



The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



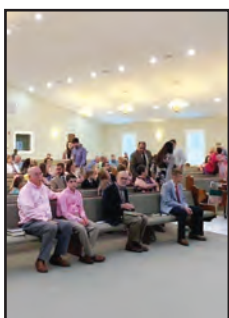
Fitness ministries aim to improve physical, spiritual health

◆ Pages 6–7



Be One Ministries shares importance of Old Testament to Christian faith

◆ Page 9



Warrior Creek meets in new sanctuary less than a year after fire

◆ Page 17

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



Top: Women from Mobile Calvary Chapel worship with PASCO residents. Right: Those involved in PASCO are provided for physically and spiritually through generous donations from local churches and businesses.

Photos courtesy of Martha Maddox



It takes a 'village'

Mobile community pours physical, spiritual resources into PASCO ministry

By Susan Withrow Murphy
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Elizabeth Clark "E.C." Simmons began having seizures and life-threatening allergic reactions toward the end of her 10-year love affair with alcohol and Xanax.

She checked herself into a faith-based addiction recovery center in Mobile,

completed the hard work and became sober. Simmons returned to her former life in Mississippi, but with the clarity of sobriety, she could not continue the emotionally abusive relationship that would have taken her in a direction she didn't want to go.

"I had to get out of that situation so I left behind my home, my job and my vehicle," said Simmons. "I didn't have a penny."

Simmons' connections at the addiction recovery center led her to reach out to PASCO (Physical and Spiritual Christian Outreach), a Christ-centered transitional

living ministry with a home for women in Semmes and a men's facility located in West Mobile that has helped hundreds of men and women in crisis gain personal freedom, purpose and self-worth and, most importantly, a relationship with Christ.

Transitional ministry

PASCO originally opened as a men's transitional home in 2008, but the ministry began serving women in a separate facility in 2016. The new women's home with dormitory-style living housing approximately 20 women opened in May 2018 in a ren-

ovated church. Fewer women are currently housed at PASCO than capacity because they are lacking adequate transportation, a vital piece of the ministry that would allow them to accommodate more.

But fortunately a "village" of local churches and businesses interact weekly with PASCO clients, volunteering the gift of spiritual training, mentoring and meals.

Moffett Road Baptist, West Mobile Baptist, Dayspring Baptist, Cottage Hill Baptist, Mobile Calvary Chapel, Redemption Church, Theodore Church of God and Luke 4:18
(See 'PASCO,' page 15)

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 the way TAB helps pull the faith family together from around the state. I feel like I know more ministries, churches, local heroes of the faith and area missionaries because of its stories."

Grace Thornton
Special assignments editor,
TAB

"I love all the up-to-date news I get. I really like the media reviews. I always look forward to the issue with the Calhoun Baptist Association newsletter on the back."

Gina Hardman
Golden Springs Baptist
Church, Anniston



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

"My favorite part of The Alabama Baptist is the TAB News podcast! Of course as digital editor I might say that, but it has been a great time developing each episode and watching it grow and get better week after week. The topics presented in the first half of the podcast vary and there's something interesting for everyone. But the second half is my favorite. It is a lot of fun to see co-workers behind a microphone, reading TAB articles. And it's a good way for people who aren't able to read the paper to keep up with TAB or for those who are more 'on the go' to listen to articles in the car or on a run."

Hannah Muñoz
Digital editor, TAB

"I very much appreciate knowing everything that is going on in the Alabama Baptist Convention, the Southern Baptist Convention and about Alabama pastors. We know so many of these people."

Sara Palmer
Shiloh Baptist Church,
Opelika

"TAB is one of my main sources for news in addition to inspiration. In today's world, because of incredible political bias on both sides by the press, it is sometimes hard to believe what you read. TAB, on the other hand, is trustworthy, and I appreciate that."

Sallie Bryant
TAB board member

— Correction —

In the Aug. 8 issue it was incorrectly stated that recently retired pastor Jimmy Smith served at Gum Springs Baptist Church, Hartselle, for 16 years. He spent six years at Gum Springs Baptist and then also served as pastor of Berea Baptist Church and Forrest Hill Baptist Church, Somerville, and associate pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church, Decatur, prior to serving at Oak Forest Baptist Church.



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

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MY RASHIONALE

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

jrash@thealabamabaptist.org
@RashionalThts



Ready for football Saturdays, reminders to strive for excellence

The heat remains intense outside but that won't diminish the enthusiasm building up in many of us as we count down the final week before kicking off football season.

And it certainly doesn't get much better than the Southeastern Conference when it comes to college ball. I can already hear the chant roaring from the stadiums — SEC, SEC, SEC.

The teams, players, competition and school spirit all make game day and the build up to it lots of fun.

And then there's another level of observation, analysis and discussion related to the coaches.

I love learning from the most accomplished coaches both on and off the field. Many of the disciplines they teach, concepts they promote and nonnegotiables they require can be applied to other groups and organizations off the field.

One phrase I anticipate hearing from coaches week after week in the post-game interviews is “mental errors.”

Players are undoubtedly going to make mistakes. That's a given. The goal is not to play a game without any mistakes; the goal is to minimize how many and what kinds of mistakes as well as the negative impact those mistakes make.

What if we did the same in our daily responsibilities? That would mean sharpening ourselves to prevent mental errors which would in turn cut down on mistakes.

Part of sharpening ourselves

requires having a clear understanding of our role and being properly trained, resourced and empowered to pull it off.

Proper rest, mental clarity, emotional stability and physical endurance also provide a boost to minimizing mental errors. Most of us are not at 100% in these areas so the slightest improvement in even one of them will take our performance to an entirely new level.

Part of finding your sweet spot in performing with excellence is first to commit to strive for it.

Some days we do have to set-

tle for “good enough” but those days should be the exception, not the rule — never wanting to settle for less than our best.

According to University of Alabama Coach Nick Saban, “The ‘good is enough’ attitude is not what we're looking for; we have got to use every opportunity to improve individually so we can improve collectively”

“[C]ertain traits ... seem to be in every champion: passion, commitment, confidence, pride in performance, high standards of excellence, relentlessness, perseverance and the ability to perform in adverse circumstanc-

es,” Saban writes in “How Good Do You Want to Be?: A Champion's Tips on How to Lead and Succeed at Work and in Life.”

Auburn Coach Gus Malzhan says, “We have to give 110% in every aspect of everything we do all the time. That's how you do it. That's how you win.”

And while not an SEC coach, his Alabama roots run deep — Clemson Coach Dabo Swinney:

“Focus on the process ... do the little things right on a daily basis. ... Focus on the little things.”[†]

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Sweet smells from special family recipes, specific tastes from certain foods, other sensory-related experiences help resurface memories

My coworker and friend asked if I had ever tasted “these” as she pointed to a package of scuppernongs at the farmer's market.

I didn't recognize the look nor the name so I answered no — until she said the name aloud. Once I heard it pronounced I knew exactly what it was and realized how long it had been since I had seen, tasted or even thought about a scuppernong.

We had scuppernongs in our backyard when I was growing up and mom and dad would let my brother and me taste them from the vine.

That memory flooded back to me the minute I heard the name but I couldn't remember what they tasted like so I bought some the next day.



And the same thing happened — as soon as I tasted one of these muscadine grapes I was right back there in our backyard with mom

or dad pulling scuppernongs off one at a time, hoping the sweet flavor wouldn't vanish as quickly as it always did.

The same thing happens to me with figs. Memories of the fig tree we could see out Papa and Granny McCaig's kitchen window becomes front and center in my mind when I taste a raw fig.

We always had our fill of figs when the tree was producing — and Granny spent hours making a winter's worth of fig preserves.

She loved that fig tree and because of that I always think of her whenever I'm around anything related to figs.

Our senses help us hold on to special memories. Let's all be known for something endearing in our sensory legacies.

—Jennifer Davis Rash

Your Voice



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

Living the resurrected life in a 'dead' culture

By **Adron Robinson**
Pastor, Hillcrest Baptist Church

Ask 10 different people to define what it means to be a Christian and you will probably get 10 different answers.

The name Christian is often claimed in our culture today, but the corresponding lifestyle is often absent. This disparity has left many confused on what authentic Christianity looks like.

Christianity is an external demonstration of the internal reality that by faith we have been united with Christ and hidden in Him.

Our position in Christ is the foundation and motivation for our daily walk in the world.

We live in a world full of doubt, disagreement and downright evil. And the only answer to the ills of this world is the transformational power of the gospel.

Our family members, neighbors, co-workers and friends need to see living displays of the resurrected life. We need to invite them into our homes and our dinner tables and let them see what compassion looks like, what forgiveness looks like and what love looks like.

We need to talk to them and not at them, to listen to their concerns and their struggles.

We need to offer them the hope of the gospel along with a loving display of the gospel.

Many of them won't come to church, so the church needs to go to them and display the resurrected life.

They will never stop cursing people out by their own power. They will never stop gambling away their savings by their own power. They will never stop lusting by their own power.

They need the power that is greater than willpower. They need resurrection power.

This power is described throughout Scripture. As the apostle Paul, for example, wrote: "if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1) and "if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life through His Spirit who lives in you" (Rom. 8:11).

But if we don't live the resurrected life, how can we expect to resurrect a dead culture?

God, we were born in sin, yet by Your grace You made us alive through faith in Christ. Now help us to live in light of the resurrection so that others may believe in You.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Adron Robinson is pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Country Club Hills, Illinois; president of the Illinois Baptist State Association; and a member of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Expect damage when Christians flip on God, church duties, friends, family or an employer. Commitment gone awry always hurts Kingdom advancement.

Darryl Wood
Retired pastor

"Righteousness" is a slippery word. When we think we have caught it, we probably haven't. It is possible to be right but not righteous, sanitary but not saintly, pious but not pure. Righteousness is not first a legal word but a quality that rises from profound and unselfish love for God and others.

Bob Adams
Retired pastor

There's lots of communication happening, but fewer people are listening.

Mark MacDonald
Vice president of marketing and communication
International Mission Board

The only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision.

Helen Keller

Letters to the Editor

I just read Jennifer Davis Rash's "My Rationale" editorial — "Is it really fair to claim 'it isn't fair' in the life of a believer?" — in the July 25, 2019, issue of *The Alabama Baptist*.

I believe it is one of the most well-thought out, carefully worded, mature analyses of a tricky subject I have ever read.

More importantly, in concluding the column, Rash points us all to the example of our Savior by suggesting we follow the Apostle Paul's advice to his young helper Timothy as recorded in Scripture passages such as 2 Timothy.

It doesn't get any better than that.

Bob Henderson
Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Appreciate what you are doing in *TAB* each week. Great and practical "My Rationale" editorial on true communication in the Aug. 1 issue. The Aug. 8 issue had a timely and fresh focus on students and a new school term/semester.

Gary Cardwell
Pastor, chaplain
@gcwell

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“It’s amazing to see how God puts pieces of the puzzle together.”

MICHAEL GOFORTH

Pastor, Sardis Baptist Church, Boaz

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) numbers provide a unique glimpse at the eternal impact churches are making for the Lord in sharing His gospel and seeing souls come to Christ through baptism and participation in a variety of activities worthy of His disciples.

Rick Lance

Executive director

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Before you post something to social media, carefully read Paul’s words to Timothy: “Don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach and be patient with difficult

people. ... Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts” (2 Tim. 2:23–25, NLT). If social media had been around in Paul’s day, this would have been his advice to the young preacher concerning his use of it.

Kevin Blackwell

Interim pastor

FBC Pleasant Grove

We must STOP making worship leaders and thought leaders or influencers or cool people or “relevant” people the most influential people in Christendom. ... We are in a dangerous place when the church is looking to 20-year-old worship singers as our source of truth.

John Cooper

Lead singer, Skillet

In his book “The Restored Man” Randy Hemphill encourages men to take a journey toward biblical restoration.

As he approaches the process of restoration, Hemphill embraces emotions while confronting spiritual issues.

Using rich texts from God’s word, Hemphill seeks to guide men into greater community with one another through spiritual discipline.

“The Restored Man” is structured in such a way that others can join in and discuss the questions presented for reflection.

This book is a challenging one that will push men to be fathered by our great Father God.

James Hammack

Digital Services manager, TAB



Photo by BP

J.D. Greear is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of The Summit Church in Raleigh, N.C.

Why Baptism Sunday?

Baptism numbers serve as one of the best indicators of evangelism in our churches. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost, and that means proclaiming the gospel is the core of who we are — not only as Southern Baptists but most importantly as disciples of Jesus Christ.

That’s why I’m challenging every Southern Baptist church to call for baptisms in services on Sept. 8, the date our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee has designated as “Baptism Day” on the SBC Calendar.

Baptism Sunday will be an opportunity for thousands of people in our churches to take their step of obedience and faith. This follows the example of Jesus’ Great Commission: “Make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” (Matt. 28:19).

Baptism is a believer’s first act of discipleship, a step of obedience that stands as a witness that we belong to Christ.

I believe God is preparing a harvest of souls. Let’s faithfully call them to respond by publicly declaring faith through baptism.

For resources go to namb.net/baptism-sunday-resources.

—J.D. Greear

From the *Twitterverse*

@c_lisle10

Galatians 5:22–23: If you put your daily life up against these verses, life pretty much works out. @RashionalThts

@Stu_Davidson

Three goals for today. Be joyful. Be prayerful. Be thankful. Your situation is often determined by your concentration. If your focus is on faith, then your future will brighten. #trusthim @Eastern Shore Baptist Church

@joeyhanner

Hope does not come from my situation for hope comes from my Savior. “And now, Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in You.” Psalm 39:7, NKJV

@bellevuepastor

You can either pray and trust

the Lord, or you can worry and try to work things out on your own. I’m gonna pray.

@DrPaulChitwood

After spending 28 days this summer traveling overseas to meet with @IMB_SBC missionaries, it’s the 2,800+ missionary kids that have me reflecting on the opportunities and obligations of our @SBCCP. We’ve made promises to them that we plan to keep. Thank you, Southern Baptists!

@GaryFenton07

Anxiety is the breeding ground for greed. Awareness of God’s grace is the fertile soil from which generosity grows.

@desiringGod

“Lord, spare me from the success that would threaten to undo

me. Not all victories are good victories; not all triumphs will lead me home. Keep me from those achievements that would puff me up, those accomplishments that would tempt me to forget you.” — Greg Morse

@Jeff_Iorg

We are robbing our followers of the joy of giving and the blessing of trusting God in financial matters when we fail to model and teach stewardship.

@richardblackaby

God is not obligated to help you achieve your goals. He is focused on accomplishing His purposes. Align your life with God’s activity and get swept up into the greatest, worldwide, miraculous movement of all time!

Church FITNESS

Church fitness programs focus on physical, spiritual health and outreach

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

From cozy, volunteer-led exercise classes to full-scale fitness programs Alabama Baptist churches of all sizes are working to meet the physical and spiritual fitness needs of their members and to connect with their local communities to share the love of Christ.

Bethel Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove, in Bessemer Baptist Association hosts exercise classes three nights a week for women and teen girls. The sessions are free and open to the public boasting an average class size of 10 ladies.

According to volunteer class leader Katherine Houston, the fitness sessions seek to help ladies get healthier, engage in fellowship and expand friendships among different cultures and races.

“It’s a ministry to the community, and we have really had a good time,” Houston said. “It has brought the ladies in our community closer together. I ask [new members] where they go to church. If they say they don’t go anywhere I will invite them to our church,” she said.

Promoting wellness

Other churches, like Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, in Mobile Baptist Association offer a comprehensive recreation program to promote physical and mental wellness.

Through the Recreation Outreach Center (ROC) men and women who join the program are encouraged to strive toward their potential through fitness and healthy eating.

Church and community members can subscribe to ROC for an annual fee that includes access to the strength and cardio centers,



Photo courtesy of Nanci Berch
Members of the Heritage Family Life Center (left to right): Brenda Burton, Cam Fox, JoAnn Morgan and Tina Gamble work through a ball routine for hand-eye coordination. The life center is part of Heritage Baptist Church, Montgomery.

walking track and basketball court as well as a variety of classes including barre training, pickleball, Zumba, classic fitness, circuit training, yoga and Tai Chi. Participants range from adults to aging adults with several classes designed for senior adults through the Silver Sneakers program.

“Our mission is to connect people to Jesus and others through health and fitness,” said ROC director Diane Capps. “Our services are offered as a ministry to our community and the church. We have witnessed people getting saved and joining the church not only from [previous] basketball outreach programs but also from people working out alongside our church members.”

According to Capps, ROC classes incorporating prayer and Bible study are available to encourage taking care of the “temple” and health according to Scripture.

“When you see the progress of someone’s efforts, especially the aging adult population, it really confirms your calling,” Capps said. “A group setting for aging adults has so many benefits — increasing strength, warding off depression and helping prevent falls. The volunteers also are given a purpose and a place to serve in the ministry. They are vital to our success.”

Body, mind, spirit

Montgomery area residents enjoy a similar co-ed program available at Heritage Baptist Church. Community and church members can join the Heritage Family Life Center to take advantage of the campus weight room, walking track, basketball court and fitness classes like Christ Adores You Always (CAYA) yoga, sculpt classes, bootcamp and Soul-Fit 4 Seniors.

Family Life Center director Nanci Berch coordinates the fitness

program and offers personal training to direct those looking for instruction or deeper focus. According to Berch, programs at Heritage are designed to help participants become healthy in body, mind and spirit.

Berch helped to design services like Soul-Fit 4 Seniors after joining the Heritage staff when she realized that many aging adults were only using the walking track and not taking advantage of the weight room and fitness classes.

‘Sharing the love of Christ’

“We work on balance, we do resistance and we do brain exercises,” Berch said. “It provides a social time as well and that’s important, especially when you have an older group. There are some widows [in the classes] and this is so important to them. It gets them involved.”

According to Brian Smith, associate pastor at Heritage, the program began just under 30 years ago when member Lamar Parker began putting together a weight room in an area that also served Sunday School classes.

Heritage views the program as an outreach ministry and Berch said more than half the participants are not Heritage members.

Classes pray as a group, gathering after each session to lift up prayer needs and requests.

“Certainly we want people to be in better shape but that doesn’t just mean physically, that also means spiritually,” Smith said. “That’s why we take the time to pray with these classes. We don’t just want to be a gym. We have an overall purpose of sharing the love and the hope of Jesus Christ. That’s our overall goal but it’s in a little different medium than a sanctuary.”



Photo courtesy of Bill Carroll

Each man who joins F3 Nation is given a unique nickname, usually after his first workout. Some of these include (clockwise from bottom center) Huckleberry, Sludge, Sparky, Fortnite, Pew and Buckner.

F3 Nation

International men's program aims to grow faith, fellowship, fitness of participants

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Fitness-minded Alabama men have more options than ever to help them pursue a healthy lifestyle, including F3, which encourages men to gain strength in faith and fellowship while they practice physical fitness.

F3 Nation began in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is now an international network of peer-led workouts for men, promoting the three Fs: fitness, fellowship and faith.

Men of all ages can join a workout group and participate free of charge.

“In any one given workout you can experience all three [Fs],” said F3 Birmingham region leader, Stephen Perlis. “The majority of people initially come to the first workout for the fitness piece.”

Perlis said men join to work out with a friend and many remain for the fellowship and faith aspects.

A number of men have grown significantly in their faith as a result of F3, he added.

According to F3 Nation director of communications Frank Schwartz, men who participate in the groups discover they experience more effective growth through accountability.

“You’re kind of here for the workout but you’re mostly here for the friendship,” Schwartz said. “These guys become your brothers and you really connect with them on a deeper

level than just guys who work out.”

The network’s mission is to plant, grow and serve small workout groups for men for the invigoration of male community leadership.

The F3 credo, “Leave no man behind, but leave no man where you find him,” exemplifies the network’s philosophy of inspiring men to grow in all three facets of the F3 program.

Circle of Trust

All workouts are performed outdoors, rain or shine, heat or cold. No training or certification is necessary to lead a workout and all sessions are led in a rotating fashion by men who participate.

Each workout ends with a Circle of Trust, which for some groups, includes a prayer.

While the F3 network does not embrace a particular religion or faith system, groups encourage the faith of their members and many share a common belief in Christ.

“We don’t say we are a religious or specifically Christian group,” said F3 Mobile region leader, Bill Carroll. “F3 defines faith as believing in something higher than oneself. To most of us in F3 that is God. Our first core principle is we are open to all men. That means we don’t reject nonbelievers.

“Many men have come to us as a nonbeliever and have reached Christ through F3.”

F3 groups have their own lingo.

The region leader is called the Nantan. The workout leader is the “Q.” First-time visitors are labeled as Friendly New Guy (FNG).

Participants are encouraged to grow as leaders and there is a “Q” for every aspect of the program.

The faith “Q” coordinates faith-based activities. In some regions this includes small groups who meet for Bible or book studies.

Perlis said his group is currently studying the book of Galatians and reading “Disciplines of a Godly Man” by R. Kent Hughes.

“Every region takes on its own personality,” he said. “They are self-led. They each have some component of all three F’s.”

Many groups also incorporate a service element. F3 Birmingham members participate in projects like volunteering at The First Light Shelter, a Birmingham homeless shelter for women and children.

Opportunities to grow

“People are just moved to do it,” Perlis said. “Guys want to grow in all three Fs and there are opportunities to do it all the time.”

Some regions volunteer for di-

saster relief and many have helped through recent hurricane relief efforts.

Alabama has two active regions, Birmingham and Mobile, and more than 1,600 individual groups exist nationwide.

International groups can be found in Uganda, Nepal, Ireland and Peru.

Groups form based on the need usually when a former F3 member moves to an area without an active group.

F3 leadership supports new groups by teaching F3 principles, attending the first workouts and offering guidance and training.

The TRUEbadors are a team of F3 members who travel to encourage and support new and growing groups.

Schwartz said participation in F3 helps men perfect skills and qualities needed to become more effective and virtuous leaders — in the home, in the church and in their communities.

“We help train in leading the F3 way,” he said, “not just in workouts but also how to be a better dad and husband and to do these things that are going to make you a more effective person and a better member of your community.”



Photo courtesy of Bill Carroll

Participants in F3 Nation gather for a time of prayer following their workout. Faith is one of the key ‘Fs’ of F3 Nation.

Salt and Light

Christians' love and compassion lead people to living water, says Scroggins

Jimmy Scroggins has eight children. As they have grown up he's taught them all to drive and so far he said all of them have been good drivers — except one.

His son Jeremiah is a “wonderful guy” but a “horrible driver,” said Scroggins, pastor of Family Church, a West Palm Beach, Florida-based church with 11 campuses. Jeremiah was voted Worst Driver of his senior class this year.

And if that isn't enough proof Scroggins told the crowd at the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Pastors Conference on June 10 a story about how one day his son plowed through a gate in their neighborhood, breaking it into pieces. As Scroggins went to check on the damage and help clean it up the neighborhood security guard — knowing that Jeremiah had done it — lectured Scroggins about why no one should ever just drive through a gate like that.

Finally in frustration Scroggins cried out that it wasn't his fault — they both knew he wasn't the one who had driven through the gate.

The guard then asked Scroggins, “Are you his dad?” Scroggins said yes. And the man replied, “It's not your fault — but it is your responsibility.”

Showing heaven

That's the way it is with a lot of things in the world, Scroggins told those in the crowd.

“There are things that are happening in our families, our churches, our communities and our world that are not our fault, but God has made them our responsibility,” he said. “Showing this world what the Kingdom of heaven looks like is our responsibility.”

Preaching from Matthew 5:12–13 — and wrapping up the Beatitudes — he challenged Christians to be salt and light so that everyone would “see their good works” and give glory to the Father in heaven.

‘Welcoming people’

Scroggins said sometimes it's easy to look around at all the turmoil in the SBC — sin and self-destruction, crazy squabbles on social media, the struggle for racial reconciliation and covered-up sexual abuse scandals — and think “it's not my fault.”

But he said he feels like God is telling him that for the sake of the Kingdom, he's got to own some of the responsibility for shaping the convention into something that shows love, not a people who tear each other down.

To be salt and light Scroggins said he and other Southern Baptists will have to become “the lighted up city welcoming people to come and get water that will make them live.”

“Believers are supposed to live like that,” he said.

They should also be “gritty difference makers,” Scroggins said, “but we can't be unless we actually care.”

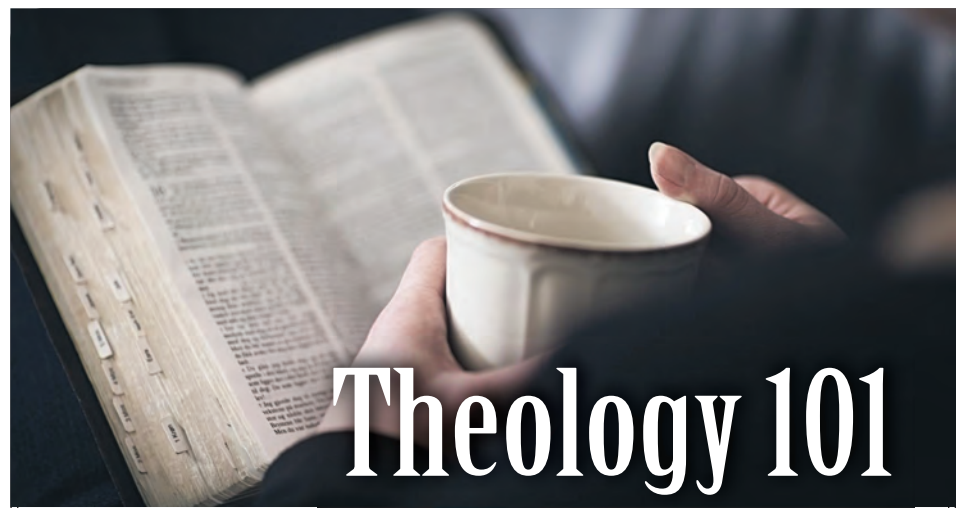
Salty living means showing love and being quick to listen, he said. “We have to be winsome enough to win some.”

“I'm a much better pastor when I can weep with those who are weeping,” Scroggins said. “I am much more of a difference-maker when I can try to feel what someone else is feeling. I might not have experienced what they've experienced, but it just makes such a big difference to try to care — to try to put yourself in someone else's shoes.” (Grace Thornton)



SCROGGINS

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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Images of a Christian

Christians as Farmers

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

Previously we have thought about children, soldiers and athletes as ways the Bible refers to the Christian life. This week we turn to yet another image — that of farmers.

As we have been noting each week these images are not the source of our theology; they are simply common illustrations that help us grasp the truths of God's authoritative word.

We have noted in the past two weeks how 2 Timothy 2:3–5 employs the imagery of a soldier and an athlete. This week we turn to the next verse in that passage which brings up the image of a farmer: “The hard-working farmer must be first to partake of the crops” (2 Tim. 2:6). As we ponder the work of a diligent farmer several aspects of the Christian life might be noted.

Preparing the ground

At the outset a farmer prepares the ground. In another setting the prophet Jeremiah admonished, “Break up your fallow ground and do not sow among thorns” (Jer. 4:3). Selecting fertile soil and avoiding rocky ground suggests what Galatians 6:8 teaches: “He who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

The desires of the flesh are poor soil in which to plant one's life and on which to expend time and energy.

The wise farmer selects good seed when planting. Poor seed

portends a poor harvest. The principle of Galatians 6:7 holds true in Christian living: “Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”

The good seed

In His explanation of the parable of the sower, Jesus pointed His hearers to God's word as the good seed: “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11). James 1:21 admonishes, “Receive the implanted word which is able to save your souls, but be doers of the word and not hearers only.”

Successful farmers give attention to weeds invading their crops. Jesus warned about tares or weeds mingling with the growth that came from good seeds (Matt. 13:24–25).

Along with eliminating weeds the farmer sometimes must prune the growth of the good plants. Obviously Christians must prune from their lives works of the flesh but sometimes also must prune harmless habits that rob time and energy from better pursuits.

As the farmer waits patiently for harvest time so Christians wait patiently for the future harvest when Christ returns. ☞

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.



‘Richer experience’

Be One Ministries emphasizes importance of Old Testament foundation in Christian faith

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Like a jigsaw puzzle without the corner pieces the Christian faith is incomplete without an understanding of how the thread of salvation is woven through the Bible. This is why Rabbi Jeff Friedlander, founder of Be One Ministries, seeks to help Christians deepen their faith by studying its foundation in the Old Testament.

“There is a great desire of those in the body of Messiah to try and expand the knowledge base and understand Scriptures by a return to original foundations,” said Friedlander.

Complete understanding

“Jesus and the disciples were all Torah believing Jews. The gospel was communicated through a Hebraic mindset. When you read the New Testament you see that Paul’s writings are the words of a first century rabbi who is not trying to distance himself from Judaism but is trying to make Judaism line up with the gospel.”

Be One Ministries teaches the Torah, the law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five

books of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Pentateuch), in the context of the New Testament and a Jewish Messiah for the nations.

“We take the approach of reading the Bible from Genesis to Revelation,” said Friedlander. “We push forward and build upon it rather than beginning at the back of the book and just jumping into the Old Testament and pulling out some ideas. You can’t really understand the book of Galatians unless you study the book of Leviticus.”

Friedlander and his wife, Sherri, seek to help believers become one through the idea of Jew and Gentile together as branches of one tree, rooted in the Jewish faith.

Be One seminars focus on biblical marriage, essential oils and the Bible and the Hebraic way, a two-day conference teaching Hebraic thinking. According to Friedlander, Hebraic thinking builds upon the instruction of the local church, helping Christians to realize the value of the Old Testament lessons.

John 17:20–21 are key verses for Be One Ministries showing believers how Jesus prayed Jews and Gentiles would be one and they would lead others to Him.

For more information visit www.beonetoday.com.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Friedlander
Jeff Friedlander, founder of Be One Ministries, appears on The Strong Road Radio Show each Sunday morning. The show can be accessed live on Facebook and through podcasts and videos at www.beonetoday.com.

“We want to be a voice for unity, to speak to what is the biblical way of walking out your faith,” said Friedlander. “We want to get people back to reading the Scriptures and rallying around them.”

Gail Deavers and Leigh Anne Moorhead, members of NorthPark Baptist Church, Trussville, attend a weekly Be One Bible study called Real Time Torah, which offers ancient wisdom for modern living and teaches Jewish history and culture to help put Scripture into context.

Deavers said the approach has given her a better understanding of the Bible from start to finish.

“I know the back of the book but now my ending has a beginning,” Deavers said. “Everything in the Bible has Yeshua (Jesus) written all over it. Knowing that makes me want to study more.”

Moorhead agreed.

“It has given me a richer experience for the Lord realizing that these things we have identified as belonging only to the Jews belong to all believers,” she said. “It was a piece of the Christian faith that I had been missing.”

Helping Christians deepen their faith and learn to disciple others continue to be essentials of the Christian faith, Friedlander said.

“Teaching the Torah was the dis-

cipleship method to the Gentiles of the first century,” he said. “Early disciples taught it to new believers every week. We want to disciple people through those things. It’s never about works salvation. It’s grace by faith. That’s how you’re saved.”

Be One events are held in the Birmingham area. Videos of the Bible studies are available on the website, BeOneToday.com. The Strong Road Radio Show airs each Sunday morning and can be accessed live on Facebook or through podcasts on the website.

12-week seminar

Be One also coordinates the Hebraic Institute, a 12-week seminar for those who seek more in-depth study of Hebrew teachings.

The ministry celebrates traditional Jewish holidays like Passover, Shavuot (Pentecost) and Shabbat (the Sabbath.) They offer Israel tours and hope to add online classes in 2020.

“Our job is to equip the people so they can go back to their congregation and be more mature believers, be a blessing to their pastor and congregation and to live a more faithful life,” Friedlander said. “We are a support ministry to help churches, to encourage and inspire and to help to equip the local congregation.”



Photo courtesy of Jeff Friedlander
Jeff Friedlander (right) and his wife, Sherri, seek to help believers develop a complete understanding of the Bible and grow in their faith by connecting Old Testament teachings with the New Testament gospel.



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Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries (ABCH) presents the second annual "Aim for Hope"—a benefit to help raise awareness and support for children and families we serve across Alabama. All shooters will receive an arrival gift, play through a sporting clays course with 100 clay targets, and enjoy breakfast and lunch with our morning shoot, or lunch and afternoon hors d'oeuvres with our afternoon shoot. This sporting clays course will provide a challenging and enjoyable experience for all shooters, ranging from novice to experienced. The course offers 12 uniquely designed stations which have been created to simulate a variety of true field shots from different hunting scenarios.

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Garrett, Sidney Warren "Pete", Huntsville: Alabama Campers on Mission
Gibson, Beth S., Butler: Sarah A. Gibson
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THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who made a Grace Gift to Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. To learn more about Grace Gifts or how to make one, visit alabamachild.org/give or call 205.982.1112.

Step-by-step resources for defending church from predators

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Greg Love says for the past 26 years he's listened to story after story of child sexual abuse that's happened in churches and tried to help church leaders figure out what went wrong.

The problem hasn't changed in that time, said Love, a Texas-based attorney who is an expert in legal standards of care related to child sexual abuse.

But even though the problem hasn't changed, churches haven't necessarily gotten better at addressing it well, he said. Churches want to keep the predators away from their children, but they're "building the wrong type of fence."

"Not only do we have the wrong kind of fence, we think we're fine," said Love, who along with his wife and fellow attorney Kim-

berlee Norris, started MinistrySafe to help churches be proactive by taking steps to prevent sexual abuse from happening inside their walls.

The right kind of fence is never going to be in place because church leaders "just wake up one day and do this well," he said. "It takes intentionality."

With that in mind Love and Norris offered step-by-step resources to the several hundred people present at a Child Protection Workshop sponsored by the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM) and GuideStone Financial Resources at First Baptist Church, Trussville, on July 18.

A thorough guide to screening workers

Molesters have no visual profile, Norris said. It's important that leaders be trained in how to ask



Photo by Doug Rogers

Several hundred people gather at FBC Trussville on July 18 to learn about child protection tips and resources.

the right questions of their staff and workers and be able to identify high-risk responses.

For starters communicate to applicants that your ministry screens heavily and monitors behavior.

Sometimes this will be enough to encourage potential abusers to walk away because they want to go where the barrier is the lowest, Norris said.

"Give all applicants the impression of 'not in my church.' Don't chase volunteers for applications — give them an opportunity to bow out gracefully."

Another place to tighten up is with background checks, Norris said. If a check comes back with any kind of hit never accept the person's self-reported explanation of what happened.

All too often sexual abuse can be called "assault," and potential volunteers could say, "It was just a bar fight from back in college." For a charge of "indecent" they

could explain it as just being caught using the bathroom in public.

One way to address this is to instruct them to bring you a copy of the police report. Then you can move forward with the application process, Norris said. If they bring it, it will have the details of why the person was charged. And if they don't bring it, it's another place where they can choose to bow out of the process.

Once you get past the initial application a thorough interview should be conducted, she said.

MinistrySafe offers long lists of helpful information for asking good interview questions and identifying risky responses or evasive answers. (For example, in response to the question, "Have you ever abused a child?" instead of answering with a simple, "No," the interviewee says, "I would never abuse a child.")

They also offer ways to look for possible high-risk

responses. For instance if a person only has experience working with a certain age group and gender, that might not be a red flag — it could just mean the person has taught school and that's the age he or she has worked with.

But combined with other potentially risky responses it could be a red flag.

Other potential red flags could be an unrealistic view of children ("I love working with children because they are so pure and angelic," etc.) or shallow or short-term relationships with their references.

A five-part safety system

The screening process you just read about is part of a five-part system that MinistrySafe has developed to help churches protect their children.

The other steps are ensuring church staff is properly trained, using appropriate criminal background checks, putting tailored policies and procedures in place and enforcing monitoring and oversight of volunteers and employees.

More details are available at MinistrySafe's website or at tabonline.org/protect-your-church.

Understanding the process of grooming

A big part of the problem is that the behavioral signs of an abuser are there, but other adults don't identify what they are seeing as warning flags. A full list of such signs is at www.tabonline.org/prevent.

In addition to these resources and others MinistrySafe offers in-depth workshops on how to identify potential abusers and protect your church.

For more information call Lee Wright at the SBOM at 334-613-2241, contact Norris at 817-737-7233 or visit ministrysafesafe.com.

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3 stories you should know



Facebook photo

On Aug. 8 the Calhoun County Commission presented a certificate of appreciation to the Calhoun Baptist Association (CBA) disaster relief team (left to right): Director Scotty Duke, CBA Director of Missions Roger Willmore, Mike Burger, Richard Shipman and Ted Embry. The recognition was presented in response to the team's deployment to recent flooding in the county. 'I am honored to be a cheerleader and encourager,' Willmore said. 'CBA has a great disaster relief team.'

4 states require schools teach LGBT history

Starting in the 2020–2021 school year LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) history will be part of the curriculum in Illinois public schools.

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the law Aug. 9 making Illinois the fourth state to mandate teaching LGBT history after California, New Jersey and Colorado.

The law mandates that history classes in public schools “include a study of the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the history of this country and this state.”

Under the requirements of the new law any textbooks bought with state funding must be “non-discriminatory” and “include the roles and contributions of all people protected under the Illinois Human Rights Act.” (TAB)

Bibles from China taken off tariffs list

The Trump administration has removed Bibles and other prayer books printed in China from the list of items subject to an additional 10% tariff set to take effect Sept. 1. Officials released the amended list Aug. 13.

Though tariffs on some products were just delayed, Bibles were removed from the list completely. China is the world's largest Bible publisher and No. 1 source of Bibles imported to the U.S.

Ben Mandrell, president and CEO of LifeWay Christian Resources, told *Christianity Today* the company spends 31% of its total printing costs in China.

“Today's announcement by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative has given us hope that the administration has heard our concern,” Mandrell said. (TAB)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

Shiloh Baptist Church celebrates bicentennial anniversary



On June 30, Shiloh Baptist Church, Somerville, celebrated its 200th anniversary.

Former pastor Frank Morrison and former interim pastor Bob White shared memories of the church.

A five-act drama based on the history of the church written by Kenneth Robert was organized by pastor and minister of music Charles Owens II.

The acts include the founding of the church in 1819 all the way through a celebration of where the church is today. Robert presented history between each act. Some acts also featured acapella singing and the praise team.

Jerry Armor presented a certificate from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, and state representative Scott Stadthagen presented a resolution to the church. State senator Arthur



Photo by Jerry Armor

Orr also was recognized. Photo albums and the church history were on display.

“The Lord had His hand on the day,” said Robert. “Everybody had a great time.”

The service ended with congregational singing. Lunch was served following the service.

(TAB)

MacDonald elected as IMB VP of marketing, communication



International Mission Board trustees voted to elect Mark MacDonald as the mission organization's vice president of marketing and communication during a meeting Aug. 12. He will begin in late September.

MacDonald currently serves as strategic communication catalyst for the Florida Baptist Convention in Jacksonville and executive director of the Center for Church Communication, based in Los Angeles. He has led BeKnownForSomething.com and is

the bestselling author of “Be Known For Something.”

MacDonald is a graduate of Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina. He and Tammy, his wife of almost 30 years, have two adult sons. (IMB)

New laws allow Alabama schools to offer biblical, religious courses



Beginning Sept. 1, Alabama public schools may offer elective courses in the Bible and religious history under the provisions of Alabama Act 2019-508, adopted by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Kay Ivey in June.

Under the law local school boards have authority to approve content and curriculum for courses in “the objective study of the Bible and religious history in grades six to 12” in accordance with Alabama law and Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) guidelines.

Alabama State Superintendent of Education Eric Mackey issued general recommendations to schools regarding the courses in a July 31 memo noting the new law “requires compliance



MACDONALD

News near you

BETHEL ASSOCIATION

▶ **Bethlehem Baptist Church, Linden**, will hold revival services Aug. 25–28. Sunday services will begin at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. and Monday through Wednesday services will begin at 6:30 p.m. Mike Snow will be the guest evangelist. Mitzi Gates will lead the singing and Margaret Strickland will be the pianist. Daniel Gandy is pastor.

BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

▶ **Clay Campbell** is the new worship pastor at **The Church at Liberty Park, Vestavia Hills**. He previously served at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, for 24 years. He also has served other churches in Alabama and Texas. He holds degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Samford University in Birmingham. He and his wife, Penny, have one child. Randy Overstreet is pastor.



CAMPBELL

CHOCTAW ASSOCIATION

▶ **Calvary Baptist Church, Butler**, will host the Reinforced Men's Conference on Sept.

6–7 at 6 p.m. Guest speakers will be Shane and Rick Rodriguez with special music by Brandon Overstreet and Tyler Pridgen. Joshua Whitaker is pastor.

COFFEE ASSOCIATION

▶ **Coffee Baptist Association** will host a prayer walk for the 2019 school year Aug. 25 at 4 p.m. Meet at any of the Coffee County schools to pray for the leaders, teachers and children. John Granger is associational missions director. ▶ **Zion Chapel Baptist Church, Elba**, will host the third annual sporting clay shoot Aug. 31 at 9 a.m. Free concessions and lunch will be provided on site. Cary Maulden is pastor.

MADISON ASSOCIATION

▶ **Madison Baptist Association** will host a minister's conference Sept. 5 at 10:30 a.m. Steve Lacey will be the guest speaker. Fellowship lunch will follow. Charlie Howell is executive director of missions.

NORTH JEFFERSON ASSOCIATION

▶ **Mount Zion Baptist Church, Warrior**, will host Wes Hampton in concert Sept. 1 at 6 p.m. For more information call 205-647-1938. Sammie Reid is pastor.

SALEM-TROY ASSOCIATION

▶ **Salem-Troy Baptist Association** will host an evangelism rally Aug. 25 at 6 p.m. at Southside Baptist Church, Troy. Pre-session music will begin at 5:45 p.m. Daniel Wilson will be the guest speaker and Tim Dowdy will lead worship. Kenneth Baggett is associational missions director of Salem-Troy Association, and Andrew Knick is pastor of Southside Baptist.

SOUTHEAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Jeff Ross** is the new pastor of **Heritage Baptist Church, Dothan**. He served as transitional pastor for Heritage Baptist before taking the position full time. He also previously served at Southeast Alabama Baptist Association as associate mission strategist. He has served churches in Alabama, Florida and Tennessee. Ross and his wife, Eleatha, have two children and four grandchildren.



ROSS

SULPHUR SPRINGS ASSOCIATION

▶ On Aug. 4, **Mount View Baptist Church, Hayden**, celebrated “75 years of serving God.”

Pastor Jeff Helton brought the message and former pastors C.J. Shaver and Junior Wolfe shared memories. Music director Billy



Photo by Johnie Sentell

Williams told the history of the church and led the singing. A video interview with former pastor Leon Greathouse also was shown. Johnie Sentell presented the church with a certificate on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Lunch followed the service. An afternoon singing was held with Living Faith Quartet.

“It was a great day,” Helton said. “There was a great spirit.”

— NEWSBRIEFS —

with applicable law regarding maintaining religious neutrality.”

Mackey said school leaders should be selective in choosing teachers for such courses to “be certain that the teacher understands the First Amendment to the United States Constitution prevents the government from endorsing a religion but does not prohibit teaching about religion.”



Unsplash.com

A separate bill, Alabama Act 2019-281, or the Alabama Released Time Credit Act, authorizes local school boards to allow K–12 students to leave campus to participate in religious instruction in an elective course by a private entity. Under the law students may earn elective credit for classes taken during the released time. Under this legislation no public funds may be expended nor can public school personnel be involved in providing the religious instruction.

In an educational update on the legislation Eric Johnston, president and general counsel of

the Southeast Law Institute, said the state school board and local boards of education must pass policies on the Alabama Released Time Credit Act before public school students can begin taking advantage of it. He said the law requires the ALSDE to adopt a policy but local boards do not have the same mandate.

“It is up to parents and church leaders in the community to persuade their local board of education to implement the policy,” Johnston said.

To view the full text of the religious education bills and related documents visit tabonline.org/Bible-in-schools. (TAB)

Enon Baptist Church, Danville, holds 200th anniversary celebration



Enon Baptist Church, Danville, celebrated its bicentennial anniversary on July 21.

Several who were called into ministry out of Enon Baptist, including David Stidham, Chris Godbee, Tim Keenum and Phil Waldrep, were the guest speakers. A total of 21 people have been called into ministry from Enon. Special music was brought by the children's choir.

Jerry Armor presented a certificate from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission. Robert Smith, associational missions director for Muscle Shoals Baptist Association, gave opening comments.

A church history booklet compiled by Nancy Keenum was distributed along with a church cookbook. The Hall of History featured photos of church events and members throughout the years.

“It was an exceptional day,” Pastor Steve Ledbetter said.

The day began with the unveiling of a state historical marker. The dedication was led by Smith. Former associate pastor Jackie Hill led prayer in the service.



Photo by David Musselwhite

Members of the Builders for Christ team who helped build the education space were recognized.

Lunch followed the service and inflatables for the children were available after lunch. (TAB)

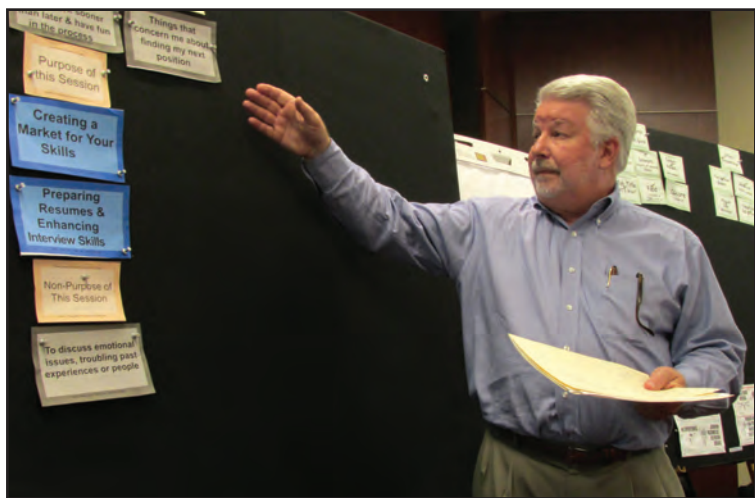


Photo by Michael Brooks

The 143rd Ministering to Ministers Wellness Retreat hosted by the Center for Congregational Resources at Samford University in Birmingham reminds hurting ministers they are not alone.

Wounded ministers find encouragement, healing

By Michael J. Brooks
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

I'm emotionally tired and mentally exhausted today, but I'm encouraged as we go back home."

Those words from a minister's spouse from Texas summed up feelings expressed by many who participated in the 143rd Ministering to Ministers (MTM) Wellness Retreat hosted by the Center for Congregational Resources (CCR) at Samford University on July 8–12.

"Our office handles the logistics for these retreats and the university invests in the

expenses," said CCR director Michael Wilson. "Our group this week represented several states and several denominations, but they all expressed grief that came about through crises in ministry. What we try to do is offer healing and hope in a confidential setting."

Cynthia Barnes of Richmond, a licensed professional counselor and marriage and family therapist, served as onsite clinician for the week.

Barnes said shame is the major reason ministers are reluctant to share their stories and reach out for help.

MTM retreats encourage them to tell their stories, to deal with issues needing improvement and also to consider new opportunities for ministry.

"These 'survivors' can't say where they might've been today or that they would have chosen the road they took," she said. "But their stories encourage us to trust in the redemptive plan of God."

Mike Tate, president of On The Same Page Consulting, spoke to the group about transferrable skills that may enable participants to earn a livelihood in a secular vocation.

MTM founder and Alabama native Charles Chandler, now retired, began the ministry in 1994. His research found that about half of retreat participants return to full-time vocational ministry and the remainder find new career directions and perhaps perform bivocational ministry.

"Don't waste your pain. Grow from it," Chandler told retreat participants. "Wounded ministers can have a new dimension of ministry and a new level of compassion for hurting people." ❦

For more information visit mtmfoundation.org or samford.edu/congregational-resources.

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Immanuel Baptist Church is accepting resúmes 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 resúmes to: ibc.pastorsearch@myimmanuel.net.

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 resúmes 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 resúmes 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 resúmes 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.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

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

MINISTER OF YOUTH, COLLEGE & CAREER

First Baptist Church, Slocomb, Alabama, is accepting resúmes for a full-time minister of youth, college and career. Interested candidates should submit resúmes to: fbc206@aol.com or mailed to: FBC Search Committee, P.O. Box 428, Slocomb, AL 36375. Responsibilities include leading our students from grades sixth through 12th and our young adults in college and career. Resúmes must be received by Sept. 6.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

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

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S MINISTER

FBC Moultrie, Georgia, is seeking our next preschool/children's minister to join an already strong ministry team. We are grateful for the excellent foundation our former children's pastor has put in place for us and excited about the future and how we can build on that foundation. FBC Moultrie is an established church in the county seat of Colquitt County in the agricultural center of SW Georgia. We are a multi-generational church family that continues to connect with young families in our community. If you are being led to come to SW Georgia to help us reach and disciple the next generation of leaders please let us hear from you soon. You can submit a resumé or a recommendation to: wayne@firstmoultrie.org.

CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Lakewood Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama, is accepting resúmes for a full-time children's minister. Childhood development/seminary education is desirable. Full information including job description is available on our website: lbpc.org. Send resúmes to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lake-

wood Drive, Phenix City, AL 36867.

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MINISTRIES

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The TAB News podcast provides content from *The Alabama Baptist* each week in a radio-show-style format for listeners to download and listen to at their convenience. A host will guide the show, along with several readers and guests who will be invited in to talk about some of the story topics in depth. Listen to the TAB News podcast anywhere you get your podcasts (Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, etc.) or visit www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts. New episodes are released weekly.

TAB DIGITAL

In addition to the print edition *The Alabama Baptist* also releases a weekly digital edition of the newspaper to every subscribers' email. The digital edition now comes complimentary with all subscriptions to TAB. The digital edition has the same content as the print edition — including full color on all pages — and it can be accessed anytime as long as you have internet access. For information on the TAB digital edition or to update your email address on file email subscribe@thealabamabaptist.org.

PASCO shows residents their identity is found in Christ

(continued from page 1)
Fellowship are a few of the churches in the Mobile metro area regularly pouring into PASCO clients.

Generous donations from local restaurants including Goldfingers, Briquettes, Dominoes and Meat Boss make certain no one ever goes hungry.

Led by the Spirit

Clients admit themselves, as Simmons did, or are court ordered into PASCO. Tasha Ridley, director of operations at the women's home, prayerfully considers each request to enter the women's program.

"The Holy Spirit led me to take E.C. into our program," said Ridley. "She

was in a toxic relationship and I knew her sobriety was in jeopardy if she stayed with him."

The investment in clients' success requires each woman dedicate herself wholeheartedly to PASCO standards for achievement.

"Unless they are willing to make a strong commitment of at least

nine months to the program they won't succeed," said Martha Maddox, vice president of the PASCO board of directors and a longtime volunteer. "They must also actively look for a job and pay back living expenses

once they're employed."

Clients are expected to attend church and Bible studies, be accountable to mentors and house rules and take responsibility for their living spaces. This formula has worked for PASCO

clients since Phillip Stanford began his ministry to men 11 years ago.

Stanford,

a member of Moffett Road Baptist, experienced his own deliverance from addiction. His recovery laid the foundation for PASCO.

"Our success rates are great if the client truly surrenders to God and contin-

ues to work with the tools they are given," said Ridley, who walked a road similar to her clients' before beginning to work at PASCO.

"They will all do well if they connect with a church, volunteer their time and be-friend godly women."

Simmons graduated from PASCO in June having met all the requirements to successfully transition into a productive, healthy and Christ-committed lifestyle.

"E.C. has grown tremendously since she came to PASCO," said Ridley. "She never went back to toxic relationships, worked on her fears, has a stable job and a vehicle and helps new clients adjust to the program and rules. She also

meets with her mentor and goes to prayer meeting and counseling. I know she will succeed if she continues to let God lead her in all areas of her life."

'I'm worthy'

Simmons recognizes the value and blessing of having Christ in her life. She says everything she lost God has restored — and more. Never more emotionally healthy than she is today, she credits the many resources she has been given access to at PASCO.

"You can find the freedom you need. I've learned to love myself and believe I'm worthy in God's eyes," she said. "But you can't stay sober without Jesus."✝

For more information visit thepascohome.com.

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

2019 marks 500th anniversary of founder of St. Bees School

Edmund Grindal (1519–1583) was an English Protestant who held the posts of Bishop of London, Archbishop of York and Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Elizabeth I.

This year marks the 500th anniversary of Grindal's birth.

He was born in 1519 in St. Bees, Cumberland County. His father was William Grindal, a farmer.

He studied at Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, where he received his bachelor's and master's degrees. In 1544 he was ordained a deacon.

When Nicholas Ridley, master of Pembroke Hall, became Bishop of London in 1550 he appointed Grindal one of his chaplains.

Ridley described Grindal as a man "of virtue, honesty, wisdom

and learning." Soon Grindal was promoted to a chaplain of King Edward VI.

On June 11, 1553, he was nominated to be Bishop of London. However, a month later Edward VI was dead and Catholicism returned.

During the 1553–1558 reign of Queen Mary I he fled to the continent with other English Protestants.

He returned to England on Jan. 15, 1559, the day Elizabeth I was crowned. He joined a group of men who established the reformed church.

In 1560 he became Bishop of London. Although Grindal had misgivings about vestments (liturgical garments) and other traces of "popery" he was reluctant to change policies. He did make judgments against

Catholic priests — but not against English Puritans.

In 1570 he became Archbishop of York. Although many Catholics resided in York, few Puritans did. During his tenure even his critics said that he "enforced uniformity against the Roman Catholics with good will and considerable tact."

Grindal was named Archbishop of Canterbury on July 26, 1575. No proof exists that he ever visited his district at Canterbury.

It was not long before he and Elizabeth had disagreements. The queen wanted him to suppress "prophesyings." These were meetings where the Puritan clergy met and discussed the Scriptures and prayed. She also wanted him to disapprove of the Pu-



GRINDAL

By Joanne Sloan

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



ritans' preaching. Grindal refused. In June 1577, for his disobedience, he was suspended from his jurisdictional duties but not his spiritual duties. He stood firm.

Greatest legacies

He was suspended from his office and restricted to his house. In 1581, Elizabeth rejected a petition for his reinstatement. The next year he apologized to the queen. She reinstated him but his health was declining. He resigned as Archbishop and returned to his home in Croydon.

Grindal died on July 6, 1583. He is buried in Croydon, London.

One of his greatest legacies is the St. Bees School that he founded in his native village. It is still in existence today after more than 430 years.✝



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



Quick Amazon search or bookstore visit would indicate that there is no shortage of books on leadership. Mark Miller has noticed the same thing.

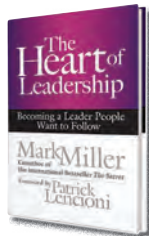
Miller has been with the Chick-fil-A corporation for more than 40 years, beginning as an hourly team member in a local restaurant and now serving as the company's vice president of high performance leadership.

In his position, his main role is to identify the key traits for effective leadership, teamwork and culture to enable Chick-fil-A to excel.

Throughout his career Miller has observed that most leadership training opportunities focus on skills, but that the lack of skills is not what derails most leaders. He says, "If you want to predict someone's ultimate success as a leader, don't evaluate their skills but their leadership character."

That observation led him to write "The Heart of Leadership: Becoming a Leader People Want to Follow" a few years ago. Because of his passion in helping people understand what sets great leaders apart from the rest, Mark has equipped others to share his material, including Jay

Vineyard, associate pastor at Dogwood Church in Tyrone, Georgia, and former state missionary with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.



Vineyard will be at the State Board of Missions office facility in Prattville to teach "THE HEART OF LEADERSHIP" conference on **Tuesday, September 3**. The event begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude by 3 p.m.

The workshop is intended to help leaders and aspiring leaders strengthen their leadership character, and as a consequence, position themselves for greater opportunity, influence and impact.



Jay Vineyard

Vineyard is excited about teaching Miller's material to those who will be attending the conference. He notes, "When you talk to Mark he will tell you that when he writes his material, he has the church and church leaders in mind."

This event is the first of four leadership development opportunities to be offered by the State Board of Missions over the next year.

For more information or to register, please visit alsbom.org/the-heart-of-leadership. Questions? Contact Debbie Dickey at 1-800-264-1225, ext. 218; (334) 613-2218; ddickey@alsbom.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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

- AUGUST**
- 29 **OneDay for Worship Leaders**, Hunter Street, Hoover, April Brewer, ext. 279
- SEPTEMBER**
- 2 **Labor Day**
- 3 **The Heart of Leadership: Becoming a Leader People Want to Follow**, SBOM Facility, Prattville, Debbie Dickey, ext. 218
- 5 **Get Acquainted Day**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Rita Goldman, ext. 249
- 8 **Single Adult Sunday**, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 8-15 **Week of Prayer for State Missions and Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering**, Laura Glass, ext. 226
- 12 **Bold Moves**, First Baptist Church, Pell City, Daniel Edmonds, ext. 285
- 12 **Personnel Management**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Lee Wright, ext. 241, or Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 12-13 **Alabama Singing Men Retreat**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Keith Hibbs, ext. 217
- 12-13 **Alabama Singing Women Retreat**, Shocco Springs, Talladega, Cindy Parrish, ext. 230
- 15 **Anti-Gambling Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
- 16 **Preparing for Retirement**, Mobile Baptist Association Office, Mobile, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 17 **Senior Adult Singin'**, University BC, Huntsville, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 17 **Preparing for Retirement**, Canaan, Bessemer, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 18 **Preparing for Retirement**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 19 **Preparing for Retirement**, Decatur First, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 26 **Personnel Management**, Birmingham First, Lee Wright, ext. 241, or Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- OCTOBER**
- Cooperative Program Month**
- Minister Appreciation Month**
- 4-5 **International Friends Retreat**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Debbie Adams, ext. 275, or Chris Mills, ext. 379
- 8 **Abundant Living for Adults 55+**, Prattville First, Eileen Mitchell, ext. 221
- 10-12 **Interlink Marriage Retreat**, Camp Baldwin, Elberta, Scooter Kellum, ext. 280
- 11-12 **Fall Missions Festival for Children**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
- 18-19 **Fall Missions Festival for Children**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
- 22 **Fall Missions Festival for Adults**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Laura Glass, ext. 226
- 25-26 **Church Security Training**, Northbrook Baptist Church, Cullman, Mark Wakefield, ext. 267
- NOVEMBER**
- 2 **North Alabama Church Library Conference**, Central, Decatur, Eva Nell Hunter, (256) 353-5912
- 3 **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
- 4 **Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer**, Kathryn Helms, ext. 325
- 10 **ALCAP Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
- 10 **Alabama Church Planter Network Dinner**, 3 Circle Church, Fairhope, Lamar Duke, ext. 332
- 11 **Unite: A Gathering of Alabama Baptist College Ministry Leaders**, University of South Alabama BCM, Mike Nuss, ext. 276
- 12-13 **Alabama Baptist State Convention**, Eastern Shore, Daphne
- 28 **Thanksgiving Day**
- DECEMBER**
- 1-8 **Week of Prayer for International Missions and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering**, Laura Glass, ext. 226
- 12 **Early Bird Tax Conference**, SBOM Office Facility, Prattville, Linda Hicks, ext. 263
- 25 **Christmas Day**

Warrior Creek opens doors to new sanctuary less than a year after fire

Pastor Darryl Ross said the revival his church held in mid-July is one for the history books.

The church was packed for a whole week, day and night. A guest evangelist came to speak, but he only managed to get in five of the 10 sermons — “That’s all he got to preach,” Ross said, because preachers in the church jumped in for the other five.

“It’s been great. We saw miracles this week,” Ross said. “We saw people come back to the Lord who had been walking contrary and we saw other great things happen. It was a fun week to be at church.”

But what made it extra fun was this — on the Sunday the revival began, Ross’ church, Warrior Creek Baptist, Holly Pond, opened the doors to its new sanctuary for the first time. That miracle happened less than a year after the church lost its sanctuary to fire.

The new building, which is completely paid off, is as close to the original as they



Photo courtesy of Warrior Creek Baptist Church

Warrior Creek Baptist Church, Holly Pond, kicked off its July revival by opening the doors to its new sanctuary for the first time. The church had to rebuild following an August 2018 fire.

could get, with some extra space. They expanded their seating capacity to around 250 and added 12 Sunday School rooms in the building.

‘Unbelievable’

“It’s unbelievable,” Ross said. “There just aren’t words.”

The church will also break ground soon on a new fellowship hall building, something that will bring back

an important Warrior Creek tradition — the every-third-Sunday lunch.

“That’s been a big miss for us,” Ross said. “We love being together.”

But it hasn’t stopped them from being a close-knit congregation that’s expecting great things from God, he said.

“We’re just family. God’s just doing a miracle here. You have to come see it for yourself.” (Grace Thornton)

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2019 BENEFIT DINNER OCTOBER 3



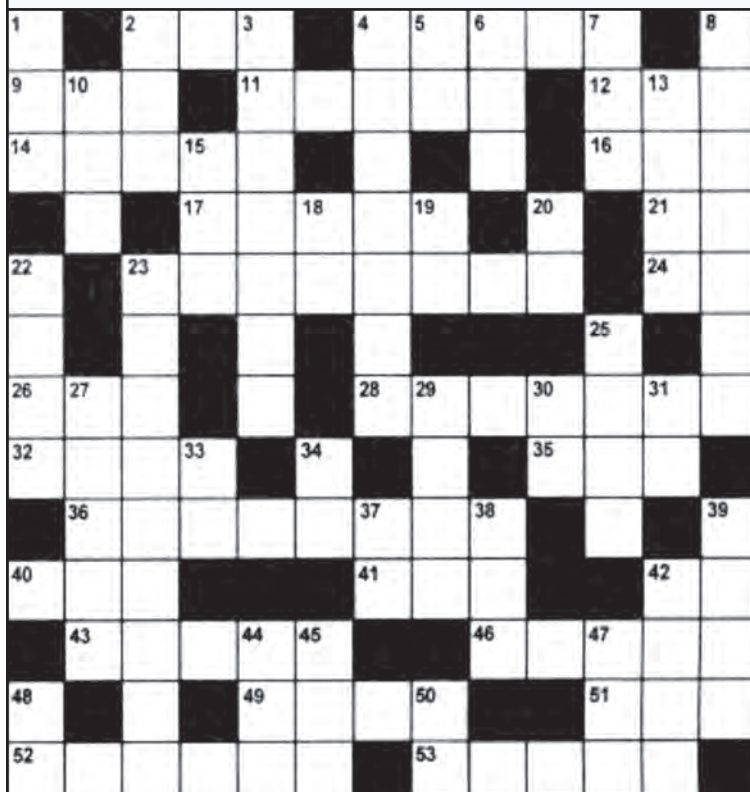
NIKKI HALEY

MONTGOMERY RENAISSANCE CONVENTION CENTER

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334-386-7257

Christian Crossword

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Across

2. Behold, it ___ very good. (Gen. 1:31)
4. Thou and thy house shall be ___. (Acts 11:14)
9. Sound of sudden enlightenment.
11. Long-legged bird.
12. Before. (poetic)
14. West African river.
16. The beast ... shall make ___ against them. (Rev. 11:7)
17. Peels.
21. Intravenous. (abbr.)
23. My ___ ye shall keep. (Ex. 31:13)
24. Yes. (Russian)
26. Love worketh no ___ to his neighbor. (Rom. 13:10)
28. She bound the ___ line in the window. (Josh. 2:21)
32. A type of star.
35. ___ ye drink of the cup that I drink of? (Mark 10:38)
36. ___ them through thy truth. (John 17:17)
40. To ___ at liberty them that are bruised. (Luke 4:18)
41. The price set by a professional person.
42. ___ and fro.
43. I have sinned ... and in thy

- ___ . (Luke 15:21)
46. Them also which ___ in Jesus. (1 Thess. 4:14)
49. Israel ... had made a great ___. (Judg. 21:5).
51. Elevated trains.
52. God be merciful to me a ___. (Luke 18:13)
53. They had a few ___ fishes. (Mark 8:7)

Down

1. A prohibition.
2. Every one that passeth by shall ___ his head. (Jer. 18:16)
3. The pen of the ___ is in vain. (Jer. 8:8)
4. Gird thyself, and bind on thy ___. (Acts 12:8)
5. Sent ___ angel and brought us out of Egypt. (Num. 20:16)
6. ___ certain of the church. (Acts 12:1)
7. God give thee of the ___ of heaven. (Gen. 27:28)
8. O thou wicked ___ . (Matt. 18:32)
10. Let ___ that readeth understand. (Mark 13:14)
13. A sudden attack.
15. Equal Rights Amendment. (abbr.)

18. New Brunswick. (abbr.)
19. Saint. (abbr.)
20. There ___ none good but one. (Mark 10:18)
22. Use not ___ repetitions. (Matt. 6:7)
23. Thou art the God of my ___. (Ps. 25:5)
25. The revenger of blood ... shall ___ the murderer. (Num. 35:19)
27. Doesn't win.
29. Sidewalk ___ .
30. Royal Canadian (abbr.)
31. Printer's measure.
33. I will be ___ enemy unto thine enemies. (Ex. 23:22)
34. How is ___ that ye are come so soon? (Ex. 2:18)
37. ___ now I have found favor in thy sight. (Gen. 18:3)
38. Yea.
39. The ___ of the mountains seen. (Gen. 8:5)
42. ___ John what things ye have seen. (Luke 7:22)
44. Tool for weeding.
45. ___ and feathers.
47. Snakelike fish.
48. This ___ the way. (Isa. 30:21)
50. High School. (abbr.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For August 25

Explore the Bible

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



LIVING TO DO Titus 3:1-11

Good Deeds (1-2)

Living in a culture that was hostile to the gospel and corrupted by moral sin throughout, Paul exhorted believers in Crete to live distinctively different lives.

We are to live to help others. In these verses Paul brings to remembrance things that had been previously taught. These verses show the application of the gospel to the believer's life in this world.

Believers are to submit obediently to rulers and authorities. We are not to subvert the government or disobey the government unless the government's laws contradict God's laws (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29). Even then our civil disobedience is passive not active and we willingly accept the consequences of our actions.

Believers are to serve others eagerly. Christians should work to assist everyone with each opportunity. We should also speak gently to others. We do not slander anyone, stirring up strife and trouble. We show humility. We should be kind, always showing gentleness to all people. We should consciously put others ahead of ourselves. This gentleness or humility is the exact opposite of the slandering and fighting Paul had just warned about.

Based on His Mercy (3-7)

Reflection upon our own former condition makes it easier for us to be kind toward others who have not experienced regeneration. Before conversion we were deceived and without spiritual understanding. We were disobedient. Our natural bent was to disobey and seek our own way. We were dominated by sinful passions and pleasures. Professing to be free, we were in actuality in bondage and slavery. We lived with an evil attitude of mind that manifested itself with the desire to hurt others. We had an unquenchable desire to possess what we did not have. And we lived a life of hate rather than of love.

Contrasted with man's inhumanity to man in verse 3 we now see

God's kindness and love for humanity in verse 4. Regeneration does not happen because of our good works. Rather regeneration occurs because of God's mercy.

Salvation is not earned. Regeneration is not something you can work to acquire. God saves people according to His mercy.

We are saved through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Regeneration consists of removal of filth and of a spiritual birth, both wrought by the Holy Spirit. Regeneration is the act of God in which spiritual life is implanted in man. Regeneration washes us and makes us clean through the new birth.

The imagery of washing does not refer to baptism but to an internal cleansing accomplished by the Holy Spirit. Paul certainly had in mind Ezekiel 36:25-27.

God poured out the Holy Spirit upon us abundantly through Jesus Christ at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit now indwells us abundantly when we are regenerated. And we are justified by God's grace.

To be justified means to be declared righteous. Because of the imputed righteousness of Christ believers stand before God as if they had never sinned and as if they had always obeyed God perfectly. And we are heirs with the hope of eternal life. What God has commenced in time will be consummated in eternity.

Done on Purpose (8-11)

Paul wrote Titus to make sure the Cretan believers devoted themselves to good works. We too must be active in good works for the glory of God.

They also were to avoid foolish arguments over genealogical lore and wrangling over matters of the law. We have no time to debate theological minutiae and add works to the doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

May God grant us gospel unity in our churches so that we all can reach our one with the gospel. 🌿

Bible Studies for Life

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



LEAVE A LEGACY 2 Chronicles 17:1-13

Follow the example of godly leaders. (1-6)

Asa's son Jehoshaphat followed the godly example of his father.

The ancient manuscripts and translations differ regarding whether the father referenced was King David or Asa (compare translations of 2 Chron. 17:3).

The point works whether David or Asa is in mind: Jehoshaphat chose to follow the godly example set by David or Asa (or both) rather than follow in the footsteps of the poor example his father Asa had set at the end of his reign.

He used the opportunities and resources he had to prepare for challenges that were sure to come, and he put his faith not in foreign alliances or pagan idols (like they were doing in the northern kingdom of Israel) but demonstrated his allegiance to the Lord above all.

He honored the Lord and the Lord brought him honor in return.

Not only did he keep his heart devoted to the Lord, but he took steps that were appropriate to reduce the temptations to idolatry from within his sphere of influence and authority.

We all need godly examples to help shape our lives.

Teach others the truth of God's word. (7-9)

Jehoshaphat's commitment to the Lord extended to doing whatever he could to provide others with the best understanding possible of the Lord's teaching and commands.

Most people were tempted to follow the idolatrous cultural currents of their day. That was partly because they didn't know any better than what they saw, heard or observed around them.

Rather than shaping the culture by their obedience to the Lord they would tend to have their lives shaped by the culture and its predominant trends.

Jehoshaphat drew on all the competent and godly leaders he could in order to carry out his project of providing his people with the knowledge of God's law they

needed. He sent out some capable officials, Levites and priests.

The fact that they are individually named suggests the honor and importance of the task with which they were entrusted (and recognition of the importance of honoring those who serve well in such influential roles).

Most of those listed hold names that refer to God (names starting or ending with "el," short for Elohim "God") or the Lord (names starting with "Je" or ending with "iah" or "yah," short for Yahweh).

These names suggest their parents were dedicated to the Lord (though many unfaithful Israelites had similar kinds of names). For example, Obadiah's name means "Yahweh's servant," Zechariah's means "Yahweh remembers" and Micaiah's name means "Who is like Yahweh?"

These faithful leaders helped Jehoshaphat spread knowledge of the Lord God and of His law throughout the land so others too might know how to honor God with their lives.

What can we do to help others know God better through the study of His word?

Godly living influences others. (10-13)

Jehoshaphat's commitment to the Lord and His commands and to providing teaching for the rest of his people won tremendous respect from the surrounding peoples for him, Judah and the Lord.

Others could see the Lord was acting through Jehoshaphat. And neighboring peoples, rather than rebelling against him, expressed their submission by bringing tribute in various forms.

Still Jehoshaphat did not become passive due to his confidence in the Lord but demonstrated prudent leadership using the opportunities and resources God gave him to prepare for future challenges.

Jehoshaphat's godly example and leadership impacted everyone within his sphere of influence. In what ways do others see Christ in us at work or in our communities? 🌿



Media reviews

MOVIES/TV

Inspirational ‘Basketball or Nothing’ leads August streaming lineup

By Michael Foust
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Sports movies have a special place in the American culture perhaps because Americans naturally root for the underdog, the subject of most sports flicks, or because Americans enjoy stories that inspire and entertain.

Sports movies often aren't so family-friendly unfortunately. “Rudy,” “Miracle” and “Hoosiers” — all PG — had strong and/or excessive language. “Friday Night Lights” was filled with so much language and sexuality that it got slapped with a PG-13.

Great sports film

That brings me to Netflix's new sports documentary, “Basketball or Nothing” which is nearly squeaky-clean and checks all the boxes of a great sports film.

It's inspiring. It's entertaining. Most importantly, it focuses on an underdog: in this case the Chinle High School boys basketball team in Chinle, Arizona, which rests in the middle of the Navajo Nation.

The team is comprised of students from the Navajo tribe who are trying to make history by winning Chinle's first state championship.

But winning won't be easy. Many of the players come from impoverished and broken families. Josiah, one of the star players, tells

how his family lived without running water or electricity after his alcoholic father left them. His mom then got a job to fill the role of the absent dad.

“I want to get a scholarship to go to college and get a good-paying job so I can take care of her too, like the way she took care of me,” Josiah says.

The Wildcats — who begin the season ranked in the Top 10 — play an up-tempo style of basketball they call “rezball.” It's fun to watch.

The six-episode series has great messages about contentment, working hard and overcoming adversity. It also is an eye-opening education about poverty and life outside the middle class.

It's rated TV-PG mostly due to adult themes (drugs and alcohol are discussed) rather than language. (The first episode, for example, includes only a barely-heard d--n.)

Also streaming this month:

Adults/teens

▶ **“Tiny House Nation” (Netflix)** — Host John Weisbarth and tiny house expert Zack Giffin travel the U.S. to help families find the perfect tiny home. Let's be honest: Most

of us couldn't fit the stuff from our bedroom — much less from our house — in one of these units. Rated TV-PG.

▶ **“Rocky” films (Netflix)** — I'm not a boxing fan, but I could watch Rocky Balboa



‘Basketball or Nothing’

Photo courtesy of Netflix

fight Soviet Ivan Drago a dozen times and never get tired of it. Of course the Rocky movies (I, II, III, IV and V all streaming now) are violent and include some language and sensuality, but they're not really about boxing. They're about family — and life. Some of the films were initially rated PG, but all five would be PG-13 if released now.

▶ **“Star Trek” films (Hulu)** — Nine Star Trek movies enter Hulu's lineup this month: “Star Trek: The Motion Picture” (1979), “Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan” (1982), “Star Trek III: The Search for Spock” (1984), “Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home” (1986), “Star Trek V: The Final Frontier” (1989), “Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country” (1991), “Star Trek VIII: First Contact” (1996), “Star Trek IX: Insurrection” (1998) and “Star Trek: Nemesis”

(2002) — (Star Trek VII not on Hulu). Space limitations prohibit a detailed analysis but viewers should treat the Star Trek films as if they were PG-13. Most (if not all) have some language, sensuality and violence.

▶ **“Apollo: Mission to the Moon” (Hulu)** — This documentary was produced by National Geographic to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11. Two other National Geographic moon-themed productions are also available: “The Armstrong Tapes” and “Apollo: Back to the Moon.”

For children

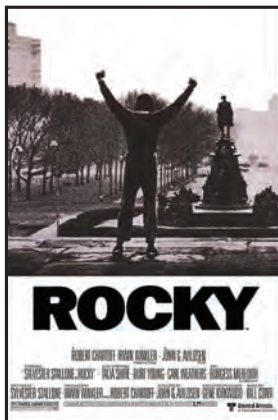
▶ **“How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World” (Hulu)** — It's the final tale in the trilogy about a Viking boy, Hiccup, who befriends a dragon named Toothless. This film includes solid messages about love, friendship and family. Rated

PG for adventure action and some mild rude humor (available Aug. 28).

▶ **“Ask the StoryBots: Season 3” (Netflix)** — It's not as preschool-friendly or well-done as PBS' “Sid the Science Kid,” but for a show about science and the world it's pretty good. The plot involves small creatures who answer questions (How do cell phones work?) by interviewing real-world experts. Caveat: It includes mild violence and potty humor. 🦋

Meet the reviewer

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



None are insignificant

Remote Alaskan church members appeal to state convention to keep doors open

When the pastor of Community Chapel in Cold Bay, Alaska, called Randy Covington, executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention, to say he was moving, Covington knew he needed to visit this remote community and assist.

Cold Bay is an Alaskan bush town located approximately 800 air miles

south-southwest of Anchorage near the end of the Alaska Peninsula where the Aleutian chain of islands begins its westward extension 1,200 miles toward Russia. Surrounded by the rugged and scenic Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, Cold Bay is accessible only by air and sea.

Community Chapel, the only church in Cold Bay, has been in existence since 1970. The church first met in a Quonset hut that once housed soldiers during World War II. Eventually the meeting place became unsafe and the congregation began meeting in the community library. Through the years Cold Bay's population diminished from 256 in the 1970s to less than 50 in 2018. Today 15 or so worshippers meet weekly for worship and Sunday School.

Covington said many questions came to mind as he considered the future of Community Chapel.

"Do we need to recruit a pastor for



Submitted photos

The town of Cold Bay sits near the end of the Alaska Peninsula where the Aleutian chain of islands begins its westward extension 1,200 miles toward Russia.

such a small group? Should we close the church and reallocate the assets to another ministry site? ... Hopefully, I thought, a visit would help me answer some of these questions," Covington said.

'Don't abandon us'

Covington flew into Cold Bay, greeted by the pastor who also served as the flight agent and baggage handler for the small airline.

Logic told Covington the little chapel there needed to be closed but his heart told him the few remaining residents in this declining town deserve the chance to hear the gospel.

Less than a month later two of the residents from Cold Bay's town

council were in Anchorage for a meeting. They called and asked Covington to meet them at a coffee shop.

"I was stunned when they said, 'We need a church in Cold Bay. Please don't close this church. Please don't abandon us!'"

"Can we do anything less than vigorously pursue the lostness in our state, in our world," Covington asked, "regardless of where they live or how insignificant their number is? Doesn't every lost person deserve the right to hear the invitation of the loving Father? O Lord, may we never consider a person insignificant because of the size of their town or the hardness of their heart. Forgive us for abandoning those You love." (BP)

How to pray:

▶ Pray Community Chapel in Cold Bay will be a gospel light to its small, remote Alaskan community.

▶ Pray we always remember the significance of every life and the importance of sharing the gospel with every person. (TAB)

'We need a church in Cold Bay,' the community leaders shared with Randy Covington, executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention, as they pleaded for the Cold Bay Community Chapel to remain open. 'Please don't abandon us!'

