The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

Photo by Ethan Lowe/Samford Athletics

Samford senior forward Jermaine Marshall from Brighton celebrates with the fans following the title-winning game at home for the Bulldogs.

Making history

Samford men's basketball team garners No. 1 seed for upcoming SoCon Tourney

The Samford men's basketball team wrapped up a second-straight Southern Conference regular-season title with an 87–71 win over East Tennessee State University on Feb. 24 in the Pete Hanna Center.

"What an accomplishment for our guys, for our program and for all of the people associated with the program, to win the SoCon this year and be the one seed going into the tournament," Samford head coach Bucky McMillan said.

"To be able to go back-to-back and bring home two SoCon championships, the first two Samford has had in back-to-back seasons, I'm so excited for our university and all of the people, not just our players and coaches, but everybody associated with the university and our fans, I'm so happy for them."

Samford's No. 1 seed in the upcoming SoCon Tournament is a first for the Bulldogs. The tournament is set for March 7–11 in Asheville, North Carolina.

Crowd was 'unbelievable'

The game was played in front of 4,523 fans, the second-largest home crowd in Samford basketball history.

"It was a really good first half, everybody came in and was popping," McMillan said of the game. "Our crowd was unbelievable."

Samford was led in the win by Jaden Campbell with a career-high 28 points. Rylan Jones had 19 points and five assists, while Garrett Hicks had 14 points and Jermaine Marshall added 10 points.

At press time, Samford was 25–5 overall and 14–2 in SoCon play. The 25 wins are a tie for most in a season in program history. (Samford)

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SCAN ME

I See Jesus

Where God is Working, Christ is Shining and the Holy Spirit is Moving

From a personal testimony and life experience

TAB Media Group correspondent Carolyn Tomlin of Tennessee shares this experience:

A few years ago, I was returning home from a Communist country. Our plane was scheduled to make a stop in a large city, then fly back to the United States. When we were about 10 miles from the city, the pilot comes on the intercom and says, "I have bad news. The large forest near the airport is on fire and heavy smoke has covered the runway. I'll be able to land the plane, but the airport will not allow me to take off."

I was very concerned. My Visa was out that day. It isn't good to be in a Communist country with an expired Visa.

Immediately, I begin to pray. Others did also.

After a few minutes, the pilot comes back on the intercom and says, "I can't explain it, but the smoke has shifted to another direction and the airport is clear. Not only will I be able to land, but I can take off, also."

Immediately, we begin to thank God for answering our prayers. I recalled Matthew 8:23–27 when the disciples were fishing and a storm came up quickly. God commanded the wind to be silent. We serve a mighty God who is able to change the course of the wind when needed.

From page 7 of this edition of The Alabama Baptist

Daley Grace Alford describes the recent Night of Shine as an "unforgettable moment":

"To share the love of Christ and see the smiles on the faces of all our honored guests throughout the night was priceless. It's been a really great adventure."

Rhonda Kelley remembered at FBC Fairhope service

People from around the nation gathered Feb. 21 at First Baptist Church Fairhope to remember the life and ministry of Rhonda Kelley, whose husband, Chuck, is president emeritus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Kelley died Feb. 17 at 72 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

KELLEY

Eric Hankins, pastor of FBC Fairhope, said Kelley "was as gracious, faithful, impactful and encouraging as a member of First Baptist Fairhope as she was in every other area of her extraordinary life."

"She poured herself into the women of our church and became a great friend and mentor of my wife, Janet," Hankins said.

'Generously invested'

"She generously invested her tremendous experience in women's ministry over the last four years, resulting in a wonderful revitalization of that valuable ministry here at our church," he said.

"Being a family of faith to her and Chuck through her battle with cancer has been a precious honor for our church."

Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said Kelley exemplified the fruit of the Spirit "in such a way that made her personality sparkle."

"She was a loving, kind and considerate person to the core," he said.

Lance said he met the Kelleys decades ago through their mutual love for New Orleans Seminary.

"Later, Chuck became president of that stellar seminary and led it with distinction," he said. "Rhonda was the First Lady of the seminary, and she excelled in that role."

Lance said Kelley had a gift of making people feel at home and was a strong leader in women's ministry, especially with pastors' wives.

"Her charm and charisma caused her to be a people magnet," he said.

'Role model for so many'

"People were naturally drawn to her winsome warmth and her caring way of relating to others. She became a role model for so many as an exemplary Christian leader."

Lance said he and his wife, Pam, are praying for the Kelley family as they grieved their loss.

"I know that the Grand Canyon-size hole in their hearts will be filled with the presence of Christ who gives us the peace that passes all human understanding," he said. (TAB)

AVAILABLE NOW

Out in time for Easter

Bob Terry's devotional book is available from Amazon. Get your copy today.

The Alabama Baptist

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

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The crossword puzzle can be found on page 15.

OPINION

Rashional Thoughts

By Jennifer Davis Rash
President and Editor-in-Chief
jrash@thealabamabaptist.org @RashionalThts

Status of, future for frozen embryos 'a real dilemma'

It took a few days for the Feb. 16 Alabama Supreme Court ruling to sink in across the state and nation. In an 8–1 decision, the court said frozen embryos can be considered children under state law.

When the news surfaced in widespread fashion the following week, the response was swift.

Media outlets, late night shows and conversations around kitchen tables and out in the public square took flight.

In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) clinics in the state also shocked the public by halting services in fear of potential lawsuits.

Alabama legislators and public officials stepped in quickly in an attempt to calm the chaos, pushing other agendas aside to focus on the unexpected fallout from the ruling.

What happens now?

After all, it wasn't a theoretical issue for the couples seeking to be parents and already in process of the IVF procedures. It shook their world immediately.

At least three pieces of legislation were filed in Alabama within a week of the ruling to help remedy the situation, and people of influence at all levels began to speak out.

Exactly how it all would be sorted out was still under debate at press time, but a whole lot of people were working together to figure it out.

Birmingham attorney Eric Johnston called the current situation "a real dilemma," where there's not an easy answer.

Speaking with Greg Davis in a Feb. 22 interview on Priority Talk Radio, Johnston said, "We've got ethical, legal, political and medical considerations all overlapping each other and trying to figure out what to do.

"This is not about abortion, it's about human life," he said. "It's [about], how do we reconcile these medical advancements ... with sanctity of life?"

The medical community doesn't know what to do at this point, Johnston explained.

"Lawsuits could possibly go back to embryos who were destroyed earlier.

"IVF is not going to go away as such ... but it's a difficult policy decision. ... The constitutional amendment says the unborn child is entitled to protection (and the court has ruled the unborn) includes IVF children. ... The Legislature can't come in with a mere statute and change it and correct it. It's going to be more difficult than that."

Clinics 'not outlawed'

Still, numerous state policy watchdogs are confident the ruling does not and should not impact IVF in Alabama.

According to Eagle Forum of Alabama, "The Alabama Supreme Court did not outlaw IVF nor their services. Because the Alabama Supreme Court rightly interpreted the law, as well as our Alabama Constitution, IVF clients are parents and their embryos are their children. Parents have rights to their children.

"There is no excuse for any Alabama IVF clinics not to fulfill their commitments to their patients.

"IVF parents and their children deserve our utmost compassion, support and guidance, so that clinics will continue to serve families and all children are protected," said Eunie Smith, president, and Christine C. Carr, CRNA and health policy adviser, for Eagle Forum.

The Alabama Policy Institute also says the "ruling didn't close clinics or make IVF illegal in the State of Alabama. Rhetoric and narratives that assert that to be the case are patently false and should be called such."

Watching the various moving parts related to the ruling and responses the past couple of weeks reminded me of coverage we've done in the past regarding the potential for adoption of frozen embryos.

Embryo adoption

The Snowflakes Embryo Adoption Program from Nightlight Christian Adoptions allows couples to donate extra and remaining embryos created after IVF, so other couples can adopt them and give birth to their adopted child.

We'll check into an updated feature on the program and see how the recent ruling might impact the adoption process.

OPINION

Your Voice

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

Framing the face of WMU — the late June Whitlow

By Rosalie Hunt
The Alabama Baptist

Hundreds of thousands of women have been part of Woman's Missionary Union past; many thousands are presently at work in the Master's service. Multitudes will follow in the years and decades yet to come.

The face of WMU is multifaceted. It might be quiet and behind the scenes, working unnoticed and unheralded. It might be reaching out and taking a risk. No one woman alone defines WMU. Just as talents vary, so do avenues of service.

A look at one modern WMU woman, however, will give us a sterling example of bridging the years and representing all the best in WMU, both past and present.

Meet June Whitlow, a woman who would have been equally at ease sitting with the initial 32 women in a church basement in Richmond, Virginia, in 1888, or on the platform of leadership in that same city in 1988 when WMU celebrated its 100th anniversary.

A pastor's daughter, Whitlow was born in Arkansas; she grew up there and in Illinois. After graduating from college, teaching in a high school and working part-time with Illinois WMU, she earned a master of religious education degree from Southwestern Seminary.

In 1964, June worked with Georgia WMU. Three years later, she joined the staff of national WMU as consultant in administration and research. It was only a short time before Whitlow was named director of the education division.

WHITLOW

Five years later, she became assistant to the executive director, working alongside the legendary Alma Hunt. In 1983, Whitlow was named associate executive director — remaining in that role until her retirement in 2002.

Whitlow became an institution in herself. Her life and work bridged an era, two centuries and a new millennium. She was an absolutely committed and dependable associate director under four executive directors with very different leadership styles. It speaks volumes about her personality and temperament.

She never sought the limelight but handled every task with keen insight and expertise. She was the ultimate behind-the-scenes team player and made everyone around her look good. Highly skilled as a writer and planner, always able to articulate with incisive clarity WMU's stance on issues, the lady was an administrator par excellence.

Whitlow became the founding executive director of Baptist Nursing Fellowship in 1983 and 30 years later, was still the beloved director of that organization.

Retirement merely meant a change of routine. She maintained an office at national headquarters in Birmingham, where she volunteered her time in administrating the work of BNF.

So beloved was she to nurses as well as Baptist women in general that a June Whitlow Endowment was set up with the WMU Foundation in 1996 to honor her many contributions to Kingdom work. The endowment provides scholarships for "women in the pews" for training in WMU and missions education.

In turn, Whitlow became a valued member of the WMU Foundation board of trustees, investing her time and love in furthering the undergirding of WMU work for the future.

Lifetime of service

She remained consistently active in her church and its WMU and invested her energies and loving concern as a mentor in Christian Women's Job Corps. The daughter of Whitlow's mentee became like a granddaughter. Both of them cherished the relationship.

After she was 80, Whitlow was still serving and leading others, including a stint as director of WMU for Birmingham Metro Association.

The same skills and wisdom, loving personality and infectious sense of humor now touched the lives of another generation of WMU women.

Always impeccably dressed and graceful, never ostentatious, Whitlow's only aim was to further the cause of missions — a purpose that lives on even after her death Feb. 20, 2024, at the age of 87.

Following the lights

Having gone as far as we could with her in life, we went as far as we could go with her when she died. Curbside on that starless night, we stood by as the black-clad removal team completed their task. We watched and wept as the vehicle's tail lights were enveloped by the inky darkness.

Tail lights.

Tail lights are designed to enhance communication, give direction and promote the safety of those trailing us on the same road and traveling in the same direction.

Preoccupied with our grief of the moment, we did not realize we were active participants in an acted-out parable. Some day we will follow her again, not to a funeral home whose focused, pink LED bulbs camouflage the ashy paleness of death, but to that wonderful place God has prepared for His prepared people, a city that "does not need the sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it lights, and the Lamb is its lamp" (Rev. 21:23).

Jim Auchmuty
FBC Roebuck Plaza
Birmingham

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

OPINION

> "When I am afraid, I put my trust in You. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not fear."
>
> PSALM 56:3–4

When I talk about issues such as gambling, the evil of abortion, and God's design for male and female, marriage and family, I am not being political, I am being PROPHETIC.

It is my place (and the place of the church) to advocate for truth and righteousness regardless of the parties in power or favor at the time. Those change. The Word of God never changes. What the true church believes, preaches and lives out never changes.

This is why I never endorse candidates from the pulpit. The pulpit and the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not aligned with any political party. We are aligned with truth and righteousness. We are aligned with the Lord and His Word. We speak to both parties and call both parties to truth and righteousness.

Greg Corbin
Birmingham

"We must consider many opinions and take ample time to listen, pray and work for positive solutions. ... We cannot rely on our own personal likes and dislikes to dictate the likes and dislikes of the population we are trying to attract and engage," said **Mark Whitt**, an author and the director of media and strategic relations at the University of Kentucky, who spoke on an episode of Leadership Lessons with Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Todd Gray.

"The problem is that many Christians have made conversion the finish line," said **Ray Sullivan**, discipleship consultant for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. "They think once people have gotten saved, they've done their part."

"I get phone calls every week from churches looking for a worship pastor, and the reality that we're facing in the church is that we need more worship pastors and leaders to help point people to Jesus through song," said **Michael Glenn** of the Texas-based worship band 317 Collective. "We don't need more performers. We need people who have a true devotion to Jesus leading our local churches in worship."

There are four primary healthy relationships which may exist between churches and pastors: (1) both churches and pastors hold one another in high regard; (2) both churches and pastors have mutual expectations of one another — a spiritually developing life; love and compassion for people; determination to have meaningful interpersonal relationships, etc.; (3) mutual support — not to him/them but with and for him/them; (4) mutual service — the body of Christ respecting each other and working together to accomplish the ministry of Christ in our particular setting and beyond, with supreme allegiance given to the Head.

Morris Murray
Jasper

Among the top lessons I learned in grief: "My God in his steadfast love will meet me ..." (Ps. 59:10). So, "I will sing aloud of your steadfast love in the morning" (Ps. 59:16).

@DRayDavis on X

In case you missed these nuggets

Excerpts from the Feb. 29 edition of The Baptist Paper:

'Crazy preacher' claims Guinness record with 'ice mile'

Tips for following up with church visitors

Helps for parents and churches to reach preteens

Keyboard festivals encourage children who change the world

10 reasons pastors should reach out to students

Worship band 317 Collective wants students to 'love Jesus better'

What obstacles prevent believers from helping others grow in their faith?

A Baptist association perspective on the Great Commission Resurgence

Former ARITF chair's purpose behind his investment in newly formed Abuse Response Commission

Reduced Southern Baptist Convention CP allocation budget recommended for 2024–25 year (based on current CP giving trends)

SBC Executive Committee presidential search team preparing to announce next candidate soon

To read these articles and find out more about The Baptist Paper, visit tbponline.org. Call 800-803-5201 to add the paper to your TAB subscription.

NEWS

3 stories you should know

Photo courtesy of Wadsworth Baptist Church

A little over a year after its facilities were destroyed by a tornado, Wadsworth Baptist Church celebrates breaking ground on its new building. The congregation is currently meeting at nearby Marbury Baptist Church but hopes to be in its new facilities this fall. Carpenters for Christ teams will begin working on it in April. The EF3 tornado that touched down there stayed on the ground for some 82 miles in all and had 1,100 impact points in Autauga County alone. (TAB)

Survey finds complex view on immigration

American evangelicals have complex perspectives on immigration and want a nuanced political response, but most want Congress to act soon, according to a recent survey.

A Lifeway Research study sponsored by the Evangelical Immigration Table in January found evangelicals are increasingly concerned about the number of recent immigrants to the U.S. but still believe Christians have a responsibility to care for those who are in the country illegally.

While most want to secure the border to prevent additional illegal immigration, evangelicals also advocate for a path to citizenship for those already in the country.

To read more or to access the full report, visit lifewayresearch.com. (Lifeway)

Update on bill about clergy, increasing age of consent

House Bill 125, sponsored by Rep. Leigh Hulsey, passed the Alabama House of Representatives earlier this month.

This bill, if it also passes the Alabama Senate, would make it unlawful for clergy in a position of trust or authority over a person to commit certain sex acts with an individual under 19 years of age, or a protected person under 22 years of age. Currently the age of consent is 16.

This also brings the law for clergy equal to the law for public and private school teachers.

This and other bills are followed regularly by Alabama Citizens Action Program (alcap.com).

The regular session of the state Legislature began Feb. 6. It can meet up to 30 days within a 105 calendar-day limit, so this year's session must end by May 20. (ALCAP)

Persecuted church

Proof of Christian faith required for Iranian converts fleeing persecution

Arash, an Iranian asylum-seeker in the U.K., faces a perilous battle to prove his conversion from Islam to Christianity. In Iran, apostasy carries severe penalties, prompting many to seek refuge abroad. However, proving religious conversion presents daunting challenges, with courts scrutinizing attendance and authenticity. Despite support from the church, including baptism and testimonials, doubts persist.

Germany and Austria exhibit even stricter standards, casting doubt on conversions in non-state-funded churches. While Arash's case has found success due to compelling evidence, broader skepticism prevails among politicians and the public, highlighting the complex intersection of faith, asylum and bureaucracy. (RNS)

Christians' homes in Pakistan hit by gunfire, fuel bombs

In the early hours of Feb. 12, Muslim attackers targeted Christian homes in a village in Pakistan, allegedly due to the believers' support for an opposing political party in recent elections and their construction of a church.

MS photo

The assailants threw petrol bombs and fired gunshots at the houses, causing extensive property damage but no casualties.

Despite charges being filed, no arrests have been made yet. (MS)

New Christian beaten for his faith, loses wife, children, home

In Kampala, Uganda, Tambuze Marijani's decision to convert to Christianity during a New Year's Eve church service led to swift and severe consequences. Marijani, a former Muslim, embraced Jesus along with 14 others in Bugweri District. However, upon returning home to Nangi village and sharing his faith with his wife, he faced immediate backlash.

His wife issued an Islamic divorce letter on Jan. 3 and, with the help of relatives, began dismantling their home the following day. Marijani endured physical assault from his brothers for leaving Islam, resulting in a broken leg and other injuries requiring hospitalization for nearly two weeks. Now discharged, Marijani remains in hiding since Jan. 16, separated from his wife and four children who are with relatives. (MS)

NEWS ITEMS COMPILED BY THE ALABAMA BAPTIST STAFF

‘WE ARE ALL SPECIAL IN OUR OWN WAYS’

8 Alabama Baptist churches host Night to Shine on event’s 10th anniversary

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Jennifer Dobson first met Tim Tebow, a former NFL quarterback, in 2017. She and her family were in Haiti at Night to Shine, an event sponsored by Tebow’s foundation that offers a prom-style celebration for people with special needs age 14 and up.

“That was before it really got going,” Dobson said of the event, which celebrated its 10th anniversary this year.

It’s grown a lot since then — on Feb. 9, Night to Shine took place at 725 churches across all 50 states and 56 countries.

One of those churches was Dobson’s — Valley Creek Baptist in Hueytown. This was their second year to host, but Dobson said she “fell in love with the movement” back in Port-au-Prince in 2017.

It’s a movement close to her heart.

Photo courtesy of Jennifer Dobson

Jennifer Dobson, a member of Valley Creek Baptist Church in Hueytown, said Night to Shine has been dear to their heart ever since adopting their daughter, Lily (right), from Haiti and meeting Tim Tebow at a Night to Shine event in Haiti in 2017.

Personal connection

Her daughter, Lily, who is adopted from Haiti, has special needs, and Dobson and her husband, Brad, first brought her to Alabama on a medical visa in 2015 to have a series of surgeries.

A grant from the Tim Tebow Foundation helped bring her home, Dobson said.

And another grant helped Valley Creek Baptist hold Night to Shine.

“We’re a teeny tiny church, and it’s a huge undertaking to do something like this,” she said.

But in 2023, the church pulled the event together in three weeks. Dobson said her “sweet church” ministered to about 40 special needs adults and kids that year.

This year, they had 65 honored guests plus volunteers, family members and guardians.

They were one of 20 Alabama churches that hosted Night to Shine 2024. The list included Agape Baptist in Scottsboro, Bethel Baptist in Dora, CrossPoint in Trussville, Dayspring Baptist in Mobile, First Baptist Oxford, Shades Mountain Baptist in Birmingham and Thorington Road Baptist in Montgomery.

Each Night to Shine event starts with a red carpet walk for each guest and includes a dance floor with a DJ as well as other ways to enjoy the evening, such as a limo ride, hair styling and makeup, karaoke and a photo booth. At the end of the evening, each guest is crowned king or queen.

For Shades Mountain Baptist and FBC Oxford, it was their first time to host the event.

Hosting Night to Shine “was the dream of my daughter — she is 16,” said Ashley Alford of FBC Oxford. “She has always had a passion and heart and love for individuals with special needs.”

Ashley Alford said she and her daughter, Daley Grace, had served years back at a Night to Shine event and wanted to bring it to their church in Georgia, where they lived at the time.

For more information about Night to Shine, visit timtebowfoundation.org/night-to-shine.

Great encouragement

“My daughter wants everyone to know that we are all special in our own ways and wants everyone to be treated well, and Night to Shine is a great way to encourage that,” Ashley Alford said.

But before the mother and daughter could get it started at their church in Georgia, the family moved to the Oxford area — and then the COVID-19 pandemic hit. In light of the pandemic, TTF switched Night to Shine to a drive-through event called a Shine-Thru for 2021 and 2022.

‘Unforgettable moment’

Then in 2023, when it returned to its regular prom style, the Alfords served at one of the events at another church. Daley Grace Alford met Tebow a month later at Samford University’s “An Evening with Tim Tebow” event — the tickets were a Christmas gift from her parents.

“She told him about her dream of bringing Night to Shine to our community,” Ashley Alford said.

And then the teen got to work. She presented her idea to the church’s committees, then applied to be a Night to Shine host site.

After she got approved and found out she was the recipient of a grant, she recruited volunteers from local high schools and started getting supplies together.

And Feb. 9, FBC Oxford threw an event at the Bynum Community Center that had more than 115 honored guests and 120 volunteers present, plus family members and guardians.

Daley Grace Alford said it was an “unforgettable moment.”

“To share the love of Christ and see the smiles on the faces of all our honored guests throughout the night was priceless,” she said. “It’s been a really great adventure, and I am so glad that the church supported me in bringing this wonderful event to our local community for so many special individuals.”

NEWS

Alabama news

AUTAUGA ASSOCIATION

Brittany Wiggins is the new worship leader of **Prattmont Baptist Church, Prattville.** She previously had served as Prattmont's interim worship leader since June 2021, and has been a part of Prattmont's music ministry since age 5. Wiggins works full time as a treatment manager at Crossbridge Behavioral Health, Montgomery. She and her husband, Kyle, have two daughters. Pete Chadwick is pastor.

Photo courtesy of Brittany Wiggins

BARBOUR ASSOCIATION

Mount Zion Baptist Church, Louisville, celebrated its 200th anniversary Jan. 21. Guest speakers were Justin Abercrombie, a former member, and Curtis Rich, a former pastor. The history of the church was shared by John Johnson, pastor, followed by a special presentation by Jane Hughes, commissioner of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission (left) to Julian Abercrombie (right), deacon chair. The celebration concluded with a fellowship meal and an afternoon of singing featuring Kingdom Bound, The Sanders Family and Phil McLaney.

Photo courtesy of Jane Hughes

BETHEL ASSOCIATION

Terry Lolley is the new associational missions strategist of **Bethel Baptist Association,** Linden. Lolley began his career as an archaeologist at an environmental firm in Tuscaloosa, where he focused on the prehistory and history of the southeastern United States and the Caribbean. He has a bachelor of arts degree in history and anthropology from Mississippi State University and a master of arts in anthropology from the University of Alabama. When God called him to ministry, Lolley attended Anderson University (South Carolina) and earned a master of arts in ministry. He is currently working on a doctor of ministry degree at Anderson. Lolley previously was executive pastor of Hepzibah Baptist Church, McCalla; pastor of the former Big Sandy Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa; and pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Cuba. He and his wife of 32 years, Larinda, have two daughters and two grandsons.

Photo courtesy of Terry Lolley

BIBB ASSOCIATION

Lowerytown Missionary Baptist Church, West Blocton, celebrated its 100th anniversary Feb. 18, beginning with a slide presentation of the church's history. Many of the members dressed in clothes from the early 1900s, including Roy Lowery (right), the pastor. Greg Bruner, deacon chair, read a congratulation letter sent from West Blocton First Baptist Church. Additional music was provided by the choir and ladies chorus. Anna Speir (left), commissioner for the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, presented a plaque to the pastor. Guests included Bill Russell, associational missions strategist, and his wife, Gloria. Johnnie Pope, a member of the church for 82 years, also was present with his wife, GayNell, who helped provide special music

Photo courtesy of Anna Speir

Resurrect Hope

Jimmie Hale Mission Client, George

Easter is the story of bringing death to life–rebirth, resurrection. Even though we don't deserve God's gift of salvation through Jesus, He desires for us to be reconciled to Him. Clients like George often arrive at our doors believing all hope in their lives is dead. But, transformation begins once the barriers come down, and they allow God to forgive and mend what is broken... for them, for their relationships, for their lives.
Your generosity allows us to help resurrect the hope of all whom we serve.
Will you please give today?

Scan the QR code
or visit JimmieHaleMission.com/Donate to learn more.

JIMMIE HALE MISSION

NEWS

with Lowery, Jamie Bruner and Johnnie Creel. To highlight the celebration, the foyer was filled with displays and photos of the church's history.

BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

▸ **Scott Finley** retired after 30 years at **Walkers Chapel Baptist Church, Fultondale,** where he was bivocational minister of music. He spent a total of 52 years in active church ministry. Finley holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Florence State University (now University of North Alabama) and a master's degree in religious education from New Orleans Seminary; he was licensed to the ministry in 1977 by Corinth Heights Baptist Church, Haleyville, and ordained in 1979 by Alberta Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa.

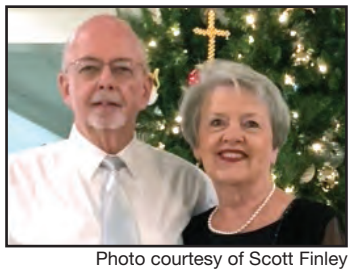
Photo courtesy of Scott Finley

In addition to Walkers Chapel, Finley served as minister of music, Fultondale First Baptist Church; minister of music and youth, Hillview Baptist Church, Forestdale; Woodley Baptist Church, Montgomery (now Thorington Road Baptist Church); Alberta Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa; minister of music, Immanuel Baptist Church, Morgan City, Louisiana; and various churches in Florence and Bessemer. In many of the churches, he also worked with senior adults. For much of Finley's career, he was bivocational. He and his wife, Frieda, have been married for 47 years and have two sons and two grandchildren. They are now members of First Baptist Church Birmingham, and Finley is available for interim music ministry positions.

CHRISTENSEN

CHILTON ASSOCIATION

▸ **Tony Christensen** has wrapped up his time as pastor of **Bell Lane Baptist Church, Clanton,** after 10 years at Bell Lane and more than 20 years in ministry overall. He and his wife, Jan, were honored with a special luncheon.

COFFEE ASSOCIATION

▸ **Will Jordan** is the new bivocational pastor of **Alberton Baptist Church, Kinston.** He has been a nationally registered paramedic for 26 years and currently works part time at Hartford Alabama Fire and Rescue. He also serves as a chaplain at Enhabit Home Health & Hospice, Troy. In 2008, Jordan graduated from Columbia Southern University with a bachelor's degree in occupational safety and health. After being licensed in the gospel ministry in 2013 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he earned a graduate certificate in biblical studies from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary. Jordan was ordained in 2017 and served as pastor of Newbia Baptist Church, Elba, and Mount Zion Baptist Church, New Brockton.

JORDAN

He and his wife of 47 years, Sandy, have two adult children and five grandchildren.

▸ **Alberton Baptist Church, Kinston,** will host a revival March 17–19. Brad Boykin will preach Sunday, 6 p.m.; with services at 6:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday. Shaun Moore will preach Monday; and Cliff Quincy will preach Tuesday. For more information, call 334-308-7510. Will Jordan is pastor.

COOSA RIVER ASSOCIATION

▸ **Jeff Duncan,** who has been serving as interim of **Westside Baptist Church, Talladega,** has been called as pastor. He previously was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Oxford, and Immanuel Baptist Church, Talladega, where he was ordained. He graduated from Willmington School of the Bible, Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia. Duncan is the CEO and founder of Lorielife Legacy Foundation, launched in 2020 after losing his first wife, Lorie, to cancer in 2019. Duncan and his wife, Amber, have two children.

DUNCAN

ESCAMBIA ASSOCIATION

▸ **Judy Purnell-Lambeth** retired as secretary of **Catawba Springs Baptist Church, Brewton,** on Dec. 31. She served 43 1/2 years, beginning July 1, 1979.

PURNELL-LAMBETH

Purnell-Lambeth became the church secretary under then pastor Bert Bounds and remained through the ministries of Bert Wiggers (interim), Jim Fisher, Steve Yuhasz and Jeff Edwards (current). A reception in honor of Purnell-Lambeth was held Jan. 14.

MARSHALL ASSOCIATION

▸ **Dustin Lancaster** is the new associate pastor at **Central Baptist Church, Albertville.** He grew up in the Boaz/Albertville area and felt called to preach when he was 15 years old.

Photo courtesy of Central Baptist Church

He served as a youth pastor for seven years, taught groups of all ages and led small groups.

Lancaster graduated from Boaz High School and has a degree in computer science technology from Snead State University. He works full time for a local utility company. He and his wife, Hayley, have two children. Daniel Waid is pastor.

SHELBY ASSOCIATION

▸ **Marilyn Hare** is the interim youth minister at **First Baptist Church Montevallo.**

TALLAPOOSA ASSOCIATION

▸ **Wesley Price** is the new pastor of **Eagle Creek Baptist Church, Dadeville.** Price holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology from Columbus State University, Columbus, Georgia, and a master of divinity from Midwestern Seminary. He began his ministry in 1995 serving in youth and children's ministries and became the senior pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, St. Joseph, Michigan, in 2005.

PRICE

Price moved his family to Cottonton, Alabama, in 2007, serving as pastor of Cottonton Baptist Church until 2013, when he went to First Baptist Church Seville, Florida.

He and his wife, Susanne, have three grown sons.

Culpepper named lead campus minister at Auburn BCM

Clint Culpepper is the new lead campus minister at Auburn University's Baptist Campus Ministries.

Culpepper previously served both on a campus and in local churches in Georgia. He served as pastor of Harvest Baptist Church in Covington, Georgia, and before that as family pastor of First Baptist Church Social Circle in Georgia.

Photo courtesy of BCM link

He has a master of divinity and master of theological studies from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He earned a bachelor's degree from Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Georgia. He and his wife, Jessica, have been married for 10 years and have three children — Renee, Everly and Bennett.

"Clint Culpepper has demonstrated a clear passion for reaching university students along with training student leaders to leverage their lives on campus for the glory of the Lord," said Ben Edfeldt, who directs the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions' office of collegiate and student ministries.

"He'll also instill the value of the local church as he disciples his students." (Grace Thornton)

ALABAMA NEWS ITEMS COMPILED BY KRISTI ENT AND DEBBIE CAMPBELL

Events like the Revive Senior Adult Evangelism Conference offer churches an intentional opportunity to evangelize older adults in their congregations and communities.

Be intentional

Facing the challenge of aging congregations: Are there solutions?

By Denise George
The Alabama Baptist

In Protestant churches today, including Southern Baptist churches, the average age of clergy and church members is older than in previous years.

A recent Lifeway Research analysis found the average age of clergy in 2023 was 53.84, up from 53.6 the decade before. The percentage of church members older than 65 has increased from 33% in 2020 to 36% in 2023.

The majority of Southern Baptists are over the age of 55, with a smaller percentage falling in the 18–35 age range.

Growing older

America itself is aging. The U.S. Census Bureau projects that by the year 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be of retirement age, and all baby boomers will be 65 or older. In 2034, adults ages 65 and older are projected to outnumber children under the age of 18 for the first time in U.S. history. By 2060, the 85-plus population is expected to grow 200%.

The problem is complicated due to more and more young adults today who are deciding not to have children. A Pew Research 2018 national survey found that 37% of adults who at the time did not already have children did not intend to become parents.

The SBC lost nearly half a million church members in 2022 alone, continuing an alarming trend from previous years. The loss of these 457,371 members proves the largest in more than a century. The COVID-19 pandemic caused some of this decline along with many other reasons, including the fact that older members are dying off and fewer young people are replacing them.

As this demographic shift takes place, Southern Baptists could see a decrease in the active workforce within the church, as older congregations might lack the physical ability to participate in church activities, volunteer work, outreach programs, community services and daily operational tasks.

Financial contributions

An aging congregation may also see a decrease in financial contributions, as older members often have fixed incomes, high health care costs and other age-related expenses. Lack of financial means can affect church operations, support staff and church programs and activities.

With fewer volunteers, churches may also be unable to sustain the building facilities, including regular maintenance and costly repairs.

The Southern Baptist Convention is a fellowship of more than 40,000 churches scattered across the United States and its territories.

Many of the churches are small in number.

Photo by Tracy Riggs Frontz/The Alabama Baptist

Larger churches in the SBC have a greater ability to adapt to changing cultural and societal trends, helping the church to remain relevant to younger people.

They have more resources and infrastructure to offer activities and programs that cater to younger members.

With more resources at their disposal, larger churches can engage in extensive community outreach and evangelism, attracting people from a wider area.

But the SBC's small churches have fewer resources to provide programs that appeal to younger families, children's ministries and other programs.

Smaller rural churches may have to shut their doors due to aging and dying members and also to families that move to the larger and more program-focused churches.

What churches can do

▸ ***Embrace intentional senior ministry.*** Care for the older adults in your church, actively training and engaging them in church activities and ministry. Older Christians can contribute significantly.

"You can build a strong church by focusing on seniors," said author Karl Vaters. "Senior ministry must be as intentional as every other ministry."

Older members are a vast resource for teaching, mentoring and suggesting new ministry ideas. They are valuable and experienced and should not be overlooked.

▸ ***Promote intergenerational engagement.*** Encourage interactions and build a strong sense of community by bringing together different age groups — older and younger members — through programs and activities.

Engage in multigenerational discussion groups and find creative new ways to interest younger generations while staying biblically dedicated.

▸ ***Develop targeted outreach programs.*** Reach out to the community with new church-based programs and activities to attract younger families and individuals. This might include contemporary worship services, youth-focused community events and relevant sermon topics.

Engage the congregation in community service projects and other ways to help others through church initiatives.

▸ ***Become a welcoming congregation.*** Heartily welcome those guests and invited families who visit your church, making them feel at home and showing interest in their lives and families.

Make it easy for the unchurched in the community — including those of different ethnic groups — to visit the church and learn about worship service schedules, programs and activities.

▸ ***Regularly evaluate church programs.*** Make sure the programs and activities hosted by your church meet the changing needs of the congregation as young families and individuals come in.

Listen to them, identify their needs, be open to feedback and be willing to make changes as necessary. As you make these changes, remember to keep Christ as the center of your church, and preach and teach God's Word with devotion.

▸ ***Be open to technology for reaching people.*** Use technology to connect, communicate and engage new and regular church members.

"With all the technological developments and advances, the modern-day church is evolving and changing every day to be 'salt and light' in a fast-paced, results-driven society," writes Dean Lisenby in "7 Ways Technology Can Improve Your Church."

"Serving a multicultural community requires a multifaceted approach anchored with the right digital tools and online resources," he said.

Church technology can provide unparalleled opportunities for your church in the areas of worship, missions, information sharing, communicating with members and other important aspects of modern-day ministry.

Not insurmountable

The challenges that face today's churches, particularly the issue of aging congregations, are significant but not insurmountable.

By focusing on intentional senior ministry, promoting intergenerational engagement, developing targeted outreach programs, creating a welcoming atmosphere, evaluating church programs and embracing technology, churches can address the needs of an aging congregation.

They also can attract younger members and families and thrive regardless of the ages of their members.

Someone You Should Know

CURTIS KELLEY

By Leigh Pritchett
The Alabama Baptist

The ministry of Curtis Kelley has spanned 72 years so far. Though retired from full-time ministry, the 91-year-old Tuscaloosan still serves as an interim and supply pastor. A minister of music at one time, Kelley became a full-time pastor in 1957. He served at five churches and on several Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions committees. He has taken more than 16 international missions trips. Kelley holds multiple degrees and is pursuing another. He and Barbara, his wife of 68 years, have three children (one of whom is deceased), eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

MINISTRY TITLE: Retired pastor

CHURCH NAME: Taylorville Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, in Tuscaloosa Baptist Association

LIFE VERSE: "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Josh. 1:9).

Q: Describe where you focus your greatest ministry efforts.

A: Teaching eschatology. Churches seem to have a hunger for prophecy, especially in our present days.

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

A: My dad, Amon, was a country preacher. I was called (to preach) when I was 15 years old. He was a great mentor and showed me how to make an outline and tie the points together.

Q: Tell about a turning point in your life and how God was involved.

A: The turning point in my life was at 15 when God called me to preach. (In college) I was interested in music and was majoring in music. That was a life-changing decision for me to go ahead and preach and do music on the side. The college president advised me to be prepared in both and let God provide the way.

Q: What has God been teaching you lately?

A: What He's been teaching me for the last three to four years is don't ever give up on God. And the corollary to that is don't ever give up on your child.

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

A: That if you are willing and submissive, God will lead every step of your life and He will bless you in whichever direction He leads you.

Q: Have you ever read a book or heard a song that changed the way you think about God and faith? What was it and what did you learn from it?

A: The book that I learned the most about God, apart from the Bible, is by A.W. Tozier, "The Knowledge of the Holy." He had a depth of knowledge about God that I have never seen. ... It is a magnificent book on God Himself.

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

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

Lass WORDS

BY KEN LASS
The Alabama Baptist

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHTS

United We Stand

As I drove past the large church, the familiar message on the electronic marquee caught my eye: "Join us for worship this Sunday. Traditional service 9 a.m. Contemporary service 11 a.m."

This has been the mantra in our bigger churches for a couple of decades. Congregations split their worship format. Makes sense I guess. You want to attract precious souls of all ages to come to God's house. Older folks are more comfortable with the traditional songs, choirs and keyboards. Younger adults and teenagers are attracted to guitars, drums and lighting effects. Why not do both?

'Inspiring'

There can be a downside. Splitting formats can create, in effect, two separate churches, two separate worlds. It doesn't have to be that way. Several years ago I had the blessing to serve on a pastor search committee for a large congregation. We spent 6 months traveling all over the South, attending worship services of all formats and listening to preachers of many styles and approaches.

It was an inspiring and educational experience. I found myself in old-timey services singing songs such as "How Great Thou Art" and "The Old Rugged Cross." There were choirs in robes and hymnbooks in the pew pockets. Yet looking around I observed huge gatherings of young adults and even teens fully engaged, with arms extended and singing loudly and praising His holy name.

I also saw contemporary worship where the volume was turned up, the strobe lights blazed and the video boards flashed. All around me were gray-haired seniors who were rockin' and rollin' right alongside the young folks, completely engulfed in tribute to their Lord and Savior. Most of these places offered just one consistent musical style. All of them were jam-packed.

Though the music and design could be very different, there was obvious common ground. The preaching was passionate and biblically sound. The worship leaders were energetic and upbeat. Most importantly, the people in the seats seemed to truly love and care about each other. We were deluged with greetings and welcoming smiles and instantly felt at home. There was palpable joy and enthusiasm in the room. It was a place you wanted to be.

The message was clear: If Christians are sincere and obedient and full of love for Him and His people, then musical style won't divide us.

It will bind us closer together in a supernatural way.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Ken Lass is a retired Birmingham television news and sports anchor, and an award-winning columnist for numerous publications and websites.

Ministers urged to exercise care at tax time

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions church compensation specialist Lee Wright said that in this tax season, ministers must remember all income from the church is reportable income, including recognition gifts for anniversaries or Christmas.

"The exception is 'de minimis' gifts of low value such as occasional theater or sporting event tickets, office snacks and occasional use of the photocopy machine," he said. "Direct gifts from church members are exactly that — gifts — but if the church sponsors something, this is considered income by the IRS."

Wright shared tax tips during the Ministers Tax Conference at Birmingham Metro Baptist Association on Feb. 15. He said confusion also exists about a minister's dual tax status.

Pastors and other ordained ministers on staff should never receive Form 1099 for compensation from their church, he said.

"An evangelist, a supply preacher or perhaps an interim pastor might, but the IRS considers a pastor an employee for federal tax purposes and should get a W-2 from the church, though he is considered self-employed for [Self-Employed Contributions Act] taxes."

The dual designation also allows for the church-approved housing allowance.

Housing allowance

"The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed this allowance, and though Congress could change it, I don't see this happening in the foreseeable future," he said.

The housing allowance is determined beforehand with church approval and can be as much as the fair rental value of the house, furnished with utilities.

"This means that the housing allowance expended is not subject to federal income tax, though it is reported as SECA income (15.3%)."

Wright said the housing allowance doesn't help everyone, and a church must never ordain a staff minister merely for the tax benefit.

"The purpose of ordination is a higher purpose than a tax savings and may not even offer that much benefit to a staff minister," he said.

Wright said compensation planning for ministers is important because business expenses are not allowed as a deductible expense for ministers since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

"The standard deduction in 2024 is $29,200 (married filing jointly), so fully 95% of federal taxpayers find this more advantageous than itemizing deductions," he said. "The state of Alabama allows the traditional deductions for medical expenses, home mortgage interest, charitable contributions and other items, but this isn't an issue for most federal taxpayers now."

Churches should offer a reimbursable expense plan for their ministers for expenses such as travel, conferences, books, cellphones and other ministry expense items, Wright noted.

The accountable expense plan requires documentation and presentation for payment at least every 60 days. Unless this kind of plan is adopted, the minister loses legitimate business expense reimbursements.

For more information on tax issues for churches and ministers, contact Lee Wright, lwright@alsbom.org or 334-613-2241.

Resources from GuideStone

GuideStone offers a Compensation Planning Guide for ministers and churches that explains the nuances of pastoral salary and business expenses — review it at GuideStone.org/CompensationPlanning.

Lee Wright of SBOM said GuideStone also offers health insurance and retirement plans for ministers.

"Ministers can contribute part of their salaries tax deferred," he said. "Also a survivor benefit is in effect as long as a minister is serving one of our churches and contributing to the Church Retirement Plan through GuideStone." (TAB)

Faith Moments

6 often neglected truths on the concept of fasting

By Rob Jackson
Director of evangelism and church revitalization, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Through the years, many of us have neglected fasting as a spiritual discipline. With Passion Week and Resurrection Sunday rapidly approaching, I think it is important to remind each of us of six often neglected truths on fasting:

1. Christ assumed Christians would fast (Matt. 6:16–18; 9:15). Fasting is a beautiful practice where a Christian denies himself or herself something specific to allow more time to focus on the Lord. Read what John Piper stated slowly: "The absence of fasting in our lives is the measure of contentment with the absence of Christ in our lives." Wow!

2. Fasting is for God (Zech. 7:5–6). Fasting is not about you or me. John Wesley correctly declared, "First let it [fasting] be done unto the Lord with our eye singly fixed on Him. Let our intention herein be this, and this alone, to glorify our Father which is in heaven."

3. Fasting helps put ourselves in submission to God (1 Cor. 6:12–14; 9:24–27; Phil. 3:19). Bill Bright remarked, "Fasting reduces the power of self so that the Holy Spirit can do a more intense work within us."

4. Fasting and prayer go together (Matt. 17:16–21). During a season of fasting, set aside definite times for prayer on a daily and weekly basis. You deny yourself to allow more time to focus on God in prayer.

5. Fasting is often followed by the power of the Spirit (Mark 1:12–15). Not only do we find Jesus fasting and praying before the launch of His ministry, but we also see a connection between fasting and mighty moves of God throughout Church history. For example, George Whitefield and Charles Wesley spent extensive time praying and fasting before the Great Awakening.

6. Various Types of Fasts:

a. Normal fast. Total abstinence from food while subsisting on water or fruit juices (Luke 4:2). You may wish to fast each week a 24-hour fast (begin fasting after supper one evening and break the fast at supper the next day).

b. Daniel fast (Dan. 1:1–21; 10:3). Fruits and vegetables may be eaten. Water and fruit juices are acceptable drinks. No meats.

c. Specific food or beverage fast. Fast coffee, tea, colas, sweets, breads and so forth. Choose whatever the Lord leads. Every time you desire that pleasure, focus on Christ.

d. Entertainment or recreational fast. This fast can be absolute for the prescribed fasting period (such as cutting out social media, golf, etc., altogether or partially, for example, denying oneself television during a particular time of the day) to allow time for prayer and Bible reading. Again, allow the Lord to lead.

Fasting is a spiritual journey; there is no one-size-fits-all approach. It's essential to approach fasting with a humble and sincere heart, seeking God's guidance.

Will you deny yourself something so that you can spend more time focusing on Christ leading up to Easter? Please consult your physician before undertaking a food fast. To God alone receive all the glory!

Sponsored Content

UPCOMING EVENTS

sponsored by the State Board of Missions

Leading Your Church in Outreach

Want to reach more in '24? We would love for you to join us for the Leading Your Church in Outreach event March 12.

The goal is to provide your church with the tools and training needed to reach your community for Christ. This training will be led by Lawrence Phipps, who will impart a comprehensive strategy for training your congregation in the art of consistent outreach. The cost is $10, which includes lunch.

The event is sponsored by the State Board of Missions' Office of Evangelism & Church Revitalization, and it will be held March 12, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville.

To register, visit alsbom.org/reachmore24.

To register, visit alsbom.org/reachmore24 or scan the code below with your smartphone's camera.

Adventure Weekend for young boys

If you're a leader of boys in first through sixth grade, there's still time to get to Adventure Weekend, set for March 22–23 at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega.

The two-day camp, starting Friday evening and ending Saturday afternoon, offers a unique and challenging adventure for boys. It gives them a chance to experience living on mission through worship, an obstacle course and games like Bazooka Ball.

The registration deadline to guarantee t-shirts for your group is March 8. To register, visit alabamamen.org/adventureweekend.

Intentional Leader

The next Intentional Leader Series, set for April 9, will focus on the Pathfinder aspect of the four Ps of leadership: Person, Pastor, Preacher and Pathfinder.

Dan Garland will serve as your guide in the intricate process of uncovering and cultivating a strategic plan tailored to your church's unique needs.

The event will be 9 a.m.–2 p.m. at the State Board of Missions in Prattville. The $10 cost includes lunch.

To register, visit leadercareal.org/ils.

TAB CLASSIFIEDS

Place a classified ad below for $1 per word.
For more information call 205-870-4720, ext. 200, or email ads@thealabamabaptist.org.
To place an online classified ad for $9.99/month, visit thealabamabaptist.org/classifieds.

CHURCH POSITIONS

PASTOR
Silver Run Baptist Church in Seale, Alabama, located in rural Russell County, is seeking a pastor that the Lord would have to serve here. Resumés may be sent to: P.O. Box 8, Seale, AL 36875, ATTN: Kenny Harris.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR
New Market Southern Baptist Church located in northeast Madison County, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational pastor. A man called by God, who will be a caring biblical shepherd for our church family. A man who holds to the full inspiration and authority of the Holy Scripture. Submit resumé to: scnmbc@yahoo.com or New Market Baptist Church, P.O. Box 128, New Market, AL 35761.

BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR
New Beginnings Baptist Church, a small congregation in Hayden, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send inquiries/resumés to: sonyahumber@gmail.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC
First Baptist Church Brewton is seeking a full-time minister of music. Master of church music is preferred. At least 5 years of experience in leading a church music program. First Baptist Church has a sanctuary choir of 30 people, senior adult choir of 20 people and a children's choir of 25 children. Contact Cavincawthon@fbcbrewton.com.

BIVOCATIONAL WORSHIP LEADER/ CHOIR DIRECTOR
East Gadsden Baptist Church is seeking a bivocational worship leader/choir director. If interested, please email at eastgadsdenbaptist@gmail.com.

BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER
New Center Baptist Church, Hartselle, Alabama, seeking music minister for blended services, directing choir and coordinating volunteer musicians. Email resumé to: raykballew@gmail.com or contact 256-221-6880 and newcenterbaptist.org for more information.

BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTER
Paden Baptist Church in Gadsden, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational music minister/worship leader. If interested, email resumé to: jowallace1202@gmail.com or call/message 256-490-5435 for more information.

BIVOCATIONAL MUSIC MINISTRY DIRECTOR
Southern Baptist church in Bullock County seeking a bivocational music ministry director. Blended traditional and contemporary music. Responsibilities to include planning worship services, teaching and leading choir and congregational singing, planning and growing the music ministry at all age levels. Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening prayer meeting and choir rehearsal. Call 334-738-2840 or email firstbc@ustconline.net for more information.

PART-TIME MUSIC MINISTER
Cedar Grove Baptist Church in Leeds, Alabama, seeks a part-time music minister to lead a thoroughly blended worship service and grow our music ministry at Cedar Grove. This person is directly accountable to the senior pastor and should possess an adaptable skill set, leadership capabilities and the ability to actively serve in our local community. Please visit cedargroveleeds.org/jobs to read our full job description and submit your resumé.

STUDENT PASTOR
Maplesville Baptist Church seeks student pastor. Email Pastorb@maplesvillebc.org for job description, salary and application details.

PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER
Montevallo First Baptist Church is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please email your resumé for consideration to: mfbc@bellsouth.net.

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTER/DIRECTOR
First Baptist Dadeville, located in the heart of Dadeville, Alabama, is seeking God's person to fill the position of children and family minister/director. Full-time job with a competitive salary. Interested individuals should contact John Wilcox at employment@fbcdadeville.com. Resumés may be sent to the same address.

OTHER POSITIONS

PRESIDENT-TREASURER
The Tennessee Baptist Foundation administers in excess of $180 million of God's assets for God's people. The Foundation is seeking a qualified individual to provide leadership for the future. You may view the job description at http://www.tbfoundation.org/president-search. Please submit cover letter and resumé to the Foundation Executive Committee at tbfoundation1938@gmail.com. Deadline for resumés is March 31.

DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS
Carey Baptist Association in Clay County, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking a DOM. Interested applicants should submit a resumé with cover letter addressed to the Personnel Committee at P.O. Box 309, Ashland, AL 36251 or email to: careybaptist@centurytel.net by March 22.

SIGNS

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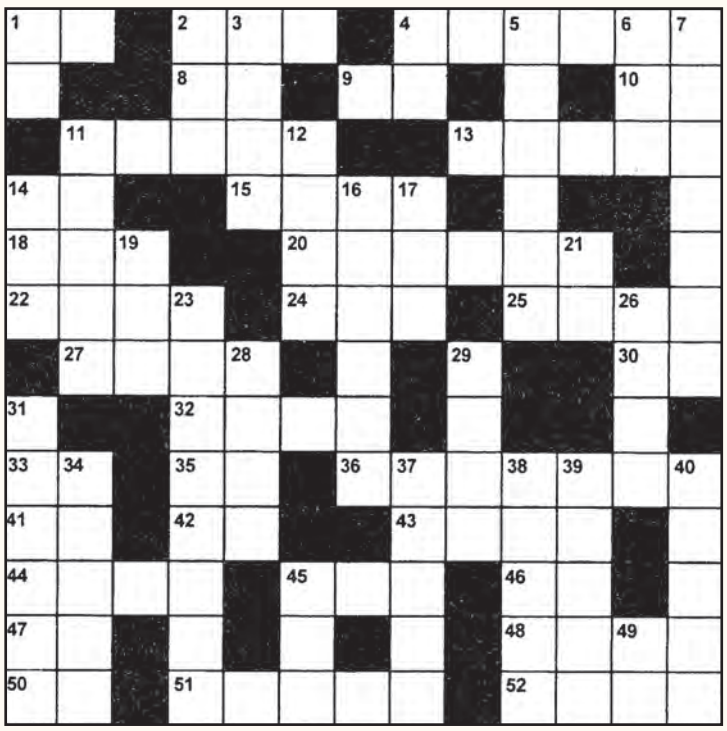
CHRISTIAN crossword



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ACROSS

1. First person pronoun.
2. An insect abundant in Palestine. (Prov. 6:6)
4. A basket of ___ fruit. (Amos 8:2)
8. A negative reply.
9. Teach thee in the way which thou shalt ___. (Ps. 32:8)
10. In regard to.
11. Hebrew prophet swallowed by a fish.
13. He made the ___ also. (Gen. 1:16)
14. To exist; to live.
15. Which is Christ in you, the ___ of glory. (Col. 1:27)
18. United States of America. (abbr.)
20. Thou shalt not make unto thee any ___ image. (Ex. 20:4)
22. Be ___ your sin will find you out. (Num. 32:23)
24. Mary ... ___ at Jesus' feet. (Luke 10:39)
25. A coarse file.
27. An aquatic carnivorous animal with flippers.
30. An exclamation of surprise.
32. I am the ___ of Sharon. (Song of Sol. 2:1)
33. Associated Press (abbr.)
35. ___, I am with you always. (Matt. 28:20)
36. Sign of God's covenant with Noah.
41. A prefix meaning "not."
42. Innings Pitched. (abbr.)
43. An early king of Edom. (Gen. 36:37)
44. No man is ___ of life. (Job 24:22)
45. Fire that ___ between the cherubims. (Ezek. 10:7)
46. Rosemary's nickname.
47. Neuter pronoun.
48. Neither too good nor too bad.
50. Hath ___ man condemned thee? (John 8:10)
51. They ... came down to___. (Acts 16:8)
52. The garden where Adam and Eve lived. (Gen. 2:8)

DOWN

1. Belonging to me.
2. Popular middle name for girl.
3. Man who built the ark. (Gen. 6)
4. ___ our eyes wait upon the Lord. (Ps. 123:2)
5. A female parent.
6. To sin.
7. Rephah was his son, also ___. (1 Chron. 7:25)
11. God's son.
12. Pigs.
14. Vehicle for public conveyance of passengers.
16. We commune with God through ___.
17. Man did ___ angels' food. (Ps. 78:25)
19. Ye ___ a chosen generation. (1 Pet. 2:9)
21. Symbol for sodium.
23. First.
26. Sung by one person.
28. Ring.
29. To the seven churches which are in ___. (Rev. 1:4)
31. A dried grape. (1 Sam. 25:18)
34. One of the planets farthest from the sun.
37. Took away the sheep, and the oxen and the ___. (1 Sam. 27:9)
38. Deborah was Rebekah's ___. (Gen. 35:8)
39. Without shedding of ___ is no remission. (Heb. 9:22)
40. Four-wheeled vehicle.
45. ___ will have all men to be saved. (1 Tim. 2:4)
49. Southeast. (abbr.)

All Bible verses are KJV unless otherwise specified.

UPCOMING EVENTS

sponsored by the State Board of Missions

Disaster relief training sessions

When disaster strikes, the yellow shirt army of Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers is ready to go help in whatever way is needed — and they need more volunteers to join them.

To prepare to help next time a crisis happens, register for one of ABDR's upcoming training sessions, all of which will be held at the ABDR Center, 118 Jesse Samuel Hunt Blvd., Prattville.

▸ ***Admin training, March 16:*** Learn how to manage volunteers in a database and manage deployment information at a disaster command center.

▸ ***Communications training, March 23:*** Learn to use amateur radio to assist with disaster communication.

▸ ***Shower and laundry training, March 23:*** Learn how to set up and operate shower and laundry units in disaster response.

▸ ***Cleanup and recovery training, April 5:*** Train in flood recovery and working around chainsaw operations.

▸ ***Chainsaw training, April 5–6:*** Learn how to safely operate a chainsaw and properly and safely clean up afterward. To complete the training, each volunteer must successfully cut a tree according to the standard taught in class.

▸ ***Chaplain training, April 11–13:*** Train in crisis intervention and ministry to people in crisis in the context of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

▸ ***Mass feeding training, April 20:*** Learn how to operate a mass feeding kitchen.

To learn more, visit sbdr.org or scan the code below with your smartphone's camera.

Senior Adult Singin's

Love singing old hymns? You're invited to two Senior Adult Singin's happening in March.

JONES

State Missionary Frank Jones, known for his musical talent across Alabama and the Southeast, is the host and musical guest. He will lead in a time of "singing the old songs."

The two Senior Adult Singin's will be held at:

▸ Southside Baptist Church, March 12, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

▸ First Baptist Church Bay Minette, March 19, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

There is no cost to attend. To register individuals and groups or for more information, contact Frank Jones at 205-393-7020 or email fjones@alsbom.org.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Sunday School Lessons

By Ben Stubblefield, Ph.D.
Visiting assistant professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile

For March 10

GUIDANCE NEEDED
Genesis 24:12–20, 24–27

Our focus passage for this week's lesson describes the discovery of Isaac's wife by Abraham's servant.

It is a pivotal moment in the narrative of the Old Testament because, in order to continue the lineage of blessing promised to Abraham, his son must find a suitable wife who is as committed to the Lord as he is.

If the bride is unfit, then the marriage could threaten the plan of redemption. It is appropriate, therefore, that throughout this account, we'll see the servant's prayerful dependence upon the Lord. He understands the magnitude of the task.

A request (12–14)

Abraham commissioned his oldest servant to find a suitable mate for Isaac who was not a Canaanite and who would not require Isaac to live with her in her land.

Abraham knew the customs of the Canaanites would corrupt the worship of the true God. He also wanted to make sure that his family would not abandon the promise of land, for which God called him from Ur of the Chaldees.

The servant understands, obeys and prays for God's help. What's amazing is that this old servant does not ask for God to suspend the laws of nature, nor does he "put out a fleece," so to speak. Rather, he asks God to answer him in the normal affairs of everyday life. It was a humble request given by a humble man.

It's tempting to think that God only intervenes in our lives in big ways. But the truth is far different.

He answers the big and the little prayers, He intervenes, and He involves Himself in our daily affairs to providentially guide our steps.

One of G. Campbell Morgan's listeners once said to him, "I only take the big things to God. I don't take the little things to Him," to which Morgan replied, "Lady, anything you take to God is little."

The Lord's people should never be shy about our needs before the Lord.

The answer (15–20)

It seems astonishing that as the servant finishes praying, a woman comes along who offers to do for him exactly what he prayed for.

Most certainly, he wondered, "Is this the woman I've prayed for?" She was beautiful, unmarried and kind. It must have been exhilarating and affirming to hear her tell him she was the son of Abraham's brother.

Nothing at this point could stop the servant from pursuing God's will for Isaac.

Isn't that true for us also? When we see God answer our prayers, we have our faith, our obedience and our convictions affirmed. Answered prayers are not only something to be thankful for, but they are a faith-building moment that we can draw strength from.

Praise offered (24–27)

The passage begins in petition but ends in praise. I think this kind of passage is a pattern we find all through the Bible, and it's a pattern that we ought to imitate in our everyday lives.

When faithful followers face a problem, they take it to the Lord, the Lord answers and they rejoice in His power.

In fact, it's the pattern of Jesus of Nazareth who faithfully followed the Father to the cross, who committed Himself to the Father in suffering (Luke 23:46), who was raised in resurrection and who returned to the joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2).

I wonder what peace we often forfeit and what needless pain we bear all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

For March 17

A DECEIVER
Genesis 27:18–30

"God can draw a straight line with a crooked stick." Ever heard that phrase? It's true, but that very biblical idea is, to us, a little counter-intuitive. It's right and normal to suppose that God works through those who live righteously. Indeed, "the prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). But it is not right to suppose that God works only through those who live righteously. He often blesses and uses the broken, the wayward and those whom we might deem unfit for it.

Trap set (18–20)

The conflict-drama between the two brothers is intense. It begins in utero. Esau and Jacob wrestle as womb mates (25:22), and their tension becomes prophetic for the peoples who would come from the bloodline (25:23).

Moreover, each son captures the affection of a different parent. Isaac prefers Esau the firstborn outdoorsman, and Rebekah prefers Jacob the second-born domesticant.

As the story progresses, Jacob barters — we might say snookers — Esau's birthright from him (25:34). And toward the end of Isaac's life in Chapter 27, we see scheming, deception and more conflict between two brothers who've been at it since their conception.

Jacob takes advantage of his dying father's poor eyesight, which takes some gall, and then has the even greater audacity to invoke the name of God during his deception (v. 20).

Jacob is crafty, a little too much like another slithery figure in the Bible, described in Genesis 3.

Esau is not a wise or God-fearing man (Heb. 12:16). He causes his parents and future generations a lot of problems (26:35). But that doesn't make what Jacob did right. Like Abraham with Hagar, he's going about getting God's blessing his way rather than God's way.

Deception carried out (21–27)

Isaac suspects a problem and investigates further, but Jacob still manages to pass the smell test and so Jacob blesses him with all his favor.

I remember listening to a famous coach tell a group of athletes that there are "some games you just lose. You've done everything right, you've prepared, you've executed, you've given it all you've got but sometimes, you just get whipped. And that's life."

Isaac did everything he could to prevent what Jacob did but it happened, and I'm sure he thought it was a mess. But what he could not envision was what God was going to do in and through Jacob's lineage that would not only bless the future of his family but also the future of our world.

Sometimes you lose even though you tried to do everything to prevent it. But God, you see, is up to something on your behalf and down the road, something bigger and better than you could expect or envision.

Blessing granted (28–30)

Isaac mistakenly awards Abraham's blessing to Jacob, and Esau is bitter, sad and full of hatred (v. 41). Like Cain and Abel, he plots his brother's murder.

This is a dysfunctional family, with child favorites, mothers conspiring, foolish sons, lies, polygamy, hatred and spite between Rebekah and her daughters-in-law. I doubt the family reunions were fun, to say the least, and yet God is graciously, mercifully, powerfully plotting a course of blessing for them through it all.

Aren't you grateful for a God who doesn't give up on the dysfunctional but brings beauty from the chaos and draws straight lines with crooked sticks?

Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me."

Genesis 27:19

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Sunday School Lessons

By Tyshawn Gardner, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies, Samford University

For March 10

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS
Luke 6:17–23, 27–31

Through His miracles and teaching, Jesus pointed us to a relationship with God. Many people assume Jesus was a good, moral teacher, but that misses a far greater truth. Jesus' teaching is not meant to make us good, moral citizens; His teaching is meant to bring us to God.

Jesus gave credence to the authority by which He taught as He performed miracles. Every aspect of Jesus' ministry — His teaching and miracles — leads us to identify Him as the Messiah and Son of God.

Jesus brings healing to our lives. (17–19)

Sin has left our world and the people in it hurting. Because of sin, humanity suffers disease, various traumas, poverty, deprivation and even natural disasters.

All these things impact the lives of those who encounter them. To add to these unfortunate calamities, we also live in a highly individualistic world where people are detached from each other and show little concern for the hurts around them.

Where can we run and to whom can we run when there is hurt? This passage teaches us that Jesus healed those who came to Him for help. He still heals today.

People came to Jesus from various communities, bringing to Him a multitude of hurts and problems and He healed them. Some of our hurts are not visible to the human eye. Some of your hurts are internal; they affect the soul and the mind.

Jesus, who knows us because He shares our humanity, can also heal our heartbreaks and our mental anxieties.

Jesus taught us the path to joy and favor with God. (20–23)

Jesus taught His disciples the path to joy and favor with God. The Beatitudes encourage the downcast and the outcast.

These beautiful blessings are reminders to us that the poor matter to God. Who are the poor among us? Do we notice them?

Jesus is teaching His disciples to have a keen eye toward those whom society has forsaken and despised, sending a clear message to us as His contemporary disciples to do likewise.

Jesus identified with the poor and the rejected, with those who were discriminated against and pushed to the margins.

In this passage, Jesus says, "Blessed are you." Underneath the Beatitudes is a humility before God and a dependence upon Him.

Jesus taught us to love as He loves. (27–31)

Jesus taught His disciples the way they were to treat others. It is easy to like and love those with whom we agree. It is easy to love those who share the same ideals and beliefs as we do.

Jesus commands us to love our enemies. He also shows us that love is best reflected in actions. When we love people, we will refrain from doing anything that may hurt them.

In addition, we are taught to be proactive by doing to them as we would have them do to us. This is the love of Christ.

> ***"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh."***
>
> **Luke 6:20–21**

For March 17

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS
Luke 9:18–26

Not everyone sees Jesus for who He is. (18–19)

Jesus asked His disciples how others saw Him. Isn't it perplexing how we often construct Jesus to fit our agenda or our tribal interest?

Ever since there has been a Church, Christians in every age have done so — sometimes to great harm to others. However, Jesus cannot fit into our ethnic, political, religious and cultural interests.

The inspired Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, bears record to the identity of Jesus. In spite of this, however, our self-interest sometimes influences our vision, and we construct a savior of our own making.

Jesus is God's Son, both divine and human, sent into the world to redeem and liberate us from all forms of sin.

Jesus' identity is wrapped up in His death and resurrection for us. (20–22)

The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus make Him distinct and truly the only Savior and God's Messiah. He tied His identity to His death and resurrection.

Although the crucifixion of Christ can be seen as an act of injustice, God used the death of Jesus to redeem humanity. He was the only person who could make atonement for the sins of humanity.

His blood covers our sins, and the Spirit who raised Him provides the power for us to have new lives, attitudes, values and behaviors.

Jesus' disciples often had trouble embracing a Savior who testified of His own suffering and death.

However, not even death and the grave could defeat Jesus. We must accept God's claims about His Son and Jesus' claims about Himself. The Holy Spirit bears witness to who Christ is, and He bears witness through us, His disciples.

We are to respond to Jesus' identity by dying to self and following Him. (23–26)

Following Jesus pays but it is also costly. A call to follow Jesus is also a call to stand for truth and reject lies and sin. Being a follower of Christ is not popular.

God has not called us to popularity but to faithfulness. Jesus called His disciples to identify with Him by following Him and we must do likewise.

Sometimes the call to follow the Savior is to forsake the people and institutions that conflict with the ethics of the Savior.

Often, following Jesus can even cost us our friends, families and reputations. However, there is no greater peace and no greater reward, both now and in the future, than to follow Jesus Christ.

Thanks be unto God that Jesus is God, so He transcends us, and He is human, so He identifies with us. Most of all He is the one and only Savior and Messiah who died for us and defeated sin through the power of His resurrection.

> ***Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist. But others say, Elijah, and others, that one of the prophets of old has risen." Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered, "The Christ of God."***
>
> **Luke 9:18–20**

WORD **search**

AUTHORITY
BLESSED
CENTURION
DISCIPLES
DOUBT
FAITH
FAITHFULNESS
FASTING
FOOLISH
FORGIVENESS
FOUNDATION
FRUIT
GALILEE
HEALING
HOSPITALITY
HOUSE
JOHN
JUDGING
KINGDOM
LOVE
MIRACLES
MULTITUDE
NEIGHBOR
PHARISEES
REPENT
SABBATH
SERMON
SINNERS
STORM
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"But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you."

LUKE 6:27–28

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the *Faith*

Ada Ruth Habershon was an author and hymn writer

Ada Ruth Habershon (1861–1918) was an English book author and hymn writer who wrote the lyrics of the gospel song "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?"

Born on Jan. 8, 1861, in London, she was the daughter of Samuel and Grace Habershon. Her father was an eminent doctor. Raised in a Christian home, Habershon became a believer and a devoted Bible student.

As a young woman, she attended the preaching services of English Baptist minister Charles Spurgeon. In 1884, she met American evangelist Dwight Moody and singer Ira Sankey on their tour of England. At their request, she visited the United States and gave a series of lectures on the Old Testament.

HABERSHON

She later published at least 17 books about the Old Testament and the New Testament.

These included "Types in the Old Testament," "The Study of the Parables," "Hidden Pictures in the Old Testament, or How the New Testament is Concealed in the Old Testament" and "The Titles of the Lord of Glory."

Touching the heart

Habershon began writing hymns in 1899 when she wrote several ones in the German language. While ill in 1901, she penned her first ones in English.

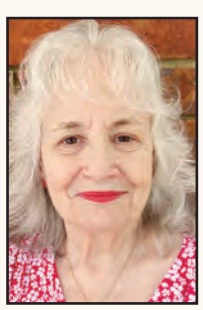
When evangelist R.A. Torrey and singer Charles Alexander visited Great Britain in 1905, Alexander asked Habershon to write hymns for their evangelistic tours. She consented and eventually sent him more than 200 hymns. These included "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" "He Will Hold Me Fast," "Are You Ready for the Coming?" and "Meet Me in the Homeland." Alexander, who wrote the music, once called Habershon the "best gospel songwriter in the world." He also said of her, "She was an invalid all the time, but those who suffer best know how to touch the heart."

She died on Feb. 1, 1918, in London at the age of 57. She is buried in Hampstead Cemetery.

In the United States, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" was discovered by A.P. Carter, a member of the famous Carter family, known as the first family of country music. He took the hymn and reworked it into a country song titled "Can the Circle Be Unbroken (By and By)." It was released in 1935.

By Joanne Sloan

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



MEDIA REVIEWS

By Connie Pearson
The Alabama Baptist

'Unsung Hero' movie displays a mother's unwavering faith

Popular contemporary Christian artists Rebecca St. James, her brothers Luke and Joel Smallbone who constitute For King & Country, and four other siblings are blessed with a remarkable story and a mom who is a spiritual role model. The story of the Smallbone family's journey from Australia to Tennessee and their mom Helen's unwavering faith will be told in a movie to be released April 26 called "Unsung Hero."

When the Smallbones moved to Brentwood, Tennessee, in the early 1990s, they were in the same neighborhood as Kay Dekalb Smith and her family. Kay grew up in Hartselle watching her mom reach out to children in the housing projects, inviting them to Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church Hartselle and returning to their homes with bags of clothes and groceries.

Photo courtesy of Evin Photography

Kay Dekalb Smith (left) is pictured with Helen Smallbone, the inspiration for the new movie, "Unsung Hero," set to be released April 26.

Meeting needs

It became part of Kay's DNA to find ways to meet the needs of struggling people around her. Along the way, she shared her vocal talents and hilarious wit with church groups across the state of Alabama. She was crowned Miss Alabama Teenager at age 17 and Miss Birmingham in 1973. She married Ed Smith in 1982, and they moved to Brentwood and had two daughters.

One of Kay's daughters brought home a flyer she received at school that caught Kay's attention. It said, "Family from Australia. Moved with 6 children. Dad lost job. Need help. Willing to work: Ironing, leaf raking, housecleaning, babysitting, pulling weeds." The flyer included the family's address. Kay showed up a couple of days later with two bags full of groceries. Helen Smallbone, then pregnant with her seventh child, opened the door and invited Kay in. Kay looked around at a very odd mixture of furniture. Helen noticed Kay looking and said, "Isn't God good? Everything God gave us matches!" Kay recounts she knew at that moment they would be friends forever.

Kay and Ed hired the Smallbones' oldest daughter, whom they called "Beck," to babysit when they went out, and Kay started a frequent habit of showing up to chat and fold clothes while Helen ironed to make money. The conversations were about life in Australia, God's continual guidance and His many blessings and provisions. Often Kay would leave cereal, soap and toilet paper at the back door, and those three items became Kay's signature gift. In fact, years later when a party was held to celebrate the Smallbones becoming American citizens, Kay brought cereal, soap and toilet paper to the event.

Kay remembers her family being invited to the Smallbones' home for dinner. The family would start the meal with a song of blessing, and then two pans of food were passed around. In spite of the large number of people (nine Smallbones and four Smiths), there was always food left over — a fact that amazed Kay and Ed. It was apparent that there was no shame in that family, only gratitude.

Fast forward 30 years and the accomplishments and accolades of the Smallbone children are stunning. Grammy, Dove and Billboard Music awards, No. 1 hit singles on Christian radio stations and videos, books and movies continue.

When Rebecca first began recording and touring under her stage name Rebecca St. James, the whole family traveled with her, pitching in to do all the jobs necessary for a performance while acquiring unique skills and experience in the process.

The Smallbone children's early days in the U.S. of working long hours doing odd jobs in the neighborhood, then coming in and putting the money they earned on the kitchen table to be used to pay the family bills, reaped later benefits of understanding the importance of hard work and unselfishness.

Telling the story

"Behind the Lights: The Extraordinary Adventure of a Mum and Her Family," the book written by Helen, Rebecca and Lisa Stilwell, was released in 2022. That book and the upcoming movie tell the story in a riveting and entertaining way.

Kay, who was called "Auntie Kay" by the Smallbones, is portrayed in the movie by actress Candace Cameron Bure.

Candace shared with Kay that this is the first role she's ever had based on a real person, not just a character. Alabama native Lucas Black also has a role in the film.

"Unsung Hero" is produced by Lionsgate and is rated PG.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Reviews of films, books, music or other media that appear in TAB are intended to help readers evaluate current media for themselves, their children and grandchildren in order to decide whether to watch, read or listen. Reviews are not an endorsement by the writer or TAB Media.

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