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"You will conceive and give birth to a son,
and you are to call him Jesus. He will be
great and will be called the Son of the
Most High. The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David, and he will
reign over Jacob's descendants forever;
his kingdom will never end."
- Luke 1:31-33 (NIV)

Merry Christmas

From the Baptist State Convention of Michigan Staff



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Lead Missionary /
Executive Director



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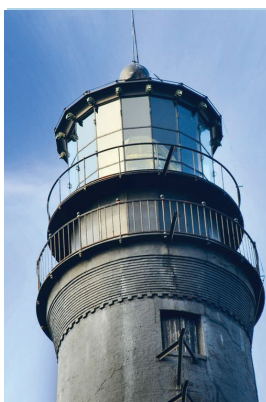


Win Williams
Disaster Relief Director



Bob Wood
Church Strengthening State
Missionary

The state convention office will be closed from December 23, 2013 to January 2, 2014.



Baptist BEACON

'Church Starting Week' held in November

Church Starter Assessment Center and JumpStart 4 Church Starters made a big impact on Michigan church starting

Baptist aid provides hope following ty- phoon

Baptists came to the rescue as Typhoon Haiyan devastated the Philippines

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Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan •

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December 2013 •

www.MichiganBaptists.org

Students gather from across Michigan for YEC

By DAVID B. SMITH
Baptist Beacon

FLUSHING — “Let God Break In, Break Through and Breakout of your life.” The guiding motto of this year’s Youth Evangelism Conference, taken from Psalm 51:17, explains the week-end perfectly.

“YEC: Breakable” was held at Westside Church in Flushing. Beginning on Friday evening, November 22, 2013, and continuing the next day, the conference-goers enjoyed two challenging sessions with a break for dinner and a trip to a local recreation center. On Saturday morning after breakfast and the final session the students took blankets and hats to local shelters and feeding sites.

Ed Emmerling, pastor of Westside Church and Youth Evangelism Consultant for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, led the planning of the event.

“We had 33 kids accept Christ on Friday night, which was awesome,” Emmerling said. “On Saturday morning we sent them out to deliver

blankets to the homeless, which was powerful. The feedback I’ve received from the youth leaders and chaperones has all been positive.”

Planning for the event included finding just the right speaker. Ed Newton was selected for this year’s YEC and Emmerling said he identified with every age group and presented a clear gospel message during the first session.

The committee had planned some unique worship opportunities during the second session on Friday night. Newton preached from the story of blind Bartimeaus about coming to the King. He didn’t know the committee had planned to address that subject.

“We had slotted a time for the students to come before the King,” Emmerling said. “We had chalk boards up for the students to worship the King with their drawings and then to make requests by writing them down on a piece of paper and nailing them to a cross.”

The students were then given a sheet of paper to express to the King what they were giving to Him. After filling it out they brought it to the altar where a small fire was lit and burned

them there.

During the Saturday morning session Newton preached from 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 about letting God break out of your life. Emmerling said this fit perfectly with the service project to go to local shelters and hand out blankets and hats.

The YEC committee requested the students bring blankets and hats for the service project on Saturday morning. The 330 students in attendance distributed over 400 blankets and 350 hats to the homeless in five different shelters in the Greater Flint area.

“The temperature was in the 20s on Saturday,” Emmerling said. “It turned out to be the perfect day to hand out blankets and pray with the people. At one of the shelters the kids were able to do some clean up of leaves and sticks to make it look nice.”

Planning also included finding just the right music leadership for the event. The Matt Wagner Band along with The Wells were tapped for the event. Matt Wagner actually wrote a song just for the event based on the “Breakable” theme. “Matt catered the music to the theme in a very powerful

way,” Emmerling said.

YEC leadership was delighted to see the attentiveness of the students and how passionately they worshiped.

“It turned out great,” Emmerling said. “One of the things that our church and other churches had been praying for was that God would prepare their hearts. It was wonderful to see just how quickly everyone connected with the music and the speaker.”

The unsung heroes of the event were the volunteers working behind the scenes. Twenty-five people served as volunteers from Westside Church along with the chaperones, some of them working 16 hours on Friday and 6-8 hours on Saturday.

Work will begin soon for next year’s YEC. Emmerling said by April the website should have the 2014 information along with the theme, music leadership and speaker. He said the service project was such a marvelous success this year that one will be planned again and possibly expanded.

“We may add to the blanket idea, food or something to give the kids more to do for a longer period of time,” Emmerling said. ■



Above, the Matt Wagner Band leads worship for “Breakable,” the 2013 Michigan Youth Evangelism Conference. Left, Ed Newton speaks to students at YEC.

JumpStart provides first step for church starters

By JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

MONROE — How does someone gain the confidence and leadership skills necessary to be successful at starting a church?

JumpStart 4 Church Starters aims to answer that question for potential Michigan church starters.

“A new church will rise and fall upon its pastoral leadership,” said Bobby Gilstrap, Baptist State Convention of Michigan Lead Missionary and JumpStart coordinator. “If all we focus on are the systems and structures, then we are missing developing the leaders that must guide the church.”

JumpStart 4 Church Starters is a leadership development event designed to identify and cultivate top-quality church starters. Each JumpStart event hosts between 5 and 10 potential lead church starters.

Each participant is assigned a JumpStart coach to walk the potential pastor through the two-day process.

This provides each participant the opportunity to talk one-on-one with someone knowledgeable in the church starting process.

Participants are encouraged to consider such questions as where they are called to start a church, what location or group of people the participants feel called to reach, the driving passion the participants have for their desire to start a church, and how to cultivate relationships with lost people.

The JumpStart event replaces the former Basic Training for Church Planters. These training events were full of content and helpful in the short-term, but the focus was team-based.

Instead, JumpStart focuses on the primary leader of a church start and helping that leader realize their God-given leadership potential.

The event aims to help potential church starters recognize the position they should play in a church start - be

See JUMPSTART on page 2

CSAC serves as final exam for church starters

BY DAVID DAFFERN

Special to the Baptist Beacon

MONROE — In the past, church starting depended on two questions: “Do you love Jesus? Are you willing to go?”

For all who said “yes,” a simple answer was given. “Here’s some money. Go!”

But church planting has changed in Michigan and across the Southern Baptist Convention, says Marc Bewley, Director of the BSCM’s new Church Starter Assessment Center (CSAC).

CSAC was launched in April, and conducted its second assessment cycle of potential Lead Pastors in November. The goal is to have three cycles for 2014.

“We’re not planting churches just to plant churches anymore. We want to plant healthy churches,” says Bewley, who also serves the BSCM as a Church Starting Strategist for Region 5 (Metro Detroit). “We understand that some church plants will fail. That’s inevitable. But, we want to do everything possible to help a church plant succeed.”

Thus, a CSAC goal is to greatly reduce the 75-80% historical failure

rate of new church plants in Michigan. Bewley says success is measured as “alive, viable, and growing after five years.”

A strategic change also was needed because the church planting environment has changed through the decades, says Bewley.

Today, “Church planting is like Seal Team Six going behind enemy lines,” Bewley said.

He says it also takes someone with an “entrepreneurial spirit,” and that that’s why assessing the Lead Pastor is the focus of the CSAC.

Bewley describes the new process used by CSAC as a funnel. It begins with each of the five Church Starting Strategists interacting with at least 50 church planting prospects per year to gauge their interest.

He estimates that 25 will be interested in going further, and “then we develop relationships.” From that group it’s estimated that 10 will attend JumpStart, a 2-day preliminary event to prepare candidates for CSAC.

“JumpStart is like the entrance exam. It gives an evaluation of where they are and where they need to be.” Bewley says that basically everyone passes JumpStart because “we think everyone should be part of a church start... but maybe not as the Lead

Planter/Pastor.”

Then the Church Starting Strategist works with them to get them ready for CSAC, which is their “final exam.”

The time between JumpStart and CSAC may be relatively short, or may take a year or longer. In the interim, candidates are refining their vision and the location of their potential church plant and working on their strategy for discipleship, evangelism, and worship.

In CSAC, a team of trained assessors spend three intensive days with the candidates and their spouses. They probe the candidate’s strategy, depth of Bible knowledge, psychological profile, strength of marriage, and more. While it can be uncomfortable, the goal is determine if God has uniquely gifted them and prepared them to be Lead Pastors in a church plant.

At CSAC’s conclusion, there are four possible outcomes:

Recommended: “We believe you are ready to go start a church.”

Recommended with conditions: “Almost ready, but there are things that can and must be done in the next six months before receiving a full recommendation.”

Recommended with strong conditions: “Almost ready, but there are things that can and must be done in the next 6 to 18 months (e.g. finish school,

get out of or reduce debt).”

Not recommended: “You are not ready at all to be a church planter.”

“If they come to CSAC and don’t get a ‘recommendation’ or a ‘recommendation with conditions,’ we aren’t doing our job as Church Starting Strategists,” says Bewley. Earlier processes haven’t caught it and should have.”

Nevertheless, the CSAC team of assessors aren’t afraid to say “no.” That’s because “we’re not planting churches just to plant churches anymore.”

Those who are “not recommended” still are “encouraged to do what God has called them to do.” But, they will not receive funding from the North American Mission Board or the BSCM.

“We in Michigan value your dollars, your Cooperative Program dollars,” says Bewley.

CSAC is funded by the BSCM and by the participants. Candidates who are Michigan Southern Baptists receive a 50% discount. Bewley also encourages the local Baptist Association and their home church to help defray the costs. Thus, the participating couple generally only pays a smaller portion of the fee. ■

JUMPSTART from page 1

it a lead pastor, associate pastor, team member, or other position, connect to other church starters and ministry partners, and build confidence and affirm God’s call to start a church.

Training will focus on four areas: identifying people who need the Gospel, making disciples, leadership, and multiplication.

Even though the focus of the event is on leadership, the event also provides logistical training and important information for potential pastors.

At the end of each JumpStart

event, each participant receives a Ministry Blueprint. This customized professional development plan is compiled by the team of JumpStart coaches and facilitators, and it gives numerous recommendations which will enhance the church starters’ skills and abilities for starting a new church.

The Ministry Blueprint may also contain several conditions which need to be fulfilled by the potential church starter if they intend to start a church and progress to the Church Starting Assessment Center. ■



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THE BAPTIST BEACON

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in association with the Southern Baptist Convention

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

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www.MichiganBaptists.org

Disaster Relief provides aid for Colorado flood victims

BY DUANE MOORE

Special to the Baptist Beacon

Editor's note: The following is a first-hand account of a Michigan Baptist volunteer who served with the Disaster Relief mud-out team in October, 2013.

I had always vowed I would never do mud-out.

Although I have been involved with Disaster Relief since 2006, this was my first mud-out trip. I am just thankful that I finally listened to God's calling and broke down and went.

Because of my lack of experience, I had no expectations. I felt uncomfortable, nervous, and almost out of place.

As a member of the chain saw team, I knew exactly what my "job" was and what needed to be accomplished. I went on this trip to help those in need, but also because I have been struggling with things in my life, and I could not think of a better way to get things ironed out; also, my teammates are simply the most amazing Christian people I the world.

Many things happened on our two week trip, but I will focus on one particular house where we worked.

We arrived on Saturday to Michelle's home to aid in whatever way we could. As I stated earlier, I felt "lost" as to the things that needed to be done.

I watched as our "blue hat" made contact and found out what the situation was and in what ways we could lend aid. Our experienced members got to work and started cleaning out a small garage filled with bicycle parts.

It would take our sixteen member crew the next two days to empty the entire garage, sanitize the garage itself and every small minuscule bike part in it, and then load it all back into the garage.

I helped where I could, or at least where I thought I could. Other teammates had cautioned me about altitude sickness, a common ailment resembling flu like symptoms. I was not feeling well this day, and so I was taking pictures and wandering around the neighborhood taking in all the destruction from the flood.

I had just come back from taking pictures and I began talking with Michelle. I asked her about the flood damage and how they had dealt with it.

Pretty much making small talk, I was trying to get a sense of how she was doing emotionally.

I sensed that as she watched us work, it may have started to take a toll on her. My assumptions could not have been further from the truth.

She proceeded to tell me the story of how her husband, Steve, two neighbor adults and their two sons, two dogs, and two cats survived the flood. It was truly a miracle from God!

The six neighbors all live door to door on the side of the mountain in Salina. As the rains continued to come, they got together and devised a survival plan.

As the water from the river continued to rise in the streets and yards, they would move to the next house higher up the mountain. Eventually this is what they were forced to do.

As night approached, they stationed a watch person to watch the rise of water as the rest tried to get some sleep. The two sons slept upstairs while the adults were on the main floor, two of them on the living room floor. The watchman was not aware that water might come raging down the mountain.

Sometime in the night, the flood waters did come down the mountain to the rear of the house, knocking out the rear and side walls of the house.

Michelle was asleep with both dogs next to her. All she remembers is waking up and being pinned against the front door. She was trying to find the bed post and her husband, but the power was out.

There was a small amount of light so she saw the bed and then her husband. One dog was unable to keep its head above water, so Michelle was giving it mouth to mouth while her husband struggle to free it.

Once the dog was freed, Steve worked on freeing Michelle, which was literally a life and death struggle. As she was freed, they looked for the others. The boys upstairs were okay, but their parents were trapped in the mud and water also.

Steve and Michelle helped the woman get free and the three of them worked on the man. His situation was much more serious and was getting worse by the second.

The three rescuers were using knives, spoons, bowls, buckets, hands and fingers to dig the mud from around the man's legs and torso. His location in the house was in the back room, pinned against an interior wall. This back room was where the flood had taken out the back wall of the house.

Time was running out for this

man, as his wife now had to hold his chin above the rising water. Michelle, a professional mountain biker, ran out through the back of the house, up the mountain and headed for a series of trails she had cut into the side of the mountain two years prior, right after a forest fire.

As she was running to get help from their neighbors, she spotted her two dogs on the trail in front of her. She then returned to the house with help and was able to free the homeowner.

As I was standing in the living room of this house, I could not help but notice I was standing on almost three feet of mud and dirt. I could picture where she had been sleeping and how she was pinned against the inside of the door, struggling for her very life. Emotions got the best of me and I started to cry, telling Michelle that her ordeal and survival was truly a miracle and that God had bigger and better things for her and her husband.

So here I was, feeling ill and not worthy to be on this team because I was not getting any 'work done'. Little did I know, God had decided to bless me this day by seeing His miracle and allowing my team and me to help this family. I should not be surprised that after this time spent with Michelle I felt recharged and uplifted. ■



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and **JOY**
of Giving



Michigan Baptists typically increase their charitable giving at year's end. But the truth is that generosity knows no season. There are a wide variety of gift arrangements that can benefit you and your favorite Southern Baptist ministries. Please feel free to contact us at foundation@bscm.org



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CHURCH UPDATE

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

Send updates
about your
church to:

beacon@bscm.org



BOBBY'S BITS

Assembly Required



BOBBY GILSTRAP
Lead Missionary/
Executive Director

As my two sons have grown, it has required less effort to find and buy for gifts for each of them at Christmas.

One of the things I look forward to at Christmas now is that almost none of the gifts

we buy for them have the statement, "Assembly required." Hallelujah!

The stories I could tell of sleepless nights before Christmas resulting from that one two-word statement on the side of a toy box.

The statement "Assembly required" has many implications.

First, it means that the contents of the box are in separate pieces and will require the purchaser to put them together. That often means that special tools will be needed and that it would be prudent to read and follow the enclosed instructions.

Of course, in my case, it would seem that the manufacture would of-

ten include extra parts just to confuse me. I am sure that is the case since I am sure that I didn't miss using any screws or bolts. Then again, as a last resort, I would have to pull out the instructions and try to diagnosis why I was missing parts or why the pieces wouldn't fit properly.

"All things are possible with God."

The birth of Jesus is clear evidence of that very fact. In God's infinite wisdom, He orchestrated for all the pieces to come together at just the right time in history. There was nothing left out or undone. All was in its perfect place at the perfect time.

As we look at the Christmas story during this season, let us reflect on

the fact that assembly was required for all the pieces to fit into God's ideal plan. Yet, that was no problem since the Heavenly Father had it all

under control. He was writing the manual for all of history.

Now, we must simply follow His instructions as found in the Bible as we seek to be faithful and obedient to our commitment as disciples of Jesus. During this time of

year, let me encourage you to find opportunities to share your faith through word and deed.

We have the greatest story ever told. Let us not be ashamed to be a living testimony of God's eternal love for us, as expressed through the birth of baby Jesus.

"During this time of year, let me encourage you to find opportunities to share your faith through word and deed. We have the greatest story ever told. Let us not be ashamed to be a living testimony of God's eternal love for us, as expressed through the birth of baby Jesus."

In addition to other activities, our family enjoys annually delivering tins of homemade treats to our neighbors with Christmas greetings and evangelistic tracts. After several years of this tradition, our neighbors have now come to expect this expression of sharing. If we don't deliver, we hear about it. It is one of the things that helps us build a relationship with our neighbors.

What will you do this Christmas season to reach your neighbors for Christ? Remember, there is no additional assembly required. All of the pieces are in place for you to share the eternal truths of the babe in the manger. This Christmas, take every opportunity to tell your world about Jesus.

From the Gilstrap family, we wish you a Merry Christmas.



bobby_gilstrap



BobbyGilstrap

The need for greater cooperation



NATHANIEL BISHOP
Church Strengthening
Mobilizer
Greater Detroit Baptist
Association

The writer of the book of Ecclesiastes was inspired to pen the following: "Two are better than one, because they have a good

reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12).

These scriptures place a great emphasis on the value of the need of cooperating together.

In our Southern Baptist way of life, we have agreed in writing and spirit that we will come together to cooperate with one another in promoting scripture integrity, to fulfill our faithfulness in

cooperative giving, and to support to our Baptist State Convention of Michigan and the Southern Baptist Convention. From this great relationship, we have the opportunity to provide leadership in the resurgence of greater cooperation in accomplishing the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, pushing back the darkness and see lives transformed as we move forward in Kingdom Building.

Our state has continued to grow with ethnic diversity. With the socioeconomic of individuals ever changing around us, we as Southern Baptists should be a model in leading the way in overcoming any and all obstacles in winning the lost, establishing ongoing mission projects, and planting new churches.

I personally believe we have what I would call an "Esther moment," for such a time as this God has bought us to the kingdom (Esther 4:14).

The need for truly cooperating together has never been greater. If we as a State Convention are going to meet the challenges and reach those who are lost in our State with the precious gospel, we must work together.

Look at what Randy McWhote, a leader of the California Southern Convention (Health Church Group), said in an article by Terry Barone: "Great cooperation ensures that the Commission given to us by our Lord is great in its scope and results."

In this article, Randy gave an illustration from Mark 2:1-5 about the four men bringing their friend to Jesus and how they cooperated together. From this illustration he concluded with the following question, "Do you want to see God do things that people have never seen before?"

He responded by saying, "I do! With all my heart and mind and soul, I do: therefore, I'd like to suggest that we have a Great Cooperative Resurgence that results in cooperating together to bring people to Jesus" (April 25, 2012 - www.csbc.com). The time is now for our many SBC churches to live out the true meaning of what the Southern Baptist philosophy is all about: We can do more together than alone.

I am appealing to our Pastors, Church Leaders, and Congregations in each of their associations to refocus,

recommit, and not allow any distractions or obstacles to stand in their way as we join together in Kingdom building.

God has allowed us to be here for such a time as this! It is our time as God's people to be the agent of change, pushing back the darkness and allowing the light of Jesus to shine.

Oftentimes we forget about the great advantages of what affiliating with the Southern Baptist Convention really means. Temple Baptist in Simpsonville, South Carolina listed 5 reasons why they, as a local church, have affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention:

It allows us to identify ourselves with other Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible.

It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world. Through the SBC's Cooperative Program, we help support over 9,000 career missionaries in 125 countries.

It allows us to be a part of a tremendous mobilization of church members around the country. About 100,000

Southern Baptists each year participate in short-term mission and disaster relief projects, at home and abroad.

It allows us to be a part of training, through our six seminaries, about 12,000 pastors and others each year who are called to vocational ministry.

It allows us to be a part of the LifeWay Christian Resources, the largest publisher of religious materials in the world. Orders come from over 70 countries around the world.

This not only holds true to Temple Baptist of Simpsonville, South Carolina, but for every Southern Baptist Church that participates through giving to the Cooperative Program.

We are truly blessed by our churches that participate and support the Cooperative Giving Program. But just think how much more could be done if all of our SBC churches here in our state would give and give regularly to the Cooperative Program and mobilize in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 1:8. ■

Bivocational ministry: optional or essential?



GEORGE FOUNTAIN
Bi-Vocational
Ministry Consultant

While Bivocational Ministry was once considered to be an optional form of ministry, today it is recognized and appreciated throughout the SBC as an essential form of ministry in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Dr. Kevin Ezell, President of the North American Mission Board, has stated, "If we are going plant the churches that need to be planted, we can only accomplish our task with bivocational ministers."

First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach, Florida has committed to planting one hundred churches over a period of ten years and is convinced the only way they can accomplish their goal will be with bivocational ministers. They also realize that bivocational ministers will be essential in serving these churches long term.

Bivocational ministers serve as church staff in various types of ministry. Lenny Steuwe serves our church as a bivocational minister in the

role of Worship Pastor and does a great job. The possibilities of ministry will only be limited by our own imagination and those serving in critical decision making positions.

Dr. Danny Akins, President of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, has affirmed the value of bivocational ministers and the need to be more intentional in efforts made to encourage students to prayerfully consider bivocational ministry as they graduate from SEBTS to serve God's Kingdom. Southeastern is also providing more and more off-campus educational opportunities that will benefit those serving in bivocational ministries and wanting to continue their education.

Bivocational ministry has served and will serve to plant churches and bivocational ministry has and will serve to sustain healthy, long lasting, soul-winning, disciple-making, life-transforming, reproducing, missions-minded churches. I am praying that we will see more and greater intentional efforts being made throughout the SBC, IMB, NAMB, our seminaries, our state conventions, and our own churches to advance God's Kingdom through bivocational minis-

try. Let me invite you to look for, call out, invest in and equip, and partner with these bivocational ministers, sending them into the fields that are so "white unto harvest."

Jeremy Boling and David Longstaff serve as perfect examples. God used them in planting the Abundant Life Church in Iron Mountain. While Jeremy remained to serve and pastor the church in Iron Mountain, David went to Menominee and a second Abundant Life Church was planted. Today, another bivocational minister will serve to pastor this church in Menominee as Jeremy and David prepare to plant a third church, all since their own beginnings less than four short years ago. They continue to serve as bivocational church planters and bivocational pastors.

The gospel ministry was launched with bivocational ministers. One was a converted Jew, a terrorist of sorts. I've read he was not much to look at, rather short, hook-nosed, bow-legged and admitted he lacked as a speaker. Yet, he was a man called of God, gifted by God, empowered for his task, and committed to his assignment. He was also willing to work and make tents to supplement his income as he faithfully

served in spreading the Gospel and planting churches.

I remain convinced: God intends to accomplish great things for His Kingdom sake through bivocational ministry. Does He want to work through you and your church? As you consider this question prayerfully, you may find that you have questions such as:

- What is bivocational ministry?
- What makes bivocational ministry risky?
- What makes bivocational ministry rewarding?
- Is bivocational Ministry for me/for us?
- What preparation do bivocational ministers need?
- What might be accomplished through bivocational ministry?

I would love to meet with you and discuss how bivocational ministry may a part of God's plans for your future as "Partners Together Advancing God's Kingdom." ■

tentmaker 1320

Tentmaker 1320



TALKING POINTS

@robfreshour:

How deep and satisfying can our fellowship with Christ be if we do not deeply desire bringing the Gospel to lost people?

Rob Freshour

@pastordanrussel:

Happy Birthday Billy Graham, who says "Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

Dan Russell

@ChappellTim:

Listening to @bobby_gilstrap talk about what's great about being Southern Baptist at #jumpstart

Tim Chappell

@Kevin_Hester:

Excited to be coaching @MichiganSBC church planting event. I just led the hotel clerk to Christ, it was a Divine reservation!

Kevin Hester

@Rev_CL_Thompson:

Instead of promoting gifts it's time to promote faithfulness! #growinginwisdom

Chris Thompson

@cindyjbradley:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3

Cindy Bradley

● CLASSIFIEDS ●

Churches seeking van to purchase

Galilean Baptist Church, Flint, is looking to purchase a church van to transport attenders to Bible study and worship. **If you have one available, please contact Pastor Sean Payne at pastor-spayne@yahoo.com.**

Eastside Community Church, Harper Woods is in need of a bus or van to transport attenders to church. **If you have a bus or van available for lease or inexpensive purchase, please contact Pastor Mathew Vroman at pastor@eastsidecommunitychurch.com or (313) 657-1100.**

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. See: www.MichiganBaptists.org

Did You Know?

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

Youth pastor needed

Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Clarkston is searching for a part time youth pastor to lead, pastor, and disciple our Junior and Senior High school youth. As a church, we are looking for someone who has a heart for the Word of God and a heart for teenagers and their families. Applicant must also pass a background check prior to hiring. For more information or to submit a resume, contact John Phebus at cpcande@att.net.

Training class beginning in January

A new Contextualized Leadership Development class, an extension of Golden Gate Seminary, begins in January. These courses exist to provide seminary-quality training for church leaders for whom seminary is not currently a feasible option. For more information contact Roberto Santos, CLD Director, at 313-445-6286 or robrosesan@hotmail.com

Pews available

Cass Park Baptist Church, Detroit, has 20 nine-foot pews in excellent condition to give to another church. **Interested parties should contact pastor John Williams at (313) 342-9245 or (313) 319-4053.**



Jesusa Booc on northern Cebu island cradles her one-month-old baby Ella Mae as she and others in the Filipino village of Bangon recount Typhoon Haiyan's rampage and ponder the struggle ahead to recover. (IMB photo)

Missions Spotlight

Filipino family of 6 count Baptist aid as ray of hope from typhoon

BY CAROLINE ANDERSON

Baptist Press

BANGON, Philippines (BP) — A Baptist pastor found Jesusa and Michael Booc with their four children in the ruins of a destroyed chapel, sheltered under a table covered by a tarp.

The chapel's walls were blown off during Typhoon Haiyan and lay in a stack on the side of the battered structure.

The face of the Booc's one-month-old baby, Ella Mae, was sunburned from prolonged sun exposure since Friday, Nov. 8, when the typhoon's furor swept across Cebu and other islands in the Philippines.

The Boocs' home now sits in a crumpled heap.

All of northern Cebu looks as if a rampaging giant had visited. Thousands upon thousands of banana trees -- the source of income for many villagers -- were crushed. Electricity poles lay on their sides, the wires twisted and lying in roadways. A brand-new gymnasium's roof looked like the giant had sat on it.

A house was left completely upside down. Hundreds of houses were smashed as if they'd gone through a trash compactor. Still others lay on their sides.

The Booc family soon realized the strength of Typhoon Haiyan as it bore down on Cebu. Their bamboo thatch house shook violently and they knew they could not stay. They ran in the midst of the typhoon's fury with their children to take cover in a chapel with a concrete foundation.

During their flight a banana tree fell, miraculously missing them. They had to dodge flying sheets of tin that were blown off of roofs.

The walls of the chapel were not built to withstand the winds. The family then ran to Michael's mother's house, which also was proving to be an unsafe structure. All of the homes in the area are made of lightweight materials such as bamboo while the roofs are corrugated tin.

When their third place of refuge lost its roof as the eye of the typhoon hovered over their village, the family decided to make a run for the high school that was nearly two miles away.

Jesusa said they thought Typhoon Haiyan would be the end of them. The family held hands.

Jesusa reflected, "[If] we just wait, we will die." She, Michael and their four children made it to the school.

After the storm, the Boocs returned to take shelter in the chapel but realized it was too hot, especially for their baby.

The sunburn on Jesusa's baby's face started to peel when IMB missionaries visited.

The village of 61 households had not yet received aid from the government as of Thursday (Nov. 14), six days after the typhoon's onslaught. The government is providing families with several pieces of tin for their roofs and two kilos of rice.

Two kilos of rice does not last long in the Philippines. Rice is the staple meal for most families, and for a family of four, it barely lasts a few days. A family normally eats around 10 kilos of rice in a week.

The community gathered together and shared what food and supplies remained in their village.

Their village name, Bangon, means, "rise up" in the Cebuano language. The villagers say they are people who indeed rise up from catastrophes.

"That is what we are," Wilma Booc, Michael's

mother, says. "Our name gives us hope."

They will rise up, they say. They are asking for help to lighten their burden and load. They know they cannot do it alone.

"We pray God will hear our prayers and help will come," Wilma says.





For having gone through such trauma and tragedy, the Booc family and their community seem positive and hopeful. Villages throughout northern Cebu share this positive attitude, according to various reports.

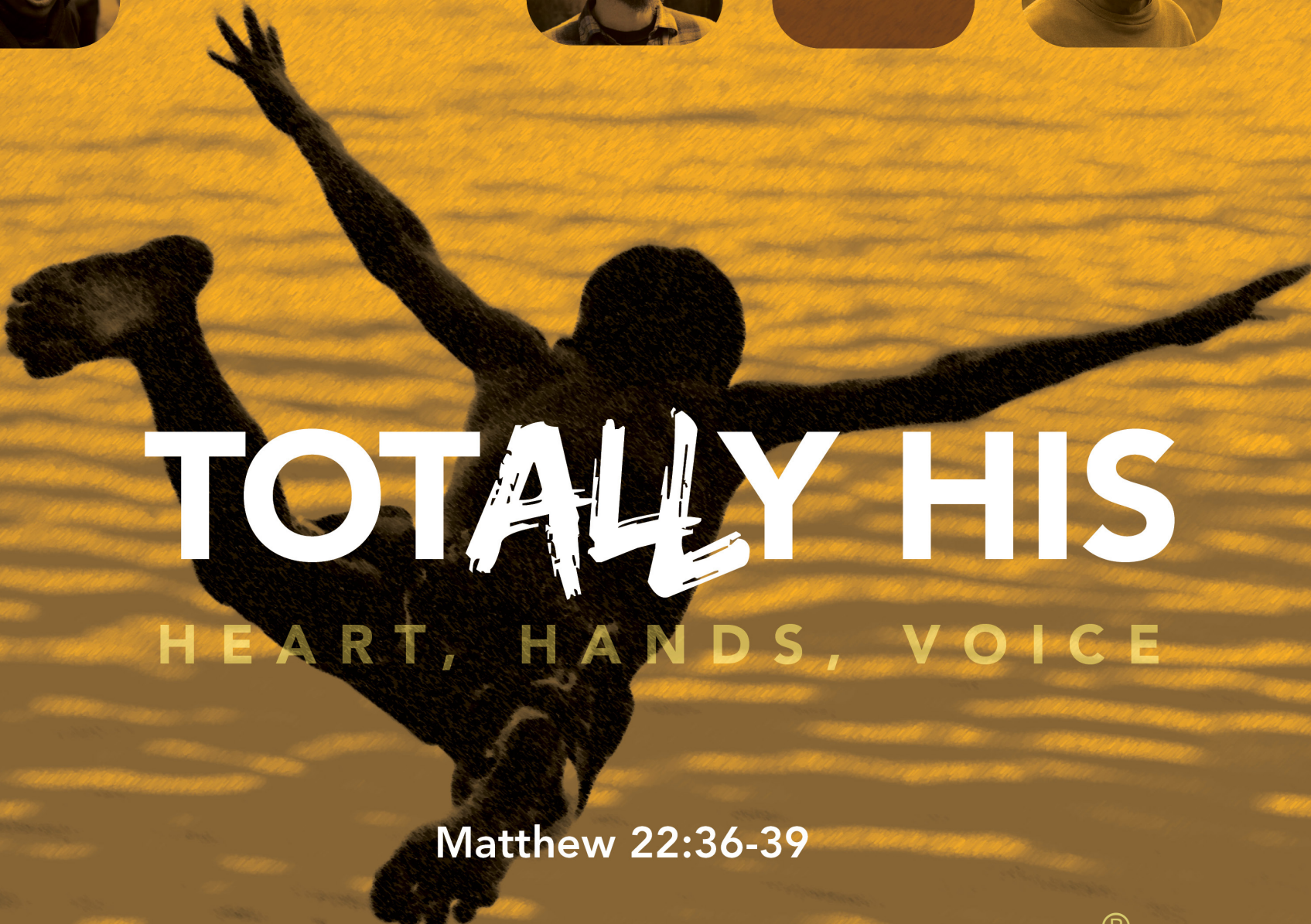
Baptist Global Response teams have now assessed the village's needs, and relief funds donated by Southern Baptists will help provide food in the coming days.

Every dollar given toward Philippines disaster relief through the International Mission Board goes directly to meet needs, since IMB personnel are supported through churches' gifts to the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. Online giving can be accessed at imb.org/helpnow. ■



Filipino children hold up signs asking for relief assistance on the edge of the main road in Tabuelan municipality on northern Cebu island in one of the areas the most seriously impacted by Typhoon Haiyan. (IMB photo)





TOTALLY HIS





HEART, HANDS, VOICE


Matthew 22:36-39

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

MICHIGAN STATE GOAL: \$215,000

NATIONAL GOAL: \$175 MILLION





SBC entities defend ministerial housing allowance

By TOM STRODE

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's religious freedom and financial benefits entities both expressed their opposition to a federal court ruling invalidating the ministerial housing allowance.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) and GuideStone Financial Resources protested a Nov. 22 decision by federal Judge Barbara Crabb that struck down the portion of a 1954 federal law that allows clergy to exclude for federal income tax purposes a portion or all of their gross income as a housing allowance. Crabb ruled that the provision violates the First Amendment's prohibition on government establishment of religion.

Crabb, a judge in the Western District of Wisconsin, blocked enforcement of her opinion until the appeals process in the lawsuit is complete.

In a combined news release Nov. 23, ERLC and Guidestone officials expressed their solidarity in working to protect the housing allowance.

"The clergy housing allowance isn't a government establishment of religion, but just the reverse," ERLC President Russell D. Moore said. "The allowance is neutral to all religions. Without it, clergy in small congregations of all sorts would be penalized and harmed.

"We will continue to fight to protect the housing allowance, because we believe clergy are essential for flourishing, vibrant communities," Moore said.

GuideStone President O.S.

Hawkins said, "Although this particular case does not have immediate impact, we know that pastors and others in ministry are facing challenges in our very own nation as never before. This decision, while not unanticipated, is sadly symptomatic of our culture today. We count it a privilege to be an advocate for those who have given their lives to ministry — and we will not forsake our mission to undergird those who so faithfully serve our churches and ministries."

At its website, GuideStone describes the housing allowance as "the most important tax benefit available to ministers. Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code allows 'ministers of the gospel' to exclude some or all of their ministerial income designated by their church or church-related employer as a housing allowance from income for federal income tax purposes."

The allowance has been especially helpful to smaller congregations because their pastors or ministers -- who typically receive lower salaries -- benefit from part of their income being non-taxable.

A 2002 estimate offered by then-Rep. Jim Ramstad of Minnesota said the housing allowance would save ministers \$2.3 billion in taxes during the following five years.

Crabb's decision came as no surprise. In 2010, she ruled the National Day of Prayer violates the establishment clause. A three-judge panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago unanimously struck down Crabb's ruling the following year. The appeals court ruled the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF) did not have standing to bring the

lawsuit.

FFRF, which is based in Madison, Wis., was qualified to sue federal officials in the housing allowance case, Crabb ruled, and its co-presidents celebrated the judge's decision. "The rest of us should not pay more because clergy pay less," Laurie Gaylor and Dan Barker said.

Barry Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said in a statement for Baptist Press, "The clergy housing allowance exemption is a special government subsidy extended only to religious leaders. On those grounds, it appears to be a violation of church-state separation.

"The exemption was crafted during a time when many congregations maintained parsonages and were structured much differently than they are now. I'm sure this decision will be appealed. Regardless of what happens, I hope America's religious and political leaders take this opportunity to consider revamping some old practices that may no longer make sense in the modern era."

Defenders of the housing allowance appeared hopeful the Seventh Circuit Court would again reverse Crabb.

In response to questions after the ruling, Thom S. Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, predicted in a Nov. 25 blog post that Crabb's decision "will eventually be overturned or reversed" but the housing allowance "will continue to be challenged."

Rainer advised ministers to be conservative as they deal with the issue. "If at all possible, do not be de-

pendent on the tax benefits garnered from having a housing allowance," he wrote. "Look carefully at the tax benefits you gain with the housing allowance. Be prepared to know what to do if the benefit goes away."

Ken Klukowski, director of the Family Research Council's Center for Religious Liberty, said in a written statement, "Since the U.S. Supreme Court has made crystal clear that these sorts of laws do not injure anyone, we expect the [Seventh Circuit Court] to promptly reverse this decision. This is a decision that flies in the face of controlling precedent."

In her opinion, Crabb said the housing allowance "provides a benefit to religious persons and no one else, even though doing so is not necessary to alleviate a special burden on religious exercise."

She wrote, "Some might view a rule against preferential treatment as exhibiting hostility toward religion, but equality should never be mistaken for hostility."

If a law "imposed a tax solely against ministers (or granted an exemption to everyone except ministers) without a secular reason for doing so, that law would violate" the U.S. Constitution, Crabb said.

While she ruled the housing allowance breaches the establishment clause, "this does not mean that the government is powerless to enact tax exemptions that benefit religion" as long as they have a secular purpose, Crabb wrote.

The case is FFRF v. Lew and Werfel. Jacob Lew is secretary of the Treasury and Daniel Werfel is acting commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service. ■

SERVING ACROSS MICHIGAN

Purpose: Find It Here
Orientation Meals
January 13-17, 2014

At this orientation meal, you will receive:

- A step-by-step custom planning guide for Michigan Baptists
- A NAMB "Find It Here" pastor/leader planning guide
- More than 100 community service project ideas
- Media resources to promote your service activities
- And much more!

To register for the meal in your area, visit register.bscm.org.



Schedule

- Monday, January 13: Region 2
 - 11:30 AM South Central
 - 6:45 PM Southwestern
- Tuesday, January 14: Region 3
 - 10:30 AM Westside Baptist, Flushing
 - 6:45 PM Crossway Christian Church, Bay City
- Wednesday, January 15: Region 1
 - 11:30 AM TBD
 - TBD
- Thursday, January 16: Region 4
 - 11:30 AM Harmony Baptist Church, Jackson
 - 6:30 PM Fellowship Baptist Church, Saline
- Friday, January 17: Region 5
 - 8:30 AM Legacy Church, Novi
 - 12:30 PM Calvary Baptist Church, Southgate

Year-end charitable giving reminders



DAN ALLEN
Chief Development Officer
Senior Vice President
Donor Services
Baptist Foundation of
Oklahoma

As we approach the end of the year, I want to give you some reminders about charitable gifts that you might make directly to your church, directly to a Baptist ministry, or through the Foundation to your church or favorite Baptist ministry.

Itemize

You must itemize in order to claim a charitable deduction. You report itemized deductions on Schedule A of your federal form 1040 using lines 16-19.

Qualified Organizations

Only donations to qualified charitable organizations are deductible. If you're not sure whether an organization is qualified, ask to see their letter from the IRS (many organizations will actually post their letters on their website). If that isn't possible, you can search directly online using IRS Publication 78. Keep in mind that churches are considered de facto charitable organizations and are eligible to receive deductible donations even if they're not on the list (some exceptions apply so ask if you're not sure). I would also suggest that you check out a potential charitable organization at CharityNavigator.org before you make a donation.

Cash Deductions

Regardless of the amount, cash deductions must be substantiated by bank record, such as a canceled check or credit card receipt, clearly annotated with the name of the charity, or in writing from the organization. The writing must include the date, the amount, and the organization that received the dona-

tion. Cash deductions that are not substantiated, such as a cash donation without a receipt, or donations made directly to an individual rather than a qualified charitable organization, will be disallowed. This doesn't mean that you shouldn't do these random acts of kindness, but it does mean that you can't claim the deduction on your tax return.

Employer Documentation

If you have money taken out of your paycheck for charity, be sure to keep a pay stub, a W-2 Form, or other document furnished by your employer showing the total amount withheld for charity, along with the pledge card showing the name of the charity.

IRA

For 2013, an IRA owner who has reached the age of 70 1/2 or older can make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 to an eligible charity, tax free. This means that amounts directly transferred to the charity from an IRA are counted in determining whether the owner has met the IRA's required minimum distribution (RMB) but will not be considered a taxable withdrawal. Nice, right? Some restrictions apply including the fact that distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, including SIMPLE IRAs and simplified employee pension (SEP) plans, are not eligible.

Non-cash Items

For donations of non-cash items, the rule is that you can generally take a deduction for the fair market value of the items - that is, what the item would sell for in its current condition. Be specific when you document your donation, noting the description and condition of the items. There is an exception, however. If you make non-cash deductions of clothing and household items, they are only deductible if in good condition or better. However, if the item is

valued at over \$500 but not in good condition, you may still take the deduction if you have an appraisal for the item.

Vehicles, etc.

The rule for the donation of a car, truck, other motor vehicle, boat, or airplane are a little different. Rather than use the fair market value of the donation, you are generally limited to the gross proceeds from its sale if the item is more than \$500. You will need to get a form 1098-C, or a similar statement, from the charitable organization and attach it to your tax return.

Amount

If the amount of all your non-cash contributions is over \$500, you must also submit a form 8283 with your tax return.

Appreciated Goods

Special rules apply to appreciated goods like stock or jewelry and hard-to-value items such as artwork. If you are planning on making these kinds of donations, check with your tax professional for more information.

Deadline

Contributions are deductible in the year made so be sure to get those gifts in by December 31. And yes, that means that credit card charges made before the end of the year are deductible even if the credit card bill isn't paid until the next year. Similarly, checks which are written and mailed by the end of the year will be deductible for this year even if they aren't cashed until 2014. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

...**Mt. Vernon Baptist Church**, Redford, held a "Community Bike Day" on October 20? They gave away 82 refurbished bikes and repaired 20 more. To donate a bike, please contact the church: 313-537-7480.

...**Springwells Avenue Baptist Church**, Detroit, and **Praise Baptist Church**, Plymouth Township, are working together to coordinate a "Coat Giveaway Partnership" on December 7? Call 313-841-1760 for more information.

...**Victory Fellowship Community Church**, Detroit, celebrated its 7-year anniversary on November 17? Darryl Gaddy, Sr. is pastor.

...You can support the **Lot-tie Moon Christmas Offering** when you shop online at **Amazon.com**? Visit the URL <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-0213930> before you begin shopping and 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to the LMCO.

...**First Baptist Church, Swartz Creek** has completed major interior renovations? They have installed new carpeting, walls, doors, and storage space.

...**LaFamilia Multicultural Community Church**, Flint, hosted a tri-lingual pastor appreciation service on November 17? Bobby Gilstrap spoke at the service in English, and interpretations for Spanish and American Sign Language were offered.

- Staff Updates -

Rick Marcus, youth pastor of First Baptist Church, Flushing, has resigned. Rick will become pastor of Rossville Bible Church in Rossville, Indiana.

- Upcoming Events -

"Find It Here" Evangelism Meals
January 13-17
Various locations

Men's Retreat
January 17-18, 2014
Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center

Men's Retreat
February 7-8, 2014
Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center

Women's Missions Retreat
February 21-22, 2014
Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center



BAY ASSOCIATION	CP October	Designated October	CP YTD 2013	KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	160.30	0.00	1,429.38	THIRD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
				KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	2,549.84	0.00	11,455.47	VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
				NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	869.72	WESTSIDE CHURCH	680.00	219.00	6,731.00
				NEW LIFE CHAPEL	137.00	0.00	1,271.00	Total:	9,017.95	1,581.00	96,732.26
				PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	686.33				
			Total:	15,249.57	9,667.23	138,815.12	GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION				
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH				118.70	256.00	1,126.25	GENESEE ASSOCIATION				
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	225.00	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN				
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH				375.84	0.00	3,189.93	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH				
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH				838.63	300.00	7,250.69	BREAHA A MISSIONARY BAPTIST				
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH				834.27	820.00	7,248.16	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH				
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH				92.68	0.00	964.20	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP				
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	0.00	CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH				
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	0.00	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH				
NEW HOPE CHURCH				844.00	0.00	2,682.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH				
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH				25.00	46.80	210.00	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH				
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	1,804.46	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE				
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH				671.81	760.47	3,303.74	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH				
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH				29.95	105.00	137.36	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH				
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH				11,250.00	810.00	45,000.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH				
Total:				15,080.88	3,098.27	73,141.79	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW				
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION							FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON				
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	500.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH				
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING				31.78	0.00	183.19	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH				
CEDAR STREET CHURCH				5,041.00	5,870.85	68,645.25	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH				
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	0.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP				
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH				58.64	0.00	762.82	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH				
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH				768.58	0.00	5,199.47	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH				
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	350.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH				
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT				50.00	270.00	500.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH				
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	0.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH				
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH				0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH				
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH				1,058.95	0.00	4,836.33	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH				
GRACE CHURCH				4,690.59	2,345.25	35,180.87	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE				
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON				649.89	1,181.13	6,551.39	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH				
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI				0.00	0.00	0.00	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH				
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS				40.00	0.00	255.00	PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST				
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH				13.00	0.00	138.90	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH-				
							PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN				

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



Cooperative Program—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

PRaise BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,595.00
SECONd LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	180.00
SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	599.87
STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	4,176.44
TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	5,000.00
Total:	16,022.85	1,870.00	142,718.74

HURON ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	0.00	0.00	284.35
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,651.23	355.00	14,425.30
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,542.97	0.00	15,582.20
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	100.00	0.00	816.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	1,301.14	385.00	28,542.51
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	548.39	0.00	4,309.14
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	228.00	0.00	1,927.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	800.00	0.00	4,400.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	566.40	490.00	5,063.48
OAKWOOD CHURCH	700.00	0.00	5,640.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	442.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	280.00	0.00	700.00
Total:	7,718.13	1,230.00	82,131.98

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	198.01	0.00	2,449.48
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,597.98
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,069.30	0.00	20,489.36
NEW DAY/NUeVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	188.00	0.00	717.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	389.96	656.71	3,672.11
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	38.06	0.00	423.66
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total:	2,883.33	656.71	32,024.59

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,318.90
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	578.13	550.00	7,695.93
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	607.97
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	957.60	180.00	8,610.45
CONGREGATION SHALOM	216.00	0.00	216.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	1,620.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	202.37	0.00	1,751.96
CROSSINGS CHURCH	100.00	0.00	235.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	30.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	2,673.13	150.00	23,309.62
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	763.75
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	3,086.04
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	915.37	309.70	9,263.57
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	275.00	300.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	404.26	0.00	2,728.25
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	703.58	750.00	4,057.95
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	55.00	0.00	601.00
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	751.96	0.00	7,977.01
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	188.51	2,190.00	1,070.44
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	467.71
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	600.00	0.00	3,600.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,933.00
LAKEPONTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	12,054.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,573.74	0.00	16,355.70
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	5,776.60	0.00	13,827.01
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,345.39	1,244.14	16,389.61
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	67.00	0.00	2,793.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	305.20	0.00	2,510.24
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	889.08
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	0.00	0.00	500.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOVI	0.00	0.00	0.00



“Well, what did you expect
for a dollar?”

NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	3,908.00	1,842.00	25,812.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	315.50	1,070.07	2,769.80
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,024.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	550.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	7,044.38
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	500.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	322.21	450.00	2,911.65
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	778.01
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	870.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	1,612.00	11,028.33
Total:	23,349.55	10,622.91	203,576.36

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	308.34
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,139.81
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,220.28	0.00	1,816.82
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	520.91	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	0.00	950.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	0.00	180.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OUR FATHERS HOUSE COMMUNITY, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	200.00	0.00	200.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	420.04	0.00	3,609.20
Total:	1,960.32	520.91	8,204.17

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	123.29	0.00	1,385.08
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	228.85	0.00	1,037.01
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	10.00	0.00	178.00
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	213.24
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	334.44
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	113.30	0.00	997.54
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	228.87
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	257.27	445.00	2,178.68
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	35.18
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	298.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	748.76
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	52.00	0.00	375.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	232.40	0.00	1,657.84
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	188.00	611.00	2,472.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	20.00	0.00	152.24
Total:	1,225.11	1,056.00	12,291.88

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	401.25	0.00	3,891.12
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	908.07	0.00	7,609.54
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	7,076.44

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	390.00	0.00	3,973.42
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	1,988.68	1,427.00	10,425.63
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE B.C.	0.00	0.00	139.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,273.12	1,680.00	2,273.12
LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	486.80	1,316.65	1,919.29
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	363.14	0.00	1,997.83
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	1,559.71
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	912.24	0.00	3,700.97
Total:	8,073.30	4,423.65	44,566.07

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	777.00	194.00	4,018.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	494.34	0.00	4,940.94
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	3,544.50
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	925.35	0.00	2,539.23
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	287.38	149.00	3,304.59
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	97.50	0.00	843.44
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	489.30	554.60	4,554.30
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	10,947.61	1,459.76	106,916.84
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RAISINVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,558.82	292.29	16,328.19
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	223.46	0.00	945.58
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	16,000.76	2,649.65	148,635.61

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	98.00	0.00	1,040.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	91.00	65.00	1,163.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	678.00	325.43	5,285.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	113.00	0.00	926.49
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	84.00	154.01	563.00
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	957.65
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	600.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
THE SHORE	271.18	0.00	403.48
Total:	1,535.18	544.44	11,038.62

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

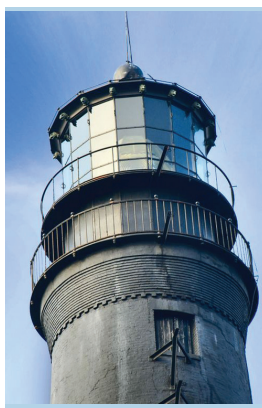
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	200.00	0.00	1,492.00
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	105.00	0.00	1,463.00
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	54.00	0.00	548.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	113.70	0.00	1,205.71
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	407.52	257.00	4,217.67
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	80.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	832.00	0.00	8,584.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	290.48	0.00	2,254.27
Total:	2,002.70	257.00	19,844.65

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	69.00
ANCHOR BAPTIST	1,725.00	0.00	2,495.32
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,533.26
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	304.64
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	2,076.00	0.00	2,076.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	400.00	0.00	3,511.69
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
I.B. RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	70.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	628.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	187.00	300.00
Total:	4,231.00	187.00	10,987.91

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	5,326.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	25.00	0.00	225.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	135.12	0.00	793.36
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	4,099.20	1,462.00	40,819.55
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	250.00
Total:	4,259.32	1,462.00	47,413.91
Grand Total:	128,609.95	39,826.77	1,072,123.66



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Left, volunteer from Crossroads Community Baptist Church in Ann Arbor gather around the Operation Christmas Child boxes they packed. Right, the church displays their 1,200 boxes.



Ann Arbor church packs 1,200 Christmas gift boxes

BY ELLEN GURGANUS

Special to the Baptist Beacon

ANN ARBOR — After collecting over 32,000 items since January, Crossroads Community Baptist Church packed 1,200 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child on November 3.

The world's largest Christmas project of its kind, Operation Christmas Child uses gift-filled shoeboxes to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to needy children around the world.

"Several years ago, God put Operation Christmas Child on the hearts of a few of our preschool teachers," said David Daffern, pastor of Crossroads Community Baptist Church. "It began with filling and sending just a few boxes that Christmas within our preschool. Now, the entire church is involved in collecting items all year long."

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, has collected and delivered over 100 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 100 countries. In 2013, Operation Christmas Child expects to collect another 9.8 million shoebox gifts in

2013.

"This is one of the most incredible and satisfying ministries that I have experienced as a pastor," Daffern said. "I didn't create it, nor do I lead it; I simply praise God for it."

Operation Christmas Child boxes are collected in the United States, Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

More than 500,000 volunteers worldwide, with over 100,000 of those in the United States, are involved in collecting, shipping, and distributing shoebox gifts.

In Ann Arbor, Crossroads Community Baptist Church praises the Lord as they join God's work in spreading the Gospel to those who have not heard, and the church hopes to pack even more shoe boxes next year.

"The concept and vision are contagious," Daffern added.

For information on Operation Christmas Child and how your church can participate, visit the Samaritan's Purse website at samaritanspurse.org. ■

SEND» NORTH AMERICA CHURCH GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

March 22, 2014 Garden City, MI

Nearly 72% of Southern Baptist churches in North America

have plateaued or are declining in number. Send North America is designed to combat this trend by increasing the birth rate of new churches and decreasing the death rate of existing churches, but we need your help. The **Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference** is a one-day experience intended to equip you with tools to infuse new life into your church and others like it throughout North America. Register for the **Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference** and partner with us to penetrate lostness in North America through healthy, thriving churches.

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Cost: \$30
(includes registration, conference notebook, lunch, refreshments and a \$15 LifeWay gift card)

with **Johnny Hunt**

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