



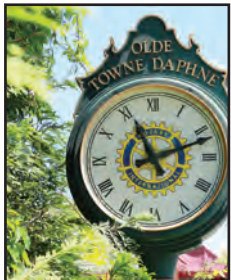
The Alabama Baptist

Toll free 800-803-5201
www.thealabamabaptist.org

October 31, 2019

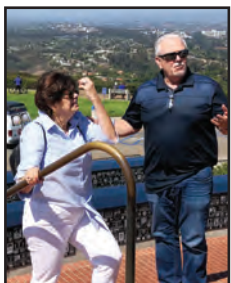
Vol. 184, No. 43
Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



2019 Alabama Baptist State Convention preview

◆ Pages 6–7



Carlises strive to 'make disciples' in San Diego

◆ Page 8



My Missions Story — Family trip to DR sees provision, blessings

◆ Page 11

'There was no choice'

Couple's tragedy becomes ministry opportunity as they share miracle

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Becky Guinn wasn't expecting any problems the day she went in for heart surgery in December 2002.

She was getting a new prosthetic valve put in — a procedure she had gone through before without a hitch.

"I was a high school art teacher in Valley and I was planning to have the surgery over Christmas ... and be back at school in January," she said.

She and her husband, David, could never have guessed the path that awaited them.

"She never woke up from that surgery — she went into an immediate coma," David said.

She flatlined twice. Her circulation began to decline and as the blood flow to her hands and feet decreased they shriveled and hardened. As the days stretched on her organs began to fail too.

"They gave us a 5% chance of her living," David said. "And every time we saw a doctor the news seemed to get worse."



Photo courtesy of Becky Guinn

Becky Guinn paints with her prosthetic hands for the students at Bayside Academy in Daphne. Guinn's tragedy has opened the door for her to share the gospel in new and unique ways.

He, along with their two daughters, were told they had to make some hard decisions.

Reading promises

"We held a family meeting in the ICU and sang praise songs over her and read promises from Scripture," David said.

"Becky came out of the coma that night mouthing the words to 'We're Standing on Holy Ground' along with my daughter."

It was a miracle, he said — but Becky still had a long way to go. They learned soon that she would need to have both

hands and feet amputated. Becky said it was at that point David spoke the words that anchored them both for the season to come.

"He said, 'We've got to either believe what we've been teaching all these years or just give up,'" Becky said. "There was no choice."

Live it out

For two decades her husband had been in active church ministry serving churches in Texas as well as serving on staff at two churches in Birmingham — Dawson Memorial Baptist and Southside Baptist. He also had started a parachurch organization of international chaplains who traveled overseas to carry out Olympics outreach and other evangelistic ministry.

Through the years Becky had been right beside him serving too. And now it was time to live out what they'd believed, shared and taught.

"We clung to hope and we chose joy," she said.

And because of that David said the nurses in the hospital loved coming to their room to hang out and be prayed for.

"They called our room 'the happy room,'" he said. And right there from that room, the Guinns started setting goals.

David Guinn immediately began to research and show his
(See 'Health,' page 9)

"We clung to hope and we chose joy."

BECKY GUINN

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

First-person: Impressions at the border

The most impactful moment of the September border trip for me was when we interviewed the immigration officer from Mexico. I didn't realize Mexico serves as a sanctuary country, or Tijuana as a sanctuary city, for migrants from other Spanish-speaking countries who are waiting their day in court to petition for entry into the U.S.

I can't imagine how frustrating or exhausting it must be for the officer and her coworkers. She mentioned that some people are automatically upset with her and her department even though they're trying to help the migrants.

She said she tries to help them see that the United States isn't the only place where they can thrive. But it's a hard job convincing them because they've been sold a fantasy that the U.S. is the only answer, she said.

That's not to say the U.S. does not have great opportunities. It is and has been a place where people can achieve their dreams of freedom and success, but it's not easy for migrants, especially non-English-speaking migrants.

The discussion with the immigration officer reminded me I should always show love to everyone, not

just the people I'm comfortable around.

That same day was also encouraging because we heard from a variety of pastors working to serve both the Mexican churchgoers and migrant visitors — and in one case a community of Haitians who have settled in Tijuana.

At Tijuana's First Baptist Church, Pastor Juan is working with Pastor Amos of the Haitian congregation now meeting at First Baptist to figure out the best way to involve both of their congregations.

Along with going the extra step of serving the people by providing housing and food when needed and developing a Haitian church service specifically for those who decided to stay and Haitian migrants who pass through, the original congregation also was willing to adjust its own Sunday morning church service to accommodate the new congregation.

Working together

They first tried bringing the Haitians into the Spanish service but that proved difficult because of the language and cultural barriers. That's when they started the Haitian congregation. The Spanish-speaking congregation originally met at 10 a.m. and the newly devel-

oped Haitian congregation would meet afterward. But a typical Haitian culture involves church early on Sunday mornings so there weren't as many people coming in the late morning/early afternoon service.

To the ends of the earth

The two pastors noticed this, talked about it and then approached the congregations with a plan to accommodate the early morning service. The church members agreed and the Mexican service now starts 30 minutes later and the three-hour-long Haitian service begins at 7 a.m. Pastor Juan and Pastor Amos regularly preach for each other and said the two congregations are supportive of each other.

The final thing that made an impression on me was at one of the shelters we visited. Inside the building hung four large signs showing Acts 1:8 in the perspective of those living in Tijuana. It listed their Jerusalem as Tijuana and went from there.

We are all called to spread the gospel to everyone. If you're in Birmingham that still includes to the ends of the earth. If you're in Tijuana that still includes the ends of the earth. You can, and should, minister to the people in your neighborhood and in your city. But don't stop there. (Hannah Muñoz)



MUÑOZ



THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

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

(ISSN 0738-7741; USPS 011-080)

© The Alabama Baptist, Inc.

is published weekly except for one week in

July and December by The Alabama Baptist,

Inc., at 3310 Independence Drive,

Birmingham, AL 35209. Phone: 205-870-4720.

Statewide phone: 800-803-5201.

Website: www.thealabamabaptist.org

Email: news@thealabamabaptist.org

or subscribe@thealabamabaptist.org

Periodicals postage paid at Hattiesburg, Miss.

ANNUAL TAB SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Includes print, digital and full web access

Group Rate per issue — \$16.25

(Need at least five in your group to qualify)

Individual — \$24.95 per year with 3-year plan

JENNIFER DAVIS RASH

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cynthia Watts Executive Assistant

Janet Erwin Executive Editor

Debbie Campbell Director of Communications

Carrie B. McWhorter Content Editor

Bill Gilmore Director of Sales

Lauren C. Grim Creative Services

Melanie McKinney Advertising Manager

Jessica Ingram Production Manager

Pam Holt Sales Representative

Grace Thornton Special Assignments Editor

Susan Stevens Sales Representative

Hannah Muñoz Digital Editor

Linda Harrison Financial Administrator

James Hammack Digital Services Manager

Deb Lowery Financial Assistant

Haley Piersol Digital Services Associate

Annette Brown Guest Services

Sarah Gill Customer Relations

Richard Maddox Computer Services

Amy Hacker Customer Relations

NEWS SERVICES

Baptist Press (BP),

Religion News Service (RNS),

Forum 18 (F18), Morning Star News (MS).

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:

The Alabama Baptist

3310 Independence Drive

Birmingham, AL 35209

ADDRESS CHANGE

Send old and new addresses,

and name of church to:

Subscription Department

3310 Independence Drive

Birmingham, AL 35209

Allow two weeks.

To the best of our knowledge,

all of the ads in The Alabama Baptist represent

legitimate companies and offerings. However,

one should always exercise normal business

caution in responding to ads.

Full member of Alabama Press Association

Accredited member of Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability



'Nation's Top Regional Christian Newspaper'

1999, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011,

2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018

as judged by Associated Church Press, Baptist

Communicators Association, Evangelical Press

Association or Religion Communicators Council

VOICE YOUR OPINION
SPEAK UP on issues in the Baptist world by writing a letter to the editor of *The Alabama Baptist*.

- Include your name and address
- Focus on issues, not people
- Be as concise as possible

KIND NET BARN
 IDEA ON BIO
 NE THE BE LOO
 DARE LAB EN
 R ASK ABBA A
 EAT BABE FAME
 DM A L PAGES
 ABOVE RENT
 F NAN AN
 ARISE BC BALD
 RISES OAR LEE
 MOE SIKASON
 ST TO LEPROSY

The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

Connect with us
 >>>> **ONLINE** <<<<

thealabamabaptist.org
 twitter.com/alabamabaptist
 facebook.com/thealabamabaptist
 instagram.com/alabamabaptist

FRUITFUL
 JOHN 15:5

Make plans to join your fellow Alabama Baptists at Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne, on Nov. 11-13 for the Alabama Baptist State Convention and Pastors Conference.

MY RASHIONALE

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

jrash@thealabamabaptist.org
[@RashionalThts](https://www.instagram.com/RashionalThts)



So much 'fruit' spilling out among strangers trapped together

The older gentleman's body language indicated intense frustration. He directed our car to a parking spot with a scowl on his face and harsh flapping of arms that gave the impression we had done something wrong.

We knew we were not at fault for whatever was happening in front of us but for a few minutes the man pacing in the parking lot made us feel that way.

We pulled over to get out of the way and let the driver of the pickup truck with the trailer hitched behind it continue his mission. He slowly inched forward and backward repeatedly in an attempt to back around a corner and down a small hill while avoiding other vehicles.

The older man had accidentally turned his truck into a dead-end parking area rather than circling the building like he had intended. He found himself in a bind and needed help.

We aren't sure where he found the younger man who was piloting the truck at the moment but the two worked together methodically and patiently as a team to accomplish the goal.

It would have been easy for those of us who were blocked to express our own frustration at the situation, especially with the aggravated looks and motions being directed at us.

But no one said a word nor reciprocated the harsh expressions. We all kindly and calmly waited because we saw quickly the older man was really only angry at himself not any of us.

When the truck was back on

the right path the younger man jumped out, shook the hand of the older man and gave the rest of us a thumbs up and a grin.

The older man looked so relieved. As we drove by him I rolled down my window to wave at him and share a smile to let him know everything was OK — that he didn't upset us or cause us any harm.

He gave me the sweetest smile in return and the same arm that had been so harsh a few minutes earlier now waved at me in such a kind and gentle manner.

Random strangers all in a hur-

ry cornered in a parking lot with no easy way out but all logically reading the situation and jumping into action to solve the problem with kindness — you know I saw a Rashional Thoughts or My Rashionale column writing itself in the moment, right?

And it wasn't long before I saw the fruit of the spirit so obviously displayed — the younger man showed love by assisting the older man, joy and peace were obvious in the older man's heart as he drove away, and both men demonstrated patience as they maneuvered the truck.

The ones of us trapped in the

parking lot demonstrated kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control by sitting quietly and calmly, staying out of the way and not chiding anyone.

While I can't fully attest to the hearts of the two men, I can say those in my car were and are confident in the faithfulness of God — so that particular fruit was ever-present as well.

Faithfulness also showed up in the fact that all of us had faith in the younger man's ability to back the truck around the corner and down the hill. And the younger man was faithful to see the task to completion. 🙌

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS



Your Voice



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

'Every child deserves a place to call home'

By **Scoter Kellum**
Montgomery, Ala.

We became a licensed foster family through Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries in 2018.

Our journey has not always been easy but we are so thankful God has allowed us to join Him in caring for children in need.

Every child deserves a place to call home. Everyone should be given the opportunity to be raised in love and peace being told the story of Jesus. That is exactly what we get to do as foster parents.

Whether for a week, for months or potentially forever we strive to provide for and extend love to children in our care just as we do for our biological children.

Our biological children also have been fantastic "big brothers" and "big sister" to the children in our care.

It is such a blessing to watch them eagerly love and excitedly share with friends and family about the arrival of and updates on each child in our care.

We are confident that even in their early ages God called each of them to this ministry as He did us.

Upon first learning that we are foster parents many people respond with something like: "I've thought about it but I could never do it. I would get too attached."

We were told in our foster training classes that if we were concerned we might become too attached then we were in the right place because it meant we intended to love the children as our own.

What prompts such a response from many is fear. We felt it too before we took the plunge to become a licensed foster family.

We feared God might call us to do something hard, to give more than we knew how to give, to face more interruption to everyday life than we were comfortable with, to say goodbye to a child we had come to deeply love.

God's will is not always easy. God's plan is not always safe. But He is always good.

Jesus came so that we can live an abundant life and we have certainly experienced abundant joy in our journey as a foster family.

I cannot imagine having missed out on so much goodness because I let my fears hold me back.

If we surrender to our fears we let Satan win.

Approximately 5,000 children are in foster care in Alabama on any given day. A child will stay in foster care an average of two years. An estimated nine children enter foster care every day in Alabama.

If we bravely step into God's calling on our lives there is no reason why the Church cannot rise up and care for every child in need.

May our faith be bigger than our fear.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Scooter Kellum serves as youth ministry strategist for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions. His wife, Chelsea, is a Bible study teacher and youth leader. They are parents to three biological children and currently raising three additional "little loves."

Christian families who adopt are missionaries who bring God's love to orphan children by living example. Orphan Sunday reminds us that while not all are called to adopt, anyone can love and minister to orphan children in a practical and meaningful way by helping families in their own church and community who already want to adopt.

Gerald Clark
Co-founder and executive director, Home for Good Foundation

Orphan Sunday engages God's people to put our faith into action ... as we unite to advocate for the most vulnerable.

Andy Lehman
Vice president
Lifesong for Orphans

Orphan Sunday isn't about charity; it's about the mission of Christ. I pray that every gospel-transformed congregation will observe Orphan Sunday, calling all Christians to our mandate to image Christ by caring for his little brothers and sisters, the fatherless of the world.

Russell Moore
President
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission



Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“I want to be more ‘Christian’ than ‘baseball player.’”

ANTHONY RENDON
Washington Nationals’ third baseman

As a child I was often told that we can do more together than we can apart. It was a statement that reminded us that as Southern Baptists we work together to do missions and send missionaries here and around the world. We still do this and I am very proud to be a Southern Baptist. It is still true we can do more together than we can apart ... to bring glory to the Father, to introduce people to Jesus and His love and teach them how to follow Him.

Danny Dean
Associational missions director
Butler Baptist Association

We have reached the point in society that media, social media, peer pressure and culture are influencing Christians more than the church is

influencing society. Too often we look, sound and act more like the world than we do like Christ. God didn’t tell us to be weird but he did tell us to be different. That difference often causes tension. We need to make an eternal difference in our world by setting Christ-like examples even when it is uncomfortable for us. I would rather be a faithful witness and take a neighbor to heaven with me than to “fit in” now and watch them perish on judgment day!

Jack Anderson
Associational missions director
Alabama-Crenshaw Baptist Association

Knowing God through Jesus Christ is the greatest blessing in all the world for both now and in the

life to come. A truly blessed person is the one who knows God.

Bill Russell
Associational missions director
Bibb Baptist Association

The aspects of wellness [and a healthy lifestyle] affect each other. If someone’s not feeling his best, it’s going to be difficult for him to lead his church or have a healthy relationship with his spouse. “Being well” points to the whole person, from his personal devotion and spiritual life as a believer to his relationship with his children to leadership in the church.

Tim Dowdy
Lead strategist, pastor wellness
Georgia Baptist Mission Board



Photo courtesy of WMU

Sandy Wisdom-Martin is executive director of national Woman’s Missionary Union.

Grateful for Associations

He had to be the first denominational celebrity I ever met though I did not know it at the time. I heard whispers in the halls of our tiny country church when I was a child: “Mr. Whitmer is here today.” Mr. Whitmer was our associational missionary.

God uses others to shape and mold us and my story is incomplete if I leave out the role of the association in my spiritual and leadership formation. My association believed in me and God’s call on my life.

WMU’s mandate is to make disciples of Jesus who live on mission. We want people learning about, praying for, supporting and doing missions through Baptist associations.

We’ve given grants to support global water projects through Baptist associations and sponsored national associational missions projects. Many associations partner with WMU in Christian Women’s Job Corps and Christian Men’s Job Corps ministries. We help support leadership development for associational leaders.

In partnership with Baptist associations we can do exponentially more for the Kingdom. I am incredibly grateful for associational mission strategists and their team members who invest in the lives of countless others like me.

—Sandy Wisdom-Martin

From the *Twitterverse*

@alsbom

Pray for your pastor to have wisdom and vision to lead the church revitalization process.
#PrayingAlabama

@carmenlberge

... Christians are not immune from suicide and Christian churches are not insulated from its grief. We have witnesses and we have testimonies but we remain utterly ill equipped to confront the monster devouring our kids and young adults and pastors. It’s more than a need for bringing mental health onto a par with other ministries but that’s a start. It’s more than ministering to families assaulted but that too is necessary. How do we stop it?

@jaredcwilson

If you’re always “defending” the gospel but rarely getting around to

articulating the gospel, it may not be the gospel you’re defending but rather your own preferences, prejudices or politics.

@_JakeBrown

Even if you’ve already blown it this week, there’s enough grace in Christ for you too.

@bellshoals

If you have found the Messiah who are you bringing to Him? (John 1:41–42)

@tonymerida

Let’s plant some churches, scattering communities of light in every nook and cranny of this dark world.

@FBruceWilliams

Be faithful to God. Do whatever it is you believe God has you on

earth to do. Life is too short for you to worry about what people think. They are going to talk no matter what. You will have opposition and criticism regardless. This life is not dress rehearsal. It’s the real thing!

@MyEasternShore

Grace, Mercy and Thanksgiving ... a perfect trio, don’t you think?

@LWGenerosity

“While church planting is by nature high risk, we really need to help this movement take dramatic steps forward in terms of resources, models and financial best practices.”
@ToddMcMichen

@ThomRainer

Sermons are only half over when you hear them. You need to live them out as well.

‘Voice of wisdom’

Cox spends year as state convention president seeing ‘heartbeat of the entities’

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Tim Cox said he thought he knew a lot about Alabama Baptists. He grew up with a pastor father. He was a Royal Ambassador when he was a boy. He attended college at the University of Mobile and then he became a pastor himself.

“I was physically born into the Alabama Baptist family and I was raised in Alabama Baptist church life,” said Cox, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Chelsea. “But this year I have learned a whole lot more.”

‘Real passion’

For the past year Cox has served as president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention and he said that

experience has “pulled back the veil” and allowed him to see more about how state Baptists cooperate together.

“It’s been nice to see the heartbeat of the entities as I’ve gone to trustee meetings,” he said. “There is a real passion for the Great Commission. It’s not just a motto — it really is our DNA.”

Cox said he’s been inspired by the scope of work achieved by the entities and the way trustees serve vigilantly with a Kingdom focus.

“We’re a Baptist family with a right focus, a Baptist family that is cooperating well,” he said.

And he said he’s been

impressed with the way the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions (SBOM) maintains a fruitful ministry with a lean staff.

“I think Alabama Baptists maximize our impact with minimal resources,” he said.

Across the board Cox said representing state Baptists has been “a thrill, refreshing, encouraging and inspiring.”

“Even in the culture we live in today — a culture that is changing every day — we are a people with a right focus who are cohesive in our mission and we need to stay the course,” he said. “Our theme for this [past] year has been ‘Faithful’ and

I have witnessed many staying the course.”

Starting at the state convention annual meeting in November, Alabama Baptists’ theme for the year will be “Fruitful” and Cox said he has already witnessed that in action too.

‘Staying the course’

“Alabama Baptists are staying the course and being faithful and I pray we’ll press on being fruitful,” Cox said. “I believe if we are faithful in the main thing we will be fruitful. Those are great themes that push us forward.”

Rick Lance, SBOM executive director, said Cox has served state Baptists in an “exemplary way” this past year and has a servant’s heart that is “most evident.” “Personally Tim Cox has

been and continues to be an encourager to me as a state missionary. Other state missionaries have echoed that same sentiment,” he said. “In committee meetings with the State Board of Missions and with gatherings of entity trustees Tim has been a voice of wisdom. His focus has always been on prayer. During those important times when decisions were being made Tim Cox, the prayer warrior, called us to prayer.”

Lance said he looks forward to experiencing his leadership again at the meeting in Daphne.

“I believe the messengers will see something of what many of us have observed through this year as Tim wisely and prayerfully gives us leadership,” he said. ✠



COX

Meetings set to coincide with upcoming state convention

Each year prior to and during the Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting various groups across Alabama Baptist life meet to connect and conduct business. Meeting alongside this year’s annual meeting, which will be held at Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne, on Nov. 12–13, are:

▶ **Alabama Church Planter Network** — The Alabama Church Planter Network will hold a dinner Nov. 10 at 3Circle Church, Fairhope, 4:30–8:30 p.m. For more information visit www.tabonline.org/planters.

▶ **Alabama Network of Christian Community Ministers (ANCCM)** — This group will meet Nov. 11 at Prodissee Pantry in Spanish Fort, 8:30 a.m. For more information email kkennedy@alsbom.org.

▶ **Unite: A Gathering of Alabama Baptist College Ministry**

Leaders — The Unite event will be held Nov. 11 at the University of South Alabama Baptist Student Center, 4–8 p.m. It will feature “Ted-talk” style presentations on a range of collegiate ministry issues, Q&A time and dinner. Guest speakers will be Jody Dean and Emily Hamilton. For more information or to register visit www.bcmlink.org/unite.

▶ **Alabama Singing Men/Women** — Alabama Singing Men and Women will meet Nov. 11 for a rehearsal at 4:30 p.m. followed by a fellowship banquet at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Bay Minette.

▶ **Samford University** — Samford will host an alumni breakfast Nov. 12 at First Baptist Church, Fairhope, 7–8 a.m. For more information email kdblackw@samford.edu.

▶ **Southern Baptist Theological Seminary** — Southern Seminary will hold its alumni and friends

luncheon Nov. 12 at Jubilee Baptist Church, Daphne, 12–1:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be Brian Payne, associate professor of Christian theology and expository preaching at Southern. Tickets may be purchased at www.tabonline.org/SBTS.

▶ **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS)** — Southwestern Seminary will hold its alumni and friends luncheon Nov. 12 at Faith Family Fellowship, 12–1 p.m. A short program will include updates from campus and recorded greetings from new SWBTS President Adam Greenway. For more information or to purchase tickets email Thomas Wright at dom@mobilebaptists.org.

▶ **Passion Tree** — Passion Tree will hold a luncheon Nov. 12 at the Original Oyster House, noon. For more information, email robert@crossroads.family.

▶ **University of Mobile (UM)**

— UM will hold its alumni and friends dinner Nov. 12 following the afternoon session of the state convention annual meeting. The university will shuttle guests to UM for a campus tour and a dinner with UM President Lonnie Burnett. To register visit www.tabonline.org/UMobile.

▶ **Baldwin Chapter of Judson Alumni Meet and Greet** — The Baldwin Chapter of Judson Alumni will hold a meet and greet Nov. 12 at First Baptist Church, Fairhope, 6:30–8 p.m. For more information email joyceoevertstreet1@att.net.

▶ **New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary** — New Orleans Seminary will hold an alumni luncheon Nov. 12 in the youth center of Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne, noon. For tickets email Bill Russell at wmbillrussell@bellsouth.net or text or call 256-738-2791. (TAB)

2019 State Convention Preview

ALABAMA BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION PROGRAM

Theme: Fruitful / Nov. 12–13, 2019 / Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne

TUESDAY MORNING 8:30–11:55

PIANISTFrank Jones
 WORSHIP LEADER.....Keith Hibbs
 8:30 Pre-session Music... Alabama Singing Men/Women
 8:35 Prayer.....Clint Landry
 8:40 Call to OrderTim Cox
GREETINGS
 Baldwin Baptist Association..... Rick Ellison
 Eastern Shore Baptist Church..... Stuart Davidson
 Congregational Music.....Keith Hibbs
 8:50 Enrollment of Messengers.....Billie Davis
 8:55 Committee on Order of Business.....Rob Jackson
 9:00 Committee AppointmentsTim Cox
 9:05 Memorial ServiceAllan Murphy
 9:15 Alabama Baptist Ministers Benefit Society
Herman Pair
 9:20 Introduction of Resolutions..... Craig Carlisle
 9:25 Special MusicAlabama Singing Men/Women
 9:30 **FRUITFUL — ABIDING IN CHRIST**
Annel Robayna
COMMITTEE REPORTS, Part 1
 9:55 Committee on CommitteesGreg Corbin
 10:05 Committee on Boards and Commissions
Stuart Davidson
RECOGNITIONS
 10:15 Recognition of Former Convention Presidents
Rick Lance
 10:25 Recognition of New Pastors and New Church
 Staff Members.....Bobby DuBois
 10:30 Cooperative Program Recognitions.....Rick Lance
FRUITFUL IN MINISTRY
 10:40 *The Alabama Baptist*, Jennifer Rash; Alabama
 Baptist Historical Commission, Lonette Berg;
 The Baptist Foundation of Alabama, Barry Bledsoe;
 Alabama Citizens Action Program, Joe Godfrey;
 Christian Life Commission, Michael Brooks
 11:10 Miscellaneous Business, Part 1
 11:15 Presentation of Convention President....Rick Lance
 11:20 Special MusicMike May
 11:25 President’s Address.....Tim Cox
 11:55 BenedictionPaul Matthews

TUESDAY AFTERNOON 1:30–4:10

PIANISTKeith Hibbs
 WORSHIP LEADER.....Frank Jones
WORSHIP
 1:30 Congregational Music.....Frank Jones
 1:40 Prayer.....Eric Hankins
FRUITFUL IN MINISTRY
REPORT OF STATE BOARD OF MISSIONS
 1:45 Report of Executive DirectorRick Lance
 2:05 State Board of Missions Recommendations and
 Convention Recognitions
 2:45 **FRUITFUL — BEARING FRUIT**
FOR CHRIST.....Jarman Leatherwood
FRUITFUL IN MINISTRY
 3:10 Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family
 Ministries, Rod Marshall; Shocco Springs Baptist
 Conference Center, Russell Klinner; Alabama
 Baptist Retirement Centers, Ray Burdeshaw;
 Alabama Woman’s Missionary Union,
 Candace McIntosh
 3:40 Miscellaneous Business, Part 2
COMMITTEE REPORTS, Part 2
 3:45 Resolutions Committee.....Craig Carlisle
 4:00 Committee on Time, Place and Preacher
Nic Seaborn
 4:05 Audit and Insurance.....Bobby DuBois
 4:10 Benediction.....Kerry Mitchell

TUESDAY EVENING 6:40–8:15

6:40 Pre-session Music.....Frank Jones
 6:50 Missions Recognitions.....Rick Lance
 6:55 Church Planting Recognitions.....Rick Barnhart
 7:00 Scripture and Prayer.....James Jones
 Music WorshipVoices of Mobile
 Introduction of Speaker.....Rick Lance
 7:30 Message.....Jason Allen
 8:15 Benediction.....Mike Flowers

WEDNESDAY MORNING 8:30–11:30

PIANISTFrank Jones
 WORSHIP LEADER.....Steve Bowersox
WORSHIP
 8:30 Congregational Music.....Steve Bowersox
 8:35 Prayer.....Robert Knowles
 8:40 **FRUITFUL — UPON CHRIST** Ben Stubblefield
 9:05 Election of Officers, Part 1
 9:15 Previously Scheduled Business
 9:45 Resolutions Committee Report.....Craig Carlisle
FRUITFUL IN MINISTRY
 10:00 Samford University, Andrew Westmoreland;
 University of Mobile, Lonnie Burnett; Judson
 College, Mark Tew; Education Commission,
 Bobby Hopper; Board of Aid to Students in
 Church-Related Vocations, Randy Johnson
 10:30 Election of Officers, Part 2
 10:40 Congregational Music.....Steve Bowersox
 10:45 Introduction of Convention Preacher and
 Alternate Preacher.....Tim Cox
 Special Music.....Keith Pate
 Scripture.....Jeff Meyers
 10:55 Convention Sermon.....Rick Marshall
 11:25 Introduction of Convention Officers....Rick Lance
 11:30 Benediction — Adjournment.....Chip Starnes

**TO REQUEST
 MESSENGER CARDS**

- ▶ **Call Sandy Harmann**
 1-800-264-1225, ext. 266
- ▶ **Email**
 sharmann@alsbom.org
- ▶ **Website**
 http://cards.alsbom.org



Alabama Baptist Convention
State Board of Missions

ALABAMA BAPTIST PASTORS CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Theme: Hallelujah for the Cross / Nov. 11, 2019 / Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne

Morning Session — 9 a.m. to noon

9:30 a.m. Message: Terrence Jones, pastor,
 Strong Tower at Washington Park, Montgomery
 10:25 a.m. Message: Dana Watson, COO for South Alabama,
 Alabama Baptist Children’s Homes & Family Ministries
 11:25 a.m. Message: Robert Mullins, pastor,
 Crossroads Community Church, Elmore

Afternoon Session — 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

1:35 p.m. Election of Officers
 1:55 p.m. Message: Rick Lance, executive director,
 Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions
 2:50 p.m. Message: Jay Wolf, pastor, First Baptist Church, Montgomery
 3:50 p.m. Message: Steve Gaines, pastor,
 Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tennessee

Evening Session — 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Message: Johnny Hunt, senior vice president,
 evangelism and leadership, North American Mission Board
 8:05 p.m. Message: Fred Luter, pastor,
 Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana



GAINES



HUNT



JONES



LANCE



LUTER



MULLINS



WATSON



WOLF

For more information, visit albaptistpc.com.

‘Be the Church’

Mike and Judy Carlisle of San Diego Southern Baptist Association welcome the TAB team to San Diego and prepare them to travel into Mexico. The Carlisles hosted the TAB team on its three-day observation trip to Tijuana.



Photo by Amy Hacker

Partners in marriage and ministry: Carlisles strive to ‘make disciples’ in San Diego

By Cynthia Walker Watts
The Alabama Baptist

As a young man Mike Carlisle felt God calling him into ministry. When his first sermon ended up being a total of 10 minutes he decided preaching wasn't for him.

Mike was good at marching to his own drum. The Cincinnati, Ohio, native was a drummer with his own band in high school and sold his drum set to pay for his first semester in college.

He met Judy Allen on his first day at Campbellsville College in Kentucky.

Judy was from Liberty, Kentucky, loved learning and majored in biology.

He preached that first sermon as a college student but then fought God's call for years. After he and Judy married Mike dropped out of school to support their family and found he was very successful in cable TV management.

Encounter with God

But one night while he was driving a long, lonely stretch of road on his way home from a business trip Mike felt God clearly saying, "You've been hiding but I have found you."

The same night Mike had the intense encounter with God, he went to his pastor and shared how he felt. The pastor said if Mike felt the same way the next morn-

ing to come back. Mike felt God's hand on him even more the next day. He then quit his job and he and Judy enrolled at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. In one day he was admitted to seminary, found a house for their family, which now included 3 sons, and got a job writing for the Home Mission Board (now the North American Mission Board, NAMB).

They later moved to the Atlanta area where Mike served as vice president of strategic communications

then vice president of missions and mobilization of NAMB.

In 2006, NAMB sent the Carlisles to San Diego for a Strategic Focus City evangelism emphasis.

Three years later Mike and Judy shifted their work to lead Vision San Diego, a nonprofit organization connecting businesses, schools, government, faith communities and other organizations to implement programs in San Diego County. That role positioned Mike for associational leadership.

He became director of missions (DOM) for the San Diego Southern Baptist Association (SDSBA) in 2012 and Judy came onboard as director of ministry operations, discipleship and missions.

The Carlisles have been a team in life and ministry for

57 years and their hearts are to see churches work in cooperation and truly "be the Church."

SDSBA has 195 churches. As DOM, Mike describes his work built on four big rocks.

Built on rocks

The first rock is the associational governing body. Previously the board was all of the pastors plus one other person from each church. Now it is a board of 15 members who rotate every three years.

The second rock is communication. In addition to the SDSBA.net website, which features ministry information and training opportunities, the association has an engaging news-oriented website, San Diego Today (www.sandiegotoday.news), which features news about San Diego churches, Baptist life, discipleship and missions along with local sports and tourist information.

The third rock is preschool. The Carlisles know that to reach children and young families they need to offer preschool ministries and day care programs in the churches. The association has hired a staff member to work with the churches in building these programs.

To help the churches operate the ministries SDSBA pays the rent on the space, hires and manages staff and prepares payroll.

The final rock is discipleship or D-Groups. Ongoing training and encouragement are provided to pastors and leaders to enable them

to lead disciple-making churches.

The SDSBA arranges monthly pastor training opportunities and works with 30 Southern Baptist Spanish-speaking churches seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance in how and where they can meet the most needs.

Judy Carlisle focuses on team building, enlisting and training leaders and mentoring pastors' wives while "keeping my heart and ears open," she says.

And in everything they do, the Carlisles say they keep one goal at the forefront — "to make disciples who make disciples." 🌱

PASTORS' WIVES DINNER



An Evening with
Megan Woodham
One Step Ministries



Megan Woodham — Child of & devoted follower of Jesus.
Wife to Jonathan & mother of three children.
Bible teacher, writer & event speaker.
Children's Ministry Director, First Baptist Church, Prattville.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019
4:45–6:00 p.m.

Eastern Shore Baptist Church, Daphne Student Building

Theme:

A Seat at the Table
1 John 4:16

God has prepared a feast for His children — A great feast of love that He offers to us all, and YOU have a seat at the table!

Menu:

Garden Salad — Raspberry Vinaigrette
Alice Chicken
Twice Baked Potato Casserole
Italian Green Beans
Dessert
Tea
Rolls

COST: \$10 (Advance) — \$12 (At Door)
Reservations: ALBaptistPC.com/PWD
or call 251-626-5550

Space is Limited. Pre-Registration is Recommended.



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Aspects of an Abundant Life

A Hopeful Life

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

It is impossible to imagine an abundant life that is at the same time one of hopelessness. Thus to the prior week's "fullness" terms of joyful, prayerful, purposeful and fruitful we conclude the theme about aspects of an abundant life by focusing on hopefulness as an important ingredient in living a full and meaningful life.

Christian hope reaches beyond this present time. Thus it is not some kind of whistling in the dark, play-acting or reality denying approach to the disappointments, setbacks or tragedies of everyday life in this present age.

A believer's hope has its anchor in a blessed future.

Look forward and upward

The truth of 1 Corinthians 15:19 refers to Christians when it reads, "If in this life only we have hope in Christ we are of all men the most pitiable." We must look forward and upward for the hope that adds abundance to our days.

As Titus 2:13 puts it we are living unto the future "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ."

A part of the abundant life found in Christ is the prospect of Hebrews 6:18 that "we might have strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us." The present guarantee of this hope is "Christ in you" that constitutes the basis for hope. The reality of this guarantee is termed a "mystery hidden from

ages [all time past] and from generations [all people past] but now has been revealed to His saints" (Col. 1:26-27).

Hope enables patient endurance that can put abundance into a heart where despair or depression seeks to enter. Christian hope is much more than a firmly set jaw or gritted teeth determined to endure whatever life throws our way.

Abundance and endurance are by no means first cousins. Christ came to make abundant life possible not merely to foster endurance for life's hard times.

Biblical hope is in the category of confident expectation that what God has promised He is able and willing to do. This hope embraces the biblical witness about Abraham long ago who was "fully convinced that what [God] had promised He was also able to perform" (Rom. 4:21).

This last session that ties an abundant life to the possession of a blessed and future hope might appropriately conclude with the benediction of Romans 15:13: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." ✠

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.



Health crisis highlights body of Christ, God's provision

(continued from page 1)

wife some of the things new prosthetic technology could do. They set goals to keep her going — to use a power chair, to go back to school in August and to create art again.

The first time Becky used her chair, David took her to Target.

"Her face lit up," David said. "She was zipping around the aisles. I didn't see her for a full five minutes."

Becky learned to walk, to drive and to type using the eraser end of a pencil taped to a prosthetic hook that she used for a hand. She finished her master's thesis that way the summer after her amputation. Then that August she returned to school and was able to continue teaching.

"Those of us who are believers, we know we've got God's help and ingenuity and other people who love us and pray for us," Becky said. "I got to walk in a special place in the body of Christ and see how the parts of the body move together and support one another."

She and David also have seen the provision of God in a way they weren't expecting. Around the time her medical crisis happened he had been in the midst of a lot of ministry travel but they had also started another project — building a retreat

center. Now that center is where David trains volunteer teams and Becky leads women's conferences. David gets choked up when he thinks about it.

"This situation with Becky's health has changed our whole lives, but God knew that would happen ... and He knew we would need this facility," he said.

Their ministry is different and so is their day-to-day life. People are fascinated with Becky's prosthetic hands and feet and when they ask she's able to tell them about how God has worked miracles in her life.

New opportunities

"It's created a lot of opportunities to share with others," she said.

Chuck Anderson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shawmut, in Valley, said the Guinns — who are members of his church — have been on a "miracle journey of faith and trust in Jesus Christ."

"We witness every day in their lives the sovereign love of God at work," Anderson said. "What may at first have been seen as harm, God redeemed and has transformed countless lives for good through David and Becky's creative, joyful, faithful service for Jesus Christ." ✠

Stockdale brings smiles to community



Photo courtesy of Stockdale Baptist Church

Laughter and smiles filled the Coosa River Baptist Association Evangelistic Block Party Trailer during a recent fall festival hosted by Stockdale Baptist Church, Talladega. The festival included fundraisers for local and international missions, a costume contest, face painting, games, candy, prizes, food and a hayride. "It was a wonderful evening of fellowship, fun and food and of working together to reach our community for Jesus," said Michelle Jenkins, with Stockdale Baptist's Women on Mission.



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

2019 ANNUAL MEETING TO FOCUS ON FRUITFULNESS

BY RICK LANCE, STATE MISSIONARY



RICK LANCE

The 2019 annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, our yearly family reunion of sorts, will give us a wonderful opportunity to turn our attention to John 15:5 and the topic of being fruitful in Kingdom service.

the Cooperative Program are bearing fruit through ministries here in Alabama and reaching around the world. You'll also hear some important information about how Alabama Baptists will be moving into the next decade with a rededication to our one mission, the Great Commission, with a particular emphasis on reaching

Alabama for Christ.

Reports from our entities during the Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning sessions will allow us to hear how those ministries are bearing fruit in the form of changed lives.



TIM COX



The convention meeting will take place **Tuesday and Wednesday, November 12-13, at Eastern Shore Baptist Church in Daphne.**

Three theme interpreters will help us flesh out the "Fruitful" theme. One of our newest state missionaries, **Annel Robayna**, will speak on the aspect of "Abiding in Christ" during the Tuesday morning session. **Jarman Leatherwood**, a dynamic young church planter in the Huntsville area, will help us focus on "Bearing Fruit for Christ" during the afternoon session.



JARMAN LEATHERWOOD

Then **Ben Stubblefield**, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Ala., will present the final theme interpretation on the subject of "Relying Upon Christ."

During my executive director's report and the State Board of Missions report that follows, you'll learn firsthand how your gifts through



ANNEL ROBAYNA

Rounding out the two days will be inspirational messages from **Tim Cox**, convention president and pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Chelsea; **Jason Allen**, president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo.; and **Rick Marshall**, retired pastor of Eastern Hills Baptist Church, Montgomery.



JASON ALLEN



RICK MARSHALL

In addition, the exhibit hall will provide an excellent opportunity for you to interact directly with state missionaries, along with representatives from state and national SBC entities, to ask questions and learn about missions.

Please make plans to attend the annual meeting November 12-13 in Daphne. Visit alsbom.org/convention for program details, a hotel list, information about being a messenger, and much more.



BEN STUBBLEFIELD

Forever changed

Family missions trip to Dominican Republic sees provision, blessings

By **Susan Stevens**
The Alabama Baptist

Several months ago God impressed our family to get our passports ready. And I am glad we did.

Through Reel Life International we were able to plan a missions trip for our family to Dominican Republic to help boys learn baseball skills.

Our two sons have always loved baseball. Joshua, 20, now plays college baseball and Jonathan, 15, plays on a high school team. We have encouraged our boys to use their gifts and abilities to glorify God.

Baseball was simply a vehicle we utilized to minister in Dominican Republic.

Driving up to a baseball field in San Pedro, Dominican Republic, we saw 30–40 elementary-aged boys eagerly waiting to play

baseball. Each had clearly made an effort to look like a baseball player, wearing whatever they had to look the part. Some had baseball pants, some had shorts

and others had high baseball socks. Some had cleats and others just wore flip flops.

We taught baseball skills in a different location every



Photo by Susan Stevens

The Stevens family recently took a trip to the Dominican Republic to share the gospel. The two sons, Joshua and Jonathan, both have a passion for baseball and used their gifts to glorify God.

morning and afternoon. We encountered several hundred boys looking to better their skills and be a part of a team. We used baseball as a platform to share the love

of Christ through our actions and words.

One afternoon we visited with neighborhood families door to door. Since most of the houses have limited electricity we gave each home a solar light. Immediately each family asked how much they owed for the light. We explained the light was a free gift and shared with them about God's free gift of salvation through Jesus, the Light of the World. We shared with many individuals how to accept this free gift from God.

God's direction

God's faithfulness, provision and direction was

obvious throughout the trip. As we checked out of our hotel I spoke with the front desk clerk to let him know how much I appreciated all he did for us during our stay. I also said how much I appreciated the Christian music playing in the lobby.

Planted seeds

When he asked what we had done during our stay I explained about the baseball clinics and how we shared the gospel at the end of each clinic. He shared that he became a Christian after a missions team came to share Christ with his baseball team. He explained how his local baseball coach shared with him about Christ and planted the seed. When the missions team came he made a profession of faith. The man's story was such an encouragement to our team after a long week.

Our family's lives are changed forever simply because we got our passport ready, invested six days in the lives of young men and planted seeds that will help them draw closer to a relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

EDITOR'S NOTE — *Reel Life International is a nonprofit ministry working alongside the church to engage the people of God in the mission of God for the glory of God. For more information go to www.Reel-Life.org.*

MY MISSIONS STORY



SPECIAL OFFER
Alabama Baptist Christmas Gifts: \$9.95 each
(You save: \$20.00–67%)

Yes! Send a one-year (50 issues) TAB gift subscription to the person listed below for only \$9.95, a **67% savings** off the regular rate.

- Check enclosed in my own envelope (payable to *The Alabama Baptist*)
- Bill me later

For credit card orders, go to: tabonline.org/gift2019

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

Your Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
E-mail _____

GIFT RECIPIENT:
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State/Zip _____
(For additional gifts, please include a sheet with names and addresses of gift recipients.)

Code: BX1019



Mail this form to: *The Alabama Baptist* • PO Box 307 • Congers, NY 10920 • Phone: 1-833-306-3016



3 stories

you should know



RNS photo

When Eliud Kipchoge arrived home in Nairobi, Kenya, after running 26.2 miles in 1:59:40 in a carefully orchestrated event in Vienna, Austria, fellow Christian Kenyans celebrated the long-distance runner's accomplishment. Kenya is more than 80% Christian and Kenyans called Kipchoge a Christian role model. Kipchoge is the world record holder in the marathon (2:01:39) but the run in Austria will not count as a record because of the experimental nature of the run. (RNS/TAB)

Greenway inaugurated as 9th SWBTS president

Four Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) entity heads — O.S. Hawkins, GuideStone Financial Resources; R. Albert Mohler Jr., Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; Paul Chitwood, International Mission Board; and Ronnie Floyd, SBC Executive Committee — charged Adam W. Greenway to remain committed to a high view of Scripture, confessional fidelity, the Great Commission and cooperation during Greenway's inauguration as the ninth president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, on Oct. 21.

Attendees included other SBC entity heads, SBC President J.D. Greear, representatives of more than a dozen seminaries and universities and various state Baptist convention leaders. (BP)

Poll: White evangelicals still support Trump

A new opinion poll says 63% of white evangelicals do not believe President Donald Trump has "damaged the dignity" of the presidency and 67% say the country is headed in the right direction.

The survey by the Public Religion Research Institute found a slight majority of white evangelicals (52%) wish Trump would act more presidential. In the broader faith community 73% of religious Americans overall, including 81% of black Protestants and 72% of white mainline Protestants, say they wish "Trump's speech and behavior were more consistent with past presidents."

A majority of Americans (72%) and white evangelicals (79%) say they are "absolutely certain" they will vote in the 2020 presidential election. (RNS)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

FBC Cullman administrative assistant retires after 42 years of ministry

After 42 years of service at First Baptist Church, Cullman, Judy Mangum is set to retire. Mangum has served as an administrative assistant in various departments within the church, most recently as assistant to the pastor.

"Judy is a gift to this church and this community — a blessing from God," says Pastor Tom Richter. "I am grateful for her skill, her work ethic and above all her love and loyalty to Christ and His Church. It will be impossible to replace her institutional knowledge and she will be missed, but we look forward to seeing what God has in the future for Judy and Morris in their next chapter of life."

Edwin Hayes, pastor emeritus of First, Cullman, says he was also blessed to work with Mangum.

"Judy is the most efficient, well-organized,

'ministry enabler' I have been blessed to work with in my more than 55 years of ministry," said Hayes, adding, "She is a treasure in the kingdom of God!"

First, Cullman, will host a retirement tea in her honor Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. (TAB)



MANGUM

Working groups discuss hot topics at Vatican's Amazon synod

As the 185 Catholic bishops who met to discuss the Amazon region broke into small working groups for the second week of the synod, the topics they tackled included dwindling vocations, the role of women and married men in the Catholic church and the rights of indigenous peoples. But if the small-group participants agreed on the problems the reports from the "circoli minori" showed how wide a difference there was in approaches to possible solutions.

The ideas generated by the 12 groups, which divided the bishops and the synod's lay and religious participants according to language, were presented to Pope Francis as recommendations, said Father Giacomo Costa, who heads the Vati-

can's Information Commission, at a press briefing Oct. 18.

With the goal being to provide the sacraments and a greater pastoral presence in the Amazon the groups urged Francis to consider everything from the ordination of women as deacons, who may preach but not



Unsplash.com

perform sacraments, to the creation of a separate rite for the region, like those in the Eastern Church that allows priests to be married.

"It's obvious that the debate and discussion are open, we try to listen to the differences because everyone has something important to say," said Costa. (RNS)

Calvary Baptist's Plant celebrates 20 years serving church in various roles

Tim Plant says his 20 years at Calvary Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, have held a lot of blessings.

News near you

BULLOCK ASSOCIATION

▶ **J.C. Turner** is the new pastor of **Faith Baptist Church, Union Springs**. A retired schoolteacher, Turner also previously retired from the pastoral ministry after more than 50 years. He has served churches in Barbour, Bullock, Coffee and Crenshaw counties as well as churches in the southern edge of Montgomery County. Turner and his wife, Leona, have been married 54 years and have four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



TURNER

COVINGTON ASSOCIATION

▶ On Sept. 22, **Beulah Baptist Church, Opp**, celebrated its 125th anniversary. Pastor Ben Prator preached and local musician Taylor Weeks led worship.

Otis Corbitt, associational missions director for Covington Baptist Association, presented a certificate on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission. More than 100 gathered for the worship celebration.

“It was a great day,” church member Reneé Russell said.

ESCAMBIA ASSOCIATION

▶ Around 400 people gathered at **First Baptist Church, East Brewton**, on Sept. 29 as the church celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Glenn Sandifer, pastor of Deerfoot Baptist Church, Trussville, and son of former First, East Brewton, pastor Hayne Sandifer, was the guest speaker for the anniversary service.

Dalton Campbell presented a certificate on behalf of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Wendell Ray, elevating mission strategist for Escambia Baptist Association, presented resolutions from Gov. Kay Ivey and the Alabama House of Representatives.

“It was a wonderful weekend of magnifying the Lord,” minister of music Ronny Herrington said. Larry Watts is pastor. ▶ **Larry Beauchamp** is the new pastor of **Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, Atmore**. He has served Pleasant Grove Baptist as interim pastor for several months. He also has served churches in Escambia and Baldwin Baptist associations and spent 20 years in the Air Force before entering the pastoral ministry in 1986.



BEAUCHAMP

GENEVA ASSOCIATION

▶ **New Hinson Baptist Church, Slocomb**, will host Harvest Day on Nov. 10 at 9 a.m. Tony

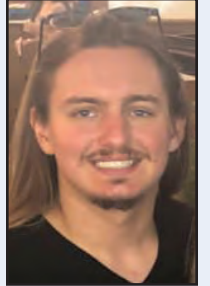


Photo by Dalton Campbell

Deese will be the guest speaker and Jeremy Elrod will bring special music. Bryan Klobe is pastor. ▶ **Maple Avenue Baptist Church, Geneva**, will host its monthly 39ers CLUB on Nov. 12 at 11 a.m. Randall and Christie Lynn Pettis will present a musical program. For reservations call 334-684-9617. Teddy Ward is pastor.

PLEASANT GROVE ASSOCIATION

▶ **John Will Martin** is the new worship leader at **Big Hurricane Baptist Church, Brookwood**. He holds a degree from University of Alabama.



MARTIN

MADISON ASSOCIATION

▶ **Madison Baptist Association** will host a minister's conference at House of Hope and Restoration Church, Huntsville, on Nov. 7 at 10:30 a.m. Jarman Leatherwood will be the guest speaker. Charlie Howell is executive director of missions and Leatherwood is pastor of House of Hope and Restoration.

SHELBY ASSOCIATION

▶ **Bob Terry** is the new interim pastor of **North Shelby Baptist Church, Birmingham**. Terry is editor emeritus of *The Alabama Baptist* and serves as adviser to the president for faith networks at Samford University in Birmingham.✝



TERRY

— NEWSBRIEFS —

He's watched it move from a very traditional church to a church engaging in three services each Sunday — one traditional and two contemporary. He's watched it change its approach to student ministry based on what nearby colleges needed and he's watched it adjust its local ministry after a massive tornado hit the city eight years ago. He's also been a part of training interns to go serve their own churches.

“Calvary is a unique and wonderful church,” Plant said. “It has really been a wonderful place to serve.”

The church recently honored him for those two decades of service. He started in 1999 as minister of education and administration, moved later into the role of executive pastor and now serves as operations pastor.

Calvary's pastor, Tim Lovett, called Plant the “ultimate plug-n-play pastor” with “diverse gifts” that have been used in many different ways for the good of the church and community.

“Since the tornado of 2011, Tim has maintained



PLANT

great relationships with city officials which has helped us to serve our community in creative ways,” Lovett said. “He also developed partnerships with several other churches in the areas most heavily impacted by the tornado and has maintained those right up to the present. He will always have a prominent place in the history of Calvary Tuscaloosa.” (Grace Thornton)

Texas' Shane Pruitt named NAMB next gen evangelism director

Shane Pruitt, an evangelist, Bible teacher and director of evangelism for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, has been named director of next gen (generation) evangelism for the North American Mission Board.

Pruitt begins his role in November. He will continue speaking at evangelism and outreach events and also focus on serving and resourcing Southern Baptist churches as they seek to more effectively reach students.

“My prayer is to see a movement of God and a revival among students,” Pruitt said. “I want to continue to preach to the next generation and

help churches think through how to reach them.”

Pruitt said the drop in student baptisms should set off alarms. A recent *Wall Street Journal* poll found that among Americans age 18–38 only 30% listed religion or belief in God as “very important” compared with 50% of respondents overall and two-thirds of those age 55 and older.

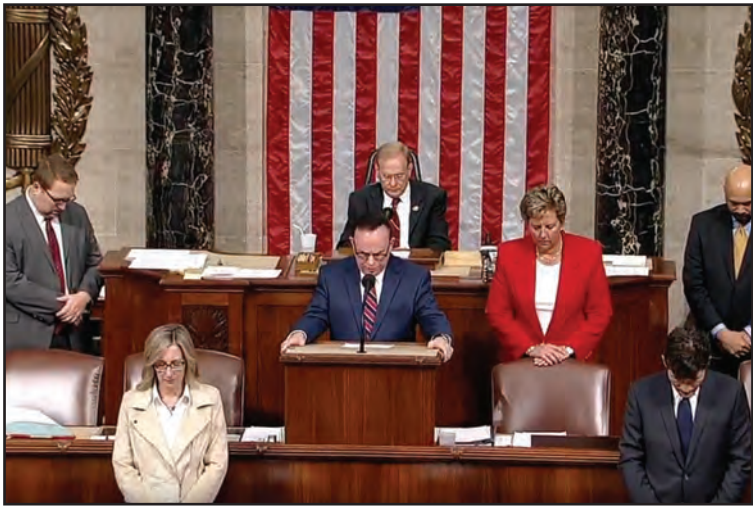
“Similar polls show that 80% of young people place a high value on self-fulfillment,” Pruitt said. “The only way toward that is setting aside self and living for something bigger. To me that is a door wide open for the gospel.”

Pruitt and his wife, Kasi, have five children — two biological and three who were adopted. He says his life and faith have been greatly affected by the decision he and Kasi made to adopt.

“I tell people that besides salvation itself there have been three major life shifts for me that have shown me different impacts of the gospel: becoming a husband, becoming a father and becoming an adoptive father.” (BP)



PRUITT



Screen capture from YouTube

Decatur's Waldrep opens House session with prayer

Decatur-based speaker and author Phil Waldrep opened the Oct. 17 legislative session of the United States House of Representatives with prayer.

"Today we pause to thank You for Your blessings. And to ask that You remind us that with these blessings come responsibilities," Waldrep prayed.

Waldrep was invited to pray at the request of Rep. Mo Brooks (R-Huntsville) who represents Alabama's 5th Congressional district.

Waldrep is the founder of the Phil Waldrep Evangelistic Association.

"I am grateful to Congressman Mo Brooks for his nomination to be the guest chaplain for the United States House of Representatives," said Waldrep. "This is an honor I will cherish for the rest of my life."

Waldrep concluded his prayer by asking God to "help us find time to be Your hands and Your feet in a world that desperately needs love." (Phil Waldrep Ministries)

REFLECTIONS

PASTOR TOM EXPLAINS HIS SERMON TO A SEARCH COMMITTEE —

"PLEASE NOTICE THE CLEVER WAY ALL MY POINTS BEGIN WITH THE SAME LETTER OF THE ALPHABET. I DO THAT A LOT."



TAB CLASSIFIEDS

Place a classified ad for \$1 per word. For more information call 205-870-4720, ext. 102, or email ads@thealabamabaptist.org.

CHURCH POSITIONS

PASTOR

The Flint Baptist Church in Decatur, Alabama, is accepting resumés for a pastor. Email resumé to: flintbaptistchurch@att.net or mail to: 4119 US Hwy 31 South, Decatur, AL 35603.

PASTOR

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

PASTOR

Grove Hill Baptist Church, Grove Hill, AL 36451, is prayerfully seeking God's lead for a full-time pastor. All applicants should have previous experience and have a seminary degree, master's preferred. Resumés with photo may be mailed to: Grove Hill Baptist Church, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee, P.O. Box 849, Grove Hill, AL 36451, or emailed to: ghbc@grovehillbaptist.org, ATTN: Pastor Search Committee.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP LEADER

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

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF YOUTH/CHILDREN

Mexia Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of children and youth with experience (leadership preferred). The person selected for this position will lead children and youth ministry as well as as-

sist with the total ministry of the church. Send resumé by Oct. 31 to: Mexia Baptist Church, ATTN: Search Committee, P.O. Box 218, Mexia, AL 36458 or email: office@mexiabaptistchurch.com.

OTHER POSITIONS

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The Judson Baptist Association is now receiving resumés for the position of DOM. Resumés may be mailed to: JBA, ATTN: DOM Search Committee, 532 Ozark Road, Abbeville, AL 36310. Resumés may also be emailed to: jba4christ@comcast.net. Deadline to receive resumés is Dec. 1.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The Chilton Baptist Association is currently accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. This person should have demonstrated a commitment to associational and state missions by their giving through the Cooperative Program and participation in associational, state and national ministries. Resumés should be sent to: Chilton Baptist Association, ATTN: DOM Search Committee, P.O. Box 1260, Clanton, AL 35046 or email to: cbasecretary@bellsouth.net.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

The DeKalb Baptist Association is now receiving resumés for the position of director of missions (associational missionary). Prospective candidates must have previous pastoral experience and have a college degree from an accredited university. Preference will be given to candidates with a master's degree and accredited seminary training. Resumés may be mailed to: DeKalb Baptist Association, ATTN: DOM Search Committee, 218 Parker Avenue SE, Rainsville, AL 35986. Resumés may also be emailed to: david@rainsvillefirst.com. Deadline to receive resumés is Nov. 4.

OFFICE/FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The Chilton Baptist Association is accepting resumés for a full-time office/financial secretary. The applicant must be a committed Christian and active church member. The position requires experience as well as excellent communication and computer skills. Mail resumés to: Tony Christensen, 102 Cedarbrook Dr., Clanton, AL 35045 or email to: tonychris777@att.net.

BUSINESS

FOR SALE NEW & USED STAIR LIFTS

Lift chairs, power wheelchairs, car lifts, scooters and walk-in-tubs. We service Alabama 1-800-682-0658.

SIGNS

NEED A NEW CHURCH SIGN?

Reliable Signs Services, a full-service sign company located in Alabama for 25 years, is ready to help you grow your church sign ministry. From digital message signs to traditional signs. Reliable Signs handles the design, fabrication and installation statewide. www.reliablesigns.com. 1-800-729-6844 or 205-664-0955.

TRAVEL/VACATION

LOG CABIN RENTAL

Lake Guntersville area, beautiful view and fully furnished. Discounts to ministers. Log on to www.paradisevista.net to see pictures. Call for reservations at 205-540-3600.

FOR SALE

BUS

2000 MCI 102EL3 Bus, cream puff with only 189,799 miles. Has been very well maintained, includes a premium sound and video system with six monitors. Was built as one of only two for show buses for MCI to take to bus shows around the United States. Has rear wheel-steer and includes all accessories available in 2000. Seats 55 passengers. Detroit 60 Series Engine. Allison Transmission. Must see to appreciate. Call for more information, Jim Short, 205-384-7499.

MINISTRIES

VISUALLY IMPAIRED READERS

Know someone who's visually impaired and finds it difficult to read? *The Alabama Baptist* is now offering a way for that person to listen to stories and news in a format that comes in the mail for free. For more information contact 205-870-4720, ext. 101 or email jerwin@thealabamabaptist.org.

TAB PODCAST

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

Muscle Shoals' Grace Life 'done' with SBC

By **Carrie Brown McWhorter**
The Alabama Baptist

Alabama Baptist Pastor Jeff Noblit has called it quits on partnering with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC).

Noblit, pastor of Grace Life Church of the Shoals in Muscle Shoals, said in an edited video of the Oct. 20 announcement he is not opposed to supporting Baptist entities like the Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries but as far as other SBC projects are involved, "I'm done."

Pastor of Grace Life since 1989 and a member of the pastoral staff since 1981, Noblit said the church "long ago pulled back 95% of our missions work to support our own missions involvement."

In fact the church's leadership has talked about withdrawing from the SBC for years but he has been the one not quite ready "to finally and formally separate," Noblit said.

A "straw that broke the camel's back," he said, is the "rise and the embracing and the affirming of Beth Moore's ministry."

Moore's role in Baptist life has been a frequent subject of debate on social media especially in recent months. The latest dustup came during a conference Oct. 16-18 when California pastor John MacArthur said Moore should "go home."

MacArthur claims the SBC has lost faith in the authority of the Bible and has taken a "headlong plunge" toward allowing women preachers.

SBC President J.D. Greear came to Moore's defense on Twitter following MacArthur's comments, tweeting "[Beth Moore], you're welcome in our home any time."

Greear's tweet kicked off a flurry of comments both supportive and critical of the SBC and its leaders.

Moore tweeted Oct. 21 that she "surrendered to a calling of God" at 18 and "it never occurs to me for a second to not fulfill it."

Without referring to anyone specifically Moore added, "Here's the beautiful thing about it and I mean this with absolute respect. You don't have to let me serve you. That gets to be your choice. Whether or not I serve Jesus is not up to you. Whether I serve you certainly is. One way or the other, I esteem you as my sibling in Christ."

Recalling a time when MacArthur had encouraged him in the ministry, Noblit called MacArthur "the leading pastor-theologian in the world." He added that MacArthur's public denouncement of SBC leadership is what led to his own decision to officially cut ties with the SBC.

Noblit also announced on Twitter an upcoming pastoral training institute sponsored by Grace Life and how his personal ministry Anchored in Truth is a network of churches.

Both tweets promote the two opportunities.

In the Oct. 21 tweet Noblit said, "the Anchored in Truth fellowship of

churches is for those committed to being, 'Glory of God focused, Christ honoring, preaching the Word based and local church centered. And we definitely hold each other accountable for sound doctrine and practice.'"

According to the Anchored in Truth's website, Noblit is the president and it is the missions arm of Grace Life with 18 church partners in several states. Noblit also serves as chairman of the elders for Grace Life.

The church's annual statistical information — such as membership, baptisms and receipts — in the Alabama Baptist State Convention's database of cooperating churches has only been filled in once during Noblit's time as pastor (2005). That year's numbers show \$20,000 of the \$2,357,414 budget given through the Cooperative Program (CP), 30 baptisms and 1,263 members.

Alabama's most recent giving report shows Grace Life gave \$4,800 through the CP in 2018. Of that, \$2,400 went to SBC causes.✠



MOORE



NOBLIT

Open Doors, Samaritan's Purse offer aid to Kurds displaced from their northeast Syrian homes

Earlier this month, the pastor of a Kurdish Christian church in northeastern Syria gathered his congregation to decide whether to leave or stay as Turkish forces pressed into the region after U.S. troops withdrew.

In an area threatened for years by both the Syrian civil war and the international fight against the Islamic State group, also known as ISIS, the church was now in the path of a new offensive.

'Salt and light'

Only eight families told the pastor they planned to leave, according to Open Doors President and CEO David Curry, whose organization sup-

ports persecuted Christians in the region. Most decided to stay.

"The rest are staying to try to be salt and light and love in this community," Curry said.

Other stories have emerged from Syria, he added, including missiles falling on communities, churches attacked by ground forces and a feared resurgence of ISIS and other extremist groups.

At least 166,000 people have been displaced since the Turkish invasion began Oct. 9, according to the United Nations. And at least 21 civilians, including children, were killed during a supposed cease-fire announced by the U.S. and Turkey, according to the Kurdish Red Crescent.



RNS/AP Photo by Hussein Malla

Syrian women displaced by the Turkish military operation in northeastern Syria line up to receive aid and food supplies at the Bardarash refugee camp, north of Mosul, Iraq.

The Kurds, most of whom are Muslim, in northeastern Syria have welcomed Christian, Yazidi and other persecuted religious minorities.

They have "allowed [the persecuted minorities] to

live in and amongst them," Curry said. The Kurds also have fought alongside U.S. troops against ISIS.

Open Doors began its work in Syria before civil war broke out in 2011 and estimates about 50,000

Christians live in the region.

Open Doors is one of several Christian aid groups offering relief in the form of food, water, medical care and temporary housing.

Samaritan's Purse, which has operations in nearby Iraq, is supporting the humanitarian needs of Kurds who have been displaced from their homes, according to Ken Isaacs, who oversees the organization's international relief projects.

The organization is working with partners to provide tarps for emergency shelter, cooking supplies and medical care, as well as blankets and warm clothing, Isaacs said. (RNS)

ONEMISSION: The Great Commission ONEPROGRAM: The Cooperative Program MANYMINISTRIES: Great Commission Ministries



Myers-Mallory
State Missions Offering

State Goal: \$1,200,000

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!
Offering collected all year.

myers-mallory.org

YOUR GIFTS HELP
SUPPORT THESE
**GREAT
COMMISSION
MINISTRIES:**

ALABAMA WMU
DISASTER RELIEF
CHURCH PLANTING
PARTNERSHIP MISSIONS
CHURCH REVITALIZATION

- 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.*
- 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, Jeff Mann, 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**
- JANUARY**
- 5-12 **January Bible Study**, Daniel Edmonds, ext. 285
 - 9 **Church Tax Conference**, Decatur First, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 12-13 **Who's Your One? Tour**, Gardendale FBC, Lori McGough, ext. 258
 - 14 **Church Tax Conference**, Birmingham Metro Baptist Association Office, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 16 **Church Tax Conference**, Mobile Baptist Association Office, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 17-18 **Student Missions Weekend**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Kaley Stephens, ext. 278
 - 19 **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
 - 21 **Church Tax Conference**, Eastern Shore, Daphne, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 23-25 **Southeast Youth Conclave**, Chattanooga, Tenn., Scooter Kellum, ext. 280
 - 23-25 **Alabama Baptist Church Planting Basics**, House of Hope and Restoration Church, Huntsville, Jeff Mann, ext. 332
 - 23-24 **Discipleship Network of Alabama**, Hunter Street, Hoover, Daniel Edmonds, ext. 285
 - 28 **Church Tax Conference**, Calvary, Dothan, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 30 **The Secret of Teams: What Great Teams Know & Do**, SBOM Facility, Prattville, Mike Jackson, ext. 210
 - 31-2/1 **Alabama Bible Drill Retreat**, Shocco Springs, Belinda Stroud, ext. 255
 - 31-2/1 **Activators Training**, WorldSong, Cook Springs, Laura Glass, ext. 226
- FEBRUARY**
- 1/31-2/1 **Activators Training**, WorldSong
 - 1/31-2/1 **Alabama Bible Drill**, Shocco Springs
 - 9 **Racial Reconciliation Sunday**, Keith Hinson, ext. 289
 - 11 **Minister's Tax Conference**, FBC Decatur, Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 13 **Minister's Tax Conference**, Birmingham Baptist Association, Birmingham Lee Wright, ext. 241
 - 15 **Children's Missions Day**, Amanda Armstrong, ext. 223
 - 16 **Hunger Sunday**, Jim Swedenburg, ext. 283

Cottage Hill Baptist members build home for local family

Cottage Hill held its first tent meeting in 1945 with 28 members. Seventy-five years later the church now has three campuses — two in Mobile

and one on Dauphin Island — as well as a K–12 school and fitness center.

Maybe most significant, however, is the 2,000 hours of time more than 310

church members have volunteered to give a special gift to a local family — a 1,970-square-foot home.

It was part of the church's "Love Where You Live" (LWYL) initiative that gives members opportunities to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Mobile area.

"For our 75th anniversary I wanted to challenge our church to complete the largest LWYL project to date: to purchase a lot in a neighborhood and build a house for a single parent with at least one special needs child," said Alan Floyd, who has served as Cottage Hill Baptist's pastor since 2012. "After consulting with area social workers, pediatricians and our own leaders in our Special Needs LIFEgroup we were able to identify a family to help.

"Items not donated by businesses for this home were purchased by church members and church volunteers worked in all capacities to complete the house."

The church has transformed over the years but Cottage Hill's foundation of



Photo courtesy of Cottage Hill Baptist Church

loving God and loving His people has stayed the same, said Parker Douglas, the church's director of communications.

'Joyful celebration

The home was officially presented to the family Oct. 6 as part of the church's three-day anniversary celebration. Additional activities included homecoming at Cottage Hill Christian Academy, a festival, a concert featuring past and present church singing groups, interviews with former pastors and a church-wide lunch.

Jason Allen, who was

raised at Cottage Hill Baptist and is now president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, spoke at the church's Sunday service.

Allen challenged the congregation to honor the past but focus on the future. Fifteen people were baptized during the service.

"It was a joyful celebration of 75 years of how God has blessed Cottage Hill," said Ronnie McCarter, minister to adults 55 and up. "People walked away blessed and grateful for the years God has had His hand on this church." (Cottage Hill, TAB)

LEEDS STAINED GLASS & CHURCH FURNITURE
SINCE 1995

Toll-free: 888.699.9679
AL local: 205.699.9679
Call for **FREE** on-site consultation
Ask for Terry Barnes, Owner
information@LeedsStainedGlass.com
Visit www.LeedsStainedGlass.com
for an online gallery of windows and church furniture!

Pastor Charles Lewis recommends Jimmy Dixon

**Rates are down!
That means MORE MONEY for YOU!**

ACT TODAY!

Contact Jimmy Dixon
205-567-4800 • jdixon@mcgowinking.com

Like *The Alabama Baptist*, Jimmy covers our state helping seniors improve the quality of their lives.

NMLS #207518

Christian Crossword

Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



Across

- Charity suffereth long, and is _____. (1 Cor. 13:4)
- They have spread a _____ by the wayside. (Ps. 140:5)
- Gather the wheat into my _____. (Matt. 13:30)
- A thought or concept.
- I will set him _____ high. (Ps. 91:14)
- Having to do with life science. (prefix)
- Compass direction.
- Glory to God in _____ highest.
- How long shall I _____ with you? (Mark 9:19)
- British word for bathroom.
- Some would even _____ to die. (Rom. 5:7)
- _____, _____, C.
- _____, and it shall be given you. (Matt. 7:7)
- _____, Father. (Mark 14:36)
- And did all _____ the same spiritual meat. (1 Cor. 10:3)
- Behold, the _____ wept. (Ex. 2:6)

- And his _____ went throughout all Syria. (Matt. 4:24)
- Decimeter. (abbr.)
- Calls for someone in a public place.
- Far _____ all principality, and power. (Eph. 1:21)
- The veil of the temple was _____ in twain. (Matt. 27:51)
- Nancy. (abbr.)
- _____ angel of the Lord.
- _____ and walk? (Matt. 9:5)
- Before Christ. (abbr.)
- He is _____; yet is he clean. (Lev. 13:40)
- Gets up in the morning.
- All that handle the _____, (Ezek. 27:29)
- Side away from the wind.
- One of the Three Stooges.
- A type of deer.
- The father shall be divided against the _____. (Luke 12:53)
- Saint. (abbr.)
- But also _____ die at Jerusalem. (Acts 21:13)
- His _____ was

- cleansed. (Matt. 8:3)
- ### Down
- Boaz was of the _____ of Elimelech. (Ruth 3:2)
 - "I've got a great _____!"
 - Compass direction.
 - Sweet fruit grown on palm trees.
 - Christmas.
 - Inhabitants of _____ dor. (Josh. 17:11)
 - No man ... was _____ to open the book. (Rev. 5:3)
 - City in Brazil.
 - About _____ ... there shone great light round me. (Acts 22:6)
 - Find the _____ wrapped in swaddling clothes. (Luke 2:12)
 - One type of tide.
 - A type of vermin.
 - Kilobytes. (abbr.)
 - He is _____ also to save. (Heb. 7:25)
 - When he saw Jesus _____ off, he ran. (Mark 5:6)
 - So be it.
 - _____ I my brother's

- keeper? (Gen. 4:9)
- Die in the flower of their _____. (1 Sam. 2:33)
- Eastern Standard Time. (abbr.)
- And _____ him that is high. (Ezek. 21:26)
- Pay tithe of mint, _____ and cumin. (Matt. 23:23)
- I have commanded my sanctified _____. (Isa. 13:3)
- They went their ways, one to his _____. (plural) (Matt. 22:5)
- If I knew you were coming, I'd have baked _____. (2 Pet. 2:13)
- They that count it pleasure to _____. (2 Pet. 2:13)
- The fire causeth the waters to _____. (Isa. 64:2)
- Who loveth God love his brother _____. (1 John 4:21)
- Several popes sharing one name.
- Lest ye _____ your God. (Josh. 24:27)
- To knock on a door; form of music.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For November 3

Explore the Bible

By Robert L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



WALKING IN LOVE Ephesians 5:1-14

Imitate (1-2)

One of the roles of parents is to model proper behavior for their children. A parent who cheats the government and speaks ill of other people is teaching his or her children to do the same. Since we have a perfect Father in heaven we can see how He views the world by reading Scripture. One of the ways we imitate God is by loving one another sacrificially.

As Christians we are called to love in a way that is different than the way the world loves. We are to love unconditionally whereas the world teaches to love conditionally. If God loved us conditionally none of us would be loved. We are all unlovable, yet in spite of this God loves us (Rom. 5:8).

Since we have been chosen by God and are His adopted children we are to imitate our heavenly Father's love for us. In John 13:35, Jesus tells His disciples that love for one another is the means by which the world will recognize us as Jesus' disciples.

Isolate (3-7)

Another way to imitate God is in how we live. Several generations ago it was more difficult to distinguish Christians from the rest of society in how they lived. American society was influenced heavily by Christianity especially since the time of the Second Great Awakening in the 1800s.

However, as American society moved further and further from a Christian mindset it became easier to distinguish a Christian from secular society.

Society has gloried in sexual promiscuity as witnessed by prime-time television and movies. While this is a horrible devolution of American culture it does help Christians distinguish themselves from society.

The more society moves away from moral living the more Christians stand out in society. Now that society has turned against Christianity people no longer flippantly take the label of Christian and it al-

lows the Church to present a clear depiction of the gospel.

Illuminate (8-14)

In our modern context we need to live in a way that causes us to stand out. Christians need to take a firm stance on sexual purity not giving in to the pressures of society. The same goes for how we speak.

We need to avoid coarse joking and language that downgrades others. In the time of the apostles some were teaching that since we are saved by grace we can sin and not worry about punishment. However, Paul is clear that false teaching like this results in condemnation. We need to be on guard today against false teaching. For example, many mainline denominations have changed their views on homosexual behavior to match the teaching of the culture.

However, it will not stop there. These same churches, which have abandoned the gospel, may also now be more susceptible to the ideology behind transgenderism and eventually things like pedophilia. These churches possess nothing to offer a lost and dying world. Instead of being a doctor to the culture they simply provide a mirror to the culture. Christianity gives us the means to assess a culture but not be changed by the culture.

In contrast to living as the world Christians need to evaluate the culture, exposing the parts of the culture that are harmful. This needs to be done in an appropriate way (1 Pet. 3:15) where Christians are salt and light in the world (Matt. 5:13-14).

Just as salt when applied to a wound is painful or just as light hurts your eyes when you've been in the dark, Christianity is often an offense to the world. But just as light exposes dirt, Christianity (the Bible) is the standard to evaluate right and wrong in the culture. Since the beginning of the Christian faith Christians have stood on the Bible against the culture, showing the culture right and wrong and representing Christ in a loving way.✠

Bible Studies for Life

By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



GOD'S WILL AND THE CHURCH 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

My family shares a common vocabulary of movie quotes. My sons and I often speak in an obscure dialogue of quotes from "The Sandlot," "A League of Their Own," "Galaxy Quest" and a host of other highbrow movies of this sort.

One of our favorite quotes comes from "Forrest Gump." In response to his drill sergeant's question, "Gump, what's your sole purpose in this army?" Tom Hanks' character replies, "To do whatever you tell me, drill sergeant." As this essentially summarizes my parenting philosophy it is a line that comes up often in our family. The scene in "Forrest Gump" from which this quote derives is one in which Forrest finds army life suits him to a tee. In his words, "I fit in the army like one of them round pegs."

Something can be said for finding one's place in life. As a college professor I often see students struggle through their first few semesters in a course of study that clearly wasn't meant for them. When they finally land on the right major those same students begin to thrive.

In his first letter to the church at Corinth the Apostle Paul describes a similar dynamic when it comes to our participation in the life of the Church. One of the most important aspects of finding God's will for our lives consists in finding God's place for us in the body of Christ.

The Holy Spirit works and speaks through those who acknowledge the lordship of Christ. (1-3)

In 1 Corinthians the rubric under which Paul discusses our role in the Church is that of spiritual gifts. If the rest of 1 Corinthians is any guide the church at Corinth struggled a great deal with the gifts of the Spirit. High value was apparently placed on the showier gifts like tongues and prophecy. Paul goes out of his way to emphasize spiritual gifts were intended for service not for show and certainly not for personal aggrandizement.

Keeping the gifts of the Spirit in this proper role of service begins with a recognition of and a commitment to the lordship of Christ.

As Paul underscores this important point he offers what seems to be an unusual warning: "No one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says 'Jesus is accursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit" (v. 3). Removed as we are from the Corinthian situation it seems obvious to us that no one guided by the Spirit could ever say, "Jesus is accursed." At issue in this passage is a particular strain of Hellenistic philosophy that had heavily influenced many Gentile believers. Greek philosophy often denigrated the physical body elevating instead the spirit and mind. Among some Christians this resulted in a strong preference for the heavenly, spiritual Christ over the earthly, physical Jesus.

Paul's warning is grounded in a recognition that God's Spirit would never bless a denigration of the humanity of Jesus.

The same God works through each of us in the church. (4-6)

Returning to his main discussion Paul focuses first on those things that unite us as believers. We possess various gifts but we have the same Spirit. We have various avenues for service but we have the same Lord. We hold various roles but we have the same God who helps us fill them.

The Holy Spirit speaks and works through His church in a variety of ways. (7-11)

Grounded in the notions of Jesus' lordship and our shared empowerment by Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Paul can then move on to discuss those things that make us different. We serve the same God but that God has given to each of us different gifts for serving and different opportunities for employing those gifts.

Our task is to be sensitive to the Spirit who empowers as we seek to serve others in God's Church.✠



Media reviews

MOVIES/TV

VeggieTales' creator Vischer wants kids to know biggest story of all

By Carrie Brown McWhorter
The Alabama Baptist

Storytelling has been at the heart of Phil Vischer's creative process since the very first VeggieTales video released in 1993.

Now the biggest story of all — God's story as told from Genesis to Revelation

— is the focus of his first storybook, the "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids."

Vischer, who co-created VeggieTales and voiced many of the characters, including Bob the Tomato, has spent much of his career finding innovative ways to teach biblical truths.

A printed book might seem like a step back techno-

logically speaking but Vischer told *The Alabama Baptist* that's not the case.

"We have a generation where the 20-somethings are going and buying vinyl records again because there's something about having a tangible copy of something, something you can hold as opposed to, 'All my music is in the cloud,'" Vischer said.

Reading is still an important part of the child-parent bond, Vischer said.

"With a video you can't curl up with your kids in bed and read them a story," Vischer said. "It's just something you do best with a book."

Raising readers

Bedtime reading is vital for child development and forming strong relationships between children and their parents, grandparents or other caregivers, Vischer said.

The "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids" is a tool for fostering the habit of reading but more importantly the habit of daily Bible reading.

"We all want our kids reading the Bible throughout their lives," Vischer said. "But it's hard to start an 8-year-old on a full-text King James or NIV and say 'Good luck.'"

The "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids" divides the Bible into 52 stories written in language accessible for younger children.

Complex concepts like sin and the Trinity are addressed in simple language and family connection questions after each story offer a start-



'Laugh and Learn: Bible for Kids'

Photo courtesy of FaithWords

ing point for conversations. Perhaps most importantly the Bible stories are told in order, which is different than what many children get in Sunday School, Vischer said.

"Quite often if kids are experiencing the Bible in Sunday School or through other books they're getting

Bible stories but not in context," Vischer said. "This week it's Moses, next week it's Noah's Ark, the next week it's Jesus."

What children miss in that approach is how the Bible stories connect to tell a bigger story, Vischer said. Culture gives children those grand narratives, he said — "Star Wars," "Harry Potter" and "The Avengers" — and children gravitate toward them.

"Kids want life to have a big story behind it and if we don't give them one they're going to go find one somewhere else," Vischer said.

As a "Bible on training wheels," the "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids" presents God's big story in an

accessible way so when children are older they can dig deeper into stories and truths that are already familiar to them, he said.

The "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids" is also available in audiobook format and VeggieTales fans will enjoy hearing Vischer's distinctive voice and humor as they listen to the stories. The audio version is another way for children to interact with the stories in their own ways, Vischer said.

New episodes

Now a grandfather himself Vischer hopes a new generation will discover the wonder of God's story and their place in it through projects like the "Laugh and Learn Bible for Kids" and new episodes of VeggieTales, 18 of which are in the works. The first new VeggieTales video — "The Best Christmas Gift" — released Oct. 22.

New VeggieTales episodes will be released on DVD, streaming and broadcast but dates haven't been announced. More information is available at www.veggie-tales.com.

Internationally known, award-winning artist

MICHAEL ENGLISH

In concert



NOVEMBER 4 AT 7 PM

Bethlehem Baptist Church

416 Bethlehem Road, Midland City, AL 36350

NOVEMBER 5 AT 7 PM

Eastmont Baptist Church

4505 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36109

NOVEMBER 7 AT 7 PM

First Baptist Church

Fairhope, AL 36532

TICKETS

\$10 per ticket • \$8 each for a block of 10 or more

Join us for a night of music and worship!

For tickets or details,
call *The Alabama Baptist* at 1-800-803-5201, Ext. 100.

Lion-sized belief

Faith important to UNA football players, coaches

By Bill Sorrell
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

University of North Alabama (UNA) coaches and football players have a lion-sized belief in the importance of faith.

“There is not a game without faith,” said UNA offensive left tackle Zach Davis. “Every time you line up you have to have faith that something good is going to happen and that God is going to protect you.”

Quarterback Christian Lopez said faith has an added significance for him as a person and as a player.

“It is my family background,” Lopez said. “I lost my mom when I was young. There are a lot of [situations in life] where I fall back on faith.”

Center Cody Mann echoed Lopez’s thoughts.

“Faith is a big part of my life,” Mann said. “When everything is said and done I want to be in heaven. That is where I want to be.”

And offensive right tackle Ethan McMullan is one of the spiritual leaders on the team.

“Jesus is my Savior,” McMullan said. “Without Him nothing would be possible.”

Head coach Chris Willis appreciates the way McMullan uses his faith as a platform. The father of three sons, Willis said he hopes his sons emulate McMullan.

“I hope when they grow up they lead like Ethan leads his family and leads by example in public,” Willis said.

Opportunities and relationships

Willis has been part of the UNA program since 2002 and was named head coach in December 2016. He and his wife, Tara, are members of St. James United Methodist Church in Florence.

Graduate coaching assistant Jacob Tucker also values faith on the field. Tucker was an All-American quarterback at UNA and sparked the Lions to the 2016 Gulf South Conference championship. He joined the UNA coaching staff in 2018 as a graduate assistant working with running backs.



Ethan McMullan

Photos courtesy of UNA

Prior to that he led the Potsdam Royals to the German Football League championship in 2017.

“I have been blessed with a lot of different opportunities, a lot of good things [and] a lot of bad things, but at the end of the day none of that really matters unless you have your faith,” Tucker said.

He said those who don’t believe in God who “created this earth, created you, created this life for you” are living a “pointless life.”

“He gives us relationships with family, friends, loved ones that we can enjoy,” Tucker said. “We can enjoy being loved and loving someone else. We can’t love unless God loves us and He does. That is why faith is really important to me.”



Offensive right tackle Ethan McMullan is one of the spiritual leaders on UNA’s football team. Head coach Chris Willis hopes his sons grow up to emulate McMullan.

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

WXJCRADIO.COM