



Baptist BEACON

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

Volume 58, Number 12

www.MichiganBaptists.org

December 2014

Merry Christmas from the Baptist State Convention of Michigan staff!



Jimmy Jones
Interim Executive
Director



Yolanda Chapa
Ministry Assistant



Gerald Colbert
Interim Church
Starting Missionary



Mike Durbin
Church Planting
Catalyst



George Fountain
Bi-vocational
Ministry Consultant



Janice Fuller
Bambi Lake House-
keeping Supervisor/
Registration Clerk



Anne Glissman
Office Manager/
Ministry Assistant



Darren Greer
Church Planting
Catalyst



Jonathan Guenther
Communications
Specialist



Jim Hess
Church Strengthening/
Mobilizer, Region 2



Sue Hodnett
Women's Ministry/
WMU Consultant



Dan Kucharczyk
Bambi Lake Manager



Angela Kucharczyk
Bambi Lake
Office Manager



Myron Porter
Building/Grounds
Maintenance



Dan Russell
Church Strengthening/
Mobilizer, Region 4



Nancy Spears
Ministry Assistant



Yale Wall
Media Consultant



Art Werry
IT Consultant/
Mapping Center
Director

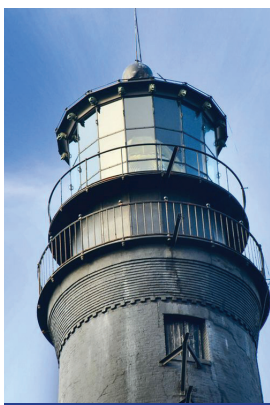


Win Williams
Disaster Relief
Director



Larry Woods
Collegiate Ministry
Director

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us,
and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
- *Isaiah 9:6 (HCSB)*



Baptist BEACON

YEC sees numerous student professions of faith

2014 Youth Evangelism Conference draws 275 students, 46 accept Christ at event

Lottie Moon Week of Prayer and Christmas Offering

LMCO funds help foreign missionaries and newly started churches offer prenatal classes and connect to community

page 3

page 6

Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan • Volume 58, Number 12 • December 2014 • www.MichiganBaptists.org

Annual Meeting sees prayer, renewal for Michigan Baptists

BY ANNE GLISSMAN

Baptist State Convention of Michigan

ROSCOMMON — On November 7-8, the Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center hosted the Baptist State Convention of Michigan's Annual Meeting for the first time.

Before the Annual Meeting began, a group of 68 people gathered at Bambi Lake on November 6 to ready their hearts and seek God's face in a Solemn Assembly prior to the start of the State Convention's 57th Annual Meeting. Dr. Kerry Skinner and Dr. Gary Frost led the group through times of confession and repentance, seeking always to hear God's voice.

"In our day, confession of sin is common but repentance is rare," Skinner said during the Solemn Assembly. "Jesus didn't come to help us manage our sin. He came to deliver us from it."

Many felt at the end of the assem-

bly that the spirit of fellowship within the Convention began to change. A tone of unity was set for the start of the Convention the next afternoon.

The Annual Meeting began the next day. One of the highlights of the convention was the presentation of Lighthouse Leadership awards.

Rev. Jim Wiech, pastor of Faith Baptist Chapel in Napoleon, received an award in Church Strengthening. Rev. Coye Bouyer, pastor of Kingdom Life Church in Lansing, received the Church Planter of the Year award. The Michigan Disaster Relief Unit, led by director Win Williams, received a Lighthouse award for their tireless service to not only national disaster relief but particularly for their extraordinary work helping flood victims in the southeast Michigan area this past year.

Mrs. Janice Fuller was recognized for her 55 years of employment with

the Baptist State Convention of Michigan at Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center. She and her husband, the Late Rev. Leon Fuller, came to the camp 55 years ago as the camp's first managers.

During his challenge message, Dr. Kerry Skinner encouraged the messengers to seek revival through our unity, to stop seeking selfish ambition and a name for ourselves, but rather to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ. Interim Executive Director, Rev. James "Jimmy" W. Jones, spoke on looking ahead, celebrating the past, but not continuing to dwell there. Outgoing president Dr. Larry Allen challenged the members to press forward in unity remembering Paul's



Kerry Skinner, Senior Pastor of Northway Church of the Woodlands in The Woodlands, Texas, spoke at the Solemn Assembly preceding the Annual Meeting and offered a challenge message during the Annual Meeting. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther)



New officers were elected at the Annual Meeting. From right to left, Interim Executive Director Jimmy Jones introduces Chuck Turner, president; Dwight Weiner, first vice-president; Nathaniel Bishop, second vice-president; John Botkin, first recording secretary; and Sue Hodnett, second recording secretary. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther)

words from Ephesians 4:1-6.

A proposed Constitution was presented to be voted on at the annual meeting in 2015. Rev. Chuck Turner was elected as president, Rev. Dwight Wymer was

elected as Vice President, Rev. Nathaniel Bishop was elected Second Vice President, Rev. John Botkin was elected Recording Secretary and Mrs. Sue Hodnett was elected as Assistant Recording Secretary.

A general budget of \$2,212,782 and a budget for Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center for \$298,815 were approved. Both are a decrease from the 2014 budgets. The cooperative giving percentage to missions remained at 30.5% for 2015. ■

YEC draws 275 students, 46 accept Christ

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER

Managing Editor

FLUSHING — At the 2014 Youth Evangelism Conference, the words "Do Something" took on new meaning for the 275 students in attendance.

The conference, held November 21-22 at Westside Church in Flushing, sought to show students how God "doing something" in their lives would encourage them to do the same for others.

"I speak all over the country, but there's such a hunger for the Gospel here," said Wade Morris, the YEC speaker.

Morris noted that students spoke with him after he shared with them, thanking him for sharing truth and letting him know they were saved, something he hadn't experienced elsewhere.

On the first day of the conference, students were challenged to let God do something in them. As they were challenged to submit to Christ, 46 professed their faith for the first time. An adult chaperone also accepted Christ.

The Matt Wagner Band also provided worship for the event. Wagner leads worship at conference organizer Ed Emmerling's church.

"As an adult, it is unbelievably

powerful to hear our young people singing," Emmerling said. "[Hearing them sing] 'I believe in the name of Jesus' together truly blew me away. That is powerful to me. It is my dream that this generation rises up in our nation and says, 'We believe.'"

The words of Hillsong's "This I Believe" became more than a song for the students. The second day of the conference gave students a glimpse at life outside the spotlight and a chance to put these beliefs into action.

Students went to the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan for a service project. Instead of serving people directly, however, students did prep

work for the Food Bank and did not have direct contact with those who would benefit from it.

"Serving in God's Kingdom is not always on the front lines touching people," said Emmerling. "Sometimes it's preparing for it behind the scenes."

Emmerling noted that service projects often provide an "ooey-gooey feeling" that comes from seeing the direct impact of their work. Instead, students were challenged that their work honored God even when they didn't see it.

See YEC on page 3



Above left, Interim Executive Director Jimmy Jones offers a challenge message. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther) Above right, Saturday night featured a time of prayer for new church starters. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther) Below, Larry Allen addresses the state with a challenge message. (Photo by Arthur Werry)



Above left, women enjoy the Ministers' Wives Dinner on Saturday night. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther) Above right, Jimmy Jones offers Anne Glissman an award for 20 years of service on the Baptist State Convention of Michigan staff. (Photo by Arthur Werry) Below, Eliezer Sagansay leads worship on Saturday morning. (Photo by Jonathan Guenther)



YEC from page 1

Students also experienced a time of fun and fellowship at the conference. Following Friday night's worship sessions, the group traveled to the Genysis Athletic Club in Grand Blanc where they played tennis, racquetball, basketball, track, and pool, as well as other activities.

Prizes were also given away at the event. Because of donations as well as good deals, a 50-inch, 40-inch, and 32-inch television were given away at the event. ■



Above left, Matt Wagner leads students in worship. (Submitted photo) Above right, students prepare food for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. (Submitted photo) Below right, a group of students attends YEC. (Submitted photo)



ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

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

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

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



Protect those you love.

The Cooperative Program: a personal testimony



JIMMY JONES
Interim Executive
Director

I came as pastor of First Baptist Church Trenton in July 1960, after graduating from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. The church was three years old and meeting in a condemned store front.

Attendance that first Sunday was 24 and this included 8 from my family. At our first business meeting the treasurer apologized; he had made a mistake and our bank account was 10 cents overdrawn.

As the church grew, we moved to a high school and began planning to build in the spring. We could do this because in 1958, NAMB — then the Home Mission Board — had loaned the church \$15,000 to buy three acres. Later, when we began building, they took half of our debt in bonds.

Except for the outer wall and roof, the members did all the construction. It took two years to finish the building.

In 1963, because of added expense, debt, utilities, etc. our church gave \$959 to missions out of the total offering of \$16,301. Of this amount, Cooperative Program giving was less than \$500.

We added 42 new members, including 16 by baptism and the offering had increased by 25% over the previous year, but our mission giving through the Cooperative Program was disgraceful.

In planning our 1964 budget, I told the committee that we could be a church without a pastor or a building, but we could not be a church without a passion for missions. I suggested that we begin contributing 10% through the Cooperative Program and 2% to Associational Missions.

The response was, “We can’t do it.” I said it was easy; just write the first two checks to missions. They responded, “If we do, we can’t pay your salary.” My response was to tell them they could starve our missionaries and not have to look at them, but if they starved me, they’d have to watch.

The reality was that some weeks I did not get a salary. On \$75 a week, it wasn’t easy with a wife and two children.

Some weeks I got part of the salary. But, by the end of the year we were paying missions and I was getting a full salary.

The next year they added back to my salary \$15 a week. When they finished paying off my back salary, they decided to keep paying it as salary increase. I got a raise!

The rest of the story

Let’s look at the church 20 years later. We had the largest Sunday School enrollment in the Greater Detroit Association.

We had added 55 new members, 39 by baptism. We were giving 20% through the Cooperative Program — our almost \$30,000 was second in the state — and 3% to Associational Missions.

We were sponsoring three missions with the support of Baptist State of Michigan and NAMB. Our total mission giving was \$75,915.

After three building programs, we were in a \$4,000,000 building debt free with a day care with over 100 children enrolled and a Christian school up to the 3rd grade. We had four staff members, three full-time.

In 1980 the church gave me the parsonage. When I was asked to be State Evangelism Director in 1983 I had to take a cut in salary to take the job.

After being paid by gifts through the Cooperative Program for 16 years, I returned to the pastorate. After 15 years, last year our church was second in Cooperative Program gifts in Detroit Association.

I believe I can safely say the Lord blesses a church and pastor that puts missions first. ■



Jerome Taylor

@brojerome

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

Carlos Liese

@liese1000

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

Kayre Stanley, II

@PastorKayre2

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

Dan Russell

@pastordanrussell

Let what you say be an improvement on silence!

Ken Leslie

@kenleslie

Excuses are the essence of incompetence.

Arthur Werry

@arthurwerry

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

David Washington Jr.

@pastordwash

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

Doing the work of an evangelist



DAN RUSSELL
Church Strengthening/
Mobilizer
Region 4

As I travel southeastern Michigan in my ministry as a regional Church Strengthening and Mobilizer, I meet many pastors.

Some of them epitomize the apostle Paul’s call to Timothy to “do the work of an evangelist” as stated in 2 Timothy 4:5 (HCSB): “But as for you, be serious about everything, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

In a recent visit to an evening worship service at Graceway Baptist Church in Ypsilanti, I was reminded

again of a pastor who is doing the work of an evangelist. Pastor Keith Worrell, who has been ministering at the church for many years, has a passion for the lost in his community and takes time to share the Gospel with them, whether outside the church or inside the church.

On the occasion of my recent visit, the service started with singing, moved to the message, and was clearly evangelistic in tone throughout. I was given an opportunity to share an update from the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, but it’s what happened after the service that was exceptional.

When the service concluded and as the people slowly made their way out of the sanctuary, visiting as they left, one lady in particular seemed to linger. I engaged

her in conversation as the pastor and his wife greeted those who filed out the back of the sanctuary.

She was very definitely a “seeker” who had heard the Gospel from Pastor Worrell on a number of occasions but had yet to ask Jesus to be her Savior. As I repeated the Gospel to her again, I concluded by asking her if she would be willing to pray and ask Jesus to be her Savior. She said, “Yes.” I was then getting ready to lead her to Christ.

Then it dawned on me that part of my role as a Church Strengthening and Mobilizer was to be an encouragement to the pastor. So, I called for the pastor to come over.

As Pastor Worrell and his wife came over, they greeted the lady, whom they

obviously knew well. Then, after discovering that she was ready to receive Jesus as Savior, the pastor did “the work of an evangelist” by leading her to saving faith in Christ. The angels rejoiced and so did we!

What a joy to see the intersecting of Jesus, pastor, and state convention staff in the context of the local church for the fulfillment of the Great Commission! This is what it means to push back the lostness in our state: one lost person at a time! One evangelistic pastor at a time! And, in this unique case, one state convention staff person at a time! And, what a reminder that pastors who “do the work of an evangelist” truly do “fulfill their ministry!” ■

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

IMAGINE
Joining the Author of all history
in
ONE SACRED EFFORT

FIND YOUR PLACE IN GOD'S STORY

MATTHEW 28:13-20

2014 LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

NATIONAL GOAL: \$175 MILLION

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS
NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 7**

imb
connecting

Prenatal classes catalyst for new churches

BY SUSIE RAIN

Baptist Press

EDITOR'S NOTE: This year's Week of Prayer for International Missions in the Southern Baptist Convention was Nov. 30-Dec. 7 with the theme of "One Sacred Effort — Find your place in God's story" from Matthew 28:19-20 (HCSB). The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions in tandem with Cooperative Program gifts from Southern Baptist churches support approximately 4,800 international missionaries in seeking to fulfill the Great Commission. Gifts to the Lottie Moon offering are received through local Southern Baptist churches or online at imb.org/offering, where there are resources to promote the offering. This year's goal is \$175 million. William and Nancy Potter,* the focus of this story, from Oklahoma, are among the featured missionaries in this year's Week of Prayer.

SOUTHEAST ASIA (BP) — The young woman gingerly crawls off a motor scooter, grateful for the ride. Last month, Kalliyan Seng* could make the two-mile trek from her home on a bicycle. But now that she's nine months pregnant and could give birth at any moment, it's harder to pedal that distance.

The woman steadies herself, then slowly walks inside for a weekly pregnancy health class. She's greeted by community health workers and IMB missionary Nancy Potter.* Women in various stages of pregnancy or post-pregnancy surround the ensemble chatting.

Potter looks around the crowded room and smiles. If someone had told the missionary nurse from Oklahoma a few years ago that churches in this

part of Southeast Asia would start as a result of pregnant women learning to be healthy, she might have scoffed. Most of these women do not even have a third-grade education. Their families live on less than \$1 a day. Some are malnourished and sick. Yet, God uses these women as catalysts

lead her husband to ask questions about her newfound faith.

Like most attending the prenatal classes, Seng did not know anything about Jesus. The former Buddhist came to learn about giving birth and how to take care of her baby. In this poor rural area, death is a common

give birth. Their hearts broke when these women died without hearing the Gospel.

So the Potters, who have medical backgrounds, created a simple curriculum to teach about healthy prenatal and post-pregnancy care. Now, they see around 250 healthy births a year.

The Potters can live and work here because of the Cooperative Program and Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, Southern Baptists' way of coming together to fund missionaries overseas.

Local Christians teach the health classes on everything from washing hands to burping babies. Each lesson ends with a biblical truth and prayer. This approach combines aspects of a discipleship and church planting program called Training for Trainers (T4T) with human needs.

"The first time we tried this, I couldn't get anyone interested in going [to villages] with me," Nancy Potter remembers. "All it took was one time for that first generation of believers to catch the vision. Now, ... we disciple and train the leaders and they go to the next village. They

communicate at a deeper heart level. What we are seeing now is a real acceleration of the Gospel."

Seng, like most of the new believers, came to faith after the health workers repeatedly visited her home the day after classes as "follow up." When a "house of peace," or a family interested in learning Bible stories and letting others join them, is found, a small group is formed.

Sovaan and Maly Lim* opened their tiny home to a small group when Maly was pregnant. Local



IMB missionary Nancy Potter (name changed) watches as local believers in Southeast Asia teach new Christians church-planting methods. (IMB photo by Hugh Johnson)

for spreading His Word.

"I'm not sure if it started with the women because when you are pregnant, it's nine months of uncertainty, or what," Potter says. "But if you look at how most of the new village house churches started, it's through women. One came to faith and then started praying for everyone else. Other women then join her and they pray for their husbands."

The reason Seng came today was really to ask everyone to pray for her husband. She prays that she will deliver a healthy baby and that this will

reality when giving birth. Some of the highest maternal mortality rates are here. Five women die every day during childbirth, according to a 2013 United Nations report. Surviving childbirth isn't even an end to the fears for these young mothers. For every 1,000 births, around 50 children never see their first birthdays.

For years, Potter and her husband William* held malnourished babies, wondering how long the children would survive. They cringed every time they heard of mothers squatting in an unsanitary bamboo home to

See WEEK OF PRAYER on page 13

THE BAPTIST BEACON

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

Managing Editor: Jonathan Guenther — jonathan@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!

SUBSCRIPTION: FREE
to all members of Michigan Baptist
churches. Send request to:
beacon@bscm.org

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:
Email info from old label with new
address to beacon@bscm.org
Postmaster: Mail Permit #48106
Send form 3579 to
The Baptist Beacon,
8420 Runyan Lake Rd,
Fenton MI 48430.
Phone: 810.714.1907

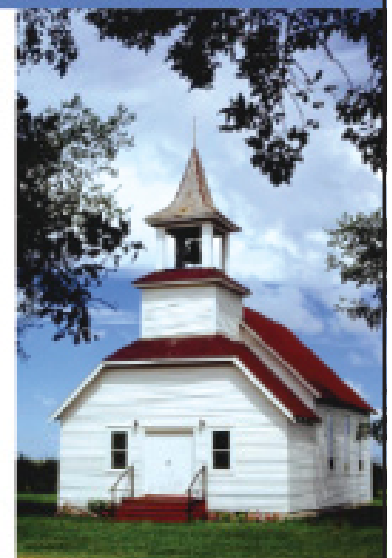
www.MichiganBaptists.org

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



Mormons grappling with their history

BY ERICH BRIDGES

Baptist Press

SALT LAKE CITY (BP) — Leaders within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are speaking more openly about Mormonism's controversial history and teachings.

Even as Mitt Romney's presidential bid drew the national spotlight to Mormonism in 2012, leaders of the nearly 180-year-old religion expressed concern about its future.

"We've never had a period of — I'll call it apostasy — like we're having now," Marlin Jensen, an official Mormon historian, told a group of Mormon students in Logan, Utah, according to a Reuters report. In response to one student's question, Jensen admitted that Mormons are leaving the faith "in droves."

Although the LDS church counts nearly 15 million members worldwide, estimates of the religion's overseas retention rate are as low as 25 percent. Only half of the Mormons in the United States are active members, according to Reuters, and some sociologists report only 5 million active members worldwide. Additionally, young Mormons, especially, have begun to question the faith of their fathers.

"The problem for Mormonism is with the use of the Internet and with the persistence of many, many groups that have been very straightforward in promoting what Mormonism really stands for," said R. Philip Roberts, director for international theological education with Global Ministries Foundation in Tennessee who also teaches adjunctively at Truett-McConnell College in Georgia. "They're losing the battle."

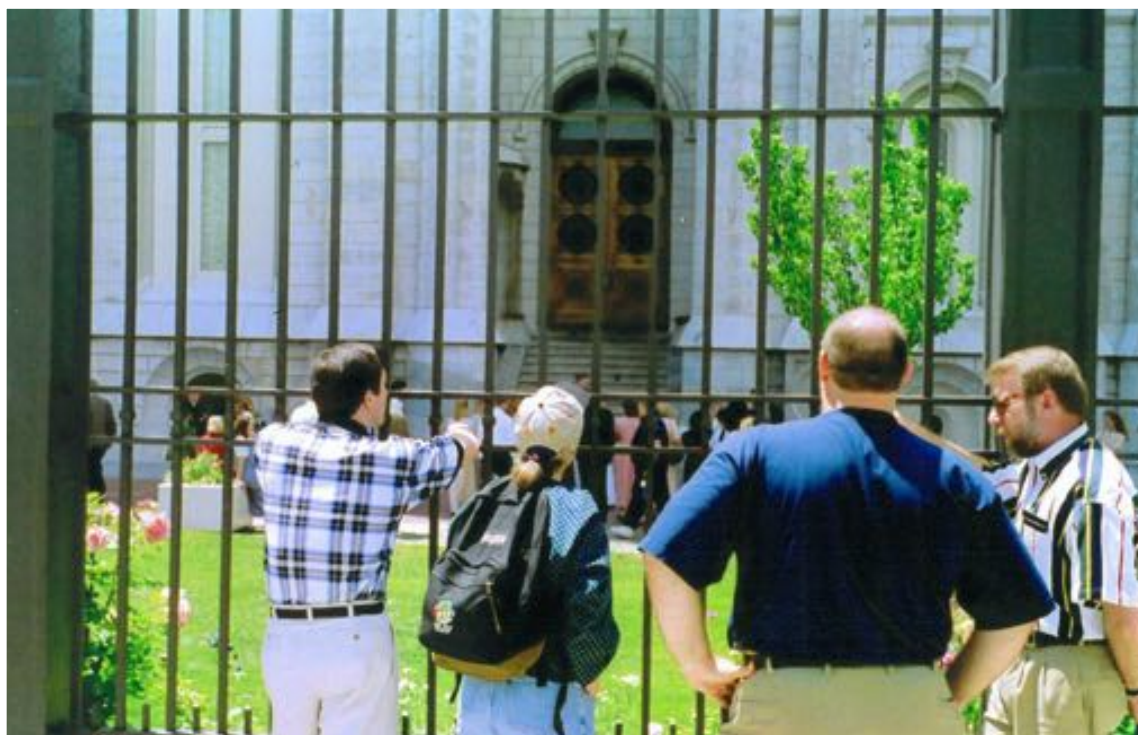
LDS leaders have for decades held a posture of silence and secrecy concerning questionable aspects of Mormonism's history, theology and practices, said Roberts, former director of the North American Mission Board's interfaith witness department and former president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Mormonism has everything to hide because they pretend to be a Christian organization," Roberts said, noting that Mormons often use Christian terms while infusing them with unbiblical meanings.

But now, forced to address criticism widely available on the Internet, LDS leaders have begun — and only begun — to open up about controversial aspects of their faith. In recent articles posted on the LDS website (www.lds.org), leaders have admitted to Mormonism's historically positive stance toward polygamy and the historical inaccuracy of some of its own scriptures.

Mormonism and polygamy

"Polygamy was a notorious doctrine and practice of the LDS since the time of Joseph Smith," Tal Davis, who has served with NAMB's interfaith witness department, writes in an article posted on the webpage of Marketfaith Ministries, an online



Several Southern Baptists pray at the gates of the Mormon Temple in Salt Lake City when the Southern Baptist Convention held its 1998 annual meeting in the city where the religion is headquartered. (BP file photo)

worldview ministry with which he now works.

Smith had as many as 40 wives, including a 14-year-old girl and a woman married to another man. Although historians have known about Smith's polygamy for more than a century, LDS leaders have until recently hesitated to admit this reality in a straightforward manner, Davis told Baptist Press.

Mormons aligned with LDS headquarters in Salt Lake City currently promote monogamy alone, in keeping with a canonized "declaration" of LDS President Wilford Woodruff in 1890 to achieve Utah statehood. But in their most recent statement on polygamy, LDS leaders never condemn polygamy, Davis said. Instead, they affirm that God has, in times past, commanded His people to practice polygamy. Smith himself claimed to have received a revelation from God that endorsed polygamy and condemned any who opposed its practice.

But LDS leaders also claim that God commanded biblical characters to practice polygamy. According to NAMB-certified apologist Rob Phillips, director of communications for the Missouri Baptist Convention, this claim is contrary to Scripture.

"It is clear that God's ideal is monogamous, lifelong marriage between a man and a woman," Phillips wrote in a Nov. 12 article on Baptist Press. Additionally, he noted, various passages of Scripture denounce polygamy or warn readers of "the danger of taking multiple wives."

"This is precisely where we have an opportunity to urge our Mormon friends to revisit the

Bible, which LDS theology and practice relegate to a back seat behind the Book of Mormon and other church documents," Phillips wrote.

Historicity of Mormon scripture

Recent skepticism about Mormonism also has centered on the historicity of "The Book of Abraham," a section of The Pearl of Great Price, which is one of Mormonism's scriptures.

According to LDS lore, Smith translated The Book of Abraham from an Egyptian papyrus that he bought in the 1840s. For many years, the original Egyptian document was lost but was rediscovered in a museum in the 1960s.

Mormon leaders, in a recent statement on the LDS website, admitted what scholars have claimed since the rediscovery of the Egyptian document — that Smith's translation in no way resembles what the original Egyptian text says.

Instead of repudiating Smith's Book of Abraham, however, the LDS statement says that the Egyptian docu-

ment wasn't the textual basis for Smith's translation. Rather, "the physical artifacts provided an occasion for meditation, reflection, and revelation. They catalyzed a process whereby God gave to Joseph Smith a revelation about the life of Abraham, even if that revelation did not directly correlate to the characters on the papyri," the LDS statement says.

The statement also asserts that The Book of Abraham presents valuable doctrine and "clarifies several teachings that are obscure in the Bible," such as the belief that Jesus Christ "led other spirits in organizing the earth" out of preexisting matter.

'An enormous opportunity'

Roberts said LDS leaders are failing in their attempt to squelch criticism and retain members. But this situation creates an "enormous opportunity" for Southern Baptists "to share the real truth and the real Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"It is important that Mormons hear the truth," Roberts said, "and they need to hear it not from another counterfeit religion, but from people who know the truth."

To learn more about Mormonism, Southern Baptists can read "Mormonism Unmasked," which Roberts and Davis coauthored with Sandra Tanner. They can find other resources about Mormonism on www.marketfaith.org, www.oncedelivered.net or on NAMB's apologetics website, www.4Truth.net.

Ben Hawkins is associate editor of The Pathway of the Missouri Baptist Convention. ■

CP ends fiscal year below budget goal

BY BAPTIST PRESS STAFF

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention ended its fiscal year 0.76 percent below last year's contributions and missed its Cooperative Program allocation budgeted projection of \$191.5 million by 2.58 percent, according to SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page.

The SBC received \$186,567,610.63 in Cooperative Program Allocation Budget gifts during the fiscal year Oct. 1, 2013—Sept. 30, 2014, or \$1,433,665.07 less than the \$188,001,275.70 received during the last fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2013.

"We have been monitoring CP gifts closely since the Great Recession and believe we may have reached the nadir, or lowest point, for national Cooperative Program gifts," Page said. "Individual giving to churches continues to lag behind other sectors of charitable giving in the United States, but we remain prayerfully optimistic that through a combination of the '1% CP challenge' and a renewed commitment of individual giving through churches, we will see an uptick in CP funding for our missions and ministries over the next several years.

In designated giving, the fis-

cal year's total of \$194,678,166.09 is 0.81 percent above the previous year's \$193,106,285.82. Of

0.04 percent increase over the same time last year.

"The Atlas of Giving forecasts

years."

The CP is Southern Baptists' channel of giving, begun in 1925, through which a local church can contribute to the ministries of its state convention and the missions and ministries of the SBC with a single monthly or weekly contribution. Monies include receipts from individuals, churches, state conventions and fellowships for distribution according to the 2013—14 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

The convention-adopted budget was distributed as follows: 50.41 percent to international missions through the International Mission Board, 22.79 percent to North American missions through the North American Mission Board, 22.16 percent to theological education, 2.99 percent to the SBC operating budget and 1.65 percent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"The budget projection of \$188 million that began this week is a realistic goal — a 0.76 percent increase over this past year's actual receipts," Page said. "It will take confidence in our ministries and personal sacrifice to reach and surpass our 2014—2015 budget goal for impacting our world and our nation with the Gospel. I ask you to join me in asking the Lord to let it be so."

The budget outlook comes at a time when the SBC continues to encourage Cooperative Program giving from local churches through the "1% CP Challenge." Page has challenged Southern Baptist churches to increase their CP contributions by 1 percentage point of their annual church budgets. If every cooperating Southern Baptist church would accept the 1% CP Challenge, Page said, "it would generate millions of dollars for the Convention's aggressive international missions outreach, its intentional church planting and evangelism strategies, and its programs for ministerial preparation," in addition to numerous state and other national ministry initiatives.

Compiled by Baptist Press staff. ■



For Southern Baptists, the Cooperative Program is a key catalyst for missions and ministry locally, globally and nationally. Here, collegian Olaoluwa Apata joins in the Crossover evangelistic outreach prior to the 2014 SBC annual meeting in Baltimore. (File photo by Bob Carey)

this amount, \$193,926,534.53 was received and disbursed to IMB and NAMB through the seasonal missions offerings and Global Hunger Relief (the former World Hunger Fund). The balance was designated for other SBC entities or the SBC Operating Budget. Combined designated gifts to SBC causes and CP Allocation Budget gifts showed a slight

that giving to religious organizations will decline by 2 percent year-to-year, so the fact that our national CP giving was down by less than 1 percent and overall giving was actually slightly up shows we are bucking the trend," Page said. "The '1% CP Challenge' coupled with focused prayer may have made all the difference for Southern Baptists over the past few

Get banners for your church

Want to have the same high-quality banners in your church that the Baptist State Convention of Michigan uses at their events?
Now you can.

Visit

www.groupimaging.com/MichiganBaptists
and choose from a variety of banners and sizes.
Order yours today!



World AIDS Day: Love sent to Africa in buckets

By LILY JAMESON
Baptist Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Rosemary opened up the five-gallon plastic bucket and pulled out gifts, including a set of new bed sheets. She clutched them to her chest. Her eyes filled with tears.

Rosemary wouldn't even let her visitors help her put the sheets on her mattress. She wanted to clean her entire house before spreading such a precious gift across her bed.

The bucket and its contents were delivered to Rosemary by CARE for AIDS in Kenya, a partner organization of Baptist Global Response (BGR). As organizations recognize World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, BGR focuses on people — like Rosemary — who fight HIV and AIDS every day while trying to care for families.

In the past two years, BGR has sent nearly 6,000 hospice kits, as

part of The Bucket Project, to African countries for distribution to sick and terminally ill people and their caregivers. The kits contain items that enhance patients' comfort and improve their caretakers' abilities to tend to them. These simple items include bed sheets, socks, petroleum jelly, vitamins and lip balm — all packed neatly into buckets.

Duncan Kimani, Kenyan director of CARE for AIDS, said clients have loved each part of the kit, right down



Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers help unload hospice buckets Nov. 10 at Living Hope Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. In November, Baptist churches throughout the state delivered 1,458 pre-packed buckets to the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, held in Bowling Green.

to its packaging.

"The bucket itself has been received very well because they use the bucket [for] storage," he said. "They store water or other food stuff, like grain ... basically everything included in the buckets has been received very well."

Churches and individuals from all over the United States donate their time and money to purchase and prepare these kits for shipment. BGR then partners with organizations like the International Mission Board and CARE for AIDS to distribute the kits to people in Sub-Saharan Africa, where 24.7 million people lived with HIV in 2013, according to the World Health Organization.

In November, Baptist churches throughout the state of Kentucky delivered 1,458 pre-packed buckets to the Kentucky Baptist Convention (KBC) Annual Meeting, held in Bowling Green, Ky.

"[It's important] to help relieve suffering of those who are at the last stages of their lives," Paul Chitwood, KBC executive director, said.

Kentucky churches donated more than 2,000 buckets to BGR earlier in the year and, this fall, Chitwood said he challenged them to pack more for the annual meeting. He set a goal for

those churches to send 800 buckets to the event, but they nearly doubled that amount.

Chitwood said he saw this successful bucket drive as a way for his convention to be a part of BGR's mission.

"We are very grateful for Baptist Global Response and see just tremendous opportunity for Southern Baptists across the state conventions to be able to minister in areas of need," he said.

Lori Funderburk, director of the Bucket Project, said Baptist churches in Missouri have also undertaken a similar challenge. State leadership set a goal to produce 5,000 hospice kits in 2015.

Now, on World AIDS Day, BGR asks Southern Baptists to take a moment to pray for those around the world who live with a disease that warrants these buckets. It also asks them to thank God for the people, organizations and churches who are willing to donate, pack, ship and deliver hospice kits to patients who need them.

Lily Jameson writes for Baptist Global Response. Information about the hospice kits project can be found online at https://gobgr.org/projects/project_detail/hospice-kits. ■

THE GIFT

WHERE DOES IT GO? WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

Your gift, which is comprised of your tithes (10% of what God provides) and offerings above your tithes, is given to the Lord through your local church. This puts love in action.

Your local church utilizes the greatest portion of your gift for numerous programs, ministries, and missions.

Your state convention is the first stop as your church commits part of your gift to reaching people through the Cooperative Program (CP). The state convention uses a portion of your gift to put love in action through a wide assortment of ministries and missions.

State conventions forward part of your gift to the Southern Baptist Convention. Your gift equips future pastors, missionaries and other ministry leaders in six SBC seminaries, empowers missions in North America (North American Mission Board) and international missions (International Mission Board), and enables you to address social and moral concerns and their impact on your family through the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC).

A waiting world hears and responds to the Gospel, thanks to your gift.

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

IMB's Platt unfolds five-point strategy

By TESS RIVERS

Baptist Press

OLIVE BRANCH, Miss. (BP) — IMB President David Platt outlined his five-point strategic plan while presiding over his first trustee meeting as head of the mission agency. In a plan based on five biblical goals which have led to four practical steps and three initial recommendations, Platt offered two important reminders to reach one all-consuming goal: glorifying God.

Platt's five biblically based goals for IMB are: exalting Christ, mobilizing Christians, equipping the church, facilitating church planting and "playing our part in completing the Great Commission," he explained to trustees during Nov. 6-7 meetings in Olive Branch, Mississippi.

"Missions is not our life. Christ is our life," Platt said. "I want to lead us to love Him, to enjoy Him ... and to exalt Him among all peoples."

These desires led Platt to identify four practical steps to lead the organization, including shaping culture, streamlining strategy, simplifying structure and solidifying leadership.

"We're working and pleading for God to raise up multitudes of workers," Platt said. "And when He does — and I believe He's doing it now — we don't want to have a small funnel that people have to squeeze through to be involved with IMB in getting the Gospel to the nations."

Instead, Platt said, "we want to simplify our structure to set the sails for the wind of God to blow His people to the world."

As a result, Platt brought three personnel recommendations to IMB trustees — two requiring a vote — describing the moves as "high-level, 40,000-foot decisions" designed to "set the stage" for subsequent decisions in the days to come.

First, IMB trustees approved Sebastian Traeger, an innovator and entrepreneur based in Washington, D.C., to serve as the agency's executive vice president. Traeger, 40, is an elder at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., and author of the book, "The Gospel at Work." He will replace Clyde Meador, 69, who has served in the role since July 2003. Meador will continue to serve on the IMB leadership team as executive advisor to the president.

Trustees also voted to approve Zane Pratt, 57, as vice president for global training. Pratt, who currently serves with IMB as theological education strategist for Asia, has 21 years of IMB missions' experience. From 2011-13, Pratt also served as dean and associate professor of Christian missions at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Proven leaders

Traeger, who earned a bachelor's degree in politics from Princeton University, brings a wide

variety of skills and experience to the position of executive vice president, including ministry awareness, proven leadership ability, organizational acumen, financial competence and strategic experience, Platt told trustees.



IMB president David Platt unfolds his five-point progressive strategy in a meeting with IMB trustees Nov. 6-7 in Olive Branch, Miss. (IMB Photo by Paul W. Lee)

As an entrepreneur, business professional and management consultant, Traeger has co-founded, built and sold several companies, including Village Phone, which launched mobile services in rural developing communities in El Salvador; Christianity.com, a self-publishing platform for Christian organizations; Razoo.com, a crowd-funding site that leverages small acts of charity to support a variety of causes; and Five Street, Inc., which provides lead management software to the residential real estate industry.

In addition, Platt said, Traeger "stands on strong biblical, theological foundations that inform a healthy understanding of the local church, global mission and every Christian's involvement in both."

Traeger, who accepted Christ as his personal Savior as a 6-year-old boy, also credits his Princeton involvement in Campus Crusade for Christ and Athletes in Action as significant milestones in his spiritual development. Since 1996, he has been a member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, D.C., where he currently serves as a Sunday School teacher and elder. He and his wife Nikki have three children, ages 6, 5 and 3.

"I am honored and privileged to be asked to serve in this role," Traeger said. "It's amazing how God has providentially given me the capabilities and the experiences to do this work."

Specifically, Traeger said he believes his experience with leading innovation and his focus on "doing all things with excellence as unto the Lord" will prove helpful as Platt seeks to bring new models to the 169-year-old organization.

"As David starts to lead the organization with a vision for raising up more missionaries, forming more teams and incorporating more professionals, I can see how my experiences as an innovator will be helpful," Traeger said. "All my work is for the King, and I'm humbled and excited by my assign-

ment with IMB, where I can put my hand to the plow in serving David, our staff and our workers on the field."

As Traeger steps into the role of executive vice president, Meador will move into a new posi-

tion as executive advisor to the president. Meador had discussed transitioning away from IMB to a new area of ministry upon the arrival of a new president, but Platt asked him to wait.

"I want and need the kind of biblical, missiological, experiential and personal wisdom that exists in Clyde Meador," Platt said, acknowledging that he expects Meador to speak into "every decision that is made, every change that is considered, and every step that is taken."

Focus on training

Platt recommended creating the new position of vice president of global training to oversee IMB training efforts. Platt endorsed Pratt to fill the role based on "a unique combination of extensive missions experience alongside deep theological acumen."

"I want to make sure that everything we are and everything we do is grounded in the rock solid foundations of God's Word," Platt said. "I want God's Word to drive what we believe and how we operate, the message we proclaim and the methods we use to proclaim it."

Other business

In other business, IMB trustees:

- Welcomed 63 new missionaries, who were recognized in a special appointment service Sunday, Nov. 9, at First Baptist Church Olive Branch.
- Approved the 2015 Fiscal Resources Strategy Plan at a budget of \$301,100,000 as presented by David Steverson, IMB treasurer and vice president of finance.
- Received the 2013 Annual Personnel Report from Dickie Nelson, associate vice president of global personnel, who noted that at 3.8 percent, missionary attrition reached its lowest level in 15 years. The average 15-year attrition rate for IMB is 4.8 percent. The national average for non-profit agencies is about 16 percent.
- Received the 2014 Annual Statistical Report, which summarizes the work of Southern Baptist missionaries and their overseas ministry partners in 2013. More than 1.7 million people heard a Gospel witness in 2013. Of those, more than 274,000 became believers and more than 190,000 were baptized. Missionaries and local believers with whom they partner started more than 13,000 new churches.
- Heard specific reports from strategy leaders serving around the world about the progress of the Gospel in their areas.

The next trustee meeting will be Feb. 24-25, 2015, in Houston, Texas.

Tess Rivers is an IMB writer. ■

First-Person: Should churches have stand-and-greet times?



THOM S. RAINER
President, LifeWay

NASHVILLE (BP) — I conducted a Twitter poll (not scientific, I assure you) asking first-time church guests what factors made them decide not to return. In listing the top 10 in order of frequency (<http://thomrainer.com/2014/11/01/top-ten-ways-churches-drive-away-first-time-guests>), I was surprised that the number one issue guests don't

like is a time to stand and greet one another.

So what is it about a stand-and-greet time that many guests don't like?

Here are the several of the most common — although, again, unscientific — responses, listed in order of frequency.

1. Many guests are introverts. "I would rather have a root canal than be subjected to a stand and greet time."

2. Some guests perceive the members are not sincere during the time of greeting. "In most of the churches it should be called a stand and fake it time. The members weren't friendly at all except for ninety seconds."
3. Many guests don't like the lack of hygiene that takes place during this time. "Look, I'm not a germaphobe, but that guy wiped his nose right before he shook my hand."
4. Many times the members only greet other members. "I went to one church where no one spoke to me the entire time of greeting. I could tell they were speaking to people they already knew."
5. Both members and guests at some churches perceive the entire exercise as awkward. "Nowhere except churches do we have times that are so awkward and artificial. If members are going to be friendly, they would be friendly at other times as well. They're not."

6. In some churches, the people in the congregation are told to say something silly to one another. "So the pastor told us to tell someone near us that they are good looking. I couldn't find anyone who fit that description, so I left and didn't go back."
7. Not only do some guests dread the stand and greet time, so do some members. "I visited the church and went through the ritual of standing and greeting, but many of the members looked just as uncomfortable as I was. We were all doing a required activity that none of us liked."

There are strong comments at the post on both sides of the issue of whether a stand-and-greet time is helpful in reaching guests — enough to prompt churches to ask themselves whether it's effective in their community.

Relationships: the church's key to mental health

BY KEN SARTAIN

Special to the Baptist Beacon

"When I was diagnosed with depression, I felt as though I finally understood why I felt alone," said one man, after seeking help from his doctor. "However, I still was afraid of telling anyone in my church about my condition because of the fear of being ostracized, which made my depression even more desperate."

This story is one that could be told throughout Baptist churches: people with non-severe mental health issues that are unsure of their ability to tell someone in their church about their condition. What makes the story of this young man even more alarming is that he is the pastor.

One in four Americans suffers from some kind of mental illness in any given year, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Many look to their church for spiritual guidance in times of distress, but they're unlikely to find much help on

Sunday mornings.

SBC entities are highlighting the importance of mental health ministry in response to a motion at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The motion also prompted Frank S. Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, to name an advisory group to gather suggestions for him about ways Southern Baptists can more effectively minister to people with mental health challenges.

Members of the Mental Health Advisory Group (MHAG) include pastors, licensed counselors, health-care providers, educators, social workers, and a military chaplain. They represent churches, private practices, parachurch ministries, state conventions and national SBC entities. Many members of the group have dealt with mental health challenges within their own families in addition to their professional experience.

The intent of the MHAG is to determine what — if anything — is

being done in Baptist churches to address the stigma of mental health inside the congregation. This includes the question of mental health-friendly churches — is the local church open to someone simply mentioning they have experienced an issue with anxiety or depression recently without any repercussions?

The MHAG has set up a survey that asks five questions to determine the extent of the existing ministries that focus on mental health within Baptist churches. The survey results will be used to explore innovative ways in which churches can address this increasingly prevalent issue with an eye toward awareness, not treatment, at the local church level.

A recent study revealed that engaging in healthy relationships can mitigate symptoms for someone with non-severe mental health issues. For every healthy relationship fostered, medication can be lowered by one milligram.

In his book *Outliers*, Malcolm

Gladwell tells an interesting story of a group of people who eventually migrate from Italy to upper Pennsylvania. The story, entitled "The Roseto Mystery," deals with the reason these people lived healthier lives than those around them.

Was it due to genealogy? Environment? That the reason for the amazing findings of virtually zero heart disease in people fifty-five and younger and the death rate from heart disease half that of the United States as a whole was this startling fact: the people of Roseto, Pennsylvania enjoyed healthy relationships!

Churches have the same opportunity to create healthy relationships. Christ calls us to be in a healthy relationship with Him and create healthy relationships in our homes and churches.

Ken Sartin is senior pastor of First Baptist Church, Hughson, Calif.

The MHAG's survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/83ST2KR> ■

● CLASSIFIEDS ●

Church Information Packets

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

Bi-vocational pastor needed

Alpine Village Baptist Church, Gaylord is seeking a married man who exhibits a spirit-filled lifestyle as part-time bi-vocational pastor to a congregation of approximately 25 active members. A bachelor's degree in religion is required, including a divinity degree with experience as a senior or associate pastor. Position provides health plus retirement fund and a housing allowance. Please submit résumé to pastoralsearch2014@gmail.com or mail to Alpine Village Baptist Church, 158 N. Townline, Gaylord, MI 49735.

Bi-vocational youth minister needed

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

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

Did You Know?

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

Ferguson crisis calls churches to 'unify and pray'

By ART TOALSTON
AND DIANA CHANDLER

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — The unfolding Ferguson saga calls churches to “unify and pray for our nation,”

the president of National African American Fellowship within the SBC, K. Marshall Williams, said in the hours after a grand jury reported its decision not to indict a white Missouri police officer in the shooting death of an 18-year-old African American.

“We need to be both an empathetic listening ear for the community and herald forth a prophetic voice for justice and compassion in a spirit of humility,” Williams, senior pastor of Nazarene Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Pa., said in a statement to Baptist Press, the Southern Baptist Convention’s news service.

The weeks-long crisis — from the Aug. 9 shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed teen, by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson to the grand jury report and a subsequent night of arson, violence and arrests in the St. Louis suburb — fueled Williams’ statement.

“In times like these, our love for God must manifest itself in tangible ways by love for one another and love for our neighbor,” Williams said. “The African American communities of this nation are our neighbor and right now we are hurting in ways which very few people groups in this nation have a historical reference point to appreciate,” he said, referencing eras in U.S. history when it seemingly was “safe to murder Negroes.”

“A radical obedience to the Gospel and an unflinchingly Christ-centered engagement of the age-old questions of whether we are our brother’s keeper is in order especially at this time,” Williams said. The church must be “a catalyst for unprecedented

revival and spiritual awakening in our land that will manifest itself in how we honor God, our Creator and the created of His creation.”

Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd, in a state-

peace to individuals in their communities who have been impacted by this tragedy,” said Floyd, pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas.

Fred Luter, the SBC’s immediate past president, told Baptist Press,

“The only way that the racial problem will be resolved in our country is to understand what really is the main problem. As my friend K. Marshall Williams, the current president of the National African American Fellowship, often says, ‘We do not have a SKIN problem in America, we have a SIN problem in America!’ And to that I say Amen!”

“Until lost men are changed on the inside, we cannot expect to see change on the outside,” said Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Luter acknowledged that “there are mixed emotions about the verdict in the Ferguson case across the

must trust the process and the legal system.

“The fact is, the only thing leaders can do to usher in peace is to speak in one voice that violence is not the way to deal with issues that you do not agree with,” Luter said. “The life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is a testimony of what can happen through nonviolent protest. A lot of the rights and privileges that African Americans enjoy to today is a direct result of the nonviolent protest of Dr. King and those who marched with him during the civil rights movement.”

Russell D. Moore, president of Southern Baptists’ Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, issued a statement shortly after the grand jury announcement around 8 p.m. Central Nov. 24 that Officer Wilson would not be indicted for killing Brown in an intense scuffle.

The country hasn’t yet “sorted through all the evidence the grand jury saw [to know] precisely what happened in this nightmarish incident,” Moore said. The Ferguson crisis, he said, “is one of several in just the past couple of years where white and black Americans have viewed a situation in starkly different terms.”

“In the public arena, we ought to recognize that it is empirically true that African-American men are more likely, by virtually every measure, to be arrested, sentenced, executed, or murdered than their white peers,” Moore said. “We cannot shrug that off with apathy” but must have “consciences that are sensitive to the problem.”

“But how can we get there when white people do not face the same experiences as do black people?” Moore asked in his statement. “... [W]e will need churches that are not divided up along carnal patterns of division — by skin color or ethnicity or economic status. We will need churches that reflect the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10) in the joining together of those who may have nothing else in common but the image of God, the blood of Christ, and the unity of the Spirit. When we know one another as brothers and sisters, we will start to stand up and speak up for one another.”

Moore wrote an extended commentary on the grand jury decision which can be accessed online at <http://www.russellmoore.com/?p=21324>.

Art Toalston is editor of Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention. Diana Chandler is BP’s general assignment writer/editor. ■



Numerous fires were set in Ferguson, Mo., following the decision Monday by a grand jury not to charge Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown. Protesters blocked highways and burned buildings and cars throughout the evening.
(Photo by Victor Miller)

ment to Baptist Press, said, “Only the Gospel of reconciliation through Jesus Christ can heal the broken in heart, bridge the racial divide that marks our society, and calm the passions that grip the human heart.”

“Our prayers continue for the



St. Louis County Police wrestle a demonstrator to the ground in Ferguson, Mo., following the decision Monday by a grand jury not to charge Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.
(Photo by Victor Miller)

Brown family and for the pastors and churches in the Ferguson, Mo., area and across the United States as they seek to minister the message of God’s

Southern Baptist Convention. However, because of the fact that none of us were in the courtroom to hear the testimony before the grand jury, we

DID YOU KNOW?

...**Springwells Avenue Baptist Church, Detroit**, is organizing a giveaway for coats and winter items? To participate, drop off items at the Greater Detroit Baptist Association office or contact pastor Kevin Clark at (248) 318-0957.

...**Victory Fellowship Community Church, Detroit**, held its first ever deacon ordination service on October 26? Three deacons were ordained.

...**Calvary Baptist Church, Southgate** held its annual "Merry Christmas With Love" celebration December 13-15? The church served desserts, hot chocolate, and coffee while the Calvary Choir and special guests Lorenzo Jackson and "Water Within" shared music.

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

- Staff Updates -

- The **Genesee Baptist Association** unanimously elected Jim Marcus as its Director of Missions? Marcus has previously

served the Baptist State Convention of Michigan as a Church Starter Strategist for Region 3, but the association will completely fund his new position.

- Upcoming Events -

- January 16-18, 2015: Men's Retreat featuring guest speaker Jim McNeil (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- January 30-February 1, 2015: "Rooted" Multi-associational Winter Youth Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- February 6-8, 2015: Men's Retreat featuring guest speaker Jim Wilson (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- February 20-22, 2015: "S3: Surrender, Sacrifice, Serve" Women's Winter Missions Retreat featuring guest speaker Eleanor Witcher (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- March 6-7, 2015: Men's Retreat featuring guest speaker Gary Miller (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)

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

Correction to the October *Baptist Beacon*

In our profile of Narrow Path Christian Biker Church in Eastpointe in our October issue, we incorrectly listed the church's location as Ypsilanti. The online edition of the *Beacon* was quickly corrected when the error was discovered, but the print version contained the error as it was not discovered until after press time.

The *Baptist Beacon* wishes to extend a sincere and heartfelt apology to Narrow Path Christian Biker Church and pastor Kevin Bruinsma for the error.

WEEK OF PRAYER

from page 6

Christians came each week to pray, sing praises to God and teach a Bible story. Maly came to Christ one year later. Sovaan remained a drunkard and gambled away the family's money ... but he kept watching and listening.

Maly and the other women wanted to bring their husbands to Christ. So, Potter incorporated lessons on "how to be a godly wife." Then, the women gathered every day, praying for their husbands to come to faith.

"Even up to four months ago, I didn't think we'd ever have any men in our small groups," Potter says. "But then, the husbands saw their wives' countenance change. They saw healthy babies where in the past there was only death ... and that provided a natural presentation of the Gospel from their wives."

Then, one by one, the men came to Christ — including Sovaan.

William Potter says, "We are seeing baptisms almost every month now. Most (churches) started as a result of the pregnancy health classes and local believers going out and sharing the Gospel."

Sovaan breaks out into a big toothy smile. Jesus is now his favorite topic of conversation. In fact, he and Maly just finished inviting everyone in the village to come to their house for church. At a T4T training, they were challenged to share with neighbors.

"I learned about the Words and Truths of God at the training," Sovaan says. "Now, it's our turn to take this lesson and teach to the people in our village ... then we will go share in the next village."

**Name changed.*

Susie Rain is an IMB writer/editor living in Asia. ■

2015 SBC ANNUAL MEETING

COLUMBUS, OHIO
JUNE 16-17



For more information and to register for these activities, visit www.sbcannualmeeting.net



PRE-SCHOOL CHILD CARE for children birth through kindergarten will once again be provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Childcare Teams Sunday through Wednesday. Registration for all children/youth events will open in February at www.sbcannualmeeting.net.



YOUTH CONFERENCE INTERNATIONAL will again provide activities for children ages 5-12 on Sunday and Monday during the SBC Pastors' Conference.

CHILDREN IN ACTION for those children who have completed grades 1-6 and **YOUTH IN ACTION** for those children who have completed grades 7-12 will be provided again by WMU Tuesday and Wednesday.

REGISTRATION PRE-REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY



HOTEL RESERVATIONS can still be secured by going to www.sbcannualmeeting.net

BAY ASSOCIATION	October CP	October Designated	YTD CP	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,281.00	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	83.34	0.00	1,799.89
				CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	295.90	0.00	3,072.62	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
				DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	44.09
				EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	240.00	0.00	240.00
				EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	438.54	325.00	15,969.08	LEGACY	270.16	0.00	1,360.85
				FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	0.00	LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
				FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	6,565.88	0.00	74,343.65
				FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	10.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
				FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	210.00	0.00	840.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	609.02	0.00	7,097.20
				FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	17,814.68	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	80.00
				GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
				HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,000.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	280.00	200.00
			HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	137.00	141.00	1,698.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	0.00	0.00	675.00	
			HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,252.00	624.00	20,072.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	300.00	
			LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	96.00	10.00	863.00	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	1,350.00	1,728.00	2,970.00	
			LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	52.00	0.00	401.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	356.86	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	684.00	
			MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00	
			NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00	THE CITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	25.00	
			NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	721.84	0.00	9,286.42	TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	359.00	0.00	3,089.36	
			ONELIFE CHURCH	327.60	0.00	1,093.47	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	
			OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,000.00	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	375.00	
			SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	4,500.00	
			THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	100.00	Total:	11,455.46	2,313.00	127,156.48	
			THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	231.25					
			THE POTTER'S WHEEL	286.02	0.00	2,349.78					
			WESTSIDE CHURCH	812.00	206.00	8,396.00					
			Total:	5,561.38	1,306.00	96,478.35					
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION											

2013-2014 Cooperative Program Allocation Budget

This allocation budget represents anticipated gifts forwarded to the SBC.

\$191,500,000



Cooperative Program—The Heart of Southern Baptist Missions and Ministries

LENDALE ASSOCIATION			
CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	430.81	0.00	2,500.30
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	228.88	0.00	1,417.89
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	2,104.08	301.00	17,830.92
NEW DAY/NUOVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	615.39
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	301.31	0.00	3,461.66
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	32.20	133.00	467.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	400.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total:	3,497.28	434.00	28,968.16

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION			
ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,187.30
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	500.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	273.20	0.00	4,789.42
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	761.69	485.00	7,928.53
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	70.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,620.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	550.13	0.00	2,172.77
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY	100.00	0.00	100.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	2,412.86	0.00	26,230.33
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,471.76
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	2,502.35	120.02	8,146.75
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	448.14	0.00	2,278.82
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	228.30	0.00	2,784.70
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	0.00	0.00	399.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	538.86	0.00	7,253.81
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	481.45
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.37
HMONG PONTIAC BAPTIST MISSION	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	2,700.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,898.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,249.00	0.00	15,063.00
LAKEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,446.27	0.00	15,659.32
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	17,082.42
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,217.33
LIFE RECOVERY CHURCH	56.00	0.00	56.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	1,791.25	0.00	16,534.80
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,656.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	221.01	0.00	2,449.96
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	218.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	125.00	0.00	1,200.00
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	1,969.00	1,685.00	18,999.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	326.73	238.54	2,671.98
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	1,200.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	450.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	11,803.75
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	250.00
THE CHURCH CONNECTION	195.44	275.00	2,562.61
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	50.00	0.00	350.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	983.47	1,077.00	2,983.47
Total:	16,878.70	3,880.56	194,970.99

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION			
AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	225.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	114.09	0.00	997.48
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	814.13	10.00	1,522.53
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	399.26	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - EMPIRE	0.00	125.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	75.00	50.00	675.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	0.00	180.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	250.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	300.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	428.37	0.00	5,234.02
Total:	1,451.59	584.26	9,384.03



PINES ASSOCIATION			
ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	57.15	0.00	1,194.45
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	97.39	0.00	861.31
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	50.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	110.52	150.00	926.49
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	93.08	0.00	185.86
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	634.39
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	137.56	0.00	832.84
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	150.95	0.00	1,924.76
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	406.29
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	521.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	351.52	0.00	1,629.11
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	224.00	845.00	2,126.50
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	1,222.17	995.00	11,293.00

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION			
AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	50.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	217.67	0.00	2,961.73
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	904.17	0.00	8,724.10
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	0.00	0.00	4,476.56
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	0.00	0.00	542.00
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	310.87	0.00	1,875.55
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	554.68	1,689.00	7,617.87
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKEVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,923.96
LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	147.87	0.00	1,269.94
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	902.50
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	938.56
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	588.62
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	734.00	0.00	2,895.89
Total:	2,869.26	1,689.00	34,767.28

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION			
AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	451.00	113.00	3,517.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,090.90

CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	1,308.37	275.31	15,126.15
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	180.00	0.00	2,877.00
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	298.92	0.00	2,328.93
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	244.45	0.00	2,729.70
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	48.31	0.00	1,031.66
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
LAKEVIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	500.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	510.10	700.00	4,409.05
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	4,428.09	3,382.06	91,737.90
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	409.67
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total:	7,519.24	4,470.37	127,857.96

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION			
BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	153.00	0.00	987.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	45.00	55.00	596.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	563.00	405.00	5,564.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	48.12	0.00	695.53
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	39.16	0.00	497.50
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	1,350.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	0.00	0.00	2,165.39
Total:	948.28	460.00	11,855.42

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION			
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	0.00	0.00	1,701.24
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	122.78	0.00	2,225.69
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	60.60	0.00	560.60
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	91.70	0.00	1,043.49
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	406.13	304.00	4,873.18
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	126.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	806.00	0.00	8,023.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	191.94	0.00	1,937.22
Total:	1,679.15	304.00	20,490.42

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION			
ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH - HOLLAND	0.00	0.00	0.00
ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	420.00	0.00	1,700.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	72.66
FIRST KOREAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	0.00	117.00	2,520.01
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA DE ALLENDALE	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERTOWN COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	0.00	300.00
Total:	450.00	117.00	6,092.67

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL			
FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	581.50	0.00	8,235.82
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	0.00	0.00	200.00
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,934.01
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	3,137.10	1,843.00	34,979.61
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
Total:	3,718.60	1,843.00	45,449.44
Grand Total:	85,988.43	27,147.81	982,015.29





BAPTIST STATE
CONVENTION of
MICHIGAN



@MichiganSBC



@BaptistBeacon

Michigan Baptists (for all Michigan Baptists)

Michigan Ministers (for Michigan Ministers ONLY)

www.MichiganBaptists.org

December 2014

Volume 58, Number 12

Michigan's Baptist Beacon

YOUR IMPACT THROUGH THE LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®



(The figures above are taken from the 2012 Annual Statistical Report; data as of 12/31/11. For up-to-date statistics, go to public.imb.org/globalresearch.)