



# Sandy Level Welcomes You to **NEWS ON THE LEVEL**

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## Nicaragua Bridge Update

by: Thomas Black

I spent the week of May 8<sup>th</sup> in Nicaragua. That week we pulled four steel cables across the river, which then was merely a small stream. Several days were spent inspecting the lumber for the bridge's crossbeams and walking planks, and then cutting them to the proper length. The bridge at that point was about 70% complete. The cable anchor and approach ramp on both sides still need completing before the walking platform can be installed. It's very close. The finished bridge is going to be magnificent!

That Friday we worked to almost 6:30 PM at the bridge site. After picking up all the tools and locking them away, it was time to say good-bye to all my friends. Then one motorcycle arrived to take Carlo, the stone mason, to his home in Matiguas. That left me with a four mile walk back to town. It's a trip many of these people make everyday in fact. As I started walking down the long, dirt road, it struck me that I was in the middle of a third world country, almost a stranger, walking alone.....

### The Journey

Though the road before me May now be dusty and long,  
I know You walk beside me So I do not walk alone.

Leading, guiding, protecting Lighting the path ahead,  
Sending, showing, providing Walking on Faith, whatever lies ahead.

Though one day I know The road will reach its end,  
And I will glance back and say "Lord, thank you for the journey."



(And after walking the first mile and as I approached the top of that hill, a man on a motorcycle came and took me the rest of the way.)

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## Being Southern Baptist

What does it mean to be a Southern Baptist? I think that is a good question for us to raise and think about periodically. Here are some of the basics concerning what it means to be a Southern Baptist.

Sandy Level Baptist Church is an autonomous church, meaning that we are self-governing under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. However we are associated with three bodies for the common cause of making disciples of all nations: (1) the Southern Baptist Convention; (2) the South Carolina Baptist Convention; and (3) the Columbia Metro Baptist Association. We provide financial support for these three groups primarily through giving 12% of undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, 3% of undesignated receipts to the Columbia Metro Baptist Association, and annual offerings, such as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering, and the Janie Chapman State Mission Offering.

**The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC)**, since its inception in 1845 in Augusta, Georgia, has grown to over 16 million church members who worship in more than 42,000 churches in the United States, making it the largest association of churches in America. Southern Baptists support over 5,000 home missionaries serving the United States, Canada, Guam and the Caribbean, as well as more than 5,000 foreign missionaries serving in 153 nations of the world.

The term "Southern Baptist Convention" refers to both the denomination and its annual meeting held in various major cities in June of each year. This year the annual meeting will be held June 14-15 in Phoenix, AR. Working through 1,200 local associations and 41 state conventions and fellowships, Southern Baptists share a common bond of basic Biblical beliefs and a commitment to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.

As Southern Baptists we are not a creedal people, but we have developed a statement of commonly held biblical convictions called "The Baptist Faith and Message." It consists of carefully crafted theological statements in eighteen categories that reflect the basic biblical convictions of those who align themselves with Southern Baptists.

Southern Baptists support several entities and organizations, including the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, GuideStone Financial Resources, six seminaries, Lifeway Christian Resources, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board. The Woman's Missionary Union serves as an auxiliary to the SBC. For more information about the SBC go to [sbc.net](http://sbc.net).

**The South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC)** is made up of 1,792 churches with a combined membership of 719,228 who work together under the vision of "Experience Kingdom Life." The vision statement reads, "To urgently take the whole gospel to the whole world – that all may be whole." The current Executive Director-Treasurer of the SCBC is James W. Austin. Learn more about the SCBC at [scbaptist.org](http://scbaptist.org).

**The Columbia Metro Baptist Association (CMBA)** consists of 40,166 church members in 96 churches. The association's ministry vision "is to assist the churches in reaching the South Carolina midlands with the gospel, to make a global impact on all the nations through partnerships in the Baptist family, and to see every member of every church praying, participating, giving and on mission to see growth of the Body of Christ."

Some of the ministries of the CMBA include Hunger (Food Pantry), Medical, Prison, Disaster Relief, Construction, Pastor Support, Marketplace, Mission Service Corps, Chaplaincy, Church Support, New Churches, Pastor and Staff Support, Church Development, Programs (Bible Drill and VBS), Senior Adult Ministries, Baptist Campus Ministries, Church Crisis Intervention, Individual Crisis Intervention, and Event Ministries. Rev. Bill Deickmann serves as the associational director of Missions. To learn more about CMBA visit [metro baptist.net](http://metro baptist.net).

Being affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention allows Sandy Level to identify with Christians around the world who are known for their commitment to the Bible and the Great Commission. It allows our church to participate in the largest missionary organization in the world.

I hope you are encouraged to know that when you give to Sandy Level, your monetary sacrifice of love helps carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to people locally, in our state, across our nation, and to the ends of the earth.

### Building Update:

The church voted May 15th to build Phase One of the Family Life Center. Since then, the Building Committee has met with the builder and architect to finalize plans for the building. The Finance Committee is currently working with financial institutions to secure loan information for the church.

## Great New Ministry Opportunity!

This summer our Sandy Level Youth Ministry will be starting a great new ministry. The ministry is called "GO" and will be focused at taking the Gospel beyond our campus by loving our community through a variety of service projects. GO will take place every Wednesday night this summer from 6-9. Encourage your child to be involved. We will also need adults to be involved as chaperones for all of these nights. Talk to Jake today if you are interested in this service opportunity!



## Celebrate Fathers Day & Spread the Gospel

Join us after church on Fathers Day for a special meal fundraiser. We will be serving BBQ prepared by Eddie Baughman. All money raised will go directly to the Canada Missions Trip! Details in this weeks bulletin!

## **SPORTS NIGHT!!!!**

The phenomenon known as "Sports Night" is back for its third summer!!!

Every Thursday Night this summer  
6:30-8:30



## Weekly Summer Schedule

- Sunday: Canada Missions Training 3:00-5:00
- MS Missions Training 5:00-7:30
- Tuesday: Deeper Study 7:00-9:00
- Wednesday: GO 6:00-9:00
- Thursday: Sports Night 6:30-8:30



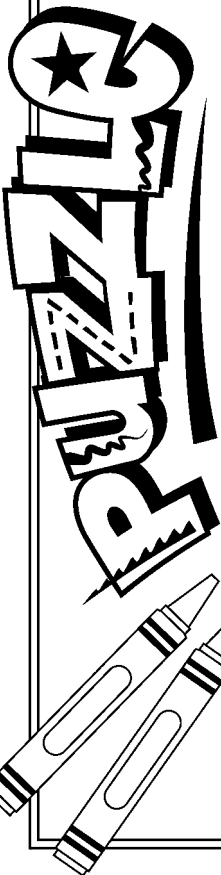
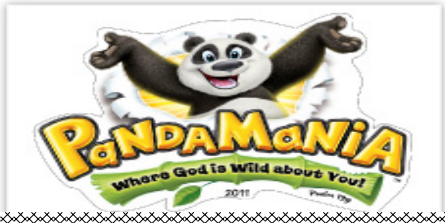
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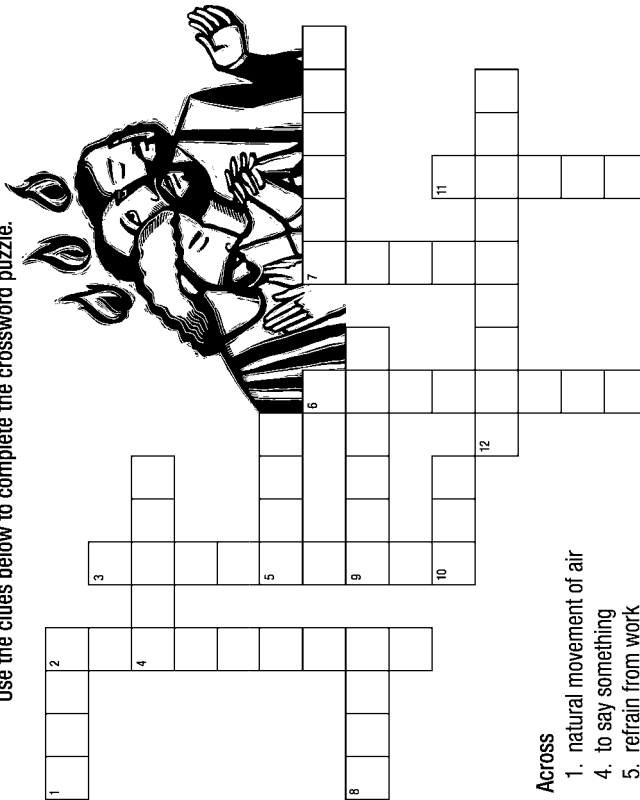
VBS - July 10th ~ July 14th



# The Spirit Comes

ACTS 2 TELLS ABOUT A SPECIAL DAY  
WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME TO THE DISCIPLES.

Use the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle.



**Across**

- 1. natural movement of air
- 4. to say something
- 5. refrain from work
- 7. place where God is
- 8. a combustion or burning that gives light, heat and smoke
- 9. part of mouth that can taste and lick
- 10. the time between sunrise and sunset
- 12. the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples

**Down**

- 2. followers of Christ
- 3. moved apart
- 6. quickly and unexpectedly
- 7. a building where people live
- 11. vibrations that travel through the air

Answers: Across 1. wind, 4. speak, 5. rest, 7. heaven, 8. fire, 9. tongue, 10. day, 12. Pentecost; Down 2. disciples, 3. separated, 6. suddenly, 7. house, 11. sound