



# The Alabama Baptist

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August 29, 2019

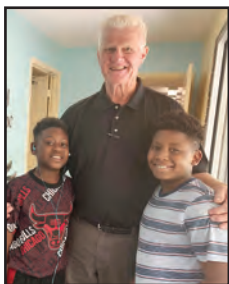
Vol. 184, No. 34  
Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

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



Screen capture from National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children is one of many organizations working to support victims of child sex trafficking. Camille Place in Monroeville is another nonprofit organization on a mission to help girls find healing, hope and a future after being sex trafficked.

# 'Lasting freedom'

## Rehabilitation home for trafficked girls first of its kind in Alabama

In sleepy Monroeville, Alabama, best known for producing literary giant Harper Lee, a modern-day story is being written about seeking justice and protection for innocents.

The story's protagonist, Camille Place, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Monroeville, is on a mission to help little girls find heal-

ing, hope and a future after being sex trafficked.

"Interstate 20 to Birmingham is known as the sex trafficking superhighway and I-10 to the south brings about 5,000 trafficking victims through Alabama each month," said Camille Place founder and CEO Chris Ziebach.

In July a month-long initiative by the FBI dubbed Operation Independence Day resulted in 67 traffickers arrested nationwide and the removal of 82 children from situations of

ongoing, continued victimization. One of the FBI's 161 operations was conducted in Birmingham where the FBI and local law enforcement officials arrested 49 individuals involved in facilitating or performing sex work. No children were among those taken into custody in Birmingham.

However, police officers have communicated with more than 500 trafficked minors in Alabama, Ziebach said. It's a sad truth that "there is currently nowhere

for them to go if they did escape," she added.

When completed Camille Place will be the only rehabilitation home in Alabama offering shelter specifically for young girls from 6 years old through 19.

Ziebach's dream is coming to fruition with the help of generous donors including architects, construction companies and even Chip and Joanna Gaines, who contacted Ziebach to offer furnishings.

Each child will receive housing, food, clothing, medical and psychological treatment and a superior education.

(See 'U.S.,' page 11)

Visit [www.CamillePlace.com](http://www.CamillePlace.com) to learn how you can advocate for children in crisis.

# 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](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org).**

*Yes, 51 years have passed since I started reading The Alabama Baptist each week and I have always found it to be a meaningful source of information from Alabama and the world. I am now a retired pastor, 91 years old, so that means I have been reading The Alabama Baptist for more than half of my life. I really look forward to each issue because it is inspiring, meaningful and informing in many ways. The entire staff does a great job.*

**Jack Kinley**  
Russell Baptist Association



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

*TAB wants to touch the lives of Alabama Baptists from every corner of the state providing the best news coverage whether it is print, digital or social media. This commitment of bringing news and human interest stories to the people of Alabama and beyond is one of the things I admire most about the paper.*

**Melanie McKinney**  
Advertising manager, TAB

*As a Sunday School teacher I appreciate the Sunday School lesson commentary provided each week in The Alabama Baptist. The additional perspectives on the focal Scripture helps me prepare and discuss the lesson each week. And since the Sunday School commentary is part of the TAB News podcast's audio digest, I can listen to the commentary while I'm on the go, which is a big help!*

**Carrie Brown McWhorter**  
Content editor, TAB

*TAB has traditionally been like reading my hometown newspaper and keeping up with people I know and admire. Now TAB is all that and much more with the concerts, podcasts, online offerings, expanded news, missions involvement and other new ministries. My favorite phrase is, "It ain't your granddaddy's newspaper anymore."*

**Cynthia Watts**  
Executive assistant to editor, TAB

*Woman's Missionary Union and the WMU Foundation are blessed to have TAB as a ministry partner. We can count on them for accurate reporting and for providing news from across the country and around the world as well as what is happening in Alabama. This helps shape our worldview and realize the need for Christ's healing message to be shared with everyone.*

**David George**  
WMU Foundation president



"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](mailto:jrash@thealabamabaptist.org)  
@RashionalThts



## Timing makes all the difference when sharing concerns

**T**he pastor's path from his office to the pulpit each Sunday morning should have been an uplifting walk with church members smiling at him and encouraging him as he headed into the sanctuary to preach.

Some days that's exactly what happened but more often than not it was the opposite of what he experienced.

One particular church member knew the pastor's routine and route and used those few minutes to share all his grievances.

From the outside looking in we can see clearly how the timing would disrupt the pastor's concentration, distract him and potentially upset him — just minutes before delivering the sermon.

We also can see how the church member became so focused on the items he wanted addressed at the church that he didn't put any thought into the best time to talk to the pastor.

Sharing concerns, asking for clarity about situations and making requests are certainly valid but choosing optimal times to engage in the discussion will always work out better for both parties involved.

It's natural to share what's on our mind related to the church the minute we run into the pastor. We likely do the same with the various people in all parts of our lives.

But is it fair to the other person if we brain dump with no warning and no assessment on our part of the situation before we assume he or she is in the

right frame of mind to absorb what we want to share?

If the goal is to spur change or obtain permission to move ahead with a project, then the more productive move means waiting until the person can focus on you.

Interrupting when the other person is concentrating on something else results in difficulty truly listening and likely impatience.

And ambushing the other person because something is on your mind and you intend to force that person to deal with it

right now no matter what else is happening only puts him or her on the defense.

Of course emergencies or a crisis of some type supersedes all protocol and etiquette. Interruptions become mandatory in those moments.

It's the day-to-day routine items, the random thoughts popping in our minds and the various concerns needing attention that should be saved for a time both parties can concentrate.

One of my mentors keeps a specific notebook with her and jots down these types of things

so when she has the attention of the person, she works through the list she has been making.

Another friend uses a similar method by using the notes app on her phone.

Scheduling a time to talk also works well especially if a general overview about the purpose of the conversation or meeting is shared in advance.

And starting the conversation by defining whether we need an action taken or if we are merely venting is a tremendous gift to give the one listening. He or she now knows "how" to listen. 🙏

## RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

### Truly absorbing and retaining what someone says takes work; it's much more involved than hearing them talk

**M**y granddad used to grab my hands and hold them still when he needed a break from my nonstop chatter.

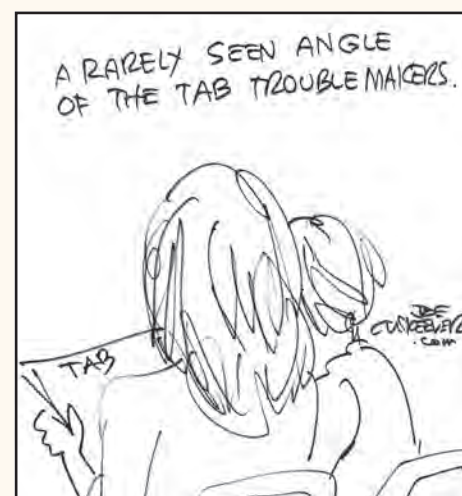
He would joke with me that I wouldn't be able to speak if he handcuffed me — and that's not far from the truth.

Recently I kept a tight grip on my hands during a video shoot to not only stay within the time restrictions but also to slow down my pace.

The more free my hands, the faster I talk and the more animated I become. It's as if I need to draw the story for you in the air as it rolls out of my mouth.

And I do talk really fast especially when I'm excited about what I'm sharing.

As my co-worker and friend Debbie Campbell and I have



traveled across the state this year representing TAB as #tabtrouble, you may have noticed we both enjoy talking so we have to make sure we take turns sharing.

It might send you into sensory overload otherwise (ha!).

And we enjoy the conversations

as much to listen to your story and what's happening in your lives as we do to share what's happening in our lives.

Active listening takes concentration and intentionality. It requires focus, processing what is being said for understanding and the ability to respond appropriately. And if you are able to actually remember what was said, then you know you succeeded.

To listen for understanding of what is being said and not merely being polite by letting the other person talk may be more rare than we realize.

Try it out this week. You'll know when you are only hearing the other person rather than truly listening and you'll start noticing when it happens to you.

—Jennifer Davis Rash

# Your Voice



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

## Hotel hospitality reflects God's faithfulness

By **Anteneshia Sanders**

Student, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

I didn't think much about hotels until I started working at one. Crisp linens, a TV, hopefully breakfast and some of those tiny lotions — what else was there to think about?

A whole lot more, I've learned.

Aside from the preparation involved in making sure everybody has a comfortable place to rest, we also learn to practice empathy. Our guests come from all over for all kinds of reasons: weddings, funerals, reunions and business meetings just to name a few.

As a believer hospitality could never just be an industry to me.

Hospitality is wrapped up in Christ's call to love my neighbor.

The goal to make people feel welcomed and valued is prefaced by their dignity and value as image-bearers of God. Work has become a joy as God has allowed me in on sharing His heart for us through genuine service.

This is a gospel gateway disguised as career.

I often think of Hebrews 13:2 when I'm working: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." I'm not sure if I've ever encountered any angels but I have been blessed plenty of times.

Believing guests have encour-

aged me in the Lord. Guests have told me their stories, their eyes filled with tears. I've done a lot of listening and a lot of praying. What a grace to be able to petition God for a stranger.

Yes, we have difficult guests and that's hard. But God has been gentle and patient with me in my worst moments so I can extend that same kind of courtesy for a moment.

While our human acts of kindness are just a shadow, they echo the divine. God calls us all to hospitality.

God is faithful. His hospitality toward us is a perfect supply — enough to give to those around us. (BP)

Thank you, Lord, for your Word that teaches us to be honest with you, to pour our hearts to you. We know that you already know our hearts and our thoughts, but your Word today reminds us that you still want us to talk with you. Thank you, Lord, for your Word that keeps on teaching and giving.

**Vernet C. Nettles**

[www.vcndailypray.com](http://www.vcndailypray.com)

I love the real and interesting stories in *The Alabama Baptist* of people who are joyfully serving Christ!

**Jennifer Davis Scott**  
via Facebook

Encouraging people to invite is not the same as equipping them to invite.

**Michael Lukaszewski**  
[ChurchFuel.com](http://ChurchFuel.com)

Dr. Batson's weekly column "Theology 101" is always enriching.

**Jud Becki Jones**  
via Facebook

## Letters to the Editor

Please issue a retraction of the false statement in the article "History of American Immigration" in the Aug. 15, 2019, issue of *TAB*.

You state in the timeline that "during his 2016 campaign Donald Trump promises to eliminate immigration from Muslim countries."

This is absolutely false. He banned immigration from eight countries. Turkey, Indonesia and dozens of Muslim countries were not included in this ban.

Your readers deserve better than to interject incorrect, politi-

cally charged statements in your articles.

**Brad Renneke**  
**Enterprise, Ala.**

**EDITOR'S NOTE** — *The timeline of U.S. immigration policy included in the Aug. 15 article was a sampling of policies from the past 250 years and was not intended to be all inclusive nor political in nature.*

*However, the summary should have reported what actually happened rather than what was stated as part of a campaign.*

*During the presidential cam-*

*paign, then-candidate Donald Trump said he was "calling for a complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."*

*Once elected, President Trump took action related to his campaign pledge, including:*

▶ *Executive Order 13769, which placed travel restrictions on residents of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.*

▶ *Executive Order 13780, dropped Iraq and Sudan and added North Korea, Venezuela and Chad (later dropped).*

*The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the travel bans in June 2018.*

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“Today, more than ever, there is a need to redeem rural mission.”

JOSH LAXTON

Assistant director, Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College

Bivocational ministers have the toughest task of all. I served eight years in a bivocational capacity and remember very well what those days were like. ... I cherish those times, places and certainly the people. But I do remember that the unending responsibilities can become quite consuming of your life. You are a special kind indeed. My prayers are ever with you as you plow forward with the help and strength of the Lord.

**Mike Snow**

Associational missions director  
Bethel Baptist Association

We're here [in Puerto Rico] because God commands us and gives us the privilege to be here to be able to meet needs, to see lives

change, to be able to share the hope of the gospel and see a movement all across this island.

**David Melber**

President, Send Relief

[Withdrawal from Title X] shows what is truly important to [Planned Parenthood]: Care for women is expendable but abortion is not.

**Russell Moore**

President  
Ethics & Religious Liberty  
Commission

The things you need to be successful in athletics are the same things that Christ teaches and the Bible teaches.

**Tommy Bowden**

Former football coach

We believe God has called us to be an undivided example in a divided world.

**Robert Lee**

Pastor of Collinswood Agape Baptist Church, formed by a merger of a majority white and a majority black congregation in Portsmouth, Virginia

We are known as Baptists because we believe baptism is an outward picture of an inward change of repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. We also believe that baptism is a joyous celebration by the whole church that another child has been born into the family of God.

**Ronnie Floyd**

President and CEO  
SBC Executive Committee

## From the *Twitterverse*

### @jordaneasley

Great biblical reminder for social media users today — You don't have to share your opinion on every issue. "Too much talk leads to sin. Be sensible and keep your mouth shut." (Prov. 10:19 NLT)

### @MichaelHyatt

Most of us have a real problem with concentration. Until we are willing to take a hard look at how and why we are driving ourselves to distraction, it's going to be hard to find the focus that we so badly need.

### @rayortlund

We Christians are at our political best when we are so loyal to Christ that we support anyone at any point where their cause aligns with Christ, and we oppose anyone at any point where their cause denies

Christ. Also, our support is courageous and our opposition respectful.

### @SBCHistory

On this date in 1925 Bill Wallace was appointed as a medical missionary to China by the Foreign Mission Board @IMB\_SBC. He served in China until his arrest and martyrdom in prison in 1951. His faithfulness and legacy still inspire many today.

### @alsbom

Pray for your church's music ministry! Pray that they will be able to effectively lead others in worship! #PrayingAlabama

### @drtonyevans

Obedience doesn't require full knowledge of how God is going to

work things out. Obedience means doing what He has asked you to do while leaving the unknown in His hands.

### @garyfenton07

Changing actions is much easier than changing attitudes. That is why leadership begins as a spiritual discipline in the heart of the leader.

### @PastorCroft

Spending my morning driving an hour each way to visit a widow in assisted living because she is valuable, a member of our congregation and worth my time to do so.

### @GraceV96

Are you worshipping Jesus? Or are you worshipping people who talk about Jesus? Because there's a big difference.



Photo by SBOM

Rick Lance is executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

## ACP shows big picture

Why is the Annual Church Profile (ACP) important? A short answer regarding the gathering of data from our churches on baptisms, discipleship and stewardship: Numbers represent people.

In the Great Commission our Lord gives us a mandate to reach all nations. This means groups of people.

Furthermore the Bible makes extensive use of key numbers including:

- ▶ that more than 500 witnesses saw the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 15)

- ▶ that about 3,000 souls were saved on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

- ▶ that multitudes of 5,000 and 4,000 (Matt. 14–15) were miraculously fed by Jesus.

The ACP numbers provide a unique glimpse at the eternal impact churches are making for the Lord and allow us to know how to pray through rejoicing and intercession for our fellow Baptists here in Alabama and across the country.

Let me say a word of appreciation to each church clerk, associational clerk and others who provide a detailed and often tedious labor of love through faithful and accurate reporting through the ACP.

Your Kingdom labor, like any work for the Lord, is not in vain (1 Cor. 15).

—Rick Lance



Wikimedia Commons

At the conclusion of a naturalization ceremony people from all over the world celebrate their new U.S. citizenship. Most immigrants living in the U.S. (72.2%) have lived here for more than 10 years, according to Pew Research Center.

# Nature and numbers of IMMIGRANTS

## An in-depth look at the statistics surrounding legal, illegal immigration in U.S.

By **Martha Simmons**  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**W**ith all the recent headlines about immigration it's sometimes hard to separate truth from exaggeration. A recent report published by the Pew Research Center helps bring into focus the nature and numbers of immigrants — here legally and illegally — now residing in the United States.

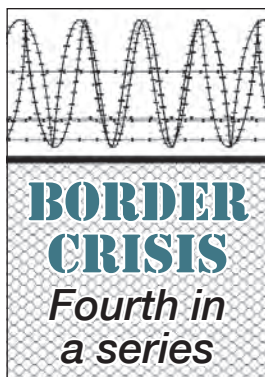
The U.S. ranks No. 1 in the world for its share of immigrants with 44.4 million foreign-born residents (about 13.6% of the population) in 2017, the latest figures available. The immigrant population has nearly quadrupled since

1960, when 9.7 million immigrants represented 5.4% of the U.S. population.

Among the states California leads with 26.9% of its population being foreign-born. It's followed by New Jersey and New York (tied at 22.8%), Florida (20.8%) and Nevada (19.8%). Immigrants in Alabama, by contrast, represent only 3.6% of the total population.

Where are these immigrants coming from? The countries change from year to year, driven by a complex array of social and economic factors. The origin coun-

tries of immigrants to the U.S. have shifted dramatically over the past half-century, Pew reports.



### Population snapshot

What does a typical immigrant in the U.S. look like? Here are some statistics gleaned from Pew research and U.S. Census data.

▶ **Most are settled:** 72.2% have lived in the U.S. for more than 10 years.

▶ **Most earn a decent income:** 66% are employed and the median annual household income is \$56,000 (compared with \$61,372 among all U.S. households).

▶ **A relatively small percentage of immigrants are poor:** 15.2% live in poverty (compared to 12.3% of all U.S. citizens).

▶ **Many speak the language:** 52.2% speak English proficiently.

▶ **They are educated:** 31.2% have earned a bachelor's degree or more (compared to 33.4% nationwide).

▶ **Nearly half — 49.4% — are U.S. citizens.**

### The 'illegals'

Almost a quarter of current U.S. immigrants are considered unauthorized, or "illegal," a number including those under temporary legal protection from deportation under Deferred Action for Child-

**The U.S. ranks No. 1 in the world for its share of immigrants, with 44.4 million foreign-born residents (about 13.6% of the population) in 2017.**

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Top origin countries and regions for the U.S. UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANT POPULATION

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Mexico — <b>4.95 million</b>         | 5. Europe and Canada — <b>500,000</b> |
| 2. Central America — <b>1.9 million</b> | 6. Caribbean — <b>475,000</b>         |
| 3. Asia — <b>1.45 million</b>           | 7. Africa — <b>250,000</b>            |
| 4. South America — <b>775,000</b>       | 8. Middle East — <b>130,000</b>       |

Source: Pew Research Center

up about 4.6% of the American labor force.

While many immigrants come to the U.S. for economic opportunities recent upticks in illegal immigration can be traced to political upheaval and violence in their home countries.

### Fear of violence

“It is an outdated notion that people from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras are primarily looking for economic opportunity in the United States and therefore should wait in line for a visa,” writes Sarah Bermeo for the Brookings Institution. “For people fleeing these countries waiting for a visa can result in death, rape or forcible recruitment into crime.”

Doctors Without Borders and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are among the humanitarian organizations confirming that fear of violence in home countries is forcing many immigrants to find safe haven in the United States. 🇺🇸

hood Arrivals (DACA), Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and pending asylum cases.

A total of 10.5 million unauthorized immigrants were in the U.S. in 2017, according to Pew, or about 3.2% of the total U.S. population.

### Overstays

Despite the current political focus on illegal crossings of the U.S.–Mexico border the majority of illegal immigrants in the U.S. arrived legally by air and overstayed their temporary visas. The Center for Migration Studies (CMS) reports that 62% of the unauthorized immigrants in 2016 were overstays.

CMS points out that the number of unauthorized immigrants has substantially fallen — from 11.7 million in 2010 to 10.7 million in 2017.

“The sharpest declines occurred among undocumented Mexican migrants,” CMS reports. “At the same time the number of Central American migrants crossing the border without inspection has increased markedly as tens of thousands of women and children in particular flee violence in their home countries.

“Yet visa overstayers still account for most of the new undocumented immigrants who join the U.S. population each year. Most visa overstayers come from Mexico, India, China, Venezuela and the

Philippines,” CMS reports.

Mexicans still top the U.S. unauthorized population, but between 2010 and 2017 their numbers decreased by 20%, according to CMS. During the same period unauthorized immigration from Venezuela increased 124% and from India, 72%.

The top origin countries and regions for the U.S. unauthorized immigrant population are, according

to Pew researchers:

1. Mexico — 4.95 million
2. Central America — 1.9 million
3. Asia — 1.45 million
4. South America — 775,000
5. Europe and Canada — 500,000
6. Caribbean — 475,000
7. Africa — 250,000
8. Middle East — 130,000

The typical unauthorized immigrant adult has lived in the U.S. for 15 years, Pew reports. They make

## Percent of FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION residing in the U.S. who were born in ...

Year	Europe and Canada	South and East Asia	Mexico	Other Latin America (Central America, South America and Caribbean)
1960	84%	4%	6%	4%
1970	68%	7%	8%	11%
1980	42%	15%	16%	16%
1990	26%	22%	22%	21%
2000	19%	23%	29%	22%
2010	15%	25%	29%	24%
2017	13%	27%	25%	25%

# Each Harvest Evangelism graduate has unique story

By Lanell Downs Smith  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Fourteen graduates of Harvest Evangelism's recovery program celebrated one year free from addiction in a service held July 20 at First United Methodist Church, Opelika.

"It's a celebration of what they have accomplished and a reminder that there is still a battle to be fought," said Rick Hagans, founder of Harvest Evangelism.

Hagans began the ministry in 1986 to serve those seeking freedom from addiction.

"We are a Christ-centered, Bible-based Christian recovery home," Hagans said. "It's for men and women with life controlling issues like drugs, alcohol and all the things that lead them to use drugs and alcohol."

## 'Broken humanity'

His Place for men and Hosanna Home for women each help between 15 and 25 residents at a time in the one-year rehabilitation program.

"Most came to us homeless, some out of prison, a couple from mental institutions," Hagans said. "This is broken humanity which we all are without Christ."

His Place director Kenny Young, a Harvest graduate himself, can relate to the men in his care. Young came

to Harvest from a neighborhood called "Meth Mountain" where he made and sold drugs. Young said he had lost everything.

At Harvest he discovered freedom from addiction, a deeper relationship with God and a calling to help others. Since then Young has seen 17 men graduate under his care.

"God turned everything I had around," Young said. "I was homeless. I tried to commit suicide twice. I didn't have [anything]. Next thing you know here I am running a ministry."

"These men come in broken," Young said.

"We just show a guy love. Society shuns them because they are addicts. We show them who Christ is and He shows them who they are."

Graduates shared their testimonies of life before and after accepting Christ. Leading individuals to Christ is what Harvest Evangelism is all about, Hagans said.

"We go unto them and bid them come unto us," Hagans said. "There are all kinds of hurts out there but the solution is Jesus changing people."

Harvest serves residents free of charge and is supported by donations from individuals and churches.

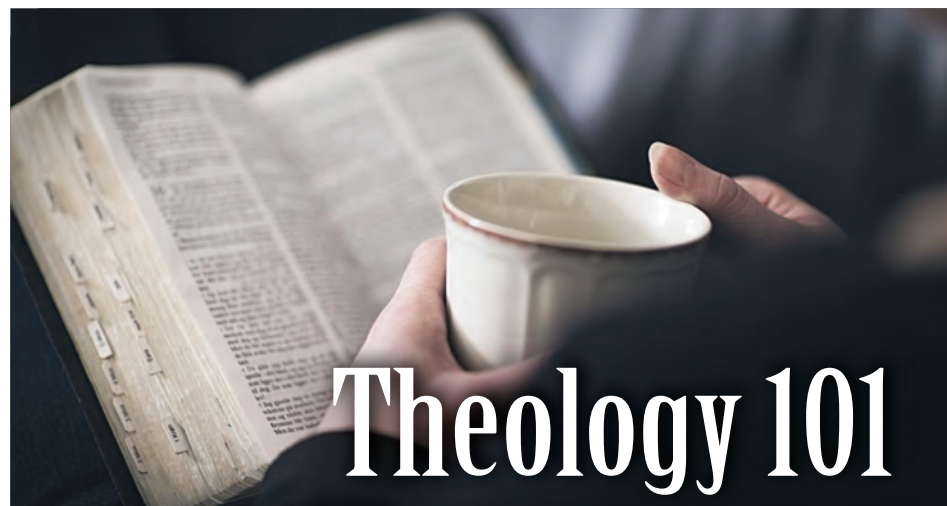
To read more stories of this year's graduates, go to [www.tabonline.org/harvest-stories](http://www.tabonline.org/harvest-stories).

To learn how you can help visit [www.harvestevangelism.org](http://www.harvestevangelism.org) or call 256-868-0281.



Photo courtesy of Kenny Young

Harvest Evangelism held graduation at First United Methodist Church, Opelika, on July 20. Fourteen graduates celebrated one year of freedom from addiction. In attendance were (left to right) previous Harvest Evangelism graduate and His Place director Kenny Young and 2019 grads Jamie Hairel and Brandon Chavis.



## Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

### Images of a Christian

## Christians as Pilgrims

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

Formal theology has special terms for certain aspects of Christian theology. For example, Christology speaks of the doctrine of the person and work of Christ, soteriology speaks of aspects of salvation and eschatology refers to end-time events.

Although lacking such a single theological term for the study of the Christian life, Theology 101 has been using common biblical images that help illumine aspects of being Christians. Last week the imagery of a farmer ended by noting how the farmer patiently awaits harvest time. This week the image of a pilgrim draws our attention to the journey of Christians themselves prior to the final harvest time.

God's people often saw themselves as pilgrims. In his farewell prayer at the end of his reign as Israel's king, David acknowledged, "We are all aliens and pilgrims before You as were all our fathers" (1 Chron. 29:15).

### 'Strangers on the earth'

The same sentiment is expressed in the Hebrews 11:13 summation about the ancient patriarchs: "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth."

This sentiment has been expressed in a gospel song by the declaration, "This world is not my home I'm just a passing through

... and I can't feel at home in this world any more."

Simply put we think of pilgrims as people on a journey. Consequently pilgrims are at best temporary residents of the places along the journey. They do not linger to put down roots in the places through which they pass.

### Permanent home in heaven

We might add that those who are pilgrims may well be journeying toward a permanent dwelling place. In school most of us were introduced to the early settlers of our nation as pilgrims. These early pilgrims ultimately became citizens of the new nation.

As Christians we are in this present age as pilgrims on a journey toward a permanent place in the Father's house (John 14:2-3). We are embraced in the declaration of Philippians 3:20: "Our citizenship is in heaven."

It also is true that we sometimes think of citizens going on pilgrimages to other lands or to holy places, all the while being citizens of their homeland. We will be blessed if we can look back across our pilgrimage and confess before the Lord, "Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage" (Ps. 119:54).

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.



# ‘A bigger picture’

## Samford Hall of Famer Gary Fleming helps children reach full potential

By Cynthia Walker Watts  
The Alabama Baptist

**G**ary Fleming found great success in football, first as a player and later as a coach, but it was a former cheerleader who helped Fleming see how he could influence even more children for Christ.

“During a Montevallo High School reunion ... one of the cheerleader captains said to me, ‘Coach Fleming, I want to thank you and Mrs. Fleming for having

Bible studies in your home while coaching here. They have carried me through my life,’” Fleming said.

“This is how God pulled our eyes upward, showing us a bigger picture. The children falling through the cracks need more than Vacation Bible School, Sunday School and seasonal parties. We knew God wanted us to find His children, come beside their parents and their teachers and ... hold their hands through

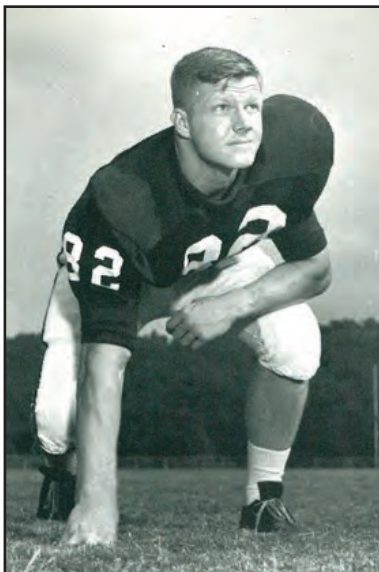


Photo courtesy of Gary Fleming

Gary Fleming was a four-year letterman at Samford University and is a member of Samford’s Sports Hall of Fame.

their young lives to show them God’s love and God’s plan for their future.”

So in 2016, Fleming and his wife, Suzanne, started an after-school ministry for children in Eufaula called Eagle’s Rest Ministries.

### Mentoring children

The faith-based nonprofit organization’s Eagle’s Club for Kids identifies at-risk children in their early elementary years and mentors them throughout high school and college. The Flemings pick the children

up from school, serve them a snack, help them with homework, play games, provide a warm meal and take them home.

They tell the children, “You are special, you are important, you are kind, you are made for greatness and God has a purpose for you.”

Fleming believes that as long as you have a pulse, you have a purpose. For many years Fleming’s purpose centered around football. After graduating from



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Above, Da’Markis (left) and Markavious (right), brothers who are both current participants in Eagle’s Club, confirm that ‘Pastor Gary’ is firm but fair. The brothers have special musical abilities the Flemings would love to see cultivated.

Abbeville High School in 1964, Fleming received a football scholarship to the University of Chattanooga.

Knowing by then God wanted him to preach he transferred to Howard College in Birmingham (now Samford University) after his freshman year to major in religion and play football.

Fleming had four great years at Samford and in 1969 he graduated and was drafted by the Baltimore Colts.

### Sports career

After a knee injury ended his playing career Fleming took a coaching position at Abbeville High School and later coached at Montevallo High School and Briarwood Christian School. Through his coaching career Fleming won five state basketball championships and one state football title.

In April 2019, Fleming was inducted into Samford’s Sports Hall of Fame.



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Suzanne Fleming loves the new library of books set up and organized by grade level in the Eagle’s Club facility in Eufaula. The books, shelves and work to organize them were all donated to the ministry.

**For more information contact Gary Fleming at eaglesclubeufaula@gmail.com or call 334-695-6949.**

Fleming retired from coaching in 1984 and was pastoring a church in Eufaula when God began to open doors to ministry to at-risk children and youth.

Now the Flemings’ huddle is filled with children who call him Pastor Gary and his game plan

includes all kinds of ways to make learning fun. Eagle’s Club for Kids is a “wondrous ministry outside a pulpit,” Fleming said.

“God was preparing us to go out from the building we call church and actually be the church.”

# Blessings THROUGH ACTION

## New social media platform for Christians connects believers across country

By Margaret Colson  
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

**H**ave you ever wanted to unite with other Christians of all denominations throughout our country? Have you ever wished for a social media app specifically designed for Christians? Have you ever considered how you could encourage not only yourself but also others to demonstrate God's love through action?

Elaine Beck pondered all of these questions and sensed God was calling her to take action. Without hesitation and through prayer and collaboration with others, Beck launched Blessings Through Action, a nonprofit, faith-based organization with a simple and direct mission statement.

"Blessings Through Action seeks to unite all American Christians together so that we may speak clearly and show through our actions that this nation is truly one nation under God," states the website [blessingsthroughaction.org](http://blessingsthroughaction.org).

In the June 18, 2019, edition of

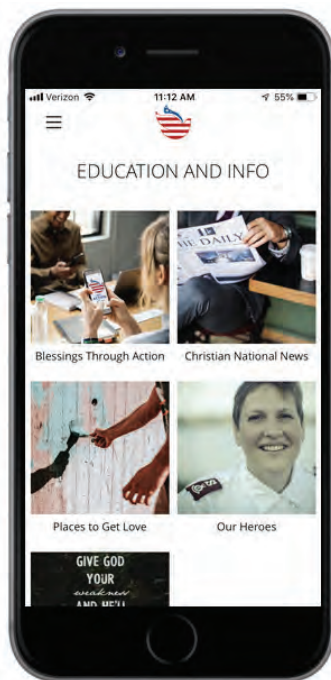
the TAB News podcast Beck sat down with co-hosts Jennifer Davis Rash and Debbie Campbell to provide more information on Blessings Through Action and to describe how Christians can become connected through its new social media app.

"The first word God gave me — if you want to boil it down to a word — was action. It was so appropriate when we realized that's the acronym for All Christians Together in Our Nation. God put it on my heart to name [the organization] Blessings Through Action because that's what we get, isn't it, in life? When we take action for Christ and we do something we are then, in return, blessed," Beck said.

Launching Blessings Through Action has been a "fun adventure.

"I'm so humbled by the fact that the Lord gave me this vision and has entrusted me with it. We're nothing but a vapor yet He gives us the opportunity to be His instruments," she said.

"We feel like we live in one little miracle after the other — or one



TAB photo

Elaine Beck joins *The Alabama Baptist* editor-in-chief Jennifer Davis Rash and director of communications Debbie Campbell for a TAB News podcast discussing Blessings Through Action. Listen to the podcast at [www.tabonline.org/app](http://www.tabonline.org/app).

big miracle after the other" in all that Blessings Through Action has been able to do since its launch in September 2018.

### Social media app

A key component of Blessings Through Action is a social media app, Our Action Place. Eighty percent of Americans have cell phones, Beck said.

"How wonderful that people that have not been getting the truth — because they're listening to news venues and stuff about what's happening in the country that's not true — that now they can get on their phone. ... That's one of the things we're really striving to do to honor God is to make sure it's only the truth we put on there," Beck said.

Beck's passion for Our Action Place is unmistakable.

"We're to help each other, brothers and sisters alike, and through His love to make things happen for Him. If we can take that 240 million and be counted, each one of us individually, think of the power in that. That's what I know God gave me. He gave me direction saying,

"If you bring them all together then this nation can be going in the right direction again," she said.

The Blessings Through Action website provides information on the social media app. Also the website and app provide educational

resources, stories of how people are making a difference for Christ in their communities, daily and weekly actions Christians can take and more. The website and app are safe for teenagers because of a number of safeguards and filters in place, Beck said.✝

**To listen to the TAB News podcast, go to [thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts/](http://thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts/). For more information on Blessings Through Action, go to [blessingsthroughaction.org](http://blessingsthroughaction.org).**

***"We're to help each other, brothers and sisters alike, and through His love to make things happen for Him. If we can take that 240 million and be counted, each one of us individually, think of the power in that."***

**Elaine Beck**  
Founder, Blessings Through Action

# U.S. meets 'minimum standards' for fighting human trafficking; more can be done, according to report

(continued from page 1)

Ziebach began sensing God's call to help victims of sex trafficking in 2012.

"I was comfortable, happy. Why would I want to open a home for trafficked girls?" said Ziebach. "At first I didn't even want to pray about it, but I began having dreams about three times a week of drugged girls being presented to men that were high. I also had dreams of myself as a victim of trafficking."

## Youngest victims

Ziebach surrendered, educated herself about sex trafficking and soon the plans for Camille Place began taking shape. She consulted with law enforcement agencies, including Homeland Security, child welfare agencies and any others that could educate her.

"I learned that the younger the victim the more money they will bring to their pimps — some being the child's own parents,"

said Ziebach. "The average age is about 11 to 15 years old and some are younger than 6."

The home plans to break ground this fall and hopes to be ready to receive girls by spring of 2020. An anonymous donor recently contacted Ziebach with an offer of 50 acres in an undisclosed location to further expand the ministry to abused and trafficked girls.

"We can't close our eyes to the trafficking of children," said Ziebach. "We are moving forward in faith to build Camille Place to save girls from their abusers and bring them lasting freedom."

Faith communities can play an important role in helping raise awareness and providing aid to the estimated 25 million adults and children worldwide who

are victims of sex trafficking and forced labor, U.S. Ambassador-at-Large John Cotton Richmond said in releasing the U.S. State Department's 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP).

"Traffickers continue to operate with impunity and only a small fraction of victims receive trauma-informed, victim-centered support services," said Richmond. "Yet by working together governments, civil society organizations, survivor advocates and faith communities can reverse this troubling pattern."

The TIP report annually measures nearly 200 nations on their success in fighting human trafficking within their own borders.

Most victims of human trafficking are victimized within their country of

residence, the report said, although sex trafficking victims are transported internationally more often than labor victims.

The U.S. "fully meets the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking," the report found, but "opened, charged and prosecuted fewer cases; issued fewer victims trafficking-specific immigration options and granted fewer foreign national victims of trafficking eligibility to access benefits and services."

Countries with the most severe problems not only overlook human trafficking but some systematically perpetrate the crime, according to the report.

The TIP report is a valuable resource for churches seeking to engage human trafficking globally, said Raleigh Sadler, a Southern Baptist who founded Let My People Go (LMPG), a New York ministry equipping churches to address human trafficking.

"The report exists to educate us on what human trafficking looks like around the world and what is being done about it," Sadler said.

"For those of us in the local church we could read the country narratives to have a better picture of what is happening in each setting. Imagine what could happen if we prayed for those in each country."

## Clearer picture

Sadler's ministry, online at [lmpgnetwork.org](http://lmpgnetwork.org), offers church training through a Justice Weekend of intensive teaching on recognizing vulnerability and serving the most vulnerable and the LMPG Experience, a missional week of teaching, service projects and other outreach ministries to vulnerable populations in New York.

Upcoming LMPG Experience weeks are March 9–13 and 16–20 in 2020.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described human trafficking as a strain and a stain on all of humanity.

"We detest it because it flagrantly violates the unalienable rights that belong to every human being," Pompeo said upon the TIP report's release June 20 in Washington. "Every person, everywhere, is inherently vested with profound, inherent, equal dignity. ... America was founded on a promise to defend those rights — including life, liberty and the pursuit of justice. But too often we've fallen short and we cannot fall short on this challenge."

The TIP report covers April 2018 through March 2019 and is compiled from a variety of source materials.

The full report is available at [www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report](http://www.state.gov/reports/2019-trafficking-in-persons-report). (Susan Withrow Murphy, BP)

**"We can't close our eyes to the trafficking of children."**

**Chris Ziebach  
Founder and CEO  
Camille Place**



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# 3 stories you should know



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Sammy Gilbreath (left), director of the office of evangelism, prays over Daniel Wilson (center) and his wife, Erin, at the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions trustee meeting Aug. 16. Wilson was elected co-director of the office of evangelism and will serve under the mentorship of Gilbreath, who will hand off leadership to Wilson in early 2020. Wilson has served with SBOM as lead church health strategist since November 2018 and previously served in the office of evangelism.

## High school sports and transgender athletes

The U.S. Department of Education has launched an investigation into a Connecticut high school sports policy that allows athletes who identify as transgender to compete against the opposite biological sex.

The families of three female high school track athletes complained the policy discriminates against them. The complaint reportedly argues that forcing female athletes to compete against boys who identify as girls but have "male hormone levels and musculature" costs them higher race finishes and potential college scholarships.

The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference said it will cooperate with the investigation but defended the policy, saying a state law requires schools to treat students according to their gender identities. (BP)

## Planned Parenthood turns down federal funds

One of Planned Parenthood's government revenue streams has officially ended for now.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America confirmed Aug. 19 it would not abide by the Trump administration's new rule prohibiting federal family planning funds for organizations that perform, promote or refer for abortions. The decision — which was announced at the deadline set by the administration — means Planned Parenthood will forfeit \$50 to \$60 million a year in order to conduct business as usual as the country's No. 1 abortion provider.

The loss of funding through Title X, the federal government's family planning program, will result in about a 10% decrease in government money for Planned Parenthood — at least while a court challenge is under way. (BP)

## — NEWSBRIEFS —

### Enon Baptist Church, Centreville, celebrates bicentennial anniversary

Five years ago Enon Baptist Church, Centreville, almost closed its doors. But God had other plans and July 28 the church celebrated its bicentennial anniversary. During the service Rusty Owens shared the story of the near-closing and God's answered prayer. Now the church has added on to the sanctuary, is debt free and runs 40–50 people in attendance.

Pastor Allen Cunningham preached for the service and recounted the history of the church which was started by Cahaba Valley Baptist Church, Brierfield. Church member Betty Reach and The Williamsons, a quartet from Oklahoma, brought special music. "God is up to something at Enon Baptist Church," Cunningham said.

Pat Musselwhite presented a certificate on



Photo by Jerry Armor

behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission. Bibb Baptist Association associational missions director Bill Russell led the congregation in prayer.

The church hosted jubilee services Friday and Saturday featuring preaching by Carl Partain and David Beck and singing by Barry Rowland and Deliverance. A potluck was held after the service with singing by The Williamsons. (TAB)

### WMU launches new monthly digital missional resources for students

"Missions Journey: Students" is Woman's Missionary Union's (WMU) new digitally formatted resource designed to provide ongoing missions discipleship curriculum for all student groups and to empower them to discover their own roles as disciples of Jesus who live on mission.

"'Missions Journey' is a completely digital format that is video driven, easy-to-use and requires minimal leader preparation," said Heather Keller, WMU's student ministry consultant. "It is the result of much research and input gleaned from current student ministers and leaders, both

those familiar with WMU and those completely unfamiliar."

"Missions Journey" resources are available in three ways:

- ▶ One-year plan (contains 12, four-lesson units for a full year of missions lessons)
- ▶ Single unit (contains missionary videos and four lessons providing material for one month)
- ▶ Monthly drop-in (contains one missionary video and a one-hour missions lesson)

The one-year package of the fully digital resource contains 12 four-week units including links to the missions videos, session plans, missions project ideas, supplemental activities, prayer activities and a leader devotion.

The first unit, Australia, released Aug. 1, and subsequent units will be available the first of each month. Missions Journey replaces the print materials previously produced specifically for WMU's student missions organizations, including Acteens, Challengers and Youth on Mission, and are available for purchase at [wmustore.com](http://wmustore.com).

Visit [wmu.com/missionsjourney](http://wmu.com/missionsjourney) to download a free sample of "Missions Journey: Students" and learn more. (WMU)

# News near you

## ALABAMA-CRENSHAW ASSOCIATION

▶ **Brantley Baptist Church** will host an associational senior adult rally Sept. 12 at 6 p.m. Dinner will be provided. Special guest will be Ed Cleveland, minister of music at First Baptist Church Montgomery. Wesley Hatcher is pastor.

## BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

▶ **Les Hughes** is the new pastor of **First Baptist Church, Pleasant Grove**. Hughes is the founder and president of Kingdom Boardroom Inc. He and his wife, Page, also are co-founders of Anchor Deep Ministries and Meanwhile Ministries. He previously served as church relations manager with the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries and will continue serving as a volunteer advocate. Hughes also has served churches in Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. He holds a master's degree and doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. The Hugheses have four children and seven grandchildren.



HUGHES

## COFFEE ASSOCIATION

▶ **Newbia Baptist Church, Elba**, will host a community revival throughout the month of September. Services will be held Sept. 3, Sept. 10, Sept. 17, Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 at 7 each night. Each service will feature a local guest preacher. Refreshments will be provided following the Oct. 1 service. Will Jordan is pastor.

## EAST CULLMAN ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Hanceville**, will host a senior adult birthday party Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. Music will be provided by the Prime Time Singers. Participants should bring their favorite side dish or dessert — main dish and drinks will be provided. Philip Wigley is pastor.

## FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Oneonta**, will host Super September Sundays during the month of September. Each service will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature special speakers and music. Nursery will be provided. Andy Frazier will speak Sept. 1, Charles Carter will speak Sept. 8, Jared Jones will speak Sept. 15, Robert Smith will speak Sept. 22 and Mike Northcutt will speak Sept. 29. For more information call 205-625-3191. Larry Gipson is pastor.

## PINE BARREN ASSOCIATION

▶ **Camden Baptist Church** will host a revival Sept. 8–10. Sunday services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday and Tuesday services will begin at 6 p.m. Guest speakers include Mark Tew, president of Judson College in Marion, and Ben Bowden, pastor of First Baptist Church, Enterprise. Chris Wells is pastor.

## SHELBY ASSOCIATION

▶ **Oak Mountain Baptist Church, Pelham**, will celebrate its 52nd anniversary with a homecoming service Sept. 8 at 10:30 a.m. Heavens Strings will provide special music. Lunch will follow the morning service. James Blair is pastor. ▶ **Luther Foreman** is the new interim music minister at **Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster**. He holds a degree from Samford University in Birmingham. Foreman has served as a church staff member in various assignments, as a public school band director and food services entrepreneur. He and his wife, Charlotte, have three children and five grandchildren.



FOREMAN

## TALLAPOOSA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Orr Street Baptist Church, Alexander City**, will celebrate its 70-year anniversary Sept. 8 at 10 a.m. All current and former members are invited and encouraged to come dressed in clothes from a previous decade — the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s or 2000s. Turk Holt is pastor.

## TUSCALOOSA ASSOCIATION

▶ **Piney Grove Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa**, will host the annual sportsman's fellowship Sept. 12 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Matthew Kelley from Equip Ministries will be the guest speaker. For more information call 205-826-1028. Danny Wayne Davis is pastor.✝

## — NEWSBRIEFS —

### Starling marks 20 years as pastor of Sylvania Baptist, Rainsville



In June David Starling marked 20 years of service as pastor of Sylvania Baptist Church, Rainsville, in Sand Mountain Baptist Association.

Starling began his ministry as youth pastor at Henagar Baptist Church before being called to his first pastorate at East Brow Baptist Church, Flat Rock.

"We both knew it was time and God was certainly leading us to Sylvania," Starling said of his



Submitted photo

call from East Brow Baptist to Sylvania Baptist. "But to be honest we didn't want to go. We chose to be obedient to God's calling in spite of our feelings and God has been so, so faithful to me and my family. We love this church and this community and we are so thankful to serve at Sylvania Baptist Church."

Sylvania Baptist honored Starling and his wife,

Dale, with a foot washing ceremony in a special service July 7. (TAB)

### New federal rule protecting religious liberty of organizations praised

Christian leaders are applauding a rule proposed Aug. 14 by the Department of Labor (DOL) to protect the rights of faith-based organizations that contract with the federal government.

The new rule would guarantee "conscience and religious freedom are given the broadest protection permitted by law," DOL officials said.

The regulation would clarify that churches and other religious organizations acting as federal contractors may hire and fire based on their sincerely held beliefs without fear of being penalized by the government.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, expressed gratitude that the DOL "is showing a proper concern for protecting religious freedom."

The proposed regulation seeks to clarify that the religious exemption in a 1965 executive

order from President Johnson "covers not just churches but employers that are organized for a religious purpose, hold themselves out to the public as carrying out a religious purpose and engage in exercise of religion consistent with, and in furtherance of, a religious purpose."

Some gay rights and civil liberties organizations criticized the proposed rule.

The Human Rights Campaign — the country's largest LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) civil rights organization — said the proposal violates a 2017 promise by President Trump to uphold a 2014 executive order by President Obama. Obama's order amended Johnson's 1965 order to protect LGBT employees of federal contractors from discrimination. The White House denied this proposal breaks President Trump's 2017 promise.

"In no way does [the] announcement by the Department of Labor undermine the President's promise and commitment to the LGBT community," the administration said in a statement for the newspaper *The Hill*. "The proposed rule will continue to responsibly protect religious freedom and members of the LGBT community from discrimination." (BP)

# Randolph Association ministries expand facilities

Red Cooke says when he looks at the building next door to the Randolph Baptist Association office he sees “the good hand of God” at work. He feels that way even though nothing about the building’s purchase happened the way he planned.

“We don’t always need to get what we pray for — God works on His time, not ours,” said Cooke, director of missions for Randolph Association. “He knows what He’s doing better than we know what we’re doing.”

It all started with a plan to shuffle around some property. Several years ago the association decided to start by selling their associational missions house. That in and of itself was a journey, Cooke said.

The little house had long been part of the association — in years past it had housed missionaries in the main part and the associational offices in a garage-type building in the back.

But in recent years it had been a rental property and maintenance had become impractical, Cooke said. Several people made offers that didn’t work out before a buyer finally stepped up.

“We got it sold and put the money in the bank,” Cooke said.

That set Randolph Association up to finally take the next step they had planned — to buy the property next door to the office, an old

Dowdle gas building. If they could buy it they could move the association’s food pantry there from its double-wide trailer buildings. And that meant they could move one of their thrift stores from the old house where it was based into the double-wide trailers. That would create a better location for the food pantry and provide a bigger space for the thrift store, which was crammed in the too-small house.

It was a good plan but the association made an offer on the Dowdle gas building and the seller flatly said no.

That threw a wrench into things but over time God’s timing became clear.

“After a while it hadn’t sold and they took the offer we made,” Cooke said.

## Thriving ministries

And with that the association’s food pantry and its thrift store in Roanoke moved into their new buildings this summer, all on the same lot as the associational office. Both ministries are thriving, Cooke said — there’s more room for food and supplies and there’s more room for thrift store customers to shop “with dignity.” And they’re able to use the now-empty old house for storage.

“We’re able to help a lot more folks,” Cooke said. “I think all in all we’re in probably the best shape we’ve been in in a long time.” (Grace Thornton)



Photo courtesy of Randolph Baptist Association

Randolph Association’s food pantry and thrift store in Roanoke moved into their new buildings this summer, all on the same lot as the associational office.

# TAB CLASSIFIEDS

For information on placing a classified ad call 205-870-4720, ext. 102 or email [ads@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:ads@thealabamabaptist.org).

## CHURCH POSITIONS

### PASTOR

Stapleton Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time pastor. Seminary degree required along with pastoring experience. To be considered for this position please submit a resumé and cover letter to: [sb.search.team@gmail.com](mailto:sb.search.team@gmail.com).

### WORSHIP PASTOR

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Alexandria, Alabama, is seeking a full-time worship pastor, ministry style is contemporary blend. Send resumé to: [mtzion@cableone.net](mailto:mtzion@cableone.net).

### BIVOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC

Central Baptist Church in Gardendale is seeking a bivocational minister of music to lead all ages in spirit-filled worship services including choir and worship band. Ministry style is contemporary blended. Please send resumé to: [lawanna@cbcgardendale.com](mailto:lawanna@cbcgardendale.com).

### MISSIONS, MEN’S & EVANGELISM PASTOR

First Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking resumé for a new and exciting position on our staff. This candidate will lead our efforts in missions: Lead, challenge and recruit for involvement in missions. Men’s: Lead men to live out a godly purpose in family and community. Evangelism: Assist lead pastor and staff in oversight of all evangelistic ministries of the church. We seek a gifted communicator of the gospel and seven to 10 years of related ministry experience. A master’s degree is required. Email resumé to: [MMEPPastorSearch@fbcathens.org](mailto:MMEPPastorSearch@fbcathens.org).

### ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENTS

First Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking resumé for associate pastor of students. This candidate will lead our efforts to reach and disciple middle school through college students as well as providing pastoral care and ministry to parents and families of students. Engaging parent/guardian involvement is primary. We seek a gifted communicator of the gospel and five to seven years of student ministry experience. A bachelor’s degree is required in a related field. Email resumé to: [StudentPastorSearch@fbcathens.org](mailto:StudentPastorSearch@fbcathens.org).

### PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Concord Highland Baptist

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

### PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER

Grace Point Baptist Church, Somerville, Alabama (Morgan County), is seeking candidates for a part-time youth minister. If interested and you feel you have the calling, please email resumé to: [perrysmith@centurytel.net](mailto:perrysmith@centurytel.net).

### MINISTER OF YOUTH, COLLEGE & CAREER

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

### BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

New Beginnings Baptist, Graysville, Alabama, is searching for a bivocational youth pastor. Please send resumé to: [nbccbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:nbccbaptist@gmail.com).

### TWO PART-TIME POSITIONS

Westwood Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, is seeking a part-time church secretary and youth minister. For more information, contact Pastor Steve Potts, 205-798-3341, email: [stevepotts@westwoodbc.net](mailto:stevepotts@westwoodbc.net).

### 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](mailto:wayne@firstmoultrie.org).

### CHILDREN’S MINISTER

Lakewood Baptist Church of Phenix City, Alabama, is accepting resumé 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](http://lbpc.org). Send resumé to: Lakewood Baptist Church, 4011 Lakewood Drive, Phenix City, AL 36867.

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## FOR SALE

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Westwood Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, has 3 adjoining cemetery lots for sale at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery in Trussville. Sold individually or together at great price. For information, call 205-798-3341 or email: [stevepotts@westwoodbc.net](mailto:stevepotts@westwoodbc.net).

## MINISTRIES

### TAB PODCAST

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. Listen anywhere you get your podcasts (Apple Podcasts, Stitcher, etc.) or visit [www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts](http://www.thealabamabaptist.org/explore/podcasts).

# Someone You

## Should Know

By Leigh Pritchett

Correspondent, *The Alabama Baptist*

### Scott Swedenburg

Scott Swedenburg left a corporate job in New York to co-found a business that assists faith-based nonprofit organizations with fundraising. The 60-year-old Hoover resident has been doing that 27 years now. He also serves on the board of directors for The Alabama Baptist. Swedenburg has gone on missions trips to four different continents and holds two undergraduate degrees from Mississippi State University.

**MINISTRY DESCRIPTION:** Greeter; member of missions committee

**CHURCH NAME:** Dawson Memorial Baptist Church, Birmingham, in Birmingham Metro Baptist Association

**LIFE VERSE:** “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)



SWEDENBURG FAMILY

**Q: Who was or is one of the most influential people in your faith life? Why?**

A: My parents influenced me more than anyone else. My mom loves people and has never said a bad word about anyone. She always looked for the good in others. My mom was always suggesting young ladies for me and my three younger brothers to date in high school. We boys were very superficial and couldn't believe some of her suggestions. It wasn't until later I looked back and realized all the special things she saw in each of those ladies. My dad modeled for me sacrifice and service. When something extra needed to be done around our small farm or at church he would always give up the little free time he had and do whatever was needed. He never asked for thanks or recog-

inition. He was always sacrificing for his family and church.

**Q: What has God been teaching you lately?**

A: What does loving others require of me? Paul says in Colossians 3:14, “And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” Then Peter says almost the same thing in 1 Peter 4:8: “Above all, keep loving one another earnestly since love covers a multitude of sins.”

**Q: If there were one thing you could tell your younger self about faith, what would it be?**

A: Jesus is all you need regardless of your age. Don't expect people, things or this world to satisfy your deepest needs.✝

DO YOU KNOW A PERSON WHO SHOULD BE FEATURED AS  
**Someone You Should Know?**

Send his or her name, a contact number and the reason you think he or she should be featured to Someone You Should Know, c/o *The Alabama Baptist*, 3310 Independence Drive, Birmingham, AL 35209, or to [news@thealabamabaptist.org](mailto:news@thealabamabaptist.org).

## Dale Association starts monthly church workday

As Jim Hill visited the 34 churches in his association he noticed something.

“I noticed that some of them weren't able to keep up with maintenance around the buildings,” said Hill, associational missionary for Dale Baptist Association.

Some of them contained small, aging congregations for whom pressure washing the building was a big job.

Others could just use a boost — like a volunteer work team who could fix drooping molding, change light bulbs or perform yardwork.

“God laid it on my heart to say, you know what — how can we as an association help these churches? From there we devised a Mini Mission Workday,” Hill said.

For a Mini Mission Workday, volunteers from around the association gather one Saturday a month at a church that invited the association to

come. Once volunteers are there the church directs their work.

Not only that — Hill brings the church \$500 from the proceeds of the association's thrift store, plus extra money up to \$1,000 total based on how many volunteer hours the church averaged at the thrift store over the previous six months.

“It's worked out very well,” Hill said. “It's helped us get extra volunteers for the thrift store and we've had anywhere from eight to 45 people come to each workday.”

He's encouraged churches to view it as a missions project — because it is, he said.

“At one of our small churches there was one couple in the community who had driven by the church every day and not thought about attending but after the workday they could tell such a difference that they decided to visit the church,” Hill said. “That's just one story of how the workday has helped.” (Grace Thornton)



Photo courtesy of Jim Hill

Lessie Windham, pastor's wife and member of Mount Zion Baptist Church, Brundidge, paints a mural in a church classroom.

### Thorington Road welcomes new families



Facebook photo

Thorington Road Baptist Church, Montgomery, hosted a ‘Welcome Neighbors’ party July 27. With hundreds of new families moving into the neighborhood around the church via the Air War College, the event was organized to provide vendors the opportunity to introduce their businesses to newcomers from around the world. ‘Thank you, church, for this creative way of presenting the gospel above all,’ said Neal Hughes, associational mission strategist for Montgomery Baptist Association.



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# 'You've been given hope ... so you can give it away'

**K**atherine Wolf says she never had a moment of total despair but she dangled dangerously close once.

At 26 she suffered a massive brain stem stroke and against all odds she lived — but she was left with disabilities. She fought hard for months to regain the ability to sit up, talk and swallow, and one day as her husband, Jay, wheeled her back from rehab to their

home she remembers seeing a scene that brought her close to despair.

"I had just failed my ninth swallowing test," she said, so she still wasn't able to eat. As she sat in her wheelchair, barely able to hold her head up, she saw her husband and his sisters interacting with her young son, James.

"Clarity came in that moment and I see, 'This is what should be,'" Katherine Wolf said. "I had this

moment where I realized God made a mistake, that I should not be here. I'm caught between life and death and this could not be what God intended for my story."

## 'Unique assignment'

But God impressed upon her heart in that moment that He "had chosen for me this very unique assignment," she said. "This life, this pain and suffering was somehow God choosing me for something very unique on earth."

The Wolfs — co-founders of Hope Heals and son and daughter-in-law of Jay Wolf, pastor of First Baptist Church, Montgomery — shared their story June 9 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors Conference in Birmingham.

"Not many of you have had a brain stem stroke but I guarantee you've had hard stuff in your story," said



**JAY AND KATHERINE WOLF**

Photo by Phil Brown

Katherine Wolf, who along with Jay spoke on "Blessed are the poor in spirit" (Matt. 5:3).

She encouraged those present to see themselves in her and Jay's story.

"We like to make a provocative statement — that we are all disabled,"

she said. "We all have invisible wheelchairs."

Jay Wolf said the way of the kingdom of God looks very different than what the world is saying is

the way up. It's an upside-down kingdom — to gain everything you have to get low. The poverty of spirit believers have comes from giving what they have away, he said.

## Hope and comfort

"We get to go back to these places of our wounding and not only find healing for ourselves but other people too," he said. "You've been given hope not so that you can be hopeful and given comfort, not so you can be comfortable, but so you can give it away." (Grace Thornton)

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NMLS #207518

*To learn more about Katherine Wolf's story visit [www.hopeheals.com](http://www.hopeheals.com).*

## Christian Crossword

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		52			53				54	

### Across

1. They delivered him to \_\_\_ the governor. (Matt. 27:2)
11. Despise not \_\_\_ of these little ones. (Matt. 18:10)
12. Standing room only. (abbr.)
13. Unknown writer. (abbr.)
14. Ye shall be \_\_\_ gods. (Gen. 3:5)
16. \_\_\_ Francisco.
18. Come from God, and went \_\_\_ God. (John 13:3)
19. To hold onto something with your hands.
21. Fathers. (Spanish)
23. Lower case. (abbr.)
24. Missouri. (abbr.)
25. Thus.
26. For mine eyes have seen thy \_\_\_. (Luke 2:30)
29. I will let down the \_\_\_. (Luke 5:5)
32. A high standard.
33. His raiment white as \_\_\_. (Matt. 28:3)
35. There was \_\_\_ strength in him. (1 Sam. 28:20)
36. Cleanest, best arranged, coolest.
38. With many other \_\_\_ did he testify. (Acts 2:40)
40. Thou didst \_\_\_ upon thine

- horses. (Hab. 3:8)
41. A group of singers or part of a song.
42. \_\_\_ Domini.
44. The multitude \_\_\_ him to Pilate. (Luke 23:1)
45. In regard to. (abbr.)
46. He cleaveth my \_\_\_(s) asunder. (Job 16:13)
47. The angel rolled the stone from the \_\_\_. (Matt. 28:2)
48. In between, in the midst of.
49. 2,000 pounds.
50. Let there \_\_\_ light. (Gen. 1:3)
51. \_\_\_ order. (2 Chron. 29:35)
52. I \_\_\_ to prepare a place for you. (John 14:2)
53. Fish eggs.
54. The asses that were lost three days \_\_\_. (1 Sam. 9:20)

### Down

1. Dad.
2. Pilate wrote a title, and put it \_\_\_ the cross. (John 19:19)
3. Ye know that summer is \_\_\_. (Mark 13:28)
4. Jesus \_\_\_ the Savior.
5. \_\_\_ of the Chaldees. (Gen. 15:7)
6. \_\_\_ Abram departed. (Gen. 12:4)
7. The fame of David went

- into all \_\_\_. (1 Chron. 14:17)
8. Sent \_\_\_ angel. (Num. 20:16)
9. To carry something.
10. Seth called his son's name \_\_\_. (Gen. 4:26)
15. Neither is there \_\_\_ in any other. (Acts 4:12)
16. Knife, fork, \_\_\_.
17. Support group for alcoholics.
19. A level in school.
20. Climbed.
22. Ronald (nickname).
24. Went up a \_\_\_ from the earth. (Gen. 2:6)
26. Lay not this \_\_\_ to their charge. (Acts 7:60)
27. A wise man will hear and increase \_\_\_. (Prov. 1:5)
28. In no specific place.
30. The fear of the Lord is clean \_\_\_ forever. (Ps. 19:9)
31. The ship was now ... \_\_\_ with waves. (Matt. 14:24)
34. Abraham took the \_\_\_, ... and laid it upon Isaac. (Gen. 22:6)
37. One who sends.
39. Railroad. (abbr.)
41. Near.
42. \_\_\_ and crafts.
43. New. (prefix)
48. Missing in Action. (abbr.)

# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For September 1

## Explore the Bible

By Robert L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



### REJOICE Ephesians 1:3–14

#### Chosen (3–6)

If there is any person in history who understood the need for grace it was the Apostle Paul. Having been a Pharisee of Pharisees, one who persecuted the Christian church, Paul was transformed by a meeting with the risen Christ on the road to Damascus.

This was not a meeting he initiated but one God initiated. God being the initiator is of vital importance because it shows our salvation depends on God not on anything we do or say.

If salvation depended on our own righteousness we would have no hope since we are all sinners. In fact we know from 2 Corinthians 5:21 that God made Christ sin for us so we may have His righteousness.

If we were to face a holy and just God on judgment day depending on our own righteousness we would all fail. Even the “best” person on earth by human standards falls crucially short of the holiness of our great God. But in spite of our own sinfulness God loved us so much He sent Christ, His only Son, to die on the cross for us. (John 3:16, Rom. 5:8).

This fact contains important implications for the Christian life. If God is the one who is choosing us there is no room for boasting or spiritual pride. If we are responsible for our own salvation then it means we have done something unbelievers have not, indicating we have reason to boast in ourselves and our choice.

If salvation depends on us then it is up to us to stay saved, meaning we could lose our salvation. Since we are innately sinful beings, depending on ourselves for continued eternal salvation is a terrifying proposition.

#### Redeemed (7–12)

Having been chosen by the Father we now have redemption through the blood of Christ. Redemption means our sins are paid for. Since sin is the reason we are separated from God it is a problem

that needs to be reconciled in order to make us right with God. This is the purpose of Christ dying on the cross — His death paid the payment for our sins.

In many of our hymns mention is made of the blood of Jesus.

For those not familiar with the concept of propitiation — the idea that God’s wrath had to be satisfied — the importance of Jesus’ death is strange, even incomprehensible. But without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). The purpose of the entire sacrificial system was to demonstrate that something had to die to pay for sin.

In the Old Testament animals were sacrificed to atone for sin. In Christ the final sacrifice was made so now the entire Old Testament sacrificial system has been fulfilled (Heb. 10:1–18). Christ was the ultimate sacrificial Lamb.

#### Sealed (13–14)

Our salvation is affected by the Holy Spirit making the Holy Spirit a necessary part of our salvation. People in the church often think they can somehow convince or cajole people into the kingdom of God — that if they could only present the perfect argument or simply pray long and hard enough for unbelievers God would then save that individual.

However, this undermines the role of the Holy Spirit. We certainly should try to convince people that Christianity is the only true way and we should pray continually for people to be saved. However, we must remember it is the role of the Holy Spirit to complete the work of salvation.

But we are not exempt from preaching the gospel for it is through hearing the gospel that the Holy Spirit works.

In this way God uses us in the salvation process — we are the bearers of the good news of the gospel (Rom. 10) — but we are not responsible for the salvation of others. Only God is and that is an encouraging thought. 🌿

## Bible Studies for Life

By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



### A CENTERED LIFE Matthew 6:25–34

Back in the days when I was a junior high student an occasion arose when I needed to deliver a payment from my parents to the school for some athletic purpose. To this end my mom entrusted me one morning with two \$100 bills which I was to deliver to my coaches in seventh period, the last period of the school day. It was a nerve-wracking experience.

My forebearers were not Rockefellers so it was not as if \$100 bills were a regular part of my daily life. More to the point, even if my parents had been wealthy, I most certainly was not. Carrying around two \$100 bills was a new experience for me, one that occupied my mind in an oppressive and all-consuming way.

I patted myself down so often to ensure my wallet was still in place that I am surprised the police academy did not hire me to frisk bad guys.

Whatever subjects happened to be covered by my teachers that day in my classes made little difference to me. My mind was constantly focused on making sure I didn’t lose the weightiest bundle of cash I had ever had in my possession. It consumed my mind all day. I could hardly think of anything else.

Now with a mortgage, car payments, two sons in college and other bills, my earnest concern over just \$200 brings a smile to my face. But the truth is most of us still have a lot in common with that kid in junior high school.

Our worries may take on a different form or include a few extra zeroes attached to them but they are worries still. Adding to the roster of our possessions does not make worry over them go away. Quite the opposite. The more things we possess the more our minds obsess over ensuring the safety of those things.

#### Don’t worry. (25–30)

If Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount is any indication, worry over possessions is not a modern phenomenon. Set in the middle of His instruction

to the crowds is the admonishment: “Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?” (v. 25) What Jesus calls for in these lines is a reevaluation of what is most important in life.

Life, Jesus reminds His hearers, should be centered on things more important than food and clothing. A higher calling reaches out to us. And even if life did revolve around material things, what ultimately can we do about it? Birds find their food and lilies their beauty because God gives these blessings to them. God will provide us everything we need to live a God-honoring, faithful life.

A life lived along a trajectory of material prosperity but outside the trajectory of God’s blessing is a miserable life indeed.

#### Trust God to do what is best for you. (31–32)

More important than mastering the techniques leading to financial prosperity is mastering the attitude of trust that looks to God’s particular blessing. Jesus warns His hearers that obsessing over possessions is what the Gentiles — those people who are outside of God’s calling — do.

He urges them instead to trust in their heavenly Father, who knows exactly what they need and will provide it for them at just the right moment.

#### Seek the things of God above all else. (33–34)

Far more important than possessions is pursuing a life filled with Kingdom values and a commitment to God’s righteousness. Material blessings often come to God’s people simply as an outflow of living the sort of righteous lives God commands.

It is important not to get the cart before the horse. We should seek first His righteousness and then let God add His blessings when and how He sees fit. 🌿



# Media reviews

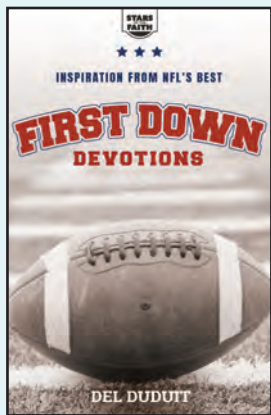
## First Down Devotions: Inspiration from the NFL's Best (Stars of the Faith)

Del Duduit. Birmingham: Iron Stream Books, 2019. 160 pp. (Paperback).

NFL players Kurt Warner, Andy Dalton, Jim Kelly and Kirk Cousins have made their mark on the football field, but their success is the result of years of pursuing excellence and overcoming obstacles. We learn about some of those highs and lows in “First Down Devotions,” a new book by author and journalist Del Duduit.

In the book Duduit shares stories from the lives of several NFL players and coaches. The devotions include faith-filled testimonies and spiritually sound guidance for living the Christian life. The stories of these popular sports figures will make great conversation starters with friends and co-workers during the upcoming football season.

“First Down Devotions” is part of Iron Stream Media’s Stars of the Faith series. Duduit is also author of “Dugout Devotions.” For more information visit [ironstreammedia.com](http://ironstreammedia.com). (TAB)



## Becoming a Welcoming Church

Thom Rainer. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2018. 101 pp. (Hardback).

Author Thom Rainer, former CEO of LifeWay, poses a question we can all easily answer: Would you return to a church where you didn’t feel welcome? Of course not. But aren’t we a friendly, welcoming church? The answer, according to Rainer’s research, is “Of course we are friendly ... to each other.” Oops.

The book is a practical guide to doing just what the title promises. Rainer covers elements he deems necessary to attract visitors and keep them coming: devising a web site that is easy to navigate and up to date; displaying clearly marked signage; making sure the facility is clean and safe; and establishing procedures for welcoming guests, including a visitor center and greeters. The book also includes a facility audit and a secret guest survey.

This is just a brief overview of the information here. The author goes into some detail about all of his recommendations. My guess is every church would benefit from Rainer’s experience and helpful advice.



## No Place to Hide

Ed Higdon. Pittsburgh, PA: Dorrance, 2018. 216 pp. (Paperback).

This fiction book is set in Arkansas during the Great Depression. That tends to be a depressing (no pun intended) era to read about but read on.



The story revolves around a young man who has just served time for a crime he did not commit (depressing), who sets out to help a struggling family after the husband is injured in an accident (even more depressing). But wait — this is a story of hope and triumph — not depressing at all.

I have probably given away more than I should but the story grabbed my attention a few pages in and kept it through

the rest of the book, even though parts of the narrative had too much detail. The book would have been just about perfect at 25–30 pages shorter. Even so it was a solid read written from a clearly Christian perspective. I understand more books by this author will be coming and I look forward to reading them.

Higdon is a member of Central Baptist in Decatur.

## To the Ends of the Earth: Hearing the Voice of God and Following His Guidance

Tore Haavik. Decatur, AL: Self-Published, 2019. 148 pp. (Paperback).

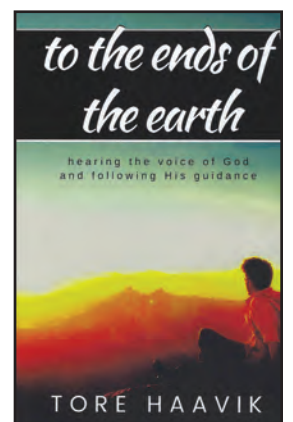
I get a lot of books to review these days. It’s been a while since I was affected this much by a book. This guy gets it and he knows how to tell about it.

Tore Haavik, a Norwegian now living in Decatur, is a financial planner with a heart for missions and a well-developed ability to hear the voice of God.

This book recounts an experience he had a few years ago that began with an act of obedience to God’s promptings, followed by a miraculous healing and an unplanned trip to a place in China where no foreigners ever go.

The author does more than just tell the story of his experiences. He frequently steps out of the narrative to encourage his readers, challenging them and inviting them to join him in living a life of complete trust and dependence on God.

I don’t use the phrase “life-changing” about many books. This one definitely is. ✝



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## Meet the reviewer

Martine Bates  
Fairbanks, Ed.D., reviews  
books and movies for The  
Alabama Baptist. She is  
a university professor  
and retired principal. She  
is a member of Central  
Baptist Church, Decatur.



BookReviews@charter.net

# Rumbles of compassion

**'Ride to Clyde' motorcycle ministry raises \$77K for Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina**

**C**heering children and visitors waved excitedly as they welcomed more than 100 motorcyclists who thundered triumphantly onto the grounds of Broyhill Home in Clyde, North Carolina, on May 11 to deliver a record \$77,674.88 for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina (BCH).

It was a crowning conclusion for the annual Ride to Clyde, which has raised more than \$185,000 in the past four years. Not even the morning's sometimes heavy rainfall could dampen the spirits of the riders or those of children and guests gathered under umbrellas and pavilions at Broyhill for a music-and-barbecue celebration.

Riders were all ages. Tom Poston of Fayetteville, North Carolina, brought along his 84-year-old father while several riders brought their children, riding along on the seats behind them.

Motorcyclists clad in brightly colored rain gear rode their wide assortment of two- and three-wheeled motorcycles around the Broyhill cottages and down the steep road by the children before dismounting to present the large, board-mounted check to BCH President Michael C. Blackwell, who beamed with delight.

## How to pray:

- ▶ Pray those involved with the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina will know their value in God's eyes.
- ▶ Pray for the safety of motorcycle ministry volunteers across the country and that they carry the love of God wherever they go. (TAB)



Photos by Mike Creswell

Motorcyclists pray before setting out on wet roads for the last day of Ride to Clyde, a 450-mile, cross-state trip visiting Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) of North Carolina sites. The 2019 ride raised more than \$77,000 for BCH.

Ride to Clyde riders mostly favor black T-shirts and jackets as do other motorcyclists, but many of the Ride to Clyde riders sported Bible verses on their vests, cross emblems or church banners.

## Blessed by God

The riders included pastors and church staffers, plus riders from several Baptist biker churches and some of North Carolina's many Christian motorcycle ministries.

More than 40 Christian motorcycle groups in the state are affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

The bikers covered more than 450 miles on some of North Carolina's

most scenic byways over the four-day ride. Bikers are divided into smaller groups for safety and to reduce impact on small towns. Routes are carefully selected for both scenic value and safety.

Rider Terry Blake, a deacon at Calvary Baptist Church, Norwood, North Carolina, rode his Indian Roadmaster Classic this year. His church takes up an offering during Vacation Bible School for BCH. They also sponsor an annual motorcycle ride to Oak Ranch, a BCH home for unwed mothers.

"Every time we do some ministry with the Baptist Children's Homes, God just blesses it so much," Blake said. (BP)



Riders rumble through Fort Caswell at Oak Island headed to Cameron Boys Camp. Others went to Camp Duncan, the outdoor girls camp. Bikers are split into smaller groups for safety and to reduce impact on smaller towns.