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February 2014

Volume 58, Number 2

Michigan's Baptist Beacon



WEEK OF
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**NORTH
AMERICAN
MISSIONS**
AND THE ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING*



NORTH AMERICAN
MISSION BOARD

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Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

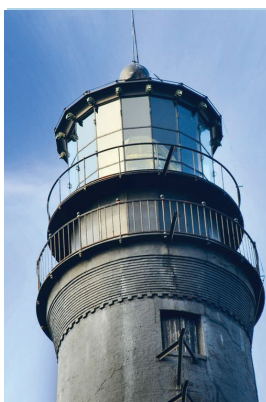
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NORTH AMERICAN
MISSIONS EMPHASIS
MARCH 2-9, 2014



Baptist BEACON

Church reaches neighbors with food pantry ministry

Grace Community Church in Pellston has discovered a unique way to connect with the surrounding community

'eBay Sunday' raises funds for church plant

The Shore Church in Saint Joseph makes the most of online auctions as a means to support ministry

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Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan •

Volume 58, Number 2 •

February 2014 •

www.MichiganBaptists.org

God's Plan for Sharing helps churches reach communities

BY DAVID B. SMITH
AND BAPTIST BEACON STAFF

Baptist churches always like to mix a meal with an event.

Michigan Baptists took that one step further, hosting ten meals at ten different locations over a five-day period, January 13-17, 2014. These events were used to promote the God's Plan for Sharing evangelistic strategy called "Serving Across Michigan."

God's Plan for Sharing, or GPS, is a North American Mission Board (NAMB) 10-year strategic emphasis that partners with state conventions to help local churches reach their communities for Christ.

"The GPS evangelism meeting was well worth my time, even though the weather was a challenge," said Arthur Werry, pastor of New Life Baptist Church in Fraser. "I was able to glean several outreach ideas along with a very helpful strategic planning outline for GPS."

Each state convention can set its own time line for the campaign. In Michigan, local church preparation is recommended to begin March 2014 and continue through May 2014. These events are prayer-focused and can potentially include monthly or quarterly associational meetings, as well as prayer events in local congregations.

The recommended kick-off date for the "Serving Across Michigan" days of service projects is Saturday, May 31, 2014. Churches can participate in

one of five Operation 1-Day project events or create and implement other service projects in their own communities. Following that Saturday in May, the Days and Seasons of Service are encouraged to begin statewide.

"An evangelistic strategy is not about satisfied saints sitting in seats. It's about sending saints out of their seats to tell people about a Savior," said Bobby Gilstrap, Lead Missionary and Executive Director of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, at the meetings. "This isn't just a six-month strategy; we want to encourage you to carry this out through 2014 and 2015."

The overall goal in Michigan and across North America is simple, to have every believer sharing and every person hearing the gospel by 2020. To accomplish this objective, NAMB has outlined four biblical markers to keep the program on track.

The first of the four is praying. The GPS strategy stresses that every church should first be in prayer for the lost. Next is making sure that every believer is equipped to share the gospel. The third biblical marker is sowing. The plan calls for every lost person to receive a witness. Rounding out the goal is harvesting souls. Every church is to be harvesting and celebrating every salvation response.

Between now and 2020 NAMB has planned bi-annual campaign themes. Two of those have been completed –

See GPS on page 2



A GPS group meeting at Driftwood Restaurant in Saint Ignace. (submitted photo)

Is God done with Detroit?

BY TOBIN PERRY
Baptist Press

DETROIT (BP) — People use all kinds of words to describe the city of Detroit. Words like broken, wrecked and bankrupt have captured the vocabulary as American commentators talk about the Motor City. Yet Southern Baptist pastor and church planter Daryl Gaddy has another word for his beleaguered city—home.

Last July Detroit became the largest city in American history to file for bankruptcy. It was just the latest embarrassment in a decline that began in the 1950s and accelerated in the 1980s.

It's easy to look at the Motor City and wonder if God has forgotten the engine that once played a dramatic role in Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "Arsenal of Democracy." (Detroit's auto industry once cranked out 91 percent of the helmets American soldiers wore during World War II and half of the war's Consolidated B-24 Liberator bombers.) But today more than half of the city's 138 acres sit vacant. A million people have left the city since 1950.

Yet Gaddy believes there is reason for hope—no matter what the pundits say.

"I believe that the city has hope because of the Spirit of God and the Word of God," he said. "The Bible

says, 'If my people who are called by name humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways.' I believe that if we get back to the Word of God and loving the people of God, there will be a great revival in the city, and we will see a great return to those things that are beneficial for the people of that city."

A new church for a new generation

That's one of the reasons Gaddy and his wife, Daphne, started Victory Fellowship in 2006. The city needs new churches. Only 1 in 10 metro Detroiters claim to be an evangelical Christian. The city has one evangelical church for every 3,641 people and one Southern Baptist church for every 36,221 people in the metro area. Inside the city itself, those statistics are worse.

"There is a need for new churches, but not just new churches," Gaddy said. "There is a need for churches that are serious about the Lord's business. There is a need for churches who understand that we are the voice of God in the community, and that we've been sent to be servants in this world, to impact the lives of others with the gospel."

Gaddy had been a pastor, serving on the staff of his father-in-law's church when God began to nudge



Young children walk and play after a wedding at Victory Fellowship Church in Detroit. Without youth, a city's future stifles, Daryl Gaddy says. Victory Fellowship—the youngest Southern Baptist church plant within Detroit's city limits—works with a variety of other organizations providing job training and mentoring for neighborhood youth. (NAMB photo by Joe Garrad)

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GPS from page 1

in 2010 "Across North America" and 2012 "Reaching Across North America." The 2014 campaign theme is "Serving Across North America" with a media campaign theme of "Purpose. Find it Here." State conventions are encouraged to adapt the theme for their state.

By the end of February, the Michigan GPS website, *GPS.bscm.org*, will be launched with numerous resources available for Michigan Baptists' churches. Included on the GPS site will be video recordings of the training provided at the GPS evangelism meetings/meals and dozens of links and downloads of printed, audio and video resources. In addition, banners and lawn signs will be provided on a "first-come, first serve" basis that supports the national "Find it Here" media emphasis. All resources are provided for cooperating Michigan Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program. Additional banners and resources can be purchased at a minimal cost.

At each meeting, participants were provided a NAMB planning

guide for pastors and churches, service project ideas and resources to make prayer an integral part of the strategy for the local church. The participants were also exposed to testimonies about how GPS has worked in other places and to media resources they could use in promoting their own efforts. All of these resources will also be made available on the GPS website, *GPS.bscm.org*.

These traditional methods are great when combined with the convention's Mapping Center, *MappingCenter.bscm.org*. The mapping center can provide churches a list of residents in their community for identifying and targeting population groups for outreach or service activities. The new the new Impacting Michigan website, *www.ImpactingMichigan.net*, was also introduced to assist churches be more effective in reaching their communities.

"Serving Across Michigan" will be a blessing as hundreds of churches join together reaching the lost and impacting the Kingdom for Christ. ■

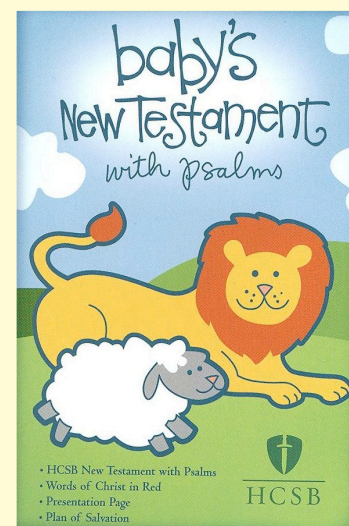
Baptist Foundation of Michigan offers free baby Bibles to new parents

A baby dedication is a special time in the life of new parents as well as the church they attend. A new program from the Baptist Foundation of Michigan now seeks to make this celebration even more special.

The Foundation is offering a free Holman New Testament Baby Bible to families who participate in a church baby dedication ceremony.

Churches interested in the complementary baby Bible program should contact Allegra Baker at *foundation@bscm.org* or (517) 789-6155. A two-week notice is requested to provide baby Bibles to a church.

Churches may also request a sample baby Bible as a gift from the Foundation.



Pellston church reaches community with food pantry

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER
Managing Editor

Many cities have Baptist churches, and most have food pantries. The combination of the two is rare, however, and one innovative church is striving to combine the two to create a unique ministry opportunity.

In Pellston, Grace Community Church operates a Wednesday night food pantry ministry. Over a recent two-week span, the church of just over 20 in weekly attendance was able to serve 53 families

and provide food to over 200 people.

"Our pantry is specifically set up to help people get the food they want; they don't just get a box," Pastor Jim Reynolds said. "That gives us time to sit down with them and talk."

For Reynolds, the time he can spend with people in his community is just as important as providing food. It gives him an opportunity to get to know others and share Christ with them.

"Carrying out boxes is nice," he said. "But my job

is to spend time with the people."

Through the food pantry ministry, Reynolds has been able to reach those in need with the love of Christ. The church has seen two baptisms from the food pantry, as well as several new faces attending the church as a result of the ministry.

Pellston is located in northern Michigan, an area riddled with poverty and alcoholism and home to many single-parent families. The food pantry has given the church an opportunity to minister directly to these needs in the surrounding community.

"When we first got there, there was a lady coming... who was so drunk she couldn't stand up," said Nona Reynolds, wife of the pastor. "She's been sober 8 months and is helping us get a chapter of Alcoholics Victorious started in our church."

The church has almost doubled in size over the past year, and sees the food pantry as an integral part of its success.

Pastor Reynolds realizes that the needs are plentiful in the surrounding community and hopes to see a women's shelter come to the area in the future.

He also recognizes the need to minister to local youth. Located next to the town's high school, the church is well positioned to reach students.

After holding football tailgate parties, Reynolds has reached over 30 of the school's football players who are interested in future activities.

"I've got phone numbers of... players that say, 'Call us when you're doing something else,'" Reynolds said of his ministry to students. "There's absolutely nothing for these kids to do in the community, so I need to start some activities for them." ■

THE BAPTIST BEACON

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Editor: Bobby Gilstrap – *bgilstrap@bscm.org*
Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther – *beacon@bscm.org*

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

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COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
together
we are there

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

How CP Works

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

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

Partially deaf church planter reaching Detroit's unchurched

BY TOBIN PERRY

Baptist Press

MACOMB, Mich. (BP) -- Scott Blanchard is familiar with all the public perceptions of Detroit and its surrounding area: Metro Detroit is dying. No one wants to live in the city. The Church can't survive—much less thrive in the Motor City.

But the fact is, the Detroit-area native and Southern Baptist church planter just doesn't buy those perceptions. During the past three years as he has planted Lakepointe Church in Macomb, Mich., just outside Detroit, he has seen a different story take root.

In its brief lifetime Lakepointe Church has grown to more than 200 in attendance on most weekends. The church has seen 52 people baptized—and they have even begun the process of planting a daughter church.

Not only has Blanchard successfully planted and grown a church in one of the toughest-to-reach metro areas in North America, he has done so despite being 80 percent deaf. Even though his hearing loss has led to a speech impediment, Blanchard thinks it actually helps him when communicating the Gospel. Church attendees have to listen carefully to get everything he says.

It has also provided a variety of outreach connections with families impacted by disability.

"I think God uses me to inspire people to serve Him," Blanchard says. "If God can use me, He can use anyone."

Blanchard is one of six missionaries featured this year by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) as part of its 2014 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering® promotion. Detroit is one of 32 Send North America cities NAMB is bringing special emphasis and resources to in its effort to help Southern Baptists start 15,000

new churches in 10 years. Half of NAMB's financial support comes from the Annie offering.

Blanchard moved back to metro Detroit from Florida in 2008, just

months after the economic meltdown devastated the nation as a whole—but also Detroit and its auto industry in particular. Over the next year an entire team of people from Florida sold their homes and came to help Blanchard in the planting process.

"For me, I looked at it as the perfect opportunity for us to come up here and be a fresh breath of air," said Blanchard. "We're trying to

be very community focused. We want the community to know that we're here for them. We want to help."

The new church has largely leaned upon large events to attract people to hear and respond to the Gospel. In the past three years Lakepointe has used everything from college athletes to famous actresses to war heroes to Easter egg drops to connect with the community. Vacation Bible School has also been a key outreach for the church.

Last fall the church had its largest worship service yet when 376 people came to hear 1980s sitcom—and recent "Survivor"—star Lisa Whelchel share her testimony. Eight people

made professions of faith at the worship service.

Lakepointe focuses on reaching people who wouldn't normally attend church—people who've either

never attended church regularly or have been disconnected for some time.

Brian Pannebecker attended worship service for the first time when a state senator he worked for had been invited to the church. The legislator couldn't attend so Pannebecker took his place. The worship service impacted him so much that he kept coming back.

"God has become more central in my

life since coming to Lakepointe," Pannebecker said. "I have become closer to God through understanding the Bible. He has worked in my life to make me more focused on what He wants me to do with my life for Him, and I have become aware that I need to serve God, not myself."

Blanchard credits the generosity of Southern Baptists through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Cooperative Program for helping his young church thrive.

"I truly believe that really helped us to be where we're at today because I was able to put everything that I have—all my time and energy—into Lakepointe Church,"

Blanchard said. "Annie Armstrong was a huge part of that, the faithful support from NAMB. I really believe that impacted our community, impacted our church. It's encouraging to know that people are giving and that people believe in church planting and believe we can still grow and reach people."

Blanchard says that partnerships—whether it has been with Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong offering or partnerships with individual churches—have been critical. In the early days his monthly rent for the school where the church meets was three to four times the amount of money given through church members.

Blanchard doesn't just appreciate the gifts of Southern Baptists. He is training his church to be generous as well. In an attempt to train his congregation to demonstrate a similar passion for missions, he asks his church to give to an annual "Greater Things" offering. A portion of that springtime offering goes to local church planting, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, international missions and other ministries. Blanchard encourages church members to store up their change throughout the year and pour it into a large bucket at the church during a special "Greater Things" worship service.

"It's teaching our people generosity," Blanchard said. "It's teaching our people to help other people and other organizations in our city and outside of our city. We've been privileged to be a part of other churches through that offering."

For more information about Blanchard and his ministry, including a video, visit www.anniearmstrong.com.

Tobin Perry writes for the North American Mission Board. ■



Scott Blanchard delivering the Annual Meeting Message at the Baptist State Convention 2013 annual meeting (Photo by Arthur Werry)

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



2014 Week of Prayer for North American Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

Dates: March 2-9, 2014

This year, six people representing thousands of missionaries serving throughout the United States, Canada and their territories are spotlighted. The other two days focus on ways Southern Baptists are reaching the lost in North America. Pray for the following:

- Day 1: Scott and Karen Blanchard, Clinton Township, Michigan
- Day 2: Ara and Anet Torosian, Burbank, California
- Day 3: Patrick and Archalena Coats, Miami, Florida
- Day 4: Andrew Mann, Bronx, New York
- Day 5: Lucas Aube, Sherbrook, Quebec Canada
- Day 6: Jose and Mayra Nater, Baltimore, Maryland
- Day 7: Growing the next generation of missionaries
- Day 8: Sowing seeds in your backyard and beyond

For more information on each of these people and their prayer needs, visit anniearmstrong.com/weekofprayer.

BOBBY'S BITS

Whatever It Takes



BOBBY GILSTRAP
Lead Missionary/
Executive Director

Doing "Whatever it takes" took on a new meaning for me during our recent tour of the state for our GPS Evangelism Meetings and Meals.

After fighting through the ice and snowstorms and crossing the Mighty Mackinaw Bridge to arrive in St. Ignace in the Upper Peninsula, we unloaded for the meeting at the Driftwood Restaurant. To our dismay, there was no wall or screen available to project our presentation slides for the group.

As we looked for a solution, we noticed two friends peering down from the wall as though they were ready to help.

There they were, two deer racks mounted on the wall eager to assist us out of our dilemma. Within minutes, we had a projection screen. Our server had

taken a white tablecloth and stretched it between the horns, secured with rubber bands, to create the most unique screen



I have ever used. With the improvised screen in place, the GPS Evangelism meeting began for the group gathered around the tables.

Although each of the meetings was not as unique as this one, each gathered leaders interested in developing a strate-

gic plan to reach their community with the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Driving more than 1,000 miles, the ten GPS meetings were held in all five regions of our state during the five-day trip. My prayer is that the evangelistic strategies developed by our churches will have eternal impact on our state.

By the end of February, we will be launching a special website with videos of the GPS Evangelism meeting presentation and all of the resources available for use by our churches. The website is GPS.bscm.org and will be provided by the mission gifts of our cooperating churches through the Cooperative Program.

Finally, let me say thank you to the following churches/locations and coordinators for making it possible to host these evangelism meetings:

- Community Baptist, Hastings (Jim Hess)

See GILSTRAP on page 10

TENTMAKERS TODAY

Changing history



GEORGE FOUNTAIN
Bi-Vocational
Ministry Consultant

In his book, *Live Like A Missionary*, Dr. Jeff Iorg entitles the last chapter, "An Agent for the Impossible!"

In the first paragraph he writes, "Leaders sometimes make audacious statements, and then lead people to fulfill them. Leaders turn their convictions about what must happen and their vision about what can happen into reality. When they do, the world is changed, often dramatically, with results echoing to subsequent generations."

He then quoted President John F. Kennedy as stating, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind or more important for the long-range exploration of

space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish."

By the end of the decade, despite Kennedy's tragic assassination, Neil Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface with his triumphant statement, "One small step for man; one giant leap for mankind." Kennedy's visionary leadership galvanized a nation, accelerated space exploration, and perhaps most importantly, fueled scientific and technological growth that changed America forever. One brief statement by a brash, young president called a country to achieve something heretofore considered impossible—landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth. The results left a multigenerational impact of technological advance still reverberating today.

President Kennedy made an audacious statement that became a consuming conviction. Kennedy did not fulfill the vision alone; the people heard his statement, believed in what he said, and it became his and their conviction together.

For the statement which began as a dream to become

a reality, people needed to embrace the vision, come to the table, pick up a portion of the task, and proceed together. There were those who were willing to lead and those who were willing to follow leadership, and without a doubt only after hundreds of thousands of hours of research and development, trial and error, regrouping, reconsidering, changing approach, trying again, and staying on task, finally launch day came and history was made.

It began with an audacious statement and concluded with changing history. What began as a dream became something that has changed our world forever.

We have heard a statement that has become a consuming conviction here in Michigan, "Doing Whatever It Takes To See Lives Transformed for Christ, Through Starting, Strengthening, and Mobilizing Churches."

No one can fulfill the vision alone. For this statement which began as a dream to become a reality, we must continue to embrace the vision, pick up our portion of the task in our respective areas of ministry with dignity

and integrity, and proceed together.

We have people in place to lead us and we have affirmed our willingness to follow. The task is great and our efforts will include challenges of many sorts but because of this consuming conviction, we will remain faithful to the task.

Let's continue to pray that this dream will increase with a growing number and that there will be more and more of us serving the "Giver of the dream" this New Year. And may the expression of God's pleasure be the experience of God's people as we proceed together doing all that we do for the glory of the One Who shall one day, as promised, deliver us and those whom we reach into His presence to dwell with him together for evermore. ■



TALKING POINTS

@dmferraro7:

Seeking to catch the vision God has for #Detroit today with pastors from Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Michigan

David Ferraro

@juliescheving:

"Love keeps no record of wrong." Do you?

Julie Scheving

@Rev_CL_Thompson:

The Bible is a book of principles and promises, not just a book of literacy and laws.

Chris Thompson

@cindyjbradley:

God values you for who you are, not what you do.

Cindy Bradley

@Kevin_Hester:

So thankful for this verse... For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon you.

Psalms 86:5

Kevin Hester

@pastordanrussell:

When you're feeling positive, be loud, but when you're feeling negative, be quiet.

Dan Russell

A silver bullet



JIM HESS
Church Strengthening/
Mobilizer

A few years ago as I served in a strengthening role in another state, I was asked a questions that not all of us are brave enough to ask but many wonder. "What is the silver bullet to fix my church?"

Like the church I was consulting with, many of our churches are plateaued or declining and we are looking for something to fix the problem.

So what is the answer? Is there a silver bullet?

My response took on an interesting turn. I responded, "There really isn't one except that we each individually get out in the World and share Jesus."

Unfortunately, the one asking the

question answered honestly, "I won't do that." And there lies the problem.

Denominational leaders, convention leaders, associational leaders and church leaders are all trying our best to help turn the declining ship around. We have devised great strategies. We have wonderful programs. We keep planning events, workshops and producing more training and books to equip our churches but we see little progress in truly seeing the Kingdom advanced in many of our churches.

Perhaps we are putting the cart before the horse. Let me illustrate with a football analogy.

In professional football, there are many different people involved at different levels. You have the owner, the coach and the players. The owner will communicate word to the coach of the mission. The coach will develop a game plan and a philosophy

(program) for the team. But it is the players who must fulfill the mission, follow the program and game plan as set out by the coach. If the players aren't willing, then it doesn't matter what the program or plan is. They will not accomplish the mission: winning the game.

In the church today, God has clearly identified the mission, "Go make disciples!" (Matthew 28:19-20) Denominational leaders, convention leaders, associational leaders, and church leaders have developed some great programs and plans for reaching. But the disconnect is that the average believer (in the pew, pulpit and denominational office) is not with God on Mission.

Granted, not all of us are suffering this dilemma. There are many believers, leaders, and pastors on Mission with God. But let's be honest, statistics tell us that most of us

are not.

So what should Baptists and other evangelical people do? We had better pray for spiritual renewal!

We need to pray for God's Spirit to move in each of us and in our churches and in our denominational leaders. We need to pray for God to convict us of our sinfulness and to burn His passion into our hearts and that our hearts will be like His heart for the world around us. God has given us some great plans and strategies. Southern Baptist and other evangelical ministries have created some wonderful tools for us to reach our world. Let's fall on our faces before our gracious God and seek a revival in our hearts and a renewal in our churches so that we can advance His Kingdom in a desperate world. ■

Bambi Lake 2013 year-in-review



DAN KURCHARCZYK
Bambi Lake
Camp Manager

Bambi Lake Year In Review

It has been an exciting year at Bambi Lake for many reasons, but most of all it has been exciting because of those "For Whom the Bell Tolls".

No, I'm not referring to the book by the famous author Ernest Hemmingway or the song by the rock band Metallica. I'm not even referring to the prose of 17th century poet, preacher, and Royal Chaplain to King James (as in KJV King James), John Donne where the phrase originated.

For the bell that tolls at Bambi Lake is not a funeral bell. It is a bell that tolls for life, not death, abundant life, eternal life. It is a bell that tolls for those who were once dead in their trespasses that have been made alive in Christ.

The salvation bell has been tolling and we have been tallying and we have seen at least 36 people, both young and old, accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior this year at Bambi Lake. This is in addition to numerous rededications, baptisms, and other decisions made, as well as at least 7 youth that surrendered to ministry during the Metamorphosis Youth Camp. The biggest impact was made at the Multi Associational Winter Youth Retreat when 12 youth came forward to accept Christ. Indeed, we are continuing to see lives transformed for Christ here at Bambi Lake.

Besides the spiritual transformation of our guests, Bambi Lake has gone through many physical trans-

formations this year as well. This is thanks to work teams and volunteers from around the state.

Due to the generous giving of the attendees of this year's three Men's Retreats, and a great deal from University of Michigan, we were able to purchase over 100 new beds for the lodge and Pinegrove. Two of our staff houses now have new roofs, one of which required extensive repairs. The miniature golf course has received a much needed face lift, with new greens and bumpers. Various painting projects have been completed around the camp. Room 109 is now a room with a view, thanks to the new mural of Bambi Lake located on the wall outside. The basketball courts and the ice rink have been repainted and repaired.

This is all in addition to the various cleanup projects completed at the camp and ongoing improvements being made to the outdoor amphitheater. Thank you to all the churches and individuals who have given so generously in so many ways.

I also want to recognize and thank the members of the new Bambi Lake advisory team. The new empowered team is comprised of individuals from around the state who all share a passion for camp ministry.

It has been a blessing to work with them, to improve the camp, promote the camp, plan for the future, work together to be good stewards of what God has blessed us with here at Bambi Lake, and most importantly how to impact Michigan and beyond for Christ through the ministry here at Bambi Lake. I want to thank team for their support and for your passion for reaching people for Christ through camp ministry.

JB's Place is proud to present

the new "JB's Place" blend coffee, our new custom roast coffee from the Blessed Bean Coffee Company. Angela, the staff here at Bambi Lake, and I have been sampling a variety of different coffee beans and roasts in order to find the one that was just right for our guests. I'm a little bit of a coffee snob and this is a coffee that we can be truly proud to offer to our guests. It's rich, and smooth, full of flavor but not bitter so it will appeal to a variety of palettes.

We've even started getting the whole beans and grinding them ourselves in order to get the freshest taste possible. JB's Place Coffee is now being served in our cafeteria and game room, as well as JB's Place. Half pound bags are also available for purchase at JB's Place and the Bambi Gift Shop.

The gift shop at Bambi Lake has also added a variety of new Bambi Lake branded items including coffee mugs, travel mugs, new t-shirt and hoodie designs. We now also offer specific designs for women and children. For the budget conscious shopper looking to take home a special Bambi Lake souvenir we now offer a new \$10 Bambi Lake t-shirt design available in a variety of colors.

I may be a little partial, but Bambi Lake was the location for two of the most beautiful weddings I've seen since June of 2004 when I married my beautiful bride – on the beach at Bambi Lake. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lowen and Mr. and Mrs. Skidmore. We have also had two more marriage proposals at the camp this summer – don't worry, they weren't youth campers. There must be something in that fresh Northern Michigan air.

The summer missionary program

continues to be an integral part of the ministry here at Bambi Lake. Bambi Lake summer missionaries serve in a variety of ways around the camp as well as having various opportunities to help in local communities in and around Roscommon. They are an essential part of our summer staff.

Summer missionaries serve in the kitchen, help with housekeeping, at the waterfront, out on the grounds, in JB's Place and at the front desk. It's not all about work though; summer missionaries will also be taken out into the communities to assist with Vacation Bible School, block parties, worship services and other outreach opportunities.

Some have had chances to counsel teens that have made decisions here at the camp. Whether it is working behind the scenes or leading someone to the Lord, summer missionaries have a major impact on the ministry here at Bambi Lake. They have a tremendous opportunity for growth, not just as young adults getting ready to enter the workforce, but more importantly as Christians getting ready to impact their world. We are already seeking summer missionary, lifeguard, and health officer applicants for the 2014 summer camping season.

For more information about booking an event, serving as a summer missionary, or scheduling a work team, please contact Dan at 989-275-5844 or dan@bscm.org or you can obtain a summer missionary application on-line at www.bambilake.org. Also keep an eye out for the completely redesigned Bambi Lake website, scheduled to launch by April 2014. ■

The Church Planter Apprentice Farm System



MIKE DURBIN
Church Starter
Strategist, Region 5

his time as an apprentice Jones says, "I have learned more about church planting and ministry in general from a single year in the apprentice program than I have in the previous 15 years of doing ministry."

The apprentice program is part of The North American Mission Board's Missionary Development Farm System. NAMB president Kevin Ezell said, "Missionaries don't just happen. We must intentionally pray for and build the next generation of missionaries."

To further that aim, the Farm System was developed. "A Church Planter Apprentice is a man who, as an aspiring church planter, is willing

Jimmy Jones just completed his training as Michigan's first church planting apprentice. He spent the 12 months working alongside one of Michigan's most successful church planters, Scott Blanchard. About

to spend up to a year in an endorsed learning environment (Church Planting Center or Church Planting Church) following God's call, developing competencies and skills and practicing the activities of church planting all in preparation for planting a church" (www.namb.net).

Jones believes the program has helped prepare him to plant a church and highly recommends it. "I believe that the apprenticeship program will be the most precious and invaluable experience I take to my church plant," Jones says.

Jones and his family are currently gathering a core team to plant Petra Church in the Rochester Hills and Auburn Hills area of Michigan. Plans are to launch the church in the summer of 2014. Jones estimates that 90,000 of the area's 101,000 people are un-churched! Jones knows the area well, having served there for over 15 years as youth pastor of Korean First Baptist Church. His wife, Kristina, has lived in the area her whole life. Together they have three children – Isaac, Samuel, and Micah – and



Jimmy and Kristina Jones with their sons Isaac, Samuel, and Micah (submitted photo)

presently live in Auburn Hills.

When asked to explain the name Petra for the church, Jones says, "Petra is Greek for rock. It is the word used by Jesus in reference to the statement Peter gave regarding His identity, 'You are the Messiah, the son of the Living God' (Matthew 16:16-18). Jesus also used the word, *petra*, to illustrate the person who hears His words and acts on them. He stated that this person is like the one who builds his house on a foundation of the *rock* (Matthew 7:24-25).

His vision is a community that is building their lives on the strong foundation of Christ for a sound faith, strong family, and solid friendships. The motto of the church is "Unshakable Faith, Unshakable Lives."

They are currently developing partnerships. If you would like to know more about Petra Church, or to partner with them, you can find out more at info@thepetra.org. ■

VBS Institute provides training for leaders



BOB WOOD
Church Strengthening
State Missionary

eastern states they received training to plan, prepare for and conduct VBS. The training equipped the team to return to Michigan and lead VBS Institutes for local church leaders.

The Michigan VBS leadership team members come from churches across Michigan. The team includes Jeff Buchholz, Debi Buchholz, Derek Cromwell, Helen Henley, Elaine Hill, Lindsey Moore, Eliel Lyn Sagansay, Carla Saunders, Karen Villalpando, Betty Ward, Lauren Ward, Sharon Wood, Bob Wood, and Landon Woods. Mary Allen manages the

Fourteen Michigan Baptist leaders attended a national Vacation Bible School (VBS) Institute at Ridgecrest Conference Center on January 9-11, 2014. Along with Southern Baptist Leaders from across the

VBS bookstore. Please contact any of the team members for VBS information or assistance.

Michigan VBS Institutes will be April 12, 2014 at Merriman Road Baptist Church, Garden City and May 17, 2014 at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center. VBS Institutes are on Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. A LifeWay VBS bookstore will be available at both locations.

Each VBS Institute will start with a worship rally and core leadership workshops for all VBS leaders in the morning. Lunch will be provided. Elective enrichment workshops will be offered after

lunch. Core leadership workshops feature LifeWay's VBS theme. However, the Pastor's workshop will be curriculum-neutral; applicable to preparing for the best possible VBS



The Michigan VBS leadership team members at the national Vacation Bible School Institute in January (submitted photo)

no matter what curriculum you use. Most of the electives are also curriculum-neutral. More information can be found at <http://michiganbaptists.org/strengthening/kids-ministry>. You can register online at <http://register.bscm.org>.

reach and evangelism tools your church can use. VBS Training enhances your evangelistic effectiveness. Research has shown that on average we baptize one person from VBS for every worker we train for VBS. Receive inspiration and training

Vacation Bible School continues to be one of the most effective out-

for your VBS leaders at one of the Michigan VBS Institutes sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. ■

2014 Vacation Bible School Institutes

April 12, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Merriman Road Baptist Church
Garden City, Michigan**



May 17, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Bambi Lake Retreat Center
Roscommon, Michigan**

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



Owen Strachan (center), assistant professor of Christian theology and church history at Boyce College, seeks to counsel women to choose life outside a Louisville, Ky. abortion clinic. (SBTS photo by Emil Handke)

Missions Spotlight

Sanctity of Life Sunday: January 19, 2014

Professor takes long-held pro-life views to abortion clinic's doors

BY MATT DAMICO

Baptist Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Owen Strachan has been pro-life for many years, but it wasn't until recently that the college prof decided to act on his convictions.

"I've been convictionally pro-life for a long time but hadn't taken an opportunity to get involved with the cause," said Strachan, assistant professor of Christian theology and church history at Boyce College. "I was a passionate advocate for pro-life thinking, but it wasn't until coming into contact with this ministry — and finding people who were putting their convictions to work — that I started to get practically involved."

The ministry is Speak for the Unborn, which came to life when Ryan Fullerton, pastor at Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., preached a sermon on sanctity of life Sunday in 2009. Dave and Stacey Hare, who were members of Immanuel at the time, decided to act on the message. The following Saturday, they went to an abortion clinic in downtown Louisville to do sidewalk counseling.

"They had no idea what they were doing," said Andrew King, who has led the ministry at Immanuel since the Hares left for the mission field in 2010. "But they went out there and started talking to people, pleading with them not to have abortions."

A group from Immanuel continues to go out every Saturday morning to do sidewalk counseling. On Tuesdays and Fridays, a group goes from Louisville's Kenwood Baptist Church, where Strachan serves as an elder.

As a professor at the undergraduate school of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and as a pastor, Strachan's primary calling is to teach, write and think. But he wanted to put his intellectual life to work.

"It's an extremely good thing for our faith and convictions to cost us something," Strachan said. "In a Jesus-like way, we can put boots on the ground and our doctrine into practice, and really experience the cost of Gospel ministry."

Sidewalk counseling makes the cost quite tangible.

"It's not a fun ministry," Strachan said.

The typical morning includes waking up early to arrive by 7 a.m., when the Speak for the Unborn volunteers stand on the sidewalk outside the EMW Women's Surgical Center next to the busy Market Street.

As women walk from their cars to the clinic door, volunteers try to engage them in conversations, which rarely last longer than a minute.

Speak for the Unborn volunteers use this brief time to try to persuade these women — who often are with their boyfriends, husbands, friends or even parents — not to abort their unborn children and to receive instead a free ultrasound at A Woman's Choice Resource Center, located next to the abortion clinic.

In the short time volunteers have to talk to these women, "you try to engage them quickly, you try to plant a seed, speak a Gospel truth. And then they go in and you lose them, so to speak," Strachan said.

The brief amount of time is not the only obstacle Speak for the Unborn volunteers must overcome. There are pro-choice volunteers there as well, wearing orange vests with the words "clinic escort" on the back, to help women enter the abortion clinic and to shield them from the pro-life volunteers. Interactions with escorts can turn hostile.

"They have pushed and sworn at us," Strachan said. "I had one escort tell me that she wished I had never been born. I had shared how thankful I was that I hadn't been aborted and that the people walking into the clinic hadn't been aborted, and she shouted to me that she wished I had been."

The hostility sometimes extends from the sidewalk to the Web — at everysaturdaymorning.net — where the pro-choice escorts blog about, among other things, stories from sidewalk interactions with people they call "antis" and "protesters."

It is no surprise to Strachan that standing against the culture's standards of morality can be difficult and disheartening.

"Jesus promised that ministry in His name is going to be hard," Strachan said. "We should expect some suffering."

Despite the uncomfortable situation and the direct contact with what Strachan calls "tangible darkness," there are reasons to endure. Just as the apostle Paul promised, God often uses fools and seemingly foolish efforts to accomplish His purposes — even when that foolishness includes preaching to a window.

"Many of us will try to preach to the window of the waiting room where the women going into the abortionist's chamber sit before they're called in," Strachan said. "We've seen women leave that waiting room and tell us that they could hear what we were saying outside. That's a great thing to know, but when you're actually preaching to a window, you feel like a fool."

There have been other occasions for hope, as well.

Heather Van Roekel, a volunteer from Kenwood Baptist Church, talked with a lesbian woman on her way into the clinic, and through her kindness and pleading, the woman decided to go in for a free ultrasound at A Woman's Choice Resource Center.

After seeing the ultrasound, she decided against the abortion. Van Roekel has continued contact with the mother and has taken her and the baby to church events.

King has seen other examples of fruit in this ministry.

"I know people who have adopted children from crisis pregnancy situations," he said. "We do see women turn away, and we get to share the Gospel with those people. Every life we see saved is a reminder that the Lord is faithful."

Currently, Immanuel and Kenwood are the only churches formally taking part in Speak for the Unborn. There are several Catholics and other individuals who also do sidewalk counseling — although the number of escorts usually outnumbers the pro-life volunteers — but King wants to see more evangelical churches involved.

"We would love churches to claim days," he said. "We want to set realistic expectations, because it is a hard ministry. If your church can come out every third or fourth week even, we would love that."

Though individuals can volunteer with Speak for the Unborn, local churches have the advantage of facing the challenge with community.

"Due to the difficult nature of the ministry, it calls out for fellowship and community, support and prayer," Strachan said. "You can do the ministry as a lone ranger, but it's so much more empowering to go down with fellow members, to pray together, to encourage each other between conversations, to stand on the sidewalk together. You can be a lone ranger, but you'll miss out on so much of what God intends to give us in the local church."

Strachan knows that those who advocate for the unborn, whether with their churches or by themselves, will face obstacles. But the hope of seeing women choose life for their babies and of embracing foolishness for Christ's sake makes the obstacles worth enduring.

"What keeps me going is that I want to be a light," Strachan said, "and I want to suffer in His name, and I want my faith to taste and feel more real than it does when I try to risk-proof it." ■

After Philippines typhoon, Baptists plan long-term aid

BY MARK KELLY

Baptist Global Response

CEBU CITY, Philippines (BP) — While some disaster-response organizations are pulling out of Typhoon Haiyan relief efforts in the Philippines, Southern Baptists remain on the ground, helping neglected communities rebuild homes, schools and livelihoods.

Disaster response organizations in five Southern Baptist state conventions have each adopted an area of the Philippines, said Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response. Seven teams of volunteers already have served, and as many as 10 more could be scheduled in the next month.

"This is a long-term response, and the need is massive. We are initiating large-scale work with communities, local believers and volunteers and will be constantly assessing and gauging the effectiveness of our choices," Palmer said. "Please continue to pray for families in need in the Philippines. Pray for our team members and volunteers as they help in the face of overwhelming needs. Pray that we choose the most strategic and effective places to work that truly help people physically and spiritually."

Southern Baptists have donated about \$1.3 million for the relief effort through the International Mission Board and BGR. The main priorities

IMB has arranged for a volunteer coordinator to be assigned to the recovery. When that person begins work in mid- to late-February, the number of volunteers from the United States involved in the effort can be greatly expanded, Palmer said.

the partner, who could not be named for security reasons. "There is much work to do as we survey areas farther from town that have been neglected but desperately need help as they try to rebuild their lives."

More than two months after the



Disaster relief volunteers visited families whose homes and livelihoods were disrupted by Typhoon Haiyan. The volunteers listened to the families' heartbreaking stories and prayed with them, then distributed the badly needed food and building supplies. (BGR photo)

The task ahead is enormous, said a BGR partner who recently flew into Tacloban, a city of 220,000 that took the brunt of Haiyan's 195-mph winds on Nov. 7.



In the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, the greatest need for Filipino communities is for shelter. Southern Baptists have donated about \$1.3 million for the relief efforts through the International Mission Board and Baptist Global Response. A housing kit has been designed that will put up a small, wood-framed shelter on stilts for about \$250. (BGR photo)

in the work are repair and construction of houses and schools, along with water systems.

"BGR is gearing up for long-term development work as the short-term relief organizations pull out," said

storm, BGR partners reported Tacloban is returning to life, but there are still many visible signs of damage. They spotted ocean-going ships grounded on shore and thick electrical posts snapped by the wind and storm surge. "One restaurant owner told us the typhoon and flooding was bad, but even worse was the damage done by looters right after the storm," the partner said. The airport still does not have a control tower.

"As our plane approached Tacloban, it was raining and windy," the partner said. "Without a control tower, the pilot had some unique challenges, especially when he discovered there was a stalled vehicle on the runway! We circled for a second try at landing and made it."

A base of operations for the recovery effort has been established in Cebu City, Palmer said, from which five areas of work are being coordinated. Missouri Baptist Convention volunteers are working on Gibitngil Island; the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention is focused on Panay Island; California Southern Baptist Convention teams will work in Ormoc; Tennessee Baptists are preparing to work on northern Cebu Island; and Kansas-Nebraska Southern Baptists are planning to set up an operations base in Tacloban.

In the fishing community of Ago-

jo on northern Panay Island, a full 75 percent of the homes were damaged or destroyed in the storm, said Ben Wolf, who with his wife Pam directs BGR work in Asia Rim.

"Approximately 40 families have been identified as needing assistance and are currently being evaluated for priority," Wolf said. "Some temporary shelters need to be erected immediately, and a priority classroom area has been identified for repair at the local elementary school, which was badly damaged in the storm. Sanitation is lacking, so building community latrines also may be possible."

The BGR relief effort in Agojo, as in other areas, will help families by providing short-term work, as well as repairing homes and schools, Wolf added. "The community has a labor force needing work, and capable, skilled men will be contracted to work alongside [a] U.S. disaster response team and local volunteer labor when available."

To help with home reconstruction, BGR has designed a housing kit that will put up a small, wood-framed shelter on stilts for about \$250, Palmer said. In some locations, construction will be done with local bamboo or local lumber.

On Gibitngil Island, bags of cement have been shipped from Cebu, and concrete blocks are being manufactured on site to replace a school building that was completely destroyed. A three-room school building has been re-roofed, and the school's water retention system has been restored and expanded. Volunteers from California and Louisiana have helped with that effort. The California volunteers repaired a downed flagpole, and the entire community celebrated with a flag-raising ceremony.

Palmer voiced gratitude "to all those who have helped in this response, both those who have worked so hard in the Philippines and those who continue to give generously to make this effort possible." He also lauded "the teamwork of those involved and the patience of those wanting to get involved."

"While no response is perfect, we are in a good place to maximize our impact in the Philippines," Palmer said.

Mark Kelly writes for Baptist Global Response. To become involved in post-typhoon recovery in the Philippines, go to "Funding Human Needs" to connect to IMB's General Relief Fund. ■

What's happening at your church? Let us know!
Email us at beacon@bscm.org

Pastor uses online auctions to support church ministries

BY KEVIN HESTER

Special to the Baptist Beacon

SAINT JOSEPH — What does a church on Sunday morning have to do with eBay? Hopefully plenty, says Kevin Hester, pastor of The Shore Church in St. Joseph.

His vision is not to see church attenders shopping online auctions during the sermon, but for the church to collect items from around their homes and bring them in on March 9 to be given to a church planter. The church planter will use online auctions such as eBay, Amazon, and Craigslist in order to sell the



items and use the money as support for themselves and their family or for their church plant.

For sixteen years, Kevin has used eBay off and on to help supplement his own income. He knows the financial battles that church planters face, especially in Michigan. Michigan is hurting economically and these economic difficulties are affecting planters here.

While some church plants may receive support, many are still struggling to make ends meet. They seek support from established churches but those churches are often unable to help or are already giving elsewhere.

Kevin believes eBay Sunday offers the perfect opportunity for churches to get involved in church planting without affecting their budget or the other giving to which they have already committed. The best part is how easy it is. A church will simply choose a planter, collect items, and then make arrangements to get their items to the planter.

For The Shore Church, eBay Sunday will kick off on March 9, 2014 (also Spring Forward Sunday), but any church can host an eBay Sunday any time and as often as they wish to help support and encourage a planter.

Kevin's sponsoring church, Monroe Missionary Baptist Church in Monroe, loved the idea of eBay

Sunday and will be collecting items, loading them up in a truck, and driving them across the state.

Kevin's desire is for his plant, The Shore Church, to become a church planting center. With other planters already moving his way, The Shore can use all the support and items they can get.

Kevin has also started a website, www.churchplantingoutofthebox.com, that explains eBay Sunday and gives ideas for hosting one. Kevin's prayer is that churches across America don't just "Watch" this opportunity but they decide to "Buy It Now"!

For more information, contact Kevin at hesterkev@yahoo.com or on Twitter at @Kevin_Hester. ■

DETROIT from page 1

him toward starting his own church. He says he began to notice a generation of inner-city youth who weren't attending traditional congregations. Noticing a little bit of himself in these youth, he began a small group Bible study in the bookstore his family owned.

Gaddy accepted Christ at a young age, but with no one to mentor him in the faith he drifted far from God. Drugs, alcohol, illicit relationships followed. Though in time he came back to God, Gaddy always carried the sting of not having a mentor to help him grow.

Through his own experience and by spending time around his children and their peers, Gaddy realized the need for mentoring—particularly among boys and young men—was a huge part of inner-city Detroit's woes.

Even before starting Victory Fellowship in 2006, Gaddy had long been involved in mentoring youth—through a local scouting troupe, writing public school mentoring curriculum and one-on-one mentoring efforts. Through the new church plant he got even more involved, as it finally moved into an Episcopal church building on the corner of Detroit's Frankfort and Lakewood Streets.

"We moved into that community, and we engaged a lot of rough behavior," Gaddy said. "A lot of kids didn't have parents and were living on the streets carrying guns and just conducting themselves in ways that were not going to be beneficial for their futures. We built relationships, loved on them, walked the streets with them and showed them genuine love, care and concern. We didn't just preach to them. But letting them know that I'm you and you're me. You are doing what I used to do. But

guess what, where I am is where you can be also."

A mentoring church

Victory Fellowship mentors young people both formally and

leader in the community."

Knowing that many of the youth in the community struggle with basic job skills, Gaddy has also started a job-training program. The program not only helps prepare high school



Detroit church planter Daryl Gaddy started Victory Fellowship Church in Detroit in 2006 because he felt the church was missing a generation of Detroit's youth. Today, through both formal and informal means, the church has made mentoring youth a key part of how it impacts its local community. (NAMB photo by Joe Garrad)

informally. For example, in the spirit of Titus 2:3-5 the church's senior women—called the Mature and Marvelous Saints—provide mentoring support for the young mothers. Its laymen ministry—called Brothers for Others—similarly mentors young men.

"That ministry helps men come together every other week on a Wednesday, and they talk about some of the issues that involve being a man and living as a man in the community, home and the church—how to not have to go to extremes as a man but to be the priest of your own home, how to care and love your family," Gaddy said. "And also how to be a

youth for their futures, but it also provides them with funds for their pockets now. For example, the youth run a silk screen shop in the church that creates Christ-centered clothing they sell to their peers.

Through partnerships with the police department, the mayor's office, the governor's office and the public schools (among others), the church provides behavior counseling for youth, financial literacy programs for young mothers and a computer lab where students can finish their high school education without going to the campus. They've also partnered with the Navy to teach kids aviation.

"A lot of people would say that

we couldn't do what we've done because we have not had the resources financially," Gaddy said. "But what I've found is that God will send you the partners at the right time, for the right reason. When you're in for ministry and not serving for money, or manna, God will provide for the ministry."

Gaddy believes the best may be yet to come for his hometown. With the city of Detroit being in economic and social flux, new opportunities for influencing the city's future are emerging. Through Send North America and the partnership of Southern Baptists, Gaddy is praying for more churches to start in the city—and for the gospel to begin to take root in Motown.

"Those of us who recognize that the time is now, we must begin to take up the cross, walk forward and do the work of God," Gaddy said. And so, I just say that, if there is a call of God, if there's ever been a call of God, the time is now. God is calling for us to revitalize and to revive the Spirit of God in the city of Detroit.

"But it's going to take some help. It's going to take some folks who have the Word, and who have the heart, and who have the resources to come into the city, and to partner with those of us in the city. Many times people don't know where to start. Well, there are people already here, who have a love for the people and for the Word. And so we need folk to come into the city of Detroit and partner with us."

For more information about partnering in Detroit through Send North America, visit <http://www.namb.net/Detroit>.

Tobin Perry writes for the North American Mission Board. ■

Church changes name to better reflect geography, vision

BY TONY LYNN

Special to the Baptist Beacon

MONROE — Members of the Raisinville Baptist Church located at 1675 Stewart Road, Monroe, after 31 years of history, have decided to change their name to CrossPointe Church, an SBC Congregation. The church began in 1982 with 8 members meeting in the Raisinville Elementary School located on Raisinville Road in Raisinville Township.

"A geographical name seemed appropriate in the beginning, not knowing the church would one day be located outside that immediate area," said George Fountain, founding pastor and pastor emeritus. "Then a prime parcel of land became available to the church and destined them to move into the Frenchtown Charter Township."

The church made local news in Monroe when their new building was entirely constructed with volunteer labor. The entire project took less than one year and the congregation moved into the new building in 1990. Although a name change was considered at that time the congregation just wasn't ready for such a change and the name Raisinville Baptist Church was retained as they moved to their new location.

The church continues to grow and is known for its warm welcome, casual environment, innovative ministries, and strong desire to connect with their community as they live out their faith. Creative ministry events such as the annual Vacation Bible School, the Summer Stop Car Show, both open to the public, and other unique efforts to relate to people have marked the church as a community minded congregation.

There were nearly two dozen names considered before unanimously deciding on CrossPointe Church.

"The cross is a universal symbol for Christ's followers and the Christian faith. It reminds us of God's mercy and grace," said Tony Lynn, lead pastor. "On the cross, Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In God's mercy and through Christ's sacrificial death, we are able to enjoy God's forgiveness of sin.

It's also a symbol of grace and how God extends what we don't deserve, that is the gift of eternal life. That is

why the new name holds such an attraction for us." The congregation will continue to participate with the Southern Baptist Convention at every level.

"This includes partnering with other SBC churches throughout the state of Michigan, across

the United States, and around the world supporting over 10,000 missionaries in over 120 countries," Fountain said. "It also includes supporting our six seminaries preparing men and women for ministry, both at home and abroad. In addition, the church serves outside the area through volunteer mission trips."

"The church is preparing to nearly double the size of their present facility with Phase 1 of a Master Plan," Lynn said. "In this phase the worship center will be enlarged, classroom space will be added, and additional parking included. The church 'Master Plan' will carry them well into the future."

The congregation includes a strong representation of people from every corner of the community exemplifying the all inclusiveness of the church. Yet, as different as they may seem in some ways, Pastor Lynn reports the church has one common concern, "How can we live out our call to connect with God, connect with one-another, and connect with our world? How can we effectively share the gospel, serve people, and help them live out their faith in their everyday lives?"

Fountain and Lynn share similar sentiments on the future of the church.

"It is our prayer and heart's desire that our new name will always be more than a name. It is indeed our identity and reflection of our character as we take up our cross daily and follow the One who so loved us that He gave his life for us. The congregation previously known as Raisinville Baptist Church and now known as CrossPointe Church will continue pointing to the cross and inviting all people to come along and go with them as they live out their faith." ■



CrossPointe Church pastor Tony Lynn with pastor emeritus George Fountain (submitted photo)

Children in Lansing serve children in Africa

BY STAN PARKER

Special to the Baptist Beacon

LANSING — This past fall, children from the Faith Fellowship Baptist Church, Lansing and the surrounding community implemented a mission ministry "Children Serving Children". The purpose of the ministry is to teach children how to be part of missions worldwide and to be concerned about other children who are less fortunate.

The children prepared personal hygiene packages for children in Kenya and Rwanda. The children also wrote notes to those who received the hygiene packages.

Each package contained combs, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, lotion and deodorant. These packages were given out during a mission trips to

each country.

Through their service, the children in Lansing were able to demonstrate the love of Christ to children thousands of miles away and share the gospel "to all nations" (Matthew 28:18-20). Stan Parker, Pastor of Faith Fellowship Baptist Church of Lansing, has been going to Kenya every year for over a decade, and the children of his church were excited to participate in this mission ministry.

Although this was a special ministry for the children aboard, it also became special to the congregation. One of their children, Damani, stepped up to help assemble the packages.

Damani is ten years old and suffers from a potentially life threatening disease. Damani was determined to be a part of what God is doing in the world.

His haircut was not an issue of

looking cool, but likely collateral from fighting leukemia cancer. Damani has been seen by local doctors and even received care at the renowned St. Jude Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

Damani has inspired others to be concerned not only about those individuals one knows but also for those one doesn't know. Damani's grandmother, Barbara, is his caretaker and she observed how determined Damani was to give back and serve others despite how he feels.

Even as Damani has indeed let his light shine, prayers for his healing are welcome and in order. Damani has already received one of God's great rewards. Damani knows whose He is and has inspired others to continue to be involved and to be a part of what God is doing at home and abroad. ■



Damani assists the church in preparing hygiene packages (submitted photo)

GILSTRAP from page 4

- Remedy Church, Kentwood (Brian Mattson)
- Westside Baptist, Flushing (Ron Emmerling)
- Crossway Christian, Bay City (John Botkin)
- Roscommon Baptist, Roscommon (Mike Heacock)
- Driftwood Restaurant, St.

- Ignace (Darren Greer)
- Harmony Baptist, Jackson (Rod Walker)
- Fellowship Baptist, Saline (David and Andrea Michael, Dan Russell)
- Legacy Church, Novi (Jon Hix)
- Calvary Baptist, Southgate (Billy Walker).

It is a joy to be your partner in God's harvest. 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



bobby_gilstrap



BobbyGilstrap

Time is now to engage Detroit, says new NAMB city coordinator

BY TOBIN PERRY

Baptist Press

DETROIT — New Send North America: Detroit City Coordinator Wayne Parker believes now is a unique time to engage the city with the good news of Jesus Christ. Parker, who pastors Merriman Road Baptist Church in metro Detroit, says the Motor City is on the cusp of great change.

"This is a key moment for Detroit," said Parker, who grew up in the Detroit metro area and has lived there most of his life. "There's a renaissance in Detroit. There is a move to revitalize the city. Places that are currently vacant—where people hadn't been living—people are moving into those places in the city. We need to be there now—rather than later. Not just because properties are cheaper now than they will be, but because people are moving into a spiritual vacuum, and we need churches there already running to receive a new population coming to the city."

As the North American Mission Board's new Detroit city coordinator, Parker will help mobilize Southern Baptist church planters and partner churches to engage the city through evangelistic church planting. He will focus on engaging areas identified in the city plan completed last May. Parker helped develop that plan—along with other metro Detroit leaders—as the chair of the Send North America: Detroit strategy team.

In the counties that make up the Send North America: Detroit focus area, Southern Baptists have one church for every 36,227 people. That number is likely much higher within the city limits

of Detroit.

Detroit is one of 32 large and influential Send North America cities, divided into five regions, where NAMB is focusing its Send North America strategy. Send North America is NAMB's national strategy to connect partnering churches with church planters throughout the continent—but specifically in places of the greatest need.

NAMB's goal is to come alongside Southern Baptists as they plant 15,000 new churches by 2022. A little more than 10 percent of the metro Detroit population identify themselves with an evangelical church.

Parker will continue to serve as the pastor of Merriman Road, where he has pastored since 1996 and where he grew up. Before coming to Merriman Road, he served as a church planter and an associational missionary, among other positions.

Parker realizes that Southern Baptists face real challenges when trying to push back lostness in one of the most iconic cities in North America. First, he cites the city's high diversity, including one of the largest Muslim populations on the continent.

Second, Parker says, there's been a long-standing divide—both within the Church and outside of it—between the city of Detroit and its surround-

ing suburbs. Third, many existing SBC churches in metro Detroit were started by Southerners who came to Detroit for jobs. When they retired, many went back home, leaving SBC churches in the city weak.

"I've got a strong burden for us to plant churches in the city," Parker said. "Detroit has some formidable challenges. It's going to be difficult to get partners to come and planters to come. I've been here most of my life. That adds to my burden that we need to plant churches, otherwise we won't see any advances."

He adds that he is leading Merriman Road to have that same church planting focus.

"The need in Detroit is great," Parker said. "In a northern state like Michigan, our resources are very limited. I think right now people are aware of the need in Detroit—at least the physical needs—with what's happened

with the automotive industry and what's happened with our city government, we're in the papers frequently. I believe God has given us favor among Southern Baptists. They're sensitive to the need here. I want to be able to champion that cause."

For more information about Send North America: Detroit, visit, namb.net/Detroit. ■



New Send: Detroit city coordinator Wayne Parker (NAMB photo)

DID YOU KNOW?

...the **Greater Detroit Baptist Association** is taking a mission trip to the Philippines in April? Ministry opportunities include assistance with church planting, daily preaching, assistance in daily feeding, medical help, street evangelism, daily prayer walking, and disaster relief assistance. If you are interested in going on the trip, contact Dan Russell (pastordanrussell@yahoo.com) or Nathaniel Bishop (detbaptasn@sbc-global.net).

...**First Baptist of South Lyon** is hosting several events in the coming months? Opportunities in-

clude *The Art of Marriage*, *A Weekend to Remember*, *Men Stepping Up Conference*, and *Secret Church: The Cross and Everyday Life*. Rob Freshour, pastor.

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

- Staff Updates -

- Duane Ware has retired as pastor of Heritage Baptist, Monroe.
- Dennis Lutz is now serving as transitional pastor for First Baptist, Clio.
- Outreach Baptist, Flint, is in search of a pastor.

- Rick Marcus, youth and associate pastor of First Baptist, Flushing, has resigned and is now pastoring a church in Indiana.
- Eric Maynard resigned as pastor of First Baptist, Flushing on January 26.

- Upcoming Events -

- February 21, 2014: Women's Winter Missions Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- March 7, 2014: Men's Winter Missions Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- April 12, 2014: Vacation Bible School Institute (Garden City)
- May 17, 2014: Vacation Bible School Institute (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- September 13, 2014: Church Equipping Conference (Roseville)

Register for Michigan Baptist events at register.bscm.org.

7,075

The number of people who prayed to receive Christ through the ministry of Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains.



EVERY NUMBER HAS A STORY


COOPERATIVE PROGRAM
Love In Action
www.sbc.net/cp

Survey helps determine fair pay for pastors and staff

BY SHELLY MOON

Guidestone Financial Resources

DALLAS — Ministers and church employees are invited to participate in the 2014 SBC Church Compensation Survey: a tool used by churches of all sizes to determine fair wages and benefits. Participants will be entered for a chance to win an iPad. The survey and complete contest rules are available at www.Guidestone.org/Compensation-Survey.

"Guidestone continues to be an advocate for pastors and church staff, ensuring that they are compensated fairly," said O.S. Hawkins, President of Guidestone Financial Resources. "That's why we partner with LifeWay Christian Resources and Baptist state conventions to produce this bi-annual study."

Survey results are not reported individually. Compensation and ben-

efit information can be contributed anonymously.

Each Southern Baptist church employee who participates in the survey plays a vital role in building one of the largest databases of church compensation information in the United States.



Guidestone
Financial Resources

Survey results provide a baseline of compensation data among similar-sized churches within each state conven-

tion. Therefore, a higher number of participants leads to a more accurate baseline of compensation data.

"We receive numerous requests to answer compensation surveys throughout the year," said Al Fausch, director of business and financial administration at Calvary Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. "We don't participate in them all, but we always try to complete Guidestone's survey."

Churches often don't contribute to salary surveys because they

don't have time or receive enough valuable information in return. But according to Fausch, Guidestone's survey is worth the time because it provides customized reports to allow administrators, personnel/finance committees and minister search teams to better determine adequate compensation for ministers and staff. That can be essential information for thousands of churches, which makes the survey worth the few minutes it takes to complete.

Like many other church leaders, Fausch has accessed previous survey results when hiring new staff to ensure that employees are being compensated at competitive levels. "The results are easy to navigate," Fausch said. "I encourage everyone to participate. We are helping each other as well as ourselves by establishing accurate benchmarks."

At the conclusion of the survey, Guidestone and LifeWay will compile the submitted data and provide all users with access to the results.

"This survey, which is one of the

most comprehensive of its kind, will help scores of churches as they seek to provide for those who are called to lead their congregations," Hawkins said.

Southern Baptist church ministers and staff have until May 31 to complete the online survey. Survey results will be released this summer. Survey participants will receive advance notification of the results and can begin to access the data upon notice.

The winner of the iPad will be notified via email.

Contact Guidestone Financial Resources with any questions or issues. Call toll free 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433) Monday-Friday between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CST to speak with a customer relations specialist, or send an email to info@Guidestone.org.

Shelly Moon is a marketing writer at Guidestone Financial Resources of the SBC. ■

Winter evangelism: Sharing the Savior in the snow

BY DIANA DAVIS

Baptist Press

Editor's note: This article comes from a fellow Baptist in Florida. While they're less equipped to handle winter weather in the South, Davis shares some fun ideas for all churches to consider when it's cold outside!

PENSACOLA, Fla. (BP) — Even if you're in Florida, your church may have an occasional opportunity for sharing Jesus in the snow. Here's a few fresh ideas:

- *We're open!* Invest in a professional, brightly colored sign or banner to display outdoors on questionable weather Sundays: "Let it snow! Join us for worship today at 11."
- *Biggest snowman in Kokomo!* Build a gigantic snowman on the church lawn during the next big snow. Make a huge black hat, and gather accessories, buckets, snow shovels and ladders. A tree limb arm will hold a big sign: "God loves you snow much! Join

us for worship Sunday at 11!"

Send an email and phone tree message to invite church members to help. Some may bring bags of extra snow if needed. You'll enjoy fun Christian fellowship, and it may make the local paper's front page!

- *Snow fam.* Build a snow family or a row of snowpeople on the church lawn -- snowmen, snow-grandpas, snowgirls, snowpets and so on. Each snow creature holds a sign inviting passersby to

Sunday worship.

- *Snow shoveling party.* During extended extreme weather, ask members to join deacons to shovel sidewalks for elderly church members and neighbors. Provide thermoses of hot cocoa for shovelers.
- *Snow soup.* For snow parties, everyone brings cans of vegetables to add to huge, steaming soup pots.

See SNOW on page 16

CLASSIFIEDS

Churches seeking van to purchase

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

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

Church Information Packets

are mailed to every staff member once per month and posted online. These contain promotional posters, sign-up sheets, informational articles and more. Visit 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 **by the 5th of each month for publication in the next issue**

Children's playground for sale



Abundant Life Church, Iron Mountain has a playground for sale. The playground is 18 feet side, 22 feet deep, and 12 feet high, and contains tunnels, a slide, and a center ball pit. The playground is selling for \$7,500 or best offer. For more information, contact David Longstaff at (906) 221-7464.

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.

ERLC to court: Mandate violates companies' religious freedom

By TOM STRODE

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate violates a federal law protecting the religious freedom of for-profit corporations and their owners, the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission has told the U.S. Supreme Court as part of a friend-of-the-court brief.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission signed on to the brief filed Tuesday (Jan. 28) in support of Hobby Lobby and other family owned businesses that have conscientious objections to a regulation that requires employers to provide abortion-causing drugs for their workers.

The ERLC-endorsed brief was one of more than 50 filed the same day with the high court on behalf of the companies. Among the other briefs was one signed on to by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; its president, Daniel Akin; Southern Baptist megachurch pastor and author Rick Warren; Southern Baptist professors; and at least one other Southern Baptist pastor.

The briefs urging invalidation of the abortion/contraception mandate, which is a rule implementing the 2010 health care reform law, came in cases that have been consolidated for March 25 arguments before the Supreme Court.

The briefs ask the justices to uphold a lower court decision in favor of Hobby Lobby and its sister corporation Mardel, Oklahoma City-based retail chains owned by the pro-life evangelical Christian Green family. They also call for the justices to overturn a ruling against Conestoga Wood Specialties, a Pennsylvania business owned by the Hahns, pro-life Mennonites.

ERLC President Russell D. Moore, in a Jan. 28 podcast, said the justices' ruling will be "impactful for all our people in our churches for probably the next 100 years, regardless of what the court does."

Akin, in a written statement, said the Hobby Lobby case is "a critical issue that impacts freedom of conscience and religious liberty and conviction.... Christians everywhere should pray for God to move on the hearts of the justices of the Supreme Court to make the right decision."

The ERLC-signed brief, written by University of Virginia law professor Douglas Laycock, contends Congress clearly understood the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to provide "universal coverage," including to for-profit companies and their owners. It also argues that larger religious liberty traditions -- including state and federal conscience rights laws -- are consistent with protecting for-profit corporations.

The ERLC, Moore said in a written statement, "is proud to stand with a broad coalition of allies committed to religious liberty. Our participation in the Laycock brief signals our confidence that the Religious Freedom Restoration Act was designed to protect everyone -- including those operating businesses."

"We're in this because religious liberty isn't a government grant, but a human right grounded in the image of God," Moore said. "Our Baptist forefather [and 18th-century religious freedom champion] John Leland wasn't content to trust politicians with tyranny over the conscience. We are his sons and daughters, and we will carry the banner of soul freedom to the Supreme Court and beyond."

A major question the Supreme Court will consider in the case is whether owners of for-profit companies can exercise their religion in the conduct of their businesses.

In a July ruling against Conestoga Wood, a divided three-judge panel of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia said for-profit secular

organizations "cannot engage in religious exercise." A month earlier, however, the 10th Circuit in Denver rejected the Obama administration's argument that protections under RFRA do not extend to for-profit companies. The 10th Circuit ruled that corporations such as Hobby Lobby and Mardel "can be 'persons' exercising religion for purposes" of RFRA.

The Obama administration's stance "appears to be that once they incorporate, the Greens and the Hahns have no religious rights that a government is bound to respect," according to the ERLC-endorsed brief, which the Christian Legal Society (CLS) organized and filed.

"The corporation can be required to do absolutely anything, and the individual owners who carry out the corporation's work have no religious-liberty right to complain."

There are "no limits" to the administration's position, the brief contends.

"If the Greens and the Hahns forfeited their rights to religious liberty when they incorporated their businesses ... then it would not matter if the government required coverage for all abortions, by any method, in any trimester," the brief notes. "It would not matter if the government required coverage for partial-birth abortions, or assisted suicides, or unconsented euthanasia."

The ERLC-signed brief also states, "If Mardel sold child pornography instead of Christian books, the government would not allow the Greens, actively involved as shareholders, directors, officers, and managers, to defend on the ground that 'It wasn't me; the corporation did it.'"

Both the text and legislative history of RFRA demonstrate that all claims -- including those by for-profit companies and their owners -- are covered by the law, the brief states.

RFRA's sponsors "resisted all efforts to add exceptions to coverage," according to the brief. "A definition in an early version of the bill, limiting coverage to 'natural persons' and religious organizations, was eliminated in all later drafts."

Debate on the Religious Liberty Protection Act, a bill considered in the late 1990s but never approved by Congress, affirmed RFRA's protections applied to corporations, the ERLC-signed brief states.

Others signing on to the CLS brief with the ERLC were the American Bible Society, Prison Fellowship Ministries, Association of Christian Schools International, Association of Gospel Rescue Missions, Anglican Church in North America, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and World Vision.

The brief endorsed by Southeastern Seminary, Akin, Warren and other Southern Baptists -- as well as the Manhattan Declaration and leading evangelical theologians -- focused on the abortion/contraception mandate's violation of the Christian doctrine of work.

Biblical theology teaches a person's "vocation is ordained by God as a spiritual enterprise in which Christians must serve in accordance with their spiritual callings," the brief states. Mandating that a Christian choose between disobeying

government rules or religious beliefs "substantially burdens" free exercise of religion, according to the brief, which was filed by the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics.

Among others filing a total of 56 briefs Jan. 28 in support of Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood, according to the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, were the National Religious Broadcasters, National Association of Evangelicals, Christian Medical Association, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Democrats for Life, congressional members from both political parties, 20 states, women's organizations, constitutional law scholars and Roman Catholic theologians.

"The broad support shows that Americans of many faiths and backgrounds want to see religious freedom protected," Lori Windham, senior counsel with the Becket Fund, said in a written statement. "Religious freedom is important to Democrats and Republicans, to Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others."

The ERLC also signed on to a brief in October asking the Supreme Court to review the lower-court decisions in the Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood cases.

The 25 briefs filed Jan. 28 in opposition to the two businesses, according to Becket Fund, represented, among others, more than 100 Democratic members of Congress, 16 states, ACLU and Freedom From Religion Foundation.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the abortion/contraception mandate on behalf of the Obama administration as part of implementing the Affordable Care Act. In addition to contraceptives, the mandate requires coverage of such drugs as Plan B and other "morning-after" pills that possess a post-fertilization mechanism that can cause an abortion by preventing implantation of tiny embryos. The rule also covers "ella," which -- in a fashion similar to the abortion drug RU 486 -- can act after implantation to end the life of the child.

HHS provided an exemption to the rule for churches and their auxiliaries but did not extend it to non-church-related nonprofit organizations and for-profit companies that object. Some conscientious objectors oppose underwriting all contraceptives, while others -- such as Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood -- protest paying only for abortion-causing drugs. The administration also offered an accommodation for non-church-related religious organizations, but critics said it was inadequate because it still forces such groups to provide access to the drugs through third parties.

For-profit and nonprofit corporations have filed a total of 91 lawsuits against the mandate, according to the Becket Fund. GuideStone Financial Resources, the Southern Baptist Convention's health and financial benefits entity, combined with two of its health plan participants to file one of the suits in October.

The Supreme Court delivered a temporary win

Hobby Lobby and the High Court



Graphic by Laura Erlanson (BP)

	CP December	Designated December	CP YTD 2013	NEW LIFE CHAPEL	103.00	0.00	1,505.00	GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION			
				PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	686.33	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	600.00
BAY ASSOCIATION				Total:	8,441.10	5,724.57	158,530.73	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	114.90	470.00	1,429.45	GENESEE ASSOCIATION				BREAHA MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
BIRCH RUN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	225.00	AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	689.78	0.00	9,794.60	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	900.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	323.36	0.00	3,809.21	BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	71.00	0.00	1,003.00	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	150.00	0.00	3,250.00
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	725.06	300.00	8,597.35	BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CASS PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	633.26	110.00	8,502.32	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,443.00	COMPASSION BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	166.26	0.00	1,130.46	CHRIST COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	268.36	0.00	4,462.22
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,179.17	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	208.70	0.00	4,964.42
LIFEGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	450.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	900.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST	31.50	0.00	31.50	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,253.32
NEW HOPE CHURCH	222.00	0.00	2,904.00	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,608.30	614.00	20,307.52	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	10.00	65.00	245.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,804.46	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	261.19	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - RIVERVIEW	87.66	0.00	1,168.98
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,526.64	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	1,010.75	0.00	8,999.14
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	23.54	0.00	176.09	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	840.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	805.00	3,600.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	45,000.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	14,037.27	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	266.88	0.00	3,341.04
Total:	2,249.88	945.00	77,381.48	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION				HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	262.24
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	110.00	50.00	2,512.00	JEFFRIES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	12.93	0.00	214.04	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,307.00	479.00	24,810.00	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	2,723.00	3,058.67	76,461.25	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	180.00	1,310.33	1,377.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	6,697.22	0.00	97,156.66
CHARLOTTE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	40.00	0.00	617.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	58.64	0.00	880.10	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	32.98	0.00	471.43	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	596.00	1,082.00	8,994.19
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,448.47	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	20.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	550.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	100.00	763.00	650.00	NEW HAVEN FIELD HOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	851.55	0.00	10,548.88	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	600.00
GETSEMANI BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	65.00	0.00	1,198.50	PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,836.33	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,200.00	PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST	100.00	0.00	1,100.00
GRACE CHURCH	3,355.81	1,677.90	42,016.07	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,300.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH-	0.00	0.00	500.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	674.04	0.00	7,882.38	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	200.00	PHILLIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	160.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA GETSEMANI	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	196.74	0.00	4,040.09	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,545.00	0.00	7,140.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	80.00	0.00	335.00	THIRD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	180.00
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	13.00	0.00	172.90	VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	599.87
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	109.62	225.00	1,956.61	WESTSIDE CHURCH	862.00	129.00	8,418.00	STRAIGHT STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	1,101.06	0.00	12,556.53	Total:	7,214.35	2,582.33	112,508.65	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	10.00	0.00	879.72					TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	234.05	300.00	5,156.67
								TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	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	100.00
WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	6,000.00
Total:	13,264.62	2,187.00	167,033.75

HURON ASSOCIATION

CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	30.00	0.00	344.35
CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	17,255.03
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	1,583.16	0.00	18,418.24
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	200.00	0.00	1,116.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	0.00	0.00	34,351.11
GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	468.53	0.00	5,210.16
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,353.00
LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,800.00
NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	494.61	0.00	5,921.19
OAKWOOD CHURCH	540.00	0.00	6,670.00
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
VISION COMMUNITY CHURCH	73.00	0.00	587.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	840.00
Total:	3,389.30	0.00	97,866.08

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	204.19	0.00	2,901.55
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	319.48	663.00	1,917.46
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	4,844.60	250.00	27,257.32
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	89.00	0.00	894.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	326.95	0.00	4,278.65
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	10.59	0.00	514.91
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
Total:	5,794.81	913.00	41,063.89

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,538.40
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	771.34	0.00	10,300.21
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	607.97
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	580.63	511.00	9,846.88
CONGREGATION SHALOM	70.00	0.00	286.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	2,160.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	255.71	0.00	2,073.68
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	235.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	30.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	3,573.22	0.00	29,127.61
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	763.75
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	0.00	3,686.04
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	803.30	0.00	10,973.29
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	97.34	0.00	2,825.59
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	363.08	1,135.23	4,703.73
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	0.00	0.00	676.00
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	591.01	0.00	9,225.88
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,070.44
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	646.00
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	600.00	0.00	4,200.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	848.00	0.00	3,781.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	15,054.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,761.09	0.00	19,599.58
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,631.06	856.86	16,764.09
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	900.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	17,539.84
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,031.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,730.74
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	39.00	0.00	978.08
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	0.00	0.00	700.00
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	2,110.00	4,426.00	30,044.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	196.90	596.21	3,147.00
PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH	1,200.00	0.00	1,500.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,024.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	650.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	7,244.38
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	600.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	302.82	1,030.00	3,844.09
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	958.01



THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	870.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	823.00	14,387.34
Total:	16,884.50	9,378.30	242,148.62

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	358.34
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,139.81
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,816.82
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	455.33	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	31.00	1,100.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	0.00	200.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	250.00	0.00	250.00
OUR FATHERS HOUSE COMMUNITY, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	200.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	403.31	0.00	4,354.15
Total:	773.31	486.33	9,419.12

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	135.09	0.00	1,636.65
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	99.83	0.00	1,136.84
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	10.00	0.00	198.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	93.92	0.00	93.92
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	104.88	0.00	318.12
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	334.44
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	84.14	0.00	1,145.67
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	8.00	228.87
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	168.76	0.00	2,556.14
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	35.18
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	298.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	204.61	0.00	953.37
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	38.00	0.00	452.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	306.41	0.00	1,964.25
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,867.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	30.00	0.00	182.24
Total:	1,275.64	8.00	14,400.69

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	289.59	0.00	4,472.40
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	704.11	0.00	8,977.42
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	1,695.00	9,456.33
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	4,274.42
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	1,026.08	0.00	11,451.71
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	139.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,579.80

LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	218.39	0.00	2,137.68
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,997.83
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,559.71
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,935.40
Total:	2,238.17	1,695.00	50,981.70

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	661.00	165.00	4,679.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,355.65	0.00	7,296.59
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,544.50
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	263.10	0.00	3,067.53
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	289.85	0.00	3,865.74
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	93.19	0.00	999.03
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	650.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	343.50	0.00	5,257.90
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	13,288.34	0.00	129,684.17
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RAISINVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH	3,113.69	668.83	20,887.26
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	42.05	0.00	1,084.98
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	20,500.37	833.83	181,116.70

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	175.00	100.00	1,288.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	44.00	0.00	1,284.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	0.00	0.00	6,183.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	1,048.89
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	60.20	0.00	686.20
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	957.65
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	200.00	0.00	1,000.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
THE SHORE	523.53	100.00	927.01
Total:	1,002.73	200.00	13,474.75

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	144.00	0.00	2,118.86
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	139.52	0.00	1,721.24
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	56.00	0.00	655.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	113.59	0.00	1,425.80
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	324.00	30.00	4,976.64
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	100.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	534.00	0.00	9,936.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	512.49	125.00	3,016.97
Total:	1,823.60	155.00	23,950.51

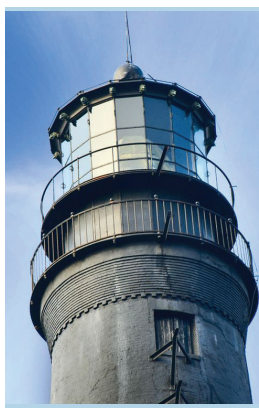
WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	69.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	475.00	275.00	2,970.32
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,533.26
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	304.64
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,076.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	400.00	0.00	4,311.69
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
I.B. RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	70.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	628.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	0.00	360.00
Total:	905.00	275.00	12,322.91

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	7,552.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	0.00	0.00	275.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	128.32	367.00	1,031.81
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	2,622.61	0.00	46,345.71
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	250.00
Total:	2,750.93	367.00	55,454.52
Grand Total:	88,508.31	25,750.36	1,257,654.10





Baptist BEACON

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

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February 2014

Send North America Conference to be held in March

GARDEN CITY — More than 70 percent of Southern Baptist churches in North America have plateaued or are declining in number. Send North America is designed to reverse this trend by decreasing the death rate of existing churches (Revitalization) while increasing the birth rate of new churches.

The first step in Revitalization is doing an honest assessment. Can your church face the leadership challenge that is required to turn things around? Or has your church been on a downward trajectory for so long that you have lost the critical mass needed to survive? Is it time to start something new?

Does your church need help facing the leadership challenge required to reverse this trend? There are people and resources available to help you face this challenge.

The Baptist State Convention of Michigan and the North American Mission Board have teamed up to revitalize churches in Michigan. Join us for the Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference.

The conference will take place Saturday, March 22, 2014 in Garden City, Mich. from 8:00 a.m. to 2:45 p.m., with registration and fellowship time beginning at 7:30 a.m. The host church for the conference is Merriman Road Baptist Church, located at 2055 Merriman Road in Garden City.

Johnny Hunt, pastor of First Baptist, Woodstock, will be the event's keynote speaker.

Cost for the conference is \$30 and includes registration, conference notebook, lunch, refreshments, and a \$15 LifeWay gift card. ■

SNOW from page 12

- *Phones and escorts.* Assign church members to call homebound church members during weather crises to assure their safety. Walk elderly folks to their car on slippery Sundays.
- *Coat exchange.* It's like a cookie exchange, but warmer. Ask members to donate outgrown coats. Place them on big coat racks and invite everyone to help themselves.
- *Hot cocoa and warm teaching.* Advertise a winter Bible study to feature a hot chocolate buffet with all the trimmings.
- *Mitten tree.* To collect warm socks and mittens for a local benevolence project, roll donated gloves and socks and hang like ornament balls on a tree.
- *Winter sports.* Take advantage of local opportunities for church family winter fun, such as sledding, ice skating, snow skiing or snow-

- ball wars. Enjoy indoor sports during dreary weather months. Don't have a gym? Rent a local facility for basketball, bowling, curling or volleyball tournaments.
 - *Truckers and travelers.* If you're located near a truck stop or airport, consider a plan to minister in Jesus' name to stranded truckers or travelers.
 - *Cancellation policy.* Make a plan for extreme weather cancellations. For example, one church cancels worship only for major power outages or if the governor mandates a road closure. Post an announcement on the church's answering machine and website within two hours of worship. God created the summer and the winter. Praise Him in every season!
- Diana Davis is the author of "Fresh Ideas" and "Deacon Wives" and wife of NAMB Vice President for the South Region Steve Davis. ■*

SEND NORTH AMERICA CHURCH GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

March 22, 2014 Garden City, MI

Nearly 72% of Southern Baptist churches in North America have plateaued or are declining in number. Send North America is designed to combat this trend by increasing the birth rate of new churches and decreasing the death rate of existing churches, but we need your help. The **Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference** is a one-day experience intended to equip you with tools to infuse new life into your church and others like it throughout North America. Register for the **Send North America Church Growth and Revitalization Conference** and partner with us to penetrate lostness in North America through healthy, thriving churches.

Merriman Road Baptist Church
2055 Merriman Road
Garden City, MI 48135
Cost: \$30
(includes registration, conference notebook, lunch, refreshments and a \$15 LifeWay gift card)

Learn more and register online today at namb.net/revitalization.
For more information, email revitalization@namb.net or call **770-410-6388**.

with **Johnny Hunt**

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD

MANDATE from page 13

for mandate foes Jan. 24, when it continued an injunction blocking enforcement of the mandate against the Little Sisters of the Poor, an order of nuns in Denver, and other Catholic organizations. The injunction will remain in place while the 10th Circuit considers the lawsuit.

Hobby Lobby, a national arts and crafts retail chain, has said it will not comply with the mandate if it loses in court. The chain of nearly 590 stores could face fines totaling \$1.3 million a day. Mardel is a Christian bookstore chain.

Hobby Lobby seeks to honor God "by operating the company in a manner consistent with Biblical principles," according to its statement of purpose. Its stores are closed on

Sundays.

The Hahn family, which owns Conestoga Wood, has been living under the mandate since its group health plan was renewed in January 2013. Refusal to abide by the mandate could cost the family an estimated \$95,000 a day. Conestoga Wood is a wholesale manufacturer of kitchen cabinet parts.

The 10th Circuit case is *Sebelius v. Hobby Lobby*, while the Third Circuit case is *Conestoga Wood v. Sebelius*. Kathleen Sebelius is the HHS secretary.

The high court is expected to issue a decision before the end of its term in late June or early July.

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