



# 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 6

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

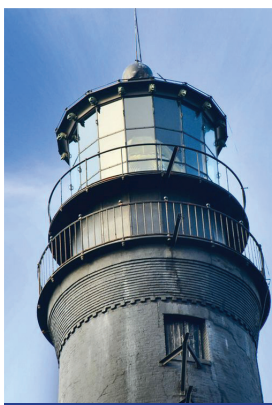
June 2015



## WELCOME TO MICHIGAN, TIM PATTERSON

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/TREASURER ELECTED MAY 9





# Baptist BEACON

**Gluten-free food fair  
attracts over 1300**

*Ninth annual fair allows small church  
in Grand Rapids to minister to large  
crowds*

**West Detroit church  
plants two new  
churches**

*The City Church has planted four  
churches in five years of existence,  
aims for 20 in 10 years as it uses cre-  
ative methods to reach Detroit's lost*

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Newsjournal of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan • Volume 59, Number 6 • June 2015 • [www.MichiganBaptists.org](http://www.MichiganBaptists.org)

## Tim Patterson elected as new executive director

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER

*Managing Editor*

HOLT (BP) — Tim Patterson, a national mobilizer for the North American Mission Board and former Florida pastor, has been elected executive director-treasurer of the Baptist State Convention of Michigan.

With a 112-0 vote, the BSCM elected Patterson during a special called meeting of the convention May 9 at Cedar Street Church in Holt.

Patterson, a former NAMB trustee chair who served on the search committee that recommended Kevin Ezell as president, has pastored churches in Florida, Texas and Oklahoma, most recently serving at Hillcrest Baptist Church in Jacksonville, Fla., from 2006-14. He began work as a NAMB mobilizer in December.

Patterson assumed his new role with Michigan Baptists effective immediately, working from his home in Florida, and is scheduled to be on the field June 1.

Patterson “loves pastors and the local church,” BSCM President Chuck Turner said. “He feels a deep calling to be in Michigan [and] ... values all churches regardless of size.”

In the week leading up to his election, Patterson traveled across Michigan, attending seven regional meetings during a four-day period. Those meetings allowed Michigan Baptists to meet him, hear his vision and ask questions before the election.

“The search process was very thorough, and I think they did a great job with it,” Patterson said. “I was very pleased that we held those meetings before the [election];. We had some great conversations and established some great friendships.”

Patterson holds an undergraduate degree from Criswell College in Dallas and a master of divinity from the Southern Baptist School for Biblical Studies in Jacksonville, Fla. He studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Patterson has served as president of the Florida Baptist Pastors’ Conference, a member of the Florida Baptist Convention’s state board of missions and a trustee at the Baptist College of Florida.



**Tim and Sabrina Patterson**

He succeeds Bobby Gilstrap, BSCM executive director from 2010-14, who now leads Dynamic Church Ministries, a ministry based in the Detroit area that provides workshops and resources in evangelism, church planting missions and congregational health.

The BSCM assembled a search committee in September 2014 and with assistance from Stephen Davis, NAMB’s vice president for the northeast and south regions of the U.S., developed an executive director profile with which they processed candidates.

“Our team represented every region of our state and worked very well together,” search committee chairman Wayne Parker said. “I believe that everyone on our team would say we saw God’s

hand at work leading us to the decision to ask Bro. Patterson to come to Michigan.”

Davis said Patterson “knows how to administer staff, surround himself with good leaders and will provide outstanding vision for Michigan Baptists. Whether it is planting new churches, helping strengthen churches or challenging pastors across the state in evangelism, you will find him to be focused, having the ability to carry out the vision to reach Michigan with the Gospel and most of all a great friend to every pastor.”

Patterson has been married to his wife Sabrina for 40 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren.

*This article first appeared in Baptist Press. David Roach, chief national correspondent for Baptist Press, contributed to this report. ■*

## Hispanic fellowship offers unity, instruction, inspiration

BY MARY LOU HALL

*Baptist Beacon*

HOLT — Nearly 200 people gathered on April 18 for the 2015 Fellowship of Hispanic Baptist Churches retreat. Hosted at Cedar Street Church in Holt, the event drew attendees from Hispanic churches across the state.

“The fellowship was celestial!” said Angel Luis Garcia Martinez, Pastor of Grace Bible Church in Grand Blanc. “It was very uplifting and refreshing.”

According to Carlos Liese, the event’s coordinator, the fellowship was a needed one for Hispanic Baptists in the state.

“When, because of funding issues, the BSCM Language Ministries Director position was eliminated, it was if you could hear all of our Hispanic churches exhale in a deep sigh,” Liese said. “There would not be any more state leadership for retreats, conferences and fellowships such as the one we enjoyed here at Cedar Street Church.”

April’s event ensured that this

would not be the case, however.

“For the first time in over two years, 200 hermanos from churches in Detroit, Flint, Pontiac, Ann Arbor, Adrian, Wyoming, Holland and Lansing met for a day of praise, testimonies, worship, encouragement and fellowship,” said Carlos Liese, who organized the event. “When our people heard we had put together a statewide Hispanic fellowship again after two plus years, they showed their joy with their feet and attendance.”

Keynote speakers Carlos Qui-

nonnes and Rob Freshour reminded Christians, through God’s Word, how we are to act and respond to the moral assault on our biblical values by today’s culture.

Quinones, pastor of First Spanish-American Baptist Church in Pontiac, sought to encourage attendees in the event’s morning session.

“I want to bring you a word of encouragement in the midst of our cultural, anti-Christian era,” Quinones shared with the audience. “We

**See HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP on page 2**



# HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP from page 1

live in a difficult world in very difficult times—the cultural challenges; the daily life challenges, but in the midst of this, we are called to stand and persevere.”

In the afternoon worship service, Rob Freshour, pastor of First Baptist Church of South Lyon, provided instruction based on Matthew 5:13-16. He reminded the group that the assault on our biblical values by today's culture is not primarily of a moral nature but of a spiritual nature.

“The darker the night, the brighter the light shines,” Freshour said. “It is precisely when the world is at its worst that the people of God should be at their best. We were made for days like these.”

“We have been called, created and created

anew, and commissioned by King Jesus Christ to go to our churches, our families, our neighborhoods and our communities and knock holes in the darkness.”

A musical group from the Hispanic congregation of the Crossroads Baptist Church in Ann Arbor led the fellowship in praise and worship. Members of the team hailed from Puerto Rico, Peru, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina and Honduras. Other Hispanic congregations also provided special music throughout the day.

A variety of churches supplied food for the event, each adding their own cultural influence to the event.

“It was a great time and a great turnout,” Jose

Ramirez of Adrian Baptist Church said of the event. “You could tell by the amount of people that we really missed that fellowship amongst each other. We got to see people we hadn't seen in a long time.”

“A lot of people asked us if we would be able to do this again,” Liese said. “There is a deep hunger among all of our different Michigan Southern Baptist language groups for times of refreshing and fellowship in their own languages and cultural uniqueness.”

Liese indicated that plans are being set in place to once again host a gathering of Michigan's Hispanic Baptist Churches in 2016. ■



Nearly 200 people attended the 2015 Fellowship of Hispanic Baptist Churches retreat at Cedar Street Church in Holt. (Submitted picture)

## THE BAPTIST BEACON

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

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through His people  
in Michigan and  
Around the World,  
plus  
Helping Resource  
the Vision of your  
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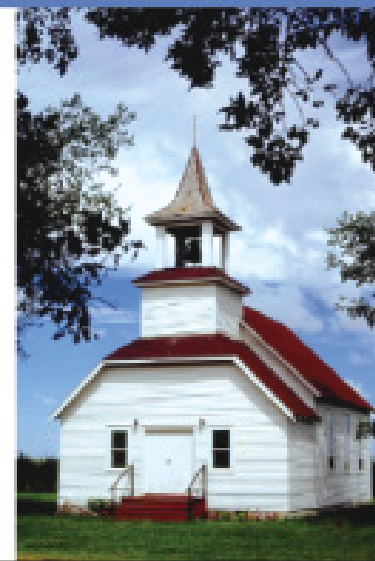
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## CHURCH UPDATE

Tell us about your new Pastor,  
an evangelistic outreach event,  
a mission trip, or something  
else that you'd like to share with  
our convention of churches.

**Send updates  
about your  
church to:**

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# Food fair ministers to gluten-free community

BY NANCY SPEARS

*Special to the Baptist Beacon*

GRAND RAPIDS — A woman approaches Anchor Community Church's table with a look of distraught.

"Hi, what can I help you with?" the pastor asked compassionately.

"I need to find a place to start," she replied.

"Here at the food fair?" the pastor asked.

"In life," she replied. "I just got the blood results back this morn-

ing telling me I have celiac disease. I went online, typed in gluten free Grand Rapids, this event came up, and I came straight down. I'm scared, stressed, and honestly don't know where to start."

Stories like this one brought a crowd of 1377 people together. Though people came from all walks of life, the one common thread they shared was avoiding gluten. Whether because of celiac disease, gluten intolerance, inflammatory issues, or other autoimmune diseases, those

attending are on the difficult path of eating gluten-free.

The number of people being impacted by Celiac disease and gluten intolerance grows daily. Statistics show that 85% of the people with this disease are still not diagnosed.

This means that many are living with a disease that can be easily treated by a diet change and yet they are suffering up to 300 symptoms that are unnecessarily affecting their lives and physical and mental well-being.

Anchor Community Church takes seriously the needs of this people group. Nine years ago, the church felt the call of God to reach out to them with an event, the first annual Gluten Free Food Fair that has been hosted each year since.

When the fair started, gluten-free food was scarce and much of it was perceived to be of inferior quality. While few exceptional companies created very tasty products, the food was expensive and people were afraid to spend their hard-earned money on poor-tasting products. One of the reasons that the Gluten Free Food Fair began was to let people taste the products before investing.

This year, the event was full of products that compare in both flavor and appearance to their gluten-laden counter-

parts. Cinnamon rolls, Hot Pockets, soups, sauces, bread, and many other products were offered as samples to the gluten-free community gathered at the event.

Many new local bakeries as well as nationwide specialty and mainstream companies provided an abundance of good food. Finding gluten-free food today is not the same challenge that was presented just a few years ago.

Authors Cindy Gordon (Vegetarian Mamma) and Tiffany Hinton (GF Certified Mom) were special guests enlisted for conferences and cooking demos. The Demo Kitchen, sponsored by Meijer, had four one-hour cooking demos including Tiffany Hinton making homemade gluten free donuts as well as Chef Nick from Western Michigan University Catering making a variety of gluten-free cookies.

Conferences included Cindy Gordon's "Gluten Free 101", Tiffany Hinton's "Raising a GF Kid", and "Dealing with Resistance" by Dr. John Coin, who completed his dissertation, "Engaging the Celiac Community," in December 2014. The Anchor Kids Korner featured Millie T-shirts to color, GF Kid Alert jewelry, and other activities provided by the Anchor Kids ministry.

As difficult as this decision was to make, Anchor has decided this year's



The Grand Rapids Gluten-Free Food Fair brought a crowd of over 1300. Anchor Community Church has hosted the event for nine consecutive years. (Submitted photo)

See FOOD FAIR on page 13

## 'Surrender' theme highlights WMU Missions Celebration

BY BECKY VAUGHAN

*Michigan Women's Missionary Union*

AND BEACON STAFF

WARREN — On April 18, almost 100 people gathered from across the state at Warren Woods Baptist Church for the WMU Missions Celebration and 57th Annual Meeting. As the group focused on increasing a missions outlook across the state, this year's meeting challenged attendees to learn and live out the WMU Vision Statement and be radically involved in the mission of God.

Matt Mitchell and Heather Yancy of Macomb's Lakepointe Church provided worship for the event, and several Michigan missionaries joined in to update and educate the group on how the Lord is using them in the areas to which they have been called. Missionaries from NAMB, church planters, and Michigan's own Mike Durbin and Darren Greer encouraged the group to get involved in serving in missions and praying for the Michigan's mission field.

"This year, the attendance was more representative of our convention with men and women from all regions of our state," Sue Hodnett, WMU executive director-elect, said. "There was an immense interest in missions, mission involvement, and missions education. State representatives and pastors expressed a genuine appreciation for WMU and our Michigan WMU team's efforts to be relevant in leading prayer, missions, and women's ministries throughout the state."

Debby Akerman, national WMU president, came from South Carolina to the event to lead



WMU of Michigan Leadership Team and Honoree Members: (Front, L-R) Becky Swain, Elaine Hill, Sharon Greer, Sue Hodnett, Helen Henley, Becky Vaughan, Marilyn Hopkins, Sarah Scaia; (Back, L-R) Mary Allen, Marta Ebbs, Charlotte Lott, Dr. Dot Sample, Odelle Cadwell, Nancy Spears, Robin Hoffman, Leslie Woods. (Submitted photo)

Bible studies. Several former Michigan WMU officers also attended the event, including former presidents Dot Sample and Marta Ebbs as well as former executive director Marilyn Hopkins.

Breakout sessions were also offered to teach

attendees about missions and living a Christ-centered lifestyle. A variety of topics were provided, including teaching Vacation Bible School, learn-

See WMU on page 13



# Walking on water: What Peter can teach us



**TIM PATTERSON**  
Executive Director/  
Treasurer

As you read this, I have begun to settle into my office here at the Baptist State Convention of Michigan. A year ago I would have never dreamed I would be serving the people of the great state of Michigan as their executive director or for that

matter be anywhere near Michigan.

Sabrina and I were living a comfortable and blessed life in sunny Florida with no inclination to leave its beaches and year-round warm weather in exchange for nine months of winter and three months of spring in a state where the next stop north is Canada. Happy, comfortable, at ease, settled — these are words that described our state of mind and spirit.

We were surrounded by life long friends and more than familiar settings. Life was good and God was blessing. We were far from complacent concerning ministry and the lost around us.

The fact is, we were very passionate about the calling of God on our lives and were expectantly looking for a continued harvest of lives for the Kingdom.

Why would anyone want to change? Why would we even consider a different life and ministry in a different place? One would have to have severe mental issues to entertain the idea of leaving all of that and moving north.

Yet that is exactly what has happened. Not because we planned it but because it has always been in the plan of God.

Sabrina and I are fully convinced that God has been planning and preparing us and the Baptist State Convention of Michigan for such a time as this. Over the last 40-plus years of ministry in which we have been engaged, our Father has been equipping us through experience and events to prepare us to serve the gracious people of this wonderful state. Every church and every

ministry that we have served in the past has been in preparation for such a day as this.

But all of this would be for naught if we were not willing to step out in faith.

Just as Jesus had come to the disciples, walking on the water in the midst of a storm, He came to Sabrina and me and called us to step out in faith. Not to a known secure place but a place of unknown destination and purpose.

All we knew was that He called us and that He would be with us wherever we might go. That step of faith has lead us here to Michigan.

I believe with all my being that God is calling Michigan Baptist believers individually and corporately to step out in faith and experience the presence and provision of God.

When Jesus called Peter to come to Him, Peter did not possess any greater faith than the other disciples. He just exercised what little faith he did possess and that is what made it possible for him to get out of the boat and walk on the water with Jesus.

There is much we can learn from the account of Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:22-33.

## First, we need to understand the reasons why we should get of the boat.

1. If we stay in the boat — our present situation — we will have what we have now and nothing more. Things never improve in the boat.
2. It is full of guilt. We know we could and should do more for the Kingdom but we cannot in our present condition.
3. If we stay in the boat, we are at the mercy of our surroundings and atmospheric changes. The prince and power of the air pushes the boat around.
4. We cannot accomplish much in the boat. Nothing is stable and there is not much room for growth, improvement, and change.

## We also need to understand the requirements for walking on the

## water.

1. Relinquish control of your life. Only then will God be in control.
2. Desire to trust Him and to be with Jesus more than you fear the unknown.
3. Be willing to fail. That is when you end up in the arms of Jesus.
4. Leave your life jackets — security — behind. Those who walk by faith have nothing in their hands.

## There are some rules for walking on the water we must follow.

1. Don't look at your circumstances. Circumstances change, He does not.
2. Don't listen to people who are still in the boat. They will try to talk you back in and tell you why you cannot do what you ARE doing.
3. Don't look at yourself. You are no different from those in the boat. It is Jesus who is doing the miraculous, not you.
4. Do keep your eyes on Jesus. When you take your eyes off of Him, you will begin to sink.

## The results will be:

1. You get out of the dead, dull, decaying boat life.
2. You will see God provide all that you need to accomplish His will.
3. You will get to experience the power and presence of Jesus.
4. You will go and do what you have never done before.

Michigan Baptists, today is a day of opportunity where we can begin to walk in faith and step out of our respective areas of comfort and begin to see God do the miraculous in our midst. The Gospel has not lost its power and there are millions in our state waiting for someone to take the Good News to them, but in order for that to happen we must first get out of the boat.

It will take faith. It will take courage. It will take conviction.

But most importantly it will take all of us taking that first step of faith over the side and into the water. I believe it is time we got our feet wet our faith walking. I look forward to seeing you on the water. ■



**Jerome Taylor**

@brojerome

The future ahead for @MIBaptists looks bright with our new BSCM ED @tpatterson. #KingdomWorkTogether #WelcomeToMI

**Kevin Hester**

@Kevin\_Hester

Congratulations new @MIBaptists exec. director @tpatterson. Honored to be on the search team & excited about the future.

**Carlos Liese**

@liese1000

In Rev. 6:10 the dead in Christ cried out with a loud voice. They weren't sleeping. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

**David Washington Jr.**

@pastordwash

Great leaders don't lead for themselves but lead for the generation that is to come!

**John E. Botkin**

@johnbotkin

Very excited to have two of my Filipino brothers in our service this morning! These pastors are true partners in the gospel.

**Kayre Stanley, II**

@PastorKayre2

Your preaching doesn't have to be fancy; God's Word is always relevant. #PreachtheWord

**Robert Johnson II**

@rbj\_ii

Following a crowd that claims to follow Jesus does not mean that you are following Jesus.

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

**How CP Works**

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

**COOPERATIVE PROGRAM**



# Final thoughts as interim executive director



**JIMMY JONES**  
Interim Executive  
Director

I would like to express gratitude to the Lord for the opportunity to serve the Baptist State Convention of Michigan and our churches as Interim Executive Director these past 10 months. As I shared in my report to the Convention in November,

the call from President Dr. Larry Allen asking me to serve humbled me.

I was aware that many of the transitions in North American Mission Board and our own Convention had caused misunderstandings, poor communication, resentment, lack of trust, discouragement, and anger.

I saw my task under the Lord's leadership of re-establishing fellowship, trust, cooperation, and love between NAMB, the Baptist State Convention of Michigan, our associations, our churches, and our pastors. I also felt that it was my ministry to encourage our staff, associations, churches, pastors, and church members.

Our Annual Meeting theme was

changed to "Pressing on in Unity". We came together in a Solemn Assembly led by Kerry Skinner and Gary Frost. These two men lead us in a time of prayer and repentance that set the tone for our Annual Meeting.

Many messengers reported it was the most spiritual meeting in years. We left Bambi Lake with a new spirit among the people.

Soon we had our Annual Missions Retreat at Frankenmuth, and all our staff – including the associational directors not employed by our Convention – attended. It was a joyful time of fellowship.

After receiving the State Missions Offering, we sent to every association a check to help them with their administrative budget.

Retreats at Bambi have been outstanding. Many of the retreats saw larger attendance and more professions of faith than in several years.

The Midwest Advance in Springfield, Ill. was well attended and I saw much excitement about what our state could do in reaching people and starting new churches.

Beginning in December, our Cooperative Program gifts were over \$100,000.00 four of the past five months, and the gifts reached over \$140,000 twice in that period. April

Cooperative gifts were the highest in several years.

For the first four months this year we are ahead of last year's average. When considering the average gifts to the State Convention have decreased every year since 2006, the Lord is doing great things in our Convention.

If we continue to receive the same amount of money from NAMB as we have thus far, it will be more than any other year; there is a new appreciation in our state for our relationship with this Board.

The greatest evidence of the Lord bringing us back together as a people of God was the results of our special called Convention May 9, 2015. We called the meeting to vote on pastor Tim Patterson as our Executive Director.

For the first time in our history, a new Executive Director was elected by a unanimous vote. Could you believe that would happen in light of all our difficulties?

The Lord guided our search committee – led by Wayne Parker – to His chosen man to be our leader, and the Lord gave us His leadership to elect Pastor Tim Patterson by a miraculous vote.

Pastor Tim Patterson is the Lord's

gift to Michigan. I feel that our greatest history is just ahead of us under his leadership.

The Lord has provided a man of spiritual maturity, talent, experience, love, and vision. But we must support him in our prayers, our love and our cooperation.

What is accomplished must be by the Power of the Holy Spirit as we work together to reach Michigan for Christ. In the next few months, Pastor Tim and his wife Sabrina will be visiting churches all over our state. I know you will feel their love and will be encouraged.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation for all our state staff for their support and prayers. You can be proud of them all.

I especially want to recognize Anne and Yolanda. Without their commitment and diligent work, we would not be ready to move forward.

It has been one of the great joys of my life to serve our Convention. Thank you for the opportunity. To God be the glory great things He Has done.

Now we must continue to press on in unity. ■

## 2015 SBC ANNUAL MEETING

**COLUMBUS, OHIO**  
**JUNE 16–17**



For more information and to register for these activities, visit [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



**PRESCHOOL CHILDCARE** for children birth through kindergarten will once again be provided by Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Childcare Teams Sunday through Wednesday. Registration for all children/youth events will open in February at [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net).



**GIANT COW CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES** (formerly Children's Conference International) will again provide activities for children ages 5–12 on Sunday and Monday during the SBC Pastors' Conference.

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

**MESSANGER PRE-REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN FEBRUARY.**



**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** can still be secured by going to [www.sbcannualmeeting.net](http://www.sbcannualmeeting.net)



# Page: Obama's comments on poverty disappointing

BY DAVID ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — President Obama's suggestion that evangelicals often devote more resources to fighting abortion than caring for the poor reflects ignorance concerning denominations like the Southern Baptist Convention, Frank S. Page said on a national radio broadcast.

"We are involved" in fighting poverty, Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee said May 16 on the "Washington Watch" radio program's weekend edition hosted by Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council.

"So there was both arrogance and ignorance involved in his comments. It bothered me deeply. We care about people."

Page was referencing comments

made by Obama at a May 12 panel discussion on poverty hosted by Georgetown University. The president acknowledged that some conservatives "deeply care" about the poor and "exhibit that through their churches." But later, he said poverty

relief "is oftentimes viewed" by churches "as 'nice to have' relative to an issue like abortion" in discussions of "the thing that is really going to capture the essence of who we are as Christians."

Obama specifically referenced "the evangelical community" among the referents of his comments.

Page said he has "met with President Obama many times," "heard his personal testimony" and served on an advisory council for the White House

Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. "So I was deeply disappointed to hear what he said. To

be honest with you, President Obama owes evangelical Christians an apology."

Page estimated at least 40,000 of the approximately 46,000 churches in cooperation with the SBC have ministries aimed at helping the poor. First Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C., where Page served as pastor for nine years, offered a free medical clinic six days a week and "dozens" of after-school programs, he said, citing the church as illustrative of what many other congregations do.

Southern Baptists "have the third largest disaster relief ministry in the world," Page said. "Who do you think is involved right now in Nepal? Well, we are. We were there before the government was. When the government leaves, we'll be there. We were involved in Hurricane Sandy."

President George W. Bush once told Page he was flying over New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina and asked, "Who are all those people with yellow hats and yellow shirts?" The reply came, "Mr. President, those are Southern Baptist volunteers."

Southern Baptists operate feeding stations for the Red Cross following disasters, Page said, and give 20 times more money annually to disaster relief and a global hunger fund

(Global Hunger Relief) than to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the convention entity charged with advocating, among other things, pro-family legislation in Washington.

"When you look at the actual work of the 46,124 local churches, then you're including billions and billions of ministry dollars" spent on helping the poor, Page said.

Obama's comments reflected "ignorance" of evangelical views, Page said, because the president does not often visit churches, especially evangelical ones. The comments reflected "arrogance" because Obama "dared tell us what we should focus upon."

The remarks about evangelicals point to "a bigger issue," Page said. "It's part of trying to silence Christians who are strongly pro-life. And it is part of a bigger [attempt] to keep us quiet, to put us in the corner, to ostracize us, to alienate us and to make us seem like uncaring, hurtful people."

Evangelicals "do believe in protecting the unborn. We are unashamed of that," Page said. "We also know that we've got to take care of the born, and the vast majority of our resources [devoted to community ministries] go to protecting the born and helping the born." ■



Frank S. Page (BP file photo)

## Looming senior adult revolution to impact nation

BY CHUCK KELLEY

Baptist Press

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Something is happening that you may not have noticed. If you have noticed it, you may not fully appreciate its significance. It will affect you. It will affect your church. It will affect the whole nation.

What's happening is a senior adult revolution.

Georgia Baptist disaster relief volunteers fill Red Cross containers with food for delivery to hurricane victims.

Some call it the graying of America, but that is too gentle a term for what lies ahead. It is more like a '60s remix. The 1960s were the most turbulent, revolutionary years in modern American history. Every aspect of U.S. culture was affected, including the church. Now picture the '60s reimagined and reinvented: profound changes in American life driven by grandparents rather than college students, by retirement living and health care rather than drugs and rock 'n' roll.

### The unprecedented generation

Here is the revolution in a nutshell: According to Ken Dychtwald in the "The Age Wave," "two-thirds of all the men and women who have lived beyond the age of 65 in the entire history of the world are alive today." Ponder that for a few moments. Dychtwald goes on to note that life expectancy for Americans doubled in the relatively brief history of our nation, creating for the first time "a

mass society of healthy, active elders."

Not since the days of Noah has God given a generation extended life, good health and adequate resources. Today the fastest-growing segment of the senior adult population is the 85-and-up group.



Georgia Baptist disaster relief volunteers fill Red Cross containers with food for delivery to hurricane victims. (BP file photo)

The birthdays you celebrate now are practice for the birthdays you will celebrate for many years to come.

### The ripple effect

The simple fact of senior adults living longer sets in motion many ripples. Older adults will be an important influence in our churches for a significantly longer time than was true in the past.

They will not only be present, they will be active. They will not only be active, they will be vocal. This is one reason why attitudes toward worship style have become so complex for many congregations.

In most congregations, a strategic plan for the future that does not incorporate the needs, values and gifts of senior adults is incomplete.

Older adults will make attention to pastoral care essential for healthy churches. A growing number of senior adults will move from independent living to assisted living to life in a skilled nursing unit. How will the church minister to them as they make these very important transitions? How will the church incorporate their presence in a retirement community as a launching pad for evangelism and ministry to other residents of that community?

Senior adults will affect the lifestyles and decisions of younger adults. A growing number of church members will have the care of one or more senior parents as a priority. Imagine the questions and issues faced by Baby Boomers who will retire and still have responsibility for the care of aging parents. This will affect how families spend their time, their money and their emotional energy. A church's attitude toward, and provisions for, senior adults will be noticed in a way not unlike how parents look carefully at programs for their children.



# IMB & churches: 'limitless missionary teams'

By DAVID PLATT

International Mission Board

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** David Platt, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, amplifies a new policy to streamline guidelines for appointing new missionary personnel. The policy was adopted by IMB trustees during their May 12-13 meeting in Louisville, Ky.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — IMB exists to partner with churches to empower limitless missionary teams who are making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God.

In order to see "limitless" missionaries working among the unreached, IMB is exploring multiple pathways through which more men and women from Southern Baptist churches might serve overseas. When you hear pathways, think possibilities — all the possible ways that ordinary Christians might serve overseas: as church planters, doctors, teachers, accountants, lawyers, fitness instructors, rickshaw drivers, retirees, students, and the list goes on and on. God has providentially arranged a multiplicity of avenues through which His people can take the Gospel around the world, and as the IMB, we want to help Southern Baptists go through as many of those pathways as possible.

Up until this point, IMB has had a certain number of pathways for career, apprentice, Journeyman, International Service Corps and Masters program missionaries. In addition to separate policies for each of these pathways, IMB has had additional policy regulations covering issues like level of education, history of divorce, teenage children in the home, the practice of tongues and/or a private prayer language and circumstances surrounding baptism. Each of these policies was put in place at various times for good reasons.

However, as we look toward the future and the limitless number of missionaries we want to mobilize from Southern Baptist churches, we know that this will likely involve many new pathways through which men and women might serve on missionary teams through the IMB. Each of these pathways may carry unique qualifications, involve various types of training and include different levels of support from IMB. For example, a lead church planter in the remote deserts of the Middle East may require different qualifications, training and support than an Information Technology expert in London,

a student in Shanghai, a business professional in Dubai or a retiree in Bangkok. Nevertheless, all of them may be IMB missionaries, and thus all of them need to meet a base level of qualifications. In light of this, we have seen a foundational need for a simple, clear statement of qualifications that not only unifies all IMB missionaries together, but also unifies IMB with the churches and entities of the SBC.

For this reason, IMB trustees voted this week to approve a policy that creates a single, unitary statement of qualifications that will characterize every missionary serving through any pathway created by IMB. Further, this single policy now replaces all of the other policies mentioned above that address specific qualifications for different pathways. In order to be as clear as possible, I have inserted the new policy below, and then I want to explain it further below. The policy states:

*An IMB missionary is a disciple of Jesus set apart by the Holy Spirit, sent out from the church, and affirmed by the IMB to cross geographic, cultural, and/or linguistic barriers as part of a missionary team focused on making disciples and multiplying churches among unreached peoples and places. IMB exists to empower limitless teams of missionaries made up of different men, women, and families with distinct roles and responsibilities. IMB provides multiple pathways in which missionaries may serve on one of these teams, each of which carries unique qualifications. However, any IMB missionary serving through any pathway created by IMB leadership is required to meet the following qualifications:*

## **SPIRITUAL QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Vibrant personal discipleship:** *As they abide in God's Word and walk in step with God's Spirit, IMB missionaries bear fruit of an intimate, growing relationship with Christ.*
- **Evident personal discipling:** *IMB missionaries are meaningfully involved in a local church in which they participate in leading people to faith in Christ, seeing new believers baptized in the church, and showing believers how to obey Christ, all with a view toward reaching the nations with the gospel.*
- **Call:** *The call to serve as an IMB missionary has been discerned within a local church and affirmed by that local church alongside IMB leadership.*
- **Commitment:** *IMB missionaries are devoted to the vision, mission, values, and beliefs of the*

IMB.

## **SOUTHERN BAPTIST IDENTITY**

- *Currently a baptized member of a Southern Baptist church*
- *Commitment to and identification with Southern Baptists*
- *Conviction of truth as expressed in the current Baptist Faith and Message statement of the Southern Baptist Convention*

## **HEALTH**

- *Good physical, emotional, and mental health.*

## **FAMILY**

- *IMB missionaries model a godly family life and/or personal relationships.*

## **CITIZENSHIP**

- *Service is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents of the United States.*

A few comments and clarifications regarding what this policy does and does not mean are extremely important.

First, this policy means that when it comes to specific IMB pathways for service like career, apprentice, Journeyman, International Service Corps, or Masters, IMB no longer has official policies detailing additional qualifications for each of these pathways. Nevertheless, this policy does not mean that just anyone can now serve through any of these pathways created by IMB. We will still have clear expectations and qualifications, which accompany every pathway created by IMB (whether the ones mentioned above or new pathways we create in the days ahead). This policy simply allows IMB leadership the opportunity to evaluate and revise the expectations and qualifications for those pathways in order to continually strengthen them in the days ahead.

Second, this policy does not mean that current principles governing the selection of missionaries may not apply to particular pathways in the future. For example, we have had a policy prohibiting missionaries with teenage children from being selected for certain pathways. This policy was established for good reason in light of challenges for children (and their families) moving overseas at certain ages. As a result, there may be some pathways through which IMB continues to not appoint missionaries with teenage children. At the same time, this new policy does leave open the possibility for IMB pathways to exist in which missionaries with teenage children might serve through IMB. Certainly we will approach a family with older teenage children who are considering moving their lives permanently to a remote area in sub-Saharan Africa differently than a family

with younger teenage children who are considering moving their lives for a one-year assignment in London.

Third, this policy does not signal a change in practice regarding how the IMB works in relation to Southern Baptist doctrine and practice. The purpose of this policy is actually to ensure that every potential IMB missionary is a meaningful member of a Southern Baptist church and believes and works according to the current Baptist Faith and Message. This policy asserts that this statement of faith, which unites over 40,000 churches in the Southern Baptist Convention, is sufficient for us. Moreover, this policy states that the Baptist Faith and Message is significant for us in the sense that we will hold missionaries to it, not only in what they believe but in how they live and work as IMB missionaries. In sum, this policy states that every meaningful member of a Southern Baptist church who has been baptized (by immersion) as a follower of Christ, whose belief and practice both align with the Baptist Faith and Message, and who meet all of the spiritual qualifications mentioned above may potentially serve as an IMB missionary.

Fourth, simply because we replace other policies addressing more specific doctrinal distinctives beyond the Baptist Faith and Message does not mean that such distinctives are now unimportant to IMB. For example, replacing the policy that addresses tongues and private prayer language does not mean that the issue of tongues is unimportant to IMB work around the world. We will continue to train and work as missionaries in ways that faithfully represent Southern Baptist churches and conviction, and we will continue to have as part of our "Manual for Field Personnel" allowance for termination of employment for any missionary who places "persistent emphasis on any specific gift of the Spirit as normative for all or to the extent such emphasis becomes disruptive" to Southern Baptist missions work. In a similar way, replacing the policy that addresses believer's baptism does not in any way mean that IMB will in any sense dilute the way we select, train and work as missionaries in complete accord with the statement on baptism in the Baptist Faith and Message.

Fifth, this policy does not mean we are lowering the standards for missionaries. Indeed, quite the opposite is true. Some may see the replacement of policies dealing with divorce or tongues, for example, as efforts to "lower the bar" regarding

See IMB on page 8

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

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



## SENIOR ADULTS from page 6

### A Great Commission army

This senior adult revolution is more than a medical advance. As the number of unevangelized and unchurched in our nation grows, God is raising up a Great Commission army. He intends for senior adults to form the critical mass necessary for the Gospel to penetrate the world. Their opinions will shape direction. Their willingness to give will affect fiscal stability. Their engagement with the mission will be crucial for mobilizing congregations. God intends for senior adults to step up to missions engagement and not step aside for younger adults to do all the work.

The current generation of young adults is often called the Millennials. I call them the Lost Generation. They are the largest generation in American history, bigger even than the Baby Boomers. They are also the most unevangelized generation in American history. So many of them have no religious background; they are also called “nones” for responding to surveys about religious background and beliefs with “none of the above.” However,

connections with senior adults are possible. Millennials made Tony Bennett, popular in the 1960s, more popular than at any other time of his career. Their interest in the classic hymns of the faith has spurred every major Christian artist today to record at least one album of hymns. They have a deep respect for authenticity and consistency. We are unlikely to reach the Millennials without the witness of the seniors.

### How can senior adults make a difference?

Here are some specific suggestions:

- Write cards and notes to people. Children and their parents are a good place to start. Personal mail is so rare these days that handwritten cards and notes become treasures.
- Be a mentor to younger adults. Get to know the ones around you. Ask about their lives. Listen to them. Pray for them. When they face issues you faced, tell them how you managed. Be a grandparent outside your family.
- Seek Kingdom advance above personal satisfaction. You lived much of your life deferring

dreams and desires for the sake of your family. Be willing to do the same when your church wants to try something new.

- Encourage, encourage, encourage. So few people have a constant encourager in their lives.
- Speak as often of Jesus as you do your grandkids. If you will keep Jesus on your mind, He will find a way out of your mouth.
- Give one last gift to Jesus through your estate. Honor Him in your death as you sought to do in your life, making your last act on earth a gift to your church or a Christian ministry.

Not since the days of Noah has God done for a generation of people what He is doing for this generation of senior adults. Celebrate your extended life, health and resources as His gift for His purposes. Use these additional years for His glory.

*This article first appeared in the Baptist Courier (www.baptistcourier.com), newsjournal of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Chuck Kelley is president of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. ■*

## IMB from page 7

expectations of missionaries. One might imagine a man or woman with multiple divorces who is also engaged in harmful charismatic practices and wonder if this policy revision now opens the possibility for that person to serve as an IMB missionary. But this is most definitely not what this policy means. As you see in the new policy, the baseline qualification for missionaries includes men and women who “bear fruit of an intimate, growing relationship with Christ” and are “meaningfully involved in a [Southern Baptist] church in which they participate in leading people to faith in Christ, seeing new believers baptized in the church and showing believers how to obey Christ, all with a view toward reaching nations with the gospel.”

Further, prospective missionaries must evidence a missionary call that is both “discerned within their local church and affirmed by that local church

alongside IMB leadership.” Finally, they must be “devoted to the vision, mission, values, and beliefs of the IMB.” We hope that if all of these characteristics are evident in a member of a Southern Baptist church, and that church affirms with us God’s call for that member to work as a missionary, then pathways for service as an IMB missionary may be a possibility (whether as a church planter or support worker who receives full financial support from the IMB, as a business professional who receives no financial support from the IMB or anywhere in between).

In conclusion, what this policy means is that IMB wants to open wide the door for Southern Baptist churches to send thousands upon thousands of biblically qualified members in the days ahead to serve as IMB missionary team members who are making disciples and multiplying churches among

the unreached. These members will serve in many different positions with many different responsibilities, ranging from lead church planters to vital support roles, from business professionals to college students to active retirees. From a variety of different backgrounds with a variety of different skills and a variety of different qualifications, they will join together to spread the Gospel to people who have never heard it. The ultimate aim of this policy revision is to enable limitless God-exalting, Christ-following, Spirit-led, biblically-faithful, people-loving, high-quality Southern Baptist missionaries to serve with IMB through a multiplicity of pathways in the days ahead.

*For an International Mission Board FAQ on the new policy to streamline guidelines for appointing new missionary personnel, visit <http://imb.org/updates/storyview-3165.aspx>. ■*

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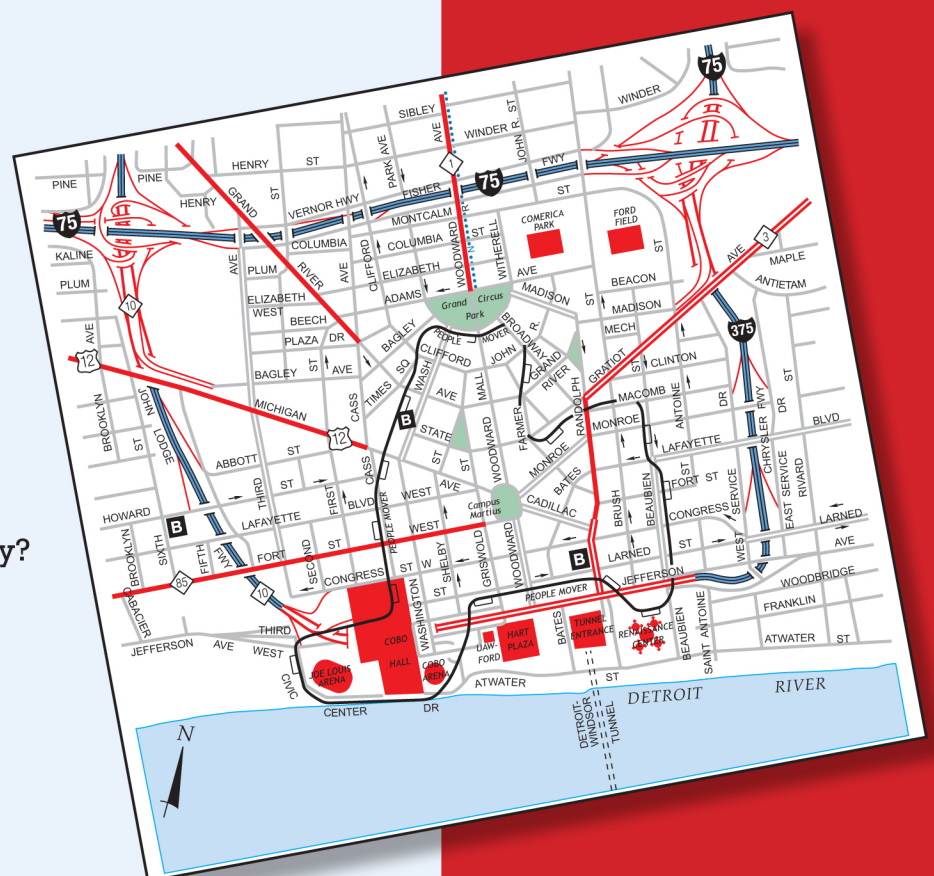
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# Google update could decrease churches' web traffic

By DAVID ROACH

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP) — A change in Google's formula for prioritizing search results could keep churches without mobile-friendly websites from being as visible online to potential visitors.

Starting April 21, Google updated its algorithms for searches done from mobile devices to give higher placement in the results to websites that are compatible with such devices. That means churches with older, more basic websites may not appear among the top results when, for example, mobile phone users search for "Baptist church" and their city.

"Why is this a concern?" asked Michael Magruder, director of LifeWay.com for LifeWay Christian Resources. "Google estimates that over 60 percent of search queries currently originate from mobile devices. The biggest question businesses and organizations ask is, 'How do I know if my website is mobile optimized?'"

Tony Boes, the Missouri Baptist Convention's webmaster, told Baptist Press there are simple ways a church can determine whether its website qualifies as mobile-friendly. First, pull up the site on a mobile phone. If it fits the screen well and has buttons that are a clickable size, the site likely is mobile-friendly.

For a definitive answer to the question of whether a site is mobile-friendly, a church can visit Google's "Mobile-Friendly Test" website, Boes said. Simply enter the URL of your congregation's website on that page, and Google will tell you whether it is mobile-friendly as well as provide links to information about how to improve the site.

Mobile-friendly sites, according to Google's Webmaster Central Blog:

- Avoid using software that is not common on

- mobile devices, like Adobe Flash Player;
- Use text that is readable without zooming;
- Size content to the screen so users don't have to scroll horizontally to view the site; and
- Place links far enough apart that the correct one can be tapped easily.

Because as many as 40 percent of websites fail to meet Google's mobile-friendly criteria, some experts predicted the algorithm change would have a major impact, a scenario they dubbed "Mobilegeddon." But Baptist tech experts said several facts mitigate the change's effect on churches.

For one, churches in small towns with unique names in those towns should still be relatively easy to find in a search. If someone searches for such a church's name and its town, "Google is probably going to want to give you what you're looking for more than they want to give you something that's just mobile-friendly," Boes said.

In addition, the change only affects Google searches done from smart phones and some Android tablets. "If you are searching from a desktop or most tablets, the search results are not expected to change," Magruder told BP. He noted that searches in Apple Maps and Google Maps will still display results in order of proximity regardless of whether a church's site is mobile-friendly.

Finally, Chris Thurman, a Kentucky-based web designer who works with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and churches across America, told BP he has "not noticed a huge difference in the [Google] rankings from some of our clients [in the business world] who did not optimize for mobile." He speculated, however, that Google may be roll-

ing out its update gradually in a way that does not affect all industries simultaneously.

Still, experts agree that some congregations will be affected by the change and church websites ought to be mobile-friendly. Boes said a knowledgeable staff member or volunteer should be able to make a site mobile-friendly "relatively fast."

Churches that used a content management system like WordPress to design their websites need to make sure the "theme," or template, they have chosen is mobile-friendly, Boes said. A potential theme can be tested by viewing it on a smart phone or en-

tering it in Google's Mobile-Friendly Test. If a site generated through a content management system is not mobile-friendly, a simple change of theme should fix the problem, he said.

Another option is to use LifeWay's Twenty:28 content management system, in which all themes are mobile optimized.

Regardless of the change to Google's search algorithm, Boes said it is important for churches to optimize their websites for mobile traffic. Since the Missouri Baptist Convention made its website mobile friendly in October, Boes said mobile traffic to the site has doubled and the number of users who leave the site without clicking on any links has decreased.

Becoming mobile-friendly "is only going to get more important for any website that's out there, whether or not you're a church, as more and more people look to the cell phone as their primary Internet device," Boes said.

David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. ■



# House OKs ban on late abortions

By TOM STRODE

Baptist Press

WASHINGTON (BP) -- The U.S. House of Representatives approved a ban on late abortions Wednesday (May 13) in a vote that was postponed nearly four months to the dismay of pro-life Americans.

The House voted 242-184 for the Pain-capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which will prohibit abortions on babies 20 weeks or more after fertilization based on scientific evidence that a child in the womb experiences pain by that point in gestation. The House leadership canceled a Jan. 22 roll call on the proposal after about two dozen Republicans, led by female members, expressed concerns about the legislation.

"[T]his is a step in the right direction." -- Russell Moore In the end, House leaders traded one abortion-related anniversary for another in holding the vote after appeals from pro-life organizations. They originally set the vote for the anniversary of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court opinion that legalized abortion throughout the country. Instead, they held the vote on the second anniversary of the conviction

of Kermit Gosnell, the notorious Philadelphia abortionist who killed hundreds of late-term babies inside and outside the womb.

Pro-life leaders hailed House passage of the proposal.

Russell Moore, the Southern Baptist Convention's lead ethicist, thanked the House "for voting to end the abhorrent practice of late term abortion."

"No nation can seriously call itself humane while 20 week-old unborn children are unprotected from the abortion industry," said Moore, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), in a written statement. "We have much further to go as a government and as a culture in protecting the dignity of all human life, but this is a step in the right direction."

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said the bill "would save thousands of unborn babies annually from terribly painful deaths."

Abortion rights advocates, meanwhile, criticized the measure.

Cecile Richards, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, called it a "misguided, dangerous bill" that is "part of a

much bigger agenda to ban abortion completely."

Nearly all of the House's Democrats aligned with Planned Parenthood and its allies in opposing a bill that would protect often viable unborn children. Only four Democrats voted for the proposal, while 180 members of the party voted against it. On the GOP side, 238 members supported the bill, while four opposed it.

The House vote came only a week after The New York Times reported a new study showed prematurely born babies are surviving outside the womb earlier than previously thought possible. The study, published in The New England Journal of Medicine, found a small minority of babies born at 22 weeks' gestation survived with few medical problems, though the point of viability has been considered to be 24 weeks, The Times reported May 6.

Revisions in the legislation, H.R. 36, in the last four months actually made the latest version stronger, some of the bill's proponents said.

The newly approved measure includes the following changes from the earlier version regarding exceptions to the ban:

- A specially trained physician

must be present to ensure the same treatment for a child who survives the abortion procedure as a prematurely born baby would receive.

- An adult victim of rape must receive counseling or medical treatment at least 48 hours prior to an abortion, and a pregnancy to a minor that results from rape or incest must be reported to a social services or law enforcement agency.
- A woman considering abortion must sign an informed consent form that includes an estimate by the doctor of the age of the unborn child and a description of the Pain-capable Unborn Child Protection Act.

On the eve of the vote, Moore and eight other pro-life leaders urged the House to approve the ban. Describing it as a "modest pro-life bill," they said in a joint statement, "The United States is one of only seven nations to allow abortion on-demand after this point, putting us in the company of human-rights violators such as China and North Korea."

Among the other endorsers of the

See ABORTION on page 13



# July 1 deadline looms for some churches

By TIMOTHY HEAD

*Guidestone Financial Resources*

DALLAS — Churches and ministries that reimburse their employees for individual health coverage may soon find themselves facing stiff penalties of up to \$36,500 per employee, per year, under the federal health care law commonly known as Obamacare, as a grace period expires June 30. The penalties on employers who maintain employer payment plans were to begin in January, but the IRS granted a six-month reprieve.

Organizations that offer GuideStone health plans are not at risk of these penalties. GuideStone's health plans — both its Personal and Group Plans — are church health plans and

are considered group health plans under federal law and thus are not affected by these penalties.

"Fortunately, GuideStone health plan participants and the churches and ministries that employ them can rest assured that they can continue to pay for coverage as they have in the past and meet the guidelines under the current law," said Donna Lively, managing director of insurance plans at GuideStone Financial Resources. "Organizations that don't utilize GuideStone should consult with their legal and tax advisors to determine how to comply with the letter of the law."

GuideStone has updated its popular resource, Reimbursement Vehicles and the ACA: Impacts for Employ-

ers. It is available free online.

GuideStone has developed new health coverage solutions that may be appropriate for smaller churches. Additionally, churches with only one employee can apply for coverage for that lone staff member during the employee's first 60 days of employment. For more information on how GuideStone may help churches with their health coverage needs, call 1-888-98-GUIDE (1-888-984-8433).

GuideStone encourages churches and ministries to remain vigilant about the Affordable Care Act and the related administrative policies that can create significant challenges for churches.

"This is just one of the myriad challenges facing all Americans, but

especially churches and ministries thanks to the health care reform law," said GuideStone President O.S. Hawkins. "While we continue to wait for Congress or the courts to provide relief, the churches and ministries we serve can remain confident that GuideStone will advocate for them with legislators and regulators and will provide useful information to help them comply with this law."

GuideStone has made available resources on its website to help churches and ministries understand the health care reform law and its requirements on employers and employees. More information can be found at [GuideStone.org/HealthReform](http://GuideStone.org/HealthReform). ■

# Public apologies spur church discipline warnings

By DAVID ROACH

*Baptist Press*

NASHVILLE (BP) — Public apologies by two U.S. megachurches for a lack of compassion in the exercise of church discipline have prompted some Baptist pastors to underscore the need for humility and congregational polity during the attempted restoration of wayward members.

Most American churches have not exercised biblical church discipline for a century, Bart Barber, pastor of First Baptist Church in Farmersville, Texas, told Baptist Press. "Because we have so little practice with it, along the way, as we seek to restore it, people are going to make mistakes. This kind of humility required to apologize for making a mistake, I think, is going to be needed and needed in large quantities in order to be successful in getting to a healthy place with regard to what church membership is."

Matt Chandler, pastor of the Village Church in Dallas, a Southern Baptist multisite congregation, apologized during worship services May 30-31 for a domineering approach by elders in some church discipline cases, the church confirmed to BP.

Christianity Today reported on one case in which the church's leaders initiated the discipline process when a woman ended her marriage after discovering her husband had viewed child pornography for years. She requested to be removed from membership, but the request was denied initially, CT reported, with leaders citing a membership covenant requiring couples to "walk through the steps of marriage reconciliation" before pursuing divorce and a policy forbidding members under discipline from withdrawing.

The Village Church's elders reversed their course May 28 and released her from membership, issuing an apology for not leading her "to a place conducive to peace, repentance and healing." She filed for a marriage annulment under Texas law.

In Chicago, a megachurch's pastor and elders apologized last fall for "the complete lack of biblically required restorative component" in the discipline of three former elders accused of stirring up division in the church, CT reported. In September, Pastor James MacDonald said Harvest Bible Chapel's elder board had "lifted all discipline" from the former elders.

The former elders accused Harvest's leaders of fostering a "culture of intimidation" and exhibiting a lack of transparency. In response, a 2013 video message from Harvest's leadership called church

members to "avoid these former Harvest elders at all costs lest you incur great detriment to your own soul." The former elders' viewpoints, according to the video, were "satanic to the core," CT reported.

Neither the Village Church nor Harvest brings matters of church discipline to a congregational vote.

One way churches err in their discipline processes is by failing to include the entire congregation in votes to withdraw fellowship from individuals in sin who refuse to repent, said Barber, a former first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention. The process of church discipline outlined in Matthew 18:15-18, he said, involves confronting a sinning church member individually, then confronting the person again with two or three witnesses if he or she refuses to repent.

If that call to repentance fails, the entire church body should call for repentance and withdraw fellowship from the individual if there is still not a positive response.

"Having that congregational basis to [discipline] is helpful," Barber said, "because my experience is that congregations are unwilling to extend church discipline sometimes when I'm willing to do it. So there's something of a mediating force in having to go to an entire congregation."

Barber, who has led First Baptist to remove a person from church membership, said the primary biblical theme related to church discipline is

"rescuing believers who are wandering off into a dangerous position."

In 2008, Barber sought to help the SBC articulate an official position on church discipline by submitting a resolution on the topic to the convention's Resolutions Committee. Portions of the draft

Barber submitted were incorporated into a resolution adopted by the convention on "regenerate church membership and church member restoration."

The resolution called churches to repent of "any failure to obey Jesus Christ in the practice of lovingly correcting wayward church members." It asked "denominational servants to support and encourage churches that seek to recover and implement our Savior's teaching on church discipline."

Another pastor to submit a resolution incorporated into that statement was Tom Ascol of Grace Baptist Church in Cape Coral, Fla. He told BP the "biggest mistake" related to corrective church discipline among contemporary

churches "is neglecting it altogether." Among those who do practice it, there can be a tendency of pastors to withdraw fellowship from members without the church's authority, said Ascol, a member of SBC Executive Committee President Frank S. Page's Calvinism Advisory Group in 2013-14.



**Matt Chandler, pastor of the Village Church in Dallas, apologized during worship services on May 30-31 for a domineering approach by elders in some church discipline cases. (Photo courtesy of the Village Church website)**



# First-Person: 5 things you can expect at the SBC this year



**RONNIE FLOYD**  
President, SBC

COLUMBUS, Ohio (BP) — I want to share five things to expect when you attend the 2015 Southern Baptist Convention. Many will be attending for the first time, others

will be attending their first in a few years, and some will be like me, annual attenders. By the way, you can still register, so perhaps this will encourage you to do so.

## 1. God will meet with us powerfully.

A few thousand people have been praying for our gathering almost daily, or at least weekly. In these final days before we gather, we pray and ask each of our pastors, church leaders and their churches to set aside a day to pray and fast for this gathering, June 16-17 in Columbus, Ohio. At the least, thousands of our churches could set aside two or three Sundays before our meeting to take five to ten minutes in their worship services to pray for our upcoming convention.

Many of our churches have set aside entire Sunday mornings to pray for revival in the church, awakening in America, and to reach the world for Christ. More may do so before we gather in Columbus.

What I do know is that we have set aside moments to meet with God, especially on Tuesday night,

when we will take the entire evening session for a national gathering of Southern Baptists to pray for the next Great Awakening and to reach the world with the Gospel. Do not miss it. God will meet with us powerfully. May this evening become a catalyst for the next great move of God in America.

## 2. The schedule will be completely different.

Our Order of Business Committee and the Executive Committee leadership have worked with me in partnership to create what we believe will be a very creative and impactful schedule. Take a moment to download the entire schedule or at least some highlights of it.

We have created packages, things that we believe go together, to help all of us understand more the impact of what God is doing and wants to do through us. The tone will be set in our Tuesday morning session, so do not be late and definitely do not miss it. I hope you will pray for me as I begin preparing to deliver my address to our convention at approximately 9:30 a.m..

## 3. Multiple opportunities will be given to you continually.

Much occurs at our Southern Baptist Convention. While I rejoice in this and have attended many of them, they exist to complement what we do together inside the convention hall for two days, not compete with it.

I respectfully request all of the groups and leaders that are hosting

something or offering something to our messengers to please remember this. Start and conclude before our sessions begin or after our sessions conclude. Let the people out in plenty of time to get into the hall.

Messengers, please be diligent in attending each session. You would be surprised to discover that many messengers never even make it into the hall to attend any sessions. Remember that your churches are funding your trip so that you can participate, listen and return with a report of what our Southern Baptist Convention is doing. This is why we convene, so please join us. We have changed the way we do things so that new people will be interested in attending and to re-engage all of us.

## 4. Outstanding work is preceding our convention.

At the present time, we have 81 of our 119 churches that are a part of the Metro Columbus Baptist Association involved in Crossover Columbus! This is due to the phenomenal leadership of their director of missions, Rich Halcombe, and the entire Ohio Baptist Convention staff team that is led by their executive director, Jack Kwok.

Preceding the convention, many of our churches from across the country will arrive early to assist in Crossover Columbus. Additionally, seminary and college students will be equipped to evangelize and lead various gatherings to impact the city. We could have up to 1,000 college stu-

dents assisting in this and hundreds of them attending our convention.

There is still time to come and help. Everyone who will be there for the weekend before can come assist on Crossover Saturday, June 13. Give a few hours to touch Columbus for Christ. Discover what God is doing and how He can use you at [crossovercolumbus.org](http://crossovercolumbus.org).

Additionally, there will be many fabulous moments afforded to you before Tuesday. Here is a list of those various meetings from our outstanding Pastors' Conference, led by Willy Rice, to the great leadership given to our Woman's Missionary Union by Wanda Lee.

## 5. You will leave Columbus with vision and hope abounding.

I want to assure you, if you are in our sessions at the Southern Baptist Convention, you will leave with vision and hope abounding.

Can I guarantee that? Yes, because I am convinced the reports and presentations along with the various features will be outstanding. Additionally, I am convinced the business will be conducted diligently.

More than anything, I am convinced that God will meet with us powerfully. I pray you will leave with a burden for what God wants to do; but even more so, we appeal to King Jesus that you also leave with vision and hope abounding.

This column first appeared at Ronnie Floyd's website, [www.ronniefloyd.com](http://www.ronniefloyd.com). ■

## CHURCH DISCIPLINE from page 10

"Pastors can fall into the mistake of exercising pastor discipline, where the church has not been taught [and] the church is not fully on board with what's supposed to be done," Ascol said. "... Christ does vest His full authority in the church. So it's the whole body that has responsibility" for removing individuals from membership.

Most church discipline is "formative" rather than "corrective," helping believers develop godly

character through teaching and encouragement, Ascol said. He added among corrective discipline, most cases do not proceed to the step of involving the entire congregation. Discipline that does progress to congregational involvement should be carried out in love, he said, never with "harshness" or "heavy-handedness."

Leading Grace to exclude unrepentant individuals from membership is "the most painful thing as

a pastor that I've ever had to lead a church to do," Ascol said.

Corrective church discipline "is always for God's glory. It's always for the sake of the Gospel," Ascol said. "... When we administer discipline and we do it right, it's in love."

*David Roach is chief national correspondent for Baptist Press. ■*

## ● CLASSIFIEDS ●

### Church Information Packets

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

### Did You Know?

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

### Bi-vocational youth minister needed

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

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



# First-Person: What should the church say to Bruce Jenner?



**RUSSELL MOORE**  
President, SBC Ethics  
and Religious Liberty  
Commission

NASHVILLE (BP) — In the 1970s Bruce Jenner seemed to have it all — fame, wealth, admiration. He was an Olympic star, so popular in American culture that he was reputedly considered for the roles of both Superman and James Bond.

Now, Jenner is best known as the stepfather on reality television's "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." Jenner is now ready for one more change. He says he knows what he's been missing: his identity as a woman.

Jenner has reportedly undergone surgery to make himself appear more like a woman and has been photographed wearing dresses. Now, in a highly publicized interview with Diane Sawyer, he says that his "whole life has been leading up to this."

Bruce Jenner, of course, is a symbol, a celebrity spokesperson for an entire mentality that sees gender as separate from biological identity.

So is there a word from God to the transgender community? How should the church address the Bruce Jenner in your neighborhood, who doesn't have the star power or the Malibu mansions but who has the same alienation of self?

First of all, we should avoid the temptation to laugh at these suffering souls. We do not see our transgendered neighbors as freaks to be despised. They feel alienated from their identities as men or women and are seeking a solution in self-display or in surgery or in pumping their bodies with the other sex's hormones. In a fallen universe, all of us are alienated, in some way, from who we were designed to be. That alienation manifests itself in different ways in different people.

But neither should we fall for the transgender cultural narrative. This narrative is rooted in the ancient heresy of Gnosticism, with the idea that the "real" self is separate from who one is as an embodied, material being. Body parts and chromosomal patterns are seen as dispensable since the self is radically disconnected from the body, the psychic from the

material.

The old Gnostic heresy is joined with contemporary expressive individualism — the idea that I must be true to whomever I perceive my "real me" to be on the inside in order to be "authentic." This is what leads some parents, in other news of recent, to "transition" the gender identity of their child at ages as early as age 4.

It is somewhat ironic that Jenner's interview came in the same week as Earth Day. Earth Day, of course, reminds us that human desires and human

technologies ought to have limits. Just because a corporation has the technological power to raze a forest or level a mountain or dump toxins into a water system is no sign that one should do so. The common good means human beings learning to live in balance and harmony with nature, not with a rapacious domination of it.

What is true of natural ecology is true of human ecology as well. Techno-utopian scientism tells us that we can transcend our limits, to become as gods. For some, that manifests itself in believing that humanity can pollute its own ecosystem with impunity. For others it manifests itself in believing that they can transcend the boundaries of the male/female polarity. A biblical view of our place in the universe is quite different. We are not machines, to be reprogrammed at will; we are creatures.

That vision includes a respect for God's natural, creative order that reflects His wisdom and lordship over the world. Our maleness and femaleness is very much part of that wisdom and lordship. We are born not out of self-effort but in the pure providence of our creator. Our given gender points us to an even deeper

reality — to the unity and complementarity of Christ and the church. A rejection of the goodness of those creational realities, then, is a revolt against God's lordship and against the picture of the Gospel that God

has embedded in the creation.

The hope for Bruce Jenner, and for others like him, is not to alter the body with surgery or to flood their systems with hormones. The answer is to realize that all of us are born alienated from what we were created to be. We don't need to fix what



**Identifying as Caitlyn, Bruce Jenner appeared on the cover of the June 9 issue of Vanity Fair magazine. (Image courtesy of Vanity Fair)**

happened in our first birth; we need a new birth altogether.

For the church, this is going to mean both conviction and wisdom. Our transgender neighbors experience real suffering, and we should suffer with them. The answers offered by the culture and the Sexual Revolution-Industrial Complex can't relieve that suffering. We should stand for God's good design, including what Jesus says has been true "from the beginning" — that we are created male and female, not as self-willed designations but as part of God's creative act (Mark 10:6).

In so doing, what every previous civilization would have seen as obvious, that maleness and femaleness are part of our biological design, will be seen as out-of-kilter with the culture. So be it. We will stand with conviction, even as we offer mercy. We've been called to keep in step with the Spirit, even if we can't always keep up with the Kardashians.

A resolution titled "On Gender Identity" adopted by messengers to the 2014 SBC annual meeting can be viewed here: <http://www.sbc.net/resolutions/2250/on-transgender-identity>. ■



## THE GIFT

### WHERE DOES IT GO?



### WHO DOES IT IMPACT?

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



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



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



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



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



Love In Action  
[www.sbc.net/cp](http://www.sbc.net/cp)



## DID YOU KNOW?

...**La Familia MC3, Flint** hosted a Hispanic Festival in May to reach the Hispanic community in Flint? They are also hosting a neighborhood block party on June 20.

...**CrossPointe Church, Monroe** hosted an annual car show on June 6? The church hosts an ongoing car club that sees muscle cars, Model As, restored cars, and more come to its shows.

...**Harmony Baptist, Jackson** will be hosting 17 members of the Volunteer Christian Builders and their spouses to construct a new sanctu-

ary? The church will be adding a new sanctuary that will double the current 150-person capacity room.

...Over 40 volunteers from **CrossPointe Church, Monroe** assisted at the local Special Olympics? The church has done so for multiple years.

...Eight students with ties to Michigan graduated from Southern Seminary and Boyce College in May? Joel Bengé of Roseville, Alex Loginow of Madison Heights, Robert Johnson, III of Warren, Michael Walker of Troy, and Bruce Winter of Midland

received Master of Divinity Degrees; James Harding of Troy received a Master of Theology degree; and Joanna Willis of Roseville received a Master of Arts in Church Ministries from Southern Seminary. Bethany Moxon of Kalamazoo received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Counseling from Boyce College.

To include stories about your church in future "Did You Know" columns, email [beacon@bscm.org](mailto:beacon@bscm.org).

### - Staff Updates -

- Oak Park Missionary Baptist, Ferndale called Ray Ruffin, Jr. as pastor.
- People's Missionary Baptist, Detroit called Robert Lodge, Jr. as pastor.
- Tedd Culver has resigned as pastor of Ainsworth Baptist, Flint.
- Terry Smith resigned as pastor of

Ferndale Bible Church, Ferndale.

### - Upcoming Events -

- June 16-17: Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting (Columbus, Ohio)
- June 26-27: Disaster Relief Unit Training (Abundant Life Church, Kingsford)
- July 6-10: Girls' Mission Camp for GAs and Acteens (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- July 10-11: Mom & Me Mission Camp (Bambi Lake, Roscommon)
- August 3-7: Mission Adventure Camp for RAs and Challengers (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.

## ABORTION from page 9

statement were leaders of the Susan B. Anthony List, Family Research Council, March for Life and Concerned Women for America. A coalition with a similar makeup, including Moore, also had issued a statement April 22 calling for House leaders to schedule a vote after no action had been taken for three months.

The small group of Republican House members who sought delay of the Jan. 22 vote focused their concerns on the original bill's rape exemption, which required report of an assault on women of all ages to law-enforcement authorities.

One of the apprehensions expressed by the Republican dissenters in January regarded how the bill would be perceived by women and young adults. Women and young people, however, sup-

ported the ban with the law-enforcement reporting requirement, according to a November poll by Quinnipiac University. That survey showed 60 percent of Americans, 59 percent of women and 57 percent of adults ages 18 to 29 favored the legislation.

The Democrats who broke with their party and voted for the bill were Reps. Henry Cuellar of Texas, Jim Langevin of Rhode Island, Daniel Lipinski of Illinois and Collin Peterson of Minnesota. The Republicans who opposed the legislation were Reps. Charles Dent of Pennsylvania, Bob Dold of Illinois, Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey and Richard Hanna of New York. Rep. Jody Hice, R.-Ga., was the lone member to vote "present."

On May 13, 2013, a jury found Gosnell guilty

of the first-degree murder of three babies who were alive outside the womb at his West Philadelphia abortion clinic. They were only some of hundreds of babies at least six months into gestation who were killed outside the womb after induced delivery, typically by jabbing scissors into the back of their necks and cutting their spinal cords. Gosnell also was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a woman who received an abortion in his clinic and of 21 counts of violating a state ban on abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy.

*Tom Strobe is the Washington bureau chief for Baptist Press, the news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.* ■

## WMU from page 3

ing to help those with post-traumatic stress disorder, and learning what it takes to run a weeklong Girls' Mission Camp. "Table talk" sessions were offered in which leaders from the passed discussed how to work toward the future.

The event also offered a hands-on opportunity to participate in the WMU's doll ministry. Over 60 dolls were completed over the course of the event, and these are available for

mission teams to give to children.

The event included elections of several new officers. Sharon Greer was elected WMU president and will also serve as national WMU vice-president, and Sue Hodnett was elected WMU Executive Director and Women's Ministries Consultant, a position created when Cindy Bradley relocated to Florida.

"My challenge is to make sure that anyone who has a passion to be

involved in missions is given that opportunity," Hodnett said of her upcoming tenure as executive director. "Our team will do whatever it takes to encourage, resource, connect, and provide education to whomever wants to be 'on mission' for God. We will come alongside... women in our churches who have the eagerness to serve but don't know where to start, are too timid, or are afraid they can't do it and [will] provide mentorship

programs for them."

Hodnett offered a similar challenge to conclude the celebration, encouraging those in attendance to mentor someone who is willing but does not know how to serve.

*Becky Vaughan is former president of the Michigan Women's Missionary Union.* ■

## FOOD FAIR from page 3

Gluten Free Food Fair would be the final one.

"It has been a good run," says Nancy Spears, the event coordinator. "Gluten free food is easy to find, so it is time for Anchor to address the issue that still remains — the need to grieve the changes in a person's life and their relationships that comes with the diet change."

The change in diet may not seem like a big deal to the outsider looking in. But in a family that has to be gluten-free and also has 'gluten-eaters', the change can be difficult.

Food has the potential to be an issue that separates and alienates. For those going through this adjustment, they know it changes everything.

Aiming to begin filling the gap between the physical, spiritual, psychological, and emotional needs, Anchor launched its online Bread 4 Life Ministry at this event. This new website takes the entire celiac ministry and offers it as an online resource.

The site consists of videos addressing both dietary and counseling/discipleship issues. Some of these issues include "why God made eating in the first place", conflict resolution, dealing with resistance, and finances/budgeting.

The site will also offer e-books, tips and techniques for cooking, and links to local Facebook groups where one can continue to find encourage-

ment and insight.

"There is a Theology of Eating that permeates the Bible from beginning to end, from the eating of fruit in the Garden of Eden to the feast on the New Earth," said Dr. John Coin, Anchor Community Church's pastor. "As Christians, we need to pay attention to how we alienate people from the fellowship by ignoring this dietary need.

"This group of people is impacted every time we gather for a fellowship meal or as we gather to celebrate the Lord's Supper. Our church has made a decision to be inclusive, rather than exclusive, with our church family." ■



	CP April	Designated April	YTD CP 2015								
BAY ASSOCIATION				BRAY ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - TRENTON	552.70	0.00	3,529.46
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH	154.35	75.00	255.52	CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	604.00	561.72	1,482.00	FIRST SPANISH BAPTIST CHURCH	350.00	0.00	1,400.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	369.16	1,110.00	1,449.94	CORUNNA ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	380.84	185.00	1,038.99	GREATER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH	765.50	213.00	2,499.68	DAVISON MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	150.00	INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	40.00
EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	698.34	1,374.00	1,917.26	EAGLE'S NEST BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	150.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	61.74	0.00	294.77	EASTGATE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,881.60	1,205.00	7,856.06	LEGACY	257.00	0.00	507.22
LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DURAND	0.00	0.00	396.52	MERRIMAN ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	8,369.35	0.00	22,538.43
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	MIDDLEBELT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW BEGINNINGS - HARRISON	28.63	0.00	203.58	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - CLIO	177.09	0.00	177.09	MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH	947.80	0.00	3,397.26
NEW HOPE CHURCH	283.00	0.00	945.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - FLUSHING	210.00	0.00	420.00	NEW TRUTH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERBEND BAPTIST CHURCH	69.00	69.00	114.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SWARTZ CREEK	0.00	0.00	3,148.94	OAK PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
RIVERWALK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	GALILEAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PALMER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	415.00	400.00
SAGINAW VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	400.00	1,131.00	742.12	HANMAUM INTERNATIONAL BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	300.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - TAYLOR	400.00	610.00	400.00
SANFORD FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH	14.34	72.00	43.66	HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH	285.00	219.00	669.00	PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WINDSOR	0.00	0.00	100.00
SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	11,250.00	1,685.00	22,500.00	HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	1,704.00	1,185.00	5,695.00	PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - PLYMOUTH	0.00	0.00	1,080.00
Total:	14,094.06	5,729.00	31,265.53	LaFAMILIA MULTI-CULTURAL COMMUNITY CHURCH	87.00	410.00	339.00	REDEEMER COMMUNITY CHURCH	25.00	0.00	100.00
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION				LIGHTHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE DEAF	93.00	0.00	227.71	SECOND LAOTIAN BAPTIST CHAPEL	0.00	0.00	0.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	300.00	LINCOLN PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SOUTHFIELD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	150.00	0.00
CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH LANSING	23.80	0.00	66.15	MOUNT CARMEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	TEMPLE OF FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	500.00
CEDAR STREET CHURCH	10,925.00	5,303.09	31,185.00	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	THE CITY CHURCH - CANTON	10.00	0.00	10.00
CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY CHURCH	54.86	0.00	219.44	NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH	1,169.66	2,153.00	4,970.91	THE CITY CHURCH - DETROIT	10.00	0.00	10.00
DISCOVER LIFE CHURCH	607.34	0.00	2,226.16	ONELIFE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	990.26	THE CITY CHURCH - REDFORD	20.00	0.00	110.00
FAITH FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	147.69	400.00	OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	150.00	THE GATHERING	1,272.57	0.00	2,278.61
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - DEWITT	100.00	946.00	200.00	OUTREACH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	200.00	TRENTON MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,463.60
FIRST SPANISH AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	SHAWN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	300.00	875.00	TRINITY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GOOD SHEPHERD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,129.35	THE FIELDHOUSE	0.00	0.00	0.00	VICTORY FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	350.00
GRACE CHURCH	4,419.87	2,209.92	15,007.40	THE OPEN DOOR BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	WOODHAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH	1,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
HARMONY BAPTIST CHURCH - JACKSON	1,035.32	1,274.44	2,925.11	THE POTTER'S WHEEL	983.31	0.00	1,711.04	Total:	16,379.78	1,585.00	46,261.63
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANIC de ST. JOHNS	40.00	40.00	120.00	WESTSIDE CHURCH	915.00	76.00	3,614.00	HURON ASSOCIATION			
JACOB'S WELL BAPTIST CHURCH	16.00	0.00	62.37	Total:	9,857.96	6,294.72	36,995.24	CAMPUS TOWN CHURCH ANN ARBOR	40.00	0.00	160.00
KALEO CHURCH OF LANSING	300.00	100.00	450.00	GREATER DETROIT ASSOCIATION				CONNECTIONS COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH	150.00	0.00	600.00	ANN ARBOR CHINESE CHRISTIAN	0.00	0.00	0.00	CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH	156.00	0.00	395.33	BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CROSSROADS COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	1,423.05	3,862.30	5,637.94
NEW LIFE CHAPEL	65.50	75.00	195.50	BRIGHTER DAY BAPTIST CHURCH	20.00	10.00	70.00	FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH OF SALINE	2,744.35	1,756.00	7,095.79
PAGE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	700.00	400.00	1,450.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GREEN OAK TWP	0.00	0.00	300.00
Total:	17,993.69	10,096.14	55,481.81	CANTON CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP	200.00	0.00	600.00	FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SOUTH LYON	6,989.10	6,039.00	12,952.95
GENESEE ASSOCIATION				CORNERSTONE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	464.96	0.00	1,423.87	GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	514.60	560.00	1,520.22
AINSWORTH BAPTIST CHURCH	803.46	0.00	2,519.72	DEARBORN HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH	341.40	0.00	776.30	IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	154.00	0.00	220.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	64.00	0.00	64.00	DETROIT BAPTIST TEMPLE	0.00	0.00	0.00	LIVING WATER COMMUNITY CHURCH	200.00	0.00	800.00
				EASTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	1,039.00	0.00	1,576.88	NORTH PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	1,722.67
				EBER MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	OAKWOOD CHURCH	0.00	4,433.17	0.00
				EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00	PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00

# ESTATE PLANNING FOR NEW PARENTS

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

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

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



Protect those you love.



REACH CHURCH	700.00	0.00	900.00
YPSILANTI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	240.00	0.00	480.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>13,005.10</b>	<b>16,650.47</b>	<b>31,789.57</b>

LENDALE ASSOCIATION

CLINTON BAPTIST CHURCH	478.04	0.00	889.64
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	225.00
FRONTIER BAPTIST CHURCH	193.08	60.00	407.15
HILLSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	3,269.60	2,225.90	8,967.57
NEW DAY/NUEVO DIA BAPTIST CHURCH	75.00	0.00	75.00
TECUMSEH MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	274.05	0.00	822.46
THORNHILL BAPTIST CHURCH	37.54	113.00	130.54
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH - ADRIAN	0.00	0.00	200.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,327.31</b>	<b>2,398.90</b>	<b>11,717.36</b>

MOTOR CITIES METRO ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH	468.50	0.00	1,459.88
BEACONSFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH	732.65	583.00	1,829.06
CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COLUMBIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	610.34	423.00	2,379.12
CONGREGATION SHALOM	100.00	0.00	300.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	540.00	0.00	1,080.00
CROSS WAVES CHURCH	478.52	0.00	1,462.30
CROSSINGS CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
DEQUINDRE ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH	373.85	508.85	695.35
EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH OF TROY	200.00	0.00	400.00
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - NEW BALTIMORE	3,700.40	4,164.00	11,667.46
FIRST HMONG BAPTIST CHURCH	502.00	223.00	902.00
FIRST ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FIRST SPANISH-AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	300.00	1,150.00	1,200.00
FOREST PARK BAPTIST CHURCH	915.69	370.00	3,575.02
GOLGOTHA ROMANIAN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACEMONT BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HARRISON METRO CHURCH	229.01	0.00	950.88
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - SHELBY TOWNSHIP	830.26	847.00	1,426.16
HARVEST BAPTIST CHURCH - WATERFORD	49.00	0.00	163.00
HIGHLAND COMMUNITY CHURCH	564.13	398.94	1,898.40
HILTON OAKS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	823.55
HMONG AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCH	171.49	0.00	367.03
KOREAN FIRST BAPTIST	0.00	0.00	900.00
KOREAN IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KOREAN NEW LIFE CHURCH	423.00	0.00	788.00
LAKEPOINTE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	4,818.30
LAKES BAPTIST CHURCH	500.00	0.00	500.00
LAKESIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH	2,206.06	0.00	6,858.55
LAPEER COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LEGACY CHURCH	1,873.20	1,596.00	6,882.15
LIFE OF PURPOSE CHRISTIAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIFE RECOVERY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	151.00
MADISON HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH	6,228.71	2,002.50	9,605.84
MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NARROW PATH	0.00	0.00	671.17
NEW BEGINNINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW COVENANT CHURCH	443.41	0.00	1,322.67
NEW DAY HOUSE OF PRAISE - SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
NEW LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH - FRASER	150.00	0.00	550.00
NORTHFIELD HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
OAKLAND WOODS BAPTIST CHURCH	4,610.00	5,640.00	7,985.00
PATHWAY BAPTIST CHURCH	255.10	33.89	1,129.60
PHILIPPINE INT'L BAPTIST CHURCH - WARREN	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	150.00
SPRINGVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH	100.00	0.00	13,014.87
ST. STEPHEN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
STORYTELLERS CHURCH	250.00	100.00	1,250.00
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	1,566.00	1,723.00	6,741.52



<b>Total:</b>	<b>29,421.32</b>	<b>19,763.18</b>	<b>95,947.88</b>
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NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION

AGAPE BAPTIST CHURCH	75.00	0.00	150.00
ANTRIM COMMUNITY CHURCH	138.61	0.00	433.63
CRYSTAL LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	265.59
EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	504.33	0.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - EMPIRE	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH - PELLSTON	0.00	14,000.00	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	100.00
REDISCOVER FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	0.00
SAFE HARBOR SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE ORCHARD CHURCH	680.26	0.00	2,285.31
<b>Total:</b>	<b>943.87</b>	<b>14,504.33</b>	<b>3,459.53</b>

PINES ASSOCIATION

ALPINE VILLAGE BAPTIST CHURCH	23.77	45.00	63.60
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH	77.96	91.00	151.85
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - ATLANTA	0.00	0.00	0.00
FRESH START FELLOWSHIP OF OSCODA	185.26	170.00	342.69
GOODAR BIBLE CHURCH	0.00	0.00	148.04
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRAYLING BAPTIST CHURCH	69.44	355.00	346.48
HUBBARD LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
HURON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
LAKE ST. HELEN BAPTIST CHURCH	191.55	113.00	728.66
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	400.00
PATHWAY SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH	86.00	600.00	186.00
PIGEON RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH	428.29	205.00	806.89
ROSCOMMON BAPTIST CHURCH	389.00	960.00	794.00
THE CONNECTION SBC	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,451.27</b>	<b>2,539.00</b>	<b>3,968.21</b>

SOUTH CENTRAL ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	0.00	100.00
CANAAN CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH OF HASTINGS	521.88	0.00	521.88
EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH	623.90	0.00	1,248.27
FAITH BAPTIST - BATTLE CREEK	3,154.00	0.00	6,012.52
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - PORTAGE	90.51	0.00	248.23
GRACE FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	392.29	435.00	1,151.48
HARPER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH	725.16	1,971.00	2,242.27
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	235.80	0.00	834.98

PRAISE BAPTIST CHURCH - KALAMAZOO	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	321.00	292.00	621.00
VICTORY BAPTIST CHURCH	411.74	673.00	411.74
ZOMI MISSIONS CHURCH	1,121.89	0.00	1,630.79
<b>Total:</b>	<b>7,698.17</b>	<b>3,371.00</b>	<b>15,123.16</b>

SOUTHEASTERN ASSOCIATION

AMAZING GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH	459.00	76.00	1,281.00
CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	805.13
CROSSPOINTE CHURCH	3,738.32	996.92	6,660.39
DUNDEE BAPTIST CHURCH	458.50	0.00	1,455.50
EVERGREEN ACRES MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH	551.70	0.00	1,626.35
FRENCHTOWN MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	271.20	161.00	1,091.52
GRAPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	100.20	0.00	241.39
HOPE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
KENTUCKY PARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	25.00	0.00	25.00
LAKESIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	50.00	0.00	200.00
LIBERTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	468.00	535.00	1,776.69
MONROE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	12,145.31	3,755.38	36,836.40
PETERSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ROCKWOOD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	79.34	0.00	237.19
TRUE GOSPEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
UNION STREET MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>18,346.57</b>	<b>5,524.30</b>	<b>52,236.56</b>

SOUTHWESTERN ASSOCIATION

BANGOR BAPTIST CHURCH	435.00	0.00	819.00
BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	158.00
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH - NILES	1,106.00	417.00	1,910.00
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - BERRIEN SPRINGS	0.00	0.00	120.48
GLENDALE BAPTIST CHURCH	61.00	0.00	220.01
NILES AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
ONTWA BAPTIST CHURCH	100.00	661.50	400.00
THE SANCTUARY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
THE SHORE	262.51	0.00	689.14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,964.51</b>	<b>1,078.50</b>	<b>4,316.63</b>

UPPER PENINSULA ASSOCIATION

ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - KINGSFORD	315.92	0.00	960.27
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH - MENOMINEE	344.07	50.00	673.36
BAY AREA COMMUNITY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SBC	120.00	0.00	218.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - DAFTER	48.70	0.00	167.60
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - GWINN	538.56	0.00	1,679.42
GRACE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	0.00	0.00	10.00
HOUGHTON BAPTIST CHURCH	861.00	0.00	3,666.00
NORTHPOINT BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP	142.80	230.00	534.98
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,371.05</b>	<b>280.00</b>	<b>7,909.63</b>

WOODLAND ASSOCIATION

ANCHOR COMMUNITY CHURCH	400.00	0.00	625.00
CHARITY BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	205.00	370.00
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	167.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA	0.00	0.00	0.00
IGLESIA BAUTISTA RECONCILIACION - GRAND RAPIDS	0.00	0.00	0.00
LIGHTHOUSE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REMEDY CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
SONRISE BAPTIST CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH	30.00	30.00	120.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>430.00</b>	<b>402.00</b>	<b>1,643.60</b>

NON-ASSOCIATIONAL

FAITH BAPTIST CHAPEL	1,063.00	934.89	2,126.00
FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - LINDEN	0.00	0.00	25.00
FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH	83.34	150.00	333.36
HARVEY BAPTIST CHURCH	153.18	0.00	468.86
HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH - MONROE	4,668.93	2,287.00	14,736.17
NORTHBROOK CHURCH	0.00	0.00	0.00
REDEMPTION CHURCH	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>5,968.45</b>	<b>3,371.89</b>	<b>17,789.39</b>
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>144,253.11</b>	<b>93,588.43</b>	<b>415,905.73</b>







# West Detroit church plants two churches, aims for many more

BY JONATHAN GUENTHER  
*Managing Editor*

DETROIT — The City Church has only existed since 2010, but in its short existence it is already striving to make a major impact on its surrounding community.

In 2015 alone, the church planted two new churches. This is only the beginning, though, as the church aims to plant 20 churches in Detroit's west

side over the next decade.

"Our goal was never to build a massive church or try to compete with large churches," pastor Jon

Jackson said. "Our goal is to help people."

From feeding the homeless to Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, gambling recovery, and

church."

"God allowed us to minister to our brothers and sisters who are struggling," Jackson said. "We're a mission church rather than a suburb

a 15-minute drive of the park. "It's a really rough area where churches have been abandoned and missions don't go."

Jackson's work in west Detroit

comes with its share of unique challenges. Even though the church impacts many people, it operates on a very limited income, bringing in less than \$1000 on a typical week from its three campuses combined.



During the summer, The City Church hosts "Church in the Park" — an event that includes bounce houses, live music, and more — to reach their surrounding community. (Submitted photo)

numerous other programs, The City Church's major focus is helping those in need. Over 80% of the churches attendees receive assistance from the

church."

The church holds a food drive for every major holiday. Last Thanksgiving, the church helped 950 families with turkey and groceries.

At Christmastime, Olive Garden donated food to the church to provide an "Olive Garden night" free of charge. In addition, Family Dollar donated coloring books so that parents would have something to give their children for Christmas. Over 125 children received these coloring books.

In addition, the church hosts "Church in the Park" in Detroit's Rouge Park every Saturday during the summer. Known for gang violence and prostitution, Jackson describes the park as "the worst park in Detroit."

The church provides hot dogs, cotton candy, a bounce house, music, and more at Rouge Park. The event attracts over a thousand people each week, and the church shares the Gospel with these attendees verbally and also hands out tracts.

"We have become... Disney World in that zip code," Jackson said, noting that little else is offered within

To help the church run on a minimal budget, all staff work bivocationally and hold part-time jobs on the side. Despite this, the church still seeks outside funds to keep the ministry afloat.

"We will always be perpetually needing funds because of where we're ministering," Jackson said. "If you have a missionary in Africa you don't expect them to be self-sustaining."

"We're in Brightmoor where unemployment is 60%. We're in the highest dropout rate zip code of anywhere in Michigan."

Despite these challenges, Jackson has a big vision for City Church's future. To date, the church has planted four churches and plans to add two more per year.

Jackson also desires to see the church start an orphanage and a ready-care hospital, as basic medical services are not offered within a 25-minute radius of Brightmoor.

"We're just trying to reach the people who are there," Jackson said. "The long-term goal is to do what's been done overseas here in our backyard." ■

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