

Baptist BEACON

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

Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan

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Merry Christmas

from the Baptist State Convention of Michigan staff!



Tim Patterson
Executive Director



Yolanda Chapa
Ministry Assistant



Mike Durbin
State Director of
Evangelism



Janice Fuller
Bambi Lake Housekeep-
ing Supervisor/
Registration Clerk



Anne Glissman
Office Manager/
Executive Ministry
Assistant



Darren Greer
Church Planting
Catalyst



Jonathan Guenther
Communications
Specialist



Jim Hess
Church Strengthener/
Mobilizer, Region 2



Sue Hodnett
Women's Ministries/
WMU Consultant



Angela Kucharczyk
Bambi Lake
Office Manager



Dan Kucharczyk
Bambi Lake Manager



Kevin Litchfield
Church Planting
Catalyst



Jamie Lynn
Ministry Assistant to
the Executive Director



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State Director of
Missions



Jack & Nellie Matney
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Wayne Parker
Send City Missionary
Detroit



Dan Russell
Church Strengthener/
Mobilizer, Region 2



Nancy Spears
Ministry Assistant



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IT Consultant/
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Larry Woods
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Director

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

— John 1:14 (NIV)



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Michigan Baptists strive 'For the Prize' at Annual Meeting

By JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

BATTLE CREEK — 190 messengers attended the 2015 Michigan Baptist Annual Meeting, held November 6-7 at Faith Baptist Church in Battle Creek.

Using Philippians 3:14 as a theme, attenders joined together in worship, unanimously passed a new constitution and bylaws, approved a new budget, and elected new officers.

"It was incredible to watch Michigan Baptists rally around the leadership of our New Executive Director, Tim Patterson," said Mike Durbin, the Michigan Baptist state director of evangelism.



"There was a spirit of unity as unanimous votes settled issues we have struggled with in recent years. It was an answer to prayer!"

The annual meeting was Patterson's first, and under his leadership, a constitution and bylaws were unanimously passed. In 2013, a similar provision failed to pass.

Re-elected officers include Charles Turner, re-elected as president; Nathaniel Bishop, re-elected as first vice-president; and Jerome Taylor, re-elected

as second vice-president. Two new officers were elected as well, as Roy Henry, pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Battle Creek, was elected recording secretary and Jeff Buchholz of Merriman Road Baptist Church in Garden City was elected assistant recording secretary.

The Annual Meeting also included a time to

honor convention staff for their service, pray a prayer of anointing over new executive director Tim Patterson, and pray for new church starters. President Chuck Turner and executive director Tim Patterson each shared a sermon for the convention as well.

"I was moved by the way our churches honored Jimmy Jones for his years of leadership and sacrifice to our churches," Durbin said. "His leadership during our time of transition brought hope and healing. The standing ovation Michigan Baptists gave him was our way of saying, 'well done!'"

"During our convention, I recalled the wonderful men of God, from my past, who invested themselves in my life," said Tony Lynn, the Michigan Baptist state director of missions. "From a random teen in a small town Michigan to serving God in Michigan, it's all happening because of God's desires and Michigan Southern Baptists' efforts. Thanks to all of you."

Next year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 4-5, 2016 at Eastgate Baptist Church in Burton. ■

Women's Harvest Retreat welcomes 223 to Bambi

BY CINDY PARKER

Special to the Baptist Beacon

ROSCOMMON — A sold-out crowd attended the 2015 Women's Harvest Retreat, held at Bambi Lake Conference and Retreat Center on October 16-18. The 223 women gathered together to learn how to Live Intentionally, Laugh Contagiously, and Love Abundantly.

The Harvest Retreat is held every year in October to provide a time of fellowship and enrichment through inspirational guest speakers, practical breakout sessions and other fun activities such as nature walks, hayrides, bonfires, and movies. Women are encouraged to bring family and friends who will hear the Gospel and be challenged to a deeper walk with

Christ.

Ginger (Smith) Harris, Executive Director of Serve Houston, was the event's featured speaker.

"I left full to overflowing from the Word," Gayle Jones, a pastor's wife from Southfield Road Baptist Church, exclaimed. "I am recharged, and refocused!"

Friday night, Larry Allen, senior pastor at Warren Woods Baptist Church in Warren, provided a comedy show. Saturday evening, an open mic praise and worship coffee house offered the opportunity for ladies to share songs of praise and words of testimony.

Two worship teams provided music: Legacy, from Merriman Road Baptist Church, and Just Praise, from Middlebelt Baptist Church. A gospel

choir was formed on Saturday, led by Fleda Fleming. The choir led the congregation in music for the Sunday service with several uplifting and spirit-filled worship songs.

At the retreat, the More Beautiful Than Diamonds Boutique raised more than \$1400 to help support the fight against human trafficking. Women also gave to the Bonnie Galey/Trenise Lowe Scholarship Fund, available to women who are first-time attendees of the



Cindy Parker (far right), the retreat coordinator, and her friends go for a walk at the Women's Harvest Retreat. (submitted photo)



Jody Pickens leads a breakout session, "Solving the Puzzle: Financial Peace," at the Women's Harvest Retreat. (submitted photo)

Youth Evangelism Conference sees high attendance, 21 saved

Annual student event held November 20-21, over 400 students in attendance

New church start 'moving people toward God'

Mile City Church, launched in September in Livonia, uses mile markers to symbolize spiritual journey

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Harvest Retreat who are experiencing financial hardships and would not be able to attend without this support.

Because of the overwhelming response of this year's event, two weekends have been reserved for 2016: October 21-23 and October 28-30. Visit Christian Women of Michigan on Facebook to watch for details for next year's retreats.

Cindy Parker is a member of Merriman Road Baptist Church and coordinator of the Women's Harvest Retreat. ■



Above, the worship band leads attendees in singing "This I Believe." (Photo by Arthur Werry)



Above left, executive director search team members offer a prayer of anointing for new executive director Tim Patterson. Above right, Frank Page addresses the convention with an update from the SBC's Executive Committee. (Photos by Arthur Werry)



Above, attendees pray over Travis Whittaker, who started Mile City Church, Livonia, and other church starters during a Church Planting Prayer Time. Below, convention attendees welcome Tim and Sabrina Patterson during a fellowship time at Faith Baptist in Battle Creek, this year's Annual Meeting host church. (Photos by Arthur Werry)



Tweeting the Annual Meeting

John Botkin @johnbotkin

Thankful for Anne Glissman and the rest of the administrative staff of @MIBaptists #bscm15

Carlos Liese @liese1000

It's my great privilege to nominate Chuck Turner President of our Baptist State Convention of Michigan for 1 more year. God bless you Chuck.

Robert Johnson II @rbj_ii

Grateful for Tim Patterson and his leadership for churches in MI.

Tim Patterson @tpatterson

Frank Page brought THE WORD today @ the BSCM. #bscm2015

Arthur Werry @arthurwerry

Enjoying the BSCM Annual Meeting with great Christian friends. #BSCM2015

Ken Render @Ken_Render

Loving the live feed of our convention meeting since I can't be there. #bscm2015

#BSCM2015

Youth Evangelism Conference sees high attendance, 21 salvations

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

FLUSHING — The 2015 Youth Evangelism Conference, held November 20-21, was a “big milestone” event, according to Ed Emmerling, the event’s coordinator. While the event usually welcomes over 300 students, this year’s event had over 400 attend.

In addition, 21 students accepted Christ at the event.

“It’s so encouraging to see that many students gathered to worship and that many students come to Christ,” Emmerling said. “I think there are very few things that will invigorate people in Kingdom work more than salvation.”

The students joined together for a time of worship on Friday night, with guest speaker Ed Newton offering an evangelistic message and the Matt Wagner Band leading the students in worship. Wagner, who leads worship at the event’s host church, assembled

a group of worship leaders from the area to make up his team.

“Friday night is always about the Gospel,” Emmerling said of the event’s opening night. “We articulate it differently every year through our theme, but that’s the focus.”

The following morning, students were given an opportunity to put their faith into action as they handed out bottles of water at two locations in Flint. Michigan Baptist Disaster Relief donated 18,000 bottles of water for the service project, and Emmerling even had to rent a forklift to help move the numerous pallets of water bottles.

“Flint’s water is polluted and is poisoning the people,” Emmerling said. “Kids are getting lead poisoning and getting sick... schools are trying to collect water to help the kids drink, [and] parents are trying to figure out how to get water.”

Students also brought hats, gloves, coats, blankets, and other clothing items to give away to those

same people,” Emmerling said.

Emmerling said over 30 volunteers from Westside Baptist in Flushing — the event’s host church and the church Emmerling pastors — helped with registration, serving food, and loading and unloading the water. Six senior adults even stopped by the church simply because they wanted to see 400 students worshipping.

“Our church loves to be able to host this and they really do respond ever year,” Emmerling said. “I have a heart for students, so they see the excitement in me when it’s coming but they also see how invigorated I get when it’s over.”

According to Emmerling, the church has taken ownership of the event and invested heavily in it. One person even took the day off from work to serve the students.

“Nothing will breathe new life into a church like coming back from an event and telling your church, ‘We had 6 students saved,’” Emmerling said. “The churches that miss that

miss an opportunity to be blessed and excited themselves. I think it will invigorate them... if they are involved in seeing students’ lives changed.”

Youth workers who attended the event shared a similar sentiment.

“What an awesome weekend with some fantastic youth at YEC!” Patti Ramsey said. “Six students [in] our group made decisions to follow Jesus and it makes my heart overflow with such great love for our Savior and them!”

“Great time at YEC this weekend!” Jonathon Turner said. “Great time of worship and hearing from God’s Word! [The] youth did a great job and got a chance to serve folks in the Flint area by handing out clean drinking water as well as blankets and clothes.”

“If other churches would try it... I’d be willing to give them a money-back guarantee if they’ve never tried it before,” Emmerling said. “It’s a chance to get your students sharing their faith in a tangible way.” ■

Students from 7 colleges come together for collegiate retreat

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

ROSCOMMON — Once a year, Christian Challenge ministries come together at Bambi Lake for a statewide retreat. This year’s retreat, held October 9-11, offered students students worship, missions opportunities, and more.

“We use it as an opportunity to get momentum for the fall,” said Larry Woods, the Michigan Baptist collegiate ministry director. “It certainly helps relationally.”

The retreat offers students a chance to see things happening on other campuses, according to Woods. Combining together allows each campus to do something together that they can’t do apart.

Dave Swartz of Bethel Baptist in Roseville was the event’s guest speaker. Swartz shared how one’s

identity in Christ impacts life as a college student.

Seven college campuses — Michigan State University, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Lansing Community College, Washtenaw Community College, Henry Ford Community College, and School Craft Community College — were represented at the event.

In addition to the worship and missions emphasis, “We do a lot of fun stuff, too,” Woods said. The students enjoyed free time in the afternoon and an evening bonfire with hot dogs and s’mores.

Each year the retreat includes a missions emphasis. This year, Jeff and Kim Fraser, missionaries to the Philippines as a part of the IMB’s Nehemiah Teams, spoke at the retreat on missions. Students also participated in a silent auction for missions,

bringing items to donate to the auction and money to spend as well.

Students who have participated in missions previously also shared their experiences.

While the retreat offered a positive experience for students, Woods acknowledged that college ministry comes with its share of challenges. Because many of the ministries are rebuilding this year, the retreat’s attendance was the smallest it had ever been.

Despite the difficulties, however, Woods believes college ministry is important for ministries on campus and churches in college towns alike.

“Students are more available than any other group in our culture,” Woods said. “They’re more teachable than any other group in our culture.”

“94% of people who make a commitment to Christ after the age of

18 make it during the time between 18 and 24 years old,” Woods said.

“Where are these people? Most of them are on a college campus.”

“So if we’re serious about reaching adults with the Gospel, the campuses need to be a place where we have major focus.”

Woods shared advice for churches interested in beginning a college ministry as well.

“Find a way to get on campus and meet students, whether it’s an information table or going to a rally they have to mingle students and the community,” Woods said. “Go to those things and meet students with the goal in mind of trying to get a Bible study going from that.”

Woods believes churches will be most effective when attempting to start a ministry on the campus rather

See COLLEGE RETREAT on page 13

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Editor: Tim Patterson — tim@bscm.org
Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther — jonathan@bscm.org

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

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Future issues of the *Baptist Beacon* will be available online at baptistbeacon.net only. The *Baptist Beacon* will no longer be printed and mailed to subscribers.

Starting January 2016
BSCM is going ONLINE
USPS communication will be limited.

Online Beacon Online Church Information Packet

Get up to the minute updates and stay informed at  www.bscm.org

Who is Santa Claus?



TIM PATTERSON
Executive Director/
Treasurer

atteness of this tradition in the midst of this religious holiday. Let me give you some of the historical background concerning this jolly old fellow and how we have come to incorporate him into our culture.

During the fourth century a young man by the name of Nicholas lived in the country of Myra – in modern-day Turkey. He grew up with Christian parents who faithfully taught him the Bible.

Nicholas particularly enjoyed hearing stories about Jesus. When his mother told him how Jesus healed the sick, cared for the needy, and performed miracles, he found himself wishing Jesus were still on earth.

Later, he discovered the Church, Christ's body on earth, is responsible for carrying on His mission.

During his teen years, his wealthy parents died, leaving Nicholas a great fortune. With time on his hands, he often attended church services, seeking God's will for his life.

A few weeks later the local bishop also died. Finding a replacement for the respected clergyman would be a difficult assignment.

One night the head of the church council was told in a dream to stand by the front door of the church the next morning and ask each entering person his name. The first person responding, "Nicholas," was to be appointed the new bishop.

You can imagine young Nicholas' surprise when the church official confronted him.

After much consideration, he accepted the appointment as Bishop of Myra around 300 A.D.

Bishop Nicholas was a staunch defender of God's Word. When the Arian heresy — which denied the deity of Jesus Christ — raised its ugly head, Nicholas strongly opposed it.

Because of the bold stance for Christ, Diocletian, the evil Roman emperor, imprisoned him, and he was not released until Constantine became emperor. According to tradition, Nicholas was a participant in the Council of

Nicea in 325 A.D., the stalwart body who gave us the Nicene Creed.

Early in his ministry, Bishop Nicholas learned the importance of a faith that works and this faith motivated all his actions. He personally felt responsible for meeting the needs of his parish and dedicated his enormous wealth to this end.

At times he disguised himself and secretly visited the homes of the most needy. Under the cloak of darkness he delivered food, clothing and money.

The recipients had no idea where the blessings originated. As far as they were concerned, the Lord had answered their prayers and met their needs.

It was not long though before word spread throughout Myra that Bishop Nicholas was responsible for hundreds of good deeds performed over the years.

Nicholas began teaching others the blessings of secret giving, based on Matthew 6:1-4. As a result, many learned how greatly God uses those not seeking personal recognition.

Upon his death, some citizens of Myra picked up where Nicholas left off. They secretly began meeting the deepest needs of hurting souls, desiring no credit for their benevolent actions.

When the recipients asked who provided the gifts, their neighbors merrily responded, "Saint Nicholas must have brought them!" The practice of secret giving brought great joy to the people of Myra.

Italian sailors, whose ships frequently docked in Myra, took the story and teachings of Saint Nicholas back to their homeland. Before long the practice of secret giving had spread throughout the Western world.

Wherever the story of Nicholas was told, a spark of generosity was ignited within the hearts of the listeners. Many began giving in secret.

Before long the customs of Nicholas filtered into Germany, and from Germany, the story of Saint Nicklaus was carried into Holland. The Dutch brought the traditions of the ancient bishop to the New World.

They settled in New Amsterdam, modern-day New York City, and thus, Saint Nick burst onto the American scene in the early 1600's. In the English language, Sinter Klaus — the Dutch pronunciation — became Santa Claus.

While a lot of myth surrounds jolly old Santa, he was a real person. This godly Bishop of Myra learned the joy of giving in secret.

He was a Bible-believing soldier of the Cross who paid dearly for his convictions. The Eastern Church pro-

claimed him a "saint" in the late fifth century.

Each Christmas morning when parents selflessly give presents to their children, the story of Saint Nicholas lives on! When asked, "Mommy, who brought these gifts?" she gleefully responds, "It must have been St. Nick!"

What should you tell your children?

I believe you will be able to help your children understand the principle of secret giving without ever telling them a lie. Simply tell them the true story of Saint Nicholas each year and honestly but wisely answer their questions.

They will be able to make a transition from the concrete to the conceptual without difficulty. In the years ahead, I am sure your children will continue the tradition of telling the story of St. Nick to their children.

Many have asked if we had Santa in our Christmas celebrations when our children were young and the answer is yes. Santa Claus was a major part of Christmas for our children but he was not the center of the season.

We always had a birthday party for Jesus along with a cake and singing. A manger scene was always prominent and we talked about the wonderful and miraculous birth of our Savior often.

On Christmas morning our boys awoke to presents under the tree the jolly old fellow himself left for them and we have continued to share that tradition with our grandchildren. As each generation advances into adulthood, it becomes the custodian of Christmas.

The tradition of selfless giving is an attribute that should and must be passed on to those who follow us. We are never more like Jesus than when we are giving.

I want to encourage you this year to carry on the tradition of Saint Nicholas this year and give selflessly to those who are in need. Those with the greatest need are the untold millions throughout the world who have not heard the Gospel.

We can make sure that missionaries are sent and the Gospel is shared when we selflessly give to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Every penny that is donated goes directly to the mission field to impact lostness.

This year, be like St. Nick and give so that others may receive the greatest Gift of all — the Gift of eternal life. May you have a wonderful Christmas and a truly blessed new year.

A special thanks to Dr. Allen Street for his invaluable research. ■



TALKING POINTS

Ken Leslie

@kenleslie

Jesus wasn't about the biggest church, the coolest ministry, or even the best temple – He was concerned with seeing people's lives changed.

Dan Russell

@pastordanrussel

Make your prayer requests known unto Him so His answers to prayer can be known unto you!

Jerome Taylor

@brojerome

Church... Disciples... Pray sincerely for the lost, for most do not know that they are lost & some even think they are found. #FollowJesus #BeHis

John Botkin

@johnbotkin

Praying that France finds comfort and hope in the Gospel of Christ.

Arthur Werry

@arthurwerry

If we don't give God's grace "room to work," what good is it?

John Smith

@PastorJESmithJr

Speaking the truth with no godly love is counterproductive to the will of God.

Carlos Liese

@liese1000

Could you prove to a jury by your lifestyle that you are a Christian?

Doing the will of God



TONY LYNN
State Director
of Missions

I smile, even chuckle sometimes, when I read the Bible. Such is the case with Acts 13:36. In this text the Apostle Paul is highlighting the differences between Jesus Christ and King David.

But every time I read Acts 13:36, I grin. It says, "After David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed," (NLT).

What a humble life summary for a king: "his body decayed." But did you catch the best part of the verse?

Here it is: "After David had done the will of God in his own generation." Wow, let that soak in.

Isn't that what we should all aspire to do — to do the will of God in our own generation, before we die?

In recent weeks, I've been blessed. I've been sitting in the front row watching what God is doing with those who want to do His will in their own generation.

Lansing

A church and pastor, having made an impact on their local community, had city officials invite them to provide a similar ministry on the other side of Lansing. That is God's favor working for them.

The church held a summer event and connected with many in that new area. The only challenge is the church needs a new church starter to come alongside them to continue the

work.

The pastor is willing for a man to come work alongside him for one year while the church starter sets up the strategy for a new church start in Lansing. Are you that man being called by God to do the will of God in your own generation?

Genesee

A new church start in Genesee County has its heart set on starting two new churches. That is right: during the first year of their life, this church is ready to share key leaders and devoted volunteers in other areas of our state.

They are focused on other communities and the Kingdom of God. They are committed to do the will of God in their own generation. Is your church ready to do the will of God in your own generation?

Upper Peninsula, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, and Ypsilanti

With approval from the state's Executive Board and the North American Mission Board, men are ready to join an elite unit of Church Planting Catalysts (CPC) in Michigan. All of the state's catalysts are advocates for the unsaved throughout our state.

That is correct — our CPCs are analyzing communities where the darkness is heavy and a new church start is needed. Do you, a team of your friends, or your church need to contact us so that we can help you do the will of God in your own generation?

Call me at the office at (810) 714-1907, on my cell phone at (734) 770-0608, or write me at tony@bscm.org if you're ready to do the will of God in your own generation. ■

Gospel conversations



MIKE DURBIN
State Director
of Evangelism

Over the years, I learned a number of approaches to share the Gospel: "Continuing Witness Training," "The Roman Road," "Share Jesus Without Fear," and "How to Use a Marked New Testament," to name just a few. From Wordless books to Witnessing Cubes to Good News Bracelets, there are a lot of great ways to share Jesus.

To be totally transparent, my difficulty is not knowing how to share the Gospel, it's taking advantage of every opportunity God gives me to share the Good News. Sometimes, it's only after a conversation that I realize I missed an opportunity. You've probably experienced that as well.

My prayer in recent days has been for God to help me clearly recognize opportunities to share Jesus. I am asking God to help me turn everyday conversations into Gospel conversations and I challenge Michigan Baptists to do the same.

One indicator that God may be giving a Gospel sharing opportunity is to listen for stories of brokenness. This sinful world affects everyone.

Romans 3:23 tells us, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." People know what

it's like to feel broken. You've probably talked with someone recently who is dealing with some form of brokenness — a broken relationship, a broken system, or a broken dream.

Brokenness hurts. It's a sign that things are not working the way that God designed them, that sin is taking its toll on our lives.

We try to find a lot of ways to deal with our brokenness only to realize we cannot fix ourselves. We need Jesus. We were created by Him, for Him, and we are not complete until we are in Him.

Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us, "For by grace are you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Stories of brokenness are opportunities to share the hope of the Gospel.

Sometimes it's difficult to know how to transition a conversation into a Gospel conversation. At a recent conference I attended with the author of the 3 Circles Life Conversation Guide, Pastor Jimmy Scroggins said something very helpful.

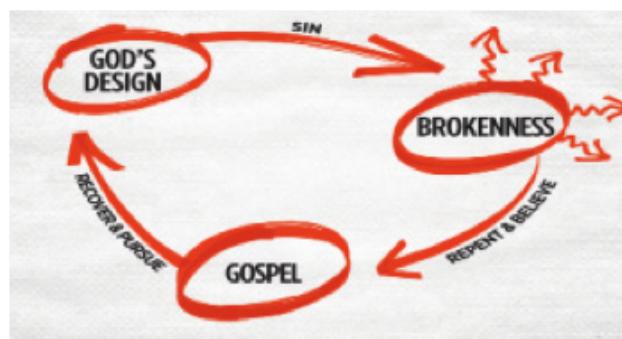
When he hears a story of brokenness he asks the person, "Can I share something with you that has helped me when I've dealt with a problem like that?" If the person gives permission, he says, "I have come to believe that God has a design for my life."

From there he shares the Gospel on a napkin using the 3 Circles. The beauty of this approach is that it is a conversation that takes people to Jesus and the message of the Gospel. It's so versatile that you can use it with any witnessing ap-

proach that works for you.

If you would like to know more, contact the Baptist State Convention of Michigan at 810-714-1907 or contact me at mike@bscm.org. You can also download the Life Conversation Guide app on Apple's App Store or the Google Play store.

It's going to take Gospel conversations to punch holes in the darkness. Paul says it best in Romans 1:16: "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." ■



From the Managing Editor

It has been my privilege to serve the Baptist State Convention of Michigan as State Communications Specialist for over two years, taking over the duties of Managing Editor for the *Baptist Beacon* beginning with the November 2013 issue. Over that period of time, I have written numerous articles about various events in Baptist life across the state of Michigan and I have edited many articles from others as well. It has been a joy to work with two volunteer regularly contributing writers — Mary Lou Hall and David B. Smith — who each contributed a great number of articles to our publication. I've also been privileged to work with guest writers who have submitted stories of God's work in their respective churches or cities. Unfortunately, my time serving you here in Michigan is drawing to a close, as this will be the last issue of the *Beacon* that I oversee. That said, I'd like to offer my thanks to you, Michigan Baptists, for the opportunity to connect with you over the past few years, to share your stories with others across the state, and to be a part of what God is doing here in the great state of Michigan. I wish each of you many blessings as you continue to partner together to advance God's Kingdom.

— Jonathan Guenther, *Baptist Beacon* Managing Editor

2015 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

WEEK OF PRAYER • NOV. 29–DEC. 6

**BECAUSE OF
WHO HE IS**

... AND **BECAUSE YOU GIVE**, IMB HELPS CHURCHES SEND MISSIONARIES TO THE BILLIONS **WHO HAVE YET TO HEAR**.



'Shadow' missionaries disciple young leaders in Philippines

BY PAIGE TURNER

PHILIPPINES (BP) — When someone shouted, "Your uncle is coming," everyone in the Philippine village knew the code meant "run and hide." Neighbors disappeared into small concrete homes until IMB missionaries Dave and Ivette Daggett had come and gone.

A few, however, including 13-year-old Berlyn Familaran, stuck around to hear what the foreigners had to say.

The curious teenager planned only to sit in and listen during the Saturday Bible studies, nothing more. But even that angered her parents and the host of other family members living in her poor community.

That's because they are among an unreached Filipino people group considered predominantly Catholic, but, as Dave explained, steeped in idol worship and animism, insular and fearful of anything new that threatens religious traditions.

"We felt like that was such a difficult community, if we could ever see anything prosper there, surely it would prosper anywhere in the city. So we just kept going back," he said.

Berlyn kept going back, too. Something about this husband and wife team from Florida was different. Berlyn couldn't believe they had learned her language and wanted to teach her worship songs in her language.

These foreigners knew about the drugs and violence in her community and about her dad, who was in and out of jail. Yet they encouraged her, Berlyn said, and they kept praying for her family.

Berlyn was baptized just a little more than a year after meeting the Daggetts.

"The joy was really in my heart. I can feel the presence of the Lord, even when we have problems in our family," she said. "I want to be the testimony to my community."

As Berlyn continued sharing the gospel with her family and inviting them to Bible studies with the Daggetts, the walls of resistance crumbled.

Before they knew it, Dave, Ivette and Berlyn were starting a church.

"Some of the parents have come to Christ and been baptized, but most don't take the leadership challenge," Dave said. "It's the younger ones who have stepped up in leadership. They share the gospel with their friends and are going with us to evangelize in other areas."

Eleven years ago when he and Ivette hosted a Vacation Bible School and met Berlyn, Dave had no idea that God would so powerfully use the teenager who said she came to VBS only for free snacks.

Or that other children and teenagers from her family would trust in Jesus, become leaders in the village church, help start a church in another village and help disciple young leaders in that church, which they're praying will start a third-generation



Jon Jon Ray (June) Familaran (yellow shirt) and his wife Berlyn (white shirt) and other participants of the youth leadership team from Dagatan Keystone Christian Church in the Philippines gather for a time of worship before preparing for the next day's True Love Waits event. (IMB photo)

church.

"We're just doing what we believe is the heart of God. Somehow you sense His heart and when you go that direction, He just provides in supernatural ways," Dave said.

Equipping local believers for ministry was always the plan, so Dave and Ivette disciple those who step up, despite their youth. They even disciple Deaf youth and adults, and God has used them to start several Deaf churches.

Working primarily with leaders who are young and energetic could easily become a tiring task for a couple in their 60s. Yet for the Daggetts, it's like getting their "second wind."

Financial gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions and Cooperative Program help make it possible for the Daggetts to serve in the Philippines and host weekly training sessions and Bible studies that equip youth to lead their churches and to train others to lead.

"Berlyn, you want to come up now?" Dave said as he handed over the microphone so she could lead worship during a Saturday evening training session with leaders from her church and the second-generation church.

That's how it usually goes for these self-proclaimed "shadow missionaries" who push forward their young Filipino leaders.

"If we want to reach Filipinos, what better way than with other Filipinos? We can't do it all," Dave said.

Serving with the Daggetts in ministries such as medical and dental clinics, anti-smoking and dental hygiene seminars, and True Love Waits seminars is a perfect opportunity for "on-the-job

training," as Berlyn likes to call it.

"Berlyn, what's your favorite story from the Bible?" Dave asked once while traveling with her and several of her cousins to an outreach event.

The story of God saving Adam and Eve, she told him.

"OK, you will tell the story today in front of these people," Berlyn recalled Dave's response.

"He's always telling us, 'Don't forget the two Ps.' Passion and practice. Always be passionate and always practice [sharing testimony and Bible stories] so people will be amazed that the Lord is working in your life."

Passion to see the gospel change lives is what drives this couple who rarely seem to take a breather as they go from one training, outreach event or discipleship meeting to the next.

"We rarely travel alone," Dave said as he headed out the door and Filipinos squished into the back of his car so they could help lead a True Love Waits seminar.

The Daggetts didn't expect children and teenagers like Berlyn to be the catalysts in helping move ministry from zero to church multiplication, but they've learned to embrace every opportunity God gives.

"It's a surprise a minute," Dave said. "This can only happen because of God."

Paige Turner is a writer living in Southeast Asia.

Find resources for churches at imb.org/offering to learn more about and promote the Lottie Moon offering. While Southern Baptists are encouraged to give to the offering through their churches, a Donate Now option is available for individual online gifts. ■

Syrian refugees: balancing compassion and security

BY DAVID ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — With at least 31 U.S. governors opposing the resettlement of Syrian refugees in their states following terrorist attacks in Paris, Christians have found themselves discussing the appropriate balance between security and compassion in immigration policy.

Various media outlets reported at least one terrorism suspect in Paris entered Europe among a wave of migrants last month by falsely identifying himself as a Syrian refugee. Only 1,500 Syrian refugees have been accepted into the U.S. since 2011, CNN reported, but the Obama administration has agreed to allow 10,000 more in 2016.

Among the governors to oppose continuing resettlement of Syrians in their states are at least two Southern Baptists: Alabama's Robert Bentley and Georgia's Nathan Deal.

Bentley tweeted he "will not stand complicit to a policy that places the citizens of Alabama in harm's way." Deal said in a Nov. 16 letter to President Obama, "While we have empathy for the hardships that innocent Syrian people face, the terrorist attacks in Paris raise a need for additional scrutiny of those claiming refugee status."

The last time the Southern Baptist Convention spoke to immigration was 2011, when a resolution "on immigration and the Gospel" called for both compassion to immigrants and border security. Messengers to the SBC annual meeting in Phoenix that year adopted the resolution by what Baptist Press estimated at the time as a 70-80 percent majority.

The resolution noted that "our Lord Jesus Christ lived His childhood years as an immigrant and refugee" and highlighted Scripture's admonitions "to show compassion and justice for the sojourner and alien among us." The statement also "ask[ed] our governing authorities to prioritize efforts to secure the borders."

Preeminently, messengers "call[ed] on our churches to be the presence of Christ, in both proclamation and ministry, to all persons, regardless of country of origin or immigration status."

The resolution concluded, "We affirm that while Southern Baptists, like other Americans, might disagree on how to achieve just and humane public policy objectives related to immigration, we agree that, when it comes to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to His church, the message, in every language and to every person, is 'Whosoever will may come.'"

Paul Jimenez, chairman of the 2011 SBC Resolutions Committee, told BP Christians must avoid the unbiblical responses toward Syrian refugees of "fear, anger and isolation" on one hand and "humanitarian assistance without due vigilance" on the other hand.

Christians should "praise and submit to the government that executes justice against evil

and protects its people," Jimenez, pastor of First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., said in written comments. "It has not been given the sword or its authority in vain by the Father, but for our good (Rom. 13:1-7). Meanwhile, the love of Christ should compel us to demonstrate our compassion for the individuals and families ravaged by war. Our actions of mercy display the fruit of the Gospel in us and a desire to see the Gospel reach all people.

"At times like these, the lines of this framework get blurred. Instead, we should highlight them in bold colors for the world to see our faith in the Father and reflect His love for people," Jimenez said.

Earlier this month, the Baptist State Conven-

churches and governments play different roles in the handling of refugees.

Robert Jeffress, pastor of First Baptist Church in Dallas, agreed. He told BP "there's a lot of confusion among Christians on the right response to Syrian refugees because many people do not understand that while we as Christians have one responsibility individually, government has another responsibility."

Individuals, Jeffress said, must "show compassion for these refugees," support relief organizations and call on government to combat the terrorist group ISIS. "But government has another responsibility, and that is to secure our borders."

Citing Acts 17:26, Jeffress said "having a secure border is not an anti-Christian sentiment. And while our government right now says we can trust them to properly vet refugees that come into our country from Syria, many Americans, like myself and these governors, don't believe that government is capable or willing to do that."

A Nov. 15 YouTube video of Jeffress responding to the Paris terrorist attacks was viewed more than 78,000 times during its first three days online. In the video, he identified radical Islam as the cause of the attacks and distinguished between the responsibilities of individuals and governments.

Russell Moore, president of Southern Baptists' Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, called Christians "to

remember human dignity" without neglecting appropriate border security.

"The screening of refugees is a crucial aspect of national security, and we should insist on it," Moore told BP in written comments. "At the same time, evangelicals should be the ones calling the rest of the world to remember human dignity and the image of God, especially for those fleeing murderous Islamic radical jihadis. We should remember the history of the 20th century, of Jewish refugees from the Holocaust and refuseniks from the Soviet Union who were largely ignored by the world community."

"We can have prudential discussions and disagreements about how to maintain security," Moore continued. "What we cannot do is to demagogue the issue, as many politicians are doing right now. An entire generation of those fleeing genocide will be asking if there is an alternative to the toxic religion they've seen. Will they hear evangelicals saying 'Jesus loves you' or 'Who then is my neighbor?' There are massive implications for both answers."

As nations debate the appropriate political response to Syrian refugees, the International Mission Board continues to share the Gospel among them, and relief organizations such as Baptist Global Response work to help meet refugees' physical needs.

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. ■



Each day thousands of refugees and migrants who arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos after fleeing war and persecution in their home countries line up to take one of several daily ferries to Athens. (Photo by Jedediah Smith/IMB)

tion of North Carolina adopted a resolution "on impacting lostness among immigrants." The Nov. 3 resolution observed that "North Carolina Baptists may not agree on specific public policy responses" to immigration crises, but it noted unity in the "call to extend love and compassion to those who are vulnerable and to reach all people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Jarrod Scott, a North Carolina pastor who proposed the resolution, told BP America's response to Syrian refugees should strike a balance between protecting U.S. residents from terrorism and loving the refugees fleeing war and genocide.

"We need more consideration before there is a quick, knee-jerk reaction of ceasing the resettlement," said Scott, pastor of Green Pines Baptist Church in Knightdale, N.C. He clarified that he was not accusing any specific governor of an inappropriate reaction to the Paris attacks or to Syrian refugees.

Christians must never, Scott said, "operate just out of fear."

"It's somewhat inconsistent for us as a church to be sending out missionaries into environments where they are at risk for the sake of love and sharing the Gospel," Scott said, "and then ... not be willing to embrace some degree of risk to reach, in some cases, the very same people" when they seek refugee status.

Scott acknowledged, however, that individuals,

Lottie Moon still honored by her church in China

BY BRUCE MOON

Baptist Press

PENGLAI, China (BP) — China has changed radically since the death of famed missionary Lottie Moon in 1912. Denominations and evangelism are illegal and the government is officially atheistic. But do the Christians in Penglai, the city where Lottie Moon once served, remember her?

I learned the answer at the Penglai Christian Church this summer. Amid the singing, dancing and preaching in an auditorium filled with teams of men and women in colored polo and T-shirts along with a choir in white robes and a group of women in flowing fluorescent purple dresses, I repeatedly heard, “mu la di xiong di jie mei.”

Translated, “xiong di jie mei” means “older brothers, younger brothers, older sisters, younger sisters”; it is a familiar phrase in Mandarin-speaking Chinese churches.

It took a few minutes for me to understand “mu la di.” In Chinese, the family name comes first — “Mu La Di” was Lottie Moon’s Chinese name. Understanding the words brought tears to my eyes. How could I, a distant relative of Lottie Moon, be in the church in Penglai in China’s Shandong province on the very morning the congregation was celebrating her service and sacrifice in the coastal city?

The words projected onto a large screen said it was a “100th anniversary celebration of Lottie’s Moon’s heavenly journey,” but the actual anniversary was three years ago, on Dec. 12, 2012. Not only was it a mystery why the Penglai Christian Church was celebrating Lottie Moon on Aug. 8, 2015, but also how I even got there; until that morning, I could only guess where it was located.

The idea of seeing places where Lottie Moon had ministered in China started with my wife Terrie back in 2005. I had made four short-term mission trips to teach English in China in a small city in southern China in the province of Guangdong. Later, my wife’s amateur genealogical research found that our family had a link to Lottie Moon; we had a common ancestor in the 1700s, making me a fourth cousin “twice removed.” The short-terms where I had served were thousands of miles from Penglai, which also has been known as Tengchow. It wouldn’t be easy to get there. City and county names have changed and China’s growth has radically changed most places. I put the idea out of my mind.

Since 2010, my annual trips to China have involved arriving in Beijing, which connects to most of the country’s major cities, including those in Shandong where Lottie Moon did most of her



A large-screen projection, though uncertain in its exact translation into English, honors famed missionary Lottie Moon during a celebration in her honor this summer at Penglai Christian Church in China’s Shandong province. (Photo by Bruce Moon)

missionary work. As my Chinese has improved, travel to Shandong became a possibility via plane, train and bus. This year a friend from Shandong invited me for a visit when she would be visiting her son in Longkou, a city neighboring Penglai. I was teaching at a Beijing university and had three-day weekends and planned to see them in July. But a delay in receiving the university stipend delayed my plan. I let my friend know but received no

See LOTTIE Moon on page 11

Boko Haram exceeds ISIS in terrorism deaths

BY DIANA CHANDLER

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — Boko Haram has become the most deadly terrorist group in the world, killing more people in terrorist attacks in 2014 than ISIS, according to the 2015 Global Terrorism Index.

The GTI attributed more than 6,644 deaths to Boko Haram in 2014, with most attacks occurring in northeastern Nigeria. ISIS killed 6,073 in terrorist attacks in the same year, according to the report.

The GTI noted a 317 percent increase of terrorism deaths in Nigeria, the largest increase ever recorded by any country, where newly elected president Muhammadu Buhari has vowed to contain Boko Haram by the end of 2015.

Boko Haram has countered Buhari’s efforts by concentrating on suicide bomb attacks, Baptist Press has reported, as opposed to the capture of entire villages, a tactic the group had used while Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan was in office.

Terrorism in Nigeria has increased not only at the hands of Boko Haram, but also because of a militant group of Fulani herdsmen, which the GTI blamed for 1,229 deaths in 2014. The herdsmen were blamed for 63 deaths in 2013, the GTI said.

While Boko Haram and ISIS have largely attacked Christians and other religious groups, the number of religious figures and worshippers killed in terrorism attacks decreased by 11 percent in 2014, according to the GTI. But the decrease in religious victims was offset by a 172 percent increase in the deaths of private citizens, the GTI indicates.

Unlike Boko Haram, ISIS does not limit its at-

tacks to terrorism strikes, the index noted, because ISIS is also involved in the Syrian civil war. As such, ISIS engages in combat with forces loyal to Assad, the al-Nusra front, Kurdish forces and the international coalition against ISIS. The deaths attributed to ISIS in combat, at least 20,000, are not included in the terrorism count.

The GTI was released just as ISIS captured the world’s attention by killing at least 130 and injuring more than 300 others in a string of attacks in Paris Nov. 13, and claiming credit for a bomb that brought down a Russian jet Oct. 31 over Egypt, killing all 224 aboard. The U.S. State Department is considering declaring ISIS guilty of genocide in the group’s attacks on the Yazidi sect in Iraq.

Worldwide, the total number of deaths from terrorism increased by 80 percent in 2014 over the previous year, the GTI found, marking the largest annual increase in the last 15 years. Not only that, but deaths from terrorism have risen 900 percent in the 21st century, from 3,329 in 2000 to 32,658 in 2014, according to the index.

Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Syria were listed as the countries suffering the most attacks of terrorism in 2014, accounting for 78 percent of terrorism deaths, with the bulk occurring in Syria, Iraq and Nigeria. Still, terrorism is spreading to other countries, the report found, with the number of countries suffering more than 500 deaths increasing from five to 11. Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Cameroon suffered more than 500 terrorism deaths for the first time, the report said.

The majority of terrorism deaths do not occur in the West, including the U.S., Canada, Australia

and European countries, the report noted, and deaths from homicide far exceed those from terrorism. Excluding September 11, only 0.5 percent of all terrorism-related deaths have occurred in Western countries in the last 15 years. But at least 437,000 people in these countries are murdered each year, more than 13 times the number of terrorism victims.

The GTI relies heavily on the Global Terrorism Database, which the report describes as the most comprehensive dataset on terrorist activity globally.

Among the GTI’s other findings:

- Iraq and Syria continued to recruit fighters from foreign countries, totaling as many as 30,000 foreigners since 2011 and including 7,000 in the first six months of 2015;
- The major perpetrators of terrorism in the West are independent, lone-wolf attackers, accounting for 70 percent of such incidents;
- The economic cost of terrorism increased by 61 percent in 2014 over 2013, totaling \$52.9 billion, a 1000 percent increase over 2000;
- The cost of containing global terrorism is \$117 billion;
- Terrorism mostly occurs in countries involved in violent conflicts. These countries suffered 88 percent of all terrorist attacks in the last 25 years.

The 2014 report is the GTI’s third edition. The full report is available at <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2015.pdf>.

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

LOTTIE MOON

from page 9



The pastor of Penglai Christian Church shows a photo from the days when Lottie Moon was a missionary in China's Shandong province. (Photo by Bruce Moon)

reply. When the money from the university came a week later, there was still no reply. After 10 days with no word, I went to see another friend in Henan, a province south of Beijing, and decided to see Shandong after finishing my Beijing teaching.

I purchased train tickets for my Henan and Shandong journeys and made hotel reservations. Then I received an email from my friend explaining she had been hospitalized in Longkou and was home recuperating in Binzhou with the assistance of her son. She wouldn't be able to see me, and her son wouldn't be available to guide me in Yantai, the prefecture city, and Penglai and Longkou. I would be on my own in Shandong province.

The Friday after the term ended, I took the subway to the Beijing South train terminal for the six-hour trip to Yantai. I thought Penglai was a local bus trip from Yantai but it was a "local" city that took another two hours. In Penglai, the taxicab driver readily recognized the hotel name and I was

there in about 15 minutes.

I had chosen the hotel after finding it on the online itinerary of a tour group led by two Woman's Missionary Union leaders. I figured it was probably near the Penglai church and might cater to foreigners. I had no address for the church and walked the streets that night to get a feel for the city.

On Saturday morning, the idea of finding the monument stone for Lottie Moon at the church seemed like a crazy idea. Rick Boyne, pastor of Immanuel Southern Baptist Church in Wagoner, Okla., once visited the Penglai church and had sent me two photos. One was of the church building and the other of a memorial arch for the park/estate of a famous general next to the church. Rick told me to just show the pictures to any cab driver. I had saved the pictures to my phone and showed them to the hotel's front desk staff. The first person recognized them and called another clerk over. The two agreed and said a name I didn't recognize. It wasn't Mu

La Di or "jiao hui" (church teaching meeting) or "jiao tang" (church teaching building). It was Ji Qi Guang, the name of the famous hero/general. The clerks took me outside and pointed down the main street, telling me to walk straight and cross two intersections.

Just as the clerks said, at the third street I looked to the right and saw both the old church building and the memorial arch of General Ji Qi Guang. The path that led to the arch passed the churchyard. I saw the Lottie Moon memorial, but there was a wrought iron fence and a gate that locked from the inside. I saw two people in the churchyard and asked them to open the gate.

The characters on the monument are difficult to read; it was defaced during the Cultural Revolution when everything old, religious and foreign were targets. What was visible were traditional characters that are sometimes different from the simplified characters I have studied. I nodded in appreciation to the pair who had let me in, taking pictures of all sides of the monument with my cellphone.

I heard music that sounded like a children's choir but since it was Saturday morning I thought it was a rehearsal for Sunday. My new friends asked me to follow them to the newer sanctuary building.

When I entered the auditorium, I didn't find a children's choir. Instead, there were 300-400 people, mostly adults, almost all seated in groups, with those wearing the same color seated together. Later, I learned that the service — a blending of Chinese and Western influences — was about half over when I entered. The first group I saw was a choir wearing white choir robes with blue sashes who sang two hymns translated into Chinese.

The pastor preached a short sermon, repeatedly calling the congregation, "Lottie Moon's brothers and sisters." He ended by singing "Jesus Loves Me," with the congregation joining in. A women's group used their hands and arms while singing a couple of songs, just like the women you see exercising in China's parks and city squares. And in Chinese opera style, two women walked about the stage singing to God, telling Him of their love for Him and asking Him to mold them. The finale was Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" sung by the massed choirs.

Everyone leaving was given a bag of flat bread with a filling common in the area. As I left and was given my bread, the preacher greeted me and I had my picture taken with him. I tried to explain that I was related to Mu La Di. I took out my passport and pointed to my last name. The pastor then took me into the office and showed me a display case. Two shelves had familiar pictures of Lottie Moon that one sees in articles and books, along with one of her home in Virginia. I took pictures, thanked the pastor and made my way out.

As I left, I wondered how I had come to be at the Penglai Christian Church on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2015. If I had come when I had originally planned, I would have missed the service in Lottie Moon's memory. I might not have found someone to open the gates to the church. In other years, my Chinese wouldn't have been good enough to even make it to the church site.

So many details and decisions converged that day to lead me to believe God had allowed me to experience something very special that day.

Bruce Moon is a writer and English and technology educator in Sacramento, Calif. ■

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 for more information.

Bilingual pastor needed

New Day/Nueva Dia Baptist Church is searching for a bilingual pastor. In addition to salary, the church is able to offer use of a house, retirement, and help with utilities for three months of the winter season. Résumés may be sent to ramirezjb01@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

You Can Submit your items for publication to the Baptist Beacon by emailing beacon@bscm.org by the 20th of each month for publication in the next month's issue

Theological library items needed

Trenton Missionary Baptist Church, Trenton is collecting Bibles, lexicons, concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, and training material for Cordilleras Ministerial Academy, a ministerial school for rural pastors in the Philippines who have little or no theological training. To donate items, contact Pastor George Wood at joanne2600@yahoo.com.

Bi-vocational pastor needed

Liberty Missionary Baptist Church, Monroe is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Send résumés to retiredchief1980@att.net or curtpat33801@live.com. Contact Curt Ellison, pulpit committee chairman, at (734) 605-8961 with any questions.

Bi-vocational pastor needed

Victory Baptist Church, Portage is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Send résumés to bfiguydale2007@yahoo.com or Victory Baptist Church, 308 W Milham, Portage, MI 49024 or contact the chairman of deacons at (269) 655-6511 with any questions.

First-person: What happened to evangelism in the SBC?



EDITOR'S NOTE: Ronnie Floyd is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP) — What happened to evangelism in the Southern Baptist Convention?

It was our commitment to evangelism in the past that set us apart from all other denominations. The events and experiences churches offered to their community were done with the specific intent of winning others to faith in Christ.

What happened? Where did this go?

Waking up to reality

I do realize that all of our 51,094 churches and congregations do not complete and report the Annual Church Profile. However, of the churches that did report, in the church year from Oct. 1, 2013, to Sept. 30, 2014, the number of baptisms was lower than it was in 1948. This is deplorable!

The U.S. population in 1948 was 146 million compared to 317 million in 2014. Therefore, with thousands more Southern Baptist churches with millions more members, along with having 171 million more Americans to reach today, we are reaching and baptizing less people than we did in 1948.

We need to wake up to reality. We need spiritual revival in the church and spiritual awakening in America.

I can remember when....

I can remember when some of my seminary classes were filled with exciting challenges about reaching people for Christ.

I can remember when my seminary evangelism classes equipped me in how to lead an evangelistic church that had a strategy to reach your town or city for Christ.

I can remember some of my seminary classes built within me a deep belief of how God wanted to work in our day, just as He did in and through the revivals and awakenings of past generations.

I can remember when there was a proven record of evangelism regarding pastors and

Supreme Court to rule on Texas abortion law

By TOM STRODE

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Supreme Court agreed today (Nov. 13) to rule on a Texas law that stands to sound the death knell for many abortion clinics.

The justices announced they would weigh a decision by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans that upheld most of the Texas measure, which requires an abortion doctor to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital in case a woman needs emergency hospitalization. The law also mandates abortion clinics must meet the health and safety standards of other walk-in surgical centers.

If upheld by the high court, the law would reduce the number of abortion facilities in Texas

evangelists who were invited to bring the keynote message in the local association, or speak at an evangelism conference of a state convention, or preach the national Pastors' Conference of the Southern Baptist Convention, or preach at the Southern Baptist Convention. The only pastors considered led a strong evangelistic church and had a reputation for baptizing great numbers of people for Christ in proportion to their community and their opportunity.

I can remember when nominations for offices of any kind in Southern Baptist life were not even considered if you were not a part of a strongly evangelistic church.

Is it still like this today? I really cannot answer all of these questions, but I can surely answer some of them.

Quite honestly, I am not impressed by how many books a pastor sells, how many Twitter followers he may have, at how many conferences he speaks, how great of a preacher he is, or how much his church does around the world if he pastors or is associated with a church that has a lame commitment to evangelizing and baptizing lost people and reaching his own community with the Gospel of Christ.

Could it be....

Could it be that we have scrutinized the evangelism of others so much that we have cut the heart of evangelism out of our pastors and churches? Could it be that we so fear what others think about the ways we reach others because we fear being misunderstood, we have ceased talking about evangelism with our pastors and churches? Could it be everything else in our convention is more important than evangelism?

Could it be that we recognize and reward many other things before we ever recognize evangelism through our churches?

I pray not, but could it be?

What our Southern Baptist Convention can do

The 42 state conventions and 12 national entities of our Southern Baptist Convention can hold up high the banner for evangelizing lost people and baptizing new believers. Within their assigned roles, they have the influence to help our churches by elevating evangelism to unprecedented levels.

from what had been about 40 to fewer than 10.

Such a decision by the justices would have an impact in other states that have similar laws. The justices failed to act on an appeal of another Fifth Circuit ruling that affirmed a Mississippi law that requires admitting privileges for abortion doctors.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, said after the high court issued its order, "We shouldn't be surprised that the abortion rights lobby fights legislation that creates accountability for surgeons and clinics. The abortion industry has always operated at the expense of women and families."

"My prayer is that the Supreme Court will act in defense of the lives of women and the unborn in empowering states to cut through the political armor of the abortion industry and keep it accountable to the public," Moore said.

We need them to elevate evangelism before our churches through conferences, conversations and strategies they implement.

We need to begin to celebrate, again, pastors and churches who are reaching and baptizing great numbers of people in proportion to their opportunity afforded to them. We need to celebrate them in relationship to the size of their community and what has been entrusted to them by the Lord.

What our pastors and churches can do

The real issues of evangelism lie with our pastors and churches. It is on us, not our Southern Baptist structure, regardless of how they could be or should be assisting and helping our churches.

Therefore, pastors and churches, please consider these things to see more people reached for Christ and baptized by your church:

1. Through each event or experience you offer as a church, regardless of the audience, strategically use it for evangelism.
2. Preach each message and plan each service with the eventual goal of calling people to follow Jesus Christ.
3. Offer a public invitation weekly. If not a "walk down front" invitation, use other ways to call people to follow Jesus weekly.
4. Highlight baptisms in your worship services weekly.
5. Creatively offer ways for people to begin to follow Christ; we did this recently and 74 people came to Christ and are being baptized as a result of a unique Sunday morning emphasis.
6. Add outreach events or experiences to your church calendar that are solely committed to reaching people with the Gospel.
7. Renew your commitment to develop, equip and empower people to share their faith with lost people regularly.
8. Create a specific strategy to reach your community or city with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let's not be paralyzed. By no means do I believe I have all the answers, but I do know: It begins with us. It begins with our churches.

Do something. Do more than you are doing now. Take a risk.

Return to the importance of reaching and baptizing people. ■

After the announcement, Steven Aden, senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom, said the Texas law provides "common-sense protections that ensure the maximum amount of safety for women. Abortionists should not be exempt from medical requirements that everyone else is required to follow."

The Supreme Court has not issued an opinion on abortion since 2007, when it upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortion.

Earlier this year, the justices blocked implementation of the Texas law while the appeal process continues.

Oral arguments in the case, which is Whole Woman's Health v. Cole, are not expected until February or later.

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

New church start ‘moving people toward God’

BY MIKE DURBIN

Special to the Baptist Beacon

LIVONIA — Growing up in Metro Detroit, mile markers were a common sight to Travis Whittaker. Roads like Six Mile, Eight Mile, and Fourteen Mile help people know where they are in relation to the city.

In similar fashion, Mile City Church — the church that Travis and his team are planting near Detroit — uses mile markers to move people toward God.

“Where are you on your journey toward God?” Whittaker asked the crowd of around 350 people during the September 27 launch service. “You don’t have to believe or behave a certain way to begin the process of moving toward God. Move toward God and he will move toward you.”

The message of moving toward God greets people even before they enter the auditorium of the church’s meeting space at Schoolcraft College. The carpet in the entrance looks like a road and banners on both sides display the nine mile markers the church uses to move people towards God: Weekends, Baptism, Daily Encounter, Group, Coached, Coaching, Team, Sphere, and Generosity.

While all nine mile markers are on display, several were prominent during the launch service.

Whittaker shared how Mile City Church had been the recipient of incredible generosity from part-

ners like 242 Church, Kensington Church, and The North American Mission Board. He acknowledged that without them, the church would not be where it is today.

Following the example of their generosity, Whittaker said, “We want Mile City to be known for radical generosity right from the beginning.” He challenged attendees at the first service to fill grocery bags the church handed out with food to bring back to the service the next week.

The food would be donated to help another church plant in Detroit, City Church, with their Thanksgiving food distribution to hundreds of people. The following Sunday, more than 200 grocery bags were collected and over \$600 was given to City Church.

The Team mile marker was on vivid display as volunteers were everywhere from the parking lot to the auditorium. Teams were in place to set up, greet, teach



Mile City Church pastor Travis Whittaker introduces Shea and Andrea Prisk to their congregation at their launch service on September 27. Shea joined the church’s staff as Connection pastor and Andrea is the church’s new Kids’ Programming Director. (Photo from Facebook / Mile City Church)

children, lead in worship, control lighting and sound, and much more. Whittaker is quick to acknowledge the teamwork that makes Mile City weekends happen.

A moving moment highlighting Sphere took place with the introduction of Shea and Andrea Prisk. The young couple announced that they were expecting and the church celebrated in applause.

Travis used the opportunity to say that Mile City was also pregnant. Shea would be serving as a Church Planter Apprentice at Mile City with the intention of planting another church.

“On our launch day, we were excited to announce that we will be helping launch another church plant in the next couple years,” Whittaker said. “As many have invested in us, we will be investing in this amazing couple.”

The vision is for Mile City to be a church

that plants churches.

“We wanted to put that in our DNA from the beginning,” Whittaker said. “Wouldn’t it be great for SBC church plants in Michigan to think that way?”

Whittaker knows the incredible difference it makes when a church plant is connected with sending and supporting churches.

“When churches plant churches, it works a lot better,” Whittaker said. “We have a national organization that helps, but I feel fortunate that I also have churches that are helping me.”

“If all I had was the national organization, it wouldn’t be enough. When two or three churches get together, it works better.”

“I am having conversations with lead pastors that are personally investing in me. It’s priceless. I am hoping that by our example, that other churches in Michigan will connect together and back other planters to plant more new churches.”

Mile City just celebrated their third worship service since the launch. People are moving toward God.

“I can finally fit in a place with my daughter and we both get something out of it,” one man said following a recent service. “We finally found a home.” ■



Mile City Church filled a trailer with over 200 bags of food to deliver to City Church in Detroit for their Thanksgiving food distribution. (Photo from Facebook / Mile City Church)

Three churches share building, mission

By KEVIN FINKENBINDER

Special to the Baptist Beacon

LANSING — November 1 marked a momentous transition in the history of Discover Life Church as they moved their services to a new location approximately 60 feet from their previous site. Or is that a return to their old location?

Founded in 1954, the church — then known as Bethany Baptist Church — first met in homes, moved to a union hall, and in 1955 bought their first property, opening a building in February 1956. By 1960 they saw the need for a larger building and a structure was completed adjacent to the original structure in March 1963.

Through the years the size of the church waxed and waned, but eventually the culture around them changed and the church fell into difficult times. By the time pastor Scott Hanson was called to lead the church in 2007, attendance had dwindled to a mere fraction of earlier years.

For the last few years, Discover Life Church has allowed Getsemani Baptist Church — a Hispanic church plant — to use some of the excess space for their weekly meetings and Bible studies and provided its pastor, Gilberto Medina, office space. Since Medina speaks rudimentary English and the Spanish of Discover Life pastors is even more limited, commu-

nication is a challenge at times

The congregations have cooperated well, though. Without being asked, the congregation of Getsemani undertook the care of the landscaping around the buildings and more recently took responsibility for cleaning the educational building.

Since 2007, the size of the church has nearly doubled, but the facility remained too large for the needs of the congregation. The church found itself unable to meet the needs budget required for regular maintenance of the church's aging building, and its meeting space no longer met the needs of its congregation — the many stairs throughout the building, for example, create a barrier for many who would like to attend.

About four years ago, the congregation began to investigate selling the facility. Since then, the church received occasional offers on the facility, but the leadership could not take any of them seriously and maintain fiscal responsibility.

In recent months, the situation changed as the Lansing Area Church of Christ approached Discover Life. This congregation had grown from a small campus Bible study to an average attendance of well over 100 people.

This made their facility

an ideal size in which they can have plenty of room to grow without being overwhelmed by too much space. When they started raising money to purchase the property, the response was extremely positive.

"God did more than we could ever ask or imagine!" Lansing Area Church of Christ pastor Joel Nagel said on their church website. "We blew out our funding goal."

The purchase closed on October 23. As part of the deal, they are generously allowing Discover Life Church and Getsemani Baptist Church to continue meeting in the education building, free of charge, for six months. When their services began on November 15, three congregations met in the facility's two buildings.

While doctrinal differences between the Lansing Area Church of Christ and the two Michigan Baptist Churches exist, each of the pastors involved is confident that God is behind this deal. All three congregations share one mission, seeking to grow God's kingdom, not a local

following.

All three congregations are seeking to follow the same Lord as revealed in Scripture. Even in their doctrinal differences, they recognize that all the congregations involved are seeking to follow the Scripture as best they can understand what it means.

"In regards to us seeking to glorify God, I agree totally," Nagel said.

These churches will fellowship together both coincidentally, as the congregants cross paths on the property, and intentionally, when they occasionally join in multi-church fellowship activities.

"This is a huge step in the life of the church," Hanson said, but noted that additional big steps are yet to come. "We need to get into the business of building the kingdom, not of building a church."

While Discover Life Church is still seeking a permanent facility, the three churches believe their cooperation may illustrate to the world what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. ■

COLLEGE RETREAT

from page 3

than at the church itself.

"A Bible study shouldn't be at your church, it should be on campus; then they can work on students coming to their church over time," Woods said. "If you try to do it at your church, that narrows greatly the students who might be interested in doing that. If you do it on their turf, they're much more comfortable and likely to come."

Woods also encouraged youth pastors to connect with college ministries at colleges, informing them when a graduating senior will be coming to their school. Woods said he would be happy to connect youth pastors to college ministers across the state. Local directors can also be invited to speak at a church or with

a youth group about college life and the challenges and opportunities that come alongside it.

Woods believes strongly in this because he sees the value college ministry brings to the students and churches alike.

"There are 50,000 students at Michigan State," Woods said of the school where his college ministry is based. "The reality is that those 50,000 students are available to go anywhere in the world that God would lead them when they graduate, and there aren't the things that would hold them down that a layman would have. So in terms of reaching the world, the college campus is where we'll find the workers to do that." ■

Bambi Lake
Retreat & Conference Center

Psalm 23:2

*He makes me to lie down
in green pastures;
He leads me beside
the still waters.*

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSIONS GIVING

December 2015

	CP October	Designated October	CP YTD 2015	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	60.00	64.00	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,934.34
BAY ASSOCIATION				BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	110.85	55.00	634.46	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	302.00	362.00	3,003.76	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	321.52	0.00	3,993.50	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	500.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	689.91	0.00	8,762.97
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	617.40	100.00	6,732.13	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST HUNGARIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	40.00	0.00	40.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	613.81	783.00	5,999.04	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,827.69	256.00	17,769.15	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	3,500.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	936.99	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	562.00	0.00	958.52	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,483.96	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	115.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	170.95	270.00	871.49	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	150.00
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	0.00	0.00	340.17	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	210.00	0.00	840.00	LEGACY	214.73	0.00	1,453.56
NEW HOPE CHURCH	174.17	0.00	2,142.81	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	9,009.76	MEDITATION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	150.00	0.00	225.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	289.00	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	6,460.25	0.00	66,508.26
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	59.03	43.28	HANNAU INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST	100.00	0.00	900.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	678.52	0.00	7,834.75
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	269.05	0.00	2,431.57	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	114.00	87.00	1,375.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	96.29	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,371.00	369.00	24,856.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	250.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	151.00	205.00	1,043.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	25.00
Total:	2,131.80	997.03	54,539.24	LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	90.00	0.00	590.71	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,000.00
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION				LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	100.00	672.00	1,000.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	700.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	600.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	200.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	4.90	0.00	126.35	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	1,004.32	1,401.00	10,990.66	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	560.00	0.00	2,657.00
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	10,782.00	5,723.89	78,401.00	ONELIFE CHURCH	581.09	0.00	5,506.98	REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH	369.34	0.00	594.34
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	54.86	0.00	438.88	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	350.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	476.20	0.00	4,145.89	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	500.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	730.69
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,000.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	2,225.00	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	800.00	0.00	1,300.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	50.00	71.00	450.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	100.00	0.00	600.00	THE CITY CHURCH - CANTON	0.00	0.00	60.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE CITY CHURCH - DETROIT	0.00	0.00	60.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	1,800.18	300.00	4,567.24	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	921.67	0.00	4,247.19	THE CITY CHURCH - REDFORD	0.00	0.00	240.00
GRACE CHURCH	4,389.37	2,194.67	35,367.16	WESTSIDE CHURCH	781.00	100.00	9,348.00	THE GATHERING	1,979.15	0.00	4,866.04
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	678.67	1,242.25	7,429.85	Total:	9,537.60	3,420.00	106,097.84	TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	617.00	0.00	3,622.34
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	0.00	0.00	300.00	GREATERT DETROIT ASSOCIATION				TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	15.10	0.00	125.97	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	600.00	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	50.00	0.00	650.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	0.00	0.00	1,050.00	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	720.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	4,500.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	150.00	934.00	1,500.00	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	110.00	Total:	14,396.65	1,292.00	123,475.00
NEW LIFE CHAPEL	50.00	0.00	548.50	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,850.00	HURON ASSOCIATION			
NEW LIVING CHRISTIAN CHURCH	115.85	0.00	671.43	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	200.00	0.00	1,400.00	CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	400.00
PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,681.51	CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	18,667.13	10,465.81	136,822.27	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	387.75	620.00	2,334.20	CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	45.43	0.00	342.45
GENESEE ASSOCIATION				DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	1,122.73	0.00	12,801.65
AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	481.95	0.00	5,840.80				FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,298.57	501.00	14,674.02	
							FIRST BAPTIST - GREEN OAK TOWNSHIP	150.00	0.00	1,350.00	

ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

You've thought of all the details in preparing for the birth of your new baby. The birth of a new child is a good time to create or update an estate plan.

The Foundation helps hundreds of families each year with their estate plans, which allows parents to name a legal guardian for their children.

The Foundation also has a legal fees reimbursement plan if you want to leave a gift in your estate plan to a Southern Baptist Ministry.



Protect those you love.

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM MISSIONS GIVING

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	5,163.87	1,460.00	32,051.53
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	412.06	0.00	4,214.37
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,132.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,062.06
OAKWOOD CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,251.56
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REACH CHURCH	280.00	0.00	1,990.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	720.00
Total:	8,512.66	1,961.00	79,589.64

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	123.41	0.00	2,218.07
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	173.57	0.00	1,148.16
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	5,892.79	629.48	21,019.44
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	144.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,135.40
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	19.54	0.00	299.10
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Total:	6,209.31	629.48	29,439.17

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	458.48	0.00	2,631.70
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	856.60	261.00	6,172.82
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	405.06	145.00	5,187.22
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	300.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	2,160.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	282.66	0.00	3,231.24
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	300.00	700.00
DEQUINDRE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	344.70	0.00	1,894.02
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY	100.00	0.00	1,000.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	2,719.10	75.00	28,373.95
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	195.83	0.00	2,012.82
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	3,000.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	7,639.02
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	219.03	0.00	1,977.07
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	249.80	280.00	3,598.45
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	52.00	500.00	401.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	572.70	0.00	5,314.43
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	823.55
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	596.56
HOPE IN CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	350.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	600.00	0.00	2,700.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,028.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,588.00	0.00	15,827.30
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,217.04	0.00	14,544.76
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,721.40	0.00	17,778.41
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIFE RECOVERY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	261.50
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	15,580.45
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NARROW PATH CHRISTIAN BIKER CHURCH	593.50	0.00	2,506.67
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	225.50	0.00	2,695.43
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	500.00	0.00	1,350.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	2,121.00	1,225.00	20,366.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	595.61	1,054.00	2,996.11
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST - WARREN	1,200.00	40.00	1,200.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	450.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	13,614.87
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	550.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,750.00
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00

THE MAIN REASON THE O'MALLEYS
 AND JOHNSONS ATTENDED DIFFERENT
 CHURCHES - THEY FIGURED - WAS THAT
 WHAT THEY WANT FROM A CHURCH
 WAS SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT...

**NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION**

THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	50.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	1,872.00	11,349.87
Total:	18,808.01	5,752.00	208,763.56

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	10.62	0.00	143.82
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	64.44	64.00	748.83
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	0.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	341.92	100.00	1,043.30
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	110.00	298.04
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	68.96	0.00	826.21
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	367.84	203.00	1,960.32
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	700.00
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	502.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	352.11	65.00	1,770.94
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	465.00	782.00	2,090.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	1,670.89	1,324.00	10,083.46

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	490.58	0.00	1,547.34
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	333.95	0.00	3,322.91
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	13,715.67
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	81.54	0.00	718.42
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	415.93	315.00	3,674.37
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,126.79

HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	100.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0		



December 2015

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Volume 59, Number 12

Michigan's Baptist Beacon

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING



(The numbers above are taken from the 2014 Annual Statistical Report, a summary of Southern Baptist work overseas in 2013. For up-to-date statistics, go to public.imb.org/globalresearch.)