



# Baptist **BEACON**

*Newsjournal for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan*

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

Volume 59, Number 10

[www.MichiganBaptists.org](http://www.MichiganBaptists.org)

October 2015

FOR  
THE

# PRIZE



philippians 3:14

## **The 58th Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan**

November 6-7, 2015

Faith Baptist Church

Battle Creek, MI



# Baptist BEACON

**Youth Evangelism  
Conference scheduled  
for November**

*Statewide student event coming to  
Flushing*

**Michigan Deaf Baptists  
celebrate 35 years**

*47 attended a recent gathering of the  
Michigan Baptist Conference of the  
Deaf at Bambi Lake*

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## 2015 Annual Meeting to be held in Battle Creek

By JONATHAN GUENTHER  
*Managing Editor*

**BATTLE CREEK** — The 58th Annual Meeting of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan is scheduled for November 6-7, 2015 at Faith Baptist Church in Battle Creek.

This year's Annual Meeting will feature music from JT Tarter and the CrossPointe Church Worship Team and messages from Executive Director Tim Patterson and President Chuck Turner.



The Annual Meeting offers a time to celebrate church starting, strengthening, and sending, as well as reports from Send Detroit, the North American Mission Board, the International Mission Board, and SBC President Ronnie Floyd. A proposed new Constitution will be considered in addition to allowing proposed motions from messengers.

Hotels in the area include Baymont Inn & Suites, Fairfield Inn, Hampton Inn, Holiday Inn, and Courtyard by Marriott. ■

The following persons have agreed to serve during the 58th Annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention meeting:

- Parliamentarians — George Fountain and Larry Allen
- Time, Place and, Preacher Team — Herb Harbaugh, Chairperson, Tony Lynn and Dan Wilkinson
- Resolutions Team — Bob Wood, Chairperson, Jon Beard and Herschel Smith
- Graduates to Glory Team — Jimmy Jones, Chairperson, Sharon Fishell-Greer, and Jim Marcus
- Tellers Team — David Roberts, Chairperson, Tom Tengler, Brian Jones, Mike Elsey, John Coin and Chad Wells

— BSCM President Chuck Turner

## RA camp ensues despite weather challenges

By MARY LOU HALL  
*Baptist Beacon*

**BRIGHTON** — Chris Smyser, the state's Royal Ambassador Liaison, had the RAs from across the state primed and ready to go. Tents, supplies and camping gear were being loaded onto the buses for the statewide RA and Challenger Missions Adventure Camp, scheduled for August 3-7.

Don Fellows, also of Garden City's Merriman Road Baptist Church, noted on his Facebook page that weather would be in the high 70s with the possibility of rain on Monday and Tuesday. Smyser answered, "That's the kind of weather I'm talk-

ing about!"

While the weather was picture perfect at loading time, the day before experienced powerful thunderstorms and winds throughout much of northern Michigan, Roscommon County included. The high winds caused trees to topple over.

Hail the size of baseballs and golf balls were reported. Power outages occurred in many areas.

The Bambi Lake Retreat and Conference Center was no exception. An unfortunate call came in from Bambi Lake staff; camp was canceled due to power outages with no idea of when it would be restored.

Decisions had to be made quickly.

Smyser met with the staff, recalling of the meeting, "We came to the conclusion that camp had to go on as scheduled; we just needed a new location."

The staff went into action, and after a few calls the campers were able to set up at Kensington Metro Park in Brighton.

"The fact that we were able to locate a campground, purchase all the food needed for the week, and have approximately 40 in attendance by 4:00 p.m. that same day is definitely a show of God's power to see His mission through," Smyser said. "None of this would have been possible without His help."

The theme for this year's camp was "Clues to God's Existence," perhaps fitting given the provision the campers found in the weather challenges.

At the camp, campers learned basic and advanced survival skills using the royal Ambassador Camp craft manual. They were taught how to tie knots, how to construct camp structures using these knots, how to build a fire and cook over the fire, basic first aid and CPR, field sanitation, nature study, map and compass reading, conservation study, archery, swimming, and hiking.

For Michigan RAs and Challengers, camp concluded a summer that started with the annual RA and Challenger Congress held in May. This year's RA and Challenger Congress met at Tecumseh Missionary Baptist Church and Tecumseh High School and was the largest group to date.

"[Congress] is a way for boys across the state to compete against each other in track and field events, along with a pinewood derby," Smyser said.

Smyser is passionate about Royal Ambassadors. He desires to see more churches involve boys, young men, and adult men in this program.

"These boys and young men must learn early and constantly about missions and the mission field if we are to ever expect them to take over in the future," Smyser said. "They are the future of missions and missions support groups." ■



The 2015 RA and Challenger Missions Adventure Camp was moved from Bambi Lake to Kensington Metro Park in Brighton due to a power outage in northern Michigan. (Photo courtesy of Facebook / Merriman Road Baptist Church)

# Youth Evangelism Conference scheduled for November

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
Managing Editor

FLUSHING — Students from across Michigan are invited to attend the 2015 Youth Evangelism Conference, an annual statewide weekend youth retreat. This year's YEC is scheduled for November 20-21 at Westside Church in Flushing.

The weekend event, which begins on a Friday evening and continues all day Saturday, offers a chance for students to gather in four worship sessions and serve local ministries through missions. The event will focus on 2 Timothy 4:7 using the theme "Strong to the Finish: Finish the Race, Keep the Faith."

"It's going to be a great time this year as we come together to let God strengthen us to finish strong," said Ed Emmerling, Michigan's Youth Evangelism Consultant and organizer

of the event. "There will be awesome music, worship, sharing, preaching, and ministry."

Ed Newton, a Florida evangelist and teaching faculty member of Student Leadership University in Orlando, is the event's guest speaker.

"[Newton] combines sound biblical truth, insight into the Word, [and] humor to make his teachings attractive and effective," Emmerling said. "This combination allows him to not only evangelize those outside the church but also deepen the faith of students all over America."

The event also offers an opportunity for students to receive Christ as Savior during the worship sessions.

"YEC is such a great time of celebration because each year we have several students accept Jesus as personal Lord and Savior," pastor Brandon Reynolds said of the 2014 Youth Evangelism Conference.



This year's event will feature Matt Wagner, worship pastor at Westside Church, leading worship, but will also include other area worship leaders Dan Dameron and Bud

Rednower.

"Matt is a passionate worship leader who works with many musicians to lead students and adults alike in worship," Emmerling said. "Their musical talent and passion for Christ is contagious as they serve their God."

Students will also have recreation time at the Genesys Athletic Club, offering basketball, tennis, squash, racquetball, track, and ping-pong.

"YEC 2015 is going to have an incredible rec time with the addition of Bubble Ball Games," Emmerling said.

Students are also invited to collect and bring winter coats for children, blankets, hats, and gloves to share with people in need.

"I bring our youth every year to YEC because I love to get them involved in the mission project," Tammy Tipton, a youth leader, said.

"I loved coming to YEC because the music was awesome," student Bryce Willingham said of last year's YEC. "It seemed Ed Newton, the speaker, was speaking right to me."

For more information, a list of nearby hotels, the event schedule, and event registration, visit the YEC website at [yecmi.com](http://yecmi.com). ■



Matt Wagner leads students in worship at the 2014 Youth Evangelism Conference. Wagner will return to lead worship at the 2015 event as well. (Submitted photo)

## THE BAPTIST BEACON

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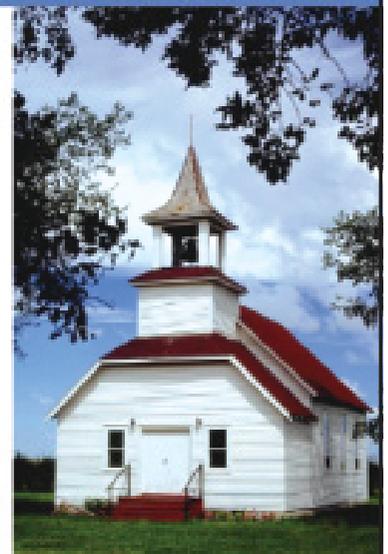
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## CHURCH UPDATE

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else that you'd like to share with  
our convention of churches.

Send updates  
about your  
church to:

[beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org)



# Philippine Retreat celebrates 30 years of camping at Bambi Lake

BY NANCY MIRANDA

Special to the Baptist Beacon

ROSCOMMON — Bambi Lake is a special place for anyone who has experienced the annual retreat camp of Philippine International Churches of Metro Detroit and Windsor, Canada.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of family camping, with over 200 people joining together from six churches to commemorate and celebrate this milestone. Campers were given a treat walking down memory lane through home videos of camping past.

Guest speaker Dr. Roy Z. Verzosa challenged campers with 2 Timothy 2:15, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (NIV), and attendees explored the principles and guidelines on how to study the Word of God accurately and preach ad-



The 2015 Philippine Family Camping trip marked the 30th consecutive year of six Detroit-area Philippine churches gathering together at Bambi Lake. (Submitted photo)

equately.

Attendees also enjoyed a time of relaxation. Friendly competition of basketball, sand volleyball, and parlor games gave those in attendance

a chance to practice teamwork and catch up.

The camp gave members of Philippine churches a chance to share testimonies of faith that would be

otherwise left unknown in solitude. It has served as a place for the six Detroit-area Philippine churches to gather together throughout its 30-year history. ■

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# How God turns up the volume



**TIM PATTERSON**  
Executive Director/  
Treasurer

**How God Turns Up The Volume**  
Some people are lucky, some see themselves as fortunate, but I am blessed.

The idea of blessing has the hand of God as its source. God has blessed me in a myriad of ways but especially with the woman that God has given me as my wife.

God knew who and what I needed far in advance of what my finite mind could conjure. He knew the personality she would need to deal with all of my eccentricities and flaws.

He also knew that she would have to possess a loving and forgiving spirit because of all the unconditional love she would have to show me and the almost unlimited forgiveness that she would need to offer me on a daily basis.

I know that there is not a perfect wife out there but mine comes as close to perfection as any could come. She is kind, thoughtful and giving.

In fact, her motivational gift is that of giving and she exercises that gift very well. She is always surprising me with wonderful gifts on special occasions.

Several years ago she discovered and purchased for me an antique Victrola Phonograph that I now display in my office at the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. It is a beautiful piece of machinery and a very nice representation of the craftsmen furniture makers of the time. It was built in 1904 and still works beautifully as it spins and plays those thick 78rpm recordings.

It amazes me that every aspect of the sound reproduction that the Victrola provides comes from entirely mechanical means. There is no electricity or use of electronics to reproduce and amplify the sound. The genius of Mr. Edison's invention is that an individual storing up kinetic energy when a spring is wound up and then released provides the only power that is required.

Opening or closing louvers or doors controls the volume in a phonograph. It is a simplistically ingenious machine, and for its time it was cutting-edge technology.

Today the recording, reproduction, and amplification of sound are not even in the same realm as the old phonographs. Today, the power of electrical currents are transformed and channeled through a maze of electronic wizardries to provide us with sounds that can mimic anything in nature and can be amplified in such magnitude that hundreds of thousands of listeners can hear a recording at one time. Phonographs could scarcely allow the listeners in one room the pleasure of music.

From the early phonographs to our present electronic marvels, power has been used to increase the volume of song. Power, whether provided by the turning of a human arm or by the turning of electric turbines powered by nuclear reactors, is what brings the music to our ears and increases the quality of the song. Power is invaluable if the song is to be heard.

In our lives each of us has a song to sing — a song of hope and love, a song of faith and forgiveness, a song of grace and mercy. The songs that we hold in our hearts are as varied as the souls that possess them, but if others are to hear them, at times the volume and quality of

the song must be increased.

I have found that God uses the power of pain to accomplish that. God uses pain in our lives to “crank up” the volume of the song so that others may hear how, even in the midst of our difficulties and our disasters, God's faithfulness and mercy still resounds in our souls. I know of few things in our lives that cause me to become melodic more than having come through great pain and finding God's grace on the other side.

Pain in our lives draws the attention and ear of those around us because all of mankind is keenly aware that we all have or will experience pain. Mental pain, emotional pain, physical pain, spiritual pain, and pains too numerous to mention. These are the lot of humanity.

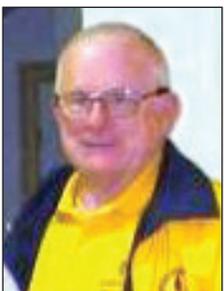
So when someone sings on the other side of pain, folks take notice. Not only do they notice but we notice as well that the volume seems higher and the quality greater than before the experience.

Many today have only experienced the song of a primitive phonograph kind of pain, but if God is good and gracious to you it may be your privilege that He allows you to experience the kind of pain that produces a volume and quality of song that comes from a high-fidelity, surround sound kind of pain.

Right now you may be going through some of the most difficult times of you life. Right now the pain may be unbearable.

Just remember, on the other side is a song from your soul that has increased in volume and quality. It will be a song you will love to sing and a song that others will long to hear. Just crank up the volume. ■

## Disaster Relief: Let's proclaim the victory



**WIN WILLIAMS**  
State Disaster Relief  
Director

In August 2014, a 90-year-high rainfall hit the tri-counties of Southeastern Michigan — Wayne, Oakland and Macomb — causing the largest disaster in our country for 2014. Over 120,000 homes were affected by the storm.

Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief offered our help and the City of Warren accepted our offer. We did mud-out in over 400 homes in Warren and the surrounding cities.

We had help come from our NAMB partners from 14 different state conventions. God used our efforts in a tremendous way.

Michigan Southern Baptist Disaster Relief was invited to attend a Volunteer of the Year Award Show to be recognized. We were invited to attend the City of Warren's State of the City address by Mayor Faust to thank Southern Baptists and other groups for helping with their disaster.

We were then invited to attend a Warren City Council meeting to be recognized for our help and also to receive a check for almost \$15,000 that Warren businesses and residents donated.

We made a commitment to use the money to help Warren citizens rebuild their homes.

Almost a year after the disaster, our volunteers can go places in Warren with their gold shirts on and still have people come up and say, “Thank you.” What a blessing to serve Christ in a time of crisis!

In January, NAMB offered to help rebuild the tri-county area, especially since Detroit is a “Send City.” A fact-finding team began meeting in February and March to study the possibility and make the contacts. The southern boys discovered ‘Pure Michigan’ to be cold, cold, cold.

Meetings were held with the representatives from the state of Michigan; Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb Counties; the City of Detroit; the City of Warren; and our partners in



**Jerome Taylor**

@brojerome

Followers of Christ... we must be willing to bear the cross in this life before bear a crown in the next. #FollowJesus

**Mike Durbin**

@mikedurbin

“The environment around Jesus was like an airport terminal. Disciples were constantly coming and going.” from Transformational Church

**Dan Russell**

@pastordanrussel

When it seems like God couldn't care less, God couldn't care more.

**Jeff Buchholz**

@Jeff\_Buchholz

Be encouraged, the Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. Ps 34:18

**Eli Garza**

@EliGarza5

My wife and daughter suffered from reverse discrimination today. The sin of ethnic preference still lives. The church needs to be the light.

**Ken Leslie**

@kenleslie

Two things we can't do in heaven: A) Sin and B) Share Jesus. Which are we supposed to do on earth?

**Rob Freshour**

@robfreshour

“Of all the lies we tell, the lies we tell ourselves are the most destructive.”

– Carey Nieuwhof

# Doing the will of God in our generation



**TONY LYNN**  
State Director  
of Missions

Every time I read Acts 13:36, I grin. It says in the New Living Translation, “After David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body

decayed.”

What a humble life summary for a king: “his body decayed.” But did you catch the best part of the verse? “After David had done the will of God in his own generation.”

Wow, let that soak in. Isn’t that our hope, to do the will of God in our own generation?

As I begin my new assignment as the State Director of Missions, I will need your help to do the will of God in our own generation in two large ways.

First, I am inviting you to join me in prayer. I mean that. I want to pray with you one-on-one and in groups.

If we’re going to do the will of God then we need to discover the will of God. James Hudson Taylor, a British Protestant Missionary to China during the 17th century, said, “God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supply.”

As we start, strengthen, and send churches for Christ I want to continually soak our efforts in prayer. My hope is that we might feel the breath of God on our necks as He discloses His will, His ways, and His wealth to us.

On my birthday years ago, while serving as a missionary in Europe, I felt Southern Baptists praying for me in a focused way. As a result of their prayers, I delivered dozens of DVDs to Muslim immigrants who lived in an apartment building with my name, phone number, and personal address attached to the DVDs.

That risk transformed the way we

did missions for the remainder of our service. We saw immediate and lasting results because of prayer.

Second, I am asking you to visit with me. I want to hear your stories. I want to learn from your experiences.

During the ’90s, when I served as a missionary in Africa, I interviewed other missionaries who had been in the country long before my arrival. I asked two simple questions: “What mistakes did you make that you would never do again if you could start over?” and “What did you do that accelerated achieving your mission?”

The answers to those two questions guided my mission strategy in the past. Those two same questions will help us in our future, so please prepare your stories and your responses.

I want to hear from every ethnic and language group — from everyone. I want to hear from every area of Michigan — urban, suburban, and rural. Our conversations will help

us do the will of God in our own generation.

If these two subjects of prayer and conversation have resonated in your heart, I would love to have a conversation with you. Would you please share your points of contact with me?

You may email me at [tony@bscm.org](mailto:tony@bscm.org) or call Yolanda at (810) 714-1907 and she will collect your information so that I can connect with you. Please include with the email or call your name, email address, most reliable phone number, church affiliation, and city.

It was during the ’70s that a Southern Baptist Church in Swartz Creek, Michigan touched my generation and my life. God made use of a congregation of 45 people, led by a bivocational pastor, to change my destiny.

Let’s pray and discuss how we can do the will of God in our own generation. Will you join me? ■

## Continuing the state missions emphasis throughout the year



**SUE HODNETT**  
Women’s Ministry/  
WMU Consultant

This year, pressing on toward the goal “For The Prize” — based on Philippians 3:14 — is the theme for the Baptist State Convention of Michigan’s Annual Meeting and the state missions offering. While the BSCM emphasizes its Week of Prayer for State Missions and the Frances Brown State Mission Offering during the month of September, financial receiving for this special offering continues throughout the year.

The offering is named for Ms. Frances Brown, who came to Michigan in November of 1958 as the first Executive Secretary of Michigan Woman’s Missionary Union. Ms. Brown gave twenty years of superior leadership and furthered the cause of missions in Michigan, and her influence as a leader

guided Michigan Baptists to minister to many who did not know Christ as their Lord.

She provided encouragement and challenged churches to reach out and touch the lives of people in the state. Michigan was her mission field! Upon her retirement in April 1978, the BSCM named the state missions offering in her honor.

In addition to taking an offering, prayer guides are distributed statewide with information on prayer requests and needs in each of the ministry areas — church starting, strengthening, and sending.

The state missions offering supports the challenge to be willing to give time, money, and self to the cause of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ and provides additional resources to create a greater impact in reaching the Michigan area for Christ. The prayer focus helps to share awareness and encourage involvement.

The goal for the state missions offering is

\$75,000, which is divided to help in the ministries of Disaster Relief (20%), Men’s Ministries (10%), Women’s Ministries and WMU Missions Education (13%), support for Associations (38%), evangelism and leadership training (9%), and support staff salaries at Bambi Lake Conference and Retreat Center (10%).

Michigan Baptists believe there is great potential in our state. Gifts to the Frances Brown State Mission Offering will help to provide the funding needed to assist with staffing needs in our associations, Disaster Relief equipment for recovery projects, leadership development, evangelism materials, and mission education resources.

Is God calling you to be the leader from your church to help promote your State Missions Offering? Pray for God’s direction on how much to give to support Missions in Michigan! ■

## DISASTER RELIEF from page 4

Michigan Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters.

Our most responsive meeting was with the Mayor of Warren. His response was, “Welcome, Southern Baptists! What do you need and how can we help?”

He offered us 3 buildings — all under consideration — until the Fitzgerald School District offered an elementary school they had closed. The school is half a mile from the city limits of Detroit and I-75.

This location allows us to serve

the Tri-County area. It looked like it was closed on a Friday, the janitors cleaned it the next day on Saturday, and we moved in on the following Monday.

It is a blessing to see how God is blessing and opening doors for Southern Baptists. Witness opportunities are available because of the groundwork of others.

Mickey Caison, our Rebuild Coordinator, has done a tremendous job of meeting with the local officials and the point-of-contacts needed to

make this ministry happen in Warren and the tri-county area.

NAMB has sent materials needed, such as bunk beds, mattresses, shower units, and a command center. The school is ready for volunteers to start rebuilding Southeast Michigan from the flood of 2014.

The Southeast Michigan Flood Recovery Rebuild will only work if together we pray and together we give our time and energy. Rebuild is not only work for Disaster Relief volunteers but also college students

from our churches, youth groups and leaders who want to go on mission trips, adults, and senior adults wanting to be active for Christ and a part of missions.

To find out what you can do, how to get involved, project cost, housing information, and how to register, call the southeast Michigan Flood Recovery office at 770-410-6271 or email [MI\\_recovery@namb.net](mailto:MI_recovery@namb.net).

Keep your Disaster Relief volunteers in your prayers daily as they are serving as we write. ■

# IMB leaders announce plan to balance budget

By IMB Staff

*EDITOR'S NOTE: For additional information related to this story, see FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) released by the International Mission Board, which is included in full after this story.*

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — International Mission Board leaders have outlined a plan to address IMB's revenue shortfalls and complete a reset of the organization in order to move forward into the future with "innovative vision, wise stewardship and high accountability."

The plan was presented by senior IMB leadership, including President David Platt, during an Aug. 27 town hall meeting including missionaries and staff, who collectively attended either in person or through digital communication. IMB trustees were informed of the plan during their Aug. 25-26 board meeting in downtown Richmond, Va.

Platt said the urgency of the plan is based in the reality that while Southern Baptist giving through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering has increased in recent years, the IMB projects it will fall \$21 million short of its current annual budget, marking several consecutive years of budget shortfalls for the 170-year-old organization. Over the past six years, the organization's expenditures have totaled \$210 million more than has been given to it each year.

To address revenue shortfalls, IMB enacted a plan to slowly reduce the number of missionaries through normal attrition and limited appointments, while using IMB's reserves — including global property sales — to keep as many missionaries on the field as possible.

"We praise God for the reserves and property sales that made this possible and for leadership which chose to spend these resources for the spread of the Gospel," Platt said. "But we cannot continue to overspend. For the sake of short-term financial responsibility and long-term organizational stability we must act."

## Overcoming revenue shortfall

Sebastian Traeger, IMB's executive vice president, explained that senior leadership considered several options to overcome the revenue shortfall.

"The challenge is that we're looking at both large revenue shortfalls and low cash reserves — so any action needs to include a plan to address both simultaneously," Traeger said. "We consid-

ered multiple options — such as further reducing missionary appointments or liquidating additional property — but none of them bring about a balanced budget fast enough, or they are not feasible to implement in the short term. Our goal is to align our cost structure with the amount of money given to us each year."

Leadership determined the only option that is both feasible and has significant financial impact is to reduce the number of personnel it supports, since the vast majority of the IMB expenses are personnel related.

"If we are going to balance our budget, we must reduce approximately 600 to 800 of our staff and field personnel," Platt said, indicating that number represents up to 15 percent of IMB's total employees.

IMB leadership has decided the best way to reduce staff is to begin with a voluntary retirement incentive that will be offered to all eligible employees, including both missionaries and staff. While the parameters defining who is eligible are still being finalized, details of the incentive will be announced Sept. 10, 2015, and those eligible will be notified in the days following the announcement.

"Whether to accept the incentive is a voluntary decision completely up to the discretion of eligible individuals," Platt said. "This offers personnel who may already be considering a transition in their lives an opportunity to make that transition."

"We want to be as generous as possible, and we want to honor every brother or sister for his or her service. We know that taking a voluntary retirement incentive does not mean stepping onto the sidelines of mission, but moving into a new phase of involvement in mission."

IMB is sending approximately 300 new missionaries in 2015 and expects to send a comparable number in 2016.

As phase one of the plan (the voluntary retirement incentive) is being implemented, phase two of the plan will focus on concluding a reset of the organization. Platt said that phase would include consolidating support services, recalibrating mobilization, assessing global engagement and re-envisioning training.

He noted the organization must humbly and openly ask God, "What are you leading us to do?"

and individual employees must ask God, "What are you leading me to do?"

"We must get to a healthy place in the present in order to be in a healthy position for the future," Platt said. "We want to move forward with innovative vision, wise stewardship, and high accountability to the churches we serve, the peoples we reach, and the God we worship."

Frank S. Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, responded to the latest news of the budget shortfalls in a statement to Baptist Press, "I received this word from [IMB President] David [Platt] with deep sadness. Overseas missions is the heart of why the convention exists and receives more than 50 percent of our national CP Allocation Budget."

"This distressing news is the long-term consequence of reductions in Southern Baptist churches' percentage giving through the Cooperative Program during the 1990s and 2000s," Page said.

"It is imperative that this generation of Southern Baptist pastors and leaders reenergize this time-honored plan of giving that sparked IMB being the premier missions-sending force it was throughout the 20th century."

"The power of systematic, proportional giving from thousands of churches can turn this thing around for IMB and all our ministries," Page said.

*The International Mission Board has released a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) with extended information about budget adjustments announced today (Aug. 27) by the mission board. The full text follows.*

## FAQs related to IMB organizational reset

Q: What is the status of IMB finances?

A: Despite increased giving to the IMB over the last four years, the organization has consistently spent more money than it has received. For example, looking at the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, a goal of \$175 million was set for several years, but each year the amount received fell short. In 2014, IMB budgeted \$21 million more than it received, so it drew from contingency reserves and global property sales to cover the shortfall. Not only did IMB fall \$21 million short of budgeted revenue in 2014, but it also utilized global property sales to cover \$18 million of budgeted expenses.

See IMB BUDGET on page 7

## CLASSIFIEDS

### Church Information Packets

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

### Theological library items needed

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

### Bilingual pastor needed

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

### Bi-vocational pastor needed

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

### Did You Know?

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

### Bi-vocational pastor needed

Victory Baptist Church, Portage is searching for a bi-vocational pastor. Send résumés to [bfguydale2007@yahoo.com](mailto:bfguydale2007@yahoo.com) or Victory Baptist Church, 308 W Milham, Portage, MI 49024 or contact the chairman of deacons at (269) 655-6511 with any questions.

## IMB BUDGET from page 6

In total in 2014, the organization spent \$39 million more than it received. Since 2010, the organization has spent \$210 million more than it has received. Fortunately, with contingency reserves and global property sales, the organization has been able to cover these shortfalls each year.

**Q:** Hasn't Southern Baptists' giving through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program increased in recent years?

**A:** Yes. Over the last four years, Southern Baptists have seen increases in both the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering as well as Cooperative Program giving to the IMB.

**Q:** What has the IMB been doing to cover budgetary shortfalls? Could the same solution work for the 2016 budget?

**A:** IMB has been able to cover costs through reserves and property sales in the past. But this is not a long-term solution because IMB does not have an endless supply of properties, and there are many complexities involved with selling overseas property and repatriating the funds. Moreover, IMB is now close to depleting its reserves and must work to restore them to a more responsible level.

**Q:** Has the recent decline in missionary numbers helped cover the shortfall?

**A:** Yes. In 2009 the IMB hit a high mark of 5,600 missionaries on the field. Since then, missionary numbers have decreased to about 4,800. To address budgetary shortfalls, previous IMB leadership enacted a plan to slowly reduce the number of missionaries to 4,200 through normal attrition and limited appointments, while using IMB's reserves — including global property sales — to keep as many missionaries on the field as possible.

**Q:** Why didn't previous IMB leadership address these issues?

**A:** Previous leaders put in place a plan to slowly reduce the number of missionaries (through normal attrition and reduced appointments) while using reserves and global property sales to keep as many missionaries as possible on the field. This plan, however, is no longer sufficient to address IMB's immediate needs. Simply put, IMB cannot continue to overspend as we have. Furthermore,

IMB cannot continue to deplete its reserves.

**Q:** What is a financially sound level of contingency reserves for an organization like the IMB?

**A:** IMB leaders believe the organization needs to restore its contingency reserves to six months of its annual operating budget. By the end of 2015, the IMB will only have approximately four months of contingency reserves.

**Q:** What options have IMB leadership considered to resolve this financial crisis? What was decided?

**A:** IMB leaders have explored:

- Increased revenue
- Further reductions in missionary appointments
- Various modifications to IMB's support structure
- Additional liquidation of global properties
- Significant reduction in IMB's number of both missionaries and staff

The cost of personnel is approximately 80 percent of IMB's budget. IMB leadership believes the organization cannot arrive at short-term financial responsibility or long-term organizational sustainability without making a major adjustment in its number of missionaries and staff now. The other options may still be considered in the future.

**Q:** Will IMB continue to send new missionaries?

**A:** Yes. In 2015, approximately 300 will be sent, and in 2016, we anticipate sending a comparable number.

**Q:** What does a "major adjustment" to missionary and staff numbers mean?

**A:** The IMB plans to reduce the total number of missionaries and staff by 600-800 people — or approximately 15 percent of its total personnel. Currently, approximately 4,800 personnel serve as missionaries and 450 as staff.

**Q:** There's a big difference between 600 and 800 people. Which is it?

**A:** The "600" number represents the change IMB leadership has known the organization needs to make to reduce missionaries from 4,800 to 4,200. The "800" number is most likely a minimum, with the larger "800" number representing a more realistic picture of the reduction of missionaries and staff necessary to put IMB in a responsible and sustainable financial position.

**Q:** How is IMB leadership considering the spiritual foundations of this practical issue?

**A:** IMB leadership stated that while the issue at hand is obviously financial, it is ultimately spiritual. God is not surprised by these financial realities. He has reigned sovereign over the IMB for 170 years, and He will continue to reign sovereign over the IMB for years to come. God has reigned sovereign over the direction of each personnel's life to this point, and He will reign sovereign over these lives in the days to come. Because He is sovereign, IMB leadership encourages all of its personnel to seek Him, and ask Him how and where He is guiding each of them for the sake of His name. IMB leadership believes that, without question, God will continue to lead every one of its personnel on mission. It is expected that the 600-800

people who step aside from the IMB in the next six months will not be stepping "onto the sidelines of mission," but instead will be moving into a new phase of involvement in mission.

**Q:** What is IMB's plan for reducing the number of missionaries and staff to balance the budget while concluding the organizational reset leadership begun over the last year?

**A:** The next six months will involve two primary phases: 1) offering a Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI), and 2) concluding the reset of the organization, which involves a strategic review of how the IMB is organized and how it conducts both day-to-day operations and long-range planning. The second phase includes consolidating support services, recalibrating mobilization, assessing global engagement and re-envisioning training.

**Q:** What is a Voluntary Retirement Incentive (VRI)?

**A:** A VRI is an official program by which any personnel who meet certain eligibility requirements may choose to retire from the IMB and receive a particular financial benefit in their retirement.

**Q:** Is giving some of IMB's most experienced and seasoned personnel the opportunity to retire a wise first step in addressing the organization's budget needs?

**A:** IMB leadership acknowledges this is not an ideal step — but also that there are no "ideal" steps at this point. The reason VRIs are established is to provide personnel who may be considering retirement at some point in the near future an opportunity with incentive to take that step in the present.

**Q:** Is the VRI really voluntary?

**A:** Yes. This VRI is indeed voluntary. IMB leadership will not in any way encourage or influence any personnel to elect or reject the VRI. It is totally up to the discretion of an individual (or missionary family) who is eligible for the VRI to decide whether or not to elect or reject it. To help ensure that this decision is truly voluntary, supervisors across the organization will not even discuss with any individual personnel whether he or she should take the incentive. IMB leadership has designated people available to talk with personnel to help them understand what the VRI entails, but beyond this, the IMB will not point personnel toward a particular decision. IMB leadership's aim is to eliminate any possibility of pressure or coercion in a certain direction, but to ensure that this program is indeed voluntary in every way.

**Q:** What will the VRI include?

**A:** IMB leadership wants to make this VRI as generous as possible, so they are working to use every possible means available to provide for the men and women who take this incentive. The details of eligibility and the incentive are still being finalized. Those details will be disclosed to personnel on September 10 in a Town Hall meeting. In the few days following that meeting, all eligible personnel will receive a packet of information that includes the specific details of how this incentive would affect them. The IMB's tight financial position creates more urgency for this program now, because the longer the organization waits, the less generous it can be. This VRI will be the best option that can be offered.

**Q:** How quickly will the VRI take place?

**A:** Once individual details have been sent to eligible personnel in September, those personnel will have at least 45 days to decide whether or not to accept the VRI. Beyond the date IMB sets as a decision deadline, all personnel who take the VRI will continue on payroll through December, providing additional time to work through potential transition plans. For mission-field personnel with

## 2015 Pastor's & Leader's Conference

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10:00 am - 5:00 pm

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# First-person: It's time to increase our Cooperative Program giving



RONNIE FLOYD  
President, SBC

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

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (BP) — Increasing your church's financial giving through the Cooperative Program is like your church giving more money through its ministry budget. Just as the ministry budget moves up the financial base of support in your church, it moves up the overall financial base of our Great Commission ministries of our Southern Baptist Convention.

The answer is through the Cooperative Program

Over 90 years ago, the churches of the Southern Baptist Convention became weary of continual pleas for support from various ministries of our convention. This is why the Cooperative Program was born. It became the unified strategy for financial support of the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The easiest way for churches to consistently support the ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention through the Cooperative Program is by inserting a regular line item in their budget. This provides the church consistency in their financial support and gives the ministries of our convention consistency in receiving funds.

This is a much better option than our SBC ministry leaders spending time making multiple appeals to our churches to support the work of our convention. It just makes sense for pastors, associational employees, state executives and their

employees and all Southern Baptist entity presidents and employees to talk about one thing: the Cooperative Program.

A humble appeal for increasing your church's financial support through the Cooperative Program

If I were an employee of our Southern Baptist Convention or a missionary, I would rather the churches increase their giving through the Cooperative Program than having to continually raise my own financial support from multiple churches. The Cooperative Program is something every church can support financially regardless of the size of their membership. This is our agreed upon, unified, strategic financial plan; therefore, we do not need to minimize nor undermine it in any way. Through the Cooperative Program, each cause shares financial resources proportionately.

While some may want to designate monies or support only some of the ministries of the convention, this does not provide a healthy way to support the entire work of the Southern Baptist Convention. Blessing just one ministry at the exclusion of others eventually hurts other ministries of the Great Commission. There is not one pastor I know that appreciates a church member who only designates their contributions around the ministry budget of the church. This creates an unhealthy culture. Conversely, we believe in the autonomy of the local church and will honor and appreciate what you believe God wants your church to do.

Therefore, the financial priority of each of our churches should be to support the Cooperative Program. I want to appeal to each of our churches to increase your financial support through the Cooperative Program. As well, for the sake of the Gospel, please do so sacrificially and do so as

soon as possible. Increasing your church's support through the Cooperative Program is the greatest way you can forward the work of reaching the world for Christ. Not one of us can adequately support any one cause, but all of us together can pray, plan, give, cooperate and support every cause.

If you are concerned about missionaries coming home

If you are concerned about some of our missionaries having to come home and the decrease of our missionary forces, the greatest thing your church can do to help turn it around is increase your giving through the Cooperative Program. It helps build our base of support financially, which in turn will increase our ability to reach the world.

Pastor and church leaders, please go to your finance committee, deacon body, church board, elders or whoever is key to leading in the decisions of your church financially and appeal to them to increase your church's financial support through the Cooperative Program as soon as possible.

This helps us reach our states, our nation and our world for Christ. This financial decision is a Gospel decision. In order for us to push back on the lostness of our world by advancing the Gospel, we must increase our giving through the Cooperative Program. If we are going to reach the nations, as well as help every Gospel endeavor we do together within our own respective states and across America, we need to increase our financial support through the Cooperative Program.

I pray your church will join my church and other churches that are stepping up during this time and increasing our financial giving through the Cooperative Program. ■

## IMB BUDGET from page 6

remaining stateside assignment, IMB leadership will work with those individuals through the ramifications of what that means for their retirement.

Q: What is the timeframe for Phase 2 ("concluding the reset")?

A: While the VRI is taking place in fall 2015, IMB leadership will simultaneously be working toward Phase 2, "concluding the reset" of the organization that has begun over the last year. In the next six months, leadership aims to bring this reset to a conclusion by making necessary announcements regarding the structure of Support Services and Mobilization, as well as any updates concerning Global Engagement and Training. At that time, IMB leadership will work through any further personnel adjustments that may need to be made based on the number of personnel who respond to the VRI; any structural changes emerging out of the reset; and any additional information available concerning IMB's budget and reserves.

Q: How does the financial situation affect the structure of IMB Support Services?

A: Rodney Freeman, IMB vice president for Support Services — which includes global logistics, personnel and finances — will begin the process of consolidating these three areas into one team.

Q: How does the financial situation affect the structure of IMB Mobilization?

A: Until a vice president for Mobilization is named, Sebastian Traeger, IMB executive vice president, will lead in recalibrating this area.

Q: How does the financial situation affect the structure of IMB Global Engagement?

A: While IMB leadership does not foresee major structural changes in the area of Global Engagement, Vice President John Brady and his team, including each of IMB's affinity leaders around the world, will assess the effects of 600-800 fewer per-

sonnel in the IMB, including IMB's ability to place personnel in particular places or among particular people groups.

Q: How does the financial situation affect the structure of IMB Training?

A: Zane Pratt, vice president for Training, and his newly forming Training team will continue to re-envision the training of churches, Christians, missionaries and nationals in the 21st century.

Q: How will IMB handle additional personnel changes after the VRI?

A: IMB leadership desires to first provide personnel an opportunity to voluntarily transition into work outside of the IMB. In addition, IMB leadership will evaluate the effects of the consolidation of Support Services and the recalibration of Mobilization, as well as any additional adjustments in Global Engagement and Training, to discern the different roles and responsibilities all IMB personnel will have in the future. Many personnel will continue with the exact same roles and responsibilities they have now. Other personnel could potentially redeploy and/or relocate, either within the IMB or beyond the IMB.

Q: How will IMB measure if this two-phase plan is successful?

A: Ultimately, the goal is to put the IMB in a position to thrive in the future. With constant dependence on God's Word and continual desperation for God's Spirit, IMB leadership wants the organization to move forward with innovative vision, aggressively exploring how to best mobilize, train and support limitless missionary teams from churches in North America and the nations to reach the unreached with the Gospel. IMB must be a wise steward of its resources, represented most clearly by a balanced budget with responsible reserves. And IMB must operate with a high sense of accountability to the churches we serve, the

peoples we reach, and the God we worship.

Q: In summary, what is the goal of these actions?

A: "We must get to a healthy place in the present in order to move forward into the future with innovative vision, wise stewardship and high accountability," Platt said.

Conclusion of Platt's message to IMB family:

"I realize that all I have shared is a lot to process. And I am sure that the ramifications of all these things will sink in over the days to come in a variety of challenging, painful and difficult ways. But amidst inevitable heaviness, I want you to know that I have great hope for every member of the IMB family in the days ahead. As we know, God is going to make His glory known among all the peoples of the earth, and I am confident that He wants each of us to play a pivotal part in making that happen. Over the months to come, He will give many of us new parts to play, including new places of service and new paths for mission, both within and beyond the IMB. Regardless of where we find ourselves six months from now, of this I am sure: it will be good, and God will be glorified. In my time with the Lord this week, I was reading Psalm 31, where the psalmist cries, 'You are my rock and my fortress, and for your name's sake you lead and guide me' (verse 3). Amidst difficult days in our IMB family, I am clinging to the fact that our Father is a rock and a fortress who always leads and guides us. In Psalm 32:8, He says, 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. He will counsel you with His eye upon You.' Please hear that promise from the Lord. Particularly amidst limitations on who we can counsel with about voluntary retirement, know that the Lord stands ready to be your Counselor. His eye is upon you. And as we seek Him, He will instruct and teach each of us individually and all of us collec-

# 'Entertaining' children costly to missions, Lee says

By ART TOALSTON

*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (BP) — “How did this happen?” Wanda S. Lee asked herself.

“Beyond what words can say ... we’re grieving,” the executive director of the WMU, the Southern Baptist Convention’s missions education auxiliary, said of the imminent downsizing of 600-800 missionaries and staff members in a multi-million-dollar shortfall confronting the International Mission Board.

Lee, who was among Baptist leaders addressing the SBC Executive Committee during its Sept. 21-22 meeting, pointed to the insight of Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secretary of the auxiliary in 1888.

Missions education first entails a study of God’s Word, Lee said in recounting Armstrong’s insight.

Then comes a study of the mission field. Then prayer. Then sacrificial giving for the advance of the Gospel.

“We study God’s Word,” Lee said. “We’ve been a good denomination in that. We’re a people of prayer, and we’re getting better at that. And we’re pretty good at giving.”

But, Lee said, many Southern Baptist churches have abandoned what Armstrong identified as the “driving force” between studying God’s Word and “how much we pray and how much we give.”

“We can lament the churches that haven’t given, we can lament many things,” Lee said. “But one thing we have failed to do in our churches is to embrace the missions assignment of helping our children and our youth understand God’s field.”

When there’s “no understanding of the depth of lostness, there’s no passion to give,” Lee said.

When a church tilts toward entertaining their children and youth, or abandons Wednesday night activities in deference to local soccer leagues, “[we have] let that overshadow the priority as a Christian church leader of equipping the next generation for missions.”

“We sacrificed our adults of today 20 years ago,” Lee said. “We sacrificed them when we said, ‘Well, I guess we can’t have RAs [Royal Ambassadors



Learning about the mission field is vital to nurturing prayer and giving, WMU’s Wanda Lee says to Executive Committee. (Photo by Morris Abernathy)

sadors for boys] and GAs [Girls in Action] because kids have got to go play soccer.

“I faced that as a pastor’s wife and a mother. ... And now we’re living with an adult church that doesn’t know why they give. They don’t give sacrificially because they don’t know the field. They don’t know the depth of lostness.

“... We have a job to do,” Lee said. “We can’t lose another generation. ... We have to do what Annie said years ago. We have to teach them God’s Word. We have to help them see all of God’s world — the way He loves [people] and the way He desires for them to come to Him.

“And when we feel that depth of conviction, we will pray like we’ve never prayed before ... [we will] give sacrificially.”

Lee said WMU will “stand with our missionaries, we’re going to support them, we’re committed to being the best partner with IMB we can be.”

WMU will be fulfilling one of its key roles in Southern Baptist life — helping returning missionaries find housing. And they will need to be alerted to employment possibilities. Re-entry retreats will be needed for their youth.

“But we can’t go through this again,” Lee said.

“So come, go with us. Quit entertaining your children and your young people. Drive them to study God’s Word. Expose them to the field for the depth of understanding that will commit their lives to service and prayer, and their money will follow.”

*Art Toalston is editor of Baptist Press.* ■

## First-person: A picture of the Savior



RUSSELL MOORE  
President, SBC Ethics  
& Religious Liberty  
Commission

EDITOR’S NOTE: On Global Hunger Sunday, Oct. 11, Southern Baptist congregations will address the hunger crisis across North America and around the world by receiving special offerings. Donations received are channeled through Global Hunger Relief, which uses 100 percent of each gift to meet hunger needs.

NASHVILLE (BP) —

There’s nothing quite as bleak as a city street the morning after Mardi Gras. The steam of the morning humidity rises silently over asphalt, riddled with forgotten doubloons, broken bottles, littered cigarettes, dried blood and vomit. For the partygoers who embrace the hedonism of the night before, dawn brings little besides a queasy stomach, a pounding hangover, and a throbbing conscience.

For most Americans, this isn’t a strange sight. Even for those of us who would pride ourselves on our “conservative” recreation, an instant connection between our appetite and satisfaction seems normal. We live in a culture of craving.

Perhaps that is why many Americans, even Christians, seem confused or embarrassed when the conversation turns to hunger and extreme poverty. Perhaps we are less able to articulate what the Gospel says about those in desperate need of bread and water because we cannot imagine living in any other society than one with dollar menus and all-you-can-eat buffets. We may be in our own bed with our spouses the night of Mardi Gras, but that doesn’t mean we aren’t unwittingly conforming to the spirit of the culture.

In our Western global culture, food is assumed. Disconnected from the agrarian and subsistence context that nearly every culture in history would have taken for granted, we more or less assume that the dinner on our tables just appeared there. That would have been a wild fantasy for the Israelite culture which our Lord knew. Bread wasn’t a matter of buying “gluten free” or not; it was the basic engine of economic survival. Without a daily glean of wheat, death was certain.

This is the kind of reality that still exists for many people around the world. If we as Christians don’t feel the weight of our Lord’s command to show compassion and mercy to those who need us, perhaps it is because we have unintentionally

absorbed the consumerism of our culture.

Writing to Timothy, the apostle Paul did not flatly condemn all wealth or tell rich Christians to renounce everything they had. Rather, he commanded that they put their trust not on their wealth but on God. How do Christians do that? They do that by being ready and eager to give to the poor and those in need (1 Timothy 6:17-19). By seeing their wealth not as something to which they alone are entitled but as something given to them ultimately by Christ, to be used for good works, Christians stand apart from the appetite-driven values of the world and display a picture of the Savior who left the throne of heaven and became poor for our sake.

The church can take on the tyranny of the appetites not simply by pointing out what in our cultural milieu is inconsistent with the Gospel, but by presenting a positive alternative, a counter-culture in which the transitory nature of moment self-satisfaction is transcended by a seeking first of the kingdom of God. This isn’t easy. It’s the act of crucifying “the flesh with its passions and desires” (Galatians 5:24). The temporary hunger we experi-

# Prayer woven in NAMB's strategy to plant churches

BY TOBIN PERRY

Baptist Press

NEW YORK CITY (BP) — A total of 1.6 million people call the New York City borough of Manhattan home. It's undoubtedly one of the most densely populated — and most influential — areas in the world. Just 25 years ago less than 1 percent of Manhattan's midtown population considered themselves evangelicals. In the late 1980s that led the borough's pastors to their knees in prayer.

"They didn't just pray, 'Lord, bless our city,'" said Steve Canter, the North American Mission Board's Send North America: New York City missionary. "They literally walked the streets, rallying together, thinking and praying in their neighborhoods. They rallied their churches to pray."

According to a 2009 study, nearly 4 percent of borough residents now consider themselves evangelical. The number of evangelical churches has also nearly doubled since Sept. 11, 2001, according to Canter, who credits the consistent prayer of those pastors as the only variable to which that growth can be traced.

That's a key reason prayer has become a critical component of the NAMB's Send North America: New York City strategy.

"We want to see that kind of focused prayer on every neighborhood of New York City," Canter said. To help mobilize that focused prayer for New York City's approximately 380 neighborhoods, Canter and other New York City Southern Baptists have developed the 4•5•1 Initiative in an effort to mobilize Christians to pray four days a week for five minutes about one neighborhood. So far 200 people have made the commitment.

New York City isn't alone among NAMB's 32 Send North America cities in prioritizing prayer. Each Send North America city has included prayer as part of its strategy. In addition, NAMB's TenTwo prayer strategy — which will be emphasized Oct. 2 — enlists Southern Baptists to pray

daily at either 10:02 a.m. or 10:02 p.m. for God to call more church planters to the mission fields of North America, particularly the continent's cities. The TenTwo strategy is based on Jesus' words in Luke 10:2, where Jesus commands His followers to pray for God to call more workers to the harvest.

"Unless the Spirit of God moves through the prayers of the saints, we will not experience the supernatural power of God bringing life to lost people," said Gary Frost, NAMB's Midwest Region vice president who also directs prayer strategies. "We must pray fervently 'for' our cities and 'in' our cities if we expect to dispel the darkness."

Through Send North America: Denver, Colorado Baptists are urging Southern Baptists to become prayer partners, called "15ers," for the Mile High City. The term 15er comes from mountain climbing, a popular Colorado activity. Dave Howeth, NAMB's city missionary for Denver, says the state has 57 mountains in the state, called "14ers" that are more than 14,000 feet high. The state has no 15er mountain (one that is more than 15,000 feet high). Howeth and other Colorado Baptist leaders hope to grow an email list of 15,000 people who are committed to praying for church planting efforts in metro Denver and the Front Range.

"You don't plant churches until you plant the Gospel," Howeth said. "You don't plant the Gospel, of course, unless you have people who are praying. We need to have a prayer saturation before we can have a Gospel saturation or any kind

of movement."

The Tennessee Baptist Convention is mobilizing volunteers from its churches to pray on site in metro Denver for God to call church planters

to specific places in the area. Built to coincide with the North American Mission Board's Pray TenTwo initiative, the effort will take place the weekend of Oct. 2-4.

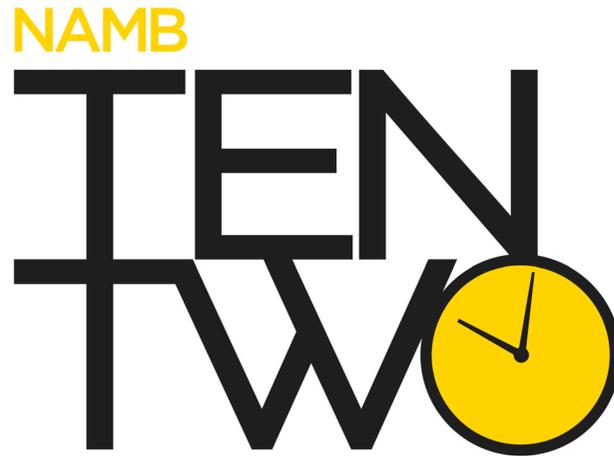
Matt Marrs, NAMB's Send North America: Kansas City missionary, says local leaders in metro Kansas City are working together to establish a day of prayer for the city on Oct. 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at First Baptist Church in

Raytown, Mo. Kansas City-area Southern Baptist leaders are focusing their efforts on mobilizing local churches who will commit to pray for the city one day per month.

Local church leaders attending the day of prayer will pray for four specific areas of Send North America: Kansas City: partnering churches, church planters, church replanters and unreached people groups.

"We're doing really impossible things," Marrs said. "We talk about reaching Somalis, Pakistanis or Gulf Arabs. You're not going to just get someone right out of seminary and bring up a mission team from the South, put them together and go reach a very difficult people group with the Gospel. That's only going to happen when the Spirit of God opens the hearts of indigenous people."

For more information about NAMB's TenTwo prayer strategy, visit [www.namb.net/Why-TenTwo](http://www.namb.net/Why-TenTwo). ■



LUKE 10:2

## Is any marriage safe in an adulterous culture?

BY ERIN ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — Amid news of men, women and families being thrust into the shadow of the Ashley Madison adultery website hacking, Baptist Press asked the wives of a few longtime Southern Baptist leaders how Christian wives can feel safe in their marriages.

Carol Ann Draper, Jodi Chapman and Janet Vines expressed gratitude for their husbands and discussed how the Lord has strengthened their marriages through challenges along the way. Tony Rose, a Kentucky pastor with years of pastoral care experience, also offered some reasons why wives of godly men can feel secure despite today's adultery-ridden culture.

"The thing that makes me feel secure is first of all just knowing God and knowing that God put us together," said Draper, whose husband Jimmy Draper was president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1983-84 and, later, president of Life-Way Christian Resources. "We were 18 and 20 when we married, and so we literally were growing up together

and we had no one else to depend on except each other."

Draper realizes, though, that in many homes the trust has been broken, and in every home Satan wants to plant seeds of doubt. She can recall times when news of divorce or something in the culture was an occasion for her to wonder, "What if?"

"What if?" is always Satan's territory [to] get me to doubt my faith in God and my trust in my husband," Draper told BP. "When I begin to doubt as a wife, I think that begins to place a wedge between me and my husband."

What helped her in those times, Draper said, was that she never had any reason to languish in fear. She recounted a time when a young woman with many problems was seeking frequent counsel from her husband, who was in the pastorate at the time.

"One night I just told him, 'I'm concerned about her coming so much because I think you're just infatuated with her attention,'" Carol Ann Draper said. "He said, 'This will be taken care of and come to an end immediately,' and it did."

Draper believes it was simply a case of her husband wanting to en-

courage a woman who did not have the spiritually mature husband she was seeking, but it helped him realize a pastor doesn't need to counsel a woman without someone else present.

To help strengthen marriages, Draper recommended wives "polish up first love."

"Give him a hug, give him a kiss, tell him how wonderful it is that he's come home — because we can just start taking that for granted, and our first love begins to get tarnished and spotted, and it loses its enthusiasm and its glow," Draper said.

Prayer provides powerful assurance, she said. "If we women will pray, then God will give us the peace in our hearts of knowing that our man is who we think he is and we won't be surprised that he is a godly man and that he wouldn't do something like that," Draper said.

Chapman, whose husband Morris H. Chapman was SBC president from 1991-92 and subsequently president of the SBC Executive Committee, said there are "always needy women who are drawn to a strong leader."

"Most preachers are leaders, have strong egos and love being compli-

mented and adored," Chapman told BP. "When I saw that type of woman hanging around too much, I made my presence known."

She even confronted a few such women, Chapman said, and warned her husband about them. She made sure to be the one to give him praise and encouragement so he wouldn't look for it elsewhere, Chapman said.

"But I never doubted my husband's love, loyalty, commitment and trust," Chapman said.

Open, mature conversation about boundaries and expectations is an antidote to fear and anxiety, Chapman said, and it's a good way to build a lifetime of love.

"The husband should put his wife at total ease by showing her he is in love with her and only her," Chapman said.

Also, wives should spend more time creating the kind of marriages they want than focusing on what they don't want to happen.

"If you constantly focus on the negative thoughts around your relationship," Chapman said, "chances are you will keep inadvertently creat-

# Sudan church wins court battle for property

BY MORNING STAR NEWS  
AND BAPTIST PRESS STAFF

KHARTOUM, Sudan (BP) — A Christian church in Sudan has won a four-year court battle to prevent the Sudanese government from forcibly taking the church's property and giving it to Muslim investors, Morning Star News has reported.

The Administrative Court of Appeal ruled the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowments interfered with church matters when it appointed committees charged with turning over to Muslim investors the property of Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church in North Khartoum, Morning Star News reported Sept. 16.

The Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SPEC) has been subject to arrests and demolition of its property during the lengthy attempted takeover. Two South Sudanese pastors had been jailed since December 2014 and January respectively, charged with capital crimes because they supported the congregation's fight to retain its property.

Yat Michael, 49, and 36-year-old Peter Yein Reith, both of whom have been released, could have been sentenced to death or whipping had they been convicted of the serious charges concocted against them by Sudan's National Intelligence and Security Services (NISS). They were convicted of lesser charges on Aug. 5 and released on time served. They and their families have since relocated to a third country to protect them from Islamist retaliation.

Khartoum Bahri Evangelical Church and SPEC leaders told Morning Star News they consider the Aug. 31 court ruling a step in the right direction toward ending all attempts to hand over their property to Muslim investors.

"Things are working well for us; thank God for all your prayers for the church," said SPEC Treas-

urer George Adam.

The Rev. Yahya Abdelrahim Nalu, a senior SPEC leader, described the ruling as a great victory for the church. Whether the government will try to appeal has remained unclear, though church leaders said the ruling was final.

The ruling nullifies three committees the Islamist government imposed on the church. The seven-page decision described the actions of the Ministry of Guidance and Religious Endowment as illegal and mere interference in SPEC affairs.

"The ministry has no right to interfere into the matters of SPEC," according to the ruling.

The court cited the fact that SPEC has its own constitution and leadership structure to govern its activities, and that no entity should interfere in its internal affairs.

Whether there would be reparations for demolitions that took place in the church compound based on government-secured court orders remained unclear. Riot police seized the property by force in February, and on Nov. 17-18, 2014, a bulldozer accompanied by security personnel and police knocked down a wall of the church and homes in the church compound. Christians formed a human barrier to face down further demolition attempts on Nov. 19-20, 2014.

One of the homes destroyed in the compound belonged to Nile Theological College; a Christian doctor had rented it, and he lost all his belongings, sources said.

The bulldozer, accompanied by NISS personnel and police, carried out the demolitions based on a court order demanding that church leaders surrender the premises to Muslim investors. The church committee of members that the Sudanese government interposed made a secret agreement with the investors to sell the church property as part of Sudan's campaign to do away with Christianity in the

country, church leaders told Morning Star News.

Police in North Khartoum on Dec. 2, 2014 beat and arrested 38 Christians from the church, fined most of them and released them later that night. On Oct. 5, 2013, Sudan's police and security forces broke through the church fence, beat Christians in the compound, arresting some of them and releasing them later that day.

Harassment, arrests and persecution of Christians have intensified since the secession of South Sudan in July 2011, when President Omar al-Bashir vowed to adopt a stricter version of sharia Islamic law and recognize only Islamic culture and the Arabic language. The Sudanese Minister of Guidance and Endowments announced in April 2013 that no licenses would be granted for building new churches in Sudan, citing a decrease in the South Sudanese population.

Since 2012, Sudan has expelled foreign Christians and bulldozed church buildings on the pretext that they belonged to South Sudanese. Besides raiding Christian bookstores and arresting Christians, authorities threatened to kill South Sudanese Christians who do not leave or cooperate with them in their effort to find other Christians.

Due to its treatment of Christians and other human rights violations, Sudan has been designated a Country of Particular Concern by the U.S. State Department since 1999, and in its 2015 report the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended the country remain on the list.

Sudan ranked sixth on Christian support organization Open Doors' 2015 World Watch List of 50 countries where Christians face most persecution, moving up from 11th place the previous year.

*Baptist Press general assignment writer/editor Diana Chandler adapted this story from a Morning Star News report.* ■

## See You At The Pole marks 25 years of prayer

BY NEISHA ROBERTS

*The Alabama Baptist*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (BP) — I woke up extra early that fourth Wednesday in September to make my way to Falcon Middle School by 7 a.m., situated just off Highway 24 on the golden-yellow plains of Colorado. I was ready to participate in my first See You at the Pole.

As my dad dropped me off 18 years ago, I hopped out of the car and made my way to the circle that was forming around the

school's flagpole. Several students from different grades were there. We huddled close together

and grabbed hands. We prayed for our state, our school, its staff and students and for that day to be all about God and glorifying His name.

"Amen," I said aloud, recognizing what a privilege it was to freely pray in public at my school.

The whole prayer time was "ours." Just students gathered together. It brought with it a sense

of accomplishment, freedom, honor and responsibility. We may have been young but we took a stand for our faith and learned the importance of prayer along the way.

Sept. 23 marks the 25th annual See You At The Pole (SYATP), a student-initiated, student-

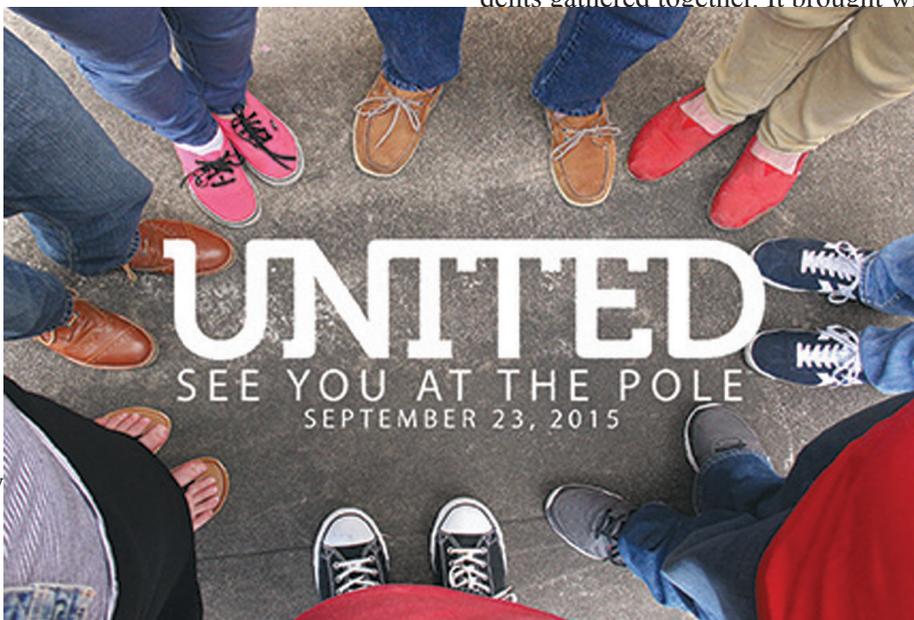
organized, student-led event that started with just 10 students in Texas in 1990 who wanted to pray for their school. In 25 years the movement has grown to see more than 3 million students participate across the United States and in more than 20 countries.

With the theme "UNITED" drawn from Acts 1:14, SYATP 2015 encourages a time "to commit to global unity in Christ and prayer for this generation," said Matt Wilson, executive director of First Priority Greater Birmingham, an Alabama sponsor and coordinator of SYATP.

"We are encouraging students, school faculty, families, businessmen and women, everyone, to unite together as a community in prayer for our nation," Wilson said.

SYATP coincides with the annual Global Week of Student Prayer (Sept. 20-26) when people are encouraged to find new and unique ways, places and times to pray in groups throughout the week for the world, community leaders, schools, staff and families.

*Neisha Roberts writes for the The Alabama Baptist (thealabamabaptist.org), newsjournal of the Alabama Baptist Convention.* ■



# Family speaks out about professor's suicide

BY GARY D. MYERS

*Baptist Press*

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The family of Baptist professor and pastor John Gibson is calling his death a suicide connected to the Ashley Madison website hack.

By openly discussing the circumstances surrounding his death, including a CNN interview that aired Tuesday (Sept. 8), the Gibsons hope to help other families find forgiveness and reconciliation. Gibson served for 17 years as a professor at Leavell College, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's undergraduate college. At the time of his death, he also served as pastor of First Baptist Church in Pearlington, Miss.

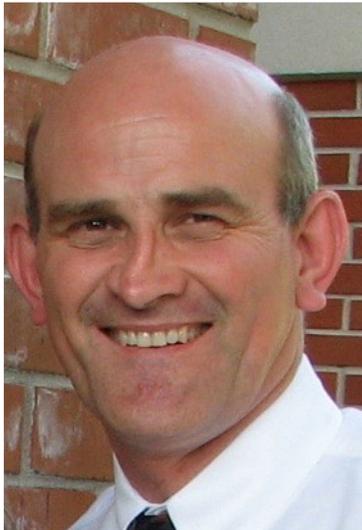
Gibson, 56, was discovered at his home on the seminary campus at approximately 5:30 p.m. Aug. 24 by his wife Christi when she arrived home from work. After finding Gibson unresponsive, she immediately notified emergency medical service. EMS workers were unable to revive him, and Gibson was pronounced dead at the scene. See related story.

Gibson's son, Trey, spoke of all of his father's good qualities — his ability to preach, his servant heart and his sense of humor — during a memorial service on the seminary campus Aug. 28. But Trey also spoke of his father's secret struggles with depression and pornography. Trey acknowledged at the time that his father had taken his own life and boldly encouraged the mourners to seek accountability relationships to guard against secret sin.

"My dad was a great man. He was a great man with struggles. My dad reached a point of such hopelessness and despair that he took his own life," Trey said.

While the news jolted the campus, the seminary community has rallied around the Gibson family as they opened up about the struggles that led to the death of the beloved professor and minister. Seminary President Chuck Kelley touched on the subject again Sept. 8 during the NOBTS convocation chapel service.

"On the first day of classes, we had the unex-



John Gibson

pected death of a much loved professor, colleague and friend Dr. John Gibson," Kelley said. "We learned that he made some very sad and unfortunate choices in his life, and his son shared in his memorial service his death appeared to come at his own hand."

The family spoke openly about Gibson's death during a national television interview on CNN. Appearing in the interview with her children, Trey and Callie, Gibson's wife Christi confirmed the existence of a suicide note in which her husband confessed to his failures and that his name was released in the Ashley Madison website hack. Christi noted her husband also expressed great sorrow for his actions.

In the interview, the family acknowledged they would have been willing to forgive Gibson's failures and work toward restoration if they had been given a chance.

"I still believe it could have been fixed. It could have been healed," Christi told CNN.

"There is brokenness in every single one of us.

We all have things that we struggle with," she said. "It wasn't so bad that we wouldn't have forgiven it, and so many people have said that to us, but for John, it carried with him such shame."

Christi also expressed her concern for other families grappling with the fallout from the Ashley Madison scandal. For the millions of families affected, she encouraged love and forgiveness.

"These were real people with real families, real pain and real loss," Christi said. "Don't underestimate the power of love. Nothing is worth the loss of a father and a husband and a friend. It just didn't merit it."

Kelley asked for continued prayer for the Gibson family and the entire NOBTS community as they struggle with this loss and the circumstances behind it.

A group of students responded to the news of Gibson's suicide and the events that led to it by organizing a prayer initiative on campus.

Beginning Aug. 31, participants in the student-led prayer time met daily on the steps of Leavell Chapel to pray for the faculty and their families. The first week culminated with a joint student-faculty prayer time. After the Labor Day holiday, the student-led prayer meetings moved to a twice-weekly schedule. ■



Gibson's wife Christi Gibson and his children Callie and Trey discussed his death on CNN Sept. 9. (CNN screen shot)

## GLOBAL HUNGER from page 9

ence by resisting, through the Spirit, our immediate desires for more and more can cause us, like Jesus in the wilderness, to turn away from momentary satisfaction and toward the more permanent things of the kingdom.

The cooperative initiative of Global Hunger Relief allows Southern Baptists to take aim at the critical hunger needs around the world. Thanks to

the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, all of the funds given to GHR go directly toward meeting real hunger needs — whether chronic hunger, or hunger precipitated by disasters or urban food deserts, or hunger faced by women rescued from sex trafficking. This is a blessing from Christ that allows Southern Baptists to do real, tangible acts of mercy for the cause of the Gospel.

Let's follow our Savior and empty ourselves of our "rights" and our appetites to live out our calling to be ambassadors of a King who promises feasts and treasure beyond any worldly imagination. Mardi Gras may only last for a night, but Easter lasts for eternity. ■

## What's happening at your church?

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

## DID YOU KNOW?

...**Eastside Community Church, Harper Woods** is beginning a choir ministry? The church is also searching for extra choir robes from other churches. Contact Pastor Mathew Vroman at (313) 657-1100 to donate robes.

...LifeWay's **2016 VBS** theme is "Submerged?" The new curriculum will be previewed December 5 at the BSCM Ministries Building in Fenton.

To include stories about your church

in future "Did You Know" columns, email [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org).

### - Staff Updates -

- Adam Maloney was called as pastor of First Baptist, Flushing effective October 1.
- Gary MacManamy was called as pastor of Outreach Baptist, Flint effective August 16.

### - Upcoming Events -

- October 16-18: Women's Harvest

- Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- October 16-17: Disaster Relief Training (The Shore Church, St. Joseph)
- October 17: Upper Peninsula Association Annual Meeting (Newberry Christian Fellowship, Newberry)
- October 19: Genesee Association Annual Meeting (Westside Baptist, Flushing)
- October 20: Motor Cities Metro Association Annual Meeting (Warren Woods Baptist, Warren Woods)
- November 6-7: 2015 Annual Meeting (Faith Baptist, Battle Creek)
- November 20-21: Youth Evangelism Conference (Westside Church, Flushing)
- November 29-December 6: Week of Prayer, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
- December 5: Vacation Bible School 2016 Preview (BSCM Ministries Building, Fenton)
- January 15-17, 2016: Men's Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- January 22-24, 2016: Winter Youth Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- February 5-7, 2016: Men's Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- February 19-21: Women's Winter Mission Retreat (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)

Register for Michigan Baptist events at [register.bscm.org](http://register.bscm.org). To register for Disaster Relief training, call Judy Roy at (810) 223-2465.

## MARRIAGE from page 10

ing negative situations between you and your husband."

Vines, whose husband Jerry Vines was SBC president from 1989-90 and was the longtime pastor of First Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., said her advice to women is to love and pray for their husbands.

"Be his No. 1 cheerleader. Always be proud of your mate," Vines told BP. "Assure him of your love. Make time for the love of your life."

Vines emphasized that no one can control another person's life.

"You can't be responsible for choices someone else makes," she said. "God gives us choices, but we do not have the choice of the consequences. God does. All you can do is to carry your concern to Jesus. You cannot make others do as you wish they would. Christian character is not an inheritance; each person must build it for himself or herself."

Jesus is the only source of peace, Vines said, and while a mate may provide a temporary fix for insecurity, Jesus never fluctuates.

"Every day I say, 'Lord, I need your peace, presence, protection and power,'" Vines said. "'Lord, I can't make it without you.'"

Rose, pastor of LaGrange Baptist Church in Kentucky since 1993, said if a woman is married to a genuinely godly man, "he will not be without fault, but one thing he would have spent every day of his married life doing is making his wife feel secure," using Ephesians 5 as a model.

Godliness, though, "is a trait that must have more than subjective evidence. Godliness can be faked," Rose told BP. "Scripture is plain about 'having the appearance of godliness but denying its power.'"

Actions — not words — make a wife secure in her marriage, Rose said. Something basic a husband can do to make his wife feel secure in their marriage and in his godly character is to have no secrets, he said.

"Does your wife know your

schedule? Does she know all your passwords? Can she pick up your cellphone or look in your email any time she wants to?" Rose said. "A godly man should have no fears or hesitations about such transparency. Secrecy is the tool of the devil."

Large church pastors often have more staff members and leaders around to hold them accountable, so Rose offered some ideas for small church pastors looking to safeguard their marriages.

"There is no biblical requirement that a pastor 'work' from the church building," Rose said, noting there are ways to avoid being alone at the church with a church secretary.

"Under good counsel, and with your wife's help, set your standards before you ever have your first pastoral position," Rose said. "Doing this shows your wife and the church where your priorities are."

Pastors can learn to use their calendars as their friends and protectors, Rose said.

"I don't mean to be irreverent, but people will submit to a calendar before they will submit to the Bible," Rose said. "If you will stay ahead in your calendar planning, you can place your necessary appointments at the same times your church secretary will be working in the building."

"If you plan your family times, specific times with your wife, your prayer and study times two weeks in advance, when someone calls and says, 'Can I come see you in 45 minutes?' you reply, 'I am sorry. I already have an appointment. When

can we schedule a time?'"

"Almost everyone will submit to the calendar 'appointment' without question."

Beyond that, Rose said "every pastor needs a bit of healthy self-distrust" and should designate a single channel of electronic communication such as a church email address and should give his wife or office manager access to the account.

"I can see no good and have

seen bad — very much bad — come from pastors who communicate with women through texting, private messaging on Facebook and other unwise means," Rose said.

Going to extremes is fine, he said, because "there is nothing silly about Christ's honor and our marriages."

*Erin Roach is a writer in Nashville. With reporting by David Roach, chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. ■*

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in green pastures;  
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the still waters.*

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	CP August	Designated August	CP YTD 2015								
<b>BAY ASSOCIATION</b>				BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	0.00	0.00	6,248.77
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	55.44	0.00	453.86	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	580.00	390.00	2,322.72	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	2,800.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	235.62	0.00	3,264.36	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	325.57	0.00	2,107.01	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	481.15	200.00	5,067.26	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	400.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	115.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,727.46	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	150.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	443.31	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	821.98	62.00	14,301.05	LEGACY	106.26	0.00	1,068.87
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	836.32	396.52	MEDITATION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	75.00	0.00	75.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	600.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	1,483.96	0.00	1,483.96	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	6,657.95	0.00	51,544.17
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	12.95	0.00	314.34	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	0.00	0.00	403.89	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
NEW HOPE CHURCH	143.64	0.00	1,596.64	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	0.00	0.00	630.00	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	6,492.23
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	239.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	9,009.76	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	43.28	0.00	43.28	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	150.00
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	309.10	0.00	1,735.92	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST	200.00	0.00	700.00	OPEN DOOR GOSPEL TABERNACLE	0.00	0.00	25.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	85.64	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	98.00	75.00	1,139.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	800.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	7,500.00	290.00	30,000.00	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,352.00	364.00	21,667.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	100.00	0.00	800.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,806.18</b>	<b>490.00</b>	<b>48,571.07</b>	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY	207.00	0.00	788.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	200.00
				LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	0.00	0.00	460.71	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00	1,862.00
<b>CENTRAL ASSOCIATION</b>				LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH	25.00	0.00	200.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	700.00	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	12.60	0.00	121.45	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	400.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	284.17	0.00	284.17
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	7,675.00	5,115.00	64,035.00	NEW END BAPTIST CHURCH	570.13	0.00	8,468.99	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	274.30	ONELIFE CHURCH	1,127.23	0.00	4,925.89	THE CITY CHURCH - CANTON	10.00	0.00	50.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	254.33	0.00	3,381.85	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	350.00	THE CITY CHURCH - DETROIT	10.00	0.00	50.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	800.00	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00	THE CITY CHURCH - REDFORD	30.00	0.00	210.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	0.00	0.00	350.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	1,775.00	THE GATHERING	608.28	0.00	2,886.89
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE FIELDHOUSE	100.00	0.00	400.00	TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	357.00	0.00	3,005.34
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,767.06	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE CHURCH	2,335.46	1,167.72	28,713.10	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	662.06	0.00	3,325.52	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	50.00	0.00	600.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	770.59	0.00	5,868.99	WESTSIDE CHURCH	903.00	30.00	7,865.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,000.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	45.00	0.00	255.00	<b>Total:</b>	<b>9,440.05</b>	<b>1,817.32</b>	<b>88,518.96</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,713.66</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>94,285.74</b>
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	90.77	<b>GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION</b>				<b>HURON ASSOCIATION</b>			
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	0.00	0.00	750.00	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	320.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	150.00	0.00	1,200.00	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	720.00	CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	555.58	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	90.00	CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	240.72
NEW LIFE CHAPEL	56.00	0.00	427.50	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,550.00	CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST	926.94	0.00	10,415.56
PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	200.00	1,000.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	0.00	0.00	11,915.85
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11,398.98</b>	<b>6,282.72</b>	<b>110,290.60</b>	CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,681.51	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	150.00	0.00	1,050.00
				DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,692.45	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	0.00	0.00	22,972.27
<b>GENESEE ASSOCIATION</b>				DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	515.00	0.00	3,243.03
AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	484.12	0.00	4,734.94	EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,934.34	IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	220.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	60.00	64.00	EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,400.00
				EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	810.19	0.00	3,496.36

## 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.*

OAKWOOD CHURCH	4,251.56	0.00	4,251.56
PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REACH CHURCH	280.00	0.00	1,430.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	240.00	0.00	720.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,213.69</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>61,675.35</b>

**LENDALE ASSOCIATION**

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	318.82	500.00	1,660.99
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	225.00	0.00	675.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	74.40	0.00	869.35
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	13,214.80
NEW DAY/NUOVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	69.00	0.00	144.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,135.40
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	28.70	0.00	258.96
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	400.00	0.00	1,600.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,115.92</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>20,558.50</b>

**MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION**

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	2,173.22
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	185.88	0.00	4,263.69
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	590.52	0.00	4,323.94
CONGREGATION SHALOM	0.00	0.00	300.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,620.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	405.23	0.00	2,948.58
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	400.00
DEQUINDRE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,348.77
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY	0.00	0.00	700.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST - NEW BALTIMORE	2,737.33	0.00	22,109.35
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,550.66
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST	300.00	86.00	2,400.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	5,041.76
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	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	99.75	0.00	1,557.17
HARVEST BAPTIST - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	31.00	1,000.00	2,649.25
HARVEST BAPTIST - WATERFORD	0.00	0.00	302.34
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	455.56	0.00	4,137.28
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	823.55
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	229.53	0.00	596.56
HOPE IN CHRIST BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	300.00	0.00	2,100.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	663.00	0.00	3,381.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,248.00	0.00	11,172.30
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,399.14	0.00	13,327.72
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,663.85	100.00	14,178.49
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIFE RECOVERY CHURCH	62.50	0.00	261.50
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	2,844.25	0.00	13,951.26
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NARROW PATH CHRISTIAN BIKER CHURCH	511.00	0.00	1,913.17
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,982.06
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	0.00	0.00	850.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	14,589.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	261.90	765.00	2,400.50
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST - WARREN	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	300.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	13,414.87
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	550.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	300.00	0.00	2,550.00
THE HILL CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE MASTERS BIBLE CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00



THE SHEPHERD'S FOLD	0.00	0.00	50.00
TROY JAPANESE FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
WARREN WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	10,509.87
<b>Total:</b>	<b>14,738.44</b>	<b>1,951.00</b>	<b>167,627.86</b>

**NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION**

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	222.20	0.00	929.47
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	752.16
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	494.11	0.00	494.11
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - EMPIRE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	0.00	0.00	225.00
LAKE CITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NORTHSHORE COMMUNITY CHURCH	50.00	0.00	200.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	562.62	0.00	4,524.08
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,328.93</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,274.82</b>

**PINES ASSOCIATION**

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	15.15	0.00	120.55
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	541.85
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	0.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	0.00	0.00	578.36
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	148.04
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	74.71	0.00	668.66
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,438.33
NEW HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONAWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	700.00
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	363.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	611.94	0.00	1,418.83
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	197.00	0.00	1,406.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>898.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7,383.62</b>

**SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	0.00	0.00	1,056.76
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	250.77	0.00	2,584.46
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	3,098.43	0.00	12,118.32
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	143.25	0.00	556.28
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	392.22	0.00	2,758.33
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,126.79
HIGHER GROUND MINISTRIES OF TEMPLE BC	0.00	0.00	100.00
LAKESIDE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEVEL PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,274.73
PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	213.16

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	918.00
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	411.74
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	3,016.79
<b>Total:</b>	<b>3,884.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>28,235.36</b>

**SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION**

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	558.00	93.00	4,095.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	805.13
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	1,454.56	272.73	11,591.96
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	164.00	0.00	2,253.50
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	736.70	0.00	2,723.05
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST	232.18	127.88	2,539.54
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	625.02
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	50.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	400.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	441.60	0.00	4,152.79
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	6,922.96	0.00	72,886.31
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST	76.17	0.00	468.01
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10,636.17</b>	<b>493.61</b>	<b>102,590.31</b>

**SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION**

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	201.00	0.00	1,348.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	103.00	0.00	437.00
FIRST BAPTIST - BERRIEN SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	458.32
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	424.11
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	800.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	417.46	0.00	2,028.27
<b>Total:</b>	<b>821.46</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5,495.70</b>

**UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION**

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	161.84	0.00	1,675.31
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	0.00	0.00	967.56
CATALYST BAPTIST CHURCH	46.20	0.00	54.09
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	52.00	0.00	490.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	72.50	0.00	440.80
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	433.58	0.00	3,418.21
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	80.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	931.30	0.00	7,298.67
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	255.15	100.00	900.91
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,952.57</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>15,325.55</b>

**WOODLAND ASSOCIATION**

ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,150.00	375.00	1,775.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	370.00	0.00	1,295.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - LUDINGTON	0.00	0.00	528.60
GRACE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HOLLAND SOUTHERN BAPTIST	0.00	148.42	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IB RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	210.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,520.00</b>	<b>523.42</b>	<b>4,808.60</b>

**NON-ASSOCIATIONAL**

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	311.00	329.35	3,198.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	531.50	0.00	4,252.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	50.00	0.00	175.00
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	83.34	0.00	666.72
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	359.55	0.00	1,253.37
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	3,391.50	170.00	29,753.41
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	614.36	0.00	1,146.14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,341.25</b>	<b>499.35</b>	<b>40,744.64</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>88,810.77</b>	<b>12,857.42</b>	<b>803,386.68</b>





# Michigan Deaf Baptists celebrate 35 years at retreat

By ELLEN GURGANUS

Special to the Baptist Beacon

ROSCOMMON — On August 13-16, the Michigan Baptist Conference of the Deaf celebrated 35 years as 47 deaf and hearing people attended the 2015 Annual Deaf Retreat at Bambi Lake Baptist Retreat and Conference Center. Attendees came from across the state as the camp welcomes deaf churches and churches with deaf ministries.

Rev. Larry Barnes from North Carolina served as the camp's guest speaker. Barnes preached four sermons on "The Trials," challenging the group to become better witnesses for Jesus in a series based on 1 Peter 1:6-7.

Each morning started with prayer groups in the chapel as well as groups doing prayer walks around Bambi. Attendees shared prayer needs, praises, testimonies, and special music during worship services, and the retreat also offered two work-

shops and a banquet for attendees.

"[At the retreat I gained] wisdom of things going on with my life," Sharon H. shared of her experience at the retreat.

"Being at Bambi Lake is very peaceful and... easy to connect with God for His answers."

"Deaf Camp at Bambi will always hold a special place in our family's heart," Brenda B. said. "Two of our kids were baptized in Bambi Lake during Deaf camp."

"Camp time is a joyous time to reconnect not only with new and old friends but also with the Lord. I have many fond memories of the years I have attended Deaf camp at Bambi Lake. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity."



The 2015 Annual Deaf Retreat included installation of new officers. (Submitted photo)

At the conclusion of the Sunday morning worship, 2015-16 Michigan Baptist Conference of the Deaf officers were installed, including President-elect Tony Galofre, Secretary-elect Laurie Williams, Assistant Secretary-elect Laura Scripter, Treasurer-elect Ron Scripter, Trustees-elect Bob and Dor-

othea Hay, and Parliamentarian-elect Bob Scripter.

The Michigan Baptist Conference of the Deaf will return to Bambi Lake next summer for its 2016 Deaf Camp. Dates will be announced in the spring of 2016, and registration will open in early summer. ■



47 people attended the Michigan Baptist Conference of the Deaf's 2015 Annual Deaf Retreat at Bambi Lake. (Submitted photo)