

The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



Students gather to pray at flagpoles across the state for See You at the Pole

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Coffee Baptist Association DOM retires after decades of ministry

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Students from Creola First Baptist Church travel to New Iberia, Louisiana, each summer to lead VBS at Loreauville Baptist Church.



Photo courtesy of Chip Travis

Heart for serving

Alabama students take VBS, 'spirit of cooperation' to Louisiana churches

By Lanell Downs Smith
The Alabama Baptist

Each summer Chip Travis, youth pastor of Creola First Baptist Church, witnesses a recurring scene.

Travis, who also is a teacher and coach at Saraland Middle School, leads student groups to southern Louisiana to help churches with Vacation Bible School.

On every trip, Louisiana

children eventually ask youth volunteers, "Can I go home with you?"

Having an impact

The question speaks to the kids' situations and their struggling communities, Travis reflected, but it also shows the impact youth missions trips can have on the children they serve.

The story began after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005, when many residents of storm-ravaged New Orleans relocated to surrounding communities.

Small churches like some in the Evangeline Baptist Association, located in Lafayette,

Louisiana, suddenly found themselves struggling to serve a huge population of transplanted people and to provide programs like VBS.

As then-interim youth pastor at Laffite Baptist Church in Saraland, Travis started taking student groups to the greater Lafayette area in 2006, helping churches like Vatican Baptist Church in Carencro host VBS.

Travis later moved to Creola FBC and continued the effort there.

Except for 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic limited travel and gatherings, Travis has led student groups of as many as 35 from Creola FBC — and sometimes surrounding

churches — every year to help with VBS.

"We always have our Bible school [at Creola FBC] before we go on the trip," Travis said. "So I tell the kids, 'This is your training.' All the kids work at Bible school, and then we go on the trip."

'Life-changing'

The Creola FBC congregation supports the effort in a variety of ways, helping supply VBS materials, crafts and volunteers.

"This is one of the most life-changing ministries we have," declared Pastor Al Brown.

"This year [Travis] took (See 'Growing,' page 17)



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Celebrating missionaries

BMBA appreciation banquet focuses on ‘God’s Fellow Workers’

Think of the service and the global impact represented by the people in this space,” said Sandy Wisdom-Martin, executive director of national WMU.

“On behalf of the thousands of people you have quietly influenced without even knowing it, thank you,” she said during the Sept. 15 Missionary Appreciation Banquet sponsored by Birmingham Metro Baptist Association.

“We want you to know we love you and we are grateful for you.”

BMBA executive director Chris Crain noted that more than 70 current, former and retired missionaries representing 40 countries across five continents were among the crowd of more than 250 people gathered at The Club in Birmingham.

Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, also spoke during the banquet. “We all come celebrating missionaries today. I’m humbled to be part of that,” he said. “I’m a missionary cheerleader and am incredibly in awe of you.”

The event’s theme was “God’s Fellow Workers” in reference to 1 Corinthians 3:9. (The Alabama Baptist)



Above: More than 250 people, including 70 current and former missionaries, gather at The Club in Birmingham on Sept. 15 for the annual missionary appreciation banquet hosted by Birmingham Metro Baptist Association. **Right:** NAMB president Kevin Ezell shares the key note address. Also on the program was Sandy Wisdom-Martin, national WMU executive director, and state missionary Rick Lance, executive director of the State Board of Missions.



Above: Sixteen area ministry partners sponsored tables, including David George (right), president of WMU Foundation. Michael Adler, worship pastor at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Vestavia Hills, and Greg Oliver, founder of Awaken Ministries, led music.

Below: John King, church and community relations consultant for BMBA, delivers the closing prayer. During the early part of the program, Chris Crain, BMBA executive director, shared a word of welcome, and June Whitlow, BMBA WMU director, introduced WMU’s Sandy Wisdom-Martin.



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



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@RashionalThts

Disaster Relief — an important ministry we can all support

Determined to attack another coastline, Hurricane Ian was barreling toward Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, at 85 mph as we went to press with this issue.

At the same time, members of our beloved Yellow Shirt Army (see story below) were already on the road headed to southwest Florida.

Packing up those yellow shirts along with their yellow hats, work boots, chain saws, cooking supplies and Bibles, Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers will give their all in the coming weeks and months.

They were ready to help those stunned by Ian's destruction as soon as they heard the news of winds in the area reaching 150 mph Sept. 28.

Truth be told, many DR volunteers began preparations to serve as soon as Ian turned toward Florida.

Teams were already serving in Puerto Rico, and some may also be headed to the Carolinas soon.

As our staff monitored the situation to keep you informed, we hurt for those now attempting to pick up the pieces.

I'm so grateful for the countless volunteers from across the nation who give so selflessly to

not only provide physical help but also shine the light of Christ so brightly in an extremely dark moment.

The resources needed will indeed be costly, so I know those working in disaster relief are thankful for the new monies that arrived recently from the Sept. 11–18 week of prayer focus on the Myers-Mallory State Missions Offering.

I'm confident those funds will go quickly with the enormity of needs right now. To donate specifically for Ian's recovery efforts, see story below.

Let's pray for the volunteers as well as the people they serve in the days ahead.

Times like this also motivate me to renew my disaster relief credentials. Training sessions start up again in March.

Check out the variety of options for how you can serve at sbdr.org/events and consider organizing a group of friends, family or church leaders to earn your credentials together.

Several members of The Alabama Baptist staff are trained in disaster relief, and we encourage them to volunteer as much as possible, counting it as part of their ministry work.

If going out with teams isn't a good option, then consider being a prayer partner and encourager for someone who could

participate and may merely need a little nudge.

One thing about Southern Baptist Disaster Relief — it's a ministry we can all get behind.

No matter what debates are happening or how many national leadership positions are vacant, Southern Baptist DR volunteers step with confidence, courage and consistency.

It's a great reminder of the compassion within us and how we are drawn to help.

Tragedy always seems to have a purifying effect for us, as individuals and bodies of believers, even if only for a few days.

Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief teams helping Floridians following catastrophic damage left by Hurricane Ian

Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are among those from several southeastern states assisting Florida with cleanup efforts following the catastrophic damage left in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

The storm made landfall Sept. 28, hitting the southwest coast of Florida at speeds of 150 mph. It continued climbing up the east coast through the weekend.

Along with chainsaw, mud-out and communications teams,

ABDR sent assessors, chaplains and feeding teams, according to Mark Wakefield, disaster relief strategist for the State Board of Missions.

Additionally, the state's large kitchen unit was planning to set up at First Baptist Church Arcadia, Florida, and teams were expected to prepare up to 15,000 meals per day, he noted at press time.

"Pray for safe travels ... and open doors for ministry," Wakefield requested.

The quick mobilization of vol-

unteers comes from a ministry infrastructure provided by the Cooperative Program. Donations to ABDR assist with the deployment of volunteers and the purchase of needed equipment and supplies.

To give online, visit sbdr.org/hurricane-relief.

Checks designated for Hurricane Relief may be sent to:

SBOM
P.O. Box 681970
Prattville, AL 36068-1970.
(The Alabama Baptist)

Your Voice



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

Tips for determining how much your pastor should be paid

EDITOR'S NOTE — October is Pastor Appreciation Month, a time when many churches seek to intentionally show appreciation to their pastors. Studies have shown that one of the most significant factors for a pastor's well-being is the support he receives from his congregation. This month, TAB will present a series of opinion pieces related to how churches might better support their pastors.

By Jeff Iorg
Gateway Seminary

A recent study by Lifeway Research produced some helpful information about pastoral compensation in North America.

Among other findings, the study showed pastors are being paid about the same as in 2018 — with few increases in either salary or benefits.

Since the Consumer Price Index has increased 17.6% over the past four years, the purchasing power of

pastoral compensation has significantly declined.

The obvious need is for many churches to prioritize increasing pastoral compensation, but that is easier said than done. Churches are facing many financial demands — just like families and businesses — which make these decisions complicated. Choosing among competing needs is always difficult.

Limit financial concerns

This raises another important question which the recent survey did not attempt to answer. How much should a pastor be paid?

Here are two thoughts on answering that question.

Pastors should be paid enough to eliminate financial concerns as a burden distracting them from ministry.

When a pastor is concerned about how to buy groceries, get his car repaired or educate his children, his

job performance will suffer. A wise church pays their pastor well enough to live without these distractions.

Every family has to live with some financial stressors but limiting these, as much as reasonably possible, is an investment in pastoral effectiveness and, ultimately, church health.

Pastors also should be paid enough to live comfortably in their community (and that amount varies by community).

Determining how much that requires might seem complicated, but helpful information is available.

One effective method is comparing pastoral compensation to similar compensation offered in your local public school district. Almost all school districts base their compensation structures on plans developed by economists to assure they can attract and retain faculty and staff based on their local economy. They are competing with other communities for employees, and they know what it takes to live in their community: Housing, transportation, food and other costs are factored into the equation.

They know what they have to pay to get the employees they need. While individual salaries are not disclosed, these compensation plans are public information and readily available.

Establishing the baseline

These compensation plans can help establish the baseline — not the upper limit — on reasonable compensation needed to live in a particular community. One way to use this data would be to pay the pastor of a small church comparable to a classroom teacher. The pastor of a larger

church, with staff to supervise, could be paid comparable to a principal.

Pastoral salaries in very large churches would be more comparable to a superintendent or other district administrator. When using this data, be sure to include the total compensation, not just the salary, in developing a comprehensive support package for your pastor.

In most communities, there is no comparable salary study for local ministers. But almost every community has this kind of compensation plan, based on a reasonable economic analysis of what it takes to attract and retain

education-industry employees.

Many of these employees have the same education level as pastors and share a sense of calling to a helping profession. They are also often in the same age bracket with similar economic challenges.

While there is no perfect public benchmark for pastoral salaries, one good standard is the local education system.

Keep in mind, this is just one benchmark based on your local economy.

Other factors like a pastor's age, experience, education, church size, church health and financial demands must also be considered. Reasonable annual detailed consideration of these issues must replace "that's what we paid the last pastor," "that's what seems fair to me," or "that's more than I make" as the answers to the question of how much to pay your pastor. Base this decision, as you want your employer to do, at least in part on pertinent data for living in your community.

October
is Pastor
Appreciation
Month.

Letters to the Editor

Thank you for a job well done on our Baptist newspaper. I would especially like to thank Grace Thornton for her "Reflections on the life of Queen Elizabeth II."

I, too, believe we have lost a world leader that stood upon her faith. May God call other leaders to stand upon God's word.

Jean Ramsey
Clanton, Ala.

Thank you for Robert Olsen's commentary each week condensing the Explore the Bible

Sunday School lessons.

I teach a senior adult class. The lessons provided in Lifeway's Explore the Bible curriculum are very good, but they are in-depth and often too much to cover in one Sunday morning class.

Dr. Olsen gives the "meat and potatoes" version of the lessons, and that allows time for comments and discussion.

Thanks again, and may God bless y'all!

Rick Revia
Vidor, Texas

“[Revelation] really is the story of God redeeming His good but broken creation.”

BRADLEY MCVAY
Beulah Baptist Church, Muscadine, Alabama

“We are responsible to share the good news. We are not responsible for how someone responds to it. Sometimes the gospel really does seem too good to be true. We are saved by grace and not by our works (Eph. 2:8–9), and for many people that just seems too easy,” said **James Jackson, pastor of Glynwood Baptist Church in Prattville.**

“We want to become a church that looks more like our neighborhood, and we want to become a church that looks more like heaven,” **Te-man Knight, pastor of Heritage Baptist Church in Montgomery.**

My earthly father, my daddy, was my best friend, my buddy and my

commander. Our Heavenly Father wants to be even more if we will only let Him.

Strangely, only when we learn to surrender do we reap the bounty. And He has enough of Him to go around, so we all can have all of Him. That’s what an infinite God can do!

Brice F. Marsh
Trussville, Ala.

“I am living proof that life, no matter the conception, is created in the image of God and is worthy,” said **Alabama native Sara Bible**, whose birth mother chose life instead of abortion. “I am here because my birth mother said yes to me when I could not speak for myself.”

If we want evangelistic, missionary-minded churches, we must have evangelism and missions in our hearts. Too many are shooting arrows into the air but do not know where they are going. That is, there is no precisely defined and directed goal or purpose. When will churches learn that we are partially responsible for the product?

Morris Murray Jr.
Jasper, Ala.

We have established a community in a time of isolation, hope in a time of desperation and a love for the Lord that surpasses all earthly desires,” said **Hannah Sasser, founder of Waiting in Hope of Andalusia**, a ministry that assists couples struggling with infertility.

From the *Twitterverse*

@ricklance

Controlling our speech is a spiritual discipline. We never have to apologize for something we did not say.

@brocraigc

“The more I see of the glory of Christ — the more the painted beauties of this world wither my eyes.” —John Owen

@bobgoff

Life can be hard. A couple things will go right, and even more will go wrong. Don’t overidentify with your successes or be crippled by your failures. Delight in your role as a flawed participant in need of God’s tremendous grace, and everyone else’s patience, every day.

@ostrachan

Please be extremely encouraged by this, Christian: Just as Jesus kept loving the disciples in all their foolishness, so He keeps loving you and me in all our stumbling.

@cslewisdaily

“Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done.” —C.S. Lewis

@haines_matt

A gospel that doesn’t result in a tangible and measurable transformation of our values and affections isn’t the gospel that Jesus preached.

@mhenslee

It’s not as if the pastors of large churches have made it to the “big show,” the major league, while

the guys in unknown towns with a handful of people are in the minor league. It’s not second class, and it’s not a step down; it’s just different.

@GaryFenton07

Kindness rejected is never a reason to be unkind.

@claysmith79

I’m not against the word staff, but I prefer team. Staff suggests that everyone has a role to play in the organization. Team suggests that we are in it together.

@DianeLangberg

Using our position in the home or the church to get our own way, serve our own ends, crush others, silence and frighten them is an ungodly use of power.

Heed the yellow signs

Imagine how the color-blind react to road signs. Various colors display different types of information:

- ▶ white: speed limit
- ▶ green: directional
- ▶ blue: roadside services
- ▶ orange: construction
- ▶ brown: recreation.

Give special notice to yellow signs. They tell you to pay attention.

They warn of hazards like curves, intersections, wildlife, etc.

Consider Jeremiah the yellow-sign prophet to God’s people. He issued multiple alerts.

Why the repetition?

Because the people failed to pay attention.

He warned about religious hypocrisy, unfair business practices and dishonesty.

The prophet hammered away in hopes of a change of heart. His yellow signs often resembled this one — “While you were feeling secure, I gave you warning. But you said, ‘I refuse to listen to you.’ That is the way you have acted from your earliest history onward. Indeed, you have never paid attention to me” (Jer. 22:21).

A frustrated yet relentless Jeremiah kept the yellow signs posted even though ignored.

Why? Hope.

Hope for repentance based on trust in a God of grace. The prophet knew God desires to forgive.

Yellow signs from God still come to us through the Scripture, preachers, teachers, friends and circumstances.

Only the sinless may discount God’s yellow signs.

But as good as you may be, you still battle a judgmental spirit, anger, hypocrisy, insensitivity to God. Heed the signs. Grace awaits.

Darryl Wood

“A Personal Word from a Retread Pastor” blog via Facebook

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

Students gather to pray at flagpoles across the state

By Michael Smith

The Alabama Baptist

Students across Alabama gathered at school early Sept. 28 for a time of prayer as part of the 32nd annual See You at the Pole student-led prayer observance.

“So very thankful for the opportunity to join with these students in prayer at the pole this morning,” Stephanie Adams of Oxford wrote on Facebook. “It blessed this momma’s heart to see this many young people ... show up early before their school day starts, bow their heads in front of their peers and pray boldly to their heavenly Father for each other, for families, our nation and leaders, other countries, school faculty and fellow students.”

The annual Global Day of Student Prayer is an effort to encourage students to take the lead in a prayer effort.

All around the globe, in every time zone, an estimated 1 million students were expected to meet at their school’s flagpole or another place for a time of prayer.

This year’s theme is “Aflame,” taken from Romans 12:11–12:

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

‘Seeking the Lord’

“I love the theme of See You at the Pole this year because it is a reminder to never let our passion grow dim for earnestly seeking the Lord for our schools, city and community,” said Debi DeBoer, ministry director of First Priority Greater Birmingham. “Now more than ever, this generation needs to shine bright and be bold to share the hope of Christ that is within them. Jesus is our only hope to change our nation.”



Photo courtesy of First Priority Greater Birmingham

A group of boys at Helena Middle School pray together before school Sept. 28.

First Priority students at Clay-Chalkville Middle School and Moody Elementary were among those participating in SYATP 2022.

First Priority Greater Birmingham helped provide resources for SYATP efforts in several communities in Central Alabama. First Priority is a national network of nonprofit youth organizations that support student-initiated, student-led Christian clubs



Photo courtesy of Chris Ferguson

Students gather at Clanton Middle School to join in prayer for See You at the Pole on Sept. 28. Students were encouraged to pray for their fellow students, school, community, nation and world.

on middle school and high school campuses. First Priority Alabama helps coordinate strategic partnerships of churches, ministers, businesspeople, educators, parents and students who are concerned about the moral and spiritual well-being of students in the state. Several Alabama communities have First Priority chapters.

SYATP is a grassroots effort, with students leading the way, which is

why it’s important that as the students are praying, parents and other Christian adults are praying for them too, said Doug Clark, national field director for the National Network of Youth Ministries.

“Students are in a post-pandemic mental health and spiritual crisis, and the body of Christ can do something about it,” he said.

The See You at the Pole movement originated in 1990.

Persecuted church

Evangelist killed as violence against Christians continues in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda — Muslim extremists in Uganda have killed an evangelist, cut off the hand of a Christian convert and issued death threats to a pastor.

The evangelist, Sozi Odongo, was slain July 29 at his home. Texts had warned him to stop using information from Islam’s Quran to preach to Muslims. His wife and four children were hiding in another room when he was killed.

On July 26, Musa John Kasadah was attacked in Nakabondo village. His hand and part of his forearm were cut off for leaving Islam and converting to Christianity. Kasadah and his family put their faith in Christ during an evangelistic event June 17.

In Kiboga District, Godfrey Ssemujju, a pas-

tor, said he received death threats warning him not to convert any more Muslims to Christianity, Morning Star News reported. In the past three months, he has held evangelistic events and engaged in conversations that led about 70 Muslims to put their faith in Christ.

Approximately 12% of Uganda’s population is Muslim. Its constitution and laws allow religious freedom, including converting from one faith to another, but Christian churches increasingly have received threats of violence.

Christian pastor detained in China since January receives sentence

BEIJING — A Chinese court has sentenced a Christian pastor to a 15-month prison term for “organizing illegal gatherings.”

Pastor Geng Zejun was arrested Jan. 25 and has been detained since then, reported the hu-

man rights organization ChinaAid. He is pastor of Church of the Rock in Ningxia province.

On July 13, officials conducted proceedings via video. Geng’s lawyer defended his innocence, and Geng refused to plead guilty. China



Photo courtesy of ChinaAid

Aid reported in August that the court handed down a sentence of one year and three months.

Geng and Church of the Rock, a reformed faith congregation, have

resisted being managed by the Three-Self Patriotic Movement Church, which the Chinese Communist Party controls. China is No. 17 on Open Doors’ 2022 World Watch List of places most difficult to be a Christian.

Alabama news

BETHEL ASSOCIATION

► **County Line Baptist Church, Arlington**, celebrated its 125th anniversary Sept. 18.

Pastor Rex Jackson preached in the morning service. Adam Bender led congregational singing with Sandy Cooper playing piano. Anna Speir (left) of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Mike Snow, director of missions for Bethel Baptist Association,



Photo courtesy of Anna Speir

presented certificates in recognition of the milestone. The Revelators from Grove Hill performed as well. A reception in the fellowship hall followed the afternoon singing service.

“We had a wonderful time in the Lord celebrating,” said June Rush, church treasurer. “It truly was one of those days the Lord made, and we rejoiced in it.”

The church plans to continue its celebration Oct. 30 with a memorial homecoming where time will be given to reflect on its history. A covered dish lunch will follow that service.

BIRMINGHAM METRO ASSOCIATION

► **Josh Clarke** is the new missions pastor of **Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills**. He is a graduate of Union University, and he first worked in the school’s alumni relations department. He recently served as president of Doulos Partners where he led strategic training of indigenous church planters around the world.

He and his wife, Courtney, have four children.

► **Raimund Heights Baptist, Bessemer**, is hosting its 70th homecoming Oct. 16 at 10:30 a.m. with a covered dish fellowship to follow.

Former member James Watkins will bring the message, and there will be special music led by Larry Haynes along with guest instrumentalists. Tommy Chesser is pastor.

BLOUNT COUNTY ASSOCIATION

► **Pleasant View Baptist Church, Holly Pond**, will host its annual homecoming service Oct. 16 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Singing featuring Living Faith Quartet begins at 1:30 p.m.

CALHOUN ASSOCIATION

► **Fairview Heights Northside Baptist Church, Anniston**, celebrated its 75th anniversary Sept. 18 with former pastor Don Hamilton



Photo courtesy of Lonette Berg

Logan Lipham and Lexi Lipham. Nathan Walker, minister of music, led congregational singing. Ray Thacker, who was raised in the church, shared about the church’s history.

Lonette Berg (left) of the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission and Roger Willmore, director of missions of Calhoun Baptist Association, recognized the church’s milestone.

“We had a great turnout,” said pastor Brian Frost (right). “The anniversary created excitement in our congregation about what God is going to do in the next 75 years.”

COOSA RIVER ASSOCIATION

► **First Baptist Church Sylacauga** is celebrating its most extensive capital improvement project in the past 35 years on Oct. 16. Special worship service begins at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck lunch in the gymnasium. Open house will be from 1 to 2 p.m. Rick Patrick is pastor.

COVINGTON ASSOCIATION

► **Otis Corbitt** recently celebrated 10 years as director of missions of **Covington Baptist Association**. He attended Columbus State University on an Army ROTC scholarship.

He served Wesley Heights Baptist Church, Columbus, Georgia, where he was called to full-time ministry. While stationed in Hawaii, he was a member of First Southern Baptist Church Pearl Harbor, where he was licensed to preach.

Corbitt later graduated with a master of divinity from New Orleans Seminary. He served churches in Alabama and Louisiana and worked as a National Guard chaplain the next 15 years. His family served as international missionaries in England and West Africa before Corbitt became director of missions for Salem-Troy Baptist Association. He later joined the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions working with church planting, chaplaincy ministries, Disaster Relief and church building services. He returned to service as an Army National Guard chaplain in 2007, and he continues to serve. He and his wife, Geri, have two children.

► **Harmony Baptist Church, Andalusia**, hosts quartet Dixie Echoes Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

delivering the message and special music by the Connells (former pastor Chris Connell and family), Gene Smith, Nathan Walker and a youth trio — Terri Kelly,

SHELBY ASSOCIATION

► **Southcrest Baptist Church, Bessemer**, will host ClearVision gospel group Oct. 7. A meal will be served at 6 p.m. and the music begins at 7 p.m. Scott Bush is pastor.

TUSKEGEE LEE ASSOCIATION

► **Zac Gardner** is the new pastor of **Pepperell Baptist Church, Opelika**.

Ordained into the ministry in 2019, he is pursuing a master of divinity degree in biblical studies from New Orleans Seminary. He and his wife, Anna, have one child.



GARDNER

WEST CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

► **Siloam Baptist Church, Marion**, hosted Beck Taylor, president of Samford University, during its Sept 25 worship service and as part of a continuing celebration of its 200th anniversary. Siloam played an integral role in the founding of Howard College (now Samford), which was chartered in 1841 in Marion and located at what is now Marion Military Institute. After the worship service, Samford’s Christian Ministry Department students went to the old Howard campus.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Blackwell

They visited the grave of Harry, a young man who gave his life to rescue students from a fire on the Howard campus in the 1850s. Galen Jones, an associate professor, challenged the students to be servants of courage who save people from the flames.

The students were also “pinned” with a globe, reminding them they are called to make disciples of all nations. Scott Guffin, executive director of Christian ministry, and J.D. Payne, professor, also encouraged the students in their next steps.

OTHER

► **Welsh Revival**, a University of Mobile ensemble, will perform Oct. 15 at 1 p.m. at an outdoor concert at the Wilcox Foundation and Gallery across from Chatom Baptist Church.

► **Samford University’s School of the Arts** recently celebrated the completion of an 18-month transformation of Buchanan Hall.

President Beck A. Taylor and William J. Stevens, chair of the board of trustees, presided over the Sept. 1 ribbon cutting.

The renovation is part of the overall master plan and honors the historical architecture while creating more welcoming, contemporary spaces.

Send items to news@thealabamabaptist.org.

‘God still sees us’

Daughter follows in mother's steps, leads Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries

By Carolyn Tomlin
The Alabama Baptist

For Traci Jackson and her mother, Nancy Cornett, leadership is what you might call a family affair.

Jackson and Cornett are both longtime members of the Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries. Jackson is president of the organization, a position also held by her mother from 2008 to 2009.

Both women share a professional connection with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions.

“My mother started working for [SBOM] in 1999 and worked for 19 years,” Jackson recalled. “In 2009, I was looking for a job, and Mother suggested I apply for an opening at SBOM. To my surprise, I was hired.”

As a result of that job, which she held until 2014, Jackson joined AABS. Membership is open to those who work or volunteer in an administrative capacity at a Baptist church or entity, Jackson said.

Unexpected

“I attended my first Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries (Conference) and was so lost that first year,” she remembered.

“I didn’t know what to expect. I never expected to be in that same place my mother was as



Photo courtesy of Traci Jackson
Nancy Cornett (left) and her daughter, Traci Jackson, have in common the joy of serving as president of the Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries.

president 14 years later.”

Jackson is now a ministry assistant at Taylorville Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, where she has worked since 2017. She under-

stands the highs and lows of working for a church and the great responsibility the role entails.

The same is true for the

leadership role in AABS, she said.

“I know God is in control, but I’m still afraid I will mess something up in some way,” she admitted.

“I am just trying to keep my focus on the Lord and move forward in the best way I know how, keeping Him at the center of everything we do. I count it an honor and a privilege to have been chosen as president.”

Jackson began her term in March and will serve through March 2023.

churches, including his current role as interim youth minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Coker, where they are members.

As the mother of twin girls, Jackson gained leadership skills while president of the Montgomery Multiples Club for more than five years.

She understands being willing to serve and “move out of our comfort zone” is vital to Christian service.

“I feel the best training is just to get in there and teach and do your job,” she said. “And I had wonderful mentors. I’ve had many older women who were more experienced in the ministry who have helped me over the obstacles.”

AABS will celebrate its 60th anniversary at its annual conference, sched-

uled March 5–8, 2023, at Shocco Springs Baptist Conference Center in Talladega.

Rita Sweatt will be the guest speaker. She will focus on the story of Hagar, who was cast aside and felt unloved and unappreciated, yet God saw and heard her.

‘Renewal’

“I think the majority of ministry assistants have been there and felt that way at some point in their ministry,” Jackson said, “and we need to be reminded God still sees us and cares for us too.”

“The work that we do for the Lord does matter.”

“We are excited for the encouragement and refreshing renewal that Rita will bring us from God’s word!”

For more information about the Alabama Association of Baptist Secretaries conference, visit alabamabaptistsecretaries.com. For membership information, email officers@alabamabaptistsecretaries.com. You can also find the group on Facebook.

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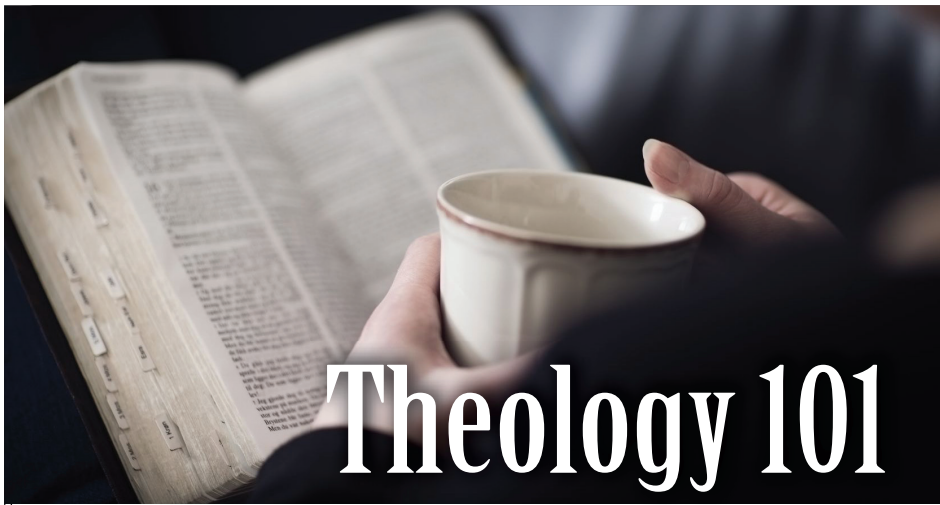
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Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of Truth

By Jerry Batson, Th.D.
The Alabama Baptist

October is the month of Halloween, which occurs on its last day. For many, this day draws attention to the spirit world of demons by its emphasis on dark images such as skeletons, skulls, ghosts, graveyards, witches, bats, darkness and black cats.

Theology 101 seeks this month to draw attention to the contrasting world of God's Spirit, characterized by life, light, truth and holiness. We will be reminding ourselves of the Holy Spirit's essence, as well as some of the evidences of Him being effectively present and at work in and through the lives of believers. We begin this spiritual journey by noting that God's Spirit is the Spirit of truth.

Our guide

On one occasion when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's ministry, He referred to Him in this way saying, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13a).

Earlier, Jesus had promised to ask the Father to give "another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:16–17).

These statements of Jesus allow us to think of the Holy Spirit as "the Truth Spirit."

The Holy Spirit illuminates truth. He brings truth to light, and He seeks to implant that truth in the lives and thinking of His children.

The Holy Spirit teaches spiritual truth, as conveyed in God's written word, to those of us who have chosen to become Christ-followers. The Word came into being through the Spirit's inspiration at work in the minds of the human writers of the books of the Bible.

Divine inspiration

The Bible is nothing less than the truth of God given to us through the work of the Holy Spirit in holy men of God — human vehicles through whom divine truth has been set forth.

If we embrace the truth that Holy Scripture is the result of the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then we must invite the indwelling Spirit to be our Helper, Interpreter and Enabler to be people of truth, both in what we believe and how we live.

The hymn writer has furnished us with a fitting daily prayer: "Spirit of the Living God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me."

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.



Tuscaloosa ministry meets international students' needs

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Amanda Gilliam remembers vividly what it was like to deliver a mattress to the apartment of an international student who had traveled to Tuscaloosa with his family for school.

"They were so grateful and said, 'Now everybody doesn't have to sleep on the floor,'" she said.

Needs like that are why she and three other women in the city started a furniture giveaway to help the hundreds of international students who arrive at the University of Alabama every fall without household items or furniture for their apartments.

"Ninety-nine percent don't have a car when they get here or the means to set up an apartment," explained Gilliam, a member of Five Points Baptist Church in Northport.

Finding purpose

Gilliam and her ministry partners — Kristin Reed, Maggie Raburn and Nesha Smelley — got the idea several years ago after taking Perspectives, a course that helps followers of Christ understand their purpose.

Reed, a member of Calvary Tuscaloosa, said she had been praying for God to show her what He wanted her to be involved in.

"He kept putting international

students in my path," she said.

So when Raburn suggested a furniture giveaway, Reed was on board, as were the others.

To get started they reached out for some pointers from a church in another state that had been doing something similar for about 20 years.

Then they started collecting items in a church annex and later used shipping containers. Now Capstone Church in Northport, where Raburn and Smelley are members, rents a warehouse.

This year's International Connect Tuscaloosa furniture giveaway was the group's fourth, bringing together more than 70 volunteers from 14 churches.

Students sign up for an appointment on the ICT website, then arrive on a Thursday night to "shop" for free.

"We pair them with American college students to walk around with them and shop for household items," Gilliam said.

Then on Friday, volunteers load up the items the students request into U-Haul trucks, and on Saturday they are delivered.

Though the big giveaway occurs in August, ICT also helps new students arriving for the spring semester in January.

For more information, visit the *International Connect Tuscaloosa Furniture Giveaway* page on Facebook.



Photo courtesy of Amanda Gilliam

Volunteers unload furniture donations to be distributed through International Connect Tuscaloosa, a ministry that helps provide furniture for international students.

Judson alumnae gather for Rose Sunday tradition

Judson College alumnae kept a century-old tradition going Sept. 11 as 150 alumnae and friends gathered at Siloam Baptist Church in Marion for Rose Sunday.

Elizabeth Wells, retired archivist for Samford University in Birmingham and recipient of Judson's Outstanding Alumna Award at the college's final graduation ceremony in 2021, spoke during the service.

She reminded those in attendance that "God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things for Him."

Continuing legacy

Judson's 183-year legacy now rests in the alumnae, she said.

"Relationships matter most," she said. "The love of Judson we share is special, and it's built on a foundation of love for the Lord."

"As we move forward in whatever we're called to do, the Lord says 'I'll be with you always.'"

The tradition of Rose Sunday, when Judson students would walk across



Photo by Cynthia Watts-Barrineau
Judson alumna Tammy Sumerlin receives a rose from Hunter Thurber during the Rose Sunday service Sept. 11.

the street from campus to Siloam for worship, dates back to 1913. Siloam hosted a Rose Sunday last year as well, and Siloam pastor John Nicholson said he hopes to continue the tradition.

"Siloam has a unique connection to the Judson family, so it was a wonderful day of celebration," Nicholson said. "The Judson community is still grieving the college's closure, so giving them space to come together and re-

member well and perhaps do a little bit of healing was important too."

This year's Rose Sunday service capped off a week-end of activities organized by the Judson College Alumnae Association, led by the group's president, Claire Kinnaird Keel. The events combined Judson's traditional fall commemoration of Rose Sunday with the traditional spring homecoming event known as J Day.

Judson College closed

July 31, 2021, but alumnae remain active in a variety of ways through the association and Always a Judson (AAJ), a nonprofit organization that acquires Judson items from auctions and donations for the purpose of preserving them and keeping them together.

Contributions from alumnae have made the purchases possible, including silverware used in the dining room in the 1940s and the silver tea service from which Judson first ladies served tea to the students on special occasions. Presently the pieces are in storage, and AAJ is looking for a location to permanently

display them, according to AAJ leaders.

Cynthia Watts-Barrineau, a former Judson student with close family ties to the college, said she values the traditions of Judson, but values more "the strong, permeating sisterhood that unites the alumnae across distance and age."

"In the words of the song, 'There'll always be Judson, and Judson will ever be/ If Judson means as much to you as Judson means to me,'" Watts-Barrineau said. "The college may be physically closed, but the spirit ... will always live in the hearts of Judson alumnae." (The Alabama Baptist)

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MY MISSIONS STORY

Barbour Association volunteers give, receive blessings from Alaska partnership

Barbour Baptist Association missions volunteers traveled in July to Palmer, Alaska, as part of an ongoing partnership between Alabama and Alaska Baptists.

In 2021, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions announced a new five-year partnership with the Alaska Baptist Resource Network.

Volunteer missions teams from Alabama Baptist churches are encouraged to provide support for a variety of needs, including helping with construction projects at churches and Christian camps, assisting with Vacation Bible School or backyard Bible clubs and a variety of other outreach ministries.

Don Hatcher, director of missions for Barbour Baptist Association, and Richard Harvey, pastor of Cross Baptist Church in Eufaula, heard of the effort and discussed putting together a team from Barbour County.

Finalizing plans

In March, Harvey announced a preplanning meeting and solicited volunteers from association churches.

By May, a team of 11 volunteers from three Barbour Association churches began to finalize plans for the trip. Team members included Aliza Chambers; Ken and Katheren Stanfield; Harvey and his sons, Graham and Wesley Harvey; and Kevin Phinney, from Cross Baptist Church in Eufaula; Mary Ellen Gatlin, from Parkview Baptist Church in Eufaula; and Brooke Hall; Ashley McCraney and her daughter, Hadley Kate McCraney, from Evergreen Baptist Church in Clayton.

The Barbour Association team assisted First Baptist Church Palmer with VBS activities.

The team traveled July 21 and on July 23 decorated the church campus and set up rooms to prepare for VBS.

Bruce Rowell, pastor of FBC



Photo courtesy of Richard Harvey

Members of the Barbour Baptist Association team enjoy Alaskan views during their missions trip to help First Baptist Church Palmer reach the children in the community.

Palmer, said the church had received more than double any previous year's preenrollment — more than 90 children.

Throughout the week of July 25–29, VBS average attendance was approximately 70 children each day. Barbour Association volunteers led in worship, Bible studies, missions, crafts and music.

The team stayed in the facilities of the church campus. One family invited the team to join their rather competitive (but really fun) kickball game. Other families and individuals brought meals of smoked salmon and halibut, shrimp fried rice and much more.

The team also enjoyed visiting several Alaska landmarks, including the Matanuska-Susitna Valley (Mat-Su Valley) region where Palmer is located. Members of the team hiked a local mountain trail called the Butte.

Exploring the region

The team also enjoyed visiting several Alaska landmarks, including the Matanuska-Susitna Valley (Mat-Su Valley) region where Palmer is located. Members of the team hiked a local mountain trail called the Butte.

They also explored Hatcher's Pass where they hiked up the mountain to a beautiful lake of

crystal clear waters created from the melting snow. They even had a snowball fight at this higher elevation with breathtaking views of the valley below.

To the south, the team was able to travel back through Anchorage and down Seward Highway to the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center.

There they saw moose, caribou, elk, bison, reindeer, wolves, bears and a variety of other creatures.

The team also traveled through the Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel (2.5 miles) in North America, to reach the port city of Whittier.

The quaint city of Palmer is active in these summer months. The team enjoyed strolling through the Friday Fling outdoor market held each week during the summer months. Eating local cuisine and shopping for souvenirs from local arts and crafts vendors was a highlight, volunteers said.

Palmer also is home to the Alaska State Fair. The rich, fertile soil of the valley and the

extensive length of sunlight — 20 hours or more — in the long Alaskan summer days makes for the perfect climate to grow some of the largest vegetables in the world. Some of these vegetables are world-record size.

'Fruitful'

There can be no doubt that while the team came to be a blessing to the congregation of FBC Palmer, they left having received a greater blessing.

The trip was fruitful on many levels.

Children's hearts were touched, and many lives were changed for eternity because of the good news of Jesus Christ.

Many families were introduced to the ministries of the church, and follow-up is planned to continue to reach out to these families.

Team members are looking forward to next summer and anticipate that this partnership between Alabama and Alaska Baptist churches will continue to thrive. The work of impacting people's lives with the hope of the gospel is still desperately needed around the world.

Annual meeting

Barbour Association's annual meeting is scheduled to be held at Louisville Baptist Church on Oct. 16. A report will be given by the Alaska missions team at that meeting. Hopefully, there will be a sign-up for a new Alaska missions team for summer 2023.

The team is grateful for the churches and individuals of the association — for their prayers, encouragement and financial support, without which this great adventure would have never taken place.

EDITOR'S NOTE — This story was contributed by Richard Harvey, pastor of Cross Baptist Church in Eufaula. This article is part of an occasional column featuring Alabama Baptists sharing their first-person missions experiences.

Share your "My Missions Story" with us by emailing it to news@thealabamabaptist.org.

Coffee Baptist Association DOM retires after decades of ministry

By Grace Thornton
The Alabama Baptist

Thirty years ago, John Granger had just led his Mobile-area church through a merger and felt God was calling him to a new season of ministry. He vividly remembers praying for God to show him where to go, whether for a short or long time.

Turns out, it was a long time.

Granger celebrated 30 years of ministry in Coffee Baptist Association in the spring. Three decades ago he was called to the pastorate of Goodman Baptist Church in Enterprise, and eight years later became the association's director of missions. To mark that milestone, the association renamed one of their buildings the Dr. John W. Granger Conference Center.

At the end of July, Granger retired.

He said the years "went by fast," but he's grateful for the pastoral support he had when he considered the role 22 years ago. He's also grateful for the support of the association's committees.

"I cannot recall one single time that I would meet with the missions development committee and say, 'Let's do this, let's start a racetrack chaplaincy or a church,' and they would say no. That really is something," Granger recalled.

Over the years the association has hosted large-scale evangelistic events ranging from a horse whisperer to a strength team, where hundreds made decisions to follow Christ. Granger also led missions trips overseas and provided Vacation Bible



Photo courtesy of Coffee Baptist Association
John W. Granger poses outside the Dr. John W. Granger Conference Center at Coffee Baptist Association.

Schools in other parts of the state.

He also encouraged the association to sponsor children and youth summer camps at Vineyard Christian Retreat, a ministry of the association. Two years ago the camp reported more decisions for Christ than in all the association's 48 churches.

During his time as DOM, gifts rose from around \$62,000 a year to some \$250,000, and the association has been instrumental in starting several churches including Church of All

Nations, Faith Community and Lighthouse Bible Baptist. He also helped bring John Gunter on as regional Hispanic missionary for seven associations in the area.

Rick Barnhart, director of the office of associational missions and church planting for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said Granger has been a unifier for the association and demonstrated vision for what might be done.

"He and I spent many days driving around evaluating where a good church plant could go and how it could be

accomplished and how he could get churches to partner together," Barnhart recalled. "And he was planting a church himself while being at the association."

'Light to community'

Granger has served as pastor of that congregation, Church on Boll Weevil Circle in Enterprise, at different times since he started it in the association's office in 2005 with one other person. He serves there now, and though he is retiring from the DOM role, he plans to continue to serve as the pastor.

"It's a challenge when you start with nothing, but it's been a blessing," Granger said of the congregation in 2019. "God has done so much through this loving and devoted congregation. We have great hope we'll be able to continue being a light to the community."

Barnhart said he's grateful for Granger's contributions to the association's ministry.

"He's been a friend, been supportive of the State Board of Missions and very much involved in all aspects you would like to see an associational missionary get involved in," Barnhart said. "He's strategic, good in planting and very thorough in teaching, support and encouragement for pastors."

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BIVOCATIONAL PASTOR

Dunns Creek Baptist Church in Echola, Alabama, is prayerfully seeking a bivocational pastor. Please send resumé to: jaanderson@live.com.

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East Gadsden Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a part-time music director. Please send resumé and/or experience to: eastgadsdenbaptist@gmail.com.

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Faith Baptist Church Midway, located in Lawrence County, Alabama, is currently searching for a bivocational minister of music. This individual will be responsible for leading worship for the congregation as well as rehearsing and directing the choir. The minister of music must be willing to present a well-blended program of music that will promote worship and exalt our Savior. Please submit resumé by email to: secretary@fbcma.com.

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Grant First Baptist Church, Grant, Alabama, is seeking a bivocational worship arts pastor/leader for our blended worship service. To apply, submit your resumé with links to worship services that you led to: musicsearch@fbcgrant.com no later than Oct. 7.

OTHER POSITIONS

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First Baptist Church Union Grove is seeking to fill the staff position of pianist. Interested parties may send resumé to: First Baptist Church Union Grove, P.O. Box 125, Union Grove, AL 35175.

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First Baptist Church Vincent is seeking a part-time pianist. This position would include playing for the Sunday morning worship service and Wednesday night choir practice. If interested, please call Pastor Robbie

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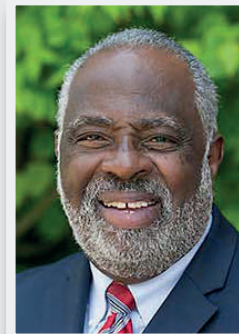


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**Robert
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Interpretation for the Deaf will be provided for each session of the Pastors Conference and the Annual Meeting.



**Joel
Carwile**

State convention, other defendants seek dismissal in lawsuit related to Judson College bonds

By Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

Defendants in a lawsuit connected to the financial difficulties of Judson College filed a motion Sept. 28 to dismiss the case.

The plaintiff — Frank C. Mann, a businessman from Winston County — was part of a group of bond holders who put up \$11,230,000 in 2010 to assist Judson officials with financial needs at the time. Mann purchased a \$1 million bond and is suing to recover his investment.

His suit was filed July 15 in the 10th Judicial Circuit Court of Alabama in Jefferson County and named the following as defendants:

- ▶ Judson trustees — Charles F. Dunkin, Roy A. Barnett Jr., Bruce Fuller, Judith Karen Favor and Joan Vignes Newman, who serves as the current chair of the board of trustees. Dunkin, Barnett, Fuller and Favor were trustees in 2010; Newman was not.

- ▶ Judson president — Daphne Rudicell Robinson, who served as a trustee in 2010.

- ▶ Former Judson staff member and general counsel — Joseph W. “Bill” Mathews, who served at the school for about a decade beginning in 2008.



Photo by Jennifer Davis Rash/The Alabama Baptist
Judson College's campus in Marion sits quietly since the school closed in 2021.

- ▶ Others — the Alabama Baptist State Convention, the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions and Rick Lance, SBOM executive director.

Defense reasoning

Legal representatives of the defendants are seeking to dismiss the case “in its entirety” for a host of reasons, including the statutes of limitations, the individual defendants’ immunity from suits and the language of the bond instruments.

Judson reportedly paid promised

semiannual interest payments on schedule every year since selling the bonds in 2010, at least until the school closed July 31, 2021.

Mann alleges the Oct. 1, 2021, and April 1, 2022, interest payments were not made and believes bond holders were misled about the security of the bonds, which were set to mature serially between 2011 and 2040.

Information on how many bonds exist and who invested in them was not readily available, but

Mann’s complaint states the current outstanding principal balance is \$9,030,000.

Judson administrators are still attempting to sell the campus to fulfill the bonds’ interest payments and final payout as well as clear unpaid loans at three banking institutions.

Judson’s debt reportedly totaled more than \$15 million when it closed. Efforts are being made to reach Judson officials regarding a financial status update.

Other suits filed

With Judson not being named in the suit, the president, former staff member and five current board members named are represented by individual attorneys. Judson attorneys Ethan Tidmore and Wood Herron are monitoring the case as well as handling lawsuits specific to Judson.

The college was named in two suits filed in September. Three banks in Perry County filed a suit Sept. 12 related to \$5.2 million in unpaid loans. Regions Bank filed a suit Sept. 19 connected to the more than \$9 million in outstanding bonds (the same set of bonds referred to by Mann) “plus accrued interest, fees and costs that continue to accrue.”

SBOM legal fees for Judson-related lawsuit being paid out of contingency fund; Lance reassures no CP money to be used

By Jennifer Davis Rash
The Alabama Baptist

Frank C. Mann’s lawsuit naming the Alabama Baptist State Convention and the State Board of Missions as defendants will not hurt Alabama Baptist ministry efforts, said SBOM executive director Rick Lance, who also is named in the suit.

State Board action

No current or future Cooperative Program funds will be used in defense of the suit, he said, noting trustees of SBOM confirmed this fact in August through an official motion

in the form of a resolution. Any legal fees not covered by insurance will be paid out of a contingency fund built up through the years for unforeseen circumstances, he explained.

Regarding the defendants’ request for dismissal, Lance is optimistic.

“The simple truth is that neither the state Baptist convention nor any of its officers played any role in the decision to issue bonds for Judson College and are not in any sense responsible for the repayment of those bonds,” he said in a prepared statement. “The Con-

vention and its leadership will vigorously oppose the false allegations contained in the lawsuit.”

Connection

“Since 1838, Alabama Baptist churches and individuals have contributed millions to Judson College to support its mission of providing Christian higher education for women, including an untold number of graduates and other alumnae,” Lance said. “The financial failure of Judson is a tragedy for Christian higher education, but it is not the fault of the Alabama Baptist State Convention or

of ABSC leadership, past or present.”

The state convention is a 501(c)(3) association of churches. It functions two days each year when its members — known as messengers — convene for their annual convention meeting.

The convention has no employees and no board of directors. Baptist churches cooperating with the convention send their selected messengers to the annual meeting to vote on various items including how to distribute the voluntary funds coming from those cooperating churches and to

approve board members for the various fostered entities.

Fostered entities are non-profit institutions “whose work is financially supported by the convention and whose ministries receive the convention’s encouragement and nurture,” according to the convention’s bylaws, which were last revised in 1998. The specifics on the legal relationship with fostered entities is in bylaw 3C.

‘Corporate integrity’

It declares in part: “The Convention will carefully respect the individual corporate integrity of other

entities which enjoy corporate standing under the laws of this or any state. While the entities fostered by this Convention may be referred to as agencies, they are in no wise legal agents of this Convention. ... Each corporate entity fostered by the Convention shall trade, contract, create indebtedness, employ, execute notes, buy, sell and do all other business in its own name and in no way as agent for the Convention."

It further declares "the Convention expects that entities fostered by the Convention will ... function under the legal control of a governing body composed of persons who are members of churches cooperating with this Convention."

Seven fostered entities are currently supported by churches in their giving through the Cooperative Program, but each entity has its own governing board of directors or board of trustees. Judson was supported in this way before it closed the school July 31, 2021. The incorporated business side of Judson continues to exist as a stand-alone unit, a decision made by board members to have more time to finalize the business matters before fully dissolving.

Trustee board

The Judson board is composed of up to 32 rotating members plus a few honorary lifetime members, who hold "all the rights, powers and privileges of active members," according to Judson's by-laws.

Along with allowing convention messengers to approve its board members, Judson also allowed the convention to approve any proposed charter changes

that might have occurred through the years.

The only other legal tie between Judson and the convention is the convention is to receive the college's remaining assets upon its dissolution.

Nonvoting role

Lance, who by nature of his role as executive director of SBOM, also serves as treasurer for the state convention and as an ex officio (nonvoting) member of the boards of each of the fostered entities.

As an ex officio member of Judson's board until the school closed in 2021, Lance attended board meetings from time to time. However, he was not present at the board meeting related to the bond decision approved

by trustees in 2010, the focus of Mann's suit, and would not have been able to vote if he had been present.

All decisions related to Judson were made by its board of trustees and

neither Lance, the state convention nor SBOM had anything to do with those decisions, according to legal representatives for Lance, the convention and SBOM.

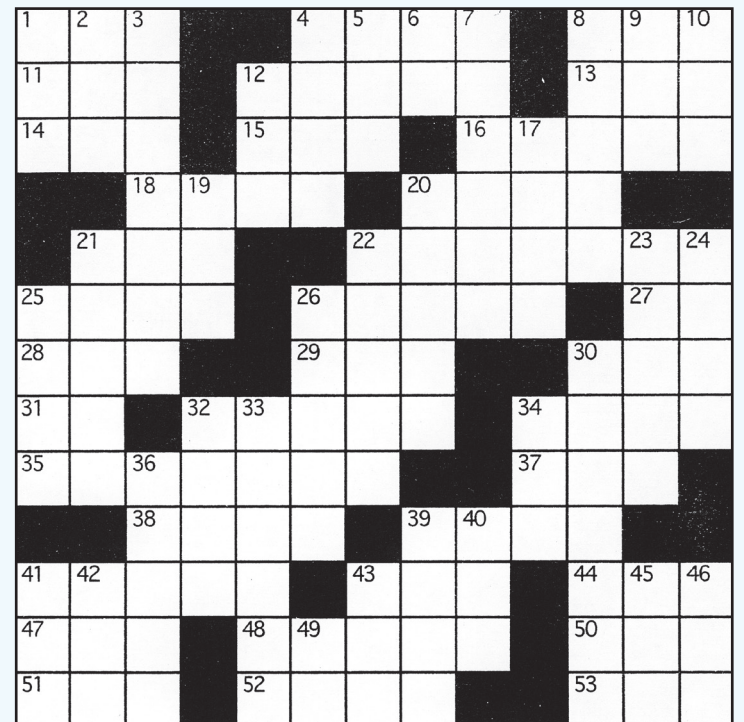
During its recent August meeting, the State Board authorized Lance to oversee the state convention's response to the suit "with the advice and counsel" of the SBOM trustees' executive committee.

Additionally, the convention bylaws authorize the SBOM trustees to act on behalf of the convention ad interim (between annual meetings), so the SBOM members also empowered their executive committee to act on the convention's behalf on "any matter relating to the Mann lawsuit."

CHRISTIAN crossword

ACROSS

1. "There is a way which seemeth right unto a ____." (Prov. 14:12)
4. "Whereby we cry, ____, Father." (Rom. 8:15)
8. Harness part.
11. "Why make ye this ____, and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
12. "____ down all thy strongholds." (Mic. 5:11)
13. Alphonso's queen.
14. Still.
15. Trav. org.
16. Mother of Ishmael.
18. April. (Ex. 13:4)
20. Telegram.
21. Graduate degree.
22. "____ cumi." (Mark 5:41)
25. "Then shalt thou lay up ____ as dust." (Job 22:24)
26. "There is a great gulf ____." (Luke 16:26)
27. Printer's measure.
28. One. (Scot.)
29. Before. (poet.)
30. "Will do all that thou shalt ____ us." (2 Kings 10:5)
31. Pronoun.
32. Planted.
34. Extremely.
35. "For by Him were all things created ... whether they be ____." (Col. 1:16)
37. ____ and outs.
38. Camel's ____.
39. "In ____, I will call them My people." (Rom. 9:25)
41. Wild. (Sp.)
43. Egg. (comb. form)
44. "Thou shalt put away iniquity ____ from thy tabernacles." (Job 22:23)
47. Reply. (abbr.)



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48. Not in your wildest dreams.
50. A son of Caleb. (1 Chron. 4:15)
51. Earl Grey, for example.
52. Wither.
53. Number of Joseph's brothers who went to buy corn in Egypt. (Gen. 42:3)

DOWN

1. Cape ____, New Jersey.
2. Fruit drink.
3. "A ____ prisoner named Barabbas." (Matt. 27:16)
4. An evil king of Israel.
5. South American country. (abbr.)
6. "First" name of nursery rhyme character.
7. Short time.
8. "Take ye wives, and ____ sons and daughters." (Jer. 29:6)
9. Actress Claire.
10. ____ paper.
12. A group of Asian languages.
17. Parched.
19. Good. (antonym)
20. "For this people's heart is ____ gross."
- (Matt. 13:15)
21. Sivan, the third ____.
- (Esther 8:9)
22. Bores.
23. "And if children, then ____." (Rom. 8:17)
24. Aunt Bea's nephew.
25. Manner of walking.
26. "To the ____, ye shall give the less inheritance." (Num. 33:54)
30. "That ye might have a second ____." (2 Cor. 1:15)
32. Rise above.
33. "Melons, and the leeks, and the ____." (Num. 11:5)
34. Compete.
36. Son of Zorobabel. (Luke 3:27)
39. Preposition.
40. Term of address.
41. Physical trait of Mrs. Sprat.
42. Chemical suffix.
43. Female cell. (pl.)
45. Linking verb.
46. "Rejoiceth as a strong man to ____ a race." (Ps. 19:5)
49. Shoe width

All Bible verses are KJV unless otherwise specified.

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Growing, challenging youth through missions

(continued from page 1)

... 25 people, 21 students and four adults. None of his students were above the 10th grade!”

Through the years, the trips have evolved to help meet needs where they are greatest — serving as VBS workers, leading worship or canvassing communities to invite children to attend VBS.

In recent years, Creola FBC students have conducted a VBS in New Iberia, Louisiana, at Loreauville Baptist Church and helped host VBS at First Baptist Church New Iberia.

Economical trips

The trips are economical, Travis noted. Students hold fundraisers to pay for gas and food, and host churches often help provide materials, space for volunteers to stay and meals.

At FBC New Iberia, Creola FBC groups began helping with VBS around 2015. Jenny Shores, an Alabama native and now youth and VBS director at FBC New Iberia, said having the help of Creola FBC students during the church’s “rebuilding



Photo courtesy of Chip Travis

During VBS at Loreauville Baptist Church in 2016, a student presents Aurelia Travis with a drawing to thank volunteers with Creola First Baptist Church who traveled from Alabama.

phase” has made all the difference.

“We have our people here currently working, but they double our numbers when they come,” she explained. “It’s a blessing for our church family. You need people who will come in and be willing to sit down and talk with children and

smile and carry on conversations ... to share the love of Jesus with them.

“The spirit that they bring with them, it’s just this spirit of cooperation,” Shores continued.

‘Heart for missions’

“They help us be more useful by coming and serving in any capacity,” she noted. “[Creola FBC leaders] are creating [in them] a heart for missions, a heart for serving and working for God.”

Brown noted the ministry serves to grow and challenge the youth who participate.

And the students embrace the opportunity to make VBS their own and see what missions is all about, Travis added.

“[Travis] has always said to them, ‘You are at your best when you are serving others.’ It’s a joy to watch them take that to heart as they focus on others and serve them,” Brown reflected.

Cason Martin, worship leader at Downtown Church in Mobile, began to realize a call to music ministry while participating in VBS missions

trips. He went on six with Creola FBC, the first when he was 13.

“The trips to Louisiana had a tremendous impact on my life, and God used this missions opportunity to help shape who I am today,” Martin acknowledged.

“Scripture tells us Jesus did not come to be served, but He came to serve. Our team left Louisiana every year with a deeper understanding of the importance of loving and serving people.

“I can still remember many of the names and faces of children we met in Louisiana over the years. I can still remember their smiles ... the sound of their sweet voices singing praise to Jesus. We still talk about these trips to Louisiana and the impact it made on all of us.”

‘Love and passion’

“Many of my friends who participated in these trips are now serving in ministry or chose a career of service to the community,” Martin said. “My love and passion for leading God’s people in worship started in Louisiana.”



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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For October 9

Explore the Bible

By Robert Olsen, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



NO COMPASSION Jonah 4:1–11

Contempt (1–4)

Jonah obeyed God and preached to the city of Nineveh, telling its people to repent or God would bring judgment. The people of Nineveh listened and repented in sackcloth and with fasting.

Instead of rejoicing at the Ninevites' behavior, Jonah was angry.

He was angry because God decided to relent and not bring judgment upon a city of Israel's enemies. He knew God was gracious and would therefore extend grace, even to the enemies of God's chosen people. Jonah didn't want to see these people get saved; he wanted them to die.

This section has two important lessons. First, it shows us God cares for all people, even those who seem far from Him.

Second Peter 3:9 says, "The Lord does not delay His promise, as some understand delay, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance."

God has always been a missional God, wanting Israel to be a priest to all the nations and His representative. This should motivate us even more to be concerned with all the peoples of the world, supporting missionaries and ministries that reach all people, here at home and abroad.

Second, this shows we can become hardhearted toward those we see as God's enemies. I am sure Jonah wanted to see these people punished for their wickedness.

It is easy to be a modern-day Jonah when we choose to not offer grace to others. It is easy for us to want to see God punish evildoers, especially ones who have wronged us. Elisabeth Elliot could have held a grudge against the Auca men who killed her husband and his companions, but instead she returned to do missions work that ultimately led to the salvation of the very men who murdered her husband.

Anger (5–9)

Jonah sat down east of the city to wait and see whether God would destroy it. While Jonah waited, God

made a plant grow up to give the prophet shade, which Jonah enjoyed. God then caused a worm to eat the plant and kill it so the sun shown on Jonah's head.

This made Jonah angry, so much so that he wanted to die. God confronted Jonah about the vine, reminding him how he had done nothing to make the vine grow and asking why he was so angry about it.

Jonah was angry about something God had created and destroyed. Does God not have the right to do what He wants with His creation? Yet Jonah was angry about the plant, but not about the people God had created.

How many times do we fall into the same trap? God is gracious; He provides for His creation, yet often we act as if we have a right over creation. We get angry with God when things don't go the way we want, as if we have a right to dictate to God how things should work out for us. We often take advantage of God's grace and abuse it.

Compassion (10–11)

God confronts Jonah about his attitude toward the plant. God sees the inconsistency between caring for part of God's creation, but not caring for other parts. The book finishes with God telling Jonah He cares for the 120,000 people in Nineveh as well as the animals.

This lesson reminds us that we should care for all people. We may look at some people like criminals and politicians and think they are worthy of God's condemnation. We have to remember that all of us were God's enemies at some point (Rom. 5:8), and if not for God's grace, we would all stand condemned.

Because God offered grace to us, we offer grace to others to demonstrate God's love to them, and we hope God uses us to bring others into His kingdom. Instead of being sour and bitter like Jonah, we should be joyful when we see others come into God's kingdom, even if they were our enemies.

Bible Studies for Life

By Rony Kozman, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



FAITH ON DISPLAY IN YOUR PRIORITIES James 4:13–17, 5:7–11

Subject your plans to God's will. (4:13–17)

James turns now to address those who are rich. He has two complaints against them. First, James addresses those whose plans include pursuing the production of wealth. James' problem is not simply with business ventures in and of themselves, but with the arrogant attitude that underlies those who acquire wealth for themselves. James denounces the idea of the self-made person.

To people who claim they are self-made, that they did it all on their own or that they picked themselves up by their bootstraps, James says, "You boast in your arrogance."

For James, there is no self-made individual. Any time we have to earn money and any skills we use to acquire financial gain are all gifts from God, and they depend on God's will.

But James' criticism of the wealthy continues: "Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, commits sin." What is this right thing that the rich know but do not do?

Perhaps what they know is spelled out in the verses that follow, where the rich have defrauded and murdered the poor.

James continues his address of "you rich people" and chastises them with a critique that mimics the voice of Israel's prophets: "Weep and wail for the miseries that are coming to you."

James charges the rich with defrauding and murdering their poor workers while they themselves live in luxury.

While the wealthy landowners live in opulence and enjoy their wealth, they have kept back the wages their workers need to purchase the necessities of life.

By keeping back the wages due to their poor workers who depend on those wages to live, the rich are stealing from the poor and are (in a sense) murdering them, because

the rich are robbing them of their means of life.

The poor are described as "the righteous," since this description resonates with Jesus Christ. The poor are aligned with Jesus, the righteous One, who did not resist or rebel against those who condemned and murdered Him.

The very wealth the rich have held back will testify against the wealthy, and it will become the means of God's judgment against them.

Focus on the Lord's return. (5:7–9)

While James has castigated the wealthy, he aligns his audience with the poor who are being oppressed by them.

He encourages the poor to persevere through their suffering and unjust oppression.

They can take courage that when Jesus returns, God will judge their oppressors, and they will be rescued from their oppression.

Just as farmers patiently wait for the rain to water their crops, James tells the poor they should patiently wait for Jesus' return.

In the meantime, they must not grumble lest they also fall under God's judgment.

Stay the course. (10–11)

The members of James' audience, who in James' economic world are the poor oppressed by the rich, should endure just as Job endured his great suffering.

Job persevered. And God restored Job's fortune even beyond what he initially had (Job 42:10–17).

So also the poor and oppressed followers of Jesus can expect that when they endure, God who is merciful and compassionate hears their cry.

God will rescue them (when Jesus returns) from their suffering and oppression, and they will receive a bountiful reward that exceeds their expectations.

MEDIA REVIEWS

By Minnie Lamberth and Lori White

The Alabama Baptist

Authors share experiences, trust in God through life struggles

Parable Seeds: Second Sowing

Jackson Day
Jack Day, 2020

Jackson Day is an experienced author who believes in the power of stories to teach truth. After retiring from Christian ministry at age 62, he says he “recycled” himself into a storyteller.

“My goal is that everyone be entertained with some good stories, and that those who are spiritually sensitive would hear a word from God,” he writes.

Day’s previous books include, “Preaching with Storytelling” and “Key Bible Stories,” both of which are resources for Bible storytelling. In one of his more recent works, “Parable Seeds: Second Sowing,” Day returns to this fertile ground.

“Each story found in this book contains a seed of what one should believe or how one should behave,” he writes in the foreword.

Some of the stories are drawn

from his own life and family. Others are imagined as parables, but each brings to light a truth that can be shared with others. For example, Day looks at a well-known Bible story from the perspective of a young donkey selected by two men to fulfill the request of their master.

The colt has an extraordinary journey carrying a man through crowds cheering “Hosanna,” and he later tells others how the people cheered for him.

But the next week, when he makes the same journey without the man riding on his back, no one notices him. As the colt returns home disappointed, he asks his mother what happened.

Day concludes with her response: “Son, without Jesus, you’re just a donkey.” (Minnie Lamberth)

Much Like Joseph: From Pit to Glory

Desire Nana
Trilogy Christian Publishing, 2021
Desire Nana has a French name that has long been confusing when people see it in writing. But he’s clear about his desire to tell the story of how his life changed when he became a Christian.

Nana grew up in difficult circumstances in Cameroon, where he lived in poverty and dealt with the danger of an abusive, alcoholic father.

Yet in his memoir, “Much Like Joseph: From Pit to Glory,” he has a conversion experience to share, a renewed heart to explain and godly provision to honor. He likens his journey to the patriarch Joseph.

“God worked through my childhood, education, failures, chaos and abuse to bring me from Cameroon to the Promised Land,” he writes. “He used my mom, a stranger, a teacher, some elders and brothers

in Christ to realize His plans for my life.”

Nana was able to achieve his dreams, such as moving to America and serving in the U.S. military, as he lived a life guided by faith, Scripture, prayer and mentors.

Notably, many of the miracles he describes could happen to anyone anywhere.

“The Lord called me to do things out of the ordinary,” Nana concludes, “like being kind to my enemies by overcoming evil with good, avoiding strife, forgiving even if I thought that the other person should ask for forgiveness first, and trusting in the Lord, having faith — not fear or dismay — in the midst of adversity.” (Minnie Lamberth)

Getting Off the Fence Post: Choosing How to Face Difficult Times

William “Buddy” Nelson
Westbow Press, 2022

As the pandemic lockdown of 2020 began, pastor William “Buddy” Nelson wanted to communicate a message of love, hope and reassurance to his separated congregation. He says the imperative at that time was “to guide the church to maintain spiritual health, assist my family and seek God’s direction for all of us.”

Nelson began to write to his congregation, Lakeview Baptist Church in Oxford, during the three-month lockdown and was encouraged by

how many responded positively.

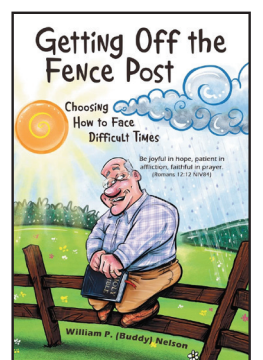
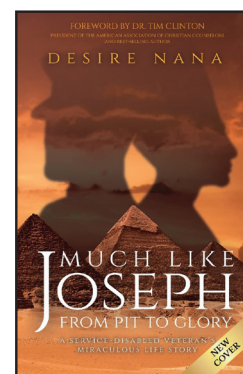
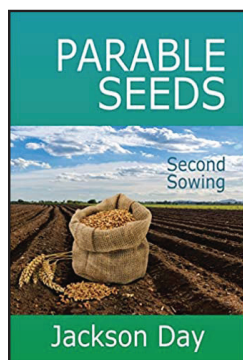
A few emails with words of connection for believers separated by circumstances became an ongoing ministry that spread to others battling similar hurdles. Of 400 devotionals written in this time, Nelson selected 90 to include in “Getting Off the Fence Post: Choosing How to Face Difficult Times.”

Nelson’s focus passage is from Romans 12:12, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” With that direction in mind, his devotions give insight and direction in times that steal our joy and test our hope, patience and faithfulness.

Drawing on a full life of ministry — from his youth as the son of a pastor through 48 years of ministry in Kentucky and Alabama, including serving during a global pandemic — Nelson tells relatable stories with timely advice. Each devotion ends with a prayer the reader can borrow when at a loss for words.

Readers can open this book to any page and find a word of encouragement for a tough day or season, a Bible verse that fits the topic and a relevant story.

The devotionals can be read one at a time or several in one sitting. Nelson writes in his introduction, “It is my prayer readers will find the love of Christ, along with His hope, comfort, peace, love and joy, along with a determination to stay focused on Him no matter what might be happening in our lives.” (Lori White)



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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The Alabama Baptist

‘Ken’s 10’

By Michael J. Brooks
The Baptist Paper

Tips for teaching Sunday School and leading Bible studies

Ken Braddy said there are a number of things he’d tell his “younger self” after some 30 years in Christian education ministry. He calls them “Ken’s 10,” his top 10 tips for those who lead group Bible study.

Braddy, director of Sunday School and network partnerships for Lifeway Christian Resources, shared the tips in a “Training Thru ’22” webinar. “Training Thru ’22” is a series of free webinars developed by Lifeway for Bible study leaders.

Valuable asset

Braddy said he has been a Bible study teacher in every church he has served, in addition to being a vocational minister. He values the work of Bible study teachers in Southern Baptist churches. “Ken’s 10” tips are designed to help teachers lead more effectively:

1. Sit down to increase conversation.

“When someone stands to lecture, it means they’re the authority figure, and you’re there to hear them,” Braddy said.

2. Use “pair share” or triads.

“Sometimes individuals are reluctant to answer questions or to dialogue, but we can pair them or form triads and ask them to come up with a response,” Braddy explained. “This involves the shy members, allows everyone to talk and builds and strengthens relationships within the group.”

3. Focus on the “first stage” of Bible study.

Braddy noted the three “rocket stages” of Bible study are motivation, examination and application. “I suggested the first is the most

important. That is, we have to interest people in the material before we can explain and apply it. We must find a way to convince them the day’s study is relevant to their lives.”

4. Arrange meeting space in a circle.

“When we have rows, people are looking at the backs of other people’s heads,” Braddy explained. “With a circle, we see the faces of others, just like we do in our living rooms at home. We don’t use rows at home.”

5. Don’t answer your own questions.

“If someone doesn’t answer within a few seconds we tend to get anxious,” he noted. “When we answer our own questions we teach group members to outwait us, knowing we’ll respond. [Research] found that sometimes quality thinking comes when we wait up

to 20 seconds for a response.”

He sometimes takes a sip of water or coffee while waiting on responses, Braddy said, rather than staring at the group.

6. Talk less and encourage discussion.

“It’s been called the ‘yakety-yak principle,’ Braddy said. “This means that when people talk through issues, they learn more.”

One teacher “insisted the first step of transformation is to

raise questions.”

Quoting from a book he co-wrote with his predecessor, David Francis, Braddy said, “Talking doesn’t equal teaching any more than listening equals learning.”

7. Start and end on time.

“It’s disrespectful to those who are on time when we waste time waiting on the latecomers,” he said. “And it also teaches people to be late as well as reducing the

amount of time we have for Bible study.”

Braddy noted most people today are not weekly attenders.

He said, “If we only get them once or twice each month, it compounds the importance of using our time wisely.”

8. Begin preparation earlier rather than later.

Braddy said Lifeway’s metrics show the two busiest times lesson helps are accessed on the internet are Saturday night between 6 and 10 p.m. and Sunday morning.

‘Life-changing study’

“I’m happy we can help with resources, but not happy that many wait until the last minute,” he lamented. “It’s so much better to spend half an hour each night so we can be ready to guide life-changing study on Sunday morning.”

9. Teach with variety.

“A baseball pitcher who throws the same pitch loses the game,” he explained. “We need to keep our groups slightly off balance by being less predictable and using a variety of learning activities. We’ve documented some 24–26 different ways Jesus taught, so He’s our model in this quest.”

10. Use ongoing curriculum.

“We offer three basic approaches to Bible study at Lifeway,” he noted. “Each lesson series is unique, and all are reliable. Putting learner guides in the hands of our attendees is good.

“It’s advantageous for them to have study guides to use when they’re not with the group on Sunday or whenever the group meets.”

Visit Lifeway.com/training22 to view the list of webinars.

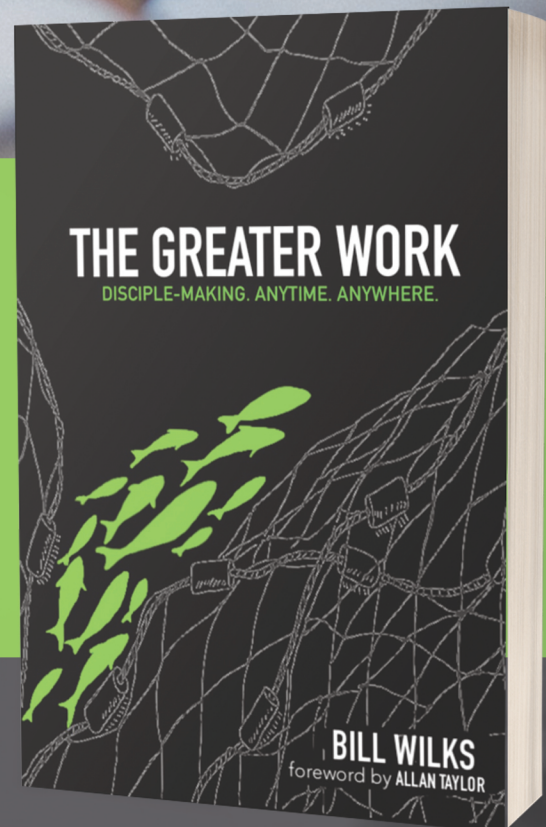
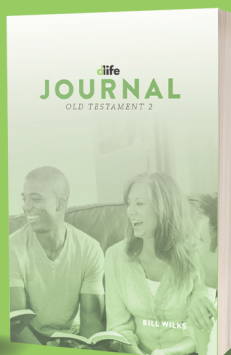
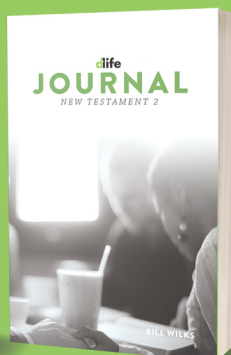
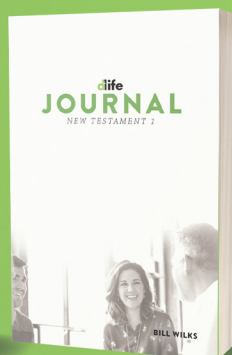
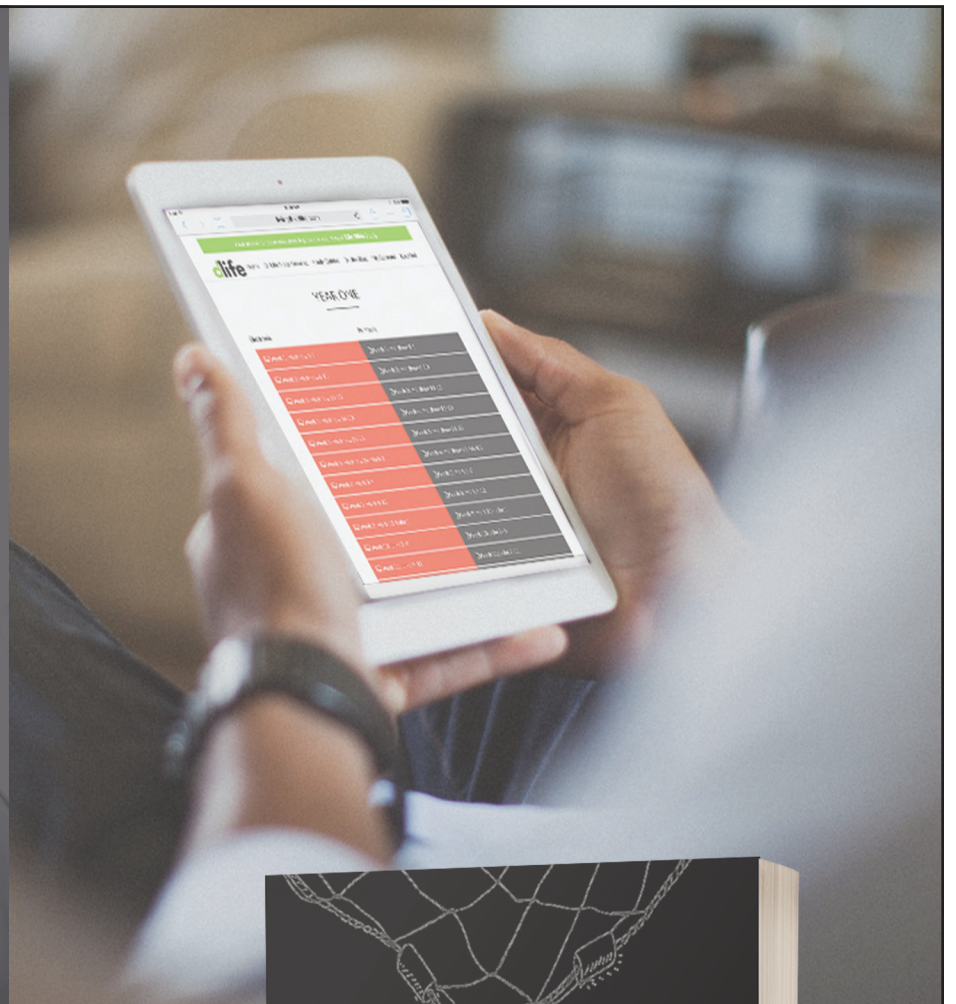
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By J. Gerald Harris
The Christian Index

Disc golfer makes impact for God on professional circuit

Alden Harris sees the professional disc golf community as his missions field. Harris, 21, a member of First Baptist Church Woodstock, Georgia, is a rising star in the world of disc golf. The first weekend of August, he won the prestigious Mid America Disc Golf Open Silver Series at Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course in Columbia, Missouri.

Growing sport

Disc golf is a sport that is growing in popularity at an incredible pace. In fact, the number of people embracing disc golf is growing exponentially all over the world.

According to UDisc, a popular disc golf scoring app, it is one of the fastest growing sports in modern times.

Disc golf has been referred to as regular golf's "younger laid-back cousin."

If you have gone for a walk in a public park recently, you may have seen disc golf baskets strategically scattered about, and you may have seen people attempting to throw the frisbee-like discs into the baskets.

Special skills

Disc golf professionals work tirelessly to hone their skills in the sport and can make some incredible shots as they fling their discs hundreds of feet through very narrow corridors lined with trees and bushes.

Sometimes these golfers must be contortionists to position themselves to make a putt into the basket from behind massive trees or low-hanging limbs.

Harris, who is about to start



Alden Harris (center) poses with his parents, Jerry and Andrea Harris, while on the disc golf tour. Alden won the prestigious Mid America Disc Golf Open Silver Series at Harmony Bends Disc Golf Course in Columbia, Missouri.

his senior year of online studies in sports management at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, is currently under contract with Prodigy Disc Golf.

He has had 10 career wins authorized by the Professional Disc Golf Association, including victories in the Music City Open in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Challenge at Goat Hill Park in Ocean-side, California.

Harris drives up to 40,000 miles a year crisscrossing the nation in a specialized, personalized van.

He generally tries to arrive at each disc golfing venue early enough to get in two or three practice rounds before the tournament begins.

In commenting on his 26-under-par victory at the Mid America Open, Harris explained, "It was a great battle. ... It was extremely gratifying because of all the hard work I have invested in my sport. It was also a blessing because I wanted to win for my family and all my friends who have supported me. It was the biggest win of my career so far."

'Opportunity'

Harris continued, "God puts people in so many different places, and He put me in the pro disc golf community. I'm so thankful God has put me in this position, because it has given me the amazing opportunity to make His

name known among this close-knit community that will profit greatly from learning more about Jesus."

Jeremy Morton, pastor of FBC Woodstock, stated, "I am so proud of Alden's success. To be so gifted in this sport at such a young age is quite impressive.

"But even more so, I am thrilled that Alden has been quite vocal about his faith in Christ among the disc golf community. His success has opened the door for him to share his testimony and God is using him."

Godly parents

"This is no surprise to anyone who knows Alden's family. He was raised by two of the best church members we have at First Baptist Woodstock," Morton said. "His parents, Jerry and Andrea Harris, have truly raised him to love and trust Christ."

Dustin Leatherman, who has a Christian ministry in the disc golf community called Eagles Wings, also praised Alden's efforts.

"Alden is an incredible competitor whose humble nature and success on the course has earned him the respect and admiration of not only his teammates, but his fellow competitors in the sport.

"Alden has used that platform to boldly share his faith in both his actions and words as an ambassador for Christ," Leatherman said. "While he is a man of few words, he uses his platform in a powerful way!

"Your platform may not be in the disc golf world, but as the old hymn suggests, 'Brighten the corner where you are.'"

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"AND SINCE YOU ARE HERE FOR
OUR SUNDAY MORNING BRUNCH,
LET ME BEGIN WITH A BRIEF
SYNOPSIS OF TODAY'S SUNDAY
SCHOOL LESSON. FROM FIRST
THESSALONIANS CHAPTER TWO..."



The Wellness Kitchen

"Nature is God's Wellness Kitchen where Food is Medicine."

By Pat Terry
The Wellness Kitchen

ROASTED EGGPLANT SALAD

Makes 4 main or 8 side servings

INGREDIENTS:

Dressing:

2 tablespoons lemon juice
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
1 garlic clove, minced
1 teaspoon thyme leaves fresh, or 1/2 teaspoon dried
1 teaspoon raw honey
1/2 teaspoon each Kosher salt and pepper

1 large garlic clove, smashed and skin removed
1 bay leaf
2 sprigs fresh thyme, or 1/2 teaspoon dried
2 medium eggplants, rinsed and dried with the stem cut off
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/4 teaspoon each Kosher salt and pepper

Lentils:

1 cup dried green or brown lentils
1 cup vegetable or chicken broth
1 1/2 cups water

Salad:

8 ounces cherry tomatoes, halved, or quartered if large
4 ounces arugula
6 ounces feta, blue cheese, or goat cheese

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Combine all dressing ingredients and shake together in a jar.
2. Combine lentil ingredients in a saucepan and bring to a simmer over medium heat. Cover and lower the heat to maintain a gentle simmer. Cook for 20 minutes. Don't let the lentils get soft.
3. Drain and remove the garlic, bay leaf and thyme. Rinse and shake off all the excess water.
4. While the lentils are cooking, preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Line a half sheet pan with parchment paper.
5. Cut the unpeeled eggplant into 1-inch cubes. Toss well in a large bowl with the olive oil, salt and pepper. Immediately spread out on the pan without crowding and roast on the middle rack for 25 to 30 minutes, turning eggplant over after about 15 minutes. Edges should be caramelized.
6. Add tomatoes and arugula into the lentils and pour over most of the dressing and toss. Put on a serving platter and top with the eggplant. Drizzle with the rest of the dressing and add the cheese.

Adapted from recipetineats.com

What's in season right now? Eggplant!

Eggplant is an American name for a vegetable that probably originated in India. Eggplant is an oval-shaped vegetable with glossy purple skin and a bright green cap.

Known as aubergine in some other countries, eggplant is popular in Indian, Mediterranean and Chinese cuisines.

American or globe eggplant is the largest and has a teardrop shape. Italian eggplant is smaller and sweeter. It comes in other colors (striped, black or white). Chinese eggplants are long and narrow and have a pale violet color.

They too have a sweeter flavor. There also are miniature heirloom varieties.

Eggplant is popular in cooking because it has a meaty texture and mild flavor. It will soak up the flavor of any dish to which it is added while giving a creamy texture to the

dish. Whatever the color, eggplants are low in calories and packed with nutrient density.

Peak time: July to October

Average price: \$1.49 per pound

Nutritional highlights: Eggplant is low in calories at about 38 per

cup. It is a good source of manganese, potassium, folic acid, vitamins C and K and dietary fiber. Eggplant is especially high in phytonutrients, antioxidants that protect the body from chronic disease. The purple hues of eggplant contain a pigment that is rich in anthocyanin. One anthocyanin in eggplant is called nasunin and

is an especially powerful antioxidant that has protective effects for the heart. Other phytonutrients help protect against certain types of cancers. The dietary fibers and phytonutrients called polyphenols in eggplant help regulate blood sugar.



Unsplash.com

Pat Terry started The Wellness Kitchen as a way to share the knowledge she's acquired over the 30 years she served as a professor of nutrition and dietetics at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to her work at Samford, Terry was the first nonclinical dietitian appointed by the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to serve overseas. Visit her website at thewellnesskitchenrd.com.

