



The Messenger

Southern Baptist student ministry celebrates diamond anniversary By Chip Alford, posted August 15, 1997

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—In a small office overlooking the Mississippi River in Memphis, Tenn., something started 75 years ago that has resulted in hundreds of thousands of decisions for Christ, at least that many young people becoming involved in career or short-term missions projects and millions of dollars being raised for international and North American missions.

That “something” was Southern Baptist work among college students, a ministry the late Frank Leavell launched with two desks, a typewriter, a stenographer and a dream.

The dream got a name two years later when Baptist college students agreed on the title “Baptist Student Union” for their on-campus organizations. What began as a presence on a dozen campuses in the South grew into a ministry that has touched all 50 states and dozens of countries around the world.

“Most Southern Baptists don’t realize they have the largest collegiate ministry in the nation,” Henry said, adding the program is bigger than Campus Crusade, Navigators and InterVarsity combined. Last year alone, more than 237,000 students on nearly 1,000 campuses were reached through SBC student ministry.

“But it’s not the size of our ministry that excites me,” Henry said. “I’m proud of the difference that is being made in the lives of college students. Thousands are finding Christ, growing in their faith and acting on it in their everyday lives. This is an incredibly important investment for Southern Baptists.”

Henry said SBC student work in 1996 resulted in 5,500 professions of faith. In addition, students gave \$3.2 million to support missions, sent out 27,000 student missionaries and helped start 362 new churches or missions.

Excerpt taken from: <https://www.baptistpress.com/resource-library/news/southern-baptist-student-ministry-celebrates-diamond-anniversary>

From Then to More Recent ~ The Drastic Decline

One of the last movements of God in the United States began among students in the late '60s and early '70s,” said NAMB Senior Vice President of Evangelism and Leadership Johnny Hunt about a period commonly referred to as the Jesus Movement. “In recent years we, as Southern Baptists, have seen a great loss in reaching students,” Hunt said. Current trends among students in SBC churches are discouraging. Last year, Southern Baptists baptized 38% fewer teenagers than they did in 2000.

“When I talk about the great need of focusing on reaching, baptizing and discipling teenagers in our churches, people understand this great need,” EC President Ronnie Floyd said. “When they hear that our churches are baptizing fewer teenagers than in the year 2000, they begin to see this great need, and God begins to burden their hearts about their churches.”

A similar downward trend of Christianity in younger generations is taking place outside of the Southern Baptist Convention as well. Recent research has made an abundantly clear point: successive generations are less likely to attend church than their parents were. A 2018 Barna study found that 42% of the Gen Z generation (those born between 1999 and 2015) say they identify with a faith besides Christianity or have no faith at all. “In the face of these realities, we can’t continue to wait and wish that the downward trend in student evangelism will change,” Pruitt said. “The harvest is plentiful, and now is the time to reach students with the hope of Jesus.” From middle schoolers to college scholars, students are not the missionaries of tomorrow—they are the missionaries of today.

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Upcoming Events

- August 8 Youth Magic Springs Trip
- August 14 Children’s Back to School Bash
- August 29 Ladies Tea Party
- August 29 Celebrate & Praise Service



Student Evangelism Sunday August 8, 2021

Just in case you’re wondering what the Student Evangelism Sunday is all about.....here’s a little excerpt from an article about the Baptist Student Union. The article is old, but still relative information about the origination of the BSU. Now they are about to celebrate 100 year anniversary! I thought it would be a fitting article to share in regards to students that are serving in the mission field during their summer break. I hope you’ve noticed the poster in the breezeway of all the students currently serving in the mission field. Please try to mention them in your prayers as they spend their summer serving.

From the Pastor's Desk



In June I spent a day hiking in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The clerk at the hotel noticed my hiking boots, my hat, my clothes and said, "You look like you're going for a walk, It's a good day for it." The next morning when I checked out, the same clerk was at the desk. "How was your walk yesterday?" I answered without mentioning my blistered feet, sore knees and ankles, aching muscles, and sun burned face, and arms, "It was very nice."

So, let me ask you, "This summer how was your walk?"

Dallas Willard, a professor of New Testament studies wrote, "The gospel is less about how to get into the Kingdom of Heaven after you die, and more about how to live in the Kingdom of Heaven before you die."

The Bible speaks often of our lives now here on earth as a walk. For instance, Romans 13:13 - Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. And, Galatians 5:16 - This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

In the Bible the focus is less on what happens when we die. The focus is more concerned about the "Kingdom of God." The believers of the first

century considered God's kingdom to be a present reality, but that the final fulfillment of this Kingdom was still in the future. It won't be completed until the day when there is a restoration of the whole of creation, when Jesus comes again. They believed God's kingdom had been launched through the events of Jesus' life and was infiltrating the world right then. Salvation was not a "one and done" thing, but a continual process in their lives. This is why it is so important that once you begin the Christian walk you continue in it. This is why we seek God's guidance on a daily basis. This is why we can take confidence, like the Philippians in chapter 1 when Paul says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." The work is happening right now if you are committed. We are on the road to complete salvation, but have not yet arrived. These may be new ideas for some of us, but I believe that's what it means to be a Jesus follower, one who seeks the Kingdom of God. Yes, getting saved is the first step of our hike of faith, and the first step is very important. But a step is not a hike.

Imagine if God asked you when you entered your heavenly rest, "How was your walk?" I hope you will be able to say as John Sammis wrote in his great hymn, "When we walk with the Lord, in the light of His word, what a glory He sheds on our way."

Terry Fortner

"How was your walk this summer?"



ACTS 1:8 MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

Canned Food Drive

Even if you're unable to go on the mission, here is a way you can be a part of it. NPBA and ABSC are taking up donations for the ONE DAY Mission Trip in October. Please place any donations in the box in the breezeway.

Also, if you're available, don't forget to sign up for the mission trip. Registration ends September 15 and cost is only \$10 per person. Includes light breakfast and lunch. Register online at absc.org/oneday



Ladies' Annual Tea Party August 29 2-4 pm



All young ladies and women are invited

to join us on for an afternoon tea party. We'll have special guest speaker Andrea Lennon from the ABSC joining us to share a message of hope. There will be lots of food and door prizes too. Nursery will be provided if needed.



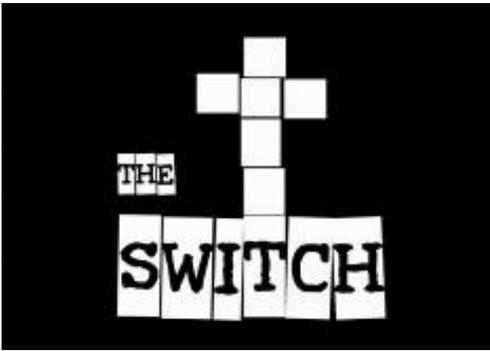
Celebrate & Praise Service August 29th at 6 pm



Come join as we celebrate in songs and praises. We would love to hear your special music, poem or word of testimony.

Bring a finger food type dish to share in fellowship after the praise service.

Youth & Children Happenings



Weekly Youth Gatherings

- **Sunday Night**
Bible Study at 6:00
- **Wednesday Night**
Switch Services
Music and a devotion from 6:30-7:30pm.

Come join us!



KDO Outing to the Petting Zoo & Alligator Farm



KDO Big Rock Mini Golf

Youth Back to School ~ August 8

All active youth are invited to go to Magic Springs with Brother Rich. Will leave immediately following morning worship. Let Rich know if interested in going.

Update from Brother Rich

Dear Zion Hill family,

July is over but it was full of fun! We had KDO events and Church Camp! Church camp was an amazing time, our students enjoyed themselves, but I think I had more fun than they did! I hope we can share with you what we learned at camp about Jesus soon!

August will be eventful as ever with school kicking off, our back to school events, and the NPBA is hosting some youth events for the associations youth groups! We are looking forward to praising God this month with everything we have planned! Enjoy the rest of your summer and stay cool!

-Bro. Rich



CentriKids Camp Crusaders

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce. Proverbs 3:9



Christmas In August

The Children's Mission Dept. will be collecting school supplies. These will be used for students in the local community.

Please place your donations in the box in the breezeway.



August Activities

Zion Hill Baptist Church Service Times

Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School
 11:00 am Morning Worship
 11:30 am Children's Worship (in the Fellowship Hall)
 6:00 pm Growth Group (Sanctuary)
 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study (Basement)

Tuesday

10:00 am Tuesday Bible Study

Wednesday

6:30 pm Mid-Week Services
 Bible Study & Prayer Meeting
 (3rd Wed. Business Meeting)
 GA's, RA's, Mission Friends,
 Youth *Switch* Service

August

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8:00 am Deacon's Meeting
 Sunday Services
 12:00 pm Transportation Committee Meeting
 6:30pm Midweek Services
 Sunday Services
 12:00 pm Youth to Magic Springs
 Midweek Services
 9:00 am Stitching with Love Ministry
 8:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast
 10:00 am Children's Back to School Bash
 Sunday Services
 6:30 pm Finance Committee Meeting
 9:30 am Extension Homemakers Club Meeting
 Midweek Services / Business Meeting
 Sunday Services
 5:00 pm Secret Sister Reveal
 6:30 pm Caregiver Meeting
 6:30 pm Midweek Services
 Sunday Services
 2:00 pm Women's Tea Party
 6:00 pm Celebration & Praise Fellowship

SBC Dates to Note

AUGUST ATE EVERY
1 Social Issues Sunday
8 Student Evangelism Sunday
15-22 Worship Music Week
22 Disaster Relief Appreciation Sunday



Zion Hill Baptist Church

11923 Zion Hill Road
 Cabot, AR 72023

Phone: 501.988.4989

Fax: 501.988.4020

E-mail: zionhillbc@gmail.com

Website: www.zionhillcabot.com

Please use the following contact info when the church office is closed on weekends and holidays.

Terry Fortner, Sr. Pastor
terry.fortner@zionhillcabot.com
 501.690.3428

Gary Vaile, Music Director
gary.vaile@zionhillcabot.com
 501.519.2868

Richard Barkhimer, CYE Director
zhbc11923@gmail.com
 870.833.0175

Recent videos of Zion Hill's Sunday services can be viewed at www.zionhillcabot.com/sermons