

UISBC eNews

MARCH/APRIL 2018

Focus on the Landscape... Across Utah and Idaho

This past week, while out on vacation with family, I received word of Dr. Frank Page's retirement from the SBC Executive Committee President position because of personal failure (sin). This news came as a shock to me. Dr. Page was a dear friend and supporter of Utah and Idaho Southern Baptist work and Southern Baptists around the globe. It is a reminder that we are in a constant spiritual battle and that our enemy is seeking ways to get us off track. As I read several blogs I was pleased to see the call for prayers for those involved, our denomination, and for all SBC leaders. Please join me in praying for our pastors across our state convention and to examine our lives looking for blind spots and our vulnerabilities to sin.

In two months Southern Baptists will be coming together in Dallas for our annual meeting. This year's annual meeting is taking on a renewed sense of importance as we look at electing a new SBC President and a call to pray for the SBC Executive Committee trustees and the trustees of the International Mission Board as they seek new presidents. It is important that we elect men called of God who have a lifelong commitment to the Great Commission, Cooperative Program, and to serving with a spirit of unity. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to be praying over. Our common commitment to missions can help us come together and serve one another even when there are disagreements over minor differences that don't compromise the gospel.

I look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

Rob Lee

UISBC Cooperative Program Giving Report

January/February 2018

Cooperative Program giving	
January	\$88,400.32
February	\$49,128.03
Cooperative Program budget	
	\$57,435.75
Over/Under CP budget	
January	\$30,964.57
February	-\$8,307.72
York-Dillman Offering given	
December	\$6,079.16
January	\$8,626.10

January - February 2018

Cooperative Program giving	
	\$137,528.35
Cooperative Program budget	
	\$114,871.50
Over/Under CP budget	
	\$22,656.85
York-Dillman Offering given	
	\$14,705.26
York-Dillman 2018 Goal	
	\$95,000

U & I Praying Together

Pastorless Churches

- Priest River Southern Baptist Church- Athol Baptist Church filling pulpit
- Sevier Valley Baptist Church, Richfield, David Payne, Interim
- Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Pocatello, William Beard, Interim
- Northstar Baptist Church, Couer d'Alene
- First Baptist Church, Moab
- Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hyrum
- Pleasant View Baptist Church, White Bird
- First Baptist Church, Cedar City
- First Baptist Church, Grantsville
- *First Baptist Church, Brigham City, Jimmy Stewart, Interim
- *New churches since last eNews

Prayer & Praises

- Pastor Nathan Simmons, FBC Centerfield - cancer treatments
 - NAMB Missionary and UISBC Cowboy preacher, Jim Ballard, as he continues to recover from a heart attack and stroke and for Myrtle as she cares for him
 - Retired Director of Missions, Don Hayhurst, has started
- transitional interim pastor work with FBC Petersburg, Alaska. Pray as Don and Carolyn adjust to Petersburg in southeast Alaska.
 - Pray for upcoming VBS Clinics this spring across our two states and for our state VBS teams as they travel and conduct training of our churches.
 - Upcoming SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas and election of a new SBC President
 - International Mission Board Presidential Search Committee for new president
 - Executive Committee of the SBC and our trustee Pastor James Gregory as they begin search for new President of the SBC Executive Committee
 - Praise for start of new church in Herriman, Utah, Awaken Church, pastor Derek Duvall and congrats to the Duvalls in the birth of new family member on Easter Sunday
 - For Bobby and Lindsey Wood's pregnancy and for God to be glorified in the upcoming birth of their daughter
 - For the family of Pastor Johnson, a former pastor of Nampa First Southern Baptist Church who passed away
 - For the Edwards family and First Baptist Church Brigham City in the death of pastor Mac Edwards.

Seeing God Move

⇒ **Christmas Outreach Report from Alpha Omega Urdu** Thank you very much for the money for the Christmas party. We used the money for food and gifts. We invited the Pakistani community in Salt Lake to come because we had food and it was Christmas. We had 80 people come. Our normal Sunday service is around 20 so this was very good. We also used the money to help with our midnight service the 24th and New Year's service the 31st. We had Mormons, Catholics, and Muslim; we knew they did not know the real Jesus. I talked about Jesus in Christmas and had many of my people give testimony of what Jesus had done for them.

⇒ **Josie Fortner, granddaughter of David and Sue Kite** I've been wondering for awhile why I was given the opportunity to come to Idaho. I didn't even know where Idaho was on the map until I first visited 3 years ago! I thought it was beside Michigan or Illinois. This morning at Grace at Riverside Baptist Church, I started to understand why I am here. I have lived my entire life in a selfish bubble in Inman, South Carolina. Everyone in Inman may not be a believer in Christ but they have heard the

Gospel. I would guess that less than 10% of the people I've met out here know Jesus as their Savior. How can they know when the ratio of Christian churches to people, is 1 to every 250,000? I was brought here to be a light to the lost and I have a very easy platform. I can't finish a sentence without being asked where I am from. It's becoming clearer to me how to use this as a way to bring lost people to Christ. I was so naïve to the great need for Jesus' love and mercy to this area. If you're living in South Carolina right now, chances are you've been ignoring this too. I know there's lost people back home, but right now this area needs us Christians to lead them on the right path before it's too late. I found out this morning just how many people at the surrounding churches have been praying for me because they knew I was a missionary before I even realized it.

⇒ **Pastor Bryan Catherman, Redeeming Life Church** January was in a mask, hooked to oxygen and taking hits of chemotherapy. We had never met her in person, so Pastor Brett and I introduced ourselves with the hope of getting to know her. "Forget all that. I need to know how to follow Jesus!" January blurted

out. In all my life, I had never experienced a situation like that in Utah, ever. It started when I received a call from a pastor-friend in Idaho. Someone in his congregation was at the Huntsman Cancer Institute receiving treatment. While she was there, she modeled the Christian life in front of January. She shared the gospel, and they started discussing Jesus. But before January surrendered her life to the Lord, her friend went home. Those faithful Christians in Idaho were not about to neglect January, so they reached out to us. Because of the flu and fear of putting anyone with cancer at higher risk, we couldn't visit for a month. I spoke on the phone with January, but we didn't know each other, so it was a bit awkward. We started praying our faces off for January. By the time we were able to visit January, Jesus had done such a work in her that she was ready to follow Him no matter what. We spent some time talking and praying with January. We are connecting her with a woman who can begin the discipleship journey with January. And we continue to pray for her physical healing. January's salvation is a direct answer to prayers. Thank you for joining us in prayer for this mission field.

“Revive Us Again...”

During the month of March, First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC) Mountain Home, ID participated in the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (SWBTS) program - *Revive this Nation* (RTN). RTN is a four-night revival experience hosted by partnering Southern Baptist churches throughout the country. The revival was a groundbreaking success, seeing churches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and the Canadian to the Mexican borders participating, yielding many first-time salvation experiences!

Mountain Home FSBC had the pleasure of hosting guest speaker Bryan Bogue, a doctoral student visiting from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Ft. Worth, Texas. Brother Bogue shared incredibly timely messages on how to “finish strong”, as a Christian, in all aspects of life, how to resist having an unforgiving spirit, and what exactly “The Day of the Lord” is.

Accompanying the revival experience of RTN was the inclusion of an evangelistic effort of the participating churches in which members were trained to develop and share their testimonies with non-believers throughout the community. The subsequently trained church members then shared their testimonies with the entire church on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. Members of the church would then set up appointments for their non-believing friend to meet with a given Harvest Team member whose testimony mirrored the experiences of the non-believers. This training and equipping of testimony-sharers was sponsored by the evangelism organization Harvest North America (HNA). HNA’s goal is to act in accordance with Matthew 9:35-38, ensuring there are “laborers for the harvest.”

At Mountain Home FSBC, about 13 church members were trained to share their testimony and how to deliver the Gospel to a non-believer. At FSBC-Mtn. Home, this ministry approach yielded 8 new salvations. The church has already baptized a few of these new believers. Working with HNA, FSBC now has a trained, in-house Harvest Team prepared to share their testimony and the gospel message on a minute’s notice. Consequently, the church is seeing new growth, increased baptisms, and discipleship training opportunities.

For me personally, the RTN and HNA experience was very life-changing. I had the opportunity to participate in developing and sharing my testimony as a member of the Harvest Team. Fellow church members set up appointments for me to meet with two young, non-Christian women to tell the story of my struggle with doubt of the existence of God and how Jesus is continually helping me work through such, with the aid of the Holy Spirit. The two young women I met with had similar stories, both struggling with doubt, hopelessness, and an overall sense of being “lost”. I shared with each of them how Jesus has made a difference in my life, and how trusting in him has literally changed *everything*. After presenting the Gospel to both of these ladies, they chose to give their lives to Jesus, one even confessing she was excited about growing into a “woman of God”!

The work of RTN and HNA is quite remarkable in the area of enriching the lives of church members. The revival itself was exemplary. The training HNA provided was

Revive Us cont. on page 4

LifeWay provides free security training to churches

By Aaron Wilson

NASHVILLE (BP) -- As public shootings continue to make headlines, many churches are evaluating how their facilities stand on security. LifeWay Christian Resources is helping churches make safety a priority by providing free security training through its Ministry Grid platform.

“In light of current circumstances, we’ve offered this training to churches to make sure they’re prepared for the unexpected before it happens,” said Chandler Vannoy, brand manager for Ministry Grid.

The free training first became available on Feb. 16—two days after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead and 14 injured. Since that time, more than 2,000 people have registered for LifeWay’s free security training.

“With so many churches expressing interest in this free training offer, we’ve decided to extend the offer to May 1, 2018,” Vannoy said.

The free training was created by Brooks Security Consulting and includes topics such as:

- Church safety and security
- Church security team
- Emergency response planning
- Lockdown procedures
- Responding to an active shooting

Dale Brooks, who is featured in the training, has recorded more than 20 videos with LifeWay on safety and security topics for churches. Brooks has served as a professional firefighter, has experience in counter-terrorism, and currently serves as the director of security at Calvary Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

“Church security has some of the most difficult challenges compared to the security operations of businesses, schools and government campuses,” Brooks said. “The goal is to have an open campus to share the gospel of Jesus while ensuring the campus is safe and secure.”

To access the free training, log into [MinistryGrid.com](https://www.ministrygrid.com) with your LifeWay ID or register for a free account; then click the “Add to My Tasks” button in the description to get started.

Aaron Wilson is a writer for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Quadrupling CP giving, church plant casts vision

By Erin Roach

DENVER (BP) -- A Denver-area church plant, in only its third year, voted to quadruple its giving through the Cooperative Program, realizing the value of the missions-support system that has aided them -- and through which they can help reach the world for Christ.

"It's one thing to plant a multiplying church in Denver. It's another thing to be a part of planting multiplying churches all over the country and world," Ben Mandrell, pastor of Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, told Baptist Press.

"Through the Cooperative Program, we can be in a thousand places. Without it, we can only be in one place."

Mandrell was pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., when God began stirring his heart toward church planting. When Kevin Ezell was named president of the North American Mission Board, Mandrell was "inspired by what was happening." Ezell, meanwhile, knew that First Baptist Church in Orlando had been interested in planting a church in Denver, and he encouraged Mandrell to see if he would be a fit for the project.



Ben Mandrell, pastor of the Denver-area Storyline Fellowship in Arvada, has led the church plant to realize the value the Cooperative Program, Southern Baptists' unified giving plan for national and international missions and ministries. Storyline recently voted to increase its CP giving, placing it in the top 10 churches in the state. "Through the Cooperative Program, we can be in a thousand places. Without it, we can only be in one place," Mandrell said. Photo courtesy of Storyline Fellowship

Storyline Fellowship launched in February 2015 with 65 people who had moved to Denver from around the country to help plant the church, Mandrell recounted. After three preview services at the end of 2014, Storyline was able to see 300 people in attendance for the official launch. Now they have about 900 people in worship.

The church has been meeting in an elementary school but recently purchased an old Walmart building and is in the

process of converting that space to a 60,000-square-foot facility on the main street of their target area.

Despite the funds needed for the new location, Ezell encouraged Mandrell to lead Storyline Fellowship to give through the Cooperative Program and specifically to work with the Baptist General Convention of Colorado.

"One of our core values from the start has been teamwork," Mandrell said. "We not only believe in building teams but in being part of a team, and the SBC is our team. So we want to give back and help other churches get started."

Mandrell, in meeting last year with Colorado's new executive director, Nathan Lorick, wanted to set a goal for Storyline Fellowship to be in the top 10 of churches in the state giving through the Cooperative Program.

So with a projected 2018 budget of \$1.7 million, Storyline Fellowship plans to give \$40,000 to the Cooperative Program through the Colorado convention, \$5,000 to their local Baptist association, \$20,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, \$20,000 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions and \$5,000 to the Colorado state missions offering.

CP cont. on page 5

Revive Us cont...

unmatched. The efforts of these organizations to place emphasis on evangelism proves beneficial for community impact and soul-winning. The unique approach to evangelism via HNA acting in conjunction with RTN set the tone for the entire revival: reach out to the community, share the Gospel, and, much to the chagrin of the enemy, "snatch people from the fire!"

By:
Shea Hicks, Captain, USAF
FSBC-Mtn. Hm. Church member

Note:

If you would like to learn more about how Harvest North America ministries can help your church (at no cost), please contact Pastor Jim Gregory, FSBC-Mtn. Home at (208) 587-3828

Happening Locally

- ◆ The Salt Lake Baptist Association is searching for a new director for the Baptist Concern Center. Job description can be found at <http://www.sbc.net/jobs/jobdetail.asp?ID=18911>
- ◆ Join The Point Church in their **World Vision Global 6K for Water** on May 19, 9 a.m., at Kearns High School. Walk, run, or push a stroller. Each registration provides lasting clean water to a child. The goal is to raise \$100,000. More information: office@thepointslc.com.
- ◆ Upcoming **Disaster Relief trainings**. **April 12-14** at Mountain View Baptist Church 2585 E 3000 N, Layton, UT . We will have introduction to SBCDR; OSFA (required for Chaplains and recommended for all other DR volunteers); Shower Trailer; ServSafe training and test (must purchase SERVSAFE Manager 7th Edition manual with the test at Amazon or National Restaurant Association (don't buy used!)); Recovery (mudout/fire/debris cleanup). **NEXT: April 26-28** Introduction, Chaplain and Feeding at Glens Ferry ID. **TENTATIVELY: June 22-23** Introduction, Heavy equipment (skid steer), Fire cleanup with hands on at Eastside SBC, Twin Falls, ID.
- ◆ Southern Baptist Chaplain Anthony Harper from Boise, Idaho serves as the principal White House news reporter regarding Israel and other Christian concerns. He is available to speak at churches to share those experiences and the role of the Christian media at the White House. Contact information, call (208) 703-8688; email: goodnews127@gmail.com

Storyline has budgeted another \$57,000 to Southern Baptist church planters for a total of \$147,000 in missions giving. Combined with dollars they're investing in local missions efforts and international missions trips, Storyline is sending out 14 percent of its budget.

"We have latched on to some value statements, and one of them is 'For the Kingdom, not the castle,'" Mandrell said. "We use that as a fun way to say we don't want to be just about ourselves and building things for ourselves.... We need a church home, but even as we do that, we're going to stay committed to the Kingdom."

Being a church plant in a city like Denver means Storyline has to work to create credibility, "which means we need to do a lot of good in the city," Mandrell said. One of the ways they've done that is to focus on a local high school that has been struggling with teacher turnover and a lot of at-risk students.

"We've bought Thanksgiving meal baskets for 65 families who are registered as homeless but their kids go to the high school," Mandrell said. "We've donated prom dresses and altered all of them and done free hair and makeup. We've made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for athletes who rode on the bus to sports games but couldn't afford to eat while they were there."

The way Storyline has grown, Mandrell said, is for people to say, "You should come to Storyline and sit next to me." The fastest way to grow a church in that context, he said, is for people to walk away and say, "I really felt loved there."

"In Denver, most unchurched people embrace Christian community before they embrace the Christian faith," Mandrell said. "They move here to play and to recreate, but then they experience enormous loneliness and are looking for friends and community, and there just aren't a lot of places where you can find those kinds of relationships. The church provides that."

Rick Lewis, Storyline's associate pastor of outreach and missions, moved to Colorado as a church planter 30 years ago and planted several churches in the state before becoming executive pastor at Riverside Baptist Church in Denver about 18 years ago. He had left Riverside to pastor in Littleton and was serving as an International Mission Board trustee when he began to talk with David Uth, pastor of First Baptist Orlando, about planting a church in Denver.

That was around the same time God was leading Mandrell to Denver, and Lewis joined the team. He had grown up around strong Cooperative Program giving in Texas and had modeled it at churches he served in Colorado, so it was easy for him to be on board with Storyline's recent CP decision.

"To whom much is given, much is required," Lewis told BP. "We certainly have been given much through Southern Baptist efforts. Our story is one of incredibly being given to -- through the North American Mission Board, through the Cooperative Program, through the state of Colorado. We've had so much support that it just makes sense. It's just the right thing to do."

One of the joys of his life, Lewis said, is to now be ministering at a thriving church plant in Arvada, which is the very area he and his wife prayerwalked during their time at Riverside years ago, praying God would reach the families moving into the area.

Lorick, the Colorado executive director, told BP Storyline's strong Cooperative Program commitment "is a great example to church planters of how each church can make a global impact

in any stage of their church."

"There is nothing that allows a dollar to go further than the Cooperative Program," Lorick said. "We must understand that the Cooperative Program is not really a program. It's people and a partnership. It is about partnering together to send people into the mission that God has called us to."

"Storyline is setting the example," Lorick said, "and I pray many others across the SBC will follow."

EDITOR'S NOTE: April 8 is Cooperative Program Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention. For information and resources about Southern Baptists' channel of missions and ministry support nationally and internationally, go to sbc.net/cp.

Erin Roach is a writer in Nashville.

Greetings,

The 2018 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget Ministry Reports have been posted online for your information and review. These SBC entity reports can be accessed from sbc.net by choosing "Cooperative Program" and then "Ministry Report" on the menu, or for your convenience, you can access them through the following link:

<http://www.sbc.net/cp/ministryreports/>
In this year's report, Southern Baptists will have the opportunity to see and hear from each SBC entity about their specific ministry assignment(s) and the good work they have accomplished in the past year. The 2018 Ministry Report will reside on sbc.net for three consecutive years. The online format provides public access to the annual reports and is consistent with Dr. Page's efforts over the past seven and a half years to elevate and champion all SBC missions and ministries, as well as promote long held SBC values of missions, church planting, evangelism, stewardship education, church strengthening and revitalization, theological education, collegiate ministry, disaster relief, moral advocacy, along with many other important ministries provided by our state conventions. Each SBC entity report features the following sections (tabs): President's Letter (presented in video and script format), Financial Management (except for seminaries), Goals and Accomplishments, Ministry Inquiries and, in the case of seminaries, Seminary Formula, and ATS Report. These sections can be accessed from the user friendly menu on the Ministry Report site.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

C. Ashley Clayton, Vice President for Cooperative Program and Stewardship
aclayton@sb.net

Rainer helps churches become more hospitable

By Joy Allmond, writer for LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Church members think of themselves as a welcoming bunch—but they tend to be friendly only to one another.

Most guests feel as though they've crashed a private party, LifeWay Christian Resources President and CEO Thom S. Rainer found after extensively surveying church visitors.

His latest book, *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, released March 1 from B&H Publishing Group, offers a game plan for churches to become more hospitable.

Rainer discusses several tangible markers churches should have in place to leave a positive impression on guests—and to encourage them for a return visit:

- Clear directional signs and easy-to-navigate websites.
- Visible safety measures—particularly for children.
- A clean, well-maintained facility.
- Outgoing, engaging people to greet guests, answer questions and offer guidance.

For a congregation to become hospitable, Rainer explained, it must be a spiritually healthy church that studies the Scripture, spends time in prayer, and disciples its people. He said being an inviting church and being a healthy church have a clear connection.

“A healthy church engages the community,” Rainer said. “People are growing to greater maturation in Christ, and there is greater unity in the healthy church. There are fewer distractions, fights, bullying, and criticism. A healthy church is focused on reaching and inviting.”

Each chapter of *Becoming a Welcoming Church* concludes with discussion questions for individual reflection or group dialogue. The book's appendices provide audit forms for evaluating a church's facilities and a secret guest survey to allow visitors to provide feedback on their experiences.

As a companion to *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, B&H simultaneously released *We Want You Here*, a resource intended for churches to send home with guests to give them a vision of the local church's ministry and to encourage them to reflect on their visit.

For more information on *Becoming a Welcoming Church*, visit <http://welcoming.church>.



New VBS resource helps churches 'Go & Tell Kids' worldwide

By Aaron Wilson, writer for LifeWay Christian Resources

NASHVILLE – Packing for your next mission trip has just gotten a whole lot easier.

LifeWay Christian Resources has produced a new Vacation Bible School program called “Go & Tell Kids” to serve as a gospel presentation tool that's easy to transport to the mission field and works anywhere.

“Go & Tell Kids’ is themeless, meaning people don't have to drag a bunch of stuff with them halfway around the world, and it's stripped of uniquely American cultural references,” said Melita Thomas, VBS and kids ministry specialist at LifeWay. “It's relevant to kids in any culture and setting.”

The idea came from churches who were already adapting LifeWay's VBS for the mission field.

“Churches who were taking VBS overseas were telling us they needed content that begins with the very basics of Christianity for kids with absolutely no Bible foundation,” said Thomas. “These churches are serving kids who don't know who God is, much less that He has a Son—and that through the Son, God has a relationship with people.”

Ernestina Gonzalez, an editor for LifeWay Global, has been taking VBS resources outside the U.S. for the past four years. She remembers the impact of one early trip in particular.

“I traveled to Mexico with my two boys in 2014,” she said. “We saved up money for a year to make our dream possible.”

Gonzalez took the VBS theme “Saddle Ridge Ranch” to a rural community in Tamasopo, Mexico. The first day, only six children showed up.

“Without being discouraged, we ran it as if we had hundreds of students,” she said. “The next day, 36 students came. The children from the first day enjoyed the stories, crafts, music, games and snacks so much, they invited everyone at their school.”

Gonzalez was overjoyed when all 36 students made professions of faith in Christ at the end of the VBS experience.

“We couldn't have been happier,” she recalled. “We reached our goal of taking the gospel to those who hadn't heard it. It was just us, God's love for those seeking Him, and a VBS kit.”

LifeWay hopes “Go & Tell Kids” will capture more stories like Gonzalez's by focusing on the basics of the gospel narrative.

“Go & Tell Kids” begins with the story of creation and traces God's redemptive plan to Christ's resurrection and the Great Commission. The content is divided into five 30-minute Bible study sessions for children and five 30-minute sessions for preschoolers. The entire program can fit inside an airport carry-on bag.

The “Go & Tell Kids” kit comes with group visuals and teaching plans preloaded on a flash drive that also contains more than 100 game ideas, crafts, coloring pages, director's helps, and large group presentation ideas and skits. It comes packaged in a backpack with extra room for transporting supplies to the mission field. “Go & Tell Kids” can also be purchased as a purely digital resource from LifeWay.com.

“We tried to create a resource to really fit the mission trip context,” Thomas said. “You can take “Go & Tell Kids” to Africa and into the rainforest or to a Backyard Bible Club. It's the core of the gospel that fits neatly into a suitcase. It doesn't get any more basic than this.”

IMB trustees appoint missionaries, name presidential search committee

By Julie McGowan

International Mission Board President David Platt reiterated his desire that the 173-year-old missions agency stay on course for taking the gospel to the darkest, hardest-to-reach places while trustees begin the search for his successor, he told the group during their Feb. 28-March 1 board meeting near Richmond, Virginia.

To that end, the IMB trustees approved the appointment of 20 new full-time, fully funded missionaries who will serve around the world. Also during the meeting, trustee chairman Dr. Rick Dunbar named a 16-person committee to find Platt's replacement.

The IMB board of trustees' presidential search committee will be led by Chuck Pourciau, senior pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, committee chair; and Andy Davis, senior pastor/elder of First Baptist Church in Durham, North Carolina, committee vice-chair. Other members include David Sills, professor at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, president of Reaching & Teaching International Ministries and a member of Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky; Lisa Lovell, physical therapist and a member of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas; Ken McLemore, missions pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia; Nancy Patrick,

licensed school psychologist and professor of special education, and a member of Living Legacy Church in Hershey, Pennsylvania; Will Payne, FCA campus director of Syracuse University and a member of Central Baptist Church in Syracuse, New York; and Seth Polk,



Fellow trustees and guests gather around Dr. Chuck Pourciau, IMB trustee from Louisiana, to offer prayers for wisdom and guidance during the March 1 plenary session. Pourciau, who serves as senior pastor of Broadmoor Baptist Church in Shreveport, was named chairman of IMB's presidential search committee by trustee chairman Dr. Rick Dunbar. (IMB Photo)

lead pastor of Cross Lanes Baptist Church in Cross Lanes, West Virginia.

The committee also includes Bill Ricketts, retired and a member of Prince Avenue Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia; Tim Simpson, pastor of Greenridge Baptist Church in Clarksburg, Maryland; Cindy Snead, clinical laboratory scientist and a member of

North Phoenix Baptist Church in Phoenix, Arizona; Derek Spain, executive pastor of Hebron Church in Dacula, Georgia; Susan Bryant, Kentucky WMU president and a member of Graefenburg Baptist Church in Waddy, Kentucky; Rick Dunbar, a physician and a member of First Baptist Church Madison, Mississippi; and Robert Welch, senior pastor of Rock Hill Baptist Church in Brownsboro, Texas. Duane Ostrem, an IMB field leader, will serve as a non-voting member to provide perspective from the mission field.

The search committee is receiving names for consideration at imbsearch@broadmoor.tv.

In prayer, Pourciau thanked God for His grace — how that grace has worked through Platt to reach more people in the nations and to position the IMB to reach more people in the nations.

“Thank you for the time that has been given to us with him and the time that remains,” Pourciau prayed. “We ask that not only that the time between now and when a successor is named not be a pause, but that it be an acceleration. May your grace pour through him so that the time remaining here will be the best time he has, and that it will not only prepare us for the next leader, but that it will prepare him even better for where he’s headed.”

Platt called for IMB trustee officers to begin the search for his successor on Monday, Feb. 12. He informed IMB field

Search Committee cont. on page 8

NAMB and Harvest America to host crusade

NAMB is partnering with Harvest America for a second year to host a free, one-night evangelistic crusade during Crossover 2018 in Dallas. The crusade will be on Sunday, June 10 at the AT&T stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys.

NAMB and Harvest America have joined with One Conversation to lead the way in equipping and mobilizing gospel conversations in DFW this year through Crossover.

Harvest America will work with hundreds of local churches and thousands of simulcast locations from around the country to bring a Gospel message from Pastor Greg Laurie and music from top Christian artists.

"As our country continues to be so bitterly divided, the Gospel and a spiritual revival are our only real solutions," Laurie said. "Our prayer is that God will use Harvest America 2018 to launch a revolution that will bring light to a world that is increasingly dark and energize a new generation of Christians to courageously share their faith in Jesus."

In 1990, Laurie began holding large-scale evangelistic events called Harvest Crusades, and in 2012 he launched Harvest America by using the internet and satellite technology to simulcast live video to thousands of locations across the country.

The last time Harvest America came to the Dallas area in 2016, it attracted a crowd of more than 90,000, believed to be a record for a one-day evangelistic event in the U.S., and more than 180,000 viewed the event at 7,200 remote locations in all 50 states and 123 countries. The total audience, including more than 95,000 around the world viewing the webcast at www.harvestamerica.com, surpassed 350,000.

The Harvest America team will be working with an advisory board of local pastors and ministry leaders including Dr. Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church, Pastor Bryan Carter of Concord Church of Dallas and Rev. Robert Morris of Gateway Church.

"When it comes to reaching the lost, I'm grateful that every generation has a Billy Graham, and Greg Laurie is a Billy Graham to our generation," Morris said.

Chris Tomlin, Switchfoot, Crowder and Phil Wickham will be the musical guests, with others to be announced.

"On ONE DAY, we will gather as ONE CHURCH, to proclaim ONE MESSAGE: that Jesus Christ is the answer," Laurie said. More information is available at www.harvestamerica.com/

leaders, missionaries and staff of his decision that morning via WebEx call, email and in person during staff meetings in the Monument Avenue office and at the agency's training facility in Rockville.

What matters most

"Trustees have started a search for my successor," Platt said. "Together, we've discussed continual improvements that we are making in the foundations, systems and structures of the IMB. But the IMB is not ultimately about systems and structures.

"The IMB is ultimately about the gospel of Jesus Christ and a coalition of over 47,000 churches working together to support thousands of missionaries right now who are working for the spread of that gospel around the world. The IMB is about a new group of missionaries last night who will leave soon for the spread of this gospel, and I pray thousands more Southern Baptists who will join them in the days ahead."

"Spreading the gospel among people who have never heard it is what the IMB — and I would argue, the SBC — is all about," Platt added. "It is incumbent upon us never to lose this perspective because this is what matters most. This is what has mattered most in the IMB in the past, this is what matters most in the present, and this is what will matter most for all of eternity."

In memoriam

In his report to trustees, Platt recognized, with names and photos, the lives of 75 emeritus missionaries and 10 retired staff who died during the past year. The field personnel's lives totaled 2,176 years of service through the IMB, with an average age of 88 and an average of 27 years of service.

"Every year, during our first trustee meeting of the calendar year, we always look back and remember brothers and sisters who have gone before us and who have now gone to be with the Lord," Platt said. "IMB missionaries sent out from Southern Baptist churches who have worked for the spread of the gospel around the world. Their lives — and their deaths — remind us what matters most."

He gave the example of Betty Butcher, the visionary founder of Thai Country Trim, a ministry for battered women to hear the gospel of God's grace while receiving emotional and financial support that they need. Today, hundreds of such women work in Thai Country Trim centers around

Thailand, because of God's grace in Betty Butcher.

"That's just a small glimpse into the effect of one life, and we're about to remember 75 such lives," Platt said. "So as I read off each of these names and you see their pictures, just let your heart rise in praise to God for how His grace in these brothers and sisters has resounded to His glory around the world in ways that only heaven



IMB President David Platt discusses the impact the Rev. Billy Graham had on his personal life and ministry. "I remember as a child and then teenager listening to his preaching, reading his books, and learning from this man who simply loved God and loved preaching the gospel," Platt said during IMB trustees' plenary session March 1. (IMB Photo)

can measure."

He also noted the service of Billy Graham, who served as an IMB (then Foreign Mission Board) Trustee from 1957-1963, noting Graham's unmistakable impact on the spread of the gospel in the world.

"Billy Graham's legacy lives on in the IMB, and in the lives of multitudes of men and women throughout the IMB who are doing today what Billy Graham did all of this life: sharing the simple gospel of Jesus Christ and inviting people to believe in Him for eternal life," Platt said. "That is what matters most. That is what the IMB is all about all around the world. That is what the IMB has been about for 173 years, that is what the IMB is about today, and that is what the IMB must be about in the days to come. May God make it so."

Other business

"This is God's work that we're about to do, this is God at work all around the world," Dunbar said as the trustees moved from the memoriam into a time of business. "We just see these people, and may the Lord count us faithful."

During the plenary session, Kristy Carr, senior manager for National Woman's Missionary Union, presented a check for \$19,752.50 from the WMU Foundation for

the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® for international missions, the MK Educational Endowment and the MK Spiritual Endowment funds. WMU partners with IMB in a multitude of ways, including fostering missions education, promoting the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, helping missionary kids as they transition to the United States for college, and providing water filters for all overseas personnel.

The Administration Committee, chaired by Michael Cloer of North Carolina, recommended:

- Adopting a new trustee travel policy to request IMB trustees make an annual trip to the mission field;
- Affirming a November 2018 board of trustees meeting in Richmond;
- Affirming a schedule of three board of trustee meetings per year plus one international mission trip for each board member. In researching locations of trustee meetings, the committee reported that when board meetings are conducted in Richmond, the cost for trustees, missionaries and staff is about \$61,500. If the meetings are moved to a "hub" city such as Atlanta for convenience, the costs expand to \$173,000 per meeting. Therefore, the committee recommended continuing to conduct as many meetings in Richmond as possible.

"We as the committee felt that it's just not right for us to ask people all across the IMB, 'Let's cut, let's be good stewards,' and then the trustees not be the best stewards," Cloer said during the committee's final recommendation. "So I think we need to be the one to set the precedent. We're going to say as trustees, 'Convenience is not the priority. If we can save costs and use that money to put more people on the [mission] field, that's the priority.'"

The next IMB trustee meeting is June 10-11, 2018, in Dallas, Texas, to be conducted in conjunction with the SBC Annual Meeting.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® is a registered trademark of Woman's Missionary Union.

Julie McGowan is public relations manager for IMB.

Basic church documents

By Mark Terry

When I teach church planting, I always talk to the students about basic church documents. A new church needs some basic documents that provide it with a good, solid foundation. Older churches need these foundational documents, also. Ok, what are they? All churches need a statement of faith, a church covenant, and a constitution and by-laws. Why so?

Statement of Faith

Churches should be certain of their beliefs, and they should be able to point prospective members to a statement of faith. A statement of faith will guide the preachers and teachers in the church as to what constitutes sound doctrine. A clear statement of faith will help seekers decide whether they want to unite with your church. Of course, many churches simply use the current Southern Baptist Statement of Faith and Message. This is what our church does. Other churches prefer to write their own. Working through the process of composing a statement of faith is a good way to teach biblical doctrine. Another advantage of a statement of faith is that it provides an objective measure for judging false doctrine. For example, imagine that a Sunday school teacher in your church begins teaching false doctrine. When you confront him, he says, "I'm not teaching false doctrine." "Yes you are." "Who says so?" You can extrapolate this conversation. However, if your church has a statement of faith, you can point to that for confirmation. In my life I've taught at several of our SBC seminaries, as well as the International Mission Board. All of these required me to affirm a statement of belief and promise to preach and teach in accordance with it.

Church Covenant

The church covenant describes how the members of the church will conduct themselves in their Christian lives and how they will relate to each other. It is a "covenant," that is, a sacred agreement between parties. You could say it is a spiritual commitment the church members make to each other. Many churches still use the old Southern Baptist church covenant. It used to be printed in the Baptist Hymnal, and

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FIRST-PERSON: Ministry moments

by Chuck Lawless

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) -- Everyone in ministry needs these moments. When the work gets tough, we need reminders of why we do what we do.

Here are some "glimpses" that have helped me press on in faith through the years:

-- Seeing the look of absolute joy on a new believer who has just been baptized. You can't explain it; you just have to see it.

-- Telling Bible stories to children who hang on every word. Only God knows how He will use that Word to change their lives.

-- Praying with someone seeking God in faith and repentance. I've guided folks who have had no idea how to pray, and I've also listened as others launched into their own prayers. Either way, it's glorious.

-- Renewing vows for a reunited couple. In this case, saying "I do" again is a witness to the power of God's love and a testimony against the wiles of the devil.

-- Telling the story of Jesus to people who've never heard it. Sometimes, watching them pay attention takes you back to when the Gospel story first fascinated you as well.

-- Experiencing or hearing answers to prayer that can't be explained apart from "God did that." When His power is most evident, you realize again that He is the living God.

-- Celebrating the passing of a saint. This one may sound morbid, but it's not at all. Standing beside the bedside or casket of a departed believer has brought some of my strongest ministry memories. I'm reminded then that what we do has eternal ramifications.

-- Singing with missionaries in their mother tongue. There's nothing quite like it. Joining with faithful believers to sing God's praise in their own language -- especially after they've been struggling to learn another one -- is captivating.

-- Listening to a young preacher fumble his way through his first sermon. We've usually been there ourselves, so we understand the struggle. Raw, yet unpolished commitment in the hand of God, though, is inspiring.

-- Serving the Lord's Supper. This ordinance takes us to the cross in preparation for His return -- and we get to lead others to share in the act. It's a holy moment.

We often get so consumed by doing the hard work of ministry that we inadvertently overlook the blessings of doing God's work. Difficulties and struggles cloud our vision, and we miss the glimpses that can keep us going. Spend some time today remembering glimpses of the past in your ministry, and then watch for new ones throughout the day.

Reprinted from Baptist Press (www.baptistpress.com), news service of the Southern Baptist Convention.

many rural churches kept a large, framed copy in the foyers of their buildings. (William Thornton will remember this.) Other churches find the language and emphases of that covenant outdated, and they have composed new covenants. A good resource for writing a church covenant is the Broadman Church Manual. Our church in Texas just celebrated its 100th Anniversary, and we seized the opportunity to write a new church covenant. The members were all encouraged to sign it. Some churches have an annual covenant renewal ceremony, often on the church's anniversary. I believe a church covenant is a good way to teach and reinforce the responsibilities of church membership.

Church Constitution and By-laws

The constitution and by-laws prescribe how the church will govern itself. This document explains how new members can join or be discharged. It lists the officers of the church, and the way in which the church will call a pastor. It

explains how the church will conduct its business meetings, and many other details of church administration. If your church plans to incorporate, then it must have a constitution and by-laws. Your church must be incorporated in order to own its own property. Of course, laws pertaining to incorporation vary from state to state. So, your association and state convention can advise you on this and provide examples from other churches. You may find it helpful to consult a Christian attorney. Many older churches are updating their constitutions and by-laws to conform to modern practices. Certainly, it is good to review this document periodically to ascertain where changes are needed.

So, a statement of faith describes what a church believes. A church covenant describes how church members should behave, and the church constitution and by-laws prescribe how the church will conduct its business.

Harry Leroy Johnson

April 26, 1934 ~ December 1, 2017

Pastor Johnson, a former pastor of Nampa First Southern Baptist Church, was ushered into Glory this winter. He became a Christian as an adult, after serving in the United States Air Force. In 1961, he and his family moved to Boise, where the Lord used the ministry of Highlands Baptist Church to lead him into ministry. He was a faithful pastor in our area, helping start Emmanuel Baptist Church in Mountain Home. He had the opportunity to preach in virtually every pulpit, from New Meadows to Gooding, at one time or another during his 50+ years of service to the Lord. Until his retirement from Idaho Power in 1990, he labored as a bi-vocational pastor for many years, with his full-time job as a computer programmer and then a systems analyst. His wife, Marilyn, preceded him in death in 2001.

Baptist Global Response Launches 2nd Annual Well Dig Dare

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Baptist Global Response (BGR), a Southern Baptist humanitarian aid organization, is challenging Southern Baptists to take on its second annual Well Dig Dare. In 2017, BGR supporters raised over \$15,000, providing 15 wells for communities in need. In 2018, the organization's goal is to double that—raising \$30,000 for 30 wells and water systems.

In conjunction with World Water Day, BGR launched the Well Dig Dare on March 22. Donors now are challenged to raise \$1,000 toward clean water projects, which is roughly the cost of one well. Participants will have until April 30 to complete the dare and raise the funds.

“Water is essential to life, and last year, generous donors took the dare and raised enough to install 15 wells and community water systems,” says Jeff Palmer, BGR CEO. “That means children in 15 communities won't get sick from dirty drinking water. Mothers in 15 communities don't have to haul water for miles. Fathers can sleep in peace knowing their families are healthy and well. This year we hope to double the number of wells through this dare, which means doubling the number of families that will now have clean, safe water.”

Participants can learn more about the dare and make their donations at gobgr.org/welldigdare. Here, they will also find resources to help promote the event online and in local churches as well as fundraising ideas and marketing material. For those unable to accept the challenge, BGR encourages him or her to spread the word about it on social media using the hashtag, “#BGRWellDigDare.”

Baptist Global Response is a Southern Baptist humanitarian aid organization that focuses on community development and disaster relief. It conducts a wide variety of projects around the world, including several clean water efforts.