

Celebrating Missions! The 2016 BSCM annual meeting

FENTON, MI – As the excitement builds, It's almost time once again for the upcoming 2016 BSCM Annual Meeting. This year's meeting is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 4th-5th at Eastgate Baptist Church, 4226 E. Atherton Rd. Burton, MI 48519. Senior Pastor Jerome Taylor and the staff at Eastgate invite you to be their guest.

The church at Eastgate Baptist is proud of their long missional partnership with the Baptist State Convention to start, strengthen, and send churches to reach the nations in our own backyard and to the uttermost parts of the world. We are certainly looking forward to being the host for this year's annual meeting in November. As the host pastor, I would like to invite, welcome, and encourage our sister churches to come together for this fall weekend in the Flint area. It will be a gathering where we can celebrate what Jesus Christ is doing, be challenged to play our part in His plan, and be united as one as we serve boldly in His power! We have seen that it is indeed a new day in Michigan...so come this November to Eastgate. Let us all do our part together to punch holes in the darkness!

-Jerome Taylor,
Pastor, Eastgate Baptist

There's still time to make your arrangements. Join the us! Here is a quick summary of just a few of the wonderful things being planned.

- Regional Prayer Times
- Reports of what's happening around the state
- BSCM President Chuck Turner sharing a message
- IMB Missionary giving a report from work in Asia – Keith N.
- Ministers' Wives Fellowship – During Friday Dinner Break
- 2017 Budget Proposal
- Dr. Kevin Ezell preaching on Friday evening
- Cooperative Program Breakfast – Saturday, 7:00-8:00AM **All are welcome!
- Pastor Tim Patterson giving the Executive Director Challenge – Saturday morning

Don't forget the huge LifeWay Bookstore and other partnering agencies that will have booth tables with information to share. It'll be a good time to catch up with Pastors and people from all over our state. You won't want to miss this!

The Convention hotel is the Hampton Inn & Suites Flint/Grand Blanc, 6060 Rashell Drive, Flint, MI 48507 (rooms \$106 includes breakfast). For more information, visit bscm.org/2016.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jamie Lynn, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director and the Communication Coordinator for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

BSCM officer nominations

FENTON, MI – Nominations are now in for the officers of next year's convention. BSCM President, Chuck Turner had asked through an article in the Baptist Beacon and on the BSCM website that nominations be sent to State Office by October 15th. These are very important offices of the State Convention and need to be bathed in prayer. This announcement does not preclude any other nominations that will take place. We are very encouraged by the quality of people that God is calling out to serve.

NOMINEES

Office: President

Nominee: Jerome Taylor

Nominator: Ron Emmerling

Office: 1st Vice President

Nominee: Nathaniel Bishop

Nominator: Chuck Turner

Office: 2nd Vice President

Nominee: Brian Jones

Nominator: Roy Henry

ANNUAL MEETING TEAMS

The following team members have served tirelessly on your behalf. They have traveled to meetings, made phone calls and wrote emails to enlist help in preparation for and during the Annual meeting. We want to thank everyone who worked this year to make the annual meeting a success. We thank you!"

- **PROGRAM PLANNING TEAM** – Roy Henry (CO-CH), Roy Southerland (CO-CH), Marc Burnett, Brian Jones, Jerome Taylor (host Pastor), Tim Patterson, Chuck Turner, Jeff Bucholz, Kevin Litchfield, Jim Marcus
- **TIME PLACE AND PREACHER TEAM** – Larry Allen (CH), Kevin Hester, Carlos Liese
- **RESOLUTIONS TEAM** – David Roberts, Art Werry
- **GRADUATE TO GLORY TEAM** – Sharon Fishell-Greer, Tom Tengler (CH)
- **TELLERS** – David Roberts, Mike Elsey, Stan Parker, Timothy Jones (CH)
- **PARLIMENTARIAN** – Larry Allen

Making a difference; sponsor a church plant

IRONWOOD, MI – Some churches, especially smaller churches might believe that they are ill equipped to help launch a new church start. But church planter, Ian Minielly, received a firsthand look of what an impact another church can have on the success of a new church.

Ian and Stephanie Minielly lived in Asheville, NC when their journey of church planting began. They felt God was calling them to start Catalyst Baptist Church in Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. As they began to work with the Baptist State Convention Of Michigan (BSCM) and Church Planter Catalyst (CPC), Darren Greer, he promised them a sponsoring church that would motivate and support their efforts despite being more than 600 miles apart. Minielly said, “I was leery at first, and my experience with people over the years had left me chagrined regarding offers of assistance. The offer usually fell well short of reality and this is what I expected.”

Tecumseh Missionary Baptist Church (TMBC) is actually the halfway point between Asheville and Ironwood. But the relationship between TMBC and the Minielly’s began before they ever left North Carolina. TMBC Mission committee member Jim Ellsworth helped the Minielly’s with one of their largest concerns, healthcare. Minielly says, “My wife and I had been covered through my employer and now we were venturing into Obamacare and neither of us knew what to expect. Jim put me in touch with an insurance agent in Michigan he knew that worked with other pastors, and who is the son of missionaries. Jim’s recommendation was excellent, and we still use the same agent because he has gone the extra mile time and again.”

As the Minielly’s began the long drive to their new home in Ironwood, TMBC invited them to stay with them along the way. The church had tables across the sanctuary; loaded with Made in Michigan products they were giving to the church planting couple. Ian says, “Those products lasted us many months. It was so wonderful. In fact, there was so much we could not transport it all and they brought the rest up a couple months later.” He adds, “At no point in my Christian faith had I encountered a church and people so authentic and willing to uphold the Great Commission, but this was only the beginning.”

Through the support of TMBC, the Minielly’s say they are two years ahead of where they would have been without them. TMBC rallied around Catalyst and the church planters. Ian says, “What I could not have never foreseen was this was only the beginning. Shortly after we arrived in Ironwood, the same TMBC members travelled up here and delivered a full trailer of church supplies, furniture, and blessings right to our doorstep, and stayed for our first service.”

In reflecting on all of the support they have received, Ian adds, “If other established churches would follow their lead, I have no doubt church plants would achieve viability sooner, and win more souls to Jesus. I cannot say enough about the difference it has made in this ministry, and I cannot wait to do the same thing for a fresh Michigan church plant.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ian Minielly is a church planter and pastor of Catalyst Baptist Church, Upper Peninsula Association of Southern Baptists in Ironwood, MI.

GameDay Church, in 2nd NFL season, ready to expand

JACKSONVILLE, FL (BP) – When most people think about tailgating, they think of football, food and fun with family and friends. But believers in the Jacksonville area will have the chance to add faith to the mix before every Jacksonville Jaguars home game as GameDay Church returns for the 2016 NFL season. Last year more than 200 people gathered for a new kind of worship experience as GameDay Church held its first service outside EverBank Field just before the Jags took on the Indianapolis Colts on Dec. 13. David Tarkington, lead pastor of First Baptist Church of Orange Park and catalyst for the GameDay Church concept, said in an interview before the inaugural outreach that his desire is to take the Gospel to a place where people are already gathering. The GameDay Church experience also gives church attendees an opportunity to invite friends and family members who might not be open to going to church but who need to hear the Gospel. Tarkington is excited about the opportunity to have GameDay Church at the Jaguars' Oct. 2 game in London against the Colts. Through tour operator David McGuffin's Exploring Europe trip, Jaguars fans can enjoy several days of sightseeing in and around London, with the option of purchasing tickets for the Jaguars-Colts matchup. GameDay Church has partnered with Harrow Baptist Church in London, and tour participants will attend church there as part of the experience.

Tarkington will have the opportunity to share the Gospel at that service, as well as some other things. "They want me to explain American football to them," he said. While Tarkington and his volunteer team from First Orange Park will take the lead, Tarkington said he is pleased to welcome another Jacksonville-area church to share in the GameDay Church outreach. The Point, led by pastor Jeff Stockdale, will lead the Dec. 24 service before the Jaguars host the Tennessee Titans. Stockdale said he is excited about the "opportunity to make much of Jesus in our community." "We are very much about community, and we love our city," he said. "The Jags are very much a part of our city." Since Christmas Eve is a natural time for people to come to church, Stockdale said he hopes many people will choose GameDay Church as their Christmas Eve service. Tarkington is hopeful that the next expansion of GameDay Church will venture into other cities around the state or even the country. He has been in talks with Baptist leaders in Miami and Tampa on how GameDay Church can be a part of the spread of the Gospel in those cities. "Other churches are open to figuring out how to leverage professional sports to spread the Gospel," he said. "We're still in the process of seeing what will go best." On Sept. 11's GameDay Church under the blistering Florida sun and right next to a Green Bay Packers tailgating party, Tarkington paid tribute to first responders and victims of the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, remarking that most Americans can remember what they were doing when the Twin Towers came down, making it a moment that changed everything. In the same way, the moment people meet Jesus changes everything for them, but in a much different way. Packers fans who traveled to the game spoke to Tarkington after the service to let him know they appreciated his message. "They said it was a message they connected with," he said. "That's the goal." GameDay Church is online at gamedaychurch.org, on Twitter [@GameDayChurch](https://twitter.com/GameDayChurch) and Instagram [@thefirstfam](https://www.instagram.com/thefirstfam).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nicole Kalil is a reporter for the Florida Baptist Witness (gofbw.com) where this article first appeared. The Witness is the newsjournal of the Florida Baptist State Convention.

With only months to live, what would you do?

TREVOR, WI – Here is the story of a man, and what he did when he was told he had four months or less to live on this earth.

In August of 2015, Brett began having dizzy spells. One day while driving, one of his spells came on quickly and caused him to blackout. Brett ended up in a ditch, unhurt with no damage to his car. His doctors began to immediately try to discover the reason for Brett's blackout. Since Brett was in law enforcement and has a high risk job, he was banned from driving for six months and would not be allowed to return to work until cleared by his office or another doctor's office. Once his heart was cleared by numerous tests, he was sent for an MRI and learned that he had a malignant tumor in the thalamus region of his brain; a part of the brain where surgery is impossible. He was given a prognosis of fourteen more months to live. He is now living in month ten.

Brett and his wife, Tracy, have been married nineteen years and have three precious children; ages of seventeen, sixteen, and thirteen. Here are a few ways they are approaching their lives and future.

They are realistic. Brett and Tracy have not put their heads in the sand. They have done their best to prepare emotionally and financially for the inevitable result.

They live with hope. It was interesting to hear them talk about Brett's retirement and where they want to live someday (Colorado). This is not a positive thinking exercise, but they have faith in an Almighty God, knowing only He will determine when Brett's heavenly homecoming will begin.

They live with peace in God's sovereignty. Brett's tumor continues to grow, moving from the thalamus region into the hippocampus region. While he has suffered headaches, the pain has been pretty minor, considering he has an aggressive form of brain cancer. He expected much worse. God has been gentle as He has placed him in the furnace for refining. Apart from his healing and provision for his family, Brett asked God for two things. That He would be glorified in his life or his death, and that his cancer would not be wasted; that He would complete the refining process in him and teach him everything he needs to be taught.

They live with urgency. Cancer has given Brett a better understanding of what James 4:14 means, "life is like the morning fog--it's here a little while, then it's gone." His time is in God's hands. He must live it totally surrendered to Him.

They live with mission. Brett and Tracy have always been active in their church. However, with Brett not being able to drive, and his wife working as a teacher, they decided to change up their ministry involvement by turning their home into a ministry hub to share the love of Christ.

They started a Cross Waves HotSpot, and each Wednesday night, friends, neighbors, and other law enforcement people come to Brett and Tracy's home to hear how much God loves them, and even when life storms come your way, God is faithful. God has given Brett and Tracy a

With only months to live, what would you do? (continued)

powerful platform to share God's amazing love.

Cross Waves has removed the expense of maintaining church buildings by developing a network of homes around the country where hosts open their homes to others for a meal and weekly sermons via the internet. Each of these host's homes are called HotSpots where they can mentor others in following Christ.

Brett started a HotSpot because he wanted to be intentional in mentoring others to follow Christ. However long God gives Brett to minister on this earth, these people who huddle in his living room every Wednesday will never forget his obedience to God.

So what would you do if you were told that you only had four months to live? Brett and Tracy are truly an inspiration in showing us that we should not waste whatever time we have left on this earth. Please pray for this family as they go through this valley. And pray for the courage to face life with the same grace and faith that these two people possess.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim is the founding and lead pastor of Cross Waves Church, and is passionate about people becoming more like Christ. He developed the simple strategy for Cross Waves Church using technology and homes to make the church "buildingless."

Evangelical leaders gather for 'solemn assembly'

DALLAS, TX (BP) – Some of the nation's most recognizable evangelical leaders are rolling out a three-pronged plan designed to call Christians, across denominational and racial lines, to a new age of spiritual awakening. Nearly a dozen pastors and teachers stood shoulder to shoulder in Dallas Sept. 21 for The Gathering 2016 at GateWay Church, a non-denominational congregation, where several thousand assembled for "a national solemn assembly" -- the initial step in their plan. Organized by Tony Evans, senior pastor of the 10,000-member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas, the group has been meeting since the beginning of the year in an effort to bring a spirit of prayer and repentance to the U.S. The group organized this special prayer meeting to pray for forgiveness, wisdom and provision for the country. "It just seems to be that God is raising up a mighty commitment to pray," said Ronnie Floyd, senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. "People are concerned about our country, and they are concerned about the condition of the church, and concerned about the brokenness in the lives of people."

The concept of the solemn assembly is found in the Old Testament, according to event organizers, and is a special time of prayer and fasting. These meetings have been called by priests, prophets, and kings who led people to repent of their sins and passionately pursue the return of God's presence in their midst. Organizers noted The Gathering is "the Body of Christ

Evangelical leaders gather for 'solemn assembly' (continued)

coming together one day to unite across racial, denominational and generational lines; lifting up the name of Jesus, and taking responsibility for the condition of our nation." A similar meeting for pastors and key leaders from around the country, a "gathering of the elders," was held earlier this year in preparation for the larger meeting in Dallas, which included several thousand attending in person, and several dozen churches participating online. During his message, Floyd said many Christians are often more desperate for their football teams during the weekend than they are for the touch of God on Sunday. "Many of us as believers are more committed to some kind of political awakening," Floyd said. "That's not the answer to this nation. The answer to the nation is the next great awakening with the Holy Spirit of God and He wakes up the church and He shakes the church."

International Bible teacher and leader of Precept Ministries Kay Arthur led the assembly in a prayer of repentance saying the United States of America is not united in God. "We trust in man rather than in God. There is no knowledge of God in our land. There is no fear, or respect, or trust," she prayed. "We've played church instead of sitting at Your feet, and knowing that every work is God-breathed, and You expect us to live by every word."

With incidents of racial violence fresh on the minds of those attending, John Jenkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Maryland, spoke to the issue of racial reconciliation. "These situations and circumstances are creating a mountain level of rage and discontent and worry," Jenkins said. "The 11 o'clock hour of Sunday morning still remains the most segregated hour of the week. We are further apart from each other (than ever), and the church has stood silently with little or no action or comment. "While the world accepts racial disharmony, the church must not accept racial disharmony," he said. We know how to interpret Greek and Hebrew, but we don't know how to communicate in English to someone who doesn't look just like us," he said. "What God ultimately wants us to achieve is that we give value to all cultures and embrace and learn from one another." Evans described America as "desperate."

"But God will not fix the White House by skipping the church house," he said. "It will be this the church house that determines the well-being of that the White House. If He cannot get the attention of this house (the church), then that house (the government) will stay in trouble." Evans noted that every year on Sept. 11, we remember the terrorist attack on our nation. "Nineteen men from around the world, in the name of their faith, shut down the most powerful nation in the world. If 19 men from around the world, in the name of their faith, can shut down the most powerful nation in the world, what do you think we can do in the name of our faith to redeem the most powerful nation in the world?" Evans told a group of Dallas pastors who earlier in the day gathered for pray that Phase Two of the plan would be a call to greater discipleship. While Phase Three would focus on coordinating a massive, cross-denominational, interracial, service project where Christians from around the nation work together in their communities to demonstrate the love of Christ.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marc Ira Hooks is associate director of missions/director of communication for the Collin Baptist Association in McKinney, Texas.

8 guidelines for cross-cultural disciple making

BIRMINGHAM, AL – When we think about evangelism, we often think about sharing the gospel with people around us. Almost as often, we imagine those people are representatives of our own culture. People who show up to our churches' events and those we engage along the highway of life are often culturally similar to us. This is not a bad thing—connecting and sharing the gospel with people who are like us is very natural.

However, men and women across North America and around the world are called to step over cultural gaps to connect with unreached peoples and share the gospel. In addition to language differences, these disciple makers will encounter individuals with a variety of worldviews, ethnicities, geographies, socioeconomic situations, education levels, and personal histories. These eight guidelines may prove valuable for cross-cultural disciple making.

1. Be intentional

Evangelism rarely just happens. Intentionality is critical (John 4:4; Acts 16:13). Most people don't find themselves in a restaurant next to a person who sneezes and responds to "God bless you. Actually, I was thinking about God the other day. What must I do to be saved?"

Evangelism rarely just happens. Intentionality is critical. If believers have to work at becoming disciples every day, how much more do we need to work at discipling others, given the great cross-cultural challenges?

2. Learn as you go

Remain open to learning new things about other people, yourself, and the work of the Spirit. Take interest in the other person. Seek to understand him or her so as best to know how to speak truth to his or her heart. Learning as you go also means you aren't locked into a predetermined plan and are willing to adjust when necessary. What the Lord used to reach you with the gospel and grow you in the faith may not be the best method for reaching and teaching others. Be sensitive to the Spirit's leadership in the moment based on what you hear from the other person (Prov. 18:13). Admit you don't know everything. If someone asks you a question you can't answer, it's OK to say, "That is a great question. I will try to find the answer for you." This transparency shows others that following Jesus doesn't make you a know-it-all, and you care enough about the person to do some research and follow up with him or her.

3. Be willing to make mistakes

Expect them to happen. Know that the Spirit will work through your inadequacies. Most people are understanding and forgiving. Immigrants to this country generally expect people to be unaware of their customs, traditions, and faux pas. And if we are the newcomers to their countries, they will often overlook our blunders. We must learn to laugh—with them—at our mistakes. Apologize, ask for help, and move on. Realize that overcoming future mistakes depends on your willingness to learn the other person's culture. Expect mistakes to happen. The Spirit will work through your inadequacies.

8 guidelines for cross-cultural disciple making (continued)

4. Recognize the bridges of God

Our sovereign Lord establishes social opportunities for us to share the gospel (John 4:39). These relationships take the gospel further and faster than we can carry it. Once we engage in these opportunities, cultural gaps tend to become smaller.

5. Look for receptivity

We are to share the gospel with everyone. However, we also are to be wise stewards with the time, energy, resources, and opportunities the Lord has provided, as the early disciples did (Acts 18:5–8). Ask, “Who is the most receptive to what we are saying?” Even among those resistant to the gospel, we can find those who are less resistant than others. Unless the Spirit is leading in another direction, we should spend more time with the more receptive people.

6. Pray for all things

It’s foolish to believe disciple making can be accomplished by our ingenuity. We are engaged in a supernatural battle. Although Jesus promised to build his church (Matt. 16:18), we must remember that he is the builder. We need to pray for ourselves. We need others to pray for us (Col. 4:3–4). We need to pray for those with whom we are sharing the gospel.

7. Find connecting point

As you get to know people, find common ground on which to build gospel conversations. Jesus and the early disciples began where people already were in their spiritual journeys (Acts 8:30). Contrary to popular belief, most people in the world don’t avoid conversations about religion and politics. Start by discussing hometowns, foods, families, and sports. Learn to drink tea or coffee—rituals that create a natural opportunity for gospel conversations.

8. Preach the gospel

Ultimately we aim to direct people to repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus (Acts 20:21). This is the core idea behind the Great Commission. Learning about other cultures, sharing our testimonies, and talking about families over a meal are valuable activities, but people do not enter God’s kingdom because of our friendship or influence. We must preach the gospel.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

J. D. Payne is the pastor of church multiplication with The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Alabama. He is also a missiologist, author of *Strangers Next Door: Immigration, Migration, and Mission*, and blogs at *Missiologically Thinking*.

Baptist students, 450 strong, aid Louisiana flood survivors

DENHAM SPRINGS, LA – When John Whitehead went to bed, it was raining in Denham Springs, La. He woke to an unfamiliar landscape. Water had breached his house and was rising fast. For a few minutes, the Louisiana State University (LSU) student panicked. With only minutes to spare, he faced tough decisions. What should he save and what should he leave behind? In the end, the answer was simple. Muddy water lapped against his waist as he struggled to heave his black Labrador retriever, Rascal, into his kayak. Then, he paddled away from everything he owned, knowing he would never see most of it again. His parents, Darrell and Zanie Whitehead, were in Tuscaloosa, trying to get home. They talked by phone several times as the situation worsened. “I called the fourth time, and he said, ‘Quit calling me, I’m trying to save people,’” his father said. By the end of the day, John Whitehead and his kayak had carried a number of people to safety, including two elderly women who were found clinging to a chain link fence, with water up to their chins. It is a story that unfolded all across Louisiana after the mid-August flood—neighbors helping neighbors, Christians stepping out on faith.

On Labor Day weekend, flood survivors experienced faith in action on an even larger scale. LSU’s Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) spearheaded a massive Send Relief cleanup event, drawing more than 450 students from collegiate ministries in Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee. As the LSU Tigers played their first game of the season, the students pried up waterlogged wood flooring, tore out sheetrock and tried to salvage homeowners’ keepsakes from encroaching mold. At the Whitehead home, lightning flashed in the sky as Arkansas State University students wrestled with decking that had once held a hot tub. Not much is left, Darrell Whitehead said. The few possessions they own are stored in a 5’-by-8’ shed—with room to spare. But Whitehead, a former children’s minister, is still grateful.

The family’s church, Istrouma Baptist in Baton Rouge, has helped, and strangers have given love offerings. But the students were a surprise. He estimates they saved him approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 for professional gutting, and they finished so far ahead of schedule that they were able to help his neighbors with their cleanup efforts. “When they were here, they worked,” Whitehead said. “I never heard a complaint. Those BCM kids could have done anything on those days. They didn’t have to come work, yet they did.” It was an eye-opening weekend for some students, said Korey McCrady, director of Baptist Student Ministry at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas. Many had never experienced a flood. Others had never used a power tool or sledgehammer.

“On the bus coming in, they were laughing and talking,” McCrady said. “But when the bus turned the corner, they went silent.” The trip offered a new perspective for Arkansas State University student Kristen Scarlett, as well. Scarlett, who attends First Baptist Church of Jonesboro, had a rough week, but that was trivial when compared with the flood survivors’ burdens. “I thought, ‘If the Lord made me an able-bodied person, why am I not there?’” Scarlett asked. “I need to live out that calling. If you’re in good health, why wouldn’t you?” Some students hesitate to volunteer because of the perceived time commitment, said Annie Pucciarelli, a member of First Baptist Church of Brandon in Brandon, Fla. But she believes college students are the perfect age, especially if they are not already juggling families and careers.

Baptist students, 450 strong, aid Louisiana flood survivors (continued)

“I think this is the best time in my life,” she said as she pulled nails from sheetrock. “Being able to help others is a great experience. You can see that what you’re doing is making a difference.” She praised Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, saying they make it easy for cash-strapped college students to participate. Local churches provide lodging and meals. The only expense is fuel. Students sometimes worry that they won’t have the skills to tackle the work, but LSU student Cullen McDaniel, of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, dismisses that excuse. “All it takes is people coming together over one goal,” he said. “It’s not about how long you can work or the skills you have. We need hands and feet on the ground.”

This has taught me to trust the Lord in everything. In the midst of a desert, He will provide the healing, the comfort and the guidance you need to get through the trying times of life.” The students were a comfort to Baton Rouge resident Paulette LaComb, a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. She looked around her once-pristine home, where students filled every room and the sounds of their hammers rang through the halls. If this were any other day, her house would be tidy and she would be in the kitchen, cooking jambalaya for her guests. Now the sink doesn’t work, and floodwater contaminated her dishes. She applied for food stamps, but her application was denied. “I’ve been crying all week,” she said. “It was such a good feeling to see all these people coming to help. I felt like nobody cared, but now I know they do. You’ve got to keep believing. You can’t give up.”

The community has united more since the tragedy, said Sarah Farley, BCM associate director at LSU. The city has endured a lot this summer, Farley said, referring to several fatal incidents between residents and local police. But she believes the flood has washed away some of the anger and pain. “The way God has used the flood to unite us is amazing. A lot of people criticize young people, but I think there’s a lot of hope.”

Those wishing to donate to SBDR relief can contact the Baptist convention in their state or visit donations.namb.net/dr-donations. For phone donations, call 1-866-407-NAMB (6262) or mail checks to NAMB, P.O. Box 116543, Atlanta, GA 30368-6543. Designate checks for “Disaster Relief.”

NAMB coordinates and manages Southern Baptist responses to major disasters through partnerships with 42 state Baptist conventions, most of which have their own state Disaster Relief ministries. Southern Baptists have 65,000 trained volunteers—including chaplains—and 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, child care, shower, laundry, water purification, repair/rebuild and power generation. SBDR is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained Disaster Relief volunteers in the United States, along with the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carmen K. Sisson is a freelance writer reporting for the North American Mission Board.

Gaines: election rhetoric can inhibit evangelism

NASHVILLE, TN (BP) – Conviction and kindness are the prescription of Southern Baptist leaders for the final eight weeks of the U.S. presidential campaign. With early voting by mail having begun in North Carolina and in-person early voting slated to begin in three states next week, Southern Baptist Convention President Steve Gaines, Dallas pastor Robert Jeffress, Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. and Cedarville University President Thomas White are among those to weigh in with ethical and spiritual advice for voters.

Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Baptist Church, told Baptist Press "biblical convictions" should guide Christians "in all areas of life, even the way they vote for a president." Gaines added in a written comment, "The most pressing issues in our nation are moral not financial," "Christians should analyze the candidates' positions regarding moral issues and vote accordingly. In my opinion, the three key moral issues in America today are: a) the sanctity of human life, b) the sacredness of marriage and c) the significance of racial respect/reconciliation."

Gaines' specific counsel to voters included:

- "Christians should have a strong, biblical conviction to vote for pro-life candidates."
- "Christians should vote for candidates that uphold" marriage as "exclusively monogamous and heterosexual."
- "Christians should vote for candidates that promote racial respect and reconciliation."

Gaines said he is troubled by "hateful comments" he has heard "regarding political candidates and how people should vote." "Many voices, even among Southern Baptists, have been less than wise, and sometimes downright ill-mannered," Gaines said. "Christians must at times be prophetic. But we never have a license to be pejorative or denigrating. "If any Christian, especially a Christian leader, castigates and attacks a political candidate, that Christian has crossed a line and has sinned. The litmus test should be, 'Would that person be open to me sharing the Gospel with him/her after I make this comment?' If the answer is no, then keep silent, even if it sounds 'prophetic,'" Gaines said.

Some purveyors of "harsh statements toward candidates" attempt to justify their comments as in the tradition of John the Baptist, who rebuked King Herod for marrying his brother's wife, Gaines said, citing Mark 6. Yet Scripture suggests John did not behave rudely because Herod "respected him, protected him and enjoyed listening to him" -- even while recognizing the clear rebuke of his message. In the end, hope should characterize believers' actions this political season, Gaines said. "The White House cannot send revival, nor can it stop revival," he said. "Stop looking around and start looking up. The Lord is the source of your help and strength."

Gaines added, "We should be good citizens and participate in the presidential election. We should also realize that we are part of a greater Kingdom than America -- the Kingdom of God. Today is a great day in America to share the Gospel with lost people and win them to Jesus. Today is a great time for God to rend the heavens and come down in revival in His churches."

Gaines: election rhetoric can inhibit evangelism (continued)

Supreme Court Justices

In a Sept. 9 appearance on Fox News, Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, cited as paramount for Christians this election season "the appointment of conservative Supreme Court justices" who will protect "religious liberty and the sanctity of life." Of the two major party candidates, only Republican nominee Donald Trump will appoint such justices, Jeffress said. "I am getting sick and tired of these namby-pamby, pantywaisted, weak-kneed Christians who say they're going to stay at home in November out of moral principle," Jeffress said on Fox's "Hannity." "Will you please tell me what great moral principle there is in the universe that would allow a pro-abortion, anti-religious liberty candidate like Hillary Clinton to become the president? I believe any conservative Christian who refuses to vote or throws away his vote in November is nothing but a hypocrite and a fool."

Jeffress later clarified to BP, "I never said people who don't vote for Trump are this or that. That wasn't my comment." Jeffress explained, "It's hypocritical for conservative Christians to say they believe in the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage and religious liberty then sit at home and not vote or throw away their vote on a third-party candidate and not elect a candidate like Donald Trump who has said he'll appoint conservative justices to the Supreme Court, a candidate who says he's pro-life, a candidate who says he believes Christians are being marginalized in society today." While Jeffress admits he is not certain Trump will keep his campaign promises, he said he is confident Clinton will "nominate liberal, activist judges to the Supreme Court."

Despite Jeffress' public political statements this year, he said his beliefs are not necessarily the beliefs of the members at First Baptist Dallas and the congregation's Democrats "are just as welcome as Republicans are." At church, "the only leader we're going to talk about is Jesus Christ." He estimated that "the vast, vast, vast majority" of First Baptist members support Trump now that there is a "binary" choice between two candidates in the general election.

Liberty University President Jerry Falwell Jr. appeared on "Hannity" with Jeffress and praised Trump's stated desire to repeal the Johnson Amendment, 1954 legislation that prevents churches and other nonprofit groups from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Some conservative nonprofit organizations are "in silence" regarding political matters, Falwell said, "because they're afraid of what's going to happen to them" if their leaders speak out.

Post-election witness

Cedarville hosted a Q&A session Sept. 13 on the presidential election in which Cedarville University President Thomas White told students that voting is part of a Christian citizen's responsibility to promote "human flourishing" in America. Supreme Court nominees, White told BP in an email after the Q&A, should be an important consideration for voters. "Obviously Supreme Court appointees matter greatly," White said, "and in fact all presidential appointees, like those in the Department of Education, affect the work of Christian universities like Cedarville. In one candidate we reasonably know the appointees will oppose a biblical

Gaines: election rhetoric can inhibit evangelism (continued)

worldview. In the other candidate, we expect friendlier appointees to a biblical worldview but have no guarantee."

White emphasized that the Gospel, and not politics, is the nation's ultimate hope. "While Supreme Court appointees matter, what matters most is that believers conduct ourselves as good ambassadors for Christ," White said. "Our hope lies not in courts or political systems but in the Gospel as the power of God to salvation. We must speak and act consistently with our biblical worldview so that we do not harm our witness to the world after this election has passed." By a show of hands at the Q&A, about a third of the Cedarville student body said they would vote for Trump were the election held that day. Two-thirds did not indicate support for either major party candidate.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. BP reports on missions, ministry and witness advanced through the Cooperative Program and on news related to Southern Baptists' concerns nationally and globally.

First Person: Michigan DR travels to Louisiana

MONROE, MI – A few weeks ago, what were you thinking when you heard reports of flooding in Louisiana? I thought, "Oh my God, they need you Lord, be with them Lord." Later, I would receive a call out from Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief. The call came from a familiar voice, Judy, but this call also came from the Lord. I needed to respond to the voice messages that Judy left on both of my phones. By calling back I was saying, "Here am I Lord, send me." This was the start of my journey to Louisiana with a "mudout team".

Although I have had some disaster relief training and experiences, I never before served with a mudout team. Judy assured me I could be trained on the spot, and learn along the way. Now that I think of it, that was exactly what Jesus did with his disciples. He walked and talked with them along the way, teaching them, training them for their ministry in the world.

As God put together the mudout team of volunteers, to my joy and surprise, I would work with three people I served with in Flint. These three people gave water there for many, many, many weeks. I only served one week. So I know these three men are dedicated to serving God and their fellow men and women. It was my privilege to work with them again. There were seven of us that prayed, traveled, ate, slept, and worked together. My bunkmate, Diane, was also our chaplain on the trip.

When we arrived in Louisiana we met up with Pastor Joshua Spinks at The Way Church in Denham Springs, LA. We saw several flooded churches in the area, and many homes devastated by the flood waters. Our first day on site was day nineteen after the storm had

First Person: Michigan DR travels to Louisiana (continued)

circled above the area for fifteen hours raining down and flooding the community. With some 233,000 souls in the parish, 80% of them were displaced due to the flooding. People fled to family, friends, church members, shelters, and motels outside the flood zone. The Way Church, which had sheltered many also had a cleaning supplies and a food pantry operating out of their fellowship hall. In addition, Joshua and his wife Tabetha were sheltering people in their home, as were other church members. The Way Church also housed and fed us while we were there. Pastor Joshua never took a day off, instead insisting on caring for the many needs of the community.

So, what does a “mudout team” do? Our first assignment took us three days. We removed sheetrock four feet high, then swept, power washed, and sprayed with a shock treatment to kill mold. Maybe the most special time was when we met and prayed with the widow homeowner and her family helpers. As we wrapped up the job, each of us signed a disaster relief bible and gave it to them.

Our next assignment was similar, but many, many, many more nails to be removed. While on a run to the hardware store Diane and I met a young man getting his supplies who expressed gratitude that we had come. He told us the Red Cross brought him water and meals daily while he worked. Words seem somewhat insufficient to explain the deep gratitude everyone shared with our team while there. I was reminded of what Christ suffered for our sins as I bandaged the hole I had made in my hand pulling nails. The homeowner shared she had suffered through a tornado back in January that destroyed her roof, and she told of losing a loved family member in an accident not long afterward. Now, she is dealing with a flooded home and trying to care for a child with great health challenges. I observed a woman of true faith in the Lord. Her strength and joy through it all was admirable. Our team signed and gave her a Bible, and prayed with her before leaving what was barely a shell of a home.

It was very hot in Louisiana, but the spirit of the people was awesome. They cared for one another, helped one another and looked to the Lord. We were five men and two women, and our ages ranged from 24 to 70. For that one week we were a team, and we worked together bound in Christ’s love. If I could provide one encouragement to others it would be that when God calls – answer! God doesn’t give us the spirit of fear. He calls us to fellowship with Him in prayer, and show love for one another. I cannot out give God. He always blesses me more. He loves us! When my wounds and bruises heal, I’ll go again. From what I saw, I expect volunteers will be needed for some time to come.

God has a place of service for every member of the body of Christ. Volunteer. You are needed. Disaster relief training is coming up in October at Bambi Lake, but like me they may train you along the way, you know, like Jesus did!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Carla Strunk is a Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteer. The Disaster Relief Team from across Michigan included Kendall & Kameron Bailey, Diane Brooks, Brian Buckerfield, David Wyatt, Donal Bezeau, and Carla Brown Strunk.

First Person: risking everything

CINCINNATI, OH (BP) – After interviewing five men from Central Asia in refugee camps, I asked them what would attract them to actually listen to Bible stories on the radio. After suggesting five or six options, I asked, "Would you listen to conversion testimonies from Muslims, even Muslim religious leaders?" Their eyes grew wide. One asked through an interpreter, "There is such a thing?" In their country, conversion was considered an act of treason punishable by death.

One man -- a Muslim -- said his child was almost kicked out of school for being caught with a page from a Christian coloring book. Yet, a number of their religious leaders and thousands of everyday folks were quietly praying to receive Christ. In this country, many were coming to faith in Christ through the bold, yet careful, witness of believers. When I discussed Muslim conversion in that region with a missionary there, he said, "The veneer of Islam has created a hunger for the Gospel. They know their leaders don't have anything to offer and so they turn to Christians they know to request a Bible, evangelistic materials, or anything to help them understand the Gospel." In obedience to the Jesus in the Great Commission, believers were risking everything in seeking to make disciples. If they kept quiet, they could live normal lives. If they spoke up, some who heard their message might believe, but others might turn them in to the religion police.

When a man was caught distributing the Bible in one predominantly Muslim area, he was brought before a judge. The judge forced him to bring in his pastor. The pastor asked the judge, "What is so harmful in the Bible's message?" The judge answered, "People will believe the Bible if they read it and I will lose my job." The judge gave the two believers a stern warning and set them free. Many times people who are not believers exert their authority because they feel it is their role as an official enforcer. Pushback seems to feed the anti-Christian tone and tension. That doesn't mean that sometime later they won't embrace the Gospel. In one Muslim area, a police sergeant told a believer he had to guard a shipment of Bibles. He wondered about the fuss over a mere book until he began to read it. When he got to the part about Jesus, he prayed to find a believer who could help him. He gave his heart to Jesus but felt conflicted because he had to keep enforcing the local law.

Nik Ripken, author and IMB missionary, once described the horrors he experienced in Somalia as an example of a country in which Satan and his agents seemed to roam unchecked. Ripken's "Insanity of God" movie, which gets a second nationwide theater showing Tuesday, provides a glimpse into this godless anarchy. Muslims live under enforcers; if we do not tirelessly intercede for our leaders and speak openly of our faith while we have the opportunity, we too will find the enforcers of the secular worldview limiting our Christian liberties. We must use our remaining freedom, not just to check cultural decay, but to bring God's healing to our troubled world.

Step back and examine your walk with the Lord. Is it in obedience to Jesus? Do you share your faith? Why would someone want to ask you about Jesus? What is your faith reputation? Are you helping someone become a disciple, even a disciple-maker? Increasingly, we find ourselves witnessing in a hostile environment in which various enforcers exert negative influence against the Gospel. In America, they typically are in seven "power centers:" government/military (elected

First Person: risking everything (continued)

officials/leaders), business (CEOs), education (superintendents/principals), news media (anchors/editors), sports (team owners/star players), arts & entertainment (writers/actors), and religious leaders. These seven leader groups affect culture for good or bad. Those who do become born-again believers have the potential to become godly agents of spiritual transformation. Why not be intentional to talk to them about your faith in Jesus?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mark Snowden is director of missional leadership for the Cincinnati Area Baptist Association and Snowden Ministries International. He developed an oral Bible for a predominantly Muslim people group while serving more than 18 years on IMB staff.

Bullet in head relates to ‘everything I preach’

BRENTWOOD, TN (BP) – Just looking at Ternae "T.J." Jordan Jr., one would never suspect he once was in a hospital with a bullet in his head, fighting for his life. Jordan still has the bullet in his head more than 23 years later but has no visible scars at its entry point. He now serves as assistant pastor at Mount Canaan Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., where his father, Ternae Jordan Sr., is pastor.

T.J., then 15, was hit by a stray bullet fired during a fight outside a local YMCA in Indiana, where his father was a pastor at the time, as he and his sister Dejuan were waiting to be picked up by their mother after piano lessons. Jordan was in the hospital for about three weeks. The early prognosis was that he would be blind or have brain damage. Because the bullet was lodged between his brain and skull, doctors decided it was best not to remove it. Yet, today Jordan has fully recovered. He still goes in for CAT scans to make sure the bullet has not moved and has been told several times the CAT scans reveal he should not have motor skills.

"God says otherwise," Jordan said. "This shows there is a supernatural God." Jordan was interviewed by the Baptist and Reflector when he and his dad and brother Jamichael attended a meeting for African-American pastors at the Tennessee Baptist Convention's rented offices in Brentwood in early August. "God has been so good to me that I sometimes forget that it even happened," Jordan said of the shooting. Though he doesn't have pain from the bullet still lodged in his head, he said his head will throb occasionally.

"It's as if that is God's way of telling me, 'I saved you for a reason and you need to let the world know,'" he said. And, Jordan does just that whenever an opportunity presents itself. He has written a book titled "Is It Just My Imagination?: Utilizing Your God-Given Imagination." Jordan preaches for his dad at Mount Canaan and at youth evangelism rallies. "I can apply my testimony to everything I preach or teach about," he said. And, sometimes, "my testimony is the sermon," Jordan added.

Bullet in head relates to ‘everything I preach’ (continued)

He is convinced that being shot at age 15 has helped him become a better minister because he can relate to people who are hurting. "They may not have been wounded by a bullet but they have been wounded by life. I can relate," Jordan said. He also is living proof to people that God "still works miracles. God is able to use my life and my story to show that He is real," Jordan said.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the Baptist and Reflector (www.baptistandreflector.org), newsjournal of the Tennessee Baptist Convention.

The Great Commission – it’s about going

BELIZE – First Baptist Church (FBC) New Baltimore in Macomb Township had the opportunity this summer to go on a nine day international mission trip to a small village in Belize Central America. FBC partnered with a small church there in Corozal Belize called Lighthouse Baptist Church (LBC) and took on a laundry list of projects to support them in their local ministry.

Though the coast of Belize is well known for its’ tourists on vacation, beaches, and the largest coral reef in the western hemisphere, it is also one the poorest countries in the region. Belize has diverse people groups including Maya, German-Mennonites, Creoles and more. Being a former British colony until 1981, English is the official language of the people which made it an ideal country for FBC to better communicate and witness to people.

Headed up by their mission team leader Bobbie Herhuth and senior pastor Jeff Bean, FBC prayerfully planned this mission starting ten months in advance. The mission team was made up of 17 adults of all ages who spent those months in prayer for the people of Belize that they would be serving. Besides their own luggage, each member brought a large bin full of project supplies including crafts, games, soccer balls, construction tools and bar-b-que sauce for a special “American style cookout” FBC planned to do for the families at Lighthouse Baptist.

When FBC got to Belize the local mission coordinator, Lorelly Escalante, planned a full schedule for their stay. Each morning started off early, working on minor construction and improvement projects around the local church. After lunch they freshened up, and then worked on evangelistic outreach projects in the community. Some days they would deliver food and clothing to needy members of the local church, taking time to talk and pray with them. Other days, they held vacation Bible school programs and youth day camps for area children, and even a women’s ministry evening.

Participating in the “Great Commission” allowed both the church from Michigan and the church from Belize to be blessed by serving God and each other during this mission trip. For FBC and LBC lives were changed, salvations were declared, and relationships were found this summer.

The Great Commission – it's about going (continued)

More about FBC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistNewBaltimore>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Scott Hemphill is the Publicity Director and Deacon Chairman at First Baptist Church in New Baltimore, MI.

Study: radical Islam looming across African Sahel

SAHEL, AFRICA (BP) – The poverty- and drought-stricken Sahel region spanning northern Africa is becoming a breeding ground for radical Islamic groups intent on persecuting Christians, according to a study conducted by World Watch Research. The Sahel, a horizontal swath spanning parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia, has become attractive to extremist groups that offer financial security to attract impoverished adherents facing uncertainties in the semi-arid land, reported World Watch Research, a division of the Open Doors International advocacy organization for persecuted Christians.

Boko Haram, the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, Ansar Dine and groups loyal to them are growing in the 10-country region with funding from oil-rich Gulf States like Saudi Arabia, the Aug. 25 report said, and will continue to spread across the African continent unless defeated. "The instability and fear these groups create as well as the ideology they propagate are in considerable conflict with such human rights as freedom of religion," the report said. "Even if these groups do not succeed in violently imposing Sharia law at a national level and establishing an Islamic caliphate, they contribute to the overall radicalization of the population and the spread of an extremist and intolerant version of Islam."

While the Sahel is historically and predominantly Muslim, more puritanical and militant versions of Islam are now thriving in the region, in particular attracting young men. The groups attack not only Christians but moderate Muslims. "This is a critical time for the future of Christianity in the region," according to the report. "If the instability gets out of control and the militant groups have their way, Christians will be killed and exiled out of the entire region. A similar fate would await not just Christians but also Muslims who do not subscribe to the ideology of the militant Islamic groups."

The report pointed to Mali and Niger as prime examples of breeding grounds for Islamic jihad in the region, with both countries facing high illiteracy and poverty. "Niger has also been beset by ethnic rebellion and civil war just like Mali and its considerable mineral resources have also fueled conflict," the report stated. "Just like the rest of the Sahel region, Niger has been affected by a rise in militancy and this development has had a very adverse effect on the freedom of religion of Christians in the country." The report cited a wave of arson attacks conducted by Islamic militants in January 2015 that destroyed 70 churches, a number of Christian

Study: radical Islam looming across African Sahel (continued)

orphanages, schools and homes.

Countries in the region should join hands militarily to defeat the groups, while also addressing socio-economic ills, the report recommended. "It is only when these underlying realities are improved that Christians and non-Christians will be able to enjoy security and freedom in the region."

The full report may be read at: <http://theanalytical.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/The-Sahel-Rising-Islamic-militancy-and-the-persecution-of-Christians-in-the-region-2016.pdf>.

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Diana Chandler is Baptist Press' general assignment writer/editor. BP reports on missions, ministry and witness advanced through the Cooperative Program and on news related to Southern Baptists' concerns nationally and globally.

Kaine cites Genesis 1, pope to support gay marriage

WASHINGTON, DC (BP) – In a speech to America's largest pro-gay lobbying group, Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Kaine said the Bible buttresses his support of same-sex marriage. And he predicted the Roman Catholic Church eventually will change its mind on the issue, like he has. Evangelical theologians, however, said Kaine appeared to distort biblical teaching and Catholic doctrine in service of a political agenda.

Speaking Sept. 10 at the annual Human Rights Campaign (HRC) dinner in Washington, Kaine called himself a "devout Catholic" and acknowledged the Catholic Church is opposed to same-sex marriage, according to a video of the speech posted online. Virginia's junior senator said he formerly opposed legalizing same-sex marriage but recounted a personal conversion on the issue. As a candidate for Virginia lieutenant governor in 2001, Kaine told the Associated Press he opposed same-sex marriage. Four years later, he opposed granting adoption rights to same-sex couples while running for governor, according to The Washington Post.

However, in 2006 he campaigned against Virginia's state constitutional amendment defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. Then during his Senate campaign six years later, he supported same-sex adoption when declared by a judge to be in a child's best interest, The Post reported. Kaine's Senate votes have garnered a 90 percent approval rating from the HRC. On Saturday, Kaine told the HRC his change of mind on same-sex marriage stemmed in part from recognizing the dishonorable motives of some Virginia legislators who favored the commonwealth's marriage amendment. Behind the scenes, some lawmakers admitted that amending the state constitution to protect marriage was "a really bad idea" advanced to score political points with conservative voters, Kaine alleged.

Kaine cites Genesis 1, pope to support gay marriage (continued)

Moments later, Kaine discussed the relationship between his Catholic faith and his views on marriage. "My full, complete, unconditional support for marriage equality is at odds with the current doctrine of the church I still attend," Kaine said. "But I think that's going to change too." Such change may occur "because my church also teaches me about a creator in the first chapter of Genesis, who surveys the entire world including mankind and says, 'It is very good,'" Kaine said, referencing Genesis 1:31. "Pope Francis famously said, 'Who am I to judge?' And to that I want to add: Who am I to challenge God for the beautiful diversity of the human family? I think we're supposed to celebrate it, not challenge it."

Biblically defenseless

Stephen Andrews, professor of Hebrew and Old Testament at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Baptist Press Kaine's use of Genesis 1 in support of same-sex marriage is "inaccurate, misleading and inconsistent with the clear teaching of the rest of the Bible." While God's statement that creation was "very good" included human sexuality, it was not focused on sexuality and certainly did not endorse same-sex sexual activity, Andrews said in written comments. Genesis 1-2 states that "God's plan for blessing is through the marriage of a man and a woman," Andrews said. "God created humankind as male and female (Gen. 1:27), not as male and male or female and female. This is significant because humanity is to be 'fruitful and multiply and fill the earth' (Gen. 1:28). This creation mandate could not be accomplished through same-sex marriage." In addition, God's affirmation of creation as "very good" occurred before the fall of humankind into sin and did not endorse any state of affairs that "came about because of man's sinful rebellion."

"The idea that Genesis 1:31 covers same-sex marriage or any other form of sinful sexual expression," Andrews said, "assumes that God is responsible for whatever humanity has done in the past, present or future." By this same logic, "rape, pedophilia, bestiality and other sexual behavior is 'good.' ... Following this logic, it would also be possible to call the murderous actions of a Hitler or Khmer Rouge 'good.'" Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. made a similar point Sept. 14 in his podcast *The Briefing*, noting that from the fall forward, "we do see the glory of God revealed, but we also see, as the Scripture makes equally clear, the reality of human sinfulness and its consequences made clear in the creation."

"Kaine's argument leaves him absolutely intellectually and morally -- not to say biblically -- defenseless against making any argument against polygamy or, for that matter, virtually anything else," Mohler said. "It is absolute nonsense to look at the world as we see it and say that's exactly what God intended and thus we must bless everything. "Of course, Sen. Kaine won't do that. He just has been selective when speaking to the Human Rights Campaign, selectively citing Genesis 1 where it is convenient for him," Mohler said.

'Far afield' of Catholicism

Rex Butler, professor of church history and patristics at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, told BP that Kaine appeared to misrepresent the trajectory of the Catholic Church on

Kaine cites Genesis 1, pope to support gay marriage (continued)

homosexuality. Kaine and certain other Catholic politicians appear to claim "the Catholic label when it suits them politically but subvert Catholic teachings when they contradict the politicians' support for same-sex marriage and abortion." Pope Francis has explained, Butler said, that his 2013 comment quoted by Kaine was not intended to condone same-sex sexual activity. "When questioned about his comment, 'Who am I to judge?', Pope Francis affirmed that he supports the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which teaches that homosexual acts are 'intrinsically disordered' and contrary to natural law. Accordingly, homosexual acts cannot be approved," Butler said in written comments.

"At the same time, the Catholic Church acknowledges that a number of men and women have 'deep-seated homosexual tendencies,' but the Church denies that such tendencies are inborn," Butler said. "The Catechism goes on to instruct the Church to accept such men and women with 'respect, compassion, and sensitivity' and to avoid 'unjust discrimination.' Finally, 'homosexual persons are called to chastity,' with God's support against temptation (1 Cor. 10:13)." The pope's comment "fits well within the Catholic doctrine on homosexuality," Butler said. "Tim Kaine's support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and its agenda falls far afield of the Catholic Church to which he claims allegiance."

A full video of Kaine's speech is available at hillaryspeeches.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. BP reports on missions, ministry and witness advanced through the Cooperative Program and on news related to Southern Baptists' concerns nationally and globally.

BGEA releases new My Hope film 'Decisions'

CHARLOTTE, NC (BP) – As evangelist Billy Graham approaches his 98th birthday, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) has released a new video in the My Hope outreach that has reportedly led more than 10 million to Christ internationally. Graham's son Franklin delivers the Gospel in the new evangelistic film "Decisions," a 28-minute free resource featuring diverse Americans who accepted Christ as Savior during Franklin Graham's 50-state Decision America Tour still in progress.

"I've been talking to people about the importance of decisions. I see thousands of people faced with a choice ... and I want them to know the truth," Franklin Graham said of his outreach. "Any time you have a crowd of people, I can guarantee there will be somebody in that crowd that doesn't know Jesus Christ. So, every time I'm at the microphone I'm going to give the Gospel." In his tour, the younger Graham is preaching and hosting prayer rallies in every state capitol, urging Americans to pray, vote and engage in politics to uphold biblical principles. The tour has attracted crowds of thousands since it began Jan. 5 in Des Moines, Iowa, and is set to end Oct.

BGEA releases new My Hope film 'Decisions'

13 in Raleigh, N.C.

The film is available by free download at MyHopewithBillyGraham.org and will be broadcast on local and Christian television networks beginning Oct. 10, BGEA vice president Steve Rhoads said in a press release. "We are very happy to offer this resource to the church which will powerfully present the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Rhoads said. "The church in the United States has a unique opportunity at this moment to proclaim Jesus, who offers hope and redemption to a lost world. We pray that the good news will be preached and that God will bring a revival to His people."

The patriarch Billy Graham, who turns 98 on Nov. 7, is not featured in the film, although he has spoken in earlier My Hope offerings. Franklin Graham said his father, who led millions to Christ during a 60-year international evangelistic ministry, today ministers mostly through prayer. "He lives with limitations typical of old age -- his eyesight is very poor, his hearing is not good, and he uses a wheelchair. Someone is with him in the house at all times," he said of his father in a July letter to friends and supporters. "His ministry now is praying, and he looks forward to reports of what God is doing around the world. He always responds by saying 'Praise the Lord' as he points upward."

Launched internationally in 2002, My Hope has presented the Gospel in 60 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, and debuted in the U.S. in 2013 with "My Hope America." More than 350,000 churches and 4 million individuals have participated in the evangelistic outreach, BGEA said, and more than 10 million individuals have made decisions to receive Christ, including 160,000 in the U.S.

"Decisions" follows My Hope America films "Value of a Soul" (2015), "Heaven" (2014) and "The Cross" (2013). BGEA is accepting pre-orders at MyHopewithBillyGraham.org for a free DVD version of Decisions, including a special 30-minute program that goes behind the scenes of the tour, slated to ship in early fall. Meanwhile, a new film called "The Worth of a Soul" will release this fall in the United Kingdom in conjunction with My Hope U.K. The last film in the series to feature Billy Graham was Heaven. The patriarch doesn't expect anyone to remember him now, Franklin Graham said on his July 1 Decision America stop in Juneau, Alaska. "So he'll say, 'If you meet anybody who remembers me, tell 'em hello,'" he said of his father.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Diana Chandler is Baptist Press' general assignment writer/editor. BP reports on missions, ministry and witness advanced through the Cooperative Program and on news related to Southern Baptists' concerns nationally and globally.

Navy to train sailors on transgender acceptance

ASHEVILLE, NC (BP) – The U.S. Navy has announced its plan for training all personnel on the Pentagon's new policy allowing transgender service members to serve openly.

The announcement, delivered by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Robert Burke, outlines the service's strategy to prepare both senior leaders and rank-and-file sailors for the changes, according to Military.com.

"This training will emphasize policies and expectations of personal behavior," the all-Navy message stated.

The first phase of the training starts Nov. 1. Mobile training teams will present face-to-face briefings to senior Navy officers and enlisted leaders -- the "command triad" of commanders, executive officers, and command master chiefs, according to Military.com. The training teams will include Navy fleet representatives as well as subject matter experts.

Commanders will then be responsible for administering the training to the rest of the fleet.

The Navy announcement comes just before the Oct. 1 deadline set by Defense Secretary Ash Carter for the Pentagon to "issue a training handbook for commanders, transgender service members, and the force," according to a department fact sheet.

The policy on which the training will be based, DOD Instruction 1300.28, takes effect Oct. 1 and lays out procedures "by which transgender service members may transition gender while serving," as well as specifying medical treatment provisions and "procedures for changing a service member's gender marker in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)."

The training, which all service members must complete by July 1, 2017, likely will include instruction on what the services deem mistreatment of individuals who identify as transgendered.

"We do not tolerate harassment of any kind," Navy spokeswoman Lt. Jessica Anderson told Military.com. "Treating all service members with dignity and respect is something we take extremely seriously, and when there are any indications that those values are not being followed, we will conduct appropriate investigations and take action as necessary."

But some military readiness advocates are concerned the yearlong training effort is simply an ideological indoctrination taking advantage of a captive audience.

"Yes, they are implementing a social experiment. And they are doing so at high risk," said Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness. "It is going to have an impact on morale and discipline to varying degrees," she added, noting only a small number of people claim to be transgendered.

Navy to train sailors on transgender acceptance (continued)

"The problem is, in order to accommodate ... those few, you've got to change the culture of the many," she said.

Donnelly doesn't believe that culture change will be limited to the training but will become part of the curriculum in all military schools, including schools and daycare centers attended by service members' children.

"You have to have instruction from the lowest ranks on up," she said. "And since this is a Department of Defense policy, that would have to affect the other schools as well. And we're talking every school or institution from the military service academies right down to the elementary schools in the DoD school system ... the largest school system in the world."

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Cochrane writes for WORLD News Service, a division of WORLD Magazine (www.worldmag.com) based in Asheville, NC.

Appreciating your pastor

FENTON, MI – Since many of you who read this column are members of a local church, I would like to pass on some information that was gleaned from an article that I read some time ago. With a great number of churches in almost every community, it goes without saying there are several pastors serving in these churches and each of these men have enormous responsibilities. No matter the size of the church, the weight of ministry is ever present.

Great may be their reward in heaven, but many pastors on this side of paradise are just plain worn out. Many times the rewards they are receiving for their earthly labors are stomach ulcers, burnout or cardiac failure. In fact, insurance companies have declared pastors as one of the highest health risk groups in the country. Interviews with several pastors revealed eight common attitudes or actions that leave them drained and discouraged. Please take special note of the following and try to determine if you or your congregation is guilty of any or all of them.

Making relational demands

A pastor can't be everyone's best friend. Nor can he always be readily accessible to his congregation. This is especially true when a congregation grows in size and expands in ministry. Someone other than the pastor can meet the need for fellowship and friendship.

Expecting custom-made sermons just for you

Who hasn't opened the Sunday bulletin, seen the sermon topic, and wished he'd stayed in bed? Yet what seems irrelevant to one is a direct word from the Holy Spirit to another. Give the pastor credit for being led by the Lord in the topics he chooses.

Appreciating your pastor (continued)

Seldom volunteering

Church members approach the pastor about a ministry for which they have a burden, but often they're not burdened enough to help start the ministry. Most expect the pastor to start it and run it. And might I add, when it does not go well, blame him for its demise.

Disregarding sermons

One pastor lamented, "I'll pour myself into a sermon on a meaty topic...and then someone - just as I'm finished - rushes up with a complaint that the water fountains aren't working or that there is not toilet paper in the bathrooms. It's hard to respond to a request so unrelated to what I just spent the better portion of an hour communicating."

Abusing his day off

What eight words are guaranteed to drain the life out of a pastor? "I know this is your day off, but..."

Ignoring important dates

Missed birthdays or anniversaries hurt most people's feelings. Why not a pastor's? Acknowledging milestones in a pastor's life is an effective morale booster.

Accentuating the negative

Most people are quick to call or write with complaints or criticism. Few are equally forthcoming with encouragement or praise. One wise sage has said that, "Bad news can be halfway around the world before good news has its boots on." A senior pastor insightfully stated, "It's strange to have the people offering the most criticism be the very people to whom you're ministering."

Withholding study breaks

Some churches don't allow study breaks. Some do, but view them as excuses for prolonged vacations. Others recognize their value but don't free the pastor from the tyranny of the urgent so he can break away. Make him go, or you might lose him. If he never stops to sharpen his axe it will only result in less trees being felled, and requires more work.

These were just a few of the issues that pastors say are difficult for them to deal with. This month has been designated as "Pastor Appreciation Month". If you truly want to make a difference in your church and in the life of your pastor, then take this opportunity to show him the true appreciation he deserves. A card, letter or email expressing your love and care will impact him more than you could imagine. A gift card to a favorite restaurant or a few days of an expense paid get-away would do wonders for him physically, emotionally and spiritually. It really doesn't take much. A kind word. A thank you. A show of appreciation is a good and godly thing

Appreciating your pastor (continued)

to do.

This month show your appreciation for your pastor and his family. It will be the best investment you could ever make.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tim Patterson is Executive Director/Treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Elected unanimously in May of 2015, Patterson formerly served for 9 years as pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla. He also served as trustee chair and national mobilizer for the North American Mission Board.

3 fun days in November

FENTON, MI – Mark your calendar because I want to help you enjoy three upcoming autumn days. Over the years, I developed the following checklist. You are going to need this list for those three days.

- Avid-fan
- Bargain-hunter
- Freeloader
- Hallway-talker
- Historian
- Multitasker
- Network-magnate
- Partygoer
- Passionate-parliamentarian

November 3, 4, and 5, 2016 at [Eastgate Baptist Church in Burton, Michigan](#) is a must see, must go event. The [Annual Pastor's Conference](#) and the [Annual Convention for the Baptist State Convention](#) is one of the annual highlights of my year. Both of these events are for everyone in the church, not just pastors.

During these two events, we reconnect with friends. We create new relationships. We dream new dreams. We reconnect with our mission. We arrive tired, but leave inspired. While you attend the Pastor's Conference and the Annual Convention, here is a way to add some fun to your days. This search will entertain you.

1. **Avid-fan** – This man or woman attends because there is a special celebrity at the meeting. They love seminary presidents, former SBC presidents, notable pastors, and international missionaries. They sit close to the front when their celebrity is speaking. They strategically place themselves in the path of special guests with their smartphone cameras ready to click a pic.

3 fun days in November (continued)

2. **Bargain-book-hunter** – This attendee repeatedly cruises the Baptist Bookstore display. They arrive early and speak to the bookstore manager hoping for secret information as to when the “real” sale prices start. They make repeated trips to the car storing away their bargain-books like a squirrel storing away nuts for a Michigan winter.
3. **Freeloader** – This person cruises the exposition displays. They listen attentively for and look for the written word “FREE.” They load their reusable canvas bags with free things to take home. They generously share the free resources with friends and family. They distribute a wealth of materials throughout Michigan’s ministries.
4. **Hallway-talker** – I tease one of my close friends that he is a hallway talker. He sees the three days as a constant supply of personal conversations. He moves smoothly from one person to another asking questions, listening to their stories, and offering encouragement. Hallway-talkers feel the big meetings with hundreds are not as important as the little meetings between friends.
5. **Historian** – They are happy attending the gathering, but they often speak about the past. While most of us live in the here and now, the Historian will remind us about our collective past. They highlight the service and sacrifice of earlier heroes. Historians remind us that we are who we are because of certain heroes of the past.
6. **Multitasker** – This attendee comes with a book to read, crocheting, knitting, crosswords, or devices. Another one of my closest friends sits quietly during the business proceedings reading a coveted book while inclining one ear to listen to the business session. There are those who text, tweet, post, and respond to emails while important matters are being discussed. The multitasker is bored with merely sitting and listening.
7. **Network-magnate** – This attendee is shrewd and focused. He may be looking for a new friend or searching for help with a church project. He surveys the crowd. Sometimes, he can be seen scanning the crowd behind the person with whom he is speaking face-to-face. He is silently asking himself, “Is this connection going to help me, encourage me?”
8. **Partygoer** – You will know it when you are in the presence of a partygoer. A circle of energized people will surround this attendee. This person asks in a loud voice to a random crowd, “Where are we going for lunch?” They arrive early, stay up late, and randomly create wonderful friendships.
9. **Passionate-parliamentarian** – These individuals live for the business proceedings. They enjoy hearing phrases like, “I make the motion,” “Second,” and “The motion is carried.” They have the agenda on their laps and check-off the proceedings one step at a time. They know where their ballots are at any given moment. Their hearts pump with an adrenaline rush when decisions are unanimous!

3 fun days in November (continued)

Will you join me on November 3-5? You will find me in different places. I might be in the hallway. I might be posting images of my friends; but I will be there. Please, come for an evening, a half-day, an entire day, or stay the entire time. I hope to see you there. Let's make this is one of the best-attended gatherings of the decade.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tony Lynn is the State Director of Missions for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Before coming on staff at the BSCM, Tony served as lead pastor for more than six years at Crosspoint Church in Monroe, Michigan. He and his wife, Jamie, also served with the International Mission Board in Africa and in Europe.

2016 Church Equipping Conference – Stronger!

FENTON, MI – On Saturday, October 15th, Michigan Baptists will gather from churches all across the state of Michigan at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville for the 2016 Church Equipping Conference. The one-day gathering is designed to equip workers for ministry in the local church, community and beyond. The theme for CEC16 is "Stronger."

The Planning

Mike Durbin (State Director of Evangelism) has been working on the CEC with the Church Strengthening Team. He says, "Take a look at the list of workshops. Rarely will you find a conference as broad and deep as CEC16. Some of the best trainers in SBC life are going to be with us! Our goal is to equip believers for ministry. We want to help the local church grow stronger by growing deeper."

The Workshops

During the conference, attendees will have the opportunity to choose from over 40 workshops. The workshops are broadly categorized under the Convention's mission of Starting, Strengthening, and Sending Churches. Training will be provided for different age groups of Bible studies, small groups, worship, and missions to name just a few of the areas. To see a complete list of workshops and presenters, go to BSCM.org and click on the Church Equipping Conference flyer. You can also register there to attend.

The Church

The conference is designed with the local church in mind! It is an opportunity for churches to get all her workers together in one place at one time for training. Durbin says, "People are extremely busy. Some church workers serve in several capacities. It's difficult for them to schedule time to attend several training events in different locations during the year. In one day at the CEC, they

2016 Church Equipping Conference – Stronger! (continued)

can get help to grow stronger in their knowledge and skills in many church ministry areas.”

“It makes strategic sense in today's crazy, fast-paced world to have a blitz training event.”

Accommodations

The Church Strengthening Team discussed the reality that it is a long way for some of our people to get to Roseville. They decided to help by providing housing for those who live north of Mt. Pleasant or west of Kalamazoo. Anyone needing housing should contact Mike Durbin at Mike@bscm.org before October 1st to secure a place to stay.

Stronger, Together, Michigan Baptists Punching Holes in the Darkness!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mike Durbin is the State Evangelism Director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. Before joining the state convention staff, Mike served as Church Planting Catalyst and Director of Missions in Metro Detroit since 2007. He also has served as a pastor and bi-vocational pastor in Michigan, as well as International Missionary to Brazil.

Around the state: church events & staff changes

UPCOMING EVENTS AT SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH, ALLEN PARK, MI

Halloween Harvest Festival, Saturday, October 29, 2016, 4 pm to 8 pm

On this Saturday night (2 days before Halloween), inside the church, we will be having games with treats and candy for the children (that they can very easily win). Please bring your children in their costume and let them play in a warm and safe environment. There will be a food tent in the church parking lot serving (free) hot dogs with chili, kielbasa, chili cheese fries, potato chips, lemonade, desserts and more. (LAST YEAR: WE HAD OVER 300 VISITORS DURING OUR HARVEST FESTIVAL).

Trunk or Treat, Monday, October 31, 2016, 5 pm to 8 pm

Please stop by the church on Halloween evening when we will be handing out candy from 5 to 8 pm.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner, Thursday, November 4, 2016, 2 pm to 6 pm

Southfield Road Baptist Church will be hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day. Guests are invited to stay and watch the big game, play table tennis, or play pool, and then enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal at 2 pm.

Around the state: church events & staff changes (continued)

IN ADDITION: PLEASE MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES:

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Saturday, December 24, 2016 at 5 pm

Christmas Day Morning Worship Service, Sunday, December 25, 2016 at 11 am

New Years' Eve Candlelight Service, Saturday, December 31, 2016 at 5 pm

New Year's Day Morning Worship Service, Sunday, January 1, 2017 at 11 am

For more information contact: Southfield Road Baptist Church, 14880 Southfield Road, Allen Park, MI 48101 or call (313) 381-3979

RUSH STUDENT EVENT

Come and be a part of the RUSH on November 11!!! All 6th to 12th grade students are invited to our annual all-night, fast-paced multi-church lock-in at Eastern Michigan University's Recreation Center! \$30 by Nov. 4, \$35 at the door. The night begins with the RUSH HOUR RALLY to be held at Cross and Resurrection Church just a block away from the Rec Center. The Gospel will be clearly declared and then we will head to the Rec Center for a choose-your-own-adventure style night. Each student will be able to explore 4 stories of events to take part in. Last year we had 205 students and 65 adults from 12 churches attend. We are praying for even more this year. Come and join the RUSH!!! It is unlike any other lock-in you have been to!

For a list of the events, please [download the poster and leader packet](#) which are both attached. Feel free to forward to invite other youth groups too!

Deadlines: Let us know if you are planning on coming by Oct. 17th. Early-bird Registration at \$5 off by Nov. 4th.

If you have any questions contact Rush Hour Lock-In / 45000 North Territorial / Plymouth, Mi. 48170. Call: (734) 455-2300 / Pastor Jim Stolt's Cell: (734) 787-2435

pastorjim@pbcplymouth.org

pbcplymouth.org/ministries/students

BALD IS NOT ONLY BEAUTIFUL, BUT IT IS ALSO HILARIOUS!

The Bald Is Beautiful Comedy Tour, November 10-12, 2016, is an event that you do not want to miss. Featuring Mutzie, who has won the "Funniest person in Louisiana contest" THREE TIMES. Mutzie has performed over 100 corporate shows for Fortune 500 Companies across America. Mutzie is a favorite on Carnival cruise ships worldwide and performs at churches from Coast to Coast. Two Michigan SBC pastors/comedians, Tim Steele and Larry Allen, that have performed throughout the state of Michigan will also be sharing the stage. Proceeds from this event are going to the Liberty Family Outreach Charity that runs the Summerfest program in Warren, MI each year.

Around the state: church events & staff changes (continued)

Tickets are \$15 and you can get tickets at BaldComicsRock.com. The venues are:

Nov. 10, 2016

Woodside of Warren Bible Church
27300 Hoover Road, Warren, MI 48093

Nov. 11, 2016

Heritage Church
44625 Schoenherr Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48313

Nov. 12, 2016

Rockpointe Community Church
38100 Utica Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48312

For more information contact Tim Steele, Lead Pastor of Cross Waves Church, 586-337-4653, tim@crosswaveschurch.com
CrossWavesChurch.com

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER

Southfield Road Baptist Church will be hosting a free Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016. Visitors are invited to stay and watch the big game, play table tennis, or play pool, and then enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal from 2 pm to 6 pm.

For more information contact Southfield Road Baptist Church, 14880 Southfield Road, Allen Park, MI 48101 (313) 381-3979

FREE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every Tuesday at 10 am or 6 pm. The ladies will be studying "WAR ROOM," by Stephen Kendrick and Alex Kendrick. You can attend either class. Southfield Road Baptist Church, 14880 Southfield Road, Allen Park, MI 48101, (313) 381-3979.

FREE YOUTH BASKETBALL

Every Tuesday from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. Southfield Road Baptist Church, 14880 Southfield Road, Allen Park, MI 48101, (313) 381-3979.

Classifieds

Youth / Children's Pastor Needed

Catalyst Baptist Church, a fourteen month old church plant in Ironwood, MI is seeking a highly motivated, energetic, and devout pastor to lead our children and youth. The position is currently bi-vocational and will require self and/or outside support to man. We firmly uphold the BFM 2000 and the Bible as the unabashed Word of God. We want a man that is strong and growing stronger in his faith and needs an opportunity to advance the Kingdom of God.

The man for this position must see children and youth as they are today and where they will be tomorrow. The goal is to develop their young minds spiritually so when they leave home, they do not leave the church, only to come back when they have kids of their own. The sky is the limit and funds are tight, but the right man will take ownership of this position and make it their own, putting their stamp through a biblical lens into the lives of children forever. Are you the right man for this job?

We have long winters, wolves, and bears so don't think this is some gravy suburb, but we also have people desperately in need of the Gospel and those who believe already to have a pastor that loves their children and youth. Please visit our website and Facebook page to make yourself familiar with Catalyst.

If this sounds like you, please submit a resume to Ian Minielly at ian@catalystbaptist.org. For more information on Catalyst visit our website and Facebook page catalystbaptistchurch.wordpress.com

Bi-Vocational Music Director or Pastor Opportunity

Catalyst Baptist Church in Ironwood, MI is seeking a bi-vocational Music Director or Pastor. We have spent the last fourteen months listening to an IPOD and are just now going to worship videos with lyrics. What we need is an energetic and motivated person that not only can play an instrument, they can also interact with the crowd to energize and point our eyes towards the New Jerusalem with our worship music.

The Senior Pastor was kicked out of choir in middle school and never played an instrument so do not expect help from him. He does however wish to hand this epic responsibility over to a person with a passion and call to make godly worship of our Lord and Savior a fun and engaging process. This is an unpaid position but that does not mean it is unimportant.

For more information on Catalyst Baptist Church please visit the church and/or Facebook page(s). catalystbaptistchurch.wordpress.com. Please contact Ian Minielly at (906) 201-4082 with your questions and submit your resume to ian@catalystbaptist.org

Classifieds (continued)

Senior Pastor Needed

Crestview Baptist Church located in Clayton, OH is prayerfully seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. CBC recently celebrated 60 years as a Southern Baptist affiliated congregation. Our mission is to glorify God by reaching a developing people for Jesus Christ. We are seeking a man that reflects our Articles of Faith and can share through ministry his love for Christ with the church congregation and the community. Please send your professional resume, references, testimony of Salvation, personal statement of faith and calling into the ministry to cbc@crestview.org or:

Crestview Baptist Church
Pastoral Search Committee
6600 Salem Ave
Clayton, OH 45315

Senior Pastor Needed

Northwest Baptist Church, located in the greater Milwaukee area, is seeking a full time senior pastor. Information about our congregation may be found by visiting our [church website](#). The Pastor Search link will connect potential candidates to our [Church Profile](#). We are currently accepting resumes for the position.

With gratitude,
Bonnie Lee
Discipleship Team Leader
Chair of Pastor Search Committee

4373 N. 92nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53222
(414) 463-3630
www.northwestbaptist.com

Senior Pastor Needed

On behalf of the Pastor Search Committee of Dunkirk Baptist Church in Dunkirk, Maryland we are seeking applicants to fill our senior pastor position. We are part of the Mid-Atlantic Baptist Network and the Potomac Baptist Association. Visit our website at www.dunkirkbaptistchurch.org for a complete job description. Resumes are being accepted via email at pastorsearch@dunkirkbaptistchurch.org or by standard mail to Pastor Search Committee, c/o Dunkirk Baptist Church, 10816 Town Center Blvd., Box 234, Dunkirk, MD 20754. Resumes will be accepted from July 13 through August 24, 2016.

Classifieds (continued)

Part-time Administrative Assistant Needed

Tecumseh Missionary Baptist Church in Tecumseh, MI seeks a part-time administrative assistant. The primary purpose is to organize and direct the activities of the church office, support the pastor, and support the other ministries of the church as needed. We are looking for someone with strong: organizational, communication and computer skills. This person should desire to serve the Lord while requiring minimal direction. Please send resumes and cover letter to Pastor Brian/Secretary Search Team at bjonesbunch@aol.com.

Bi-vocational Music/Worship Leader

First Baptist Church in Brighton Michigan is seeking a bi-vocational music / worship leader to serve His congregation through the Church's music ministry. We are seeking a leader who is comfortable with and capable of leading a blended style of worship. For information, or to forward a letter of interest / resume, please send all inquiries to info@fcbrighton.com or contact Pastor Dwaine Kaiser at dwaine.kaiser@gmail.com

Computer Repair

Need a trusted and reliable laptop & desktop repair or a basic networking technician in the Detroit Metro area? Golgotha Romanian Baptist Church strongly recommends Victor Sabadus. Contact at (248) 520-0930 or domn100@hotmail.com.

Worship Pastor Needed

Lakeside Community Church is a strong contemporary church in the suburbs north of Detroit. We are seeking a person called to the worship ministry. This will start as a part-time position with the expectation the position will become full-time in the future. We are specifically seeking someone with strong vocal ability, skill in a lead instrument and a passion and skill for leading worship. We currently have multiple vocalists and instrumentalists. Our worship style is fully contemporary using music from Hillsong United, Chris Tomlin, Fee, Lincoln Brewster, and others. Send resume and video/audio link of you leading worship to Ken Render at worshipposition@lakesidechurch.net.

ABOUT THE BAPTIST BEACON

The Baptist Beacon is the official newsjournal of the [Baptist State Convention of Michigan \(BSCM\)](#), in association with the Southern Baptist Convention. The mission of the Baptist Beacon is to communicate with Michigan Baptists in our shared mission of punching holes in the darkness through starting, strengthening, and sending churches.

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