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Michigan's Baptist Beacon

April 2014

Volume 58, Number 4

# Statewide Day of Service May 31, 2014

Visit [GPS.bscm.org](http://GPS.bscm.org) for more information.



Operation 1-Day is a one-day, hands-on, low-cost, family-friendly mission trip. The 2014 Operation 1-Day is scheduled for May 31, 2014 in 7 different locations across Michigan. Individuals, families, and/or church groups can choose from a variety of hands-on ministry projects including in part outside home repairs, prayer walking, kids' clubs, and vacant lot cleanup.



Operation Inasmuch is a national nonprofit that employs proven models to motivate, train, and equip churches to move more congregants out of the sanctuary seats and into the streets to serve the neediest in their communities.

Over 1600 churches in 21 states have joined, with 405 of these reporting that they collectively sent out more than 22,000 volunteers in 2011 to minister to 116,000 people in their communities.

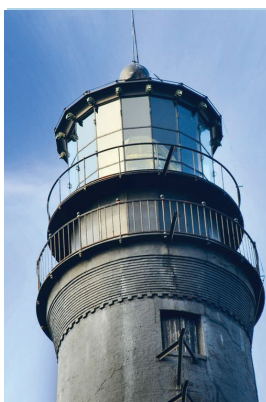
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Order "Find It Here" banners and lawn signs to promote the God's Plan for Sharing initiative. Email Cindy Bradley at [cindy@bscm.org](mailto:cindy@bscm.org) for details.







# Baptist BEACON

**Congregation Shalom  
seeks to reach Jewish  
population for Christ**

*New Messianic Jewish church plant  
partners with Michigan Baptists to  
offer unique ministries for Detroit's  
Jewish population*

**2014 Week of Prayer  
and Associational Mis-  
sions Emphasis**

*The CROSSing North America empha-  
sis highlights five areas of prayer for  
associational missions*

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Volume 58, Number 4 •

April 2014 •

www.MichiganBaptists.org

## Revitalization Conference equips leaders to help churches grow

By JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

GARDEN CITY — Why do churches cease to grow?

This is the question the recent Revitalization Conference, held in Garden City on March 22, sought to answer.

“[Keynote speaker] Johnny Hunt



**Johnny Hunt speaks to Michigan Baptists at the March 22 Revitalization Conference in Garden City. (Photo by Beacon Staff)**

did a great job of encouraging pastors and church leaders to remain faithful in ministry while at the same time exhorting them to think beyond the walls of their churches and touch more lives for Christ,” Bob Wood, Church Strengthening State Missionary, said.

Ninety-seven pastors and leaders from all parts of Michigan were present.

In three sessions, keynote speaker Johnny Hunt spoke about leading for change, health that leads to growth, and discovering and developing leaders.

“Everything rises and falls on leadership,” Hunt said. “We must discover new leaders, develop them, and deploy them.”

“His experience and contagious passion for Christ’s mission translates into practical insight for fruitful ministry,” said Rob Freshour, a Michigan pastor who attended the conference. “Dr. Hunt challenged me personally and our church as well with straightforward questions like, ‘Do we believe that the Gospel is the power of God?’ ‘Will we take Jesus seriously?’ and ‘Do people see the Gospel lived out in my life?’”

Hunt spoke of the need for pastors to continue to grow, as they need faith and energy to break through nat-



**Ninety-seven pastors and leaders from across Michigan attended the Revitalization Conference. (Photo by Beacon Staff)**

ural growth ceilings. Many churches plateau around 150, reach a second plateau around 500, and find a third plateau occurring at around 1,000.

“Many churches fail to take the steps needed and they plateau or begin to decline,” Hunt said at the conference. “It’s both decline and viability.”

“Before we can increase the birth

rate, we must decrease the death rate,” Hunt said of these declining churches. “We wish to plant 1,500 new churches per year but we must speak to the 900 churches we lose each year.”

The conference provided an opportunity for pastors and key leaders

See REVITALIZATION on page 3

## START initiative helps churches emphasize small groups

By BOB MAYFIELD  
Baptist Convention of Oklahoma

*Editor’s note: As the START strategy takes off in Michigan, regional rallies to encourage and equip pastors and other church leaders to START new groups will be held across the state in April and May. Visit [michiganbaptists.org/strengthening](http://michiganbaptists.org/strengthening) for a list of dates and times.*

What is your church’s plan to grow, evangelize, and make disciples this year? If it does not include starting some new groups then you are going to be working against your vision. Your church needs to do more than hope you start some new groups next year. Instead, you need a strategy.

Our new START initiative is part of our ReConnect Sunday School strategy. For years we have known the value of starting new groups, and yet starting a new group many times gets pushed back, procrastinated, and ultimately – never accomplished. But there are few things that are any more strategic to making disciples than the forma-

tion of new groups.

Already, many of our Southern Baptist state conventions are already developing a new groups strategy. In Oklahoma and many of these other conventions, we are simply calling it START. We are partnering together to bring resources and communication efforts to encourage churches, pastors, Sunday School teachers, and lay people to start as many new groups as possible in 2014.

Here is some valuable information about starting new groups:

- Each new group a church starts will increase attendance by about 10 people in one year (The Principle of 10);
- On average, a new group will increase

church offerings by at least \$15,000 per year;

- Each new group increases the number of people in church leadership;
- On average, a new group will engage 3 lost people with Gospel every year.

Although it seems like a simple thing to start a new group, we have developed a “Ready... Set... START!” strategy to begin as many groups as pos-

sible next year. Here is the basic schedule we are using in Oklahoma:

### Ready (January – March)

- Pray for New Groups Sunday, January 26
- START Road Trip to our Baptist associations (March-April)
- “New Groups” Twitter Town Hall, February 17-21
- START training packets delivered to every Oklahoma church

### Set (April-August)

- Churches plan where they will start new groups
- Pastors and Sunday School Directors enlist leaders for new groups
- New Groups Bible study lesson, April 27 – all adult Sunday School classes
- ReConnect Regional Sunday School Seminars, August 16

### START! September 7

- Churches start as many new groups as possible on or before September 7, 2014
- Churches contact their local association with number of groups started

Let’s commit together not to let another year slip by without starting some new groups in your church! Join the new groups movement! ■





# Ypsilanti church holds revival, focuses on intentional evangelism

BY MARY LOU HALL

*Baptist Beacon*

YPSILANTI — Success doesn't just happen. Evangelism doesn't just happen either. It is intentional.

Keith Worrell, pastor of Graceway Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, MI, only a few miles down the road from Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan football stadium, exclaims, "I've long preached that all of God's people should be soul winners to whomever, wherever, and whenever God grants opportunity to witness."

Pastor Worrell has served at Graceway Baptist since 2005, being bi-vocational from April 2011 to October 2013. Since once again becoming the full-time pastor, the church is in a transitional phase of shoring up its ministries.

Bible Study classes are held on Sunday morning for all ages, a well-attended youth group meets on Wednesday evening, a VBS director is in place for the 2014 VBS program, and efforts to regroup the youth/men's softball and basketball teams are being considered.

Revival services, led by evangelist Randy Buoy, were held Septem-

ber 27-29. Buoy said of the revival, "Over this three day period, the Holy Spirit was in full force with many coming to the altar for prayer."

Highlighting the revival was the baptism of four young people. Special music was provided by Jake Losen of Belleville, MI and Stoney

it? How can we get in on it? Once we've got it, what are we supposed to do with it?"

Buoy answered the first question with a passage taken from I Peter 1:3-5 and concluded, "The abundant life is Jesus Christ's abundant mercy."



Graceway Baptist Church in Ypsilanti (photo courtesy of Graceway Baptist Facebook page)

Creek, a bluegrass gospel musical group.

Buoy posed several questions for the people to ponder. Beginning the first night of revival services, Buoy asked, "What is abundant life? How does God measure it or define

"How does God measure it or define the abundant life?" Buoy referenced Genesis 1.

To answer the question of how we can get in on the abundant life, Buoy quoted Isaiah 5:6-7.

What are we to do with our

abundant life once we have it? First Corinthians 15:10 answers the question - "labor more...abundantly!" Buoy said.

On the second night of revival, Buoy preached a message asking, "What is your Exit Strategy?" Buoy quoted Hebrews 9:27, "...as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment!" He said that "pleasing God is the foundation for an outstanding exit strategy."

Using 2 Peter 11-12, Buoy concluded the revival services stressing, "In order to live the abundant life, we need to always keep in remembrance that we are bought with a price, and one day we will all be making an entrance into Heaven. And when we do," Buoy asked, "how will we feel when we first arrive?"

"[Graceway Baptist Church] is a very friendly and inviting church that loves people and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ tremendously!" Buoy commented. "Pastor Keith's enthusiasm for serving our Great God and love for his people is clearly evident, and I am convinced that God has some great things in store for this wonderful congregation at Graceway Baptist Church!" ■

# Good weather makes for good time to prayer walk



RALPH TONE  
Baptist Press

*ern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, to pray for revival and spiritual awakening for our churches, our nation and our world.*

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**  
*This column is part of the call to prayer issued by Frank S. Page, president of the South-*

PHOENIX (BP) — Spring's warm weather is finally here, and it's a great time for a walk. While you're at it, why not make it a prayer walk?

Prayer walking presents a unique paradigm for intercession. Instead of praying over and over again for the same list of needs as we often do, a prayer walker needs to literally "stay on his toes" in expectancy.

Careful observation is the key to a successful prayer

walk.

Prayerfully observe as you walk. One house might have a star in the window indicating a son or daughter serving overseas. Another might be in disrepair with an overgrown lawn. What about that wheelchair ramp leading to the front door? One apartment might have heavy metal music blaring and the one next to it Spanish music coming from an open window.

Each home is a unique thread in the fabric of your community. Each one has specific prayer needs. Each person is deeply loved by God.

In a very real sense, every street's layout becomes our dynamic, ever-changing prayer list.

If there is a school on the street, prayer needs to be lifted up for the children's safety, for wisdom and protection for the staff and teachers and, certainly, for salvation.

Businesses require prayer for honest scales, for salvation of the employees and management and for the expansion of God's Kingdom through generosity of time

and resources.

Individual homes, apartment complexes, gated communities and churches require intercession according to their particular challenges and needs.

If you walk by a church, pray for the pastor's strength and faithfulness. He'd probably appreciate prayer for his family as well.

Even empty lots, playgrounds and the street itself are motives for prayer. Any place where children play, youth congregate and traffic passes should be cause for Christians to raise their voices in intercession.

I like to call this praying according to the "social topography" of our neighborhoods. Effective intercession requires more than a "one size fits all prayer."

Don't forget to include recent news in your prayer walk. Has there been an outbreak of local crime? Have recent business closings caused a spike in unemployment? What does the latest demographic information say about the racial and socioeconomic status of your neighborhood? All of this is "actionable prayer intel-

ligence."

Although the prayer needs which we encounter on a prayer walk are many, the biblical principles of prayer remain the same. All our prayer should be undergirded by a passion to see God's Kingdom come and His will be done in our neighborhood as it is in heaven.

Before preaching in Athens, the apostle Paul walked throughout the city, observing that the streets were cluttered with idols and shrines to every god imaginable. To make sure the Athenians didn't miss anyone, they erected an idol to "the Unknown God." This information that Paul gathered during his stroll greatly influenced the content of his preaching.

Similar careful observation of our neighborhoods should influence the content of our intercession. Just as it is always better to listen before speaking, it is advisable to observe before praying.

Ralph Tone is a Phoenix-based church partner with LifeWay Christian Resources in the western United States. Ralph blogs at [ralphtone.com](http://ralphtone.com). ■

## THE BAPTIST BEACON

Official publication of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, in association with the Southern Baptist Convention

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# Congregation Shalom seeks to reach Jewish population for Christ

By JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

FERNDALE — While most Baptist churches would eagerly welcome someone of any religious background, many have likely not considered a strategic plan to reach

a Jewish woman,” Denson recalled of the launch day. “She came in with her fiancé who is a believer. She got excited and accepted Christ.”

This first salvation in the new church represents the mission for Denson’s new church. While everyone is welcome, Denson sees a

unique connection between the African-American and Jewish communities because of a shared history of slavery and suffering.

“During the Holocaust, people were killing Jews because the Jews killed Jesus,” Denson said. “They think Hitler was a Christian, and they don’t know the difference

between an evangelical Christian and a Mormon. Our job is to give them information, that we embrace Jesus as he was Jewish, and because of him we are compelled to tell the Good News.”

Denson also has strategic plans for reaching the Jewish community, centered around what Denson calls a “Shabbat campaign.” Members of Congregation Shalom meet with Orthodox Jews as they leave synagogue and begin an interview process designed to highlight common ground.

“We ask them four questions: ‘Are you committed to the survival of Israel? What does it mean to be pro-Israel? Do you believe in a Messiah? Do you think Yeshua of Nazareth could be the Messiah?’”

Congregation Shalom also celebrates Passover, biblical holidays such as Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah, and a mixture of Hanukkah

and Christmas in December.

“Jews come out on high holidays,” Denson said. “When they come into our service, they sense life.”

Denson also sees a unique benefit for those who attend Congregation Shalom who do not come from a Jewish background.

“Part of what we do is bring Gentiles into the Jewish roots of the faith,” Denson said. “We embrace all the holidays and festivals, but we see Jesus in them.”

While the March launch service went well and exceeded the church’s expectations, Denson also sees a great work still to be done.

“This is not a work that will go fast,” Denson said. “Jewish evangelism is a work like plowing concrete; it’s very difficult. The Jewish population is the most ignored mission field on earth.”

Beyond the Shabbat campaigns, Denson has several other plans to reach Jewish people as well. The church will offer a monthly Kosher feast known as an oneg, an evangelistic endeavor targeting one’s “own Jerusalem” of close family and friends.

The congregation will also witness on the campus of the University of Michigan, which according to Denson has the largest Jewish student population in North America.

The congregation also has held a service at the Holocaust memorial center in Farmington Hills, presenting the Gospel and honoring survivors. Denson plans to maintain this event on a quarterly basis, with another Holocaust service already planned for June.

“We as Gentiles

have a spiritual debt to Jewish people,” Denson said. We want to see some Messianic churches started under the Southern Baptist banner where there are high concentrations of Jews,” Denson said. “We need Southern Baptists to stand with us and get excited about Jewish evangelism. I think God is doing something here among SBC churches.”

Denson is excited about the prospect of other churches joining his desire to reach Jewish people.

“Very few churches support Jewish evangelism. Can you imagine Jews with prayer shawls on going around the inner city telling people about Jesus?”

In addition to aiding in Congregation Shalom’s evangelism efforts, Denson also encourages Christians to pray for the Jewish people.

“We’re getting their attention, and I’m finding that no one prays for the peace of Jerusalem,” Denson said. “What we need in our country, particularly in Detroit is peace. If we can encourage others to pray for the peace of Jerusalem, that will put a sensitivity in their hearts for Jewish evangelism.”

For interested churches, Congregation Shalom offers year-round Passover demonstrations and workshops on marriage and finance from a Messianic perspective. To sponsor Congregation Shalom, view pictures from the congregations launch and Holocaust services, or for additional information, visit the Congregation Shalom website at [www.shalomministry.com](http://www.shalomministry.com). ■



Attendees enter the Congregation Shalom launch service. (submitted photo)

the Jewish population.

Newly launched Congregation Shalom in Detroit-area Ferndale seeks to do just that, however.

“At Congregation Shalom, you will learn and experience the tremendous joy in the revelation that Christianity is not a replacement of Judaism or Israel, but rather Judaism extended to both Jews and Gentiles through the Jewish Messiah,” pastor John Denson said. “Jewish people, particularly Orthodox Jewish people, do not want to hear about Jesus, so we’re very excited about that.”

Denson’s new congregation launched March 2, 2014 and welcomed over 80 people through its doors on launch day, featuring guest rabbi Glenn Harris and welcoming Baptist State Convention missionaries Bobby Gilstrap and Mike Durbin.

“The very person to get saved was



Congregation Shalom held its launch service on March 2, 2014. (submitted photo)

## 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)



## REVITALIZATION from page 1

from across the state to receive valuable training.

“I was especially encouraged by the team of 18 folks who traveled with me from First Baptist Church of South Lyon,” Freshour said. “I was thrilled to see the light com on in their eyes and to hear them processing and buying in not only to the

need but also the biblical and missional reasons for churches like ours to embrace change or continue to drift into obscurity and irrelevance.”

Resources from the conference, including videos and notes from Hunt’s sessions, are available at [www.bscm.org/leadership](http://www.bscm.org/leadership). ■



BOBBY'S BITS

# Serving Across Michigan



**BOBBY GILSTRAP**  
Lead Missionary/  
Executive Director

I was ready for a brief nap in my recliner when my wife observed that my socks were each a different color. I hate when that happens. Wearing mismatched socks was obviously not part of my plan when I got dressed that morning. However,

if we are honest with ourselves, something similar has happened to most of us at one time or another.

Everyday life is full of experiences that are not exactly in our plan. Regardless, we move through each day with a desire to accomplish something worthwhile. However, in our world there is much pain and disappointment with lives that have not achieved their anticipated plan. People need to know the hope they can have in Jesus Christ, in spite of any disappointments, tragedies, or pain.

## Serving Across Michigan

We can show the love of Jesus to our neighbors in practical ways as we serve across Michigan in our communities. May 31 is the recommended kickoff date for Michigan's God's Plan for

Sharing (GPS) evangelistic emphasis: Serving Across Michigan. On that day, we are encouraging our churches to participate in a statewide "Day of Service" in their communities. Hundreds of Michigan Baptists will be participating in Operation 1-Day, Operation InAs-Much, or some other local community service activity. There is still time to be involved in serving your community on this statewide "Day of Service." Find hundreds of ideas and resources at [GPS.bscm.org](http://GPS.bscm.org). Also, order the *FindItHere.com* banners and lawn signs for use in your community service outreach.

The prayer for each of our churches is that this "Day of Service" will be the beginning of an evangelistic strategy that culminates in "Seasons of Service" in communities all across Michigan. We are encouraging churches to develop a plan to be Serving Across Michigan in their community through out 2014 and 2015.

## 2014 Week of Prayer & Associational Missions Emphasis

The theme for this year's associational emphasis is CROSSing North America. Associations throughout the country will emphasize this Week of Prayer and Missions on May 18-25, 2014, or some other selected date. The focus highlights five initiatives

for churches to pray, equip, love, give, and plant. My prayer is that all 14 of our Michigan Associations celebrate the work they do together during this special emphasis.

## Cooperative Program

As Michigan Baptists, we have *one mission*: The Great Commission; *one program*: The Cooperative Program; and *many* Great Commission ministries. Find resources at [CPmissions.bscm.org](http://CPmissions.bscm.org) that will help you tell the story of God's work across our state, across North America, and around the world. There are videos, graphics, and articles that will help your church understand our cooperative efforts in reaching our world for Christ.

It is a joy to be your "Partner in Advancing God's Kingdom." If any of our missionaries can be of assistance to you, please let us know. We want to "do whatever it takes" to resource the vision of your congregation for reaching your community for Christ. ■



bobby\_gilstrap



BobbyGilstrap

# Disaster Relief serves Lake Orion victims



**WIN WILLIAMS**  
Disaster Relief  
Director

What is a disaster? Webster's defines a *disaster* as an unexpected event, natural or man-made, that disrupts or halts normal routines of an individual's life. Usually there is an element of danger and it tends to affect more than one person.

Relief is defined in Webster's Dictionary as "an easing, as of pain, discomfort, or anxiety."

Your Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams on your behalf are easing the pain, discomfort and anxiety residents are suffering in Lake Orion at this time from the straight line winds that hit their area.

Volunteers who took DR training in chain saw safety and usage are working alongside volunteers from New Beginning Church and the Motor City Association. The DR volunteers are helping New Beginning Church show the love of Christ in their time of crisis by removing trees and brush off their houses and out of their yards, helping the families get back to normal.

It is a joy and blessing to see the homeowners after we are finished and we circle up with them in prayer. We give them a DR Bible with all the volunteers' names listed. We see a lot of tears from our volunteers as well as the homeowners.

We are most frequently asked, "Why

are you here?" That is the time and opportunity for our volunteers to share the love of Christ and to find out their relationship with our Lord.

Michigan Southern Baptists have now been ask to help with the floods in Newago, Macosta, and Osceola Counties, where from 400 to 700 homes have been reported affected. We will be asking our DR volunteers to help again with mudout and requesting churches in the area to feed and house the volunteers.

We as Michigan Southern Baptists have a great opportunity to show the love of Christ in this great state. I remember back when I first started as DR state director offering to help in a time of disaster and being laughed at, because I was from some Baptist group offering to help.

Now, after our DR teams have served in Lansing, Dundee, Hillsdale, Battle Creek, Auburn Hills, Grand Rapids, Big Rapids, Flint, Saginaw, Atlas, and other places, Michigan Southern Baptists receive a different response. DR volunteers serve as your missionaries in a time of disaster. We build a relationship with the local officials and local residents that allows your church planters to go into these areas and have some name recognition.

The goal of Michigan Disaster Relief is to follow the command of Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20: "Go." He gave us an example of what to do in Luke 10:25-37, "Go and do likewise."

We as volunteers need your prayers

as we travel across Michigan and the country. We want and need God's hedge of protection as we go. We need special strength, both physical and spiritual, as we minister on your behalf about Christ. Pray that our churches will open their doors to allow our volunteers to have a place to eat and sleep. We ask for prayers for our grant writers to be able to secure funds for new equipment we need, such as new vans and other equipment God wants us to have for His ministry.

June 1 is the Day of Prayer for Disaster Relief. Please take the time to recognize your DR volunteers and ask God's Blessings upon them. Michigan has 427 trained volunteers across our state. Some of our volunteers have spent over 3 months a year serving, sharing, and witnessing about God's love at their own expense.

June 13 at 6:00 will be DR Basic Training at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center. Cost will be \$15.00. June 14 at 8:30 will be Feeding, Chain Saw, Mudout, Assessment Unit training. Cost will be \$20.00. Chaplain training will be available at an additional cost.

Please email Judy Roy at [judyroy26@gmail.com](mailto:judyroy26@gmail.com) with questions and to register. If you would like to have a Basic Training at your church or association please email Win Williams at [carwin40@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carwin40@sbcglobal.net). The cost will be \$15.00 per person and we will need 3 hours of class time.

It's all about Him! ■



TALKING POINTS

@Ken\_Render:

*People will attend a church because of the pastor - they will get involved in a church because of the people.*

Ken Render

@secondhandfaith:

*Forgiveness can't redo the past but it can fix the future.*

Tony Lynn

@arthurwerry:

*God is slow to anger but great in power - Nahum 1:3 We are often slow to anger only because we lack the power to do anything. Not so with God.*

Arthur Werry

@liese1000:

*Following Jesus doesn't limit you, but is the fuel to propel you into the greatest adventure of your life.*

Carlos Liese

@Kevin\_Hester:

*In baseball and in life, being good is not enough. My son just pitched a 1-hitter and still lost. Errors like sin are costly!*

Kevin Hester

@Tentmaker1320:

*Living by faith, I view my life through the windshield, only glancing occasionally in the rear view mirror.*

George Fountain



# Boutique helps fight against human trafficking



**CINDY BRADLEY**  
Community Evangelism and Mission Ministries State Missionary

What woman doesn't like jewelry and accessories? I know I do. What woman doesn't like to shop? I know I do. What woman doesn't love a bargain? I know I do.

Women attending the Women's Missions Celebration and 56th WMU Annual Meeting

will have the opportunity to shop for jewelry and accessories at bargain prices and can join in the fight against Human Exploitation all at the same time.

The Women's Missions Celebration and 56th WMU Annual Meeting will be held April 25-26 at Harvest Baptist Church in Shelby Township. Harvest Baptist Church is the home of WMU's "More Beautiful than Diamonds Boutique."

Women across the state have made donations of jewelry and accessories that they no longer want or need to stock the boutique. The boutique is a way for each of us to contribute to the fight against Human Exploitation in our state and around the world. Proceeds from boutique sales go to help with projects that work to rescue and restore victims of human trafficking.

## Understanding Trafficking

Human Trafficking is the commerce and trade of people, legal or illegal, for modern-day slavery, forced labor, and servitude. Another way to put it is, the recruitment, transportation, harboring, or receipt of people

for the purposes of slavery, forced labor (including bonded labor or debt bondage), and servitude. There are generally two different forms of trafficking:

1. Sex trafficking—Victims are often found in the streets or working in establishments that offer commercial sex acts (i.e., brothels, strip

and can be found in sweatshops (where abusive labor standards are present), commercial agricultural situations (fields, processing plants, canneries), domestic situations (maids, nannies), construction sites (particularly if public access is denied), or restaurant and custodial work.



The WMU "More Beautiful Than Diamonds" boutique (submitted photo)

clubs, pornography production houses). Such establishments may operate under the guise of massage parlors, escort services, adult bookstores, modeling studios, or bars.

2. Labor trafficking—People are forced into indentured servitude

Approximately 600,000-800,000 victims annually are trafficked across international borders worldwide. These estimates include women, men and children. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, Michigan ranks 13th in the country for the number of

sex traffic victims.

The average age for a victim is just 12-years old. Trafficking cases are a combination of runaways, kidnappings, and even parents prostituting out their own children from home.

## How you can help

1. Collect your jewelry and accessories that you no longer want or need for the boutique. Jewelry, purses, shoes, scarves, hair accessories, and belts need to be clean and in very good condition.
2. Learn more about human trafficking by asking Michigan WMU's Human Trafficking Specialist to speak at your event or group meeting. Contact Amy Rouleau at (810) 399-9713 or email her at [amyrouleau@live.com](mailto:amyrouleau@live.com).
3. Book the Boutique for your next event or group meeting. Contact Becky Strachan at (810) 656-7662 or email her at [rlsscraips@yahoo.com](mailto:rlsscraips@yahoo.com) or Anne Kinzer at (586) 907-4818 or email her at [harvest7650@msn.com](mailto:harvest7650@msn.com).
4. Host a "More Beautiful than Diamonds Boutique Workshop" and learn to make jewelry to be sold in the boutique. Contact Angell Burnett at (248) 459-3192 or email her at [angellhugs65@yahoo.com](mailto:angellhugs65@yahoo.com).

Statistics compiled from "Human Trafficking 101" found on WMU's Associational LeaderTool: 2010-2012 and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, available at [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com).

Register for the Women's Missions Celebration and 56th WMU Annual Meeting at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org). ■

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# Be ready to give an answer



**JIM MARCUS**  
Church Starter  
Strategist

According to a study conducted by LifeWay Research, 70 percent of young adults who attend a Protestant church for at least a year during their high school years will stop attending church regularly between the ages

of 18 and 22 — with many staying away much longer, and some never returning. A study conducted by the Barna Group discovered "six significant themes" for why this happens:

1. Churches seem overprotective;
2. Teens' and twenty-somethings' experience of Christianity is shallow;
3. Churches come across as antagonistic to science;
4. Young Christians' church experiences related to sexuality are often simplistic and judgmental;
5. They wrestle with the exclusive nature of Christianity;
6. The church feels unfriendly to those who doubt.

In January I attended the "Defend the Faith" apologetics conference at New Orleans Seminary. This conference encouraged each attendee to "be ready to give an answer/defense to everyone who asks us a reason for the hope that is in us... with gentleness and respect" (1 Peter 3:15-16).

I recently completed reading *How Now Shall We Live*, a book written by Chuck Colson and Nancy Pearcey that includes two study guides for self-study or small group study. LifeWay produced a video series some time ago that accompanies this book to help facilitate small group studies. The book and study serve as an introduction to Christian apologetics and help in developing the Christian worldview that is essential to being able to give an answer to those who wonder why we have hope and they may not. Another resource that LifeWay produces is *Why Do You Believe That* by Mary Jo Sharp. This resource is designed to equip women to have meaningful spiritual conversations with others and it too helps one develop a Christian worldview.

The reason I am encouraging you to develop within yourself the ability to give an answer to those who ask you the reason for the hope within you is that some of those who will ask are our young people — our own or those in our churches. They want to know that Christianity is reasonable. Too often they have been told to "just believe and not to ask questions," even though they do have questions. Christian adults need to know what they believe and why, in order to help slow the drifting away of the youth from our churches that

we see today.

The world is doing a much better job at instilling in our young people a naturalistic worldview than we are doing at instilling a Christian, biblical worldview. Therefore our young people have a shallow experience of Christianity, because the adults they see in church are often shallow as well. Christians come across as antagonistic to science because they don't know how the evidence in nature supports our biblical beliefs better than the teaching of naturalism that dominates our schools. The exclusive claims of Christianity seem unreasonable to youth who are taught outside church that everybody worships the same God and all faiths lead to heaven. Besides, they are told that religion isn't "real" like science, which is based on "facts," therefore they can't be narrow-minded and dogmatic that Jesus is the only way.

Most baby-boomer Christians have the foundation of a naturalistic worldview within them, having learned it during their time in the public schools. Furthermore, many believers have a weak biblical worldview because they have been unwilling or unable to put in the effort needed to enable to defend what they believe. To our youth, "Just believe" sounds a lot like "Because I said so." Their minds are being developed and

challenged in school by naturalism, and they want and need to know that what they believe and hear in church is reasonable. Although it requires faith to please God and follow His teachings as authoritative, it also takes just as much faith to accept the teachings of naturalism. Our youth need to know that both Christianity and naturalism are worldviews that require faith. They also need to know that the evidence seen in creation better fits the Christian worldview than the naturalistic worldview.

I want to encourage you to put in the effort needed to defend the faith — prepare yourself to give a reason for the hope that is in you — especially to the young people in your family and in your church. Let God help you in this through using the resources I have mentioned above, and other resources that can equip you, such as material available from the Institute for Creation Research ([www.icr.org](http://www.icr.org)) and Answers in Genesis ([www.answersingenesis.org](http://www.answersingenesis.org)) that can help you prepare to give an answer addressing our Origin, the Fall, and the hope of Redemption which is in you. Expand your mind, expand your understanding, expand your ability to defend the faith. ■

## Back to the basics



**DARREN GREER**  
Church Starter  
Strategist

Easter is a time of reflection and spring brings new life, so this is the perfect time for Christians to reflect on the basics.

What do we hold dear and true? The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus!

We hold to the truth of scripture and the gifts of the spirit and the ultimate return of Christ. We believe He has gone to prepare us a place to dwell with

Him for all eternity.

So we arrive at this question: is all the "other stuff" of great importance? Do we need to have agendas? Do we need to hold power? Do we need to argue and gossip?

The obvious answer is no; while I realize there are things we need to be concerned about, maybe we just need to get back to the basics for awhile, remembering what Jesus has done for us and what He continues to do on a daily basis. Maybe, just maybe, then some of the "other" things will fade.

If we spend more time reflecting on Jesus, we will have less time to criticize others and complain about what life has handed us. If we spend more

time giving back to God, we spend less time doing other less important things.

As Southern Baptist, God has given us a way to give back to Him. What we spend our money on says a lot about who we are and what we value.

Are you giving to God what He deserves? Does your checkbook say that you value the work of the Kingdom? Would you want Jesus to balance your checkbook or would you be embarrassed that you didn't tithe this past year?

As Easter and spring are times of reflection, maybe we need to spend some time with God and work out the basics. ■

### 2014 Vacation Bible School Institute



May 17, 2014, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Bambi Lake Retreat Center

Roscommon, Michigan

Register at <http://register.bscm.org>



# CP's far reach told in new 'Rant' video

BY DIANA CHANDLER

Baptist Press

*Editor's note: The Baptist State Convention of Michigan offers a variety of Cooperative Program resources at [CPmissions.bscm.org](http://CPmissions.bscm.org), including a customized version of the "Rant" video.*

NASHVILLE (BP) -- The new Southern Baptist Convention "CP Rant" video communicates to younger generations the vitality and necessity of the Cooperative Program, incorporating humor, fact and colloquial terms, said the team of Louisi-

ana Baptists who produced the video. There is more to missions than 'just feeling it,' as one of the characters states."

The title CP Rant is used positively, drawing on the pastor's defense of the CP, Kyle said.

"I guess the idea is you get on a roll and you just can't stop -- thus the definition of rant. The main character received a crash course in cooperation, if you will, from his pastor and when the opportunity presented itself, [the pastor] just lets it all out," Kyle said. "There's so much about our cooperative efforts that are good and right and needs to be heard by the average church member."

The Cooperative Program allows churches to support a wide array of ministries and missions by giving one single donation at the state convention level. Donations support evangelism, children's homes, volunteer missions, missions education, new churches, colleges and universities, collegiate ministries,

campus and more.

Nate Adams, chairman of the SBC Cooperative Program Advisory Council, said the video will answer pertinent questions and inspire educational dialogue.

"I think this light-hearted video gives a voice to questions that some young church leaders have about the Cooperative Program, as well as those to whom the concept of cooperative missions may simply be new or misunderstood," Adams told Baptist Press. "In two and a half minutes it can't deliver all the answers to those questions, but it can open the door for a larger discussion about how CP works and why it is so effective and trustworthy."

"There are many well-done print pieces, articles and other short videos that help tell the CP story and show the life-transforming results of missions done in cooperation," Adams, who serves as executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Convention, said. "I would hope this video would help open a whole new dialogue, even with sincere skeptics, about the proven effectiveness of Cooperative Program missions."

First Baptist Hendersonville in Hendersonville, Tenn., with more than 2,700 in Sunday worship services, has posted the video on the church website and is considering showing it to the congregation during an upcoming worship service

and during the church's missions expo, missions pastor Mike McClanahan told Baptist Press.

"Even though our church is a strong supporter of the CP, and we see direct involvement through the CP, we still have trouble helping our people understand what these two letters are all about," McClanahan said. "This video does the job. This is one of the best communication pieces I've seen on the fundamentals and benefits of the Cooperative Program. It clearly answers the question, 'Why be involved with the CP?' in a conversational style that connects across the generational divides."

In St. Bernard Parish, La., Poydras Baptist Church Pastor John Galey used the video to inform and inspire his congregation of 70 weekly worshippers. He's shown it on a Wednesday night and said he will likely show it on CP Sunday.

"Even though we're small, there's a great benefit for us to be able to participate in Kingdom work and to cooperate together and partnership together in an endeavor that's greater than us," Galey told Baptist Press. "If you've got a church and you've got 12 people to show up on Sunday morning, they'll see through the Cooperative Program they can be a part of something that's bigger than us, and we can be a part of joining together with other churches, expanding God's Kingdom around the world."

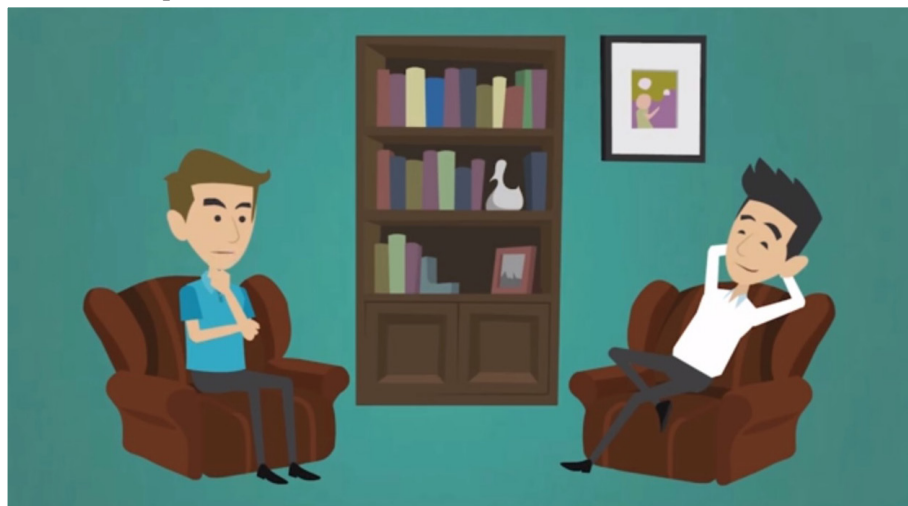
Poydras Baptist took its first international missions trip last year, when Galey and a deacon participated in partnership evangelism in Montes Claros, Brazil, with Louisiana Baptists. Galey hopes the CP will inspire his congregation to participate in more international missions.

Ashley Clayton, vice president for Cooperative Program and stewardship development with the SBC Executive Committee, encourages churches to show the CP Rant video this April.

"This new video resource, CP Rant, along with several other Cooperative Program video resources posted on [SBC.net](http://SBC.net), provide our church members an open window to see the good things we do through Southern Baptist Missions and ministries," he said. "I hope every church will take the time, during the month of April, to present these video resources. Southern Baptists churches are never more strong, never more effective, and never more on point for the Kingdom, than they are when they join hands together to preach the Gospel of Christ at home in North America, and around the world."

CP resources are available under the Cooperative Program tab of [sbc.net](http://sbc.net).

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



A scene from the Cooperative Program's new 'Rant' video

ana Baptists who produced the video.

"This video presents the absurdity of NOT cooperating and defends the concept of CP through humor and in a way young adults, those who grew up in the 'Seinfeld era,' might enjoy and more readily understand," Matt Tullos, production manager with the Louisiana Baptists team that produced the video, said. "Often in SBC life we tend to soft sell the idea of cooperating and say 'you should.' The CP Rant provides an entertaining yet compelling argument for churches to give through the Cooperative Program."

Southern Baptist churches are encouraged to view the two-and-a-half-minute video, available for free download at [www.sbc.net/cp/videos.asp](http://www.sbc.net/cp/videos.asp) (scroll down to the second video labeled "CP Rant") in advance of Cooperative Program Sunday, April 13 on the SBC calendar. The animated video features a fictitious, young antagonist questioning why his church should support CP, and a young protagonist pastor pointing out CP's far-reaching effectiveness.

CP Rant producer John Kyle, director of communications for Louisiana Baptists, said the video is designed to answer questions Southern Baptists voice about the Cooperative Program.

"CP is really the story of every person who gives to the Lord through his local church," Kyle said. "CP is not simply what the SBC or the state conventions are doing. In fact, it is what the church members are doing, who they are reaching, how they are making a difference, and they need to know. As the primary character states at the end of the video, 'Somebody had to tell the guy.'"

"We attempted to present the case for cooperation in a manner that captures the attention of the audience and makes the case that missions support doesn't have to be an either/or proposition," Kyle said.

"Churches can participate in missions and, at the same time, support missions and ministries in





# As you CROSS North America, Love Your Community

BY TOM BILLINGS

Executive Director  
Union Baptist Association  
Houston, TX

The first Saturday in June will usually find folks heading to the beach, plunging into a swimming pool, finding a shady place for the family picnic or packing the car and heading out for a summer vacation.

For thousands of volunteers last June in Houston the first week of June meant volunteering to pick up trash along a major roadside, repairing widow's a roof damaged by a storm, painting a invalid's home, building a wheelchair ramp for a disabled vet, painting a middle school, rebuilding a playground or clearing out trees and brush in a historic cemetery. It was all part of an initiative called Loving Houston.

Loving Houston was developed to mobilize Christians to do good deeds in order to earn good will with the hope of sharing the good news. Loving Houston was spearheaded by the Union Baptist Association (UBA) and supported by the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the North American Mission Board, SBC as part of Crossover.

Loving Houston started when a small group of leaders from UBA visited Houston Mayor Annise Parker to ask how the church could serve the city. Mayor Parker identified six under-resourced communities in the city where she thought the church could help. The next step was to met with leaders from each of the six communities to ask permission to bring volunteers into their community and to ask them to identify needs in their communities where volunteers might serve. The City of Houston was a major partner in Loving Houston as were other groups like Texas Baptist Disaster Relief, Rebuilding Together Houston, and Keep Houston Beautiful. The final step was to enlist volunteers from churches to work on the projects.

All work and no prayer is a bad strategy, so prayer was an integral part of Loving Houston. Volunteers prayer walked the communities. Using a specially prepared prayer guide, UBA churches were asked to spend twenty-eight days praying specifically for Loving Houston and the many needs in the city. Extended prayer meetings and racial reconciliation meetings broke down some of the spiritual strongholds in the communities that had kept churches from working together. "How can we show the love of Christ to the community if we aren't showing the love of Christ to one another," one church leader asked.

When Mayor Annise Parker proclaimed June 1-8, 2013 "Loving Houston Week" in the city the understanding was that volunteers would work through the first week of June and then be done, but it didn't work out that way. After the designated work week volunteers began calling and asking if there were projects that still needed to be completed. Churches called to say they couldn't participate during the designated time for Loving Houston and wondered if there were projects they could undertake. As late as November churches and volunteers joined together to complete over thirty major projects in the Sunnyside community.

What was the impact of Loving Houston? It is easy to cite statistics that reflect the number of volunteers, participating churches and projects completed, but those numbers don't reflect the real impact of Loving Houston.

Loving Houston was a kingdom coalition. Loving Houston began as a Southern Baptist initiative but it quickly broadened to include other evangelical Christians. Approximately one-half the volunteers that served were members of churches not affiliated with UBA. Doctrinal differences don't matter that much when you are meeting the needs

were formed that will continue.

Denominational barriers were broken as churches served side by side in a kingdom cause. Racial barriers were broken as folks of all racial identities served one another. Perhaps the most significant barrier that was broken was between the church and the city. We discovered that serving the city was something we could agree to work together on. As a result...

The church gained a voice in the city. There was a time when the church was a major cultural influence. That is no longer the case. In most major urban areas, the church has little to no voice, no influence, beyond its own constituency. Because of the relationships built through Loving Houston, because of the good work our volunteers did, the church in the city is now as a partner and a resource.

Pastor John Claypool's daughter lay dying of leukemia in a hospital bed. Members from the church came to the hospital to console their pastor and visit ten-year-old Laura Lue. Standing outside her hospital door, someone said to Pastor Claypool, "Is there anything we can do for you?"

"If you want to do something for me," the grieving pastor said, "then for God's sake do something for my daughter."

Years later, after his daughter's death, John Claypool said, "That's it, isn't it? If we want to do something for God, then for God's sake we need to do something for His hurting children."

When all is said and done, that's what Loving Houston was about ... Christians showing their love for God by showing love to some of the hurting and needy folk around them.

If you are interested in knowing more about Loving Houston, visit [www.lovinghouston.net](http://www.lovinghouston.net). ■



of hurting people.

People were given a chance to serve God in non-church work. Not everyone can teach a Sunday School class, sing in the choir or do other things commonly identified as church work. Loving Houston gave folks another way to serve Jesus using a hammer, a paint brush, and a shovel.

Barriers were broken down and relationships

## 2014 Week of Prayer and Associational Missions Emphasis: CROSSing North America May 18-25, 2014

This year's emphasis highlights five initiatives: pray, equip, love, give, and plant. Pray for the following:

- Sunday, May 18: Pray for those whom you see as you travel to and from church today who appear as though they may not be planning to attend a church service. Pray for the children you see playing outside. Pray for the workers you see as you are out-and-about.
- Monday, May 19: Pray for God to give you "eyes to see" those assembling in non-religious groups or clusters. Pray for a way to reach out to the groups of people you see riding motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards, running, walking, or exercising.
- Tuesday, May 20: Pray for God to give you "eyes to see" and a means to reach out to those who are different from you. Pray for those who are of a different culture than you. Pray for people who are of a different skin color than yours. Pray for people whom speak a language different than you. Pray for people you see who are from another country.
- Wednesday, May 21: Pray for God to give you "eyes to see" and ways to reach out to those who are passionate for outdoor activities and sports. Pray for the fishing and hunting enthusiasts. Pray for those who enjoy riding horses. Pray for a witness to them.
- Thursday, May 22: Pray for God to give you "eyes to see" and a heart filled with compassion, and a life to demonstrate God's LOVE for all of the people in your community and abroad. A heart willing to love all people unconditionally, just as Christ loves you.
- Friday, May 23: Pray for God to EQUIP you as you serve as a devoted disciple of Jesus who is faithful and intentional in making disciples who go about also as a devoted disciple of Jesus who is faithful and intentional in making disciples. This is God's plan.
- Saturday, May 24: Pray for God to help you GIVE to missional work through your local Baptist association. Pray for your local Baptist association and thank the leaders who give sacrificially to serve the Lord, the community, and your church. Pray about the financial gift God might lead you to give as an offering to your Baptist association.
- Sunday, May 25: Pray how God wants you to support PLANTING churches as an outreach to the unreached people of our nation. You can PRAY. You can LOVE all people. You can DEVELOP as a disciple-maker. You can GIVE to missions. You can help PLANT a new church. Contact your local Baptist association for more information.



# As you CROSS North America, equip disciple-makers

BY DAVID LEE

*Mission Strategist for Disciple-Making  
Lexington Baptist Association  
Lexington, South Carolina*

Matthew 28:16-20 were the final words of our Lord Jesus Christ to His disciples. I would imagine just like the final words of any person, Jesus' final command represents His most heartfelt and compelling desire.

Centuries later, I wonder how we are doing with His last wish. Those of us who are followers of Christ, if we say we love Him, we should have aligned our lives and ministries with His last wish and command. John 14:15 said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

There is a BMW plant in Greer, South Carolina. Many investors pour a great deal of money and labor hours into the plant in order to produce the finest automobile possible. All the equipment and material are now in place. The company pays good salaries in order to attract the finest available work force. The plant starts up and hundreds of workers scurry back and forth. All the machines are running in full blast and activity is at a maximum.

What if one day, the president calls the production manager. "How many cars have we produced so far?" he asks.

"None," the manager responds.

"None?" the president shouts. "How long have we been in operation?"

"Twenty years."

"Twenty years, and we haven't produced one car yet?"

"That's right," the manager says, "We haven't produced any cars, but we sure are busy. In fact, we've been so busy that we're all exhausted. It takes an unbelievable amount of effort to keep this plant running."

Translate this into church life. We meet every Sunday and for most churches, one to two additional times a week. There's a great deal of activity in church. We have lots of meetings and events. The church is always promoting something. Everyone works hard. The income grows, and the amount of activity is unbelievable. If we look closely and are honest with ourselves, how many of the workforce are fully devoted followers of Jesus? How many are dedicated to the task of making disciples who make disciples?

Seems to me that the command of the Lord Jesus Christ to make disciples is being ignored. It has been replaced by church activities. No doubt, disciples are made in the process. But mostly by "accident." More sobering is that those who are truly disciples of Christ are not making reproducing disciples.

ing disciples.

If Jesus is standing at the end of the production line of the church, would He be pleased with us today? Would He be happy with us spending majority of our time and resources focus on "doing church" and neglecting His last Word to us to "make disciples?" Let me be clear that although church activities do not guarantee to make disciples, making disciples will guarantee the making of a healthy church.

The theme of the 2014 Associational Mission Emphasis is CROSSing North America. It is an emphasis that calls for churches across North America to change our scorecard from church attendance, buildings, and budgets, to focus on equipping followers and believers of Jesus Christ to become reproducing disciples.

It is a call for us to be Biblical and missional. It is a call to equip and make reproducing disciples.

Together as we launch the 2014 Association Mission Emphasis, we are calling churches to:

- Be obedient to the final word of Christ in Matthew 28:16-20
- Re-calibrate how we do church (change our scorecard)
- Equip disciples who will make reproducing disciples. ■

# As you CROSS North America, plant churches

BY AARON COE

*Vice President of Mobilization and Marketing  
North American Mission Board*

Few of us expected the late-season tropical depression-turned-hurricane named Sandy, but by the time it passed the Carolinas everyone watched in horror as it cut its historic path of destruction.

As Sandy approached the northeastern United States, threatening to join with a nor'easter, I heard regularly from my church planter and pastor friends in New York and New Jersey expressing serious concern.

The evening of October 29 the worst they feared became reality as Sandy's storm surge overcame communities in Staten Island, Jersey City and then spewed the Harbor's water into the New York City subway system near Battery Park.

The city where Carmen and I'd lived for almost a decade was under siege, and all anyone could do was watch and pray.

The death toll topped 109 as New York and New Jersey surveyed the damage.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations that normally would awaken The City would pass dismally through communities that would ultimately spend months and years rebuilding.

But while lives and property were lost and the holidays were a bit drab, hope was in ready supply.

The same church planters and pastors who I'd spoken with before Sandy, and who had lost so much in the aftermath, began reporting the amazing ministry that was happening as their churches joined with communities to begin rebuilding.

In places like Staten Island, a new church plant was joined by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, many of whom were from South Carolina's Disaster Relief units and from the Baptist Collegiate Ministries of many of your state's universities.

And as tragic as the events of Sandy were to all of us, our response as Southern Baptists revealed a

couple of important truths:

- The importance of church plants to communities in places like the Northeast that are living and ministering in hard to reach areas.
- The importance of Southern Baptists and other evangelicals who provide amazing support to those serving on the frontline.

Because of these realities, Staten Island and other parts of the New York area are changed for the better and for eternity.

In light of this I'd like to say thank you to associations and to churches all across North America.

There are also questions we all should ask no matter where we are in North America.

First, does your community see you as a source of hope? Would they be open to you in a time of crisis?

Second, knowing how integral your church has been to your life and your community, are you growing in your desire to see the power of the gospel reach into other communities—even some not so near?

Just to paint a picture of some of the challenges we face in North America, let's compare the state of South Carolina to some other parts of North America.

South Carolina has 1 SBC congregation for every 2,236 people. And just think about how many other evangelical churches besides Southern Baptist there are in the state.

Now this doesn't mean we don't need to continue starting churches and expanding ministry in South Carolina. This doesn't mean we still don't have a lot to do in this state. We absolutely do. In fact, part of being effective as a multiplying church is reaching the communities around you.

But fulfilling the Great Commission also requires us to consider places in the world where churches are so few. And this would certainly apply to many other continents and countries. But it also describes places like New England where there are whole counties without an evangelical

presence.

The church to population ratio of New England is staggering. There is only 1 SBC church for every 48,000 people. In Canada things get worse. There we only have 1 Canadian National Baptist church for every 117,000 people.

The numbers of other evangelical churches for those regions is not much different.

With numbers this sparse in places like the Northeast and Canada, can we ever hope for revival to build in North America?

If we're thinking and praying and preaching revival in North American communities, and we're really serious about it, then our churches will begin to see their role in being sent out.

And when the Bible talks about sending people, there is a powerful Person propelling them. The Holy Spirit sends them in such a way that they have no real say so in the matter if they're to be obedient.

And times have not changed really. Right? We have a choice about whether we obey the Holy Spirit of God, but there is one constant current for the obedient people of God—to be a blessing to the nations wherever those nations exist.

And to leave people without the blessing of the gospel is to fall down on the job. To leave whole communities and counties without a gospel presence is not what God has in mind.

The North American Mission Board's Send North America strategy is designed with the express purpose of penetrating lostness wherever it exists in North America.

God-honoring churches have an opportunity like never before not only to reach across their state, but to reach across North America with the gospel.

By getting mobilized to connect with the darkest corners of North America, churches can take part in seeing a nation, a continent and people from every nation become worshipers of God in Christ Jesus.

I look forward to seeing that day come. ■



## DID YOU KNOW?

...**Central Baptist, Flint** sponsored a program that mentors fatherless boys on April 6? They gave out free bicycles as well as offering free bike repairs.

...**Pastor David Pennell** will physically bear a cross 70 miles from Abundant Life Church, Menominee to Abundant Life Church, Kingsford? His goal is to bring awareness to the growing homeless population in the Upper Peninsula. For more information or to donate, email *Pastordave.pennell@gmail.com*.

To include stories about your church in future "Did You Know" columns, email *beacon@bscm.org*.

### - Staff Updates -

- Motor City Metro Baptist Association called its first church strengthener/mobilizer, Jon Beard. He and his wife Marla come from long-tenured service in the Northwest Baptist Convention (Washington and Oregon) at pastoral, associational, and state levels.
- Faith Baptist, Flint called

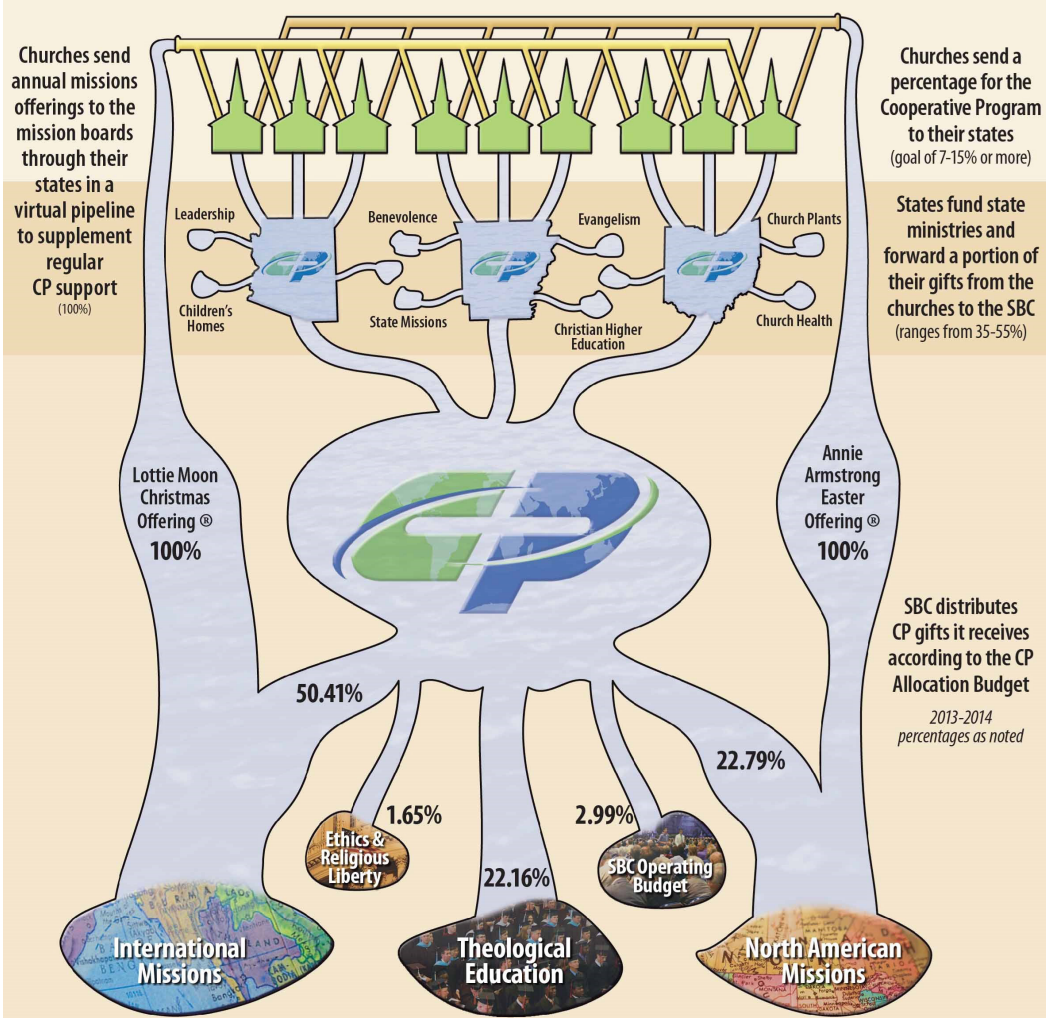
Eric Stewart as interim pastor.

- First Baptist, Cleo called Dennis Lutz as pastor in February.
- Pastor Angel Garcia resigned from LaFamilia MC3, Flint due to health concerns on March 16. Rick Truesdail is serving as interim pastor.

### - Upcoming Events -

- April 25, 2014: Women's Missions Celebration and 56th WMU Annual Meeting (Shelby Township)
- April 29, 2014: Start Rally, Region 4 (Clinton)
- May 4, 2014: Start Rally, Region 2 (Portage)
- May 17, 2014: Vacation Bible School Institute (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- June 10-11, 2014: Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting (Baltimore, Maryland)
- June 20-21, 2014: Jump-Start 4 Church Starters
- June 23-27, 2014: Metamorphosis Youth Camp (Bambi Lake)
- June 28-30, 2014: Prayerwalking Mission Trip (St. Joseph)

## The Cooperative Program: Like a Mighty River



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

- July 7-11, 2014: Girls' and Teen Girls' Missions
  - July 11, 2014: Mom and Me Missions Retreat (Bambi Lake)
  - July 21-25, 2014: The Quest Kids Camp 2014 (Bambi Lake)
  - September 13, 2014: Church Equipping Conference (Roseville)
- Register for Michigan Baptist events at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org).

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# Boston Marathon outreach helps church planting efforts

By TOBIN PERRY

*Baptist Press*

BOSTON (BP) — Most years, when Prestonwood Baptist Church's young singles take mission trips to Boston, they arrive a week before the Boston Marathon and leave the day after.

Last year was an exception. Since they could get cheaper flights two days after the event, the team decided to stay a day longer. When a bomb detonated near the finish line of the 2013 marathon killing three and injuring 264, that extra day may have been the most important day of the whole trip.

"We had an amazing opportunity to just love on a city and offer prayer and encouragement to a city that needs it," mission volunteer Bryan Gibbs said of last year's experience. "We went back into the city and affixed signs to our bag[s] that said, 'Need prayer? We're available.'"

"We did a lot of the same servant evangelism work we usually do, but we knew this was not a normal situation. We were able to pray for people outside of the hospital. A lot of our people were able to give granola bars or bottles of waters to first-responders — to just go out there and help the city. We were thankful we were able to stay up there that extra day and be there to provide what help we could in such a tragic time."

Gibbs, who participated in this year's Boston outreach and was on his 16th mission trip, has been helping church planters in Beantown since 2004. He and his team returned to Boston last Thursday (April 17) for ministry as they prepared to serve the city and its visitors during today's (April 21) 2014 Boston Marathon. The team participated in a variety of servant evangelism initiatives. Yet the primary purpose focused on finding opportunities to share the Gospel with Bostonians and visitors from around the world in the city to watch the race.

The story of how Prestonwood Baptist Church, Plano, Texas, had ministry volunteers on the ground during this critical time last spring goes back more than a decade.

In 2003 the North American Mission Board helped connect Prestonwood with Boston church planter Curtis Cook. Cook started Hope Fellow-

ship in September 2003. As well as pastoring Hope, Curtis now serves as NAMB's Send North America: Boston city coordinator.

"That's when our heart really started to beat for church planting when we developed a partnership

some of the things that I've learned, and some of what God has taught me over the years in ministry. I've never been more excited to have the opportunity that we've been given here at Prestonwood."

The network has blossomed in the past three years with plants in several large cities including Boston, New Orleans, Seattle and San Francisco and plans to plant soon in Denver, Indianapolis and Washington, D.C.

Stephens said, "We want to introduce established church pastors to planters who are getting it done."

"We want to encourage pastors who aren't in the game to get in the game," he said. "They can do exactly what we're doing. They can send teams. They can start their own network and get them behind these guys."

The network doesn't just provide funding for church plants but also sends volunteer teams, like the one in Boston this year to serve at the marathon. These trips play an important part in discipling participating Prestonwood members — along with members of other partner churches — in what it means to be believers living on mission.

For example, when mission volunteer Bryan Gibbs first got involved in mission trips to Boston, he had recently re-committed his life to Christ and was intimidated by sharing his

faith in the city's tough intellectual climate. Today Gibbs not only believes he is better prepared to share his faith in Boston but also back home in Dallas.

"When people think about short-term mission teams, I always thought about going overseas from my own naive perspective," Gibbs said. "Now I understand that there are places like Boston that very much need the love and hope of Jesus Christ as much as any other place. Literally, Boston used to be a beacon for Christianity — a City on a Hill — but that's kind of waned over the years."

Metro Boston has only one Southern Baptist church for every 42,919 people. For more information about helping plant churches in the city, visit [namb.net/boston](http://namb.net/boston). To learn more about the Prestonwood Network, visit [prestonwoodnetwork.org](http://prestonwoodnetwork.org).

*Tobin Perry is a writer for the North American Mission Board.* ■



**A Prestonwood Baptist Church mission team prays with a Boston resident in the city. Prestonwood's Young Singles ministry has been sending teams to help church planters in Boston for more than a decade. (Photo courtesy Prestonwood Baptist Church)**

with Hope and Curtis and started sending teams up there," said Jarrett Stephens, a teaching pastor at Prestonwood.

Prestonwood became more involved in church planting in 2011 through NAMB's Send North America efforts to mobilize churches to 32 of the continent's largest and most influential cities. Near that same time, senior pastor Jack Graham led the church to gather a network of likeminded churches "to resource and encourage pastors while working together to plant and revitalize churches."

"What I want to see happen through the Prestonwood Network is to encourage pastors and church leaders to take the baton and go forward strongly and passionately with the Gospel of Christ in ways that will really change the world," Graham, who has pastored the Dallas-area church since 1989, said. "My goal with the network is to pass on to this generation and to future generations

## ● CLASSIFIEDS ●

### Church Information Packets

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

### Did You Know?

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

### Youth pastors needed

North End Baptist, Flint, is hiring a part-time youth minister. For more information, contact pastor Ted Stephens at (810) 687-2880.

Oakland Woods Baptist Church, Clarkston, is searching for a part time youth pastor to lead, pastor, and disciple Junior and Senior High school youth. The church is 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](mailto:cpcande@att.net).



# Warrens help others one year after son's suicide

By DIANA CHANDLER

*Baptist Press*

LAKE FOREST, Calif. (BP) — On the first anniversary of their son's suicide, Saddleback Church founders Rick and Kay Warren are using the painful experience to uplift others, incorporating Facebook, YouTube, a mental health seminar and worship services scheduled at Saddleback campuses this Easter weekend.

"The old Rick and Kay are gone. They're never coming back," Kay Warren wrote in a March 13 Facebook post with more than 3.2 million views and more than 10,000 supportive comments. "We will never be the same again. There is a new 'normal.' April 5, 2013 has permanently marked us. It will remain the grid we pass everything across for an indeterminate amount of time ... maybe forever."

Saddleback Pastor Rick Warren referenced the experience in encouraging viewers to attend services scheduled April 17 through Easter at the church's 12 campuses in Southern California. The Warrens' son Matthew killed himself at age 27 in his Mission Viejo, Calif., home after a lifetime of mental illness. He had spent the previous evening with his parents, giving no indication, they've said, of the impending suicide.

"During the past year I've often been asked, 'How have you made it? How have you kept going in your pain?' And I've often replied, 'The answer is Easter,'" he said in a video posted to YouTube. "You see, the death, the burial and the resurrection of Jesus happened over three days. Friday was the day of suffering and pain and agony. Saturday was the day of doubt and confusion and misery. But Easter, that Sunday, was the day of hope and joy and victory. Here's the fact of life. You will face these three days over and over.

"And when you do, you'll find yourself asking, as I did, three fundamental questions," the pastor said. "Number 1, what do I do in my days of pain?

Two, how do I get through my days of doubt and confusion? Three, how do I get to the days of joy and victory? The answer is Easter."

On Facebook, Kay Warren wrote of her difficulty in dealing with those who have expressed expectations that she should have been able to put the suicide behind her.



**A Facebook post Kay Warren wrote in advance of the first anniversary of her son Matthew Warren's suicide drew 3.2 million views and more than 10,000 favorable comments. Saddleback Church, based in Lake Forest, Calif., and pastored by Kay's husband Rick Warren, hosted a March 28 seminar to mobilize churches in mental health ministry. (Photo screen-captured from Saddleback Church video)**

an 'unbelievable volume of cards, letters, emails, texts, phone calls, and gifts,' she wrote, many seemed to wonder when things would return to normal.

"Because these comments from well-meaning folks wounded me so deeply, I doubted myself and thought perhaps I really am not grieving 'well' (whatever that means). I wondered if I was being overly sensitive -- so I checked with parents who have lost children to see if my experience was unique. Far from it, I discovered."

In an April 7 follow-up post, Warren thanked readers for their supportive comments.

"I don't know how to interpret the volume of response other than to say it confirms what I suspected," she wrote. "Grief is a long, arduous, slow process and it deserves to be respected and supported, not minimized and condemned."

The responses comforted Warren, she wrote, but also broke her heart that so many are experiencing similar pain.

"So many of you have said, 'This is my story too; you've put into words what I feel.' You've told me about your sons and daughters, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, best friends, grandparents, cousins, neighbors and co-workers and how their deaths created such a well of pain and grief in your hearts; how the grief remains fresh and raw,

"As the one-year anniversary of Matthew's death approaches, I have been shocked by some subtle and not-so-subtle comments indicating that perhaps I should be ready to 'move on,'" she wrote.

While thousands offered 'utterly amazing support' through prayer and

and how much you wish 'comforters' had been more sensitive to your grief."

Saddleback hosted March 28 the seminar "The Gathering on Mental Health and the Church," with speakers including interdenominational clergy, mental health professionals and educators, including Eric Johnson, professor of pastoral care at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and Charles Hannaford, a practicing psychologist and adjunct professor of psychology at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

The seminar was designed to mobilize the church on behalf of those living with mental illness, equip lay and pastoral leadership to minister to those affected, and stand side-by-side with those who suffer. At least half of the 3,000 registered for the conference had a family member living with a mental illness, Kay Warren said during the 5th plenary session.

She compared her son's suicide, and God's restoration, to the Ezekiel 36 story of God's promise to deliver the Israelites from Babylonian captivity.

"I don't know for sure how God is going to take the calamity of my son's mental illness and his death and use it victoriously; it's only been a year," she said in a video of the seminar posted on YouTube. "But what I am certain of is this. God's love is still working."

"I believe God wants us to spread this word. God is not helpless among the ruins," she said. "Matthew too is already experiencing the ruins being rebuilt in his life. He has already experienced the complete restoration. And if you were to use the Scriptural metaphor from Ezekiel 36, the fields have begun to bear fruit again. The cities have been rebuilt and they're fortified and it's more inhabited.

"His life is better than it has ever been for a single day in this lifetime and all of God's promises to him have come true. And I thought to myself, I can go on."

The Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, at its February, 2014 meeting, voted to "continue to seek ways to work in cooperation with SBC entities and others to address the severe challenges imposed by mental illness."

SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page has announced plans to name a volunteer advisory body of professionals in the mental health field to advise him on possible ways of better informing Southern Baptists about available mental health service providers and resources.

Page authored the 2013 book, "Melissa: A Father's Lessons from a Daughter's Suicide," chronicling his daughter's 2009 suicide and offering hope to those in despair."

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

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

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



# 'Subjective discrimination' fuels states' religious freedom bills

BY DAVID ROACH

*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (BP) — Concern that anti-discrimination laws infringe on religious liberty is among factors that have prompted more than a dozen states to consider religious freedom bills to protect Christians' right to speak against homosexuality.

Currently, 18 states have passed versions of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a bill signed by President Clinton in 1993 that prohibits government infringement of religious liberty unless the state shows a compelling interest and uses the least restrictive means available. Another 11 states have religious liberty safeguards that courts have interpreted as providing a comparable level of protection, the Heritage Foundation reported.

At the federal level, the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act — with 100 cosponsors in the House and 17 in the Senate — would bar the government from taking adverse action against nonprofit and for-profit groups that regard marriage as the union of one man and one woman. The bill awaits action by both the House and Senate.

"We must work to make sure that marriage law does not marginalize those who believe what virtually every human society has believed about marriage: that it is the union of a man and a woman ordered to procreation and family life," commentators Ryan Anderson and Leslie Ford wrote in the *National Review*.

"Such belief must not be treated as an irrational prejudice to be purged from the culture," Anderson and Ford stated.

Many state bills are aimed at curbing religious liberty violations like the case of New Mexico photographers who were cited by the state's Human Rights Commission for refusing to take pictures of a same-sex commitment ceremony. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the photographers' appeal April 7.

Similarly, Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries found that a bakery violated a state anti-discrimination law when it refused to bake a cake for a same-sex commitment ceremony. In Colorado, a judge ruled that a baker violated his state's law by refusing to bake a cake for a gay wedding reception.

Religious freedom protections are necessary because "sexual orientation and gender laws have serious flaws" and "fail to protect the civil liberties of Americans, especially our religious liberty," Anderson and Ford noted.

Laws aimed at preventing discrimination against gays and lesbians "tend to be vague and overly broad without clear definitions of what conduct can and cannot be penalized," they wrote. "The definitions can be entirely subjective: Boise and other cities in Idaho now prohibit even indirect acts that make another person feel he is being 'treated as not welcome.' And increasingly these

local ... laws have criminal penalties, unlike the landmark Civil Right Law of 1964."

Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant signed the most recent religious liberty bill April 3, a measure that allows individuals and organizations to sue the government over laws that infringe upon their reli-



Photo courtesy of Mississippi governor's office

gious freedom. The bill stemmed from an incident in Holly Springs, where a church was required to get approval from 60 percent of the surrounding property owners before it could relocate on the town square, even though businesses were not subject to the same requirement. The bill also adds "In God We Trust" to the state seal.

Opponents argued that the bill could lead to discrimination against homosexuals, but Jimmy Porter of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's Christian Action Commission said the law does not apply to business owners who refuse to serve homosexuals; it only protects citizens against state and local laws that hinder religious exercise.

"The intent of this bill was to keep a place like Holly Springs, that was open to any other business to locate where they wanted, from saying, 'Because you are a church, you cannot locate here,'" Porter told Baptist Press. He said Mississippi's new law "does not speak to" same-sex marriage.

Early drafts of the bill allowed businesses to refuse service to homosexuals on religious grounds but that language was removed, USA Today reported.

In Arizona, Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed a bill in late February to protect business owners who, based on sincerely held religious convictions, refuse to accommodate certain customers or requests. Phoenix business groups warned that companies looking to expand in the state might not do so if the bill became law, fearing possible discrimination against homosexuals among other groups, the Associated Press reported. Apple, American Airlines and Sen. John McCain were among those who urged a veto.

Among the other states to propose religious protection bills in recent months, as reported by the *Wall Street Journal*:

- Alabama legislators considered a bill that would "prohibit school districts from discriminating against a student or parent on the basis of religious viewpoint or religious

expression in public schools."

- A Georgia lawmaker proposed legislation designed to make it easier for citizens to claim exemptions to laws that "substantially burden" the exercise of religion.
- Idaho lawmakers considered a measure prohibiting the government from denying or suspending professional licenses "based upon actions involving the exercise or expression of sincerely held religious beliefs."
- Kansas legislators introduced a bill exempting religious individuals and businesses from serving or hiring "contrary to [their] sincerely held religious beliefs" about sex or gender.
- A bill was introduced in the Michigan legislature to prohibit discrimination against students or their parents "on the basis of a religious viewpoint or religious expression."
- North Carolina lawmakers proposed the North Carolina Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
- A coalition in the Ohio

House proposed the Ohio Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

- Oklahoma's Religious Viewpoint Antidiscrimination Act would require that schools not discriminate against students who express religious viewpoints.
- South Dakota representatives sponsored a bill to shield businesses from civil liability if they refuse to serve or hire an individual "based on sexual orientation."
- Tennessee lawmakers introduced a measure allowing business owners to deny service or refuse to employ people if doing so would violate their religious beliefs.
- Utah senators introduced a bill to require "instruction in American history in public schools" to include "a study of religious freedom" granted by the U.S. Constitution.
- Virginia considered a bill that would codify the rights of students to "voluntarily pray or engage in religious activities" before, during and after the school day.
- West Virginia legislators considered the West Virginia Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

These state bills are in various stages of the legislative process.

California and Oregon considered ballot initiatives related to religious liberty.

The Heritage Foundation's Sarah Torre wrote in an April 9 blog post that state religious freedom acts rightly "set a high bar for the government to meet in order to restrict religious freedom."

"A robust conception of religious liberty provides every person the freedom to seek the truth, form beliefs, and live according to the dictates of his or her conscience -- whether at home, in worship, or at work," Torre said. "Those fundamental beliefs cannot be lightly discarded and they should not be unreasonably and unnecessarily burdened by the government."

David Roach is Baptist Press' chief national correspondent. ■



	CP February	Designated February	YTD CP 2014							
<b>BAY ASSOCIATION</b>				NEW LIFE CHAPEL	123.00	0.00	323.00	<b>GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION</b>		
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	79.65	0.00	79.65	PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	291.43	115.00	291.43	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	200.00	0.00
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>10,810.03</b>	<b>7,589.10</b>	<b>24,124.88</b>	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	260.24	300.00	705.28	<b>GENESEE ASSOCIATION</b>				BREAHAA MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	329.13	0.00	1,062.73	AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	596.19	0.00	1,353.80	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,651.09	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	65.00	0.00	221.00	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	150.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	79.05	BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	501.00	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	255.34	0.00	905.72	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	211.30	220.00
NEW HOPE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	556.00	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	100.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	10.00	0.00	20.00	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,842.56	140.00	3,394.27	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	239.60	197.00	547.92	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	14.98	0.00	32.10	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW	0.00	0.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	11,250.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>933.60</b>	<b>497.00</b>	<b>15,983.82</b>	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	210.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00
<b>CENTRAL ASSOCIATION</b>				FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	6,164.92	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	83.33	0.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	0.00	0.00	32.27	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	200.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	5,280.00	5,773.08	12,317.00	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	111.00	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	4,001.00	363.00	5,953.00	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	61.74	0.00	123.48	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	106.00	10.00	106.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	5,910.22	14,929.10
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	451.44	162.00	963.93	LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	40.00	0.00	71.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	36.83	0.00	79.10	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	481.93	1,608.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	50.00	377.00	50.00	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	80.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	300.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW HAVEN FIELD HOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	1,163.88	365.00	1,163.88	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	726.82	0.00	1,645.09	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
GRACE CHURCH	1,474.05	737.02	4,538.37	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	120.00	0.00	231.25	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	642.32	60.00	1,436.91	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	200.00	PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	75.00	889.21
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI	0.00	0.00	0.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	0.00	0.00	40.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	11.00	0.00	32.80	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	0.00	0.00	227.58	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	116.34	0.00	116.34	THIRD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	844.83	0.00	2,318.77	VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	26.70	WESTSIDE CHURCH	679.00	153.00	1,259.00	STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BC	0.00	0.00
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,718.74</b>	<b>666.00</b>	<b>23,533.73</b>	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
								TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00
								TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00

# 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%

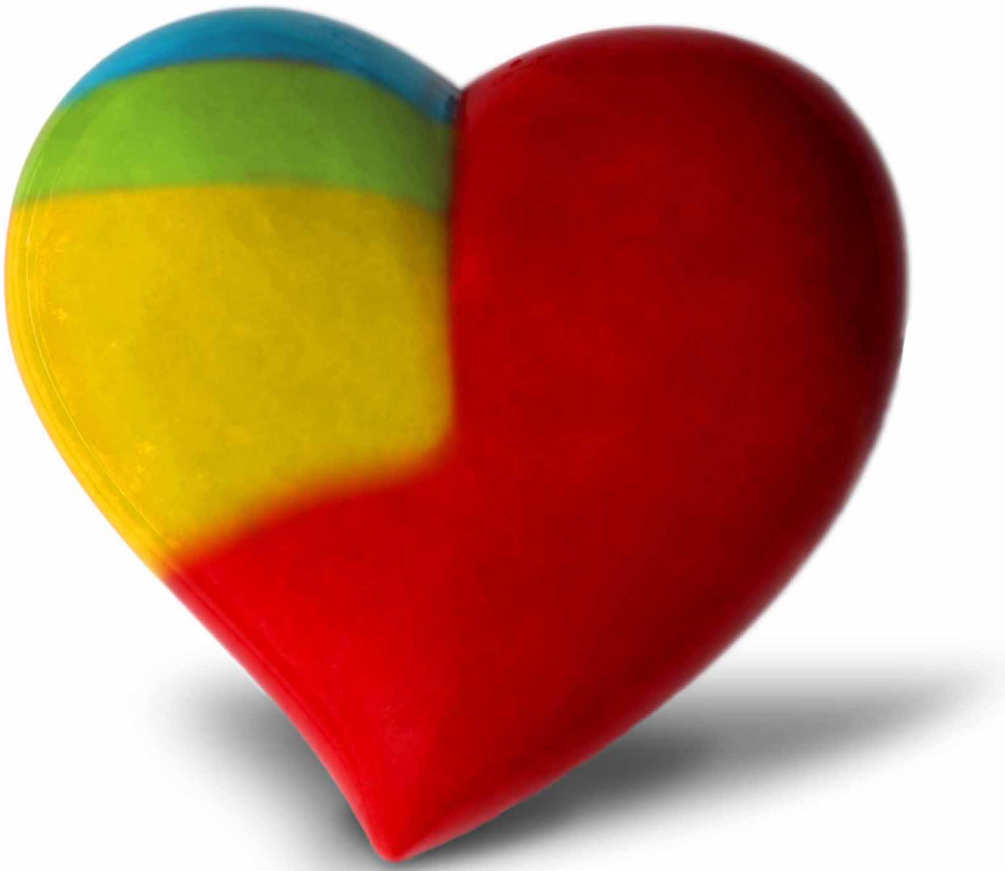
Theological Education Ministries  
Seminaries (21.92%)  
Library and Archives (.24%)

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



VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,541.78</b>	<b>17,646.31</b>	<b>24,213.22</b>

HURON ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	0.00	0.00	70.00
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,013.02	100.00	3,006.59
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,330.82	100.00	3,082.08
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	0.00	0.00	6,190.96
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	383.40	0.00	1,139.62
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	146.00	0.00	357.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	400.00	0.00	800.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	536.15
OAKWOOD CHURCH	520.00	0.00	1,190.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	140.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,793.24</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>16,512.40</b>

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	174.00	1,715.25	457.52
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	225.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	76.93	0.00	375.28
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,157.78	0.00	1,157.78
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	122.00	0.00	122.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	463.82
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	31.80	0.00	85.09
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	200.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,987.51</b>	<b>1,715.25</b>	<b>3,086.49</b>

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	249.00	0.00	249.00
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	428.82	138.00	2,166.78
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	70.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	175.00	0.00	467.95
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	1,295.90	0.00	3,079.31
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	0.00	0.00	300.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,038.25
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	0.00	0.00	567.64
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	0.00	0.00	264.00
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	0.00	0.00	34.00
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	784.63	590.00	784.63
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.06
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	360.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,350.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,644.18	0.00	3,849.99
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,543.74	132.00	3,259.74
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	6,217.33	585.00	6,217.33
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,146.80	396.60	3,960.75
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	236.00	0.00	596.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	0.00	0.00	468.87
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	81.00	0.00	81.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	0.00	0.00	250.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - NOVI	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,383.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	399.00
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	50.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	11,003.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	100.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	0.00	0.00	338.66
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00



THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	50.00	0.00	50.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	1,510.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>14,102.40</b>	<b>3,351.60</b>	<b>45,270.71</b>

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	382.46	0.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	708.40
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	344.66	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	0.00	0.00	75.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	20.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	932.57	0.00	1,530.07
<b>Total:</b>	<b>932.57</b>	<b>727.12</b>	<b>2,333.47</b>

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	111.27	0.00	254.23
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	71.92	0.00	169.05
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	10.00	0.00	20.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	92.69	0.00	220.70
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	634.39	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	78.59	117.00	161.10
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	157.80	0.00	388.00
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	0.00
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	152.00	200.00	196.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	122.00	494.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,608.66</b>	<b>439.00</b>	<b>2,537.47</b>

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	260.92	100.00	579.45
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	825.40
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	928.78
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	153.04	25.00	153.04

LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	333.48
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	328.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	66.12	470.00	66.12
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>480.08</b>	<b>595.00</b>	<b>3,214.83</b>

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	759.00	190.00	759.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	1,199.58	223.05	1,199.58
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	72.00	0.00	729.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	239.49	435.00	548.49
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	280.47
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	60.46	0.00	258.91
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	289.80	0.00	804.30
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	8,495.45	0.00	15,051.28
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	52.72	0.00	52.72
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>11,168.50</b>	<b>848.05</b>	<b>19,758.75</b>

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	48.00	0.00	48.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	36.00	0.00	86.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	332.00	0.00	1,185.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	203.88
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	62.25
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	400.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>616.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1,985.13</b>

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	0.00	0.00	145.00
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	300.82	0.00	491.22
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	71.30	0.00	195.20
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	421.21	0.00	1,027.99
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	852.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	259.35	0.00	259.35
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,052.68</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,970.76</b>

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

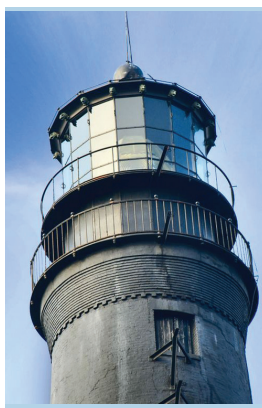
ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	175.00	40.00	175.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	400.00
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	0.00	0.00	30.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>175.00</b>	<b>40.00</b>	<b>605.00</b>

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	2,165.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	25.00	0.00	50.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	112.28	0.00	294.41
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	2,400.60	0.00	7,404.45
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,537.88</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>9,913.86</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>66,458.67</b>	<b>34,314.43</b>	<b>196,044.52</b>







# 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 4

www.MichiganBaptists.org

April 2014

## Short-term mission trip leads to long-term calling

By JONATHAN GUENTHER  
*Managing Editor*

MANILA — In the early 1990s, the thought of leaving someone behind on a trip was a disaster grand enough to make “Home Alone” a blockbuster smash hit.



**A team of three, including Tim Kennedy (pictured center), gave out toothbrushes and offered free dental checkups to 500 people. (submitted photo)**

For Tim Kennedy, however, this nightmare was a dream come true.

Kennedy, a 22 year-old member of Monroe Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, Michigan, was one of three on a team that took a recent short-term mission trip to the Philippines.

On the Thursday before the team was scheduled to return home, however, Kennedy decided he wanted to stay.

“I’ve been extremely blessed with the church family here,” Kennedy said, “I’ve come halfway around the world to find my family.”

Kennedy has been a Christian for three years, and felt called to vocational ministry about two years ago. He said he had considered becoming a missionary in the Middle East, but this short-term trip to the Philippines solidified his long-term call.

The team traveled to the Luzon island in northern Philippines, spending most of their time in urban Manila. They preached in several churches, holding three services and seeing 172 professions of faith and 82 rededications.

They also held a baptism in Manila bay, baptizing ten people, seven

of them from one church.

“A crowd gathered to watch and three of them asked to be baptized,” Dan Russell, a Regional Church Strengthening/Mobilizer for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan who led the team, said. “One man had just been saved the day before.”

The team also provided training for twenty pastors and fed over 500 children rice and chicken.

In addition to the work the team did in the city, they also provided

medical services to a remote mountain village about an hour and a half from the city, providing toothbrushes and offering free dental checkups for about 500 people. The team provided free dental work as well, even extracting teeth from some who needed it.

Sharon Thompson, a registered nurse, was also on the team and proved to be an excellent asset for the team during this medical mission.

“[She] was a big help on the day we did the medical mission, as well as many other aspects of the mission,” Russell said. “[She also gave] her testimony of being a recent widow.”

The trip came at an opportune time, as Filipino culture places a unique emphasis on Holy Week.

“The culture there is Roman Catholic, and it’s very different from ours,” Russell said.

On Good Friday, a reenactment of the crucifixion is held annually in San Fernando. Some men are actually crucified, with sterilized sterling silver nails hammered through their



**After a short-term mission trip to the Philippines, Tim Kennedy decided to stay in the country long-term. (submitted photo)**

hands. They typically hang on a cross about fifteen minutes before being medically treated.

“Some ‘gangsters’ in the community volunteer as penance,” Russell said. “They return to their gang lifestyle afterward, but on Good Friday they beat themselves with bamboo whips and are crucified.”

About 5,000 onlookers were present for the reenactment, and the press also had a major presence at the event.

Despite the cultural differences, the team was effective in ministering to those they encountered.

“Tim was an effective evangelist,” Russell said. “One day, he even waited a couple hours to eat lunch so he could share Christ with people outside the shopping center where we were eating.”

Hillcrest Family Life Baptist Church in Quezon City, the church where the team served, is about to celebrate its sixth anniversary. Instead of throwing a party, it bought 1,500 kilograms of rice to feed 1,500 people in need.

“I always knew God would call me to somewhere where there’s suffering,” Kennedy said. “I’m broken, everyone is broken; he uses us where we are, [and] there’s a place for everyone to minister and serve.” ■



**Sharon Thompson, Tim Kennedy, and Dan Russell traveled from Michigan to the Philippines for a short-term mission trip in April. (submitted photo)**