



The Alabama Baptist

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Informing. Inspiring. Connecting.

INSIDE



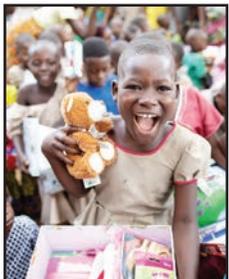
Go, Taste and See: Cartersville, Georgia, Lottie Moon home and pandemic travel

◆ Pages 6–7



Year-end tax considerations: Start now on church-related tasks, CPA advises

◆ Pages 10–11



Christmas shoeboxes to be collected this year with safety protocols in place

◆ Page 17

Supporting first responders

Ministry co-founded by retired police officer helps others find hope, healing

By **Shawn Hendricks**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Mike McGrew is no stranger to trauma, pain and gut-wrenching loss — personally and professionally.

The retired law enforcement officer has suffered post-traumatic stress, struggled with alcohol, seen two marriages end in divorce, endured the death of a son to bone cancer, been diagnosed with colon cancer himself, lost friends to suicide and watched another son struggle with drug addiction.

But along the way, McGrew said he can see God's mercy and direction on his life —

long before he committed it to Christ. Now retired after a 31-year career with the Santa Barbara Police Department, McGrew is the co-founder and executive director of 911 At Ease International and is helping first responders find the hope and healing that transformed his life.

Pain on the job

McGrew, the son of a fire chief, shared his story and discussed his

ministry in a recent episode of TAB Talks.

First responders, he noted, can too easily allow themselves to be consumed by the emotional pain and isolation that often comes with the job of helping others in traumatic circumstances. There's a culture among first responders, he said, that often leads many of them to bottle up their emotions and not get the help they

need. And this can lead to divorce, addiction or suicide, he said.

Carrying the burden

"When I came in it was, 'Hey, you have a difficult job, you're getting a paycheck, so just suck it up,'" he said. "I wasn't a believer at the start of my career, so for the first 20 years, I just tried to carry those burdens myself."

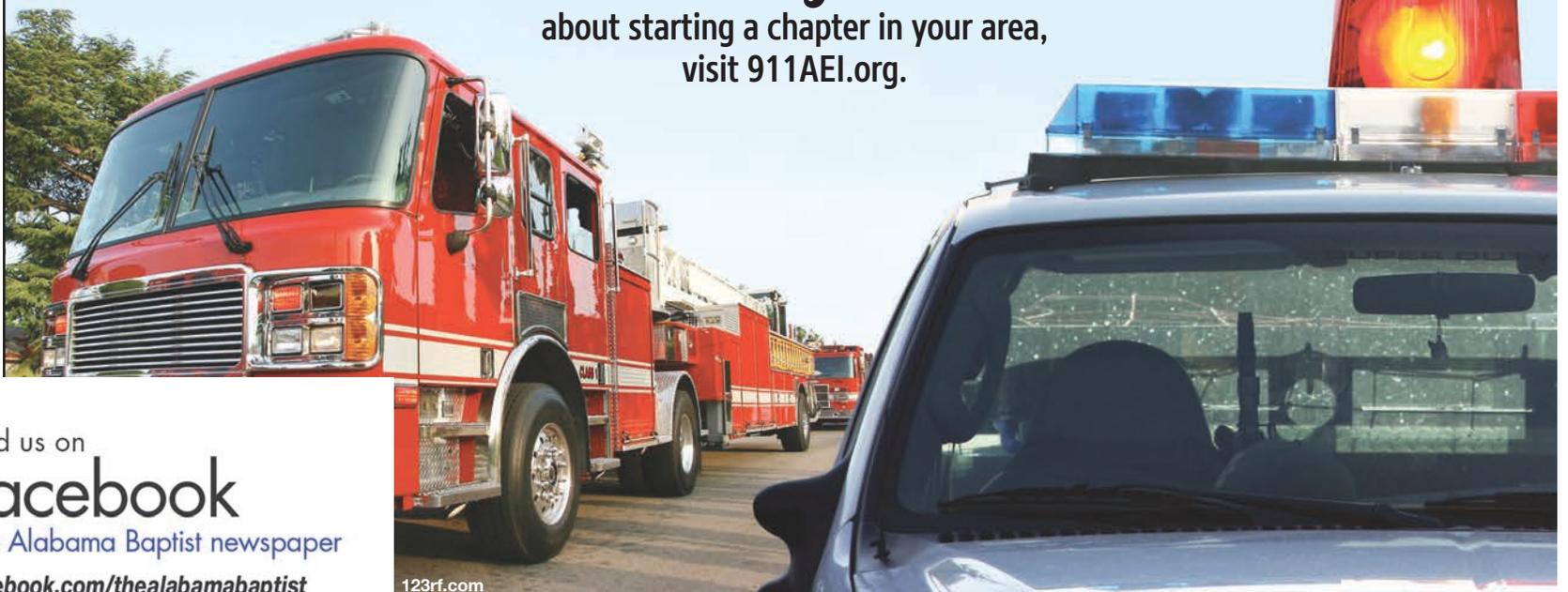
McGrew addresses this issue in his book "A Higher Call to Duty," released in 2018.

The book focuses on the (See 'Spiritual,' page 9)



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Fruitful magazine arriving this week

In the coming days (if you haven't already), you'll find a special surprise in your mailbox courtesy of TAB Media and the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions — your own free issue of *Fruitful* magazine.

This special publication got its start at last year's Alabama Baptist State Convention annual meeting. When the COVID-19 pandemic changed the plans for the 2020 annual meeting, we decided to use the 2nd issue of *Fruitful* to highlight the tremendous ministry and missions efforts of the past year.

On the cover

A photo of Pike Road Baptist Church, a congregation established in Montgomery County in 1908, graces the cover of this year's issue. Pike Road Baptist shares its building with Montgomery Chinese Community Church and is similar in size to the majority of churches in the state convention.

What's inside

Turn the page and you'll read how the SBOM and other Alabama Baptist entities and auxiliaries have risen to the challenges of ministering in a pandemic. Read how:

▶ Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief has responded to needs following major hurricanes in Alabama and neighboring states.

▶ Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries and Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers continue to serve the vulnerable entrusted to their care.

▶ Shocco Springs has adjusted operations to welcome visitors for special celebrations and retreats.

▶ Alabama WMU is fostering connections with missionaries and their families, ministers wives and others around the state and around the world.

And there's so much more.

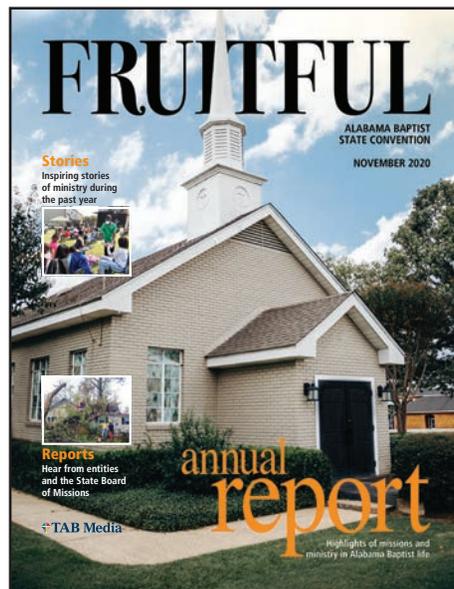
You'll find updates from our Alabama Baptist-related colleges — Judson College, Samford University and University of Mobile — and from the Alabama Baptist Historical Commission, ALCAP and

The Baptist Foundation of Alabama.

Alabama Baptist State Convention President Tim Cox delivers a timely word to readers, as do so many others as they share their hearts through their reports.

On every page, "*Fruitful* showcases how your giving through the Cooperative Program is making a Kingdom difference," said TAB Editor-in-Chief Jennifer Davis Rash.

After reading *Fruitful*, you will be better informed, inspired and connected to our extended Alabama Baptist family. We hope you enjoy! (Carrie B. McWhorter)



TAB Media photo

The 2nd annual issue of 'Fruitful' magazine highlights Alabama Baptist missions and ministry efforts in 2020.

"Fruitful showcases how your giving through the Cooperative Program is making a Kingdom difference."

Jennifer Davis Rash
President and Editor-in-Chief
TAB Media

TAB Media

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

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The crossword puzzle can be found on page 17.

MY RASHIONALE

By Jennifer Davis Rash
President and Editor-in-Chief

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We must refocus our hearts if peace is the goal

We survived — whew, big sigh of relief! At least I'm assuming we are all still breathing on the other side of Election Day, Nov. 3.

Press time required me to write this column a few days before the polls closed, so I can't speak to how the day actually went or what we know about the results.

But I do know we are strong and resilient, so I'm confident we will find our way through whatever is in front of us.

And kudos for also helping take the state to a 99.9% completion rate on the census. We really came through in those final weeks to fill it out.

I'm also encouraged by so many of you who are maintaining a cheerful heart and determining to truly make a difference despite the difficulties, heaviness and frustrations consistently hovering over us.

The recent escalation of divisiveness in our country hurts my heart deeply, but the amazing stories coming out of our churches reminds me that we are going to be OK, that the Light will continue to shine through the darkness.

Thank you for digging in deep and holding tight to Jesus through it all — and for modeling love, joy, peace, grace and confidence for the unbelievers who are watching.

I do relate to the anxiety and fear. It's completely understandable. We all have those moments, but please know you are not alone.

As children of the King, we have a built-in family of tremendous strength that spans worldwide, even when it seems we are fighting each other more than unifying around our faith.

In many ways, the past eight months have made it more difficult to trust, and isolation can play tricks on our minds.

If you are struggling in any way, know your Alabama Baptist family is here with you, and I must believe your church family is ready and willing to assist you through this time. Reach out and let them know your needs.

If you don't have a church family or don't feel comfortable reaching out to those nearby for some reason, then give us a call so we can help put you in touch with a trusted friend in your community.

I wish I could confidently say life will soon settle into a routine that makes sense to us, but I'm honestly not sure what the next year or even decade holds.

However, I can confidently hold to the promises of the One who does know every detail of each of our lives and knows all that lies ahead for our country and our world.

I can decide to move forward in His light and love despite the unknowns ahead, striving to follow His commands above all and working to leave the communities in which I serve better than I found them.

Another ugly election season may be over, but the culture of doomsday-style information will likely only intensify from here on out.

To survive with any hope of peace, we must refocus our hearts so we can hear clearly from the Lord as we seek to point people to Jesus and tackle each day for the glory of God.✠

RASHIONAL THOUGHTS

Have you read 1 John lately? Some Bible scholars call it 'the clearest combination of faith and love in the New Testament'

Excerpt from 1 John 4

Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming; even now it is already in the world.

You are from God, little children, and you have conquered them, because the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world. Therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them.

We are from God. Anyone who knows God listens to us; anyone who is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of deception.

... Let us love one another, because love is from God, and everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God. ... God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent His one and only Son into the world so that we might live through Him.

Love consists in this: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins ... if God loved us in this way, we also must love one another. ...

In this, love is made complete with us so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment, because as He is, so also are we in this world.

There is no fear in love; instead, perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment. So the one who fears is not complete in love.

We love because He first loved us.

If anyone says, "I love God," and yet hates his brother or sister, he is a liar. For the person who does not love his brother or sister whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

Excerpt from 1 John 5

Everyone who believes Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father also loves the one born of him. This is how we know we love God's children: when we love God and obey His commands.

... Love for God is: to keep His commands. And His commands are not a burden, because everyone who has been born of God conquers the world. This is the victory that has conquered the world: our faith. —CSB

Your Voice



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

Continuing call of the Great Commission

By Karen O. Allen
Birmingham, Ala.

The singing softened. I curiously looked at the guitarist. He walked over and whispered in my ear that the Indian people wanted to hear me sing.

Not only had I learned a song in Assamese, but I was playing it on the harmonium, an instrument used in the Indian culture.

I pressed through my overwhelming emotions to sing as requested, realizing that perhaps many in the room were unfamiliar with the “Probhu” of whom I was singing.

The mission of sharing God’s love burned in my heart.

Missions heart

Missions has been part of my life since I was a child. Involvement in missions organizations and summer camps was as normal as riding a bicycle. Hearing the fascinating stories from missionaries was as mesmerizing as magic tricks. “I want to be a ‘missionary teacher’ when I grow up,” I told my mom.

We recognize Matthew 28:19–20 as the Great Commission. The other gospels have a version as well.

Simply stated, the Great Commis-

sion is the instruction Jesus gave to His disciples to spread His teachings to all nations. Nobody knows who coined the term “Great Commission,” but every believer knows the key to its success is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Go, baptize and teach

The basic elements are go, baptize and teach. As I examine those three verbs closely, I discover five spiritual truths that rouse my sleepy soul.

No. 1: I am a missionary.

The Great Commission leaves no room for negotiation. It is a requirement to intentionally engage in sharing the good news. The command is directed to every follower of Christ. And since I am a follower, I should view myself as a missionary.

No. 2: The presentation of the gospel is only a partial fulfillment of the Great Commission.

I once thought evangelism qualified as complete fulfillment, but no. The command is not obeyed until disciples are made.

No. 3: By making disciples, we are multiplying and perpetuating the gospel to every people group in every nation.

Jesus could have said to disciple

all “men,” but He said to disciple all “nations,” which includes people groups with the same language and culture regardless of geographical location. More than 3,000 unengaged, unreached people groups exist. Multitudes have yet to hear the name of Jesus. Taking the gospel to the entire world is the most important task Christians face.

No. 4: Teaching must include all the things Jesus taught.

Jesus taught His disciples by example. He taught such things as healing the sick, feeding the poor, forgiving the offender and ministering to the outcasts and widows. He also taught His disciples about raising the dead. We should teach the miraculous things, too, and always through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

No. 5: Learning lessons from Jesus’ example is not enough.

Obedience and righteous living must correlate with the lessons learned. One can learn theory to play the piano, but one cannot play a tune until that theory is applied.

I never imagined my dream to be a “missionary teacher” would become a reality. I admit it wasn’t the way I imagined at age 7, but here I am at age 60 having served as a youth leader for a missions organization, gone on many short-term missions trips, been involved with efforts to minister to an unengaged, unreached people group and now writing for a missions publication.

I’d say the Great Commission has shaped my life in exciting ways.

EDITOR’S NOTE — Read Karen Allen’s full article at tabonline.org/continuing-call.

TAB staff and friends help expand our reach

My church provides TAB subscriptions for members who request them. I teach a ladies’ Sunday School class of 21 regular attendees. I have encouraged any not receiving TAB to request a subscription through our church office — many have done so and are excited to receive the paper!

Teresa Noell
TAB board member

I am sharing stories from TAB on social media, and I have been passing along my print edition of the paper to my parents each week. I also bought a gift subscription for a family member out of state.

Haley Piersol
Client coordinator

I invited all of my Facebook people to read and like TAB. I know that all my children did, and my first friend from first grade liked it too.

Linda Harrison
Human resources director

I sent a select group of friends an invite to the TAB Facebook page, and so far have gotten 18 responses.

Melanie McKinney
Advertising manager

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19–20

“I just love serving and being the hands and feet of Jesus.”

CHERYL WOOD
Volunteer, Colorado Baptist Disaster Relief

As a church, you want to so impact your community that if you were to close your doors, the people in your community would scream and holler.

Steve Pearson
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Faith doesn't mean I know where I'm going; it means I'm trusting God with wherever He's taking me.

Mike McClure Jr.
Birmingham, Ala.

I've had the privilege of spending time with persecuted believers in Asia. Any contrasts in how they pray versus how many pray in the West?

They deeply REVERE God. Many of us seem CASUAL with God.

They consistently pray for the IMPOSSIBLE. Many of us seem SAFE and REASONED.

They pray for POWER in PERSECUTION. We pray for "God to be with us" in the church business meeting.

They CRY OUT in prayer FOR the lost. We CRY OUT in prayer when WE have loss.

They pray on WAR FOOTING. We pray from LUKEWARM HEARTS.

As we lament the moral shifts taking place in western culture, wed with the awareness that to be a convictional Christian now brings persecution in the west, perhaps it is time to consider that persecution may be a much needed gift to a

western church that is very, very, ill. "There is a revelation of Jesus that the persecuted church knows that the prosperous church will never know."

— Mark Nysewander
Paul Lawler via Twitter

No matter how many Scriptures you can quote, if you can't love and treat people right what good are they? A good gift and great knowledge mixed with a nasty spirit is still a hot mess.

At some point, what we say must be followed up by what we DO. The question is, how are we loving others?

Pastor Jarman Leatherwood
House of Hope and Restoration
Huntsville, Ala.

'Deep South' joint statement

As a group of racially, ethnically and politically diverse church leaders in the Deep South areas of Charleston, SC, Montgomery, AL, and Mobile, AL, we recognize and lament how the historic nature of our cities and region contributed to racial oppression and division in our country. ...

However, we now see growing networks of Christian pastors and churches from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds loving, praying and serving together in their communities as they work together to follow Jesus in the midst of continuing challenges. It is from these historic cities that we speak. ...

We believe every person no matter color, culture or creed is made in the image of God, and because of that they have infinite worth, value and dignity.

As followers of Jesus, we believe every life is irreplaceable, unique and valuable and that the pursuit of justice is absolutely essential as commanded by God throughout the Bible.

Because of this, we believe that all followers of Jesus are called to love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31), value others above ourselves and look not to our own interests, but to the interest of others (Phil. 2:3-4), and be peacemakers in the midst of ... conflict (Matt. 5:9). ...

We commit to act locally in our own cities and region to sacrificially love our neighbors of all backgrounds, to lay down our lives for one another, to work for justice to right past wrongs and to rebuild our ancient cultural and relational ruins and raise up the age-old foundations (Isa. 58:12) of trust, peace and integrity so that the Church would be unified in love and concern ...

Excerpt from "Deep South Joint Statement on the Gospel, Racial Reconciliation, and Justice" (Read the full statement at tabonline.org/deep-south-joint-statement)

From the *Twitterverse*

@Blackwell_Kevin

God's ultimate goal is not for us to be healthy, happy and full. His highest goal is for us to be holy, joyful and hungry.

@BillyGraham

"You can use your tongue to slander, to gripe, to scold, to nag and to quarrel. Or you can bring it under the control of God's Spirit and make it an instrument of blessing and praise.

@Jeff_Iorg

The focus of pastors and other ministry leaders is not doing all the ministry but equipping their followers to do ministry, creating strategies to use them effectively and celebrating their combined success.

@DannyAkin

When people who know you best are the ones who love you the most, that tells me something about you. When people who don't know you don't like you and speak unkindly of you well, that tells me something about them.

@Brook_Hills

Praise God for lovingly calling us to faith in Him. Thank Him for the salvation He has worked in each of our lives. Ask Him to grow us in mercy, peace and love. Pray for God to grant us courage to stand and contend for our faith.

@MichaelHyatt

So many of us have settled for what is, rather than what could be.

@waderials

"'The Lord told me' is no substitute for 'the Bible says'!" — Voddie Baucham

@edstetzer

"Preach the gospel, die and be forgotten." — Count Zinzendorf

@brocraig

"The judgmental heart owns a hundred microscopes and no mirrors." — Gunner Gundersen

@MattSmethurst

Genesis ends with Joseph's death. Deuteronomy ends with Moses' death. Joshua ends with Joshua's death. Gospels end with Jesus' resurrection. And that changes everything. —@TonyMerida

Share online or email news@thealabamabaptist.org

Travel and tourism

in the time of COVID-19

Attractions, hotels, eateries implement safety protocols so visitors can return

By **Connie Pearson**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Earlier this year, the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville faced a crisis. The state's No. 1 paid attraction announced that because of pandemic-related closures, it had laid off more than 100 full-time employees and could be forced to close permanently in October unless it raised \$1.5 million.

Fortunately, response was swift, and within eight days the center received the needed funds.

However, when it reopened in late June, attendance was only 20% of previous numbers.

Tourism still hurting

Hundreds of attractions, hotels and restaurants are in the same situation — hanging on by a thin financial thread. Many have already been forced to lock their doors, while others are praying for a miracle.

Venturing to public spaces comes with a measure of risk, but if you are healthy and willing to take the precautions of masking, social distancing, hand-washing and all the rest, the tourism industry will welcome you and be grateful for your visit.

My husband and I started by tiptoeing inside restaurants when they reopened their dining rooms. We were pleased to find most of the environments shiny and extremely clean. Half the tables were either removed or designated as closed for use, servers were wearing masks, no condiments were on the tables, hand sanitizer was available at the entrance and menus were disposable. Fewer diners created a quieter experience with attentive service.

A few weeks later, we decided to stay overnight in a chain hotel a short drive from home, to check the safeguards in place before we decided to travel farther away. We



commons.wikimedia.org

The U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville drew more than 1 million visitors in 2019, but the pandemic put the museum in a precarious financial situation. The tourism industry is working hard to welcome visitors back safely.

were extremely pleased with what we found. This particular hotel had plexiglass separating the guest and the employee at the reception desk. Social distancing stickers designated where to stand in line. Hand-sanitizing stations were placed in strategic spots around the lobby, and all staff members wore masks. The elevator was limited to two guests (or one family) at a time.

Cleanliness a priority

When we reached our room, a seal had been placed across the door signifying it had been sanitized using hospital-grade disinfectants. All touch surfaces were thoroughly cleaned, including the TV remote, and an extra package of disinfectant wipes was placed inside so guests could do additional cleaning. Bed coverings are now washed and replaced after every guest. I don't recall ever staying in a hotel that smelled as fresh and clean as this one did.

The improvements made and the

attention paid to every aspect of a guest's experience were remarkable and very reassuring.

Self-serve breakfast buffets have disappeared for now, but pre-packaged options of pastries, yogurt or fruit juice usually are offered, along with requisite morning coffee.

And attractions are adapting as well. Outdoor gardens are a great choice for a safe place to enjoy nature and get some exercise. In Alabama, popular spots including Bellingrath Gardens and Home in Theodore; Birmingham Botanical Gardens; and Huntsville Botanical Garden have all reopened.

If you're ready for a slightly longer drive, Gibbs Gardens, about an hour north of Atlanta in Ball

Ground, Georgia, is gorgeous.

At all these outdoor venues, staff members are doing everything possible to follow CDC guidelines to keep visitors safe and healthy.

Museums now open

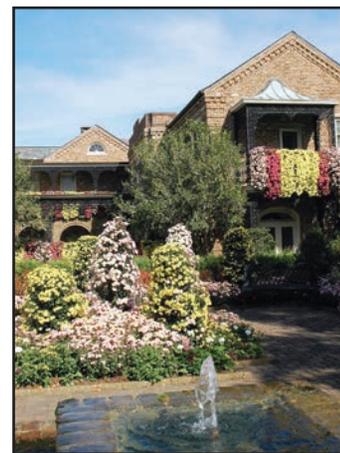
This is also a great time to visit a museum. There are no crowds. Everyone is wearing a mask, and you can view the displays and artworks in a relaxed and unhurried manner. The Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts and the Birmingham Museum of Art are open again. Vulcan Park and Museum and the McWane Science Center in Birmingham have reopened. In Huntsville, the Huntsville Museum of Art, Burritt on the Mountain and other attractions are open again.

A word of caution: be sure to check the website of an attraction before you visit. Often, tickets must be purchased in advance online, with a designated arrival time. Many venues have shorter hours of operation and are at reduced occupancy. Don't forget to take a mask.

Cruises are still grounded for the most part, and overseas flights are limited as many countries still aren't allowing visitors from the U.S. But short road trips are possible and can be managed safely by doing research and taking the guidelines seriously.

Hotel managers, restaurant owners and chefs, museum directors and all the people

who work alongside them are eager for us to return and lend our support. If we are physically able, we can help them keep their jobs and allow these businesses to remain open. 🇺🇸



bellingrath.org

Bellingrath Gardens and Home



Photo by Connie Pearson

The Lottie Moon House in Cartersville, Ga., was built as a church in 1856. Moon lived in the home during her time as a teacher in Cartersville. A private residence, the home is not open for tours, but a nearby memorial notes the home's history.

Cartersville

GEORGIA

Once home to notable Christian figures, northwest Georgia town offers many surprises

By **Connie Pearson**
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

During a pre-pandemic visit to Cartersville, Georgia, an easy daytrip from much of north and east Alabama, I expected to find great restaurants, charming boutiques and unique attractions, but I was surprised to learn of Cartersville's connection to our beloved Lottie Moon.

Lottie's launch pad

In 1871, Lottie Moon, a very intelligent and well-educated woman for her time, helped found and operate the Cartersville Female Seminary.

In addition to her duties in the classroom, she was active at Cartersville Baptist Church. It was there during a Sunday morning sermon that Lottie felt a clear call to go to China and serve as a missionary.

The building on Fite Street, originally built as a church in 1856, was damaged by Gen. Sherman's troops during the Civil War and is now a private residence.

Locals refer to it as the Lottie Moon House. It is not open for tours, but a large concrete memorial is near the sidewalk.

The Cartersville church enthusiastically rallied behind Lottie. They formed a missionary society specifically to assist in her financial support. They helped buy a bell for the school where Lottie taught in Kiang Chia, China, while also contributing room and board for girls attending the school.

This missionary organization, plus pleading letters from Lottie, finally ignited the beginning of the Lottie

Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in 1888.

Since my husband and I were ourselves supported by that very offering when we served in Ecuador, I immediately felt a kinship to Cartersville. It was a special treat to see a plaque honoring Lottie Moon on the town's Fence of Fame beside the Cartersville Depot Visitor Center and Friendship Plaza.

Cartersville also is quickly gaining a reputation for being "Georgia's Museum City." Two of the largest are the Booth Western Art Museum and Tellus Science Museum.

The 120,000-square-foot Booth Western Art Museum is the only one of its kind in the Southeast. In addition to an immense collection of Western-themed paintings and sculptures, Booth Museum houses a Presidential Gallery, Civil War art gallery and children's gallery known as the Sagebrush Ranch.

Those who love cowboys, American Indians, Wyatt Earp and Matt Dillon will have much to enjoy. My favorite area was the room containing photos and signed, one-page letters from every American president from Washington to Trump. The museum has a large gift shop and a nice café that serves lunch, so plan to stay awhile and enjoy it thoroughly.

The Tellus Science Museum focuses on minerals, fossils, transportation and astronomy within its 125,000 square feet. The planetarium has a schedule of shows throughout the day, and a solar house built by students from Western Virginia University sits to the left of the main museum entrance.

Bartow History Museum is downtown in a former courthouse building, where exhibits portray 200 years of life around Cartersville going back to the Cherokees.

The Etowah Indian Mounds State Historic Site provides glimpses of life from 1000 to 1550 A.D. In addition to six earthen mounds, visitors can see a number of artifacts excavated from the site in the museum at the visitors center.

More Christian history

During a tour of Rose Lawn Museum on Fite Street, you will hear the inspiring story of Sam P. Jones, a former alcoholic who accepted Christ and became one of the leading evangelists of the late 1800s. Jones was known for his admonition, "Quit Your Meanness."

Jones lived with his family in this Victorian home from 1885 until his death in 1906.

Another surprise for me was the wide range of culinary options in Cartersville. Ross' Diner and 4 Way Lunch are tiny eateries near the square that have stood the test of time. 4 Way opened in 1931, and Ross' started serving customers in 1945. These two will be full of locals wanting breakfast or lunch.

Maine Street Coastal Cuisine and Appalachian Grill serve a wide variety of seafood and steaks. Table 20 and The City Cellar both have creative menus as well. All four are within a block or two of each other near the train depot.

Moore's Gourmet Market is a neighborhood bistro tucked into a side street near Rose Lawn Museum. It offers delicious daily specials and offers plenty of outdoor seating.

Find more tips and suggestions for a visit to Cartersville at tabonline.org/cartersville.

More insider tips

What downtown would be complete without a few unique shops and boutiques? They include BridgeHouse Interiors and Olive Tree & Vine. BridgeHouse has a great bistro in the back, and Olive Tree & Vine doubles as a coffee shop.

One more tip: beside the railroad, you'll find a large painted Coca-Cola advertisement on

the side of the Young Brothers Pharmacy. It is, in fact, the world's first outdoor Coca-Cola advertisement and was painted

by James Couden in 1894. See if you can spot the mistake!

George Washington Carver Park and Pine Acres Retreat are appealing choices for

a day on the lake or for church youth retreats or family reunions. (Connie Pearson)

Get more information at visitcartersvillega.org.

Jim Graham (left), pastor of Coosada Baptist Church in Elmore County, helps serve breakfast to members of the Coosada Police Department during an Oct. 6 countywide appreciation day.

Appreciating first responders



Photo courtesy of Elmore Baptist Association

Church-led efforts let officers, emergency personnel know ‘God loves them’

When Ray McKenzie heard about churches in Dothan

holding a citywide appreciation day for first responders, he thought first responders in his area could probably use a little encouragement too.

So on Oct. 6, churches of different denominations in Elmore County pulled together to host appreciation

events all day long at sites all over the county, starting with doughnuts and coffee at 5 a.m. and ending after an appreciation dinner that night.

“We wanted to encourage our men and women who are

first responders in our area,” said McKenzie, director of missions for Elmore Baptist Association.

Barbara Kay Edwards, the association’s ministry assistant, said it was a sweet time of unity in the community and “we know that God was honored, and that was our heart.”

Chuck Locke, executive pastor of Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Dothan, said

that was the heart behind their efforts too. Six or seven years ago, the church started holding special services at the church to honor first responders, as well as personnel from nearby Fort Rucker.

“We got a lot of good feedback that first couple of years,” he said.

The event got bigger, but over time they decided to scale it back intentionally — to honor one group at a time in separate services. That way they were able to keep it smaller and more relational, Locke said. “The whole point is that we want to let them know God loves them and we appreciate them and love them and want to honor them.”

Core idea

That core idea has stayed the same, but the event changed again this year when COVID-19 happened. Instead of conducting a service at Ridgecrest, the church banded together with

other churches in the community to provide Chick-fil-A gift cards and handwritten cards to every first responder in their local area.

“We asked the families

in our church to participate, and we saw cards flowing in from all generations, all the way from cards drawn in crayon from children to some written with the shaky hand of a senior adult,” Locke said. “When we as a staff saw all of that coming in from our congregation, that was an emotional time for us.”

It’s an idea that’s been used in different ways all over the state. First Baptist Church, Centre, also recently delivered gift bags to the

Cherokee County Sheriff’s Office, the county detention center and the Centre Police Department.

Gary Hardin, associate pastor of First, Centre, said the bags included a cupcake from a local bakery, a bottle of water, hand sanitizer, gift cards to local restaurants and thank you cards.

“We wanted to show appreciation to our local law enforcement community by providing each of them a gift bag from the church,” Hardin said. “We wanted to let those in our county and town to know we were behind them ... and express appreciation for keeping our county and city safe.” (TAB)



Photo courtesy of Elmore Assoc. Millbrook firefighters enjoy lunch on Oct. 6 courtesy of Elmore County churches.



Gary Hardin Facebook photo

Randy Mayorga (center), Centre Police Department chief investigator, accepts appreciation gift bags for his fellow officers from FBC Centre Associate Pastor Gary Hardin (left) and Pastor Eddie Nation (right).

“We know that God was honored, and that was our heart.”

Barbara Kay Edwards
ministry assistant, Elmore Baptist Association

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Spiritual, emotional needs growing in stressful times

(continued from page 1)

struggles that first responders confront and how the public can show more support to those he refers to as heroes committed to a noble profession.

For McGrew, who has witnessed horrific situations play out day after day, the burden first responders carry is personal — and at times, it overwhelmed him.

During a Chris Tomlin concert years ago, his life changed. McGrew was on a date that night with his now current wife in Santa Barbara, California. After the concert, Louie Giglio preached a message that McGrew says “went down the check list” of issues he had been dealing with.

“The Holy Spirit hit me,” he said. “Wow, how does this guy know my life story? He spoke about the peace that Jesus has to offer and the comfort to put those burdens that I was carrying down. It was at that point I gave my life to the Lord.

That night, he also found his calling to minister to those wrestling with trauma, depression, addiction and other issues.

“It was something that helped me view my job in an entirely different way,” he added. “It gave me a lot more compassion.”

After his son’s death from bone cancer, McGrew said he prayed God would no longer send him on calls that involved the death of children. But McGrew said he kept getting those calls, and he accepted that it was part of the Lord’s calling on his life.

‘Testimony to share’

“I saw how God was sending me to these calls not just because it was an emergency call for service but it was the reason I was supposed to be there, and I had a testimony to share.”

Through his work with 911 At Ease International, McGrew has seen the ministry among first responders continue to expand far beyond Santa Barbara and the state.

“Before we knew it, we were

servicing 600 first responders a year, and then the demand became greater,” said McGrew, noting how the nonprofit’s reach stretched throughout the central coast of California. “What we’re doing now is we’re expanding the program out with different chapters throughout the country. And it’s for just a time as this.”

As law enforcement officers and their emotional health continue to be scrutinized by public opinion, and some even calling for the defunding of police officers, McGrew said first responders appear to be under more strain than ever.

What can people do to help first responders?

It’s not that complicated, McGrew said. People can first simply tell them that they appreciate what they do. Second, people need to let their voices be heard about how law enforcement officers and first responders are desperately needed.

“Let leadership in our communities know that first responders are important ... speak up to say, ‘Hey, you know what, we need these folks,’” he said. “There are tens of thousands of heroic acts that are happening daily that are not covered in the mainstream media.”

First responders need a safe, confidential place where they can go to receive the help they need when everything appears to be unraveling around them, he said. And 911 At Ease International is meeting that need, McGrew said.

“The first responders are saying, ‘Hey, you saved my life, literally saved my life,’” he said. “You saved my marriage. You saved my career.”

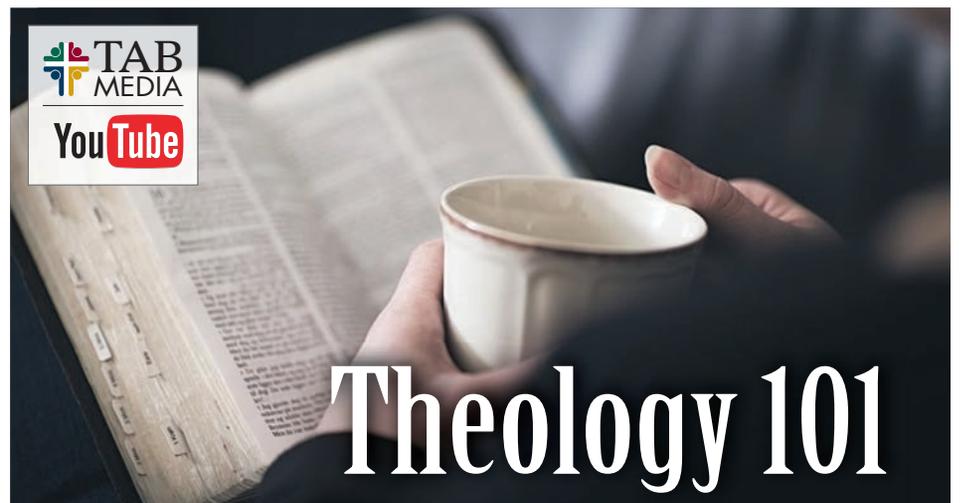
McGrew hopes to see more chapters of the 911 At Ease International open up around the country.

“It’s a calling to be a first responder,” he said. “Something that the Lord puts on your heart. Even when I wasn’t a believer. I can look back and go, ‘Hey, God put this career on my heart.’”



McGREW

Listen to the recent TAB Talks conversation with Mike McGrew at tabonline.org/first-responders.



Theology 101

BIBLICAL THEOLOGY FOR PEOPLE IN THE PEW

Strongholds of Truth

Thinking About Truth

By Jerry Batson, Th.D.

Special to The Alabama Baptist

In the afterglow of a national election, we are again keenly aware that truth is of unusual importance. That importance often becomes eroded by such expressions as pluralism (as if there are multiple, even competing truths, all of equal value), relativism (as if truth is a commodity up for sale to the highest bidder) or tolerance (as if truth is too restrictive for loving people to embrace but rather “need to believe” and “let believe”).

In the face of election year rhetoric, we have seen the rise of the expression “fact check” as a vocation seeking to verify true facts from politically motivated claims that may sound like truth but instead are distortions of it.

Compelling word

Truth is a strong and compelling word. It has about it a ring of authority. When Jesus was on trial before him, Pontius Pilate at one point in the proceedings asked his famous question, “What is truth?” (John 18:38)?

All we have are his words. We do not have the advantage of his tone of voice or facial expression. Did he ask it dismissively, with a sneer born of disinterest in knowing the truth?

Could it have been out of a deep hunger of soul that Pilate asked with a sigh in his voice, “What is truth?” In any case, Pilate immediately announced that he found no fault in Jesus.

The Bible stresses the importance of truth. We purify our

souls in obeying the truth (1 Pet. 1:22). Thus, truth makes possible the meeting of a sinner’s greatest need — purity of soul.

Not without serious implications is the Bible’s assertion that it is possible for a person to change the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25).

Knowing and obeying

Given the seriousness involved in knowing and obeying the truth, the Bible makes much of this goal. For example, we hear Jesus’ words that a person who knows the truth will be made free (John 8:31–32).

Not only does the Bible place high value on knowing the truth, it goes a step further in advising us both to believe the truth (2 Thess. 2:13) and to speak the truth (Eph. 4:25). And it goes even deeper. We are individually to be established in the truth as a foundation for life (2 Pet. 1:12). We are to wear the truth as a belt that girds our lives (Eph. 6:14).

Out of the Bible’s emphasis on God’s truth for God’s people, this month Theology 101 will be looking at the strongholds of truth that God has given us as guardians of truth.

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.



YEAR-END TAX CONSIDERATIONS

Start now on church-related tax tasks, CPA advises

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

While most individual taxpayers wait until January to begin putting their tax materials together, churches are advised to start getting their paperwork in order now.

Michael R. Williams, a certified public accountant who works with TAB Media, says many churches — particularly the smaller staffed ones — make assumptions that can run afoul of federal and state laws. Here are some of the areas he advises churches to consider before the end of the year.

The Internal Revenue Service automatically recognizes churches as 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, a nonprofit designation that exempts them from federal income taxes.

Sales taxes

Many churches believe that because they don't have to pay into the federal system, they also need not pay state and local sales taxes.

Not true in Alabama, says Williams.

"Religious organizations, including churches, are not exempt from the payment of sales and use taxes.

Generally, sales taxes

must be paid when items are purchased for the church's use," he says.

"However, certain church-based or church-affiliated educational facilities may be exempt from sales and use taxes. If so, the entity usually requests and receives an exemption certificate from the Alabama Department of Revenue by filing an application."

Moreover, churches may also need to collect sales taxes on items they sell that are not directly related to their nonprofit missions — say, a retail store or coffee shop located within a church

— and remit them to the taxing entity.

Payroll taxes

Churches and other tax-exempt organizations must withhold income taxes from employee wages, but the rules are different for clergy.

While a pastor may be considered a church employee, all clergy must pay social

security and Medicare taxes as if they are self-employed, unless they have filed a Form 4361 to apply for a special exemption from self-employment taxes allowed for ministers.

A clergyperson's wages are exempt from income tax withholding, but the pastor may ask the church to withhold both income taxes and

"I often hear gasps when church officials learn how often reporting is necessary."

Michael R. Williams
Birmingham CPA

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Martin Lowe
Church member, Lifepointe Church of God



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ing responsibility because unreported income costs the government billions of dollars in lost tax revenue every year, Williams notes, resulting in increased deficits and borrowing and pressure to raise taxes.

Williams says the Form 1099-NEC is the most common type churches are required to file. Nonemployee compensation is defined as payments made to businesses and individuals who are not church employees for services.

Some examples of independent contractors include:

- ▶ Repair workers
- ▶ Accountants
- ▶ Attorneys
- ▶ Cleaning services
- ▶ Lawncare services
- ▶ Individuals you rent from

▶ Revival ministers, supply preachers and guest speakers.

Churches do not need to send 1099 forms to:

- ▶ Nonprofit organizations and churches.
- ▶ Independent contractors paid electronically with a credit card, payment card, third-party network transaction. The payment settle-

ment entity is responsible for reporting those transactions.

▶ Corporations (except for attorneys doing business as corporations).

Williams advises churches to keep a Form W-9 “Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification” on file for all independent contractors and guest speakers, even if they believe they won’t need to send them a 1099 form.

That way, if things change over the year and you wind up crossing that \$600 annual threshold, you have the names, addresses and taxpayer identification numbers you’ll need for the 1099.

“Don’t forget to file the 1099s with the Alabama Department of Revenue as well,” Williams says.

For more information and forms for Alabama taxes, visit the Withholding Tax

section of the Alabama Department of Revenue.

Churches earning gross taxable unrelated business income of \$1,000 or more annually must file a Form 990-T for that year.

Unrelated business income

Unrelated business activity is a trade or business regularly carried on and not substantially related to the church’s exempt purpose. Some examples include advertising revenue from church publications and websites, various activities such as raffles, sale of merchandise

(unless it was donated) and parking lot rental.

Williams says year-end giving statements often neglect to include a simple statement that will protect donors from having their contributions disallowed by the IRS.

“Adding to the year-end statement ‘No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation,’ or ‘The church provided only intangible religious benefits to the contributor’ is all that’s needed to meet the IRS reporting requirement,” Williams says.

“This is one of the most important items to include in the donor receipt, but unfortunately it’s one of the most commonly missed.”

Williams also recommends reviewing the IRS Publication 1771 for additional giving statement requirements.

Individual donors wishing to claim tax deductible donations typically must itemize them on their tax returns. However, new for the 2020 tax year, taxpayers may deduct up to \$300 of cash donations without having to itemize on their individual income tax filing. 🇺🇸

withholding, but the pastor may ask the church to withhold both income taxes and estimated self-employment taxes. This is a voluntary agreement that may be terminated at any time by either party.

“The church should report this amount on Form 941 as additional income taxes withheld and not as Social Security or Medicare taxes,” Williams advises.

A church-provided parsonage or officially designated housing allowance for clergy must also be taken into consideration with regard to self-employment taxes.

“Love offerings” given by a congregation to active ministers are considered taxable income as well.

More information is

available on the IRS “Members of the Clergy” page.

Contract labor

When you figure out what reporting forms you must file, don’t forget the cleaning lady or lawn service guy you hire as contractors to keep your church looking spiffy.

If you pay them \$600 or more during the calendar year, you must file either a Form 1099-NEC (for non-employee compensation) or Form 1099-MISC.

All businesses and organizations — including churches — are considered reporting entities and must file 1099s to notify the IRS of income that should appear on the recipients’ income tax returns. The IRS enforces the 1099 fil-

For more information and forms for Alabama taxes, visit the Withholding Tax section of the Alabama Department of Revenue.



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3 stories you should know



AP photo/Czarek Sokolowski

In Warsaw, Poland, pro-life activists with rosaries block protesters from entering a church on Oct. 26 following days of protest over a court ruling tightening Poland's strict abortion law. The Polish high court on Oct. 22 ruled it was unconstitutional to terminate a pregnancy due to fetal congenital defects, effectively banning almost all abortions in the country. On Oct. 25, protesters entered churches, disrupted Masses and vandalized church buildings. (AP)

US, other nations sign pro-life declaration

The U.S. on Oct. 22 signed with at least 31 other members of the United Nations a pro-life declaration decrying abortion and affirming the family unit and universal health coverage, among other beliefs.

The U.S. and other nations joined as co-signers of the Geneva Consensus Declaration, which is intended to signal to the U.N. the right of individual countries to support the sanctity of life without financial retribution from other nations.

Southern Baptist ethicist Elizabeth Graham said the declaration furthers a global effort to recognize that “every person across the globe, from the very beginning of life in the womb, is made worthy of immeasurable dignity in the image of God.”

Read more about the declaration at tabonline.org/gcd. (BP)

SBDR continues work as Zeta makes landfall

Hurricane Zeta made landfall Oct. 28, bringing more rain and wind damage to southern Louisiana and areas inland in what has been a very active 2020 hurricane season.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers have had a busy few weeks since Hurricane Laura made landfall in southwest Louisiana on Aug. 29, followed by Sally, Delta and Zeta, which was the 27th named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season.

In the aftermath of those three storms, SBDR prepared more than 563,000 meals, completed more than 3,000 chainsaw jobs and reported 543 people making professions of faith through Oct. 25.

Nov. 8 is Disaster Relief Appreciation Day in the Southern Baptist Convention. Read more about SBDR efforts at tabonline.org. (BP)

Headline news from around the Southeast

Georgia

As area schools were not providing in-person instruction due to COVID-19, First Baptist Church of High Falls, Georgia, upgraded its Wi-Fi capabilities in order to serve local students having to learn remotely without internet access, *The Christian Index* reported. Other area churches joined the effort in the county where an estimated 52% of the area is “unserved.” Church facilities became a temporary school for three weeks until in-person classes resumed.

Florida

First Brazilian Church in Pompano Beach, Florida, has been distributing food twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the past seven months in response to the needs brought on by COVID-19. Since then, the church has distributed 23,100 boxes of food reaching approximately 92,400 persons. Their generosity has led to 96

professions of faith. Twelve of the new believers were baptized by the church Oct. 29, the *Florida Baptist Witness* reported.

Louisiana

Despite roof and water damage from the recent landfall of Hurricane Laura, Longville Baptist Church in rural DeRidder, Louisiana, has maintained an active ministry to its members and community residents, many of whom lost their homes. Unsure if the church facility will be a “total loss,” Pastor Corey Townsley acknowledged, “It’s certainly been discouraging for ministry with a pandemic and the hurricane. But we believe God is working it all out for our good,” the *Louisiana Baptist Message* reported.

Mississippi

Students involved in the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi College are intentionally develop-

ing relationships with international students in an effort to build lifelong friendships and have gospel conversations, Mississippi’s *Baptist Record* reported. “God is so amazing in how He is sovereignly bringing the nations to colleges all across Mississippi, and it is a blessing that we get to play a role in introducing them to Jesus,” said Chris Williams, state BSU missions team leader.

Tennessee

More than 200 Carson-Newman University students participated in an annual day of service in early October. This year, however, because of the pandemic, acts of service shifted from traditional to virtual. Participants logged into the university’s online coursework platform to learn about the value of advocacy and then completed advocacy projects on behalf of area organizations, such as writing letters to the editor of area newspapers, Tennessee’s *Baptist and Reflector* reported.

Alabama news

OBITUARIES

► **David Harris** — pastor of **Mount Olive Baptist Church, Lineville**, and moderator for Clay Baptist Association — died Aug. 31. He was 52.

A lifelong resident of Clay County with a brief stint in Hefflin, Harris graduated from Lineville High School and served in the U.S. Navy. He was called to preach at 39.

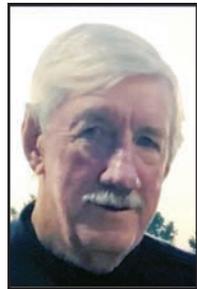
He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Alicia; daughter, Jordan Makayla; and son, Micah Grady.



HARRIS

► **Byron Allen Murphy** — pastor of **New Oak Grove Baptist Church, Piedmont** — died Oct. 20. He was 71.

A native of Calhoun County, Murphy served at other churches over the years, including Mamre Baptist Church, Gadsden, and Noah Baptist Church, Centre. He also retired from the Anniston Fire Department and drove a dump truck for many years for S&G Trucking.



MURPHY

Murphy is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mildred; son, Geoffrey; daughter, Shelley; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

► **Jeff Fuller** says when he looks back at the past 35 years, he sees nothing but the grace of God.

“I just humbly say ‘thank you, Lord’ for giving me the opportunity to be in people’s lives,” said Fuller, pastor of **Rockford Baptist Church**.

Mid-October marked 35 years since his first church to serve — Union Hill Baptist Church, Fort Payne — came together with his home church — nearby First Baptist Church, Fort Payne — to ordain him as a pastor.

Over the years, he’s seen ministry from a number of angles — as a pastor, youth minister and full-time evangelist — and overall, he said it’s “been incredible” to be a part of God’s work in other people’s lives.



FULLER

DEKALB ASSOCIATION

► **Ryan Wood** is the new student minister at **First Baptist Church, Fort Payne**.

OTHER

► Tracy Hipps said **Christian Service Mission** is calling this their “year of jubilee” — the Birmingham-based organization is turning 50 years old and giving lots away to celebrate.

“In September alone, which was the month we officially celebrated, we were able to give away more than \$200,000 worth of donated resources to around 100 ministry families,” said Hipps, CSM’s executive director and a member of Shades Mountain Baptist Church, Vestavia Hills. “That included 30 video projectors.”

That’s CSM’s reason for existing — to connect resources with needs and equip the local church to do ministry. This year, they were able to give away \$1.3 million worth of food during the COVID-19 crisis. At Christmastime, they plan to give away pallets of household items like blenders and bedding.

“All of it is tools for the gospel. We want to partner with the local church,” he said.

For more information, visit csmission.org.

Merger approved

Birmingham, Bessemer associations form Birmingham Metro Association

Birmingham and Bessemer Baptist associations are being dissolved to form a new association representing the nearly 175 churches from both groups. The new Birmingham Metro Baptist Association will be official Jan. 1, 2021.

The decision comes after a two-year partnership and trial effort. Each association voted in separate Zoom meetings held Oct. 26. Both votes were unanimous with a total of close to 100 votes between the two groups.

Bessemer Association Moderator Morris Johnson said, “We now have one association moving across Birmingham. Amen. To the glory of God.”

Since early 2019, Birmingham Baptist Association has been doing business as BMBA, anticipating the possibility of having a wider area of ministry. The name now becomes official for the newly formed association. Articles of incorporation and bylaws for the new association also were adopted Oct. 26.

Working side by side

For the past two years, Birmingham Association — led by Chris Crain, executive director — and Bessemer Association — led by Barry Cosper, associational mission strategist — had been working side by side under the same roof to save resources and address any questions and concerns churches in either association might have about the potential to join together.

Cosper also had an office at The Baptist Church at McAdory in the Bessemer area during the trial period, but all staffing and offices for the new association will now shift officially to the BMBA building on Montclair Road. Cosper’s new title will be Bessemer regional director, and he will serve as executive leadership alongside Crain, who remains BMBA executive director, and Michael Ethridge, director of operations.

Crain expressed appreciation to all involved in the effort. “Dr. Cosper helped me understand how this has been on many hearts for a long time. ... I’m grateful to have his humble leadership,” Crain said. “I’m looking forward to what God is going to do.”

Bill McCall, immediate past moderator for Bessemer Association, said the two associations are coming together with “passion for the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Without fail, every single person on the leadership team (evaluating the potential of joining together) said to join hearts so that we could more effectively shine our light for the gospel,” he said.

Cosper called it a “very special day,” adding, “Let it be said that we gave God our best.”

During the meeting, Grace Church, Bessemer — whose pastor is Mickey Bell — was also voted into membership of Bessemer Association, and ultimately BMBA. (TAB)

Persecuted church

Iranian Christians denied custody of adopted daughter after arrests

BUSHEHR, Iran — An Iranian couple sentenced for being Christians have been denied custody of their adopted daughter.

Sam Khosravi and wife Maryam Falahi — converts from Islam — adopted 3-month-old Lydia from an orphanage in February 2019.

Before the adoption was finalized, the couple were arrested for “propaganda against the regime,” a common charge used against Christians.

Khosravi received a year’s prison sentence and two years’ exile. His wife, a nurse, was

fined roughly \$400 and banned from working in public institutions, including the hospital job she held 20 years.



Morning Star News photo

In July 2020, a Bushehr court declared them unfit to adopt because the child is considered Muslim under Iranian law. However, the judge noted that the girl probably would not be adopted again because of her health issues. The court ruling was upheld in September, even though fatwas from Grand Ayatollahs in Iran stated the adoption was permissible.

Iran is No. 9 on Open Doors’ 2020 World Watch List of places where it is most difficult to be a Christian. (MS)



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THREE VIRTUAL EVENTS DESIGNED WITH YOU IN MIND!

Although the Annual Meeting of the State Convention won't be taking place in person this year, three key events have been planned online to keep us connected as Alabama Baptists. Here are the details!

Online State Missions Celebration

Tuesday, November 17, 2-3 p.m.

Please join us for this hour of inspiration and information as we celebrate how God has been at work among Alabama Baptists, even during the global pandemic.

You can participate in the celebration by visiting live.alsbom.org or the **SBOM Facebook** page.



imb | SENDING | CELEBRATION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 6:30 P.M.

International Mission Board trustees recently approved the appointment of 80 full-time, fully funded personnel who will be sent to eight of IMB's nine global affinities. The group includes some Alabama Baptists. View the livestream of the celebration at [LIVE.ALSBOM.ORG](https://live.alsbom.org) and on the IMB Facebook Page.



photos / imb




ONE
another

Join us online at albaptistpc.com
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Famous Christians from previous centuries

Heroes of the Faith

This year marks 225th anniversary of Lucy Thurston's birth

Lucy Thurston (1795–1876) was one of the first American missionaries to Hawaii. Her autobiography, “Life and Times of Mrs. Lucy G. Thurston,” is a

vivid account of missionary life in the 1800s.

This year is the 225th anniversary of her birth.

She was born on Oct. 29, 1795, in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Her father was

Abner Goodale. Her mother was probably Mary Howe, but little is known about her.

Thurston graduated from Bradford Academy and became a school-teacher.

In 1819, she read a newspaper advertisement about Hawaiian King Kamehameha inviting missionaries to Hawaii. To be accepted, missionaries had to be married.

On Oct. 12, 1819, she married Asa Thurston, a congregational minister who held a theology degree from Yale University.

Before their wedding, they were strangers. Several

days after their marriage, they sailed with other missionaries on a 5-month voyage aboard the ship Thaddeus. They reached Kawaihae on the island of Hawaii on March 30, 1820.

The king asked them to stay on the island to establish a missionary station at his residence. Seven months later they moved to Honolulu, where the first two of their six children were born.

They gained a thorough knowledge of the native language, translating many parts of the Old and New Testaments. While living on vari-

ous islands, male and female missionaries transcribed books, established a printing press and built churches and houses. The women also cared for their families and the sick, planted gardens and held sewing circles.

Amid all the successes, they also encountered trials. In the 1830s, someone burned their church. The natives mourned profusely before helping to build a stone church.

Health issues

Lucy was temporarily paralyzed while having her fifth child, Thomas. During an illness, she took strychnine instead of quinine, which almost caused her death. She traveled to the U.S. for treatment and returned to Hawaii in 1851.

The next year, a doctor diagnosed her with breast cancer. Because of her earlier paralysis, her doctor decided not to use chloroform.

During a 1 1/2-hour surgery, the doctor removed the entire left breast and the glands beneath the arms.

Lucy was awake through it all. She sat in a chair with her daughter, Persis, behind her, washing her temples. Her son, Asa, held her down.

The operation was successful, and she lived another 24 years.

After 40 years as a missionary, Asa retired. The couple lived with daughter Mary in Honolulu. Asa died in 1868. Lucy died of a heart problem in 1876.

Author James Michener fictionalized Asa and Lucy's life in his novel “Hawaii.”

By Joanne Sloan

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



THURSTON

TAB CLASSIFIEDS

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

CHURCH POSITIONS

SENIOR PASTOR

First Baptist Church, Tallassee, is searching for a full-time senior pastor. Those interested should send a resumé to: PSC c/o FBC Tallassee, 1279 Friendship Road, Tallassee, AL 36078 or email to: julie@fbctallassee.com.

PASTOR

Brindlee Mountain Baptist Church is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resúmes to: Brindlee Mountain Baptist Church, 3422 US Hwy 231, Laceys Spring, AL 35754. Or email to: fcochran56@gmail.com.

MINISTER OF YOUTH & EDUCATION

Farley Community Church in Huntsville, Alabama, is currently seeking a full-time minister of youth and education. Please reply to: personnel@farleycc.org.

FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC & WORSHIP LEADER

Southside Baptist Church, Andalusia, Alabama, is seeking an individual to provide worship and music leadership. Send resúmes to: southside@sbcandalusia.com or Southside Baptist Church, 1213 West Bypass, Andalusia, AL 36420.

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

South Asia

FROM THE HEIGHTS OF THE MIGHTY HIMALAYAS TO THE CRYSTAL-CLEAR WATER OF THE MALDIVES, SOUTH ASIA IS BOTH AWE-INSPIRING AND HEART-WRENCHING. IT HAS THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF NON-CHRISTIANS ON THE PLANET. SOUTH

ASIA IS HOME TO MORE THAN 500 MILLION MUSLIMS AND IS THE BIRTHPLACE OF HINDUISM, BUDDHISM, SIKHISM AND JAINISM.

MAKING HIM KNOWN In South Asia

How can your church be involved?

Prayer /// Become a prayer advocate for South Asian people by receiving requests through IMB (imb.org/pray) or from field personnel directly through the following:

Partnership /// Lead your church or small group to partner with personnel in South Asia.

Level one /// Adopt a missionary family for whom you will pray, communicate and assist with ministry needs (care packages, materials, etc.).

Level two /// Send volunteers to work alongside field personnel. Projects can be developed between your group and the field and may include prayer walking, food distribution, faith sharing, ESL, strengthening church leaders and a multitude of other things.

Level three /// Become a South Asia advocate helping to tell the story of ministry in South Asia to churches in your area. Helping to recruit prayer partners and volunteers to go to the field are key responsibilities.

SOUTH ASIA SPOTLIGHT

Two opportunities to attend: (10-3 both days)

November 7, Meadow Brook Baptist Church, Birmingham, featuring guest speaker TODD LAFFERTY, Executive Vice President, IMB

December 5, First Baptist Church, Prattville, featuring guest speaker KR, South Asia

Register at alsbom.org/southasia



For information on how your church can connect in South Asia, contact **Scotty Goldman** sgoldman@alsbom.org 1.334.613.2387



Time to Plant

Saturday, November 13 @ 11:30 am-1 pm
UAB BCM Student Center
1216 15th Street South, Birmingham

Time to Plant is a luncheon gathering to hear from church planters, those interested in planting and those wanting to partner or connect with church planting. In these days the Lord is moving workers into the harvest fields of Alabama... to plant the gospel, make disciples and gather a new community of faith to be a light in the darkness. Come and join us to learn, connect and engage to be a part of God's new works in your area. *For more details visit plantalabama.org.*

UPCOMING WEBINARS IN THE "CONNECT: PATHWAYS THAT LEAD TO CONNECTION" SERIES

Join State Missionary Daniel Edmonds, Alabama Baptist pastors Robert Mullins, Andy Frazier and Mark Gainey, and the Office of LeaderCare & Church Health for two great learning opportunities.

CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY: SUNDAY SCHOOL AND SMALL GROUPS

Tuesday, November 10, 10-11 am

This session will engage pastors on revitalizing your group strategy (Sunday School, small groups, etc.) to create connection and community. Learn how to define the "why" of your group strategy to create movement toward making disciples who multiply.

CONNECTING WITH THE CORE: DISCIPLE MAKING

Tuesday, December 8, 10-11 am

This session will engage pastors in moving members to the core of every church: disciples who make disciples that serve the Kingdom and bear fruit that remains.

Register for both of these webinars at PinnacleAlabama.org.

Christmas shoeboxes to be collected this year with safety protocols in place

By Lanell Downs Smith
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

About this time each year, many Christians share Christ's love with the world by packing gift-filled shoeboxes for distribution through the Samaritan's Purse ministry — Operation Christmas Child.

This year, the global COVID-19 pandemic has changed missions efforts and disrupted life for millions of people around the world, but Samaritan's Purse continues to share the hope of the gospel through Christmas shoeboxes.

National shoebox collection week is Nov. 16–23 and local collection sites will offer curbside drop off while observing state and local safety protocols.

Masked volunteers will greet donors outside to process shoebox donations digitally through a touch-



Photo courtesy of Samaritan's Purse
A young girl from Togo is delighted to find a teddy bear inside her Christmas shoebox gift.

less smartphone system.

Individuals and churches may pack traditional boxes

or build a box online for boys or girls of ages ranging from 2–4 to 10–14.

Gift suggestions include a “wow” item like a stuffed animal, soccer ball with pump or a clothing outfit. Other packing items may include toys, hy-

giene items and school supplies but should not include candy, food, liquids and breakable or used items.

Service opportunity

Opportunities for service are available at many local collection sites. With some members staying home due to COVID-19 concerns, Sampey Memorial Baptist Church volunteer Martha Sikes noted that the need for extra workers is greater this year than ever before.

To find out more about COVID-19 shoebox updates, check out samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/.

PASTOR'S CONFERENCE
ALABAMA
BAPTIST
2020

ONE another

Join us online at albaptistpc.com
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The 2020 Pastors Conference will be completely virtual. Sermons will premiere online Nov. 16 at albaptistpc.com.

Subscribe to the Alabama Baptist Pastors Conference on YouTube to receive notifications when the sermons premiere.

Christian Crossword

By Udena McKee Copyright 1994 ©Barbour Publishing Inc.

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Across

1. If one went unto them from the _____. (Luke 16:30)
5. Sixth month of the Hebrew calendar. (Neh. 6:15)
8. Give tribute unto Caesar, or ____? (Luke 20:22)
10. A rod of an ____ tree. (Jer. 1:11)
11. He made him to suck honey out of the _____. (Deut. 32:13)
14. A good ____ is rather to be chosen. (Prov. 22:1)
15. Satan ... smote Job with sore _____. (Job 2:7)
16. Month. (abbr.)
17. American Medical Association. (abbr.)
19. Vase or vessel.
21. The absence or reverse of.
23. God set them in the heaven to give _____. (Gen. 1:17)
25. ____ up thy strength. (Ps. 80:2)
28. Legislator. (abbr.)

29. A favorite.
30. His enemy came and sowed _____. (Matt. 13:25)
32. The shepherds who ____ my people. (Jer. 23:2)
35. Direction.
36. To give off or out.
37. A fine grit stone for sharpening.
38. Do you submit to ____ rules. (Col. 2:20)
39. And all the ____ of the land. (Lev. 27:30)
41. To find fault.
42. Behold, I send an angel before _____. (Ex. 23:20)
43. Wind direction.
45. ____ no man any thing. (Rom. 13:8)
48. There came two angels to _____. (Gen. 19:1)
52. ____ consider how great this man was. (Heb. 7:4)
53. Elkanah went to ____ mah. (1 Sam. 2:11)
55. ____ your heart and not your garments. (Joel 2:13)

57. It shall bring forth ____ fruit. (Ezek. 47:12)
 58. Condemned, especially to hell.
- ### Down
1. Son of Bilhah and Jacob. (Gen. 35:25)
 2. Chedorlaomer king of _____. (Gen. 14:1)
 3. Descendants of Lot and his youngest daughter. (Gen. 19:38)
 4. Female deer.
 5. Wilderness of _____. (2 Kings 3:8)
 6. Home of Abram. (Gen. 11:28)
 7. Small or partial lobe.
 9. At the beginning.
 12. Home of Aquila and Priscilla. (Acts 18:1–2)
 13. Now make us a _____. (1 Sam. 8:5)
 17. The weight thereof was ____ hundred and thirty. (Num. 7:13)
 18. Arizona. (ZIP code abbr.)
 20. Child shall play on

- the hole of the _____. (Isa. 11:8)
22. Either/____.
24. Wife of Elkanah. (1 Sam. 1:2)
26. Do not ____ the Lord your God. (Deut. 6:16)
27. Fiber.
28. Third son of Adam and Eve. (Gen. 4:25)
30. To fasten or restrain.
31. Last ____.
33. Variant of aeon.
34. Degree. (abbr.)
38. Iron sharpeneth _____. (Prov. 27:17)
40. I shall keep it unto the _____. (Ps. 119:33)
44. But I am a ____, and no man. (Ps. 22:6)
46. They also may without the word be _____. (1 Pet. 3:1)
47. Man had nothing, save one little ____ lamb. (2 Sam. 12:3)
49. Remember the days of _____. (Deut. 32:7)
50. Sons of God saw the daughters of _____. (Gen. 6:2)
51. Strange or different.
54. Morning time.
56. Nebraska. (abbr.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

For November 8

Explore the Bible

By Robert L. Olsen, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Christian Studies, University of Mobile



GOD COMFORTS Isaiah 49:1–13

Included (1–4)

As with other parts of the Old Testament, this section refers to Israel but also points to Jesus. Israel was to be a kingdom of priests on behalf of the nations.

The job of a priest is to go to God on behalf of the people, and Israel was to fulfill this function by representing God properly, being a light to the nations so all peoples could see God and worship Him. Ultimately, Israel failed to carry this out, but the work would reach its grand fulfillment in Christ.

As shown in Isaiah 49:1, “The Lord called me before I was born. He named me while I was in my mother’s womb.” Before Jesus was born to Mary, the Lord had already chosen Him for this purpose, to glorify God the Father.

The encouragement for the believer should not go unnoticed here. Not only is this Scripture clearly fulfilled in Christ, which gives us a confidence in God’s prophecy, but it also shows us that we were part of God’s redemptive plan from the beginning.

Called (5–7)

This section is clearly referring to a specific figure rather than the nation of Israel, which of course is Christ, the servant. This servant will lead His people back to God, a fact fulfilled in the Gospels.

Time and again we can see Jesus restoring people’s faith in God by forgiving them of their sins, healing them of their ills and taking care of their needs. Further, Jesus is a light to the nations, which we see as He ministers to both Jews and Gentiles, taking His ministry to all people and emphasizing that God’s love and salvation is not dependent on race or national identity.

Finally, the servant will be despised, which again is fulfilled in how the religious leaders treated Jesus and how He was crucified.

As believers, we still take part in God’s ministry. The ministry of Jesus did not end with His ascension. His ministry is carried on in the Church today. As such, we are called

to glorify God in how we live and act, carrying out the Great Commission as we live our lives and go about our business. We must remember that the Great Commission is not just taking the gospel to all nations, but it is also about discipling believers.

This is often an overlooked aspect of the Great Commission in which believers focus on international missions while neglecting to share the gospel where they live to help to build up the body.

Each of us has a specific calling, as Paul mentions, for example, in Romans 12:3–8. Some Christians are evangelists and need to evangelize, others are teachers and need to teach; and some are called to give generously.

All of us must do what God has called us to do, and we can’t be jealous or resentful with what God has gifted us. Just as a football team needs both a quarterback and a punter, who does not get nearly as much glory as the quarterback, the body of Christ needs people to perform all the functions of the Church.

Vindicated (8–13)

Here Isaiah is referring to the captives returning from Babylon and the care and love the Lord has for His people.

But this not only refers to the Israelites from their time of captivity. It also refers to God’s love for us. All the promises God gives to His people in these verses refer to believers.

Isaiah mentions how people will come from far away (some translators believe Isaiah refers to China in these verses) which signify how the peoples of the nations will hear the gospel and respond.

This gives us a mission today! How are the peoples of the world to hear the gospel? Simple. Believers must take the message there.

The Great Commission is how God works to take the gospel to the nations, and it is our job to do our part — either by going globally ourselves or supporting those who do. Each of us has a job to do according to his or her calling.✠

Bible Studies for Life

By Jeffery M. Leonard, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Samford University



COMMITTED TO HIS CHURCH Romans 12:3–16

Some of our most inglorious moments as parents are the moments when we let ourselves get outsmarted by the wee lads and lasses God has entrusted into our care. I still look back in disbelief at a rookie mistake I made with my own sons when they were just six and four.

I asked my older son, “Samuel, where would you like to go for dinner, McDonalds or Milo’s?” “Milo’s,” Samuel replied. Mission accomplished. But then, I did it. As if it were my very first day as a parent, I actually turned to my younger son and asked the same question. “McDonalds,” Elijah firmly replied.

Of course he did. As I was actually a bit more in the mood for Milo’s, I cajoled and badgered Elijah until I finally convinced him to change his choice. “Milo’s is fine,” he conceded. At which point, my older son piped up and said, “Then I want to go to McDonalds.” Of course he did.

As a parent, I should have known that the natural self-centeredness of two little kids would get the best of them in our ill-fated search for fast food. The truth is though, it is not just little children who struggle with self-centeredness. Self-centeredness lies at the very heart of our fallen human condition.

The two greatest commandments, love God and love your neighbor, are trained with laser-like precision on our chief struggle as human beings, the struggle to place God and others ahead of our own desires.

Believers are one body in Christ. (3–5)

When the Apostle Paul turns in Chapter 12 of Romans to the practical matter of how believers ought to relate to one another, it is the issue of self-centeredness that he takes on most forcefully.

His first sentence summarizes everything that follows: “Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.” Paul then goes on to flesh out this idea, stringing together a series of explanations and admonitions designed to encourage unity

in the Church. In verses 4–5, Paul underscores the fact that as believers, we are all part of one body, the body of Christ. Expanding on this metaphor, Paul says that in the same way that a body has many “members,” the body of Christ has many members. And this is key: “Each member belongs to all the others.” To be a part of the body of Christ is to recognize that we no longer belong strictly to ourselves. Other believers have a claim on us.

Believers are to use their gifts to support the body. (6–8)

One of the ways Paul urges his readers to live out their membership in the body of Christ is to bless their fellow believers with the spiritual gifts God has given them. Put simply, everyone is to “pitch in.” Some preach, some teach, some serve, some encourage, some give, but all do something to build up their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the things I miss most from the small church in which I grew up is our potluck suppers. Every month or two the ladies in the church would bring their best dishes, and a feast worthy of Solomon’s table would commence. In a small way, these potluck dinners were a reflection of what Paul has in mind here. All brought what they could, and everyone had more than enough. When we all share our specific spiritual gifts with one another, every need gets met.

Believers are to love each other as they serve the Lord together. (9–16)

Paul concludes with a catalog of short instructions that foster unity in the Church the same way proverbs (like those in the Book of Proverbs) foster wisdom. Each one focuses on a different aspect of our own responsibilities toward other believers.

What unites all of these individual instructions is one key idea: “Honor one another above yourselves.” When we do this, all of the other ways we should love and care for one another will fall naturally into place.✠

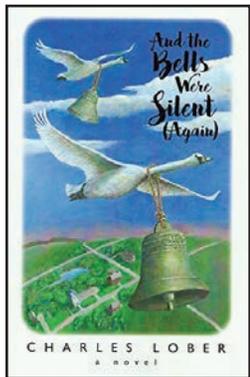


Media reviews

And the Bells Were Silent (Again)

Charles Lober. *Rocky Heights*, 2020.

Charles Lober is an experienced author taking his fifth turn at a novel with “And the Bells Were Silent (Again).” In doing so, he makes a brave decision to employ as his narrator the voice of a 16-year-old Gabrielle Appleton. It’s not easy for an adult author to write the perceptions, attitudes, observations and language of a much younger character while moving the story forward for the reader.



Even if there are moments here and there where the voice doesn’t seem entirely authentic, Lober pulls off a plot that makes twists and turns through rumors of Confederate gold, the revenge of an ex-con and the love interests of high schoolers.

Gabrielle deals with common questions of teenage life, such as whether her boyfriend will invite her to the prom, and she navigates the lessons that come from her grandmother’s fading memory. Yet she also takes off on dangerous escapades to search for hidden treasure while working through the mystery of the twin bells stolen from her father’s church.

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.

This latest release is a follow-up story to a previous Lober novel, “The Bells Were Silent.” (Minnie Lamberth)

Jesus the Great Philosopher: Rediscovering the Wisdom Needed for the Good Life

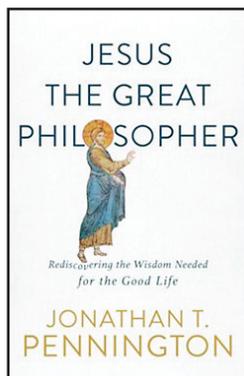
Jonathan T. Pennington. *Brazos Press*, 2020.

Christianity is the true philosophy that through faith and the power of the Spirit enables people to see the world in a certain way and to live accordingly.

“It is the way to the truly Good Life,” writes biblical scholar Jonathan T. Pennington in the first section of his book, “Jesus the Great Philosopher.”

Over the next 200-plus pages, Pennington, an associate professor of New Testament interpretation and director of research doctoral studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, offers a researched assessment that emphasizes Jesus as Philosopher, in addition to more familiar names of Savior, King, Shepherd and Messiah.

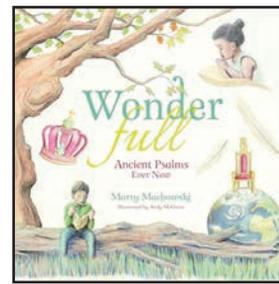
For a weighty subject that recalls ancient figures such as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, he takes on a light tone as well — offering input from examples of modern culture and entertainment. “The Good Life,” Pennington writes, “is not referring to the lives of the rich and famous as revealed in a tabloid or expose show. The Good Life refers to the habits of practiced wisdom that produce in the human soul deep and lasting flourishing.” (Minnie Lamberth)



Wonderfull: Ancient Psalms Ever New

Marty Machowski (author) and Andy MacGuire (illustrator). *New Growth Press*, 2020.

Parents or those at church responsible for the Bible education of children may find “Wonderfull: Ancient Psalms Ever New,” authored by Marty Machowski and



illustrated by Andy MacGuire that special resource they have been seeking. Oliver, the main

character, finds a book in his grandfather’s study. A note on the top reads, “A gift for Oliver.” This begins the wonderful adventure Oliver and his grandfather will share as they read and examine the Psalms to learn about God and how to talk to Him in prayer.

Part devotional and part fiction, Machowski offers the Scripture passage, a narrative for discussion and activity suggestions to help readers take a closer look at each psalm. Conversations between Oliver and his grandfather are woven throughout the book, highlighting not only a relationship between grandfather and grandson, but also a relationship with God. As Oliver and his grandfather find special moments together, readers will also discover the same love of the 150 songs that make up the book of Psalms. (Martha Brown)

Nell’s Journey: A Caregiver’s Memoir of Alzheimer’s

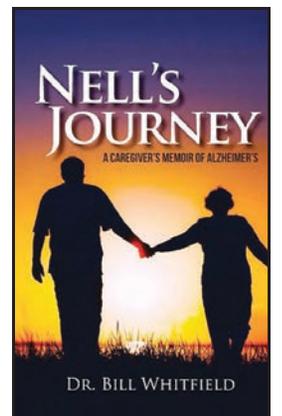
Bill Whitfield. *Wyatt House Publishing*, 2019.

Those who minister to individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease — and especially their caregivers — will get a clear picture of the overwhelming and heartbreaking experience in Bill Whitfield’s book, “Nell’s Journey.” The author has essentially opened his diary and put dates on the moments where he is processing what is happening to his wife of more than 60 years, letting us all be witness to his confusion, doubt, sorrow and unrelenting commitment.

This raw account of losing a loved one to the progressive debilitation of Alzheimer’s disease is not easy to read.

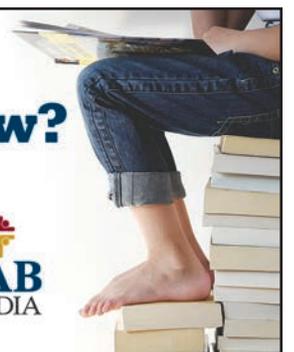
Whitfield takes us from the pre-diagnosis moments in 2013 when he doesn’t understand why Nell doesn’t know how to operate the GPS through the days after her funeral in December 2017.

Whitfield was organizing pastor of Cypress Shores Baptist Church, Mobile, and was also on staff at Dauphin Way Baptist Church until 2016 when he resigned to become a full-time caregiver. (Minnie Lamberth)



Want your book considered for a review?

Mail a copy to:
3310 Independence Dr.
Birmingham, AL 35209



Growing deeper in FAITH

Samford football player J.D. Beall lives out his faith through his 'servant heart'

By Bill Sorrell
Correspondent, The Alabama Baptist

Samford football player J.D. Beall goes through his day smiling, though these days his smile is hidden behind a coronavirus mask. Still, Beall's light shines through.

"I have an overall joy," said Beall, a left guard on Samford's offensive line. "My joy doesn't come from others. It comes from the Lord."

Beall has combined faith with football and leads his team in both, according to Samford offensive line coach Shawn Bostick, who called Beall a "strong spiritual example" on the team.

"The players really seem to listen to him because he is the same age," Bostick said. "He is always someone the guys can talk to about their faith. He is well respected. His strength is his faith."

Before coming to Samford, Beall played at Hartfield Academy in Flowood, Mississippi. After committing his life to Christ as a child, Beall began to grow stronger in his faith on missions trips to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

"I didn't have a full heart transformation and giving my life to Christ until that [first] trip to Haiti [in 2016]," he said.

'Settle in'

That "eye-opening experience" helped his faith "settle in," he said.

"The kids all around us didn't have any clothes, any toys," he said, "but they had the most joy I've ever seen. Seeing the joy on

those kids' faces, I knew who Jesus was and who the Lord was."

During that trip, the missions team built a house for a family and held medical clinics. Beall returned in 2018 and 2019, serving in door-to-door evangelism and food outreach. The experiences challenged him to see himself in a new light.

Turning to God

"I thought I knew who Jesus was, but you didn't see the change in my life. But through the Holy Spirit drawing me in and through my personal pain and insecurities, I turned to Him, and He told me how I was fearfully and wonderfully made and how He loved me first and how He has chosen me as His son."



BEALL

Samford wide receiver Jason Houston said the team views Beall as a sort of team chaplain.

"A lot of players ... see him as someone they can trust and come to, not only for faith but just to talk," Houston said. "When talking to him, you can tell deep in his heart the passion he has for Christ and his strong relationship with the Lord. ... He has given me so much good advice with all aspects of life."

Beall has an open-door policy with teammates and friends and loves to have deep conversations.

"I listen first and speak second," said Beall, who wants his witness for Christ to be evident by the way he treats others and carries himself with "confidence in the Lord and faith in Him."

He wants others to "know who



Photo courtesy of Samford University

Jesus is" and understand that salvation is a gift.

"It is not accomplished by you doing something," Beall said. "As athletes, we tend to believe that we have to perform for God ... as we do for our coaches. It's hard to realize and come to a full understanding that Jesus loves us first."

'Servant heart'

Samford offensive right guard Luke Byrne sees Beall live out his faith through his "servant heart" and daily efforts to live according to the Bible.

"He has made a serious impact on my spiritual life," Byrne said. "[J.D.] talking to me about faith and God's love has allowed me to grow deeper in my faith. The team knows they can speak to him about anything. He will always be there to listen."

Beall started a team Bible study

in the spring, leading participants through the Psalms, Scripture he calls "so raw, so real." He reads a chapter each night from Psalms, and each morning reads from a devotional book.

He listens to Christian hip-hop singers Lecrae and Andy Mineo, who he said, "portray Christ's love through their voices, songs for every emotion and every thought I have."

'Obedient to Christ'

One of the verses he claims is 2 Corinthians 10:5, "We take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ."

"My faith is also my trust in the Lord, from every little thing to every big thing," Beall said. "If I have a thought or fear or anxiety I give it to Him, and He turns it into joy and peace of mind. It is in His hands. It's not going to be messed up."✝

To read J.D. Beall's story in its entirety, visit tabonline.org/JDBeall.



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