant leadership and biblical calling.

And through a partnership with Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, gap year participants leave the program having already earned several college credits.

They also spend a month serving in Brazil, something that helps them to gain a cross-cultural perspective, Fielder said.

They're currently accepting applications for the 2020–2021 school year. For more information visit impact360institute.org.

► **Nehemiah Teams/Advance Operations Training (AOT)**

With AOT the idea is to train up leaders who can be a part of overseas and domestic missions projects

through Nehemiah Teams and Project 52.

The attraction

The idea of a year break isn't the attraction of AOT — the cross is the attraction, according to Jess Jennings, an Alabama native and long-term cross-cultural worker with the International Mission Board in Southeast Asia, who founded Nehemiah Teams in 2004.

AOT has a three-month training phase at Nehemiah Teams' 60-acre facility in

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Mentone, followed by a two-month-or-longer strategic assignment in North America or overseas to assist Southern Baptist representatives.

During their time in Mentone trainees visit local churches on Sundays, sharing their testimony and challenging young people to join them in missions. They also are involved in ministry to refugees and unreached people groups in the area.

The program is “designed to disciple, develop and deploy this generation to finish the Great Commission in this generation,” Jennings said. “In both secular and Christian history students have always responded to a cause worth dying for. We believe that Jesus is worthy of our greatest effort to make known the greatest message to those who have not heard.”

For more information visit ntp52aot.com.

► **Global Year**

This program goes straight for the field-learning

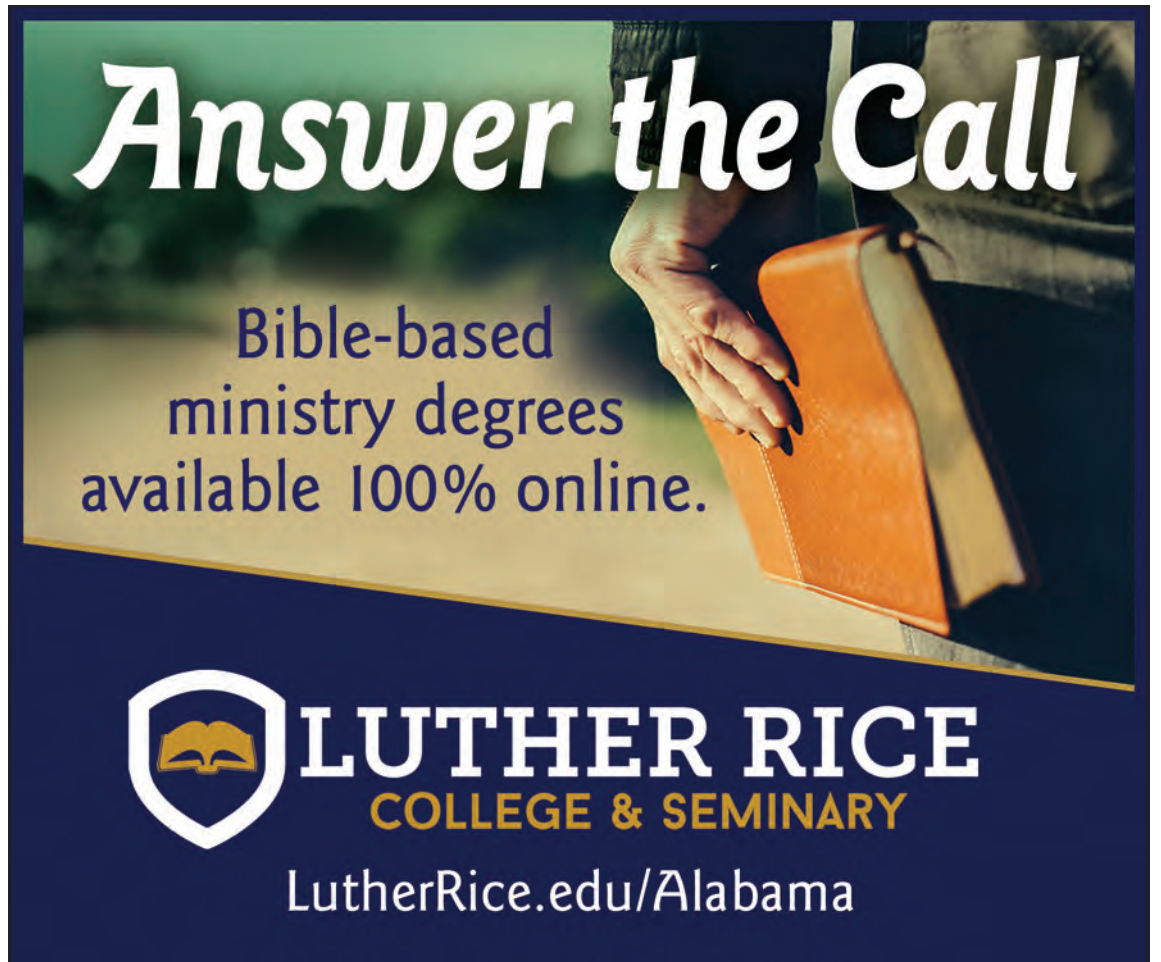
experience, sending participants to spend time serving in Canada, Cape Verde, Italy, Honduras or Guatemala.

It was founded in 2000 by First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Georgia, but became its own organization in 2008. It’s mission is to challenge the next generation to grow in their relationship with Jesus by sharing the gospel with those who haven’t heard it yet.

‘**Main emphasis**’


“Every location is different ministry wise — some will serve in schools, orphanages or church planting networks,” said Codey Cline, director of domestic ministry for Global Year. “Our main emphasis in every location is to evangelize and disciple the local people. This is what we train every student to do before they head out.”

They’re accepting applications now for next year. For more information or to read student blogs, visit www.globalyear.org.



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BACK TO CAMPUS

4 FRESHMAN TIPS

for a great start to college

- 1** Get connected to a local church and campus ministry as soon as you get to campus.
Sean Thornton
Campus Minister, Auburn University
- 2** Put the Lord first in all you do and invest your time and service in a local church.
Ryan Gray
College Pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery
- 3** Push through uncomfortable and awkward situations in order to make new friends. Don't be afraid to ask questions.
Kim Andrews
Campus Minister, University of Alabama
- 4** Strengthen your faith foundation. Find your identity in Christ alone before you walk onto the campus.
Jerrod Brown
Campus Minister, University of South Alabama

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JUDSON COLLEGE

Judson students encouraged to 'Leave Your Mark'

The first person to open a shelter for survivors of domestic violence in Alabama, the first woman to serve as an Alabama Supreme Court justice, the first woman to address a legislative body in the state of Alabama and the woman who led the clinical development of Tygacil, an antibiotic now widely used to treat drug-resistant pneumonia and malaria in the developing world, have all left indelible marks on our world.

These women, and thousands of others, were educated in a place named for a woman who left a mark on her

world as America's first female international missionary. Ann Judson inspired countless people in America in the 19th century with her selfless service to the people of Burma (now Myanmar). Her influence in Myanmar is still celebrated among Christians, and today 10 Judson alumnae from northern Myanmar, direct "spiritual descendants" of Ann Judson, are leaving their own marks on the lives of their people

through service in indigenous churches, parachurch organizations and at Kachin Theological College and Seminary.

On Aug. 18, 2019, a new freshman class will join the Judson College community, living and learning on a campus situated on land given to the college by Julia Tarrant Barron, a woman who made her mark

on Alabama Baptist life through her roles in the founding of Judson College and Howard College (now Samford University).

This fall's Rose Sunday service will commemorate Judson College's ties to Julia Barron and other

Judson founders at Siloam Baptist Church. These groundbreaking leaders left their mark through their work to establish entities like *The Alabama Baptist* newspaper and the North American Mission Board. Their early investment in women's education has empowered thousands of Judson women to be bearers of God's "light and truth" in the world for the past 181 years.

This year, faculty and staff, joined

Important dates

- ▶ **Rose Sunday:** August 25
- ▶ **New Student Move-in:** August 18
- ▶ **Judson College Authors Symposium:** October 23
- ▶ **Preview Days:** September 21, November 16, January 25, May 16

Judson College offers new minor in Equine-Facilitated Mental Health

Judson's addition of a new minor in Equine-Facilitated Mental Health will offer students all of the courses and training necessary to be eligible for Riding Instructor Level I certification with the Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH).

The new minor will give psychology and social work students opportunities to make a mark on their world through therapeutic horsemanship — the only program in the Southeast that provides PATH-related academic offerings.

Elisabeth Grandstaff Goddard, '16, a "missionary kid" of parents who served in Romania, took advantage of the college's former academic "emphasis" in Equine-Facilitated Mental Health during her time as a Psychology major and Equine Studies minor. Elisabeth is currently making her mark as a PATH-certified therapeutic riding instructor at the Red Barn in Leeds, Alabama, but eventually hopes to use her training as a platform for international missions service. (Judson)



Photo by Sarah Fowler

Judson College students lead an activity at Weekend Recess, a monthly outreach program for local children.

by new President W. Mark Tew, will continue to encourage students to leave their mark as they recognize and develop their unique, God-given talents through their studies, spiritual development and service to others.

'Leave Your Mark' through service

New campus signage exhorts students to "Fan to a flame the gift of God, which is in you ..." (2 Tim. 1:6). Not only are Judson students equipped to follow their own unique callings after graduation, they also have opportunities to exercise their gifts and follow Christ's call to "love your neighbor" (Mark 12:31) during their college experience.

Through Judson's nationally recognized Faith-Based Service and Learning (FBSL) program, Judson students apply what they learn in the classroom to meet the needs of their neighbors in Perry County, Alabama. This past spring, the Education and Social work departments partnered with the Judson FBSL Office and the Perry County Coalition

to coordinate a community program called "Strengthening Families." Judson teacher candidates and faculty taught the 10-week course, covering such topics as conflict resolution, accepting when parents say "no," positively communicating with others and accepting differences, to Perry County families who volunteered for the program. In December, a group of Judson students spent part of their Christmas break in an intensive week of community partnership and service called Restoration, working alongside Perry County natives like Judson alumna Frances Ford, executive director of Sowing Seeds of Hope, whose mark on the world has been celebrated by her induction into both the Alabama Health Care Hall of Fame and the Alabama Nursing Hall of Fame.

After 181 years of equipping women to be agents of God's light and truth in the world, Judson College is poised to begin a new year of providing today's students with opportunities to develop and use their gifts to leave their mark on the world for Christ. (Judson)

Campus updates

The support of Alabama Baptists continues to leave its mark on Judson College. In addition to operational support through the Cooperative Program, this fall new and returning students will enjoy fresh campus spaces updated through the work of Alabama Baptists. This summer volunteers from First Baptist Church of Huntsville made lighting and electrical updates in Julia Barron Hall and additional updates to the Mary Katherine Archibald Blount Student Center.

Other improvements have been made this summer to Alumnae Auditorium, Sara Hunt Christenberry Dining Hall and the President's Home. (Judson)

BACK TO CAMPUS

7 ways Alabama churches can support local schools

By Carolyn Tomlin
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

One thing Alabama communities have in common is local schools and throughout the state opportunities exist for Alabama Baptist churches to support students, teachers and staff members.

Regardless of the size of your congregation everyone can pray. Prayer is powerful. Here are some other ideas to get involved with schools in your community.

1. Reading mentors. According to recent data, if a child is not reading on grade level by the end of third grade this is an indicator for future dropout rates and other problems. Reading with an at-risk child for 30 minutes once a week can improve his or her reading level and confidence.

2. Adopt a school. Sunday School classes can sponsor a specific class. Volunteers might also provide snacks for holidays, field days or other events.

3. Weekend backpack program. During the week children from low-income families can eat breakfast and lunch at school. Too often Friday's lunch may be their last meal before Monday morning breakfast. Offer to pack a backpack or sack with nonperishable food items that could be given to children in need of weekend meals. Include nutritious items that do not require cooking.

4. Support teachers. Educators shape our future. These dedicated men and women train our prospective doctors, professors, pastors and others. Being in the
(See 'Connect,' page 14)

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Samford University

New year brings new academic programs at Samford University

New and enhanced academic programs across the university's 10 schools are evidence that innovation and market focus continue to be at the forefront of the Samford experience. New degree and certificate programs, as well as minors and concentrations, offer students opportunities to expand their professional preparation and further integrate their coursework with spiritual development.

The Department of Christian Ministry in Samford's School of the Arts is now offering two new minors: church and culture, which offers all majors an opportunity to engage the Christian ministry curriculum; and intercultural engage-

ment, which is focused on missions and designed to be attached to most degree programs.

These minors are offered in addition to the department's Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ministry, which equips graduates for the work of ministry and missions through a biblically grounded, missionally focused curriculum.

This fall, the College of Health Sciences will welcome students in the School of Public Health's new Doctor of Public Health program, which is designed to equip graduates with high level competencies in management, innovation and communications to assure they are prepared to assume leadership roles in the health sector.

In addition, the School of Health Professions will welcome its inaugural Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies cohort. As with other new programs in health sciences, the physician assistant program was designed to meet the growing demand of the market place. *U.S. News & World Report* ranked the profession No. 3 on its list of "100 Best Jobs in 2019."

Data analytics

Brock School of Business has launched a new curriculum to offer a concentration and a minor in data analytics. The concentration for business majors and the minor for nonbusiness majors will equip Samford students, our future business leaders, with the knowledge necessary to succeed in the ever-evolving world of data.

Students will be able to apply their coursework to real-world problems using the new, first-of-its-kind data and sports analytics lab. The lab will support teaching, learning and research in all areas where analytics impacts sports, including fan engagement, sponsorship, player tracking, sports medicine, sports media and operations.

Cumberland School of Law introduced four new online certificate programs including financial services regulatory compliance; health law and policy; higher education



Photo courtesy of Samford University

law and compliance; and legal project management. The law school also offers these areas of study as concentrations in its online Master of Studies in Law and Master of Laws degree programs.

Under the leadership of new department chair Roy E. Ciampa, Ph.D., M.Div., the Department of Religion has been renamed the Department of Biblical and Religious Studies. The department will offer a new major in biblical studies and a new minor in theology and ethics.

The required biblical core curriculum course for all Samford undergraduate students was also revised with a new course description and updated set of student learning outcomes. The Biblical Foundations course is intended to provide an enriched foundation of biblical knowledge for intellectual and faith development.

Finally, Samford's Ministry

Training Institute (MTI) exists to equip Christians to be leaders in their churches and communities through theological education and practical ministry training. MTI has established new extension sites this year at First Baptist Church of Oneonta, Choctaw Baptist Association and Morgan Baptist Association. A total of 1,400 enrollments were received through the various extension sites and online certificate programs. A new certificate in church planting was also created in partnership with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

Continued commitment

These new program additions and enhancements illustrate Samford's continued commitment to academic excellence, career preparedness and the faith development of our graduates. (Samford)

Fast facts

- ▶ **5,619 students** from **44** states and **30** countries
- ▶ **10** academic schools
- ▶ **13:1** student-to-faculty ratio
- ▶ **245** undergraduate and graduate majors, minors and concentrations
- ▶ **170** student organizations and more than **1,000** student life events each year
- ▶ **200+** annual arts events
- ▶ **17** NCAA Division I varsity sports
- ▶ **96%** of undergraduate alumni are working or in further study within **six** months of graduation
- ▶ **51,926** alumni in **59** countries
- ▶ Founded in **1841** by Alabama Baptists; **87th** oldest institution of higher learning in the U.S.
- ▶ **\$424.8** million annual fiscal and economic impact on Alabama (Samford)

2019 rankings

- ▶ **#1 in Alabama**, *The Wall Street Journal*
- ▶ **#1 in Alabama** for student athlete graduation success rate, NCAA
- ▶ **#2 in the South** for best colleges for veterans, *U.S. News & World Report*
- ▶ **#5 nationally** for best Christian universities, *College Atlas*
- ▶ **#7 in the South** for most innovative, *U.S. News & World Report*
- ▶ **#12 nationally** for student engagement, *The Wall Street Journal*
- ▶ **#34 among private universities in the U.S.** for value and affordability, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*
- ▶ **One of the nation's top universities** granting merit-based financial aid, *U.S. News & World Report*
- ▶ **A best value top college** for the employability of graduates, *Educate to Career* (Samford)

BACK TO CAMPUS

Connect with children, students for the gospel

(continued from page 12)
 classroom can be stressful. Would teachers enjoy a cosmetologist to come in for manicures? What about a free catered breakfast or lunch for teachers? How about a coffee cart or selection of flavored teas in the teachers' lounge?

5. Gift cards for new teachers. Starting off in a new classroom can place a strain on a teacher's budget. Find out proper protocol for gift cards and include a note that your church is praying for them this school year.

6. Prayer walk. Prior to the walk, contact the principal or superintendent. Plan to meet near the school, at the football stadium or at another convenient place when school is not in session. Pray for the bus drivers who transport students. Pray for school safety. Pray classrooms will

be a place where all children are treated with love and respect. Pray God will be present in your school throughout the year.

7. After-school tutoring. Open your education space for after-school tutoring. Recruit retired teachers or other responsible adults in your church to serve as tutors. Check with your school system about requirements for screening applicants who work with children. Faith-based grants are often available for materials, snacks and salaries.

Alabama's Baptist churches possess many opportunities to pray for schools and help meet needs. Every child and student deserves a safe place to learn where he or she is respected. Set a goal for your church to connect with a local school during the upcoming school year.✠

Leave your mark.

Fall Preview Days
 September 21
 November 16

JUDSON COLLEGE

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BACK TO CAMPUS

UNIVERSITY
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University of Mobile: Ignite Your Why

What you do with your life matters. What matters even more is why you do it.

The University of Mobile exists to help students ignite their why in a Christ-centered academic community dedicated to preparing them for a lifetime of serving God in everything they do. With the partnership of Alabama Baptists, we want our students to distinctively transform the world for Jesus Christ.

“We stress the ‘why’ aspect,” said Dr. Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile president. Burnett is a 1979 UM graduate who has served on the faculty of his alma mater for over 14 years prior to becoming president in May.

“Students are here to get an education, but why get an education?” Burnett said. “It’s not just to gain knowledge. C.S. Lewis once said education without values only leads to more clever devils. At the University of Mobile, we want our students to take their knowledge and Christ-centered focus to the world, and apply that to society for its betterment.”

The ABCs of UM

At UM, it’s all about the ABCs.

“A” stands for academics. “At this university, we pride ourselves on offering the very best academics, from our world-class faculty to our many programs to our high-tech facilities,” Burnett said.

“B” is for background. The university is intentional about creating a background for students to thrive where Christ-centered community happens through local and foreign missions opportunities, on-campus events and activities, intramural sports, chapel and Focus Fridays when students have a free day without class.

“C” is the most important — Christ-centered. It’s the Christ-centered mentoring aspect of the University of Mobile that creates opportunities for students to gain more than simply a college degree.

“The University of Mobile, to me, means family. The faculty and staff here work together for one common purpose: that is, to educate and mentor students. In this atmosphere, the students are part of that family. We take each student and pour ourselves into their lives as we mentor in this



Photo courtesy of University of Mobile



BURNETT

Christ-centered environment. The ‘Know and Be Known’ motto of the university is something we take very seriously,” Burnett said.

New degrees

The university’s rapidly expanding academic program is growing again with the addition of nine new degrees, giving students even more options as they enroll for fall semester classes that begin Aug. 19.

The university has added bachelor’s degrees in pre-health biology, financial mathematics, sports administration and exercise science. New master’s degree programs have started in ministry, education instructional design and technology, early childhood development, nursing executive leadership and nursing education. In addition, a new Master of Athletic Training will start summer semester of 2020, pending approval by CAATE, the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education.

Additional degree programs are in process. The university has nearly doubled the number of academic programs since 2016, started two doctoral programs, expanded facilities, added technology, and focused on “Prac-ademics” experiences that allow students to take classroom knowledge into practical learning experiences like a student-run marketing agency, professional recording studio, international travel and more.

New spaces

The Phase I renovation of the J.L. Bedsole Learning Commons has created a new library space along with a central gathering space, honors room, research area and makers

Hobby Lobby founder set for Scholarship Banquet

Hobby Lobby founder David Green is keynote speaker at the annual University of Mobile Scholarship Banquet on Oct. 1 at 6:30 p.m. at the Arthur R. Outlaw Convention Center in downtown Mobile. Proceeds support scholarships for UM students. Tickets and information are at 251-442-2222 or umobile.edu/banquet. (UM)

room. Phase II will consist of a game room and student lounge offices for student life staff.

New scholarships

Six new endowed scholarships are: the Sharon Emmons Performance Scholarship and Eileen Emmons Performance Scholarship, both to benefit students majoring in the performing arts; the Judy Johnston Memorial Scholarship Fund for students majoring in Christian studies and licensed for gospel ministry; the Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Shoupe Scholarship for student-athletes; the Wilcox Piano Endowed Scholarship Fund for students majoring in piano performance; and the Sullivan Family Endowed Scholarship Fund for students majoring in education or communication.

UM news

Keep up with the latest UM news at umobile.edu/stories and by following UM on social media. (UM)

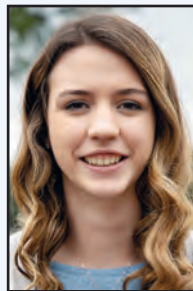
My Why

By Olivia Moore
Sophomore, Pre-Health Biology

A few years ago, my mom was diagnosed with cancer. I became very involved in the health care system while she was going through that and decided then that I wanted to be an oncologist to help others going through that same thing. I saw how important my mom’s oncologist was to us, and I want to be that for somebody else.

The University of Mobile has helped me with dual enrollment in high school so I can reach this

goal quicker and move to medical school faster. UM’s newly renovated health and science labs have given me an opportunity to get more hands-on experience that most students wouldn’t get until they are already in medical school.



MOORE

My favorite part of UM’s science program is that they incorporate Christ in everything they do. Not many schools teach from a Christian worldview, and that is what I wanted from my school.

Read more My Why stories at umobile.edu/why. (UM)

Home away from home

Newly renovated BCM spaces more inviting, better equipped for small groups

(continued from page 1) facelifts and floor to ceiling interior work with new LED lighting, the replacement of all HVAC systems, the upgrading of kitchen equipment and the upgrading of bathroom facilities.

“The spaces are more inviting to students and are designed to reflect the quality of other facilities on campus,” DuBois said. “These are centers that Alabama Baptists can be proud of. These buildings are where

students gather, study, share meals and grow in their faith through their college experience.”

Investing in students

JSU campus minister Gary Brittain said he appreciates what the renovations mean to the 65–75 JSU students who actively participate in discipleship, outreach and evangelism, fellowship and missions through the JSU BCM. His center, built around 1972, received some

of the most extensive improvements.

“These renovations show the investment of Alabama Baptists in reaching university students,” he said. “I am grateful to Dr. Lance and Bobby Dubois for their vision and leadership in making this work possible. I am also thankful for the many Alabama Baptist churches who faithfully give through the Cooperative Program to make this ministry possible.”

USA BCM, which serves an average of 200 active students from four local campuses each semester, also received extensive renovations.

“The BCM building serves as a mission point where we raise up collegiate disciples, grow them as disciple makers and mobilize them for mission to the college campus in relationship with our local Baptist churches,” said USA campus minister Jerrod Brown. “The BCM building serves as a place of gathering, training, strategizing and mobilizing.”



Photo courtesy of Bobby DuBois

A coffee bar and commons area welcomes students to the BCM at University of South Alabama.



Photo courtesy of Bobby DuBois

University of Alabama students participating in BCM will find new furniture in school colors when classes start back.

According to Brown, the renovations have helped students embrace the BCM as a home away from home.

“One of the most impactful changes was the update of a room that was leaky, musty and seldom used into a small group discipleship

and training room,” he said. “We have seen this room be the home base for much of our mission to the campus with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We want students to feel at home in this building and in growing in their faith. Our renovated building has

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Daniels is new Baptist campus minister at University of North Alabama

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Matt Daniels began serving as campus minister for University of North Alabama (UNA) Baptist Campus Ministries (BCM) on June 1. Daniels is new to the position but not to UNA or to BCM.

Daniels, a UNA graduate, served as BCM president during his time as a student. Later he worked on staff at UNA as the director of gameday operations and facilities for the university's athletic department.

"There is no doubt in my heart and mind that UNA is the place where God wants me to be," said Daniels. "Being an alum and former employee, I absolutely love this university."

"Through much prayer and counsel, it became overwhelmingly clear that this is the place for

my wife and me to serve our Lord. God drew me in close to Him as a student here and to have the opportunity to lead students closer to Jesus is a true honor."

The BCM at UNA offers a variety of services including weekly worship, a weekly missions lunch fundraiser, discipleship groups, retreats, local missions opportunities and fellowships.

Students participate in an annual missions trip, local missions and state-wide conferences.

"I am looking forward to getting to know our students this year and seeing what opportunities the Holy Spirit gives us," Daniels said. "I want to make sure everything we do is gospel centered and led by our BCM students. This year will be very exciting as we engage the Lord through prayer so we can engage our campus."

Mike Nuss, director of the office of collegiate and student ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said Daniels will be a good fit at UNA.

"Matt has a deep love for the UNA campus, its students, faculty and staff," Nuss said. "He is well known and loved and is excited about continuing the great legacy of BCM ministry on that campus."



DANIELS

Daniels said the BCM is "truly blessed" to have the support of many churches in the Shoals area who love UNA and students.

"We will continue to partner with them to reach our campus and community," Daniels said. "We are so excited to see what the Lord has in store for us this year." ✝



Photo courtesy of Bobby DuBois

The commons area in the BCM at Troy University offers space for studying and socializing.

helped us extend hospitality to collegians and to the campus as a whole. Baptist Campus Ministries is grateful for the continued partnership of Alabama Baptists in reaching the college campus with the gospel."

Reaching students

Collegiate ministries take place on more than 40 Alabama campuses, including community colleges, private colleges and four-year public schools, according to Mike Nuss, director of the SBOM's office of collegiate and student ministries.

"In the 2018-2019 aca-

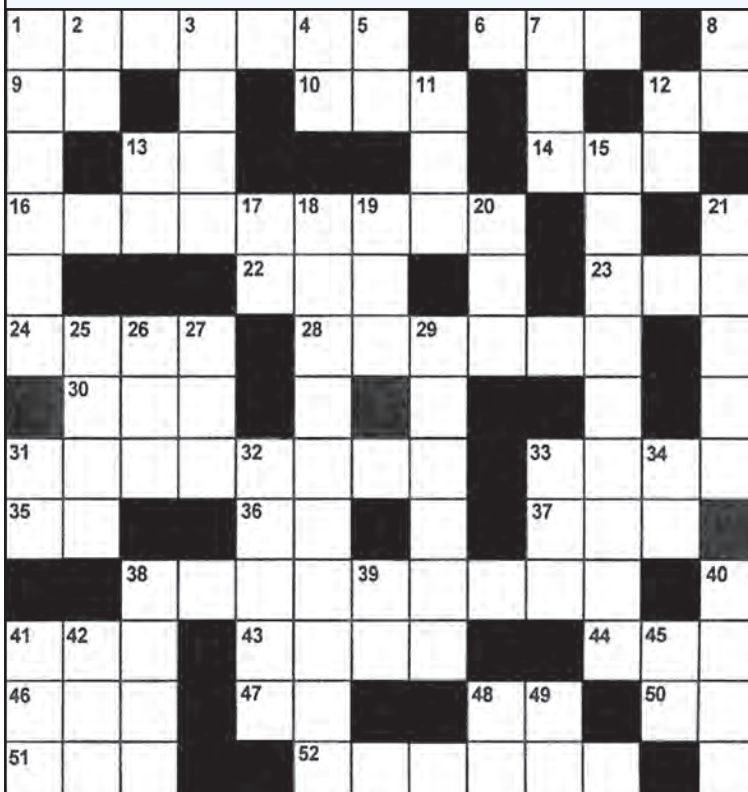
demical year BCM reached over 43,000 students on campuses across our state," Nuss said. "Over 260 individuals accepted Christ through Alabama BCM during the past year."

Nuss noted the generous giving of Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program, which provides personnel and BCM facilities to reach students on "one of our state's critical mission fields."

"The BCM facilities are tangible evidence of the investment Alabama Baptists have in reaching college students on those campuses." ✝

Christian Crossword

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Across

- Let him deny ___ and take up his cross. (Mark 8:34)
- ___ Lincoln.
- Spirit of the Lord came up ___ David. (1 Sam. 16:13)
- Being exceedingly ___ against them. (Acts 26:11)
- We.
- ___, and also our fathers. (Gen. 46:34)
- Tower, whose ___ may reach unto heaven. (Gen. 11:4)
- Defeats.
- Environmental Protection Agency. (abbr.)
- To and ___.
- The ___ was upon the earth 40 days. (Gen. 7:12)
- Take the widow's ox for a ___. (Job 24:3)
- Tool for weeding.
- Mary anointed the Lord with ___. (John 11:2)
- God gave them up unto ___ affections. (Rom. 1:26)
- New Testament. (abbr.)
- United States. (abbr.)
- Mary ___ Joseph.
- And thine ___ as the grass of the earth. (Job 5:25)

41. Is able to.

- Is the correct size.
- Hereafter ye shall ___ heaven open. (John 1:51)
- A grain.
- As he is Christ's, even ___ are we Christ's. (2 Cor. 10:7)
- Pound. (abbr.)
- Mother.
- Yea.
- Teach us to ___ our days. (Ps. 90:12)

Down

- A prophet is not without ___. (Matt. 13:57)
- Not out.
- O thou ___, go. (Amos 7:12)
- 950 in Roman numerals.
- Do, re, me, ___.
- Unclean animal (Deut. 14:18)
- It ___ not good. (Gen. 2:18)
- And to ___ is gain. (Phil. 1:21)
- Jesus went ___ to Jerusalem.
- For ___ are his workmanship. (Eph. 2:10)
- Remember all thy ___. (Ps. 20:3)
- Christian Era. (abbr.)
- The Lord heard ... and

looked on ... our ___. (Deut. 26:7)

- Sickness (French).
- He was ___ at that saying. (Mark 10:22)
- One of the king's most ___ princes. (Esther 6:9)
- What every director hopes for.
- Charged particle.
- Cast the ___ on the right side. (John 21:6)
- Be not among ... riotous ___ of flesh. (Prov. 23:20)
- ___ top of that.
- Something worn to warm the ears or hands.
- A form of car.
- 450 in Roman numerals.
- I have commanded my sanctified ___. (Isa. 13:3)
- Physical therapy. (abbr.)
- A group of people working for a common cause.
- Hear, O Lord, when I ___. (Ps. 27:7)
- Yes, in the navy.
- Printer's measure.
- Pound. (abbr.)
- To exist.

3 stories you should know



Photo by ABCH

Renovation and construction projects at the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH) facility in Birmingham are progressing well. The projects will provide additional office space for ABCH's social services team and Pathways Professional Counseling staff, allowing the ministries to serve more children in foster care and other clients in central Alabama. For updates and information on ways to help visit <https://tinyurl.com/ABCHrenovations>.

Religious persecution in Kazakhstan rising

Prosecutions for exercising freedom of religion or belief appear to be rising in Kazakhstan.

At least 104 cases were brought between January and June 2019 to punish unapproved worship, sharing faith, selling religious literature and items in shops or online or using "Amen" in mosque worship. In all of 2018, 171 such prosecutions are known to have occurred.

Muslims, Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses and commercial and private sellers were targets of the prosecutions.

Of the cases 92 ended in convictions with 86 individuals and one company being fined. In three cases courts ordered seized religious literature to be destroyed. Punishments included fines and temporary bans on activity, according to a Forum 18 review of cases. (F18)

Urgent need at border, SBC leaders say

Southern Baptist leaders visited the U.S.-Mexico border in July to assess needs and gather information to help formulate ideas for ministry through Southern Baptists and their partners.

The team included Marshal Ausberry, first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and Todd Unzicker, an associate pastor at The Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, where SBC president J.D. Greear is pastor.

"I kind of see it as a modern-day diaspora, that God is shifting the population around for His purposes," Ausberry said.

"We don't get into the politics of it, but as believers in Christ Jesus ... we still need to show them that human dignity of food, clothing and shelter," he added. (BP)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

Pastor Jimmy Smith retires after 45 years of pastoral ministry



Jimmy Smith said that in his 45 years of pastoral ministry wherever he went "it was always the Lord."

Smith started his ministry in Michigan, then moved to Kentucky and on to Iowa, where his first service at his new church drew 11 people — five of whom were his family.

But during the four years he was there the church baptized more than it had in the past 40. When he left they were running 80 in Sunday School.

"The Lord has been good to us," he said.

In 1988 the path for Smith and his wife, Barbara, turned toward Alabama, and they moved their family to serve at Gum Springs Baptist Church, Hartselle, for the next 16 years.

"The Lord really blessed that ministry out there," Smith said.

After that they served for 15 years at Oak For-



SMITH

est Baptist Church, Somerville, where he retired from the pastorate July 28.

"There were some good opportunities I had over the years," Smith said. "It was just God's doing." (Grace Thornton)

Shelby Association's Richardson marks 50 years in ministry



In July 1969, 16-year-old Hugh Richardson stepped into the pulpit at Pineywood Baptist Church, Gardendale, and preached his first sermon.

Fifty years later on July 14, 2019, he pulled out the same text — Romans 12:1-2 — and preached on it at First Baptist Church, Alabaster.

It's been amazing to look back over the half century in between and think on what God has done, said Richardson, now associational missionary for Shelby Baptist Association.

Through the years he's served as a student

pastor, an adjunct seminary professor and in other ministry roles. He's traveled on missions trips to places from Brazil to Wales.

And though he's always preferred to be working in the background, he said it's amazing to look at the "ripple effect" of ministry over the years — seedlings that have blossomed into something bigger.

In mid-July, for instance, as his association hosted a student missions week, one of the men in the worship band recognized him and asked if he was "Bro. Richardson." He said yes, and the man told him that years ago Richardson had led him to Christ and baptized him.

"I'm amazed at the opportunities the Lord has allowed me to be involved with to influence people's lives," Richardson said. (Grace Thornton)

Former Alabama music and youth minister Raymond Ball dies at 81



Raymond Arnold Ball, a former Alabama Baptist minister of music and youth, died July 17. He was 81.

A Mississippi native, Ball earned his



RICHARDSON

News near you

BETHLEHEM ASSOCIATION

▶ **Randy Breedlove** is the new pastor of **Mexia Baptist Church**. His first Sunday was June 16. Breedlove previously served as pastor of First Baptist Church, Opp. He holds a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, Missy, have four children.



BREEDLOVE

COVINGTON ASSOCIATION

▶ **Oakey Ridge Baptist Church, Andalusia**, will host a homecoming celebration Aug. 11 at 10 a.m. Richard Collier will be the guest speaker. Lunch will be served following the service.

ELMORE ASSOCIATION

▶ July 14 was a special day for **Mountain View Baptist Church, Wetumpka**, for more than one reason. The church celebrated its 25th anniversary, but it also celebrated the baptism of three new believers and a new family joined the church at the end of the service.

Rick Lance, executive director of the Ala-

bama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM), was the guest speaker. Lance also presented certificates from the SBOM and the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission. Former pastor Anthony Counts shared his memories from Mountain View Baptist — he was the church's first pastor and served there for 21 years. Counts also spoke about how the church began and recognized charter members.



Photo by Monica Thompson

Former worship leader Charlie Kuykendall led the choir. Current worship leader Jonathan Smith also led congregational singing.

Former Elmore Baptist Association director of missions Jim Jackson also was in attendance and spoke about how the association assisted in establishing Mountain View. Current Elmore director of missions Ray McKenzie — who was on a missions trip in Guatemala on the day of the celebration — congratulated the church via video message.

Pastor Tim Thompson closed the service by sharing a vision for the future.

"It was a special day of seeing charter members and new members celebrate the growth of the church," said Monica Thompson.

ETOWAH ASSOCIATION

▶ **Union No. 3 Baptist Church, Gadsden**, will host New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary classes beginning Sept. 5. The classes will run through Oct. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. and 8 to 10 p.m. Introduction to New Testament Study and

Introduction to Preaching will be the classes offered. For more information or to register call 256-494-9180. Joey Hanner is pastor.

LAMAR ASSOCIATION

▶ **Academy Baptist Church, Sulligent**, will host its annual all-day singing and homecoming Aug. 11 at 11 a.m. Shannon Knight will provide special music for the event. Keith Rhudy is pastor. ▶ **Lamar Baptist Association** will host a hymn singing Aug. 15 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Springhill Baptist Church, Millport. Any local talent willing to provide special music should call 205-695-9625 or 205-695-2309 for more information.

MARSHALL ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Arab**, will host church intruder response training by Strategos International on Aug. 24 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to sign up call 256-586-3153.

MORGAN ASSOCIATION

▶ **Lebanon Baptist Church, Falkville**, will host a revival Aug. 11–14. Sunday services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 7 p.m. Michael Mason will be the guest evangelist. Sheryl Lee will lead music. Randy Ashley is pastor.

TUSKEGEE LEE ASSOCIATION

▶ **Concord Baptist Church, Notasulga**, will host its 180th homecoming Aug. 18 at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon followed by music by Anointed Harmony. Chuck Vincent is pastor.✝

— NEWSBRIEFS —

music degree from Mississippi College in Clinton and his master's from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.



BALL

He then served several years as a chaplain's assistant in the U.S. Army and received several medals, including the Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Duty as Chaplain's Assistant and for work with the Vietnamese people in teaching voice and English conversation in 1965.

After returning to the United States he started a long ministry which included three Alabama churches.

From 1966 to 1970, he served as minister of music and youth at First Baptist Church, Jackson. From there, he served as minister of music at Berney Points Baptist Church, Birmingham, until 1975. He later served as minister of music and youth at Fairview Baptist Church, Selma, from 1993 to 1995.

Ball also was involved in other Baptist activities over the years. He was accepted into the CenturyMen of the Southern Baptist Conven-

tion Radio TV Commission in fall of 1971. He taught voice and music at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega and was a charter member of the Alabama Singing Men.

He also served churches in Texas, Florida and Mississippi, including Highland Colony Baptist, in Ridgeland, Mississippi, where he retired in 2003.

Ball is preceded in death by his son, James Arnold. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marcia; son, Ron; and three grandchildren. (Grace Thornton)

Oregon assisted suicide policy enters 'dangerous territory,' opponents say



Oregon has rolled back one of the safeguards in the state's assisted suicide law, doing away with a 15-day waiting period if a physician predicts a patient has fewer than 15 days to live.

"[Removing] the waiting period makes it even easier for a bad actor to coerce or force someone to end their own lives," Liberty Pike, communications director for Oregon Right to Life, said. "And the number of reasons that somebody

might want to do that are various and sundry to be sure, whether it's financial motivation, or the caregiver is tired of being involved in the process, whatever it might be."

Gov. Kate Brown, a Democrat, signed the new bill into law July 23.

Oregon Right to Life fought the legislation, even delivering a letter signed by 34 medical professionals to every member of the Legislature, saying that giving someone with a life expectancy shorter than two weeks a way to end



Wikimedia Commons

his or her life even faster is, as Pike noted, "unnecessary and dangerous."

Under the Oregon Death With Dignity Act, enacted in 1998, the state has seen an increase in

lethal prescriptions nearly every year since. Last year 249 Oregonians died from ingesting lethal drugs prescribed under the act. The majority were cancer patients older than 65.

Nine states and the District of Columbia allow assisted suicide. (BP)

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



Mike Harland has had a lot of conversations about worship.

As director of LifeWay Worship, Harland noticed how often those conversations were with pastors who wanted to talk about issues, challenges, or sometimes just new ideas, related to his church's worship ministry.

It was those conversations that led Harland to write the book, "Worship Essentials," last year. Subtitled "Growing a Healthy Worship Ministry Without Starting a War!," the book focuses on what Harland sees as "four necessary values for any church that hopes to have a healthy worship ministry."

Harland's book will be the subject of the morning session of this year's OneDay for Worship Leaders conference, to be held Thursday, **August 29, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Hunter Street, Hoover.**

State Missionary Keith Hibbs, director of the office of worship leadership at the State Board of Missions and planner of the event, is quick to point out that this conference is not designed just for music ministers, but for worship leaders and pastors to attend together.

In fact, the afternoon session will feature a panel of five pastor/worship leader teams from various churches around the state, discussing how they approach worship in their churches.

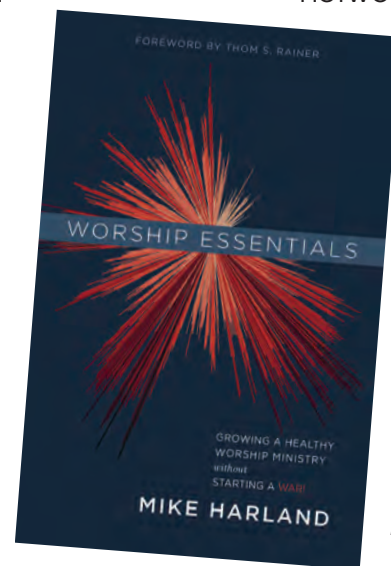
Hibbs selected the panelists based on their working relationships, tenured experience and healthy worship practices, noting that they come from different size churches and from different areas of the state.

The list of panelists includes Derek Gentle and Michael Scarborough, Tallassee First; John Brock and B.J. Price, Highland, Florence; David Eldridge and John Woods, Dawson, Birmingham; Rusty Sowell and Thomas Smith, Providence, Opelika; and Buddy Champion and Joe Estes, Trussville First.

Questions for the panelists will be submitted ahead of time by participants.

Topics in past years have included worship technology, future worship trends and intergenerational worship, Hibbs said.

"This year's timely focus on worship essentials as outlined in Harland's book and then the opportunity to dialogue with these worship leadership teams affords a wonderful opportunity for worship leaders and pastors to take one day and receive inspiration, continued training and networking."



For more information or to register, visit alsbom.org/oneday. Registration fee includes lunch and a copy of the book, "Worship Essentials."

For more information about worship leadership, contact State Missionary Keith Hibbs, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 217; (334) 613-2217; khibbs@alsbom.org.



AT THE SBOM OFFICE FACILITY, 1404 FAIRVIEW AVENUE IN PRATTVILLE
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CHURCH POSITIONS

SENIOR PASTOR

Parkview Baptist Church in Eufaula, Alabama, is taking resumés for the senior pastor position. Please email resumés to: john.robinson@westrock.com. Contact information is John Robinson, 706-573-5102.

PASTOR

Immanuel Baptist Church is accepting resumés for pastor. We are a conservative, traditional worship style congregation. We are seeking a pastor with excellent preaching and church building skills, able to lead in reaching younger families and individuals while maintaining senior member relationships. Excellent facilities. Previous senior pastor experience and seminary education preferred. Please include web links to sermons or current DVDs. Email resumés to: ibc.pastorsearch@myimmanuel.net.

PASTOR

Big Hurricane Baptist Church, located in Brookwood, Alabama, has been a beacon in the community for nearly 200 years. The church is prayerfully seeking a bivocational/part-time pastor with a Christ-like spirit to lead and teach a small but loving and faithful congregation. If interested please contact Larry Holloway at 205-799-2438.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP LEADER

Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia, Alabama, is seeking an individual with experience to provide full-time leadership in developing a comprehensive music ministry that will lead our congregation into authentic worship. This individual needs to be experienced in leading contemporary worship, a worship choir, praise band and in developing the music ministry with multiple teams of all age levels. Experience in utilizing the areas of sound and video technology within the sanctuary and through various types of social media is desirable. For more information visit www.sbc.net and go to job openings. Send resumés to: ATTN: Southside Baptist Church Search Committee, 1213 West Bypass, Andalusia, AL 36420, or southside@sbcandalusia.com.

WORSHIP PASTOR

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Alexandria, Alabama, is seeking a full-time worship pastor, ministry style is contemporary blend. Send resumés to: mtzion@cableone.net.

BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC

New Hope Baptist Church in

Romulus, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational minister of music for two (morning and evening) blended Sunday services. If interested send resumés to: Lillian Roberts at lily.l.roberts@gmail.com, or directly to the church at 16598 Romulus Road, Buhl, AL 35446, ATTN: Minister of Music Search Committee.

YOUTH MINISTER

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

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Concord Highland Baptist Church (Bessemer Association) is looking for candidates to re-start our youth ministry. Please mail resumés to: Youth Search Committee, Concord Highland Baptist Church, 105 Concord Highland Dr., Bessemer, AL 35023.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

New Beginnings Baptist, Graysville, Alabama, is searching for a bivocational youth pastor. Please send resumés to: nbccbaptist@gmail.com.

OTHER POSITIONS

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MINISTRIES

TAB PODCAST

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TAB SBC SPECIAL ISSUE

Want a copy of the special Southern Baptist Convention issue of *The Alabama Baptist*? Don't miss your chance to collect a piece of Alabama and Southern Baptist history. Email us at news@thealabamabaptist.org or give us a call at 205-870-4720, ext. 103 and give us your name, address and how many copies you would like. We can mail the copies to you or you are welcome to stop by the office at 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209 to pick them up. Stopping by to pick them up is a great option because we'd love the opportunity to meet you.

Engage international students in your area

It can be a scary time for students as they go off to college. Whether they decide to attend school in their hometown, somewhere else in the state or across the country, the transition can be hard.

Now imagine how hard that transition must be for international students.

Primed for ministry

These students come from all over the world to study in the United States. For some English isn't their primary language. For many the culture and customs of the United States are different than what they are used to. These students are primed for gospel ministry.

Here are some ways you can make a difference in the lives of international students near you:

► **Reach out.** Contact the Baptist campus minister at your local college or university to find out if a ministry to international students exists and how you can join. If none exist discuss campus policies for reaching out to the students.

► **Identify physical needs.** Does a student need a ride to the grocery store

each week? Does someone need a place to stay during a holiday break? Would meeting for coffee and English language practice one day each week be helpful? Acquaint your new friend with community resources we often take for granted.

► **Offer friendship.** Relationships are important in every culture. Invite students to share a meal with your family. Ask them to teach you a game from their home country. Hike with them at a local park. Visit a museum together. Welcome your guests into your home and into your community by making them part of your life. But remember they are people not a project.

► **Share Christ.** Be sensitive to opportunities for gospel conversations. Many international students have never heard about Jesus. Introduce them to the Bible. Invite them to join you for Bible study or to come to church. But don't put spiritual conditions on your relationship or your willingness to assist them. Allow the Holy Spirit to do His work. (Carrie Brown McWhorter)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For August 11

Explore the Bible

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



LIVING WITH OPPOSITION Titus 1:1–5, 10–16

Servant's Heart (1–3)

In Titus we perceive that sound doctrine goes hand in hand with the life of sanctification and the doing of good works. Paul had recently completed a journey to Crete resulting in planting new churches on the island. Paul left Titus on Crete to make sure these churches were established properly.

Paul wrote this epistle to remind Titus why he left him there and to remind him of the importance of his mission. Paul identified himself as a servant (slave) of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ. He oftentimes referred to himself as a servant of Christ. Here, however, he referred to himself as a servant of God, suggesting a direct connection to Moses, David and others in the Old Testament who were described as servants of God. As a slave in the first century, Paul did not act on his own authority but on the authority of his Master.

He was an apostle of Jesus Christ. He received his authoritative commission directly from Jesus Christ to go and proclaim the gospel to the nations. The word apostle signified his calling and authority as one sent by King Jesus.

His service and apostleship were exercised for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness. Paul labored to see people saved, coming to faith and to knowledge of the truth. Genuine salvation always leads to ongoing transformation.

Paul's mission was founded upon the certainty of God's promise of eternal life. Biblical hope is not wishful thinking. Biblical hope is a certainty. God Himself, who cannot lie, has promised eternal life through the proclamation of the gospel.

Purposeful Action (4–5)

Paul reminded his true son in the common faith that he had been left on Crete to make sure the newly planted churches were established on sound doctrine and organized with godly elders (overseers) to teach and lead the churches. Situ-

ated in a location known as the mythical birthplace of Zeus; famous for the legendary Minotaur, a half-bull and half-human monster; and deeply immersed in emperor worship, these fledgling church plants needed serious attention quickly. Titus was to set right what was left undone and appoint elders for each of the churches.

Opposition Addressed (10–16)

Paul instructed Titus to appoint men as elders who had godly commitments, godly conduct, godly character and godly convictions. These highly qualified men were needed to serve as elders because Crete had many rebellious false teachers.

These false teachers were a law unto themselves claiming a direct pipeline to God. These proud, rebellious false teachers, known as Judaizers, spoke useless words. They were deceivers and peddlers of theological pornography. They taught the need for Jesus and for circumcision and other Jewish traditions. Deceived in their own thinking they deceived the thinking of others and ruined entire households. Like a fast-spreading cancer they infected many people and destroyed unity in the churches.

Paul told Titus these false teachers had to be stopped. These Creteans were described by one of their own wise men, Epimenides, as liars, evil beasts and lazy gluttons. They were untruthful, selfish and pleasure seeking. Paul agreed with this assessment and commanded Titus to rebuke them sharply. Both the false teachers and the people who listened to them had to be rebuked decisively by Titus and the newly appointed elders so they might become sound in their stand in respect to the truth as revealed in Christ.

The false teachers were teaching Jewish myths (fables) about their ancestors and man-made rules. Religious speculations that go either beyond or against Scripture and rules and regulations that add works to grace are man-centered rather than Christ-centered. ✠

Bible Studies for Life

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



WORSHIP CONTINUALLY 2 Chronicles 15:10–19

Authentic worship flows from a deep awareness of God's redeeming grace. (10–15)

In preparing for battle Asa had turned to the Lord as the only hope in the face of an overwhelming army (see 2 Chron. 14:8–15). And since the Lord fought for Judah they experienced a remarkable victory instead of decimation and were the beneficiaries of an amazing amount of plunder (2 Chron. 14:14).

With a deep awareness of how blessed they were to have experienced God's grace and redemption the people gathered to express their gratitude to the Lord in a tangible way, making great sacrifices as a way of representing their wholehearted commitment to the Lord. In our case, as in theirs, nothing could ever be offered to the Lord that hadn't first been received from Him.

In this instance that was quite obvious since the animals they sacrificed were ones that had only recently become theirs as plunder given to them by the Lord (v. 11). The sacrifices were part of a ceremony in which they recommitted themselves to worship the Lord who had spared their lives and to seek Him "with all their heart and soul" (see v. 12).

The full engagement of hearts, minds and bodies is indicated not only by the number of sacrifices but also by the references to an oath, shouting, loud acclamations, trumpets and horns.

The threatened execution of anyone who refused to seek the Lord (v. 13) seems harsh today but was consistent with what the law prescribed for Israelites who turned their backs on the Lord (see Deut. 13:6–10; 17:2–7).

In the shadow of their recent deliverance from annihilation by the invading army it must have been clear it was only thanks to the Lord they hadn't already been killed by the invaders.

Such awareness is reflected in verses 14–15, where their enthusi-

astic worship is expressly said to be offered wholeheartedly by "all Judah" as they eagerly sought God and He "was found by them" (v. 15).

Authentic worship focuses on God alone. (16–19)

While the previous verses portray Judah as united in its wholehearted worship of the Lord verses 16–17 remind us many people were still devoted to various forms of idolatry. Asherah was a Canaanite goddess believed to be the spouse of the chief Canaanite god, El, and mother of other gods.

Ancient Israelites were constantly tempted towards a syncretistic mix of Canaanite and biblical views of God leading people away from the Lord and into idolatry.

Like every generation we face our own forms of idolatry and syncretism today including those that fuse together social or political allegiances and agendas with faith in Christ. Each generation needs to reflect back on the gospel message and remember the differences between Christian worship and cultural values.

It took courage for King Asa to resist the idolatry of his day and to remove the title of "queen mother" or "lady" from his grandmother. His worship of God was not limited to what he did when praising God in the temple but extended to how he lived his life and carried out his royal responsibilities on a day-to-day basis.

While making it clear there was even more Asa and Judah could have done verses 16–19 place the emphasis on the signs of Asa's true commitment to the Lord and to the kind of authentic worship that focuses on God alone, along with the peace experienced under his godly leadership.

Like Asa we would all do well to reflect on the various allegiances that compete for our devotion and loyalty and make any changes necessary to make sure our worship focuses exclusively on our wonderful Lord. ✠



Media reviews

MOVIES/TV

'Mary Poppins Returns' leads this month's streaming options

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

Michael Banks is a young widower facing eviction from his London home. That's bad enough. But with two children to care for he is growing desperate for a solution.

Perhaps Mary Poppins could bring the family some cheer. After all she played with Banks and his sister when they were children. They loved her. Maybe she could even help him find the money to catch up on his payments.

The 2018 film "Mary Poppins Returns" (PG), now streaming on Netflix, tells the story of Michael and Jane Banks as two adults dealing with grown-up problems — jobs, finances and stress.

It is a sequel to the 1964 film "Mary Poppins," which starred Julie Andrews in the lead role of the nanny who dropped from the clouds

underneath a magical umbrella to sing and dance with the kids on Cherry Street Lane. Emily Blunt ("A Quiet Place") plays the newest Mary Poppins.

The two films have a lot in common. They're both musicals. They're both filled with child-like wonder and goofy scenes. And they're both feel-good films that leave you singing.

No, "Mary Poppins Returns" isn't as good as

its predecessor, but it still has plenty of family-friendly fun (like a room where everyone is upside down) and life lessons (among them: slow down and rediscover the simple pleasures of your younger years).

The word "magic" is never mentioned in "Mary Poppins Returns." That's because the film really isn't about magic. Instead it's a celebration of childhood, creativity and wonder. It's an imaginary world of a child come to life.



'Mary Poppins Returns'

Photo courtesy of Disney

It's rated PG for some mild thematic elements and brief action. It contains minimal violence and no sexuality or coarse language.

Also streaming this month:

For adults/teens

► **Apollo 11 (Hulu)** — It's the next-best thing to going back in time and experiencing the first moon landing all over again. This groundbreaking documentary combines never-before-seen footage with voices from 1969 (including that of Walter Cronkite) to create a nostalgic masterpiece. It is rated G, although it contains two coarse words ("h-ll" heard in the John Stewart song "Mother Country," and a muffled "d-n" by Collins from space when he says he feels "d-n good.")

► **Star Trek movies (Amazon Prime)** — Good news Trekkies: Five "Star Trek" movies recently began streaming: "Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home" (1986), "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991), "Star Trek: First Contact" (1996), "Star Trek: Insurrection" (1998) and "Star Trek: Nemesis" (2002). All have violence and some have crude language and sensuality.

For children

► **"Astro Boy" (Netflix)** — A scientist builds a flying robotic boy to replace his deceased son. He's "Astro Boy" — and he soon becomes a superhero.

Rated PG for some action and peril and brief mild language. (Note: the movie has a few potty terms and refer-

ences to "stupid" and "idiot" but I have never heard any coarse language.)

► **"The Croods" (Netflix)** — It's a family-centric story featuring a caveman family who lose their home — er,

cave — in a natural disaster. They then discover a whole new world they didn't know existed. Rated PG for some scary action.

► **"Dino Dana" Season 3 (Amazon Prime)** — A young, budding paleontologist interacts with real (CGI) dinosaurs in her backyard. 🦕



'Mary Poppins Returns'

Photo courtesy of Disney

Discipling dominoes

Southeast Asian missionaries praying for continued 'generational growth'

They love hearing about baptisms of people they don't know. News of strangers being baptized means there has been generational growth of Christians in their area, say William and Nancy Potter, International Mis-

sion Board workers who serve in Southeast Asia.

The "generational growth" — people who lead people who then lead other people to Christ — first began 18 years ago when they met Ary Keo and her husband, Chann. As the Potters disciplined them and cast a vision for church planting the Lord gave Ary and Chann a heart to take the gospel to an area eight hours away.

The Keos' ministry was slow at first, Nancy reported. It took eight years to see the first church start then another few years to start a second church.

Now the Keos are discipling and baptizing believers who do the same with other believers. Approximately 60 Christians recently were baptized in one part of the country.

The Potters are witnessing a discipling domino effect. They disciplined



IMB photos

A new believer in Southeast Asia celebrates as she is baptized. International Mission Board workers had the opportunity to witness baptisms of third-generation believers in the Southeast Asian church they've been a part of for many years.

How to pray:

▶ Pray Christians in Southeast Asia will continue to spread the gospel and bring multitudes to know Christ as Lord and Savior.

▶ Pray for the safety of native Christians and missionaries serving in Southeast Asia as they face persecution. (TAB)

the Keos and members of their community have gone on to disciple other communities.

Now church growth is expanding far beyond their reach. Their vision is to see churches start in 10,000 unreached villages across the nation.

Everyone will hear

The Potters also recently witnessed a third generation of believers being baptized in a church where they've been connected for many years.

The Potters are praying for more stories of believers they haven't per-

sonally met because this means the gospel is spreading throughout their country. They hope soon a day will come when everyone in their Southeast Asian nation has heard the name of Jesus.

Gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support Southern Baptists living alongside Southeast Asian Christians to help them learn how to plant healthy churches and expand their gospel witness.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Names changed for security reasons. (BP)



Generational growth of Christians in Southeast Asia results in dozens of people lining up to be baptized.