



# Baptist BEACON

*Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan*

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

Volume 58, Number 10

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

October 2014

# PRESSING ON IN UNITY

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# Baptist BEACON

## Jimmy Jones elected Interim Executive Director

Jones, a Detroit native, brings over 50 years of ministry experience to lead the Baptist State Convention of Michigan

## Block party engages Lansing community

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church's annual Praise in the Park Block Party featured poets, gospel singers and rappers, and more

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# Pastors, lay leaders attend Sept. Church Equipping Conference

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

ROSEVILLE — Michigan Baptists participated in the third annual Church Equipping Conference, held Saturday, September 13 at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Roseville. The eight-hour event was designed to provide ministry staff and lay leaders with training and guidance in a variety of areas of ministry.

of Michigan Baptists represented at the CEC; pastors and laypersons, from different parts of Michigan, and from various ethnic backgrounds,”

The conference featured keynote speaker Gordon Fort, Vice President of the Office of Global Strategy with the International Mission Board of

sessions were offered in 12 different aspects of local church ministry, church strengthening, church starting, and missions.



Participants at the 2014 Church Equipping Conference mingle in the lobby between sessions. The conference was held Saturday, September 13 in Roseville. (Photo by Arthur Werry)

the Southern Baptist Convention. Fort, a native of Sanyati, Zimbabwe, spoke on mobilizing people for missions.

Following Fort's keynote, the 392 attendees, who represented 72 churches from across the state, chose five workshops to attend from over 50 options. These

“I got some good ideas that I can contextualize where I am pastoring,” said Carlos Liese, pastor of Iglesia Bautista El Buen Pastor.

In addition to the content offered at the conference, the event fostered cooperation among ministers across the state.

“I was encouraged by the number of people who stayed around the church after the conference to talk with one another,” Wood said. “There seemed to be a spirit of fellowship and partnership that gives me great hope for the future of our state convention.”

Workshop leaders traveled to Roseville from across the country to facilitate sessions at the conference.

“Out-of-state workshop leaders commented on the positive response they received from Michigan Baptists and how eager our people were to learn and grow,” Wood said. ■

“It was great to see the diversity

said Bob Wood, organizer of the conference.

to attend from over 50 options. These

# New Eastpointe church aims to reach motorcyclists

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

EASTPOINTE — Biker culture — with its tattoos and leather — often finds its place on the fringes of society. One new church, however, seeks to place this unique and diverse community at the center of its outreach efforts.

“Bikers are not accepted widely in society, let alone churches,” said Kevin Bruinsma, founder of Narrow Path Christian Biker Church in Eastpointe. “I wanted to have a Christian Church where bikers can not only feel welcome but accepted in a safe place of worship.”

Described as a tattoo-loving, welcoming church, Narrow Path held its launch service on August 3. The launch service saw a standing room only crowd.

“It was awesome; God's awesome,” Bruinsma said. “People keep continuing to come, including people who have sworn off church years

ago.”

Bruinsma also leads a Christian motorcycle ministry known as the Army of Christ. A rider himself, he desires to reach anyone with Christ's love but has a special heart for the biker community.

“[At] most churches, when you show up wearing leathers, people look down on you,” Bruinsma said. “I don't care what you look like or how you dress, just please come dressed!”

In addition to the Army of Christ, the location of the church in Eastpointe is also helpful for attracting

away on a weekly basis.”

Bruinsma felt God leading him to Eastpointe as the perfect place to

start the church. He also followed God's timing to ensure the church not only had the right place but was also started at the right time.

“It was al-

ways my plan to have a biker church in a couple of years, but God was saying now,” Bruinsma said. “When God speaks I listen, and that's how Narrow Path came to exist.” ■



Narrow Path Christian Biker Church held its launch service on August 3. (Photo courtesy of Narrow Path Christian Biker Church Facebook page)

bikers to the church.

“Where God put the church is right smack in the middle of the biker community,” Bruinsma said. “We've had people come from twenty miles



Above left, Nathan Platt leads worship at the CEC's morning keynote session. Above right, Sheila West leads a workshop on women's ministry. Right, Dexter and Kim Hardy lead a workshop on pastors and wives working together. Below, participants enjoy lunch served by Michigan Baptists' Disaster Relief.



Below left, participants visit the LifeWay store set up in the Cornerstone Baptist Church lobby. Below right, Ben Trueblood leads a workshop on student ministry.



## THE BAPTIST BEACON

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## CEC Tweets #CEC2014

**John Botkin @johnbotkin**  
A prayerless pastor means powerless preaching. - Gordon Fort @IMB\_SBC #CEC2014

**Ellen Gurganus @EllenHG51**  
Praise the Lord for a great day learning. The Church Equipping Conference was awesome!! :) #CEC2014

**HBC, Grand Blanc @HBCGrandBlanc**  
Too many workshops to choose from. Having a great time at the Church Equipping Conference with a great group of people. #cec2014

**Carlos Liese @liese1000**  
Arriving at the Church Equipping Conference. Excited about the 40-50 workshops. I'm sure I need them all!

**Rob Freshour @robfreshour**  
Eager to learn how we can better engage the harvest at the BSCM Church Equipping Conference.

**Kevin Hester @Kevin\_Hester**  
I got 2 hrs of sleep and was on the road early to be at the Church Equipping Conference. Now I'm wide awake & excited to be equipped!

**Kayre Stanley, II @PastorKayre2**  
You can do great things in a church; that does not mean God is there. It may just show that you are gifted. @pdhardy #CEC2014

**Greg Burdine @gregburdine**  
Prayer works, is work, and leads to work. - Gordon Fort #CEC2014

# Jimmy Jones elected Interim Executive Director

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

FENTON — In an Executive Board meeting on August 26, James “Jimmy” Jones was elected Interim Executive Director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

Jones, a Detroit native, has over 50 years of ministry experience in Michigan, including almost 40 as a pastor. Jones has served the state convention before as Director of Evangelism and President as well as in numerous other capacities.

“I feel humbled that I would be asked to serve as the Interim Executive Director,” Jones said. “I would ask everyone to lift me up in prayer as I seek the Lord’s leadership for the future of our Convention.”

Jones also serves as Pastor of First Baptist Church, Trenton, Mich. Jones served in this capacity from 1960 to 1983 before again assuming the position in 1999. He will continue in his

## Executive Director Search Committee Update

At the August 2014 Executive Board meeting, the following individuals were elected to serve on the Executive Director Search Committee: Rev. Wayne Parker (chairperson – Region 5); Rev. Nathaniel Bishop, Sr. (Region 5); Rev. Kevin Hester (Region 2); Mrs. Angela Kucharczyk (Region 1); Dr. Tony Lynn (Region – 4); Mrs. Denise Taglauer (Region 3); Rev. Bruce Winter (Region 3). Dr. Larry Allen and Rev. Jimmy Jones will also serve on the committee as Ex-Officio members. The committee asks for your prayers as they seek the man God has called to be our next Executive Director.

pastoral role there while also serving as Interim Executive Director.

In addition to his pastoral minis-

try, Jones has also served with the Southern Baptist Convention in several capacities. He served as a member of the SBC’s Executive Committee for over a decade and has also served on the Trustee Annuity Board for Guidestone Financial Resources.

As Interim Executive Director, Jones seeks to help unify Baptists across the state. He sees the upcoming Annual Meeting as an opportunity to do so.

“It is my deepest desire that we can come together as brothers and sisters in Christ at our Solemn Assembly preceding our Convention,” Jones said. “My prayer is that the Lord will speak clearly to us and that we repent as we seek His face and move forward under His leadership, putting behind



Jimmy Jones, pictured here with his wife Kay, was elected Interim Executive Director on August 26. (Submitted photo)

us all the past hurts and conflicts and unite under the spirit of His grace and love.” ■

## The Cooperative Program: Learn about it, see what it does

BY SBC LIFE MAGAZINE STAFF

NASHVILLE (BP) — October is “Cooperative Program Emphasis Month” on the Southern Baptist Convention’s calendar when churches are challenged to study the Cooperative Program — to learn about it, see what it does, pray about their part — perhaps using the “1% Challenge” video (<http://vimeo.com/68820362>) as a catalyst.

The 1% CP Challenge “is a succinct way to do something more — an understandable way to say, ‘Yeah, we can do that,’” said Frank S. Page, SBC Executive Committee president. “It is understandable, is easily acted upon, and can be done without shifting major sections of a church’s finances.”

In 2012, 7 percent of cooperating

Southern Baptist churches reported they had accepted the 1% CP Challenge in support of missions and ministries led by their state conventions and the SBC, according to a study by LifeWay Research for the Executive Committee, called the 2012 Cooperative Program Omnibus Survey.

In their 2012 Annual Church Profile (ACP) reports, 3,192 churches — 6.93 percent of Southern Baptist churches — showed an increase in the percentage of their missions giving through the Cooperative Program by at least 1 percent, confirming the accuracy of the LifeWay Research survey.

One tangible result of this is that the average percentage of undesignated gifts given through the Cooperative Program by Southern Baptist moved up by an encouraging one-tenth of 1 percent from the previous

year (5.41 to 5.50 percent).

After many years of decline in average CP gifts from churches of about 0.20 percentage points per year, the decline leveled off in 2011 and 2012 (5.407 percent and 5.414 percent, respectively), rising slightly to last year’s 5.50 percent.

The Executive Committee commissioned another survey this spring, asking church leaders the same set of questions they were asked in 2012. An additional 8 percent of pastors indicated they plan to lead their churches to accept the 1% CP Challenge in the coming year. If this trend continues, millions of additional dollars will become available for missions and ministry entities to fulfill the tasks Southern Baptists have assigned to them.

“The Cooperative Program is not a reservoir that we hold; it’s money that we send through the CP to missions and ministries,” Page said. “It’s exciting to see new pastors, younger pastors, older pastors, ethnic pastors, Anglo pastors, say, ‘You know, it’s time to put more emphasis on the Cooperative Program.’”

The Cooperative Program fuels Southern Baptists’ global vision for reaching the nations with the Gospel while sustaining a strong home base of ministry, reflecting the driving passion of Southern Baptists since the SBC was formed.

If every cooperating Southern Baptist church raised its contributions through the Cooperative Program by 1 percent, the resultant CP gifts would increase by almost nearly \$100 million.

This would unleash the state conventions to make a greater impact on lostness in their respective states. It would give the North American Mission Board greater flexibility in its Send North America church planting and evangelism initiatives. It would allow the International Mission Board to send and maintain a larger number of missionaries on the field. It would allow SBC seminaries to explore new delivery systems for ministerial training and graduate theological education to make an even greater impact on training pastors and church leaders for effective service. It would assist the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in its continuing mission to engage the broader culture with the claims of Christ and a biblical worldview.

Since 1925, more than \$5.75 billion has been contributed through the national portion of the Cooperative Program to help fuel Southern Baptist missions and ministry causes of international missions, North American missions, theological education and moral advocacy. This is more than the combined cumulative totals of the Lottie Moon Offering since 1888 and the Annie Armstrong Offering since 1933.

Simply put, the 1% CP Challenge has the potential to be the rising tide that raises all the causes that Southern Baptist cooperating churches support. The Cooperative Program, as Southern Baptists’ unified plan of giving, remains the fuel that drives the missions and ministries of the convention.

*SBC LIFE* ([www.sbclife.net](http://www.sbclife.net)) is the journal of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Executive Committee. ■

## 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)



# Uniting the state at the Annual Meeting



**JIMMY JONES**  
Interim Executive  
Director

On November 7-8, we will meet for our 57th State Convention on the beautiful shores of Bambi Lake. Our theme for the convention this year is "Pressing on in Unity."

This will be the first time we have met at Bambi Lake for our annual meeting, and for many in our state, it will be their first visit to Bambi Lake. Since 1958 hundreds of people have made life-changing commitments at this wonderful place.

Many have found Christ as their Savior, some have committed their lives to full-time ministry, and some have seen miracles of freedom from drug, alcohol, and pornography addiction. We have witnessed healing of cancer, restoration of families, and reconciliation of church disputes between pastors and laymen.

At this time in our convention's history, we need another miracle. Kevin

Ezell, president of North American Mission Board, recently shared that in the past 10 years your North American Mission Board has sent over \$16 million to help Michigan penetrate the lostness in our state.

What are the results? We have fewer churches, fewer baptisms, and fewer contributions from our churches through the Cooperative Program.

Added to this, there is a deep fracture in our fellowship. We do not trust each other. We do not love each other. We do not pray for one another.

Is it any wonder that Jesus would not bless our work? It is this Jesus, who in his final prayer before the cross, prayed, "that they may be one even as we are one...I do not ask for these alone, but for those who believe in Me through their word...I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, that the world may know Thou didst send Me". (John 17:11,20,23, emphasis added)

## Solemn Assembly to Precede Convention

It is His desire that as His children we be unified. To this end we believe

it is time for all us to come before our Lord and seek His face in humility, repenting of our sins together. To help us accomplish this task we have scheduled a Solemn Assembly preceding the convention.

We are asking as many as possible come a day early to be a part of our assembly. This will be a time of prayer, soul-searching, confession, repentance, commitment, forgiveness, unity, and love. Our prayer is to see a special manifestation of our Lord's presence.

We ask that you come for the evening session on November 6 and the morning session November 7. We have asked Kerry L. Skinner, an associate with Henry Blackaby, and Gary Frost, NAMB Midwest Vice-President, to be our prayer leaders.

These men are among some of the greatest authorities on prayer in America. We need to seek the Lord in prayer, humbly confessing our sins and repenting, asking the Lord for His guidance and leadership as a state convention.

We prayerfully ask you to come seeking the Lord as we move "Pressing on in Unity." ■



**Jerome Taylor**

@brojerome

A flourishing church is a gospel-saturated church. It is a people whose lives collectively are driven by the grace, gospel, & glory of Christ.

**Carlos Liese**

@liese1000

Pray today for the persecuted church. In North Korea, a quarter of the nation's Christians now live in forced labor camps.

**Kayre Stanley, II**

@PastorKayre2

Who is your target group? What do you have at church to reach and keep them? #churchgrowth

**Dan Russell**

@pastordanrussel

Let what you say be an improvement on silence!

**Ken Leslie**

@kenleslie

Excuses are the essence of incompetence.

**Arthur Werry**

@arthurwerry

Our commitments are seen not only in what we say "Yes" to but also in what we are willing to say "No" for.

**David Washington Jr.**

@pastordwash

I have learned way more in this season of my life than I thought or even knew I needed to learn. Humility has a cost and I thank God for it.

## TENTMAKERS TODAY

# Intentional bivocational ministers



**GEORGE FOUNTAIN**  
Bi-Vocational  
Ministry Consultant

Recently I heard the phrase "intentional bivocational minister." It is, in fact, a phrase describing individuals

who intentionally choose to serve as bivocational ministers rather than serve as fully funded ministers. In addition these individuals often want to remain in bivocational ministry long term, if not for their entire ministry career.

Such was the case for me for the majority of my ministry career. I cherish my years of Bivocational Ministry to this day.

As an employee of Ford Motor Company, I had my secular job for the majority of my income and also for my insurance benefits. This allowed the church to invest finances in ministry that would have otherwise been

needed to support my family and me.

It also allowed the church to contribute more to missions as we gave through the Cooperative Program. In addition, it allowed the church to invest in property that we now have to develop for years to come and also contributed to allowing us to construct the building that we occupy and enjoy to this day.

We could have moved to a "fully funded" ministry role earlier but I chose to remain bivocational. In addition to the benefits extended the church and its ministries, I enjoyed my mission field at Ford Motor Company. God allowed us to live and share the gospel while working my secular job.

There are people that He brought into His Kingdom during those years as He ordered my steps and gave me opportunity to connect with daily. I cherish those days and look forward to see-

ing those people in heaven one day as a result of what the Lord accomplished during those many years being employed by Ford Motor Company.

Rather than choosing "full-time," or more correctly stated, becoming "fully-funded," I was intentionally bivocational. The church was able to call others to bivocational positions as well.

We were blessed to have a bivocational Worship Leader who did a fantastic job in his role. We were also blessed to have a bivocational Youth Minister who did a fantastic job fulfilling his role as well.

We were intentionally a multi-bivocational ministry staff. The church grew in number and in ministry. His Kingdom was advanced as people were saved, baptized, and disciplined. The work of the church flourished and we rejoiced in His goodness.

Praise God for all the intentional bivocational ministers today: those serv-

ing in ministry roles and also working in secular jobs, those choosing to be dually employed and dually funded. Truth be told, if it was not for these who have heard that distinct call from God and willing to serve as intentional bivocational ministers, a large number of our churches in the BSCM and the SBC would be without pastors.

May our God who has called them give them and their families an abundance of His grace as they represent Him in their secular employment and serve Him in ministry as intentional bivocational ministers. Pray with us that others will answer His call to serve likewise, doing whatever it takes to see His Kingdom advanced across our state. ■

tentmaker 1320

Tentmaker 1320

# Putting your pastor in his place



**JIM HESS**  
Church  
Strengthenener/  
Mobilizer  
Region 2

Let's be honest: Some of you are reading this article only for the title. Some of you may have picked up the article and said, "Finally! How do we put him in his place?"

If you're a pastor type you may be thinking, "Why is he stirring things up for me? I hope none of my members are reading the Beacon right now!"

Well, now that I have your attention, let me get to the point. This is the time of year that we have clergy or pastor appreciation. As a pastor, I like that someone has suggested a day, a week or a month to appreciate those that pastor among us.

Many of our churches struggle with some basic principles of church life. How do we relate to our pastor?

On one hand, he is just another member in the body, but on the other hand, he has tremendous responsibility in the body and deserves a greater degree of honor and respect. I am reminded of a passage of Scripture that has become difficult for us to fully grasp in many of our churches.

Hebrews 13:17 (HCSB) says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account, so that they can do this with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you."

I will let the first half of the passage speak for itself. I would like us to consider the last part, "So that they can do this with joy and not with grief."

When thinking about pastor appreciation, it would be good to ask, "How can I help my pastor serve with joy and not with grief?"

I would like to suggest 10 things a pastor really needs but will never personally request.

- 1. Say thank you.** So many pastors would just appreciate from time to time hearing, "Pastor, thank you for..." While it may often be thought, it is not as often expressed.
- 2. Embrace the mission and vision of the church.** So often pastors feel like they are going against the flow of what everyone wants while trying to accomplish the mission that God has given. Doing "church as usual" may not be fulfilling our God given mission and vision.
- 3. Acknowledge his sacrifice.** Every pastor has sacrificed to serve within the body of Christ. Every pastor is different but your pastor may be sacrificing his time, his health, his finances, his personal interests and in some cases his family. Acknowledge his sacrifice and try to help lighten the sacrifice for him.
- 4. Pamper his wife (or give him the means to do so himself).** Your pastor loves his wife but is not always able to pamper her the way he would like. Oftentimes he is short on time, money and energy to really pamper her. The pastor's wife should be the most important relationship he has. Give him the opportunity to express that to her in tangible ways.
- 5. Just get along.** It is a real stressor to try to keep unity in the church. We need to learn to get along. Some of us need to allow God to work on some of our personality quirks and irritating traits. We all have them! Some of us just need to grow some thicker skin and not get so bent out of shape over little things. Let's try better to keep the peace in the body.
- 6. Give him the benefit of the doubt.** Pastors sometimes have irritating traits too. Sometimes we will have a bad day. Some days we are emotionally, spiritually, and physically overwhelmed, so give your pastor the benefit of the doubt. Forgive him for a dumb statement or an offensive action because he is human too. If that becomes a regular problem, sit down and talk about it with him in a loving manner as you would with any other brother in Christ.
- 7. Appreciate his experience and knowledge.** Your pastor has spent a lot of time studying the Scripture and the church. Many have earned degrees and advanced degrees. Some have learned in the university of hard

knocks. Pastors are not always right and we do make mistakes and even sometimes use poor judgment. But pastors are not always wrong either. Try to appreciate what we have learned and listen to our experience and knowledge.

- 8. Get involved.** There are some things in church life not everyone can do but there are also things many could do. When the pastor says help is needed, get involved where and when you can.
- 9. Be his friend.** Not every pastor is willing to be a friend and a pastor can't be a friend the same way to everyone. Attempt to find ways to develop a friendship with your pastor. Understand that he needs a relationship with people that are willing to give more and take less. It is refreshing to find people who just want to enjoy being with him for who he is and not because of the position he holds.
- 10. Let him be a "normal" guy.** Someone asked my wife once, "What is it like being married to a pastor?" The pastor is like any other man. He is normal. He has things he enjoys doing outside of the church. He has hobbies. He likes to date his wife and spend time with his children. He may have sports, movies or interests that you may have no idea about. Let him be normal, whatever normal may be! ■

## Reach Church: An interview with a church starter



**MIKE DURBIN**  
Church Starting  
Missionary, Region 5

Nearly 200 worshippers gathered September 7, 2014 to celebrate the launch of Reach Church in Ypsilanti. Church starter Jason Robinson, his family, and a dedicated core team have been praying, planning and working for months to launch the church. What follows is an interview I conducted with Pastor Robinson.

**Mike Durbin:** Thank you, pastor, for sharing the story of Reach with us. I want to begin by asking you about the launch.

**Jason Robinson:** Our launch service was not typical in the sense that we already had been having Sunday services for almost three months. Slowly and steadily, God

has grown Reach. Instead of our launch being a preview to Reach Church, we wanted it to be more of a celebration for where God had already brought

to 100 people that we knew had told us they were coming. Our final estimated count was 193 total.

Only God could have done this. We sent out no mailers and held no major outreach events; we only used word of mouth, handing out flyers in our community, Facebook, and people who attend Reach inviting others.

Three families joined the ministry from their first time visit, and many more committed to coming back. Pastor Wayne Parker from Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City and Pastor David Washington Jr. of Canton Christian Fellowship sent extra volunteers to help us on this day.

**Durbin:** Tell us why you chose the name Reach.

**Robinson:** I am not one of those pseudo-spiritual pastors who always



Reach Church launched in Ypsilanti on September 7, 2014. Over 200 people attended the church's launch. (Photo by Donnell Crear)

us. Gospel recording artist J – Moss led worship at our launch service. We were expecting between 80

# Northern Iraqis 'just like us' and need help

By MARK KELLY

Baptist Press

KURDISTAN (BP) — The newlyweds collapsed into bed, exhausted from a day filled with wedding celebrations. It was their first night as man and wife.

They were jolted awake in the wee hours of the morning, when artillery shells exploded near their home. They scrambled from their bed and fled into the night, with no time to grab any of their belongings.

Now they huddle in a large room with more than 50 other refugees. Everyone shares one bathroom. Instead of a honeymoon retreat, the newlyweds are scraping to survive.

Abraham Shepherd, who directs work in the Middle East for Baptist Global Response, has visited dozens of families forcibly displaced from their homes in northern Iraq by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) extremists. He has opened his heart to listen as, one after another, they talk about their fear, frustration and desperation.

"In another place, we were in what looked like a dungeon. Four families, 16 people in total, living on a bare concrete floor. As hot as it was, they had no air conditioning," Shepherd said. "In another place, 60 people were cramped in one room, 50 feet by 15 feet. In another place, we met eight families who had been displaced for a month, and

only one food basket had been delivered to them."

Resources from Global Hunger Relief (GHR) help bring comfort to these families and hundreds of others like them, as BGR and its partners deliver relief supplies in cities where Iraqi Christians and other minorities have taken refuge after being forcibly driven from their homes.



**Iraqi Christians rest in the basement of an unfinished education center in a city in northern Iraq. Nearly 500 people from a village near Mosul fled here to escape persecution by ISIS extremists. (GHR photo)**

GHR funds provide crucial supplies — water, food and infant formula — that help these families survive. Southern Baptists across North America helped to replenish those funds when they observed World Hunger Sunday on Oct. 12.

Global Hunger Relief is a unique channel for helping hungry people because 100 percent of each

donation goes directly to meeting the hunger need. Nothing has to be withheld for overhead expenses because Southern Baptists already have covered those costs by their contributions through the Cooperative Program.

The forcibly displaced families are not accustomed to needing help, Shepherd noted. Most of

them had good lives in the city. They were business owners and professionals, teachers and nurses. One was a microbiologist. Another had supported his family for 32 years in the textile industry.

"They cry, 'We are not animals. We are humans who had our culture and civilized way of living,'" Shepherd said. "Now one of the men stands there in the undershirt he was wearing when he jumped out of bed and ran for his life. He has been wearing it for a month now. It's the only shirt he has."

Despite their desperate circumstances, these forcibly displaced families were eager to show hospitality to the visiting BGR relief workers — and listen to a message about God's love for his hurting children.

"They were very welcoming," Shepherd said.

"Hospitality still didn't die, even with their conditions that sentence them to slow death — if we don't run to change that. We prayed with many. People talk to God more in times of trouble. They listen. They even asked if we can help them, not only here, but when they go back to their homes to

rebuild their lives again.

"We were able to have access to places no one has reached — and to people's lives — in an amazing way. We believe the prayers of many made this possible."

When the evening news carries stories about the Middle East crisis, these displaced families want everyone to know there is more to the story than faceless statistics, Shepherd said.

"They want us to know they are just like us: father, mother, son, and daughter, grandparent, aunt and uncle," Shepherd said. "They are our fellow humans, created in God's likeness and image.

"They are waiting for us to help them in their time of need."

Mark Kelly writes for Global Hunger Relief. For resources to help promote World Hunger Sunday, visit [www.globalhungerrelief.com](http://www.globalhungerrelief.com). Reprinted from Baptist Press ([www.baptistpress.com](http://www.baptistpress.com)), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. ■

Church Strengthening

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION of MICHIGAN

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# David Platt succeeds Tom Elliff as IMB president

BY ERICH BRIDGES

*Baptist Press*

ROCKVILLE, Va. (BP) — David Platt was elected president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board on Aug. 27 by board trustees, meeting at the IMB's International Learning Center in Rockville, Va.

Platt, 36, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, a Southern Baptist congregation in Birmingham, Ala., will take office effective immediately as president of the 169-year-old organization, the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. More than 4,800 Southern Baptist international missionaries serve worldwide.

Platt succeeds former missionary, pastor and Southern Baptist Convention president Tom Elliff, 70, who has served as IMB president since March 2011. Elliff asked the agency's trustees earlier this year to begin an active search for his successor. Elliff and his wife Jeannie plan to return to their home state, Oklahoma.

The author of the bestselling books "Radical" and "Follow Me," among others, Platt has been pastor of The Church at Brook Hills, which counts about 4,500 members, since 2006. He also founded and leads Radical, a ministry that exists to serve the church in accomplishing the mission of Christ. Radical provides resources that support disciple-making in local churches worldwide, organizing events and facilitating opportunities through multiple avenues, all aimed at encouraging followers of Christ in God's global purposes. Platt has traveled extensively to teach the Bible alongside church leaders and missionaries throughout the United States and around the world. He and his wife Heather have four children: Caleb, Joshua, Mara Ruth and Isaiah.

"We talk all the time at Brook Hills about laying down a blank check with our lives before God, with no strings attached, willing to go wherever He leads, give whatever He asks and do whatever He commands in order to make His glory known among the nations," Platt said in a letter to his church, released Aug. 27. "Over these past months, God has made it abundantly clear to both Heather and me that He is filling in that blank check in our lives and family with a different assignment. Along the way, God has used the elders of our church to affirm His call, and today He used the leadership of the IMB to confirm it."

In an interview, Platt said God had done a unique work in his life over the past 12 to 18 months — particularly since an overseas journey during which he saw a stark representation of just how many people have never heard the name of Jesus.

"This is not something I saw coming," he said. "I love pastoring The Church at Brook Hills. I love shepherding this local church on mission for the glory of God among the nations and could picture myself doing that for decades to come. At the same time, God has been doing an unusual work in my heart and life. The only way I can describe it is that He's been instilling in me a deeper, narrowing, Romans 15 kind of ambition, where Paul said, 'I want to see Christ preached where He has not been named.' ... He has given me a deeper desire to spend more of my time and energy and resources in the short life He has given me to seeing Christ preached where He's not been named. The concept of unreached peoples — of nearly 2 billion people who have never heard the Gospel — is just totally

intolerable."

During a February trip to Nepal, Platt recounted, his team trekked for five days before they encountered a single follower of Christ. He also witnessed Hindu families burning the bodies of newly deceased loved ones and scattering their ashes over a sacred river in hopes that they would



**International Mission Board President David Platt and his wife, Heather, are seen with their four children (from left): Joshua, Isaiah, Mara Ruth, and Caleb. Platt, 36, one of the most passionate and influential voices for missions among evangelicals, was elected Aug. 27 by IMB trustees. The pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., will take office effective immediately as president of the 169-year-old organization, the largest denominational missionary-sending body among American evangelicals. (Photo courtesy of the Platt family)**

be reincarnated. Most if not all of them presumably had died without ever hearing of Christ.

"It just gripped me in a deeper way," Platt said. "I came back with a desire to say, 'How can my life more intentionally be used to get the Gospel to unreached peoples? Maybe I need to move overseas.' Then the search team contacted me and said, 'Would you be willing to consider?' And I'm sitting there thinking, 'Why would I be willing to consider moving overseas, but not be willing to consider mobilizing thousands of people in a more intentional way to do that?'"

"The Lord has made it so clear, clearer than just about anything else I've ever done in my life. I told my wife the only thing I can compare it to is asking her to marry me."

### Passion for lostness, new generation

Platt's passion for people lost without Christ — and his calling to reach them — inspired members of the IMB trustee search committee, according to trustee and search committee chairman David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla.

"When we realized his sense of call, whether that meant serving as IMB president or going himself ... we realized how passionate, how deeply committed and called he was to the nations," Uth said in an interview. "That began for us a new season of discussions with him — and I will add, too, with his wife. The picture we saw of them was a beautiful picture of a one-flesh marriage moving together, following the same call. We sensed as much call in Heather as we did David. ... One more thing that really was consuming for us: his passion for lostness. To bring back passion for lostness within the context of Southern Baptist life would be so refreshing. I think it would be a rebirth."

Uth said the trustees are excited about Platt's influence among thousands of Southern Baptists and other evangelical leaders through The Church

at Brook Hills, the Radical network and other arenas.

"We weren't looking for a man who knew how to talk about it; we were looking for a man who was doing it — and using the influence he had to affect the nations," Uth said. "When we considered what Brook Hills was doing to send couples and to engage people in the pew in kingdom work, we felt like those were clues to how effective he was at mobilizing and getting people to follow the vision that God had given him."

The ongoing crisis in financial support for missionaries is a major issue for Southern Baptists and IMB leadership, Uth acknowledged, and will challenge Platt as it has challenged Elliff during his tenure. But the potential of young, God-called missionaries in an emerging generation is far greater.

"I think the missionary force, the young people God is calling ... represent one of the greatest forces in Christian history right now," Uth stressed. "While the world is becoming more hostile and anti-Christian in some places, it's as if passion is growing equally to go to those hard places. That's where we hear young couples saying they want to go, that they want to be radically obedient to what God has called us to do for the nations. The passion is there. How do we equip them and resource them? How do we incorporate strategy that's effective? David is going to address that in a way that's going to bring maximum impact."

Platt particularly hopes to use his influence to multiply the involvement of local Southern Baptist churches for missions in a way that glorifies God and His Word.

"I want to see the IMB, first and foremost, exalting Christ as the center of the church and mission," Platt said. "He's the One who's going to accomplish the Great Commission. He's given us the joy of being involved with Him in it. That means in everything the IMB does, we've got to be in tune with His Word, His plan, His Spirit, reflecting His character. I want to take whatever influence the Lord has given me, and will give me in this position, to sound the trumpet among followers of Christ — Southern Baptists and non-Southern Baptists — to say missions is not a compartmentalized program. The local church is the agent God has promised to bless for the spread of the Gospel to the nations. The role of the IMB is to equip and empower and encourage the local church to do this."

The Church at Brook Hills has an active current membership of 4,582, according to church administrative staff. Weekly worship attendance averages 5,500. Annual baptisms for the past several years have averaged about 100.

In 2013, The Church at Brook Hills gave \$100,000 to the SBC CP Allocation Budget through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; \$25,000 to the Cooperative Program; \$12,500 to the Alabama Baptist Children's Home; \$15,000 to the Birmingham Baptist Association; \$300,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions; and \$325,000 to the International Mission Board in special designated gifts, for a total of \$777,500, or 8.9 percent of the church's total giving for the year, to Alabama Baptist and Southern Baptist causes.

Projections for 2014 are: \$175,000 through the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee; \$25,000 to the Cooperative Program; \$15,000

# Ebola kills six in Baptist woman's family

BY DIANA CHANDLER  
Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — A Southern Baptist who emigrated from Liberia has lost six family members to the West African Ebola outbreak, she told Baptist Press. Medication, food and prayer, she says, are most needed to stem the epidemic.

The district of Kailahun, an Ebola epicenter in eastern Sierra Leone bordering Guinea, was put under quarantine at the beginning of August. In Kailahun, only four in 10 Ebola sufferers recover from the lethal disease.

Photo by EC/ECHO/Cyprien Fabre. Used by permission.

An aunt, uncle and four adult cousins of 55-year-old Juanita Logan, a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Nashville, died in mid-August from the disease. The six family members all lived in the same Liberian household, Logan said, and had spoken to her on the phone just two weeks before their deaths.

"It was shocking to us, everybody's well and then all of a sudden, it just, it starts with a fever, and then, no money to get medication, all

those things. It's so quick. It happens quick," she said. "Once it enters a household, everybody will die. I have a girlfriend, it happened to her. Five people in her house died, all of them."

"Nothing you can do about it. You just ask God to give you strength," she said of her response to the deaths. "It's hard, just, hard."

She encouraged Southern Baptists to pray and fast for the control of the virus.

"People are praying, fasting. Continue praying and fasting because it's a serious case," Logan said. "Pray and fast that they will have enough medication to help ... because with no medication, people just die." Food, early medical intervention and hospital beds are needed, she noted, because the epidemic has strained an already poor economy.

"It's a bad, ugly virus," Logan said.

In Texas, where the first U.S. Ebola case has been reported, Baptists are preparing to send food and medical supplies to Liberia and Sierra Leone, two countries hit hardest by the epidemic.

Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery is sending two 40-foot containers filled with enough prepackaged meals of rice and soy to feed more than a half million people, the Baptist General Convention of Texas reported. Texas Baptists have the support of a \$20,000 grant from the Texas Baptist Hunger Offering and food supplies donated by Convoy of Hope of Springfield, Mo.

Also in Texas, the Baptist ministry Restore Hope has secured a \$15,000 Texas Baptist Hunger Offering grant to send supplies to Sierra Leone. The grant will provide food supplies to the Restore Hope center, Agape Academy and Mile 91 Baptist Church, all in Sierra Leone, where Restore Hope has 25 missionary personnel, Texas Baptists reported.

Ferrell Foster, Hunger Offering coordinator, expressed appreciation that the group could respond to the crisis.

"We are thrilled that Texas Baptist Hunger Offering funds can be used to address this terrible situation in West Africa," Foster said in a press release from Texas Baptists. "Our Texas Baptist Disaster Recovery team is

doing a great job of connecting available food resources with the need in Liberia through trusted partners, and Restore Hope is using its established relationships to address other needs.

"This is a Kingdom response, and our prayer is that Christ's name will be exalted in all that we do [to] minister to the needs in West Africa."

Southern Baptists are responding through an education campaign in Togo, West Africa, ahead of any reported cases there, according to Baptist Global Response.

The Baptist Convention of Togo intends to distribute 15,000 Ebola brochures across Togo, utilizing local Baptist associations and pastors to get the information to church members. Outreach will include televised public service announcements nationwide, and local evangelists will distribute pamphlets to outlying villages, BGR told Baptist Press.

In the first U.S. Ebola case, a man identified as Thomas Eric Duncan traveled from Liberia to Dallas and is hospitalized in critical condition. At least four school-age children and an

See EBOLA on page 11

## PLATT from page 7

to the Alabama Baptist Children's Home; \$68,000 to the Birmingham Baptist Association; \$300,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions; and \$718,000 to the International Mission Board in special designated gifts, for a projected year-end total of \$1,301,000, or 13.8 percent in total projected church giving.

### Message to missionaries

For IMB missionaries overseas, he had a simple message:

"I just want to say to you, more than anything, that the vision of the IMB remains the same: a multitude from every language, people, tribe and nation knowing and worshipping our Lord Jesus Christ.... If you don't hear anything else, please hear me say that all I want to do is lock arms with you, with what you're doing on the frontlines, with what's going on back here in mobilizing churches, to go after that vision. ... I've been so thankful over the years pastoring in the church to partner with so many of you in different parts of the world. I'm thinking about specific brothers and sisters that I've had the joy of serving alongside and many others that I look forward to serving alongside in different ways. And I just don't believe that there is a means that God has blessed so greatly as He has the IMB and this coalition of 40,000 churches working

together for the spread of the Gospel to the nations.

"I am honored, humbled, overjoyed and overwhelmed to be in this role, and I just want you to hear from me from the beginning that I am committed to praying for you, to supporting you, to listening to you, to learning from you. ... How can we most effectively work together to make disciples of all nations? ... I love you, I'm praying for you, and I'm honored to serve alongside you in what is the greatest mission on this earth."

Platt asked for prayer for The Church at Brook Hills and for his family as he begins the transition to his new role at the International Mission Board.

The Platts are natives of Atlanta. He received two bachelor of arts degrees from the University of Georgia in Athens and master of divinity, master of theology and doctor of philosophy degrees from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Before becoming pastor at Brook Hills, he served as an assistant professor of expository preaching and apologetics at New Orleans seminary and as staff evangelist at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans.

*Erich Bridges is IMB global correspondent. This story was contributed to by Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. ■*

# 101

The number of new people groups engaged around the world in 2007.



## EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY



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# First-Person: Hunger is everyone's problem



KEVIN EZELL  
North American  
Mission Board

*EDITOR'S NOTE: On World Hunger Sunday, Oct. 12, Southern Baptist congregations addressed the hunger crisis across North America and around the world, many by focusing on the theme "Hunger Happens Everywhere." Donations received are channeled through Global Hunger Relief, which uses 100 percent of each gift to meet hunger needs. For more information, visit [www.globalhungerrelief.com](http://www.globalhungerrelief.com).*

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — For many in North America, hunger is someone else's problem. It's the emaciated children halfway around the world. It's people who live on the other side of the tracks. And, occasionally, it's the person holding a cardboard sign at a freeway exit.

But as a follower of Jesus, hunger is your problem and it's my problem. Jesus showed us, over and over again in the gospels, that the physical needs of those around us matter to God — and should matter to us as well.

Because Jesus didn't ignore hunger (read the stories of Jesus multiplying the fish and the loaves in the Gospels), we can't ignore it either.

Hunger impacts one in six Americans. No matter where you live, you know someone who is hungry. And no matter how it appears on the out-

side, that hunger impacts every area of life — including physical health, mental processing ability and social relationships. In the wealthiest country in the history of the world, more than a third of poor families in the United States have to choose whether to eat or pay for a roof over their heads.

That's why Southern Baptists have worked together for decades to push back hunger in North America. Through your gifts to Southern Baptist Global Hunger Relief — more than \$1.1 million in 2013 — local church-based ministries in big cities and small towns provide food for hungry people throughout the U.S. and Canada.

More important, these ministries provide hope, by connecting the hungry to gospel-preaching churches where they can hear about Jesus and learn to follow Him. Your gifts to Global Hunger Relief last year led to more than 22,000 professions of faith reported through Southern Baptist hunger ministries in North America.

Lynn Gardens Baptist Church in Pueblo, Colo., is a great example of this.

The small church averages around 35 in attendance each week, but its food ministry — called God's Food Pantry — has grown to become one of the largest in the community. Every week the church helps 180 to 190 families put food on their tables.

As the church has provided food for the community — which had been ravaged by unemploy-

ment in recent years — it has reversed the perception of Southern Baptists in Pueblo. Pastor Lonnie Hartke says when he first arrived at the church and would go door to door, no one wanted to listen to a Baptist preacher. But as his small church has loved its community unselfishly by providing much-needed food, perceptions have shifted. Residents are more open to hearing him share the Gospel.

One lady had attended the church years earlier but had been hurt by someone there and left. Through God's Food Pantry, she re-connected to the church, became a follower of Jesus and was baptized. She now helps others as a volunteer in the food pantry.

Your support of Global Hunger Relief helps us push back hunger and lostness in Pueblo, Colo., and throughout North America.

Hunger is our problem as Southern Baptists. Thank you for working together to do something tangible to help our neglected neighbors.

Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board. For more information on Southern Baptist efforts to confront hunger in North America, visit [namb.net/hunger-relief](http://namb.net/hunger-relief). Learn more about Global Hunger Relief at [globalhungerrelief.com](http://globalhungerrelief.com) or on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/globalhunger>) or Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Global-HungerRelief>). Reprinted from Baptist Press ([www.baptistpress.com](http://www.baptistpress.com)), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. ■

## Airstrikes may worsen refugee crisis

BY MARK KELLY

Baptist Press

LONDON (BP) — Airstrikes now underway in northern Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will worsen an already heart-breaking refugee crisis, a Christian worker in the Middle East says.

During just three days last week, at least 130,000 new Syrian refugees flooded across the border into Turkey because of an ISIS offensive in their hometowns. More than 3 million officially registered refugees have been driven out of the country amid the four years of crisis in Syria.

"The current strikes inside Syria are bound to increase the already overwhelming flood of displaced people fleeing to find safety," Don Alan\*, a Christian worker in the region, said. "Families desiring safety for their children will look for places that are safe and quiet."

Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd called on Southern Baptists to pray for

beleaguered Christians in Iraq and Syria just hours before news of the airstrikes broke.

"Perhaps you know or maybe you don't, but currently in Iraq and Syria we are witnessing a once-in-a-thousand-year destruction of the Chris-

in your churches and on social media. Don't let the world ignore this," Floyd said. "I call upon each of us tonight as Southern Baptists to be a voice that resounds loudly and clearly about this issue."

Alan echoed Floyd's call to prayer for suffering refugees — among whom Christians are a minority — and the workers risking their lives to help them.

"We should be challenged to not only increase our prayers, but also be broken for the continued challenges faced by those being impacted by the fighting and bombings going in their country," Alan said.

"Pray for courage as we continue to minister and share the love of Christ in the midst of such turmoil," Alan added. "We know that the

Lord's desire is that not one should perish without having a chance to hear the good news, that there can be peace on earth in the midst of such traumatic events. May we not grow weary!"

For more information, go to [globalhungerrelief.com](http://globalhungerrelief.com).

\*Name changed. ■



Airstrikes against ISIS targets in northern Syria are bound to increase the flood of refugees at a time of the year when temperatures continue to drop. (BGR photo)

tian church. A modern book of martyrs is being written," Floyd said. "We need to elevate before our churches the international crisis in Iraq and Syria."

"Pastors and Christian leaders, educate yourself and speak up on behalf of these brothers and sisters

# Evangelicals and environmentalists cooperate?

BY DAVID ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — Amid polarized debate on climate change, Southern Baptists' lead ethicist has called conservative evangelicals and secular environmentalists to cooperate on issues of creation care.

"I could prompt a cascade of 'Amens' in a sermon — or retweets on a Twitter feed — by noting that our legal system protects darter snails but not unborn humans," Russell D. Moore wrote in the latest issue of the *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*. "A secular environmentalist could evoke cheers on 'The Daily Show' by lampooning conservative Christians for claiming to be 'pro-life' while ignoring toxins in the atmosphere that produce birth defects or spontaneous abortions. These are appeals to the conscience, but they are rarely a conversation from one conscience to the other so much as they are self-reinforcing 'red meat' (or, I guess, 'green leaf' as the case might be) for the already-convinced bases."

Yet "as those in the environmentalist activist community and those in the evangelical Christian community find themselves up close and personal together, we can learn some things from one another, and learn some things together," Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, wrote.

Like feminists and evangelicals have joined forces to combat pornography and human trafficking, environmentalists and evangelicals should work together to emphasize proper stewardship of the earth, Moore said in an interview with Baptist Press.

Followers of Jesus must listen "to our neighbors, including those who are environmentalists, in order

to provide a Christian perspective on caring for the creation," Moore said.

He acknowledged that evangelicals and secular environmentalists disagree in many instances on "huge global" issues like climate change. But such disagreement does not preclude cooperation to confront "local"

**"The primary issue is being aware of our responsibilities of shepherding, cultivating and leaving the creation for the next generation."**

-- Russell D. Moore



problems like air and water pollution, proper land use and preserving natural resources for the next generation, he said.

"Climate change is an issue," Moore said. "But I think that defining the issue [of environmental protection] solely in terms of climate change undercuts the means that we have to address [other] issues, which will have to happen at the level of consciences formed to care about the creation around them."

In his journal article, Moore outlined three tenets of a balanced theology of the environment and pointed out common ground among evangelicals and environmentalists related to each area.

*First, because part of Jesus' saving work is to redeem the entire creation from the ruin of sin, His followers should likewise care about the material world.*

"Orthodox (with a small 'o') Christians believe in the 'end of the world,' if by 'world' one means the present evil system under the tyranny

of the criminal spirits," Moore wrote. "But orthodox Christianity does not believe in the 'end of the world,' if by 'world' one means the destruction of the ecosystem or of the material cosmos.... The permanence of the creation, as redeemed in Christ, matters to the task of environmental

protection because it grounds the activity of earth-keeping in optimism and hope."

Christians who ignore creation care because they believe God will destroy the material world and environmentalists who warn that global warming will destroy earth are both misguided, Moore wrote. Exaggerated doomsday scenarios on both sides are less helpful than negotiated remedies to smaller scale environmental problems, he argued.

*Second, the biblical concept of human dominion over creation means cultivating the earth for useful purposes.* It precludes both predatory abuse of the creation and denial of humanity's unique position in God's economy.

"The concept of 'dominion,' found first in the opening passages of Genesis, sometimes alarms non-Christians because it seems to connote a sense of rapacious power," Moore wrote. "But that is not what the Christian tradition intends. Biblical dominion is not, in Carl Henry's words, 'pharaoh-like,' but instead is Christlike. Jesus, the One who fully restores human nature in his person, does not come to serve his own appetites but to serve others. The dominion over the creation is in the context of cultivation, and that in the context of a mandate to be 'fruitful and multiply' (Gen. 1:28). Dominion, then, by definition, is done with future generations, with others, in view."

*Third, a balanced political approach to creation care must neither reject environmental regulations altogether nor advocate regulations based solely on abstractions like global warming.*

"Evangelical and environmentalist cooperation

will begin in the small and long-term cultivation of communities learning to rethink connection and stewardship rather than primarily in the short-term activism of signed manifestoes and legislative checklists," Moore wrote. "Evangelicals learning to 'save the earth' will do little good for the earth, or for evangelicals. But evangelicals learning about how ... to 'live upstream' with love for those who are living 'downstream' can bring about long-lasting change."

Calvin Beisner, founder and national spokesman for the Cornwall Alliance, said Moore's theological discussion is a good starting point for evangelical reflection on creation care, but a robust environmental ethic must also consider science and economics.

"Theology is my main area of expertise, but extensive studies in the relevant science and economics over the past quarter of a century persuade me that many scientific claims about ecological disasters, and many economic policy prescriptions to address ecological problems, are mistaken — the scientific claims often exaggerated or simply counterfactual, and the policies often having harmful unintended consequences that outweigh the beneficial intended ones. Dr. Moore understandably avoids explicit affirmations about most such matters," Beisner told BP in written comments.

"Just as in theology and ethics there are contrasting voices, so are there in the science and economics of environmental stewardship. We all need to be aware of the spectrum and the reasoning along it, and test that reasoning (1 Thessalonians 5:21) in developing our own understanding. That's why the Cornwall Alliance always seeks the interdisciplinary input of scientists, economists, theologians, ethicists and others in developing our positions on environmental issues," Beisner said.

While Moore acknowledged the need to formulate specific policies in light of multiple fields, he said the most pressing issue for modern evangelicals is training believers' consciences to care about creation rather than hammering out national or state legislation.

"The primary issue," Moore told BP, "is being aware of our responsibilities of shepherding, cultivating and leaving the creation for the next generation."

He added, "Most of the discussion about the environment these days seems to be about huge global issues. I don't think that's where our primary problems lie. I think they're primarily local questions of Christians engaged in the communities around them."

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention's news service. ■



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**BAPTIST STATE  
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# EBOLA from page 8

adult he was staying with at an apartment complex have been quarantined, but he may have had contact with up to 100 people, according to varying news reports.

Before leaving Liberia, Duncan helped a neighbor who was sick with Ebola but failed to reveal that fact when he secured papers to visit Dallas, Reuters News reported. The woman has since died, and Liberia is considering filing charges against Duncan for withholding information regarding his exposure to Ebola.

The U.S. is equipped to stop the spread of the virus here, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said. But Bruce Johnson, president of the international Christian mission organization SIM USA, points out that West Africa has no such luxury.

“Unfortunately, the vast majority of people of West Africa have little or no option of a clinic or hospital to seek help,” Johnson said in a press release. “We can control Ebola in America. But it’s out of control across West Africa, and that’s why we need more people and resources on the ground to care for them.

“Think if this person in Dallas had no clinic or hospital available to them to go to for care. The only care center was a three-day walk or drive from Dallas. That’s the case for the majority of people in West Africa. There is scarce or no medical care available.”

Logan received a phone call around August 15 informing her of her relatives’ deaths.

“They called us to tell us that it happened, because most of my family is over here,” she said. “Ninety percent of my family is here. Some are

still there.”

Logan grew up in a Christian home in Liberia

staunch Christians,” she said. “We went to church in the morning, in the afternoon, in the night. I’m just a Baptist and I stayed a Baptist here.” She sings in the First Baptist Nashville sanctuary choir.

According to the CDC, Ebola is not airborne and is only transmitted by bodily fluids once a person shows symptoms, which include fever, body aches, severe headaches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting and, in some cases, unexplained bruising or bleeding from the eyes and ears.

Symptoms appear on average eight to 10 days after exposure, but may also appear anywhere from two to 21 days after exposure, according to the CDC. Recovery depends on the patient’s immune response, and people who recover develop antibodies that last for at least 10 years.

The virus has killed more than 3,300 in West Africa, according to the CDC, and if unabated, could infect up to 1.4 million people by January, 2015.

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



**The district of Kailahun, an Ebola epicenter in eastern Sierra Leone bordering Guinea, was put under quarantine at the beginning of August. In Kailahun, only four in 10 Ebola sufferers recover from the lethal disease. (Photo by EC/ECHO/Cyprien Fabre, used by permission)**

and came to the U.S. in 1993 during Liberia’s civil war. She has attended First Baptist Nashville since moving to the city in 2003, and is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

“Back home, my parents, my family, they were

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM together We are there**

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

**How CP Works**

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

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**

## 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.

### Preschool/children’s minister needed

Crossroads Community Baptist Church, Ann Arbor is seeking a part-time minister/coordinator preschool and children’s ministries. Crossroads is seeking a candidate who is a faithful follower of Jesus, committed to discipleship and outreach, and experienced in leading and administering a children’s ministry. This position is salaried at 30 hours per week. Salary range is \$30,000-36,000, depending upon education and experience. Submit résumé and cover letter to [KMST@crossroadsA2.org](mailto:KMST@crossroadsA2.org).

### Bi-vocational youth minister needed

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

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

### Did You Know?

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

## INTERVIEW from page 5

claim to here audibly from God. But while driving through Ypsilanti on my way home from work I heard God speak the word "Reach".

I had developed a heart for Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor while working in Ann Arbor for University of Phoenix. Until that point I felt God leading me to plant in Ypsilanti, but had smothered it because of the horror stories I heard about church plants in that area.

But I could not deny my personal call to the area. The name Reach identifies our focus to keep the arrows of our church pointed outwards and a focus on the Great Commission.

**Durbin:** Speaking about the Great Commission, how did you come to faith in Christ?

**Robinson:** I accepted Christ at the age of 7 in Gary, Ind. where I grew up. I was baptized at Van Buren Baptist Church in Gary under the leadership of Timothy Evans.

I was raised to acknowledge and love God as a child. That summer at Vacation Bible School I felt the presence and power of God pushing me to give my life to Him.

**Durbin:** Tell us a little about your family.

**Robinson:** My wife Ebony and I have been married for 9 years. We met and began dating our freshman year of college at Indiana State University. We dated 8 years before getting married, so we have known each other now half of our lives.

We have 4 great children: Naima (5), Tahirah (4), Solomon (3) and Sanaa (1). My family shapes our

ministry in a lot of ways.

**Durbin:** Tell us how you felt called to church planting.

**Robinson:** My call to church planting was an evolution for me. While serving as an associate minister at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Kalamazoo under Dr. Addis Moore, I began to mentally prepare myself for pastoral ministry. I felt at that time God leading me to senior leadership in the church.

In 2011, Rev. James Harris planted Trenches Community Church in Kalamazoo out of Mt. Zion. This was the first time I had real exposure to church planting. Although at the time I felt God would open the door for me to be on staff in a traditional ministry setting, I more identified with starting a ministry.

Upon moving to Canton, Mich. in the summer 2011, I joined and began serving at Canton Christian Fellowship under David Washington. Pastor Washington was able to help me better identify my calling to church planting. God began to show me that my gifts, philosophy, and passions were better

suited for a new work rather than a traditional setting.

**Durbin:** You served as a Church Planter Apprentice through the North American Mission Board's Farm System. How did your apprenticeship help you?

**Robinson:** The apprenticeship gave us the opportunity to clarify the vision of the church. We had the chance to work out some values of

common.

We felt like a simple Bible-teaching church was needed to reach people in our area. We didn't plan to be the biggest or best church, but we know there are people in this area that our ministry can reach.

**Durbin:** What is the vision of Reach Church?

**Robinson:** "Where the lost are found, the found are equipped, and the equipped are sent." Our church is simply focused on living out the Great Commission in our context.

A lot of people encouraged us to come up with a more relevant vision to our context. But at the end of the day, we knew God was leading us to line all of our activities to fulfill His commands. We did not want a vision

and activities that pleased people but not God.

**Durbin:** Could you share one highlight up to this moment?

**Robinson:** Seeing the selfless sacrifice of the individuals on our launch team. God formed a team in a short period of time amongst people who did not know each other prior to this endeavor.

This team never complained and never quit even when it looked very bleak. No one cared who got the credit; we all had a common goal and shared in the victories.

**Durbin:** Tell us about how Reach is impacting lives with the Gospel.

**Robinson:** We have had many first time confessions and commitments to Christ since we have started, but the unique work that God is doing is restoring families. Three families have come to have relationships restored during this journey. We have no ministries or small groups yet to minister to these specific needs, but through faithfully preaching Christ and showing love to people we have seen this happen.

**Durbin:** How can Michigan Baptists pray for you?

**Robinson:** We need continued prayer in seeking out those who would be willing to financially partner with us. We need prayer for God to continue to send us laborers to help with the work. Also continue to pray for my strength as I balance work, family, and church for God's glory. ■



Pastor Jason Robinson shares a message with Reach Church at its launch service. (Photo by Donnell Crear)

who we wanted to be.

It also provided the opportunity for me to be mentored and trained directly by Pastor David Washington. I was able to learn from his experience, and build upon what Canton Christian Fellowship does really well. It also provided funding, which helped cover some of the early costs of us starting up once we hit the ground.

**Durbin:** Canton Christian Fellowship (CCF) is your Sending Church. How have they helped?

**Robinson:** CCF has supported Reach from day 1. They have prayed for us, helped on mission days and have been the main encouragers to my family. They have also committed to financially support Reach Church on a monthly basis. We are proud to be the first church plant of Canton Christian Fellowship, and know we are not the last.

**Durbin:** Do you have any other partners?

**Robinson:** We have developed partnerships with First Baptist Church of South Lyon, the Huron Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, and the North American Mission Board. We are thankful for each of these.

**Durbin:** Why did you choose to plant the church in Ypsilanti?

**Robinson:** There is not a shortage of churches in Ypsilanti. A lot of the people that we engaged in Ypsilanti, prior to planting Reach, had given up on church. Stories of church hurt and giving up on faith in God were very

Rejoice - Renew - Refresh

**HARVEST WOMENS RETREAT**

Proverbs 11:25

**OCTOBER 24-26, 2014**

BAMBI LAKE CONFERENCE CENTER, ROSCOMMON, MICHIGAN

COST: \$20 DEPOSIT/REGISTRATION FEE.  
PRICE INCLUDES LODGING, MEALS, AND CAMP USE

MEALS/LODGE/CABINS/-WITH LINENS  
5 IN ROOM-\$76 DUE AT CHECK IN.  
4 IN ROOM-\$82 DUE AT CHECK IN.  
3 IN ROOM-\$90 DUE AT CHECK IN.  
2 IN ROOM-\$106 DUE AT CHECK IN.

MEALS/CHALET/PINEGROVE  
(BRING SLEEPING BAG OR LINEN)  
\$72 DUE AT CHECK IN. (AFTER \$20 DEPOSIT)

FEATURING  
**VANESSA HARTSELL**  
SPEAKER, AUTHOR, LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT TRAINER

REGISTER ONLINE AT REGISTER.BSCM.ORG/ OR CALL 989-275-5844 BY OCTOBER 13

## DID YOU KNOW?

...**Praise Baptist, Plymouth**, is organizing a youth lock in? Rush Hour, held on November 14 at Eastern Michigan University's rec center, includes a dodgeball tournament, inflatables, a climbing wall, swimming, and more. Visit <http://www.pbcplymouth.org/#/students/rushhour> for more information.

...**Middlebelt Baptist, Inkster**, will hold a revival on October 26-28? Focused on Psalm 85:6, the revival theme is "Revive Us Again: Renew, Refresh, Re-Energize."

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

### - Staff Updates -

- LaFamilia MC3, Flint, called Eduardo Calzada as pastor.
- Outreach, Flint, called Odis Van Henderson as pastor.
- Hilton Oaks Baptist, Ferndale, called Terry Smith as pastor.
- Harper Creek Baptist, Battle Creek, called Mark Keaton as pastor.

### - Upcoming Events -

- October 17-19: Collegiate Fall Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- October 24-26: Women's Harvest Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- October 22-25: Church Starter Assessment Center (Garden City)
- October 25: JumpStart 4 Church Starters (Garden City)
- October 28: Pastor's Conference (Westside Church, Flushing)
- November 6-7: Fresh Encounter: A Solemn Assembly (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- November 7-8: Pressing On in Unity: 2014 Annual Meeting (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- November 21-22: 2014 Youth Evangelism Conference (Flint)
- November 30-December 7: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Week of Prayer and Mission Study
- January 23-25, 2015: Winter Youth Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)

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

### A reminder from Jimmy: Submit your Annual Church Profile

Several years ago I saw an article in a magazine that contained 21 pictures. The pictures were of a dad and his daughter taken every year on her birthday at the same location.

It was a chronicle of her life. It was so interesting how she changed and he aged. I always wished that I had done that.

In a sense this what an Annual Church Profile is to a church. It is a picture of where we are. It shows the changes that have taken place in the life of the church.

Paul said to the Church of Corinth, "Examine yourself..." This is what an ACP does for the local church.

As you look back over 5-10 years you can see the direction of your church. We can praise the Lord what He has accomplished in His Church, or seek His forgiveness for falling short of being faithful.

The importance to the local church is not the only benefit of the ACP; it is also important to our Southern Baptist life. We see trends as we look at our convention.

In the last few years our SBC has seen decline for the first time since WWII, after continual growth for over 60 Years. Baptisms reported in 201, were the lowest they've been in 66 years. We need to know this so we can be in prayer to the Lord for revival.

Less than half of our churches and missions sent in their ACP last year. Does that mean that half of our churches did not baptize one person?

I am asking you to take a few minutes to answer a few questions about your membership, baptisms, attendance, mission involvement, and stewardship. If you do not know some of the answers just leave them blank.

Forms can be obtained from the state office. Please be a part of the story of Southern Baptists in 2014.

# 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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	August CP	August Designated	2014 YTD CP								
<b>BAY ASSOCIATION</b>				PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	291.43	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	48.75	0.00	601.80	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,488.78</b>	<b>4,123.99</b>	<b>97,769.36</b>	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	300.00	0.00	1,050.00
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>GENESEE ASSOCIATION</b>				CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	436.40	0.00	3,066.10	AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	567.42	0.00	5,559.68	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	461.13	200.00	5,562.47	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	80.00	0.00	667.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	357.94	0.00	2,996.42
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,913.61	BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	368.75	0.00	1,704.45
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	165.89	0.00	729.04	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,997.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,246.66	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,081.59
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	0.00	0.00	50.00	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	32.50	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,442.90	120.00	13,627.04	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	1,117.89	0.00	5,972.86
NEW HOPE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,520.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	2,800.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	5.00	40.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	183.33	0.00	1,533.21
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	506.96	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	10.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	236.32	0.00	2,138.42	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	630.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	44.09
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	12.30	100.00	120.49	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	14,946.76	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	22,500.00	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LEGACY	144.63	0.00	1,090.69
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,360.79</b>	<b>305.00</b>	<b>43,781.39</b>	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	800.00	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>CENTRAL ASSOCIATION</b>				HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	203.00	204.00	1,355.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	2,300.00	0.00	55,736.74
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,197.00	998.00	17,131.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,500.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	46.20	0.00	135.66	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY CHURCH	75.00	60.00	654.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	652.39	0.00	5,805.68
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	1,989.00	2,349.00	44,537.00	LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	48.00	0.00	293.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	80.00
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	34.46	0.00	356.86	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	432.18	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	436.01	0.00	4,094.14	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	200.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	600.00	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	1,058.45	0.00	7,597.88	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	50.00	0.00	350.00	ONELIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	454.09	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	75.00	0.00	600.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	900.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	100.00	0.00	300.00
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,437.09	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00	1,620.00
GRACE CHURCH	3,370.07	1,684.99	27,497.81	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	100.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	699.49	90.00	5,801.94	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.25	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	639.13	0.00	2,063.76	STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	0.00	0.00	260.00	THE WESTSIDE CHURCH	752.00	216.00	6,260.00	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	108.12	<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,397.36</b>	<b>1,598.00</b>	<b>78,730.98</b>	THE CITY CHURCH	10.00	0.00	20.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	0.00	0.00	784.38	<b>GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION</b>				TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	281.84	0.00	2,375.36
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	798.01	0.00	9,091.51	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	600.00	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	174.10	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	375.00
NEW LIFE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	874.00	BREAHAA MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	1,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
				BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,241.77</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>96,936.09</b>

## 2013-2014 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

# \$191,500,000

**73.20%**

### World Missions Ministries

International Mission Board (50.41%)  
North American Mission Board (22.79%)

**22.16%**

### Theological Education Ministries

Seminaries (21.92%)  
Library and Archives (.24%)

**2.99%**

### SBC Operating Budget

**1.65%**

### Christian Ethics and Religious Liberty Ministries

Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission



### HURON ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	370.23
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,179.46	0.00	11,632.22
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,303.92	0.00	14,863.03
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	0.00	0.00	500.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	2,761.96	0.00	24,663.96
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	321.90	0.00	3,477.16
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	151.00	0.00	1,432.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,200.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	344.40	0.00	3,327.15
OAKWOOD CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,474.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REACH CHURCH	200.00	0.00	250.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	-73.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	420.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,302.64</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>69,536.75</b>

### LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,857.42
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,189.01
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	13,599.40
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	117.39	0.00	615.39
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	303.32	0.00	2,788.42
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	51.54	0.00	386.28
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	200.00	150.00	1,400.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>897.25</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>22,510.92</b>

### MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,816.81
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,113.67	0.00	4,281.62
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	600.02	0.00	6,358.99
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	70.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,080.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,622.64
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	1,759.11	0.00	21,032.27
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	371.76	0.00	2,171.76
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,644.40
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	122.40	0.00	1,676.01
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	0.00	0.00	2,194.25
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	96.00	500.00	320.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	772.45	145.00	5,899.77
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	481.45
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.37
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	2,100.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,560.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	11,900.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	12,520.79
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	2,645.70	200.00	15,084.17
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,217.33
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	13,107.43
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	1,656.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	457.20	0.00	1,978.54
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	218.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	175.00	0.00	1,075.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOWI	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	15,032.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	223.50	187.00	2,066.45
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	350.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	11,603.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	250.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	0.00	0.00	1,914.97
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	250.00

"MIGUEL, I WANT YOU TO STOP SAYING IF WE CAPSIZE THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST DISASTER RELIEF WILL BE HERE FOR US. IT'S TRUE, BUT YOU ARE FRIGHTENING THE CREW."



TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	764.00	2,000.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,686.81</b>	<b>1,796.00</b>	<b>158,785.11</b>

### NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	75.00	50.48	150.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	89.20	0.00	774.37
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	708.40
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	398.61	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	0.00	600.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	120.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	200.00
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	377.98	0.00	4,113.11
<b>Total:</b>	<b>617.18</b>	<b>449.09</b>	<b>6,665.88</b>

### PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	951.36
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	46.19	0.00	692.13
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	50.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	32.20	0.00	704.95
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	92.78
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	38.82	41.25	597.53
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,583.06
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	0.00	0.00	468.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	945.43
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	172.00	0.00	1,697.50
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>289.21</b>	<b>41.25</b>	<b>8,623.42</b>

### SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	237.74	0.00	2,258.67
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	638.68	0.00	7,012.58
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	1,296.05	0.00	3,083.62
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	221.64	0.00	1,336.92
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	679.00	0.00	6,092.79
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,770.92	0.00	1,923.96

LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	242.95	0.00	898.20
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	902.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	938.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	364.88	0.00	588.62
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	154.00	0.00	1,797.89
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,605.86</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>26,884.31</b>

### SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	356.00	89.00	3,066.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,088.36
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	11,878.22
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	2,322.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,030.01
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	238.78	0.00	2,204.38
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	61.95	0.00	926.99
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	75.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	324.90	0.00	3,520.45
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	7,914.76	0.00	76,404.98
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	72.20	0.00	388.42
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>9,118.59</b>	<b>89.00</b>	<b>105,304.81</b>

### SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	92.00	0.00	704.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	432.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	0.00	0.00	4,449.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	75.44	0.00	647.41
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	67.00	0.00	412.84
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,150.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	0.00	0.00	1,575.92
<b>Total:</b>	<b>334.44</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,371.17</b>

### UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	0.00	0.00	1,424.31
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	146.16	0.00	1,806.32
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	65.00	0.00	438.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	96.00	0.00	852.89
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	478.42	0.00	4,030.14
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	106.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	823.00	0.00	6,243.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	160.65	0.00	1,509.98
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,769.23</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>16,410.64</b>

### WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	910.00
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	0.00	0.00	2,520.01
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IB RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	0.00	240.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3,670.01</b>

### NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	431.50	0.00	7,122.82
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	50.00	0.00	200.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	217.44	0.00	1,794.85
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	0.00	0.00	24,612.66
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>698.94</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>33,830.33</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>56,838.85</b>	<b>8,552.33</b>	<b>778,811.17</b>





# Block party engages Lansing community

**By STAN PARKER**

*Special to the Baptist Beacon*

LANSING – Faith Fellowship Baptist Church held its Annual Praise in the Park Block Party at the Walsh Park in Lansing on July 12. At the event, 24 children accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, and four adults and four children rededicated their lives to Christ.

The Praise in the Park Block Party is an anticipated event for the Potter Walsh community and the entire city of Lansing. This is only one of the evangelism events Faith Fellowship conducts during the summer.

Every year the event has recorded large numbers of attendees. This year's attendance exceeded 250, including city council persons, county commissioners, and gubernatorial candidates, teachers, business people, and other pastors.

Faith Fellowship's deacon ministry kicked off the event with a powerful prayer and spiritual boost, setting

the tone for the rest of the event. Entertainment included poets, gospel singers and rappers, a gospel saxophonist, and praise dancers.

Each performer offered a soulful praise to God and an uplifting spiritual message to the community members. The community responded with full praise and worship. In addition to praise and worship, family and entertainment were offered to those who attended the event.

The block party also offered games, giveaways, face painting, prize giveaways, and a community family resource fair for health and wellness. The vendor sections included health and wellness screenings,

healthcare sign up, and registration for VBS and other summer activities.

Faith Fellowship Baptist Church partnered with the Potter Walsh Neighborhood Association and Eastside Community Action Center. The partners assisted with the event setup, registration, face painting, game management, evangelism, and the food distribution.

Many of the children attended VBS the following week and are now attending Sunday School to continue their growth in Jesus Christ. Faith Fellowship is very grateful to the Baptist State Convention of Michigan for their partnering with Faith Fellowship to make this event possible. ■



**Faith Fellowship Baptist Church pastor Stan Parker poses with Gabby, a nine year-old girl who won a bicycle at Faith Fellowship's July 12 block party. (Submitted photo)**

Children played lots of games such as ducks in a pond, potato sack races, and a bounce house.



Left, the Faith Fellowship Baptist Church block party offered activities for children such as face painting. Right, the event also offered live music, including this gospel saxophone player. (Submitted photos)

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

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