

## Annual Meeting focuses on 'Reaching the Northland'

By David Williams  
Editor

GREEN BAY, Wis. – Uniting around a theme and common purpose of “Reaching the Northland,” Baptists from Minnesota and Wisconsin gathered for their 36th annual meeting Oct. 25-26 at Highland Crest Baptist Church in Green Bay, Wis.

The annual meeting registered 94 messengers from 66 of the convention’s 204 churches. Including 52 guests, total attendance was 146.

Jonathan Woodyard, second vice president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, set the tone for the meeting with a Bible study on Philippians 1:1-5, emphasizing the themes of joy and partnership that are found throughout that letter and pointing out that MWBC is “a gospel partnership.”

“The partnership is what gives rise to the joy,” said Woodyard, who is pastor of Northfield (Minn.) Community Church.

Woodyard said he finds convention and other denominational meetings exciting because he sees them as gatherings of church leaders who are seeking to link arms to accomplish a mission.

“Why do we get together for associational, state and Southern Baptist Convention meetings?” he asked, then answered, “The partnership is for the purpose of an advance of the gospel.”

“Reaching the Northland” was the theme chosen this year to express the specific gospel advance that is the focus of MWBC. The convention has 204 churches seeking to share Jesus with about 11.5 million people who live in the

two states. The “Reaching the Northland” theme was used not only for the annual meeting but also for the 2019 state missions offering.

MWBC’s mission is one that requires full participation, said Leo Endel, MWBC executive director. Citing famed coach Vince Lombardi’s rule that “every player must go all out on every play,” Endel reminded the M-W Baptists that “we are all together on God’s team. . . . It’s going to take all of us to walk the path the Lord has put in front of us.”

Endel encouraged churches to more fully participate in the opportunities and responsibilities of their partnership with their association, state convention and national convention, pointing out that last year:

- Only 116 of the 204 MWBC churches gave through the Cooperative Program;
- Only 17 percent participated in the annual state missions offering;
- Only 16 percent turned in an annual church profile; and
- Only 40 percent of MWBC pastors have retirement accounts with GuideStone Financial Resources, the others missing out on a matching benefit of \$17.50 monthly to their retirement fund from the state convention and another \$17.50 from GuideStone for term life insurance.

“The SBC exists to elicit, combine and direct the energies of Baptists for the propagation of the Gospel,” Endel said, and MWBC’s purpose “is to serve as a means by which affiliated Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist churches may cooperate together in fulfilling the Great Commission.” When churches opt out of supporting and cooperating with the



All current MWBC officers were re-elected to serve another year. Pictured here are, left to right: assistant recording secretary, Jim Gress, member, Southtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn.; recording secretary, Wes Shemwell, member, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; first vice president, Bob Stine, pastor, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; and president, Chris Heng, pastor, TwinCity Hmong Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn. Not pictured is second vice president, Jonathon Woodyard, pastor, Northfield (Minn.) Community Church.

state and national conventions and entities they miss out on a major benefit of being Southern Baptist.

Other speakers mentioned opportunities that awaited churches and members because of their relationship with MWBC.

• Rick Hedger, multiplying churches catalyst with the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC), reported that he has

a list of 65 partnerships that have taken place between MWBC and MBC churches or associations during the past two years. He urged churches and associations to take advantage of the next three years of the five-year partnership. “Our churches want to be on mission,” he said. “They want to come here and serve alongside you.”

• Scott Dadam, pastor of

River of Life Church in Protag, Wis., reported on the 2019 Hands of Hope event in which his church hosted 75 volunteers from seven MWBC churches. The volunteers did various service projects around the community and also helped Dadam’s church with outreach. All MWBC churches are welcome to participate

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## China designates Lottie Moon’s church a historical site

Catherine Finch  
International Mission Board

PENGLAI, China – The name, “Lottie Moon,” is known by many in the Southern Baptist world. From the Woman’s Missionary Union (WMU) Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, to movies, books and documentaries detailing her life of service, Lottie Moon is often hailed as a “missionary hero.”

Lottie Moon’s legacy will now be preserved beyond the Southern Baptist realm. Wulin Shenghui Church of Penglai in Shandong province, where Lottie Moon was a member during her time in Dengzhou, China, has been designated as a nationally protected historical and cultural site by The State Council of the

People’s Republic of China, chinachristiandaily.com reported Nov. 14.

WMU Executive Director and Treasurer Sandy Wisdom-Martin is thankful for the continuing impact of Lottie Moon’s legacy.

“We celebrate the decision to protect this location of historical significance. More than a century later, we still feel the impact of Lottie’s legacy that helped shape our global missionary enterprise. Her sacrifice for the sake of the gospel continues to inspire new generations to fulfill His Commission,” she said.

Built in 1872 by Southern Baptist missionaries Tarleton and Martha Crawford, the church at Penglai is still

See **LOTTIE MOON** page 5



A Chinese woman stands beside a monument dedicated to Lottie Moon at Wulin Shenghui Church of Penglai in Shandong province. Chinese Christians built the monument and dedicated it to Moon in 1915. IMB photo

## ANNUAL MEETING

*continued from page 1*

in the annual project.

- Joshua Whetstine, SEND City missionary for the Twin Cities, reported that 11 new churches were planted during the past year and eight more are already scheduled to plant in 2020. His goal is to see 60 sustainable, indigenous and engaged churches planted during five years.

- Charles Harvey, director of doctor of ministry program for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, reported that five persons in the first MWBC doctoral cohort are expected to graduate and a second cohort will be started soon. This partnership is providing a lower-cost mostly online opportunity for M-W Baptists to earn a seminary doctorate.

- Penny Reedy, MWBC kids ministry director, promoted MWBC's May 30, 2020 Equip Kids Ministry Conference at the Metropolis Resort

and Conference Center in Eau Claire, Wis. The all-day conference is only \$29 through the end of the year and hotel rooms are discounted.

- Dave Wedekind, MWBC disaster relief co-director, said there were four training events and four disaster responses during 2019. He encouraged M-W Baptists to take advantage of the training opportunities in 2020 as well as opportunities to serve as disasters arise.

- Chris Phillips, associate pastor of children and students at Trinity Baptist in Reedsburg, Wis., and MWBC student ministry director, said, "If we are going to reach the Northlands, we need to reach students." MWBC offers an annual Called Out event that some churches have used as their kick-off event for beginning a new youth group, he said. The 2019 event registered 147 people from 11 churches. He encouraged each MWBC church to consider participating in this annual opportunity.

Messengers once again in-

creased the percentage of Cooperative Program gifts forwarded to the SBC, this time from 35 percent to 36 percent. They approved a 2020 budget of \$1,520,175, a 2.3 percent increase over the 2019 budget of \$1,486,075.

MWBC anticipates receiving about 38.8 percent of its budget ~ \$590,000 ~ from the churches through the Cooperative Program. Other sources of income include the North American Mission Board, LifeWay Christian Resources, special missions offerings, designated gifts, and interest.

Of the money received through the Cooperative Program, MWBC will forward 36 percent (\$212,000) to the Southern Baptist Convention. For several years MWBC has been increasing the percentage forwarded to SBC. The percentage was 35 percent in the current 2019 budget, 32 percent in 2018, 22 percent in 2017, 20 percent in 2016, and 17 percent in 2015.

Ashley Clayton, vice presi-

dent of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, reported to the messengers that through the years MWBC has given more than \$15 million through the Cooperative Program.

All current officers were re-elected: president, Chris Heng, pastor, TwinCity Hmong Baptist Church, St. Paul, Minn.; first vice president, Bob Stine, pastor, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; second vice president, Jonathon Woodyard, pastor, Northfield Community Church, Northfield, Minn.; recording secretary, Wes Shemwell, member, Midvale Baptist Church, Madison, Wis.; and assistant recording secretary, Jim Gress, member, Southtown Baptist Church, Bloomington, Minn.

Other meetings held in conjunction with the MWBC annual meeting brought a synergy to the weekend.

- Joshua Whetstine led the MWBC church planters meeting on Thursday which helped bring a large percentage of new

planters to the annual meeting.

- The Pastors Conference took place on Friday morning with a lecture series by Southeastern Seminary preaching Professor Jim Shaddix on decisional preaching. This event was attended by about 50 people.

- The convention hosted a special luncheon that drew more than 40 pastors' wives to fellowship together around small tables in informal conversation.

- The MWBC Woman's Missionary Union conducted their annual meeting and elected new officers including Gwendolyn Sutton of Monumental Baptist Church in Milwaukee as their new president. Cindy Vang had served four years in the role.

Next year's annual meeting will be Oct. 23-24, 2020, at Ebenezer Community Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn. Jonathan Woodyard will preach the convention sermon. Alternate preacher is Ben Bolin, pastor, Calvary Church, New Prague, Minn.

## Pastors and Wives Retreat

February 6-8, 2020  
Green Lake Conference Center  
Green Lake, Wisconsin

Special Guests:  
Mark and Janet Dance

Information and Registration  
@ [www.MWBC.org](http://www.MWBC.org)

*Winning at  
Church  
&  
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# Editorial & Opinion

*"Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..."*

1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

## THE MINNESOTA-WISCONSIN BAPTIST

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Editor

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

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## One thing could change your life in 2020

Many people start the New Year with a list of resolutions; most people give up on them in less than two weeks. Lofty ideas sound great but are empty of motivation to accomplish any real change.

I want to suggest that you start 2020 with only one relatively simple resolution: **begin and end every day with a moment of gratitude.**

Even the secular world has discovered the power of gratitude. In a 2015 Psychology Today article, Lisa Firestone writes that "research demonstrates that focusing on what we are grateful for is a universally rewarding way to feel happier and more fulfilled." She goes on to add, "Scientific studies

have found that gratitude is associated with greater happiness... new and lasting relationships, better health, more progress toward personal goals, fewer aches and pains... better sleep."



### Perspectives

Leo Endel

Type "gratitude journal" into Amazon's search engine and discover the scores of gratitude journals available to help you record your thoughts. You can even buy daily planners with gratitude sections for every day of the week.

I'm intrigued about the way gratitude is being celebrated today. In most of what I have seen, people are thankful but there is no person to whom they are thankful. In other words, we celebrate grati-

tude without God. We are grateful for the blessings we have in our lives, but we are not grateful to someone. We "count our blessings," but don't see them as "what God has done." We have thanksgiving without God.

Thanksgiving without God is idolatry. Thanksgiving without God is looking for satisfaction, joy, and fulfillment in things rather than in God. True thanksgiving is to be thankful to God for "every good and perfect gift."

The Bible makes it clear that giving thanks is the open door into the presence of God, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise" (Psalm 100:4). If you want to experience the presence of God in your life, open the door by thanking Him for all He

has done for you.

Before you even get out of bed, practice a moment of gratitude to God. In the shower thank Him for a new day. At night thank him for the blessings of the day. When you see something beautiful, thank Him for His creativity. When you have an encouraging encounter with a friend, thank Him for your friend. Learn to "give thanks in everything" (1 Thess. 5:18).

C.S. Lewis summarized gratitude like this: "Gratitude exclaims, very properly, 'How good of God to give me this.'"

I know we celebrated Thanksgiving over a month ago, but I believe thanksgiving celebrated every day will change your life.

Leo Endel is executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

## The Master Potter

A few miles north of Waco, Texas on the east banks of the Brazos River sits the Homestead Heritage, an agrarian Christian community committed to preserving 19th century craftsmanship. The community offers shops where visitors can observe "artistry-in-action" complete with a pottery barn, blacksmith forge, grist mill and a carpentry shop. George and Laura Bush commissioned the Homestead to construct and furnish their house at the Crawford Ranch.

When we visited the pottery shop, I marveled at the talent of those who worked there. The artists applied water and shaped the clay spinning on the potter's wheel in front of them. With nimble fingers and just the right amount of pres-

sure, they brought the clay to life and shaped it into the form they desired.

Pottery is an ancient art. For thousands of years the trade was passed down from generation to generation in cultures around the world. Communities developed around clay deposits in India, China and the Middle East. Archeologists continue to excavate pottery from the earliest sites of civilization.

Jeremiah must have marveled, as I did, when he visited a potter's house in ancient Jerusalem. When he watched the clay spin upon the wheel, he saw the potter's ability to change the shape of the clay in an instant. He sensed God speaking to him, "Can I not, O house of Israel, deal with you as this potter does?" de-

clares the Lord. 'Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand'" (Jer. 18:6).

Isaiah made a similar observation. "Shall the potter be considered as equal with the clay?"

That what is made would say to its maker, 'He did not make me,' or what is formed say to him who formed it, 'He has no understanding?'" (Isa. 29:16).

God has made each of us unique. We are, each and every one of us, special in His sight. He never abandons us or gives up on us. Like the clay, we continue to be molded in His hands. With every pressure, whether success or failure, joy or sorrow. God is fashioning us for His purposes so that we can reflect His glory, bless others and be filled with joy. He wants us to love ourselves and one another just the way He made us.

This is what Paul meant when he said, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love the Lord, to those who are called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28). All things work together for good when we realize the Master Potter is shaping us for His purposes on the earth.

"For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

Bill Tinsley is a former executive director of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Appearing in various local newspapers around the country, his column "reflects" on current events and life experiences from a faith perspective.

## The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist

A quarterly Christian newsjournal with a focus on Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptists—their interests, churches, and partners.

• **Is your church making news?** Send news to David Williams, at davidwilliams@compuserve.com or P.O. Box 628, Liberty, TX 77575.

• **Does your church have something to advertise?** Advertising space at \$8 per column inch is available for meetings, product or services sponsored by MWBC churches and associations, the state convention and entities of the Southern Baptist Convention.

• **Has your church updated its subscription list?** The Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist is provided free of charge to all resident member families of churches related to the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Churches are responsible for updating their portion of our mailing list, maintained at the state convention office.

Others may subscribe for \$5.50 per year by sending payment to Subscriptions, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist, 519 16th St. SE, Rochester, MN 55904.



### Reflections

Bill Tinsley

## Glory to God in the highest heaven

The highest point in Southeast Asia is on Mount Fansipan in Vietnam. A few years ago, I had an opportunity to climb to the top of this mountain.

It is probably more accurate to say that I took a cable car ride up to a staging area and then climbed a couple hundred steps to get to the summit.

What I remember most from this trip was seeing a Buddhist temple and a giant statue of Buddha near the top. It was mesmerizing to behold this sight in the clouds. Buddha obviously has a very special place on that moun-

tain and in that land.

For many people, Buddha is their greatest hope. They do not know that there is one who is higher than Buddha.

In Luke 2 the angels proclaim, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors" (CSB).

God sits in the highest heaven, far above the tallest mountains on earth. My prayer is that one day, when people look at Mount Fansipan, they will not praise the one on the mountaintop, but they will praise the one high above the mountain.

In the Christmas story, when the angels appeared

to the shepherds, they were bringing good news that Jesus Christ, the savior of the world, had been born in Bethlehem. Jesus Christ alone is our greatest hope. Through SEA Harvest, this good news will continue to spread throughout Southeast Asia.

If you are not familiar with SEA Harvest, it is a mission project that our state convention is starting in Southeast Asia. A portion of your gifts to the state missions offering goes to support SEA Harvest. If you would like to receive SEA Harvest updates through an email newsletter, please contact me at [herr@mwbc.org](mailto:herr@mwbc.org).

*Na Herr is intercultural catalyst/team facilitator for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*



### Missions

Na Herr

## But as for me . . .

This is the time of year when so much is going on, with people being so busy and so distracted, that we are often overwhelmed.

So this year my thoughts have turned to a phrase that I have seen in the Bible "but as for me . . .".

Here is what I have found:

Psalm 69:13, "But as for me, LORD, my prayer to you is for a time of favor. In your abundant, faithful love, God, answer me with your sure salvation."

Psalm 69:29, "But as for

me—poor and in pain—let your salvation protect me, God."

Psalm 73:2, "But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my steps nearly went astray."

Psalm 73:28, "But as for me, God's presence is my good. I have made the Lord GOD my

refuge, so I can tell about all you do."

Jonah 2:9, "But as for me, I will sacrifice to you with a voice of thanksgiving. I will fulfill what I have vowed. Salvation belongs to the LORD."



### Evangelism

Steve Melvin

Joshua 24:15, "But if it doesn't please you to worship the LORD, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD."

Determine for yourself this holiday season, that "as for me" I will focus on the things of God and follow Him faithfully in 2020.

*Steve Melvin is partnership and prayer catalyst for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*

## Looking back on 2019

As we finish out 2019, MWBC disaster relief ministry has had a great year. We are so thankful to God for the following blessings:

1. Training – We conducted two regional trainings: one at Valley Baptist Church in Appleton, Wis., and the other at First Hmong Baptist Church in Coon Rapids, Minn. Also due to a special callout to help typhoon victims on the island of Saipan, we held a training at Trinity Baptist Church in Reedsburg, Wis.



### Disaster Relief

Dave Wedekind

2. Safety – Praise God that no injuries were incurred by any of our volunteers.

3. Meeting needs of disaster victims – Our volunteers and leaders responded to four major disasters this past year.

\* Our disaster relief partner, the Missouri Baptist Convention, asked us for help in the flooding along the Missouri River. We sent two mud out teams to Missouri and met the spiritual and physical needs of the people.

\* At the request of the Illinois Baptist State Association Disaster Relief, we also sent our feeding team to Illinois to provide meals for mud out teams.

\* This year we had a unique request to help the people on the Island of Saipan. The call out was to make their homes livable after a major typhoon hit the island in October 2018. At the invitation of FEMA and

the Hawaii Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, we sent a team of eight volunteers to Saipan with the goal of re-roofing homes. The team went to Saipan with great excitement to not only repair a roof but they also were able to replace despair with healing and hope that they are not alone, God still loves and cares about them.

*Dave Wedekind is co-director of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.*



This team of MWBC volunteers responded to a disaster on the Island of Saipan, re-roofing homes.

## Gospel Above All: Changing Conversations in Adult Discipleship

Have you ever witnessed or participated in an argument while having the desire to change the conversation?

Of all the topics one could talk about – politics, sports teams, the

weather – no topic is more important than the gospel. As church leaders, we long to change the conversation. We desire the people we lead to discuss the gospel amongst themselves and with the people they influence.



### Leadership

Clint Calvert

I have the honor of leading the adult discipleship group on Wednesday nights at my home church, Emmanuel Baptist

in Rochester, Minn. Throughout the year we

rotate our content around three emphases: biblical and theological concepts, spiritual formation, and ministry skills. Every few weeks the emphasis changes so our adults get both the variety of different ideas and consistency within those ideas.

For the past few weeks we have been studying J.D. Greear's "Gospel Above All." "Gospel Above All" is an eight-week series that includes videos, a Bible study book, and a trade paperback titled "Above All." The study elevates the gospel as the priority over programs, politics, and traditions. The variety and depth of the content provide options for applying the materials.

"Above All," the trade paperback, is available at [LifeWay.com](http://LifeWay.com) for \$16.99.

Currently LifeWay is offering a discount for bulk purchases of 10 or more. The paperback contains essays from sermons on the various gospel themes. Church leaders could read "Above All" as a peer learning project. The essays in the paperback might inspire sermon ideas for pastors who want to preach along the theme of "Gospel Above All."

The leader kit, "Gospel Above All," is \$99.99 and includes the videos on DVD, a Bible study book, and access codes to download the

videos digitally. The videos range between 11 minutes to 26 minutes in length. A workbook, called a Bible study book, is available for \$13.99. The Bible study book gives participants an opportunity to capture key ideas from the video and consider supplemental materials.

While the content of the study is excellent, even better are the conversations the material is producing in our small group. Each week,

See **DISCIPLESHIP** page 5



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MWBC events are in bold print.  
BLBA: Bay Lakes Baptist Association  
SWBA: Southern Wisconsin Baptist Association  
LBA: Lakeland Baptist Association  
NBA: Northwoods Baptist Association  
SMBA: Southern Minnesota Baptist Association  
TCMBA: Twin Cities Metro Baptist Association

To have your events included, email them to davidwilliams@compuserve.com.

January

1 New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**  
21-23 Midwest Leadership Summit, Springfield, Ill.

February

6-8 **Pastors and Wives Retreat, Green Lake, Wis.**  
22 LBA Winter Meeting, Brown Deer (Wis.) Baptist Church

March

1-8 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for North American Missions/Annie Armstrong Easter Offering  
13-14 **Empower Conference – Green Lake, Wis.**

April

10 Good Friday – **MWBC Office Closed**  
17-18 **MWBC Executive Board Meeting, Rochester, Minn.**  
30 **MWBC Lottie Moon Offering Cutoff**

May

TBD **New Pastor Orientation – Rochester, Minn.**  
25 Memorial Day Observed – **MWBC Office Closed**  
30 **Kid's Ministry Conference – Eau Claire, Wis.**

June

8-9 SBC WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla.  
9-10 Southern Baptist Convention – Orlando, Fla.  
TBD **Hands of Hope**  
30 **MWBC Annie Armstrong Offering Cutoff**

July

3 Independence Day Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

SEPTEMBER

1-30 **Season of Prayer for State Missions**  
7 Labor Day – **MWBC Office Closed**  
18-19 **MWBC Executive Board, Rochester, Minn.**

OCTOBER

2-3 **Pastors' Conference, Rochester, Minn.**  
9-11 **Called Out Youth Conference –tentative**  
23-24 **MWBC Annual Meeting, Ebenezer Community Church, Brooklyn Park, Minn.**

NOVEMBER

26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**  
29-Dec. 6 Week of Prayer and Mission Study for International Missions/Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

DECEMBER

24-Jan. 1 Christmas/New Year's Holiday – **MWBC Office Closed**

Good news from the associations

Bay Lakes

North American Mission Board funding has been approved for two church plants: **Eagle Wings Fellowship in Ashland** pastored by Wilke Richmond, and **West-lake Church in Mequon** pastored by Tom Stark. In addition, Stark has passed the NAMB church planter assessment.

**Pastor Tom Mackay** has retired as pastor of Cornerstone Fellowship in Marinette.

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN

At their Nov. 9 **SWBA annual meeting** at City on a Hill Church in Madison, it was noted that 15 nations were represented in the room.

Four men from **Rock of Hope Church in Wisconsin Dells** spent two weeks in Fiji with Ambassadors for Christ, preparing a field for farming and making repairs to a ministry campus. The church plans to return in 2020 for teaching, evangelism and outreach. Aaron Ramquist is pastor.



Bob Stockland reports that the Christmas party for pastors and wives of Northwoods Baptist Association was "a big success," adding, "I praise the Lord for these men and women who pour their hearts out every week in service to the King."

DISCIPLESHIP

continued from page 4

J.D. Greear interviews guest experts on various aspects of the gospel. Rosaria Butterfield's ideas on gospel hospitality have stimulated our group to consider new ways of sharing our lives and the gospel with our neighbors.

As a small group leader, it

Twin Cities

**Seth Martin**, pastor of The Brook Community Church in Brooklyn Park, Minn., says six people went public with their faith in Jesus after being challenged by the story of the people at Sychar who believed in Jesus not only because the woman at the well had told them about Him, but because they had met Him for themselves.

**Shalom Community Church** launched in North Minneapolis on Sept. 22, meeting at Lucy Laney Elementary School. Brian Kite is church planter. He and his wife Teresa have eight children.

NORTHWOODS

A team of six volunteers began in December painting the interior of **Pleasant Hills Baptist Church in International Falls**.

**Eagles Nest Baptist Church in Breezy Point** celebrated Friends Day on Nov. 24 with a Thanksgiving Turkey Feast and installed their new pastor, Zach Broom, who began serving Oct. 27. In October the church had 17 people join in one week.

LOTTIE MOON

continued from page 1

in use to this day with a current church membership of about 4,000. The church was closed to foreigners in the 1900s but reopened in 1988. WMU leaders from the United States were some of the first foreigners to visit Lottie Moon's church once it reopened. Within the walls of the European-styled church, WMU leaders discovered a monument dedicated to Lottie Moon by Chinese Christians in 1915.

International Mission Board (IMB) President Paul Chitwood reflected on the vital role Lottie Moon has played in Southern Baptist missions throughout the years.

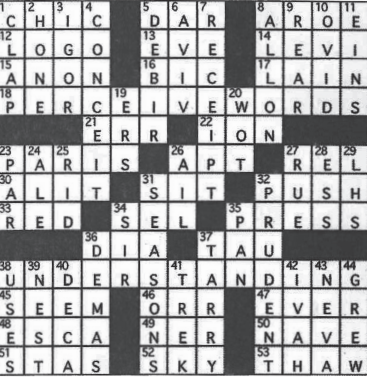
"Lottie Moon's love for the Chinese people meant that she gave her best to them – and her best was the good news that she shared by her life and witness as a Southern Baptist missionary," said Chitwood.

"The Wulin Shenghui Church of Penglai Shandong province was 'home base' for Lottie and we are thrilled to see this site preserved, not as a monument to a missionary, but as a spiritual marker to remind the world that the gospel is worthy of your life. God used Lottie Moon to change China, and also to change Southern Baptists, forever," Chitwood said.

"We're incredibly grateful for the legacy of her work in partnership with this local church, and the more than 4.5 billion dollars given in her honor by Southern Baptists in the past 120 years to advance the gospel toward the vision of people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, worshipping our Lord," he said.

Catherine Finch is an International Mission Board writer based in Richmond, Va.

See crossword, page 11





# 36th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Highland Crest Baptist Church, G



Jim Shaddix, professor of preaching at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., leads the pastor's conference on Friday morning before the annual meeting began. "This is not rocket science," he said. "This is really something that is foundational: sharing the gospel and inviting people to say yes to it."



Gwendolyn Sutton, right, of Monumental Baptist Church in Milwaukee was elected incoming president of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Woman's Missionary Union during their annual meeting preceding the MWBC annual meeting. She succeeds Cindy Vang, center, who has served for four years. At left is newly elected secretary, Lori McDonald of Parkside Baptist in Kenosha, Wis.



At the Friday evening Missions Celebration Dinner, messengers and guests enjoy a great meal and a challenging report from Green Bay native Ann Davies, retiring after 24 years with the International Mission Board.



Tim Amert, right, member of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Rochester, Minn., shares information on the International Mission Board with Bob and Faye Stockland of Northwoods Baptist Association. Amert is a member of the IMB executive board.



More than 40 pastors' wives gathered for an informal luncheon just before the annual meeting while their husbands were in the pastors' conference. Attendees said it was a great time for beginning and building relationships with one another.



Wes Shemwell, recording secretary, goes over his notes between sessions.



# Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention

## Green Bay, Wis., Oct. 25-26, 2019



Chad Hertler, pastor of Highland Crest Baptist Church, welcomes messengers and guests to his church which hosted the 36th annual meeting of the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Hertler had been on staff of the church for ten years and became pastor in April.



Teaching from the Book of Philippians, Jonathan Woodyard speaks about the joy that comes from partnerships around sharing the gospel. Pastor of Northfield (Minn.) Community Church, Woodyard serves as second vice president of MWBC.



Bob Stine, pastor of Midvale Baptist in Madison, Wis., leads Bible study, saying, "As we see Jesus, we will melt and then be molded into His image."



"Sometimes ministry is like a roller coaster; other times it's like waiting in line for the roller coaster," says MWBC president Chris Heng during his president's message. Heng is pastor of Twin Cities Hmong Baptist Church in St. Paul, Minn. "God's sense of timing is both perfect and confounding," he said. "God rarely works on our calendar."



Penny Reedy, left, shares information about Vacation Bible School and other children's programs at her booth in the display area of the annual meeting.



Dave Wedekind, co-director of disaster relief for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, shares information about training and call outs at his exhibit.



Leo Endel, right, honors and presents a gift to John and Francis Draper. Draper retired in June after five and a half years as church planting catalyst of Lakeland Baptist Association. Draper said his retirement was the end of a position but not their commitment to the mission. "We intend to stay, we intend to shovel more snow, and we intend to preach more gospel," he said.



## Supreme Court upholds Kentucky abortion law

WASHINGTON (BP) – Pro-life supporters in Kentucky were pleased with a decision by the U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 9 that left in place a Kentucky law requiring doctors to perform ultrasounds and show fetal images to patients before abortions.

The justices did not comment in refusing to review an appeals court ruling that upheld the law.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had challenged the law on behalf of Kentucky's lone remaining abortion clinic in Louisville. The ACLU argued that "display and describe" ultrasound laws violate physicians' speech rights under the First Amendment.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati upheld the Kentucky law, but its sister court in Richmond, Va., struck down a similar measure in North Carolina.

In Kentucky, doctors must describe the ultrasound in detail while the pregnant woman listens to the fetal heartbeat. Women can avert their eyes and cover their ears to avoid hearing the description or the fetal heartbeat. Doctors failing to comply face fines and can be referred to the state's medical licensing board.

"This means the 6th Circuit [Court of Appeals] opinion in our favor will be upheld," said Steve Pitt, the general counsel for outgoing Gov. Matt Bevin. "The mandate we'll issue shortly, the stay will be lifted and presumably the requirement that ultrasounds be performed and doctors describe what is in the womb, will begin within a few



April Lanham, center, undergoes a procedure in Frankfort, Ky., that allows the audience at a Kentucky legislative meeting to hear her unborn son's heartbeat, Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 in Frankfort, Ky. The U.S. Supreme Court made a decision Monday to keep in place a law that requires doctors to give an ultrasound and show fetal images to patients before abortions. Photo from Kentucky Today/Tom Latek

days now. We assume and trust that is what will be enforced."

The law was passed in 2017 and signed by Bevin, a pro-life governor who said that agenda was one of the hallmarks of his term.

"From the beginning, we have thought on the things that matter," Bevin said. "We have fought for the sanctity of human life, we have fought for the dignity of taxpayers, we have fought for the educational opportunity of kids in our inner cities who have been failed. We have fought at every turn to help people have a better life, a better opportunity."

Todd Gray, the executive director-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, called the court's decision "good news for Kentucky."

"We thank the Lord for this decision. We also thank state leaders for protecting the unborn," he said. "People who are pro-life want mothers to have as

much information as possible so they can make the best decision for their babies."

Pitt says there had been similar cases before the Supreme Court.

"Two circuits, the 7th and the 5th, issued opinions consistent with ours. The 4th Circuit arguably had an opinion that was inconsistent," he said. "The 6th Circuit ruled our way, and the Supreme Court refused the abortion clinics for an appeal."

Pitt explained the effect of the Supreme Court decision.

"It simply means that the law that was passed in 2017, requiring that doctors who perform abortions show an ultrasound to the patient before the abortion is performed, and describe what is depicted in the sonogram, and that the heartbeat be made audible, un-

See **KENTUCKY** page 10

## Mohler to be nominated for SBC president

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) – Southern Baptist Theological Seminary President R. Albert Mohler Jr. is expected to be nominated as Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) president.

H.B. Charles, senior pastor of Shiloh Metropolitan Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla., announced his intention to nominate Mohler via Twitter.

"I'm delighted to announce my prayerful intention to nominate @albertmohler as our next SBC president when we gather together in Orlando in June 2020 for our annual meeting," said Charles.

"I am honored by the announcement by Pastor H.

B. Charles, and I will accept nomination as president of the Southern Baptist Convention in June," Mohler said. "All my life, I have sought to serve whenever asked by my denomination, and I would hope, if elected, to serve in a way that would unite Southern Baptists, strengthen our work together, add energy to our evangelism, and keep our hearts set on taking the gospel to the nations."



Mohler



Charles

If elected, Mohler would be the first SBC entity head to serve as SBC president since then-Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary President Paige Patterson served from 1999-2000.

## Ezell's 'Quick Takes' podcast helps pastors find balance

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) – Pastoring a church can take its toll. The personal and spiritual nature of the vocation requires pastors to deal with deep stresses that other jobs often do not entail.

Through a recently launched podcast, "Quick Takes with Kevin," North American Mission Board (NAMB) president Kevin Ezell aims to equip and encourage pastors. Ezell sits down with experienced pastors to have them share insights they have gained throughout their years of ministry.

"I wanted to call it 'Cracker Barrel with Kevin' because, to me, that's one of the easiest places to have a conversation about anything, but it's too hard to get permission to use the restaurant's name," said Ezell. "I'm trying to give pastors the feeling of sitting across the table from some fellow pastors and learning from their successes and struggles."

New episodes release every Wednesday. Currently, the conversations stem from various chapters in a book called *Replenish: Leading from a Healthy Soul* by Lance Witt. The focus of the podcast is to encourage and equip pastors as they balance the demands of life, leadership and ministry.

"I'm not claiming to have a lot of wisdom or all the answers," Ezell said, "but I

do have some pretty smart friends, so each episode features pastors who are living out these topics and learning from them. It has led to a lot of great discussion so far."

In the first episode, SBC Executive Committee president Ronnie Floyd shares about the day he decided to stop allowing his calendar to control him, protected time with his family and dedicated his mornings to being with the Lord.

Chuck Herring, pastor of Collierville (Tenn.) First Baptist Church, tells about a near-death experience that solidified what was truly important to him, and Thom Rainer, past president of LifeWay Christian Resources, discusses how to stop being a people pleaser.

"Pastors are NAMB's number one customer and we want to serve them well. One thing I know for sure is many of them are hurting and struggling," Ezell said. "Too many throw in the towel each year and give up pastoring for good. I hope we can help encourage them and help them figure out ways to return to a healthy balance."

The podcast is available both in audio and video formats through Apple Podcasts and on YouTube. It can also be found at [namb.net/resources](http://namb.net/resources) by clicking the podcasts link.



Hmong pastors gather for a meeting with MWBC Executive Director Leo Endel in his office. Standing behind Endel, seated at his desk, are, left to right: Joseph Yang, Chuelia Vang, Zongvue Chang, Tonger Vang, Chueker Veu, Ying Vang, Na Herr, Vameng Pha, Danielying Yang, and Nhia Leng Vang.



# Justice reform, ministry urged at ERLC event

NASHVILLE (BP) – Spokesmen from the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee's office and Prison Fellowship addressed criminal justice and rehabilitation as part of the ERLC Leadership Luncheon event Dec. 3 at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville.

"[I]t's easy for us to kind of put out of our mind the incarcerated population – sort of throw away the key, lock them up and don't think about them," said Daniel Darling, the ERLC's vice president for communications.

The data demonstrate "simply incarcerating a lot of people doesn't actually make us safer," he told the audience of pastors, leaders and other Christians from Middle Tennessee. "But rehabilitation and getting people back on their feet and having real pathways for people to change is really important, not just for the dignity of the incarcerated population but also for public safety."

Ministry to inmates is a "great place to start" for pastors and church members in breaking "the cycle of crime," said Craig DeRoche, senior vice president of advocacy and

public policy for Prison Fellowship. People all have the same problems, he said. "They look like fear and selfishness and guilt and shame and anger.... And Christ can solve those problems. So we don't need unhealthy solutions. That's the mechanics of breaking the cycle of crime in a person."

The panel discussion followed an interview of Lee by ERLC president Russell Moore. In the interview, Lee explained his promotion of criminal justice reform in Tennessee came as a result of mentoring a man coming out of prison before

he ran for governor.

The biblical view of humanity calls for both ministry and accountability, panelists told moderator Brent Leatherwood, the ERLC's director of strategic partnerships.

"God didn't make any throwaway people – even someone who's never going to leave prison," DeRoche said. "How do we know where they rank in God's eyes? [T]hey can be of service. And they can be redeemed in Christ. And they can contribute back and bring people to the cross."

The ERLC and other organizations have joined Prison Fellowship in its efforts at criminal justice reform in recent years. A significant victory in that campaign came last December with the bipartisan passage and signing into law by President Trump of the First Step Act. The new law is designed to promote the rehabilitation and societal re-entry of prisoners while maintain-

ing public safety.

In 2017, the ERLC and two other organizations joined Prison Fellowship in issuing a call for a "fair and redemptive" justice system. The Justice Declaration urged followers of Jesus to support "proportional punishment," care for victims of crime, minister to the families of prisoners, preach the Gospel and disciple incarcerated men and women. The National Association of Evangelicals and Colson Center for Christian Worldview also joined in the initiative.

At the 2013 SBC meeting, messengers approved a resolution expressing "support of legislative policies that seek to reduce high incarceration rates without jeopardizing public safety" and affirmed that "probation and parole may serve as a wise, just, and effective alternative to prolonged incarceration for certain nonviolent offenders."

## Indigeneity in church planting

At the end of the day, what we are all hoping for in church planting, no matter your context, is the greatest possible potential for livability and reproducibility. In other words, we want to plant churches with the best chance to live long and plant other churches that do the same. In our last article we talked about our first marker, sustainability. In this article I want us to think deeply about "Indigeneity."



### Church Planting

Joshua Whetstine

native to an area means that you live within your original covenant spheres. What are covenant spheres? God's created order has a few underlying narratives that aren't initially apparent to us. In fact, there are three major rhythms that life functions within and has done so for all of history. The three rhythms are family, work and neighborhood.

Every human over all of time has a mom and a dad. No matter the level of dysfunction, we all have families. We are born into this rhythm and we spend the better part of our early existence steeped in this rhythm. It continues after our young adult years, but it continues differently.

The second rhythm is work. If you work a 40-hour a week job, then you spend half of your awake life at work.

The third is neighborhood. It's simple. You actually live somewhere. If you'd like to further understand the complexities of all three as they function together, spend some time learning about the ancient "household."

Paul goes so far as to say that the testing ground for being qualified to lead the church is seen primarily in how you lead your household or family. In biblical times it would be nearly impossible to hide your flaws. It's much easier for us today. Before we

became techno-nomadic a few years after the industrial revolution, the second two rhythms generally flowed from the first one. You were born into a family that worked in a particular way and industry that lived in the same area for years.

Now, let me simplify the practicality of indigeneity. Shortly after my wife and I were married and had our first child we moved about three hours away from home. We had lost the natural rhythms of having grown up with the people we now lived around, so relationship had to start new. Relationships take a lot of time to move to maturity. We also didn't know the culture nuances of the new state we lived in. In tacks saturating in the context to begin to function naturally within it. We never went on date nights because we had no family to help and our friends were still developing trust with each other. You could literally fill a notebook with all the issues created when you move out of your natural born rhythms. Now, imagine you aren't simply moving for work. You are moving to plant a church. The greater the cultural contrast, the greater chance of failure, frustration and eventually returning to your more natural born rhythms.

Joshua Whetstine is church planting field director for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.



One in Christ of Hudson, Wis., celebrate their first service together on Sept. 15.



Philip Nache, pastor of Hope of Nations Gospel Church and Hope of Nations Fellowship Church both in Minneapolis, on Sept. 8 announced his new book titled "Next-Level Devotional and Prayer Journal," available at philipnache.com. The book launch event had a surprise ending as the author and his wife Jummai renewed their wedding vows in celebration of their 25th wedding anniversary.



**MINNESOTA WISCONSIN BAPTIST CONVENTION****COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GIVING**

January - November 2019

<b>CP Required YTD</b>	\$504,166.67
<b>CP Received YTD</b>	\$622,233.24
<b>OVER Budget YTD</b>	\$118,066.57

**NAME****CP****BAY LAKES BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Amherst, Amherst Bible Church	\$500.00
Appleton, Hmong Baptist Mission	\$1023.13
Appleton, Valley	\$50,797.17
Black Creek, Community Bible	\$6,425.00
Clintonville, First Baptist Church	\$1,771.30
Green Bay, Graceway Fellowship	\$5,396.26
Green Bay, Highland Crest	\$80,914.85
Manitowoc, New Beginnings	\$691.58
Marinette, Cornerstone Fellowship	\$381.97
Neenah, Living Vine Church	\$1,574.78
Sheboygan, Mapledale Baptist	\$3,155.59
Stevens Point, Tapestry	\$900.00
Tilleda, Bethany Baptist Church	\$2,375.80
Waupaca, Fellowship Baptist	\$1,935.76
<b>BLBA TOTAL</b>	\$157,843.19

**SOUTHERN WI BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Boscobel, Ble River Valley	\$1,320.05
Ft. Atkinson, Casa de Oracion	\$20.00
Janesville, Resonate Church	\$3,294.04
La Crosse, New Hope	\$350.00
Madison, Antioch Fellowship	\$300.00
Madison, Campus Community	\$1,550.00
Madison, Casa De Oracion	\$21.48
Madison, Doxa Church	\$17,261.52
Madison, East Madison Baptist	\$7,122.00
Madison, Hope In Christ Assembly	\$2,132.08
Madison, Livingstone Baptist	\$1,61.78
Madison, Midvale Baptist Church	\$15,680.04
Madison, Red Village	\$10,000.00
Madison, Sovereign Joy Baptist	\$4,810.84
Platteville, Rolling Hills	\$3,562.05
Portage, River of Life	\$2,590.68
Reedsburg, Trinity Baptist	\$15,812.50
Sparta, Gospel Baptist Church	\$4,354.87
Sun Prairie, United Hmong	\$1,084.49
Waterloo, Centro Biblico La Roca	\$310.00
Whitehall, Mision Bautista Hispana	\$388.68
WI Dells, Rock of Hope	\$2,200.00
WI Rapids, Church at Wazeecha	\$4,135.70
WI Rapids, First Baptist Church	\$550.00
<b>SWBA TOTAL</b>	\$100,012.80

**LAKELAND BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Bassett, Westosha Baptist Church	\$1,491.20
Franklin, Emmaus Fellowship	\$600.00
Kenosha, Fellowship Baptist	\$21,815.23
Kenosha, Missio Dei Fellowship	\$8,644.00
Kenosha, Parkside Baptist Church	\$5,494.08
Mequon, Westlake Church	\$50.00
Milwaukee, Ephesians Baptist	\$3,719.50
Milwaukee, Grace Point Church	\$437.35
Milwaukee, Hmong First Baptist	\$600.00
Milwaukee, Iglesia Bautista Nuevo	\$361.00
Milwaukee, Korean Baptist Church	\$900.00
Milwaukee, Layton Avenue	\$11,708.13
Milwaukee, Mercy Memorial	\$1,650.00
Milwaukee, Monumental Baptist	\$1,608.00
Milwaukee, Mt Horeb Baptist	\$1,000.00
Milwaukee, Mt Pilgrim Miss.	\$2,400.00
Mount Pleasant, Immanuel	\$10,275.33
Pewaukee, Crossroads Church	\$3,870.35
Pleasant Prairie, Pleasant Prairie	\$10,784.00
Racine, Hope Community Church	\$5,959.12
Wauwatosa, Northwest Baptist	\$9,530.29
Wauwatosa, Redemption Church	\$1,200.00
<b>LBA TOTAL</b>	\$104,097.58

**TWIN CITIES METRO BAPTIST ASSN.**

Albertville, Northwest Bible	\$2,000.00
Amery, Journey Church	\$7,500.00
Bloomington, Southtown Baptist	\$20,618.00
Bloomington, Kangnam Korean	\$1,050.00
Brooklyn Park, Ebenezer Community	\$1,800.00
Brooklyn Park, North Center	\$9,277.98
Burnsville, Crystal Lake Road	\$1,509.00
Coon Rapids, First Hmong Baptist	\$2,500.00
Fridley, Good News Hmong	\$375.00
Maple Grove, Northwood Community	\$1,666.70
Maple Grove, Unlock Church	\$7,179.57
Minneapolis, All Peoples Church	\$4,500.00
Minneapolis, Gracepoint Minnea	\$1,100.00
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations Fellowship	\$530.04
Minneapolis, Hope of Nations Go	\$412.42
Minneapolis, Jacob's Well	\$2,577.20
Minneapolis, Jubilee	\$4,000.00
Minneapolis, Risen Church	\$1,823.69
Monticello, First Baptist Church	\$897.38
New Prague, Calvary Church	\$22,593.27
Northfield, Northfield Community	\$13,580.34
Oakdale, Eternal Life Hmong	\$1,512.00
Ramsey, Bethlehem Worship Cen	\$500.00
Roseville, Gospel Hmong	\$607.72
Roseville, Roseville Baptist	\$10,000.00
Shakopee, River South Bible	\$496.16
St. Paul, Followers Of Christ Hmong	\$8,001.13
St. Paul, Iglesia Hispana Betel	\$1,100.00

St. Paul, Salt City Church	\$34,302.00
St. Paul, Twin City Hmong	\$2,100.00
Sunfish Lake, Bethel Baptist	\$7,200.00
Sunfish Lake, Vietnamese Baptist	\$660.00
<b>TCMBA TOTAL</b>	\$173,969.60

**NORTHWOODS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Badger, Badger Baptist Church	\$1,329.67
Bemidji, Ridgewood Baptist Church	\$652.42
Brainerd, Ch on the Wise Rd	\$2,508.00
Cambridge, Cross Pointe Church	\$2,750.00
Crookston, Prairie Community	\$5,030.66
Ely, Berean Baptist	\$770.00
Grand Rapids, Calvary Pines Bap	\$2,494.93
Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids	\$69.79
Pequot Lakes, Eagles Nest	\$3,420.18
Rice Lake, Hope Baptist Church	\$5,028.00
Roseau, Immanuel Baptist Church	\$3,098.18
Thief River Falls, Cornerstone	\$1,453.30
Wadena, Grace Connection	\$1,661.38
Warroad, Westside Baptist	\$70.00
<b>NWBA TOTAL</b>	\$30,275.21

**SOUTHERN MN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

Austin, Austin Baptist Church	\$900.00
Austin, Primera Iglesia Bautista	\$1,570.72
Chester, Chester Woods Community	\$2,137.21
Eyota, Hmong Baptist Church	\$2,183.55
Mankato, Hope Baptist Church	\$1,458.20
Marshall, Radiant Life Church	\$3,855.43
Rochester, Emmanuel Baptist	\$15,450.19
Rochester, Joyful Hope Baptist	\$275.00
Rochester, Redemption City	\$5,785.93
Sartell, Park Fellowship	\$3,295.76
Viola, Viola Bible Church	\$3,057.70
Willmar, Grace Baptist Church	\$100.00
Winona, Cornerstone Community	\$3,890.94
<b>SMNBA TOTAL</b>	\$43,960.63

**OTHER**

Eau Claire, Jacob's Well	\$8,800.00
Eau Claire, One in Christ Church	\$1,774.23
Grantsburg, Living Hope Church	\$1,500.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL</b>	\$12,074.23

<b>MWBC TOTAL RECEIVED</b>	\$622,233.24
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NOTE: No giving has been received from MWBC-affiliated churches not listed above.

**KENTUCKY***continued from page 8*

less the mother does not want to hear the heartbeat, [will take effect]." said Pitt. "It's a five-minute procedure that takes place before the abortion is performed, to give the women who might have a lack of understanding of what's actually in the womb, that's a real, living human being there, they might change their mind."

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the national pro-life group Susan B. Anthony List, said modern technology "opens an unprecedented window into the womb, providing

undisputable evidence of the humanity of the unborn child."

Dannenfelser said state laws protecting women's right to informed consent remains critical.

"The abortion industry has proven incapable of policing itself and will stop at nothing to keep the vulnerable women in the dark for the sake of profit, which is why state laws protecting women's right to informed consent are so important," she said in a statement.

The ALCU reacted with disappointment to the decision.

"By refusing to review the Sixth Circuit's ruling the Supreme Court has rubber-stamped extreme political

interference in the doctor-patient relationship," said Alex Kolbi-Molinas, senior staff attorney at the ACLU Reproductive Freedom Project, in a release. "This law is not only unconstitutional, but as leading medical experts and ethicists explained, deeply unethical."

Since Pitt is joining Attorney General-elect Daniel Cameron as his general counsel when Cameron takes office Dec. 17, he was asked about the status of other pro-life lawsuits currently pending in the courts.

"That's yet to be determined," he said, in a similar response to how Gov.-elect Andy Beshear answered the question.



Larry Griffith, left, is honored during an Aug. 25 celebration of his 10-year anniversary as pastor of Brown Deer (Wis.) Baptist Church.

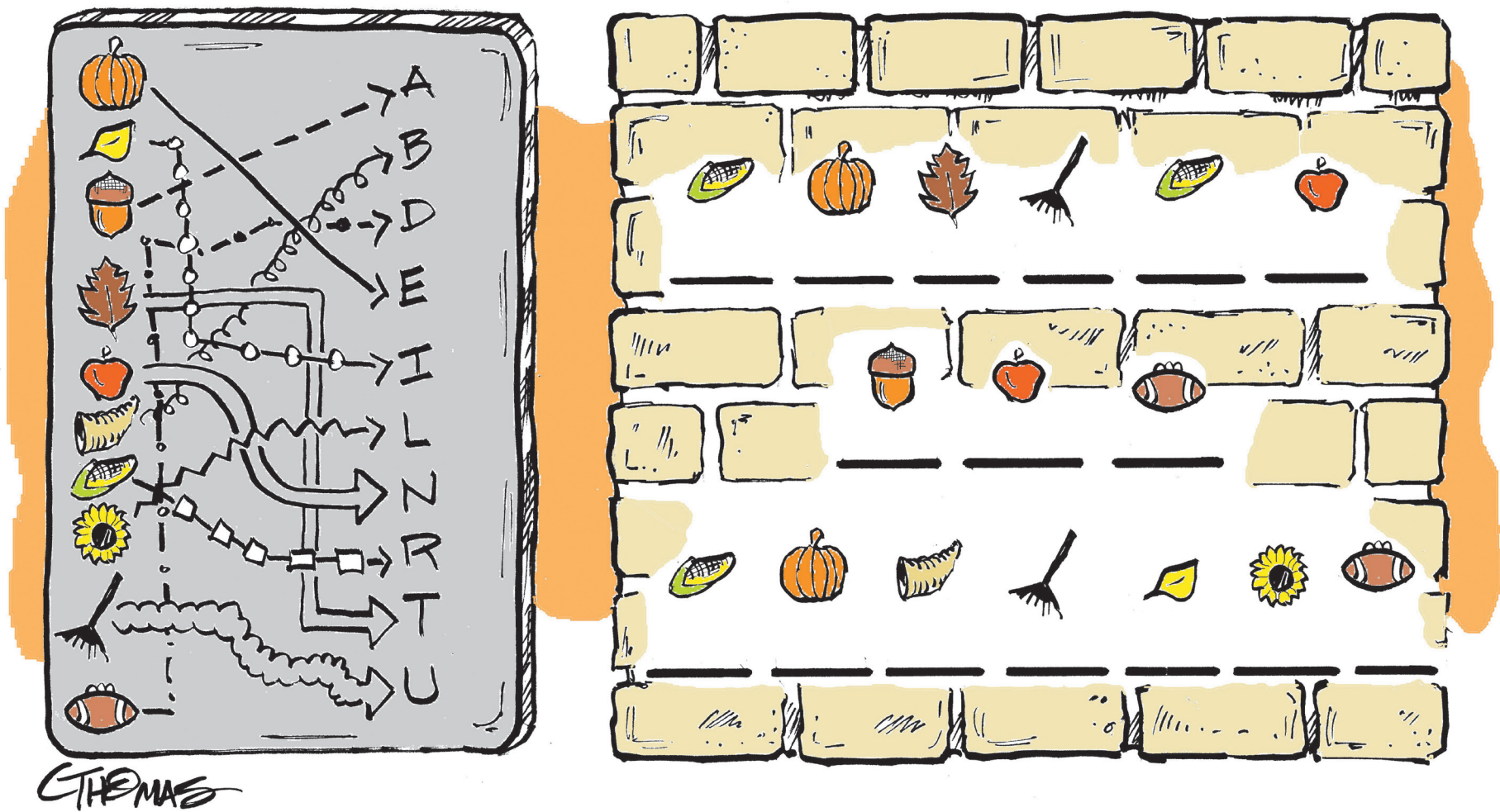


# Gospel Games

*"An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules."*

2 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

Use the decoder below to discover God's desire for His people under Nehemiah



## Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Crossword puzzle

Across

- 1. Stylish
- 5. Patriotic women (abbr.)
- 8. Island group of Indonesia
- 12. Signature
- 13. Mother of all living (Genesis 3)
- 14. Third son of Leah and Jacob
- 15. Shortly
- 16. Brand-name item for student
- 17. "For now should I have \_\_\_ still and been quiet" (Job 3:13)
- 18. "To know wisdom and instruction; to \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ of understanding" (Proverbs 1:2)
- 21. "So Manasseh made...the inhabitants of Jerusalem to \_\_\_" (2 Chronicles 33:9)
- 22. Charged atom
- 23. Home of the Louvre
- 26. Res.
- 27. Fam. Member
- 30. Descended
- 31. "To him that overcometh will I grant to \_\_\_ with me in my throne" (Revelation 3:21)

Down

- 1. "the trees of the field shall \_\_\_ their hands" (Isaiah 55:12)
- 2. Sharpen
- 3. Stravinsky
- 4. "The rich man's wealth is...an
- 32. Promote
- 33. \_\_\_ Sea
- 34. Seasoning in Strasbourg
- 35. Master, the multitude throng... and \_\_\_ thee" (Luke 8:45)
- 36. Day (Sp.)
- 37. Greek letter
- 38. Intelligence
- 45. Appear
- 46. Hockey great
- 47. At all
- 48. Grapevine disease
- 49. Saul's uncle (1 Samuel 14)
- 50. Church area
- 51. Depots (abbr.)
- 52. "\_\_\_ King," children's TV show of years past
- 53. A spell of warm weather

- high wall in his own \_\_\_" (Proverbs 18:11)
- 5. "And the border went up toward \_\_\_" (Joshua 15:7) N. border of Judah
- 6. Tel \_\_\_
- 7. "Matthew sitting at the \_\_\_ of custom" (Matthew 9:9)
- 8. "And their coast was from Heleph, from \_\_\_" (Joshua 19:33) Naphtali's land
- 9. "neither \_\_\_ you up a standing image" (Leviticus 26:1)
- 10. Roman poet
- 11. German article (pl.)
- 19. Belonging to Judah's first son
- 20. "as for this Moses...we \_\_\_ not what is become of him" (Acts 7:40)
- 23. Standard
- 24. Ginger \_\_\_
- 25. Free
- 26. Feel under the weather
- 27. "for ye tithe mint and \_\_\_" (Luke 11:42)
- 28. Curve

- 29. Indicating one hand (abbr., pl.)
- 31. "He appointed the moon for \_\_\_" (Psalm 104:19)
- 32. "Every \_\_\_ man dealeth with knowledge" (Proverbs 13:16)
- 34. Title
- 35. Camera shot
- 36. "Luke...and \_\_\_ greet you" (Colossians 4:14)
- 37. "turn...into your servant's house, and \_\_\_ all night" (Genesis 19:2)
- 38. Needs
- 39. Aerie
- 40. Ten (comb. form)
- 41. Arduous journey
- 42. "Where is the king of Hamath ...of Hena, and \_\_\_?" (2 Kings 19:13)
- 43. Leningrad's river
- 44. "the child Samuel \_\_\_ before the Lord" (1 Samuel 2:21)

Crossword by  
Barbour Publishing, Inc.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
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48				49			50			
51				52			53			

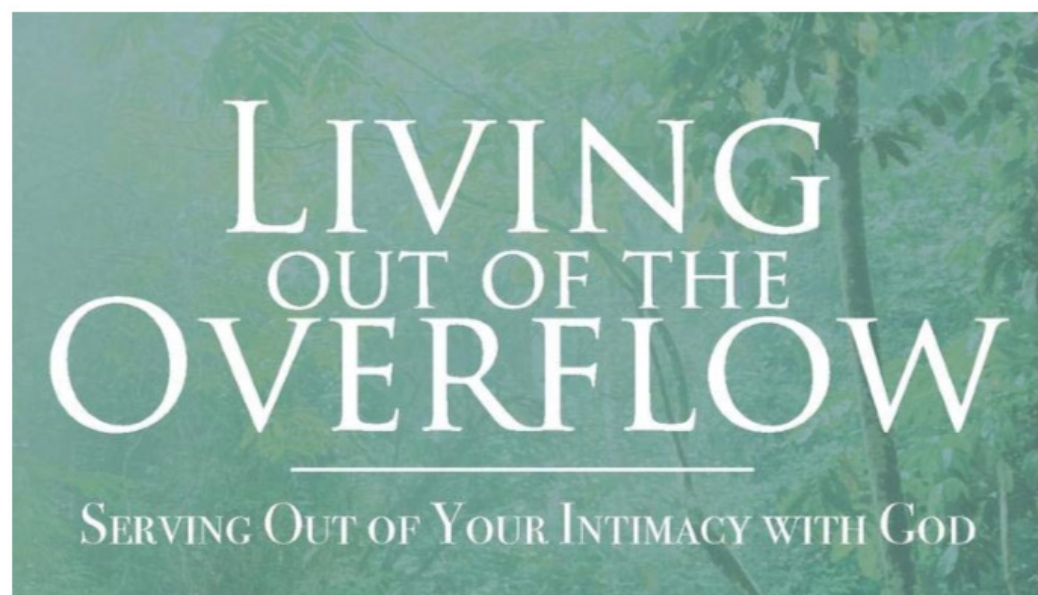
Crossword answer, page 5



# EMPOWER

March 13 & 14, 2020

Green Lake  
Conference Center



DR. RICHARD BLACKABY



# FREEWILL



## You can get your will for free.



**Everyone needs a will!**

Wills are the best way to take care of your family in the future.

Many people use their will to make their last tithe to their church.

Provided as a **FREE GIFT** by the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Foundation visit the website at [FreeWill.com/mwbc](http://FreeWill.com/mwbc)

The process is free, easy, and confidential. It takes an average of 30 minutes to complete your will and then a brief visit to your bank to get it notarized. If you have any questions contact the MWBC at 507-282-3636 or email [herr@mwbc.org](mailto:herr@mwbc.org)