



The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



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Man's story of near suicide offers hope to others

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



Photo courtesy of FBC Tallassee

Regardless of whether a church uses a choir, like FBC Tallassee (above), or a praise team, like the team from FBC Trussville (right), the key to worship is biblical songs and a proper mindset.



Photo by Jessica Ingram

What is worship?

Biblically based worship must be prioritized over technology, trends

By **Lanell Downs Smith**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

When it comes to worship music only one thing is essential, according to Keith Hibbs, director of the office of worship leadership and church music

for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions: The approach to worship must be biblically based.

"When I teach sessions on worship I always ask individuals what has influenced how they worship," Hibbs said. "What is worship in the Scripture? That ought to be the biggest influence and the biggest model used to plan worship."

Hibbs cites Isaiah 6 and Psalm 100 as excellent models for worship, noting the need to begin with thanks and then praise.

According to Hibbs, music is an important part of worship and a proper mindset includes singing from the heart in thanksgiving to the Lord.

'Song in your heart'

"Colossians 3:16-18 talks about exhorting one another as we sing psalms, hymns or spiritual songs. In your worship times you should exhort and encourage each other while you're singing. Some people say they don't sing but if you've had a true experience with Jesus Christ,

you've got a song in your heart."

Music can play many roles in worship and one of those roles is to allow each music participant the opportunity to reflect to the congregation and their fellow musicians the qualities that should be the norm for every believer, said Thomas Smith, music minister at Providence Baptist Church, Opelika.

"That norm is that the Holy Spirit, who is indwelling the life of every believer, should (See 'Intergenerational,' page 8)

Missions advocate dies at 95, leaves a 'no regrets' legacy of being on mission

Missions. It's a story Marguerite Butler went looking for and once she found it she just couldn't stop chasing it.

It all started with a tornado, she told *The Alabama Baptist* back in 2017. It had rolled through Guin in 1973 and almost wiped the town off the map, but what Butler remembered most was a lady who sat weeping in her Sunday School class the following weekend.

New purpose

"She was retired but she had gone back to work so that she could earn the money to buy a pleasure boat," Butler said. "It got blown away with the house. She just cried and said she had spent two years working for nothing."

That day started a new narrative in Butler's life — one with new priorities and purpose. She and her husband, Gilbert, called the North American Mission Board and told them they would go anywhere they needed five sets of hands (they had three children too).

And for the rest of her life, until she died Aug. 28 at age 95, she invested her life going on as many missions trips as she could.

Her family did missions work in St. Louis, assisted visitors to the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta and served at the Seaman Center in Mobile. After the kids went off to college she and her husband served three summers in China, a year in Guyana and six months in West Africa. They traveled to Ukraine twice and taught school in American Samoa. A map at their church, First Baptist, Guin, is strewn with pins marking the places they've been over the years.

Rod Marshall, president of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries, called her a "giant for the cause of missions."

"Her legacy is indeed rich," he said. "In addition to holding a record for most missions trips she also served as an ambassador for our ministry in her association."

Scott Stokes, director of missions for Lamar Baptist Association and

former pastor of First, Guin, said she was a missionary at heart.

"It's been a lifestyle for them for a long, long time," he said of the couple.



BUTLER

It's a story Butler loved living, and a story *TAB* loved telling. We love sharing stories of what God is doing through missionary hearts all over the state. Have you been on a trip lately that you think would be a blessing to share with others? Drop us an email at news@thealabamabaptist.org with some details and pictures.

And if Butler's story has inspired you to think about going for the first time, we know she would tell you this, something she said emphatically in 2017: "If you're considering doing missions go for it — you'll never regret it."

So in honor of her legacy, go do it. Live it. And we would love to tell as many of your stories as we can. (Grace Thornton)

Have you been on a trip lately that you think would be a blessing to share with others? Drop us an email at news@thealabamabaptist.org with some details and pictures.



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.



My reason for reading TAB is to see what is going on in our state — to stay informed about the work of our churches and people, news about programs we could participate in, places of missions work, what Women on Mission groups are doing in their churches, pastor changes, letters addressed to TAB, reading about our three colleges, happenings in our associations (I have lived in 4) and of course the crossword puzzle (thanks for making it larger!), My Rationale and TwitterVerse. I love the new layout!
A retired church secretary



"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



Give others a chance to help; what do you have to lose?

The details are foggy about that morning but the tragic reality never leaves me. I remember the call, the intense grief and the hours my younger brother, baby cousin and I spent playing in the car as the adults in our family surrounded my Aunt Sybil and Uncle Jim.

The scene was too much for kids so our parents tucked us safely away in the family car where they could keep an eye on us but not expose us directly to what was happening inside the house.

My oldest cousin, Steve, had committed suicide a few hours before daylight.

It has been nearly 40 years since that difficult day but I can still sense the intensity surrounding it all — especially the devastation and heartbreak of my Aunt Sybil, who found him that morning. She never spoke of Steve again in public. There were no photos of him in her house. Everything of his disappeared. I'm sure she had it stored away somewhere safe but it was not to be discussed.

My Aunt Sybil held tightly to her faith and served everyone she could with every ounce of energy she had. She took great care of my Uncle Jim, who suffered from several serious health issues. She grieved hard when she buried him too, but there was something different about the grief she walked through with her son.

I spent a lot of time at Aunt Sybil's house especially after Steve's death. She loved to spoil her nephews and nieces and we loved how she spoiled us.

Every once in a while I would actually be the only one there with her. I treasured those moments because that's when she would talk about Steve and her relationship with the Lord and how she was surviving each day on the journey.

Her eyes always welled up with the biggest tears and she could never look directly at me as she talked, but she would share until the pain was too much to bear.

She couldn't understand why he would take his own life, why he didn't want to live. She described the pain as having an

entire section of her body ripped away with a gaping wound that remained eternally raw. I'm not exactly sure how I processed all that she shared during those moments, but I know I hurt deeply for my aunt and uncle as well as our entire family.

There has been another incident of suicide in my extended family and at least two moments when I was the one on the phone talking someone down from threatening suicide.

It's truly an overwhelming experience. I found myself angry at times — angry because the person seemed to be acting so

selfishly in that moment. How could he or she do this to the rest of us? How could he or she hurt his or her parents like that?

As I've heard people's stories, talked to experts and learned about the tendencies of suicide through the years, I've realized a person at that point truly doesn't see a way out. A number of reasons may lead to the pivotal point, but in all cases the person needs professional assistance.

If you are thinking about taking your life, then please reach out. There is hope. Start by calling 1-800-273-8255. 🌈

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Embracing your areas of responsibility with joy, a servant's heart and a teachable spirit makes those around you better

Reflecting on the past nine months of transition here at *The Alabama Baptist* and TAB Media, I'm realizing how many updates have taken place. We are enjoying keeping you informed on what we are doing and can't wait to share more updates soon.

As you can imagine, change brings with it all kinds of emotions. Our team members have survived extremely well in all that has been spinning around them. I'm proud of the heart and strength they are demonstrating.

Everyone is working hard to be a positive help in the transition but even in the best of circumstances change can be wearing.

We've tried to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about each other as well as ourselves while moving the ministry

forward. It's helping to sharpen us as a team and definitely building a bond we know will pay dividends for you in the future.

You might relate to some of what we've learned about each other.

Responding to change

Some on the team are wanting to run faster, change more quickly and get to where we are going sooner.

Others prefer we slow down and perfect the existing systems and set ups before starting anything new.

And a solid core are good with the pace and are managing to roll with the constant tweaks despite not always knowing what will look different tomorrow.

So far, no one has refused to make the needed adjustments — and for that I'm grateful.

I'm learning more and more each

day about how to work with individual personalities and how to communicate in a style that makes sense to each person.

We are all learning how to meet in the middle to find common ground that allows all of us to flourish and grow rather than each person trying to force the situation to match where he or she is most comfortable.

It makes my heart sing to figure out each individual and work to customize everyone's environment, training, resourcing, etc., to set them up for success in the position for which they have accepted responsibility.

And when they embrace their role with joy, a servant's heart and a teachable spirit, it makes our collective team's heart sing.

—Jennifer Davis Rash

Your Voice



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

Courage to stand for Christ in workplace

Many Christian Americans are faced with a choice whether to live out their faith or keep their jobs. One week we are receiving accolades for what God is doing through us in our careers and the next week we are facing termination for expressing what we believe about the Bible.

This same bipolar culture existed when Paul and Barnabas were preaching in Lystra (Acts 14:8–20). As a man who had been lame from birth was listening to the gospel message Paul called out to the man and said, “Stand up!” The man leaped to his feet and walked.

When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they concluded that he and Barnabas were gods and wanted to worship them. Paul and Barnabas were agitated, telling the crowd, “We are human beings just like yourselves.” Shortly thereafter, some Jews arrived from Antioch and Iconium and turned the exact same crowds into a murderous mob. They stoned Paul, dragged him out of the city and left him for dead.

Here’s the disturbing part. Verse 20 says believers were in the crowd. They were apparently afraid

to speak out on Paul’s behalf for fear that what happened to Paul might happen to them. They lacked the courage to stand.

Having the courage to stand means living out Christian values publicly. Too many of us proudly live out our faith privately during church activities around other like-minded believers where it’s safe.

“Avoidance is proof we have more fear of worldly consequences than faith in the Kingdom.”

Kelvin Cochran

When it comes to walking it out openly after the benediction, we are paralyzed. The Bible rightly declares, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so!” Sadly many of the redeemed in this untoward culture are silent and passive when it comes to dis-

closing Christ as the source of our blessings.

Like the crowd in Lystra, they see what has happened to believers who have stood publicly and are fearful of the same circumstances if they took a stand. This fear causes many to conclude the cost for standing is too great. Avoidance is proof we have more fear of worldly consequences than faith in the Kingdom consequences of living out our faith.

God understands our fears. He is a very present help in time of trouble. What He doesn’t under-

stand is how a believer will strategically plan how to avoid being discovered as a child of God when we profess embracing the whole truth of Scripture. What He doesn’t understand is why we don’t stand with other believers who are being persecuted.

Overcoming our fears begins with confessing our fears.

If you’re scared, don’t try to hide it. If you’re scared that you will lose your friends for standing on the truth, say you’re scared. If you’re scared you will lose your job, say you’re scared. If you’re scared you will lose your business, say you’re scared.

If we will simply be honest with God, talk to Him about it and stop trying to avoid the conversation, He will hear us and embolden us with courage and strength to stand.

Don’t be afraid to live out your faith. Stand! God will give you courage and strength. Our back is not against the wall. We are not at the end of our rope. Throwing in the towel is not an option. (BP)

EDITOR’S NOTE — Kelvin Cochran is chief operating officer at Elizabeth Baptist Church, Atlanta. In 2015, Cochran was fired from his job as Atlanta’s fire chief following complaints about his Christian views on sexuality as expressed in a men’s devotional book. A federal court later found Cochran’s firing unconstitutional.

We honor the Lord when we treat all kinds of music with respect and do it to the best of our ability as an act of worship.

Thomas Smith
Minister of music
Providence Baptist
Church, Opelika

Believers are on a daily adventure with God. It’s a long-distance hike that requires endurance. So hit the trails.

Darryl Wood
Retired pastor

Churches are different in their worship traditions and expectations and we must respect that and work with our people. I think we need to let God lead us in worship planning and be patient.

Pastor Buddy Champion
FBC Trussville

It’s not “my” church because I own it. It’s “my” church because I am committed to it.

Pastor Greg Corbin
Lakeside Baptist
Church, Birmingham

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“The constant criticism many pastors face is basically death by a thousand cuts.”

THOM RAINER

Founder and CEO of Church Answers

If revival is going to happen, then maybe the first thing that has to happen is judgment on the house of the Lord.

Jonathan Akin, director of Young Leader Engagement for the North American Mission Board, preaching during Etowah Baptist Association's School of the Prophets at FBC Gadsden

As we engage with your Word, I pray we would leave more like Jesus than when we came.

**Pastor Micah Fries
Brainerd Baptist Church
Chattanooga, Tenn.**

People ask, how could a holy God allow evil in the world? They make accusations that if God is holy, this

or that would not have happened in my life. The difficult valleys of life cannot measure the Lord's attributes nor can any type of measuring device created by mankind.

**D. Jay Powell
Author, "Be Inspired:
101 Thoughts for Every
Christian Writer"**

When dealing with people, always err on the side of grace.

**Mike Jackson, director of LeaderCare & Church Health
Alabama Baptist State Board
of Missions**

The same Holy Spirit who empowered the first-century church and breathed life into every generation of the church since is still active

today. God is not surprised by your Muslim neighbors, your gay co-workers and your stubbornly atheist sibling. And he is calling you to be the very announcement of the gospel to them.

**Dan Darling
"The Good and Bad News for
Evangelism in Post-Christian
Culture"**
www.churchplants.com

If we succeed without suffering it is because others suffered before us; if we suffer without succeeding, it is that others may succeed after us.

Edward Judson, son of Adoniram Judson, as quoted in "Upside Down Leadership: Rethinking Influence and Success" by Taylor Field

From the *Twitterverse*

@GoBGR

The Bahamas are in need of your prayers. The road to recovery from #Dorian will be long and arduous, and we ask that you join us in praying for the Bahamian people to find hope and comfort in this crisis, as well for the response teams delivering supplies.

@edstetzer

The reality is pastors struggle psychologically, emotionally and spiritually. They struggle sometimes with physiological realities in and around depression and becoming a follower of Jesus and a pastor does not necessarily make those things disappear.

@VOM_USA

COMMUNIST CHINA: [Sept. 9, 2019,] marks 69 years of Commu-

nist rule in China. Thank God that His word triumphs despite decades of Communist opposition.

@WeMoKevin

"God never intended for the church to be a refrigerator in which to preserve perishable piety. ... He intended it to be an incubator in which to hatch our converts."
— R.G. Lee

@SEBTS

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God." Colossians 3:16

@LifeWay

"As we give and receive we are

reflecting the gospel, which is all about the work of Jesus who gave His life for us so that we might receive eternal life."
— @trillianewbell

@Jeff_Noblit

It seems that the trend every few years is to produce a better version of the church in order to appeal to the culture ... what is really needed is a "truer" church that calls the culture out of its sin and error and into the truth!

@EdLitton

Even when evil is done to us it exposes our need for grace.
Romans 12:14-21

@joshreavis

Pastors, sow and water today. Trust God with the results.



Photo by Pat Musselwhite

Lonette Berg is the executive director of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

Value of a photograph

We have all heard the expression "a picture is worth a thousand words." At the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission (ABHC), we find it to be very true.

It is wonderful to have a detailed written description of how a church building was designed or how a former pastor looked but it is often more meaningful, informative and powerful to see an image.

One of our most frequent requests is for a picture of a former pastor or church building. Sadly we are often unable to help with these requests. The only way a picture becomes part of the ABHC collection is for someone to provide a copy.

Alabama Baptist churches can help provide an important resource and bless future generations by preserving images for the future.

Please send us photographs or drawings of current and former church buildings and photographs of current and former pastors. We would like to have as many as possible.

Remember to include identifying information such as name, location, date, etc.

Mail your pictures to Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, P.O. Box 293928, Birmingham, AL 35229.

If you have any questions, call us at 205-726-2363.

—Lonette Berg

Basics of IMMIGRATION

A look at visas, green cards, refugees, asylum-seekers within US immigration system

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

Understanding the U.S. immigration system can be confusing especially when it comes to the various ways a noncitizen can enter the country legally. *The Alabama Baptist* staff has been learning about the process and wanted to share some key points of information.

Visas and green cards

A visa functions as sort of an admission ticket into the country. A foreign national may legally enter the U.S. on either a temporary (non-immigrant) or permanent (immigrant) visa. Within those two major types many different subcategories of visas exist with differing requirements, time limits and restrictions on the number of people admitted under each visa.

Non-immigrant visas allow for temporary visits to the U.S. by a wide range of foreigners, from diplomats to doctors to deckhands and from athletes to au pairs to amusement park workers.

By contrast immigrants with permanent visas may apply for green cards, which grant them lawful permanent resident status.

According to the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), the U.S. grants about 1 million green cards each year.

“Roughly half are given to immigrants already in the United States who are adjusting from another status (for example temporary worker or student). The remainder go to applicants outside the United States. In both cases the majority of these visas require sponsorship by a relative or employer,” MPI reports.

Reunifying families is central to the U.S. immigration system, more



A visa functions as sort of an admission ticket into the U.S. A foreign national may legally enter the U.S. on either a temporary or permanent visa.

so than what happens in other countries, according to MPI.

“While the share varies from year to year roughly two-thirds of legal immigration to the U.S. is on the basis of family ties with the rest divided between employment-based and humanitarian immigration and those arriving through the green-card lottery (also called the diversity visa).”

The diversity visa option is where foreigners from countries and regions with historically low rates of immigration to the U.S. are allowed to apply for a green card.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), up to 50,000 immigrant visas per year are randomly selected from applicants from six geographic regions: Europe; Africa; Asia; Oceania; North America (excluding Mexico); and South America, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

“The odds of being selected for this opportunity are very small,”

reports the American Immigration Council (AIC), “with an average of 13.3 million people submitting applications each year.”

Refugees and asylum-seekers

The U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) defines a refugee as “any person who is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence and is unable or unwilling to return to or seek protection of that country due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.”

Individuals outside the U.S. may apply for humanitarian status as refugees while those already in the U.S. (whether legally or illegally) must apply as asylum-seekers.

Asylum-seekers must prove they meet the definition of a refugee as specified by the Refugee Act of 1980. Since the passage of that act the U.S. has admitted more than 3 million refugees and granted asylum to more than 683,000 foreign nationals, ac-

ording to the State Department.

Refugees and asylees are assisted by faith-based and volunteer agencies with their resettlement and integration into the U.S. and are eligible to receive certain ORR benefits and services upon their arrival.

Once the world leader in refugee resettlement, the U.S. has in recent years drastically reduced the numbers of refugees it will accept, the AIC reports. Refugee admissions dropped from a high of 110,000 in early 2017 to 30,000 this year.

In 2018, AIC reported the largest share of refugees arriving in the U.S. came from Africa (46.5%), followed by the Near East/South Asia (16.9%), East Asia (16.3%), Europe (16.1%) and Latin America/Caribbean (4.2%).

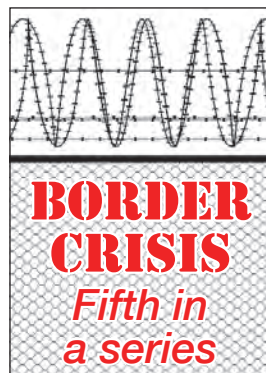
As for those asking for but not yet granted refugee status the U.S. expects to process more than 280,000 asylum-seekers this year but only a small percentage of them are likely to be granted asylum. In 2017, for instance, only 26,568 of 259,104 applications for asylum were granted. Of those 21% were from China, 13% from El Salvador and 11% from Guatemala.

LPR status

Once refugee or asylee status is granted the immigrant may seek to stay in the U.S.

“Refugees must apply for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status — getting a green card — one year after being admitted to the U.S. Asylees become eligible to adjust to LPR status after one year but are not required to do so,” MPI reports.

“As lawful permanent residents refugees and asylees have the right to own property, attend public schools, join certain branches of the U.S. armed forces and travel internationally without an entry visa. They may also apply for U.S. citizenship five years after being admitted.”





Children, teachers and volunteers gather in the lunchroom at Highland Park Christian School in Chiquimula, Guatemala. The school is supported by Global Missions of Mercy.

Photo by Jason Davis

MY MISSIONS STORY

Canceled Haiti missions trip sets stage for impactful ministry in Guatemala

By Jason Davis
Special to The Alabama Baptist

Early in 2018, Calvary Baptist Church, Russellville, in Franklin Baptist Association, had a small group of people prepared and prayed up, ready to go to Haiti. I had labored greatly over this decision — my first missions trip — but had agreed to go.

Shortly before the trip we met to pack all of the many items we were taking. As we entered the room that evening it was evident something wasn't quite right. We soon found out there was unrest in Haiti. It was not safe for us to travel there and the trip I had spent many hours planning for was canceled.

As I left that night I was relieved God had kept us safe from danger but very disappointed in not getting to go on the trip.

But my disappointment turned into excitement again a few months later when my dear friend and fellow church member Robbie Richardson worked out the details for our team to join an effort in Guatemala.

Readjusted plans

The trip was booked for October, a few months after the original trip was planned, and most of us on the initial team could go.

While in Guatemala we saw many come to faith in Jesus and the medical team cared for more than 1,000 patients. We also met new friends.

One of those new friends is Frank Whittaker, previous pastor of First Baptist Church, Barton, in Cherokee, Alabama. He now serves on

the board of Global Missions of Mercy (GMM).

As we talked Frank shared the vision of GMM and described how the school we were visiting on this trip had grown over the years. He also showed some of us where they hoped to build the next addition to the school.

During the entire trip I took it all in and found myself asking God why I was there. What talent did I have that could be used? I would find out.

As 2018 drew to a close and the new year approached the thoughts of the vision that Frank had shared began to stir. A group of us at Calvary discussed helping build the next phase of the school and we agreed we would start raising money.

We set a goal and announced it in mid-January 2019. I phoned Frank and told him what we were doing and made the comment that I didn't know how long this would take but we would just have to see what God had planned. I didn't understand then but when God is in something, things happen at God speed.

Within a month, with only a small portion of the goal raised, I began to hear that several had already agreed to go build the building. A trip was planned for June and 35 slots were reserved, still without much of the money we needed raised.

But by April we had the funds in hand and were in full trip-planning mode to build a classroom, provide medical services and evangelize.

We headed out with a purpose and a plan and brought back a success story.

The building team was able to complete the classroom, two medical providers saw hundreds of patients, many came to faith in Christ and 10 much-needed Filter of Hope brand water filters were given away to families.

Now nearly 2 months after the trip I can look back and see why God originally sent me in October 2018. It was to prepare me to be part of the next journey God was planning in June 2019 and to be part of the building of the classroom at Highland Park Christian School in Chiquimula, Guatemala.

The school is fully supported by

GMM, a small group of volunteers who are dedicated to following the Great Commission by feeding the minds, bodies and souls of the impoverished children and families living in the mountain villages near Chiquimula.

One hundred percent of all donations go directly to the school to provide for the needs of the children, the facility and the school staff.

For more information visit globalmissionsofmercy.net or find GMM on Facebook.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This article is the first in a new occasional column featuring Alabama Baptists sharing their first-person missions experiences. If you would like to share a "My Missions Story," send it to news@thealabamabaptist.org.

Share your missions experience by emailing us at news@thealabamabaptist.org.



Photo by Jason Davis

A new classroom at Highland Park Christian School in Chiquimula, Guatemala, provides education space for children living in nearby mountain villages.

Intergenerational worship is 'scriptural picture' of praise

(continued from page 1)
 be the chief motivating force for all the believer does," Smith said. "When the Holy Spirit becomes the major player in the church musician, the congregation will not only see the fruits of the spirit as described in Galatians but will see a worship participant who is real, genuine and a team player. When this happens in the music-maker, regardless of the musical style, our Lord will be glorified and the people will worship."

Hibbs said the substance of worship is far more important than the style, noting the debate over worship styles can be divisive in churches.

A current trend many churches incorporate is technology to enhance worship, including screens, worship presentation software or sound systems.

Along with technology around 75% of churches still have hymnals in the pews, Hibbs said.

Hibbs considers intergenerational worship to be one of the healthiest trends, since it combines multiple generations in leadership roles.

Healthy trend

"It is healthy because we at times have wanted to separate by generation our worship congregation," Hibbs said. "I think the rate at which we see our youth dropping out of church once they leave high school relates to the fact that they don't have contact with enough mature Christian adults to better establish roots in the Christian faith. Most of our churches today see the need for an intentional intergenerational worship service at least once a month. It's a very

Concept of worship broader than the singing on Sunday morning

Many churchgoers use the terms "worship" and "music" interchangeably, but music is only one component of worship, according to Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship and keynote speaker at the recent OneDay for Worship Leaders conference

held at Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham.

"Worship incorporates how we approach and honor God, and music is a major part but only one part of this process," Harland said.

Instead of debating music styles Harland, author of the book "Worship Essentials" and host of the WorshipLife

podcast, believes churches should focus on four values of worship:

1. Tell the story
2. Make true disciples
3. Engage the body
4. Aspire with purpose.

For the full article visit www.tabonline.org/four-values. (Michael J. Brooks)

The current list is very short.

Hibbs' office provides training events like the annual One Day for Worship Leaders, a conference for worship leaders and pastors held Aug. 29 at Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham.

Hibbs and his team also provide other adaptable training events for associations and churches where groups can learn tips for leading worship, using technology, leading a choir and a variety of other topics.

For information about training opportunities contact Hibbs at 334-613-2217 or khibbs@alsbom.org.

healthy, scriptural picture of worship."

First Baptist Church, Tallahassee, in Elmore Baptist

Association, is working to incorporate an intergenerational worship experience in their services, said minister of music and wor-

ship Michael Scarborough.

"A graded choir program is a good place to start,"

Scarborough said. He looks

for arrangements that call for children's and adult choirs to sing together and he often features youth soloists in worship services.

"It's a good thing for the congregation and for the ones singing," he said.

As worship trends change so does the need for leaders as many churches shift from volunteers or full-time music ministers to bivocational worship leaders.

Hibbs has seen a growing need for individuals to realize the call to bivocational

music ministry and hopes to build a list of individuals called to worship leadership.

For information about training opportunities contact Keith Hibbs at 334-613-2217 or khibbs@alsbom.org.

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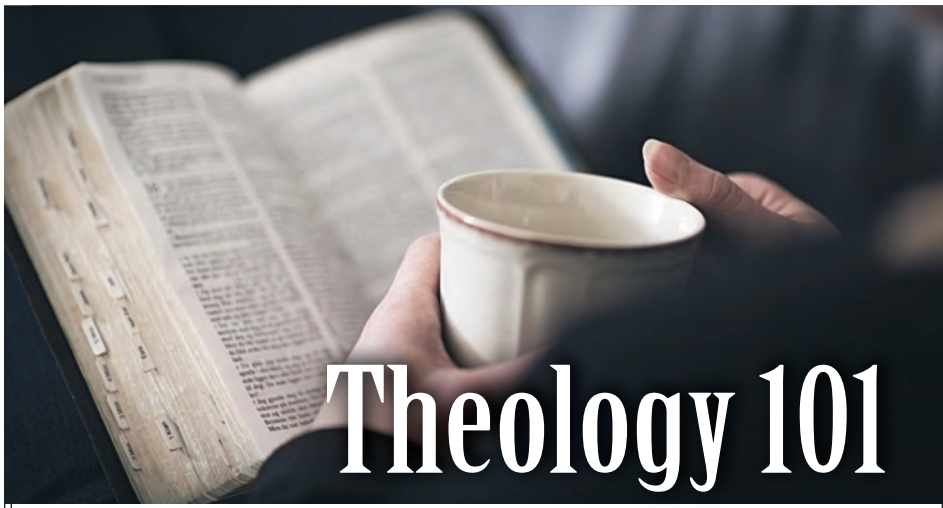
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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Aspects of an Abundant Life

A Grounded Life

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

This week we give thought to an abundant life as a grounded life. In doing so we can take a lesson from Jesus the master teacher who tended to shun communicating truth with words of six, seven or eight syllables. He chose rather to communicate through common, everyday objects and experiences. In doing so He let those familiar objects and experiences become the vehicles that carried His message.

Like Jesus the Bible often uses common images to communicate theological truth. For example we encounter both the architectural metaphor of a building and the agricultural metaphor of a tree as ways of setting forth truth for life.

A worthy building rests on a strong, deeply embedded foundation and a fruitful tree has a strong and deep root system. So we turn to the Bible where we discover both images set forth as a way of thinking about the Christian life.

Grounded in love

Both of these images are expressed in the Ephesians 3:17 prayer that Christ may dwell in our hearts and that we might thereby be rooted (like a tree) and grounded (like a building) in love.

From these two illustrations we think of abundant Christian living as stemming from a solidly grounded life after the likeness of a tree grounded by its roots and a building by its foundation.

Among specific biblical truths to be gleaned from these images is that of stability such as contributes

to an abundant life. Like a building withstanding strong winds due to its sturdy foundation so a life grounded in sound doctrine can withstand the winds of false teaching that often abound.

Deeply rooted

The Bible encourages us as Christians not to “be children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine” (Eph. 4:14).

Like a tree with healthy roots demonstrates its health by bearing good fruit, so a life deeply rooted in the good soil of sound doctrine sports attractive foliage and bears abundant fruit. Stability, attractiveness and fruitfulness all contribute to the abundant Christian living that results from being rooted and grounded in God’s truth.

After Colossians 1:23 admonishes, “Continue in the faith grounded and steadfast and not moved away from the hope of the gospel,” Colossians 2:6–7 goes on to say, “As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith as you have been taught abounding in it with thanksgiving.”

A grounded life leads to abundant living. ✝

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.



Persecuted church

Hindu extremists demand retribution after organizers show Christian film

Immanuel Tirkey and about 100 villagers were watching the end of a Christian film in Bihar state, India, when a man began challenging their right to view the film.

Tirkey was one of five Christians who had organized the Aug. 23 screening of “He Will Come Again” at the home of a Christian woman identified only as Anandi.

The protester left but returned with at least 15 other Hindu villagers armed with swords, bamboo poles and wooden sticks. Protesters

demanding that at least one of the Christians should be “beaten to death to teach us a lesson and [so] that it would be the end of Christianity in the village,” Tirkey said.

India is ranked 10th on Christian support organization Open Doors’ 2019 World Watch List of the countries where it is most difficult to be a Christian.



Morning Star News photo
A group of youth at the entrance of a house in India where a Christian film was shown.

In related news:

▶ A Cuban pastoral couple who homeschooled their children through a private online Christian school has been imprisoned, convicted of violating a Cuban law that prohibits allowing minors to miss school or to “refuse the educational work inherent in the national education system.”

The couple had served one year of house arrest for homeschooling in 2017. In both trials prosecutors argued homeschooling “is not allowed in Cuba because it has a capitalist base” and only teachers are trained “to inculcate socialist values,” reported the independent news outlet *Diario de Cuba*, which has closely followed the case.

A spokesperson for Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) noted other Christian children and parents have suffered similarly.

“Over the years CSW has received numerous cases of children of pastors being bullied and ridiculed at school because of their religious beliefs even to the point of causing serious psychological trauma,” said CSW’s Anna-Lee Stangl. “This is unacceptable.”

▶ A Baptist pastor kidnapped and tortured in Nigeria was released after his family and Christian leaders paid a ransom, sources said.

Muslim Fulani herdsmen in Kaduna state who abducted Elisha Noma on Aug. 14 received 3 million naira (\$8,181) before freeing him Aug. 31.

In August alone more than 40 pastors in Nigeria were either kidnapped or suffered some form of violence from herdsmen or Boko Haram terrorists.

Nigeria ranked 12th on Open Doors’ 2019 World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most persecution.

▶ A Roman Catholic priest and an evangelical pastor in Mexico were killed in August and another pastor was kidnapped, according to published reports.

José Martín Guzmán Vega was killed Aug. 22 in Matamoros, Tamaulipas state, in northeast Mexico, according to the Catholic Multimedia Center (CCM). He was stabbed several times inside his parish.

His death brings to 27 the number of priests killed in Mexico since 2012, according to CCM.

On the other side of the country in southwest Mexico’s Oaxaca state, Pastor Alfrery Lictor Cruz Canseco was shot to death in Tlalixtac de Cabrera on Aug. 18 shortly after leading a worship service at his church.

Mexico ranks 39th on Christian support organization Open Doors’ 2019 World Watch List of the 50 countries where Christians experience the most persecution. (MS)



Every year around this time, many conversations turn to the topic of coaching. But mention coaching to George Yates, and he's likely not to mention football at all, but rather effective church leadership.

For many years Yates, who serves as church health strategist for the State Board of Missions, has trained leaders to be effective coaches who can come alongside others "to unearth their God-given gifts and abilities, and then be able to apply that in their ministry setting."

Drawing from a career that has included both corporate and church leadership experience, Yates has spent the last nine years training people in multiple states – including Alabama for the last two years – to be effective coaches.

The author of several books, including *Coaching: A Way of Leadership*, *a Way of Life*, Yates has trained around 20 Alabama Baptists – primarily pastors, state missionaries and associational missionaries – as coaches over the past year, and another 12 are in the process of being trained. That training, which is a three-level process, is made possible by the gifts of Alabama Baptists through the Cooperative Program and to the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering.

Having an army of trained coaches is essential to the SBOM's strategy for church revitalization. After new coaches are trained, they are paired with churches based on several criteria, including the specific needs of the church, the geographic proximity of the coach to the

church, and a matching of the character and personality traits of the church and its pastor with the coach.

So what makes a good coach? While a successful football coach might focus on the fundamentals of passing, rushing and blocking, Yates notes that in his playbook, a good coach is one who is able to use deeper listening skills and formulate good, thought-provoking questions.

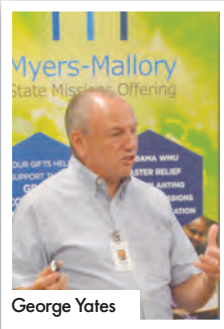
"Words make up only 7% of what we communicate. The other 93% comes through body language, eye contact, and voice tone and fluctuation," Yates said. "Therefore, learning to understand body language and cultivate those deeper listening skills is crucial, so that you can then ask questions that lead to forward progress."

The goal, Yates said, is to build stronger leaders to accomplish God's purpose in fulfilling the Great Commission through individuals and ministries in the local church.

"By building better leaders and assisting pastors and others in developing stronger leadership abilities, we will see more high-level leaders in our churches that can in turn raise more leaders," Yates said.

State Missionary Mike Jackson sees firsthand the impact of Yates' training on the SBOM's church revitalization efforts. "Others have taught us life coaching skills. George has taken us deeper by connecting life coaching to assisting churches."

For more information about church revitalization and the coaching process, contact State Missionary Mike Jackson, 1-800-264-1225, ext. 210, (334) 613-2210, mjackson@alsbom.org.



George Yates



Coaches Training participants take part in an exercise focused on honing their skills of observation.



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.

SEPTEMBER

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**

Turning to God for help

Blount County man's story of near suicide offers hope to others facing crisis

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Growing up in Blount County, Tommy Skillman never would have guessed he'd be a millionaire one day.

And once he was a millionaire he never would have guessed that one day he'd be pacing the floor with a handgun in one hand, a photo of his family in the other, on the brink of taking his own life.

"But it happened to me," he said. "And it could happen to you."

God got a hold of him

It was God who got a hold of him first as he grew up and was baptized at Harmony Missionary Baptist Church, Oneonta, in Blount Baptist Association. It was Peggy Gail Jenkins who got a hold of him next — they met and Skillman knew he had found his wife.

But it was money that

controlled him after that and he didn't see it coming. It was a slow fade over decades. He had worked for the railroad for years and as the railroad company began consolidating jobs Skillman got nervous. As they laid people off and everything was said and done, at 25 years of service, he was the shortest-tenured person left.

"God took care of us," he said. "I had one of the highest-paying jobs that was left and we were doing fine."

But his anxiety for the future got the best of him. He bought some chicken houses from his neighbor just in case he needed a backup plan.

His business grew and five years later he went to buy his first tractor and hay baler. As he applied for

credit the salesman told him with everything he had listed as his assets he was a millionaire.

And over time as Skillman leaned into his money, he put God on the backburner.

He went to church less and less and hung out at the lake more and more. And a little later when he went back to buy another tractor, the salesman told him he was now worth \$3.5 million.

"It went to my head," Skillman said.

But it wasn't long before his empire began to crumble. In 2007 he experienced a bad tractor wreck and he found himself battling depression and hooked on pain pills.

He received a settlement from the insurance company for his wreck and he spent the money on one of his hobbies.

"I went on a buying spree and bought nine antique vehicles," Skillman said. "My wife said, 'Tommy, what are you doing to us? You're going to bankrupt us.'"

Some months later he went back to the bank to get a loan to make improvements to the chicken houses and the bank wouldn't let him have it.

"I told them, 'If I can't get chickens I'm going to have to close the doors and you're going to wind up with the farm back,'" Skillman said.

That's exactly what happened. The bank took the farm and he and his wife ended up back at his old home place in Blount County. In 1975 it was fully paid for but now he owed a \$1,000 mortgage payment to the bank each month.

That's when he was walking the floor, holding the gun and the picture. But God "slapped me on the back and I hit the floor," he said. "I put the gun on the shelf and gave it to my wife the next morning and told her to put it up."

She broke down when she realized her husband's condition, Skillman said.

But they began struggling along together and turned to God to help them find a way out.

"We're pulling ourselves out of it," Skillman said. "God's blessed us, He's watched over us."

'Tell your story'

Now Skillman has a Fishing for Jesus ministry and he'll take anyone fishing who wants to go, he said. It's free — but he'll share Jesus with you.

"I just thank God that He was there the night I had the .38 in my hand," said Skillman, now a member of Walnut Grove Missionary Baptist Church, West End. "I feel like God wants me to help somebody, and maybe I have. Maybe this will — maybe it'd help you to tell your story."✝

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Photo courtesy of Joey Rodgers

Concert-goers gather for Fire in the Park, an annual outreach event hosted by Conecuh Baptist Association churches. More than 600 attended the concert this year.

Conecuh back-to-school bash a fruitful success

More than 600 gathered at this year's Fire in the Park on Aug. 10 — more than double the turn out from last year.

Hosted by Conecuh Baptist Association churches, Fire in the Park is an annual outreach concert event used to share the love of Christ with Conecuh County.

God still moved

Even as the sky got dark and the event lighting started to have problems, God still moved in the crowd, said Joey Rodgers, associational missions director for

Conecuh Baptist Association.

“One leader shared with me that he had been praying for one young lady for several years and that night she accepted Christ as her Savior,” he said.

“An event such as this where we as Christians come together, crossing traditional denominational, social and racial boundaries, provides an example ... of the things we can accomplish when we work together for a common goal” of changed hearts and lives. (TAB)

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

Joey Rodgers
associational missions director
Conecuh Baptist Association



TAB CLASSIFIEDS

For information on placing a classified ad call 205-870-4720, ext. 102 or email ads@thealabamabaptist.org.

CHURCH POSITIONS

SENIOR PASTOR

Linden Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a full-time senior pastor. We are a conservative Southern Baptist church located in Marengo County, Alabama, with blended style of traditional and contemporary worship. If interested in this position, send resumés to: Linden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 480776, Linden, AL 36748-0776, ATN: Pastor Search Committee or email to: jarnett@bellsouth.net. The deadline for sending resumés is Sept. 30.

PASTOR

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

PASTOR

Indian Springs First Baptist Church, Pelham, AL 35124, seeks pastor. 80,000 population in five-mile radius. Not currently large congregation but having all ages, ample facilities; blended worship; traditional Southern Baptist theology and practice. Seek full-time but will consider part-time; preferred age — 30 to 55; with seminary training and experience; in agreement with Baptist Faith & Message 2000. Submit resumés and recommendations to: indianspringschurch@gmail.com.

PASTOR

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

FULL-TIME MUSIC & WORSHIP PASTOR

Piedmont First Baptist Church, Piedmont, Alabama, is seeking an individual with experience to provide a full-time leadership in developing a quality Christian music ministry of various music

styles that glorifies God. Must have a bachelor's degree in choral or instrumental music, and the ability to play piano/key-board and experience in utilizing and/or coordinating audio, video and lighting. Please send resumé to: info@piedmontfbc.org. Full job description on request.

WORSHIP PASTOR

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

MISSIONS, MEN'S & EVANGELISM PASTOR

First Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking resumés 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 resumés to: MMEPPastorSearch@fbcathens.org.

ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF STUDENTS

First Baptist Church in Athens, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking resumés 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 resumés to: StudentPastorSearch@fbcathens.org.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

New Beginnings Baptist Graysville, Alabama, is searching for a bivocational youth pastor. Youth sixth to 12th grade. Currently small group but many prospects for growth in area. Please send resumés to: nbccbaptist@gmail.com.

BIVOCATIONAL YOUTH PASTOR

First Baptist Church of Dawes

has a part-time opening for a youth pastor. Contact Harold Rester at haroldrester@att.net or send resumé to: FBC of Dawes, 3941 Dawes Rd., Mobile, AL 36695.

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MISCELLANEOUS

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

You are invited to attend the 70th anniversary celebration of West End Baptist Church, 2005 Second Avenue North, in Clanton, AL, on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 10 a.m. Guest speaker is Dr. Charles Carter. A covered-dish lunch will follow the worship service.

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

2019 marks 200th anniversary of first medical mission in Asia

John Scudder (1793–1855) founded the first Western medical mission in Asia in 1819. He also was the first American medical missionary in India.

This year is the 200th anniversary of his founding the medical mission in Asia.

Called to heal the sick

Scudder was born in Freehold, New Jersey, the son of Joseph and Maria Scudder.

In 1811 he graduated from Princeton University. Two years later he completed his degree at New York College of Physicians and Surgeons. One day while caring for a patient

he picked up a pamphlet titled “Conversion of the World, or the Claims of the 600,000,000 and the Ability and Duty of the Churches Respecting Them.” After reading it he felt called to be a missionary to spread the gospel and heal the sick.

In 1816 he married Harriet Waterbury.

He and his wife sailed for Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1819 as missionaries under the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Fellow missionaries ordained him in 1821. Serving in Ceylon as a doctor and a minister Scudder es-

tablished a large hospital, founded schools, started churches and began a seminary.

After turning over the mission to a fellow missionary in 1836 he and his family left Ceylon. He started a medical mission at Madras in northeastern India, becoming the first American medical missionary there.

He returned to the U.S. on health furlough from 1842 to 1846. Returning to India he worked two years at Madura, providing medical aid to the Arcot Mission. He then labored again at Madras until his health failed. In order to im-

prove his deteriorating health Scudder traveled to the Cape of Good Hope, Africa. He died there on Jan. 13, 1955.

Extraordinary legacy

A monument honoring the missionary couple is erected at the Dutch Reformed Church Cemetery in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

John and Harriet Scudder left an extraordinary legacy. Out of 14 children, seven surviving sons and two daughters became missionaries in India. In total 42 members of four generations of the Scudder family devoted their lives to missions in India.✠

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 University–Commerce) and a master’s degree specializing in English from the University of Arkansas (1978).



SCUDDER

Ignoring Hearing Loss Poses New Risks

As the list of health concerns associated with untreated hearing loss grows longer, today’s hearing aid technology gets better and better.



What if you had a medical condition that could lead to severe physical, cognitive and emotional problems, like social

isolation, depression, balance issues ... and even dementia? Rather than ignore it, you’d seek treatment, wouldn’t you?

Not Necessarily.

The condition is hearing loss. And, even though it’s almost always treatable with hearing aids, a majority of those affected wait ... and wait — on average for more than five years — before taking action!

33 Million Americans Have Hearing Loss.

Hearing loss is the third most common

chronic health problem facing older adults in the US. Surprisingly, only 30% of individuals with hearing difficulties actually wear hearing aids.

New Study: Hearing Aids Reduce Cognitive Decline.

The good news? People who address their hearing loss with today’s advanced hearing aids live better lives. They’re much less likely to feel depressed or isolated. And, a 2015 French scientific study concluded that hearing aids helped the hard of hearing stay mentally fit.

Today’s Hearing Aids — Small, Smart, Super Effective.

Recent breakthroughs have enabled today’s hearing aids to offer a remarkably natural listening experience. Instead of simply amplifying sounds, these tiny, smart devices include features that filter out background noise, helping the wearer focus on what they want to hear. Plus, phone calls and music can now be streamed wirelessly directly into the devices. And, smartphones can control hearing aids at the touch of an app, allowing wearers to easily personalize their hearing experience and discreetly adjust to different environments.

Your First Line of Defense — a Simple Hearing Screening

“Addressing hearing loss can reduce its impact on your overall health,” says Dr. John Cariola, Audiologist. Experts urge anyone over 50 to make screenings a routine part of their medical care.

Beltone — a Legacy of Great Hearing Care.

Rated the most trusted name in hearing care among adults over 50, Beltone has been at the leading edge of innovation for over 75 years. Beltone also provides the industry’s most comprehensive hearing care benefits program — Beltone Blue Benefits.



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3 stories

you should know



Photo courtesy of FBC Thorsby

Hundreds of new believers made professions of faith at Southern Baptist churches for Baptism Day on Sept. 8 and were baptized the same day. Baptisms ranged from 1 to more than 100 among several Southern Baptist congregations, according to reports to Baptist Press and on social media. Some baptized in lakes, rivers and creeks and others in baptismal pools. FBC Thorsby pastor Marc Hodges, above left, recently baptized several new believers. (TAB)

BGR to lead Bahamas hurricane relief efforts

Following Hurricane Dorian's extensive damage in portions of the Bahamas, Baptist Global Response (BGR) is providing supplies including blankets, water, sanitation and hygiene kits and is accepting donations and prayer partners for the ongoing relief effort.

BGR conducted an initial damage assessment Sept. 9 and said a more in-depth evaluation will be conducted by the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief network in partnership with the Bahamas Baptist Convention and BGR.

Individuals and churches can contribute financially to the efforts by calling 866-355-7233 or by giving online at gobgr.org.

Sign up for the BGR prayer network for relief and recovery work in the Bahamas at gobgr.org/prayerconnection. (TAB)

US evangelicals meet with Saudi leader

A group of American evangelical Christians met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Sept. 10 in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, Saudi Arabia.

Salman's meeting with prominent Christian figures marks only the second such visit by American evangelicals to Saudi Arabia, which is trying to improve its reputation for religious intolerance and human rights abuses.

For the evangelical visitors it is an opportunity for interreligious dialogue and to push for greater Arab support for the state of Israel, observers said. For Arab leaders like Salman such meetings are an opportunity to strengthen ties with the Trump administration through his evangelical base of supporters, many of whom support Israel as a core part of their faith. (RNS)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

Beasley new Baptist campus minister for Alabama State Univ., Tuskegee



Zach Beasley became a Christian through Baptist Campus Ministries when he was a student at Tuskegee University in 2006.

And now he's going back to the place where it all started — at the beginning of September he became the Baptist campus minister for Tuskegee and Alabama State University (ASU). He'll start serving first at ASU then transition to serve at Tuskegee also.



BEASLEY

"I'll essentially be serving as a missionary to the campus," Beasley said. "As a ministry we will pray for students, reach out to them, encourage them and share the gospel with them."

The goal will be to disciple students through Bible studies and reach the campuses for Christ, he said.

"I'm excited about investing in the students, faculty and staff for the sake of the Kingdom."

Mike Nuss, director of the office of collegiate

and student ministries for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said Beasley knows firsthand the importance of reaching students on this "critical missions field."

"Alabama Baptists are blessed to have someone with Zach Beasley's character, passion for reaching students and love for the college campus as our campus minister at Alabama State University," Nuss said.

Before stepping into his new role Beasley served as youth ministry leader at Strong Tower at Washington Park, Montgomery. (Grace Thornton)

Secular student organization on the rise at U.S. college campuses



At least 10 new chapters of the Secular Student Alliance (SSA) have begun at religiously affiliated U.S. universities, mirroring a national increase in the number of religious nones.

SSA chapters at Baylor University, California Lutheran University, Southern Methodist University, Temple University, Notre Dame and Wesleyan University are among the 312 student

organizations cited on the SSA website though not all chapters are recognized as official student organizations by their universities.



Wikimedia Commons

by the university. Nearly 4 in 10 young adults ages 18 to 29 are religiously unaffiliated — or nones — and are four times more likely as young adults a generation ago to identify this way, according to a study by the Public Religion Research Institute. (RNS)

Shaddix retires from FBC Hartselle, remembers lasting relationships



Charles Shaddix said he's not sure when or how it happens. But at some point along the way when a minister stays at a church for 25 years they tru-

NEWS

News near you

ALABAMA-GRENSHAW ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Luverne**, will celebrate its 130th homecoming Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Clay Crum will preach.

AUTAUGA ASSOCIATION

▶ **White Pond Baptist Church, Marbury**, will host a homecoming celebration Sept. 22 at 9:45 a.m. Nathan and Lindsay Lyon will be the guest singers and Don Graham will be the guest speaker. A covered dish meal will follow the service. White Pond Baptist also will host a revival Sept. 23–26 at 6:30 p.m. featuring Graham. Donnie Burns is pastor.

BETHEL ASSOCIATION

▶ **Sweet Water Baptist Church** will host a commissioning service Sept. 22 at 6 p.m. for new Montana church plant missionaries Morris and Barbara Hill. Clay Davis is transitional/interim pastor.

BIBB ASSOCIATION

▶ **Marvel Baptist Church, Montevallo**, will host a homecoming celebration Sept. 22 at 11 a.m. A singing featuring Heavens Strings and dinner on the grounds will follow the service. Stan Dawson is pastor.

CHILTON ASSOCIATION

▶ **West End Baptist Church, Clanton**, will celebrate its 70th anniversary Sept. 29 at 10 a.m. Charles Carter will be the guest speaker. A covered dish lunch will follow the service. James Watkins is pastor.

CLARKE ASSOCIATION

▶ **Clarke Baptist Association** will host a See You at the Pole rally Sept. 25 at **Pineview Baptist Church, Thomasville**. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and worship begins at 6:15 p.m. The guest speaker will be pastor and comedian Mickey Bell. Food will be served following the rally. Mitch Thrower is pastor of Pineview Baptist.

DALE ASSOCIATION

▶ **Holmes Baptist Church, Ariton**, will host a fifth Sunday night singing Sept. 29 at 5:30 p.m. The Smith Family Singers from Florida will be the featured group. Refreshments will follow. Everyone is invited. Wayne Williams is pastor.

ESCAMBIA ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, East Brewton**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary Sept. 28 and 29. A cookout and hymn singing will be held Sept. 28 beginning at 4:30 p.m. The Sunday service will begin at 10:30 a.m. and Glenn Sandifer will be the guest speaker. Dinner on the grounds will follow the service. Larry Watts is pastor.

MOBILE ASSOCIATION

▶ **First Baptist Church, Satsuma**, will host a homecoming celebration Sept. 29 at 10:45 a.m. Wayne McMillan will be the guest speaker. A covered dish luncheon will follow.

MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION

▶ **Jay Wolf** — pastor of **First Baptist Church, Montgomery**, for the past 31 years — celebrated his 65th birthday Sept. 11 by announcing his plans to retire June 30, 2020.



WOLF

“We plan to stay in Montgomery and at First Baptist,” Wolf said. “Our schedule will change but our purpose remains the same. I am a Kingdom entrepreneur.”

MORGAN ASSOCIATION

▶ **Blue Springs Baptist Church, Somerville**, will host Sensational Sundays in September featuring Rob Jackson on Sept. 22 and Dan Moran on Sept. 29. Services will begin at 6 p.m. For more information visit www.bluespringsbaptist.com. Richard Richie is pastor.

RUSSELL ASSOCIATION

▶ **Ladonia Baptist Church, Phenix City**, will host an indoor arts and crafts fair Sept. 20–21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ladonia Baptist will also host its annual homecoming Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. Wayne Scarborough will bring the message and Gary Mitchell will lead the singing. Greg Hyche is pastor.

ST. CLAIR ASSOCIATION

▶ **McEntyre Baptist Church, Ashville**, will host a singing Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. The Singing Ambassadors will be the guest singers. Everyone is invited. Bobby Joe Winningham is pastor. 🇺🇸

— NEWSBRIEFS —

ly become family, “interwoven in each other’s lives,” said Shaddix, who retired at the beginning of August as the minister of music and senior adults for First Baptist Church, Hartselle. “It was fun to get to watch children grow up and become adults and see the seasons change.”

But his history in music ministry stretches back even further than that. Before First, Hartselle, he served four other churches in the state — First Baptist, Guntersville; Pine Hill Baptist; Langdale Baptist (now First Baptist, Valley); and Grace Baptist, Fairfax.



SHADDIX

“Grace was my very first church,” Shaddix said. “My father was the bivocational pastor there and I started leading music as a high school student.

After he left to serve another church I stayed there.”

He also served a church in Mississippi while he was earning his master of church music at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

All across his ministry Shaddix built strong, lasting relationships. He said now that he and

his wife, Jenny, are retired, one of their plans is to visit each of the six churches he served over his 48 years of ministry.

“Each congregation has been very special to us,” he said. “It’s been a wonderful ministry. We got to touch a whole lot of lives and a lot of lives have touched ours.” (Grace Thornton)

Congressional representatives graded on global religious freedom actions



One-third of Congress again received “above average” scores on global religious liberty, according to an analysis of the latest session.

The International Religious Freedom Congressional Scorecard showed the 115th Congress (2017–2018) had the same percentage of members who scored “above average” as did the 114th Congress (2015–2016). The 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative (21Wilberforce) issued the scorecard in July.

21Wilberforce gave A or A+ grades to 48 congressional members, 31 Democrats and 17 Republicans. The scorecard is available at www.IRFscorecard.org. (BP)

Hodges marks 15 years at Frisco City’s Oak Grove Baptist Church



Billy Hodges could tell a lot of stories about the past 15 years — stories of a thriving bus ministry, a new activity building and Vacation Bible School meetings that drew more than 125 kids. But if he were going to put all those years he’s spent as pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church, Frisco City, in Bethlehem Baptist Association, in a nutshell it would be this — “It’s been an awesome journey. God has really blessed.”



HODGES

Before coming to Oak Grove Baptist in 2004, Hodges served several years as pastor of Huxford Baptist Church in Escambia Baptist Association. “All along the way, God has led us and allowed us to minister,” Hodges said. “My wife and I have seen God do miraculous things and we are just anticipating and expecting Him to do even more great things.” (Grace Thornton)



ONE MEETING. ONE VOTE. ONE ACT OF *compassion.*

Help give hope to children and families in need all across Alabama through our new ministry initiative: **Women of Compassion!** This group is open to women of all ages who are passionate to help make a difference in the lives of children and families.

THE MISSION:

- Offer opportunities for women to impact lives through an organization committed to serving children and families through Christ-centered services.
- Vote annually on how the Women of Compassion fund is applied for proposed projects of Alabama Baptist Children's Homes.
- Keep women informed about the needs of children and families around the state of Alabama.

MEMBERSHIP:

- Membership is extended to women who give a minimum of \$1,000 annually to the Women of Compassion fund at Alabama Baptist Children's Homes.
- Membership is renewable annually.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP:

- Receive an invitation to the annual Women of Compassion luncheon in Birmingham, AL (February 2020, exact date TBD)
- Help give hope to children and families in need throughout the state of Alabama
- Participate in a community of women passionate about serving children and families in need
- Receive updates about projects that were voted on and how they are making an impact



Alabama Baptist
CHILDREN'S HOMES
& Family Ministries

To learn more, contact Allison at acombs@alabamachild.org, visit alabamachild.org/womenofcompassion, or call (205) 982-1112.

Christians show mercy because they received mercy

When Martin Young was a teenager growing up in England he got his first car — an old Mini. “I was really pleased with it,” he said. “It had

red leather seats and a front dash made of walnut wood.” But Young, now senior minister of Rising Brook Community Church, Staffordshire, United King-

dom, said God stretched him when someone in his church asked him if he could give some local children a ride to church with him. He said yes and when he first knocked on their door he was stunned.

“The mother had a serious disability and the father had been working as a paint sprayer in a factory and had damaged his lungs and was sick,” Young said. “It was a really, really poor household.”

‘Care for people’

The three children piled in his car week after week getting the seats of his Mini — his pride and joy — grubby.

“But as we did this week in and week out God spoke to me and said, ‘Martin,

I’m calling you to people who have not got anything. I’m calling you to the sick, the poor. I want you to use yourself and your resources to care for people and love people,’” he said.



YOUNG

Preaching on Matthew 5:7 at the Southern Baptist Convention Pastors Conference on June

10 in Birmingham, Young said Christians are to show mercy to others out of the overflow of the mercy Christ has shown them.

When Jesus said, “blessed are the merciful” He didn’t mean for mercy to be a transaction, that Christians would give it expecting mercy in return, Young said. He meant for mercy to be who Christians are — people with hearts

full of mercy that flows to other people. “Mercy is the practice of the kingdom of heaven,” he said. “Mercy was how we were first made. This is us — made in the image of God. It’s the posture of life and faith for us.”

It’s the most powerful weapon against resentment, bitterness and competition, Young said.

He encouraged those present to look for moments like he had in his Mini at age 17.

**2019
SBC
pastors
conference**

“Those moments have a way of opening our eyes,” Young said. “Look around you. See who’s there, who’s next door, who your church can reach out to. Say, ‘Here and now, every moment, open my eyes, God. I want to be a merciful person.’” (Grace Thornton)

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Christian Crossword

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Across

- They brought gifts
- Word meaning father
- Trash
- Jewish calendar month
- Seize
- Got out of bed
- Chest bones
- Uncommon
- Fisherman disciple
- Chief executive officer
- Samson’s brain teaser
- Twin brother of Jacob
- Got off the phone
- Guided
- Tear
- Tel __ (Israel’s capital)
- Winter sport
- M*A*S*H actor

(2 words)

- Moral principles
- Coalition
- Charged particle
- Sanctified
- Biblical weeds
- What God did in the beginning
- Utilize
- Last word of a prayer
- Transgression
- Spanish “one”
- Patchy
- Mumble
- Field of science
- Boxer Muhammad
- Russian ruler
- Stave off
- A king of the Amalekites
- Relating to birds
- Canal
- Great-grandmother of David

71. A tenth part

- Beloved
- Gather

Down

- Tramp
- Adios
- African nation
- Tax agency
- One of the Herods
- Nail
- Poet
- Son of Adam and Eve
- Tire
- Statement of beliefs
- Decays
- Afloat
- South American nation
- Ravage
- Samuel’s mentor
- By the __ of God
- Adam and __
- Ornament
- Wind pointer

- Scat!
- Potter’s oven
- Freezing
- Alack’s partner
- Traditional knowledge
- Plague of Egypt
- KJV possessive pronoun
- Energy unit
- __ Francisco
- (Torn) into pieces (KJV)
- Wee
- Pack
- First husband of Bathsheba
- Unclear
- Excite
- Silent __
- Strip
- Tribe of Israel
- Subdivision
- Payable
- Biblical weed
- Opera solo
- North northeast
- Extremity

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For September 22

Explore the Bible

By Robert L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



RECONCILED Ephesians 2:11–22

Brought near (11–13)

In this passage Paul speaks to the believing Gentiles who were often mocked by the Jews for their lack of circumcision. Circumcision was a promise to the Jews going back to God's promise to Abraham. All the nations were to be blessed through Abraham.

Although the Jews were called a kingdom of priests the Jews failed to understand this responsibility. A priest's role is to go to God on behalf of others; this was the role Israel was supposed to fulfill. They were supposed to be a light to the Gentiles and point them to the one true God.

Instead being a Jew became a point of pride; they had been chosen by God while other peoples had not.

Paul shows one cannot simply trust in the action of circumcision as his or her salvation; true belief is a matter of the heart.

This would correlate today with people who claim they are Christian because they have been baptized but fail to recognize baptism is only an outward profession of an inward reality.

It was no different with circumcision and so Paul shows the Gentiles that the physical act of circumcision is not what makes one right with God.

Paul points out five ways the Gentiles were apart from God before their belief. They were without Christ, excluded from Israel, foreigners of the covenant, without hope and without God.

In verse 13, however, Paul reminds them of their redeemed state in Jesus. Through Christ they are brought near to God. This is only something God can accomplish. It was not of their own works but Christ's. The essence of the gospel is that we are to share today with all people regardless of race, color or nationality.

People are lost, without hope and far from God. Through Jesus alone they may be brought near to God and experience His peace.

Peace Declared (14–18)

Not only are Gentiles brought near to Christ they are given peace in three main areas.

The first is in being in relationship to the believing Jews. A dividing wall no longer exists between the Jews and the Gentiles as they are all members of the body of Christ. Second they have made peace with the law. No one keeps the law perfectly; it is only through Christ's grace that we are made at peace with God. No one can earn his or her way to heaven. Third the good news of the gospel brings peace as they now have access to the Spirit and the Father. This is only possible through the redeeming death and resurrection of Christ.

Citizenship Granted (19–22)

In the last portion of this chapter Paul reminds the Ephesians of the glorious result of being drawn near to Christ and given His peace. The believers in Christ are no longer alone, without hope, separated or excluded.

They are now fellow citizens, saints and members of Christ's household which has Jesus as the cornerstone. They are lovingly welcomed in God's family with Him as Father and fellow believers as brothers and sisters. What a marvelous difference God's grace makes in our lives.

We see in this chapter how being apart from Christ is to be separated and without a home, but miraculously being with Christ we are part of His holy temple being united to serve the Lord. We are all members of a forever family.

This means there are no racial divisions in the body of Christ as we are all of one race — that of Adam. Let us remember this encouragement as divisions and arguments arise in the church.

We were saved to be Christ's witness and bring glory to Him and He does that through redeeming us unto His purposes and together through His spirit. ✠

Bible Studies for Life

By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



GODLY CONTENTMENT 1 Timothy 6:6–11, 17–19

I will leave to others to judge whether it is a strength or a weakness but when it comes to vacations I am a meticulous planner.

A certain swell of pride comes with having every "t" crossed and every "i" dotted when mapping out our itinerary. Indeed I have led family assaults on the Magic Kingdom that would make the planners of D-Day envious.

One of the positives of devoting this sort of time and effort to planning is we see and do far more on a vacation than we would ever get to do if we just "winged it." I freely admit there also can be a downside to this level of planning.

Having crafted the perfect vacation plan it can be tempting to let the plan take precedence over actually enjoying the vacation. If the plan is to make it to Barstow on Thursday then by gum we'll drive all night if we have to.

What can happen on a well-organized trip can happen in other areas of life as well. It is easy to lose our sense of priorities, to let something that ought to be a minor concern become a major obsession.

Few things in life are as susceptible to this sort of temptation as money. Accumulating wealth is often a side effect of living out a righteous life.

When we follow Scripture's counsel (see the book of Proverbs for example) and work hard, act ethically, limit debt and make wise choices, riches often follow.

The problem comes when riches become the goal of our efforts rather than just the natural outflow of more noble pursuits.

Godly contentment does not depend on possessions. (6–8)

The first letter to Timothy devotes an important section to the matter of placing wealth in proper perspective.

Most important, the letter tells us, is learning to couple godliness with contentment (v. 6).

Godliness focuses on our actions; it has to do with our pursuing a righteous life. Contentment has to

do with God's actions; it marks a willingness to be satisfied with the gifts and blessings God gives us. We go astray when we transgress either of these two values — when we take ethical shortcuts to gain wealth or sabotage our walk with God because we dislike the way He cares for us.

True contentment only comes when we recognize possessions are not the ultimate goal of life. Our possessions are transient; our relationship with God is permanent.

Craving more possessions only leads to ruin. (9–11)

Beginning in v. 9 we find a series of warnings concerning wealth.

We are instructed that the desire to become rich often becomes the path that leads to other temptations.

When we live out godly lives wealth often comes. But when we put the cart before the horse and make wealth itself the goal the door is opened for a kind of corruption of our value system that leads us to pursue senseless and harmful desires.

The love of money we are told is a root of all kinds of evils. It is not that we would wish poverty on ourselves but rather that we should set our sights on righteous values like godliness, faith and love and let God work out the financial side of the ledger.

We should trust our loving Heavenly Father will provide for us what we need according to His almighty will.

Set your hope on God and store up riches in heaven. (17–19)

Perhaps the most important reason not to pin our hopes on material things is simply the recognition that these sorts of earthly possessions are so fleeting. They are here for a moment and then they are gone.

It is better for us both in this life and in the life to come to set our sights on something more permanent and ultimately more rewarding than money and wealth ever will be — God Himself. ✠



Media reviews

Alzheimer's, dementia: Pastor shares lessons learned

As a minister for more than 40 years, Huntsville native Mike Glenn walked through the valley of dementia and Alzheimer's disease with many families through the years.

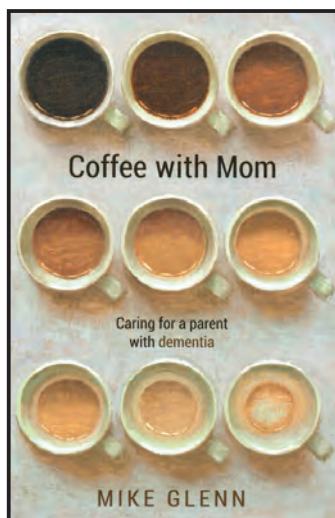
But he admits that until you face it personally it is truly hard to understand what a family goes through.

"Caring for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's disease is totally consuming," said Glenn, pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church in Brentwood, Tennessee.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, an estimated 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and more than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's or other dementias.

Glenn was one of them, forced to make one hard decision after another for his mother following his father's death and his mother's diagnosis of dementia.

Glenn writes about his experience in "Coffee with Mom: Caring for a Parent with Dementia," recently published by B&H Publishing. His hope is the book will provide encouragement to families who are walking down a similar path and help them realize they're not alone.



"Sometimes the only thing you want to know is that you're not alone in the world," he said. "I hope by telling my mom's story you'll understand there are lots of people who are walking the same road."

The book is based on a series of tweets Glenn posted following his daily meeting with his mother, Barbara Glenn, over coffee after she moved from her home in Huntsville to a retirement and memory care center near his church.

Daily process

"Sometimes those visits were funny. Other times they were painful beyond belief," he noted.

The tweets, he said, were a way "to deal with the funny but painful daily process of dealing with Mom and her illness. The tweets found a life of their own and the book followed from there," he said.

The book was released nearly a year after his mother passed away in July 2018.

Glenn said having coffee with his mother was "hilarious, humiliating, warm, freezing cold, angry, touching, loving

and brutal" but a year after her death, "I would give anything to have another cup of coffee with her this morning."

One of the things he learned from his experience



Mike Glenn

BP photo

was the importance of having conversations about the subject early.

"I had the gift of my dad telling me how he wanted things done," should he die before his wife, Glenn said.

"I had the peace of knowing I was doing what dad wanted," he said.

Talk about specifics

Glenn encourages older adults to tell children what they want while they are able to make those decisions.

"Tell your children what you want done (for specific situations)," he said. "If they know what mom or dad wanted it will give them peace in difficult situations."

In the book Glenn acknowledged, "One of the

hardest things about dealing with a parent who has Alzheimer's is there's never a clear-cut answer on what to do next. Even if you know 'what' to do, knowing 'when' to do it is just as baffling. As a caregiver you're constantly dealing with 'on one hand' and 'then on the other hand.'"

In his book Glenn reminds readers when caring for a parent with Alzheimer's or dementia, "in the end you have to live with yourself. If you can remember in all of the craziness of the disease the only thing that really matters is knowing you did the best you could, you'll be fine. Less than that is hard to live with."

Glenn said his desire for the book is that everyone

who reads it "would understand the great privilege it is to care for your parents. I was very honored to be able to care for my mom.

"I hope the book will spark some conversations in the family to start talking about the hard choices that life may require of each of us," he said. "I would want people to understand God is good and God is faithful — even in the toughest of times."

Podcast discussion

This week's TAB News podcast provides tips and resources for caregivers of those with Alzheimer's. Listen to the podcast at www.tabonline.org/podcasts or wherever you get your podcasts. (BP, TAB)

‘Equal in God’s eyes’

Deaf Thais start church where Deaf Christians can learn Bible stories in their heart language

Sombat Apichai understood only 50% of the Thai Sign Language interpretation of the sermon at his church in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The sermon was translated into what is known as word signing, which is in Thai word order and different from Thai Sign Language making the translation choppy. To complicate things

further Thai religious vocabulary is hard to understand even for hearing Thais.

Sombat and his wife, Alisara, said Deaf Christians often feign understanding in mixed congregations of hearing and Deaf Christians because there isn’t usually time to ask questions and if there is an opportunity to ask, there aren’t many hearing church members who are able to communicate the real meaning in Thai Sign Language.

As a result Deaf Christians are often unable to truly connect or intimately worship God because they don’t fully understand and are never disciplined. They don’t really have a way to contribute or volunteer at church. They feel disconnected and isolated from the hearing members of their church.

Then Sombat and Alisara met International Mission Board workers Victor and Madeline Hawthorne,



IMB photo

At a camp hosted by IMB workers Victor and Madeline Hawthorne, Deaf Christians craft Bible stories in Thai Sign Language so others can better understand.

who invited them to Story One, a new church for the Deaf. The Hawthornes introduced them to Bible stories in Thai Sign Language.

Sombat and Alisara started attending a camp the Hawthornes hosted that taught Deaf Christians how to interpret Bible stories in Thai Sign Language.

Empowering process

Believers at the camp were empowered to dissect Scripture and understand it for themselves. The Hawthornes helped with Old Testament background and context as they crafted stories.

The members sit in a circle so they can all see each other as they

sign. Their core group of six Christians in their 20s and 30s alternate in their roles. Each week one member is the storyteller and another member performs the dialogue.

The process is time-consuming and difficult but empowering.

“When I joined the Story One church it was the first time that I felt like I was equal in God’s eyes to a hearing person and I was able to, for the first time, serve in a church without fear,” Alisara said.

They now have a vibrant church that is Deaf-led, with equal participation and shared leadership.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Names changed for security reasons. (IMB)

How to pray:

▶ Pray Story One church will continue to be a thriving, vibrant church sharing the gospel of Christ with the Deaf Thais around them.

▶ Pray more Deaf missionaries will be sent out among the Deaf communities in the U.S. and around the world. (TAB)



Phi Phi Islands, Thailand

Unsplash.com

A special thank you to WXJC Radio, our partner in producing TAB News, which airs Saturdays at 2 p.m. TAB News is also the first part of the podcast released each Tuesday along with the audio digest of that week's issue.



WEEKDAY MORNINGS ON WXJC

ADRIAN ROGERS JIM DALY DAVID JEREMIAH
ROBERT JEFFRESS CHARLES STANLEY MICHAEL YOUSSEF
TONY EVANS JAMES DOBSON CHARLES MORRIS
JOHN MACARTHUR ALISTAIR BEGG J VERNON MCGEE

AND AFTERNOONS LIVE



THE JOE LOCKETT SHOW
WEEKDAYS 3-5P

FM 101.1 & AM 850



THE MARK WHITE SHOW
WEEKDAYS 5-6P

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