



62ND ANNUAL WILMER C. FIELDS AWARDS COMPETITION

AWARDS 20 BOOKLET 26

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION



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PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION

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62ND ANNUAL
WILMER C. FIELDS AWARDS

PRESENTED DURING THE ANNUAL BCA WORKSHOP

HELD APRIL 13-17, 2026
MOBILE, ALABAMA

AWARDS COORDINATED BY
LISA MISNER, AWARDS CHAIR

AWARDS BOOKLET DESIGNED BY
BOBBY PUFFENBURGER



GRAND PRIZE AWARDS

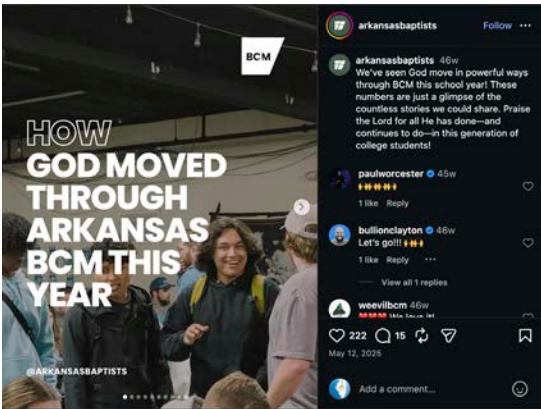


ARTHUR S. DAVENPORT AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Public Relations & Development

A CBU Christmas 2025

California Baptist University



DIANE REASONER AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Interactive Communications

God's Movement Across Arkansas BCM

Cassidy Higgins, Arkansas Baptist State Convention



M.E. DODD MEMORIAL AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Radio, Television, Film & Video

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministries Continuum of Care - Short

Chrystelle Thames and Emily-Kate Ford, The Baptist Children's Village



FON H. SCOFIELD AWARD

for Exception Achievement in Photography

Week of Prayer

Max Powers, International Mission Board



FRANK BURKHALTER AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Religious News Writing

Faith on the Field

Chad Austin, Biblical Recorder



3 years on

Is there hope for churches in war-torn Ukraine?

BY ERIC REED

▶ [This Sunday worship service is this church's last](#) [Half a world away](#)

LEONARD HOLLOWAY AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Feature Writing

Ukraine: 3 years on

Eric Reed, Illinois Baptist



ALBERT MCCLELLAN AWARD

for Exceptional Achievement in Print Media & Design

Ampersand Calendar

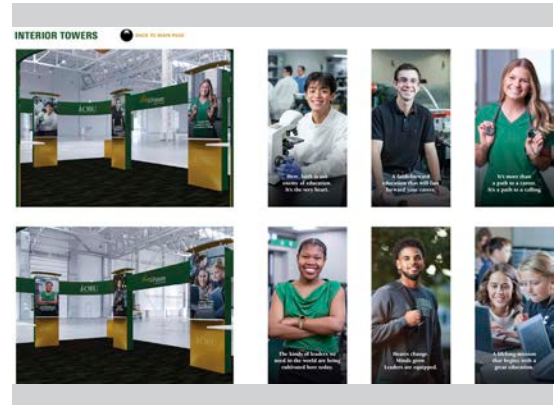
René Zimny, Zimny Media

PUBLIC RELATIONS & DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL PUBLIC RELATIONS OR DEVELOPMENT CAMPAIGN

FIRST PLACE

OBU Tradeshow Booth
OBU Marketing and Communications
Oklahoma Baptist University



PUBLIC RELATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

FIRST PLACE

A CBU Christmas 2025
California Baptist University
California Baptist University



SECOND PLACE

Summit Ministry Marketing Plan 2025
Nicki Brooks
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

CP 100 Celebration
Lawrence Smith, Robin Cornetet, Frank Peer, and Marina Shelton
Kentucky Baptist Convention

COMMUNICATIONS AND/OR MARKETING STRATEGY

FIRST PLACE

CBU Promotes Summer Camps on Campus
California Baptist University
California Baptist University



SECOND PLACE

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministries Rebrand
Emily-Kate Ford and Chrystelle Thames
The Baptist Children's Village

INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

WEB, ORGANIZATION OR COMPANY: SINGLE PAGE

FIRST PLACE

KBC Resources
Marina Shelton
Kentucky Baptist Convention



Need help with something in your church? Start here.

Whether you're planning a mission trip, updating bylaws, training leaders, or navigating tough ministry questions, our resource system is designed to help you find what you need—quickly and confidently. Search by topic, filter by ministry area, and discover tools that equip your church to thrive.



WEB, ORGANIZATION OR COMPANY: LARGE SITE (25 PAGES OR MORE)

FIRST PLACE

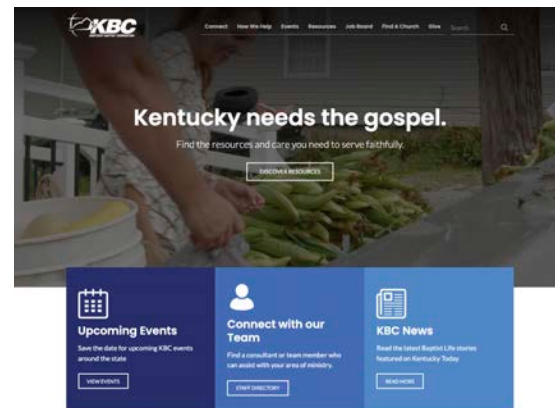
Kentucky Baptist Convention Website
Marina Shelton
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

Baptist Press
Brandon Porter, Laura Erlanson, Diana Chandler, Scott Barkley
Baptist Press

THIRD PLACE

Beeson Website
Samford University Web Team and Neal Embry
Beeson Divinity School



WEB, EVENT OR PROMOTION: SINGLE PAGE

FIRST PLACE

Clergy Act Landing Page and Video
Karoline Chapman
GuideStone Financial Resources



INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

WEB, EVENT OR PROMOTION: SMALL SITE (2-24 PAGES)

FIRST PLACE

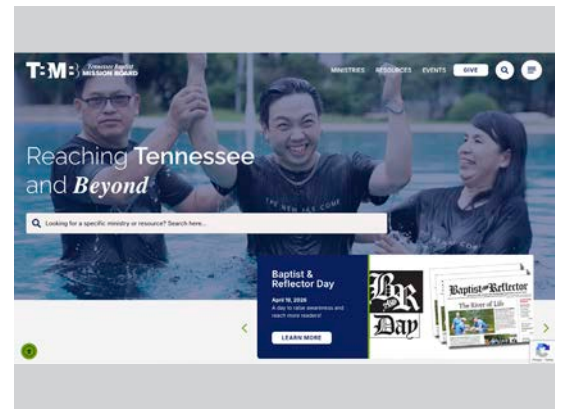
Week of Prayer
IMB
International Mission Board



WEB, EVENT OR PROMOTION: LARGE SITE (25 PAGES OR MORE)

FIRST PLACE

A New TNBaptist.org
TBMB Communications
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



SOCIAL MEDIA: SINGLE POST

FIRST PLACE

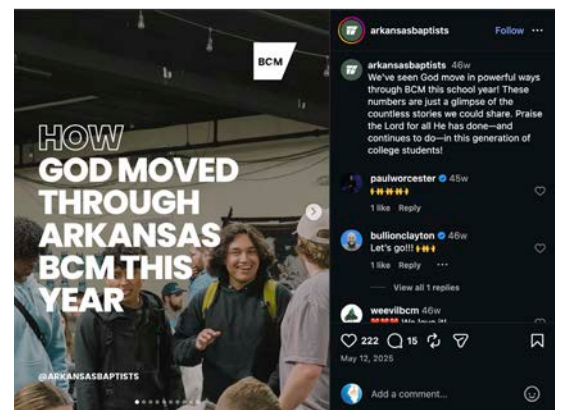
God's Movement Across Arkansas BCM
Cassidy Higgins
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

SECOND PLACE

Easter Social Media Post
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Magazine Santa
Sophie Rhoads and Mary Asta Mountain
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



INTERACTIVE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

SOCIAL MEDIA: CAMPAIGN OR EVENT

FIRST PLACE

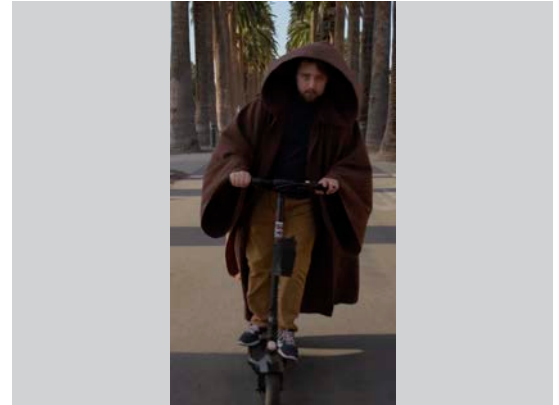
Star Wars Basketball Night
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

Disaster Relief: 1 Year Post Hurricane Helene Social Media Campaign
Samantha Bligh
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

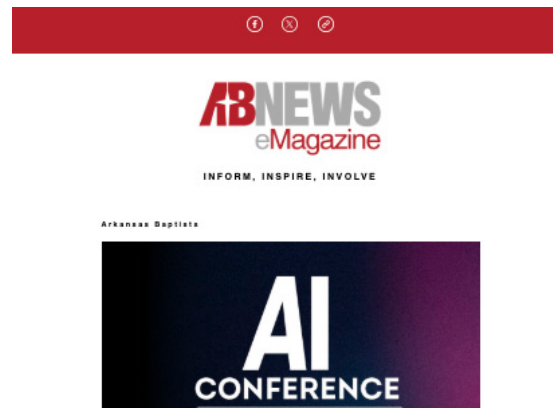
Equipped for the Kingdom
Mary Asta Mountain, Francesca Smyly, and Sophie Rhoads
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



EMAIL MARKETING: SINGLE EMAIL

FIRST PLACE

Arkansas Baptist eNewsmagazine
Arkansas Baptist News
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



EMAIL MARKETING: SERIES

FIRST PLACE

TBMB Connected Email Marketing Series
Nicki Brooks
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: STORYTELLING - LESS THAN 1 MINUTE

FIRST PLACE

CBU 75th Anniversary Video-short form
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

Troy & Chanel Gause, #2: A God - Sized Story (60 - second version)
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board



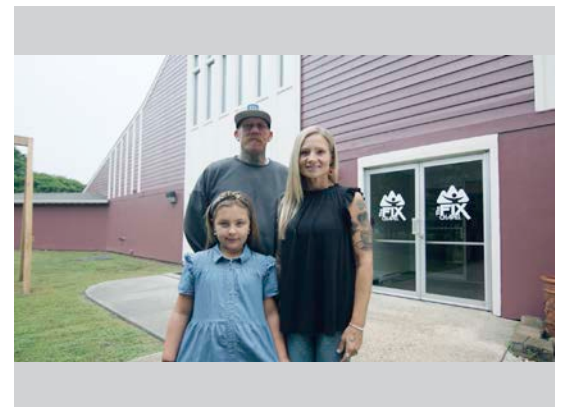
VIDEO: STORYTELLING - 1-3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Fred & Casey Weymouth, #1: The Fix
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Jordan & Jessamy Adams: Higher Education
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board



VIDEO: STORYTELLING - MORE THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

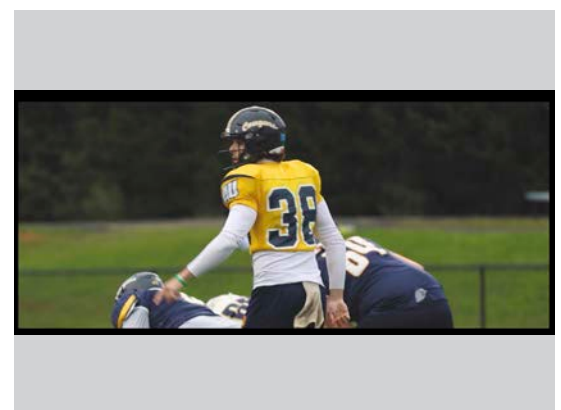
Let Us Not Grow Weary - Averett University Football Ministry Video
Jesse Stevens
Innovative Faith Resources

SECOND PLACE

Kentucky Today - Tornado Recovery in London, Kentucky
Frank Peer and Lawrence Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

THIRD PLACE

Taking it to the Streets
Illinois Baptist Media
Illinois Baptist



VIDEO: PROMOTION - LESS THAN 1 MINUTE

FIRST PLACE

Save More. Do More. Give More. With a Donor Advised Fund
Marcus Wehmuller and Adam Covington
WatersEdge



VIDEO: PROMOTION - 1-3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministries Continuum of Care - Short
Chrystelle Thames and Emily-Kate Ford
The Baptist Children's Village

SECOND PLACE

The Coastlands Are Waiting
Tristan Brink and Max Power
International Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

What is the Cooperative Program? Let's ask the experts!
Neil Williams and Heather Penna
Texas Baptists



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: PROMOTION - MORE THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministries Continuum of Care
Chrystelle Thames and Emily-Kate Ford
The Baptist Children's Village

SECOND PLACE

Spain Vision Trip Video
Jesse Stevens
Innovative Faith Resources

THIRD PLACE

Freedom Beyond the Razor Wire
Chris Turner and David LaMar
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



VIDEO: EVENT COVERAGE - LESS THAN 1 MINUTE

FIRST PLACE

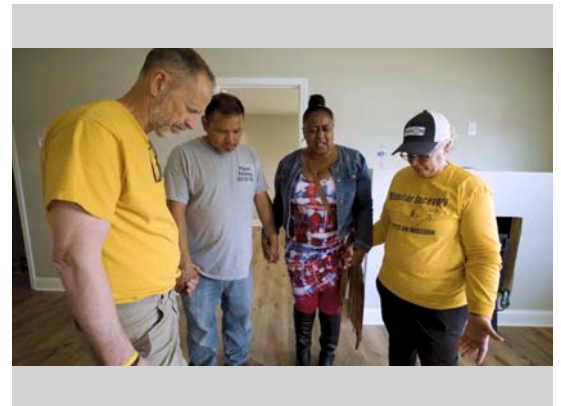
Southern Baptist Disaster Relief - Year in Review
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

ABSC Convention Highlight 2025
Alexander Blankenship
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

THIRD PLACE

ETBU Fall 2025 Commencement Event Coverage
Will Edwards
East Texas Baptist University



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: EVENT COVERAGE - 1-3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Giddy Up Wrap Video

WV Convention of Southern Baptists

West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists

SECOND PLACE

AI Conference Interviews

Alexander Blankenship

Arkansas Baptist State Convention

THIRD PLACE

Pursue 2025 Recap

Mitchell Bruce

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions



VIDEO: EVENT COVERAGE - MORE THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Youth Evangelism Conference Highlight Video

Jesse Stevens

Innovative Faith Resources

SECOND PLACE

Send Relief Serve Tour Highlight Video

Jesse Stevens and Ishmael Labiosa

Innovative Faith Resources

THIRD PLACE

The Larson Family: Planting Hope in the Middle of Uncertainty

NAMB Marketing Team

North American Mission Board



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: EVENT - 1-3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

Jesus is Better – Youth Evangelism Conference Intro Video
Jesse Stevens
Innovative Faith Resources

SECOND PLACE

Annual Meeting Kickoff
WV Convention of Southern Baptists
West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists

THIRD PLACE

PraiseWorks Photography Track Highlight 2025
Alexander Blankenship
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



VIDEO: EVENT - MORE THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

WatersEdge 25x25 - Mission Accomplished
Marcus Wehmuller and Adam Covington
WatersEdge

SECOND PLACE

30th Anniversary Video
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Faith in the Marketplace Video
Office of University Communications
Union University

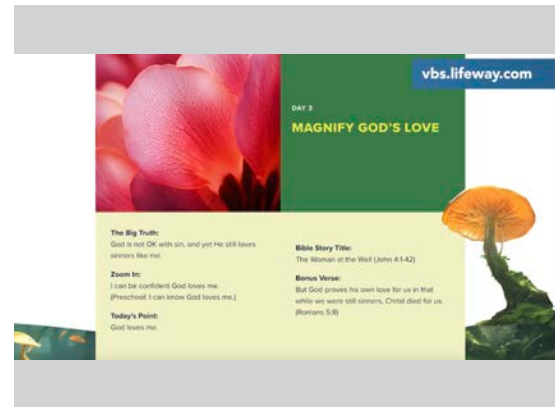


AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: INSTRUCTIONAL - LESS THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

VBS Training: Lifeway VBS with Tori Morris
Frank Peer
Kentucky Baptist Convention



VIDEO: INSTRUCTIONAL - MORE THAN 3 MINUTES

FIRST PLACE

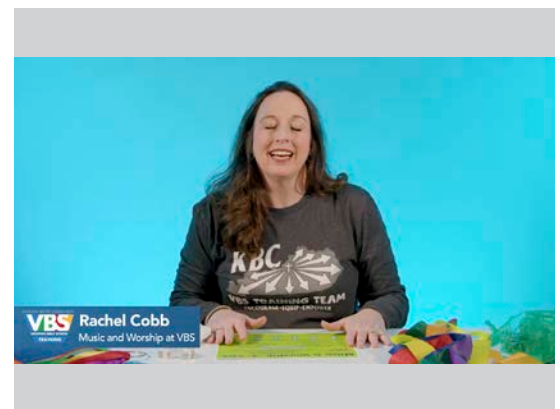
VBS Training: Music and Worship at VBS
Frank Peer
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

Gospel Sharing with the 316 Bracelet
Alexander Blankenship
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

THIRD PLACE

VBS Training: Recreation for VBS and Beyond
Frank Peer
Kentucky Baptist Convention



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: BROADCAST/PODCAST - OVERALL SHOW

FIRST PLACE

Good Morning, Lifeway
Good Morning, Lifeway Team
Lifeway Christian Resources

SECOND PLACE

The GC Collective Podcast - CSBC Overall Show
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention

THIRD PLACE

Ministry Conversations Podcast - Season 1
Neil Williams and Heather Penna
Texas Baptists



VIDEO: BROADCAST/PODCAST - INDIVIDUAL EPISODE

FIRST PLACE

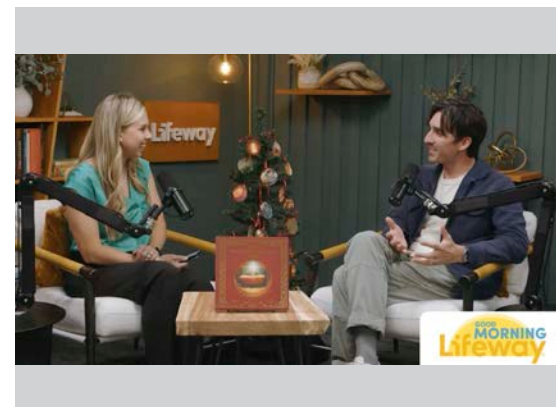
Good Morning, Lifeway: Christmas Special Edition
Good Morning, Lifeway Team
Lifeway Christian Resources

SECOND PLACE

The GC Collective, When Ministry Pulls in Two Directions
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention

THIRD PLACE

The GC Collective - Caring for Pastors' Mental Health
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

VIDEO: SPECIAL EFFECTS

FIRST PLACE

Intro Animation: Leadership Lessons with Todd Gray
Frank Peer
Kentucky Baptist Convention



AUDIO: BROADCAST/PODCAST - OVERALL SHOW

FIRST PLACE

The GC Collective Podcast - CSBC Overall Show
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

New Churches podcast
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Reconstructing Faith podcast
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board



AUDIO-VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

AUDIO: BROADCAST/PODCAST - INDIVIDUAL EPISODE

FIRST PLACE

The Not Alone Podcast - The Most Important Election of our Lifetime!

SBCV Media Team

Innovative Faith Resources

SECOND PLACE

Buddy Gray One Mission Podcast

Mitchell Bruce

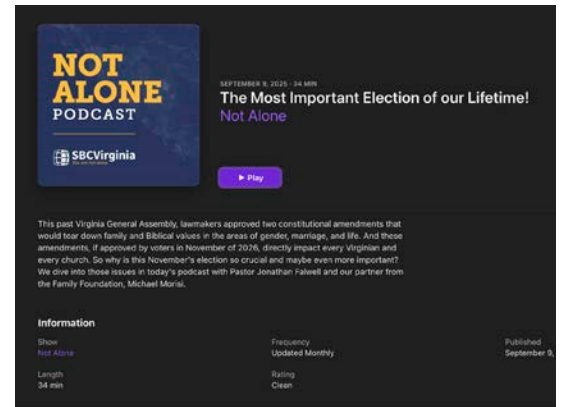
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

THIRD PLACE

The Not Alone Podcast - What Can Ministries Learn From The Cracker Barrel Rebrand Fiasco?

SBCV Media Team

Innovative Faith Resources



FEATURE - SINGLE

FIRST PLACE

Raised into new life
Henry Durand
The Christian Index

SECOND PLACE

Flood - Texans On Mission (judges scored photo with more 5s overall)
Marc Ira Hooks
The Baptist Paper

THIRD PLACE

Laughter is the best medicine
Henry Durand
The Christian Index



FEATURE: SERIES OR PACKAGE

FIRST PLACE

Week of Prayer
Max Power
International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Baptist Press 2025 Annual Meeting Photo Coverage
Sonya Singh and Jim Veneman
Baptist Press

THIRD PLACE

OKC Bombing Anniversary Photos Feature - Series - Jacob King
Jacob King
Oklahoma Baptists - Baptist Messenger



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

NEWS - SINGLE

FIRST PLACE

Redeemed & Commissioned

Evan Kennemer

Oklahoma Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

ETBU Photography News Single Softball Regional Champions

Alyssa Rummel

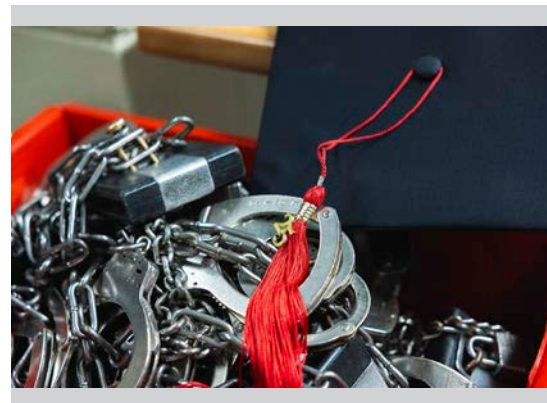
East Texas Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Texas Flood Coverage

Marc Ira Hooks

The Baptist Paper



NEWS: SERIES OR PACKAGE

FIRST PLACE

Texas Flood Coverage

Marc Ira Hooks

The Baptist Paper

SECOND PLACE

ETBU Photography News Series Women's Basketball ASC Title

Sara Braun

East Texas Baptist University



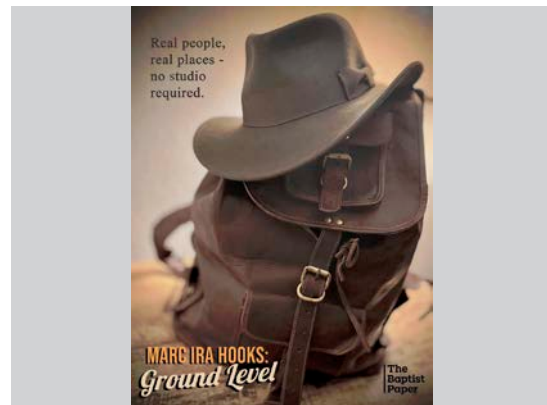
PROMOTIONAL OR ADVERTISEMENT - SINGLE

FIRST PLACE

Ground Level Reports

Marc Ira Hooks

The Baptist Paper



EVENT COVERAGE - SINGLE

FIRST PLACE

Prayer

Henry Durand

The Christian Index

SECOND PLACE

ETBU Photography Event Coverage Single Family Weekend

Sara Braun

East Texas Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

SBC Protest

Marc Ira Hooks

The Baptist Paper



EVENT COVERAGE - SERIES

FIRST PLACE

ETBU Photo Event Series Downtown Disco

Will Edwards and Alyssa Rummel

East Texas Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

CP100

Henry Durand

The Christian Index

THIRD PLACE

Tanzania Baptist Convention Annual Meeting 2025

Neil Williams

Texas Baptists



PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

PORTRAIT - ENVIRONMENTAL

FIRST PLACE

Portrait of Christine
Kathleen Sparks
International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Window to the Soul
Neil Williams
Texas Baptists

THIRD PLACE

ETBU Photography Environmental Portrait Jeremy Lewis
Will Edwards
East Texas Baptist University

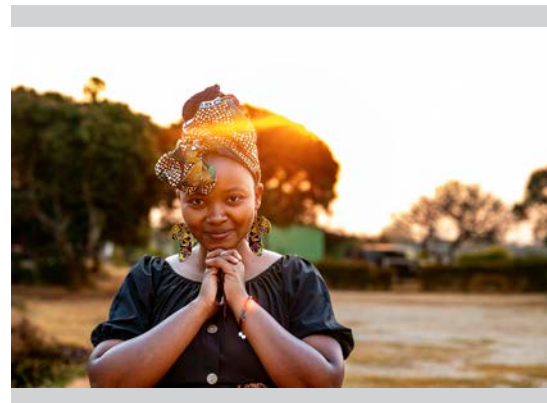


PHOTO ESSAY

FIRST PLACE

Womens Trip to Zambia
Kathleen Sparks
International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

A Higher Calling
Evan Kennemer
Oklahoma Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Kentucky Baptists: Together for the Mission
Robin Cornetet
Kentucky Baptist Convention



NEWS WRITING DIVISION

SINGLE ARTICLE - MORE THAN 1,500 WORDS

FIRST PLACE

Helene recovery
Henry Durand
The Christian Index

SECOND PLACE

Global Baptists Gather Down Under to Challenge Injustices and Nationalism
Brian Kaylor
Word&Way

THIRD PLACE

The Summit Church claims religious discrimination in zoning lawsuit
Chad Austin
Biblical Recorder

The voice of Georgia Baptists since 1822
THE CHRISTIAN INDEX
Helene left lasting scars, but Georgia Baptists' faith still stands



SERIES OR PACKAGE

FIRST PLACE

Eastern KY Flooding Series
Mark Maynard
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

GCR Records Unsealed, Available for Review
The Baptist Paper
The Baptist Paper

THIRD PLACE

SBC: Dallas Roundup
Eric Reed, Ben Jones, Lisa Misner, Nic Cook
Illinois Baptist

Give NOW to disaster relief efforts.
Your gifts show Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief to serve Christ by helping people in need.

Eastern Kentucky dealing with another round of severe flooding; at least 9 dead



OPINION/EDITORIAL

FIRST PLACE

Tabletalk: Watching for Baptist Smoke
Eric Reed
Illinois Baptist

SECOND PLACE

Memories of Harvey
Jayson Larson
Southern Baptist Texan Magazine (SBTC)

THIRD PLACE

The high cost of sports betting — in Ohio, Kentucky and beyond
Mark Maynard and Lawrence Smith
Kentucky Baptist Convention

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

FIRST PLACE

After Leatherwood
Eric Reed
Illinois Baptist

SECOND PLACE

Kentucky pregnancy centers push back on gas station abortion pill ads
Tessa Redmond and Mark Maynard
Kentucky Baptist Convention

June 01, 2025

ISSA 003 13

GROWING

MEET THE TEAM



Josh Bledsoe
Church Health Director

Home: I grew up in Effingham, and currently live in Monticello.

Family: My wife, Holly, and I have three sons, ages 19, 16, and 13.

Education: B. A. in music ed. from ERLC, M. A. in Theological Studies and ministry D. Min. in Church Plantation at Midwestern Seminary.

Prior to ISSA: Senior Pastor, Calvary

TABLE TALK

Watching for Baptist smoke

What we look for as our own concave approaches.

While the world waited in St. Peter's Square, watching a midnight smoke pipe protruding from the roof of the Vatican, I was recalling the smoke jokes at the church I have served as interim pastor. At the same time, that congregation was waiting for a report from their pastor search committee. And I also thought about our own Baptist concave in June.

In Rome, three rounds of black smoke from the roof indicated the super-majority of the 113 cardinals locked inside had not agreed on a single candidate in their latest round of voting. Then, finally, the pipe coughed out white vapor, signaling a new pope. It was relatively quick, and the Chicago native's selection was a big surprise.

In the case of the church I served as interim pastor, the



ills in the matter of women in pastoral leadership was not resolved with adjustment to the Baptist Faith and Message during the office of pastor/elder/overseer

lead a fractured fellowship. Watching and watching has its value. Isn't that what's happening as we turn our faces toward Dallas? There's a lot of watching and waiting, and in the meantime issues of doctrine and fellowship rise to the surface. Interest outside of some SBC entities, sometimes aimed at mandating transparency through more revealing financial reporting appear likely—despite the history of such motions being ruled out of order or referred to the trustees of the entity under the magnifying glass.

Debate on these important issues is to be expected, but the arguing, name calling, and adverting criticism to social media has no place in denominational life. The spicing of internet parking lots has moved out front. "I didn't know people could be so nasty." I have heard some leaders say as they finished years in national leadership.

The root of bitterness Hebrews warned us about is in full bloom above ground. We have only to look at the latest report on SBC membership, now in decline for

Leadership lessons
From a velvet brick
P. 14



IllinoisBaptist.org
News Journal of the Illinois Baptist State Association
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025
Vol. 119 No. 9



Daniel Kim's field guide to Gen Alpha
P. 7

PLUS: TEENS REACH OUT IN CHICAGO P. 8 • MISSION-READY GENERATION P. 11

MISSION ILLINOIS
OFFERING & WEEK OF PRAYER
SEPTEMBER 14 - 21
More on p. 3

ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

After Leatherwood

Who speaks for the SBC next?

Nashville, Tenn. | Brent Leatherwood's resignation as President of the SBC's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission in July leaves the Trustees with the considerable task of finding a replacement and the looming question: Can anyone speak for Southern Baptists without making them mad?

Leatherwood resigned July 21, six weeks after 43% of members to the SBC Annual Meeting in Dallas voted to absolve the entity that represents the Convention among political leaders. This was the second consecutive vote to defund the public voice that failed to reach a required majority vote.

Leatherwood was left in an untenable position—he needed to rebuild trust with almost half the churches and pastors in the convention, while he himself had become the most visible symbol of widespread dissatisfaction with the entity. So he resigned.

Now the search begins for a new leader. "We're not going to let grass grow under our feet," ERLC Trustee Chair Scott Foshee said. "We need that leadership now."

The trustees elected a seven-member search team from among their number in August 14. The process of bringing a nominee to the full board for consideration



Pastor Brooks' next move
P. 6

FEATURE WRITING DIVISION

SINGLE ARTICLE - LESS THAN 750 WORDS

FIRST PLACE

One text, three salvations: How God moved through a simple message

Mark Maynard

Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

Grief leads widow to international missions

Kristen Sosebee

International Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Serving at the Rim

Shawn Hendricks

The Baptist Paper

One text, three salvations: How God moved through a simple message



Read this engaging short message for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, available in English & French.

Listen to this audio message

Facebook

Twitter

LinkedIn

YouTube

Instagram

Pinterest

Print

Share

HOPE FORWARD

Submit a Letter

July 28

July 29

SINGLE ARTICLE - 750-1,500 WORDS

FIRST PLACE

From addiction to redemption: Virginia missionary's recovery ministry leads to new church

Tony Hudson

North American Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Astronaut and elder: Wilmore returns home

Scott Barkley

Baptist Press

THIRD PLACE

The Lasting Legacy of a Disciple-Maker

Holly MacKay and Rebekah Hardage

GuideStone Financial Resources

Fred and Casey Weymouth: Where There's a Will

TAPPAHANNOCK, VIRGINIA



Will Buchanan cleans up well.

Every Sunday morning, Will, the pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hanover, Virginia, shows up wearing his best gray suit. He's definitely not what he once was.

"Will's like an altar of remembrance. People see him and say, 'Wow, look what God's done in his life—I know he must have a purpose for me too.'"

Fred Weymouth

SINGLE ARTICLE - MORE THAN 1,500 WORDS

FIRST PLACE

Ukraine: 3 years on
Eric Reed
Illinois Baptist

SECOND PLACE

'Man, we can do something'
Jayson Larson
Southern Baptist Texan Magazine (SBTC)

THIRD PLACE

Corey Buckner 'Always Endure'
Zoe Watkins
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



SERIES OR PACKAGE

FIRST PLACE

BF&M at 100
Eric Reed, Ben Jones, Nate Adams, Nic Cook
Illinois Baptist

SECOND PLACE

First Baptist Mayfield Rebuilt
Mark Maynard and Marina Shelton
Kentucky Baptist Convention

THIRD PLACE

Spring Outreach Strategy
Mary Alford
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

IBSA.org ILLINOIS BAPTIST

Take Another Look

100 years of the Baptist Faith & Message

On the centennial of the SBC's statement of faith, let's explore what we believe and take time to reinforce a solid foundation.



III. Man

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God's creation.

In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man

Made in God's own image

At the time the first Baptist Faith & Message was adopted in 1925, the big headlines included gangster manacles, Prohibition, and the Scopes Monkey Trial. Billed as the trial of the century each two decades into the century, a schoolteacher in Dayton, Tennessee was brought to court for teaching Darwin's theory of evolution. In that environment, Southern Baptists made a statement: Man is made in the image of God. He always has been.

being are not as God created us to be. Any over-cast from crime and war zones will tell us that. Any failed relationship, broken dream, or illness will tell us that.

Sin would seem to be a given in our culture, but our statement of faith points not original sin, via nature, and personal responsibility for our own sin. Even as the "condemnation of transgressors" is cited, the statement responds with the grace of

FEATURE WRITING DIVISION

FIRST-PERSON COLUMN/BLOG: SINGLE ENTRY

FIRST PLACE

How I Became Editor of the B&R

Chris Turner

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Sweet Baby Jesus: Why the Incarnation still matters

Eric Reed

Illinois Baptist

THIRD PLACE

Peanuts 75th anniversary stirs lifelong memories

Doug Rogers

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

FIRST-PERSON COLUMN/BLOG: SERIES

FIRST PLACE

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants - CSBC

Sarah M Graham

California Southern Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

AI: The Next Culture Shift Series

Mitchell Bruce

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

COPYWRITING: CEREMONY

FIRST PLACE

The Ballad of Brad Bensinger

Doug Rogers

Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

PERSPECTIVE CHRIS TURNER • DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS • TENNESSEE BAPTIST MISSION BOARD

HOW I BECAME EDITOR OF THE B&R



I started out as secretary of the board and that's how I became the new editor of the *Baptist and Reflector*. I should explain.

I worked at Ochsida Baptist University in Clark County, Tenn. I was the only person in the office, and I spent my days in the office, and I spent my nights in the office, so they must all be right, right? (Sometimes apparently one must actually pass as a secretary to eventually get to any room.)

So, after three months I was up to my ears in it, I dropped out of college and joined the *Baptist and Reflector*, but I returned to eventually get back to — and through — my job at OCHS. I finished that camp then worked on F&R Times at Ochsida again. I spent weekends on F&R Times. After getting out of Ochsida and thinking, "These people would never let me anywhere near these places if they really knew how much I would help them."

They were high enough on the F&R and just to see how much they enjoyed it. I started in OCHS the following fall, but the time in journalism was not my own. I was in it when I was my first assignment was to create a page story from a baseball

how were they were but there my second language since third grade.

My problem, the previously mentioned (Dr. William D. Davis Jr., studied the story in class before God and everyone. Beginning with the second assignment, however, I took my things from Dr. Davis for the next three years. It didn't matter, I found my voice. Or more accurately, we found each other.

God called me to witness my junior year. I was disappointed. I grew up with the impression God called partners and ministry and more assistance, and journalists. I wanted to graduate because I couldn't afford to change majors again. Fortunately, my video production professor at Ochsida pointed me toward Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary when I completed an M.A. in Communications in 1993. I graduated with the expectation my wife, Michele, and I would head west with the International Mission Board within two years.

Instead, we moved up to Millington, Tenn. I took two Millington, but I had no intention of ever going back when I left for college. (Honestly, didn't see how

being quiet about for five years at The Millington for newspaper had anything to do with International Mission.

There was a lot of everything to do with it. Michele is a missionary but we had a subscription to The *Baptist and Reflector*. An issue arrived in 1997 with a compelling cover photo of a beautiful teenage girl holding a baby. The stories were amazing, and the cover was given to a poor kid soon.

Eventually I called Mr. Bobbie Jackson, president of Millington First Baptist Church's WPC and on 10/10/97 at the time. I asked what time she could call about my working for The *Baptist and Reflector*. She told me to "Call and find out what you could do to get a job doing that."

"Mr. Bobbie," I responded, "You don't just call people and tell them you want to come work for them."

"I've been praying for years that God would open that door for you and I told you to call and find out what you need to do to be able to do that."

Within two months of that conversation, I was sitting at a desk in the B&R's Richmond office taking assignments from

editorial manager Kelly Bowden and assistant editor Mary Jane Welch.

Within four months I was covering Alabama Baptist volunteers during the project to speak with the workers east of Spain.

Michele and I were eventually appointed DBB missionaries to Panama where I worked at Central and South America, the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world as an DBB correspondent. Then it was seven years with Liberty Christian Resources as corporate media relations manager, followed by a second stint with the DBB as communications director for Europe being in England. In total, journalism has carried me to 17 countries and a host of states covering stories of God at work in the world through His people.

And now I've been here 11 years at the B&R's communications director. (I hope I'd say I have to find a replacement for my good friend and mentor, *Baptist and Reflector* editor Lester Willey, but a day or 11 years still it seems my mind that I'd be Lester's successor.


— See *B&R*, page 13

Baptist & Reflector Editorial / Opinion Jan. 8, 2023 Page 5



CALIFORNIA SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

FIRST-PERSON: Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: A Legacy Rooted in the Birth of the Cooperative Program



Teaching them the Bible and just how to get to heaven

COPYWRITING: AV PRODUCTION

FIRST PLACE

TBMB Missions

Chris Turner

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



COPYWRITING: PRINT COLLATERAL

FIRST PLACE

Bringing hope to a world in need

Chris Doyle

International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

IMB Affinity Guidebooks

IMB

International Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Impact Engagement Report for Asian American Churches

Rebekah Bianco, Holly MacKay, and Jessica Vickers

GuideStone Financial Resources



DESIGN DIVISION

DESIGN ELEMENTS: LOGO - NEW

FIRST PLACE

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministries Logo
Chrystelle Thames and Emily-Kate Ford
The Baptist Children's Village

SECOND PLACE

CBU 75th Anniversary Logo
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Kids Camp Logo
Trish Dubes
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



DESIGN ELEMENTS: LOGO - REDESIGN

FIRST PLACE

Kentucky BCM
KBC Communications
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

Logo Redesign
Cassidy Higgins
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



DESIGN ELEMENTS: ILLUSTRATION

FIRST PLACE

2025 Fall Mission Trip Sticker Set
Clarissa Hartman
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS: INTEGRATED BRANDING

FIRST PLACE

All Aboard: Advancing Together Summit Theme
 Trish Dubes and Nicki Brooks
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

CSBC 2025 Annual Meeting Brand
 Michael Solorio
 California Southern Baptist Convention

THIRD PLACE

SN One Day Campaign
 NAMB Marketing Team
 North American Mission Board



SUBSTANTIAL PROJECTS: SPECIAL DISPLAY

FIRST PLACE

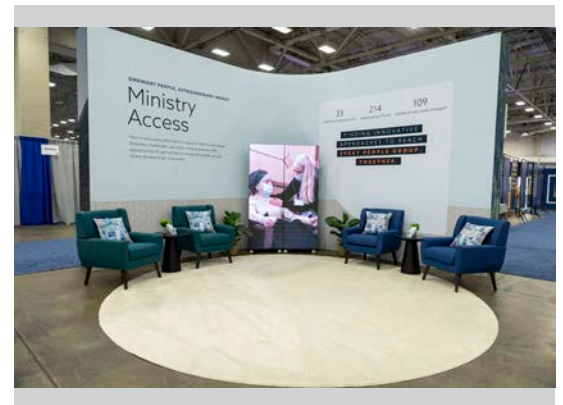
IMB Booth at SBC 2025
 Terry Pedigo
 International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Summit Interactive Train Car Display
 Trish Dubes
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

2025 Texas Baptists SBC Exhibit Space
 Lauren Childs
 Texas Baptists



DESIGN DIVISION

PRINT COLLATERAL - BROCHURE

FIRST PLACE

OBU Road Piece
Chele Marker-Cash
Oklahoma Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

BHET Medical Mission Fund Brochure
Trish Dubes
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Baptist Children's Village and Family Ministry Services and Programs
Emily-Kate Ford
The Baptist Children's Village



PRINT COLLATERAL - BOOKLET

FIRST PLACE

IMB Affinity Guidebooks
Philip King
International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Loving the Lost prayer guide
IMB
International Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

SBC Messenger Guide
Andy Beachum
Baptist Press



PRINT COLLATERAL - POSTER OR FLYER

FIRST PLACE

2025 SBC Annual Meeting - Dallas Poster
Andy Beachum
Baptist Press



SECOND PLACE

College Student Conference Poster
Hope Joy Owens
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

THIRD PLACE

75th Southeastern Anniversary Poster
Clarissa Hartman
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

PRINT COLLATERAL - DIRECT MAIL

FIRST PLACE

Bivocational Ministers & Wives Retreat
Trish Dubes
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Direct Mail | Teague School of Nursing
Will Edwards
East Texas Baptist University



THIRD PLACE

Shape the Future Campaign Brochure
Chele Marker-Cash
Oklahoma Baptist University

DESIGN DIVISION

PRINT COLLATERAL - SPECIALITY ITEM

FIRST PLACE

Ampersand Calendar
René Zimny
Zimny Media

SECOND PLACE

Judson House Cards: a 5-Suit Deck
Clarissa Hartman and Mary Asta Mountain
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

THIRD PLACE

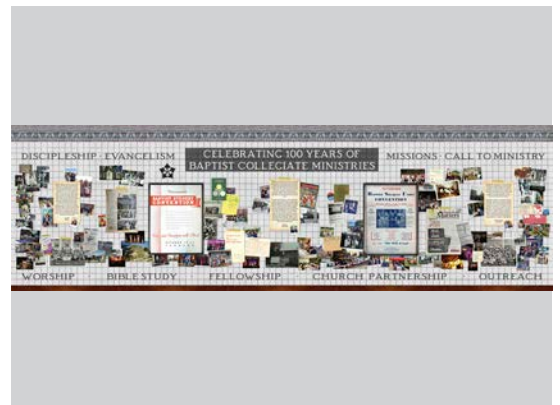
2026 Union University Deposit Box
Office of University Communications
Union University



PRINT COLLATERAL - LARGE FORMAT

FIRST PLACE

Baptist Collegiate Ministries Centennial Fabric Wall
Trish Dubes and Nicki Brooks
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



PRINT COLLATERAL: ADVERTISEMENT

FIRST PLACE

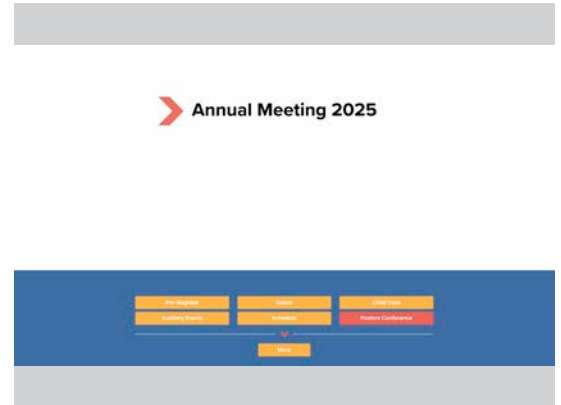
2025 VBS Live
Jesse Conte
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions



DIGITAL COLLATERAL: LANDING WEBPAGE

FIRST PLACE

CSBC Annual Meeting Webpage
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention



SECOND PLACE

Beeson Scholarship Landing Page
Samford University Web Team and Neal Embry
Beeson Divinity School

DIGITAL COLLATERAL: ADVERTISEMENT

FIRST PLACE

Saints Alive
Jesse Conte
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: NEWSPAPER - SINGLE ISSUE

FIRST PLACE

Summit Special Edition
April Dawson
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Illinois Baptist
Eric Reed, Ben Jones, Nic Cook, Lisa Misner
Illinois Baptist



DESIGN DIVISION

PRINT PUBLICATIONS: NEWSPAPER - FRONT PAGE

FIRST PLACE

Baptist and Reflector — Front Pages
David Dawson
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

B&R (12.3.25) Front
David Dawson
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Texas Flood - Jesus Wept
Marc Ira Hooks, Lauren Grim
The Baptist Paper



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: NEWSPAPER - SPREAD

FIRST PLACE

Centennial Celebration
Nic Cook, Eric Reed, Ben Jones
Illinois Baptist



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: MAGAZINE - SINGLE ISSUE

FIRST PLACE

Roundtable Magazine Fall 2025
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

OBU Alumni Magazine
Chele Marker-Cash
Oklahoma Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

The Great Commission Magazine of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
SEBTS Marketing and Communications
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: MAGAZINE - COVER

FIRST PLACE

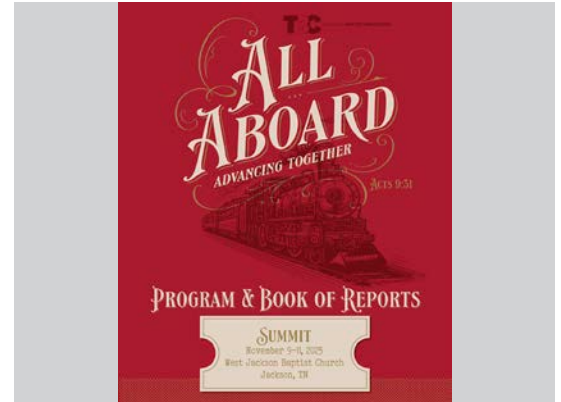
Summit Cover
Trish Dubes
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

Baptist Messenger July 2025 Cover - Brook Daniel
Brook Daniel
Oklahoma Baptists - Baptist Messenger

THIRD PLACE

Southern Baptist Texan magazine, Issue 4, 2025
Russell Lightner
Southern Baptist Texan magazine (SBTC)



DESIGN DIVISION

PRINT PUBLICATIONS: MAGAZINE - SPREAD

FIRST PLACE

ETBU Magazine Spread Hilltop A Collective Yes Spread
Sara Braun, Will Edwards, Alyssa Rummel
East Texas Baptist University

SECOND PLACE

Baptist Messenger BCM Article Spread - Brook Daniel
Brook Daniel
Oklahoma Baptists - Baptist Messenger

THIRD PLACE

2025 Messenger Guide - CP100 Feature
Andy Beachum
Baptist Press



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

FIRST PLACE

Global Impact Guide
Terry Pedigo
International Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

University of Mobile Annual Report 2025
UM Marketing & Communications
University of Mobile

THIRD PLACE

2024 State of the Church
Amanda Smith
First Baptist Church Montgomery



PRINT PUBLICATIONS: REDESIGN

FIRST PLACE

Who's Your One? Kit redesign
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board



DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS: NEWSLETTER

FIRST PLACE

This Week at CSBC - CSBC Newsletter
CSBC Communications Team
California Southern Baptist Convention



DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS: ANNUAL REPORT

FIRST PLACE

GenSend Impact Report
NAMB Marketing Team
North American Mission Board

SECOND PLACE

2025 SBCV Ministry Report
SBCV Media Team
Innovative Faith Resources

THIRD PLACE

Western Recorder
KBC Communications
Kentucky Baptist Convention



OVERALL PUBLICATION DIVISION

ELECTRONIC PUBLICATION

FIRST PLACE

Kentuckytoday.com
Emily-Kate Ford
Kentucky Baptist Convention

SECOND PLACE

BCV&FM BCV Voice
Emily-Kate Ford and Chrystelle Thames
The Baptist Children's Village

THIRD PLACE

GuideStone Magazine 2025
GuideStone Staff
GuideStone Financial Resources



PRINT PUBLICATION - MAGAZINE

FIRST PLACE

University of Mobile 2025 TorchLight
UM Marketing & Communications
University of Mobile

SECOND PLACE

Roundtable Magazine Fall 2025
California Baptist University
California Baptist University

THIRD PLACE

Unionite Magazine - Spring 2025
Office of University Communications
Union University



OVERALL PUBLICATION DIVISION

PRINT PUBLICATION - NEWSPAPER

FIRST PLACE

The Alabama Baptist
The Alabama Baptist
The Alabama Baptist

SECOND PLACE

Baptist and Reflector
David Dawson, Designer
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

THIRD PLACE

Illinois Baptist
Illinois Baptist Media
Illinois Baptist



BOOK

FIRST PLACE

25x25 A Bold Idea Realized
WatersEdge Marketing & Communications Team
WatersEdge

SECOND PLACE

2025-26 OBU Admissions Viewbook
OBU Marketing and Communications
Oklahoma Baptist University



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Detroit, Michigan, showing a dense urban landscape with various buildings, streets, and a large bridge in the distance. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color that fades from dark on the left to lighter on the right. A thick teal horizontal bar is positioned at the bottom of the page, partially overlapping the text.

**MANY THANKS TO
OUR 2026 AWARD
COMPETITION
JUDGES.**



JUDGES



Don Alban is a longtime Professor of Communication at Liberty University with years of professional journalistic experience, first as a newspaper reporter and then, for 15 years, as the managing editor of Power for Living, a non-denominational weekly magazine and textbook author.



Evangeline "Vangie" Alban, worked in Christian radio for years, one of which is now the Journey. She is a Flourish Bible study coach and table leader, and an online professor at Liberty University and several other universities in Communication studies.



Hunter Bolton has been in communications and digital media since 2018. He loves to help churches through the many avenues of media in ministries, whether it be through website design, graphic design, social media, or training volunteers.



Katherine "Kathie" Chute is an accomplished communication leader, educator, and administrator with more than four decades of experience spanning higher education, global organizations, and strategic communication serving most recently at Palm Beach Atlantic University.



Amanda Geisaka Edds is the Creative Director for Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA. She has worked in advertising for over 15 years, specializing in design, where she has worked on both print and digital campaigns for a variety of clients.



William Fenn, Chair of the Department of Fine Arts and Associate Professor in Photography at Auburn University at Montgomery, is a practicing photographer who lives in Birmingham, AL and works in Montgomery, AL.



Meredith Flynn served on the communications team Illinois Baptist State Association from 2009 to 2021, including several years as managing editor of the Illinois Baptist newspaper, and is now a school admissions director.



Nikk Heck is a public relations and communications practitioner with over 25 years of experience in the government sector. She is a past president of the Arkansas Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.



Shira Kelley is a former newspaper reporter and editor and is currently assistant director of public affairs for the Arkansas Commissioner of State Lands.



Bruce Kirk spent 30 years in the broadcast industry before transitioning to academia, in higher education, now teaches at Liberty University in VA. While in broadcasting he interviewed three U.S. Presidents and won five Emmy's for reporting.

JUDGES



Martin King retired from Lifeway Christian Resources as director of corporate communications in 2017. He served in similar positions at the North American Mission Board and Illinois Baptist State Association.



Mark MacDonald is a national church branding strategist, bestselling author, and speaker who helps churches clarify their communication, so they matter to their community. He is the founder of Be Known For Something Church Branding Agency and author of the book of the same name.



Carey Martin was a late-night radio DJ, a TV news AD, a medical education media maker, and a digital video expert for a Fortune 500 company before becoming a full professor for Liberty University. He recently wrote, *Applied Screenwriting*, and his short film, *Ohfer*, about love of baseball and family, is available on Amazon Prime.



Adam Everett Miller co-founded and eventually acquired Hello Studios. Whether partnering with major Fortune 500 companies or dedicated non-profits, he possesses a unique talent for distilling an organization's identity into video.



Deanna Reis is Production Director at Regent University and has over 30 years' experience in communications and marketing. She specializes in project management and print production and works closely with the creative and web teams to ensure jobs are done timely and in a cost-effective manner.



Matthew Schultz is Web Manager at Cairn University. His background includes teaching graphic design at Liberty University, as well as time spent in both agency and freelance web design.



Cheryl Wray is the coordinator of the Southern Christian Writers Conference. She's also the publisher of SCWC Books, a freelance writer with more than 3,000 publications to her credit, and the cover story writer for Christian Family Publications Inc.



Chris Wygal has been involved in broadcast radio engineering, audio production and recording, church media solutions and music for more than 25 years in Central Virginia. Additionally, he works in podcast production with several ministries.

