

UISBC eNews

JULY/AUGUST 2018

Focus on the Landscape... Across Utah and Idaho

The end of July and the beginning of August is upon us. This summer has flown by and I can't believe it's time to start thinking fall. This has been a great summer hearing reports and looking at the pictures on social media of our churches' Vacation Bible Schools, block parties, and other outreach events. *(Please send us pictures and short stories of your events that we can share with others.)*

Now we start to move our thoughts to the fall: college football, cooler weather, schools starting back up, and getting back into a regular church schedule. I enjoy the fall because it means seeing the colors in the mountains, cooler temperatures and taking my bow for some long walks. I also like it because it means the time we focus on our State Missions Offering. Each year we bring focus on ministry within Utah-Idaho through the State Missions Offering. Through your State Missions Offering we can support outreach on college campuses and help churches with outreach events, strengthen church strategies, and start new churches through our Vision 2020 strategy.

This year's emphasis is on Starting Churches; one of our three priorities. God is doing some amazing things through our church plants. If you have heard me speak the past few years you probably have heard me say the most enjoyable time of the month for me is reading the Church Planter reports. God is using our State Missions Offering to make a kingdom difference in many lives and in ministries we could not support by other partners. Thank you for your gifts! 100% of your State Missions Offering dollars stay in Utah-Idaho to support our churches' ministries. Without your gifts, vital ministry needs would go unmet. Next year our emphasis will be on Strengthening Churches.

Our goal is \$95,000 and many of our churches put the State Missions Offering in their budget each month which we are extremely thankful. The State Missions Offering is our churches helping each other. Yes, there are funds available for Sharing Christ, Strengthening Churches, and Starting Churches strategies. Talk to a State Missionary to see if what you are doing could use some added resources to make a greater impact for the Kingdom.

—Rob Lee

UISBC Cooperative Program Giving Report

June 2018

Cooperative Program giving	\$51,872.03
Cooperative Program budget	\$57,435.75
Over/Under CP budget	-\$5,563.72
State Missions Offering given	\$3,538.69

January - June 2018

Cooperative Program giving	\$366,885.63
Cooperative Program budget	\$344,614.50
Over/Under CP budget	\$22,271.13
State Missions Offering given	\$32,002.13
State Missions Offering 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, Coeur d'Alene
Pleasant View Baptist Church, White
Bird
First Baptist Church, Cedar City, interim
pastor Troy Thalheimer
First Baptist Church, Grantsville
First Baptist Church, Brigham City
First Baptist Church, Blanding, summer
interim Don Camp
Gospel Community Church, Price

Prayer & Praises

- Pastor Nathan Simmons, FBC Centerfield- cancer responding to treatments, pray for anxiety to go away, new meds were working for a couple of weeks but not now
- 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
- Pray for our pastorless churches and their interim pastors
- Pray for ReCharge- Pastor-Wives Retreat schedule for August 13-14 to be a refreshing time for our pastors, staff, and spouses
- Pastor Bill Webster, Silver Sage Baptist Church, as he considers having back surgery.
- Rainbow Canyon Baptist Association as they restart their association in Central Utah - Milford, Richfield, Centerfield, and Mt. Pleasant.

*Reminder: your State Missionaries and Staff have a weekly chapel where we spend time praying for needs in our churches across our region. You can share your requests with any of us to have them included in our chapel time.

Welcome

- * Emmanuel Baptist Church, Hyrum has called Don and Rachel Woody. Don is former pastor at FBC Glens Ferry and has been pastoring in Pennsylvania
- * Falls Southern Baptist Church has called Jared Clark
- * First Baptist Church Bonners Ferry has called a worship/youth pastor, David Pryor (wife, Ally). They are from Camdenton, MO. *(pictured below)*



Rejoicing in God's Provision; Remodeling Restored!

Twenty-five enthusiastic and hard-working volunteers from Builders for Christ arrived in Eagle on June 15 to assist Restored Community Church in building its new sanctuary. Restored Community Church is a new church plant, first meeting in Nampa at the home of Ben Harris, the pastor of Restored, and his wife, Debbie. Abundant Life gifted them the present building in Eagle, which was able to seat 49 in a worship service. After outgrowing the seating capacity in the old building, Restored looked at enlarging. God provided help through Builders for Christ, who sent in a team from Alabama, all at their own expense.

Restored Community had the 2,500 sq. ft. foundation poured in May in preparation. The team, which stayed from June 15 through the 22, brought their own kitchen crew and support staff. They were able to frame out the entire addition.

The RCC group housed the workers, with nine hosting families stepping up. Each day the building crew and RCC members enjoyed God-honoring worship amidst the new walls in the worship center, which will now seat 150! As if that wasn't enough, as they left, the BFC team dug in deep and gave the Restored Community Church an additional \$5,000 love offering from them, personally. Praise God!



It's time for VBS!

By Karen L. Willoughby

MILFORD/ENOCH, Utah – Answers in Genesis produced the VBS curriculum for Mountain View Baptist Fellowship in Milford. LifeWay Christian Resources did it for Red Hills Southern Baptist Church in Enoch, some 50 miles south on Interstate 15.

Pastors of both churches in southwestern Utah's Color Country Baptist Association talked about the effectiveness of VBS – Vacation Bible School – as an outreach to the community, and the importance of the teachers and other workers who bring the themed curriculum to life.

“Many in our church are the fruit of VBS, and the majority were at one time affiliated with the predominant religion,” Shane Esplin of Mountain View Baptist Fellowship in Milford told UISBC eNews. “Both of our deacons were at one time Mormons who sent their kids to our VBS.”

VBS often is a 5-day, usually summertime activity, for youngsters entering Kindergarten to completing the sixth grade, which incorporates Bible study, character development, religious songs, arts and crafts, games, and snacks in a themed format complete with decorations in each classroom and public area.

Variations can include adding youth and even adults in VBS, morning and early-evening times, as well as 1-day, 3-day and sometimes once-a-month for three times during the summer, or anytime throughout the year.

A closing evening service, which draws parents to see what their offspring have been learning and making all week, is a way churches can make connections with people who don't usually attend worship services.

Pastors of both Milford and Enoch churches say their churches grow as a result of the emphasis on VBS more than through any other outreach.

“Just about every year we have one or two new families who experience Christian community for the first time through VBS,” Pastor Brandon Boone told UISBC eNews. “These relationships may or may not grow Red Hills, but they grow the body of Christ.

“This year we had a family return who participated in VBS for the first time last year,” the pastor continued. “They told me they have plugged into another church in the area since then. That's a huge win in my mind.”

Mountain View Milford was started by Red Hills Enoch in 2005, and in 2011, Red Hills started Mountain View's VBS.

RED HILLS ENOCH

Brandon Boone, pastor of Red Hills Southern Baptist Church for the last two years, is an Idaho native who didn't object when God called him to southern Utah after serving as an associate pastor at a church in Kentucky for four years.

VBS cont. on page 4

Nat'l CP 3.06% ahead of projection

NASHVILLE (BP) -- Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist Convention national and international missions and ministries received by the SBC Executive Committee are 3.06 percent above the year-to-date budgeted projection and 0.36 percent below contributions received during the same time frame last year, according to a news release from D. August Boto, SBC Executive Committee interim president and executive vice president for convention policy.

The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2017-18 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

As of July 31, gifts received by the Executive Committee for distribution through the Cooperative Program Allocation Budget through the first 10 months of the SBC's fiscal year totaled \$164,899,754.63. This total is \$4,899,754.63 above the \$160 million year-to-date budgeted amount to support Southern Baptist Convention ministries globally and across North America and is \$603,898.24 less than the \$165,503,652.87 received through the end of July 2017. This year-to-year comparison is affected by a one-time \$3.1 million gift from the Florida Baptist Convention in June 2017 following the sale of the state convention's building.

Designated giving of \$184,048,796.98 for the same year-to-date period is 1.53 percent, or \$2,766,448.78, above gifts of \$181,282,348.20 received at this point last year. This total includes only those gifts received and distributed by the Executive Committee and does not reflect designated gifts contributed directly to SBC entities.

July's CP allocation receipts for SBC work totaled \$15,509,616.14. Designated gifts received last month, meanwhile, were \$8,198,491.62.

The convention-adopted budget is distributed 50.41 percent to international missions through IMB, 22.79 percent to North American missions through NAMB, 22.16 percent to theological education through the Convention's six seminaries, 2.99 percent to the SBC operating budget, and 1.65 percent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. GuideStone Financial Resources and LifeWay Christian Resources are self-sustaining and do not receive CP funding.

According to the 2017-2018 budget adopted by the SBC at its June 2017 annual meeting in Phoenix, if the convention exceeds its annual budget goal of \$192 million, IMB's share will go to 53.4 percent of any overage in Cooperative Program allocation budget receipts. Other ministry entities of the SBC will receive their adopted percentage amounts and the SBC Executive Committee and operating budget's portion will be reduced to 0.0 percent of any overage.

The Cooperative Program is a unified program of giving through which a local church is able to contribute to the various ministries of its state or regional Baptist convention and to the various missions and ministries of the Southern Baptist Convention with each contribution. State and regional Baptist conventions retain a portion of church contributions to the Cooperative Program to support work in their respective areas and forward a percentage to SBC national and international causes. The percentage of distribution from the states is at the

CP cont. on page 6

VBS cont...

The church, which started in 1993, averages 120 in Sunday morning worship. They have a strong commitment to missions in Kenya, with teams regularly going there to serve with various partners. Its local missions endeavors include various community events in Enoch and Cedar City as well as ministry in Hilldale, Utah, and the adjacent Colorado City, Ariz.

The church used the Game On! curriculum from Lifeway for their VBS. This year, 105 students and 45 workers participated, during which students came to realize God has given them the ultimate playbook, and that He wants them to join his team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another.

“VBS takes over the whole building for about three weeks,” Boone said. “Each teacher for each age group decorates their room around the theme. They go all out and it’s pretty fun.”

While no students made professions of faith in Jesus this year, relationships with the students and with their families were strengthened or started, and God will use that, Boone said. He noted another benefit to churches doing VBS.

“It requires the members to work together, not focused on ourselves, but on going outside the walls, to see families in the community and say, ‘what can we do

to serve people in our area,’” the pastor said.

MOUNTAIN VIEW MILFORD

About 45 people worship each Sunday, out of a congregation that if everyone were present at the same time would number 70, said Esplin. He’s been pastor since 2011. It’s his first pastorate. He graduated this May with a Bachelor of Science online degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and has started work on his MDiv degree from Liberty.

“We’re very involved in VBS,” Esplin said. “That’s one of our biggest evangelical outreaches in the community.” Mountain View Milford also oversees the lighting of the town at Christmas, participates in 4th of July and other events with the community, and is in the fifth year of providing a Release Time program for ninth- through twelfth-grade students.

With “Time Lab” as its VBS theme this year, Mountain View Milford drew a record 144 youngsters, led by 23 workers, all from the local church. Forty-two youngsters made professions of faith in Jesus, up from 18 last year.

“Being in Utah, we have many LDS kids come to VBS,” Esplin said. “It’s difficult to disciple them, but we look at this as a seed-planting ministry, so when the children come of age – in high school or

college – they’ll have these seeds planted in their hearts.

“We don’t go in with the mindset that we’re going to take these kids out of their church, that’s more detrimental than just reaching the kids with the good news,” the pastor continued. The youngsters from the church are disciplined through Sunday school and Awana.

Mountain View Milford plans to take their VBS leaders and a mission team from Abbeville, S.C., later this summer to lead VBS in Southern Baptist churches in Richfield, Centerfield, and Mount Pleasant.

“In small rural towns in Utah and Idaho, VBS is probably one of the most effective tools we have for reaching the lost,” Esplin said. “But VBS is something you have to have a heart for. There needs to be a follow-up program for discipleship.

“The majority of people attending our VBS over the last eight years we’ve been doing this were unchurched,” the pastor added. “They might have ties with the predominant religion, but are not practicing, so that’s a huge open door if you can build those relationships.”

It’s not too late for churches throughout Utah and Idaho to plan, produce, and conduct a VBS in their community. For more information, check out UISBC.org/vbs or contact Jason McNair at jmcnair@uisbc.org or 801.572.5350 ext.5.



Above: Red Hills douses their pastor Brandon Boone during VBS

Right: Mountain View Milford drew 144 students and 23 workers for their VBS this summer. In addition they had 42 professions of faith.

**It (VBS) requires the members to work together, not focused on ourselves, but on going outside the walls, to see families in the community and say, ‘what can we do to serve people in our area’
—Brandon Boone—**



Paiutes again ask Desert Ridge to do ministry

By Karen L. Willoughby

ST. GEORGE/CEDAR CITY – “I’m not an Indian,” the 20-something guy glared at me when I commented on the gleaming black braid that went down the full length of his back. To my puzzled look he continued, “I’m Native American.”

He acknowledged my most sincere apology with a curt nod of his head when I told him his response taught me a lesson I wouldn’t forget.

I was on the grounds of the Paiute Reservation tribal headquarters, mingling with about 300 natives celebrating the first day of their 38th annual three-day “Restoration Gathering.” They had invited Desert Ridge Baptist Church in St. George to participate in their festivities, which included a hot dog/hamburger meal, watermelon contest, door prizes, face painting, sno cones and, from Desert Ridge, a bounce house and inflatable water slide.

That the tribe had invited an anglo pastor and the church he leads to be a part of the celebration is noteworthy in itself. The event celebrates the return in 1980 of the “federally recognized” status the tribe had inexplicably lost in 1954. This after being pushed to new land time and time again – the most recent time in 1934, with the Indian Reorganization Act – to better meet the needs of white settlers, each time moving the Natives to less fertile, drier land.

“Water is life to us,” one grandmother told me. She had given birth to nine children; all but two have died, one after being shot by a deputy sheriff, “and that happens all the time,” she added. To my words of comfort: “God knows your pain; He lost His son, too,” she waved her hand as if to wave away the words.

That was my “most successful” attempt at starting a “gospel conversation.” Such conversations were one reason Desert Ridge was there with about 15 people who helped set up the inflatables, including a mission team from Olive Branch, Miss.

Desert Ridge’s pastor, Michael Waldrop, was quick to say the main reason they were there was to serve the Paiute people, to build relationships that in time God

could use to draw people to Himself.

It’s not going to be easy for three reasons. First, the white man’s misuse of the five bands of the Paiutes didn’t just happen in the early 1800s; it happened in that grandmother’s childhood. She remembered how mystified her people were. They didn’t understand the ruling. Apparently, they weren’t Indian, and they weren’t White. So, what were they? And with the loss of status, they also lost



income from the government they had become dependent on, after being removed from places where traditionally they had gathered seeds and berries and hunted to eat. All this according to HistoryToGo.Utah.gov.

“It was a hard time. Many people died,” she said. “Old people. Children.” She shook her shoulders as if to say, “What can a person do?” Her life is good now, she continued. She lives in town rather than on the reservation “for reasons,” she said, as if I would know them if I were a Native.

In addition to the mistrust and nearly overt dislike of Whites, such as that exhibited by the man with the long braid, there also is the problem of Mormonism, Waldrop told me. Natives don’t take time to understand the difference between the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and true Christianity.

“Traditional Mormon theology didn’t think highly of dark-skinned people,” Waldrop said. “They [Paiutes] could tell that. It’s had a lasting effect.”

Desert Ridge first reached out to the people on the Paiute Reservation near St. George two years ago. The church had received “Christmas in August” gifts of school supplies from Girls in Action (GA)

groups in more than 200 churches in 17 states, and a member knew reservation leaders were planning a back-to-school event.

The following year, last fall, the church sponsored a fish fry activity on the St. George reservation that included inflatables. Soon after that, the tribe invited Desert Ridge to bring those inflatables to the Restoration Gathering in Cedar City, an hour’s drive north.

“Our desire is to build relationships,” Waldrop said. “I see the gospel in time resonating with the Paiute people because there is no ethnic prejudice in the gospel, no ‘moving up to light skin’ like in the book of Mormon.”

That being said, the third difficulty in reaching the Paiute people is they have a cultural understanding of good and evil that doesn’t require a creator God. The wolf god is the wiser elder brother; the coyote god, a trickster and troublemaker, according to HistoryToGo.Utah.gov.

“I think the Lord is working,” Waldrop said. “This [Desert Ridge’s invitation by the tribe] is a great opportunity to take the gospel to a people group who have not historically had a lot of gospel witness.

“I believe it’s a door that remains open,” the Desert Ridge pastor continued. “I’m praying the Lord will continue to work there.”

Since the day’s assignment was to start conversations, I continued by asking a 20-something woman in a red shirt, signifying she was part of the leadership team, what was wrong with calling that man an Indian. An Indian, she told me, is someone with a red dot on their forehead, meaning from the nation of India.

I asked a man in a cowboy hat that had a turkey feather in it if his feather signified he was a chief. A man of few words, he said. “Veteran,” not unkindly, and in response to which war, “Vietnam.” I thanked him for his service, and he bowed his head in acknowledgement of the respect.

So my participation in Desert Ridge’s ministry to the Paiutes wasn’t very effective, but apparently the church’s was. Desert Ridge has been invited back next year.

SBCAL study team report/title change for DOM role

June 26, 2018

I am writing on behalf of the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders (SBCAL), the SBC's oldest and largest DOM organization. Founded in 1960 as the Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Directors of Missions (SBCADOM), we seek to serve the leaders of over 1100 associations in the U. S. – whether paid or unpaid. I am also the Associational Leader of the Southside Baptist Network in McDonough, GA, a suburb of Atlanta.

The SBCAL meeting in Phoenix, June 11, 2017, voted to form a Blue Ribbon Study Team. The purpose of the Team was to accomplish three goals:

1. A profile of associational leadership effectiveness with competencies
2. A new title for our position for today and the days ahead
3. A process of credentialing

I wanted to make sure you heard about a watershed moment in Baptist Associational and SBC life, and to ask for your help. On Sunday, June 10, 2018, over 150 Associational Leaders from around the country voted **unanimously** at our Annual Conference in Dallas to adopt the Study Team's Report. The Study Team, led by Dr. Rick Wheeler, Lead Missional Strategist, Jacksonville (FL) Association, surveyed over 400 pastors, DOMs, State Convention and SBC leaders as to the characteristics of an effective Associational Leader.

Here is a summary of the Report's Proficiencies and Conclusions:

☐ **Foundational Proficiencies:** Called to Associational Leadership, Person of Character, Spiritually Mature, Commitment to Learning, A Leader of Leaders, and Trustworthy

☐ **Relational Proficiencies:** Emotionally Intelligent (EQ), Active Listener, Supportive Coach, Authentically Vulnerable, and Vocal Encourager

☐ **Strategic Proficiencies:** Vision Caster, Strategist, Consultant, Leadership Multiplier (or Developer), One with Contextual Understanding, and Good Communicator

☐ **Recommended Descriptor/Title:** **Associational Mission Strategist (AMS)**, or **Mission Strategist**. For multi-staff associations, **Lead Mission Strategist** may also be employed.

The singular word "mission" within the title conveys the singular focus we have of serving churches to engage with one Great Commission.

☐ **Conclusions:** There is a Need for a Professional Development Process; There is a Need for Associational Succession Planning; There is a Need for the SBCAL to be a Strong Voice for Associational Missions; and Though Thankful for Associational Relevance, there is a Need for Even Greater Effectiveness

The title change is what made the news, but that recommendation came at the end of the Report. The new title is based on the Proficiencies, and is descriptive of them.

If you would like hard copies of the full Report for your staff, leadership, and Associational Mission Strategists, please let me know.

My request is that you would prayerfully consider transitioning to describe the position of "Director of Missions/DOM" to "Associational Mission Strategist/AMS" in your correspondence and communications. I believe this term is a better descriptor of what we are about – or should be about. It gives a fresh perspective as to what an Associational Leader is and does. I also believe God will use it and the Proficiencies to set the bar where there is no bar (for Search Committees), and to raise the bar as to what is an effective Associational Leader.

For example, when referring to the role of DOM, perhaps for a year use "Director of Missions/Associational Mission Strategist" as the SBC Bulletin did on June 13 in one of the reports, and then transition to "Associational Mission Strategist," or "AMS" after that.

I understand that every entity and association in Southern Baptist life is

AMS cont. on page 7

FREE Organ

Lizard Butte would love to give you an organ! The organ was donated by someone in Marsing a few years ago. Lizard Butte does not have anyone to play the organ, and it is sitting, unused. Would your church like it? Do you personally play, and would like it in your home? Do you know someone you could ask?

Please contact Dorena (Cookie) Brown at dorenabrown@yahoo.com if you are interested either as a church or personally. Also, if you have a friend who might be interested, please pass this information along to that person. First come, first served!

Lizard Butte would like to bless you or someone you know!



CP cont...

discretion of the messengers of each state convention through the adoption of the state convention's annual budget. The totals in this release reflect only the SBC portion of Cooperative Program receipts.

CP allocation budget receipts received by the Executive Committee are reported monthly to the executives of the entities of the convention, to the state offices, to the denominational papers and are posted online at www.cpmissions.net/CPReports.

The end-of-month total represents money received by the Executive Committee by the close of the last business day of each month. Month-to-month swings reflect a number of factors, including the number of Sundays in a given month, the day of the month churches forward their CP contributions to their state conventions and the timing of when state conventions forward the national portion of their CP contributions to the Executive Committee.

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autonomous. That is why I am sending this to you as well as communicating with all state convention Executive Directors and SBC entity leaders. However, I believe it's worth the investment to change the paradigm in SBC life from referring to Associational Leaders as Director of Missions/DOMs, and transition to the terms Associational Mission Strategists/AMSs.

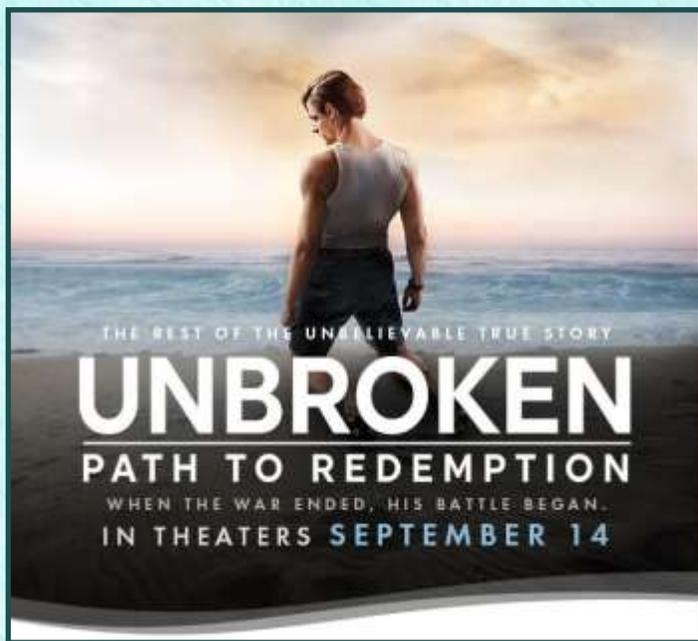
Possible benefits include:

- A fresh perspective on the work of associations and their leaders
- A renewed emphasis on the Great Commission, which is the mission our pastors and churches need help with from Associational Mission Strategists
- A more accurate, descriptive title of what we should be about
- Assisting Search Committees in calling a leader of leaders who wants to help sister churches collaborate together for kingdom work
- Proficiencies that can be used for assessments, coaching, and training

I hope you will consider sharing this request with others. If I may be of assistance to you, please let me know.

To the praise of His glory,
Ray

Dr. Ray Gentry
Executive Director
Southern Baptist Conference of Associational Leaders



Theaters throughout Idaho and Utah will be showing [Unbroken Path to Redemption](#). Please check your local listings to find a theater near you.

According to the movie website, theaters in Idaho who have reserved the movie are in Chubbuck and Meridian with six other cities in negotiation. In Utah, theaters that have agreed to show the film are located in Farmington, Salt Lake City, Layton, Provo, Sandy, and West Jordan; with at least 13 other theaters in negotiations.

Looking for work, Venezuelan refugee finds hope in God's Word

By IMB Staff

Fernando* felt like a failure. For a month-and-a-half he had been looking for work in Colombia, where he didn't know anyone. He longed to hold his wife and daughter again, but he couldn't return to Venezuela without a solution.

He and his wife had agreed: if they wanted a better future for their daughter, he needed to go. Although Fernando had maintained a good job in Venezuela, the country's growing instability — poor schooling, a lack of basic medicine and food, and a political crisis — compelled him to try to build a life in another land.

Fernando rented a room in Bogotá and began looking for work. Instead he found rejection.

Then a friend of a Christian former coworker invited him to her church, The Pathway Christian Community.

"I told myself, 'I don't have anything to lose,' so I went," he said. "I felt such a strange feeling ... of brotherhood and fellowship. They made me feel so at home [and] ... like this was my family. And they didn't even know me.

"I returned to my little room full of hope. ... I realized in spite of being so far from my family, I wasn't alone," he said.

Fernando grew up Catholic, but he had never opened a Bible. Now he wanted to know more about God.

"I give the Lord thanks for putting me through trials and difficulties ... so I could know Him," he said. "I realized I have always needed Him. I just didn't know it."

Pray that Fernando's wife and daughter, who are now reunited with him in Colombia, will also know Jesus.

Pray Fernando finds work.

Pray that the churches in Colombia who support Venezuelan refugees will continue to seize this opportunity to be salt and light to the lost.

Your gifts through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® support Southern Baptists who are taking the gospel to people in the Americas who need the hope of life in Jesus. Thank you for giving.

*Name changed

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



Fernando's* wife and daughter enjoy swinging together. They reunited with Fernando in Colombia after being separated from him for many months while Fernando looked for work. (IMB Photo)

The Gospel Project launches new discipleship tools for small groups and families

By Joy Allmond

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) -- Since its inception in 2012, *The Gospel Project* has been used by nearly 1.5 million adults, teens, and children. And that's just been in Sunday school.

Now, two new Gospel Project resources make it easier for families and small groups to engage in discussion about Scripture with a clear understanding of how each text fits into the storyline of Scripture.

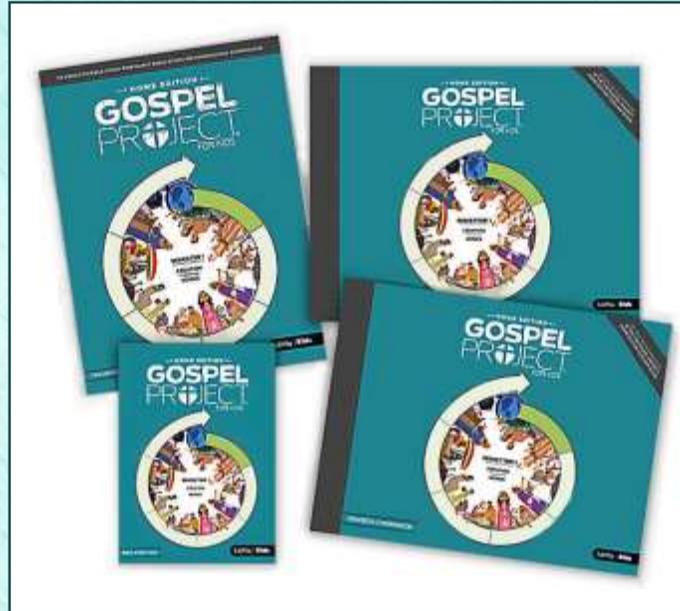
Gospel Foundations and *The Gospel Project for Kids: Home Edition* are available for preorder from LifeWay.

As many congregations have adopted a home-based small group model, *Gospel Foundations* was created to meet the needs of churches' discipleship efforts outside the walls of the church building.

Home Edition is designed to help families—whether they home-school or engage in traditional education—supplement biblical education and child discipleship.

“We are grateful to see how *The Gospel Project* curriculum has been embraced by the church so far,” says Michael Kelley, groups ministry director for LifeWay. “These new offerings will help people in small groups in living rooms and families around the dinner table see more clearly the beauty of the gospel story.”

Gospel Foundations is a 42-session resource that helps churches walk people through the story of Scripture and see how it all points to Christ—while allowing for a few weeks' break—and still complete it in a year.



Home Edition was born out of a conviction that parents are the primary disciplers of their children and the church is called to partner with them.

“We’ve had so many parents who home-school asking for a resource they can use to teach the Bible,” says Brian Dembowczyk, managing editor of *The Gospel Project*. “And we’re glad to be able to address that need with this resource. But we’re also excited to give parents a way to disciple their kids in the home.”

The LifeWay Kids team has built six semesters' worth of materials. Two 18-session volumes per year will be released over the next three years.

Each *Gospel Foundations* and *Home Edition* lesson includes a compelling, visual-heavy video component—a creative departure from the traditional teaching videos or sermon excerpts.

“Our heart has always been to help churches and families encounter Jesus through His Word and then live according to the Great Commission,” says Trevin Wax, Bible publisher with B&H Publishing Group, who helped launch *The Gospel Project* in 2012.

“These new resources are designed to aid churches and families in spiritual growth, evangelism and discipleship. We want people to be immersed in God’s Word, captivated by the missionary heart of God, and passionate to see more people come to faith in Christ. I can’t wait to see how the Lord uses these resources in the lives of His people.”

Joy Allmond is a writer for LifeWay Christian Resources.

Scenes from Sonfest 2018





STARTING CHURCHES

EMPEZANDO IGLESIAS

It's not important who does
the planting, or who does the watering.

What's important is that God makes the seed grow.

1 Corinthians 3:7 NLT

No importa quién planta o quién riega;
lo importante es que Dios hace crecer la semilla.

1 Corintios 3:7

Week of Prayer for State Missions September 2-9, 2018



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