



# Baptist BEACON

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

*Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan*

Volume 58, Number 7

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July 2014

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# Baptist BEACON

**SBC Annual Meeting  
convenes in Baltimore**

*SBC elects new president, passes other motions, discusses theology and evangelism, and more*

**World Cup creates  
opportunities for  
missions in Brazil**

*Students take Jesus to "Crack-land" in Rio, and missionaries develop soccer-based evangelism strategy*

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## JumpStart brings fresh vision and insight for church starters

BY MARY LOU HALL  
*Baptist Beacon*

FENTON — Rewarding. Encouragement. Vision. Those are thoughts expressed by participants of the JumpStart 4 Church Starters leadership development event held on June 20-21, 2014 at the BSCM Leadership Center in Fenton.

JumpStart is designed to help participants see more clearly where they fit in God's plan of church starting. The two-day process assists in developing a potential church starter's leadership skills and moving him to the next level of their God-given leadership capacity. Each participant is assigned an individual event coach and is involved in a series of "discovery interviews" related to starting a new church.

"Sometimes the journey of church planting can be very lonely," said Lester Lewis, Pastor of Trinity Church in Detroit. "Knowing we are not walking alone in the calling God placed upon our hearts provides inspiration and hope."

As a JumpStart Event Coach, Mike Durbin enjoys the process of interviewing JumpStart participants.

"Through a series of guided ques-

tions, we hear how God has been working in the lives of participants to bring them to faith in Christ and how He is using them to advance His

and develop disciple, absolute essentials for church starting.

Extensive interaction during the two days gives the coaching team

to develop and prepare them for the future.

"The real benefits of JumpStart are the results," Durbin said. "We have been doing JumpStart long enough to witness the growth that takes place as potential planters follow the recommendations in the blueprint.

"We have seen visions clarified, strategies developed, and church planting readiness increased. JumpStart is not just another event. It is a plan of action to help people as they follow Christ in church planting."

The reality is that every believer can be involved in starting a church in some capacity, but not every believer is called or equipped to be a lead church starter. JumpStart helps participants clarify where they fit in God's plan.

Some realize they are more gifted to be part of a church starting team. Others realize they need more experience or education. Some sense that the time is now.

Jon Jackson, pastor of The City Church in Redford, has a vision to plant multiple churches in the inner-city Detroit area from the one he



JumpStart coaches and participants pray for Lester and Denise Lewis. (Photo by Beacon Staff)

Kingdom," Durbin said. "We hear moving stories of God's grace and guidance."

During the interviews, coaches have the opportunity to explore how equipped the participants currently are in the skill sets of successful church starters, exploring things with them like how they share their faith

sufficient information to develop the JumpStart Ministry Blueprint. This custom designed leadership development plan gives each potential church starter a guide to take the next steps in church starting. The Ministry Blueprint allows trained coaches to speak into their lives about their current church starting readiness,

See JUMPSTART on page 13

## For one church, bank robbery is answer to prayer

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
*Managing Editor*

SOUTHGATE — Sometimes, the answer to prayer comes in the least likely of ways.

This proved true for Calvary Baptist, Southgate, which had been trying to sell their building for over four years in order to move to a larger location.

"We were getting ready to give up because of the lack of interest in the building," said Dan Russell, Executive Pastor of Calvary Baptist. "We asked the Lord to show us what to do."

The next week, Russell made a trip to PNC Bank in Brownstown when the bank was robbed.

"I was doing my banking... and the guy next to me was robbing the bank," Russell recalled. "He got away quietly, but the bank was on lockdown and everyone, including

me, had to stay in order to be interviewed by the FBI."

While waiting, Russell talked with other witnesses to the robbery. One of them, he learned, was with an organization that was interested in their church building but was under the impression it had been taken off the market.

"Great, I'll bring it up at the board meeting tonight!" the woman responded when Russell informed her it was still for sale.

The woman was on the board of the organization and they had a board meeting that very night. She brought it up at the meeting and the organization toured the building three days later. They made an offer the week after that and the building sold.

"Talk about the providence of God!" Russell said. "The bank robber robbed four more banks but got caught and is in federal prison now. He may never know that God used

him to bring about the sale of our church building so we could move

forward and reach more people with the Gospel of Christ!" ■



Dan Russell, Executive Pastor of Calvary Baptist in Southgate, and others witnessed a bank robbery at PNC Bank in Brownstown. (Photo by Dan Russell)

# Colbert called as Interim State Church Starting Missionary

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

FENTON — Gerald Colbert has accepted the call to serve as the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's new Interim State Church Starting Missionary.

"We are very excited to have Gerald joining our team of missionaries in Michigan," said Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary for the convention. "Gerald brings a wealth of experience which will greatly increase our ability to effectively resource the vision of our existing congregations for starting churches."

Colbert started churches in Colorado and Michigan, and ultimately joined the Church Planting Group of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) for 12 years. After leaving NAMB in 2010, he served as a church planting consultant in Georgia and Colorado. His ministry experience also includes being the pastor of established churches for a decade.

"We have a heart for Michigan and the people of Michigan," Colbert said. "We have a passion for Michigan folks. I've got a wide variety of experiences in church planting."

Colbert sees his new role as an opportunity to help church starters formulate a process and plan in their endeavors, ensuring new potential church starters are the right fit for the role.

"There have been changes in the church planting process; there's a need for a called, God-equipped process," Colbert said. "Is it something they're called to do, wired to do?"

Colbert also has a good understanding of the challenges unique to Michigan that make it a different environment for church starters than other areas.

"I've talked to several people in other denominations; they refer to Michigan as a pastor's graveyard," Colbert said. "And that's dealing with established churches, not dealing with the compound factors of planting a church. Michigan is known as an extremely difficult place to do ministry."

"Michigan is a low resourced place. There are... a high number of lost people, but it's a tough place."

He has also found Baptists to be misunderstood in Michigan's secular culture. "We've got a terrible reputation as Southern Baptists," Colbert said. "Articles have been run in Detroit about Independent Baptists in the South doing snake handling. I've been asked several times, 'Do you handle snakes?' and they weren't being funny."

Years ago, Colbert worked with another Michigan pastor to study

church starts and the two determined that only a third of new church starts were operational after ten years. They found several consistent factors contributing to the demise of the churches.

Among those factors was the importance of the church starter and the core group.

"The first 20 people decide who the next 100 will be, if you have them," Colbert said. "If you don't have a strong core group, you're not going to reach others."

Strategy also proved to be an integral part of the process.

"When I ask church planters what their strategy will be, they [often] say, 'I'm going to start a church!'" Colbert said. "What that meant is I'm going to rent a facility, hang a sign, and start preaching. That means you and your spouse will be sitting there alone for six weeks."

"Why would someone drive past ten established churches to go to a school to hear you preach? Why would someone miss part of the Lions game to hear you preach? You've got to have a strategy!"

Colbert sees the church starting process as similar to franchising a business, with the church starter

functioning in a similar lead role.

"In the business world, we talk about entrepreneurs; in the spiritual world, church starters are the spiritual entrepreneurs," Colbert said. "We're looking for people who have the entrepreneurial spirit."

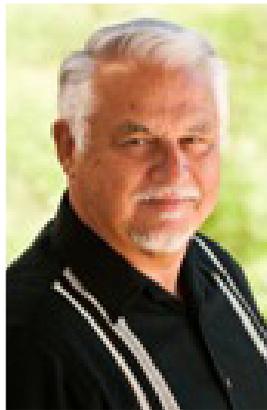
"What I've been doing the past 15 years is helping planters become entrepreneurs and being sure they're wired to be church planters. People with little or no theological training but an entrepreneurial spirit can plant a church pretty quickly."

Colbert sees several similar traits that translate well from the business world into church starting.

"You've got to be able to get out and network; you've got to be able to hustle, be a self-starter, relate to people so your witness doesn't come across as condemnation," Colbert said. "Sometimes it takes some adapting and adjusting to reach them. I'm helping planters and those who work with planters to learn those critical pieces."

He also sees Baptists across the state playing an integral role in these new churches.

"People really need to be praying intentionally for established churches — who they are and who God has called them to reach — and pray earnestly and intently for church planters and new churches and the people the established churches aren't going to reach." ■



Gerald Colbert  
(submitted photo)

## Audio Conference for Pastors features Michigan Pastors

BY BAPTIST BEACON STAFF

FENTON — Two Michigan pastors are the most recent guests on the Audio Conference for Pastors national podcast.

Ed Emmerling, pastor of Westside Baptist Church in Flushing, discusses "Community Evangelism in Flushing" in the Flint area.

Through numerous days of community service, the Westside congregation has seen evangelistic opportunities and seasons of service arise. Some of their growth has come as a direct result of these acts of service to their community.

In Hillsdale, Pastor Daniel Pann has led Hillsdale

Baptist Church to influence their county.

The Audio Conference on "Community Evangelism in the County Seat" recounts stories and practical illustrations of 21 years of serving their community. Their church has grown from averaging 19 to over 300 on a weekly basis.

Conferences with both Emmerling and Pann are the latest published at *AudioConferenceForPastors.com*. They can be streamed online, downloaded, or received by iTunes or RSS feed.

The Audio Conference for Pastors began in 2006 as a regular conference, but in a more controlled, intimate, online environment, like a radio talk show by teleconference.

The featured guest dis-

cusses ministry issues and



Pastor Ed Emmerling  
(Baptist Press photo)

practical solutions related to the conference topic with moderator and host, Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary and Executive Director for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

"Both pastors were great to have as conference guests," Gilstrap commented.

"They had great insight into effective evangelistic ministry in their context. Their wisdom will be a great resource for other Michigan church leaders."

The Audio Conference for Pastors provides training for staff or leadership with no travel hassles or high expenses — and no additional time out of the office.

Archived broadcasts include guests Johnny Hunt, Ed Stetzer, Roy Edgemon, Thom and Sam Rainer, Danny Akin, Shannon O'Dell, Terry Dorsett, and Eric Geiger.

Numerous topics have been previously covered related to conflict resolution, time management, revitalization of churches, rural ministry, developing leaders in small churches, launching a church, and more.



Pastor Daniel Pann  
(submitted photo)

Future conferences are planned on topics related to mobilizing the church in evangelism and missions, leadership development, and church starting.

The current and archived conference podcasts are available at *AudioConferenceForPastors.com*. ■

### THE BAPTIST BEACON

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## BOBBY'S BITS

## Reaching people, teaching leaders



**BOBBY GILSTRAP**  
Lead Missionary/  
Executive Director

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School (VBS) remains one of the most effective annual evangelistic activities among many Southern Baptist churches nationwide. All across our state, Michigan Baptist churches are conducting VBS as a way to reach their community. In addition, VBS isn't just a ministry to the children. VBS can be a bridge to reach entire families for Christ.

A few weeks ago, I was visiting Eastgate Baptist in Burton. Karen Howe shared her testimony of how she sent her young daughter to VBS. Through the faithful follow up of two VBS teachers, she and her daughter were invited to Sunday School and eventually came to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior. She now is a key leader in the hospitality ministry of the church. That is just one of hundreds of testimonies of a transformed life that was first touched through Vacation Bible School.

VBS is so much more than deco-

rations, fun games, and fruit drinks. Unchurched individuals and families can be reached with the gospel each summer through intentional evangelistic efforts of a church through VBS. Through Vacation Bible School, a church will see professions of faith and new church members of children, youth and adults. In addition, churches will establish long-term relationships with those families in its community.

### Church Equipping Conference

Our third year of our Church Equipping Conference (CEC) is rapidly approaching. Hundreds of Michigan Baptists are signing up in their churches. This premiere training event will provide 50+ unique and practical workshops for virtually every leader in your church. Register now for only \$10.00 per person until July 31, 2014. In fact, pastors can come "FREE with three" other leaders from their church. That's a great deal.

Added to this year's CEC schedule are the two 3-hour intensive workshops on Friday afternoon. For those who would like to arrive early, you can register at no additional cost for two outstanding 3-hour workshops on either legal issues or outreach. See more details on the CEC website at [ChurchEquippingConference.com](http://ChurchEquippingConference.com).

Don't miss the great opportunity to

attend this great equipping event with a vehicle load of leaders from your church.

### Cooperation

I pray that you are inspired by the cooperation of Michigan Baptists at home and abroad. There are tremendous stories of transformed lives in new churches, through leadership training and the mobilization of God's people in churches statewide. You are a part of every story as your church gives through the Cooperative Program.

To find resources about the Cooperative Program, go to [CPmissions.bscm.org](http://CPmissions.bscm.org). On that site, you will find videos, graphics, and articles that will help your church understand our cooperative efforts to reach our world for Christ.

If any of our missionaries can help you, please let us know. We want to "do whatever it takes" to resource the vision of your congregation for reaching your community for Christ. That's what it means to be your "Partner in Advancing God's Kingdom."



bobby\_gilstrap



BobbyGilstrap

## TENTMAKERS TODAY

## The importance of encouragement



**GEORGE FOUNTAIN**  
Bi-Vocational  
Ministry Consultant

"Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you." William Arthur Ward

I took this quote from the book, *Building Your Leadership Résumé*, by Dr. Johnny Hunt. He then entitles chapter 15, "Leaders Need Encouragement."

In this chapter Dr. Hunt states, "As leaders, we certainly cannot let others' opinions of us govern the way we feel about ourselves and our mission. But let's not be stoic enough to say that we are immune from needing encouragement. This is not a sign of weakness or a soft spot in our character. Sometimes we just need to be told that what we're doing

is good, that it's significant and that we're making a difference. Not a single thing wrong with that!"

He goes on to write, "Read the Apostle Paul's letters and you'll see that he was often thanking those in the churches for their encouragement and support of his ministry. Oh, he definitely knew how to shoulder persecution. He was no stranger to calls for his head and threats to his work. He bravely depended on God when things got tough. But Paul — that great leader of the early church — also depended on the reinforcements of his friends."

While Webster's definition of encourage is "to inspire with hope" I would submit it is more than that when we consider encouragement in scripture. It seems to me that to encourage is to "love and appreciate." I would submit that love is the motive and appreciation is the goal. It is more than shallow flattery and perhaps a tap on the back

usually accompanied with some few words. The Holy Spirit honors and empowers the sincere expression of "love and appreciation or encouragement."

Encouragement engages the heart and moves the soul. Encouragement strengthens one's resolve to continue in the journey regardless of the challenges.

Encouragement enables one to celebrate the experience of the past, enjoy the moment, and anticipate the coming of great things ahead. Encouragement will lift you to your feet, rinse your eyes and refocus your vision.

Encouragement will revive your spirit, bring new found strength into your body, and restore hope for continuing the journey. Encouragement will heal the wounded spirit, restore a broken heart, and push away pain with a fresh sense of God's presence, His care, and His peace.

Encouragement may be the most powerful expression and experience we can enjoy

as human beings. Encouragement can begin with "a word fitly spoken" and may proceed with an "act of generosity." Encouragement can be received in a moment and will be remembered for a life time.

There is no doubt; Timothy never forgot the encouragement of the Apostle Paul. Like Timothy, I too remember the encouragement of many over the years. As *Tentmakers Today* I believe encouragement is of vital importance and we all have many to thank for their love and appreciation.

As we continue in our own journeys let's be careful to "encourage one another". It's an investment in others and may be a channel of God's wonderful grace into all our lives. Certainly, He will be glorified and we will be blessed. ■



tentmaker 1320



Tentmaker 1320



TALKING  
POINTS

@kenleslie:

*If living according to Christian values was ever illegal or threatened our way of govt, I would still side with Christ every time.*

Ken Leslie

@thatJeffJohnson:

*Our actions point to what we believe is real... do our actions point to Jesus?*

Jeff Johnson

@secondhandfaith:

*Tamara Emmerling, 1967-2014, honoring the life of a Michigan pastor's wife who served faithfully in our hometown.*

Tony Lynn

@liese1000:

*One of the best things you can do for your kids is to LOVE AND TREASURE YOUR WIFE!*

Carlos Liese

@pastordwash:

*Some folks will go to a facility today and "do religion." A remnant of folks will enter the holy of holies and worship God.*

David Washington Jr.

@Kevin\_Hester:

*May we as Christians never become too busy doing "important church stuff" that we don't have time to connect with those in need!*

Kevin Hester

# Attitude is everything



**DAN RUSSELL**  
Regional Church  
Strengthening  
Mobilizer

*“You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges. He took the humble position*

*of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross.” - Philippians 2:5-8 (NLT)*

Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of Britain during World War II, said, “Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.” Albert Einstein, the famous physicist who formed the theory of general relativity said, “Weakness of attitude becomes weakness of character.”

So what kind of attitude should we have? A good one, obviously! A bad attitude is like a flat tire on your car: if you don’t fix it, you’re not going anywhere!

In the world around us, attitudes are often defined as either “good” or “bad” and “positive” or “negative” and can include having attitudes that

are kind or unkind, cooperative or uncooperative, or unifying or divisive. Millions of dollars are spent in the areas of business, education, and counseling in order to cultivate attitudes that promote teamwork, academic excellence, and mental health.

The dictionary definition of “attitude” is “a complex mental state involving beliefs and feelings and values and dispositions to act in certain ways.” But what is God’s definition of “attitude” in His Word, the Bible?

The word translated “attitude” in Philippians 2:5 is the Greek verb *phroneo*, which means “to think in a certain way”. We are told that we must think the way that Jesus did when He was on the earth. How did He think? Where can we find His attitude described in the Bible?

Beyond the words of Jesus in the Gospels, which give evidence of His attitudes told many things, we are given His precise “thinking processes” in the verses that follow Philippians 2:5. In fact, in the three verses that follow, namely verses 6, 7, and 8, we are given the three main attitudes of Christ. We would do well to study them, apply them, and live them out in our lives!

Philippians 2:6 says, “Though He was God, He did not think of equality

with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges.” This clearly shows Christ’s attitude of *selflessness*. He was selflessly willing to leave the glory of Heaven and His equal existence with God, the Father, to come to earth on a mission of mercy to save fallen humanity from the curse of sin.

Paul continues in Philippians 2:7, “He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being.” This is a wonderful example of Christ’s attitude of *servanthood*! He was willing to become a human being in order to “serve” human beings. This was the Master of the Universe becoming a slave to humanity for the purpose of dying for the sin that had enslaved each and every human being.

Philippians 2:8 says, “When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on the cross.” What an awful, yet beautiful, picture of *submissiveness* to the authority of another. Jesus obeyed the call of His Father to drink the cup of suffering and death in order to appease the wrath of God and pay the sin debt for all human beings.

Notice that from start to finish, from birth to death, throughout the entire existence of Jesus on the earth,

He exhibited these three attitudes. In His incarnation and birth, He showed us how to be *selfless*. In His life and ministry, He showed us how to be *servants*. And, in His suffering and death, He showed us how to be *submissive* to authority.

In the midst of the tremendous truth of this great sacrifice of Christ is the example to Christians of what kind of attitudes we are to have as we walk the same earth Jesus did. And as we apply the attitudes of Christ to our relationships with Him, our family, our friends, our employers, our parishioners, our pastors, and all those we relate to in this world, we will have the same attitude of Christ Jesus!

Who Jesus was (and is) can be who you are as you seek to be a selfless servant who is submissive to authority. This is what it means to allow Jesus to live through you! As you yield to Him and have these attitudes, your whole life can be transformed into the Christian He really wants you to be. So stop “trying” to do it on your own and simply start “trusting” Him to do it in you and through you through the transmission of His attitudes through you to those around you!

## A vision for the nations in Kentwood



**BRIAN MATTSO**  
Pastor, Remedy  
Church, Kentwood

If you seek the nations, look around you. Michiganders know that this is a play on their state motto, “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look around you.”

The nations have come here! This is especially true in Kentwood, where Remedy Church sits right in the middle of this melting pot of nationalities.

In Kentwood, we have over fifty different language groups scattered all around us. This makes Kentwood one

of the most ethnically diverse cities in Michigan!

Remedy Church consists of a group of 40-50 people. Although we are small in size we are not small in vision. We desire to see lives transformed.

This includes not only English-speaking people but people from all the language groups represented in Kentwood. We do not have a large budget for missions and our Cooperative Program dollars are minuscule in comparison to other congregations, but God has given us a vision for hands on ministry with these people groups. We might not be able to reach them all but we can reach some.

We seek to utilize what we already have in or-

der to reach the nations. Since we do not have lots of money (who does these days?) we have chosen to utilize the assets we do have.

For instance, we have two buildings. We have chosen to rent out one of those buildings to a Hispanic Southern Baptist Church who reaches out to non-Mexican Hispanics.

We have a van that we provide usage of to an African refugee church within our association. We have partnered with the Chin language group made up of Burmese immigrants.

See KENTWOOD on page 5

### 2014 Church Equipping Conference

#### Special Three-hour Intensive Workshops

**Friday, September 12, 3:00-6:00 pm**

Legal Issues Impacting Churches with David Gibbs, III

Church Outreach and Marketing with Phil Spry

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**Register on the CEC website or at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org).**

## KENTWOOD from page 4

Most recently we have partnered with and have witnessed the birth of another church made up of Burmese immigrants who speak the Zomi dialect.

Several months ago Donn Broeker, Church Starter Strategist for Region 2, approached me about the possibility of partnering with the Zomi people. He brought along Pastor David Pau with him for our first meeting together.

Pastor David has a heart to reach the Zomi people right here in Michigan. He has already started a Zomi Baptist Church in Battle Creek.

Pastor David shared with me how Zomi Baptist Church in Battle Creek wanted to start a Zomi church in Kentwood and wondered how we could help them. Remedy Church

decided to let the group meet in our current building on Sunday afternoons.

Pastor David worked very quickly to arrange everything. It had only been three months since our initial meeting together and Sunday, May 4 when the Zomi Baptist Church Grand Rapids was born. What an awesome day it was!

First, when Remedy Church dismissed we had a potluck together that consisted of pizza, fried chicken, and sandwiches. Baptists love to eat no matter the nationality.

Several people came from Battle Creek to help this new community get underway. All in all, there were about 150 people packed in our building that has a capacity of 110.

Once lunch was finished, we

gathered for music. It was loud and awesome! Their music leader was full of energy and you could see the passionate desire for Jesus the people had on their faces.

They were thrilled they had a place where they could all meet together. I am more convinced than ever that music is the ultimate translator.

Even though I know nothing of the Zomi language, I knew when they were singing the name of Jesus. I even recognized the tune of many familiar songs that we sing in our own church. While they were singing in Zomi, I sang in English and for a few moments we understood each other perfectly.

Pastor David wanted me to say a few words of encouragement to

this newly established church. As I looked out on the crowd and saw their eyes, I was offered more encouragement from them than I could ever give them.

I reminded them of the Apostle John's vision in Revelation where he saw every nation, tribe, and tongue praising Jesus and that we were experiencing a foretaste of that heavenly vision right now.

Indeed, in that moment, what we had in common was Jesus. Here in Michigan the nations are all around us and we can reach them with the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being willing to allow God to use what we already have for His glory. ■

# Bambi Lake men's retreats see success

BY AARON FISHELL

*Special to the Baptist Beacon*

135 men gathered at Bambi Lake March 7-8 for the third and final men's retreat of the season, and it seemed every attendee found something he was looking for.

The ample portions of food served by Bambi's kitchen were a hit, as were shakes and malts from the snack shop. Pastors and laymen alike gave messages that both challenged and encouraged.

Grown men played table tennis and foosball with the enthusiasm of children and slid down a hill on inner tubes with wild abandon. For many of the men, however, perhaps what was most important about their time at Bambi was the fellowship. They crammed more of this into 24 hours than seemed possible.

The attendance was the most this particular men's retreat has seen, while the first two retreats' numbers have been fluctuating or declining. Bambi manager Dan Kucharczyk said he thinks the reason for this is the price. The first two retreats go until Sunday and cost a little more while this third retreat ends Saturday and is more affordable for some men.

Bambi Lake is a collection of chalets, cabins, a dining hall/auditorium, and a lodge, built on the shores of the namesake lake and surrounded by 240 acres of serene northern Michigan forest. The camp lies four miles outside of downtown Roscommon and has been welcoming visitors since 1959.

Registration for the retreat began around 4 p.m. on Friday and most men trickled in between then

and dinner at 5:30. After getting registered some men settled into their cabins, chalets, or lodge rooms and awaited dinner while others got together in the rec room for some table tennis.

Dinner's main course was hearty-sized portions

not by all that much, as several men stayed up and fellowshiped well into the night.

Despite the long night for many of the men, most of them made it to breakfast before Saturday morning's first session at 8:30. Mr. Steve Halsell gave a testimony-laden message about addiction and the Veritas Band returned for more praise music.

After a small break, Pastor Jimmy Jones led the offering for Bambi and Coye Bouyer, pastor of The Kingdom Life Church in Lansing, preached about being a "kingdom man." Most of the retreat's messages were geared toward the all-male audience and Pastor

Bouyer's was no exception. He said each man is the pastor of his house and should hold himself as accountable as he does his church's pastor.

After Pastor Bouyer's message, the men scampered next door to the dining hall for bacon cheeseburgers and, for some, a last chance to get in a game of euchre.

After lunch, Pastor Pucik returned to finish his Winning the War Within message with "Part Two: The Way of Escape." This message was also centered on three questions: Why does God allow temptation? What makes temptation so hard? What must I learn to do in order to "escape" temptation?

After Pastor Pucik's final message, the retreat was officially over. Some men headed back home while others lingered on the grounds and enjoyed a little peace and quiet or bought some souvenirs in the gift shop. Judging by the response the men had to the camp and the retreat, it won't be surprising if next year's retreat sets another attendance record. ■



**Men gather to worship at the Men's Retreat at Bambi Lake, held March 7-8. (submitted photo)**

of meatloaf that the staff choose specifically for the men's retreat and said probably would not fly at other retreats.

Immediately following dinner was the retreat's first session in the auditorium adjacent to the dining hall. The Veritas Band, from Cedar Street Church in Holt, Mich., led the group in praise music and Arkansas pastor Don Pucik gave the evening's message entitled "Winning the War Within – Part 1: Temptation and the Devil." Pucik's message was centered on three questions: Who is the devil? How does the devil attack believers? How does Jesus enter into my struggle with the devil?

After the evening message, about 60 of the men gathered in the rec room for some more ping pong, four-man foosball and euchre, a card game popular during any free time at the retreat. A few men listened to an acoustic guitar player nestled by a cozy blaze in the fireplace while even more sat at tables talking and enjoying milkshakes from JB's Place. By midnight the crowd had thinned out, but

# Students take Jesus to Rio's 'Crack-land'

BY DON GRAHAM

*Baptist Press*

RIO DE JANEIRO (BP) — Locals know it as “Crack-land,” a run-down, crime-ridden neighborhood in the heart of Rio where addicts come to get their fix. Many never leave. Crack cocaine is the star attraction, and its victims line Crack-land’s streets. They’ve lost everything to the drug — jobs, homes, families, hope.

But on the outskirts of Crack-land sits a lone refuge inside an unassuming storefront that bears the name Cristolandia — “Christ-land” in Portuguese. It’s a ministry created by Brazilian Baptists to offer Crack-land’s residents one of the few things they can’t buy on the streets: freedom.

Cristolandia provides free meals, clothes, showers and clean beds to addicts, prostitutes and the homeless. If they’re ready, it also supplies them the practical help they need to escape their situation and start over. That transformation begins, said Cristolandia coordinator Exequias Cerqueira, with Jesus Christ. Every person who comes through Cristolandia’s doors hears the Gospel. More than 500 have left the streets during the ministry’s three-year existence. Even more have put their faith in Christ.

On this day, Cristolandia’s small staff — many of them former addicts — is getting some extra help. A team of 11 Southern Baptist college students and two student ministry leaders has come to Rio to share the Gospel during the FIFA World Cup June 12-July 13. On days between games when Rio’s Maracanã soccer stadium is empty, the students turn their evangelistic energies to local churches and ministries like Cristolandia.

Breakfast is first on the agenda. The students serve a meal of ham and cheese sandwiches to the more than 75 men and women who’ve filled Cristolandia’s second-floor cafeteria. Lee Dymond, who leads the student team and serves as campus minister at Auburn University at Montgomery (Ala.), presents the Gospel as they eat.

Afterward, the students split into teams of two to three and prepare to search Crack-land’s streets for others who need Cristolandia’s help. Each team is paired with a Brazilian Baptist partner who serves as their guide, translator and coworker. Before the teams depart, IMB missionary Eric Reese briefs them on what to expect. With active drug deals and prostitution going on around them, there’s real danger involved.

But those risks don’t seem to faze students like Nick Smirniotopoulos and Alison Myers. Smirniotopoulos, 21, graduated from Virginia Tech University in May. Myers, 22, is a senior at UAB in Birmingham, Ala.

After a few minutes’ walk, the pair approaches a young woman with huge scabs covering her shoulders and pink scars on her face. It’s obvious she’s been in some of kind of accident, or possibly is the victim of violence. Smirniotopoulos doesn’t know if she’s on drugs, but she looks thin and sick. He motions to his Brazilian Baptist partner, João Maciez, and they begin to share their faith.

“Jesus tells you that if you hear His voice and open the door, He will come in and dine with you,” Smirniotopoulos explains.

She listens for a few minutes, then turns suddenly and walks off. Not interested.

Next, the team approaches an older woman sitting on a metal vent less than 100 yards away. She is homeless: Her cardboard “mattress” sits at her feet; her toilet is a concrete wall adjacent to the vent. But as the team tells her about Cristolandia, she begins to yell. They patiently listen to her rant for more than 10 minutes, but it’s soon obvious she won’t listen to them. Smirniotopoulos is discouraged, but the team moves on.

Meanwhile, on another street in Crack-land, Dymond is experiencing what he calls the most difficult, most “emotionally draining” day of ministry in his life. Dymond and his Brazilian Baptist partners, pastor Carlos Alviso and translator Renata Da Costa, are sharing the Gospel with a prostitute standing in the doorway of a brothel. Dymond suspects she is selling herself for drug money, food or both. The brokenness is overwhelming. When she refuses an invitation to accept Christ, Dymond instead asks if he can pray for her.

“No, no, no!” she answers. “I’m not worth praying for.” But the worst was yet to come. Farther down the street Dymond’s team stops to speak with a drug addict lying in the middle of the sidewalk. He is unconscious, and surgical pins jut from his leg. The skin around the pins is black with infection. Tears fill Dymond’s eyes.

“This man was laying there like a discarded piece of trash,” he said, struggling to control the emotion in his voice. “I just got on my knees and

started praying.”

Dymond added that this kind of depravity isn’t unique to Crack-land.

“One of the things God keeps reminding me of is that this same brokenness is also back home in the U.S. We just know how to hide it better,” he said. “But we all have the same problem. We’re born with a wicked heart and sinful nature. Only Jesus can change that.”

Several blocks away, things are looking brighter for Myers and Smirniotopoulos. They’re sharing the Gospel with a young man named Gabriel who they found sleeping at a bus station. As Smirniotopoulos explains Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross, Myers prays silently.

“It was really eye-opening to see his hopelessness and how little he had,” she said. “I was just praying that the Lord would soften his heart and that we would be bold in our witness.”

When Smirniotopoulos finishes presenting the Gospel, it’s clear God has answered Myers’ prayer. Before the team can even ask, Gabriel tells them he wants Jesus in his life. Smirniotopoulos leads him through the sinner’s prayer, then offers to take him to Cristolandia. But Gabriel refuses, telling the team he isn’t ready to leave the streets.

Still, Smirniotopoulos feels hopeful.

“As Gabriel accepted Christ, the Holy Spirit came in him,” Smirniotopoulos said. “He looked changed. He had tears in his eyes. I got to tell him, ‘You are a different person; 2 Corinthians 5:17 says the old has passed away and the new has come. ... You’re my brother in Christ now.’”

After several hours on Crack-land’s streets, the student teams return to Cristolandia. They’re tired, but with the help of their Brazilian partners, they’ve shared the Gospel dozens of times and brought several addicts to the center for help.

“Some of these situations have been way out of my comfort zone, but it’s what I prayed for before coming here,” Myers said. “It’s definitely been rewarding, and most people have been more receptive to the Gospel than I ever thought that they would.”

The next day, the team will be at it again — this time sharing Christ with World Cup soccer fans at Rio’s Maracanã Stadium.

For ongoing coverage of the World Cup outreach, see the story package, “The Cross at the Cup,” at [commissionstories.com/americas](http://commissionstories.com/americas). Click here for daily postings of World Cup-related prayer requests.

To learn about global missions opportunities for students through IMB, go to [imbstudents.org](http://imbstudents.org).

Don Graham is an IMB senior writer. ■



**From right: Brazilian Baptist pastor Carlos Eduardo Mendes Alviso, translator Renata Nascimento Da Costa, Auburn University at Montgomery (Ala.) campus minister Lee Dymond and IMB missionary Eric Reese (background) pray over an HIV-positive couple living in Rio de Janeiro’s infamous “Crack-land” neighborhood. (Photo courtesy of IMB/Wilson Hunter.)**

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*WE are there*

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

**How CP Works**

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

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

# 'Yellow Card Strategy' shines for Christ on World Cup stage

BY ALAN BRANT

*Baptist Press*

RIO DE JANEIRO (BP) — With 64 soccer matches contested by 736 players on 32 teams in 12 cities, the month-long 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil is the most watched sporting event in the world.

In addition to the 1 billion people tuning in around the globe, an estimated 600,000 visitors are converging on Rio de Janeiro and the 11 other host cities in Brazil to watch and cheer for their country's team. Other visitors to Rio, however, have another goal in mind — sharing the message of Jesus Christ with those who have never heard the Gospel.

A team of 11 Southern Baptist college students and two student ministry leaders traveled to Rio de Janeiro for the World Cup as part of the International Mission Board's student mobilization efforts to partner with Brazilian Baptists in outreach during the world-famous soccer tournament. The students, their Brazilian co-workers and some IMB missionaries are spending two weeks witnessing in communities around Rio and evangelizing near the city's Maracanã stadium, where tens of thousands of fans attend World Cup matches twice a week during the June 12-July 13 competition.

## 'Yellow Card Strategy'

After arriving in Rio, the student volunteers spent time learning about a specialized witnessing technique developed by the Brazilian Baptist Home Mission Board. Diogo da Cunha Carvalho, coordinator of evangelistic strategies for Brazilian Baptists' domestic missions efforts, helped to develop the "Yellow Card Strategy" for Brazilian churches to use at a regional soccer competition in 2013.

In soccer, Carvalho explained, a yellow card is displayed by a referee as a warning or caution to a player regarding conduct that could lead to expulsion from the match (signified by a red card).

"It's a sign to the player that he is getting very close to severe consequence for his actions," Carvalho said. This visual understanding is the perfect direct approach for witnessing against the backdrop of a soccer match, he added.

Carvalho demonstrated the witnessing technique, which begins by approaching someone and raising a yellow card while blowing a whistle -- just like a soccer referee. This warning, though, is a message from God, the Baptist volunteer tells the person.

"In Brazil, probably 90 percent of the people will say 'yes' when asked if they want to hear the Gospel," Carvalho said. "With such an interest in the Word, we can take a direct approach like this yellow card."

After receiving permission to explain the message, the approach leads to a "goodness" test, Carvalho explained. Here, the presenter shows, through a series of questions, how all are sinners according to the Bible and fall short of being "a

good person." Then, the believer shares the reality of the Good News.

"We talk about the Law to emphasize the seriousness of sin, but now introduce the Good News through the act of love that God did for us," Carvalho said.

In a country such as Brazil with a history of religiousness, "at this point some may connect the phrase 'Jesus died for our sins,' but there's a disconnect between that phrase, their actual sinfulness and the 'I'm a good person' mentality," Carvalho told the Southern Baptist students. "They don't connect the giant statue of Jesus that stands over

At the stadium one day, Gordon and her partner approached a young man sitting alone.

"Ricardo was sitting by himself [and we] walked over to him and threw up the yellow card and blew the whistle," Gordon said. "He immediately threw up his hands and said 'What did I do? What did I do?'"

"That was the perfect reaction because we wanted him to have the idea that something was wrong," she said. "We told him it's not just what he has done, it's what all of us has done."

At first Ricardo said he was a good person, but recognized after the examples Gordon gave that

he was indeed guilty and deserving of penalty and hell. He admitted he had a faith background as a child, but discarded it to enjoy his own lifestyle of fun and partying.

"This concerns me very much," Ricardo said through the translator.

Gordon and her evangelism partner Jordan O'Donnell, a student at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, explained to Ricardo "that giving our lives to God is not like going to prison; it's not bondage, but freedom," Gordon recounted. "We shared that we are not bound to sin anymore and life with God is better than the world."

"We continued to share but our translator interrupted us and said, 'He's ready to accept Christ!'" Gordon said. "We prayed with him and he said 'I feel free now.' The cool thing about this whole

exchange is that Ricardo is from Lima, Peru. God blessed our [Portuguese-speaking] interpreter with enough Spanish to communicate the Gospel clearly."

James Dubuisson, a student at the University of North Alabama in Florence and youth minister at First Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg, Tenn., admitted he had some apprehension to the direct approach of witnessing.

"I was skeptical of the methods we're using here because I'm more comfortable building a relationship with someone and then sharing the Gospel," he said. "But coming up to someone on the street and saying, 'You need to know about Jesus' is new to me. God has been challenging me a lot."

Dubuisson said it was a great feeling to approach the first person and find him receptive to the Gospel. "When we were leaving, they said it was the best thing that ever had happened to them," he said.

For the ones who did not accept Christ following their conversation, Dubuisson said, "I pray that God continues to work through the seeds we've planted here."

For ongoing coverage of the World Cup outreach, see the story package, "The Cross at the Cup," at [commissionstories.com/americas](http://commissionstories.com/americas). To learn about global missions opportunities for students through the International Mission Board, go to [imbstudents.org](http://imbstudents.org).

Alan Brant is a freelance writer and editor in Texas. ■



Student volunteers share the Gospel with Argentine soccer fans in front of Rio de Janeiro's national stadium before a World Cup match between Argentina and Bosnia-Herzegovina as a bystander walks through the crowd, carrying a banner proclaiming Jesus. (Photo courtesy of IMB/Wilson Hunter.)

Rio with what Jesus did for them on the cross — that He came to die and He rose again to defeat death for their freedom."

On game days in Rio, the collegiate team divides into groups of two or three, along with a translator. The teams then fan out around the outside of Brazil's national stadium, which is thick with celebrating fans even hours before the stadium opens.

Lee Dymond, campus minister at Auburn University at Montgomery (Ala.) and leader of the collegiate group, said the students "who are here on our team have a heart for evangelism and a heart for the Gospel. There [are] very few times in history where so many people from so many different places come together. We get an opportunity to be right here with them and we get an opportunity to share the Gospel with as many as we can."

Bekah Gordon, co-leader of the collegiate trip, said the atmosphere was exactly what she had hoped.

"It's the World Cup!" said Gordon, who had served with Dymond at Auburn-Montgomery as a semester missionary through the North American Mission Board. "I grew up playing soccer, and I'm now a soccer coach in Montgomery. To be able to combine two of my greatest loves — the Gospel and soccer — is awesome."

According to Gordon, evangelizing with the yellow card approach "is really unique because you've got a lot of soccer fans who know exactly what it means."

# SBC votes for Floyd, prays for revival and restoration

BY DAVID ROACH  
*Baptist Press*

BALTIMORE (BP) — Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention elected Arkansas pastor Ronnie Floyd as president and heard repeated calls for prayer and revival — highlighted by outgoing President Fred Luter’s presidential sermon.

Messengers also gave the first of two required approvals to an amendment of the SBC constitution, requested information about a Muslim student who was admitted to Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and heard Executive Committee President Frank S. Page call for a “Great Commission Advance” in SBC missions.

The June 10-11 convention’s 5,294 messengers marked an increase from 5,103 in Houston last year. Virginia had more messengers than any other state at the Baltimore convention with 497. Maryland was second with 429.

## Floyd elected

Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, was elected on the first ballot with 51.62 percent of the vote. Maryland pastor Dennis Manpoong Kim received 40.70 percent of the vote while Kentucky pastor Jared Moore received 5.91 percent.

“I want to see revival come to the church of Jesus Christ,” Floyd said at a news conference following his election, “so that America would be awakened with a powerful God consciousness where great numbers come to faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior.”

## Luter sermon

Preaching from Psalm 80:18-19, the passage for this year’s “Restoration and Revival through Prayer” theme, Luter said Southern Baptists must repent of their failure to share the Gospel with lost men and women.

“As your president for the past two years, my heart’s desire has been that God would make us one and that God would send revival and renewal through the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention,” Luter, the SBC’s first African American president, said.

“Brothers and sisters, the only way that will happen in this nation, the only way that will happen in this convention, the only way that will happen in our churches is if the people of God cry out to God in prayer, if there is genuine repentance, if there is genuine remorse, and if we call on the name which is above every name,” Luter said.

## Article III

The proposed amendment to Article III of the SBC Constitution would grant two messengers to the annual meeting for each cooperating church that contributed to convention causes during the preceding fiscal year. A church would qualify for additional messengers through one of two avenues:

- A church would receive one additional messenger for each full percent of its undesignated receipts given through the Cooperative Program, as a designated gift through the Executive Committee for convention causes or to any SBC entity.
- A church would receive one additional messenger for each \$6,000 given during the preceding fiscal year through CP, as a designated gift to the EC for convention causes or to any SBC entity.

The \$6,000 figure was selected by adjusting the present figure of \$250 — adopted in 1888 — for inflation and other factors. To become final, the amendment must be approved again at next year’s annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio.

## Page address

Page told messengers about a strategy for world

evangelism and discipleship called Great Commission Advance. A key component of the strategy is CP, Page said. He reported that the Executive Committee will soon reduce its CP allocation for the third time during his tenure as president in order to send more money to Southern Baptist ministries at home and abroad.

“I’ll drop the Cooperative Program if you can show me something else that long-term is effective and engages every church concurrently and consistently in an Acts 1:8 strategy,” Page said. “Show it to me, and I’ll support it.... But I haven’t found it yet.”

Page said the average CP gift among Southern Baptist churches rose for the first time in two decades to 5.50 percent.

## Resolutions

The convention adopted nine resolutions on topics ranging from transgender identity to payday lending, church revitalization, global hunger relief, the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and casinos and lotteries.

The resolution on transgender identity affirmed “God’s good design that gender identity is determined by biological sex and not by one’s self-perception.” The resolution invited transgender persons “to trust in Christ and to experience renewal in the Gospel” and opposed all efforts to “validate transgender identity as morally praiseworthy.”

## ERLC awards

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission presented awards to the Green family, which owns Hobby Lobby, and Saeed Abedini, an American pastor who is imprisoned in Iran for his Christian faith.

The Greens received the John Leland Religious Liberty Award for their refusal to abide by the federal government’s abortion/contraception mandate, which requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs to their workers. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the Greens’ case later this month.

ERLC President Russell D. Moore said the Greens “believe that every human life from the moment of conception is sacred, and they believe

that the government is not the Lord of their consciences.” Messengers gave the Greens a standing ovation.

Abedini received the Richard Land Award for Distinguished Service for “faithfully serving the Lord Jesus Christ ... despite the risk involved.” Abedini converted to Christianity from Islam and led house churches in his native Iran before moving to the U.S. in 2005. During a trip to Iran in 2012, he was arrested and sent to prison, subject to beatings and solitary confinement. Abedini’s wife Naghmeh accepted the award on her husband’s behalf to a standing ovation.

## SWBTS Muslim student

On two occasions messengers addressed the recent decision of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson to admit a Muslim student, contrary to the seminary’s admission policy of admitting only Christians. During Patterson’s report to the convention, a messenger requested a “straight-forward explanation” of the decision.

In response, Patterson apologized to the convention, saying, “I made an exception to a rule that I assumed, probably wrongly, the president has a right to make.” The student is not funded by CP money and is “very open to the Gospel,” Patterson said.

The decision to violate admission policy was motivated in part by a desire to win the student to Jesus, Patterson said. He said he will tell God on judgment day: “I violated a policy but I didn’t want to stand before You with blood on my hands. Dear God, I did the best that I knew how.”

Steve James, chairman of Southwestern’s board of trustees, told messengers that trustees will discuss concerns about the Muslim student’s admission at meetings in September and October. James requested prayer for Patterson and the seminary.

Earlier a messenger moved that Southwestern be required to explain its decision regarding the Muslim student. The motion was ruled out of order because it directed an entity rather than requesting

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Southern Baptists reflected on and bantered various topics -- that included numerous challenges of the 21st Century -- at the Cooperative Program exhibit during their annual meeting in Baltimore June 10-11. Panelists in the background include Jonathan Akin, Edgar Aponte, Rhyne Putman and Steven Smith. (Photo by Bill Bangham)

# Panelists debate theology, agree on evangelism

BY BOB SMIETANA  
*LifeWay*

BALTIMORE (BP) — Participants in a panel discussion held during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Baltimore shared their disagreements concerning theology and evangelism, but agreed about the urgency to evangelize.

The breakfast meeting was sponsored by The Gospel Project, a LifeWay curriculum series, and drew more than 500 people for an honest and spirited discussion about how differing views of salvation impact the way Christians do ministry and mission.

Ed Stetzer, general editor of The Gospel Project, hosted the panel discussion on soteriology entitled “Salvation and the Mission of God.”

He started the conversation by asking Frank Page, president and CEO of the SBC Executive Committee, about his book, “The Trouble with the TULIP,” which warns that too much Calvinism is bad for evangelism.

Page said he especially worries about the concept of “irresistible

grace,” the idea that God compels some people to accept the Gospel. Taken to an extreme, Page said, that concept could lead Christians to believe that sharing Christ doesn’t matter.

“I do believe there is an extremism that kills passion for evangelism,” he said at the June 10 meeting.

During the discussion, Page was asked if the rise of Calvinism among Southern Baptists was to blame for the ongoing decline in baptisms. Page said no. Instead, he said, Baptists of all theological stripes seem to have less enthusiasm for sharing the Gospel.

He pointed to the Crossover Baltimore event, an evangelistic outreach held on June 8, before the SBC annual meeting. Page said he watched to see how many of his Calvinist and non-Calvinist friends would participate. Few did, he said.

“I am seeing a lessening of evangelistic passion across the board,” he said. Trevin Wax, managing editor of The Gospel Project, agreed.

Wax said many non-Calvinist Christians practice what he called a “fuzzy inclusivism” by acting as

if evangelism isn’t an urgent matter. That can be as problematic as extreme Calvinism, he said. “The result of both those trajectories is no evangelism,” he said.

Panel members didn’t shy away from discussing other hot-button issues. David Platt, senior pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., explained his concerns about the use of the “sinner’s prayer” in evangelism. Platt said the Gospel calls people to repent and believe in Christ. But he voiced concern about reducing salvation to a formula.

Platt said he doesn’t simply proclaim the Gospel in sermons and then watch and see what happens in a passive way. “We are not presenting, preaching and sharing the Gospel if there is not a pleading to respond in faith,” he said. “This is not for information. There is persuasion, there is pleading here.”

Despite the weighty topics, panel members laughed together as they talked, and gave each other some good-natured teasing.

Having healthy conversations about theological differences is important, Stetzer said.

“We can all come in here and say, ‘hey we all love each other,’ but there are issues we need to discuss.”

While addressing how God’s sovereignty intersects with human free will, Page told the panel he believes human beings can thwart parts of God’s will, especially when

it comes to evangelism. There are consequences, he said, when Christians don’t share the Good News. “I believe there are people in hell today who should not be in hell,” he said.

Platt disagreed, instead stressing the sovereignty of God. “There’s no question — God loves the whole world ... at the same time, not everybody is saved,” Platt said.

Wax said panel members were “wrestling with the biblical tension” over doctrines about God’s sovereignty and free will. “We are trying to put together what we mean when we say God is in control and humans are responsible,” he said.

Wax added that his belief in God’s sovereignty makes it easier to evangelize. Sometimes Christians share the Good News out of guilt, he said, or feel entirely responsible for the success or failure of their evangelism. “It’s freeing when you realize the power is not in the presentation and packaging — the power is in the Gospel itself,” he said.

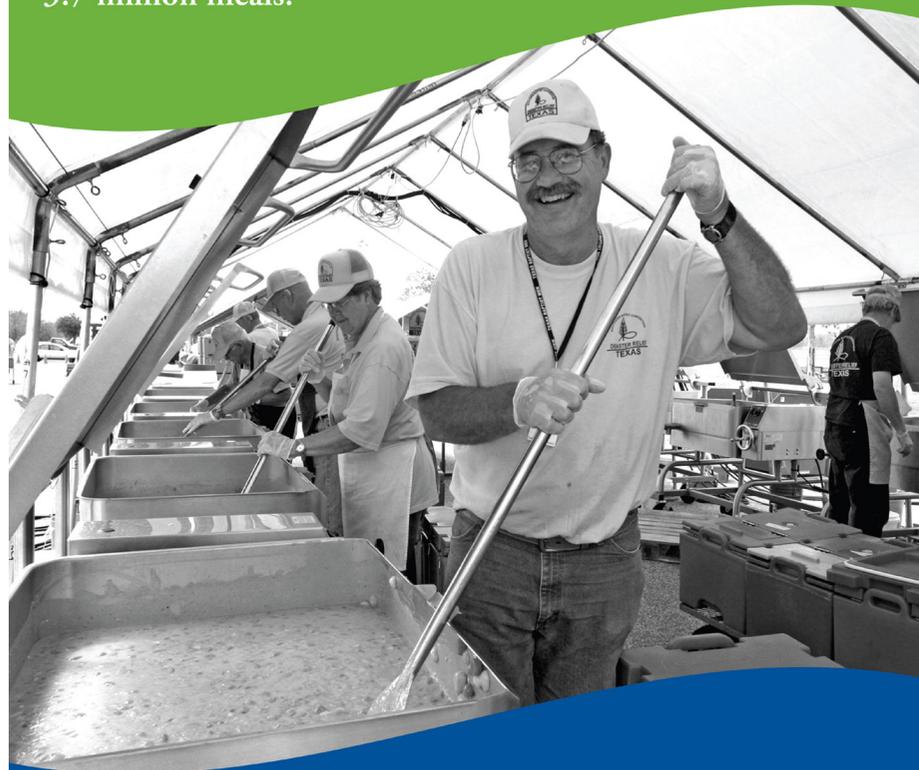
Page emphasized that panel members have compatible but not identical theological views, which means they can cooperate in ministry, even if they don’t always see eye to eye.

One thing they all agreed on is a need for urgency in sharing the Gospel. “At the end of the day, will you come witnessing with me?” Page said.

*Bob Smietana is senior writer for LifeWay’s “Facts & Trends” magazine. ■*

## 30=3.7

In the 30 days following Hurricanes Ike and Gustav, Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers prepared 3.7 million meals.



### EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

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## ANNUAL MEETING from page 8

an action.

### Other matters

- Messengers elected Clint Pressley, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., as first vice president and Hance Dilbeck, pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church in Oklahoma City as second vice president. The convention re-elected John Yeats as recording secretary and Jim Wells as registration secretary.
- The Crossover evangelistic push in Baltimore preceding the annual meeting yielded 214 salvation decisions. More than 2,300 volunteers participated in Crossover in partnership with 32 local churches.
- The CP exhibit featured a series of panel discussions projected on high-definition screens in the exhibit hall and streamed on the Internet. Nearly 125 panelists addressed such topics as Southern Baptist cooperation, international missions, church planting theological education, ethnic diversity, social justice and sexuality.
- The International Mission Board presentation focused on God’s work in Cuba and featured testimonies from Cuban believers. The North American Mission board presentation highlighted a Baltimore church revitalization effort and a church plant in Montreal that grew to 700 worshipers in its first year.
- Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary President Jeff Iorg told messengers that the seminary plans to announce the site of its new Southern California main campus later this summer.
- Messengers proposed 17 motions, six of which were referred to SBC entities for consideration. A motion asking churches to “pray passionately and regularly for persecuted Christians” was adopted by unanimous consent. Ten motions were ruled out of order. ■

# First-Person: Hobby Lobby, going forward



ED STETZER  
LifeWay

NASHVILLE (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has given the Obama administration — and hopefully the world — a lesson in the first freedom: The government cannot, and must not, require people of faith to violate their sincerely-held beliefs.

The June 30 ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood Specialties underscores religious liberty as our “first freedom.” The freedom to exercise religion, enshrined in our Constitution’s Bill of Rights, is the freedom from which all of our other freedoms flow.

This decision concerns only the contraceptive mandate in Obamacare and should not be understood to mean that all insurance mandates, such as blood transfusions or vaccinations, necessarily fail if they conflict with an employer’s religious beliefs.

A LifeWay Research study in November 2012, however, showed that most Americans supported mandatory contraception coverage through Obamacare. In other words, the Supreme Court has seen a religious freedom issue where Americans do not; the majority of Americans are on the other side of Hobby Lobby ruling.

Perhaps it is helpful to note that this isn’t simply a “freedom to worship” issue; it is a “freedom of religion” issue. It has become quite common to hear the debate framed in terms of “freedom to worship,” a subtle but not inconsequential change in the DNA of “freedom of religion” protected in our Constitution. Religion (faith) belongs to every sphere of life, rather than a singular identifiable activity engaged or performed in a limited portion of life.

Earlier this year, a Pew Research study showed the U.S. government is increasingly hostile to religious liberty in this country. It is not persecution, but it is an encroachment of religious freedom. And, in spite of the media’s (and some progressive Christians’) dismissal of the issue, our LifeWay Research study showed the majority of Americans and the vast majority of its Protestant pastors believe religious liberty is on the decline.

So, where do we go from here? I suggest four things to consider.

## 1. Understand the shift in our culture.

The subtle loss of religious liberty in this country is connected to a broader, deeper issue in our society. If there’s anything we should take away from the Supreme Court ruling it is this: The ruling simply does not match the will of the people in the United States. Most Americans are not as passionate about the religious liberty issue (when connected to contraception, even abortifacient contraception) as most evangelicals and conservative Catholics. Thankfully, the Supreme Court is showing more concern about the potential loss of religious freedom than the average American (and some evangelicals).

## 2. Pray for rulers and those in authority.

Did you pray for the Supreme Court in this case? Did you pray for the President? Or did you just post your opinion on Facebook? The Bible commands the former and does not mention the latter.

Let’s pray for our Supreme Court members as they continue to wrestle through complicated issues of ethics and morality. Let’s pray they continue to defend our freedoms enshrined in the Constitution. Let’s pray for President Obama and his administration that they will embrace the cause

of religious liberty for all Americans, including evangelicals like the Green family, Hobby Lobby’s founders. Let’s pray for our neighbors and friends who do not yet know Jesus, that the ruling will prompt discussion about morality and its source, the Jesus of the Bible.

## 3. Engage in mission.

We continue to have the opportunity to impact our culture as agents of God’s Kingdom. Even though we don’t have the cultural influence we once enjoyed, we are free to influence through the proclamation and power of the Gospel.

The answer to the decline of religious freedom and the change in the moral climate is not found in waging incessant cultural wars filled with rage at our changing culture. Simply put, you can’t hate a people and reach a people at the same time.

The biggest problem with our secular neighbors and co-workers isn’t that they don’t share our biblically-grounded morality. It’s that they have not yet experienced the grace and love of Jesus in saving faith.

Let’s live on mission so they might.

## 4. Use the freedom we have.

It’s easy to lose sight of the big picture -- we still have great freedom here while Christians around the world are being killed for converting. Our freedom is eroding, but it’s still enormous. Let’s live like it.

Let’s live like resurrection people, adorning the Gospel with lives of grace. Even in our passion to defend freedoms increasingly at risk, let’s remind ourselves this generation is desperately in need of the love of Christ, lived and shared.

*Ed Stetzer is executive director of LifeWay Research. This Baptist Press article is adapted from his blog at [www.EdStetzer.com](http://www.EdStetzer.com).* ■

## After Hobby Lobby ruling, leaders rally around RFRA

BY GREGORY TOMLIN

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) — A diverse coalition of church and synagogue leaders has penned a letter to congressional leaders asking them to renew support for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Citing the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, and other leaders from around the country expressed concern that the 1993 law guaranteeing religious rights from overt government intrusion may soon come under attack because of its role in the June 30 landmark case.

In the letter addressed to Speaker of the House John Boehner, R.-Ohio, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D.-Calif., Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D.-Nev., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R.-Ky., the signatories asked congressional leaders to stand firm against efforts to “amend or repeal RFRA, one of our nation’s most vital legal protections for the religious freedom and rights of conscience of every person of every faith.”

“Changing RFRA because some disagree with one particular application of the law would set a dark precedent by undermining the fundamental principle of religious freedom for all, even for those whose religious beliefs may be unpopular at the moment. Congress has never passed legislation with the specific purpose of reducing Americans’ religious freedom. It should not consider doing so now,” the letter reads.

The Supreme Court, in its ruling in favor of Hobby Lobby, Mardel and Conestoga Wood Specialties, held that RFRA allows “closely-held”

or family owned companies to establish administrative policies and business practices in line with their religious convictions.

In this case, those beliefs caused the Green and Hahn families, owners of the three businesses, to resist federal mandates in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to provide abortion-inducing contraceptives in their health insurance plans. Justice Samuel Alito, who wrote the opinion for the majority, noted this is precisely the scenario for which RFRA was designed.

In RFRA, Congress provided protection for people like the defendants “by employing a familiar legal fiction: It included corporations within RFRA’s definition of ‘persons,’” Alito wrote. “But it is important to keep in mind that the purpose of this fiction is to provide protection for human beings. A corporation is simply a form of organization used by human beings to achieve desired ends.”

Alito noted, “When rights, whether constitutional or statutory, are extended to corporations, the purpose is to protect the rights of these people.”

Protecting the free-exercise rights of corpora-

tions like Hobby Lobby, Conestoga and Mardel “protects the religious liberty of the humans who own and control those companies,” Alito wrote.

According to the letter from religious lead-

ers, the nation’s high court rightly affirmed that all Americans — including family business owners — are guaranteed religious liberty as they live and, importantly, work.

“When President Clinton signed RFRA into law over twenty years ago, he finalized the work of overwhelming bipartisan majori-

ties in the United States House and Senate. Only three Members of Congress voted against RFRA. Not one of Congress’s 535 Members suggested that this landmark new law would not protect a person’s free exercise of religion if she chose to provide for herself, her family, and her employees by starting a business,” the letter stated.

“In the United States, freedom of religion has always included -- and should always include -- the right to live out one’s religion and act according to one’s conscience outside the walls of one’s house of worship. Every single day, millions of Americans are motivated by their faith to go and



# Court protects free speech of pro-lifers

By TOM STRODE

*Baptist Press*

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has delivered a unanimous and encouraging victory for the free-speech rights of peaceful pro-life advocates outside abortion clinics.

The high court struck down Thursday (June 26) a Massachusetts law mandating a 35-foot buffer zone around abortion center entrances and driveways in which pro-life activity was barred. In their 9-0 decision, the justices ruled the 2007 law violated the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, thereby reversing a federal appeals court opinion.

The opinion came on what is apparently the Supreme Court's next-to-last day to issue opinions in this term. The justices are scheduled to release their final decisions June 30, when it is expected to announce its much-anticipated ruling in Hobby Lobby's challenge of the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate. That regulation requires employers to provide for their workers drugs and devices that potentially can cause abortions.

In the court's opinion June 26, Chief Justice John Roberts said Massachusetts took "the extreme step of closing a substantial portion of a traditional public forum to all speakers" in enacting the buffer zones. The law — which was a wide ban on entrance into the zones with exceptions for specified groups, such as abortion clinic employees — "imposed serious burdens" on the speech of pro-lifers, he wrote.

For pro-life leaders, the unanimous ruling signaled that even justices who support abortion rights agree the free speech of sidewalk counselors and others seeking to help women in crisis pregnancies is constitutionally protected. It also appears to thwart ideas other states might entertain of instituting clinic buffer zones like those that resulted from the Massachusetts law.

Russell D. Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), described the ruling as "a good decision," adding he was "cheered that it was a unanimous decision."

"I'm thankful for the Supreme Court doing the right thing, recognizing freedom of speech and freedom of dissent," Moore said in a written statement. "Those of us who are pro-life have consti-

tutional guarantees embedded in the First Amendment, along with everyone else."

Mark Rienzi — who argued in January before the justices on behalf of Eleanor McCullen, a grandmother who does sidewalk counseling in Boston — said the court's opinion "has affirmed a critical freedom that has been an essential part of American life since the nation's founding."

"Americans have the freedom to talk to whomever they please on public sidewalks," Rienzi, who is allied with the Alliance Defending Freedom, said in a written release. "That includes peaceful pro-lifers like Eleanor McCullen, who just wants to offer information and help to women who would like it."

Shawn Carney, campaign director of 40 Days for Life, said the decision should encourage his organization's efforts in Massachusetts. Its campaigns focus on peaceful prayer vigils outside abortion facilities and have resulted in reports of nearly 9,000 unborn children being spared from abortion and about 100 clinic workers leaving their jobs.

The risk produced by the Massachusetts law "has not only reduced the number of campaigns in Massachusetts but also reduced the number of volunteers participating at the locations where vigils were held," Carney said in a written statement.

"We are hopeful that the chilling effect this law has had — not only in Massachusetts but also in other areas where such legislation has been proposed — will quickly begin to thaw in the wake of" the decision, he said.

Meanwhile, abortion rights advocates decried the Supreme Court's opinion.

The National Abortion Federation called it "an incredibly disappointing ruling."

Martha Coakley, attorney general of Massachusetts, said, "We are not going to give up our fight to make sure women have safe access to reproductive health care." Coakley said she would work with the governor and legislature "to explore additional legislative tools that also meet the court's requirements.

The high court refused to go as far in its opinion as pro-life advocates desired. The justices failed to reverse their 2000 opinion upholding a Colorado law that established a 100-foot zone around abortion clinic entrances. Inside that zone, a pro-lifer needs permission in order to get within eight feet of a person to counsel or distribute a

handout.

The ERLC joined in a brief by the Christian Legal Society that not only urged the Supreme Court to strike down the Massachusetts law but rescind its 2000 ruling.

The Supreme Court also rejected in its opinion the assertion by some justices the law was "viewpoint based." Associate Justice Antonin Scalia agreed with the court's judgment but disagreed sharply with its reasoning in refusing to go further in its decision.

"Today's opinion carries forward this Court's practice of giving abortion-rights advocates a pass when it comes to suppressing the free-speech rights of their opponents," wrote Scalia, who was joined by Associate Justices Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas in his concurring opinion. "There is an entirely separate, abridged edition of the First Amendment applicable to speech against abortion."

The law is "unconstitutional root and branch and cannot be saved," Scalia said.

Associate Justice Samuel Alito wrote a concurring opinion also disagreeing with part of the court's reasoning.

For the court, however, Roberts said the buffer zones serve "legitimate interests" by Massachusetts in preserving public safety and access to abortion facilities. Massachusetts, which instituted a type of abortion clinic buffer zone that is unique among the states, could have attempted other means to promote its interests, the chief justice wrote.

"[T]he Commonwealth has too readily forgone options that could serve its interests just as well, without substantially burdening the kind of speech in which petitioners wish to engage," Roberts wrote.

"In short, the Commonwealth has not shown that it seriously undertook to address the problem with less intrusive tools readily available to it," he said. "Nor has it shown that it considered different methods that other jurisdictions have found effective."

The Obama administration's Justice Department sided with Massachusetts before the Supreme Court in defense of the buffer zones.

The court's opinion came in *McCullen v. Coakley*.

*Tom Strode is the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press. ■*

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Church Information Packets

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

### Did You Know?

You Can Submit your items for publication to the Baptist Beacon by emailing [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org) by the 5th of each month for publication in the next issue

### Two bi-vocational ministers needed

Hilton Oaks Baptist Church, Ferndale is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. The right pastor must be a man of God, must love God's Word, and must have a heart of compassion for all God's people.

Hilton Oaks is also searching for a bi-vocational youth pastor. The church is looking for someone who loves God and His Word and who has compassion for teenagers and their families.

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

# HOBBY LOBBY

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serve the neediest among us. The good works of these individuals of faith can be seen in soup kitchens, hospitals, schools, hospices -- and, yes, family-owned businesses.

"For over two decades, RFRA has protected Americans of all faiths from government coercion. Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, and others all benefit when powerful government officials know that, as President Bill Clinton stated when he signed RFRA, government must meet 'a very high level of proof before it interferes with someone's free exercise of religion.'"

Moore, in a conference call with reporters June 30, said Alito's use of the RFRA in the Supreme Court ruling was a "rebuttal" that had "knocked back any objections in the strongest terms."

"Christians should see this as not just a win for Christians. The Greens [owners of Hobby Lobby and Mardel] are Baptists and the Hahns [Conestoga's owners] are Mennonites. But this is a win for religious liberty for all people," Moore said. "A government that can pave over the consciences of the Greens and the Hahns is a government that can do anything."

Moore also told reporters that religious liberty should be "absolutely non-controversial in America," but he admitted that two different visions of religious liberty are in play in the country. One of those was expressed by Alito in his opinion for the court's majority. The other was expressed by the White House following the ruling.

Press Secretary Josh Earnest said in a White House press briefing that

the president believes in religious liberty but doesn't believe the owners of for-profit companies should be "allowed to assert their personal religious views to deny their employees federally mandated benefits."

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi also said in a statement following the court's decision that the ruling will "immediately affect the lives of millions of women across the country" because of the language Alito used in the ruling. She also said not providing abortion-inducing drugs to employees violated the "religious rights" of workers.

"Over 90 percent of the America's businesses are 'closely-held,' including such large employers as Koch Industries and Bechtel," Pelosi said in her statement. "Women should not be forced to jump through extra hoops to secure the fundamental health care they need. Allowing employers and CEOs to limit the health care available to employees is a gross violation of their workers' religious rights. It's just not her boss's business."

The Supreme Court's ruling in the Hobby Lobby case is already having an impact in the lower courts, where nearly 100 cases challenging the contraceptive mandate of the ACA/Obamacare are in play.

Several religious organizations, including the Eternal Word Television Network and five Catholic institutions in Wyoming, all of which were scheduled to pay IRS fines July 1 for not complying with federal mandates for abortion-inducing contraceptives, were granted "emergency relief" immediately following the Hobby Lobby decision, according to the Becket Fund for Religious

Liberty.

In a press release, the Becket Fund said organizations like Eternal Word "can now freely practice what they preach."

"The death knell is sounding for the HHS Mandate," Lori Windham, senior counsel at the Becket Fund and counsel for Eternal Word, said in the statement. "The ruling in Hobby Lobby and then these two rulings in quick succession show that the HHS Mandate is on its last legs when it comes to religious non-profits. The sad part is that it has taken almost three years of litigation to get to a result the administration should have supported in the first place because it is the right thing to do. Government shouldn't be in the business of forcing nuns to violate their religious convictions."

The five Wyoming Catholic entities provided emergency relief are the Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne, Catholic Charities of Wyoming, St. Joseph's Children's Home, St. Anthony Tri-Parish Catholic School, and Wyoming Catholic College, according to the statement from the Becket Fund.

The Supreme Court also issued a temporary injunction protecting Wheaton College while it appeals the government's ACA contraceptive mandate.

Burwell v. Hobby Lobby is not the first major defeat for the Obama administration with respect to religious liberty. In 2012, the administration lost in Hosana-Tabor v. Equal Opportunity Employment Commission. In that case, the administration attempted to determine what the qualifications were for a minister

within a religious organization. The Supreme Court ruled it could not interfere in employment cases decided upon religious grounds.

In addition to Moore of the ERLC, signatories to the letter to congressional leaders asking for renewed protection of the 1993 RFRA included:

- Matthew C. Harrison, president, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
- Rabbi Leonard Matanky, president, and Rabbi Mark Dratch, executive vice president, The Rabbinical Council of America
- Joseph E. Kurtz, archbishop of Louisville and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Charles E. Blake Sr., presiding bishop, Church of God in Christ
- Gary E. Stevenson, presiding bishop, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- George O. Wood, general superintendent, Assemblies of God, USA
- Nathan J. Diament, executive director for public policy, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America
- Dwayne O. Leslie, director of legislative affairs, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- L. Roy Taylor, stated clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America

Gregory Tomlin is a writer based in Fort Worth, Texas. ■

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## DID YOU KNOW?

...Trenton Missionary Baptist, Trenton held a human trafficking awareness and fundraising event on June 7? Guests were given the opportunity to help Restoration Place through giving an offering and purchasing jewelry and other items from the "Better Than Diamonds" boutique.

...Galilean Baptist, Flint reached out to their community by conducting a worship service on Saturdays in June at various locations?

...A Contextualized Leadership Development class will be offered this fall at the Greater Detroit Baptist School of Theology in Redford? The 3 credit-hour History of the Bible class begins August 26 and continues through December 2. To enroll, visit [www.ggbts.edu/cld](http://www.ggbts.edu/cld). For more information, contact director Roberto Santos at (313) 445-6286.

To include stories about

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

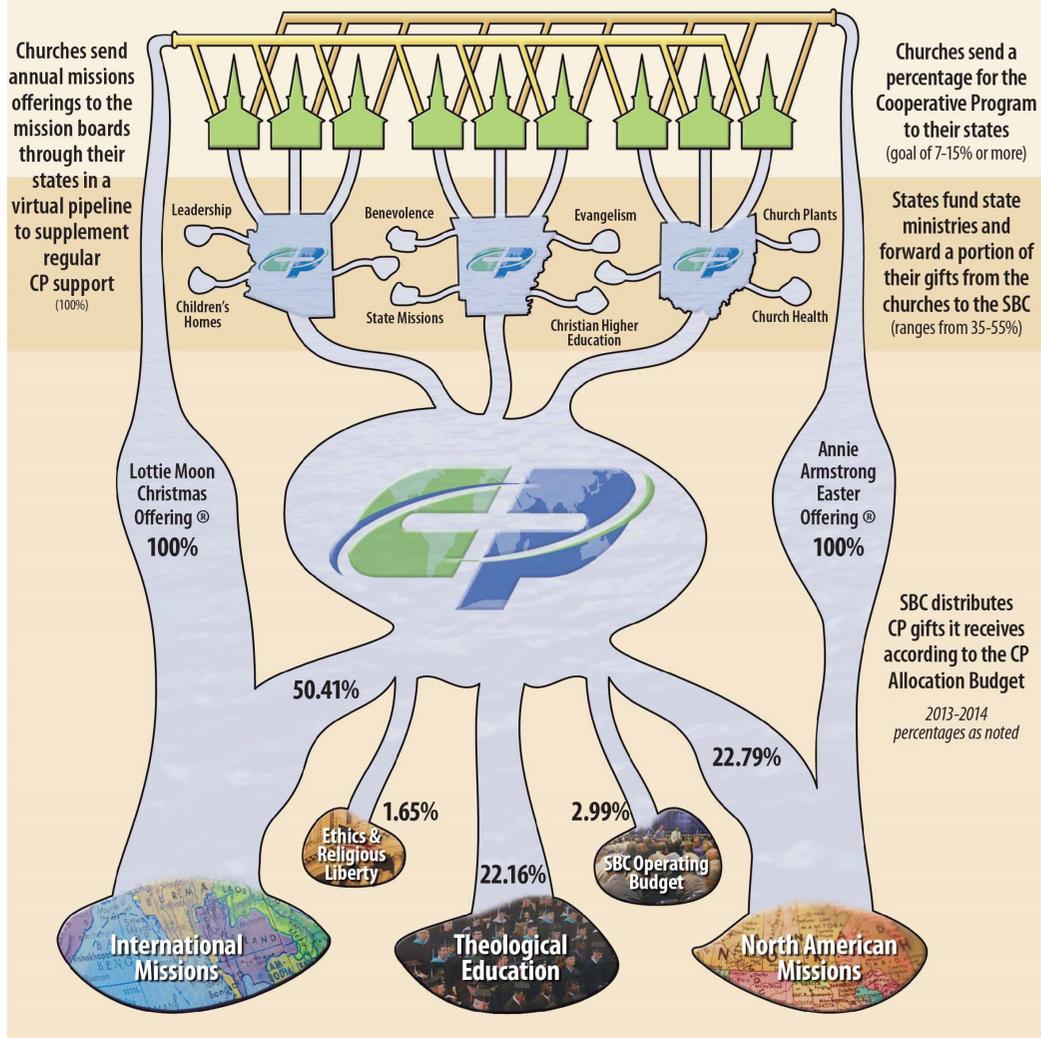
### - Staff Updates -

- **First Baptist, Flushing** called Gary McMannamy as interim pastor.
- **Southfield Road Baptist, Allen Park** called Rev. Timothy Jones as interim pastor.
- Linda Mathis has retired as Administrative Assistant of the **Greater Detroit Baptist Association**. Linda will remain as the association's Clerk, a volunteer position.
- Rev. Nonnie Lesada, Associate Pastor/Administrator of Philippine International Baptist Church of Taylor, began serving as Administrative Assistant of the **Greater Detroit Baptist Association** on July 7.

### - Upcoming Events -

- July 7-11, 2014: Girls'

## The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River



This and other CP images available at [CPmissions.bscm.org](http://CPmissions.bscm.org).

and Teen Girls' Missions Camps

- July 11-12, 2014: Mom and Me Missions Retreat (Bambi Lake)
- July 21-25, 2014: The

Quest Kids Camp 2014 (Bambi Lake)

- August 19-20, 2014: JumpStart 4 Church Starters (BSCM Building, Fenton)

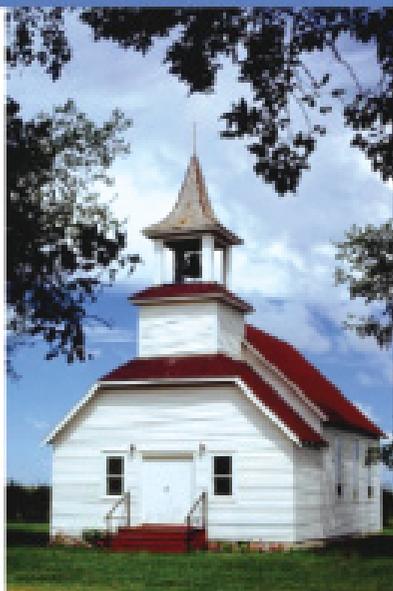
September 13, 2014: Church Equipping Conference (Roseville)

Register for Michigan Baptist events at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org).

## CHURCH UPDATE

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

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



## JUMPSTART

from page 1

initially started and pastors.

"JumpStart was very helpful in the church planting process and a great tool to help plant other churches," Jackson said, "It was very informative and encouraging."

Lester Lewis started Trinity Church in Detroit four years ago and found the event to be rewarding and encouraging.

"JumpStart is great and [for] anyone who is thinking of starting a ministry or are early in their ministry, it is a must to go," Lewis said.

Lewis and his wife, Denise, said their event coach, James Walling, was awesome and gave wonderful insight, encouragement, and direction they hadn't

considered.

The couple indicated their gratefulness for the fellowship, encouragement, and connection with other church plant participants.

"As partners in the ministry, it is essential for the wife to go through JumpStart with her husband because of the knowledge that you gain through it," Denise Lewis said. "JumpStart helped to channel fresh insights and ideas."

"Many lives will be transformed by Christ in Michigan in the days to come as these followers of Christ are better prepared to plant churches in unreached and under-reached communities," Durbin said. "That's what JumpStart is really about." ■

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

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

Organization	CP May	Designated May	CPYTD 2014					Total:			
<b>BAY ASSOCIATION</b>									<b>12,982.42</b>	<b>11,242.95</b>	<b>54,730.90</b>
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	96.75	0.00	379.40	NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	76.70				
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW LIFE CHAPEL	89.00	110.00	632.00				
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	319.52	922.00	1,843.58	PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	291.43				
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	488.43	0.00	3,218.81	<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,493.12</b>	<b>9,987.62</b>	<b>68,379.09</b>	<b>GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION</b>			
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	716.20	1,702.25	3,852.52	<b>GENESEE ASSOCIATION</b>				ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	600.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	258.14	0.00	462.21	AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	662.76	891.00	3,605.28	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	134.00	0.00	526.00	BREAHAA MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	0.00	0.00	0.00	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	501.00	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00	CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	300.00	0.00	750.00
NEW HOPE CHURCH	254.00	0.00	1,493.00	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	308.28	310.00	1,722.99	CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	19.00	40.00	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	184.46	58.00	506.96	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	936.28	0.00	2,277.84
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,393.74	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,064.33	468.00	9,321.71	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	220.50	859.00	1,132.50
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	14.66	0.00	78.08	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	337.70	0.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	11,250.00	1,305.00	22,500.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,582.16</b>	<b>4,006.25</b>	<b>35,768.30</b>	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	0.00	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>CENTRAL ASSOCIATION</b>				FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	210.00	1,000.00	420.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	3,461.75	3,414.75	12,054.49	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW	118.86	0.00	642.55
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	11.27	0.00	73.36	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	1,642.57	850.00	3,940.21
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	5,408.00	5,690.89	32,347.00	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST	100.00	0.00	500.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	1,750.00
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	370.00	423.00	785.00	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	133.33	80.00	1,033.22
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	61.74	0.00	308.70	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	3,426.00	1,333.00	13,004.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	973.19	85.00	3,179.44	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	83.00	769.00	397.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	44.09	264.57	44.09
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00	LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	0.00	145.00	154.00	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	0.00	675.00	100.00	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	46.98	265.00	221.31	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	8,071.94	0.00	39,214.77
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	3,000.00	0.00	5,500.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	1,273.21	370.00	2,437.09	NEW HAVEN FIELD HOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	783.33	1,411.00	3,678.74
GRACE CHURCH	3,879.33	1,939.65	17,897.83	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	805.65	1,525.50	4,568.54	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	80.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	654.95	1,117.08	3,601.50	ONELIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.25	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	45.00	0.00	170.00	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	145.00	500.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	200.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	27.50	0.00	76.30	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	0.00	0.00	420.07	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	100.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BC - TAYLOR	75.00	0.00	375.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	969.93	0.00	6,067.67	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	294.67	0.00	1,250.33	PHILIPPINE INT'L BC - WINDSOR	100.00	0.00	200.00
				THIRD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	0.00
				VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PRaise BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00	1,170.00
				WESTSIDE CHURCH	915.00	216.00	4,018.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
								SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
								STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00

# Church Funds Management



## Investments for Churches and Associations

- Interest goes to Baptist causes
- Easy account activation
- Available to all Southern Baptist churches and associations
- Active investment management
- Excellent diversification
- Value-based investment screens
- No penalties for withdrawals\*
- Competitive fees
- Online account viewing
- Quarterly performance statements

\* Does not apply to CBL Term Investments.

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TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE CITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,282.52
TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	375.00
WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>15,875.90</b>	<b>3,464.57</b>	<b>67,346.44</b>

**HURON ASSOCIATION**

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	250.23
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	1,754.23	0.00	6,008.70
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,422.64	603.00	10,447.75
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	0.00	0.00	200.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	5,537.96	4,561.00	18,453.50
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	337.91	0.00	2,364.13
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	127.00	110.00	931.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	800.00	0.00	2,400.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	596.90	0.00	1,587.35
OAKWOOD CHURCH	870.00	0.00	3,374.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	-73.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	280.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11,486.64</b>	<b>5,274.00</b>	<b>46,223.66</b>

**LENDALE ASSOCIATION**

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	364.69	45.00	1,130.49
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	450.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	152.90	0.00	879.02
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,917.91	0.00	9,515.76
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	88.00	0.00	400.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	387.59	944.24	1,881.77
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	47.07	0.00	239.60
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	200.00	0.00	800.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,383.16</b>	<b>989.24</b>	<b>15,296.64</b>

**MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION**

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	214.56	0.00	1,569.21
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	400.10	535.00	2,245.20
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	732.00	446.81	4,357.80
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	70.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	540.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	0.00	0.00	905.21
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	3,034.68	795.00	12,939.94
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	600.00	1,186.16	1,200.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	953.38	164.12	3,713.28
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,038.42
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	316.50	0.00	1,557.65
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	83.00	0.00	198.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,593.34	0.00	3,509.45
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	297.00
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	424.18
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	300.00	0.00	1,500.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	426.00	0.00	1,286.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	7,350.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,652.41	0.00	9,187.53
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,584.00	1,615.00	8,719.09
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,217.33
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	3,268.78	924.00	7,229.53
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	282.00	0.00	1,456.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	0.00	0.00	874.88
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	50.00	25.00	218.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	150.00	0.00	800.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOVI	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	4,261.00	425.00	9,788.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	172.50	671.54	1,253.20
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	250.00



SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	11,303.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	250.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	559.79	331.71	1,441.65
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	50.00	0.00	200.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	1,405.00	1,500.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>21,384.04</b>	<b>8,524.34</b>	<b>105,990.64</b>

**NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION**

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	75.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	708.40
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	356.44	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	150.00	114.00	375.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	0.00	100.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
OUR FATHERS HOUSE COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	368.01	0.00	2,807.06
<b>Total:</b>	<b>538.01</b>	<b>470.44</b>	<b>4,115.46</b>

**PINES ASSOCIATION**

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	190.82	265.00	667.49
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	90.32	25.00	449.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	10.00	0.00	50.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	213.51	0.00	582.59
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	92.78	100.00	92.78
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	105.93	237.00	356.92
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	267.60	0.00	1,012.99
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	206.29
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	53.00	0.00	365.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	667.35
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	226.00	370.00	1,075.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,249.96</b>	<b>997.00</b>	<b>6,159.80</b>

**SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	50.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	486.95	212.42	1,727.49
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	2,262.92	0.00	4,513.35
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	181.41	215.00	720.24
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	807.26	2,152.00	4,006.40
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	153.04

LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	271.30
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	569.02	172.50	902.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	657.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	157.62	0.00	223.74
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	372.00	141.00	1,199.69
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,887.18</b>	<b>2,892.92</b>	<b>14,425.31</b>

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION**

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	346.00	87.00	1,935.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	397.84	0.00	766.72
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	4,638.59	979.73	8,971.32
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	70.00	0.00	1,798.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	322.20	1,000.00	1,618.01
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,000.45
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	177.64	0.00	576.05
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	250.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	421.80	150.00	1,996.45
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	12,669.75	4,672.70	47,142.55
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	204.42
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>19,093.82</b>	<b>6,889.43</b>	<b>66,308.97</b>

**SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION**

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	124.00	200.00	386.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	66.00	116.00	308.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	618.00	14.00	3,048.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	62.44	134.00	472.53
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	82.17	89.45	293.34
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	850.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	456.75	0.00	1,064.08
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,509.36</b>	<b>553.45</b>	<b>6,421.95</b>

**UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION**

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	214.14	225.00	973.14
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	157.09	0.00	1,366.58
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	0.00	0.00	134.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	130.00	0.00	551.89
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	403.94	390.00	2,597.06
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	86.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	706.00	0.00	3,824.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	220.69	0.00	995.80
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,831.86</b>	<b>615.00</b>	<b>10,528.47</b>

**WOODLAND ASSOCIATION**

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	455.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	399.56	0.00	2,139.33
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IB RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	170.00	150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>429.56</b>	<b>170.00</b>	<b>2,744.33</b>

**NON-ASSOCIATIONAL**

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	2,728.00	1,931.57	4,893.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	25.00	0.00	125.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	213.82	0.00	1,140.41
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	3,106.95	1,656.00	17,375.10
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,073.77</b>	<b>3,587.57</b>	<b>23,633.51</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>127,800.96</b>	<b>59,664.78</b>	<b>528,073.47</b>





# The benefits of cooperation

*"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over ..." Luke 6:38 (KJV)*

The first disciples considered their common fellowship and their common mission to be more important than anything else, and were willing to surrender their possessions and their lives to meet the need.

Chad was an excited Christian with a vision to help plant a new church. Some of his friends who had done the same had chosen to establish a "community church," believing that "denomination" would limit them. Chad was uncertain. He fell into conversation with Katy, who wasn't uncertain at all.

"Non-denominational churches meet a need, I'm sure," said Katy, "but I wouldn't trade one day of the fifteen years I've been a Southern

Baptist. One reason is that they take seriously the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations."

"I believe in that, too," Chad said.

"Then the Cooperative Program (CP) is the way to go," she answered. "I'll give you three benefits of the Cooperative Program." "First, it focuses on the priority of missions and evangelism. It's the reason we exist."

"A second benefit," Katy continued, "is that CP provides for teaching, training, and sending. Some of our CP funds support our seminaries and even pay the tuition of their students—that's most of our missionaries and pastors. We know when we train them and then send them that they believe the Bible and share a crystal clear gospel.

"And third, the Cooperative Program works with maximum effectiveness and minimum overhead. Unlike



many organizations that spend a lot on fund raising and administration, Southern Baptists use very little on pushing paper and the very most on doing what we were commissioned to do: teach and preach the gospel."

"Let me guess," said Chad. "You had all that prepared."

"Yep," said Katy. "I gave a talk to the Mission's group at our church last week. But it looks like the real reason

the Lord had, was for me to share it with you."

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*To receive "The 11 Benefits of CP Cooperation" contact 810.714.1907 or anne@bscm.org. ■*



## THE GIFT

### WHERE DOES IT GO?



### WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

**Your gift**, which is comprised of your tithe (10% of what God provides) and offerings above your tithe, is given to the Lord through your local church. This puts love in action.



**Your local church** utilizes the greatest portion of your gift for numerous programs, ministries, and missions.



**Your state convention** is the first step as your church commits part of your gift to reaching people through the Cooperative Program (CP). The state convention uses a portion of your gift to put love in action through a wide assortment of ministries and missions.



State conventions forward part of your gift to the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gift equips future pastors, missionaries and other ministry leaders in **six SBC seminaries**, empowers missions in North America (**North American Mission Board**) and international missions (**International Mission Board**), and enables you to address social and moral concerns and their impact on your family through the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (**ERLC**).



**A waiting world** hears and responds to the Gospel, thanks to your gift.



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