



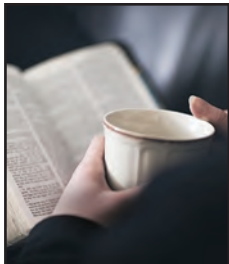
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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



**Theology 101 —
Anathema**

◆ Page 11



**Campers on Mis-
sion a 'great bless-
ing' for recipients,
volunteers**

◆ Page 14



**Vietnam veteran
shares faithfulness
through stories of
surviving war**

◆ Page 17

Judson College



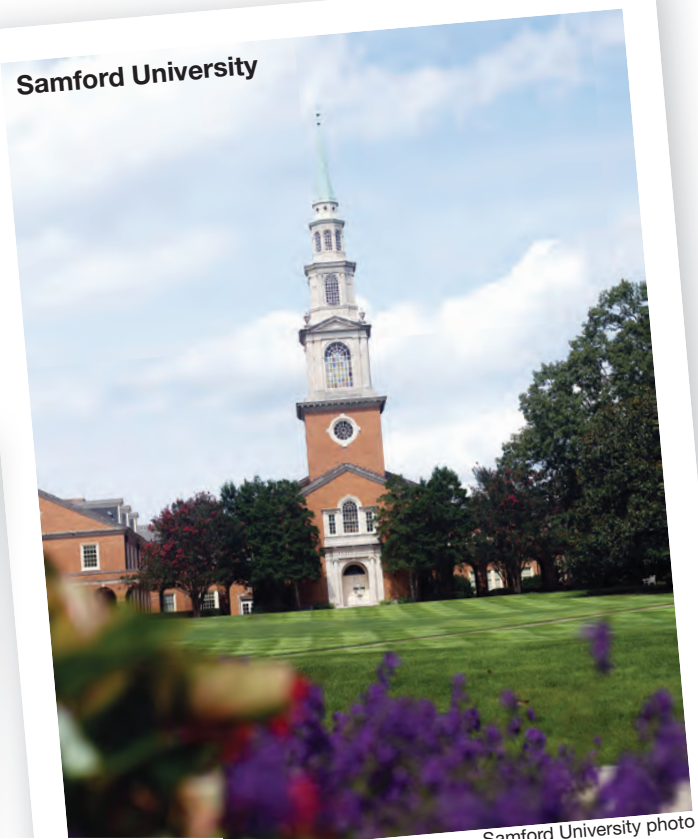
Judson College photo

University of Mobile



University of Mobile photo

Samford University



Samford University photo

Planning for the

UNPLANNABLE

Baptist colleges adjust to new normal for fall semester

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

After 41 years in education — most of which have taken place on the hurricane-prone Alabama coast — you would think University of Mobile President Lonnie Burnett had seen it all. Not so.

The current COVID-19 pandemic is, according to Burnett, “the strangest thing ever.”

“There’s no way you could prepare for this,” he said. “But having said that, we’ve adjusted pretty quickly.”

Burnett noted he and his counterparts at Alabama’s two other Baptist-affiliated colleges — Samford University in Birmingham and Judson College in Marion — meet frequently via online conferencing to discuss the latest plan.

“It’s a situation where it’s

day by day,” Burnett said. “We plan for multiple contingencies. It’s not a Plan A, it’s a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C, Plan D and Plan E right now.”

‘Learn and adapt’

Samford President Andrew Westmoreland looks on the bright side.

“A crisis of this magnitude creates monumental challenges but also allows opportuni-

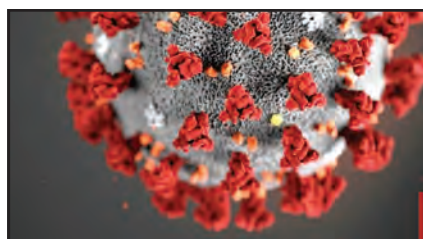
ties to learn and adapt,” he said in announcing fall semester plans. “We’ve developed new processes and competencies, most notably in online education. While we look forward to the return of in-person instruction, this experience will undoubtedly strengthen our integration of technology in the classroom and across all of our operations for years to come.”

(See ‘Coming,’ page 6)



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COVID-19

See pages 6–9 for information and updates

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Photo courtesy of Ava Rozelle
Edward Harrison is one of about 300,000 living U.S. WWII veterans.



Below: Edward Harrison celebrates his 100th birthday with family in July 2019.

Photo courtesy of Ava Rozelle

100-year-old veteran 'making an impact' during COVID-19 lockdown

Edward Harrison had several young ladies from home writing him letters during World War II, but one stood out — the one he sent his title to.

“He knew he could trust her to get it to the church for him,” said Harrison’s daughter, Ava Rozelle. “When he told one of his friends that, he said, ‘Sounds like she’s the one you need to marry.’”

When the war was over, he did.

He and Jean started a family and a long life of faithful ministry at Dry Valley Baptist Church, Lincoln. They raised Rozelle and her two brothers to love Christ and built a legacy that impacted many people in the community.

Through the years, Harrison supported the pastors of his church and encouraged fellow church members to stay strong in their faith.

Bill Pruitt, Dry Valley’s pastor, called Harrison a “pillar” of the

church and a “dedicated witness” for Christ.

“At age 95 he continued to drive himself to Dry Valley for Sunday morning, evening and prayer meeting on Wednesday,” Pruitt said. “He is a dedicated student of the Bible and lives its truth.”

‘He’s pretty special’

This month marks the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, and Harrison — now 100 — is one of about 300,000 living U.S. WWII veterans, as is James Carson, who was featured in the May 21 issue.

Harrison’s wife died just before their 65th wedding anniversary in 2013. He recently moved to skilled nursing care and is isolated because of the current COVID-19 restrictions, but Rozelle said he’s still making an impact right where he is.

“I’m biased, but I think he’s pretty special,” she said. (Grace Thornton)

Gov. Ivey loosens COVID-19 restrictions

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey has further relaxed the state’s Safer-at-Home guidelines related to slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The new guidelines went into effect May 22, loosening restrictions on child day care facilities, summer camps, schools, athletic activities and entertainment venues.

The amended order emphasizes personal responsibility, Ivey said,

including wearing face coverings in public, keeping a social distance and avoiding unnecessary travel.

Entertainment venues may open at half capacity. Schools may open June 1, and athletic practices may resume. Senior centers remain closed. Day and overnight youth summer camps, prohibited under the old order, may now open.

Read more at tabonline.org/safer-summer. (TAB)



The crossword puzzle can be found on page 15.

TAB Media

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

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MY RASHIONALE

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

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



Considerate approach, response both important for growth

Budding writers typically seek guidance and tips from those more experienced in the craft — much like anyone would do, no matter the field of study.

Two specific exercises I learned from others early on made a tremendous difference for me — read as much as you can, especially good writing, and always review what changes your editor makes.

Reading good writing exposes us to various forms of storytelling and allows us to learn new ways to share information.

It also helps us see how showing versus telling engages the reader and how brevity — saying a lot in a few words — and clarity — clear and precise explanations — best achieve the goal of communication.

Reviewing what changes are made in editing improves our technique and overall skill.

The goal is to avoid making the same mistakes over and over as well as to learn the specific style and preference of each publication and editor for which we write.

A writer's reaction to the reviewing step helps the editor know if the writer has a teachable spirit or if the effort will require a high level of energy and convincing on the editor's part.

It's similar to how we deal with constructive criticism in all aspects of life.

If we are on the receiving end, then we can choose to react defensively with quick responses and determine we know best or

we can listen carefully and take time to process what is being said without an emotional outburst.

The first response makes it harder for the one sharing the suggestions to fully explain and could result in the person hesitating to share future helps.

It also could mean a slower path to improvement in whatever area the suggestions are being made.

The second response allows for a follow-up conversation to ask questions, seek clarity and talk out the concerns.

It allows mutual trust to develop so both parties begin learning from each other.

As for the one sharing the constructive criticism, style and timing truly are key factors in eliciting the best response.

It's important to select a time when the person isn't exhausted, under a lot of pressure or on a tight deadline. It's also helpful to block off time for a calm and lengthy discussion, in case the person has questions or needs to talk things out.

Surprising the person with a quick "do this" or "don't do

that" without providing the full context can create confusion and cause him or her to respond in relation to what's in his or her mind at the moment.

It also helps to take time to hear the person's explanation to better understand and to make sure there isn't a justified reason for a specific action.

Rules, styles and policies exist for consistency, understanding and order, but sometimes adjustments should be made for a greater good — that's where the prior conversations, mutual trust and depth of the relationship make all the difference. 🌈

TAB TALKS: DEVOTIONS

You may already do a daily devotion (if so, share a few tips with us) but if not, 10 minutes a day will make a difference

Karen Moore, devotional book author, has offered to share some 10-minute devotions with TAB readers in the coming weeks.

She will provide a Scripture verse, devotional thought for the day, a prayer and an action step.

For instance, the Scripture for June 1 in her "Got 10" devotional series is:

"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33, NIV

The action step for June 1 is: "Begin a journal and write one sentence each time you meet with God for 10 minutes. See what you learn about yourself or your situation this month."

Give it a try and let us know what you learn. (Jennifer Rash)



TAB Talks screengrab

On this week's TAB Talks podcast, co-hosts Jennifer Rash (right) and Debbie Campbell (bottom) interview author Karen Moore and her husband, book publishing executive Bruce Barbour, about the importance of daily devotions. Karen has written more than 100 inspirational and devotional books and is developing a new 'Got 10' concept for daily devotional moments. To listen to the podcast, visit tabonline.org/podcasts or check out the video on the TAB Media Group YouTube channel.

Your Voice



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

We should all be 'stars' on social media

By Art Toalston

Excerpt from Baptist Press article

Don't buy the stereotypes. There is a sea of good people on social media — with wholesome things to share.

And you can be one of them.

Through thoughtful use of social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and/or Pinterest, you can lift the spirits of your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers as they shelter at home.

You can share edifying thoughts from Scripture, from something your pastor said in online worship, from an uplifting thought that may occur to you from the day's news, as sorrowful as it often is.

On social media, the fruit of the Spirit stirs us to “do nothing” and “do everything,” drawing from the Apostle Paul's words as recorded in Philippians chapter 2.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit,” Paul counsels in verses 3–4.

“Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others” (CSB).

In verses 14–16, his tandem exhortation is set forth:

“Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a

warped and crooked generation.’ Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life.”

We indeed can be stars — not in the number of followers, posts or tweets we accumulate, but in the approval of God for what is seen through our social media.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Art Toalston, a former editor of Baptist Press, was recently recognized by the Association of State Baptist Publications and is the author of “A Pandemic Proposal: Viral Vitality ... Hope for the Human Soul,” an ebook available at Amazon, iTunes and other online platforms.

IMB missionaries are eternally essential workers, and their witness is needed more in the midst of this pandemic than ever before. Our continued work relies on Southern Baptists rallying together now through giving and praying.

Paul Chitwood
IMB president

Churches are the only community-based businesses with the mission to love our neighbors.

Rep. James Gailliard
Pastor and legislator
Rocky Mount, N.C.

First person: UM grad, nurse shares experience of COVID-19 crisis

By Kei Martin

When news of a novel coronavirus began to circulate, the health care community prepared. As an emergency department and trauma nurse since 2015, I felt ready. The unknown and unexpected is quite literally my job.

Working a pandemic is like nothing I have ever experienced. Work is certainly unprecedented with hazard tents in parking lots, plastic-lined rooms inside and shelter-in-place orders issued by the government.

Taking care of patients is the

same, just with heightened precautions and more restrictions. During this COVID-19 outbreak, I regularly use the skills and knowledge I learned in clinical courses at the University of Mobile.

If you ask health care professionals why they chose the field they did, most will tell you that they felt called to it.

For many, health care is a passion. For others, health care is a niche. But for all who are a part of it, it takes a special type of person to dedicate his or her livelihood to serving others during some of their most vulnerable times.

Health care workers get to experience all stages of life with others, from health and happiness to grief, trauma and sadness. My jobs have always trained me to prepare for the worst, because you can't afford not to with someone's life on the line.

Through all the shortcomings that are being highlighted on a global scale, I feel confident that this is only going to make us better, not only in the health care realm, but also as a nation, to be better prepared for any events like this that may arise in the future.

Adapt, learn and overcome!
Being a UM grad, the faith-based

approach and foundation to my professional calling has kept my spirits up and allowed me to go forth with confidence.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Kei Martin, MSN, RN, APRN, FNP-C, is a two-time graduate of the University of Mobile. She earned a bachelor of science in nursing in 2015 and a master of science in nursing, family nurse practitioner in 2019. She has worked as an emergency department and trauma nurse and currently is a nurse in the emergency department of a California hospital.

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

“A strong, ongoing relationship with Jesus is the one, sure anchor for our lives.”

BOB ADAMS

Retired SBC pastor

Take comfort that Jesus is pre-existent. He is the author of time. Take comfort that Jesus is preeminent. He is the anchor of theology. Take comfort that Jesus is preemptive. He is the authority and everything that He does is thoughtful and thorough. Jesus is God and nothing catches Him off balance, off guard, and He is never off line. Jesus, because He is God, is always available, always attentive and always altering sinners into saints. Jesus has a plan for your life so you can put your trust in Him.

Pastor Stuart Davidson
Eastern Shore Baptist Church
Daphne, Ala.

Show your pastor that you support him. Listen to what your pas-

tor says about his life. Ask how his family is. Ask what he does in his free time. Ask what he enjoys about his days off. Show that you want to be his friend, not only his congregant.

Don't assume he has it all together. Statistics show he's likely burned out; he's likely lonely; he's likely exhausted. Help him catch a break by showing him the love of Christ, who will never turn us away for our emotional difficulties.

Cody Glen Barnhart
Director of music and media
FBC Alcoa (Tenn.)

God has called all believers without exception to engage the Great Commission, making disciples of all nations. But is there a special

calling for some to become missionaries in the vocational sense of the word? Absolutely!

God calls men and women to uproot their lives, prepare for service through theological education and launch into cross-cultural environments to learn the language and culture of a specific people and give their lives to reach them with the Gospel of Christ.

John D. Massey
Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary

God will not take you down a path for which His grace cannot fully sustain you.

Richard Blackaby
Author, Bible teacher
and leadership coach

Reasons to Celebrate in the midst of the COVID-19 storm

1. Our congregations are being energized, appreciating what they have and miss.

2. Our footprint has been enlarged — through technology, more than ever are being touched.

3. Stewardship has been encouraging; God's people are investing in the eternal.

4. Ministries are being expanded; churches see the need to be Jesus.

5. The hope of spiritual awakening is being embraced; God has the world's attention for a reason.

Pastor Morgan Bailey
Macedonia Baptist Church
Ranburne

Prayer for the pastors

“Father, bless Your pastors please.

Many have already taped tomorrow's sermons and have no idea what to do now.

Most are in a constant struggle trying to decide what needs doing, what they actually can do and how to do it.

Your pastors tend to be realists with others but perfectionists with themselves.

Nothing they do these days feels like enough.

They always feel like they're running behind, doing less than what is needful and forever feeling like a failure.

This makes them vulnerable to the unloving critics and super-spiritual dictators.

Father, help your pastors to know they're not alone and to reach out and connect with others of Your servants who are dealing with the same self-criticism and feelings of inadequacy as they.

We admit we are not adequate for these things but rejoice that our adequacy is of Thee. Amen.”

(That's 2 Cor. 3:5).

Joe McKeever
Pastor and author

From the *Twitterverse*

@revandyfrazier

If you think you don't have time to encourage someone today, you're too busy. Take a couple of minutes to say a few kind words.

@MichaelHyatt

People lose their way when they lose their why.

@joeyhanner

If you're too busy to be faithful then you opened the wrong door. (Rev. 3:20)

@JackieHillPerry

God uses us to keep His church, but He doesn't need us to keep His church, and that is very good news. It actually frees us from functioning in ministry as if the salvation of some and the perseverance of others ultimately depends on us.

@cnieuwhof

You can lead your way through this crisis or react your way through it. The future belongs to the leaders.

@GKCdaily

Christianity did not conceive of Christian virtues as tame, timid and respectable things. It did conceive of those virtues as vast, defiant and even destructive things, scorning the yoke of this world, dwelling in the desert and seeking their meat from God.

@alan_floyd

We tend to change not when we see the light but when we feel the heat.

@griffingulledge

“Let the excellence of your work be your protest.” — William Lane

@DavidBurtonEv

Good word here: “Hold everything earthly with a loose hand; but grasp eternal things with a death-like grip!” — Charles Spurgeon

@hershaelyork

Those who judge the Word and eliminate texts that they deem inconsistent with Jesus Christ will also eventually eliminate characteristics of Jesus Christ they don't approve of. Once you become your own arbiter of truth, you really don't need the Bible — or Jesus — at all.

@jdgrear

Grieving the loss of a spiritual and intellectual giant today. He was one of the first preachers who showed me the power of gospel-rich, Spirit-filled apologetics. May God raise up 10,000 in his place. See you on the other side, Ravi.

Coming

BACK TOGETHER



Judson College photo

Judson College

Classes, activities will look different in near future as COVID-19 pandemic continues

(continued from page 1)

On May 18, Samford brought back a limited number of employees, with the remainder set to return to campus in phases, starting June 15.

Summer term classes are being taught online and orientation for new students and their families will be online.

In an April 30 message to Samford employees, Harry B. “Buck” Brock III, executive vice president and VP for business and financial affairs, wrote, “We will carefully monitor national, regional and local trends and public health mandates related to COVID-19 in the weeks to come. Unless governmental regulations make it impossible or imprudent, we are planning for the general reopening of the campus for classes and residence halls in August.

“Even then,” Brock cautioned, “heightened health and safety monitoring will likely be the norm in all aspects of campus life. Limiting individual and campus exposure to the virus now and in the weeks ahead

will enhance the likelihood of a safe resumption of operations in August. Social distancing, hand-washing, face coverings and limited travel should continue to be practiced faithfully.”

‘Prepare for students’

Samford has tentatively rescheduled spring graduation ceremonies for Aug. 13–15, and fall classes are set to begin Aug. 24.

Mark Tew, president of Judson College, called on most all employees to return to campus May 11 following Gov. Kay Ivey’s announcement allowing many businesses to reopen.

As the college’s summer session continues online, Tew said employees working on campus are observing social distancing and other health and safety protocols. Some employees with specific health-related issues have and will continue to work from home, he said, and “additional procedures will be implemented throughout the summer

as we prepare our campus to receive our students.”

The campus reopened May 18 for private tours for prospective students and their families, said Mary Amelia Taylor, Judson’s associate vice president for marketing and communications.

Judson is planning commencement for June 27, Taylor added, which will be an outdoor ceremony to allow for social distancing. The college is planning a few special touches as well, she said.

“The college’s student life and academic divisions are planning an event leading up to commencement that we’ve named ‘Linger a Little Longer’ after some cherished Judson traditional song lyrics,” she said. “This event will allow participating students to celebrate several end-of-semester events that were cancelled or postponed this spring, such as our annual Honors Convocation, Class Day and several special events for graduating seniors.”

As for fall, Judson plans to resume face-to-face instruction on Aug. 20, according to Stacey Parham, interim academic dean, with “extra preventive health measures” in place, including social distancing between students and enhanced sanitation procedures.

University of Mobile plans to resume on-campus instruction and residential housing in the fall, with classes set to begin Aug. 17. Mean-

while, prospective students and their families may arrange private tours of the campus.

Fall classes may look different than usual, depending on government regulations in place when the fall semester begins, UM officials said. Smaller class sizes, larger dining hall space and flexible class attendance online or in person may be implemented to accommodate social distancing recommendations.

‘Focus’

“The great advantage we have with our university is that we already offer small classes, and we can focus on the needs of the individual student,” Burnett said. “Our employees can be nimble in addressing any need that may arise in the fall.”

UM’s spring

2020 graduates are encouraged to celebrate their commencement with fall grads, said Kathy Dean, assistant vice president for university communications.

‘Big celebration’

“We are encouraging them to come back for Dec. 12 and we will have a big celebration,” Dean said.

“Many have already told us they are planning to come back for the graduation ceremony. It’s something we are all looking forward to — graduates, families, faculty and staff. We are looking forward to hearing all about what they are doing and where they are since we last saw them in April.”



University of Mobile photo

University of Mobile



Samford University photo

Samford University

'WAIT & SEE'

approach

Family economics, on-campus experience part of student decisions for fall

By Martha Simmons
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” Jesus’ message (Matt. 6:34) about not worrying about the future must seem particularly apt these days as higher education leaders try to forge a plan for the fall term that’s only weeks away.

As they try not to worry, Alabama’s Baptist institutions — University of Mobile, Judson College and Samford University — must still plan for an uncertain future.

“We always say, ‘The current plan is ...,’ ” laughed University of Mobile President Lonnie Burnett. As for UM’s current plan, “We’re going to try to be on the ground, in dorms, the on-campus experience, as close to normal as it can be,” he said.

Burnett said he stays in frequent contact with Samford President Andrew Westmoreland and Judson President Mark Tew, and they are all dealing with the same uncertainties.

“We realize it will not be normal,” Burnett conceded. “We’ll have to follow the governor’s and health department guidelines. The tricky part for us is guessing what that looks like. As of today, we couldn’t do it.”

Unknowns include:

- ▶ At what rate the virus continues to spread when fall classes begin in late August

- ▶ Whether classrooms will be required to limit occupancy, and how to juggle in-person and online instruction to accommodate distancing requirements within available space

- ▶ The effects of long-term job

“We realize it will not be normal. We’ll have to follow the governor’s and health department guidelines.

The tricky part for us is guessing what that looks like.

As of today, we couldn’t do it.”

President Lonnie Burnett, University of Mobile



Unsplash.com

loss and an anticipated recession on enrollment

- ▶ Whether larger classes such as general education courses — often held in auditoriums — will have to go online.

‘Biggest fear’

“Every college president’s biggest fear is being completely online again,” Burnett said. “That’s a worst-case scenario.”

More than two-thirds of high school graduates want an on-campus college experience, he said, and online courses are not seen as providing as much value for tuition dollars.

That’s if students have the money for tuition to start with.

A poll of some 500 high school seniors — conducted by the higher ed research firm Art and Science Group in the early days of the pandemic, March 17–20 — found that:

- ▶ Two-thirds were worried they would have to change their college plans.

- ▶ One in six was giving up on attending a four-year institution in the fall.

- ▶ 21% feared their families would no longer be able to afford their first-choice college because of a recession.

- ▶ 17% said they were likely to take a gap year next year or attend a program part time.

Poll results like these could spell trouble for colleges and universities across the United States.

In March, Moody’s, a credit rating agency, downgraded its U.S. higher education outlook from “stable” to “negative” due to disruptions caused during the spring by the novel coronavirus. In order for Moody’s to adjust the rating back to “stable,” markets must recover and higher ed-

ucation institutions must see robust enrollment in the fall.

“We don’t know what our fall will look like,” Burnett said, though UM’s mid-May enrollment figures looked promising.

But many students nationwide are taking a “wait and see” approach and have not yet paid a down payment on their tuition, he said.

Moreover, statistics show that half of all children have at least one parent who has lost a job, been furloughed or have had his or her work hours cut, he said. The great unknown, Burnett said — “Will there be more people losing their jobs?”

‘All over again’

Even if the economy recovers and most people get back to work, there’s another big “what if” that keeps college and university leaders up at night, Burnett said.

“The other troubling scenario is we get back on ground with our classes and campus activities, the virus spikes, and we have to shift to online course delivery again.”

ON MISSION

together

Birmingham-area churches partner for food drive that becomes ‘grand tool’ for the gospel

By Tracy Riggs
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

A multi-church drive-thru food drive held May 9 resulted in more than 27,000 pounds of food donated to Birmingham’s Christian Service Mission and other local food pantries.

Cars started lining up early at each of the four participating churches — First Baptist Church, Birmingham; First Baptist Church, Trussville; Hunter Street Baptist Church and Shades Mountain Baptist Church — and the event provided a much-needed morale boost after weeks of sheltering in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, said Tim Wheat, pastor of missional living at Shades Mountain, who first had the idea for the drive-thru food collection.

“As I shared [the idea] with our executive staff team, I thought it would accomplish two purposes. First, it

would provide [food] for hundreds of families in the Birmingham area, and second it would provide a chance to ‘see’ real live people again instead of just on the screen,” Wheat said. “That would be like a morale boost, an emotional shot in the arm in these days of isolation and shelter in place.

I just thought it would be fun to see, wave and say hi to a lot of people again.”

Then Wheat decided to expand the effort and invite other churches to participate.

Once the other churches were on board, the work started. All four churches announced the food drive through email, during their virtual services and on their social media platforms, including in-

structions that the food would be unloaded by volunteers and COVID-19 safety precautions would be taken.

The churches enlisted volunteers and church staff as well as the necessary supplies — masks, gloves and sanitizer — they would need.



Photo by Travis Frontz
FBC Birmingham’s Nathan Lyon (right) helps collect donations.



Photo by Tracy Riggs

Volunteers unload and sort food donations at Birmingham’s Christian Service Mission. A one-day drive-thru food drive held May 9 at four Birmingham-area churches netted more than 27,000 pounds of donations for the center.

The result was thousands of pounds in food donations as well as other supplies.

Tracy Hipps, CSM executive director, said he continues to be amazed at how God provides.

“The food that we collected today is a tool, a grand tool for this pandemic to help serve and communicate the gospel and love of Jesus Christ,” Hipps said. “Our strategy is to work through the local church. So ... the local church gets to win. We’ll turn this product around and give it to local churches to help serve their people.”

More than food

The food donations continue God’s provision during the pandemic, Hipps said. Even before COVID-19 hit, God had provided masks, gloves and sanitizer that had been sitting in the warehouse just waiting to be used, he said.

About six months ago, CVS Pharmacy started donating non-food items, such as hygiene and cleaning supplies. Recently, Birmingham-

based produce wholesaler Forest Wood Farms committed to sending fresh fruits and vegetables they can’t sell to CSM.

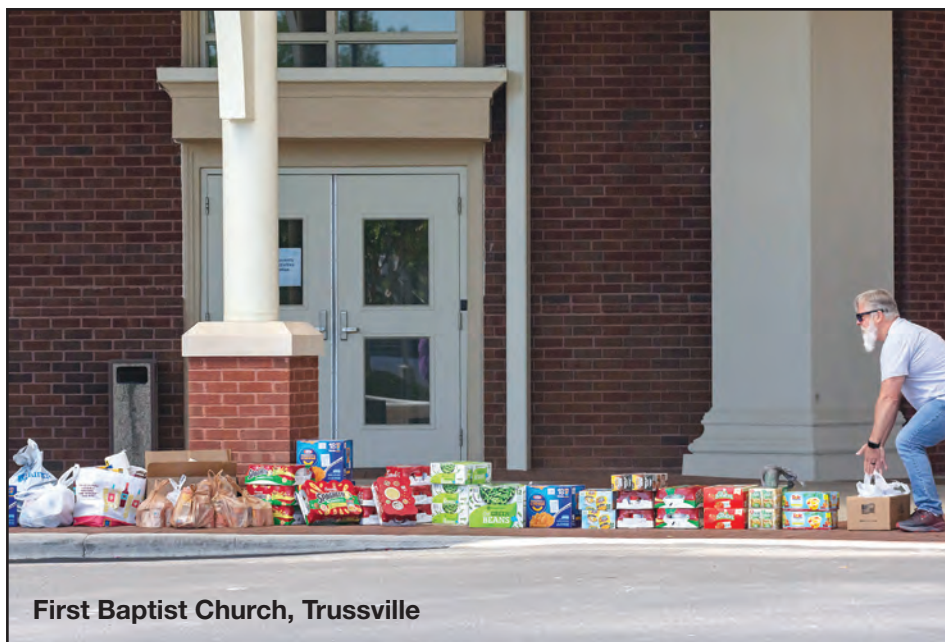
All of this means that when CSM provides boxes of food for seniors or families, more than just random basics can be included, Hipps said.

The aim is to provide at least a week of meals for those who need help, along with personal hygiene items, paper goods and cleaning supplies, all with the goal of having gospel conversations and follow up that isn’t usually found in food pantries, Hipps said.

“We are called by God to serve the people of God. It’s all about Him. It’s His grand story that He’s telling, and we’re just a small part of [it],” Hipps said.

Hipps expects the need for assistance will rise as stimulus money runs out and home pantries run bare. The churches will continue to take canned and boxed food donations, he said, and monetary donations are useful too. For more information, visit csmission.org.

View more photos from the May 9 food drive at tabonline.org/Birmingham-food-drive.



First Baptist Church, Trussville

Photo by Tracy Riggs



123rf.com

Day care centers READY AND WAITING

Church child-care programs reopen cautiously, reflect on God's provision in crisis

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

As Alabama businesses reopen following COVID-19 closures, church-run day care centers are making plans for when, how or if they will reopen.

An April 30 “Safer at Home” order in Alabama permitted day care centers to reopen with restricted class sizes of 12 or fewer. The order encouraged enhanced sanitation and social distancing practices consistent with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Central Park Baptist Childcare Center, Decatur, reopened May 4, keeping its group sizes below 11 and limiting use of common areas to one group at a time.

Director Karen Florence said the day care also has implemented new drop-off and pickup procedures, keeping parents in the front area of the facility.

Careful cleaning

Additionally, workers are wiping down doors and spraying disinfectant more often than before, sanitizing toys daily and more frequently for younger children.

Florence said the center is at full capacity until group restrictions lift, and the administration is grateful to be fully staffed and to have been able to pay workers during the shutdown.

A ‘different’ time

“We feel really blessed that we had some paid time off for rest and family time but are very appreciative that we get to reopen, as we would not have been able to pay [our staff] for much longer,” Florence said.

“God is good, and He has taken care of us in this ‘different’ time.”

Some child-care programs delayed reopening until a May 11 amended state health order released an expanded list of businesses to reopen and allowed more Alabamians to return to work.

First Baptist Church Wee Care in Jacksonville reopened May 18.

Director Denyse Spruill said staff members are cleaning four times a day, wearing masks and taking temperatures at the door. Parents currently are not allowed in the building.

Spruill noted enrollment is down to 50% capacity, but she is confident the numbers will improve as things normalize.

A Paycheck Protection Plan

(PPP) loan enabled Wee Care to continue paying employees during the shutdown, she said.

“Some families are nervous about coming back because you can’t social distance a 2-year-old,” Spruill said. “Families know we work hard to keep everything clean. We’ve offered part-time [enrollment] to help ease the transition. Families are ready to come back to school.”

She added that the center continued to connect with families and to supplement learning during the shutdown through videos and weekly social media craft posts.

Other programs, like Eastside Baptist Daycare in Birmingham, delayed opening as they awaited further developments.

A ‘fluid’ plan

Lauren Haley, Eastside director of weekday early education, said the program reopened May 26 with temporarily restricted hours to accommodate requirements limiting teachers to one group per day.

“We look forward to being able to resume our regular daily schedule at Eastside Baptist Daycare, but until then we will follow and stand behind our local and federal government as they seek to guide us with their best judgment of our safety,” Haley said.

Eastside staff developed a fluid plan for reopening to ensure safety and sanitation throughout the center’s daily operations, she noted. Foot traffic is limited, with children

“exchanged” at the front entrance.

While the center withheld tuition charges during the closure, Haley said they did continue to compensate employees with regular salaries. The lengthy closure has impacted the center’s financial stability, she added, but the center has applied for a PPP loan and continues to honor the promise they made to pay their employees.

“We trust that the Lord will provide through whatever

way He sees is best for our future,” Haley said. “As a whole, the families and staff of our day care center have been very supportive in the decisions that we have made during this time. For that, we are extremely grateful and count it as a blessing.”

Other programs, like Eastern Hills Child Development Center in Montgomery, were still closed at press time and monitoring the current community health situation. Eastern Hills church administrator Dan Harris said the congregation is exploring possibilities.

Waiting until fall

Hunter Street Baptist, Hoover, and other churches plan to reopen Mother’s Day Out in the fall.

For more information regarding Alabama’s day care reopening standards, visit <https://governor.alabama.gov/newsroom/2020/05/governor-ivey-issues-amended-safer-at-home-order/>.

For more information regarding child-care centers and COVID-19, visit tabonline.org/CDC-childcare.



Unsplash.com

COVID-19 'catalyst' for Ukrainian Baptist seminary

Russell Woodbridge was only supposed to have been in the U.S. for a week, but because of COVID-19, now it's going on three months.

"We got caught on vacation in Florida — we had just brought some lightweight clothes to visit our daughter and see our first grandchild," he said.

'Always challenges'

But even though, like much of the world, the semester didn't end as planned for the seminary where Woodbridge teaches in Ukraine, the changing times have opened up new possibilities.

Before COVID-19, they were looking at starting on-

line learning opportunities.

"This has been a catalyst for that to happen," he said.

In recent years, things have been going "really well" at Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, which Woodbridge — an International Mission Board missionary — helped relaunch in 2014.

They've grown from around 50 students to nearly 800. They also started an international missions program and a church planting program.

"There are always challenges," Woodbridge said, noting that sometimes they

have needs for more staff, space and funding. A new building was supposed to be ready by the fall semester, but he said he's unsure if that will happen in light of everything that's going

on. He's also not sure when he'll be back in Ukraine.

But in everything, "God has been faithful," Woodbridge said. "We're

looking at this very positively and looking at how we can accommodate people better."

During the coronavirus crisis, program directors have maintained meetings with students through tech-

nology. It's been a great way to continue what Yaroslav Pyzh, seminary president, said is the heartbeat of the seminary's vision — mentorship.

'Continue trusting'

"Our vision is simple. We want every local church to baptize more people and for that we believe that some changes need to take place — changes in human hearts, in the church and in our attitudes for each other," Pyzh said. "We are convinced that mentorship is the way for changes to take place."

The seminary's mentors help students get ready to live out their mission, he said. "We're trying to help every student realize he is

accountable to God and accountable to his local church."

While the seminary continues to train ministers and missionaries during coronavirus, Woodbridge said the staff is trying to "take advantage of what's happening because God is obviously working."

He asked for prayer for seminary staff and faculty to have wisdom on how to move forward.

"Please pray that we would continue to trust God and learn from the situation how we can better serve people in Ukraine through the seminary [and] through the local church," Woodbridge said. (Grace Thornton)

For more information about Ukrainian Baptist Theological Seminary, visit tabonline.org/ubts.

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

May 2020 marks 200th anniversary of birth of Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale (1820–1910) was the founder of modern nursing. Known as the "Lady with the Lamp," she provided care for British soldiers during the Crimean War.

This year is the 200th anniversary of her birth.

She was born in Florence, Italy, on May 12, 1820, to William and Frances Nightingale, and was named after the city of her birth.

The wealthy family returned to England in 1821. They lived in Embley Park, a large estate in Hampshire.

Early years

Her father home-schooled her, teaching her Italian, Latin, Greek, philosophy, history, writing and mathematics.

As an affluent young woman,

she was expected to become a wife and mother. After rejecting several suitors, she announced to her family that she wanted to become a nurse.

Nightingale was a member of the Church of England and possessed a strong faith in Christ. In 1837, she had a "divine calling" to serve others as a nurse.

She educated herself in the art and science of nursing. In 1850, she visited a Lutheran religious institute in Germany and received four months of medical training.

From 1853 to 1854, she served as superintendent at the Institute for the Care of Sick Gentlewomen in London.

Her most famous role occurred in the Crimean War. In October 1854, she and a staff of 38 women volun-

teer nurses (whom she had trained) and 15 Catholic nuns were sent to Scutari, Turkey. Her team cared for British and Allied soldiers.

Her night rounds giving personal attention to the soldiers earned her the nickname — "Lady with the Lamp."

Although she initiated handwashing and other hygiene practices in the hospital, Nightingale discovered that the wounded soldiers were receiving inadequate care. Short supply of medicines, bad ventilation and mass infections abounded.

She sent a message to England for help. The British government sent their Sanitary Commission to the hospital to clean out sewers and improve ventilation.

Nightingale was so proficient with

data and numbers that in 1857 she became the first woman member of the Royal Statistical Society.

In 1859, she wrote "Notes on Nursing: What it is, and What it is Not." It gave advice on good patient care and safe hospital conditions.

Lasting legacy

In 1860, the Nightingale School of Nursing at St. Thomas' Hospital in London was founded. It was the world's first secular nursing school.

Often bedridden from illness, she continued to advocate for safe nursing practices. She died in London on Aug. 13, 1910. She is buried in Hampshire.

International Nurses Day is observed annually on May 12 to commemorate her birth. 🇺🇸

By Joanne Sloan

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



NIGHTINGALE



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Theology in Unusual Terms

Anathema

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

Last week, we devoted attention to the second member of the phrase “Anathema Maranatha” in 1 Cor. 16:22. This week we look more closely at the first member of the phrase, anathema. This term occurs in several places in the New Testament and is commonly given the translation “accursed.”

Often the explanation of this term in its usage in the New Testament is “devoted to destruction” as the object of a curse.

The gospel message appropriately and accurately makes much of God’s love demonstrated in sending His Son to be the Savior of the world.

While we mortals cannot overstate such love, we must not let a high view of God’s love overshadow the Bible’s warnings about the wrath of God.

Love for Christ is essential

In its occurrence in 1 Cor. 16:22, anathema makes failure to love Jesus a sinister and serious omission, “If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed (anathema).” To spurn perfect love is hard heartedness of the highest order.

Similar seriousness is associated with anyone who proclaims a perverted or distorted gospel according to the warning in Galatians 1:8–9: “... If we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema). ... If anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you

have received, let him be accursed (anathema).”

Distorting or denying the gospel of perfect grace earns the undiluted, pure wrath of God.

From these two cited references we learn immediately that God places supreme value on a person loving His Son and holding to the gospel of saving grace. Failure on either score results in God’s rejection and judgment.

Fearful warning

It is difficult to imagine a more fearful warning about divine judgment than that given in Heb. 10:28–31: “He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Such a fate is anathema at its fearful worst. 🇺🇸

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.



Fackler Rock Zoo provides colorful roadside attraction

When the county paved a road by Leonard Dawson’s farm in 1976, they pushed a big boulder up onto his land.

But he wasn’t mad about it. He just had a thought he couldn’t shake.

“He thought it looked just like a bull,” said Larry Dawson, his son.

The elder Dawson had that thought every time he saw the rock, to the point that he considered hiring a professional artist to paint it the way he saw it in his mind. Eventually he decided to just grab a brush and do it himself. Then he and his son found the horns on the property and added them too.

And with that, the family’s Rock Zoo was born, just a couple of miles down County Road 32 in Fackler, past Harmony Baptist Church, where Larry Dawson serves as head deacon. Through the years, more rocks have been found, added and painted. The roadside “zoo” has a rooster with a comb fashioned from cement, as well as a skunk, giraffe, alligator and maybe

a couple dozen more “animals.” Some are more obvious as to what they are; others are open to some artistic interpretation.

‘Special area’

Additions to the collection appear from time to time. There’s currently an unpainted rock just waiting for a little paint to make it into a snapping turtle.

Tammy Murphey, Larry and Nalda Dawson’s daughter, said people come by all the time to stop, take pictures and let their children climb on the rocks. She said they’ve even had children leave painted rocks of their own to join the “animals,” and they’re encouraging children to keep doing that if they want.

“We’re hoping to even have a special area for people to

leave their own rocks soon if they want to and come back and see them later,” Murphey said.

To view more photos of the Rock Zoo, visit tabonline.org/rock-zoo.

The Rock Zoo is located at 3215 County Road 32 in Fackler and open to visitors anytime. (TAB)



Photo by Grace Thornton

The often-photographed rocks on the Dawson’s property are painted to look like animals, and children enjoy climbing on top of them.



Photo by Grace Thornton

Tammy Murphey and her sons enjoy playtime at the Rock Zoo in Fackler. The colorful attraction was created by Murphey’s grandfather Leonard Dawson after road construction led to a large boulder that looked like a bull being placed on his property.

3 stories

you should know



IMB photo

Trustees of the International Mission Board approved the appointment of 59 new missionaries May 13–14 — its first time to hold a virtual meeting. The new missionaries, along with two others who were appointed in January, will be commissioned in a virtual Sending Celebration on June 9 at 6 p.m. CT. The celebration will premiere live on IMB's Facebook page. On May 20, IMB extended the halt on field personnel hosting volunteer groups through July 31. (IMB, TAB)

Poll: Partisan split over virus-era restrictions

Republicans are more likely than Democrats (49% to 21%) to believe that prohibiting in-person church services during the COVID-19 pandemic violates religious freedom, according to a recent poll by the University of Chicago Divinity School and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Nearly two thirds of Democrats (58%) said in-person services should not be allowed during the current crisis as compared to around one third of Republicans (34%). Those who thought such services should be allowed with restrictions was less divided, with 48% of Republicans and 38% of Democrats in favor. More Republicans (15%) than Democrats (5%) felt in-person services should be allowed without restrictions, according to the poll. (AP)

Wisconsin hair salon owner sues over order

Jessica Netzel, owner of Kingdom Kuts in Appleton, Wisconsin, filed a federal lawsuit claiming Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers' "safer at home" order violates constitutional protections of free speech and religious freedom.

Netzel claims that Evers' order violates her ability to practice her religion through attending in-person church services and by running her faith-based business.

Netzel asked U.S. District Judge William Griesbach to lift the order and allow her salon to function similarly to businesses already allowed to stay open during the order.

On May 9 and May 11, Appleton police officers entered Kingdom Kuts and informed Netzel that she was being referred to the district attorney for prosecution, according to the lawsuit. (AP)

— NEWSBRIEFS —

June 7 designated as SBC Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church



More than 2,920 people were killed for the cause of Christ last year, according to the 2020 annual report from Open Doors' World Watch List. In addition, 9,488 churches or Christian buildings were attacked and 3,711 Christians were detained without trial, arrested, sentenced and imprisoned.

Overall, 260 million Christians experienced high levels of persecution in the top 50 countries on the World Watch List in 2019, Open Doors reported. The top five include North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya and Pakistan.

In recognition of the persecution faced by Christians around the world, the Southern Baptist Convention last year designated the first Sunday in June as a Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. In 2020, the day of prayer is set for Sunday, June 7.

Approximately 60 Southern Baptist missionaries and children have died due to violent circumstances while serving with the International Mission Board (formerly the Foreign

Mission Board) since the organization's founding in 1845. The causes include accidents such



IMB photo

as drowning, automobile and aircraft crashes, and ships lost at sea. They also include deaths as a result of war and criminal or terrorist acts. In some cases, the missionaries were targeted specifically because of their faith or missionary service.

Of those 60, more than 20 FMB/IMB missionaries lost their lives "as a result of human hostility in a cross-cultural setting," said Scott Peterson of IMB's global research team. (IMB)

Churchgoers say faith has prospered as services go online during crisis



More than 80% of people associated with a religious tradition said their place of worship had been broadcasting services on the internet during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a Pew Re-

search Center survey conducted by the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research at Cornell University.

Forty-two percent of those who said they have participated in online religious services said their faith had grown stronger, as opposed to 30.9% of those who have not been watching an online service at all. In addition, only a small portion of those who responded to the survey reported their faith had been weakened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey also found little evidence of substantial demographic disparities with regards to access to streaming services. According to the survey, those 65 or older were equally likely to have access to online services as the youngest respondents.

However, African-Americans as a group were slightly less likely than white or Hispanic respondents to have access to church online, more highly educated respondents were



AP photo

LifeWay Church Partners halted amid organization's ongoing budget woes

LifeWay Christian Resources recently announced it will be discontinuing the Church Partners area of ministry.

The church partners worked with 36 states and Washington D.C., according to Fran Trascritti, director of church partnerships, in a November article at blog.lifeway.com/newsroom.

"Our church partners ... exist to both hear from churches and partner with them in ministry by being experts on the many trustworthy resources LifeWay provides," Trascritti wrote. "Their primary job is to visit with churches across the country to develop an ear for what issues pastors and ministry leaders are facing on a daily basis."

The number of positions eliminated has not yet been reported. Unofficial sources indicate each state represented with a church partnership had at least one LifeWay representative and several states had multiple representatives.

Alabama most recently had two representatives and had three for a few months last year prior to repositioning of personnel following a retirement in Mississippi.

Alabama Baptists will miss the relationships, connection to expert information and opportunity to have a voice at the table, said Daniel Edmonds, director of the office of Sunday School and discipleship for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

Edmonds, who has a long history with LifeWay and the various people who have served in the

church partnership roles, knows the importance of truly understanding the Sunday School literature and Bible study curriculum being selected by church leaders.

"You've got to have a trusted partner with literature," he said.

Alabama's LifeWay partners

Alabama's two most recent representatives, Michael Gentry and Rick West, served that role well, Edmonds said, noting everyone who has served in the roles for Alabama throughout the years has had an education ministry background and understood how to help the churches.

"It has been an essential function especially for the second chair-type roles in larger churches and pastors of churches of 250 and under."

But "even as we grieve for our friends and are sad to lose this connection to LifeWay, we also value our partnership with LifeWay ... and have confidence they will find a path forward," Edmonds added.

"We don't know what the picture will look like and where we are in that picture or even if we are in that picture, but we've got to pray and trust. We've got to pray for Ben (Mandrell, LifeWay president) and that God will lead him in the decisions he has to make.

"We'll continue to work with LifeWay as best we can," Edmonds added. (TAB)

Persecuted church

Violence against Christians continues in Nigeria

JOS, Nigeria — Muslim Fulani herdsmen continue to kidnap, attack and kill Christians in Nigeria. In the past few weeks:

▶ In Plateau state, the head of a Christian high school, his wife and children were shot May 5. The husband was critically wounded. His wife and children are recovering. A Christian couple was attacked April 26, seriously injuring the husband.

▶ In Miango County, four Christians were ambushed and killed May 3.

▶ In Kaduna state, Emmanuel Iliya Agiya (pictured here with his wife), was abducted April 22. He is an elder and treasurer of the Evangelical Church Winning All. Also, a Christian was killed, two brothers wounded and two girls kidnapped on April 14. The girls were rescued.

▶ At a wedding April 12 in Shiroro County, 12 Christians were killed and the newlyweds abducted. Five Christian villagers were killed.

Nigeria is No. 12 on Open Door's 2020 World Watch List of countries where Christians face the highest persecution. (MS)



Morning Star photo

6% more likely to have access to such services and evangelical churches were 10% more likely than Catholic churches to offer online services. (RNS)

TAB's weekly newspaper, podcast garner national RCC awards

The TAB Media team earned three top honors from Religion Communicators Council

for work done in 2019. The awards are:

▶ Award of Excellence for overall periodical.

▶ Award of Excellence for single issue (Nov 28, 2019).

▶ Award of excellence for the September 10, 2019, TAB News podcast featuring Auburn University football chaplain Chette Williams. To listen to the podcast interview with Williams, visit tabonline.org/leading-athletes. (TAB)



Photo by Debbie Campbell

News near you

BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

▶ **Wiley Edwards** is the new minister to students for **NorthPark Baptist Church, Trussville**, and **Ryan Christmas**, the previous minister to students for almost 10 years, is the new minister to missions. Edwards and his wife, Emily, have two boys, ages 4 and 2, and a baby girl due in late June. Emily grew up at NorthPark and Wiley has been a member since 2016. He previously served as a high school history teacher and coach, and most recently served as the athletic director for Cornerstone Christian School in Roebuck. Emily serves in the finance office at First Baptist Church, Trussville. Wiley was welcomed to his new position with a drive-



EDWARDS

by water balloon shower May 3 (to watch the video, visit TAB Media Group's YouTube channel). Bill Wilks is pastor.

CALHOUN ASSOCIATION

▶ **Ken Burnham**, a member of **Meadow Brook Baptist Church, Oxford**, serves as a trustee for the International Mission Board. His term was scheduled to end in 2020 but has been extended to 2021. All expiring terms of IMB trustees were extended one year because the 2020 SBC annual meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



BURNHAM

OTHER

▶ The **Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions** hosts an Online Call to Prayer via Zoom every Wednesday at 10 a.m. The prayer time is open to everyone who can participate. Find the link for the prayer gathering each week at alsbom.org. The SBOM also is offering various online trainings and webinars which can also be found at alsbom.org. ☕

Campers on Mission a 'great blessing' for volunteers as well as recipients

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

First Baptist Church, Union Grove, is getting a new Family Life Center, thanks to the help of Alabama Campers on Mission.

In a four-part project, Alabama Campers on Mission provided labor to enlarge and update the Union Grove Baptist campus by installing drywall in the 12,500-square-foot addition. The structure includes a gym, fellowship hall, three offices, a nursery, seven Sunday School rooms, four bathrooms and a kitchen.

"We feel God leading us to 'Grow the Family of Faith,' through all generations," said Greg Narrell, pastor of Union Grove. "Young families are looking for a place to worship and have children's activities, while the older generation needs a place to worship and spend time together in fellowship."

'See God at work'

Planning for the project began in 2016. Rain delays and cost increases brought challenges to the project, but Narrell said God was clearly in it from the start.

"What a blessing to see God at work throughout this entire process," Narrell said. "Alabama Campers on Mis-

sion already had obligations but worked with us to accomplish this task."

According to Ken Conaway, regional coordinator for Alabama Campers on Mission, campers performed all trades possible on the project, from framing and electrical work beginning in September 2019 to plumbing installation in December. Additional framing and utilities installation were completed in February and then in March the final jobs of installing doors, ceilings, electrical and plumbing fixtures and trim were finished along with painting everything.

The church plans to finish the remainder of the work in the building, Narrell said.

Alabama Campers on Mission provide a valuable service for churches and camps across the state and across the country who need help in construction, Conaway said.

Volunteers with Campers on Mission chapters mobilize for short-term construction, renovation or repair projects with the goal of reaching others for Christ.

Their work supports growing, cash-strapped churches with free labor,

enabling the churches to build a larger footprint than they could otherwise afford.

"For a number of years we have supported Alabama youth and adults through our work at Alabama Baptist camps," Conaway said. "Annually we work at Shocco Springs in Talladega, Camp Baldwin near Foley, Vineyard Christian Retreat in Ariton, Camp MACOBA in New Market and also Oneida Baptist Institute in

Kentucky. ... Our work enables the camps to keep their costs more affordable."

In 2015, the group constructed the tower

for the "Wet Willie" water feature at Shocco Springs. Conaway said the slide has now served more than 100,000 youth and children.

Along with construction projects, Campers on Mission members participate in sewing projects, using donated fabric to sew clothes for missions teams to send abroad, nursery curtains and walker bags and clothing protectors for nursing homes.

The group gains members through word of mouth and media coverage of their missions projects, Conaway said.

"Membership is open to all evangelical Christians who are active members in good standing in an evangelical church," said Conaway. "We also require a background check initially and it must be updated every 5 years. We are grateful to Camp Baldwin (Baldwin Baptist Association Camp) for performing this service for us."

"In the past few years, our members have been able to share the love of Christ in their RV in most of the southern states," Conaway said.

For more information about Alabama Campers on Mission, visit alabamacom.org.



Photo courtesy of Greg Narrell

Randy Clemons of Fruithurst works at an Alabama Campers on Mission project. Campers on Mission serve churches and ministry sites with construction and renovation needs.

Nora Thompson, president of Alabama Campers on Mission said she's seen volunteers experience strengthened faith and spiritual growth.

'Like a family'

"We do receive a great blessing from our work," Thompson said. "The vast majority of our members are retired. It gives us great joy to have someone say to us, 'That is what I want to do when I retire!'"

Thompson sees the group as like a family: praying for

each other, encouraging one another and helping each other.

Churches or camps who want to request help begin by contacting one of the regional directors, who then visits the site to determine if the project is something the group can accomplish.

A Campers on Mission project leader works through logistics with the ministry, setting up a schedule and campground while promoting the opportunity to members who may volunteer. 🇺🇸

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

MINISTER OF STUDENTS
Albertville First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of students (7th through 12th grade). This person will work in partnership with additional church staff and a volunteer ministry team. Please send resumés to: chris@albertvillefbc.org.

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Photo courtesy of Wintford Haynes

Wintford (right) and Martha Haynes (center) are recognized at a National Campers on Mission rally for their 45 years of service. Also pictured is Bill Foster, former Alabama COM president.

Metro Changers to continue World Changers work

By Caleb Yarbrough
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

For many involved in World Changers through the past 30 years, LifeWay Christian Resources' May 1 announcement that the ministry would be discontinued was a personal loss.

The unique ministry not only affected the lives of the low-income residents who heard the gospel and received countless new roofs, paint jobs and wheelchair ramps free of charge, but it also was known for inspiring volunteers to develop a heart for service and evangelism.

Year-round missions

The Birmingham Metro Baptist Association began hosting World Changers projects in the early 1990s.

Metro Changers was incorporated in 2007, established to offer year-round missions opportunities similar to the summer World Changers projects.

"The BMBA has a long history of support and ministry partnership with Metro

Changers," explained Chris Crain, BMBA executive director. "The BMBA has provided financial support in the form of salary subsidy for the Metro Changers executive director, office space in the BMBA building, payroll and other administration services through the years.

"Regarding the future, the BMBA believes in the Metro Changers ministry model and is working with Metro Changers leadership during their period of transition and restructuring," Crain said. "[Developing a strong partnership] will provide ministry opportunities for member churches and meet the needs of residents in substandard housing."

Metro Changers receives about 60% of its funding

from the City of Birmingham, with the remainder coming from churches, non-profits, businesses and private donors.

The Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions also is a ministry partner. The SBOM hosts an annual week of service in which it subsidizes the costs of a project, allowing many students and churches who would not otherwise be able to afford the experience to participate.

Only 6% of the funds Metro Changers receives go to operations. The organization estimates its work has contributed more than \$10 million in value to the Birmingham metro area since 2007.

Butch Henderson has served as executive director of Metro Changers as well

"Everything has a season, as Scripture teaches us. It's time for a new season and a new way, but the message is going to be the same."

Butch Henderson
Metro Changers



Photo courtesy of Metro Changers

Each year groups from various places — such as the group pictured here in 2017 from Florida, Illinois, Ohio and Georgia — serve with Metro Changers in neighborhoods around Birmingham.

as a coordinator for World Changers projects.

"The number of people who have come to know the Lord, the number of times the gospel has been presented over these 30 years (with World Changers) is remarkable and it's nothing more, in my opinion, than a God thing," Henderson said.

"Everything has a season as Scripture teaches us. It's time for a new season and a new way but the message is going to be the same.

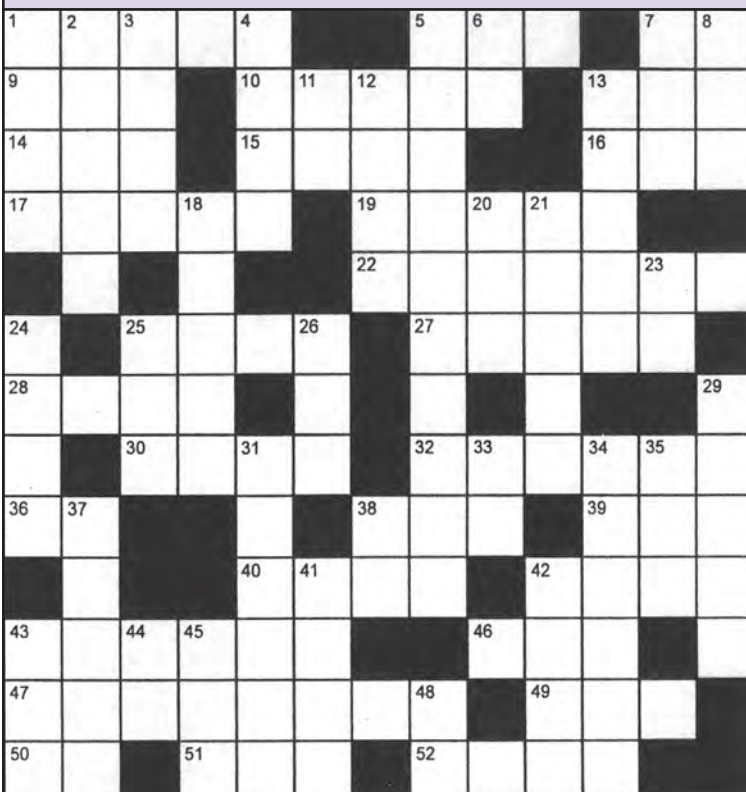
"We've got to have a new vision and a new type of organization, or several organizations, that can help step up and stand in the gap for these churches and student pastors that have seen over the years what [World Changers has] done not only in their lives but ... the [lives of] thousands of students," he said.

"Although World Changers is going away, the experience doesn't have to."

For more information visit metrochangers.org.

Christian Crossword

By Joann Horn Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.



Across

- ___ as a grain of mustard seed. (Matt. 17:20)
- I have ___ you with milk. (1 Cor. 3:2)
- For ___ Jonas was three days and three nights. (Matt. 12:40)
- Opposite of "young."
- Heavenly messenger.
- He is of ___; ask him. (John 9:21)
- What foolish virgins forgot to take. (Matt. 25:3)
- The lilies, they ___ not. (Matt. 6:28)
- ___ that was washed to her wallowing. (2 Pet. 2:22)
- Plural of "tooth."
- They shall be one ___. (Gen. 2:24)
- Inflict suffering.

25. Capable.

- Unlearned and unstable ___. (2 Pet. 3:16)
- Painful sore under skin.
- Hollow-type grass.
- The Lord is my ___, and I will not fear. (Heb. 13:6)
- O ___ of little faith? (Matt. 6:30)
- Number before seven.
- Large body of water.
- May my teaching ___ as the rain. (Deut. 32:2)
- A type of eagle found in North America.
- ___ my soul from their destructions. (Ps. 35:17)
- Be sick.
- Man who preaches any other gospel. (Gal. 1:8)

49. Flightless bird.

- Matthew. (abbr.)
- To stroke or caress.
- Yours and mine.

Down

- Twelve inches.
- Foreigner.
- They learn to be ___. (1 Tim. 5:13)
- For whosoever ___, to him shall be given. (Matt. 13:12)
- No ___ with works of darkness. (Eph. 5:11)
- Election. (abbr.)
- Four days ___ I was fasting. (Acts 10:30)
- Stitch.
- Opposite of "yes."
- The ___ of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 10:45)
- Remainder of burnt wood.
- Furniture we eat at.
- To go astray.
- An odor of a sweet ___ (Phil. 4:18)
- New Testament. (abbr.)
- Children, ___ your parents. (Col. 3:20)
- What we breathe.
- Finish.
- Swap.
- I ___ all things for elect's sakes. (2 Tim. 2:10)
- Exodus. (abbr.)
- ___ and hymns and spiritual songs. (Col. 3:16)
- Snakelike fish.
- Chosen of God.
- For God ___ loved the world. (John 3:16)
- I will give you ___. (Matt. 11:28)
- A coffin.
- Male sheep.
- Southern state. (abbr.)
- Vessel for drinking.
- Is it lawful to ___ good? (Mark 3:4)

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

GOOD NEWS For You!




Share YOUR stories of how God is at work in your church and community on our Facebook page or at alsbom.org/goodnews.

During recent days, numerous Alabama Baptist pastors have shared on Facebook how God is blessing their congregations during these unusual times. Here are just a few of the good news testimonies we found:

 "Doughnuts were delivered to social workers and other staff at the Morgan County Department of Human Resources. They were happy to know that they are loved and prayed for as they serve clients in our community." **—Blake Kersey, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DECATUR** (Morgan Association)

"Church members had a blast delivering lunch and showing love to staff members at pharmacies in Cullman, thanking them for all they do." **—Keith Warden, NORTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH, CULLMAN** (East Cullman Association)



 "During one week, church volunteers cooked, handed out and delivered meals, donated masks and gloves, and prayed with members of our community. The next week, we distributed more than 200 meals and prayed over many first responders, frontline workers and families in our community." **—Jonathan Hill, LITTLE ESCAMBIA BAPTIST CHURCH, FLOMATON** (Escambia Association)

"A sign in front of the church points people to a 'Blessing Box' where food and essential items are available to anyone needing them. The church family and the community are invited to contribute items to the box and to share with others about this ministry effort." **—Darrell Haney, VALLEY HEAD BAPTIST CHURCH** (DeKalb Association)



"The church has begun streaming services on Facebook Live and YouTube with excellent response. I had recent conversations with a mother and son on FaceTime and through text messages. Both accepted Christ, and they want to be baptized as soon as it is safe." **—Wendell Holmes, PLACE OF GRACE CHURCH, SLOCOMB** (Southeast Alabama Association)

 "Deli trays were prepared and delivered to first responders – including city hall and water department staff along with police and fire departments – as a way of expressing appreciation to them for their service on the frontlines. We prayed with them and gave them information on our church for future ministry to them and their families." **—Harris Cook, CROSSBRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH, HELENA** (Shelby Association)

Preparing for What's Next

Your Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions has developed a document that will help you ask the right questions, consider helpful suggestions and access a variety of resources as you begin to prepare for the process of reopening your church facilities. It is available as a PDF to download and/or view by visiting alsbom.org/reopen.

photo by unsplash

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LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY IN CHALLENGING TIMES Every Tuesday, 10-11 a.m.

- June 2: Building Healthy Connections in the New Reality
- June 9: The Latest Trends on Regathering
- June 16: Ministering to Senior Adults in Challenging Times

TRANSITIONS: HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITION YOUR STUDENTS FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE Thursday, June 4, 10-11 a.m.

This free webinar will offer practical help and discussion on how to be sure your high school graduates make the leap from high school to college without falling away from their faith and the church. Session leaders are Scooter Kellum and Mike Nuss, state missionaries in the Office of Collegiate & Student Ministries, and Cleve Mallory, student pastor at Eastmont Baptist Church, Montgomery.

CHURCH TAX CONFERENCE FOR SMALL CHURCHES Tuesday, June 16, 10 a.m.-Noon

Do you need a W-2 if the pastor is the only paid employee? Do you have to complete the form 941? Can the minister take 100% of his income as housing? How does a small church of 100 or less differ from a large church in tax issues? These questions and more will be answered at this free webinar led by State Missionary Lee Wright in the Office of LeaderCare & Church Health.





JUNE LUNCH AND LEARN Thursday, June 25, 12-1:30 p.m.

Lunch and Learn is a new feature of Disciple Making Ministries. Co-sponsored by PassionTree and Incite Ministries, it is designed to allow you to interact online with a nationally known leader in disciple making during your lunch hour (12-1 CST). Following the hour, there will be an additional 30 minute Q&A with the Alabama hosts. Featured speaker for Thursday, June 25, is Alan Briggs, pastor, author and network leader for making disciples who can make disciples.

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Remember - visit alsbom.org/coronavirus and our COVID-19 Resource Group Facebook Page for a variety of helpful resources!

‘Not by accident’

Vietnam veteran shares faithfulness through stories of surviving war, battling cancer

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Captain Larry Hunter says it's clear God had a purpose for him staying alive. He can't see any other way he would've made it back from the Vietnam War still breathing.

For starters, he was an Army artillery forward observer, the person responsible for directing artillery fire on a target — an extremely dangerous assignment.

“The lifespan of a forward observer wasn't very long but I beat those odds, and it wasn't just by luck, I feel,” said Hunter, a member of First Baptist Church, Winfield.

During his time in Vietnam, he dodged death over and over. He remembers one specific time when his company went to the site of a helicopter crash and faced an unexpected ambush.

Holding onto hope

“We were dropped off in a little postage stamp-sized landing zone, and we could see the smoke from the burning wreckage,” Hunter said. “What we found was that the



Photo courtesy of Larry Hunter

For his support of U.S. Army ROTC, Larry Hunter (left) receives a plaque and certificate from Col. William Pruett at the University of North Alabama Military History Symposium in 2018.

enemy was waiting on us to come in and get those bodies out.”

Shots came quickly, and his commander and radio operator were wounded badly. Hunter and his radio operator jumped behind a big ant mound. For hours, the fire-fight raged, and planes flew overhead dropping bombs. As daylight faded, Hunter wondered if he would ever make it out alive. At least half the men were wounded or killed at this point.

But he had a little hope when he heard a Chinook helicopter was coming in to

rescue them from the fray.

“We gathered up army flashlights and arranged them pointed upward in the shape of a T so they could see the landing zone,” Hunter said.

‘God’s presence’

Their “relief quickly turned to horror” as the Chinook came under intense fire from every side, Hunter wrote in his book, “Fire Mission! Fire Mission!”

“Its fuselage was hit, and its engines were shot to pieces as it attempted to land on the small landing zone,” he wrote. “It crashed just short of the lighted ‘T’ in our small 50-yard perimeter. Now there was no room for another one to land.”

They were forced to spend the night there.

“Even as we dug in, forming a small perimeter, I thought we could not survive

the night,” Hunter wrote. “I felt that it was almost over. I would die that night. I thought of home, my wife, Judy, baby Ken, only five weeks old when I left.”

He felt a “strange calmness” come over him, a “peace that passeth understanding.”

“I had accepted death ... I believe it was God’s presence that gave me such peace,” he wrote.

But he wouldn't die. A plane was able to drop them some ammo and that held off the enemy. Early the next morning, when they tried to expand their perimeter, they realized the enemy — a unit of around 1,100 north Vietnamese fighters — was gone.

“In looking back, God directed our whole life, mine and my wife, Judy,” said Hunter, who told this story and many more in his book, released in late 2019. “After Vietnam, I came to the realization that I had more purpose in life because I was spared so many times in Vietnam. I know I'm not alive by accident.”

He has also kept on living even though he's battled multiple myeloma and renal failure as a result of exposure

to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

“I've been in and out of remission,” he said. “I know thousands of people are praying for me. We can feel God's presence. It's His grace, that's all we can say.”

‘Testimony of faith’

Mark Randall, a fellow church member who helped him compile the book, said when he first heard Hunter's testimony, he was moved by the way Hunter and his wife “gave God all the glory for guiding him through Vietnam.”

Hunter invited him over, started telling him stories, and Randall started typing them out.

“I thought these stories need to be preserved,” he said, so he put them together, along with excerpts of the hundreds of letters Hunter and his wife wrote back and forth while he was in Vietnam.

Randall said Hunter's faith has stayed strong, even

while facing the ongoing effects of Agent Orange.

“It is a testimony to their faith that Larry and Judy continue to share the joy of the Lord with others as they walk this difficult pathway fighting this cancer on a daily basis,” he said.

Paul Murphy, Hunter's pastor at First, Winfield, called him a “gentle rock.” “To begin with, one of the great secrets to Larry is the strong faith of his wife, Judy,” Murphy said. “She was there as the praying wife and mother all the time while Larry served in Vietnam. Larry's faith is quiet, deep and strong.”



Photo courtesy of Larry Hunter
Larry Hunter wears the new polyester uniform given to him while fighting in the Vietnam War.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For May 31

Explore the Bible

By Robert E. Jackson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



REACH

Romans 15:14–21, 30–33

Fulfill Your Calling (14–16)

Paul is convinced of the fullness of the moral goodness of the Romans and their understanding of the Christian faith, which enables them to adequately instruct each other. In using the perfect tense, Paul is convinced the Romans will continue to grow in their relationship with Christ. Nevertheless, he boldly reminds the Gentiles of some points, one being to offer themselves to God.

Gentiles, who were viewed as unclean by some Jews, are now sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In preaching to these sanctified believers, Paul remained faithful to his calling. Likewise, as followers of Christ, we need to stay true to our purpose. How can we fulfill this calling? Very simply, we must have a laser focus in offering ourselves to God. We cannot shy away from reminding others of the truthfulness of God's word, even if they have heard it repeatedly. Like Jeremiah of old, our calling needs to be a fire burning within our bones that we cannot hold in (Jer. 20:9).

Boast About Jesus (17–19)

God's power was with Paul, as evidenced by signs and wonders (miracles) and expansion of Christianity around the known world. Paul preached from Jerusalem, the epicenter of Christian preaching, to Illyricum's boundary (modern Yugoslavia and Albania). Still, his boasting is in Christ Jesus. Paul was only God's point man to carry the gospel to the Gentiles. Believers must boast about Jesus while refusing to take any of the credit.

A friend of our family was a "golden tongue" preacher. He had it all — looks, eloquence and persuasive communication. Through the years, he began to take credit for the victories in the church. What happened? He crashed and burned and left both the ministry and his family. Remember, any success in ministry is the work of God through you. Beware of pride.

Seek the Lost (20–21)

Paul's desire not to build on some-

one else's foundation is not normative for everyone. Instead, it relates to his calling to reach those people who have never heard the gospel.

Borrowing a statement from Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, Paul believed in "equal opportunity evangelism." He wanted everyone to have equal opportunity to hear the liberating news of Jesus Christ. Seeking the lost was not an end in itself.

Salvation is more than being a part of "the chosen frozen." Paul wanted everyone to hear, understand and become fellow disciple-makers who would seek the lost in turn. As you seek the lost, remember evangelism is not complete until the one evangelized becomes an evangelizer.

Partner with Others (30–33)

Even though Paul was an instrument of God's wonder-working power, he still asks for prayer. Don't miss the significance of this request. Even Paul the Apostle, with a unique position in salvation history, needed prayer support. Think about it; serving Christ was not easy for him. Paul was beaten, often hungry, imprisoned, rejected and even shipwrecked (see 2 Cor. 11:25–33).

We, too, need prayer. Even though God has ordained your ministry, do not neglect the fact that you need prayer. A tension exists between the sovereignty of God and human responsibility.

Martin Luther and a monk agreed that Luther would go into the world and fight the battle while his friend prayed. The monk dreamed that Luther was attempting to reap an immense field by himself. Seeing this as a sign, the monk left the monastery to work and pray beside Luther.

Everyone in the body of Christ is called to partner with others in prayer. However, God desires us to partner in both prayer and effort for those who are physically and financially able. "May the God of peace be with all of you. Amen" (v. 33). 🌿

Bible Studies for Life

By James Riley Strange, Ph.D.

Professor of New Testament, Samford University



ACCEPT

Romans 14:1–4, 13–19

Is there a more appropriate time to talk about accepting Christians with whom we disagree? Today is the last in our series on practices that can restore and fortify relationships among believers. The first we talked about was love, from which the rest grow: encourage, forgive, serve, yield and accept.

Paul had not visited Rome when he wrote to its Christian congregations (1:8–15; 15:22–33). The letter became one of the most important biblical sources for the Church's teaching about sin and God's redemption through Jesus' death and resurrection. As usual, however, Paul also instructed readers, both ancient and modern, in correct behavior toward one another.

One of the issues Paul addresses stems from the presence of both Gentile and Jewish believers in the Roman church. Gentile converts were not required to keep the Jewish Torah (instruction/law), but apparently many Jewish believers were still observant.

On top of that, after Emperor Claudius expelled Jews from Rome in A.D. 49, many Jewish Christians went back when they were able. For example, Paul met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth in Acts 18:1–3, but they must have returned to Rome because Paul greeted them in Romans 16:3–5. These Jewish Christians' presumed loss of status and their continued observance of dietary practices and Sabbath days may have generated tension with their Gentile brothers and sisters. (Read 14:1 through 15:13 for context.)

Acceptance means we can accept a person whose opinions differ from ours. (1–4)

"Weak in faith" may refer to Christians who placed great stock in either keeping or ignoring dietary regulations ("kosher") and either keeping or ignoring the Sabbath. Some Jewish converts must have avoided meat sold in the public markets because it came from animals sacrificed to Roman gods (1 Cor. 8:1–13), it was improperly

slaughtered, according to Jewish practices, or it came from unfit animals such as pigs (remember that Daniel ate vegetables in Babylon, Dan. 1:8–16). Most Gentile converts had no such scruples. Apparently Jewish and Gentile believers quarreled about this. Because communal dining was an important early Christian practice (1 Cor. 11:17–22), these arguments would have strained the fellowship.

The word translated "welcome" or "accept" or "receive" in verses 1 and 3 has the force of "take as a partner." This implies Christians should not merely avoid quarrels and welcome each other into their homes but also be willing to work alongside one another.

After all, God has taken on both kinds of believers as His partners (vv. 3–4). To accept one another in this way, therefore, is to be like God.

Acceptance means we do nothing to cause the other person to stumble. (13–15)

The instructions here are for Gentile converts. Contrary to his Jewish upbringing, Paul says uncleanness is a human notion, thus agreeing with Gentiles. Nevertheless, if it causes "grief" or "pain" (v. 15), Gentile believers must not eat food their Jewish brothers and sisters regard as unclean. If such food is being served to everyone, and since Jewish Christians would probably not serve it, then it's Gentile Christians who are doing so.

Paul wants Roman believers to abandon their hard positions and to be motivated by mutual love.

Acceptance means we do that which builds up the other person. (16–19)

Accordingly, Paul wants the believers in Rome to pursue whatever builds up a brother or sister and thus the congregation. You and I probably don't deal with attitudes about ritual purity, but we do judge one another, don't we?

Let us now more than ever turn our judgment into acceptance and pursue what promotes peace. 🌿

TOP 15

best-selling Christian books

NONFICTION

1. **The 5 Love Languages**
By Gary Chapman (Moody)
2. **Get Out of Your Head**
By Jennie Allen (Waterbrook)
3. **Total Money Makeover**
By Dave Ramsey (Thomas Nelson)
4. **Live**
By Sadie Robertson (Thomas Nelson)
5. **Fierce, Free, and Full of Fire**
By Jen Hatmaker (Thomas Nelson)
6. **Girl, Wash Your Face**
By Rachel Hollis (Thomas Nelson)
7. **Jesus Calling**
By Sarah Young (Thomas Nelson)
8. **Midnight Mom Devotional**
By Becky Thompson & Susan K. Pitts (Waterbrook)
9. **Whatever is Lovely: A Coloring Book for Reflection and Worship**
By Waterbrook
10. **It's Not Supposed to Be This Way**
By Lysa Terkeurst (Thomas Nelson)
11. **Anxious for Nothing**
By Max Lucado (Thomas Nelson)
12. **Dangerous Prayers**
By Craig Groeschel (Zondervan)
13. **Embraced**
By Lysa Terkeurst (Thomas Nelson)
14. **The Vision Driven Leader**
By Michael Hyatt (Baker Books)
15. **New Morning Mercies**
By Paul David Tripp (Crossway)

Source: Christian Book Expo at press time



Media reviews

Alabama missionary Addie Cox 'lit a fire' with stories from China

When Bonnie Gates Windle was a teenager in the 1950s in Pickens County, a “small lady with white hair” would visit her church and tell spellbinding stories about her years as a Southern Baptist missionary in China.

The speaker was Addie Cox, a fellow Alabamian who served as a teacher and evangelist in China during the first half of the 20th century, including during World War II and amid the occupation of China by Japanese military forces.

Cox's visits to Spring Hill Baptist Church “lit a fire in my heart” for missions, said Windle, who herself has taken 15 missions trips to Brazil and served in missions support in many other ways.

Because of the influence the diminutive “Miss Addie” had on Windle's life (and not just from a distance — Cox was a friend of Windle's grandmother), Windle has written a book about the missionary's life in “Addie Goes to China.”

Cox set out to write her book with younger readers in mind, but it ended up with more content than she originally planned (including nearly 50 photos) and she feels the book will appeal to a wider audience.

For author and former international missionary Rosalie Hall Hunt, reading “Addie Goes to Chi-

na” was like “taking a walk on memory lane.”

“I knew Addie Cox when I was a little girl growing up in China and thought she was a tiny dynamo,” said Hunt. “I'm thrilled to see Addie's story shared so that those who love missions can learn of the ministry and courage of a tiny little woman who braved the unknown for the sake of sharing the good news.”

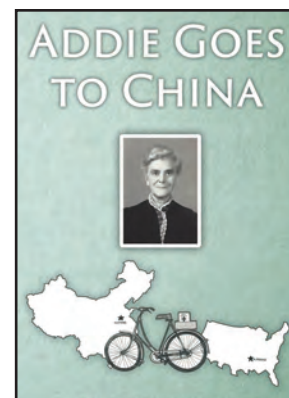
Thrath C. Curry, a friend of Cox who helped compile stories about Cox's life and missionary work, said Cox's adventures in China were “so dramatic that they remind us of the Apostle Paul.” Windle “has done us a great service” by getting Cox's story into a book, Curry said.

Windle recently lost her husband after 61 years of marriage. She remains active in missions through Pickens Baptist Association, including doing

missions work at the federal prison for women in Aliceville.

Windle hopes “Addie's memory and her devotion to Jesus will be kept alive in the generations to come” and God will use her book to call out other people to missions work.

“Addie Goes to China” is available from major online booksellers. Windle is available to speak to groups and offers signed copies of her book. Contact her at bonnieassistant1@gmail.com. (South Carolina Baptist Courier)



Other books on missionary work

Many more books are available detailing the stories of missionary heroes, including those by Alabama's own Rosalie Hunt. Her books include:

- ▶ “Out of Exile: Fannie Heck & the Rest of the Story”
- ▶ “The Extraordinary Story of Ann Hasseltine Judson: A Life Beyond Boundaries”
- ▶ “Her Way: The Remarkable Story of Hephzibah Jenkins Townsend.”

She also wrote a book about the history of Woman's Missionary Union — “We've A Story to Tell (125 Years of WMU) Woman's Missionary Union.”

Other books about Christian missionaries in the United States and abroad include:

- ▶ “Lottie Moon: Giving Her All for China” by Janet Benge and Geoff Benge
- ▶ “J. Hudson Taylor: The Classic Autobiography” by J. Hudson Taylor
- ▶ “Through Gates of Splendor” by Elisabeth Elliot
- ▶ “Susie: The Life and Legacy of Susannah Spurgeon, wife of Charles H. Spurgeon” by Ray Rhodes Jr.
- ▶ “God's Smuggler” by Brother Andrew
- ▶ “Complete Surrender: A Biography of Eric Liddell” by Julian Wilson
- ▶ “The Hiding Place” by Corrie ten Boom
- ▶ “A Chance to Die: The Life and Legacy of Amy Carmichael” by Elisabeth Elliot
- ▶ “In the Presence of My Enemies” by Gracia Burnham (TAB)

Doing church

Young church plant finds creative ways to minister during COVID-19

When Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey issued a stay-at-home order in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, members of The Church at Estrella prayed and asked God how to “do church.” The 2-year-old church plant could no longer meet in Westar Elementary School where they had been holding regular services.

Like many churches, they were looking for ways to serve their neighbors while unable to physically gather. So they used their contacts and asked around, and someone came up with a sweet idea.

“We contracted with an ice cream truck to drive around our community,” Pastor Charles Scheffe said.

When people came out of their houses with money in hand to buy ice cream, they were told the ice cream was free, courtesy of The Church at Estrella.

“We invited them to online church and told them TCE was

there for them,” Scheffe said. “We have a generous God who has been generous to us, so we get to be generous to others. As a result, so many cool things have come out of these ministries, including more opportunities to reach the community.”

The church has also been making protective face coverings — an idea that came out of a community Facebook post.

God’s call

“We have an online women’s community group, and we’re connected to other community Facebook groups,” said LaRey Bond, who organized the mask making. “When someone posted they needed a mask, we asked, ‘Who can help?’”

Now 15 women are making masks.

The group created a Facebook page called the Mask Making Ladies of Estrella, where they take



BP photos

One of the ways members of The Church at Estrella, a North American Mission Board church plant, has reached out to neighbors amid the COVID-19 pandemic is driving around an ice cream truck and distributing free ice cream.

orders. In less than a month, the women have sewn and given away more than 1,500 masks, mostly in their community but also to people in California, Ohio, Texas, New York and at the army base at Fort Benning, Georgia.

“We put the masks, packaged and labeled with people’s names, in a bin on my front porch,” Bond said. “People come by and take what they’ve ordered. It’s all free, but we’ve received more than \$1,000 in donations, which have all gone to purchase mask material.”

The Church at Estrella is a North American Mission Board church plant sponsored by First Baptist Church of Edmond, Oklahoma. Scheffe and his wife, Stefanie,

were members of First, Edmond, when they felt the call to plant a church in Arizona.

They toured the Phoenix area. By God’s leading, they found themselves in Estrella Mountain Ranch in Goodyear, Arizona, and knew it was where they were supposed to be. With their daughters, Addisyn and Londyn, they launched The Church at Estrella in 2018.

Meaningful connection

“Our purpose is to bring light into darkness,” Scheffe said. “We prayed and knew God would do what God does — provide the inspiration, direction and wherewithal to connect in meaningful ways with those in our community.” (BP)



The Church at Estrella members also are making masks to donate. Pictured here are some of the women serving with the Mask Making Ladies of Estrella.

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