



The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



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Above: Gresa Sahatcui (center, black sweater) helps a school near where she lives in Florida fill Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes and shares how a shoebox changed her life. Right: When the Henson family sent Gresa Sahatcui an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in 1999 they included a photo of their three daughters and Sahatcui held tight to that photo.

Photos courtesy of Kim Henson

'They gave me hope'

Shoebox recipient from 1999 shares how the 'bright red paper' box changed her life

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Kim Henson's first reaction was confusion — but her confusion quickly turned to straight tears.

About a year ago she was just dropping something off at her church on a Monday morning when the receptionist told her she had a voicemail.

"I said, 'Here at the church?

How?' and she said, 'You just need to listen to it,'" Henson said.

The receptionist hit play and what spilled out of the phone at Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Birmingham, was the voice of a young woman with what she called a "strange request" — she was trying to find the family who had sent her a shoebox through Operation Christmas

Child about 18 years ago.

"I got tears in my eyes," Henson said.

Henson had packed that box in 1999 with her three young daughters and tucked a photo of the three of them in with the socks, toys and other small items in the box.

"We've done shoeboxes since before they were born, but it was a huge project for them growing up. I always put

a picture of our family in the box," Henson said, noting that she and her husband, Jordy, have also had a son since that photo was made.

That year she wrote, "God Bless You! Love, Heather, Hope and Holly Henson, Birmingham, AL, U.S.A."

And for 18 years Gresa Sahatcui clung to that photo.

As a young girl Sahatcui (See 'Birmingham,' page 13)



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

COMING NEXT WEEK
Alabama Baptist State Convention
annual meeting coverage



TAB staff member part of disaster relief efforts in southern Tennessee

By Janet Erwin
The Alabama Baptist

After being trained by Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief officials earlier this year, I donned my yellow shirt and yellow hat for the first time Nov. 3-4 in Adamsville, Tennessee. The area had sustained 75-100 mph winds from Tropical Storm Olga the previous weekend leaving portions of the town a war zone and I joined a group to serve along with the Alabama mass feeding team.

Operating out of the church kitchen of First Baptist Church, Adamsville, the experienced feeding team welcomed and mentored me each step of the way. While we were not feeding the thousands, we were providing necessary meals and snacks for the chainsaw teams, chaplain, administrative team and our feeding team. Our days were filled from morning till night prepping, cooking and serving meals, cleaning up and preparing for the next day. Organization was first and foremost.



Photo by Cookie Baker

TAB executive editor Janet Erwin (center) works alongside Becky Moore (left) to prepare pancakes for the disaster relief teams working long hours in Adamsville, Tennessee.



Photo courtesy of ABDR

A team from Calhoun Association works to clear the trees toppled by Tropical Storm Olga. The large size of the trees has made cleanup efforts more difficult.

TAB editor-in-chief, Jennifer Davis Rash, believes in missions and ministry. At the beginning of the year she encouraged us to become credentialed with disaster relief in our specific area

of interest. In addition she offered TAB employees seven workdays a year for ministry opportunities such as disaster relief.

So when I popped my head into her office and asked for time off to join the disaster relief feeding group in Adamsville, she readily responded, "Yes."

Having survived a tornado and the loss of my belongings in 1974, I felt honored to serve others who find themselves victims of natural disasters.

CORRECTION

In the Nov. 7, 2019, issue it was incorrectly stated that Dan Garland serves with LifeWay as director of church planters. Garland is now retired. Also shipping is free on orders of \$50 or more when ordering from LifeWay.



Photo by Janet Erwin

Two Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers pour over a map of Adamsville, Tennessee, to strategize about where to start their next job.



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

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The crossword puzzle
can be found on page 17.

MY RASHIONALE

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

jrash@thealabamabaptist.org
@RashionalThts



Picking out a few pieces of our ripest 'fruit' to share

The annual meeting of the Alabama Baptist State Convention will have just wrapped up for 2019 when you receive this issue of *The Alabama Baptist (TAB)* in your mailbox and email inbox.

Sermons, devotional moments and reports from the various groups and ministries serving Alabama Baptists were built around this year's annual meeting theme "Fruitful."

You know the theme worked great for me because one of my favorite Scripture passages focuses on the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23).

We closed the *TAB* report by reading those two verses after sharing a quick snapshot of how *TAB* has been fruitful this year.

The word "fruitful" has a variety of abundance-type meanings such as to be productive, to provide good results and to produce much fruit.

1. To be productive — *TAB* makes it to you week after week in all its forms because of the team's ability to be productive.

Our daily lives related to the work and ministry of *TAB* are built around productivity.

2019 also allowed the opportunity to add a new level of productivity related to people, property and products.

We've spent time this year developing and growing as a team as well as building relationships across the state and nation.

A lot of energy also has gone into decluttering and updating our work environment while

also producing a variety of community spaces to share with our ministry partners.

And we've continued efforts to freshen up the 176-year-old print product, step up our digital presence and expand our reach through new platforms such as podcasting and a new audio ministry for the visually impaired.

2. To provide good results — *TAB* added the Your Voice spread for readers to engage in respectful and meaningful conversations and to bring more voices to the table. We encourage conversations through our

social media platforms as well.

Our team works hard to bring a calm, positive and peaceful presence to our readers, even when there's difficult news to share. We want to encourage a consistent focus on Jesus in all we as believers say and do.

3. To produce much fruit — or as we like to think of it, make disciples.

Our team recognizes the more we grow spiritually, create margin in our daily lives and find healthy solutions to dealing with life's problems, the better equipped we will be to

consistently and energetically share Christ and invest in others to make disciples who in turn make disciples.

We work each day toward becoming that reliable fruit-producing resource for you.

TAB also is committed to encouraging individual believers, church families, associations and all of us cooperating together as the Alabama Baptist State Convention to consistently strive for "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."✠

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Have the conversation, talk about the issues and make peace with your ability to agree to disagree at times

Is it ever OK to publicly slander a fellow believer — or anyone for that manner?

How about share comments and opinions about a person and/or situation in which we don't have the full set of facts?

If you found yourself in a controversial situation tomorrow would you want a barrage of voices who don't really know you chiming in and determining how things should play out?

Conversations and productive discussions where people are truly attempting to understand a situation and intelligently form an opinion that can be backed up by facts — yes. That is what should be happening.

But the increasing number of mean-spirited personal attacks taking place online and through

a variety of media outlets surely can't be honoring to our Lord.

Again I'm not referencing conversations and discussions for understanding purposes. I'm talking about personal attacks over seemingly secondary issues such as what is playing out among church people across the nation right now.

And even if the situation is an essential issue related to our faith shouldn't the approach be something other than an online attack from another location?

Proverbs 3:3: "Do not let kindness and truth leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart."

Matthew 18:15–17: "If your brother sins against you, go and confront him privately. ... But if he will not listen, take one or two others along so that 'every matter may

be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church."

John 8:7: "... 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone'"

How did we move from what Jesus said to determining for ourselves it's OK to say whatever we want about someone with which we disagree? Why do some prefer trial by public opinion over a carefully thought-out decision based on fact?

Even if it is your hero in the faith who has stepped into the arena of publicly slandering others, consider carefully how far you really want to imitate him or her. No one should be worshipped except our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.✠

Your Voice



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

Effective leaders inspire confidence in others

By George Yates

Church health strategist
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

John F. Kennedy inspired a nation and the leaders of a space program to put a man on the moon in less than 10 years.

Martin Luther King Jr. inspired a civil rights movement with a steadfast character and a speech that is still remembered 50 years later.

Jack Welch led General Electric (GE) for two decades in which GE became a global powerhouse in many areas of business. GE is filled with stories of men and women who moved forward with strong confidence during Welch's leadership.

The list goes on and on. As we read of history or history in the making, great and successful leaders were and are the leaders who inspire others to reach for the best inside themselves for the good of the organization or nation.

Think back on leaders you have witnessed in your lifetime.

What is it about the leaders in your own life that cause you to consider them great or better than good leaders?

I believe one contributing factor you will find in all successful leaders is the ability to inspire others to do their best with their God-given

abilities for the organization while increasing individual capabilities.

Those who utilize this leadership practice will see others increase in skill and competence — rising beyond even what the individual thought possible.

The bittersweet portion of this is the leader often says goodbye to these employees as they move on to greater positions. Yet the successful leader knows this is part of the leadership cycle and is indeed successful leadership.

An effective leader never wants to hold someone back from reaching his or her potential. That would be stealing confidence, not instilling it.

While losing good, quality people is tough, it is very rewarding to see and hear of future accomplishments.

Learning of former employees reaching far beyond what they ever could have at your organization will bring delight to any leader if you have had a hand in encouraging and inspiring that person in his or her skill set and competences.

What will you do this week to inspire others in your organization (church or family) to dig deeper and grow more confident in fulfilling their greatest potential? How can you improve your leadership of inspiration?

EDITOR'S NOTE — Adapted from "Effective Leaders Inspire Confidence," a blog post at alsbom.org/newsroom.

May there always be a sense of excitement and urgency as we work together to carry out our Lord's command to go, make disciples, baptize and teach.

Larry Vinson
Associational missions
director, Cleburne Baptist
Association

The essence of faith is unreserved commitment to God, regardless of impressions and expressions which conflict with that commitment.

Morris Murray Jr.
Author and minister
of music and outreach
Samaria Baptist Church
Jasper

Praise God that His plans do not rely on my faithfulness, His joy doesn't hinge on my good behavior, His glory doesn't depend on my performance.

Jen Wilkins
"None Like Him"

We must always remember the biblical mandate to pray for our leaders.

Pastor Michael J. Brooks
Siluria Springs Baptist
Church, Alabaster

Thanksgiving Thoughts

I appreciate the mother who says to her [child], "Say 'Thank you,'" when the child is handed a gift.

Such training awakens the child to untold blessings and the beauty of gratitude. Such instructions form the first steps in becoming a grateful person.

God designed us to grow in grace until true gratitude flows from inside without the need for outward prompting.

The Spirit's words through the Apostle Paul, "Be thankful," may be taught as a command, but the deeper call is to become people who are so aware of the constant flow of grace and love from

God's heart to us that our praise and thanksgiving cannot be bottled up. The outward promptings come and go but true gratitude flows on and on.

Not only does unstoppable gratitude please the Father, it also cleanses the heart of cynicism and littleness and sends us dancing through the wonders of salvation living. No killjoys among the King's children. No sour-hearted cynics. Just joyful children who know that even the dark days are saturated with the air of grace as surely as the earth turns after sunset.

Bob Adams, Retired pastor
Louisiana

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“Local, regional and foreign missions should never be treated as extracurricular activities for a believer.”

LARRY HYCHE

Associate for men's spiritual development, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

We can't tell people to come as they are but insist they change before they arrive. Live in grace. Walk in love.

Pastor Glenn Sandifer
Deerfoot Baptist Church
Trussville

If trends in America continue ... we must be ready to do more and more with less and less. Accomplishing our God's Great Commission will be more visibly done together.

Dale Wood
Associational missions director
East Liberty Baptist Association

It is easy to allow the stress of pastoring and dealing with people to rob you of the joy of preaching and

serving. ... Preachers, let me challenge you today to get alone with God and remember the day that the One who knows your name called you into the ministry. Allow Him to pull you to Himself and encourage you. Give the Master Healer your wounded soul and be consumed by the joy of God's call upon your lives.

Steve Sellers
Alabama Baptist Children's
Homes & Family Ministries

In order to seek and find joy in real life experiences and relationships one must put down devices and look up. We must remember our children are learning how to navigate a digital world by watching our example. Set time limitations and

clear guidelines on digital technology and reinforce the importance of face-to-face conversations. One of the greatest gifts we give our children is our undivided attention.

Donna Cicero
Children's Minister
Circlewood Baptist, Tuscaloosa

We live in a day when being part of a local body of believers is not a priority for many families. ... If parents really want to make a big impact spiritually then church must be a weekly priority. At the top of the list. Above sports. Above trips to the lake. Above sleeping in.

Dwight Everett
Associational missions director
Tennessee River Baptist
Association



UM photo
Lonnie Burnett is interim president of University of Mobile.

'I am thankful every day'

The month of November is a time when we turn our attention to the practice of thankfulness. In that spirit I'd like to share a short list of just a few of the many things for which I am thankful.

I am thankful every day to be allowed to work on the campus of the University of Mobile with the most talented and dedicated people in the world.

I am thankful for Alabama Baptists who support this university where, for more than 50 years, the mission has been to provide the very best in academics while seeking to display Christ in all we do.

I am thankful for parents who entrust us with their most precious assets. They save, they sacrifice and they pray.

I am thankful for our students. They are the future. With what I have seen, I feel very confident about that future.

I am thankful for the ministry of the local Baptist churches and the role they play in influencing the minds and hearts of our students.

I am thankful for our extended university family. They work, they volunteer and they donate. Without them we could not survive.

I pray your November will be a time of thanksgiving and that this will be your most blessed holiday season ever.

—Lonnie Burnett

From the *Twitterverse*

@MichaelHyatt

You will never have more of what you want until you become thankful for what you have.

@drtonyevans

God can use the mess you are in to bring you to the place of your destiny. Remember Joseph. Trust Him.

@DrRTKendall

You might not like God's "ways." But the God of the Bible is the only true God; He will not adjust to us; we must adjust to Him.

@DustinBenge

Even the most educated theologian isn't always right and the greatest preacher can misinterpret Scripture. There is no room for intellectual pride when it comes to

the limitless heights and depths of knowing God. A faithful student of Scripture is also a humble student.

@claysmith79

One of the great challenges of pastoral leadership is organizational focus. Many opportunities are frequently presented to you, all promising to be good ideas worthy of time and resources. But do they fit the vision? Saying "no" to the good allows us to say "yes" to the great.

@JonGordon11

Everyone says you can't. Until you do. Then everyone wants to know the key to your success. The key is you don't listen to everyone.

@ScottMcDowell_

Diversity shouldn't be an initiative because of the culture of our

denomination. It should be a strategic pursuit because of the culture of heaven. — @noaholdham @sendnetwork

@Jeff_Iorg

The gospel is not all we communicate, but it is the first thing we must communicate. We will give many issues some importance, but we will make sharing the gospel the most important thing we do — always.

@MBTS

"You might be a great thinker, but you can't think yourself or others out of suffering. ... Empathy and grace are the only help we have." — Dr. Jeremy Muniz #MBTSCapel

@edstetzer

God's will is the most important part of revitalization.

New WALL PANELS

Updates continue for sections of U.S., Mexico border in California, Texas

The barrier dividing San Diego and Tijuana represents only a small fraction of the 1,954-mile border between the United States and Mexico, but it possesses an outsize role in the national dialog about border security.

President Donald Trump visited the region in September to inspect the 30-foot-high steel and concrete barrier under construction in the San Diego area that will replace existing border fencing between the U.S. and Mexico.

The current border barrier is not continuous but rather a series of obstructions placed along a total of 654 miles throughout four states: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The obstructions range from physical fencing made of rusted, vertical steel slats, concrete barriers and/or concertina wire to “virtual fences” of electronic sensors and monitoring devices.

More than half of existing fencing is primarily designed to stop pedestrians from walking through, while the remainder is designed expressly to prevent vehicles from crossing.

Several miles of border fencing have been replaced in recent years and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has begun installing panels for a new border wall system in Hidalgo County, Texas, according to a CBP statement released Nov. 1.

A July 11 CBP statement announced completion of 50 miles of new border wall projects. (For more information on where the existing border barriers are placed visit www.tabonline.org/border.)

Physical border barriers have long been part of life on the border.

A Sept. 6 report issued by the Congressional Research Service in preparation for congressional debates about border barrier funding lays out these key eras in border barrier development:

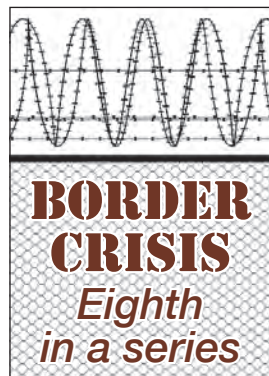
► **Late 1800s to early 1900s** — Fencing used to mark property lines and deter wandering livestock

► **1990s** — Counterdrug initiatives spark the first physical barriers intended to deter migrants: President George H.W. Bush approves 14 miles of border fencing between Tijuana and San Diego, with construction beginning in



Photo by Cynthia Watts

Portions of the existing border wall between the U.S. and Mexico along the San Diego border are being replaced with 30-foot-high steel and concrete barriers.



1990 and completed in 1993; U.S. Navy engineers replace a chain-link fence in that area with a 10-foot corrugated steel barrier made of Vietnam-era surplus aircraft landing mats

► **2007–2016** — Congress appropriates funding to erect border barriers of various types

► **2017** — President Trump signs an executive order to make physical barrier construction part of the White House agenda

Strange beauty

Since 2017, Congress has appropriated more than \$3 billion for planning and construction of border barriers.

And on Feb. 15, 2017, the president declared a national emergency and reallocated funds from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund and the Department of Defense to help fund border wall construction.

While the border security debate continues on both sides of the political and continental divide at least one section of the wall reveals a strange beauty of its own.

The oceanside, half-acre Friendship Park that straddles the U.S.-

Mexico border includes border fencing where residents of both countries can still see eye-to-eye, albeit peering through steel slats and a screen of concertina wire.

In 2011 and 2012 the steel-slatted wall was extended 300 feet into the Pacific Ocean, with illegal access to the U.S. protected by dangerous currents and strict security on the U.S. side.

In Tijuana the park is a beachy tourist destination where visitors can pose beside a pyramidal statue built in 1848 to mark the end of the Mexican-American War.

At the edge of the surf families fly kites that soar over the barrier.

Friendship Park visitors can rest on concrete benches between plantings of flowers, herbs and vegetables, and peek through slats of the wall decorated with colorful murals reflecting the historical friendship and enmity of the two countries. (Martha Simmons)

Editor's Note — To read previous articles in the Border Crisis series, visit tabonline.org and search for “border crisis” and/or “migrant ministry.”

The Tijuana side of Friendship Park is marked with colorful statues and murals painted on the steel slats of the border wall.

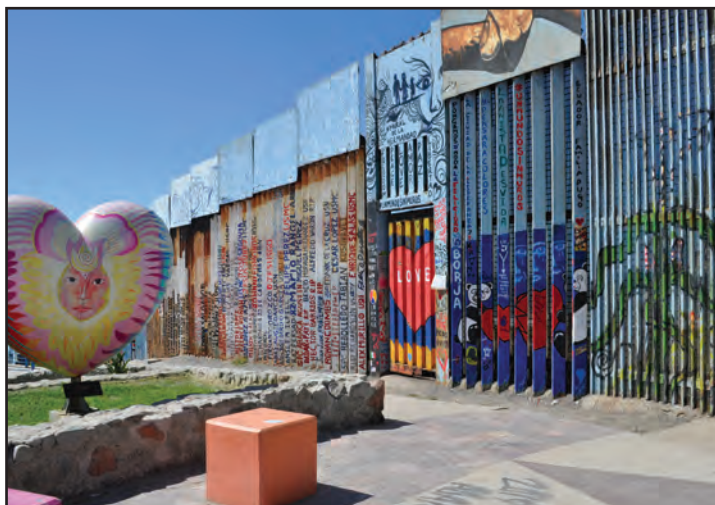


Photo by Julie Choe



Photo courtesy of Royce Brehm

Royce Brehm uses his testimony of overcoming addiction and extreme disappointment to share hope with those he interacts with as a teacher, coach and student minister.

'Our story to share'

Hale County coach helps students understand God's pursuit, purposes

By **Grace Thornton**
The Alabama Baptist

Growing up Royce Brehm was a little guy with a whole lot of fight. "I didn't hit the 100-pound mark until I was a freshman in high school," he said.

That year he was suspended from school for 31 days — all but two for fighting.

He'd started punching as a defense mechanism way before that. His dad, a Vietnam vet, suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and struggled with a drinking problem.

And Brehm was doing what he thought he needed to do to survive.

"I was the little guy on the block, the smallest guy on every team I ever played on," he said. "So I felt like I had to establish myself."

In high school the family went to a local church but Brehm didn't grab hold of what it offered. He took all that fight and poured it into football and even though he was small he became good at it.

"Football became my god — it was what I woke up for, what I lived for," Brehm said.

He became good enough to get looks from some small universities but along the way he discovered the NCAA rules had changed — he would graduate high school but he was a couple of credits short of college football eligibility.

"I sank into a deep depression," Brehm said. "I started blaming

the God my mom always told me about."

He ended up at Troy University as a walk-on but got a terrible shoulder injury. It was ultimately a career ender — and an addiction starter.

"I dropped out of [college] and my plan was to join the Air Force," Brehm said. "I'd always been fascinated with weather and they had a good path to meteorology."

Plans unraveled

But he failed the physical test.

That was breaking point number two — but God didn't have his attention yet, he said.

"My dependency on alcohol turned into a dependency on oxycodone which I'd started taking because of my shoulder," Brehm said. His girlfriend got pregnant and the two had a son — and started a "godless marriage."

"We never talked," Brehm said, and one day it all unraveled — and she left and took their son with her.

"I was at the same point where I was when I lost football," he said. "My son was the most important thing in my life and now he wasn't going to be around every day."

Brehm's dive went deeper. His dependence on drugs grew worse and he got into the underground fighting scene, hurting people and getting paid for it, he said.

And then something happened, something that changed everything — his dad died.

"My dad spent the last year he was alive clean and sober, serving God and working at the nursing home," Brehm said.

Then one day in 2006 he was found in bed unresponsive. He died four days later in the hospital.

During those four days, as Brehm sat in the hospital by his dad's side, people from the church came and prayed over him — for healing, for miracles.

"Nothing happened and I struggled with that," Brehm said. "I blamed God. More things were being removed from my life."

Three weeks later, as Brehm prepared to walk his sister down the aisle in his dad's place, he felt he couldn't take anymore.

"I was highly intoxicated because I knew it was going to be a rough walk," he said.

He did his best to make her laugh and together they walked down the aisle to the place where they would light a candle in honor of their dad.

"In that moment everything changed," Brehm said. "I was sober when I reached the candle. While we were lighting that candle the intoxication was gone and I surrendered to Christ. I went from internal pain and misery to complete comfort."

In the years that followed Brehm's walk with Christ deepened, his struggle with drugs ended and his fight was channeled into helping students recognize God's pursuit of them — even, or especially, when He takes things away.

Opportunities opened up for him

to assist with football coaching at Hale County High School so Brehm packed up and moved to Moundville. In 2011, Moundville Baptist Church called him as minister to students.

Brehm "has a unique story of how God has transformed his life and

is using him," said Jason Duckett, pastor of Moundville Baptist Church. "God has powerfully used his life to impact the lives of many young people in this community."

'Unique story'

Now a teacher and coach Brehm has written his story in a book called "Hindsight Joy: A Story of Removal and Redemption."

"I had no joy for that first 29 years of

my life," he said. "But now as I look back, everything taken from me I count as joy because had He not removed it I wouldn't have found Him. And as hard as it was to lose my dad, if I hadn't gone through that I'm not sure I would've survived — things were that bad then."

Brehm tells his youth group that every person's story — whether dramatic or not — is a powerful testimony of what God has done.

"To me as a former drug addict, to hear the story of someone who has been faithful to Christ from a young age — that's powerful stuff," he said. "Whatever our story is it's not ours to keep — it's ours to share for His glory. It's an opportunity to get in front of people and give them a little hope."✠



Photo courtesy of Royce Brehm

God brought Royce Brehm out of a place of darkness and addiction to redemption.



This week's TAB News podcast focuses on addiction recovery and features an interview with Jason Rice and Roger Boaz, co-hosts of Soberholic Podcast. Listen to the podcast at tabonline.org/podcasts or anywhere you get your podcasts.

Crist, two pastors with SBC ties admit to sexual sin, abuse

Christian stand-up comedian John Crist and two pastors with Southern Baptist Convention ties have been accused of sexual sin and abuse.

Crist admitted to “sexual sin and addiction struggles” in a Nov. 6 statement to Charisma News, which shared stories from Crist’s accusers. The women reported behaviors including excessive drinking, sexting and offering show tickets in exchange for sex.

“My behavior has been destructive and sinful,” Crist said. “I’ve sinned against God, against women and the people who I love the most. ... I have also hurt the name of Jesus and have sought His forgiveness.”

Crist has canceled the remainder of his 2019 tour and Netflix has put on hold a Crist comedy special previ-

ously scheduled to release this month. Crist, a Samford University graduate, filmed the show at the Lyric Theatre in Birmingham in May.

News also broke this week that Wes Feltner, pastor of Berean Baptist Church, Burnsville, Minnesota — a non-SBC congregation — is accused of pastoral abuse.

Two former students who attended Feltner’s youth ministry say Feltner enticed them into secret intimate relationships while he was on staff at First Southern Baptist Church, Evansville, Indiana, in 2002.

Both women said Feltner began sexual relationships with them while he was their youth minister and both women said they and their mothers reported the allegations to First Southern Baptist Church but were told to not discuss it with anyone.

Feltner then resigned.

Feltner was recently announced as the top candidate for pastor of First Baptist Church, Clarksville, Tennessee. He also was an adjunct professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (SBTS) in Louisville, Kentucky.

SBTS president Albert Mohler Jr. said he learned of the allegations Nov. 4 and a response team determined the accusations of misconduct were credible.

“Accordingly all teaching responsibilities for this individual were suspended and classes reassigned to other instructors,” Mohler said.

And in Chicago recent news reports say Charles Lyons resigned as pastor of Armitage Baptist Church in July after disclosing his long-term sexual abuse of a minor in the 1960s. (BP)



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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Tempted and Tried

Tested by Fiery Trials

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

In his gospel song “Farther Along,” W.B. Stevens begins the opening verse, “Tempted and tried, we’re oft made to wonder / why it should be thus all the day long.”

His opening phrase of that verse furnishes a way of expressing our theme for these several sessions of Theology 101 about being tempted and tried. Last week the focus was on being tempted; this week it is on being tried or tested.

Last week we noted being tempted is one meaning of the same Greek word that also conveys the meaning of being tested or tried. The subject of that verb often indicates which meaning is intended. If its subject is God we can eliminate the meaning of being tempted to sin since the Bible says quite clearly, “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God;’ for God cannot be tempted by evil nor does He Himself tempt anyone” (James 1:13).

Test of devotion

On the other hand, if the subject is God then we will understand the meaning to be either being tried or tested.

It is in this latter sense that we read in Genesis 22:1, “God tested Abraham.” The test had to do with the depth of Abraham’s devotion to God and the strength of his faith in God as would be revealed in his willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

Similarly the sense of testing was the intention of some of Jesus’ opponents in posing ques-

tions to Him. It is in this same sense that believers are encouraged in 1 Peter 4:12 not to be discouraged by fiery trials.

Dual possibility

In Abraham’s case God was not tempting Abraham to commit sin. Rather it was to demonstrate or prove the genuineness of his faith. Likewise in the case of the recipients of Peter’s first epistle, the believers were not being enticed into sin but rather having the genuineness of their Christian faith tested and demonstrated by fiery trials.

One might recall that in ancient times fire was used to test precious metals for purity or, if need be, to purify them from whatever impurities they have. Of course in other instances and with other materials fire can have the effect of consuming and destroying.

Interestingly the same occasion can be fraught with either positive or negative possibilities.

This dual possibility lies at the heart of Joseph’s interpretation of the event of being sold into slavery by his brothers. His words to his brothers were, “You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good” (Gen. 50:20).

More about these dual possibilities next week.✝

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.



‘Priceless treasure’ marks 65 years teaching children

Bertha Everett says most of the time she didn’t know where the children ended up after they grew up. But sometimes she did.

“At one of the churches where we were we had a bus ministry,” Everett said. “Our church chose to go into the more low-income areas of the city to reach out to the children there.”

During those years she ran 130 in the children’s worship she helped lead. And years later one of those little boys wrote her a letter.

“He was letting me know he was going to seminary to be a pastor,” she said.

And that’s just one child. During Everett’s 65 years of teaching Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Sunday School and leading other children’s ministries it’s impossible to know the impact, said Linda Whiteley, Woman’s Missionary Union director at University Baptist Church, Huntsville, where Everett has been a member for the past 20 years.

The church honored Everett Nov. 3 as she retired from her long legacy of service.

“Bertha Everett is a priceless treasure,” Whiteley said. “Her boundless energy and infectious laugh make her a joy to be around.”

Referencing 2 Corinthians 3:2, Whiteley said Everett’s life “has been written on the hearts of children and adults alike” through her years of service.

She called Everett a “role model and an inspiration for all.”

When Everett was in high school her church asked her to serve in VBS and the rest is history. As the years went on she and her husband, Ralph,

moved around as part of his job with NASA. They joined churches in Texas, Ohio, Florida, Alabama and the Washington, D.C. area. And at every one Everett told the pastor she wanted to be involved in teaching children.

“I just love kids,” she said. “And I love teaching.” (Grace Thornton)



Photo courtesy of University Baptist
Pastor Bobby Burt honors Bertha Everett during the Nov. 3 service at University Baptist Church, Huntsville.

Birmingham, Bessemer associations consider combining



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash

Chris Crain, executive director of Birmingham Metro Baptist Association (BMBA), talks with a group gathered at Canaan Baptist Church, Bessemer, on Nov. 6 about the current test-drive partnership effort between BMBA and Bessemer Baptist Association. At least three other areas of the state also are considering combining associations in some form. Barry Cosper serves as associational mission strategist for Bessemer Association and would remain part of the new association if a formal partnership is approved with BMBA.



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Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

By Joanne Sloan

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



2019 marks 475th anniversary of birth of Archbishop Bancroft

Richard Bancroft (1544–1610) was Archbishop of Canterbury from 1604 to 1610 and oversaw the production of the King James Bible. This year marks the 475th anniversary of his birth.

On Sept. 12, 1544, he was born to John and Mary Bancroft in the village of Farnworth in Lancashire County, England. His parents were members of the upper class.

He attended Farnworth grammar school and later Cambridge University. He spent more than a decade there where he immersed himself in scholarship. He received his bachelor's degree in 1567 and his master's three years later. He was chosen

to meet Queen Elizabeth I when she visited.

Ordained as a priest in 1574 he was one of 12 university preachers two years later at Cambridge. He received his doctorate of theology in 1585 at Cambridge.

Bancroft spent his career in different appointments in the Church of England. He defended the Anglican episcopacy against Puritan attempts at restructuring it.

He was named treasurer of St. Paul's Cathedral in 1586 and an official of Westminster Abbey in 1587.

In 1597, Bancroft became a house-

hold chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury, John Whitgift. The same year he was named Bishop of London, an important leadership role in the Church of England. He was present with Elizabeth I when she died in 1603.



BANCROFT

After Archbishop Whitgift died in February 1604 Bancroft was confirmed — with the backing of King James I — as the new archbishop on Dec. 10, 1604.

His most important legacy was his work on a new English translation of the Bible, the King James Version. Once James I decided on

a new translation in 1604, Bancroft managed the project and approved 47 of the most acclaimed scholars in England to participate.

Bancroft divided the translators into six companies: three for the Old Testament, two for the New Testament and one for the Apocrypha. He encouraged them to build on the works of Tyndale, Wycliffe and Coverdale. Bancroft acted as a facilitator and kept them working together as a harmonious group.

In the end it was Bancroft who read and edited the new translation.

Bancroft died Nov. 2, 1610. He did not live to see the King James Bible sent to press on May 2, 1611.✠

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✠ Only individuals with appropriate hearing loss are eligible for trial. Benefits of hearing instruments vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation and proper fit. Participation may vary by location. See individual centers for details. © 2018 Beltone



Photo courtesy of Al Jackson

Al Jackson (seventh from left) and his wife, Kem, (fifth from right), spent a month in Paris so Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, Auburn, could fill the pulpit at Emmanuel International Church while Emmanuel pastor Parker Windle, an Alabama native, spent a month back in Alabama.

Auburn's Al Jackson trades pulpit with Alabama church planter in Paris

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

This summer looked a little different for Al Jackson — he spent a month preaching from a different pulpit, one that was a lot closer to the Eiffel Tower than his usual spot.

It all started with an article he read in *The Alabama Baptist* back in 2016.

“That article was the catalyst,” said Jackson, pastor of Lakeview Baptist Church, Auburn. The feature story was about Parker Windle, a young man he crossed paths with some years ago. Windle had grown up in church in Selma, answered the call to missions as a teen at First Baptist Church, Aliceville, and was now a church planter serving in Paris.

Missions partner

The sidebar article said Windle’s church was looking for missions partners.

“So I reached out to him and told him that my wife, Kem, and I would be in Eastern Europe for a trip not too long after that and would love to come by and hear

him preach,” Jackson said.

When they visited Windle’s church, Jackson offered the pulpit swap idea.

Windle, who joined the staff of Emmanuel International Church first as youth pastor then as pastor after his Journeyman term in Paris with the International Mission Board a few years back, liked the idea.

The church — an English-speaking congregation — has more than 40 nationalities on a normal Sunday.

It’s part of the International Baptist Convention’s church planting ministry called Catalyst which aims to plant English-speaking churches for internationals in non-English-speaking countries. Between 3 and 4 million people in Paris can speak English and similar opportunities exist in other cities.

“Our vision as a church has been evolving — we want to expand by church planting,” Windle said. “We

started seeing opportunities to plant more churches in the Paris area. Our church is capable of sustaining itself, but we needed some help if we were going to have some gospel advance.”

So this past summer Windle took Jackson up on his offer, came back to Alabama and stayed in his house for a couple of weeks, then traveled around the state visiting partner churches to raise awareness and support. He said Lakeview members took good care of him and his wife, Kyrah.

“Lakeview was a big encouragement to us,” Windle said, noting he preached at the church twice. “They’re very missions-minded.”

Jackson said his time in Paris with Emmanuel was encouraging too.

“They have a real vision to plant English-speaking, Bible-believing, gospel-preaching churches throughout the city of Paris and across western Europe,” he said. “It was a blessing to get to see firsthand.”



WINDLE

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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.

BIVOCATIONAL/PART-TIME PASTOR

Fairview Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a bivocational or part-time pastor. To apply submit cover letter and resumé to: Fairview Baptist Church, 600 River Rd., Valley, AL 36854, or email to: fairviewbaptistch@gmail.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.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Shelby Baptist Association, Columbiana, Alabama, is seeking an administrative assistant for CCM. Job description, application and submission information located at <https://shelbybaptist.org/job-opportunities>. Please submit by Dec. 6.

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Birmingham family meets 'their' Operation Christmas Child

(continued from page 1)
lived in the apartment above her father's watch shop in Kosovo — until the war turned them into refugees. "When they came back after two years the city was

destroyed and the school was in shambles," Henson said. It was December then and Sahatciu remembers being crowded into a gym where someone began distributing Christmas shoeboxes.

"She said she remembered running home squealing with delight to show her sisters her bright red paper shoebox," Henson said. The thing Sahatciu treasured the most were the

white socks with lace — something her parents couldn't afford to buy her. When the Hensons called the young woman back — she now lives in Orlando — she told them she couldn't believe someone out there knew she needed socks and cared enough to share their socks with her.

Sahatciu said as a child she had never received a gift like that before so to her it was "the best thing in the world."

She wore them every day — and carried the picture with her as she grew up. Years later, after her family relocated to Orlando through the immigration lottery, she periodically googled the Hensons' names, but kept coming up with nothing.

"After coming to the U.S., I made it my mission to find the Hensons so I could thank them for making such a difference in my life," Sahatciu said. "I never knew people could change your life with a

shoebox and a pair of socks. They gave me hope and made me a better person." But then one day in November 2018 she decided to give it another try — and she discovered an article about the Henson family posted by Shades Mountain Baptist.

Henson said it was an amazing connection.

"God had His hand in it the whole time," she said.

The Hensons wanted to meet Sahatciu so they flew her to Birmingham earlier this year, spent time getting to know

her and introduced her to their Sunday School class at church.

"She's an incredible young lady. We were able to share with her and send her home with a Bible," Henson said. "I told her, 'Gresa, you were prayed over a long time ago. We prayed specifically [for] the little girl who would get it and it was you — God had a plan ... He knew that one day we would meet you.'" ✝



Photo courtesy of Kim Henson
Gresa Sahatcui (center) meets Jordy (left) and Kim Henson, the couple who sent her an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in Kosovo almost 20 years ago.

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3 stories you should know



Facebook photo

James Younger, a 7-year-old Dallas boy whose mother enrolled him in kindergarten as a girl named Luna, will be allowed to use James as his chosen name at school, according to the Save James Facebook page. A Texas judge awarded joint decision making for James to the boy's father, Jeffrey Younger, and the boy's mother, pediatrician Anne Georgoulas, after Jeffrey Younger objected to Georgoulas' desire to medically transition James to a female, according to reports. (TAB)

Court says business has right not to print shirts

Religious freedom advocates commended an Oct. 31 Kentucky Supreme Court decision in support of Lexington business owner Blaine Adamson and his shop, Hands On Originals, who declined to print T-shirts for a gay pride festival.

The state high court ruled unanimously the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO) did not have "statutory standing" under a local ordinance to bring the challenge. Two lower courts had previously upheld Adamson's right to print only messages that are consistent with his beliefs.

Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), who filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of Hands on Originals, described the ruling as "good news." (BP)

Mohler to be nominated for next SBC president

Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, said he will accept a nomination to serve as Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president.



MOHLER

H.B. Charles Jr., pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Florida, tweeted Oct. 31 his intention to nominate Mohler when the SBC meets June 9–10, 2020, in Orlando.

If elected Mohler would be the first entity head to serve as SBC president since then-Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson served from 1999 to 2000. (BP)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

SBC Executive Committee's 'Sing' Oldham, Ken Weathersby to retire

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) announced Oct. 28 that Roger "Sing" Oldham and Ken Weathersby are retiring from their respective vice presidential posts.

Oldham, vice president for convention relations, came to the EC in 2007 following a lengthy pastorate at First Baptist Church, Martin, Tennessee.



WEATHERSBY

Weathersby, vice president for convention advancement, began his role in 2013 and was the first African American to hold an EC vice presidential position. He came to the EC after holding a series of leadership roles at the North American Mission Board and a full-time

associate professorship at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. (BP)

China frees Christian prisoner amid ongoing persecution of churches



China has freed an imprisoned Christian but religious liberty advocates warn persecution of Christians continues.

House church member Gou Zhongcan was released Oct. 22 after seven months in prison, International Christian Concern (ICC) reported Oct. 24. Gou, a member of Early Rain Covenant Church (ERCC) in Sichuan, had gone missing in March and was seen days later with several plainclothes police, witnesses told ICC. Police have taken into custody 150 members of the church since 2018.

In the latest reported church demolition police demolished a government-sanctioned Three-Self Church in Anhui province Oct. 18 disrupting worship for up to 3,000 worshippers. Church members had no advance notice of the demolition, sources said. Police arrested two pastors and three members of the church days later, China Aid reported.

Elsewhere in China, restrictions barring foreigners from worship most recently affected a group of 80 students from Africa, according to religious liberty advocate Bitter Winter. China prohibits foreigners from attending Three-Self churches and denies them the opportunity to form separate congregations, Bitter Winter reported Oct. 15. (BP)



China Aid photo

Judge strikes down new HHS rule on abortion participation

On Nov. 6 a federal judge struck down a new rule that could open the way for more health care workers to refuse to participate in abortions or other procedures on moral or religious grounds.

U.S. District Judge Paul A. Engelmayer said the U.S. Health and Human Services Department (HSS) overstepped its authority and went beyond existing law in issuing the rule. He also said the

News near you

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

▶ On Oct. 13, **Weogufka Second Baptist Church** celebrated its centennial anniversary.



Photo by Ralph Foster

Pastor Brandon Baird brought the message and an overview of the church's history. Brandon Baird, Brynli Mitchell, Zeb Baird and Zander Baird shared special music during the service and The Darnell Family brought a pre-service concert.

David Crowe, director of missions for Central Baptist Association, attended the celebration and Ralph Foster presented a certificate from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission.

The old pulpit from the 1940s and the old Lord's Supper table were used for the service.

"My takeaway for the day was from our pastor's sermon: 'God is always faithful and we must be faithful to Him.' It was a wonderful day," Linda Green said.

Former pastor Danny Bynum was recognized and presented with a gift, as was the oldest deacon, Bain Culver.

The women of the church sponsored the catered lunch that followed the service.

CLARKE ASSOCIATION

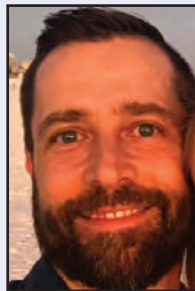
▶ **Pineview Baptist Church, Thomasville**, will host a Disciple Now weekend Nov. 23–25 for seventh through 12th grade. Mitch Thrower is pastor.

EAST LIBERTY ASSOCIATION

▶ **County Line Baptist Church, Camp Hill**, will host a concert featuring The Perrys on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. A love offering will be taken. Mike Beck is pastor.

MONTGOMERY ASSOCIATION

▶ **Adam Mitchell** is the new pastor of **Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery**. He previously served in various ministry positions at churches in Alabama and Missouri, including interim pastor of Community Baptist, Maylene, and missions associate pastor at Hunter Street Baptist, Hoover. Mitchell also has served in various capacities with Baptist entities such as LifeWay, North American Mission Board and International Mission Board. He holds degrees from Southeastern Bible College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He is currently pursuing a doctorate from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri. He and his wife, April, have four children.



MITCHELL

RANDOLPH ASSOCIATION

▶ **Pat Heuer** is the new pastor of **High Pine**

Baptist Church, Roanoke. He began Oct. 6. He previously served at Bethsaida Baptist Church, Carrollton, Georgia, and other churches in Florida and Alabama. He holds degrees from Liberty Bible Institute in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Covington Theology Seminary in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. He and his wife, Gail, have two children and five grandchildren.



HEUER

WALKER ASSOCIATION

▶ On Oct. 6, **New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Nauvoo**, celebrated its centennial anniversary. Former pastor Scott Stewart was the guest speaker and music was brought by Awaken Quartet. Rita Willis read the history of the church.

Pat Musselwhite presented certificates from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Walker Baptist Association. A pew from the original church building believed to be 100 years old was on display.

"I felt blessed and had a sense of appreciation for our forefathers who started the church," said Lynda Knight, who was recognized during the service as being the longest member of the church. Roger Wilson, youth minister, served as the service's emcee.✠



Photo by Pat Musselwhite

— NEWSBRIEFS —

measure could be costly, burdensome and damaging to emergency care.

Health care institutions have long relied on federal Conscience Provisions — first created in 1973 and amended since then — that protected health care professionals from carrying out services that conflict with their religious or moral beliefs.

The new HHS rule broadens the list of health care personnel who can refuse to participate, expanding it to those who counsel, refer, train or make arrangements for a medical procedure.

It also restricts the ability of employers to inquire about employees' objections and broadens the definition of health care entities to include pharmacists and medical laboratories.

Engelmayer said it should be left to Congress to decide whether to change the laws regarding employers' duty to accommodate religious objections.

HHS and the Justice Department are reviewing



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the ruling but "will not comment on the pending litigation at this time," said Caitlin Oakley, a HHS spokeswoman. (AP, TAB)

Tenn. pastor awaiting trial in India after arrest on declaration charge

A pastor attending a Sunday School conference in India remains in the country after he was arrested for failing to report money he was carrying.

Pastor Bryan Nerren, leader of the House of Prayer Church in Shelbyville, Tennessee, was traveling to Sikkim state in northeastern India on Oct. 5 for a Sunday School conference along with two other U.S. pastors when they were detained at the Bagdogra airport.

The other two pastors were released but Nerren was arrested when authorities alleged he had violated Indian law by not declaring the cash he was carrying. Nerren denied he was concealing the money, which was discovered by Indian customs

officials during a security check at the airport, but said he was open with officials that his visit was to participate in a Christian conference.

Nerren was released on bail Oct. 11 and is awaiting a Dec. 12 court date. The court imposed a travel ban on him and confiscated his passport and travel money.

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

CP giving in October marks strongest start in three years, EC reports

The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Executive Committee (EC) reported the strongest start to a fiscal year in the last three years as giving to SBC national and international missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program (CP) exceeded \$15 million in October 2019.

As of Oct. 31 gifts received by the EC for distribution through the CP Allocation Budget totaled \$15,207,651.44. October 2019 gifts were 5.21% higher than October 2018 receipts. (BP)



NERREN

ALABAMA CONFERENCE OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELISTS



DANIEL WILSON
co-director of the evangelism office, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Ephesians 4:11 says evangelists are God's gifts to the church. Therefore, it is my honor to recommend to you these Alabama Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists. I encourage you to use them in your churches and associations. Also, pray for them and their families as they faithfully and passionately spread the gospel. Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth."



BO SHEDD
Cullman
harvest days-crusades
256-347-3166
lennonshedd8@gmail.com
Facebook: Bo Shedd
ACOSBE president



HERMAN PAIR
Oneonta
preaching, teaching
205-873-0518
hpair@gmail.com
ACOSBE vice president



MICHAEL MASON
Hartselle
preaching
michael-mason@charter.net
256-306-6645
michaelmasonministries.com
ACOSBE treasurer



DAN BAYSE
Trussville
evangelism, family life education, youth seminars, training for prison and jail ministry
205-661-0104
djbayse@prodigy.net



JOHN BUSH
Montgomery
Across Festivals, Children's Hope
334-201-9493
www.acrossfestivals.com
www.childrens-hope.com



GRADY COVIN
Wilsonville
evangelist, jail ministry, addiction ministry
205-601-6986
gradycovin@bellsouth.net
www.shelbymission.com



BILLY GRAHAM
Saraland
preaching, teaching and motivational speaking
251-377-5928, 251-679-3266
billyg@goredemption.com
eecowboy3@gmail.com



DON GRAHAM
Clanton
preaching, revivalist
205-755-7295
rjganddwg@gmail.com
www.dongraham.org



JUNIOR HILL
Hartselle
preaching, revivalist
256-773-6198
brojrpreacher1@aol.com
www.juniorhillministries.com



JACKIE KAY
Decatur
preaching, revivalist
256-355-4367, 901-218-3211
jkay1986@aol.com



CRICKET LEE
Dothan
singer/speaker for women's retreats, revivals, conferences
334-797-7208
cricketleeministries@gmail.com
www.crickettlee.com



JAMES MESSER
Theodore
preaching
jemrebs@aol.com
251-653-6652, 251-605-8491
www.jamesmessenger.com



PERRY DAVID NEAL
Wetumpka
preaching, outreach
334-514-7478, 334-462-1274
drperryneal@bellsouth.net



SID NICHOLS
Oxford
preaching
drsidnichols@yahoo.com
256-282-6353



BOB PITMAN
Muscle Shoals
preaching
901-409-5867
brobob@bobpitmanministries.com



LEE PITTS SPOONER
Mobile
singer, speaker, musical ventriloquist
251-660-9038
leepittsministry@aol.com
www.leepitts.org



DAVID TODD
Theodore
worship leader, singer/songwriter
251-599-4764
dsactodd@bellsouth.net



JOHNNY TUCKER
Citronelle
preaching
251-866-7213, 251-604-8770
jmt82347@bellsouth.net



TERRY VEAZEY
Montgomery
preaching, singing, ventriloquism
334-221-0246
terry@terryveazey.org
www.terryveazey.org



PHIL WALDREP
Decatur
preaching
256-355-1554
phil@philwaldrep.org
www.philwaldrep.org

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

Lion's Den competition at Samford spotlights social entrepreneurship

By Tracy Riggs
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

In 2014, Samford University's Brock School of Business wanted to show that a successful business model also could have a global Christian impact — and so the Lion's Den Missions as Business competition began.

Fighting poverty

The Lion's Den is a missions-minded version of the ABC show "Shark Tank," where entrepreneurs pitch their business ideas to a group of potential investors, all of whom are successful businesspeople.

During the Lion's Den three companies share their business models in front of a live audience and five "lions," all leaders in business and education. The lions hear each presentation and ask questions of the presenters. Then audience members cast a vote for the company they believe most likely to have business success and spiritual impact.

Samford hosted the sixth annual Lion's Den competition Oct. 10. Ben and Liz Bohannon, founders of Sseko Designs and former participants in the Lion's Den competition as well as "Shark Tank," were emcees.

Akola, a jewelry and accessories brand that works with women in Uganda, was this year's Lion's Den winner. Akola, which means "she works" in a local Ugandan dialect, employs women to craft jewelry from local resources.

Akola employees help support an orphanage and other programs in their community with the goal of helping end poverty.

The other contestants in this year's competition were Randy Welsch, co-founder and president of Jibu, a company that sells clean water and trains leaders to run local franchises, and Ben Howard, founder

of Third Coast Content.

Jibu, which means "solution" in Swahili, fills heavy-duty reusable bottles with clean water. Customers can exchange empty bottles for full bottles, paying only for the water.

Third Coast Content produces and markets faith and family-oriented videos.

Erwin Brothers Entertainment, a participant in the first Lion's Den in 2014, received the "Operator of the Year" award, given annually to participants "who have excelled as examples of Business as Mission companies," said Andrew Clark, Lion's Den organizer.

'Never give up'

Jon Erwin thanked Lion's Den via video.

"To the entrepreneurs in the room — keep dreaming; keep believing," Erwin said. "If God's calling you to do it just never give up." ✝

To watch videos of each entrepreneur's presentation go to www.thelionsden.us.

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Christian Crossword

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Across

- Am I in God's ___? (Gen. 30:2)
- They say he has a ___. (Matt. 11:18)
- Consumes.
- By a mighty hand, and by a stretched out ___. (Deut. 4:34)
- Lion's headdress.
- By way of.
- Alaskan native.
- Department of Economic Affairs. (abbr.)
- Building addition.
- I will ___ him up at the last day. (John 6:40)
- People that do ___ in their heart. (Ps. 95:10)
- They follow "M"s.
- Naval vessel designation.
- Goes up.
- Alternate spelling of Baal.
- Sanballat invited

- Thickness or layer.
- ___ my statutes, and do them. (Ezek. 37:24)
- And ___ shall judge the world. (Ps. 9:8)
- Add ___ your faith virtue. (2 Pet. 1:5)
- Commercial message.
- News agency.
- Spanish cheer.
- I will make thee a ___ nation. (Gen. 12:2)
- Much ___ About Nothing.
- Cleaning tool.
- Classifies.
- Gay Pa___.
- Long, exciting adventure taleaaava.
- They compassed me about like ___(s). (Ps. 118:12)
- An atlas is a book of ___.
- There remaineth a

- ___ (plural). (Heb. 4:9)
- ___p___ Dumpty sat on a wall.

Down

- John to the ___ churches ... in Asia. (Rev. 1:4)
- His ___(s) drew the third part of the stars. (Rev. 12:4)
- And others (Latin).
- Like.
- Printer's measure.
- Thou hast ___ him a little lower than the angels. (Ps. 8:5)
- Dollar bills.
- Approaches.
- In this manner.
- Real estate investment. (abbr.)
- He heard ___ick and dancing. (Luke 15:25)
- ___(s) of the Covenant.
- Began the golf game.
- Great amount. (2 words)
- Type of lettuce.
- Compass direction.
- Neither/___.
- Went rapidly.
- Mires.
- Large tubs.
- Ancient author.
- Run away to wed.
- Able, skillful.
- The art of poetry.
- American Anglican church: ___copal.
- Will a man ___ God? (Mal. 3:8)
- Before (poetic).
- Did eat.
- Kemuel the father of ___ (Gen. 22:21)
- Court. (abbr.)
- Invent to themselves instruments of ___ sick. (Amos 6:5)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For November 17

Explore the Bible

By Robert L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



WALKING AS FAMILY Ephesians 5:22–6:4

This section of Paul's letter deals with family dynamics in light of being a Christian. In Paul's day the Gentiles lived unlike the Jews and there were many cultural issues that could get in the way of serving Christ. This is not unlike today when Christianity enters a new culture and is confronted by cultural practices that may be antithetical to the gospel. Missionaries have always had to confront such things and here Paul is laying out how families should operate in light of the gospel.

Wives (5:22–24)

Many in our culture do not think favorably of the idea of submission. This is due in part to American culture's emphasis on individualism but also to the abuse of the word in practice. Some Christians have interpreted the idea of submission as dictatorship, in which the one who is submitting is more or less a slave and can be treated as such.

However, this is not the biblical idea of submission. Paul emphasizes throughout his epistles that we are to serve one another in love and Christ is the reason we submit to one another. Just as Christ does not lord Himself over us but loves us and considers us as friends, so too do wives submit to their husbands. If a marriage is comprised of two equally yoked believers then this should not be a difficult issue. Biblical submission occurs out of love and with Christ in mind.

Husbands (5:25–33)

The husband is to submit to Christ. Anyone who submits to Christ's lordship displays the fruit of the spirit (see Gal. 5:22–26) which produces godly characteristics. The husband has a duty to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. Christ loves the Church so much that He died to redeem us. This is the type of love men should have for their wives — a sacrificial love.

This passage also affirms marriage is intended to be between a man and woman, not between multiple women or men nor between individuals of the same gender. Paul compares the marriage between a man and

woman as representing Christ and the Church. This is why the modern movement to force the Church to accept same-sex "marriage" is unbiblical.

Some may argue that polygamy existed in the Old Testament, but polygamy is never exhorted in the Old Testament and it never ends well. When Jesus talks about marriage He refers to the relationship between a singular man and singular woman.

Children (6:1–3)

We often think of this verse in light of small children but it applies to older children as well. Children are to obey their parents because God has put parents in charge of their own children. It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child but this is not God's design. Parents should raise, provide and take care of their children. Children learn how to respect God and their elders by first respecting their parents. Even after children become adults and leave their parents' home they are commanded to honor their parents.

Honoring parents is an easy task when the parents are seeking the Lord, but certain conditions occur in which honoring is a more difficult task. Still we are called to do so in all circumstances. Honoring our parents by showing them respect and praying for them is one way we honor God.

Parents (6:4)

Fathers are called to want what is best for their children. It is the job of parents, and in particular fathers, to raise their children in the instruction of the Lord. This includes teaching children the Bible and a Christian worldview.

One of the difficulties in parenthood is when children venture out on their own. This can be especially difficult if the child ends up going overseas on the missions field. I know many parents who are hesitant for their children to be missionaries because of the risks involved. But if the parents are seeking the will of God they will allow a child to follow God's will for him or her.

As parents we should delight when our children follow God's will even if that path seems dangerous to us.✠

Bible Studies for Life

By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



GOD'S WILL AND THE GLORY OF GOD John 11:1–4, 38–45

The Westminster Shorter Catechism begins with the famous question, "What is the chief end of man?" and answer, "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever."

Whether one hails from a Reformed theological tradition or not there is much to commend the Catechism's assessment of our chief purpose as human beings. As we bring to a conclusion this series of lessons on understanding the will of God it is worthwhile to consider how pursuing the glory of God goes hand in hand with discerning the will of God and ultimately with finding joy in following God.

Like many biblical terms words like "glory" and "glorify" are apt to get lost in a sea of religious jargon. We remember biblical phrases like "The whole earth is full of His glory" (Isa. 6:3) or the angels' declaration in Luke, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14). Our own hymns are full of language like "To God be the glory."

What exactly does it mean for God to possess glory or for us to glorify God? Put simply God's glory consists of the honor due Him because of the magnificence He possesses and the great deeds He has accomplished. We glorify God when we give to God the honor He deserves.

We often see notions of the glory of God expressed in terms of creation. To see God's mighty works in creation can hardly fail to elicit praise for His greatness. Just as compelling though are those moments when God's glory is expressed on a more personal level and in a more intimate setting.

Such is the case with the Bible's account of Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead.

God might not work on our timetable, but He does work for His glory. (1–4)

Mary and Martha send word to Jesus telling Him their brother Lazarus is gravely ill. However, Jesus does not immediately set out for Bethany

to tend to Lazarus. Instead He deliberately delays going — an act so odd John

is forced to state that Jesus did indeed love Mary, Martha and Lazarus (John 11:5) since His actions may have seemed to the contrary. Jesus delayed because He knew Lazarus' illness and death would lead to an opportunity for God to show His great glory.

To see God's glory, we must obey Him even when it doesn't seem to make sense. (38–43)

This opportunity arrives when Jesus, having finally made His way to Bethany, goes out to visit the tomb of now-deceased Lazarus. Though Martha and Mary and those connected to them had given up hope of Lazarus' living again Jesus knew this was the moment when God's power would be on full display.

Departing from the usual secrecy in which He did His miracles (see Mark 5:43) Jesus here drew full attention to what God was about to do. After praying aloud to His father Jesus called out, "Lazarus, come forth!" It was when the man, now four days dead, came stumbling out of his tomb that the people once and for all understood God's great power.

When God demonstrates His glory people are drawn to Christ — which further glorifies God. (44–45)

All along the way in the story of Lazarus are followers of Jesus who do as He asks even when His instructions seem illogical or even dangerous. The disciples accompany Jesus to Judea even though they know they may face opposition. The mourners roll back the stone of Lazarus' grave even though they believe him to be already in a state of decay.

Against their own better judgment the people follow what Jesus says. This lesson is for us as well: It is when we trust God and obey His will, even against our own better judgment, that we are able to see His glory and find the joy that comes from serving Him.✠



Media reviews

MOVIES/TV

'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood' tops November lineup

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

Millions of Americans grew up watching "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," which aired nationally from 1968 to 2001 and followed Fred Rogers as he educated children about the world and taught them to be kind and compassionate.

Unfortunately we've forgotten many of the lessons learned from that popular PBS series.

Today's society is even more cynical, more divided and more hate-filled than it was when Mister Rogers went off the air nearly two decades ago.

Perhaps a crash course on Mister Rogers' Bible-based teachings would help.

The film "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" opens in theaters Nov. 22 telling the story of an aging Fred Rogers as he befriends an *Esquire* reporter, Lloyd Vogel, who has been assigned to interview the TV personality.

'Kind and gentle'

Soon though it is Mister Rogers who is asking Vogel the questions — about his feelings, his anger toward his father and his lack of forgiveness.

The film was inspired by a true story although in real life the *Esquire* reporter's name was Tom Junod.

Tom Hanks plays Fred

Rogers and masterfully captures the gentle mannerisms that endeared him to multiple generations of children.

It's an Oscar-worthy performance. Matthew Rhys ("Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle") plays Vogel.

The movie depicts Rogers as the same type of person — kind and gentle — on set and behind the scenes. His wife, Joanne Rogers, said the movie's depiction of her husband is "absolutely correct."

Bill Isler agreed. He worked with Fred Rogers and is the former president and CEO of The Fred Rogers Company. "What you saw is what you got," Isler said. "The consistency was unbelievable." The movie also depicts Rogers as a man driven by his Christian faith. (We see him

kneel beside his bed, praying for people by name.)

Fred Rogers, his wife said, viewed the show as a "ministry" to children.

"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" teaches us about forgiveness, reconciliation, kindness and compassion. It also includes positive themes on fatherhood and reaching out to others.

It was not rated at press time although its content is PG-worthy. It includes minor violence (a son punches his father), discussions of death and a reference to someone "sleeping around." Language includes: h-- (4),



Photo courtesy of Sony

'A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood'

OMG (2), d--n (1) and s--t (1). (None of the coarse language is spoken by Fred Rogers.)

The movie may not be fully child-friendly but it contains multiple lessons we adults need to learn.

It's one of the most inspiring films you'll see.

Also worth streaming

► **Disney Plus** — Disney's new streaming service launched Nov. 12 with thousands of movies and television programs from the company's vast catalogue. That includes titles from Disney but also from Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, Marvel and National Geographic. Of course, not all of the titles are family-friendly but with Disney's pledge not to host R-rated content on

the platform, it will have a higher-percentage of G and PG stuff than any other service. This includes dozens of titles — like the Herbie series — from the 1960s and 70s. Visit DisneyPlus.com for details.

► **"The Dude Perfect Show" (Hulu)** — It's a reality and comedy show

starring the hilarious quintet who became famous thanks to their addictive YouTube channel. "The Dude Perfect Show" launched on CMT before moving to Nickelodeon and is now streaming on

Hulu. Dude Perfect — for the uninitiated — is "bearded dude" Tyler, "tall dude" Cody, "redheaded dude" Garrett and twins Coby and Cory. They're hilarious — and they're also Christians.



The first two seasons are streaming on Hulu.

► **"Amazing Grace" (Hulu)** — It's a trip back in time to watch Aretha Franklin record a gospel album live in 1972 at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles. It features a lively choir and some of the best music you'll ever hear. "Amazing Grace" was nominated for multiple awards and even received high praise from mainstream critics. It's streaming now on Hulu. Rated G.✝

Meet the reviewer

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

‘Wherever you go’

Trussville’s first female kicker follows her dream, brings ‘light to the team’

By Tracy Riggs
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Kicking 20 out of 20 extra points in a first season of play is remarkable for any high school football player, but it’s even more impressive when you discover that Hewitt-Trussville High School’s kicker Jordan Lynn is female.

“I’ve always thought it would be awesome to kick for my football team as I am friends with most of the players and they’ve always encouraged me to go out for it,” Lynn, a senior, said about her experience as her school’s first female kicker.

“After I saw Carli Lloyd, one of my favorite soccer players, kick a 55-yarder at an NFL practice I knew I could do it too. I still play club soccer in the fall so I’m playing both soccer and football.”

Lynn received a lot of support from most adults and female class-

mates and teammates when she first shared her idea. Her dad was “over the moon,” she said, and her mom has always been her “No. 1 cheerleader.” And when she mentioned her idea to Hewitt-Trussville head coach John Floyd he also was excited because the team needed a kicker.

Lynn did encounter a little negativity at first, especially when she was named the starting kicker.

“I ... did have some guy friends along the way who thought I couldn’t handle it or said I was not cut out for it,” she said. “That definitely was hard getting through but once the season started and I played my first game most of the hate comments went away as they realized girls can kick really well too.”

Her faith in Christ helped her get through that hard time.

“Throughout this whole process Jesus has been my rock in helping



Photo by Travis Frontz
Senior kicker Jordan Lynn watches from the sidelines during the Hewitt-Trussville Huskies’ Oct. 25 game against Thompson.

me attempt what seemed like an impossible goal to play football,” said Lynn, who attends Church of the Highlands. “Without knowing the Lord, I wouldn’t have been able to get through the hate comments and my impossible schedule.”

True to her faith

Staying busy with soccer, football, friends and family as well as teaching soccer skills to younger girls, Lynn admitted there is one downside to playing high school football.

“My least favorite part would have to be the times I would have to play a football game [Friday] night and

wake up early Saturday morning to travel to play soccer the next day,” she said.

But through the experience she has learned to believe in herself and stay true to herself.

“My faith ... helped bring light to the team,” she said. “I would just like to say that anyone who wants to do something that he or she believes in and feels too scared to try just remember Joshua 1:9: ‘Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.’”



Photo by Tracy Riggs

Hewitt-Trussville High School’s first female kicker, senior Jordan Lynn, converted 20 of 20 extra points and was 2 for 2 in field goals, scoring 26 points in seven games during the 2019 regular season, according to Maxpreps.com.

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



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