



61<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL  
*Wilmer E. Fields*  
*Awards Competition*



**2025 WORKSHOP**

61st ANNUAL  
*Wilmer C. Fields Awards*

PRESENTED DURING THE ANNUAL BCA WORKSHOP  
HELD APRIL 21-24, 2025

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Awards coordinated by  
Kathleen Sparks, Awards Chair



Grand Prize Awards



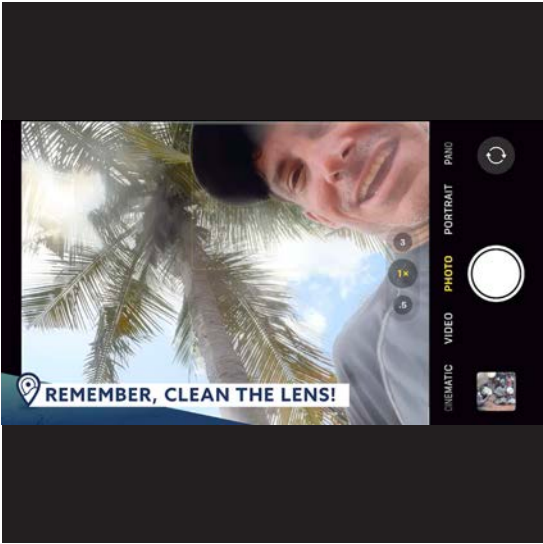
*Arthur S. Davenport Award*  
for Exceptional Achievement in Public Relations & Development

A CBU Christmas 2024  
California Baptist University



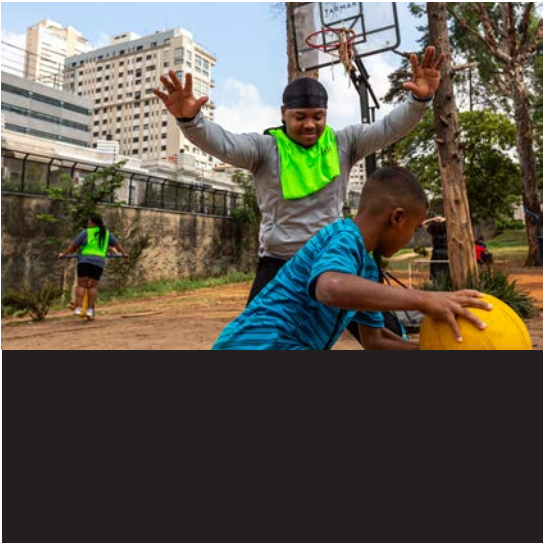
*Diane Reasoner Award*  
for Exceptional Achievement in  
Interactive Communications  
  
Disaster Relief Ladies Reel  
Cassidy Higgins, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Grand Prize Awards



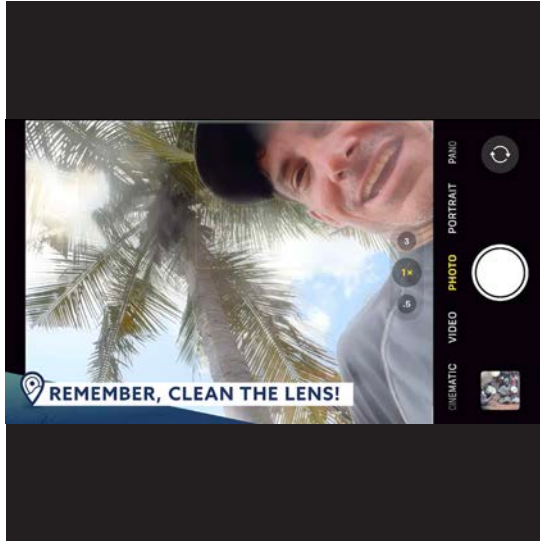
*M.E. Dodd Memorial Award*  
for Exceptional Achievement in Radio, Television, Film & Video

Making Great iPhone Photos: Part 2  
William Haun, International Mission Board



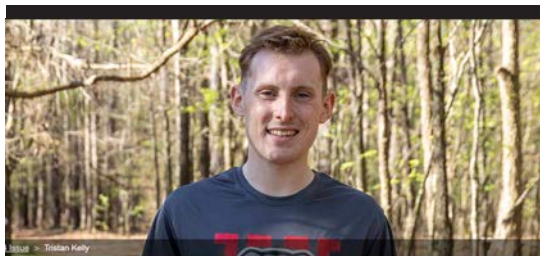
*Fon H. Scofield Award*  
for Exceptional Achievement in Photography  
  
HBCU Students Experience  
International Missions  
Philip King, International Mission Board

# Grand Prize Awards



## *Frank Burkhalter Award* for Exceptional Achievement in Religious News Writing

IMB Outreach at Paris Olympics  
Kristen Sosebee, International Mission Board



### **Tristan Kelly: Running Toward Redemption**

**How God used a beat-up Bible and Christian teammates to bring Tristan Kelly to Christ**

Story by Tim Ellsworth; Photos by Karley Hathcock

The back cover of Tristan Kelly's Bible has fallen off. The pages of the Bible are dog-eared and crumpled — but so far none of them have suffered the same fate as the unfortunate back cover. They are intact, at least for now.

Some of them are coffee stained. Most of them contain notes he has jotted or highlighting of some kind. It's easy to see that this is a well-loved book.

"I have not upgraded because I don't think I have the heart to," Kelly says. "My heart just can't give it up. It means the world to me...There's nothing better when you see a bunch of color in the pages, because you know that you've read that before, you've looked at it, you've thought about it, you've taken something away."

For Kelly, who just completed his junior year at Union, that red Bible, despite its deterioration and decay, symbolizes what God has done for him. He's used it for classes and for personal reading. And God has used it, and the people at Union, to transform Kelly's life.



## *Leonard Holloway Award* for Exceptional Achievement in Feature Writing

Tristan Kelly: Running Toward Redemption  
Tim Ellsworth, Union University

# Grand Prize Awards



## *Albert McClellan Award* for Exceptional Achievement in Print Media & Design

Bogg Springs Baptist Camp  
René Zimny, Zimny Media



Total Public Relations or Development Campaign

1st Place

California Baptist University: Best Kept Secret No More

California Baptist University

2nd Place

Day of Giving 2024

Office for Marketing & Public Relations

University of Mobile

3rd Place

Dixie Jackson Arkansas Missions Offering

Communications Team

Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Public Relations for Special Events

1st Place

A CBU Christmas 2024

California Baptist University

2nd Place

Exhibit at SBC Annual Meeting

Terry Pedigo & Stephen Rountree

International Mission Board



Communications and/or Marketing Strategy

1st Place

Summit Marketing Plan

Nicki Brooks

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place

CBU Military Marketing Campaign

California Baptist University

3rd Place

Hope for West KY

Marina Shelton & Robin Cornetet

Kentucky Baptist Convention



Web, organization or company: Small site (2-24 pages)

**1st Place**  
gonowmissions.com  
**Johann Dyck**  
Texas Baptists

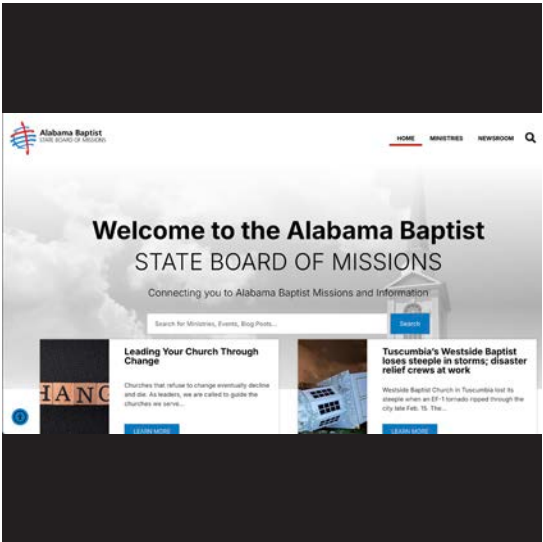


**2nd Place**  
CallingOutTheCalled.org  
**Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions & Dogwood Media Solutions**

**3rd Place**  
Annual Meeting Webpages - CSBC  
**Communications Team**  
California Southern Baptist Convention

Web, organization or company: Large site (25 pages or more)

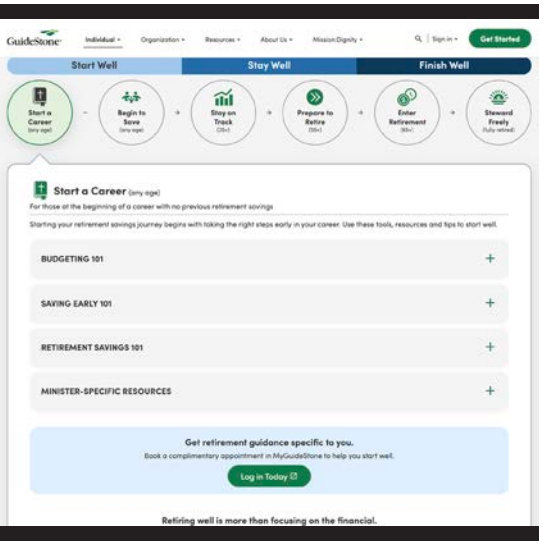
**1st Place**  
ALSBOM.org  
**Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions & Dogwood Media Solutions**



**2nd Place**  
Beeson Divinity School Website  
**Neal Embry, Samford University Web Services Team**  
Beeson Divinity School

Web, event or promotion: Single page

**1st Place**  
Member Journey Web Page  
**GuideStone Staff**  
GuideStone Financial Resources

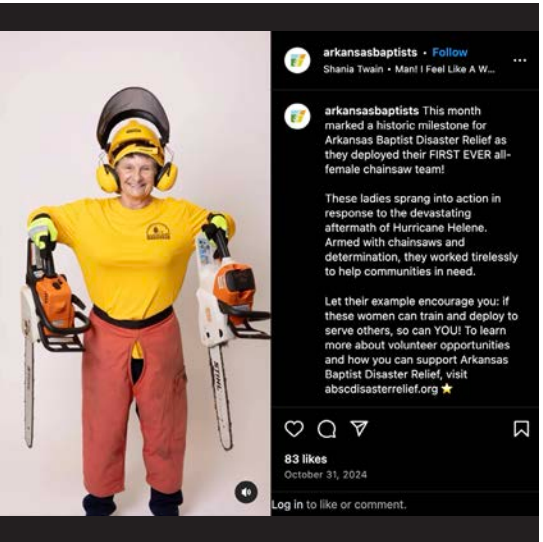


Social Media: Single Post

**1st Place**  
Disaster Relief Ladies Reel  
**Cassidy Higgins**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

**2nd Place**  
NOBTS Mini Mic Show: Mardi Gras Edition  
**Erin Chandler & Jonathan Skinner**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

**3rd Place**  
Judson College Rename Hype Video  
**Sophie Rhoads & Abigail Ginsterblum**  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



Social Media: Campaign or Event

1st Place

Well Done Pastors' Conference Social Coverage  
Sabrina Cranford & Dominic Graziano, Oklahoma Baptists | Brian Hobbs & Jacob King, Baptist Messenger

2nd Place

Fortify Conference  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions & Dogwood Media Solutions

3rd Place

Texas Baptists Spotlight  
Jeremiah Morales  
Texas Baptists



Email Marketing: Single Email

1st Place

Discover KBC  
Robin Cornetet  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

2nd Place

January 11 Arkansas Baptist News eMagazine  
Communications Team  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

3rd Place

April Arkansas Baptist eNewsletter  
Communications Team  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Email Marketing: Series

1st Place

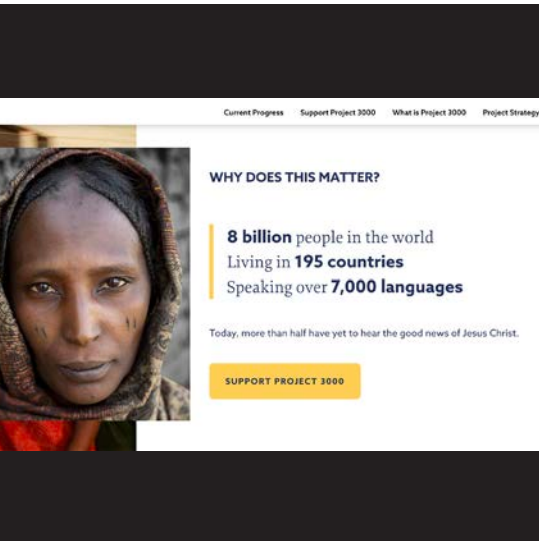
Virtual Explorers  
Sue Sprenkle, Angela Sanford & Rebecca Rufin  
International Mission Board

2nd Place

KBC Connect  
Robin Cornetet  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

3rd Place

Retirement Readiness Assessment  
Launch Email Campaign  
GuideStone Staff  
GuideStone Financial Resources





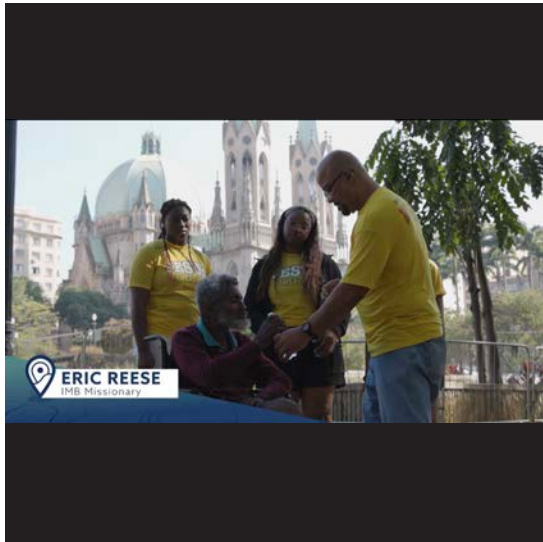
Video: Storytelling - Less than 1 minute

**1st Place**  
Snow at Union!  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University



Video: Storytelling - 1-3 minutes

**1st Place**  
Why Not Me?  
**Alex Smith**  
International Mission Board



**2nd Place**  
Gentilly Evangelism Story  
**Jonathan Skinner**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

**3rd Place**  
Tyler & Ashley Martin: The Other Side  
**NAMB Marketing & Resources Team**  
North American Mission Board

Video: Storytelling - More than 3 minutes

**1st Place**  
HPBC Maui Fire Update.  
Local Church Version  
**Innovative Faith Resources**

**2nd Place**  
A Place Where Amazing Things Happen  
- CSBC Mini Documentary  
**CSBC Communications Team**  
(with SBC of Virginia)  
California Southern Baptist Convention

**3rd Place**  
Martinsville Pregnancy Center  
Partnership Video  
**SBCV Media Team**  
Innovative Faith Resources



Video: Promotion - Less than 1 minute

**1st Place**  
Lead Defend Promo 2025  
**Alexander Blankenship**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

**2nd Place**  
Sub-Saharan Africa People Baptism  
**William Haun**  
International Mission Board

**3rd Place**  
What Can You Do at UU?  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University





Video: Promotion - 1-3 minutes

1st Place

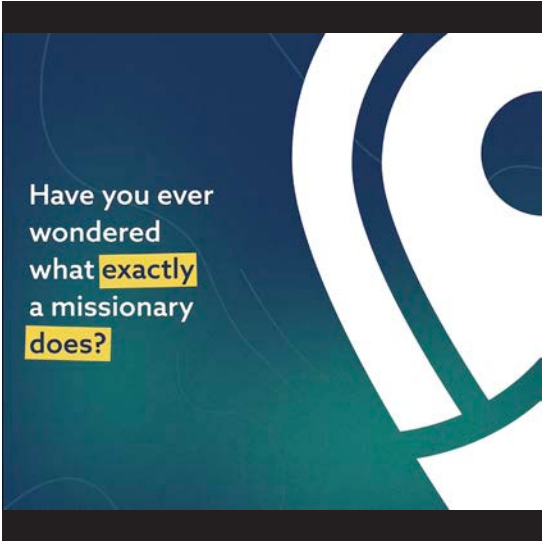
What Does a Missionary Do?  
**Tristan Brink**  
International Mission Board

2nd Place

Sue Nishikawa - Overarching Video  
**Innovative Faith Resources**

3rd Place

Voices of Proclamation Sing  
"Silver Bells"  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University



Video: Promotion - More than 3 minutes

1st Place

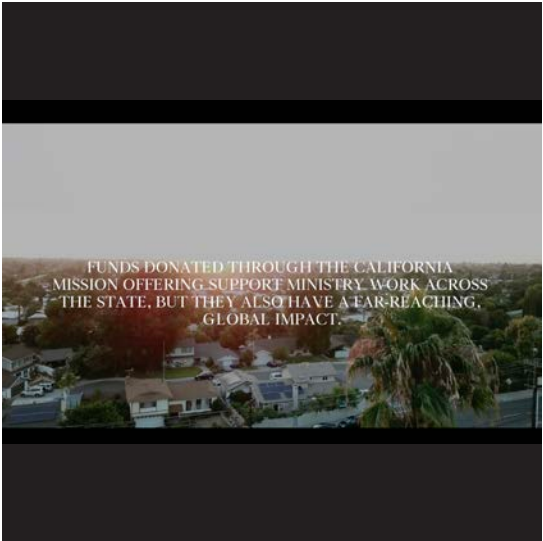
God Will Use That - CSBC Missions Video  
**CSBC Communications Team**  
(with **SBC of Virginia**)  
California Southern Baptist  
Convention

2nd Place

Mission:Dignity Sunday Video 2024  
**Susan Ervien, Matt McDaniel**  
& **Aaron Meraz**  
GuideStone Financial Resources

3rd Place

Union University: Where Faith and  
Knowledge Unite  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University



Video: Event Coverage - Less than 1 minute

1st Place

Topping Out Ceremony 2024  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University

2nd Place

ECON 2024  
**Alexander Blankenship**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Video: Event Coverage - 1-3 minutes

1st Place

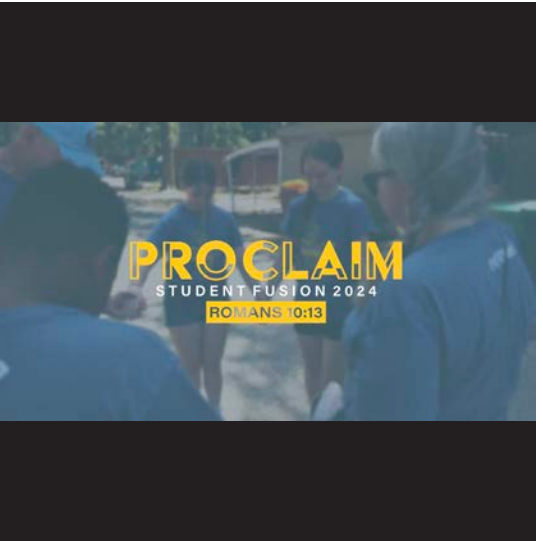
Student Fusion Mission Camp 2024  
Highlight Video  
**SBCV Media Team**  
Innovative Faith Resources

2nd Place

YEC Wrap  
**Baker Knapp**  
West Virginia Convention  
of Southern Baptists

3rd Place

Pursue Promo Video  
**Mitchell Bruce**  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions



Video: Event Coverage - More than 3 minutes

1st Place

Night to Shine 2024

Innovative Faith Resources

2nd Place

Serve Tour, West Virginia Coalfields

West Virginia Convention of Southern

Baptists



Video: Event - Less than 1 minute

1st Place

TBC 150 Program Intro

David LaMar & Chris Turner

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place

Annual Meeting Bumpers - CSBC

Communications Team

California Southern Baptist Convention



Video: Event - 1-3 minutes

1st Place

Pinewood Derby Race Trailer

Tristan Brink

International Mission Board

2nd Place

Well Done: A Tribute to Oscar Sanchez

Communications Team

California Southern Baptist Convention



3rd Place

WVYEC News Kickoff

West Virginia Convention of Southern

Baptists

Video: Event - More than 3 minutes

1st Place

SBC Send Luncheon:

Where Are They Now

Marketing & Resources Team

North American Mission Board

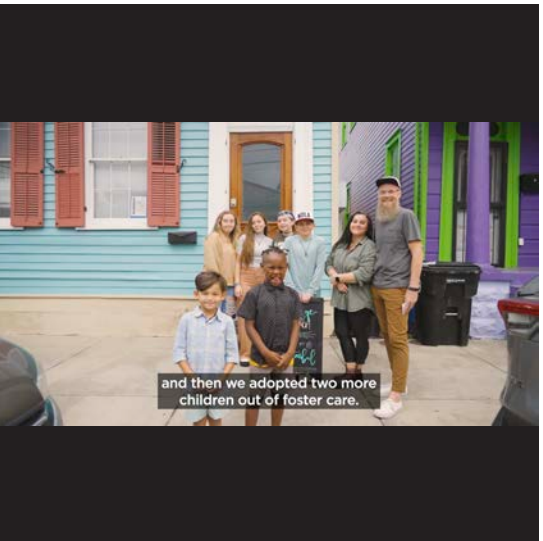
2nd Place

Letter to Tennessee Baptists

Chris Turner, Colby Mike,

Mike Salva & David LaMar

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



3rd Place

Union University Around the World

Office of University Communications

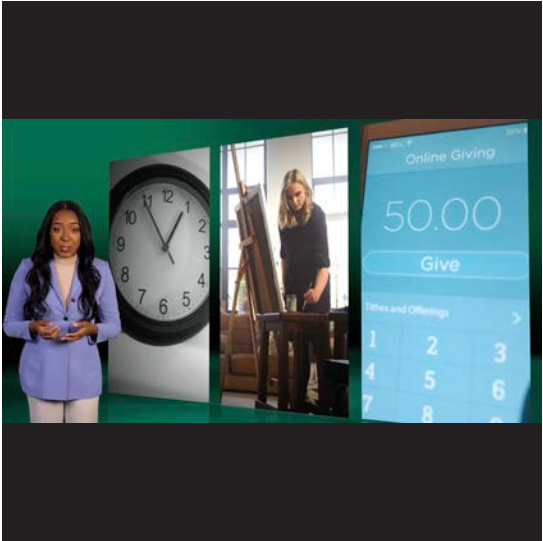
Union University

Video: Instructional - Less than 3 minutes

**1st Place**  
Faith-Based Investing Video  
**GuideStone Staff**  
GuideStone Financial Resources

**2nd Place**  
Member Journey Video II  
**Taylor Rogers, Holly Taylor & Matt McDaniel**  
GuideStone Financial Resources

**3rd Place**  
What is the Vocatio Center?  
**Office of University Communications**  
Union University

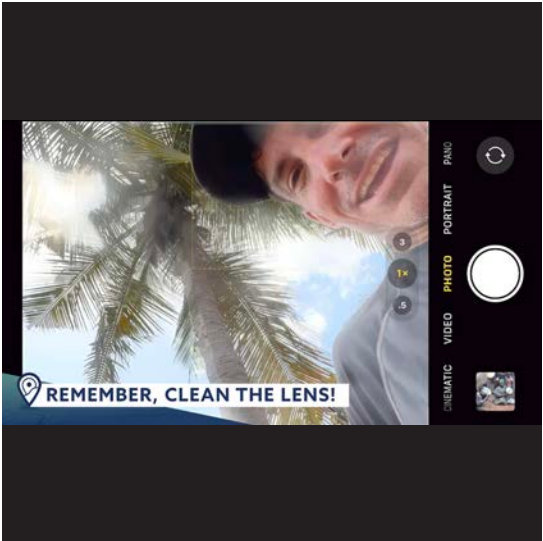


Video: Instructional - More than 3 minutes

**1st Place**  
Making Great iPhone  
Photos: Part 2  
**William Haun**  
International Mission Board

**2nd Place**  
WatersEdge's Two Guys  
**Marcus Wehmuller & WatersEdge  
Marketing Team**  
WatersEdge

**3rd Place**  
Prize - Pray First 2024  
**Alexander Blankenship**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Video: Broadcast/Podcast - Overall Show

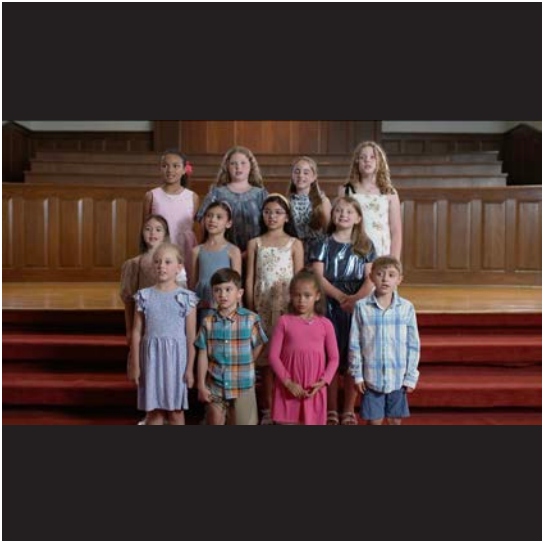
**1st Place**  
TBC 150 - 150 Years of the Tennessee  
Baptist Convention  
**Chris Turner, Colby Mike,  
Mike Salva & David LaMar**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

**2nd Place**  
StayFresh 90's Boy Band Mockumentary  
**West Virginia Convention of Southern  
Baptists**



Video: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode

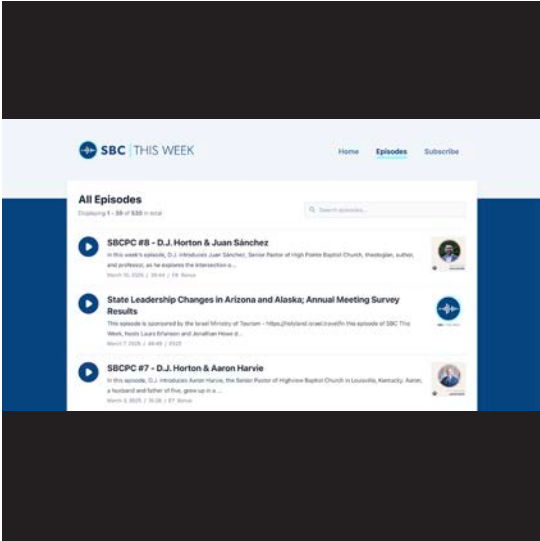
**1st Place**  
Celebrating Our Stories - TBC 150,  
Episode 3  
**Chris Turner, Mike Salva,  
Colby Mike & David LaMar**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board





Audio: Broadcast/Podcast - Overall Show

**1st Place**  
SBC This Week  
**Brandon Porter & Laura Erlanson**  
Baptist Press



**2nd Place**  
The Charles Billingsley Podcast  
**Innovative Faith Resources**

**3rd Place**  
New Churches Podcast  
**NAMB Resources & Marketing Team**  
North American Mission Board

Audio: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode

**1st Place**  
The Charles Billingsley Podcast  
**Innovative Faith Resources**



**2nd Place**  
The GC Collective Podcast,  
CSBC Single Episode  
**CSBC Communications Team**  
California Southern Baptist Convention

**3rd Place**  
Faith-based Artificial Intelligence  
**Jennifer Davis Rash & Hannah Pruitt**  
The Alabama Baptist

Feature - Single

**1st Place**  
Timket Boys  
**Max Power**  
International Mission Board



**2nd Place**  
The Rochina Favela, Rio de Janeiro  
**Philip King**  
International Mission Board

**3rd Place**  
Armenian Man with Cerebral Palsy  
**Luke In**  
International Mission Board

News - Single

**1st Place**  
Jeff Iorg Installation  
**Brandon Porter**  
Baptist Press



**2nd Place**  
Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief  
**Dominic Graziano**  
Oklahoma Baptists

**3rd Place**  
David Allen: Restoring Hope,  
One Need at a Time  
**Jim Veneman**  
Florida Baptist Convention  
& Baptist Press



## News: Series or Package

### 1st Place

Oklahoma Baptist Disaster Relief  
**Dominic Graziano**  
 Oklahoma Baptists

### 2nd Place

Hurricane Milton Series  
**Jim Veneman**  
 Florida Baptist Convention  
 & Baptist Press

### 3rd Place

Pure Joy  
**William Haun**  
 Florida Baptist Convention



## Promotional or Advertisement - Single

### 1st Place

First Ever Ladies Chainsaw Unit  
**Alexander Blankenship & Cassidy Higgins**  
 Arkansas Baptist State Convention



## Event Coverage - Single

### 1st Place

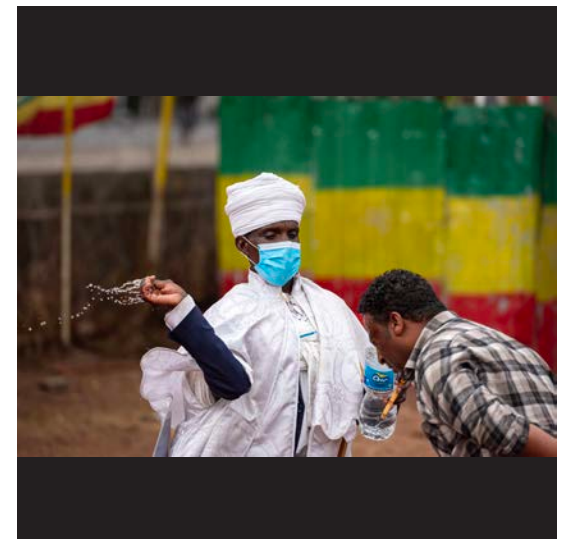
Orthodox Priest with Holy Water  
**Luke In**  
 International Mission Board

### 2nd Place

Family on Mission - WV Southern Baptists  
**Cleve Persinger**  
 West Virginia Convention of Southern  
 Baptists

### 3rd Place

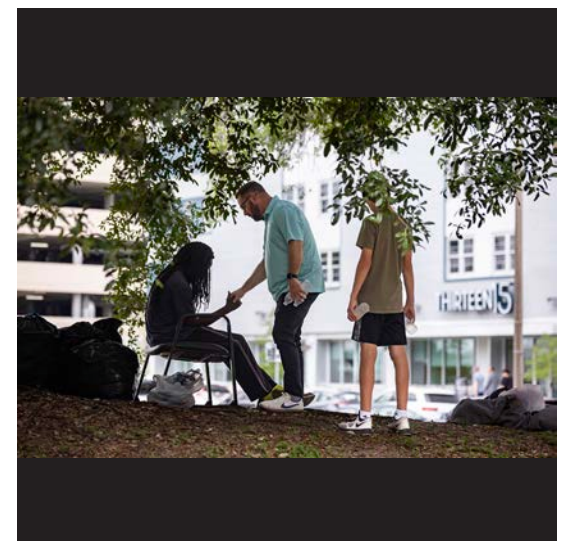
Faithful to the Nations  
**Van Payne**  
 The Baptist Paper



## Event Coverage - Series

### 1st Place

NOBTS Serve Day, Spring 2024  
**Madelynn Duke**  
 New Orleans Baptist Theological  
 Seminary



Portrait: Studio

1st Place

Quigley  
**Alexander Blankenship**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention



Portrait - Environmental

1st Place

A Heart to Serve  
**William Haun**  
Florida Baptist Convention

2nd Place

Aging Well: Fred & Velma Saunders Portrait  
**Pam Henderson**  
TAB Media Group

3rd Place

Portrait of a Muslim Girl  
**Luke In**  
International Mission Board



Photo Essay

1st Place

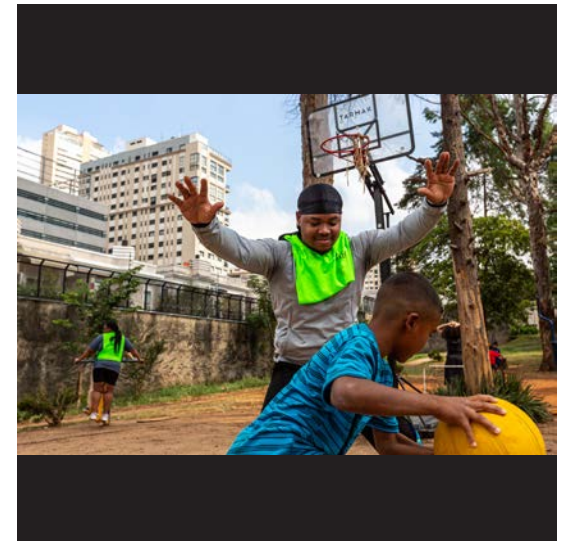
HBCU Students Experience  
International Missions  
**Philip King**  
International Mission Board

2nd Place

Glimpses of Grace  
**Margaret Colson & William Haun**  
Florida Baptist Convention

3rd Place

Hope for West Kentucky  
**Robin Cornetet**  
Kentucky Baptist Convention





Single Article - less than 750 words

1st Place

Illinois Abortions Up 60%

Lisa Misner

Illinois Baptist

2nd Place

NCBAM’s First 15 Years

Carol Layton

North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

3rd Place

Gospel Partnership Enhanced with New

Initiative Between Salvation Army and

Southern Baptist DR

Margaret Colson

Florida Baptist Convention

PRO-LIFE NEWS

### Illinois abortions up 60%

In two years since *Dobbs* ruling

Springfield | It's been two years since the U. S. Supreme Court's historic decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* which had guaranteed a woman's right to an abortion. While pro-life forces in many states welcomed the decision, the Illinois legislative majority criticized the new limitations and began promoting "abortion access" in the state. The tactic worked, with nearly 91,000 abortions reported in the state in the calendar year 2023—a 60% increase over 2022.

On the one-year anniversary of the *Dobbs* decision, just six months' worth of data was available to demonstrate its effects. Here in Illinois, abortions rose from almost 52,000 in 2021 to 56,457 in 2022. Comparing calendar year 2021 (without *Dobbs'* limitations in neighboring states) and 2023 (with *Dobbs'* limitations) abortions increased a staggering 75%.

Since the ruling known as *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*—or as it is commonly called, the *Dobbs* decision—gave individual states the freedom to pass their own laws regarding abortion access, Governor J.B. Pritzker and Democrat representatives in the General Assembly have pledged to make the state an abortion safe-haven. The latest statistics from Guttmacher Institute,

which supports "abortion rights," bear that out. Guttmacher estimates there were 90,600 clinician provided abortions in Illinois in 2023, the first full year since the *Dobbs* decision. That's an average of 7,650 abortions each month over the last six months. The number includes both procedural and medication abortions. The month with the highest number of estimated abortions was March with 8,200, with the lowest in February at 7,170. Guttmacher also reports a 71.5% increase in clinician-provided abortions since 2020.

In 2023, no state was more traveled for an abortion than Illinois with 37,300 women choosing it as their destination. The *New York Times* even dubbed Illinois "an island of access in the Midwest."

Women from at least 16 states traveled to Illinois to undergo an abortion. States with the highest number of women receiving abortions were Missouri 8,710, Tennessee 7,120, Indiana 5,420, Wisconsin 5,240, Mississippi 2,060, Arkansas 2,040, Kentucky 1,850, and Texas 1,570. Pro-choice state legislators have introduced 248 abortion-related actions since 2023. Guttmacher rates Illinois' abortion policies as "protective" along with 10 other states.

—B Staff



Single Article - 750-1500 words

1st Place

Global Senders Commit to be

‘Stronger Together’

Leslie Peacock Caldwell

International Mission Board

2nd Place

‘Wars and Rumors of Wars.’ Stress Builds

as Israel Fights on Seven Fronts

Diana Chandler

Baptist Press

3rd Place

As War Triggers Immigration, Need for Slavic


Churches Grows

Brandon Elrod

North American Mission Board

### Global senders commit to be ‘stronger together’

Entities project 1,056 new missionaries in 10 years



2024 Global Senders Forum

Close to 330 participants representing 76 countries met in Asia for the first Global Senders Forum on April 16-19. The International Mission Board hosted the event but shared leadership responsibilities with other Baptist and like-minded sending organizations. Large delegations from Brazil, South Korea and Taiwan joined single representatives from other countries. National Baptist leaders, heads of conventions, seminary presidents and agency directors joined IMB missionaries and national partners to discuss the growth of their unity in fulfilling the Great Commission.

Single Article - more than 1500 words

1st Place

Cowboy Church Steers the Lost to Jesus

David Dawson

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place

Together: Disaster Relief Serves

Alongside Many Partners to Share Hope

of Gospel

Margaret Colson

Florida Baptist Convention

3rd Place

Abuse Allegations a Blight on

Pressler Legacy

David Roach

Baptist Press

Series or Package

1st Place

IMB Outreach at Paris Olympics

Kristen Sosebee

International Mission Board

2nd Place

Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief

Coverage

Brandon Elrod

North American Mission Board

3rd Place

SBC 2024: ‘Roll Up Your Sleeves’

Ben Jones, Lisa Misner & Eric Reed

Illinois Baptist

COWBOY CHURCH STEERS THE LOST TO JESUS

SEPTEMBER 13, 2024

By David Dawson  
Communications specialist, TBMB

SHELBYVILLE — As pastor of a cowboy church, Byron Ash has a strict rule: No poaching allowed.

That's not in reference to cattle or horses, but to church members.

"If someone in our church has a friend who is already a member of another church, I tell them NOT to invite them to our place," said Ash, pastor of Cowpunchers Cowboy Church in Shelbyville. "In fact, I get mad if they do. We're not here to take members away from other churches. We're not rustlers. Our goal is to reach the unchurched."

That simple objective is being achieved each and every Sunday at Cowpunchers, which started ten years ago with four adults and five kids in a small meeting space and has now grown into a thriving church that ranks among the top churches in the state in baptisms. Along the way, they've helped plant four other cowboy churches.



Byron Ash, pastor of Cowpunchers Cowboy Church in Shelbyville, back row with cowboy hat, recently baptized an entire family of new believers, the Wloghans. They family now regularly attends the church, driving roughly 100 miles roundtrip to be at Cowpunchers each week.

Let the games begin! Southern Baptists ready for Olympics kick-off

Right now, more than 10,000 athletes are gathering in Paris for the start of the 2024 Summer Olympic Games. They are accompanied by coaches, spectators, vendors, journalists, media professionals and volunteers. It is estimated that 15 million visitors will pass through the French capital this summer, people from nearly every nation on earth, in one place, at one time.

The International Mission Board's Paris team is making the most of this God-given moment to bring the gospel to the nations. The team will host a combined six weeks of pre-Olympic, Olympic and Paralympic gospel outreach.

Evangelistic events started in May and will continue through September. Each week will be fueled by anywhere from 40 to 100 short-term volunteers, serving alongside IMB missionaries who live in and around Paris and several local French churches.

Jason Harris, team leader for IMB's Paris team, gave an update after pre-Olympic week two.

"We had 40 volunteers, 14 summer interns, 15 French partners, eight IMB team members from other parts of Europe, four IMB team members from Asia and two IMB team members from Africa join together in partnership with Antony Baptist Church, just outside of Paris for one purpose - to make Jesus known!" Harris said.



Volunteers will join the Paris team in various evangelistic projects, such as conducting spiritual warfare, free medical, English, and distributing Scriptures. Here, volunteers engage in conversation with a woman on the street. IMB Photo.

Opinion/Editorial

**1st Place**  
Reporter's Notebook: Are Baptists Becoming a Creedal People?  
**Eric Reed**  
Illinois Baptist

**2nd Place**  
IN THE MARGINS: The Unseen Foundation — Hope in the Midst of Ruins  
**Communication Services, The Baptist Record**  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**3rd Place**  
End of an Era: Lonnie's Last Ride  
**David Dawson**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Investigative Reporting

**1st Place**  
Focused on Next Steps  
**Jennifer Davis Rash**  
The Alabama Baptist

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Are Southern Baptists becoming a creedal people? Time (and the Executive Committee) will tell

**M**y "Wait! What?" moment during the proceedings at the 11th Southern Baptist Convention was the proposal that the Convention add up to three creeds to the Baptist Faith and Message (2000).

Wait? What? Baptists are not a creedal people. Why does anyone want to tack a creed or two or three to our statement of faith? Aren't we the people who do NOT recite the Apostles' Creed in worship? Or the longer Nicene Creed? Didn't we leave that to the Methodists, Presbyterians, and Episcopalians? And wasn't that decision for good reason?

Yes, in Indianapolis, three separate motions would have endorsed these statements as part of our own statement of faith. Stephen Lawrence, a pastor from North Carolina, along with another pastor and two seminary professors read two weeks before the convention they would bring the motion to encourage doctrinal clarity and promote unity. They called the BF&M understated, sped in some areas, especially in relation to the Trinity.

(OK, I see that. In a sermon series on the BF&M, we added a sermon on the Trinity after the sermon on Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for that reason.)

But rather than broadening the Convention's statement of faith, some of the creed advocates said it could serve to limit future disagreements, based on appeal to the two-millennia history of the apostolic creeds. And some observers said the

addendum could stop the further narrowing of our stated beliefs according to a particular theological stance within the denomination.

Already there are efforts to prevent a parliamentary sleight-of-hand like the motion concerning the 1978 US last year including officers of the church as "pastor/elder/layman" and "laos" and stating explicitly the male-only pastor rule. While messengers debated the Law amendment to the SBC constitution again this year, most agreed that the BF&M was amended last year with a single motion and a couple of minutes discussion. New rules recommended by the Cooperation study group will prevent such speedy action in the future.

"The Cooperation Group had a unanimous agreement that what transpired last year in editing our confession from the floor was a nightmare that should not be repeated, even under good auspices," Southern Seminary professor and Illinois native Andrew Walker pointed prior to

the convention. He offered his appreciation for the Nicene Creed, but said, "It is wrong to insert the Nicene Creed at the eleventh hour" to prevent fiddling with the BF&M.

"Should a motion be brought forward to add the Creed, I think it is entirely appropriate to amend the motion to refer it to the Executive Committee to consider how to incorporate our adherence to the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creed in a manner that respects the integrity of the BF&M," Walker said before the meeting. And that's what happened.

One related motion was ruled out of order and two were sent to the Executive Committee for their review and recommendation to the 2025 SBC Annual Meeting. Perhaps order needs and a slower process will prevail before we run headlong to embrace the historic creeds.

I can imagine that Baptists are a non-creedal people, and that it's a good thing. So, I remain reluctant to add historic creeds to our governing documents. Such a position is consistent with our stance on oral tradition, the priesthood of the believer, and reliance on Scripture alone as our standard of doctrine for the New Testament church. Maybe I'm a little naive, but if a local church decides to recite one of the creeds as part of their worship, that's their choice. But let's leave it at that.

*Eric Reed is a USA media editor.*

Single Article - less than 750 words

**1st Place**  
30 Families Celebrate Life Together  
**Keila Diaz**  
Florida Baptist Convention

**2nd Place**  
A Love for Flowers Expands to Other Baptist Village Residents Thanks to Endowment  
**Harve Allen**  
WatersEdge

**3rd Place**  
Podcast Leads to Arkansas Baptist, NYC Church Plant Connection & Partnerships  
**Mary Alford**  
Arkansas Baptist State Convention

PROVIDED

STORIES

CENTRAL

STORIES

30 Families Celebrate Life Together At Baby Shower

by Keila Diaz

last updated Dec 23, 2024

Share

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9

ORLANDO— They arrived with broken dreams, financial challenges and worries about the future. They left with practical gifts, cherished memories and renewed hope.

A collective baby shower, held Nov. 16 by First Orlando's women's ministry and First Life Center for Pregnancy, brought 30 families together for a day of joy, hope and connection. There, expectant mothers, families and newborns—many dealing with life's harsh realities—were showered with love and embraced by a supportive and compassionate community.

The event, held in the church hall, welcomed families of diverse backgrounds—Hispanic, Brazilian, Italian and American. From emotional gender reveals to heartfelt moments of prayer, every detail was planned carefully to celebrate life and provide tangible support for families in need.

Single article - 750-1,500 words

**1st Place**  
Tristan Kelly: Running Toward Redemption  
**Tim Ellsworth**  
Union University

**2nd Place**  
God Knew  
**Rebekah Bianco & Holly Taylor**  
GuideStone Financial Resources

**3rd Place**  
Two Hearts Revived: How an HVAC Hero Saved a Life and Found Hope  
**Laura Erlanson**  
Baptist Press

2024

Tristan Kelly

Tristan Kelly: Running Toward Redemption

How God used a beat-up Bible and Christian teammates to bring Tristan Kelly to Christ

Story by Tim Ellsworth; Photos by Karley Harbuck

The back cover of Tristan Kelly's Bible has fallen off. The pages of the Bible are dog-eared and crumpled — but so far none of them have suffered the same fate as the unfortunate back cover. They are intact, at least for now.

Some of them are coffee stained. Most of them contain notes he has jotted or highlighting of some kind. It's easy to see that this is a well-loved book.

"I have not upgraded because I don't think I have the heart to," Kelly says. "My heart just can't give it up. It means the world to me...There's nothing better when you see a bunch of color in the pages, because you know that you've read that before, you've looked at it, you've thought about it, you've taken something away."

For Kelly, who just completed his junior year at Union, that red Bible, despite its deterioration and decay, symbolizes what God has done for him. He's used it for classes and for personal reading. And God has used it, and the people at Union, to transform Kelly's life.

30

31



## Single article - more than 1,500 words

## 1st Place

"I Need to Go to Seminary": On Mission  
Among the Speller Bros  
**Mary Asta Mountain, Office  
of Marketing & Communications**  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

## 2nd Place

A Preaching Life  
**Neal Embry**  
Beeson Divinity School

### 3rd Place

More Than a Summer Camp  
**Harve Allen**  
WatersEdge

## Series or Package

## 1st Place

Week of Prayer for International Missions  
**MarCom Editorial Team: Leslie Peacock  
 Caldwell, Myriah Snyder & Sue Sprenkle**  
 International Mission Board

## 2nd Place

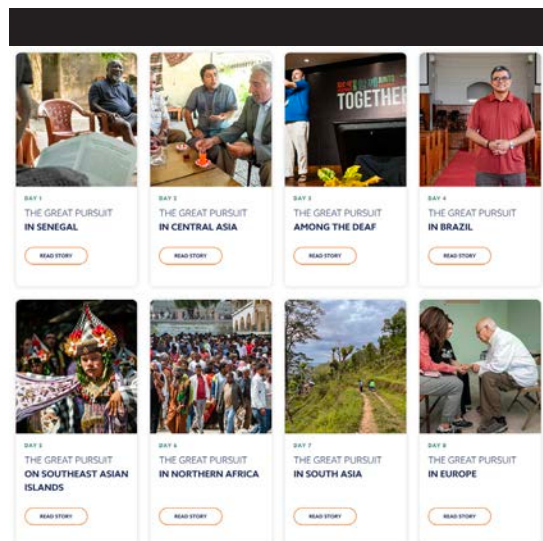
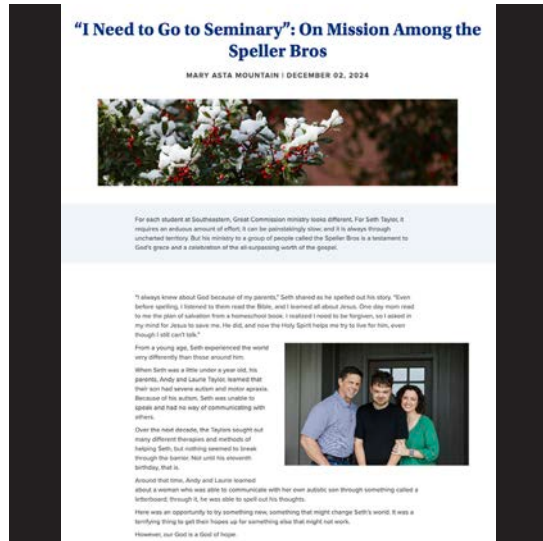
Welcome Home: Foster Care as a Ministry  
**Lisa Misner**  
Illinois Baptist

### 3rd Place

# Out of the Storm: N.C. Baptist Disaster Response Marks 40th Anniversary

## Chad Austin

### Biblical Recorder



### First-Person Column/Blog: Single Entry

## 1st Place

Table Talk: How Easter Saved My Faith  
**Ben Jones**  
Illinois Baptist

## 2nd Place

Conflicted Thoughts on Independence Day  
**Chris Turner**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

### 3rd Place

Table Talk: When Silence Is Deafening  
**Eric Reed**  
Illinois Baptist

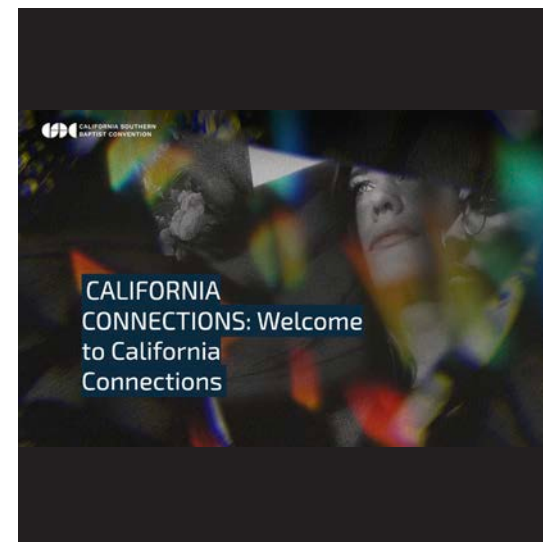
## First-Person Column/Blog: Series

## 1st Place

California Connections - CSBC  
**Sarah M. Graham**  
 California Southern Baptist Convention

## 2nd Place

Holding the Ropes  
**IBSA Communications Team**  
Illinois Baptist



Copywriting: Ceremony

1st Place

Sending Celebration Script  
Angela Sanford

International Mission Board

2nd Place

BCA Can Can  
Doug Rogers  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Sending Celebration		
September 25, 2024		
September 26 at FBC Charlottesville		Sending Celebration
Start	Length	Script
7:00p	7:00p	
Service		
7:00p	2:00	Opening Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96555A029
7:00p	3:00	<b>WELCOME &amp; PRAYER:</b> FBC Charlottesville Pastor: Dr. Pecheak Welcome to everyone who is joining us tonight. We've got missionaries along with their friends, families, and churches here at First Baptist in Charlottesville, VA. The Rev. Pecheak and I serve as the pastor here. Welcome to everyone who has joined us here in person today as well as those of you joining us via livestream. We are very thankful that we can partner together with Southern Baptist churches across North America to cooperatively send and support missionaries. Tonight we are going to celebrate the work of God in the lives of these brothers and sisters, and in their churches, as they obediently follow Him to the nations. Join me to pray: (PRAIY)
7:00p	4:00	<b>Song #1 - How Great (Psalm 145)</b>
7:00p	5:00	<b>Introduce Missionaries - Paul Chibwe</b> We at IMB are so grateful to our ministry partners here at First Baptist Charlottesville. Thank you for hosting us. (Paul's own remarks, including introduction of Clint who will be preaching) Now we will hear the testimonies of our new missionaries. As you hear their stories tonight, pray about your involvement in international missions. Perhaps God is calling you to a deeper commitment to His work around the world through praying, giving, going or sending. On the live stream, you'll be able to see the faces of some of the missionaries tonight. However, many of their faces will not be shown. These brothers and sisters are going to some difficult and hard to reach places. We don't want the broadcast of this service to compromise their ability to work among the least reached people on earth. A few of our missionaries are going to locations so secure that the use of their voices on the live stream could be a detriment to their overseas ministry. I will read their stories on their behalf.
7:14p	1:00	<b>PAUL READ Testimony #1: Glenn &amp; Beulah (NAME)</b> This is Glenn and Beulah. Missions education and short-term trips taught them about gospel need around the world, a Savior who deserves the reward of His suffering, and to live for eternal impact. Their church taught them and their three daughters to engage in the missionary task locally and globally, encouraging them pray for a specific unreached people group. The journey to reaching their people will come with many challenges, but it is given who God's promises. Please pray that they will joyfully abide in Christ and always remember that they have the words of eternal life, and must speak them.
7:15p	1:00	<b>PAUL READ Testimony #2: Matthew &amp; Hannah (NAME)</b> This is Matthew and Hannah. Matthew has served on short-term missions experiences and Hannah's heart for the nations developed in high school, leading her to serve as a journeyman. God was preparing them for a life overseas long before they met in 2021. When they met, they quickly began talking about being overseas together. God has directed their paths and they're excited to be heading to a global city to reach the lost. Please pray that God would prepare their hearts and minds for what's ahead.

Copywriting: AV Production

1st Place

Together  
Doug Rogers  
Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

2nd Place

Letter to Tennessee Baptists  
Chris Turner  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



Copywriting: Photo Caption

1st Place

Clearing a Path Forward  
Margaret Colson  
Florida Baptist Convention

2nd Place

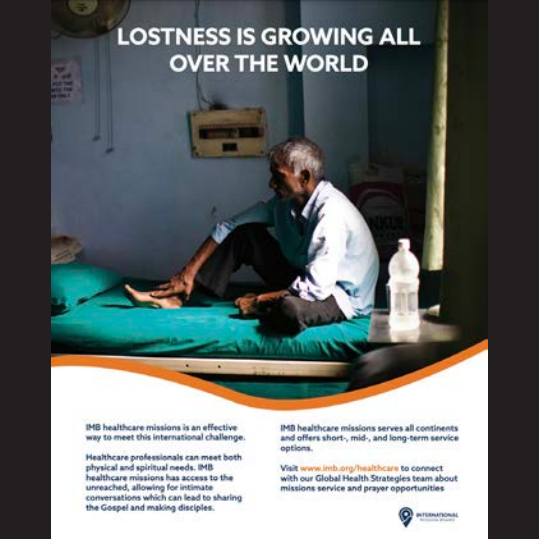
Shadow of the Cross  
Margaret Colson  
Florida Baptist Convention



Copywriting: Print Collateral

1st Place

IMB Healthcare Strategies Advertisement  
Chris Doyle  
International Mission Board



Copywriting: Digital Collateral

1st Place

IMB Alumni Digital Newsletter  
**Tessa Sanchez**  
International Mission Board



As missionaries, we are sent from our church to the nations, serving the church as we carry out the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. The Apostle Paul modeled the importance of connecting with the churches as part of the missionary task.

Learning from Paul's example, we must pray for, share with, and serve our sending and supporting churches, which, in our case, includes every church in the Southern Baptist Convention because every church has a part in our support through their cooperative giving.

2nd Place

Taking the Great Pursuit to the City  
**Sue Sprenkle**  
International Mission Board

Design Elements: Logo - New

1st Place

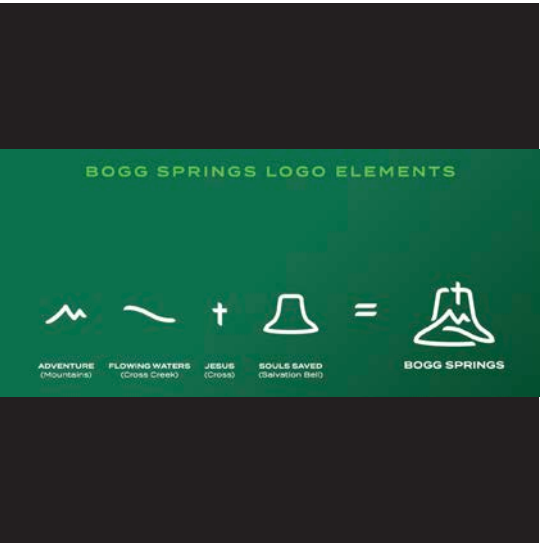
Bogg Springs Baptist Camp  
**René Zimny**  
Zimny Media

2nd Place

Elliott House Crest  
**Clarissa Hartman**  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

3rd Place

BCA Logo 2025  
**Lauren Childs**  
Texas Baptists



Design Elements: Logo - Redesign

1st Place

Haskins School of Christian Ministry  
**Sabrina Cranford**  
Oklahoma Baptists





Design Elements: Illustration

1st Place

House Illustrations  
**Clarissa Hartman**  
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

SCHAEFFER HOUSE



CREATIVITY, UNITY, FAITHFULNESS, & HUMILITY

2nd Place

Lonnie Wilkey Caricature for Book Cover  
**Mike Salva**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

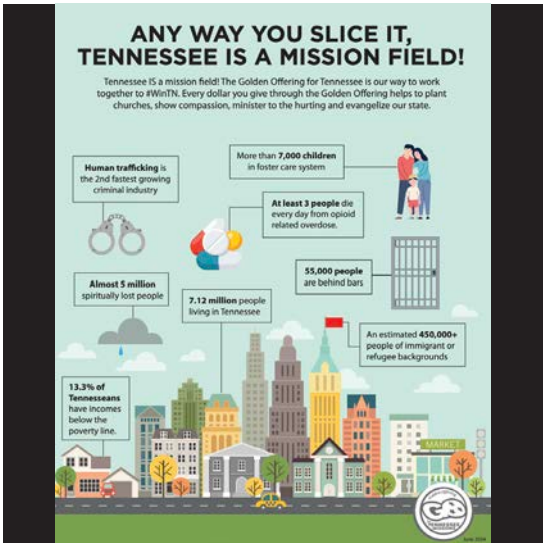
3rd Place

Abide 2025 Theme Illustration  
**Madelynn Duke**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Design Elements: Infographic

1st Place

Any Way You Slice It Infographics  
**Trish Dubes**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



Substantial Projects: Integrated Branding

1st Place

Global Senders Forum Event Branding  
**Philip King**  
International Mission Board

2nd Place

AAEO 2025 Campaign  
**NAMB Resources & Marketing Team**  
North American Mission Board

3rd Place

Annual Meeting: Invested  
**Sabrina Cranford**  
Oklahoma Baptists



Substantial Projects: Special Display

1st Place

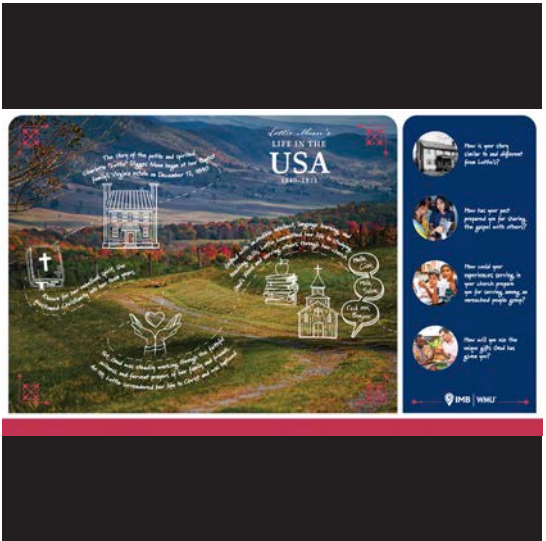
Lottie MoonExperience  
**Michelle Glassford**  
International Mission Board  
& Woman's Missionary Union

2nd Place

Send Network Gatherings  
**NAMB Resources & Marketing Team**  
North American Mission Board

3rd Place

Summit Display  
**Trish Dubes, Nicki Brooks, Chris Turner, Samantha Bligh & Colby Mike**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board





### Print Collateral - Brochure

#### 1st Place

PAVE Brochure  
**Lauren Childs**  
 Texas Baptists

#### 2nd Place

15 Year Anniversary RACK CARD  
**Carol Layton**  
 North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry



### Print Collateral - Booklet

#### 1st Place

ACTS Camp  
**Sabrina Cranford**  
 Oklahoma Baptists

#### 2nd Place

Beeson Divinity School Viewbook  
**Samford Marketing & Communication**  
 Beeson Divinity School

#### 3rd Place

2024-25 Union University Viewbook  
**Office of University Communications**  
 Union University



### Print Collateral - Poster or Flyer

#### 1st Place

CrossTimbers Theme Poster: Made New  
**Sabrina Cranford**  
 Oklahoma Baptists



### Print Collateral - Direct Mail

#### 1st Place

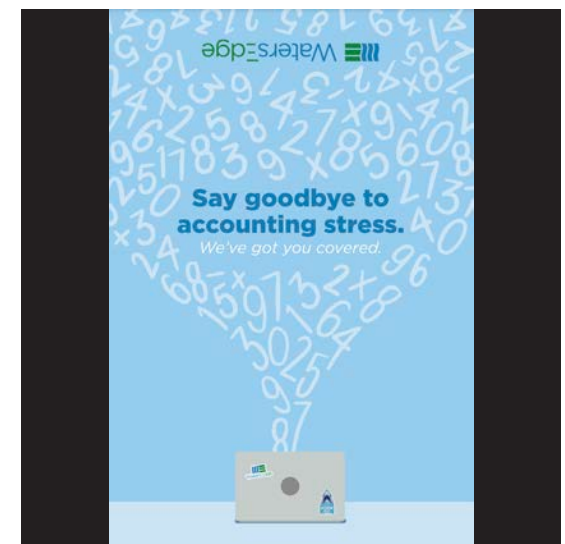
Ministry Accounting Client Welcome  
 Package  
**Marissa Crowson**  
 WatersEdge

#### 2nd Place

Youth Evangelism Conference  
 Save the Date  
**Trish Dubes & Nicki Brooks**  
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

#### 3rd Place

YEC TV Guide  
**Cleve Persinger**  
 West Virginia Convention of Southern  
 Baptists



Print Collateral - Specialty Item

1st Place

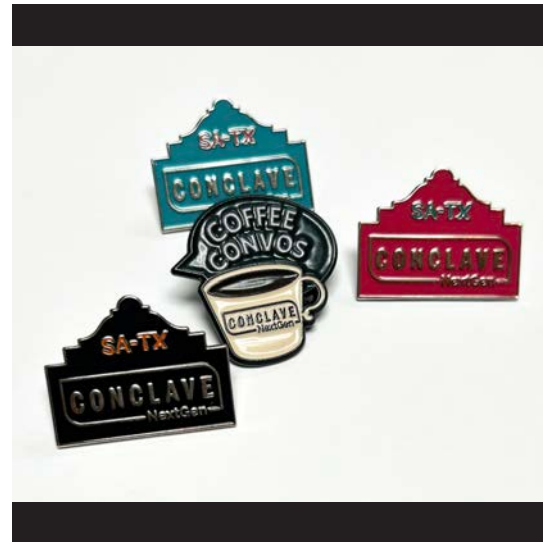
Conclave Enamel Pins  
**Lauren Childs**  
 Texas Baptists

2nd Place

Historical Timeline  
**Trish Dubes & Nicki Brooks**  
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

3rd Place

2025 Desk Calendar Featuring  
 Buster the Bulldog  
**Office of University Communications**  
 Union University



Print Collateral - Large Format

1st Place

IT Golf Cart Wrap  
**Office of University Communications**  
 Union University



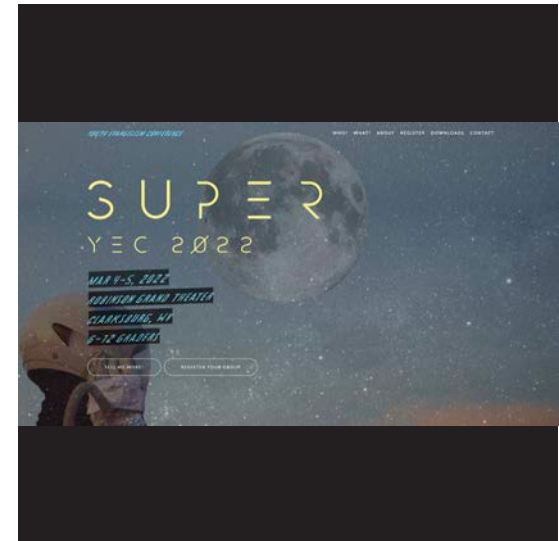
Digital Collateral: Landing Webpage

1st Place

YEC, Interruption  
**Cleve Persinger**  
 West Virginia Convention  
 of Southern Baptists

2nd Place

Experience the Beeson Difference  
**Samford Marketing & Communication**  
 Beeson Divinity School



Digital Collateral - Social Media Graphics

1st Place

Lee Strobel Graphic  
**Cassidy Higgins**  
 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

2nd Place

PSAM Carousel Graphics  
**Cassidy Higgins**  
 Arkansas Baptist State Convention





## Digital Collateral: Advertisement

### 1st Place

Local Training

**Samford Marketing & Communication**

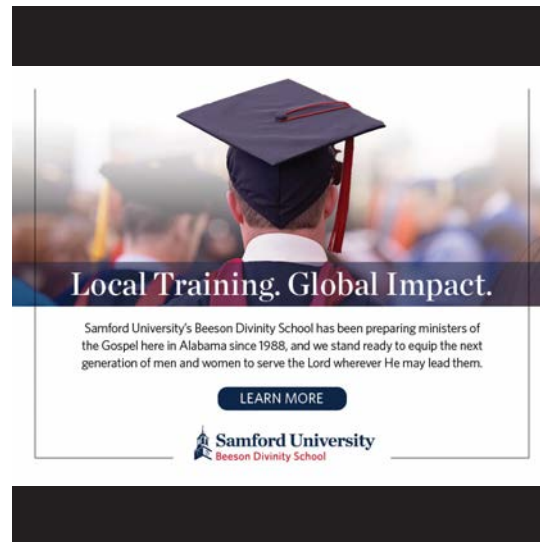
Beeson Divinity School

### 2nd Place

Who Will You Become?

**Samford Marketing & Communication**

Beeson Divinity School



## Print Publications: Newspaper - Single Issue

### 1st Place

The Alabama Baptist, February 8, 2024, Edition

**The Alabama Baptist Staff**

The Alabama Baptist

### 2nd Place

The Baptist Paper, February 29, 2024, Edition

**The Baptist Paper Staff**

The Baptist Paper

### 3rd Place

Illinois Baptist: January 2024

**IBSA Communications Team**

Illinois Baptist



## Print Publications: Newspaper - Front Page

### 1st Place

2024 SBC Annual Meeting Report Cover

**Lauren Grim & Pam Henderson**

The Baptist Paper

### 2nd Place

Illinois Baptist, January 2024

**IBSA Communications Team**

Illinois Baptist



## Print Publications: Newspaper - Spread

### 1st Place

Illinois Baptist: Midwest Leadership Summit

**IBSA Communications Team**

Illinois Baptist

### 2nd Place

One Cross at a Time

**Tracy Riggs Frontz & Lauren Grim**

The Alabama Baptist



### Print Publications: Magazine - Single Issue

#### 1st Place

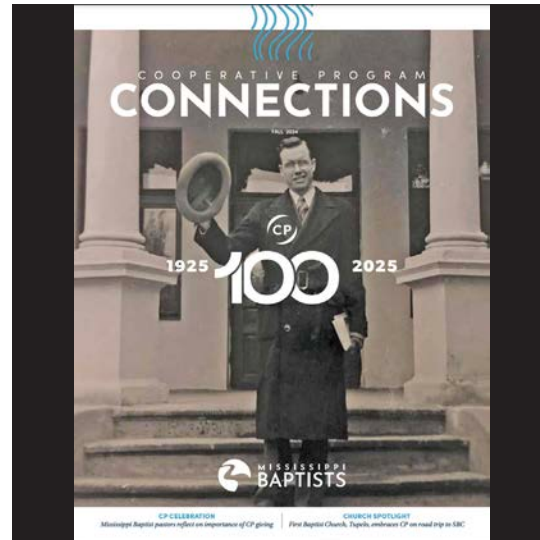
Cooperative Program Connections Magazine  
**Communications Services,**  
**The Baptist Record**  
 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

#### 2nd Place

The Great Commission Magazine of  
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary  
**Marketing & Communications**  
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

#### 3rd Place

Unionite Magazine: Spring 2024  
**Office of University Communications**  
 Union University



### Print Publications: Magazine - Cover

#### 1st Place

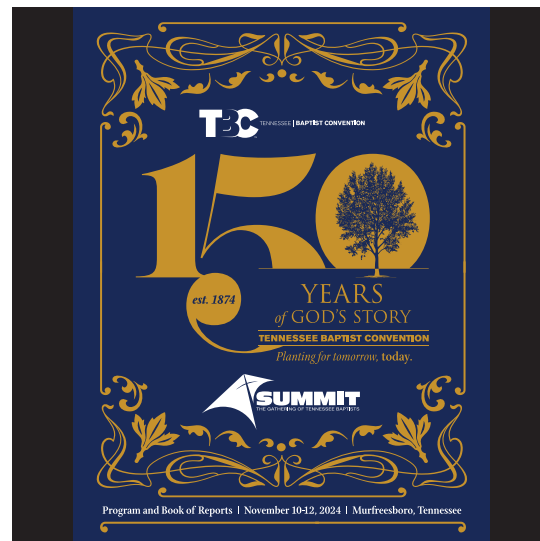
Summit Guide Cover  
**Trish Dubes**  
 Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

#### 2nd Place

Summer of Salvations Magazine Cover  
**Brook Daniel**  
 Oklahoma Baptists - Baptist Messenger

#### 3rd Place

Magazine Cover  
**Ryan Thomas, Clarissa Hartman**  
**& Abigail Ginsterblum**  
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



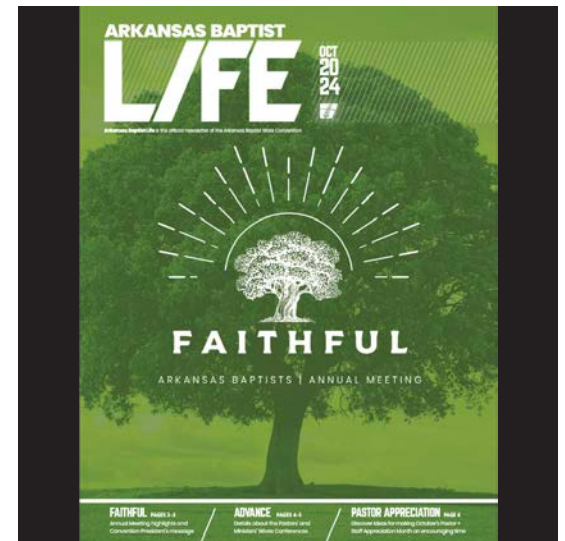
### Print Publications: Magazine - Spread

#### 1st Place

Arkansas Baptist Life – October  
**ABSC Communications Team**  
 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

#### 2nd Place

The Life of Adoniram Judson Spread  
**Clarissa Hartman**  
 Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



### Print Publications: Newsletter

#### 1st Place

Arkansas Baptist Life – July  
**ABSC Communications Team**  
 Arkansas Baptist State Convention

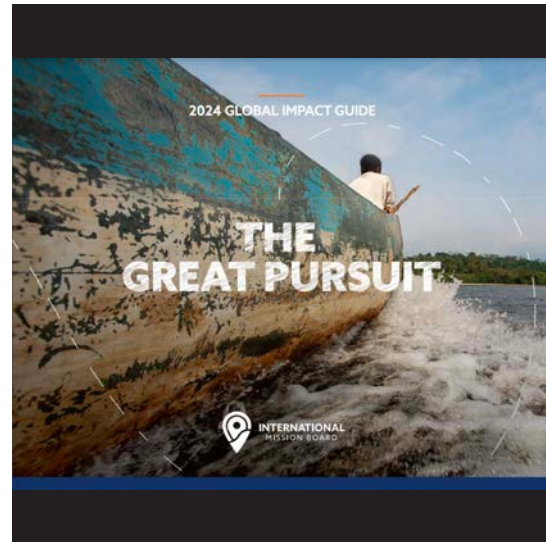




Print Publications: Annual Report

1st Place

2024 Global Impact Guide  
**IMB MarCom: Terry Pedigo  
 & Leslie Peacock Caldwell**  
 International Mission Board



2nd Place

Kingdom Impact Report  
**Brittany McNally & David Kieffer**  
 GuideStone Financial Resources

3rd Place

Western Recorder  
**Robin Cornetet, Marina Shelton  
 & KBC Communication Team**  
 Kentucky Baptist Convention

Digital Publications: Magazine

1st Place

GuideStone Magazine 2024  
**GuideStone Staff**  
 GuideStone Financial Resources



Digital Publications: Newsletter

1st Place

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



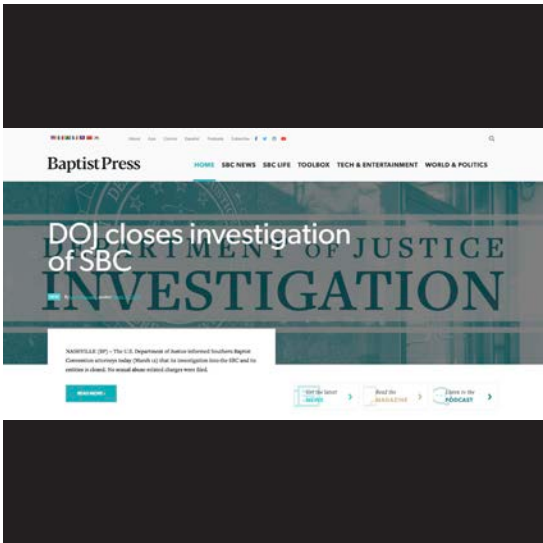
Mixed Media Coverage

**1st Place**  
Maguire State Mission Offering  
**James Powell, Micah Ferguson,  
Margaret Colson, Keila Diaz  
& Communications Team**  
Florida Baptist Convention



Electronic Publication

**1st Place**  
Baptist Press  
**Brandon Porter, Laura Erlanson,  
Scott Barkley & Diana Chandler**  
Baptist Press



Print Publication - Magazine

**1st Place**  
Vision Magazine 2024  
**Joseph Duke, Madelynn Duke  
& Marilyn Stewart**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological  
Seminary



**2nd Place**  
BR January/February 2024 issue  
**Chad Austin**  
Biblical Recorder

**3rd Place**  
Generosity Magazine  
**WatersEdge Marketing Team**  
WatersEdge

Print Publication - Newspaper

**1st Place**  
Baptist and Reflector  
**David Dawson**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board



**2nd Place**  
The Alabama Baptist, October 3, 2024 Edition  
**The Alabama Baptist Staff**  
The Alabama Baptist

**3rd Place**  
Illinois Baptist  
**IBSA Communications Team:  
Eric Reed, Ben Jones,  
Lisa Misner & Nic Cook**  
Illinois Baptist

Book

1st Place

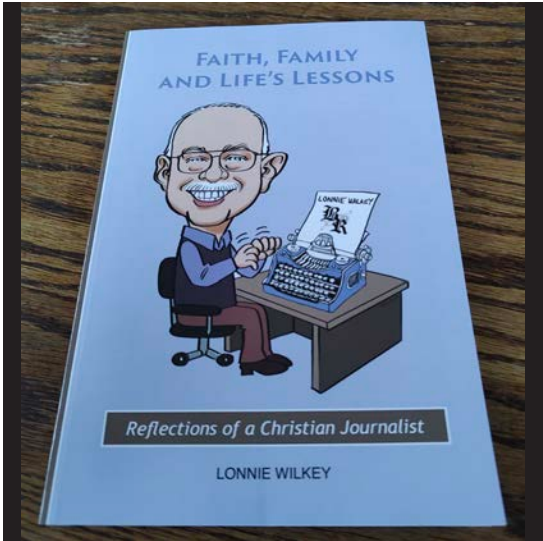
Faith, Family and Life’s Lessons  
**Lonnie Wilkey**  
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place

The Caregiver’s Guidebook  
**Carol Layton**  
North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

3rd Place

40 Days of Dignity, A Mission:Dignity  
Devotional  
**GuideStone and Mission:Dignity Staff**  
GuideStone Financial Resources



Many Thanks  
to Our 2025  
Awards  
Competition  
Judges.





**DONALD ALBAN**  
Professor, Digital Media  
and Journalism,  
Liberty University



**EVANGELINE  
ALBAN**  
Adjunct Instructor,  
Liberty University,  
Cedarville University,  
and Houston Christian  
University



**SHIRA KELLEY**  
Assistant Director of  
Public Affairs for the  
Arkansas Commissioner  
of State Lands office



**BRUCE KIRK**  
Associate Professor,  
Digital Media &  
Journalism, SCA,  
Liberty University



**HUNTER BOLTON**  
Communications  
Director, Cave Spring  
Baptist Church



**KATHERINE  
CHUTE**  
Professor and Chair  
of Communications,  
Journalism, and PR at  
Palm Beach Atlantic  
University



**MARK  
MACDONALD**  
Church Brand Strategist



**CAREY MARTIN**  
Professor of Digital  
Media and Journalism,  
Liberty University



**RICK DOWLING**  
TV Ministry Director for  
First Baptist Church of  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama



**AMANDA GEISAKA  
EDDS**  
Creative Director,  
Regent University



**ADAM EVERETT  
MILLER**  
Owner of Hello Studios



**CASEY PEARCE**  
Director, External  
Relations & Marketing,  
New York Institute of  
Technology



**WILLIAM FENN**  
Associate Professor of  
Photography & Chair of  
Fine Arts Department,  
Auburn University at  
Montgomery



**NIKKI HECK**  
APR, CPM, Director of  
Governmental Affairs,  
Arkansas Commissioner  
of State Lands Office



**MELANIE  
REBSAMEN**  
Owner and Designer at  
Buffalo Creative



**DEANNA REIS**  
Production Director,  
Regent University

## Judges



**MATTHEW  
STEPHEN  
SCHULTZ**

Web Manager for Cairn  
University



**CHERYL WRAY**

Author, Freelance  
Writer & Speaker



**CHRIS WYGAL**

Chief Engineer  
for Summit Media  
Corporation, Richmond,  
Virginia & Owner of  
Audio Concepts



**CALEB  
YARBROUGH**

Public Relations  
Account Manager,  
CJRW in Little Rock,  
Arkansas