



The Christian Index

June 6, 2018 | Reaching the World Through Mission Georgia | www.christianindex.org

Legos bringing smiles to children and youth through Joshua's legacy

By Joe Westbury
Managing Editor

ALAMO — What began as a spontaneous birthday party on the first anniversary of Joshua Woodfin's death has grown into a multi-state ministry that is bringing smiles to children suffering with leukemia and other longterm illnesses.

Eighteen-year-old Woodfin passed away in December 2014, barely three years after his diagnosis with ALL T-Cell Leukemia. Lengthy stays at Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta provided excellent treatment but could not deliver complete healing.

Woodfin's legacy, though — of his servant's heart and faith in Christ — has continued to grow and today serves as a testimony to others dealing with life's unexpected turns.

Two of his last requests, they said, was to spend time with friends and play bass guitar during worship at Alamo Baptist Church, which his father serves as pastor, one last time. His selection for that occasion: "How Great is Our God," "10,000 Reasons," "Who Am I," and concluded with "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus."

That's why friends thought it was completely appropriate when his parents decided to plan a party on the first birthday after his passing and give away some of his most cherished belongings — Legos that cheered him up and provided a healthy distraction.

As they planned the



Alanna and Kyle Woodfin continue their Lego buying spree at Sugarloaf Mills in suburban Atlanta on May 11. **Kyle** serves as pastor of Alamo Baptist Church and founder of Legacy Outdoor Ministries. JOE WESTBURY/Index

event the couple decided they would deconstruct his creations, bag the Lego blocks, and give them to young friends at church and in the community. New sets that had never been opened would be donated to the hospital for children undergoing treatment.

And that was the genesis of a new ministry.

Alanna remembers thinking, "Why not collect new Legos at this first birthday observance and give them to children at Egleston and other hospitals in the Children's Hospital of Atlanta network?"

Word began to spread and by the time April 30 arrived, Kyle and Alanna had received 165 sets from friends, family, and others in the community.

"Joshua developed an appreciation for Legos during his hospital visits and this was the perfect way to honor him and his spirit. There was not a flat surface in his hospital room that did not have a Lego creation on it," she adds.

The following year the couple decided "to try again and see what happens," Kyle says. Before they knew it, the Lego drive had spread to 8 collection sites scattered across four states — New Orleans, Dallas, Birmingham as well as Savannah, Douglas, and a Woman's Missionary Union group in Atlanta.

By the time of Joshua's April 30 birthday observance, 648 kits had been collected for local distribution.

A long, drawn out

"Woooooo" was all Alanna could think when she saw the totals.

"It was so amazing to see how it had grown so fast. We were just casting nets and God was filling them with Legos rather than fish," she adds.

The next year, 2017, was even more amazing with 712 kits rolling in. The number of collection sites remained the same but they added a girls' softball tournament in Milledgeville, with teams coming from across the state, bearing Legos.

This year the collection broke the thousand barrier, with about 1,050 being donated to children's hospitals, bringing smiles to faces that otherwise might not have too much to smile about. And Alanna says she has still not heard from two sites ... and the Milledgeville event, the Middle Georgia Softball USSSA Tournament, will not be played until this weekend.

And oh yes, they added Fort Lauderdale, FL as the newest site.

When asked why he thought the event has grown so far, so fast, Kyle didn't take long to respond.

"Kids really get into this ... it's all about children giving to children. There is a strong desire to help a sick child, it really tugs at the heartstrings," he explained.

For more information on the ministry contact Kyle or Alanna at kyle@legacyoutdoorministry.com or at (912) 423-0713.

From London to Wales the Sons of Jubal sing and shine for Christ

By Gerald Harris
Editor

The Sons of Jubal, an integral part of the Worship/Music Ministry of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, have completed their “Ignite Tour 2018” to Wales and England. The mass men’s choir and orchestra, under the direction of Georgia Baptist Missionary/Music Specialist Jon Duncan, presented concerts in churches, cathedrals, and concert halls and assisted with mission projects throughout the tour.

The Sons of Jubal is composed of ministers of music, pastors, laymen, and gifted musicians from across Georgia. Dr. J. Robert White, executive director of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, is also a member of the Sons of Jubal.

One of the members of the Sons of Jubal is Danny Stubbs, the minister of music at Houston Lake Baptist Church in Perry. The Christian Index interviewed him and he recalled highlights of the tour for our readers. Duncan also added some of his observations concerning the “Ignite Tour 2018.”

Stubbs commented, “Being able to communicate with the local people in Wales and England and share the love of Christ through music and the spoken word definitely was the high point of the trip for me. There was no need for a translator on this trip; and we found the people in the churches, schools, and arenas where we sang very warm and open to the message we shared.”

Stubbs also enjoyed hearing the stories of John Newton, William Cowper, and William Carey and see first hand where they were

trained and ministered. He recalled, “In Bristol, we saw the oldest Methodist church where John and Charles Wesley preached and wrote hymns, many of which are still sung today.”

worshippers singing with joy, vigor, and vitality.”

The “Ignite Tour” included the Sons of Jubal singing at Royal Albert Hall, London’s most iconic venue. This 5,272-seat concert

“With attendance declining in almost every denomination, there are some bright spots scattered in urban areas.

“On the two Sundays that we were in the country, the Sons of Jubal divided into



The Sons of Jubal perform with Prom Praise at iconic Royal Albert Hall. SOJ/Special

While in Wales the Sons of Jubal found that the people have a love of music, both secular and spiritual. Stubbs explained, “One of our evening services was held in a school auditorium where we had sung a program for the children of the school earlier that day.

“In that evening concert in the school, there was a community male chorus that also sang. It was a large group whose singing resembled that of a barbershop quartet. The men sang folk songs, love songs, patriotic songs, and spiritual songs.

“This love of music and singing has carried over into the churches where we saw

hall was opened by Queen Victoria in 1871 and has had many great performers appear on its stage.

Stubbs declared, “In addition to the large seating area Royal Albert Hall has a large open floor for standing room. We joined ‘Prom Praise London 2018,’ a 120-piece orchestra, a 500-voice choir from around the U.K., including nearly 150 men from the Sons of Jubal, all led by British composer, organist, orchestrator, and conductor Noel Tredinnick.

“Statistics show that church attendance is very low in the entirety of Europe, including all areas of the United Kingdom,” stated Stubbs.

seven or eight groups and led worship in smaller churches with singers, instrumentalists, and preaching by pastors or speakers who are in the ‘Jubals.’ In the churches I visited there were a small group of local parishioners in attendance, mostly seniors, who were attempting to do whatever they could to keep their church open and viable. “This remnant of believers was thrilled to see the Americans come to their churches to help ‘ignite’ revival fires and fan into flame the message of Jesus. God has a remnant in the U.K. and I pray that they will stand firm and work and preach with fervor to re-ignite God’s church in their community.”

Seeing the need first-hand for global evangelism

I recently returned from a concert tour of England and Wales with the Sons of Jubal, our Georgia Baptist singing men. The group is comprised primarily of ministers of music, but also includes pastors, other church staff folks, retired ministers, and one state executive director. I have thoroughly enjoyed being with this deeply committed group of Georgia Baptist leaders.

Serving alongside Dr. Jon Duncan and his capable and energetic staff continues to be a great joy. There were 230 on the tour. Along with the choir and orchestra, we were accompanied by a number of spouses and friends of the Jubals'. The

focus of this mission was to ignite revival in the United Kingdom. The degree to which that occurs is up to the working of the Holy Spirit and the openness of those who were affected by our ministry.

One evening we sang our concert in a school building. There were approximately 500 people present. I sensed the need to preach from John 14:1-6, and to simply ask the question, "Do you know where you will go when you die?" I cited Jesus' words when He said, "You believe in God, believe also in me." I paused and looked at the people and asked, "You do believe in God, don't you?"

One white-haired lady

sitting on the second row to my right shook her head and said, "No." I didn't acknowledge her response, but wanted to say, "Lady, with the white hair, you don't have a lot of time to get this right. You need Jesus and the assurance of eternal life right now."

After returning to Georgia, we received an email from a young lady who professed faith in Christ and was awaiting baptism. She asked if we could send a recording of one of our songs, "Were It Not For Grace," one of my favorites. She said that she would soon be baptized and had been so blessed by the message of this song that she wanted it played during her baptism.

Whatever our course for the future as Georgia Baptists, we must be certain that global evangelism remains a priority in all we do. A very effective medium for communicating the Gospel of Jesus Christ is through song. It has been so since the earliest days of the Christian church, and among Georgia Baptists, must remain at the very heart of who we are, and how we tell of His grace.



J. Robert White
Executive Director

EDITORIAL

SCOTUS opens the door for more gambling in Georgia

On May 13 the United States Supreme Court, in a 6-3 decision ruled, "Congress can regulate sports gambling directly, but if it elects not to do so, each state is free to act on its own. Our job is to interpret the law Congress has enacted and decide whether it is consistent with the Constitution. PASPA is not."

PASPA is the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act that banned most sports gambling. In essence, the Supreme Court declared that PASPA is unconstitutional in *Murphy v. NCAA*.

Congress could go back and ban sports betting entirely, but getting Congress to agree on anything these days is virtually impossible. Therefore, it opens the door for individual states, including Georgia, to decide for themselves if they want to permit sports gambling. Legalized betting on sporting events could be available for some

states as early as the upcoming football season.

The Atlanta Business Chronicle quoted state Sen. Brandon Beach, who commented, "This week's U.S. Supreme Court decision throwing open the door to legalized sports betting across the country could aid supporters of bringing casinos to Georgia."

Yikes! Hollywood has already come to Georgia. Now, we have a legislator wanting to invite Las Vegas to the Peach State as well. What will be next? Vanity Fair? Nineveh? Sodom and Gomorrah?

Pete Rose had all the credentials necessary to be enshrined in Baseball's Hall of Fame, but in 1986, while he was a player-manager of the Cincinnati Reds, it was discovered that Rose regularly bet on baseball games. As a result he was banned from baseball and consequently, has not been considered for Hall of

Fame honors. Gambling has a tendency to diminish and tarnish the image of the game.

According to Senator Beach, the Supreme Court's decision could very well open the door to the legalization of all kinds of gambling, including casinos. If you think that is a great idea you need to remember that casinos gamble with your money and at the end of the day the house always wins.

Furthermore, casinos are associated with prostitution, nudity, lewdness, and every form of wickedness imaginable. Go online and you will find a plethora of stories about people whose lives have been devastated by an addiction to gambling.

Gambling is sinful, because it is born out of covetousness and greed. Former FBI director Clarence Kelly declared, "Legalized gambling would not help eliminate corruption; but rather would develop a new class of gamblers who

would switch to the illegal games as their addiction grows." It is sinful to desire to get money without labor.

The author of Hebrews declared, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

The arguments against gambling are almost infinite, but the Supreme Court's recent decision opens the door wider for additional gambling in Georgia. Our fight for a spiritually and morally healthy Georgia is unending and we must never, never, never give up.

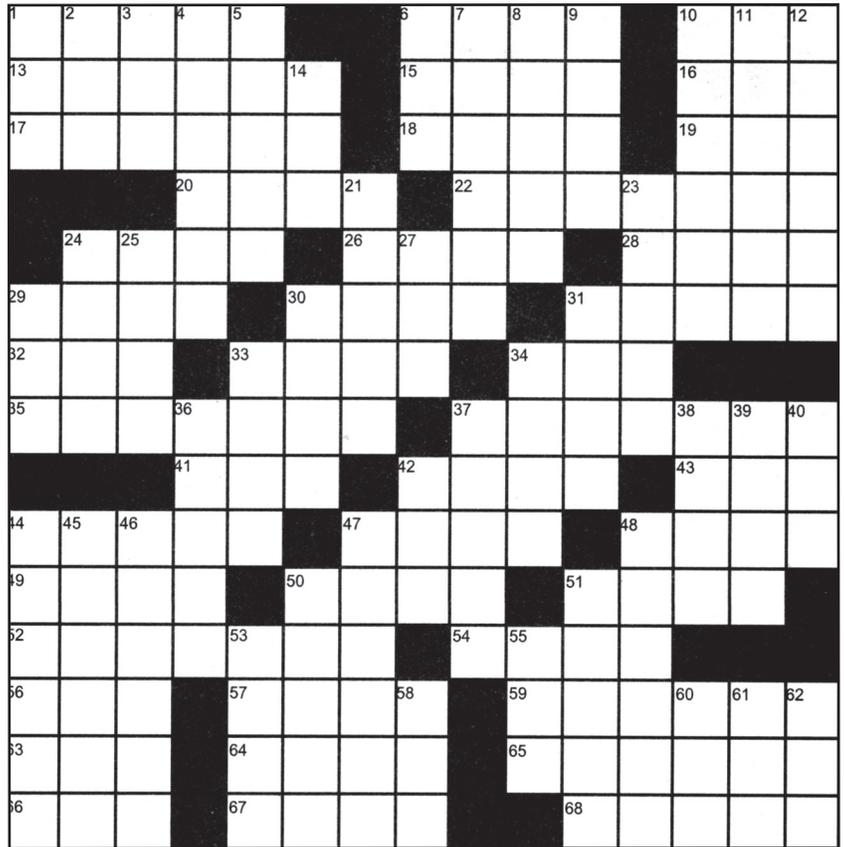


J. Gerald Harris
Editor

ACROSS

- 1. Fancy boat
- 6. Hook
- 10. Second month (abbr.)
- 13. Beehive
- 15. Band instrument
- 16. Road (abbr.)
- 17. Unkind person
- 18. Raced
- 19. By way of
- 20. Space administration
- 22. Doings weighed by God (1 Sam. 2:3)
- 24. Part Dagon lost (1 Sam. 5:4)
- 26. Consumes offerings (1 Sam. 2:28)
- 28. Canal
- 29. Place where ark was carried (1 Sam. 5:8)
- 30. What Rahab did with scarlet thread (Josh. 2:18)
- 31. Fathers
- 32. Yang's partner
- 33. "Fear not; for thou has ___ a son" (1 Sam. 4:20)
- 34. Number of Elkanah's wives (1 Sam. 1:2)
- 35. Pacify
- 37. Clothing Saul used to change appearance (1 Sam. 28:8)
- 41. Fire remains Tamar put on her head (2 Sam. 13:19)
- 42. Movie
- 43. Old-fashioned fathers
- 44. "The LORD killeth, and maketh ___" (1 Sam. 2:6)
- 47. Record where Samuel wrote (1 Sam. 2:6)

- 48. Weakling
- 49. Pointed cylinder
- 50. "The poorest ___ of the people" (2 Kings 24:14)
- 51. What Dagon fell on (1 Sam. 5:4)
- 52. Mary ___ (artist)
- 54. Israel's first king
- 56. First woman
- 57. Grudging (var.)
- 59. Under tooth's enamel
- 63. Part of a minute (abbr.)
- 64. Type of unclean animal (Lev. 11:30)
- 65. Channel for water (Isa. 19:10)
- 66. Fast plane (abbr.)
- 67. City in Yemen
- 68. Bovine



DOWN

- 1. Sweet Potato
- 2. Animal brought by Tarshish navy (1 Kings 10:22)
- 3. Government security agency (abbr.)
- 4. Samuel's mother
- 5. Trinity
- 6. "They ___ not the land ... by their own sword" (Ps. 44:3)
- 7. "We went ___, and set forth" (Acts 21:2)
- 8. Coerce, as priests threatened (1 Sam. 2:16)
- 9. "He will keep the ___ of his saints" (1 Sam. 2:9)
- 10. "Samuel ... was in ___" (1 Sam. 2:26)

- 11. Show
- 12. Goliath threatened to feed David to these (1 Sam. 17:44)
- 14. Affirmative
- 21. Alight
- 23. Expression
- 24. One plague in Egypt (Ex. 9:25)
- 25. Volcano
- 27. Hotel with no room (Luke 2:7)
- 29. Swindle
- 30. Dagon lost ___ of his hands (1 Sam. 5:4)
- 31. Move through water, as the iron (2 Kings 6:6)
- 33. Had four brazen wheels (1 Kings 7:30)

- 34. "___ no more so exceeding proudly" (1 Sam. 2:3)
- 36. Natural rooms where people hid (1 Sam. 13:6)
- 37. Public disorders
- 38. Heroic
- 39. Hannah "Called his ___ Samuel" (1 Sam. 1:20)
- 40. Cooking measurement (abbr.)
- 42. "___ this child I prayed" (1 Sam. 1:27)
- 44. "Have ___ by one Spirit unto the Father" (Eph. 2:18)
- 45. David took ten of these to his brothers (1 Sam. 17:17)

- 46. Earwig
- 47. Flask David took to brothers (1 Sam. 16:20)
- 48. Cookie nut
- 50. "LORD came, and ___, and called" (1 Sam. 3:10)
- 51. Combustibles
- 53. ___ mater
- 55. Commercials
- 58. Bird that "gathereth her chickens under her wings" (Matt. 23:37)
- 60. Fasten, as kine (1 Sam. 6:7)
- 61. Winter hazard cast forth like morsels (Ps. 147:17)
- 62. Saul's uncle (1 Sam. 14:50)



This special edition of The Christian Index is distributed online the first and third Wednesday of each month at www.christianindex.org to provide additional content to readers who prefer a print version of the publication. To read additional stories of how God is working through Georgia Baptists, visit the website daily for stories that inspire and inform.

The Christian Index is a publication of the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, 6405 Sugarloaf Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097. Our editorial office can be reached at (770) 936-5590. J. Gerald Harris serves as Editor.