



BAPTIST BEACON

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of Michigan Baptists

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Raising Roses and Rearing Children

By Tim Patterson

Fenton- I recently returned from a visit to the UP to connect with some pastors and their families. I always return home with a renewed gratitude for these men and women who are doing the Kingdom's work in a place that at times proves to be difficult. Copious amounts of snow and vast distances can be isolating and treacherous, but the rewards are beyond value.

During these treks to the northern parts of our state, I am reminded of how much hunting, fishing and outdoor life is so prevalent. I don't think it would be an exaggeration to say that 95% of the population is involved in and passionate about some lifestyle that involves outdoor recreational sporting.

Being reared in West Texas I have done my fair share of hunting, fishing and outdoor living. As I have grown older and time constraints of my ministry have limited my abilities, hunting and fishing have diminished. I still love the outdoors and getting out in the woods, but my motivation is altogether different now.

One of the pastimes that I took up in Florida and still love, is growing roses. Here in Michigan, it is not as easy as in the more Southern regions. For some reason, roses don't like sub-zero weather. My love for rose gardening is a passion and trait that has been passed on to me from my grandfather, who has long since gone home to be with our Lord. He was a wonderful gardener, and had the responsibility of caring for the gardens of our local hospital. His rose garden, located in the courtyard of the hospital, was a retreat for the ill and well alike. It is this writer's opinion that Granddad's handiwork was responsible for a great deal of the healing that went on within those walls.

Many times when I would visit him at work, I would see several patients walking through or just sitting in the midst of his gardens. At one time, I had over 30 different rose plants in my garden in Florida. They varied in type and style. Some were Tea Roses, Old Garden or Antique, Flora Grande, Floribunda, and Climbers. All of them were different, and each had unique characteristics. Some were very fragrant with sweet traditional scents while others had a more pungent perfume. Others were beautiful in shape and color yet were almost lacking in fragrance, but each could boast a particular attribute.

I have come to understand what one old roselman told me some years ago when I began to try my hand at these scented beauties. "Roses are like children; they require a lot of time and attention." No truer words were ever spoken. I remember one summer

that was one of my more hectic seasons. I didn't know if I was coming or going on most days, and as a result my "bedded children" were neglected. "Black Spot" attacked with a vengeance as did aphids, and of course, the dreaded "dollar weed" entrenched itself and covered every bed. When I could find a spare moment, I would quickly spray with fungicide and insecticide, but irreparable damage was already done. I lost quite a bit of foliage and some blooms, but for the most part they survived.

The biggest obstacle I faced was those dumb "dollar weeds" because they were so difficult and time consuming to remove. So, in order to save time and effort, I mixed up a batch of systemic herbicide and carefully sprayed the infestation. Within a matter of days, the interlopers were dying or dead. I was happy and satisfied that I had taken care of the problem. It was not until the next week that I realized what had happened when leaf after leaf began to drop from my roses. The buds began to shrivel and die before maturing. Inch by inch, I watched hopelessly and helplessly as one by one, nine of my prized plants withered and died. My impatience and lack of attention had taken its toll. I had taken the easy way out, and was now suffering the consequences. Early that next Spring I replaced the dead plants with new ones. They did not produce at the same level as the previous plants for a few years, but at least I had the opportunity to begin again.

I wish that were true with our children, but the fact of the matter is that we have only one chance with rearing them, and very rarely do we have the opportunity to correct our mistakes. If we neglect to give our children the proper attention they need when they are young, and we do not put forth the effort to properly care for them, then we will suffer the ravages of our negligent actions. We must daily care for their needs, and make sure that the encroaching weeds of life do not get a stronghold that requires exhaustive labor and inordinate time to remove. Children don't need big homes, new cars, designer clothes and large bank accounts. They need you and a warm, comfortable, loving climate that nurtures and nourishes them on a daily basis. Take care of them now, and they will provide a sweet fragrance to all who encounter them for ages to come.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6 NASB)

Not Crazy

By Tony Lynn

You might think I am crazy, if you watched my life without sound. I bounce my shoulders with laughter in my quiet car after a meeting. I shed tears listening to a man share his call to ministry. I throw out a victorious fist-pump into the air after I hear great news! I sob with joy when I am praying with other men. I talk faster and with an ear-to-ear grin without taking a breath when I report another breakthrough in church planting to my wife, my partners in ministry and to complete strangers as a way to bring up the good news of Jesus Christ. I might look crazy, but it is only because I am awed by God's actions. Let me give you a quick overview of these past six months.

Send Network Michigan

The Baptist State Convention of Michigan (BSCM) is the first state to share the distinguished "Send Network" trademark of the North American Mission Board. The highly recognized and respected Send Network brand identifies the church planting division of the state convention. More about "Send Network Michigan" and "Send Detroit" can be found at:

- www.sendmichigan.com
- www.sendnetworkmichigan.com
- www.bscm.org under "Starting"
- @sendmichigan for Facebook
- @sendmichigan for Twitter
- @senddetroit for Facebook
- @senddetroitmi for Twitter

Because we share the Send Network brand university and seminary graduates, experienced pastors, bi-vocational pastors and laypeople throughout the nation have a strong confidence in Michigan's church planting ministry. A variety of inspirational videos on the sites listed above explain how the network serves the Lord.

Interest has arisen noticeably in recent months. Our state continues to drive its own vision and strategy, but the Send Network supports us in ways you cannot imagine. I am thankful for our partners.

Eight Launches During Past Six Months

Michigan saw eight churches launch during these past six months because of the prayers, provisions and participation of God's people and the Lord's desires. Seven of

the eight were right out of the gate whereas Refuge Church, who has been underway for some time, decided to gather weekly for worship services central to their vast community.

1. One Mission Church in Westland with Antonio Wimberly
2. Commonwealth of Faith Church in Redford with Torion Bridges
3. Hope Church in Zeeland with Dave Abberger
4. Cornerstone Fellowship Church in Traverse City with Ricky Pearson
5. Mile City Lyon Church in Lyon Township with Phillip Box
6. Transformation Church in Waterford with Seth Springs
7. Redemption Church Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids with Matt Thompson
8. Refuge Church in Detroit with Drew Ansley (underway but started weekly worship)

Two Church Plants Multiply & Two Apprentices Start

For years, we have been praying that God would help original church plants create new church plants that flourish. That day has arrived, and the results surpass our expectations.

Near the occasion of their four year anniversaries, Redemption Church Grandville and Mile City Plymouth launched two new churches which are Redemption Grand Rapids and Mile City Lyon. Our network celebrates church plants multiplying new generations of church plants.

In less than four years, Mile City Plymouth under the leadership of Travis Whittaker has grown rapidly and strongly. Furthermore, Mile City Plymouth planted two churches in less than four years while maintaining healthy growth and momentum: Grumlaw Church in Grand Blanc and now Mile City Lyon mentioned above. Those two new churches appear to be on their trajectory to healthy reproduction in the future.

Equally exciting, Mile City Plymouth and Grumlaw Grand Blanc intentionally took on two recently assessed and approved apprentices in preparation for future church plants. Jeremiah Williams, Jason Loewen and their wives will benefit from sharing life with two thriving church plants as they prepare to plant in the near future.

At www.sendnetworkmichigan.com more details about church planting apprenticeships can be found by following the site's pathway to "Plant" to "Apprenticeship." Please, reach out to us if you are interested.

Seven Children Added to Five Church Planting Families

Five church planting families added seven children to their families this winter:

- John Robinson Guyer was born on January 2 to Michael & Emily Guyer of Treasuring Christ Church, Ann Arbor
- Noah Cruz Caldwell was born on January 5 to Roland & Tedi Caldwell of the House of Restoration Church, Detroit
- Lily Joy Springs was born on February 5 to Seth & Taylor Springs of the Transformation Church, Waterford
- Mahlek, Mya & Jonathon were adopted on March 20 by Joshua & Stephanie Tovey of Redemption Church, Grandville
- Hannah Elizabeth Marie Bridges was born on April 18 to Torion & Jasmine Bridges of the Commonwealth of Faith Church, Redford

Two University Plants Underway & Two Start in September 2019

Another answer to years of prayer, is the unprecedented collaboration I see in what I call new adults, especially those on university campuses throughout the state. Young adults are delaying the start of profitable careers in order to help start new churches in new communities. Other graduates are selecting their post-graduate residence so they can leverage their new careers to help new church plants. We have examples here in Michigan.

Baptisms, growth, discipleship and leadership development are well underway on the campuses of Wayne State University in Detroit with New Life Church and Church Planter Kevin Armstrong, and at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo with H2O Church and Church Planter Chris Gentz.

Two of the newest church planters are preparing to launch during September 2019. Treasuring Christ Church with Church Planter Michael Guyer will lead his launch team to share their lives with the students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Austin Wadlow, another church planter, will lead his launch team to saturate Michigan State University in East Lansing with the good news of Christ.

Crazy?

As I said, you might think I am crazy, but I assure you I am not. I simply relish, enjoy and celebrate what God is doing in our region. If you are interested in sharing in my experience let me offer you a simple invitation that you can act on right now. Here is the invitation.

Detroit's Catch the Vision Tour: October 14-16, 2019

Pastor Wayne Parker of Merriman Road Baptist Church and Send City Missionary of Detroit with the North American Mission Board invites pastors and associational missionary strategists, including those in Michigan, Ontario and throughout the nation to join him on a 3-day, 2-night guided-tour of Greater Detroit during October 14-16, 2019. Visit communities, meet people and hear the inspiring stories of God's intervention in the lives of people transformed by the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you are interested and want more details please send an email to Wayne Parker at wparker@namb.net. After your visit to Detroit, you will want to invite friends and other churches to return with you to Greater Detroit and experience what God is doing.

Quality AND Quantity

By Mike Durbin

Every church (and every believer for that matter) needs to be inwardly strong while outwardly focused. We are called to grow deeper as Christ's disciples even as we follow Him on mission. Jesus expressed this clearly in His call, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." He makes us (inner strength brought about by spiritual transformation) fishers of men (outward focus as we engage the mission).

Inward strength and outward focus go hand in hand for us as Jesus followers. It's not one or the other, but both at the same time. You've probably heard someone say about their church, "We are focused on quality, not quantity." We understand and agree with their concern to grow disciples, but implied in the statement is the idea that you can't have inward strength and outward focus at the same time. As churches, our mission is to make disciples, lots of them, as the Gospel is shared with every man, woman and child in our time and every time until Jesus comes again. We are called to grow stronger and larger.

With that in mind, ask yourself two questions:

1. What can I point to in my life that indicates I am growing stronger as a follower of Christ?
2. What can I point to that demonstrates I am fishing - engaged in the mission?

To be quite honest, I am not always happy with my answers to these questions. That's probably the case with most of us. I was recently moved by the testimony of Pastor Ken Hale, one of our Michigan Baptist pastors. His words powerfully demonstrate the balance between inner strength and outward focus:

"I cannot begin to tell you how grateful I am that the BSCM held the Engage 24 Evangelism Conference. It has recharged my ministry, and our church has already experienced God working as a result.

Tuesday evening while in my hotel room I wrote down 6 names for salvation. Sunday morning two of those walked the aisle accepted Jesus as Savior. A mother and her 15-year-old daughter both came forward. With tears in everyone's eyes, we had a celebration right there in church.

God began to do more work in my life. Last night, I walked the neighborhood around the church asking God to give me just one person to share the gospel with. I came across a man named Ramon, and we struck a conversation with each other for 45 minutes. I wish I could tell you he trusted Christ, but a relationship was started, the seed was planted and I am trusting God for his salvation. While speaking with Ramon, I learned we have about 3 meth labs within a five block radius of our church. I learned much about our community. I am praying that each Tuesday night as I walk the neighborhood around our church that we can see many come to know Jesus.

As I walked back to the church, I met a lady named Angela. She was needing prayer for her family. God is good as we can reach people, all we have to do is get out there. I am so glad I attended Engage 24 and got recharged!!

Thank you BSCM and NAMB for helping renew and recharge this pastor so that Community Baptist can be a Lighthouse for Jesus and help **Punch holes in the darkness** in Hastings, MI.”

Stop Trying to Fill the Hole

By Mick Schatz

Roscommon- It's Springtime at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center. At least it is trying to be. Barring any new "polar vortex." Most of the snow has melted away revealing multiple shades of brown in its absence. The roads once frozen with ice and snow are now muddy and bumpy with potholes. To combat the potholes and keep our vehicles from bouncing apart we periodically drag the road and grade it so as to fill the holes and make the road as smooth as possible. This particular task is one I enjoy doing because I get to ride "Maggie" - the affectionate name we have for our old, yellow, Massey Ferguson tractor. She can be a little temperamental at times, but for the most part she tends to always get the job done.

Over the past few years, I have discovered that no matter how many times I drag dirt into certain potholes, they always seem to form again in a few days. When you have spent several hours pulling dirt around and filling holes only to have them open up again within a few days it can be very annoying. On the surface it makes sense that if you fill the hole with dirt it should stay filled and level out with the rest of the road.

Nevertheless, no matter how much dirt I put in the holes they always seem to form again. Being very curious about this phenomenon, I sought answers from some of the great minds that work with me. I was informed there was probably an old tree stump or trunk that had been buried years earlier and was in a constant state of decay. In other words, it was rotting slowly away underneath causing the hole to continually form. No matter how much dirt I put in the hole it would always sink away because of the rotten decay underneath. The hole will never fill up.

This aggravating, hole-filling exercise has served as an object lesson for my heart to contemplate. The lesson being this: if we allow unconfessed sin to remain in our lives, it will rot and decay in our souls and produce potholes in our life. Our natural inclination is to cover-up or rationalize our sin and put on a pretty face so that on the surface we look great. We try to fill the pothole with anything that will take the focus off our sin and maintain appearances. We try to fill the hole with worldly pleasures, relationships, work, or even religious activity. The list could go on. How exhausting it is to keep filling a hole that will never stay filled. How exhausting it is to keep up appearances and continually display a fraudulent face. However no matter how much time and energy we expend filling the hole, it will never stay full. Confession and the forgiveness of Christ by His grace and mercy is the only permanent solution. Only He can forgive and only He can satisfy.

Ephesians 1:7-8 puts it this way, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence".

It's time to stop wasting our energy filling the hole - we need to receive forgiveness and start overflowing with the riches of His grace into the lives of others.

SBC Birmingham: Greear's focus on 'Gospel above all'

by Shawn Hendricks

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) -- Keeping the focus on the "Gospel Above All" theme is Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear's main goal going into SBC's annual meeting in Birmingham, Ala., June 11-12.

But following a year of transition among five SBC entities searching for new leadership and the convention responding to reports of sexual abuse, Greear noted there will be other issues demanding attention.

He acknowledged that confronting sexual abuse is among them.

"I look forward to seeing our convention continue in the unqualified declaration that we abhor abuse of any kind," said Greear, who is spearheading a Sexual Abuse Presidential Advisory Study. "We will demonstrate this conviction with new processes -- informed by Christian counselors, victims and victim advocates -- that ensure not only that our churches and institutions are safe, but also that those who have been hurt experience the healing love of Christ."

Southern Baptists, Greear noted, should not lose sight of "the only thing that can unite us and move us in mission -- the Gospel." He also will be promoting the "Who's Your One?" evangelism campaign in partnership with the North American Mission Board. See related Baptist Press story.

"Churches all across the nation have already gotten involved," he said of the campaign, "asking every church member to identify one person in their lives that they can pray for, share the Gospel with, and invite to church. I'm excited to share stories and pray over these efforts at our annual meeting."

Other personal meeting highlights, Greear said, will include the International Mission Board's Sending Celebration, Crossover and a more streamlined program that will forgo any evening sessions. The meeting will also feature three panel discussions: "Undivided: Your Church and Racial Reconciliation;" "Gospel Above All: Keeping Secondary Issues Secondary;" and "Indispensable Partners: The Value of Women in God's Mission."

Ronnie Floyd, president-elect of the Executive Committee, also is looking forward to the meeting and helping lead Southern Baptists to tighten their focus on the Gospel.

"While I have been involved at every level of Southern Baptist life," he said, "it will definitely be a great privilege to be there in my new role.

"I look forward to speaking to our Southern Baptist Convention about reaching the world for Jesus Christ," he said. "I believe the time is now to prioritize, elevate and accelerate our pace to present the Gospel to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations.

"I expect the Lord to bring us together around our mission of reaching the world for Christ ... I believe we will put the Gospel above all!"

Crossover Birmingham

This year's Crossover evangelism initiative is set to engage more than 20,000 homes with the Gospel. See related story. The North American Mission Board will partner with the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions to mobilize 400 teams of volunteers to knock on doors in the metro Birmingham area.

"This year we have a really simplified approach that will help us make as big of a concentrated push as we can make in one day," Joel Southerland of NAMB's evangelism team said in a Baptist Press article. "We already have student pastors bringing students, and pastors who are bringing van loads of volunteers, because it can all be done in one day."

The last two years, the focus of Crossover has been on evangelistic crusade events led by Southern Baptist associations and Harvest America. Last year's event in Dallas drew tens of thousands with more than 100,000 watching online, Baptist Press reported. Crossover coordinators also reported 4,229 people came to faith in Christ. This includes decisions for Christ at the crusade, online and through door-to-door and street evangelism.

Elections

Greear will be nominated by Pennsylvania pastor K. Marshall Williams for a second term, according to an April announcement. Greear is currently unopposed. See related Baptist Press story.

SBC app

The "SBC Annual Meetings" mobile app is now live. The app will include a listing of speakers for the SBC Pastors' Conference and SBC annual meeting as well as the daily program schedule, daily events, exhibitor listing, convention center maps, interactive map of the exhibit hall, 2019 Book of Reports and more. Download the app on your mobile device by accessing the App Store, Google Play or by visiting app.core-apps.com/sbc_am2019. Daily updates will be made to the app leading up to the SBC annual meeting.

Attendees also can follow on Twitter @SBCMeeting, @BaptistPress, @SBCLife, @SBCCP, @SBCCPastorsConf and @EC_SBC for the latest annual meeting updates. Many social media users will employ the hashtag #SBC19 and #SBCPC19 in their posts about the annual meeting and the pastors' conference.

Sex abuse panel

Prior to the SBC meeting, on Monday, June 10, the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission will co-host with the Sexual Abuse Presidential Advisory Study a public conversation at 9 p.m. Greear initiated the study last year and is working with the ERLC to help congregations prevent sex abuse and minister to survivors of such abuse. The June 10 conversation, "Sexual Abuse and the Southern Baptist Convention," will be at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

Proposals

Messengers gathering in Birmingham will consider a variety of recommendations during the annual meeting. Among them:

-- a recommendation of an amendment to the SBC Constitution stating churches are not "in friendly cooperation with the Convention" if they "have evidenced indifference in addressing sexual abuse." To take effect, the amendment would need two-thirds approval at both the 2019 and 2020 SBC annual meetings.

-- a recommendation of an SBC constitutional amendment specifying racial discrimination as a basis to disfellowship a church. The proposed amendment on racial discrimination would add a section to Article III of the SBC Constitution specifying a cooperating church as one that "has not acted to affirm, approve, or endorse discriminatory behavior on the basis of ethnicity."

For more information, read related BP story.

Other highlights

-- Women attending the SBC's annual meeting in Birmingham are invited to an SBC Women's Session, a Ministers' Wives Luncheon, and a women's expo at the Birmingham–Jefferson Convention Complex.

This year, all women across the SBC are invited to participate in a "Women's Session" at 9 a.m. on Monday, June 10, during the SBC Pastors' Conference. The three-hour event, which replaces the former Pastors' Wives Conference, will feature the newly launched SBC Women's Leadership Network (WLN). The event is "a collaborative community of women from the Southern Baptist Convention family who long to lead in diverse ways to significantly impact the Kingdom of God," according to the sbcwomen.net website. The event is free and no registration is required.

Tickets for the Ministers' Wives Luncheon, which is open to all wives of pastors, church staff members, chaplains, missionaries and denominational workers, are \$20/person and can be purchased online at <https://www.lifeway.com/en/events/ministers-wives-luncheon>.

-- The IMB will host a missionary "Sending Celebration" Tuesday afternoon, June 11, during the SBC meeting. Attendees will hear testimonies from current IMB missionaries, as well as new missionary appointees.

-- NAMB will host its annual Send Luncheon in the concert hall at the Birmingham–Jefferson Convention Complex at 11:45 a.m. on Monday, June 10. Attendance is free, but registration is required. Visit namb.net/events/send-luncheon-2019 for more information.

-- Attendees of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference will hear personal testimonies from speakers on living out "Kingdom character," the theme of this year's event. Conference preachers will examine the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, while focusing on a Scripture exemplified in their own life, said Pastors' Conference President Danny Wood. The event will convene June 9-10.

-- Prior to the WMU Missions Celebration, Woman's Missionary Union will host an "Acteens for Life" dinner at its national WMU facility on Friday, June 7, at 6 p.m. The event will mark 50 years of lives changed through Acteens. The gathering is for all

women whose lives have been impacted through Acteens in their teenage years, as well as current and former leaders of Acteens. Visit wmu.com/ActeensforLife for more information. Registration is required; the cost is \$30.

-- The Cooperative Program Stage and Platform once again will be located between the IMB and NAMB booths in the exhibit hall. The panels will include newly elected presidents of three SBC entities -- Ronnie Floyd, SBC Executive Committee; Adam Greenway, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Paul Chitwood, IMB. Each will share their vision for the future of these organizations. Panel discussions also will touch on topics such as church planting, Send Relief, adoption and foster care, and other Southern Baptist ministries across North America and around the globe.

The panels will be held Monday through Wednesday throughout the day, beginning at 8:30 a.m. A complete schedule will be available on the SBC mobile app, in the SBC Bulletin and at talkCP.com.

Registration

Register online at sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc19 under the Messengers tab. NOTE: messengers, exhibitors and invited guests need to be registered and properly badged for entrance into the general sessions June 11-12.

After completing online registration, each individual will receive an eight-digit registration code to present at the annual meeting's express registration lane. There, the registration code can be entered into a computer and a nametag will be printed.

Resolutions

Messengers planning to propose resolutions must submit them no later than 15 days prior to the annual meeting. Detailed guidelines on submitting resolutions are available at sbcannualmeeting.net/sbc19 under the Messengers tab. Resolutions may be submitted online but must be followed up by a letter of credentials from the submitter's church.

Children & students

Child care is available for infants through age 12 during the SBC Pastors' Conference June 9-10 and the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting June 11-12 and for

grades 7-12 during the annual meeting June 11-12. All activities for children/youth will be housed at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex.

Please note there will be no on-site registration for the children's and youth programs. See related information.

2019 SBC annual meeting program released

by BP Staff

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) -- The 2019 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting will convene at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Ala., on Tuesday, June 11, at 8 a.m. and conclude Wednesday, June 12, at 6:15 p.m.

A full schedule follows.

TUESDAY MORNING, JUNE 11

8:00 -- Worship -- Branden Williams, Convention music director; worship pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

8:25 -- Prayer -- Rick Lance, executive director-treasurer, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, Prattville, Ala.

8:30 -- Welcome and Call to Order -- J.D. Greear, SBC president; pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

8:45 -- Registration Report and Constitution of Convention -- Don Currence, SBC registration secretary; minister of administration, First Baptist Church, Ozark, Mo.

8:50 -- Committee on Order of Business Report (First) -- Adam W. Greenway, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

8:55 -- Celebrating Freedom -- J.D. Greear; General Douglas L. Carver, executive director of chaplaincy, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

9:05 -- GuideStone Financial Resources Report -- O.S. Hawkins, president and CEO, GuideStone Financial Resources, Dallas

9:17 -- Executive Committee Report (Part 1) -- Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

10:02 -- Introduction of New Motions (First)

10:22 -- Crossover Report & Birmingham Schools Postcard Project -- Johnny Hunt, senior vice president for evangelism and leadership, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

10:33 -- North American Mission Board Report -- Kevin Ezell, president, North American Mission Board, Alpharetta, Ga.

10:45 -- North American Mission Board Presentation -- Kevin Ezell

11:15 -- Worship -- Branden Williams

11:30 -- President's Address -- J.D. Greear

12:15 -- Closing Prayer -- John L. Cantelow III, senior pastor, Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, Birmingham, Ala.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 11

2:30 -- Worship -- Branden Williams, Convention music director; worship pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

2:40 -- Prayer -- Liz Encinia, executive director-treasurer, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, Louisville, Ky.

2:45 -- Election of Officers (First)

2:50 -- Introduction of New Motions (Last Opportunity)

3:10 -- Election of Officers (Second)

3:20 -- Panel -- Undivided: Your Church and Racial Reconciliation

3:50 -- Election of Officers (Third)

3:56 -- Woman's Missionary Union Report -- Sandra Wisdom-Martin, executive director-treasurer, Woman's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala.

4:08 -- International Mission Board Report -- Paul Chitwood, president, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

4:20 -- Mission Sending Celebration -- Paul Chitwood

5:05 -- Election of Officers (Fourth)

5:10 -- Committee on Order of Business Report (Second) -- Adam W. Greenway, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

5:25 -- Election of Officers (Fifth)

5:30 -- Executive Committee Report (Part 2) -- Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

6:15 -- Closing Prayer -- Susie Hawkins, author; speaker, Susie Hawkins Ministry, Dallas

WEDNESDAY MORNING, JUNE 12

8:00 -- Worship -- Branden Williams, Convention music director; worship pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

8:25 -- Prayer -- Cameron Triggs, lead pastor, Grace Alive, Orlando, Fla.

8:30 -- Committee on Order of Business Report (Third) -- Adam W. Greenway, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

8:40 -- Committee on Committees Report -- Sky Pratt, chairman; associate pastor, mobilization, Prince Avenue Baptist Church, Bogart, Ga.

8:50 -- Committee on Nominations Report -- Bucky Kennedy, chairman; evangelist, Bucky Kennedy Ministries, Gainesville, Ga.

9:00 -- Previously Scheduled Business -- J.D. Greear, SBC president; pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

9:20 -- Panel -- Gospel Above All: Keeping Secondary Issues Secondary

10:00 -- Joint Seminary Presentation and Reports -- Daniel L. Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Jason K. Allen,

president, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Adam W. Greenway, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Jeff Iorg, president, Gateway Seminary of the Southern Baptist Convention, Ontario, Calif.; Charles S. Kelley Jr., chancellor, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, La.; R. Albert Mohler Jr., president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

11:15 -- Worship -- Branden Williams

11:30 -- Convention Sermon -- Stephen Rummage, senior pastor, Quail Springs Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

12:15 -- Closing Prayer -- Cyndi Logsdon, senior project manager, International Mission Board, Richmond, Va.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 12

2:30 -- Worship -- Branden Williams, Convention music director; worship pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

2:40 -- Prayer -- Ray Gentry, executive director, Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders, McDonough, Ga.

2:45 -- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Presentation (Part 1) -- Russell D. Moore, president, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, Nashville

President's Sexual Abuse Study Group -- J.D. Greear, SBC president; pastor, The Summit Church, Durham, N.C.

3:05 -- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Report -- Russell D. Moore

3:17 -- Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission Presentation (Part 2) -- Russell D. Moore

3:37 -- Panel -- Indispensable Partners: The Value of Women in God's Mission

4:08 -- LifeWay Christian Resources Report -- Brad Waggoner, acting president; executive vice president, LifeWay Christian Resources, Nashville

4:20 -- LifeWay Christian Resources Presentation -- Brad Waggoner

4:40 -- Committee on Resolutions Report -- Curtis A. Woods, chairman; co-interim executive director; associate executive director for convention relations, Kentucky Baptist Convention, Louisville, Ky.

5:20 -- Previously Scheduled Business -- J.D. Greear

5:40 -- Committee on Order of Business Report (Fourth) -- Adam W. Greenway, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas

Election of 2020 Convention Preacher, Alternate Preacher and Music Director

5:50 -- Recognition of Past SBC Presidents & Honoring Joyce Rogers -- J.D. Greear

6:00 -- Presentation of SBC Officers -- Ronnie Floyd, president and CEO, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

6:10 -- Closing Words and Birmingham hand-off to Orlando -- J.D. Greear

6:15 -- Closing Prayer -- Tommy Green, executive director-treasurer, Florida Baptist Convention, Jacksonville, Fla.

Pastors' Conf. to spotlight 'Kingdom character'

by David Roach

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) -- Attendees of this year's Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference won't just hear about the conference's "Kingdom character" theme. They'll learn how it's personally lived out as well.

As conference preachers examine the Beatitudes in Matthew 5, each speaker will focus on a Scripture exemplified in his own life, said Pastors' Conference President Danny Wood. The Pastors' Conference will convene June 9-10 in Birmingham, Ala.

"We as a convention, and really Christian ministries in general, have had some real struggles with some character issues," said Wood, pastor of Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham. "We want this to be a needed reminder to all of us about the character of Christ-followers, because we know our conduct grows out of our character."

Evangelists Jay and Katherine Wolf will address what it means to be "poor in spirit," based on their experience of Katherine's massive 2008 stroke and subsequent paralysis. Ed Litton, pastor of Redemption Church in Mobile, Ala., will preach on "blessed are those who mourn," drawing from the experiences he and his wife Kathy each have of losing their first spouses in fatal car accidents.

Other speakers include British pastor Martin Young ("blessed are the merciful"), who oversees a network of mercy ministries; Atlanta pastor and North American Mission Board vice president Dharti Lewis ("blessed are the peacemakers"), who has helped lead Southern Baptists in racial reconciliation; and Pastor Andrew Brunson ("blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness"), who was imprisoned for two years in Turkey on charges of terrorism and espionage.

"I prayed through [the conference lineup] and was looking for men whose lives emulated those particular Beatitudes," Wood said.

Along with preaching, the Pastors' Conference will feature worship and prayer to undergird the ministry of pastors and their wives. The sessions at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex will be held prior to the SBC's June 11-12 annual meeting there.

Worship will be led by the Shades Mountain worship choir and orchestra, the sanctuary choir from Greater Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church in Birmingham, and the sanctuary choir from Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Additionally, the conference will include two roundtable discussions.

A roundtable on racial reconciliation will feature discussion of how Birmingham churches helped foster healing in the city after police shot and killed an African American man at a local mall last Thanksgiving, sparking racial tension. The discussion also will note the importance of building friendships across ethnic lines and being a peacemaker when the racial diversity of a church increases.

A roundtable on persecution will feature, among other participants, Brunson; authors and missionaries Nik and Ruth Ripkin; and Colorado baker Jack Phillips, who won a U.S. Supreme Court case after the state of Colorado attempted to force him to bake cakes for same-sex weddings.

Speakers for Sunday evening (June 9, 6-9 p.m.) will include Robert Smith, a professor at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School; Jay and Katherine Wolf; and Litton.

Monday morning (June 10, 9-11:30 a.m.) will feature messages from David Platt, pastor of McLean Bible Church in the Washington, D.C., area; Russell Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Young, senior minister of Rising Brook Community Church in Staffordshire, U.K.

Monday afternoon (1:30-4 p.m.) speakers will include Ben Mandrell, pastor of Storyline Fellowship in Denver; and Lewis, lead pastor of Blueprint Church in Atlanta.

Monday evening (6-9 p.m.) speakers will include Brunson and Jimmy Scroggins, pastor of Family Church in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Each Pastors' Conference attendee will receive a book approximately 100 pages long containing the conference program and stories of nine individuals "whose lives emulate each one of those Beatitudes," Wood said. The conference offering will go to Christian Service Mission in Birmingham, a ministry that connects resources with people in need.

The Pastors' Conference is free and requires no registration. To learn more about this year's schedule, sponsors and theme, visit sbccpc.net. You can also access information about the conference on Facebook and Twitter.

Child care for children ages birth through 12 years will be offered during all Pastors' Conference sessions. Children ages 4-12 may register for a conference provided by Children's Conferences International at www.childrensconferences.com.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief child care volunteers will offer child care for newborns through age 5 during the Pastors' Conference.

A Mothers Love from a Pure Heart

By Jessica Wimberly

Westland- When we think about a mother, we usually think about the women who gave birth to us, the women who cooked us breakfast, lunch and dinner as a child. Let's think about how much she sacrificed for us, from pain at child birth to those sleepless nights when you were a newborn baby. Our mothers have done so much for us in our lives, and many still do.

1 Corinthians 13: 4-5 says Love is patient and kind; doesn't that sound like a mother to you? Verse 5 says Love is not rude, is not selfish and does not become angry easily, this also sounds like a mother. Our love toward our children can't be rude because if it was, this wouldn't be called love at all. God would not be pleased with our actions, if we didn't show kind love towards our children and others. We show continuous unconditional love to our children just as Jesus Christ has shown to us. A mother's love is pure, genuine and selfless. As a mother myself, I have had many days and nights of weariness, but the love that I have for my children is worth every minute of it. No mother is perfect and we never will be. The only perfect person who ever walked this Earth is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but as long as we leave everything in the hands of our almighty God, he will guide and direct us into the right path. "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." (Proverbs 16:9)

Even if you are not a mother yet or you don't have any maternal children, the Lord is still using you in his own distinct way. Motherly instinct is a gift from God, and I'm sure you are using this in some sort of way in your own life to care for others. On this Mother's Day reflect on the pure hearts of those mothers around you who have given so much to allow you and everyone else to have life. Give thanks every day to the mothers around you, not only when Mother's Day is on the calendar. We should praise and honor our mothers while they are here on Earth, and remember their love and sacrifices when they are gone. Without Jesus Christ where would we be? Without Jesus Christ's love for us we wouldn't be able to share our stories of his undeniable love, like the love that our mothers have given us.

"I give you a new command: Love one another. Just as I have loved you, you are also to love one another." (1 John 13:34)

We wouldn't be able to care with a pure heart if Jesus Christ didn't love us enough to die for our sins. But because of Jesus Christ's pure heart, I can be the mother that he wants me to be to the children that he has given me the amazing gift to be a mother to.

A Proverbs 31 Woman

By Tolice Nether

A Proverbs 31 woman is what many Christian women strive to be. Taking the time to read the scripture on your own, you will find this passage (Proverbs 31: 27-31): “She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: many women do noble things, but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring praise at the city gate.”

As a mother we can often view life as busy and overwhelming. After all, our kids have sports, science projects, birthday parties, melt downs and the list goes on. That list only encompasses us trying to keep up with our kids affairs as we try to maintain our own sense of self. Our lives alone can include dating your husband, working full time, being a part of a ministry, managing household duties, and finding time to have a hobby IF there is still time left. Take a moment to stop in the craziness. Look around you and notice the laughter accompanied with smiles, the love embraced with a hug, the moments that become memories. We are blessed. Our children are blessed. Our family is blessed.

Our hard work and dedication to our children is not in vain. We are helping to mold minds, create disciples, and cultivate character. Trust God in the process and realize He has equipped us to be all the makings of a Proverbs 31 woman. Rest in knowing God will guide you in the moments you feel uncertain, comfort you in the moments you feel overwhelmed, and listen to your silent cries when you feel doubtful. Being a mother is not always going to be a perfect picture, but God has put you in perfect purpose.

I am grateful that God chose me to be the vessel and steward of my now 6 and 4 year old children. Both of my children have tested my patience, and made me question my temperament. Kids have the ability to unknowingly reveal characteristics you did not know was dormant in you. It is in those moments that I have to step back and realize that God is trying to reveal something to me, the need to be more self aware and a better me. My children keep me on my toes, but I would not trade it as their brilliance, silliness, creative spirit, unconditional love, and energetic beings make life a little sweeter. It is those moments with them that I can not get back. So, as life may seem busy remind yourself that we are fulfilling purpose as mothers and the reward is great. Time passes by fast, enjoy it and thank God for it. Treat yourself this Mother's Day for a job well done. Have a Great Mother's Day.

Another Easter

By Matt Thompson

Grandville - I'll never forget that Saturday night. It was a night filled with great anticipation. The next day was our first vision-casting meeting at the church I was planting. As expected, there were a few last errands to run, so off I went to the store. I did my shopping, got in my car to go home, and then it happened. Smack! Head on. Airbags deployed. Knocked out. Car totaled. Later that night, when I finally came to in the ambulance, an officer said, "**Man, you were out of it!**"

As I approach another busy Easter season, I wonder if I will find myself in that same spot. Not in another car accident, but being "out of it," experiencing a head on crash with Easter busyness, only to "wake up" later having missed the celebration. Here is my fear this Easter (or for **any** day), that all I have to **do** would suffocate my joy in what Jesus has **done**.

So what is the remedy for the pastor, parent or person who is gasping for joy amidst the stranglehold of busyness? The answer is not found in remembering all I have to do, but in remembering all that Jesus has done. Joy is found as I rehearse the Gospel. May we breathe, over and over, deep breaths of joyful wonder of that first, glorious Easter morning.

- Place yourself there, side by side with Mary and Mary Magdalene (Matthew 28).
- It was over. Jesus died. It was a long, emotional weekend. No tears left to cry.
- Walk with them broken hearted towards the tomb on that brisk Sunday morning.
- Weep with them in extreme sadness as you hopelessly approach Jesus' grave.
- Stop in disbelief as you see an open tomb and hear the angels announcement, "**He is not here, He has risen.**"
- Allow this breaking news to make your heartbeat a little faster as your sorrow gives way to a ray of hope!
- Imagine peering into the tomb, your eyes slowly adjusting to the deep darkness.
- Feel the change in temperature as you now enter the damp, dark, cold grave.
- Gasp with them in shock at the realization that Jesus' body is gone.
- Lean in with them to place your hand on Jesus' folded burial cloth.
- Notice that the once dried up tears are beginning to flood your eyes again.
- No longer tears of sadness, but one of hopeful anticipation!

And then it happens. Smack! Head on. Out of nowhere. Instantly you remember His words. No, not the angels' words, Jesus' words — "**After three days I will rise.**" It clicks! Yes, He **IS** alive! But where? The angel announces, "Galilee!"

Right now both Mary's have a choice to make. We all have a choice to make. Do I stay in the tomb or run to Jesus? One option grovels amidst the things of death, and the other runs to embrace the Giver of Life. This is the choice I must make every moment of every day. Do I live in light of the reality of the resurrection or not? Do I run in glad and joyful surrender to my Savior, or do I continue wiping my tears with the useless burial clothes in the grave?

The reality that our Savior is alive, has conquered sin, and left the tomb makes it possible for us to leave the tomb. Like Mary and Mary Magdalene, may we joyfully run to embrace Jesus (Matthew 28:8)! Because Jesus left the grave behind, we must leave the grave behind. This is our new life of joy that is only available through Jesus' resurrection. What a joyous Easter morning!

After my accident, I went home from the hospital with a sore knee, a number of cuts and bruises, and a pretty bad headache. I'll never forget the response of my eight-year-old son that next morning. He said, "Daddy, looks like God is giving you another day to talk about Jesus!" Instantly, tears filled my eyes and joy filled my heart. My son was right. God has graciously given me another busy day, and another Easter, to joyfully talk about the joy that is only found in Jesus! Will you do the same?

Matt Thompson is a Church planter in West Michigan and a Church Planting Catalyst with the Send Network. He helped launch Redemption Church Grandville four years ago and is now being sent from there to plant Redemption Church Grand Rapids, launching April 14, 2019. Matt has been married to his wife Bethany for 13 years and they have three boys: Caden, Brennen and Aaron.

Baptist communicators meet for networking & learning

by Art Toalston

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP) -- Kimber Huff once was in Russia engaging in church planting in the nation's fourth-largest city, Yekaterinburg, with an estimated 1.4 million people.

Today, Huff is in Northborough, Mass., writing and editing articles for the Baptist Convention of New England and its 360 churches.

She also designs and updates the BCNE website and blog, creates posts for social media, keeps the convention's smartphone app updated, manages the monthly e-newsletter, and helps develop promotional materials to educate Baptists across six Northeast states about missions and ministries supported by the Cooperative Program and BCNE missions offering.

The BCNE's lone communications worker had a few days of much-valued networking at the Baptist Communicators Association's annual workshop in Riverside, Calif., in mid-April.

And Huff won three of the 200-plus awards in the BCA's multimedia competition -- including first place in a brochure category and third place among various website and video categories.

"Being in an area of the country with less Southern Baptist resources, it's been fantastic to participate in the training and, even more importantly, to make personal connections with others who are in Baptist communications," said Huff, who was attending her second BCA workshop following last year's gathering in Washington, D.C.

"It's a real encouragement to learn from their experience, to be challenged in my own thinking, and to be able to bounce ideas off of people who really get what I do."

Terry Barone, communications team leader for the California Southern Baptist Convention and a former BCA president who joined the organization in 1980, described BCA as "a tremendous blessing in my life."

"The most important aspect of membership is getting to know other members on a personal, spiritual and professional level," Barone said. "Professional development through workshops and keynote speakers can't be diminished, but many times the most productive time is sharing a meal with a group of members and discussing the

challenges each face and possible solutions based on their experiences in other Baptist organizations. Some of my closest friendships have been forged as a result of BCA."

Among the breakout sessions during this year's workshop were "Reporting when Sensitivity Counts," "Telling Your Story in Social Media," "Dealing with Hot-Button Issues," "Journalism Is Not Dead," "Making a Compelling Image in Today's Marketplace," "So You Want to Write a Book" and "How to Communicate to Your Church So They Keep Coming Back."

Mary Ann Pearson, in a session titled "Building Collaborative Teams with Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X'ers and Baby Boomers," described her research into the generations' general characteristics and offered advice for embracing their diversity.

Pearson, professor of communication at California Baptist University in Riverside, suggested that organizations experiment with mixed-age teams along with "reverse mentoring," such as Baby Boomers who tend to prefer in-person meetings learning from Millennials who live in a social media environment, and vice versa.

"When individuals work together, they can double their strength and get much more done as a team," Pearson said. "They also can reap the value of having worked in unison, thus creating harmony instead of disorder."

Also during this year's meeting, Bob Terry and Leland Webb were named as BCA lifetime members.

Terry is the retired editor and president of The Alabama Baptist newsjournal whose career spanned 50 years with the Alabama, Missouri and Kentucky state Baptist newspapers. Webb is the retired editor of The Commission magazine formerly published by the International Mission Board, which won multiple awards and, at times, competed with National Geographic for various media honors. Webb was The Commission's editor during 15 of his 30 years with the magazine.

Reflecting the range of the 60-plus participants at BCA's April 11-13 workshop:

-- Several were media entrepreneurs from oneMISSION.tv, Innovative Faith Resources and Dogwood Solutions who work with various state conventions and Baptist associations, as well as SBC entities, in creating video, website, podcast and other resources.

OneMISSION.tv was founded by Doug Keeseey and Paul Wynn 13 years ago after they had worked for the North American Mission Board. Innovative Faith Resources, represented at BCA by Brandon Pickett, Ishmael LaBiosa, Bobby Puffenberger and Sarah Ramalho, was founded in 2011 with ties to the SBC of Virginia state convention. Dogwood Media Solutions officially began in January of this year when Harris Media Solutions led by Brian Harris, formerly of the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, merged with Dogwood Design led by Thomas Jones.

Keeseey, who sports a Santa-like beard with mild-mannered joviality, arrived in California a day early to go to the Hollywood costume shop Adele's for a "continental robe" addition to the Santa suit he wears as a professional Santa from the first weekend in November until Christmas, handling about 40 events the past four years.

-- Shawn Elledge, art director for the North American Mission Board, in leading a session on creativity in annual campaigns, mentioned with fondness the PBS artist Bob Ross, who died in 1995 but is still seen via YouTube and DVD.

What was so special about Bob Ross? "Hard to say," Elledge reflected, "maybe his perfectly quaffed Afro, his gentle smile or the melodic mild-mannered statements he is known for like 'every tree needs a friend' and 'there are no mistakes, only happy little accidents.' ... But it's probably because of what he could do in less than half an hour starting with an empty canvas and ending with a tranquil scene of God's creation. He ended every episode by looking into the camera, giving a little wave to the viewer, saying, 'Happy painting and God bless.'"

Elledge and NAMB's creative team garnered one of the BCA competition's eight grand prizes for a video titled "First Baptist Church Sutherland Springs: One year after the shooting."

-- Trennis Henderson, who is traveling in an RV with his wife Pam as national correspondents for Woman's Missionary Union, told friends of venturing to an "RV Entrepreneur Summit" at an Alabama state park in March. Other RVers had a tad of puzzlement, Henderson said, when he spoke of focusing on missions as compared to entrepreneurship. In the BCA competition, Henderson won first place in a category for feature articles under 750 words: "God's Love from a Diaper Bag" about a ministry to single mothers, unemployed families and others in eastern Kentucky.

"Similar to a BCA gathering -- except targeted specifically for RVers -- the summit provided workshops, networking and informal fellowship time," Henderson said. "It has

been helpful and encouraging to enjoy both 'BCA and RV' settings in recent weeks as we combine our missions calling and an RV lifestyle in our freelance partnership with WMU."

-- Nick Burt, assistant director of communications for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, recounted around a table his work as a college intern for the 2015 film "War Room" by the Kendrick Brothers. Among his roles as a production assistant, or PA, he worked with extras, at one point making sure that 300-400 extras wore the same clothing and sat in the same place over three days of shooting a school jump rope competition. From the first day of his internship, Burt said he "quickly found out in filmmaking the days are long, the work is challenging and time off was almost nonexistent."

Elected as BCA officers for 2019-2020 were: president, Jim Veneman, visiting professor - journalism/new media at California Baptist University; president-elect, Doug Rogers, communications coordinator, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions; membership vice president, Brandon Elrod, public relations specialist, North American Mission Board; communications vice president Bobby Puffenburger, creative director, Southern Baptist Convention of Virginia/Innovative Faith Resources; professional development coordinator, Doug Rogers; treasurer, Elizabeth Young, director of communications, Arizona Southern Baptist Convention; program chairpersons (2020), Marc Ira Hooks, director of communication, Collins Baptist Association in metro Dallas, and Marilyn Stewart, assistant director for news and information, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; program chair-elect (2021), Amy Whitfield, director of marketing and communications, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; awards chair (2020), Joshua Minatrea, director of communications, Baptist General Convention of Texas; awards chair-elect (2021), Brooke Zimny, director of communications and marketing, Ouachita Baptist University; and historian, Cam Tracy, web development agent, Union University. BCA's 2018-2019 president was Mike Ebert, executive director of public relations for NAMB.

BCA's 2020 annual workshop will be April 8-10 in New Orleans. BCA is online at baptistcommunicators.org. A full list of BCA award winners can be accessed at www.baptistcommunicators.org/awards/2019.pdf.

Can I Trust God with my Kids?

By Karen Blanchard

Macomb Township - Being a mom is one of the most rewarding, yet terrifying, roles of my life. I have two children, Nathan is 12 and Abigail is 6. They are so different, and bring me joy in so many ways. However, I never knew before becoming a mom, all the fear I would experience in this role.

As moms, we tend to worry a lot about our kids. In every stage of life, there is something new for us to worry about. When our kids are babies, we tend to worry whether we are feeding them enough. We worry about them when they sleep. Now, we have monitors with video, temperature, and movement readings. We baby proof the house so there is no way they can hurt themselves, and we do all this before they even start walking! When they become toddlers, new fears set in. We follow them around like little helicopters to make sure they don't fall down, get hurt, or put something in their mouths that might choke them.

When my son Nathan, first started school, his bus was an hour late dropping him off on the first day of school. I freaked out. Instead of thinking through the rational reasons why his bus may have been late (first day of school, traffic, driver learning the new route), my mind started spiraling into all the thoughts of the bad things that could have happened. It was a miserable hour that I waited, and yes, I called transportation a few times!

This past summer Nathan was old enough to go to summer camp with our youth group. I came up with many reasons why he wasn't old enough or ready to go away yet. After talking to my husband, our youth pastor, and praying about it a lot, God showed me that it was my fear that was keeping me from allowing him to go.

I love this verse:

Psalm 139:16 - Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

This verse has made all the difference in my life when it comes to fear and worry. All my kids' days were written in God's book, before any of them come to be! I can rest in that! No amount of worrying will ever change what God has ordained for my kids' lives. When I started reciting this verse and truly believing it, it started changing everything!

What about you? Do you have a hard time trusting God with your children? God is sovereign. Sovereign means God is the supreme authority, and all things are under His control. If we truly believe that God is sovereign, then we can trust God with our kids' futures. He loves them more than we do because he created them. When I sent Nathan to camp last summer, the fear definitely crept in. I was in tears as the bus pulled away. Every time a fear would come into my mind, I would stop and pray and thank God that he loves Nathan more than I love him, and I would ask God to protect Nathan and keep him safe. Then I would leave Nathan in His hands. The Bible says to take every thought captive, and make it obedient to him. I now refuse to dwell on what I can't control.

This Mother's Day, I want to challenge you to surrender your kids to God. We aren't in control anyway! Trust that God has a good plan for their lives, and that He is in control.

Gospel at core of pastors bringing churches together

by Mark Maynard/Kentucky Today

GLASGOW, Ky. (BP) -- In Barren County, Ky., at least in the past two years, Easter has become a day of unification among four Baptist churches -- two with predominantly African-American congregations and two with mostly white members -- at a central location.

They come together on Easter morning but the bond that these four pastors have forged make it more than a one-day show for the community. They are partners in Christ delivering the Gospel message together and individually to the Glasgow community.

"Our hope is to expand that with other churches," said Ray Woodie, the pastor of Coral Hills Baptist Church, who introduced the idea two years ago of the four churches coming together for Easter. "We want to be able to see God do something in the body of Christ. The core of all we do is the Gospel."

Woodie said the idea of bringing the four churches together was born three years ago when he invited sister church Immanuel Baptist to worship with them on Easter. The church typically had multiple services but wanted to combine them all on Easter.

Curtis Woods, the co-interim director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was the interim pastor at Immanuel at the time.

"We worshiped together and had a great experience," Woodie said. "Curtis preached with me that particular service."

It was after that service that God revealed a bigger vision to the pastor. Woodie had a strong relationship with pastors from two predominantly African-American churches in Glasgow -- First Baptist Church and Harlow's Chapel.

"We approached them and they were excited," he said. "We've been working the past few years on being very intentional, not just having services once in a while (with each other) but having a unified heart with the core being of Gospel sharing."

Woodie said it wasn't about racial reconciliation, although roundtables about those issues have sprung up through this partnership. It was about being "united under the cross. That's where we wanted our heartbeat," he said.

Woodie, First Baptist Church Pastor Michael Rice, Harlow's Chapel Baptist Pastor W. Keith Rowlett and Immanuel Pastor Jeremy Atwood have become much more than pastors from the same area. They have forged friendships and relationships that are ironclad. The goal is the same: Spread the Gospel.

"It's a genuine fellowship of pastors," Woodie said. "We dream about what God may do through this fellowship."

What God has already done the past two Easters is bring churches with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds under the same roof with the same goal of reaching a lost community -- and world -- with the Gospel.

On Easter, nearly 1,200 gathered at Barren County High School gymnasium in service full of the Gospel message. The congregations from the four churches worshiped and prayed together, they sang together. Nobody was introduced as being from a particular church, because it wasn't important. The choirs and praise teams were a combination of the four churches and each pastor spoke.

"Here's the cool thing about the Easter service," Atwood said. "You cannot tell there's four churches in the worship service. We have been very intentional not to make it a showcase of four separate churches."

All four churches made the sacrifice of giving up having Easter in their own buildings. But nobody seemed to mind because God was being glorified.

"Last year would have been our first Easter in our new building," Atwood said. "I had just got here. Ray pitched the idea and everybody was 99 percent on board. It fits our vision as a church."

Atwood said when he became pastor he was surprised with the lack of diversity as far as skin color in the church.

"God put it on my heart to be intentional about being a multi-ethnic and multi-generational church," he said. "It fits in with our vision perfectly."

The relationship bond between the four pastors keeps growing stronger and stronger, Atwood said.

Harlow's Chapel had a revival services last week and each of the three pastors were scheduled to preach.

"Each of those guys has been in my pulpit," Atwood said. "To see four guys from four different backgrounds pledge to partner together is something else. I think it has been helpful for the community to see. You don't have to agree politically or have the same skin color. The Gospel can bring you together."

Rowlett said the service has "brought the community together."

Rice said his church has been blessed by the partnership with each of his pastor friends that is quickly becoming loving relationships between churches.

"I think what we are discovering is that we're more alike than we are different," he said. "What the church does dictate to a great degree what the community does. As people of faith, we work with each other, we dine with each other, we see each other at shopping centers and malls. We are developing relationships outside our culture. The church has a key role in unifying communities and country."

The total attendance of 1,150 on Easter may have been more than the four churches would have had combined, Atwood said.

"People will go to the school that might not go to a church," Rice said. "It's a different kind of setup. They don't feel as pressured. When you come to a church for the first time as a visitor, everybody knows you're a visitor. All we're trying to do is share the Gospel."

Rowlett said his church has their Easter service on Palm Sunday and then comes together for the service on Easter morning with the combined churches. "He said they evaluate the service and decide what can be done better. We look at what we can change. This year was pretty good. We had six or seven songs and four preachers, started at 10 and were out by 12."

Rowlett has been at Harlow's Chapel for 23 years and his vision for the church is for it to be multi-cultural so the combined service works well for him.

Woodie said he doesn't know how, or if, it's affecting the community yet. He said the congregations are learning to trust each other. The pastors are already there.

"We want to impact the community, but the community will never change until the church gets things right," he said. "We have to trust each other and see each other has a heart for the Gospel."

Mom, You're Not Enough

By Aryn Henry

After reviewing our family/church/school events Google calendar for the upcoming week, I wondered how I was going to get it all done. The week was full of sports practices and events for the older two kids, meetings at church for Roy, church functions, after school obligations, grades and paperwork deadlines. Before the week had even started, I felt that all too familiar feeling of overwhelming defeat.

I began running scenarios of who would need to be where and when through my mind, and all the other "to dos" began to creep in. I thought about the laundry that had sat in the washer overnight and would need to be reran, the papers that I hadn't graded yet, the pile of clothes that were yet to be delivered to a local charity, the grocery list that needed to be written, and so on and so on. Irritation and frustration began to set in. Then, my thoughts were interrupted by our 5-year-old, "Play with me Momma." In my head I thought, **'Play with you? How in the world do I have time to play with you? You haven't any idea how much I have to do.'** With his big blue eyes pleading me again, "Play with me Momma." With a sigh I acquiesced to our youngest's request to play.

As we played dinosaur superheroes in outer space (I love the imagination of a 5-year-old boy), my frustration and anxiety began to melt away. The smile returned to my face, joy flooded my heart, and tears filled my eyes. For a time, I let the to dos of this world interfere with one of the most important jobs God has given, Momma. For a time, I had forgotten that it is not in my own strength that I take on the days. I had forgotten that I am not enough for my children. I am not enough for my husband. I am not enough for my students. I am simply not enough, and that is completely okay. I am not supposed to be. Moms, despite what cute, flowery platitudes you read on Pinterest or Instagram, you are not enough for your children. When you're operating on four hours of interrupted sleep for the tenth day in a row, your strength will not be enough. When your teen is testing the limits of their desire for freedom, your patience will not be enough. When the marriage of your thirty-something child begins to crumble, your kind words will not be enough. The truth of the Gospel is that you are not enough, but praise the Lord you aren't supposed to be.

Ladies, whether you are a mother, a daughter, a sister, a grandmother, an aunt, or a friend this message of a dependency on God and His grace is for you. This Mother's Day, no matter if you have children of your own or not, draw near to the One for whom our strength comes. Foster a dependence on God for the grace and mercy to get through the day. Find rest in knowing you do not have to be enough because, "my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

Aryn Henry is a wife to Roy and mother to Isaac (13), Reagan (11), and Elijah (5). She is an avid sports fan, especially for anything that Isaac and Reagan are playing and the Michigan State Spartans, and enjoys exploring creation while kayaking and camping.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER: Pray simultaneously & extraordinarily

by Ronnie Floyd

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Many Christians are so disappointed and fed up with matters about America that they struggle even to pray for our nation. Is this right? Is this justified?

Absolutely not!

And many Christians struggle to truly love one another, while many are uncertain about our future as a nation and even the future of our churches.

On the National Day of Prayer this Thursday, May 2, let's be sure to join together in fervent prayer because:

#1: Christians need to pray for America

Where America is today **is** the reason we need to pray. If all was perfect and unity abounded across our nation, we may enjoy praying for America more regularly, but whether we enjoy it or not, it is needed.

Praying for America should be our first choice, not our last choice.

God is our hope -- our last, great and only hope. Therefore, we need to pray like we believe this with all we are.

The alarm clock is going off in our nation and this is not the time to push the snooze button. America needs to experience the next great move of God.

That is why we pray. That is why we will prioritize praying for America on our upcoming National Day of Prayer. Will you join us?

Prayer precedes every great movement of God biblically and historically. Therefore, we need to pray and ask God for a mighty, great spiritual awakening across America. That is why the National Day of Prayer is a nationwide movement of prayer for America.

#2: Christians need to love one another

Christians need to follow Jesus' teaching of loving one another, in obedience to Christ's command: "Love one another, just as I have loved you" (John 13:34). This what we are calling our nation to do on Thursday, May 2.

We need a Love One Another movement that begins in the church of Jesus Christ. Christians should never take pride in being filled with skepticism or criticism of other people. We should love all people just like Jesus did and does: willfully, sacrificially and unconditionally.

Love One Another needs to become a movement that also infiltrates every part of American life when the church is experiencing this movement within their own fellowship.

Followers of Christ need each other more than ever before. While certain secondary doctrinal differences will exist, we need to unite around our belief that:

-- The Bible is God's infallible Word; it is truth without any mixture of error.

-- Jesus is the Son of God and the hope of the world; therefore, salvation is by faith alone in Christ alone.

-- We must focus our lives, churches and futures on taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in America and across the world.

In our confessional statement, the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message, we as Southern Baptists believe, "Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament" (Article 14).

We need to stop fighting over secondary issues and rise up together to become the spiritual light in this darkening America and world. The church needs to model loving one another or we forfeit our right to speak into the future of our nation. It is time to come together in unity.

#3: Prepare for the future

What will the church become in the future of America? Will we lose our freedom or have it affirmed?

We need to prepare for the future realistically, but also with great hope. Regardless of the present cultural tide that is rising in direct opposition to the ways of God, we are a Gospel people committed to Christ alone.

Our future is not in the hands of the United States government; our future is in the hands of our sovereign God. Yes, our times are in His hands!

We need to prepare future generations spiritually and vocationally for what God wants them to be and how He wants them to live for Him.

That is why I believe our greatest hope lies only in Jesus Christ, His Gospel and the advancement of this Good News message reaching every corner of America and across this world.

While we call out to God for His church to be revived by the Spirit and to love one another, resulting in coming together in unity, we need to simultaneously pray extraordinarily for the next great spiritual awakening in America, which is our greatest hope.

Pro-life bills meet divergent fates with governors

by Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The efforts of state legislatures to protect unborn and born babies are experiencing different fates at governors' desks.

Governors in Indiana, Oklahoma, North Dakota, Ohio and Utah signed pro-life bills in late March or April, while heads of the executive branches of Kansas, North Carolina and Wisconsin vetoed or pledged to veto measures adopted by the legislatures of their states.

The legislative actions have followed pro-life successes in other states this year alongside, however, a substantial victory for the expansion of abortion rights in New York.

The activity in the states comes as abortion rights advocates issue warnings about an apparently more conservative U.S. Supreme Court they fear could overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade opinion, which struck down all state abortion bans and legalized the procedure throughout the country. Meanwhile, pro-life legislators seek to enact further protections for women considering abortion and their unborn children that will be found acceptable by the high court.

Actions taken by governors on abortion-related bills include:

- Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed into law April 25 a ban on dismemberment abortions, which involve the use of instruments such as forceps, tongs, clamps or scissors to cut off or rip off parts of an unborn baby or crush the child's body.
- Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt signed April 25 legislation requiring abortion providers to inform women that medication or chemical abortions may be reversed. A medication abortion is a two-step process that is possible to interrupt after a woman takes the first pill. In an attempt to reverse the abortion, a woman can take progesterone instead of the second pill, misoprostol, according to the National Right to Life Committee.
- Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed a similar abortion reversal notification requirement April 22.
- North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper vetoed April 18 a measure that required health care for a child born alive during an abortion.

-- Montana Gov. Steve Bullock has received a similar born-alive bill finalized April 16 by the legislature but has yet to act on it.

-- Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers confirmed April 22 he would veto a born-alive bill.

-- Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine signed April 11 a bill prohibiting abortion after a fetal heartbeat can be detected.

-- North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum signed a prohibition on dismemberment abortions April 10 and an abortion reversal notification requirement March 22.

-- Utah Gov. Gary Herbert signed into law March 25 a bill that bans most abortions after 18 weeks of pregnancy.

-- Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson likely will sign pro-life legislation finalized by the legislature April 4 that includes the requirement of a 72-hour waiting period for a woman seeking an abortion.

-- Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp is expected to sign a heartbeat bill finalized by the legislature March 29.

The governors who signed or are expected to sign pro-life proposals into law are Republicans, and the governors who vetoed or promised to veto such legislation are Democrats, with Bullock also being a Democrat.

Southern Baptist ethicist Russell Moore told Baptist Press, "Much of the work of the pro-life movement happens in state legislatures and governor's offices throughout the country. This work is heroic and needed not just in advance of a future post-Roe world but also to protect the lives of our unborn children today.

"Not every elected official sees the vulnerable life in the womb, as we know by the vetoes issued on sensible public policy like the born-alive bills," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, in written comments. "Our work is to care for those whom society makes invisible so they are seen as our fellow human beings worthy of God-given dignity and protection under the law."

Americans United for Life (AUL) is "very encouraged by the level of energy and engagement that pro-life legislators are showing in the states," said Steve Aden, chief

legal officer and general counsel for AUL, which provides model legislative language and legal support for state pro-life efforts.

Some of the pro-life activity "is a response to the extreme pro-abortion moves by states" such as New York, Aden told BP in a telephone interview, "and some of it is just a continued reflection of the strong pro-life commitment in the states that we've seen over the last several years."

States have enacted more than 540 pro-life laws since 2010, according to AUL, but Aden said he would not be surprised if the organization finds "this has been the busiest spring session ever for pro-life legislation or close to it at least."

The New York law enacted in January not only legalizes abortion until the moment of birth, but it permits the death of babies who survive the procedure, according to AUL. Other states are considering similar legislation.

The current situation on abortion policy in the states "is a natural result of the political fray that the Supreme Court handed the American people in 1973 when it declared that the federal government -- and the Supreme Court in particular -- was the abortion control board for the entire country," Aden told BP. "So you've got a situation today where every law relating to abortion in all 50 states is subject to final review by nine members of the Supreme Court. That makes no sense."

A reversal of *Roe v. Wade* by the justices would return the issue to the states. It would be better if the high court "reconsiders the raw exercise of judicial power that it engaged in in *Roe* and returns the issue back to the people, to the states where it belongs," Aden said. "Yes, there would be in some states continued debate, but that's where this debate belongs. You're not going to avoid the debate.

"We're cautiously optimistic, and we hope that soon we'll see this Supreme Court overturn *Roe versus Wade* and throw it on the ash heap of history." Earlier this year, the governors of Arkansas, Kentucky and South Dakota signed pro-life bills into law. Other pro-life legislation also has gained approval in at least one legislative chamber in such states as Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas. Proposals to affirm or expand abortion rights have gained approval this year in one legislative chamber in at least Rhode Island and Vermont.

The Supreme Court affirmed *Roe v. Wade* in a 1992 opinion but also ruled states may regulate abortion to protect the lives and health of women.

Send Network Michigan Video Recognized

By Staff

Riverside, CA - The video produced to promote Send Network Michigan was recognized at the annual gathering of communicators from Southern Baptist state conventions, universities, seminaries and other organizations. The Baptist Communicators Association (BCA) held its annual workshop and competition in Riverside, California. The video was awarded 2nd Place in the category for short promotional videos.

Send Network Michigan is the pilot partnership with the North American Mission Board (NAMB). Its purpose is to promote the relationship between church planters and partnering churches to establish new churches in the Michigan region.

The video describes all the contributions of Michigan and the Great Lakes region. It shows the cars, resources and music that come from here. It explains how starting new churches is the most effective way to reach everyone in the region with the gospel in a way that they can understand. It invites those considering God's call to start a new church, whether they are a church planter or a partnering church, to consider Michigan as a ready field to plant.

The Baptist State Convention of Michigan's (BSCM) communication team, oneMISSION.tv, are members of the Baptist Communicators Association (BCA), and submitted the Send Network Michigan video for competition.

SHIFT CONFERENCE: Preparing to Share

By Stan Parker

As Christians, the Great Commission is to share our faith through evangelism. However; many of the members in our congregations feel they are not adequately prepared to share the Good News. The Michigan Shift Conference 2019 was one tool that was made available to assist in training our congregations so they can be prepared to share their faith. Traditionally, our church Sunday school classes were considered the headquarters for developing the knowledge to learn how to share your faith. Today, churches are experiencing lower attendance due to the changing priorities in our families. The Michigan Shift Conference 2019 was designed so that the entire family could participate in learning how to share their faith and provide the tools to assist in discipleship. Our congregations must be trained in order to answer the questions today's generation is asking. Many of the younger generation want to know the real Jesus. Often, our members are not prepared to provide a correct biblical response. The Shift conference had workshops available to help answer those questions. Our churches are full of people who agree that we should share our faith and be prepared to answer questions regarding Jesus and Christianity, but many of those same people will say they are not ready. The Shift Conference filled that void. To set the spiritual atmosphere, a special prayer concert took place on March 23, 2019 at the Detroit Association office to lift up the various presenters and those who attended the Shift Conference. There were three primary goals for the Shift Conference this year. First, to provide information which will equip pastors, church leaders and church members to share the gospel of Jesus Christ unashamedly. Second, to offer workshops for all age groups in the church and to address the needs of each group. Finally, to have an audience which reflects diversity within the body of Jesus Christ and to praise our God in one voice. To achieve these goals, we asked Pastor Fred Luter, the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) African American President to open our conference with an inspirational message. The conference had other SBC leaders providing impactful workshops. They included Preparing the Next Generation, Reaching Young Couples in Today's Culture, Ministering to our Youth, Learning to Lead Me, and a Women's Symposium. Lifeway Resources was represented at the conference by Mark Croston and Michael Pigg. Our SBC Executive Committee Vice President Ken Weathersby also presented a workshop on SBC Life. The Shift Conference was held at People's Missionary Baptist Church in Detroit. Next year's Shift Conference will be held on April 3rd and 4th at the Middlebelt Baptist Church in Inkster.

SET FREE – MISSION CAMP

By line: Mission Camp Coaches

Girls Mission Camp – July 8-12

Mom & Me Camp – July 12-13

What is Girls Missions Camp?

Girls Missions Camp, formerly known as GA/Acteen Camp, has been around almost 60 years. This camp takes place one or two weeks each year, meeting at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center, and has been faithful to the girls and women of our state. Girls who have finished 3rd through 12th grade come together to make new friends, have fun, learn about missions, and learn about God. Girls are assigned to a family (cabin) group with a coach assigned to every 6-7 girls who live together for the week. Our camp has a yearly theme, and our schedule of activities compliments that theme. Girls participate in daily worship time in which they learn a theme song and listen to God's word being shared by our missionary. The girls have time to connect with the theme through daily devotion books, bible studies, and missionary studies. They also have the opportunity to interact with God's nature through activities that interest them with friends like fishing, hiking, crafts, sports, cooking, and drama. Girls love coming together on Thursday night, and having the opportunity to share what they have learned with each other in their own way.

Preparation for Camp

God provides camp coaches from all over our state who are committed to our campers and love our Lord. Our coaches are active members of our Michigan SBC churches who attend mandatory training every year giving our coaches an understanding of our mission and guidelines used for camp. The training ensures that our camp coaches are trained to mentor the girls through teaching the Bible, educating them about missionaries, sharing the gospel, and encouraging them to see that God has a plan for their lives. Our coaches provide references, go through background checks, and many have committed to serve at camp from 2-25 years, or longer.

Much time and prayer is put into camp with some of our camp staff starting the afternoon the girls leave camp to meet, plan and prepare for the next camp. We reflect on how the camp went, and what we can improve next year to stay in the knowledge of what is going on in the world in order to provide training for our coaches in that subject matter. Coaches are trained to recognize abuse, and to be aware of how to handle situations that may come up. There is a nurse/health officer on site 24/7 to distribute medications, and take care of any medical needs and emergencies.

Missions Experience

Every year we have a missionary representative that comes to camp with us, shares real life experiences, and provides activities and testimonies to help the girls learn about missions, and how they can live out the Great Commission. They challenge girls to listen for God's plan for their lives. Missionaries range from single missionaries, couple missionaries, and family missionaries, and have served in various places like Yemen, Africa, America and Russia. Girls also have the opportunity to participate in hands on mission projects that allows them to have the opportunity to do something for someone in need.

Mom and Me Camp

Mom and Me camp gives women of all ages; moms, daughters, grandmothers, and adopted women in a girl's life the opportunity to experience 24 hours away from everyday life to focus on one another. It also allows a great time for girls who are not old enough to attend the week long camp to come to Bambi Lake to learn about missions with their moms. It gives these younger girls the opportunity to see what camp is all about, and get them excited for the opportunity to attend Girls Missions Camp when they are old enough. Similar to Girls Missions Camp the women and girls are grouped together in family groups to meet others, and participate in many of the same activities as the Girls Missions Camp does and experience them together.

Life Changing Experience

Mom and Me Weekend and Girls Mission Camp have proven to be life changing for so many of those who have attended. Whether a girl commits to accept Jesus as her Lord and Savior, commits to mission service overseas, in her neighborhood, to follow God's call for her life, every girl leaves camp changed. They experience God in a new and better way each year they come.

Many have gone on short term mission trips, and have learned to share Jesus with their friends back home. God has blessed Michigan with Bambi Lake, and we are so glad that we, as coaches, are being used to help change lives and inspire our girls to listen to God's call. Please consider sharing the publicity inserts with the parents of girls in your church. Challenge them to plan to attend camp this year. We are available to answer any questions you or parents may have.

Written by: Mission Camp Team Coaches – Michigan WMU