



# Baptist BEACON

Vision of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan:  
**Partners in Advancing  
God's Kingdom!**

*Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan*

Volume 59, Number 2

[www.MichiganBaptists.org](http://www.MichiganBaptists.org)

February 2015

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Week of Prayer for **SEND» NORTH AMERICA** and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

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# ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING

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**SEND» NORTH AMERICA**



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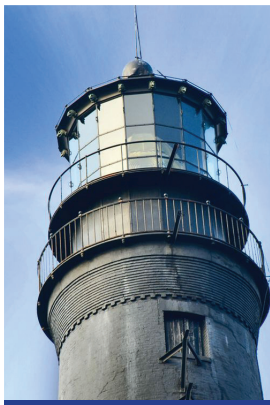
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# Baptist BEACON

**Annie Armstrong Week  
of Prayer and Easter  
Offering**

Take part in the Annie Armstrong  
Week of Prayer March 1-8

**“All For You”: Michigan  
Children’s Ministry Day  
set for March 21**

Ministry opportunities for children to  
take place across the state

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page 16

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## ‘Bunch of crazy dreamers’ launch new Flint church

BY MARY LOU HALL

*Baptist Beacon*

The words of Psalm 127:1, “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain,” spoke to Eric Stewart and his wife Lori and they saw a need.

This realization eventually led the couple to launch ONElife Church on October 5, 2014.

“As we walked and drove through the community, our hearts were burdened to reach the young population in the area,” Eric Stewart said. “As we connected with people in the area, the need for a new church here resonated within us.”

Six people met at the Stewarts’ home in early 2014 to pray for God’s direction and formulate ideas, and informational meetings were held throughout May. On June 22 the first official gathering of leaders was held at the New Haven Fieldhouse for a vision-casting session.

From July 6 through September preview services were held at the Stewarts’ home in Mundy Township. Pastor Stewart taught a Bible sermon series entitled “Re-think Christianity!”

After continued prayer, the church launched the website *hisonelife.com*

seventy adults and thirty children gathered at Madison Academy in Flint.

“[Our mission is] to live a lifestyle of faith, hope and love,” Stewart said. “Or easily said, lead people to follow Jesus. [It] sounds simple, [but] that’s the point! Jesus is our model and we seek to follow the example that He set.”

Asked to describe the church, Stewart said, “We are a bunch of crazy dreamers who believe in a big God who wants to accomplish amazing things through ordinary people.”

The new church seeks to target the unchurched, the de-churched, the spiritually wounded church, and the disengaged church, specifically seeking to reach young families and singles in their 20s and 30s.

“We focus on our Sunday morning service and community groups with the goal to make disciples of Jesus one person at a time,” Stewart said

Worship and Creative Arts Pastor Dan Dameron seeks to do the same with the church’s music. He cites Ephesians 5:18b-21 as his guide for planning worship.

“It’s never been a question of whether to do choruses or hymns,” Dameron said. “Rather, it’s been all about what will most glorify God and equip the saints to do His work!”

“It’s not a question of musical genre, but whether or not a given song, whether hymn or chorus, is totally saturated and permeated with the gospel of Jesus Christ,” Dameron said. “My prayer is that our worship through song will bring us all into the throne room of Christ and give us better understanding of who God is and what all he has done for unworthy, undeserving sinners such as ourselves.”

Dameron posts the worship sets each week on the church’s website and recommends people become familiar with the songs “to best prepare your heart for worship.”

Jean Smith developed and directs the ONElife Kidz ministry, using Proverbs 22:6 as a point of focus. Smith provides an active learning environment combined with a mini-worship service for the children.

Smith and the children’s ministry



ONElife Church Pastor Eric Stewart (submitted photo)

and began to spread the word-of-mouth announcement, “Bring your friends, bring your family, and let’s celebrate the risen Christ!”

At the October launch service,

See ONELIFE LAUNCH on page 2

## Youth retreat sees high attendance, changed lives

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER

*Managing Editor*

In January, the Multi-Associational Youth Retreat set a 13-year attendance record for Bambi Lake.

But for those in attendance, the story of lives changed was a much bigger story than the camp hosting the highest attendance it has seen for an overnight event since 2002.

“It carried on at their churches returning home,” Bambi Lake camp manager Dan Kucharczyk said. “I get a kick out of that as much as seeing it here.”

Fresh Start Fellowship in Oscoda had two students accept Christ at the youth retreat. However, that wasn’t the end of the story.

“It was a very good weekend,” Fresh Start Fellowship pastor Jason Livvix said the evening the students returned home. “We had 3 more kids accept Jesus as Lord and Savior tonight at church.”

Randy Weeks, youth pastor of First Baptist, South Lyon, has managed the event for several years. Formerly run by three associations, Weeks found leaders who are passionate about youth ministry and assembled a team to run the retreat.

“The only reason they’re doing it is because



Camp pastor Zac Weeks welcomes students to the 2015 Multi-Associational Youth Retreat. (Twitter: @BambiLake)

they want to see lives transformed for Christ,” Kucharczyk said. “They believe camp ministry is an excellent tool for that.”

The event provided students with activities like

ping pong, foosball, air hockey tournaments, and

See YOUTH RETREAT on page 3



## ONELIFE LAUNCH from page 1

team “equip children of all ages to learn, believe, grow, accept, and show God’s love.” The church has held two baby dedications since August.

When asked what role volunteers play at the church, Pastor Stewart said, “They are the lifeblood of the church. We are a mobile church which requires many volunteers to make it happen.”

The Biblical example of the Great Commission to “go and make disciples” is foundational for ONELife Church. Currently, three community groups meet throughout the week for discipleship.

The church has also received local media attention for a mission they conducted

during the Christmas season. Led by Sarah Church, several service men and women serving overseas received a love package with, among other things, a prayer and a hand-written note thanking the personnel for serving our country.

The outreach event was featured on WJRT, Flint’s ABC affiliate. The news story was also posted on WJRT’s website, *ABC12.com*.

ONELife Church is a portable church, meeting every Sunday at Madison Academy in Flint. The church meeting time and location can be found on the church website, *hisonelife.com*. ■



ONELife Church held a baptism at Cover Beach. Pastor Eric Stewart (far right) baptized (L-R) Darren Vath, Greg Kowalski, Jaime Brown Kowalski, and Seth Derb. (submitted photo)

## YOUTH RETREAT from page 1

an annual youth vs. counselor football game, but the primary focus for the weekend was the theme “Rooted.” Zac Weaks, camp pastor for the event, aimed to help students become grounded in their faith.

“I love how God wove all the messages and the music together so perfectly,” Heather Windeler said.

On the final morning of the retreat, Windeler spoke to the students with a missions focus.

“That really gets them fired up to head home and make a difference,” Kucharczyk said of the missions focus.

“God has given [Heather] a gift for speaking and a passion for reaching the hurting and broken for the gospel,” Zac Weaks said. “I can’t think of a better way that we could have summed up a weekend focused on the gospel than to challenge these

students to share the gospel with others.”

The event’s strong attendance brought about logistical challenges for the camp staff. Kucharczyk ended up sleeping in the lodge and opening his home to some of the event’s participants.

“I doubt very much that there are too many camp directors who would give up their home for a bunch of kids at youth camp,” Randy Weaks said.

“It didn’t feel over-crowded at all,” Zac Weaks added. “It is obvious that Dan and Angela are very excited about Bambi and the retreats.”

For Kucharczyk, seeing students come away

with changed lives was worth the sacrifice.

“It’s heartbreaking what comes out in a lot of these [types of events] - what these kids are struggling with - but it’s also amazing to see how they’re working through it,” Kucharczyk said. “They can conquer things in their life at these events.”

“God helps people conquer addiction, helps with forgiveness and different issues in their lives, to move forward and not be owned by negative things that happen in their lives.” ■

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM



### THE BAPTIST BEACON

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Editor: Jimmy Jones — [jjones@bscm.org](mailto:jjones@bscm.org)  
Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther — [jonathan@bscm.org](mailto:jonathan@bscm.org)

The Baptist Beacon:  
Telling the stories  
of what God is doing  
through His people  
in Michigan and  
Around the World,  
plus  
Helping Resource  
the Vision of your  
Church!

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### CHURCH UPDATE

Tell us about your new Pastor, an evangelistic outreach event, a mission trip, or something else that you’d like to share with our convention of churches.

Send updates  
about your  
church to:  
[beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org)





## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Week of Prayer

March 1-8, 2015

### Annie Armstrong Easter Offering Goal: \$60 million

### DAY ONE

Key to the Send North America strategy of seeing more churches started is the development of the **farm system**. Just as major league baseball's farm system helps pro baseball players develop and sharpen their skills, this farm system will help discover, develop and deploy our next generation of missionaries for the front lines of the mission field. Farm system categories include:

- › Student Missionary – Student who serves for a specific time, based on assignment, to assist local churches as they seek to accomplish the Great Commission through evangelism and church planting.
- › Church Planting Intern – Individual who commits to a maximum of 12 months of service in various church planting roles designed to help him or her learn more about church planting and discern future involvement.
- › Church Planter Apprentice – Aspiring church planter willing to spend up to a year in an endorsed learning environment following God's call, developing competencies and skills, and practicing the activities of church planting.
- › Church Planter – Man with a solid sense of calling from God to lead the activities of church planting while remaining humbly committed to personal and professional development.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › The thousands of people currently serving through the farm system and thousands more who are needed to make Send North America efforts a success.
- › Those who are mentoring farm system missionaries, helping them develop and discern God's direction for the future.

### DAY TWO

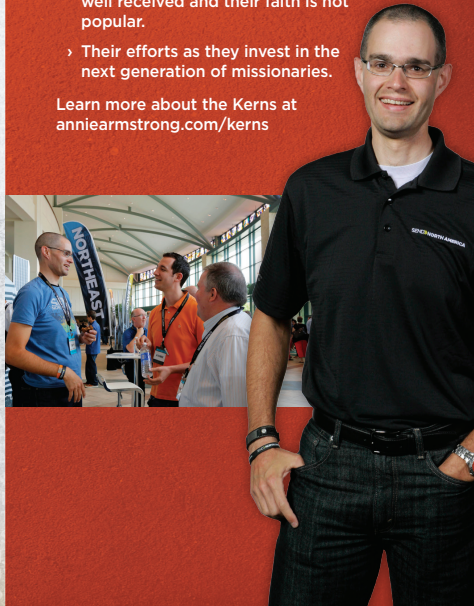
**TRAVIS AND STACI KERNS**  
Salt Lake City, Utah

The farm system is an essential aspect of our work here in Send North America: Salt Lake City. The farm system makes it possible for existing church planters to train our new missionaries on the field, give them "boots on the ground" experience and, most important, gives them the surety of knowing they are working in the place where God has called them before making a complete commitment to a lifetime of service in a particular place.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Travis and Staci and the church planters in Salt Lake City as they serve in a place where the truth of the gospel is not often well received and their faith is not popular.
- › Their efforts as they invest in the next generation of missionaries.

Learn more about the Kerns at [anniearmstrong.com/kerns](http://anniearmstrong.com/kerns)



### DAY THREE

**DANIEL AND LINDA YANG**  
Toronto, Canada

In Toronto, where many people seem happy and successful without Jesus, church planter Daniel Yang and his wife, Linda, are living life on mission as they bring the gospel to a city growing in population and influence. Trinity Life Church is a church plant in the Regent Park neighborhood. Residents seeking identity and truth are finding it through the person of Jesus Christ.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Daniel and Linda as they serve the diverse community and work with fellow planter Mike Seaman to grow Trinity in what is known as the world's most ethnically diverse city – a gateway to the rest of the world.
- › The spark of interest many have in exploring opportunities for church planting in Canada to ignite, causing them to go to the country to further a church planting movement there.

Learn more about the Yangs at [anniearmstrong.com/yang](http://anniearmstrong.com/yang)



### DAY FOUR

**JONATHAN AND SHELBY LAND**  
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

When Moberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas, made the commitment to church planting, it partnered as a "sending church" with Send North America: San Francisco, as well as with church plants in Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Hawaii and Alaska. In South Dakota, Moberly invested in starting Connection Church in Spearfish, S.D., which in turn invested in a new church, Connection Church in Sioux Falls, S.D. This second-generation church plant is led by planter Jonathan Land and his wife, Shelby.

There are currently 1,300 supporting and 600 sending churches engaged in Send North America.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › More churches like Moberly Baptist Church to commit to being a supporting or sending church through Send North America.
- › Jonathan and Shelby as they grow Connection Church with an eye to where to start more churches.

Learn more about the Lands at [anniearmstrong.com/Land](http://anniearmstrong.com/Land)



### DAY FIVE

**MARK AND TAMMY LASHEY**  
Townsend, Delaware

Church planter Mark Lashey notes there are almost 130,000 people living within a 15-mile radius of his home in Townsend and very few evangelical ministries to reach them with the gospel. He and his wife, Tammy, started a Bible study in their home that would grow into LifeHouse Church. In the past two years, more than 200 people have been baptized and more than 600 attend services each week.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Mark and Tammy to be mindful to rely only on God for direction on next steps for the church.
- › For LifeHouse members to embrace living life on mission in their community and beyond.

Learn more about the Lasheys at [anniearmstrong.com/lashey](http://anniearmstrong.com/lashey)



### DAY SIX

**GENERATION SEND**  
A part of the Student Missionary category in the farm system, Generation Send (GenSend) offers young adults a hands-on missions internship designed to immerse them into an urban context. They gain a practical knowledge of the realities of missions and leadership in the city.

Representing those who are currently serving, the young people noted below are seeing transformation in their own lives and those with whom they are sharing the gospel.

**Sarah Reese** – Home is Kentucky; serving in Portland

**Gabriel Revilla** – Home is Miami; serving in Chicago

**Austin Coleman** – Home is Tennessee; serving in New York City

"Many people go on mission trips for a week or two and share their faith, then return home to grow in their faith. My GenSend experience has shown me that growing and sharing my faith should never be separate. Every day we must live lives on mission."

—Austin Coleman

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Insight for these and other Generation Send missionaries as to where God is working and where He wants them to serve long-term.
- › Young people you believe should explore student missions opportunities through the farm system. Point them to [namb.net/mobilize-me](http://namb.net/mobilize-me) to learn more.

### DAY SEVEN

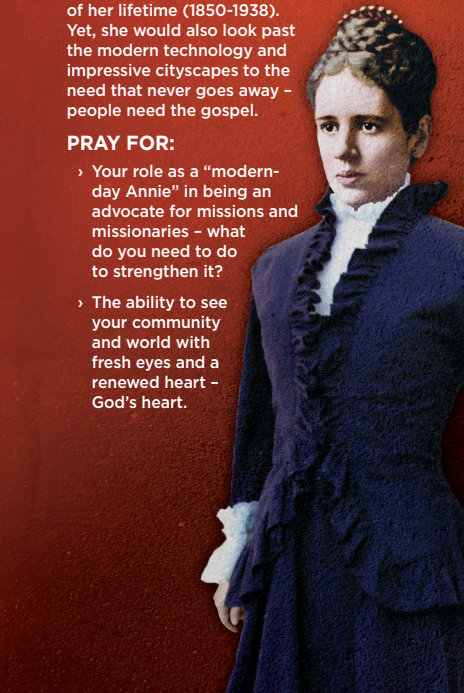
**ANNIE ARMSTRONG**

Annie Armstrong was a tireless servant of God and a contagious advocate and supporter of missions efforts throughout the world. She led women to unite in missions endeavors that ultimately fostered a missions support movement that continues today. Her passionate advocacy led Southern Baptists to name the annual offering for North American missions after her as a celebration of her legacy.

Were Annie alive today, she would see a much different world than the one of her lifetime (1850-1938). Yet, she would also look past the modern technology and impressive cityscapes to the need that never goes away – people need the gospel.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Your role as a "modern-day Annie" in being an advocate for missions and missionaries – what do you need to do to strengthen it?
- › The ability to see your community and world with fresh eyes and a renewed heart – God's heart.



### DAY EIGHT

**HOPE-GIVERS**

Missionaries and modern-day Annies live on mission. They pray for more leaders to rise up, they give more to send more, and they are mobilized in their everyday lives to live out the gospel in intentional ways that multiply disciples.

As you have used this prayer guide to pray for Send North America efforts, and as you give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, you are a hope-giver. Like Annie, though, you must influence others to support the work of your missionaries. Start today by visiting [anniearmstrong.com](http://anniearmstrong.com) to learn more.

#### PRAY FOR:

- › Missionaries and church planters on the front lines who are reaching communities in the spiritually darkest areas of North America.
- › Opportunities to live an intentional life on mission that attracts people to Jesus.

100 percent of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering goes toward resourcing and empowering missionaries to live out God's call.

**MOBILIZE ME**

[ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM](http://ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM)





# We are at war



**JIMMY JONES**  
Interim Executive  
Director

In January, the whole western world was brought to a standstill by the Muslim terrorist horrendous attack on Paris, France. It was an attack on our culture – a culture much influenced by the Word of God.

Our founding fathers based our nation on biblical law and behavior. These terrorists want to replace our culture with a system of laws that is not based on the Bible.

This attack was planned and executed well in spite of all that France had done to prevent such an event. The sad news is that intelligence agencies warn that this is just the beginning, and that there are more attacks coming. Just two days before this attack there was another attack, an attack from within on the Bible.

As we began a new year, it was obvious that we are involved in the most dangerous war in our history. On January 5, the resurgent *Newsweek* magazine cover shouted, “*The Bible: So Misunderstood It’s a Sin.*”

The writer, Kurt Eichenwald, is a

noted journalist in the field of business, but he has no experience in theological studies. His bias against the Bible and those who believe that it is the Word of God is evident by his total absence of any reference to biblical scholars who disagree with his theories of the origin of the Holy Bible or its history.

Eichenwald begins the article stating that no one has ever read the Bible. His reason is that there have been so many copies of copies of copies that no one can be sure that any of the Bible is reliable.

In 1972, I was in Israel and visited the Shrine of the Book, where there is a complete manuscript of the book of Isaiah. The Shrine of the Book is a part of the Dead Sea Scrolls found in 1947.

Scholars have dated the manuscript between 100 BC and 100 AD. Until this discovery the oldest manuscript of Isaiah was dated 1200 AD. This reveals over a thousand years of copies of copies of copies, yet there were no significant differences in the text. God not only gave His Word, He protected it for our day.

I studied all the textual criticism Eichenwald quotes in seminary, and there is ample evangelical scholarship to refute every argument he presents. I would direct you to the comments Dr. Albert Mohler, president of Southern

Baptist Theological Seminary, wrote on his website, [albertmohler.com](http://albertmohler.com).

The only part of Kurt Eichenwald’s article that is true is his statement that “Christians neglect to read the Bible.” This should cause us to repent!

If Satan can keep us out of God’s Word, he can defeat us. Hear scripture: “Faith cometh by...the Word of God”; “How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word”; “Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee”; “Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path”; “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work”.

Is it any mystery that Satan would attack the Word of God?

Satan never changes his tactics, as we are told in Genesis 3:4. He attacks God’s Word and because he caused doubt in Eve’s heart about the Word of God, sin entered the world.

Satan was a liar then and he still is today. Did you read God’s Word today? Did the Lord speak to you? Will you obey? ■

# Teens: Looking for a life-changing summer?



**ANGELA KUCHARCZYK**  
Bambi Lake  
Office Manager

Every summer Dan and I “adopt” several teens who come to Bambi Lake to serve as Summer Missionaries.

Sometimes we know them beforehand. Others we meet when they get here.

One of the greatest blessings we have serving here at Bambi is getting to work with these students. We work long hours alongside them and we watch them grow.

They mature in so many ways; work ethics become stronger, sense of responsibility grows, they learn how to have a job and how to relate to a boss and how to handle different kinds of situations.

The greatest joy we get, however, is watching them grow in their relationship with the Lord. That is really amazing.

We spend a lot of time together, and they really do become part of our family.

We eat dinners at the manager’s house together on our days off. We go shopping and on “field trips” together.

We do ministry together and we try to teach them how to do ministry in

their everyday lives when they return home, because that’s why we are here: each of us to reach our own little world for Jesus.

Don’t just take it from me, though.

Here’s what some of our former students had to say about their experience at Bambi:

“If you are called to mission work, this really is the best stepping stone, said Beth Shannon. “Working at Bambi teaches everyone to work as a team.

“When working as a summer missionary, God allows us to learn responsibility. I grew up always wanting to be a summer missionary. The summer I turned 16 will forever be my favorite summer.

“It might seem scary being away from home for the whole summer, but you really learn a lot about yourself and you grow in your faith.”

“It was the most fun summer of my life!” said Rachel LaBelle. “I made great friendships with the other summer

missionaries, Bambi staff, and campers.

“There are a million stories that make me laugh every time I think of them. It was a great summer and definitely a time that I will always treasure!”

We are now accepting applications for the summer of 2015 for summer missionaries. Summer may seem like a long time away, but now is the time to begin making plans.

Bambi Lake needs four to six students every summer to

help in various areas around the camp. From the kitchen to JB’s Place to the waterfront and everything in between, summer missionaries are invaluable to the ministry here.

To apply, you must be a member of a Southern Baptist Church and between the ages of 16-25. Applications can be obtained by emailing the manager at [dan@bscm.org](mailto:dan@bscm.org) or calling Bambi Lake at (989) 275-5844. ■



**Ken Render**

@Ken\_Render

You’ve lost your first love when you ask, “How can my church serve me?” instead of, “How can I best serve my church?” Rev. 2:4

**Rob Freshour**

@robfreshour

“Rejoicing always only works when we let God do the work.” (Brandt & Skinner)

**Kayre Stanley, II**

@PastorKayre2

Hardship and tragedy come to teach us the power of prayer and the power of God. #morningmeditation

**John Smith**

@PastorJESmithJr

I am a missionary for Christ and I commit to living as one until the day the Lord calls me home. #NoPlanB

**David Washington Jr.**

@pastordwash

When we disobey, God will put a detour in our detour!

**Billy Walker**

@billywalker

God can use agitation as education!

**Dan Russell**

@pastordanrussel

“It is very easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements in comparison with what we owe others.” Dietrich Bonhoeffer



# Modeling reconciliation in a time of tension



**GEORGE FOUNTAIN**  
Bi-Vocational  
Ministry Consultant

I hope you noticed and have taken time to read the article, "Floyd Calls Baptists to Racially Reconcile." (*EDITOR'S NOTE: This article appears on page 9 of the Baptist Beacon.*) While the article is lengthy, it is well worth the time to read.

"Southern Baptists have always been a prophetic voice crying out against matters such as the evil of abortion, the persecution of Christians around the world, the tragedy of human trafficking, or the sexual sins from adultery to homosexuality," Dr. Floyd wrote in the article. "All racism and injustice [are] sin. All ethnicities are capable of committing the sin of racism. Pastors, churches, leaders, and laypeople of the Southern Baptist Convention, the time is now for us to repent personally and collectively of all racism and injustice. Silence is not the answer and passivity is not our prescription for healing."

As I consider what is being said, I find myself struggling with images of "thieves and thugs" breaking into innocent people's stores, looting and destroying property, setting vehicles aflame, disgracing the very people group they are a part of and I feel for those hurt directly and indirectly.

I must remind myself the color of their skin does not mean these particular people represent all of this particular people. I must also remind myself there are people who are suffering – wrongfully suffering, and that it must stop.

The Bible states in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21: "...God who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." (NASB)

While in my quiet time this morning, I was reminded that the very essence of our calling is reconciliation. We have the opportunity as well as the responsibility to embody this word and flesh it out in our lives.

Only then will we have the influence to proclaim it with authority. At the same time while we strive to see men and women reconciled to God, we must remember that means reconciled to one another as well – and living that truth out for all to see.

"In this desperate hour in our nation when the racial tension is building rapidly, the church of Jesus Christ must rise," Dr. Floyd also wrote. "We are not black churches. We are not white churches. We are not Latino churches. We are not Asian churches. We are not Native American churches. We are the church of Jesus Christ. We are members of the same body."

I ask this question: Is it possible that this great truth needs to be applied to the citizens of our nation? Would it enable us to look across the landscape of America and regardless of ethnicity proclaim to the world and one another, "We are simply and collectively Americans!"

Is it possible that we as the church, the body of Christ, can more effectively model reconciliation and unity? Is it possible that this too could affect genuine racial reconciliation and uniting all the people of our nation? I believe it is and I am praying it will.

Know that I am praying for us as we respond to our call as His ambassadors for Christ, fleshing out this ministry of reconciliation, and living our lives for His glory and purpose every moment of every day where ever that may be. I remain so very grateful that He has chosen us and sends us into His world to represent Him personally and to display what "being reconciled" really means and how the results of being reconciled impacts our lives and communities.

May His blessings fill your life as you "Do whatever it takes to see lives transformed."

tentmaker 1320

Tentmaker 1320

*Racial Reconciliation Sunday is February 8, 2015. ■*

## ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

You've thought of all the details in preparing for the birth of your new baby. The birth of a new child is a good time to create or update an estate plan.

The Foundation helps hundreds of families each year with their estate plans, which allows parents to name a legal guardian for their children.

The Foundation also has a legal fees reimbursement plan if you want to leave a gift in your estate plan to a Southern Baptist Ministry.



*Protect those you love.*



# Missionary kids experience a third-culture world

BY ELAINE GASTON

Baptist Press

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Ivory Coast is the country of focus for the current International Mission Study by WMU. Find resources to support the study at [wmu.com/IMS](http://wmu.com/IMS) and [imb.org/ims](http://imb.org/ims). See additional story (below) on child labor and exploitation challenges facing Ivory Coast.*

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (BP) — Mike McAfee took his daughter Karis to work with him on a Tuesday morning in the Ivory Coast capital of Abidjan.

His work that day happened to be visiting a Muslim friend, Seidou, to talk more about Jesus. Karis, 11 at the time, was going to play with Seidou's niece Sadia. Her hopes were dashed, however, when they arrived and Sadia wasn't there. Her uncle told Karis that she was now an apprentice in a tailor's shop.

Even though Karis, now 12, and her brothers — Caleb, 14, and Benjamin, 4 — live in the same city as their friends, sometimes the lives of those friends, though the same ages, are decidedly different. It's part of being MKs, missionary kids.

Most of the time, the differences fade away when it comes to mutual interests such as playing soccer for the boys or braiding hair for the girls. During long church services at the Baptist church in Abobo, with no Sunday School classes to involve the children, the girls play in front of the church building under a shady tree. Karis patiently sits as girls cluster around her, stroking her silky hair with a texture so different from their own. Caleb, meanwhile, sits in the back of the dirt-floor sanctuary with a friend, making seats out of large overturned plastic buckets. During songs, as others clap their hands, the boys join in, hands beating on the buckets, keeping time with the drums at the front of the church.

## 'Third-culture kids'

Caleb, Karis and Benjamin are MKs, but they are also TCKs, "third-culture kids." By leaving their "passport" country to grow up in a foreign country for an extended time, they develop a cultural identity from their home country and their host country

— a sort of third, unique culture of their own.

The foreign country they live in, however, isn't "foreign" to them. As Caleb points out, he's lived more than half his life in Ivory Coast, giving him a different perspective than an outsider would have. For instance, a decade of violence in Ivory

ent from living in the North Carolina town that the McAfees moved from? For one thing, there's no spring, summer, fall or winter in Abidjan.

"The rainy season is just like three months," Caleb said, "and the hot season is nine months or so.

"In the hot season, the dry season, there's this thing that's called harmat-

tan" — the hot, dry trade wind that blows from the western Sahara, carrying large amounts of dust through Ivory Coast and out over the Gulf of Guinea and the Atlantic Ocean.

"I actually got really sick from the harmattan one time," Caleb said. In contrast, downpours during the rainy season can turn the city into a flood zone. Though the rain brings welcome cooling to the oppressive West African heat, local streets flood and people have to wade through the water to get some places. The rain fills their yard with water as well, Caleb said. "It got up to our doorstep last rainy season. All the cockroaches and bugs got up onto the walls. We went to town with the bug spray!"

play where mango trees and flowering hibiscus grow. Outside the compound's gate, Caleb knows the vendors who set up their businesses along the road. "There's the tailor and the guy who sells attiéké [a side dish made from cassava]," he said. There's "the brochette guy," who grills meats over a charcoal fire, garnished with onions and tomatoes and served in a sliced baguette. For fruit, the family doesn't go to a grocery store. "We get our fruit and vegetables from the fruit guy that walks by, and he'll have it on his head in this box. He has apples and oranges and grapes and sometimes he has bananas," Caleb said. "But then we have a different person that comes by and sells bananas. He'll come and knock on our door, and we'll buy by the kilo. We buy our stuff by the kilo."

Karis added, "There are lots of fruits here. Most of them are good. My favorite is called papaya. It's small ... and it's got lots of seeds in it so you take all the seeds out and you just eat the meat in there. I like to put some lemon juice on it."

Another difference between the U.S. and "over there" is the way the family worships.

"The music is really lively," Caleb said. And sometimes, "when they sing, everyone gets up and does a conga line around the [church] in a circle in the space between the pews and the pulpit. They really like to dance in church." And there's no passing the plate. "They'll usually play music while they do the offering; then [row by row] they'll go up to put their offering in the basket."

Southern Baptists make it possible for families like the McAfees to follow their call to reach the people of the Ivory Coast, supported by the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions as well as Southern Baptists' Cooperative Program.

And from Caleb's perspective as a 14-year-old, that's great. "Being an MK is cool because I get to live in another country, and I can speak another language and meet new friends."

*Elaine Gaston writes for the International Mission Board. ■*



Ben McAfee (center), a 4-year-old missionary kid in Ivory Coast, plays drums with his pals at church. (IMB Photo)

Coast left its mark in various places throughout Abidjan. Caleb matter-of-factly tells of finding a bullet hole in the side of his family's roof.

"It went into the roof, hit something metal, came back down through the roof sideways and hit our metal pole," Caleb said. It punctured the hollow pole and fell to the bottom. "So I took a sledgehammer and busted out the bottom and got the bullet," he said.

The McAfee children, like most MKs, assist their parents in ministry. When volunteers fly into Abidjan, Karis likes to go to the airport with her father to meet them. As volunteers visit a local artisan's market, she acts as a translator to help them bargain in French for keepsake items.

Karis is homeschooled by her mother, Heather, and sometimes her father when Heather's work commitments take her from home. Caleb does his schoolwork through an Internet-based homeschool curriculum. Karis and Caleb put up with plenty of interruptions during the school day as visitors pass through their home.

## Here & there

So how is living in Abidjan differ-

ent from living in the North Carolina town that the McAfees moved from? For one thing, there's no spring, summer, fall or winter in Abidjan.

"The rainy season is just like three months," Caleb said, "and the hot season is nine months or so. In the hot season, the dry season, there's this thing that's called harmat-

## An awkward question

Perhaps the most awkward question MKs hear when they visit the U.S. is "What is it like to live in ... [insert country name]?" It's a difficult question; growing up in their host country is normal to them. The McAfee children live on a mission compound that includes their family's house, offices, guesthouse rooms and other apartments. The children are fortunate to have a yard in which to



# 1,000 lashes begin for Saudi blogger

BY ART TOALSTON

*Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (BP) — The first 50 of 1,000 lashes was meted out to a Saudi blogger in front of a mosque Jan. 9 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, according to news reports and human rights organizations.

The blogger, Raif Badawi, is “the victim of a cruel and barbaric act carried out by the Saudi justice system,” the chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, Katrina Lantos-Swett, said in a news release the same day.

Badawi is sentenced to receive 50 lashes weekly after Friday prayers for the next 20 weeks at the Juffali Mosque in Jeddah.

The lashing is “business as usual in the Kingdom,” Lantos-Swett said. The blogger is being lashed “for nothing more than creating an online forum for diverse views to be expressed freely.”

Human Rights Watch reported that Saudi activists describe lashing as “generally carried out with a light wooden cane.... [The strikes] are distributed across the back and legs, which leaves bruising but normally does not break the skin.” Badawi was fully clothed and able to walk back to a prison car on his own.

A Saudi appeals court sentenced Badawi last May to 10 years in prison, 1,000 lashes and fined

him \$1 million SR (\$266,000 USD) for insulting Islam and religious authorities, among other charges, according to the U.S. religious freedom commission (USCIRF).

Badawi was arrested in 2012 and the Free Saudi Liberals website he founded was shut down; in July 2013 he was sentenced by a criminal court to 600 lashes and seven years in prison. The appeals court, however, levied the harsher sentence. An apostasy charge against Badawi was dropped in January 2013.



Raif Badawi

Badawi’s lawyer, Waleed Abu al-Khair, meanwhile, has been sentenced to 15 years in prison by a new Saudi anti-terror court for his varied work as a human rights defender.

Badawi’s pending lashings drew State Department comment on Jan. 8.

State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki, in a prepared statement, said, “We are greatly concerned by reports that human rights activist Raif Badawi will start facing the inhumane punishment of a 1,000 lashes, in addition to serving a 10-year sentence in prison for exercising his rights to freedom of expression and religion. The United States Government calls on Saudi authorities to cancel this brutal punishment and to review Badawi’s case and sentence. The United States strongly opposes laws, including apostasy laws, that restrict the exercise of these freedoms, and urges all countries to uphold these rights in practice.”

An eyewitness told Amnesty International that

Badawi, as he was being lashed, “raised his head towards the sky, closing his eyes and arching his back. He was silent, but you could tell from his face and his body that he was in real pain.”

Said Boumedouha, Amnesty International’s deputy director for the Middle East and North Africa, said Badawi is a “prisoner of conscience.” Badawi’s lashing is “a vicious act of cruelty which is prohibited under international law. By ignoring international calls to cancel the flogging, Saudi Arabia’s authorities have demonstrated an abhorrent disregard for the most basic human rights principles,” Boumedouha said.

Human Rights Watch said the lashing of Badawi is “the latest in a series of harsh penalties handed down against Saudi human rights activists and peaceful dissidents.” In addition to the now-jailed human rights defender Waleed Abu al-Khair, activist Su’ad al-Shammari was arrested last October on charges of having helped Badawi set up his website, while Fadhil al-Manasif faces 14 years in prison on charges stemming largely from assisting international journalists covering eastern province protests over the treatment of Shiite Muslims in 2011-12.

The U.S. has designated Saudi Arabia as a “country of particular concern,” or CPC, for 10 years for violations of religious freedom under the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act. However, according to USCIRF, the U.S. has placed an indefinite waiver on any action relating to the CPC designation since 2006.

*Art Toalston is editor of Baptist Press.* ■

# ‘Like insects,’ 2,000 Nigerians killed

BY DIANA CHANDLER

*Baptist Press*

BAGA, Nigeria (BP) — Boko Haram’s slaughter of 2,000 northeastern Nigerians shows the jihadists have escalated beyond targeting Christians and has placed Nigeria in the midst of a global war against humanity, Nigerian relations expert Adeniyi Ojutiku told Baptist Press today (Jan. 12).

Hundreds of gunmen invaded Baga and 16 surrounding villages in Borno state beginning Jan. 3, and continued to slaughter residents and burn homes throughout the following week, killing an estimated 2,000 residents. Amnesty International described the attack as Boko Haram’s deadliest to date.

Boko Haram is an international offensive, Ojutiku said, comparable to ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria).

“This is no longer Nigeria’s war,” he said. “Whatever the global community is doing with respect to ISIS ... they should be doing the same thing with respect to Boko Haram.”

The terrorists, who first targeted Christians in an effort to establish Sharia law in Nigeria, can no longer be considered a problem for Nigeria and Christians only, he said.

“This is an escalation of the global Islamic agenda, and they have support, heavy support, training, equipment, material, from radical Islamic organizations. The local terrorism has been internationalized,” he said. “The crisis has escalated beyond just killing Christians. ... Now there is evidence that this very radical Islamic sect is now

devouring their own moderate Muslims. Initially, yes, Christians, but now they are more indiscriminate.”

Nigeria alone cannot be expected to defeat Boko Haram, said Ojutiku, a Southern Baptist in Raleigh, N.C., who has founded Lift Up Now, a grassroots outreach to reform his homeland eco-



**This screen capture from cell-phone video footage shows Boko Haram capturing the town of Gwoza, Nigeria, where it has established an “Islamic Caliphate.” The terrorists overtake towns with trickery and force, confusing residents by wearing Nigerian military uniforms.**

nomically and spiritually.

“Nigeria is fighting a global ideological war. They are also fighting well-trained, formidable forces of anti-civilization. So, there is the ideological war that has been globalized, and Nigeria has been drawn into it,” he said. “If the global com-

munity just expects Nigeria to defeat Boko Haram by itself, it’s not going to happen because it’s now a global affair.”

Eye witnesses to the January attacks said the terrorists killed citizens as though the victims were “insects,” Nigeria’s Premium Times newspaper reported today (Jan. 12) from accounts of survivors.

“We saw dead bodies especially, on the islands of Lake Chad where fishermen had settled,” the newspaper quoted Yahaya Takakumi, a 55-year-old farmer. “Several persons were killed there like insects.”

Ibrahim Gambo, a 25-year-old truck driver who survived the slaughter, reported horrendous scenes to the Premium Times.

“We came across many dead bodies, some in groups and others by themselves in the bush,” Gambo said. “I saw dead children and women, and even a pregnant woman with her stomach slit open.”

The death toll ranges from hundreds to 2,000, but Nigerian officials have said it’s still too dangerous to count the bodies.

“Dead bodies litter the bushes in the area and it is still not safe to go and pick them [up] for burial,” CNN quoted Musa Bukar, chairman of the

Baga local government. “Some people who hid in their homes were burned alive.”

At least 30,000 people were displaced, perhaps 20,000 of them camping in Maiduguri city, the



# First-Person: Rethinking church plant funding



ED STETZER  
LifeWay

NASHVILLE — Since the turn of the century, many denominations have made a strong effort to funnel resources toward church planting. This support helps to secure facilities, execute marketing campaigns, provide equipment for ministry, and even underwrite pastoral support.

That's a good thing.

Not only have denominations created departments that financially support church planting, the church planters have the blessings of the denomination's leadership, which often helps them gain access to established local churches to seek financial sponsorship.

In the new millennium, networks have followed a similar pattern, though to a lesser degree due to their smaller resource base.

## The Landscape Is Changing

Fast forward to today.

I am often asked, "How do you see the funding options available to church planters changing in the future?"

My view is that there will be less funding readily available to church planters from the current sources. But before we get discouraged about the future prospects, we need to realize that we can't—and shouldn't attempt to—buy our way into a church multiplication movement in the West (North America, Australia, England, etc.).

The truth is: most denominations and church-planting networks run out of money for church planting every year—and every year, plants go unfunded due to financial restrictions. And so, we

must consider other ways to plant churches, like organic church planting, and raising up leaders from the harvest who are intentionally bi-vocational along the way.

If there is one thing church planters recognize in established churches, it's that you can't keep doing things the way they've always been done if you want your success to continue on into the next generation. So how does this admonition affect the world of church planting?

## Churches Still Need to Be Planted

Even though some of the current funding wells may be drying up (often because they have been well used), that doesn't mean denominations won't be as committed to the process. More denominations are prioritizing church planting—and that's a good thing.

There is less standing in the way on the path to success with church planting than say, revitalization. Denominations and church-planting networks are noticing the population boom in urban areas—the same areas that saw a mass exodus of churches a generation ago. So the field is wide open.

Because of the emphasis placed by leadership, and the migrating demographics, more people are interested in planting today. (See this article and my comments in the Wall Street Journal about that very thing.) Less money from denominations coupled with a greater desire to plant means most planters will have to raise their own funds and support.

## Fund Raising

Some will (and should) plant vocationally, but that will mean gathering resources from other places.

This will require a sharper vision of God's calling and a more passionate voice for sharing with those who will care to join in. Remember, denominations and networks ultimately got their money from people.

Now instead of just calling the cash hotline at headquarters, you're going to have to build relationships with more people who want to support your ministry. God is already calling others to help you get started. You just need to be proactive about finding them. This isn't something foreign. It has always been a part of the church-planting puzzle, but it will likely become a larger piece.

## Bivocational Planting

Then there is the "B" word. The bi-vocational option needs to be seen as an opportunity, not as a penalty. It needs to be seen as a preferred option for planters.

Historically, this path

has been as fulfilling as it has been frustrating.

When I planted my first church, I installed home insulation. Most recently, I have worked as the executive director of LifeWay Research. That is my job during the week, while I pastor a church plant on the weekend—part time when I was blowing insulation years ago, as a volunteer today. It can be done. Do not let the lack of denominational funding determine whether or not you plant a church.

On the national level, my denomination didn't fund me at all when I went to the inner city of Buffalo, New York. I was 21. I had an undergraduate degree in Biology and Chemistry. I probably wouldn't have funded me. But God called me to plant that church, so I raised minimal funds, and worked a second job, and planted the church bivocationally.

I encourage you to at least investigate the possibility of doing the same as well. You will be surprised what God will teach you about yourself and others in that process.

## Organic Options

The fact is that you can plant a church without any pay—no one is stopping you. As I've written extensively here on the blog (and in *Viral Churches and Planting Missional Churches*), organic church models led by unpaid leaders can engage communities, reach people, and multiply readily.

The focus of this article is not such movements, but search the blog for many references to such.

## The Future Holds Opportunity

My focus here has been to acknowledge that there will be less money readily available from the usual sources for the next phase in the church multiplication movement. But God will be doing something new and strong in the lives of those who press forward, those who sacrifice in new ways to accomplish the mission God has given them. Here are some things church planters can consider as they venture into this new day:

- **Use your prayer closet.** As you have done in other areas, pray for God to lead you to the resources He is sure to provide. Remember, cash doesn't plant churches; God does.
- **Use your heart.** Hone your communication skills in order to express the opportunities and your needs to the people God brings your way. Some of these folks will be people of means. Others will be those who give profoundly, though not in ways that will increase the balance of your bank account.
- **Use your head.** Be creative in your development. This isn't about cutting corners so much as trimming fat. I wonder how much of what we have spent in church planting over the last 25 years is actually necessary. Saving \$25,000 is like receiving \$25,000.
- **Use your hands.** No one is only a church planter. Everyone has other skills. Hang some sheetrock. Build websites. Raise some money with your other skills. And in the process, you may actually find people who will become part of your church.

Less money must not mean less mission or we've missed the pattern of Paul, the call of Jesus, and the mission of the church.

*Ed Stetzer is executive director of LifeWay Research. This article first appeared in Christian-ity Today.* ■

## Women's Winter Missions Retreat

February 20 - 22, 2015



Guest Speaker:  
**Eleanor Witcher**  
International  
Mission Board  
Prayer Office  
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4 per room — \$106.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$86 due at Check-In  
3 per room — \$114.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$94 due at Check-In  
2 per room — \$130.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$110 due at Check-In  
1 per room — \$150.00 per person less \$20 deposit = \$130 due at Check-In

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Contact [wmu@bscm.org](mailto:wmu@bscm.org) for more information.





# Floyd calls Baptists to racially reconcile

BY ERICH BRIDGES

Baptist Press



**Ronnie Floyd**  
(Baptist Press  
Photo)

SPRING-DALE, Ark. (BP) — Southern Baptist pastor Terry Turner has a newspaper clipping from the early 1900s telling of a family member taken from jail by a mob of southern whites and lynched, never tried or convicted of a crime.

Turner's memory of growing up as an African American under Jim Crow segregation laws in Guthrie, Okla., partly fuels his support of Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd's racial reconciliation initiative launched today (Dec. 15), calling for Southern Baptists to repent of racism and unite in love. Twenty other Southern Baptist pastors signed the appeal, including leaders from the white, black, Asian, Native American and Latino communities.

The appeal, titled "The wounds run deep: racism and injustice must end and let grace and love begin," is on Floyd's online SBC President's Page and addressed to Southern Baptist pastors, churches, leaders and laypeople. Floyd wrote the post "under conviction of the Holy Spirit that I must do something as a Christian, a pastor and as the current president of the Southern Baptist Convention," he said, and was prompted to hold a conference call with four black and two white pastors Dec. 10.

"The time is now for us to rise up together and cry out against the racism that still exists in our nation and our churches, and the subsequent injustices," Floyd wrote. "We are grieved that racism and injustice still abound in our nation in 2014. All human beings are created by God and in His image. The dignity of each

individual needs to be recognized and appreciated by each of us and by all of the 50,000 churches and congregations that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention."

Floyd referenced 1 Corinthians 12:26 in calling for Southern Baptists to understand and work to alleviate the pain of racism and injustice within the body of Christ.

"With heavy hearts, we recognize the deep pain and hurt that has come to many of our African American brothers and sisters. The recent events in America have reawakened many of their greatest fears. Their wounds from the past run deep," Floyd wrote. "Without relationships and conversations, we will never understand one another. Because you hurt, we hurt with you today. We are a part of the same body of Christ, His church, which is to be a picture of the multi-faceted wisdom of God.

"We are not black Christians. We are not white Christians. We are not Latino Christians. We are not Asian Christians. We are not Native American Christians," Floyd wrote. "We are Christians! We are followers of Jesus Christ."

Floyd encouraged Southern Baptists to combat racism as the convention has fought other sins.

"Southern Baptists have always been a prophetic voice crying out against matters such as the evil of abortion, the persecution of Christians around the world, the tragedy of human trafficking, or the sexual sins from adultery to homosexuality," Floyd wrote. "All racism and injustice [are] sin. All ethnicities are capable of committing the sin of racism. Pastors, churches, leaders, and laypeople of the Southern Baptist Convention, the time is now for us to repent personally and collectively of all racism and injustice. Silence is not the answer and passivity is not our prescription for healing."

Turner, pastor of Mesquite Friendship Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas, and a former president of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, participated in the conference

call and signed Floyd's declaration. Without racial reconciliation, the U.S. will not experience the revival for which Southern Baptists have long prayed, Turner said.

"We've come to a point where, if we're going to have revival in our country, then our convention will have to address the issue of racism that has been prevalent in our country since the 1600s and has kept us as a people divided," Turner told Baptist Press. "Until we can come together as a unified people of God ... [and] deal with that issue, true revival can't come, because it won't provide the oneness that God requires of His people."

Racism has been America's shame for generations, said Turner, who recalls having to enter the back doors of restaurants and not being allowed to ask for a seat, simply because of his race. The sin of racism has hindered the U.S. as a whole, he said.

"I believe that [racism] has been the nemesis and the shame of America, because when it came to difficult positions of where we stood, we didn't have a clear understanding of biblically what racism was doing to us, even in the days of slavery," Turner said. "The Civil War was started over the issue of where the Bible stood on slavery, and even today, many people are still dealing with unregenerate hearts that have trickled down from the Jim Crow laws as well as from the days of slavery.

"Until our convention comes together, and really learns to reach across racial lines, and love our brothers of different ethnicities, revival won't come, because oneness won't be there in the body of Christ," Turner said.

Johnny Hunt, a Native American and senior pastor of Woodstock Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., also signed the initiative.

"I think it is of utmost importance that we be led by President Ronnie Floyd and other Southern Baptist ministers to pursue the initiative of racial reconciliation," Hunt said, ref-

erencing 1 Peter 4:8 as a call to love one another, because love covers sin.

"I pray that this will be the commencement of bringing us together in spiritual solidarity that would glorify God and be a witness to all those that are looking in to see how the body of Christ really responds to a crisis situation," said Hunt, a former SBC president. "I pray that there would be a genuine outpouring of God's love demonstrated through the reconciliation of any broken relationships." Southern Baptists of all ethnicities should "embrace one another in a way that would rebound to the greater glory of God in genuine love and partnership together in the Gospel."

K. Marshall Williams, senior pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa., and president of the SBC National African American Fellowship, participated in the conference call with Floyd and also signed the appeal.

"I'm praying that God will pour out His Spirit, like a mighty purifying fire, of deep conviction, confession, spiritual brokenness with genuine fruits of repentance, from the sins of racism and injustice, that have been a systemic satanic stronghold in our Nation," Williams told Baptist Press, "so that we will see loving unity in the body of Christ, which will usher in an unprecedented revival, spiritual awakening and healing in our land.

"I appreciatively applaud and I am praying for Dr. Ronnie Floyd as we seek the Lord for wisdom, when it comes to allowing His love, mercy and justice to rule in polity and practice as Kingdom citizens."

Other pastors on the conference call, all of whom signed Floyd's appeal, were immediate past SBC president Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans; immediate past NAAF president A.B. Vines, pastor of New Seasons Church in Spring Valley, Calif.; Steve Gaines, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.; and Ted Traylor, senior pastor

See RACIAL RECONCILIATION on page 11

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Church Information Packets

are mailed to every staff member once per month and posted online. These contain promotional posters, sign-up sheets, informational articles and more. Visit [www.MichiganBaptists.org](http://www.MichiganBaptists.org) for more information.

### Bi-vocational pastor needed

Alpine Village Baptist Church, Gaylord is seeking a married man who exhibits a spirit-filled lifestyle as part-time bi-vocational pastor to a congregation of approximately 25 active members. A bachelor's degree in religion is required, including a divinity degree with experience as a senior or associate pastor. Position provides health plus retirement fund and a housing allowance. Please submit résumé to [pastoralsearch2014@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralsearch2014@gmail.com) or mail to Alpine Village Baptist Church, 158 N. Townline, Gaylord, MI 49735.

### Bi-vocational youth minister needed

Ferndale Bible Church, Ferndale, is searching for a bi-vocational youth pastor. The church is looking for someone who loves God and His Word and who has compassion for teenagers and their families.

All applicants must pass a background check prior to being called to serve. For more information or to apply, call (248) 543-1136 or email [revterrysmith@yahoo.com](mailto:revterrysmith@yahoo.com).

### Did You Know?

You Can Submit your items for publication to the Baptist Beacon by emailing [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org) by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month's issue



# Fabricated: 'I did not go to heaven'

BY LILY JAMESON

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — LifeWay Christian Resources' decision to stop selling a discredited book about a 6-year-old's supposed vision of heaven is being cited as a reminder that followers of Jesus should rely on the Bible rather than subjective experience for their knowledge of the afterlife.

"Anytime you step away from the clear, revelatory, propositional statements of Scripture into your own experience, then you open yourself to

every kind of weird existential idea out there," Chris Osborne, a Texas pastor who believes books like Malarkey's are unbiblical, told Baptist Press. "We want people bound to truth, not to what they feel or what they think they saw or what they experience."

LifeWay decided Jan. 15 that it would stop selling "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven" by the father-son team of Kevin and Alex Malarkey after Alex, now 16, said in a statement that he fabricated the supposed vision of heaven on which the bestselling book is based.

"I did not die. I did not go to Heaven," Alex Malarkey wrote in an open letter to LifeWay and other book retailers.

"I said I went to heaven because I thought it would get me attention. When I made the claims that I did, I had never read the Bible. People have profited from lies, and continue to. They should read the Bible, which is enough. The Bible is the only source of truth. Anything written by man cannot be infallible," Malarkey wrote.

LifeWay spokesman Marty King said in a statement released to BP, "LifeWay was informed last week that Alex Malarkey retracted his testimony about visiting heaven as told in the book 'The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven.' Therefore, we returned to the publisher the few copies we had in our stores. LifeWay is committed to becoming even more proactive the next few months in evaluating the resources we carry."

In 2004, Malarkey spent two months in a coma and was paralyzed

from the neck down following a car accident. When he awoke, Malarkey reported experiencing a vision of heaven that included being guided by angels and meeting Jesus.



Kevin Malarkey said he "felt no urge" to share his son's story for five years, but he retained an agent and secured a book deal with Tyndale House Publishers in 2009, British newspaper The Guardian reported. Though Alex is listed as a coauthor, Kevin Malarkey is the sole owner of the copyright, according to information posted in the United

States Copyright Office's public catalog. Kevin Malarkey also owns the copyright for a "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven" film and a Spanish version of the book.

Alex's mother Beth Malarkey — who Christianity Today reported is separated from Kevin — has been writing on her blog since at least 2011 that the book contains inaccuracies, according to the Guardian. Beth Malarkey said she and Alex have not received any proceeds from the book's sale, CT reported.

Tyndale announced in a Jan. 14 statement that it would "immediately put the book and all ancillary products into out-of-print status" and allow retailers to return their remaining inventory.

Last June, the Southern Baptist Convention adopted a resolution that touted "the sufficiency of Scripture regarding the afterlife" and warned Christians not to allow "the numerous books and movies purporting to explain or describe the afterlife experience" to "become their source and basis for an understanding of the afterlife."

Though the resolution did not list specific book or movie titles, it seemed to describe works like "The Boy Who Came Back from Heaven," "90 Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper and "Heaven Is for Real" by Todd Burpo along with its companion movie released last year by Sony Pictures.

The resolution affirmed "the sufficiency of biblical revelation over subjective experiential explanations to guide one's un-

derstanding of the truth about heaven and hell."

Osborne, who was a member of the SBC Resolutions Committee that proposed the resolution to the convention, believes the apostle Paul's statement in 2 Corinthians 12:4 that he heard things during a vision of "paradise" which "a man is not allowed to speak" precludes anyone from describing a vision of heaven not in the Bible.

Although Scripture says much about where believers will live following Christ's second coming, it contains far less information about what occurs between the time a follower of Jesus dies and the Lord's second coming, Osborne, pastor of Central Baptist Church in College Station, said. Still, God has given humans all the information they need about what happens after death, he added.

Theologians refer to the condition of believers between their deaths and Christ's return as "the intermediate state."

"There are several things I know about the intermediate state," Osborne said, citing John 14:2-4. "Number one, Jesus comes and gets me and takes me there.... There's obviously a place that He's built for me there and [I will go there] immediately upon my death."

Osborne speculated that the lack of information in Scripture about the intermediate state may be one factor driving well-meaning believers to study books about near-death experiences for clues.

"The lack of explanation in the Scripture causes people to create things that are not true," Osborne said.

Matthew Arbo, another member of the Resolutions Committee that proposed the statement on books

about heaven, told BP Christians should not worry about what will happen to them during the intermediate state even though it is "kind of a mystery."

"We have the word from Jesus on the cross, 'This day you will be with me in paradise,'" Arbo, assistant professor of biblical and theological studies at Oklahoma Baptist University, said. "We should just lay hold of that truth and trust that as God worked all things together for our good in our salvation and in our calling, so also He will do the same thing in our death."

Jesus' promise that the thief on the cross would be in paradise the day of his death (Luke 23:43) and Paul's statement that "to be out of the body" is to be "at home with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8) demonstrate that Christians' souls will go to heaven immediately when they die, Arbo said. Believers' bodies will remain in the grave until they are raised, perfected and reunited with their souls at Christ's second coming, he noted.

The lack of detail in Scripture regarding the intermediate state should not drive believers to depend on fanciful portrayals in either secular or Christian media for information, Arbo said.

Books like Malarkey's are "kind of an interesting juxtaposition to pop culture portrayals of death — vampire series, An American Horror Story — that are kind of morbid and nihilistic. They're really bleak. And then you get these hits that aren't quite so reductive and so defeating. It's kind of understandable why somebody might fix onto that. There's so very little that's hopeful in pop culture today."

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. ■

## MARCH 6-7, 2015

# MEN'S RETREAT




**Featuring:**  
**Gary Miller**  
*Outdoor Truths Ministries*

**For Details go to**  
[register.bsccm.org](http://register.bsccm.org)





# RACIAL RECONCILIATION from page 9

of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

Among Hispanic signatories is David Galvan, senior pastor of Primeria Iglesia Baptista Nueva Vida New Life in Dallas, who told Baptist Press he shares Floyd's heartbeat and concern for racial reconciliation and justice.

"Our business is souls, regardless of race or social status," said Galvan, a former SBC second vice president. "We care about people and especially those of the household of faith. God addressed injustice and the lack of mercy when He spoke to the Israel of old and therefore we too must address alleged injustices."

The church should spread the Gospel among all peoples, regardless of race or social status, Galvan said.

"Racial reconciliation is not a political posture. For us, it is the way the body of Christ operates. It is the mind of Christ," Galvan said, referencing his congregation. "Though we minister primarily to a Spanish-speaking constituency, we also have an outreach to everyone in our community that understands English, and we have had an English-speaking worship service for over 30 years. Our English service is attracting people of varying backgrounds."

Traylor, in Romania on a mission trip, told Baptist Press in an email that talking with other pastors on the conference call was helpful.

"I hear much about having a conversation regarding racial issues but I do not see many happening. [Floyd's initiative] put me in a conversation that was healthy, helpful and educational," Traylor said. "I hope Southern Baptists will seek to have these kinds of conversations that lead to action."

Southern Baptists should follow Jesus' example in preaching to set the captives free, Traylor said.

"When injustice is in the air, we as church leaders need to call sin what it is and we need to encourage those who are speaking for those that cannot speak for themselves," Traylor said. "Jesus preached to set free the oppressed and we must do the same."

Paul Kim, pastor emeritus of Antioch Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., signed the letter and recruited other pastors from Asian communities within the SBC to do the same.

Although the United States is composed of united governments, the country has missed the mark in racial unity, said Kim, who came to the U.S. from Korea in 1967 and served two military tours in the U.S. Army.

"Somehow we are not united racially," Kim told Baptist Press. "I don't get that America, we claim we are united states, but now we are not united, because of racial issues. We

are totally separated. I have not seen the unity that Jesus speaks about" among believers.

Southern Baptists need to actively pursue racial reconciliation and encourage others to do the same, Kim said. As the church is one body, when one person hurts, the others hurt as well, said Kim, who chairs the Executive Committee's Asian American Advisory Council.

Other Asian pastors who signed the appeal are Filipino Roger Manao, senior pastor of Philadelphia Bible Church International in Philadelphia, Pa.; Simon Tsoi, pastor emeritus, First Chinese Baptist Church in Phoenix; and Vietnamese Christian Phan, senior pastor of Agape Baptist Church in Renton, Wash.

Remaining signatories are Vance Pitman, senior pastor, Hope Church, Las Vegas; Jack Graham, senior pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas; J.D. Greear, senior pastor, The Summit Church, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.; Manuel Martinez Sr., senior pastor, Primera Iglesia Bautista, Irving, Texas; Timmy R. Chavis, senior pastor, Bear Swamp Baptist Church, Pembroke, N.C.; Bucas Sterling III, senior pastor, Kettering Baptist Church, Upper Marlboro, Md.; Dennis W. Mitchell, senior pastor, Greenforest Community Baptist Church, Decatur, Ga.; and Frank Williams, senior pastor, Wake-Eden Community Baptist Church and Bronx Baptist Church, both in Bronx, N.Y.

Floyd encouraged churches to respond in a way appropriate to their congregants and communities.

"We determined the number one issue is a heart issue; therefore, we focused on this through this article," Floyd told Baptist Press. "If a pastor and a church operates with the heart we have communicated that we need to have, then each church should decide their needed steps of action, appropriate to their context in their community."

Many Southern Baptists already have intentionally worked to achieve racial reconciliation within the SBC and the nation.

In 1995 the SBC adopted a resolution apologizing for its racist past, asking African Americans for forgiveness. The resolution "lament[ed] and repudiate[d] historic acts of evil such as slavery from which we continue to reap a bitter harvest." It went on to say, "We apologize to all African-Americans for condoning and/or perpetuating individual and systemic racism in our lifetime; and we genuinely repent of racism of which we have been guilty, whether consciously or unconsciously."

Some 16 years later, the convention adopted a 10-part recommendation from an Ethnic Study Committee

that sought to help ethnic churches and leaders better partner with fellow Southern Baptists in missions and ministry. In addition, SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page has appointed councils to advise him and other SBC leaders on how to integrate members of racial and ethnic minority groups into Southern Baptist life more fully at all levels. Page's advisory councils include the Hispanic Advisory Council, the African American Advisory Council, the Asian American Advisory Council and the Multiethnic Advisory Council.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) announced Dec. 12 it has changed the subject of its March leadership summit to race relations in light of recent events. The ERLC's March 26-27 meeting in Nashville will be on "The Gospel and Racial Reconciliation" instead of the previously announced theme of developing a pro-life ethic. Among the speakers joining ERLC President Russell Moore will be longtime civil rights leader John Perkins and Fred Luter, the SBC's first African-American president.

Hunt, who acknowledged his unique perspective as a Native American, has worked to integrate his pastorate, he told Baptist Press, and has included African American associate pastors, deacons, teachers and other leaders.

"I sense that God has led Woodstock to be a church that is color blind, but at the same time sensitive for the need for reconciliation on every point," Hunt said. "The very love of God and the love for the brothers and sisters within the family of God and even God's deep love within our heart for those who don't belong to Him yet — we should be moved to action."

Floyd's full blogpost is included here.

## The Wounds Run Deep: Racism and Injustice Must End and Let Grace and Love Begin by Ronnie Floyd

Under deep conviction by the Holy Spirit that I must do something as a Christian, a pastor, and as the current President of the Southern Baptist Convention, this past Wednesday, I conducted a conference call with four of our SBC African American pastors and two Anglo pastors. We talked openly and honestly about the growing racial tension in our nation.

The conversation we had on this conference call led to this article. When I shared with these men my desire to write on this subject, they immediately joined in and said, "Let

us help, sign our names, and enlist a few others to come alongside of speaking to the issues of racism and injustice." Various representatives of ethnicities, who have signed below, are joining us in releasing this article to the pastors, churches, leaders, and laypeople of our Southern Baptist Convention.

## We Cry Out Against Racism and Injustice

We are grieved that racism and injustice still abounds in our nation in 2014. All human beings are created by God and in His image. The dignity of each individual needs to be recognized and appreciated by each of us and by all of the 50,000 churches and congregations that comprise the Southern Baptist Convention.

Southern Baptists have always been a prophetic voice crying out against matters such as the evil of abortion, the persecution of Christians around the world, the tragedy of human trafficking, or the sexual sins from adultery to homosexuality. The time is now for us to rise up together and cry out against the racism that still exists in our nation and our churches, and the subsequent injustices.

All racism and injustice is sin. All ethnicities are capable of committing the sin of racism. Pastors, churches, leaders, and laypeople of the Southern Baptist Convention, the time is now for us to repent personally and collectively of all racism and injustice. Silence is not the answer and passivity is not our prescription for healing.

## The Wounds Run Deep

The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 12:26, "So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it." With heavy hearts, we recognize the deep pain and hurt that has come to many of our African American brothers and sisters. The recent events in America have reawakened many of their greatest fears. Their wounds from the past run deep.

Without relationships and conversations, we will never understand one another. Because you hurt, we hurt with you today. We are a part of the same body of Christ, His church, which is to be a picture of the multifaceted wisdom of God.

Because we believe the Bible, there is only one race — the human race. As Bible-believing Christians, we affirm that 1) All people are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), 2) Jesus died for all people (1 John 2:2), and 3) God loves all people (John 3:16).

See RACIAL RECONCILIATION on page 12

**What's happening at your church? Let us know!**

**Email us at [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org)**



# First-Person: Four considerations for Southern Baptist churches



RONNIE FLOYD  
President, SBC

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP) — As we near the coming of the Lord, we should be more focused than ever before. As our 50,000 plus churches and congregations partner together in Gospel causes, the time is now for us to rise up like never before.

I want to ask you to consider these four things with me in 2015.

## 1. Personally, collectively, and cooperatively, we need to own the Great Commission.

As Southern Baptists, our missional vision is to present the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations. There is not one of us that can escape this vision, not because it our vision as Southern Baptists, but because it is the vision of Jesus Christ for each of us as His disciples.

When I challenge us to own the Great Commission, I mean we must own this responsibility personally. This means that my church and your church must own the responsibility of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person and make disciples of every people group in our own region. It also means we must work cooperatively to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

Our church cannot do it by ourselves. Your church cannot do it by yourselves. Our 50,000 plus churches and congregations must cooperate like never before through our 1,100 associations, 42 state conventions, and 12 Southern Baptist entities. As Southern Baptists, we must own the Great Commission in every way possible.

## 2. Increase your financial support of our Great Commission work together.

Unashamedly and unapologetically, I humbly request that each local church increase their giving through our Cooperative Program. I have never been more convinced that each church must give

more than we have ever given before through our Cooperative Program. Whether your practice is to give by percentage or dollar amount, I call upon each of our churches to increase our giving. This is imperative if we are going to see all of our Great Commission ministries advanced regionally, nationally, and internationally.

The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' unified plan of giving through which churches give to reach the world for Jesus Christ. As Southern Baptists, I have heard us talk about our great commitment to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Friends, we must renew and increase our financial commitment to seeing the Gospel advanced throughout the world. Therefore, consider this strongly and urgently. Tell the story. Trust your people. I believe they will step up in an unprecedented manner.

## 3. Plan now to have your church represented at our upcoming Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting on June 16-17, 2015, in Columbus, Ohio.

Since the moment I was elected as SBC president, I have extended a clear calling to Columbus, Ohio, for our annual gathering in 2015. Regardless of the size of your church, we need your church represented. Why is this so important? We need our Southern Baptist family in one place, praying, worshipping, and working together to see the Great Commission completed in our generation. Soon, I will begin to talk about many more specifics of our upcoming gathering, but right now, do all you can to be in Columbus, Ohio. If you have questions, go online to our annual meeting website or call 615-244-2355 to have your questions answered.

Remember, we would like to see every church represented in Columbus. Join me. I believe this will be one of the great spiritual highlights for each of us this year. Come early! Help us in Crossover Columbus on June 13, participate in our pre-convention gatherings like the Pastors' Confer-

ence, the Women's Missionary Union, the Pastors' Wives session and others. We need to come to Columbus on June 16-17, in clear agreement, visible union and in extraordinary prayer for the next Great Awakening and to reach the world for Christ.

## 4. Join many of us that are praying and seeking the face of God daily for the next Great Awakening and to reach the world for Christ.

Our beloved nation and world needs the next great move of God to come upon us more than anything. Our churches in America need a mighty spiritual revival. Disunity needs to cease and unity in Christ's community must begin to prevail.

Spiritual awakening is our greatest need in America. We need to see places, regions, and prayerfully even nationally, a sweeping, God-sized moving of God. It has happened before. It can happen again.

America's need has never been greater.

We must reach the world for Jesus Christ. This is why we are praying and seeking the face of God for the next Great Awakening. A massive harvest is needed and every people group in the world deserves the privilege to hear the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

Join others who are downloading, reading, and sharing this special and free e-book, "Pleading With Southern Baptists." Please consider sharing it with your church and others.

## Southern Baptist family, we can do this

We can do this together. Pastor and leaders, you are not in this quest alone. Take these four considerations to the Lord in prayer, then take them to your church. The need is now. The urgency is upon us.

This is our time.

Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of the multi-campus Cross Church in northwest Arkansas. This column first appeared on his blog at [ronniefloyd.com](http://ronniefloyd.com). ■

## RACIAL RECONCILIATION from page 11

We are not black Christians. We are not white Christians. We are not Latino Christians. We are not Asian Christians. We are not Native American Christians. We are Christians! We are followers of Jesus Christ.

### The Church Must Rise

In this desperate hour in our nation when the racial tension is building rapidly, the church of Jesus Christ must rise. We are not black churches. We are not white churches. We are not Latino churches. We are not Asian churches. We are not Native American churches. We are the church of Jesus Christ. We are members of the same body.

The Bible says in Ephesians 3:10, "This is so God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens." Just as a jewel can be multi-colored, exhibiting beauty beyond words, the church is one powerful body when all races and ethnicities fellowship and worship together.

### With Grace

Racism and injustice must end, letting grace begin to unite us together in the bond of peace. Schisms and

divisions will end when the gospel of grace begins to rule in our hearts again.

We read these words in Ephesians 2:14-15, "For He is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In His flesh, He made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that He might create in Himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace." Since the gospel of grace can tear down the wall of enmity and hate between Jews and Gentiles, this same gospel of grace can still tear down the walls of racism and injustice today.

Since the gospel of grace removes the wall between all ethnicities and races, His death on the cross has made us one in Jesus Christ. It is time for the walls of racism and injustice to come down!

Let our Southern Baptist churches rise up as one, filled with the beauty of multiple races and ethnicities, shining forth the grace of God to a world that needs the testimony and hope of the church today.

### With Love

The church must rise with both

grace and love. We need to repent of our racism and injustice and return to the first commandment of loving our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says in Matthew 22:37-38, "He said to him, Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important commandment." The church must fall in love with Jesus again.

When we love Jesus, we will love all people. We will see all people the way Jesus sees all people. We need to stop talking about "my people" and start loving all people. When we return to the first commandment, we will experience a revival living out the second commandment as recorded in Matthew 22:39, "The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." The church will love all people from all walks of life and even various colors of skin when we fall in love with Jesus again.

When grace is experienced personally and collectively, love will be demonstrated loudly and consistently.

## We Are a Jesus Convention and a Kingdom People

In our Baptist Faith and Message

2000, we find in Article XV what we believe about The Christian and Social Order. In this article, we are reminded that, "In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism." Today we restate we oppose all racism and injustice in America and around the world.

We replace these evils with the beauty of grace and love as His people and His church. Yes, one body of Christ. We are not a black convention. We are not a white convention. We are not a Latino Convention. We are not an Asian convention. We are not a Native American convention. We are a Jesus convention.

Jesus is the Lord of our churches. We are a Kingdom people. Therefore, before our broken and hopeless world, may the walls of racism and injustice fall, and our churches rise with grace, love, and hope.

Praying John 17:21, "May they all be one as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me."

Diana Chandler is Baptist Press' general assignment writer/editor. BP editor Art Toolston contributed to this article. ■



## DID YOU KNOW?

...Five students with ties to Michigan graduated from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary on December 12? Nathaniel Bishop of Inkster received a Master of Arts in Church Ministries, Timothy Brown of Brighton received a Doctor of Ministry, John Coin of Grand Rapids received a Doctor of Educational Ministry, Nathaniel Erickson of Hancock received a Master of Divinity, and Eric Swanson of Troy received a Mastor of Divinity.

...Crossroads Community Baptist, Ann Arbor will serve as a warming center for homeless men during the month of February?

...The Greater Detroit Baptist Association is planning to create a

## BOKO HARAM

from page 7

capital of Borno state. Officials are planning to transport some 10,000 others from Monguno town, about 36 miles from Baga, CNN reported.

Satellite imagery should be used to discern a more accurate death toll, Ojutiku told Baptist Press.

"We should have satellite imagery of the carnage, human carnage, and also of the destruction," he said.

training center for GDBA churches to use?

...Hilton Oaks Baptist, Ferndale, has changed its name to **Ferndale Bible Church**?

To include stories about your church in future "Did You Know" columns, email [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org).

### - Staff Updates -

- David Daffern resigned as pastor of Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Ann Arbor and moved to Arizona. Daffern served the church for two and a half years.
- People's Missionary Baptist, Detroit, has called Robert D. Lodge, Jr. as pastor.

### - Upcoming Events -

- February 20-22: "S3: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve" Women's Winter Missions Retreat featuring guest speaker Eleanor Witcher (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- March 6-7: Men's Retreat featuring guest speaker Gary Miller (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- March 21: "All for You" Children's Ministry Day
- April 10-11: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Warren Woods Baptist Church, Warren Woods)
- April 11: Vacation Bible School Institute (Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City)
- April 18: "Surrender: All for You" WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting (Warren Woods Baptist Church, Warren Woods)
- May 1-2: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Grace Church, Jackson)
- May 2: Vacation Bible School Institute (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- May 8-9: Mission Adventure Camp for RAs and Challengers (Tecumseh Missionary Baptist Church, Tecumseh)
- May 29-30: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Remedy Church, Kentwood)
- June 12-13: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- June 26-27: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Abundant Life Church, Kingsford)
- July 6-10: Girls' Mission Camp for GAs and Acteens (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- July 10-11: Mom & Me Mission Camp (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- August 3-7: Mission Adventure Camp for RAs and Challengers (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)

Register for Michigan Baptist events at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org). To register for Disaster Relief training, call Judy Roy at (810) 223-2465.

"This imagery needs to be broadcast to the world, so that there is no disputation."

Boko Haram continued its assault today (Jan. 12), attacking a military base in the northwest Cameroon city of Kolofata, an area where many of the displaced citizens had fled, Al Jazeera reported.

However, reports could not be

verified that Cameroon soldiers had killed between 200 and 300 Boko Haram soldiers in the attack and captured much of their equipment, Al Jazeera reported. Residents fled the city as soon as gunfire erupted, the news agency reported.

The insurgents now control about 20,000 square miles in northeastern Nigeria. Within the past five years,

Boko Haram has killed thousands in Nigeria, many of them Christians, and has displaced hundreds of thousands, various watch groups have reported.

*Diana Chandler is general assignment writer/editor for Baptist Press. ■*

### SEND NORTH AMERICA

#### BROKENNESS.

It is evident all around us, and we know the remedy. Our mission as believers is to carry the message of God's love, mercy and redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ, to a broken world. We believe the best way to reach people is through the local church. The task is urgent. In the past 100 years, Southern Baptists—and evangelicals in general—have lost significant ground in the church-to-population ratio, especially in the non-South regions of North America and in and near our large cities.

#### HOPE.

Send North America is the North American Mission Board's response to bring hope to an ever-increasing population by empowering the largest network of local churches (45,000 Southern Baptist and 311 Canadian National Baptist) to plant more congregations across North America. Twenty-five percent of all Christian churches planted in North America each year are planted by Southern Baptists. Of the 352 million people living in the United States and Canada, it is estimated that 265 million do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Therefore, church planting cannot be considered optional.

#### OPPORTUNITY.

The North American Mission Board is grateful for your church's partnership in Send North America efforts as you fervently pray for and give financially through the Cooperative Program and to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. The urgency of these days demands that we seize the opportunity to take the hope of the gospel farther and faster than ever before. This requires the key resources of prayer and money. Lead your congregation to give of both generously.



Organization	CP December	Designated December	CP YTD 2014								
<b>BAY ASSOCIATION</b>											
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	126.52	60.00	908.90	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	536.00	521.99	3,817.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	264.32	0.00	3,912.26	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	313.11	140.00	3,761.35	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	85.09	44.09
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	1,132.09	100.00	8,792.86	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	240.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,536.50	1,684.00	9,682.98	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LEGACY	159.07	0.00	1,640.04
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	156.00	200.00	1,142.99	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,298.57	1,477.00	20,504.22	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	10,963.98	0.00	92,027.04
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	90.00	1,500.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	9,950.00
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	0.00	0.00	92.95	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	10.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	1,018.63	1,021.30	8,939.23
NEW HOPE CHURCH	327.69	0.00	3,784.45	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	840.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	80.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	150.00	90.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	20,240.08	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	506.96	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	200.00
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	400.00	285.00	3,209.25	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	75.00	0.00	900.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	9.17	27.00	190.22	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	133.00	108.00	1,940.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	400.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	33,750.00	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,880.00	584.00	23,461.00	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	1,759.00	1,170.00	5,844.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,277.29</b>	<b>2,596.00</b>	<b>67,563.82</b>	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	96.00	570.00	1,042.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
				LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	78.00	0.00	908.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	684.00
<b>CENTRAL ASSOCIATION</b>				LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	356.86	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE CITY CHURCH	40.00	0.00	65.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	129.36	0.00	366.52	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00	TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,499.36
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	13,993.00	8,944.50	76,938.00	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	669.25	0.00	11,072.59	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	61.74	0.00	740.88	ONELIFE CHURCH	468.11	0.00	1,880.92	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	475.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	443.47	0.00	6,105.47	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	1,100.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	6,000.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	67.23	950.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	450.00	300.00	1,275.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>18,716.38</b>	<b>5,492.39</b>	<b>162,372.88</b>
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	100.00	882.00	600.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	100.00				
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.25	<b>HURON ASSOCIATION</b>			
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,768.21	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	670.04	0.00	3,413.92	CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	80.00	0.00	530.23
GRACE CHURCH	3,872.05	1,935.99	40,188.97	WESTSIDE CHURCH	1,008.00	276.00	10,476.00	CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	797.20	0.00	8,546.54	<b>Total:</b>	<b>9,475.98</b>	<b>3,976.99</b>	<b>117,075.06</b>	CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	40.00	0.00	425.00	<b>GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION</b>				CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,520.90	0.00	17,115.67
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	27.60	0.00	214.02	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	2,089.42	385.00	21,787.39
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	0.00	0.00	934.38	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	1,000.00	600.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK	600.00	165.00	1,100.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	150.00	0.00	11,184.71	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	110.00	0.00	160.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	7,236.83	6,435.00	40,766.98
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	174.10	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00	GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	392.85	335.00	5,007.43
NEW LIFE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	874.00	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	1,250.00	IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	302.00	158.00	2,257.00
PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	291.43	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	657.73	0.00	4,561.05	LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	400.00	0.00	4,800.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19,714.42</b>	<b>11,829.72</b>	<b>154,002.23</b>	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	258.65	0.00	2,627.54	NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,701.85
				DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAKWOOD CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,474.00
<b>GENESEE ASSOCIATION</b>				EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,315.59	PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	648.90	0.00	8,250.87	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	REACH CHURCH	0.00	0.00	550.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	77.00	0.00	944.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	820.00	0.00	1,320.00	VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	-73.00
BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	1,920.99	691.00	10,384.38	YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	700.00
				FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	1,525.00	4,200.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>12,622.00</b>	<b>7,478.00</b>	<b>104,717.55</b>
				FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	83.33	0.00	2,066.56				

# 2015 SBC ANNUAL MEETING

## COLUMBUS, OHIO JUNE 16-17



**PRESCHOOL ENLARGED** for children birth through kindergarten will once again be provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Childcare Teams Sunday through Wednesday. Registration for all children/youth events will open in February at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net).

**WHAT DO CHILDREN WANT?** *Children's Ministry Conference International* will again provide activities for children ages 5-12 on Sunday and Monday during the SBC Pastors' Conference.

**CHILDREN IN ACTION** for those children who have completed grades 1-6 and **YOUTH IN ACTION** for those children who have completed grades 7-12 will be provided again by WMU Tuesday and Wednesday.

**DECEMBER PRE-REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY.**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** can still be secured by going to [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)





For more information and to register for these activities, visit [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



# COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSIONS GIVING

February 2015

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## LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	526.54	0.00	3,026.84
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	125.58	0.00	1,762.80
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,676.88	0.00	22,634.81
NEW DAY/NUOVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	615.39
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	327.57	652.62	4,049.83
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	35.52	0.00	533.57
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	400.00	0.00	2,400.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,092.09</b>	<b>652.62</b>	<b>35,923.24</b>

## MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,187.30
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	637.00	1,000.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,178.78
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	773.76	81.10	9,478.55
CONGREGATION SHALOM	500.00	0.00	570.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	2,160.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	992.60	0.00	3,165.37
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY	100.00	0.00	200.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	3,153.62	0.00	31,398.32
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	500.00
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	600.00	0.00	3,371.76
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	1,778.80	1,253.00	9,925.55
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	152.46	0.00	2,608.09
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	574.33	1,094.83	3,605.70
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	46.00	0.00	504.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	434.00	0.00	8,121.60
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	675.15
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	766.18
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	300.00	0.00	4,570.08
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,898.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,997.00	0.00	18,825.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	2,089.21	0.00	19,042.05
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,718.40	470.00	21,966.12
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	5,598.96	524.00	11,816.29
LIFE RECOVERY CHURCH	86.00	0.00	217.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	517.59	822.75	17,052.39
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,656.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,449.96
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	218.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	0.00	0.00	1,350.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOVI	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	6,029.00	6,016.16	27,889.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	278.50	1,151.60	3,187.65
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	258.00	600.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	12,003.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	230.00	100.00	480.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	532.50	755.00	3,323.24
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	350.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	2,986.94	1,561.00	8,614.57
<b>Total:</b>	<b>33,209.67</b>	<b>14,724.44</b>	<b>245,875.79</b>

## NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	225.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	279.39	0.00	1,276.87
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,522.53
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	531.10	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - EMPIRE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	60.00	900.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	180.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	300.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	620.97	0.00	6,327.47
<b>Total:</b>	<b>975.36</b>	<b>591.10</b>	<b>11,031.87</b>



## PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	255.64	0.00	1,543.38
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	73.80	94.00	986.11
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	50.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	177.49	0.00	1,207.58
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	185.86
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	86.77	0.00	978.33
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	201.21	0.00	2,291.73
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	806.29
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	112.00	100.00	680.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,629.11
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	457.00	1,182.00	2,765.50
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,563.91</b>	<b>1,376.00</b>	<b>13,758.28</b>

## SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	289.58	0.00	3,499.24
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	2,301.00	0.00	11,837.10
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	1,576.03	0.00	8,517.27
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	542.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	249.78	0.00	2,373.18
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	1,193.40	0.00	8,811.27
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	52.00	100.00	152.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,923.96
LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	704.43	0.00	1,974.37
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	902.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,168.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	588.62
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	887.70	0.00	4,189.59
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,253.92</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>46,529.66</b>

## SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	755.00	189.00	4,597.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,090.90

CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	3,139.84	598.72	19,706.18
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	3,150.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	655.87	120.00	3,250.40
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	276.60	0.00	3,257.15
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	38.76	0.00	1,166.92
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST	25.00	0.00	125.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	600.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	536.92	0.00	5,365.29
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	15,019.03	0.00	117,264.13
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	22.91	0.00	538.58
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>20,619.93</b>	<b>907.72</b>	<b>162,111.55</b>

## SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	196.00	0.00	1,353.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	110.00	1.00	706.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	1,060.00	371.46	6,983.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	221.32	0.00	916.85
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	35.50	0.00	574.50
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,450.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	516.63	0.00	2,981.94
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,139.45</b>	<b>372.46</b>	<b>14,965.29</b>

## UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	186.22	0.00	2,081.56
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	352.24	0.00	2,747.68
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	61.00	0.00	621.60
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	95.00	0.00	1,246.79
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	509.68	28.00	5,936.52
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	136.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	953.00	0.00	9,796.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	185.33	0.00	2,265.46
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,342.47</b>	<b>28.00</b>	<b>24,831.61</b>

## WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	471.12	153.00	2,171.12
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	72.66
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	0.00	94.20	2,520.01
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IB RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	210.00	360.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>501.12</b>	<b>457.20</b>	<b>6,623.79</b>

## NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	1,063.00	0.00	9,855.32
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	50.00	0.00	250.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	168.00	200.00	2,239.25
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	4,034.17	0.00	42,095.53
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,315.17</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>54,540.10</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>142,819.16</b>	<b>50,782.64</b>	<b>1,221,922.72</b>

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**  
**together**  
We are there

The Cooperative Program is the plan Southern Baptists use to fund missions causes. CP helps support international and North American missionaries, state convention mission work, Baptist organizations and more!

**How CP Works**

1. As people give their tithes and offerings in their churches, a portion is sent to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. (This amount is decided by the church.)
2. Part of this money is then sent to the Southern Baptist Convention to help fund missions and ministries in North America and around the world.
3. Another part is used for state missions and to help churches in Michigan be healthy.
4. A third part helps other Baptist organizations, such as colleges, and new churches.

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**





# Children's Ministry Day gives kids serving opportunities

**BY BECKY SWAIN  
AND NANCY SPEARS**

*Special to the Baptist Beacon*

Children's Ministry Day is a hands-on community ministry promoted through the Woman's Missionary Union. This day gives first through sixth grade kids the opportunity to serve people who need to see the love of Jesus through ministry projects across the state.

According to the WMU, "more than 170,000 people have taken part in Children's Ministry Day" since it began in 2008.

Emily (now age 10) attended a Children's Ministry Day in Grand Rapids in 2012.

"It was really fun to work together and to do something to help other people," she recalled.

Emily collected children's books and tied fleece blankets for the Pregnancy Resource Center.

A four-year-old named Aubrey participated in the event in 2014. She was having a hard time understanding that the pillows being made were to give away.

While delivering the pillows to a local nursing home, Aubrey was able to part with her pillow. She gave it to a woman, who cried and gave her a big hug.

"You were right," Aubrey said as they left the nursing home. "That made me feel good in my heart and it made Jesus happy."

Three Children's Ministry Day

events are planned for Michigan in 2015. The serving opportunities are designed for children, but adults who would like to attend without children are also welcome. Adults are encouraged to stay and participate with the children that they bring to the event.

Friendship Baptist Church, Lincoln Park – 2071 Porter Street – in

Children will prepare a "Comfort Food" gift bag for each of the facility's approximately 150 residents. The host church will purchase the contents of the bag, including hot chocolate, Ramen noodles, or soup.

Children are encouraged to donate new or gently used games – such as checkers, Sorry, Uno, or playing

248-224-7412.

Sunrise Baptist Church, Midland – located at 2138 N. Jefferson – in the Bay Area Association will host Children's Ministry Day on March 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Children will be preparing "Ministry Kits."

Hygiene Kits will be prepared for the local ministries the church already supports. Craft Kits will be prepared for the students at Jesse Rouse Elementary School in Saginaw, Sunrise Baptist's Operation 1-Day site. The host church will purchase the items for these kits.

Attendees will need to bring a \$3 to \$5 donation to help defray the cost of those items, as well as a sack lunch. Contact Helen Henley for more information at 989-980-0252.

Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Clarkston – located at 5628 Maybee Road – in the Motor Cities Metro Association will host Children's Ministry Day on March 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Children will be making blankets for Restoration Place, a Human Trafficking Rescue Home.

Amy Rouleau, the director of Restoration Place, will be talking with the children about her ministry of healing and renewal for minor aged victims.

Bring a non-perishable food item for the food closet and \$5.00 donation. Oakland Woods Baptist will provide lunch.

For more information or to register your group, contact Becky Swain at 248-701-0486. ■

## Give Us A Hand!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DAY 2015

the Greater Detroit Association will host Children's Ministry Day on March 14 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This location will provide an opportunity for children to impact the residents at Piquette Square for Veterans in midtown Detroit.

cards – and Jigsaw puzzles. These will be available to the residents through the activity center.

Bring a sack lunch and a donation of \$3 to \$5 to help with the cost of the gift bag items. For additional information, contact Nelda Popkey at

### Three Children's Ministry Day 2015 Locations:

**Friendship Baptist Church**  
2071 Porter St.  
Lincoln Park, MI  
March 14, 2015  
10:00am-2:00pm

**Sunrise Baptist Church**  
2138 N. Jefferson  
Midland, MI  
March 21, 2015  
10:00am-2:00pm

**Oakland Woods Baptist Church**  
5628 Maybee Rd.  
Clarkston, MI  
March 21, 2015  
10:00am-2:00pm