

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

December 14, 2010  
Vol. 184, No. 48

## FOR THE RECORD



**World**  
Cumberlands alumnus collects new & used books to establish library for Kenyan children.  
Page 2.

**Kentucky**  
MSC missionaries dedicate eastern Kentucky church plant as a place for miracles.  
Page 2.



**Baptists**  
NAMB President Ezell tells state evangelism leaders: 'We are going to work together.' Page 3.

Find us on Facebook  
and on twitter  
as westernrecorder

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Dec. 15



**Lottie Moon Christmas Offering** **2010 Goal: \$175 million**

## God reveals His love to Thai inmate

**Bangkok, Thailand**—Rather than looking forward to freedom, Noon dreaded the day of her prison release.

No one had visited her or had even written a letter during the time she had served in Thailand for drug possession. She realized that when prison officials set her free, she would have no place to go.

"Everyone in my family, my relatives, they rejected me and forgot me," the quiet 25 year old recalled.

But then another prisoner, a Christian, told her about God. The Christian prisoner also began to teach Noon how to pray.

"The first prayer I prayed was, 'If You are God, please bring someone to visit me,' because for almost two years, no one visited me or wrote a letter to me," Noon said. "I said, 'God, if You want me to know Your grace, answer me and let someone come to visit me.'"

One week after her plea, an officer announced over the loudspeakers that a visitor had, in fact, come to see her.

She remembered crying, "Oh, thank you, God! Thank you, God!"

"I was so excited and very glad," Noon recalled. She went to the room used for prison visits, and through the glass that separates inmates from visitors she saw an aunt, her mother's sister, who had come to bring news from her family.

And she knew that with a miracle such as this, God must be real.

She began worshipping with a Christian group that met inside the prison. She also learned about a team that came each week from the Christian Prison Ministry Foundation to share Christ's love through music, Bible study and preaching. The ministry, now active in 60 prisons throughout the country, was formed by an International Mission Board mis-

See Thai inmate ... Page 6

## Ministry Milestone

### Couple marks 30 years as missionaries, 25 in Kentucky

By Ken Walker  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

**Wheelwright**—As they reach two significant anniversaries, the mark that missionaries Charles and Margie Wilson have made in eastern Kentucky can be measured through people like Sharon Jones.

A volunteer at the Wheelwright Baptist Center in Floyd County, Jones first came there because she needed food.

"They're kind of like family to me instead of just the pastor of a church," said Jones, referring to Charles Wilson's role as pastor of First Baptist Church of Wheelwright. "At Christmas they give toys to needy people. It would make you cry to come and see the people who need help. There are people who couldn't make it without them."

During November, the Wilsons celebrated their 30th anniversary as missionaries with the North American Mission Board. Next February will bring the couple's 25th anniversary of serving in Kentucky.

"I'm thankful for the consistent and unwavering service they have given to directing the Wheelwright Baptist Center," said Eric Allen, director of mission service and ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "They have exercised creativity and persistence through ministry to meet people's physical, emotional and spiritual needs."

Jean White, NAMB's coordinator for church and community ministries, has known the Wilsons for 20 years. She still remembers the home-cooked meal they served on her first visit to Wheelwright.

"I was impressed that they lived just like the people to whom they were ministering," White said. "As we visited people around them, it was obvious that everyone loved and trusted them."



In February 2011, Margie and Charles Wilson will mark their 25th year directing the ministries of the Wheelwright Baptist Center in Floyd County. The Wilsons have served 30 years as Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps missionaries. (Photo by Carol Pipes/NAMB)

It is rare to find people who invest their lives in one community to the degree Charles and Margie have."

After serving with NAMB in the inner city of Toledo, Ohio, Wilson said he told God he didn't want to pastor in Kentucky.

"But I went there anyway," he recalled, chuckling.

"Where have all the years gone?" Mrs. Wilson asked. "I have some things I can look back on, some very good memories."

In 1986, former KBC missions leader Bob Jones invited the couple to Wheelwright, a

mining boomtown in the 1940s that since has seen its share of hard times. The town's First Baptist Church once drew about 300 people to Sunday services. When the Wilsons arrived, attendance had dwindled to six.

Working with Southern Baptist Cooperative Program support, they started the Baptist center with children's Bible clubs. Today they offer weekly sessions for boys, girls and young adults, as well as Sunday school classes. The First Baptist congregation holds services at the center.

See Missionary couple ... Page 2

## Page: Baptist Press won't be micromanaged

**Nashville, Tenn.**—The news operation of the Southern Baptist Convention will be left in the capable hands of veteran journalist Art Toalston, according to SBC Executive Committee President Frank Page.

Now in his 18th year as editor of Baptist Press, Toalston began his journalism career working at three different newspapers in Ohio before becoming religion editor of the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News (now the Jackson Clarion-

Ledger). He was a staff writer for the International Mission Board for seven years before joining BP in 1992.

Late last month, Page announced structural changes that combined the functions of news and public relations under an office of convention communications and relations, merging two vice presidential level positions. The vice president for convention news position, filled by Will Hall for the past decade, was eliminat-

ed in the move.

While Roger Oldham's duties expanded to include the oversight of communications, Page said the new arrangement is in no way an attempt to change the nature of Baptist Press into a public relations vehicle.

"We will continue to do what our bylaws call for—to both interpret and publicize the overall Southern Baptist ministry and program," Page said.

See Page: BP in capable ... Page 3

## Cumberlands alumnus collects books to establish library for Kenyan children

By Laura Silvers  
University of the Cumberlands

**Kakamega, Kenya**—Amanda Walton needs books.

Walton, a University of the Cumberlands alum, now is a missionary to Kenya serving at the Tumaini Miles of Smiles School and Children's Home. She works daily teaching and caring for the children there and now is working to build a library for the school.

"When I arrived at Tumaini, I already had in mind the idea for the library," Walton said. "The director of Tumaini, Rose Bugusu, had already informed me of the need. It was not until I arrived and spent considerable time at the school that I realized the many benefits a library would offer."

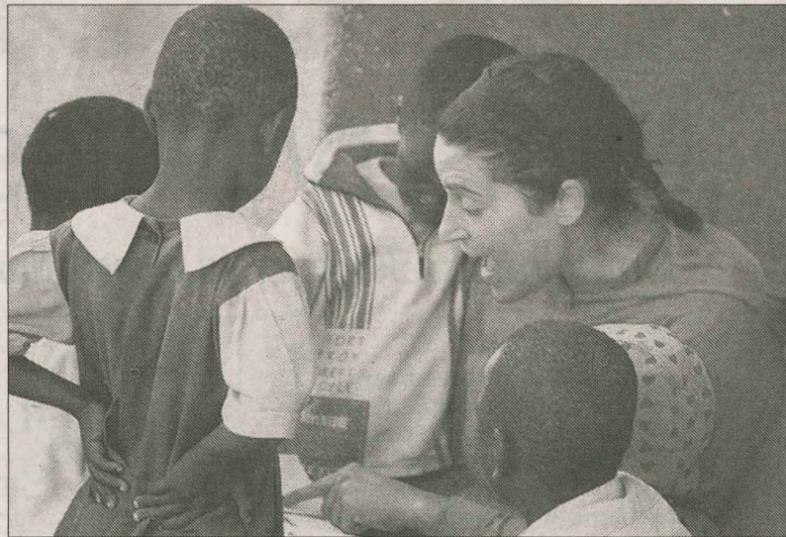
Walton said all subjects in Kenya are taught in English, with the exception of Kiswahili class.

"Most of the children's first language is a tribal mother tongue, second language—Kiswahili—and third language—English. You can only imagine the challenge of your entire classroom learning experience being taught in your third language," she noted.

Walton said the children love to read, and the library will give them access to books written in English. Since the classes are taught in English, English books help the students in all subject areas. The books also will expose them to places, things and subjects they may not have the opportunity to experience otherwise.

"Words have the power to influence, inspire and challenge people to reach higher (and) fight harder to overcome their circumstances," Walton said. "These kids deserve every chance to overcome."

Starting a library from scratch is not going to be a simple task, Walton admitted. She is asking for book donations; any type of book, new or



**FOR THE KIDS** University of the Cumberlands alumnus Amanda Walton reads to children at the Tumaini Miles of Smiles School and Children's Home in Kenya where she serves as a missionary. She is collecting books to establish a library at the school.

in good used condition, will be accepted. Though books for any ages will be helpful, the greatest need is books for children ages 9 to 12. The books may be chapter books, picture books, fiction or nonfiction.

"The library will be used by the 210 children at Tumaini Miles of Smiles School and the 35 children at the children's home," Walton explained. In the future it also is possible the library will be opened to the community as well, since the nearest town does not have its own library, she pointed out.

Some books already have been donated to the library from churches and organizations in the United States. Walton also has purchased books in Kenya since they are more culturally relevant for the children.

"The books we hope to acquire from Kenya are written in English. They just address subjects and have characters that are more relevant to the kids here," she noted.

Walton plans to visit the Cumberlands campus this month and wants

to collect books while she's there.

The school's admissions office, where Walton used to work, has been chosen as a designated drop-off location for book donations.

"I think that I can speak for everyone when I say that we were all sad to lose Amanda, but excited for what God was doing in her life," said Matt McQueen, an admissions counselor at Cumberlands. "We would love to help, and there is a spot in my office that would be great to store books for Amanda."

In addition, Walton said she welcomes any monetary donations, which will be used to build the shelves that will house the books and assist with the cost of shipping books to Kenya.

Donations should be made before Dec. 29. For information about how to donate books to the Tumaini library project, contact Laura Silvers in the University of the Cumberlands' media relations department at (606) 539-4404 or [LSilvers6044@UCumberlands.edu](mailto:LSilvers6044@UCumberlands.edu).

## Missionary couple marks 25 years in Wheelwright

Continued from page 1

The center's food and clothes closet is open three days a week, providing necessities to individuals and families.

In 1991, Tina McFarland, a ministry assistant with the KBC, began serving deaf and hearing impaired people at the center. In 2003, Mrs. Wilson began learning American Sign Language. She continued her studies until, in 2007, she began interpreting her husband's Sunday sermons. Mrs. Wilson coordinates two deaf fellowships annually, inviting deaf pastors to preach and extending the ministry's outreach to the deaf and hearing impaired community.

Wilson serves on the board of Wheelwright Senior Citizens, often directing visiting mission teams to help the elderly with home repairs, painting, construction and other tasks. He also works with a low-income housing initiative and twice a year coordinates an effort to provide up to 100 pairs of glasses for people in need.

The center serves approximately 200 families a year, extending its reach to several neighboring communities.

"I don't know how they do all that they do," said Lois Curry, longtime director of the seniors center. "They're so busy they don't have time for themselves because they're doing for everyone else."

In addition to her duties at the center, Mrs. Wilson is part-time secretary for Enterprise Baptist Association in Prestonsburg. Hired to maintain operations after the previous director of missions departed, she has been there since Tom Biddle was called as DOM 10 years ago.

Biddle said he gained a deeper appreciation for what the Wilsons mean to the area on a recent visit to Georgetown. At a restaurant, their waitress spoke fondly of attending backyard Bible clubs and youth groups in Wheelwright.

"When you see that years later, you realize the impact," Biddle said. "They've always treated people with great love and kindness. In a sense, it's the way Jesus reached out."

In 1986, the Wilsons said they didn't envision staying so long, but, Mrs. Wilson said, they never felt God leading them anywhere else. When they visited prior to accepting the position, she said they sensed a burden for the area.

"I see a lot of children now who don't know Bible stories," she said. "When you look at the things they go through and see a little Bible teaching come through, it encourages you. We get calls about Bible questions and we're so happy because we know they're studying."

In reflecting on his time in Wheelwright, Charles Wilson said one of the most notable things is how the experience redirected his attention from corporate worship and ministry to a one-on-one approach.

"My whole attitude in ministry made a big shift," Wilson noted. "The most important thing I'm doing is working with individuals."

## MSC missionaries dedicate eastern Ky. church plant as place for miracles

By Shirley Cox  
State Correspondent

**Jenkins**—Mission volunteers from six states gathered in Jenkins Nov. 20 to dedicate a new church plant at My Father's House, the mission of Lester and Bessie McPeck, Mission Service Corps missionaries in the eastern Kentucky community.

Since 2001, "God's Love from a Diaper Bag" has distributed an estimated 700,000 diapers, as well as clothing and other children's supplies. The mission works cooperatively with three county health departments and five resource centers. The McPecks also coordinate approximately 25 mission teams annually who do home repairs, backyard Bible clubs, nursing-home ministries and many other activities.

Volunteers from 11 states worked nearly 16 months to renovate the mission house. The first floor includes a sanctuary with a baptistery, a large kitchen and dining room, and a dental clinic with a reception area, two examining rooms and a bathroom and storage area. Behind the mission house, volunteers constructed a nearly 3,000-square-foot storage building.

Calvin McFarland, a member of First Baptist Church of Monticello, who spear-

headed the construction, spoke at the dedication, recalling a week last year when he wrestled with God, knowing the work was way out of his comfort zone.

"Finally, on Friday, I pretty much pinned God down," McFarland said. "If you want me to do this, prove it, because I know nothing about what I'm doing. I don't know anything about coordinating all these people from all these places and there are no drawings, no architect, no plans—nothing."

The next Sunday after church, a man walked up to McFarland and introduced himself as Dave Swinson, an architect who had recently moved to the area from Orlando, Fla.

"We were in the Sunday school class when the McPecks spoke last week," Swinson told McFarland, "and I can draw the plans."

Swinson did just that and McFarland sent a list of materials to more than 170 people.

Donations began to arrive: a barber's chair; two dental chairs; a \$70,000 panoramic dental x-ray machine; a heating and air conditioning unit; paint; plumbing and electrical materials; and concrete

blocks for the foundation.

When state inspectors denied the original plan, Billy Jackson, a retired International Mission Board missionary and member of Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Easley, S.C., redesigned the upper floor of the building and became the team leader for the construction.

"I'm just amazed how God brought so many people—skilled and unskilled—to build what He wanted completed," said Jackson, who made 14 trips to Jenkins during the construction.

At the dedication ceremony, Lester McPeck recalled the initial struggle to remodel the building. As he and Bessie were driving down the highway one day, several pieces of insulation blew off a truck in front of them. After trying to find the owner, Lester stopped to load up the insulation. He and Bessie then drove up behind a log truck. "Don't pray for lumber right now!" Lester warned.

Bessie spoke about one of the couple's first visits to take food and clothing to a family with five children. While the children searched through the bags they received, Lester felt a tug on his pants leg. "Mister, do you have a toothbrush?" a 5-

year-old girl asked.

"We had taken toothpaste and assumed they had toothbrushes," Bessie recalled. Since that day, the ministry has given away more than 5,000 toothbrushes.

The Jenkins church plant is sponsored by Monticello's First Baptist and Oak Grove Baptist churches, as well as Providence Baptist Church in Providence.

First Baptist staff member Jeff Combs serves as pastor of the new church. "God always starts small but He never ends small," said Combs, who has been a pastor for 29 years and has planted three other churches.

"God will bless us if we will just be obedient," he added. "My goal is to see this place come up and then I will plant another church. Hit your knees for me."

"We have all watched God's hand move through Bessie and Lester and the building of the present facility," said Glenn Hickey, a member of First Baptist, Monticello. "There is no doubt in our minds we are following God's direction in the planting of this church in Jenkins. He has shown himself faithful in providing all the needs, and we are confident God will continue to perform miracles through this work."

## Ezell to state evangelism leaders:

### 'We are going to work together'

By Mike Ebert

Scottsdale, Ariz.—Speaking to directors of evangelism from Baptist state conventions throughout the United States as well as the Canadian National Baptist Convention, North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell said as he charts changes for NAMB, he is working closely with executive leaders from state conventions.

"We are going to work together better. I promise you," Ezell told those attending the meeting. "We're going to work together and get this done. It's the most God-honoring thing for us to do."

Addressing a broad array of issues and taking questions from those in attendance, Ezell focused primarily on the importance of NAMB's relationship with state Baptist partners.

"NAMB will be working with every state that wants to work with us, and there will be a working understanding of how to do that. It's our hope and my desire that we have a written understanding of how we are going to connect and operate. What you want to do, what we jointly do, and we are going to work on those together."

Ezell assured the audience that before any decisions are made that would impact jointly funded missionaries and ministries, state leaders would be participants in the process.

"It seems like people are filling in the blanks with the absolute worst-case scenarios and we're not going to do it that way," Ezell said.

The meetings with state leaders, according to Ezell, have been fair and straightforward. He has several more group and individual meetings scheduled with state leaders, including time with them at their annual meeting in February 2011.

"Every time I sit down with a state exec I say, 'You tell me how this would best work for your state. You know what was voted on in June, but how can we get to that end together?'"

Ezell told the evangelism leaders that NAMB will continue to have working agreements with state Baptist conventions.

"There is some thought out there that there are not going to be any type of agreements or NAMB is not going to be involved in some of the states," Ezell said. "That has never been on the table at all. It has never been a consideration that we would not have some type of working understanding with each state."

Asked how much of a priority evangelism would play in a newly restructured NAMB with at least half its resources focused on church planting, Ezell said, "Evangelism is

a part of everything. It's why we do what we do. It's the reason you plant churches."

But Ezell challenged the group not to gauge NAMB's commitment to evangelism solely on a budget line item or the size of the mission board's evangelism department.

"That's compartmentalizing it. You're right that we are looking at shifting 50 percent of our resources to church planting. Now if you totally extract evangelism out of church planting, then obviously I'm toast in your mind. But that's not the way we look at it. I fully believe that church planting is a very effective evangelistic tool."

Ezell added that he remains fully committed to "GPS: God's Plan for Sharing," the 10-year evangelism initiative NAMB currently is implementing in partnership with state Baptist conventions. (BP)

## Harris, other vice presidents stepping down at NAMB

Alpharetta, Ga.—Two longtime North American Mission Board vice presidents have announced they will take the voluntary retirement offer NAMB has extended to all staff members age 54 and older who have at least five years of service.

Richard Harris, vice president of the Sending Missionaries Group and NAMB's interim president from August 2009 until mid-September 2010, and Harry Lewis, vice president of partnership missions and mobilization, will retire Dec. 31. David Meacham, NAMB's vice president of associational strategies, retired Oct. 31.

Harris began work with the Home Mission Board in 1981 in mass evangelism after serving in pastorates in

Kentucky and Texas. During his 29-year tenure with NAMB, Harris also served as national chairman of four evangelism emphases, including "Good News America" and "Here's Hope" as well as vice president of church planting from 1997-2007.

Lewis came to NAMB in 1997 to serve as a regional coordinator to develop missions and evangelism strategies for associations and state conventions in the Midwest and Canada. Lewis was promoted to vice president of missions and mobilization in 2007.

Meacham joined NAMB following his tenure as director of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell Center for Evangelism and Church Health.

## BAPTIST DIGEST

**BGCT's Everett called as pastor**—Randel Everett, executive director of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was called Dec. 5 to be pastor of First Baptist Church in Midland, Texas. Everett, who has been serving as the congregation's interim pastor, will begin as pastor Jan. 16, according to the Baptist General Convention of Texas website. He has served as BGCT executive director since April 2008. The Fort Worth native came to the BGCT position from the pastor of First Baptist Church in Virginia Beach, Va., and various other pastorates, including three churches in Texas. The BGCT is one of two conventions in Texas that cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention. The other is the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

**Woodstock at center of church-state dispute**—A Southern Baptist megachurch is at the center of a potential legal battle over the constitutionality of public schools holding graduation exercises in a church building. The Cherokee County Board of Education voted Dec. 2 to table for one month a vote on whether to move the county's high-school graduation ceremonies from First Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ga., to a non-religious alternative site. Cherokee County in Atlanta's burgeoning suburbs is one of the fastest-growing counties in the nation. Since 2005, district high schools have held graduations in the sanctuary of the 17,000-member congregation led by former Southern Baptist Convention president Johnny Hunt. In October, 2009, attorneys for Americans United for Separation of Church and State wrote school officials, advising them that it is unconstitutional to hold a public-high-school commencement ceremony in a church and asking that future graduation exercises be held in secular locations.

**'Courageous' movie to open in September**—"Courageous," the next film from the makers of "Fireproof" and "Facing the Giants," will be released Sept. 30, 2011, according to its distributor. Principal filming for the new movie concluded in June, and officials with Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.—which made the film—have finished the editing process and are involved in post-production, a stage that includes adding the musical score. Courageous will follow the story of four police officers and their attempt to be better fathers. Its budget of around \$1 million is twice that of Fireproof, the top independent film of 2008. "As the Sherwood team continues with all of the Courageous post-production work, we are starting to partner with churches and ministries to help get people excited about opening weekend," Provident Vice President Kris Fuhr said. (BP)

## Page: BP in capable hands

Continued from page 1

While declining to comment specifically on a motion at the 2010 SBC annual meeting to grant BP greater independence by moving it out from under Executive Committee supervision, Page made it clear that neither he nor Oldham will have a hands-on role in the newsgathering process.

"I want to be very clear to say that no one, either the vice president or president, will be micromanaging the work of the editor or Baptist Press," Page stated. "It's important to say that the day-to-day operation will be run by Art, and I have great confidence in his ability," he added, calling the BP editor a well-respected, Christ-like journalist.

"For many years the two functions were operated out of one office, then separated in 1992, but still under the Executive Committee," Oldham noted. He said he anticipates no substantive changes in the news operation. "I think BP has maintained and proven to be a news service of integrity."

Martin King, editor of The Illinois Baptist who offered the motion about BP at the June meeting in Orlando, Fla., expressed disappointment with the new structure, while affirming Toalston.

"I'm disappointed the structural changes at the SBC Executive Committee move Baptist Press further away from more direct accountability to the convention, and place it under what is essentially the public relations function of the EC. This is a structure the new conservative leadership abandoned nearly 20 years ago," King said in a statement.

King said he understands the "economic pressures that precipitated the change" and is "encouraged at Dr. Page's assurance the day-to-day operations of BP will be left to Art Toalston and his staff of talented, committed Christian journalists."

The Executive Committee is operating with half a million dollars less than it had in the previous year's budget and stands to take a more severe hit with a recommendation that nearly one-third of the 3.4 percent of Cooperative Program funds that SBC operations currently received be transferred to the International Mission Board. (BP)

# Celebrate

THE

# MISSION

IMPACTING OUR WORLD IN DEED AND TRUTH  
JAN. 14-15, 2011 | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF HOPKINSVILLE



Join the Kentucky Baptist Convention Baptist Men on Mission Department for worship, inspiring testimonies, a missions fair and more as we help equip you to share Christ through a variety of ministries from disaster relief to Royal Ambassadors! This is a free event. Help us prepare by registering at [www.kybaptist.org/celebrate](http://www.kybaptist.org/celebrate).




**A legacy of reconciliation**

Lincoln Bingham, senior pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights and missionary of reconciliation, will retire this month as a Kentucky Baptist Convention and North American Mission Board missionary.

**Partners in the Mission****By Bill Mackey**

For more than 50 years, Bingham has lived and taught principles of Christian and racial reconciliation, learned from his father and grandfather. He grew up in Western Kentucky, as he describes, in "poverty, ethnicity and obscurity—simultaneously."

As an employee in the Baptist Book Store in Louisville, he became acquainted with Kentucky Baptists—and they, with him.

His denominational leadership began as director of the Baptist Fellowship Center, a ministry center in West Louisville. In the early 1970s, he was appointed a Home Mission Board (now NAMB) missionary. Later he served as director of religious education for the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, developing a large training conference for African American pastors that extended beyond Kentucky.

In more recent years, he was moderator of the General Association and director of missions for Central District Baptist Association. He also served as KBC's director of cooperative ministries.

Bingham's reputation grew as a preacher of the gospel and he has preached in many KBC churches and conferences as evangelist, crusade preacher and guest speaker.

He became a role model and mentor to many young pastors during his pastorate at West End Missionary Baptist Church and later St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church.

By the time I arrived in Louisville in 1998, Bingham had been led by God to focus on reconciliation ministries. This led to the Tony Evans Greater Louisville Crusade, which crossed denominational lines and resulted in Bingham becoming co-founder of Greater Louisville Christian Reconciliation Ministries. The crusade was followed by an annual emphasis on, and monthly prayer meetings for, reconciliation.

In partnership with Les Hollon, then pastor of St. Matthews Church, and Larry Martin, then KBC Missions Team Leader, Louisville became the host city for celebrations by the Reconciliation Networks of Our World. People came from all over the world to tell their stories of reconciliation.

Bingham and fellow pastor Mark Payton caught a vision to merge their two congregations. Last year St. Paul Missionary Baptist, a church with mostly African American members, combined with the mostly Anglo congregation Shively Heights Baptist. The new flock, St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights, drew national attention.

It has been a privilege to observe how God has blessed Bingham and his wife, Lillian, for more than 50 years of reconciliation ministries. Everyone who has been influenced by him shares a legacy focused on reconciliation to God and to one another (2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

*Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

**Hunger doesn't take a holiday**

Calvary Baptist Church in Maysville has quickly gained a reputation of being a small church with a big heart.

For a little more than seven years now, the church's food pantry has strived to meet the needs of the Mason County community. "It's amazing what this small church is able to accomplish," says Bracken Association Director of Missions Bill Boldt, who recently served as interim pastor there. In 2010 alone, the food pantry, which is located in a former bank branch, has averaged helping more than 900 families and approximately 3,000 individuals. Among those assisted are senior citizens, single-parent families, some who are facing serious illnesses, and others who have recently lost jobs.

On the last two Tuesdays of every month, about 20 to 30 volunteers give several hours to package and hand out food. They pack enough food in boxes to feed families of three to six persons about six whole meals. The contents depend on the food that the pantry received during that month. For example, it could include frozen hamburger, a roast, hot dogs, steaks, cereal, breads, juice and milk. "Trust me on this one, it's a very nice box of food," said pastor Gary Ralls.

"Every time I give a can of food and see a smile on someone's face, I know we are doing a good deed," said James Boone, who makes regular trips to pick up food from God's Pantry in Lexington and the FreeFood Store in Cincinnati as well as from WalMart and other area stores. Boone has been volunteering for nearly four years and enjoys helping organize the food, "fixing meals from the heart." Marilyn Adams, Calvary's children's church director and church treasurer, agrees, "It's awesome to be part of God's plan." Many other volunteers serve as packers or "carriers," taking the boxes to those who are unable to visit the pantry.

As pastor, Ralls attempts to talk with each person while they are standing in line, inquiring about prayer needs and if they attend a church. "God has allowed me to share the gospel and pray with more people than I can count," he said. "What is greatest is that members of Calvary are sharing their faith, inviting people to church and praying with them." That's an important aspect of this kind of ministry. In fact, last year Kentucky Baptist's hunger fund ministries reported 161 professions of faith.

With the struggling economy, however, needs of

those less fortunate have increased dramatically, especially among those on a fixed income or out of work. "The need has grown beyond measure!" Ralls exclaimed, pointing out that on a single Tuesday in November, more than 144 persons came through the line, and the ministry fed 600 people. "This has nothing to do with Thanksgiving or Christmas; we do this every month," he noted, emphasizing a tremendous need for monetary support. He's not alone in that request.

Calvary's food bank is one of more than 110 hunger relief ministries across the state affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention that

provide physical nourishment and a Christian witness to families and individuals in need. Some are soup kitchens that provide hot meals; others are pantries that provide boxed or bagged food. And, more than \$61,000 was dispersed to assist these ministries during 2010, according to Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department, which administers and disperses offerings given by churches to the SBC World Hunger Fund.

But human needs are growing so rapidly, they are putting a tremendous strain on limited resources. In Maysville, for example, during the same three-month period, the food bank served 188 more families and 477 more individuals in 2010 than it did in 2009, Ralls reported. "Kentucky's unemployment and economic recession has hit us hard and while the requests from ministries for hunger relief funds is increasing, the dollars contributed by churches for hunger relief continues to decline," Allen explained. "There is a tremendous threat to the continued funding of these hunger relief ministries in 2011, if Christians don't step up and assume responsibility for feeding those who are hungry and in need."

Typically, we are naturally more sensitive at Christmastime to the needs of others, but hunger doesn't end when the holiday season is over. Allen challenges us: "My prayer is that Kentucky Baptists wouldn't think only at Christmas of feeding the hungry, because the truth is, the need for hunger relief is 365 days a year." Indeed, there probably isn't a single hunger relief ministry in Kentucky that does not need more funding to help with the increased need that they are seeing, and you will be greatly rewarded in knowing that, because of your generosity and service, someone will not be hungry.

**After Thought****By Todd Deaton****Representing Christ to others during Christmas holidays****By David Jeremiah**

During the holiday season—even if your family tree makes you feel like you're out on a limb—remember that it's all about Jesus.

Our responsibility is to be an example of Christ during a family gathering. Serving others is an act of Christian love. Shopping and cooking are divine ministries to your family. Ask the Lord to accompany you and lead you to the gifts He himself would give your loved ones.

Visualize the Lord Jesus in your kitchen. Do your work as unto Him, with Christian or Christmas music in the background and an appropriate Bible verse on the refrigerator? Consider 1 Corinthians 10:31: "Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

If traveling, pray for travel mercies. Psalm 121 is the "Traveler's Psalm": "The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; He shall preserve your soul. The Lord shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even forever" (verses 7-8).

Think of Jesus as your traveling companion. I think He'd have little concern for His own convenience, but He would be highly observant of those around Him, looking

instead for someone to encourage, serve or evangelize.

Adopt Romans 12: "Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another ... patient in tribulation ... given to hospitality. ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good" (16-21).

There's a magnetic pull on all of us during the holiday season, and we want to be home. But that can mean inconvenience.

It's remarkable how our tempers grow short in direct proportion to the number of people in the house. But remember—God has placed you there as His representative, and your cheerfulness can change the atmosphere of that home in a way that will be long remembered.

This is especially true if your family is not Christian. The Lord can certainly open the door for you to say a word for Him, and perhaps He will

even give you a golden opportunity to witness to your loved ones. But even if you're unable to verbally bring up the subject, it's your attitude and demeanor that spreads the fragrance of Christ.

We must also remember the nearness of our Lord Jesus when the time comes to say goodbye. Many grandparents tell me how wonderful it is when all the kids and grandkids come to visit—and how wonderful it is when they all leave! We love our family tree, but it's a little too much to have the whole tree filling the house all the time.

Yet there's sadness in parting, too; and as we see their cars drive away, we have a tug in our hearts, making us feel lonely. We can diminish the destructive elements of loneliness if we get busy doing what God has called us to do, listen to uplifting and cheerful music, pray to the Lord Jesus as if He were right there with us (which He is!), and make a list of our blessings. (BP)

*David Jeremiah is the founder and host of "Turning Point for God" and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.*

WESTERN  
**Recorder**Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253**DR. TODD DEATON**  
Editor**DREW NICTER**  
News Director**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business Manager**Board of Directors:****Floyd Price** (chairman), Richmond;  
**Skip Alexander** (vice chairman),  
Campbellsville;**Duane Bolin**, Murray;**Bill Edmonds**, Louisville;**Dan Francis**, Erlanger;**Chip Hutcheson**, Princeton;**Lanna Kilgore**, Bowling Green;**Paul Nunn**, Prestonsburg;**Willis Polk**, Lexington;**June Rice**, Paintsville;**Wayne Spivey**, Harrodsburg;**Dan Summerlin**, Paducah.**Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19**

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

**To subscribe:** Send \$12.50 for a one-year, individual subscription. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. An additional church newsletter service is available for churches of all sizes.

**www.WesternRecorder.org**

## 'How are they to hear' if no one is sent to tell them?

By Clyde Meador

Most of us are very familiar with the words of Paul in chapter 10 of Romans, "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent?" (Romans 10:13-15a ESV).

Paul is concerned that every person in every people group might hear the gospel. He shared John's vision. "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne, and before the Lamb ..." (Revelation 7:9, ESV).

Scripture clearly tells us that someone is to be sent to every tribe and nation and language and people in order that they might hear the gospel and have opportunity to call on Jesus, to believe and to be saved. The most fundamental element of the missionary task is to take the gospel to those who have not yet had the opportunity to hear and believe.

A few years ago we thought the gospel might be accessible to every people group by 2010. However, as we approach the end of 2010, we are still far from that goal.

More than 6,400 people groups still have no access to the beautiful truth of Jesus Christ. They languish in their sin without the knowledge that there is forgiveness, that there is hope, that there is a God who loves them.

They await the words of salvation yet have no idea what they are waiting for.

The Bible is not available in their language. In most cases there is no church to be found in the places where most members of that people group live.

In other cases there may be a church, but not a church

where their language is spoken or their culture understood. There are no Christian radio or television broadcasts in their language. The gospel simply is not accessible to them.

No one has preached the gospel to them.

The goal of every people group having the gospel available is not our goal—it is God's goal.

"The Lord is ... patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9 ESV).

But we are not there yet!

It is God's desire that every people should have the gospel. His Word promises that there will be believers from among every people group.

It is our responsibility as His followers to obediently be about the task of fulfilling that desire and seeing that promise accomplished.

To be satisfied with anything less is unthinkable.

Our focus must not be on the multitudes of people who have come to the Lord in recent years, or on the thousands of new churches started, or even on the hundreds of people groups who have received the gospel for the first time. Rather, like Paul, we must forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead.

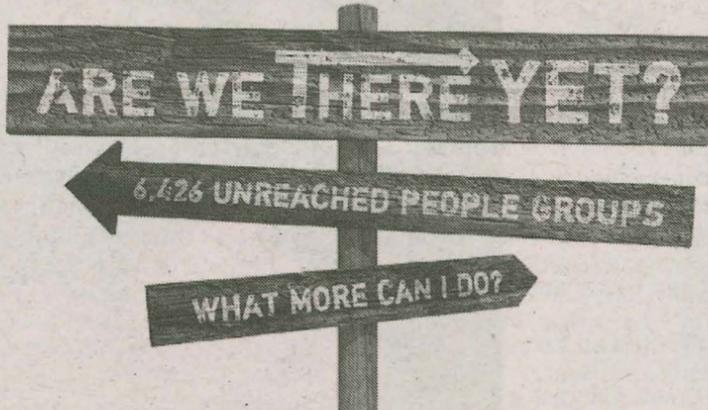
ward to what lies ahead.

Our focus must be on the task that remains—the untold millions of people in thousands of people groups to whom we have yet to take the words of life. They now live a hopeless life, lost in their sin, on their way to an eternity in hell. They are desperately waiting for the truth that gives an opportunity to believe and to experience abundant life here and for eternity.

We are not there yet. We must press forward, in His strength, that all may know. (BP)

Clyde Meador is interim president of the International Mission Board.

### FIRST PERSON



## Getting ready for Christmas

By Doug Strader

Christmas is just around the corner. Before you know it another Christmas will be here and gone, and we will wonder how another Christmas season has passed and we did not get the things done that we had promised ourselves that we would do this year.

You do not have much time before Christmas comes, so resolve that you will do some of the things this year that you have been planning to do for some time. Maybe the following list will assist you to begin some new traditions this year:

- Begin by leading your family to discuss the real meaning of Christmas and how you can help make it a special time for others who are in need.

- Check with your church, the local Salvation Army, social service organizations, or the local 'Angel Tree' organization to get the name of a family or a child that needs help with food, clothing, medicine, or the buying of Christmas gifts, and offer your help.

- Check with your church about a shut-in family that might need help with their Christmas decorations, and offer to decorate for them.

- Offer to address Christmas cards for someone who can no longer write.

- Bake some cookies or other goodies and take them to someone who can no longer bake for themselves.

- Get a group of people together and go Christmas caroling to shut-ins, to nursing homes and hospitals.

- If you know of someone who does not have any close family living nearby, invite them to your home to share a Christmas meal with your family.

- Consider making the largest monetary gift you give this year to your Church's Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

Most of the things listed are not about financial stewardship, and yet they do revolve around our faithfulness to share the blessings that God has given to us with our fellow pilgrims. I pray that you will experience the best Christmas you have ever had this year.

Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.



## What is the best gift for a child?

By David Garrard

The small plaque sits on the back counter in my office. I am not sure who said it first, but I have at least one source that credits it to Notre Dame University President Theodore Hesburg way back in 1987: "The single best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother." There is another version that reads, "The single best thing a mother can do for her children is to love their father." For Christmas

2010, I would like to suggest it as the best gift parents can give their children.

It's a gift your kids may not fully recognize or appreciate until they are older. However, sooner or later they will look around and notice that not all families have the same kind of togetherness that you have provided for them. They will look around and see all the problems and sadness that result when moms and dads split up.

Sooner or later, they will realize that most couples reach a point in their marriage where they have to make a conscious choice to stay together.

As they spend time with friends and experience other family structures, they will realize how very different their lives could have been had you chosen to go your separate ways.

You will still want, and need to get a few things to wrap and put under the tree and in stockings. However, I want to challenge you this Christmas to renew your love for your spouse, and your commitment to stay together forever. Think of it as a gift to your children.

Sooner or later, your kids will figure out what you have given them ... and they will know that it was the best gift ever!

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville.



## Christmas traditions turn youth's focus from presents to meaning

It seems like this time of year more than any other we celebrate traditions. Growing up, mine involved opening Christmas presents in the wee hours of Christmas morning. The rest of the day was spent with family.

When Jordan and Karen were small and we lived in Hopkinsville, Christmas morning at our house didn't start nearly as early. In fact, most years we had to wake them up to see what was under the tree. Then we would pack up one special gift and make the four-hour journey to Bedford to spend time with family. For us and our families, family is a vital part of Christmas.

Wayne Yeager, student minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pikeville, wants their students to understand the importance of being family at Christmas. Yeager says: "We have a tradition that we do with our students at Christmas. Each year we ask our seventh-graders—and anyone new to our group—to bring in an ornament that represents them. That ornament goes on our youth Christmas tree, along with ornaments brought by other students and adult youth workers over the years.

"Each year, we add ornaments from new students to our program. The idea behind it is leaving a legacy of faith for our students," Yeager explains. "We have ornaments on our

tree from students who have moved on to college, adults who have moved on to serve in other ministries, and students who have moved away. But they remain part of our Christmas celebration and part of our faith family through their ornaments."

He continues, "The ornaments on the tree bring a reminder that we are all joined together, even when we're apart, through the blood of Christ that was shed on Calvary. It's not much, but it's something that I hope points our students to Jesus and the legacy of faith that continues to bind us all together in Him."

While at Edgewood, we wanted to begin some things with the youth that we could do every year which would help to remind us what Christmas is all about—not for the sake of doing things or beginning never-ending traditions, but to serve as a reminder that Christmas is about more than presents with ribbons and bows.

One of the things we did was to go Christmas caroling to the homes of our senior saints; it was something they and we looked forward to every year. One year we went to the barn at Gordon and Betty Gray's farm. Gordon had put a feed trough out in one of the stalls. With the tractors and farm implements, it wasn't anywhere near a replication of the first

Christmas, but it helped to remind us of the humble birth that our Savior had. It was a night to remember as we read the Christmas story from Luke and then sang "Away in a Manger" in that crowded barn as we gathered around a feed trough.

At First Baptist Church of Princeton, where Cindy Long serves, they "plan on doing some door-to-door visiting (shut-ins and contacts) this week, and also do some Christmas caroling and visit a homeless shelter." Also, Long says, "We've been revisiting some lessons on Wednesday nights about looking for the lost and the lonely, especially during this season."

Andy Carr, who serves at Munfordville Baptist Church, says: "For the last several years our church has been going to Louisville to help with Miracle on Market Street. The reason for this is to let the youth help with the less fortunate. This gives our students the chance to have their eyes open to what Christ meant when He said, 'What you did to least of these, my brothers, you did unto me.' Now we have students that look forward to this every year and receive great joy from helping at Miracle on Market Street."

This Christmas may you and your students find ways to remind each other that Christmas is more than ribbons, tags, boxes or bags.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## Thai inmate discovers God's provision

Continued from page 1

sionary supported by Southern Baptists' gifts through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. For the past 10 years, a Thai Christian has led the foundation.

"So at the time of the service when the leader of that group asked us to open our hearts for Christ, I opened my heart and asked Jesus to be my Savior," Noon said.

After Noon accepted Christ, she still had five months of her sentence to serve. As her release day neared, she worried because she felt she had no one to depend on, and certainly no one who would be waiting outside the prison gates to take her home.

"The people that I used to write letters to never answered me. I had no one," she said.

Tiwan, a member of the prison ministry team and a former prisoner herself, explained that it's very difficult for prisoners when they are released. Most leave prisons with nothing—no clothing, no allowance, not even enough coins for a bus fare.

"In many prisons they don't allow them to bring out notebooks, Bibles, diaries. They have to leave everything," Tiwan said. Because they leave with nothing, they are particularly vulnerable, she added.

It was about that time Noon heard about the Christian halfway house, one of the endeavors of the Christian Prison Ministry Foundation. The House of Blessing provides a place for former inmates to live as they begin new lives outside the prison walls. Daily Bible study and worship strengthen former prisoners as they build a new future.

Tiwan assured Noon she would have a place at the House of Blessing. But just getting to the house was a task Noon could not complete on her own. She was relying on the ministry team to be there on her release day.

But Noon was not released on a Monday, the usual day the ministry team visited her prison. When it was too late to notify the team, Noon discovered she would be released on a Tuesday.

Furthermore, because of some special meetings, the team had missed two consecutive Monday sessions at Noon's prison.

Noon recalled her dread about the approaching day of her release. "I was so worried about no one to pick me up," she said. "But I prayed and prayed."

And again, God answered her prayer.

Tiwan, not knowing that Noon's day for release had been changed, had rearranged her schedule that week and arrived at the prison on that very Tuesday.

"When she saw us, she cried. When she came out, she was so happy," Tiwan said. "I took her to shop for clothes, for everything that she didn't have. This is what we do." Tiwan then took Noon to the House of Blessing.

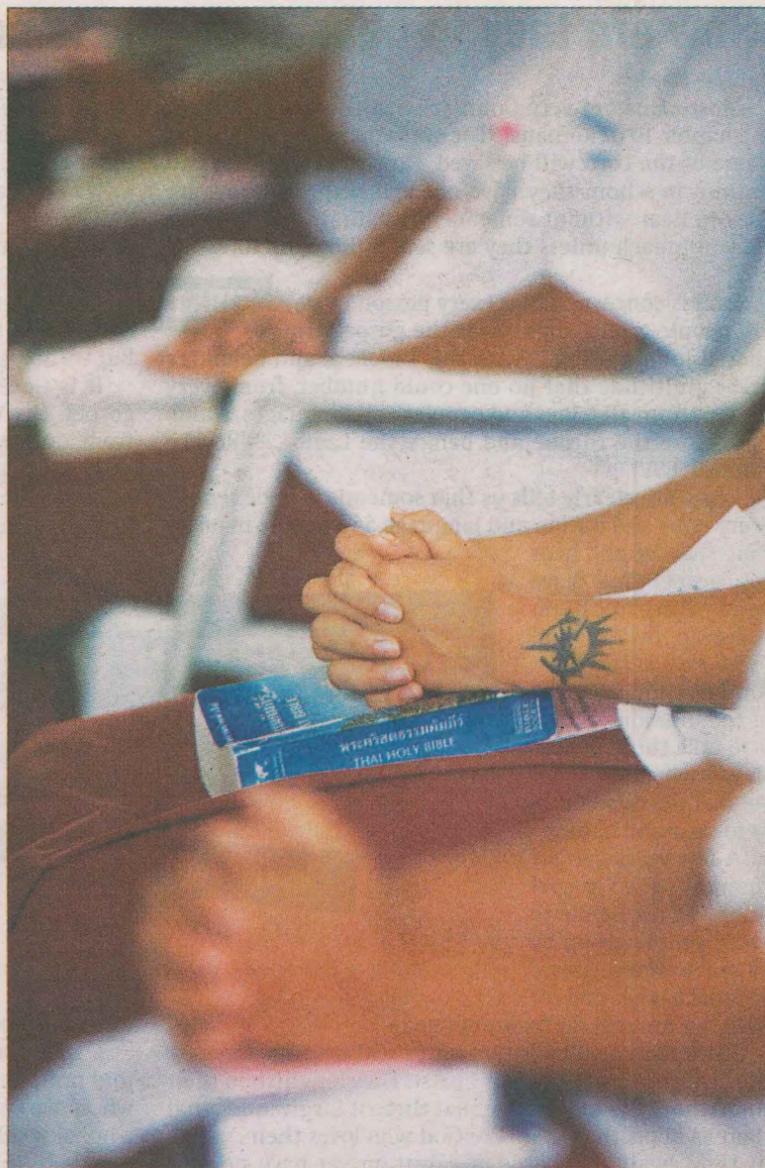
### No longer a slave to false idols

Since coming to the halfway house, Noon has been baptized. She is studying the Bible, as all those who live there do, and gaining strength through daily studies and worship times. She said she feels stronger and more confident in her life and her knowledge of God.

"In the past I bowed down to the idols all the time," Noon said. "But since becoming a Christian, I don't bow down to idols because I know that God is a mighty God."

She gave God the credit for providing a way forward for her life. "One thing that I confirm since I became a Christian, I won't go back to my old life or old ways anymore," Noon said.

"I want to thank God that He has called me and chosen me from nothing." (BP)



# The Invitation Stands

## Consider This Your Invitation to Save a Life.

*If you believe in the sanctity of life but aren't sure what to do about it, this invitation is for you. Southern Baptists across the nation are seeking to build closer relationships with our pregnancy resource centers, for the purpose of evangelizing center clients and helping women to choose life for their unborn children.*

### How to Help Your Local Pregnancy Care Resource Center:

- Donate baby clothing, baby furniture, car seat, or formula
- Provide food, clothing and a safe place for an expecting mother
- Train ladies in the church to mentor expecting mothers
- Sponsor a baby shower for the center with gifts of clothing, furniture, diapers or formula
- Partner with the center to teach young women good parenting skills
- Plan a mission trip to the center for maintenance, painting and re-decorating, if needed

### How Do I Get Involved?

- Find a pregnancy care center near you.
- Pray that God will use that center for his glory.
- Contact the center to see how you can help.

To find a center near you, visit [www.kybaptist.org/pregnancycare](http://www.kybaptist.org/pregnancycare) for a list of Southern Baptist-affiliated ministries in Kentucky.



**KBC**  
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

For questions, please contact the Mission Service & Ministries Department 502-489-3530 or 866-489-3530 (toll free in Kentucky).



*LifeWay asks pastors ...*

## Is he or she a Christian?



**Nashville, Tenn.**—The vast majority of Protestant pastors think former President George W. Bush is a Christian, but less than half think President Obama is, a new LifeWay Research survey shows.

Three-quarters of Protestant pastors surveyed called Bush a Christian, followed by 66 percent who included former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin in the Christian fold. Just 41 percent said they believe Obama is a Christian.

About a quarter of pastors surveyed—27 percent—said conservative broadcaster Glenn Beck, a Mormon, is a Christian. Oprah Winfrey came in last of the five personalities mentioned in the survey, with only 19 percent calling her a Christian.

“Most Americans consider themselves Christian and, for many of them, the ‘Oprahfication’ of Amer-

ican spirituality has been a good thing,” said Ed Stetzer, president of the Southern Baptist-affiliated research group. “Yet, the overwhelming majority of Protestant pastors don’t view Oprah as a Christian.”

Stetzer said the responses may indicate that Protestant pastors are more particular than other people when considering who is and is not a Christian. For some pastors, being “Christian” is synonymous with being “born again” or “evangelical,” he noted.

“Using their standard, the majority would not agree that President Obama is a Christian, though he is a mainline Protestant,” Stetzer said. “And it is likely that Glenn Beck’s Mormonism, widely viewed by Protestants as a different religion rather than a different Christian denomination, probably caused many to indicate he is not a Christian.” (RNS)

## Survey: Typical atheist is white male

**Madison, Wis.**—The typical member of a fast-growing atheist association is a highly educated, married white male who grew up with religious parents.

The Freedom from Religion Foundation, which grew from 5,500 in 2004 to about 16,000 members this year, announced results of a survey of its members Dec. 1.

Asked about their primary rea-

son for being “deconverted from religion to freethought,” about a third of respondents said “religion doesn’t make sense.” Seventeen percent said religious hypocrisy or bigotry was the cause; 9 percent said reading skeptical authors; 5 percent cited reading the Bible.

The overwhelming majority of atheist respondents—95 percent—are white. (RNS)

### KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Seeking:* To fill the position of executive director to provide visionary leadership to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The executive director will give direction to the KBC Mission Board ministries and staff, promote the ministries of the KBC and Cooperative Program, conduct all fiduciary responsibilities of the office, and build working relationships with Kentucky Baptists and all partners.

A minimum of a Master of Divinity degree from an accredited institution, or equivalent, is required. Please submit resumes no later than January 3, 2011, by mail to kbcsearch@gmail.com or by mail to KBC Executive Director Search Committee, P.O. Box 460, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42702-0460.

*A song in her heart*

“Without Him I could do nothing, without Him I’d surely fail.  
Without Him I would be drifting like a ship without a sail.”



“I praise God every day for how He has supplied my needs and taken care of me since my husband passed away. I thank God for all the wonderful people who contribute to this financial assistance grant program [Mission Dignity].” —Alice Burks

**How can you help?**

Visit [www.missiondignitysb.org/HowYouCanHelp](http://www.missiondignitysb.org/HowYouCanHelp)

**Mail gifts to:**

Mission:Dignity  
GuideStone Financial Resources SBC  
2401 Cedar Springs Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75201-1498



**Mission:Dignity**  
Assisting Retired Ministers and Spouses

## DADT repeal fails in U.S. Senate, but issue far from dead, Land warns

By Tom Strode

Washington—The U.S. Senate rejected Thursday for a second time an effort to bring up for consideration a bill that would have overturned a ban on open homosexuals serving in the military.

Senators voted almost totally along party lines in failing to gain the 60 votes needed to invoke cloture, which would have overcome a delaying tactic known as a filibuster and brought the annual Department of Defense authorization bill to the floor. The vote was 57-40 in favor of cloture.

Advocates for reversing the military ban on homosexuals—which is known as Don't Ask, Don't Tell—still are seeking to repeal the law before Congress' lame-duck session ends this month. After the failed cloture vote, Sen. Susan Collins, Maine, joined Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Connecticut, in introducing a stand-alone bill to rescind Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land called the Senate action a "tremendous victory."

"If you listened carefully, you could have heard a collective sigh of relief in the ranks of our voluntary armed forces that the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell failed to receive sufficient votes to pass through the Congress," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "As I had said earlier,

my personal interviews with all ranks of soldiers from privates through colonels led me to believe that there would have been significant and damaging levels of resignations from the armed services had Don't Ask, Don't Tell been repealed.

"It is a privilege, not a right, to serve in our armed forces, and the armed forces are not a laboratory for social experimentation," he said. "They are designed to fight and win wars, and the professionals whom we rely on to do this tell us that the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell would do significant damage to the small-unit cohesion that is essential in combat."

Land, though, warned the "battle is not over." In a Friday e-mail alert to constituents, Land said, "Senators who want to scrap more than two centuries of protocol against open homosexuals in the military are not giving up."

Supporters of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which was enacted in 1993, warn its reversal will curtail the religious liberty of chaplains and others in the military whose opposition to homosexual conduct is based on the Bible. They also say it will undermine military readiness, cohesion, privacy and recruitment.

The Senate's latest cloture vote came less than a week after the chiefs of three branches of the military voiced serious

concerns about repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell while the United States is at war. Testifying Dec. 3 before a Senate committee, two of the chiefs even suggested ending the ban now might imperil service members in battle.

The Pentagon released Nov. 30 the results of a 10-month review of Don't Ask, Don't Tell that it said showed repeal of the policy would present little risk to the military's effectiveness. Supporters of Don't Ask, Don't Tell, however, said data in the report, which included a survey of 115,000 service members, provided a different picture.

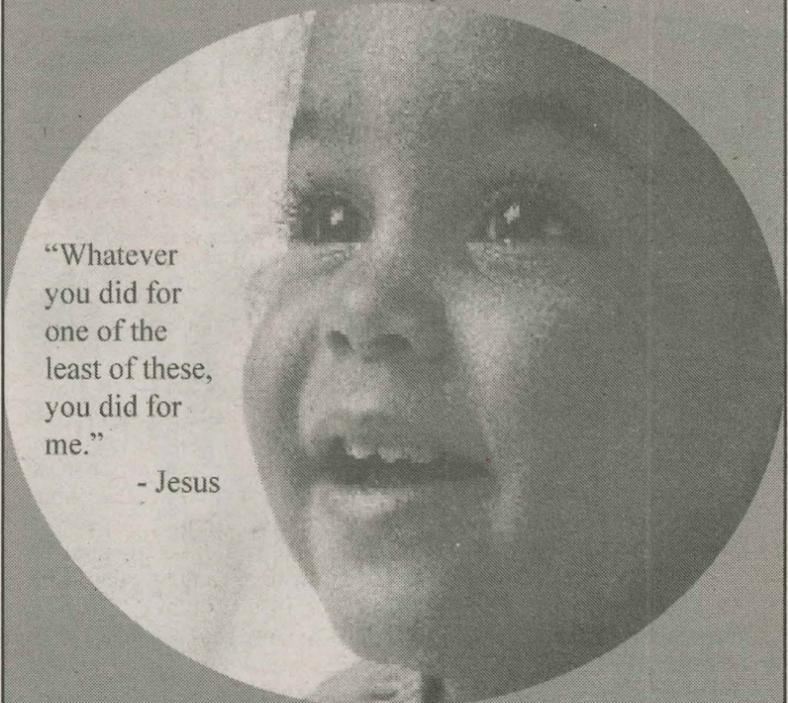
For instance, the survey showed:

- 59 percent of Marines who have been in combat and 44 percent of all personnel who have been in combat said having open homosexuals in a field environment or at sea would have a negative effect on their unit's "effectiveness at completing its mission."

- 57 percent of personnel in Marine combat arms and 47 percent in Army combat arms said having an openly homosexual person would negatively impact "how service members in your immediate unit work together to get the job done."

- 38 percent of Marines and nearly 24 percent of all personnel said they would either leave the military or think about doing so earlier than planned if the policy is reversed. (BP)

*You've opened your heart to Heaven's Child...  
Will you open your home?*



"Whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me."

- Jesus

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

As we celebrate the birth of the Child who gives us an eternal Hope, remember that you can provide hope to a child in need.

Prayerfully consider how you can help us give hope to children across Kentucky who suffer from abuse and neglect.



SUNRISE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

1-800-456-1386

www.SUNRISE.org

## Last chance in 2010 to say "Thank you!"

### Oneida's friends have helped it through tough times, like the ongoing recession

It's hard to believe that three years have passed since we saw the first signs of serious economic troubles in the U.S. and, eventually, the whole world. I suspect very few people had any idea just how serious things would get and that three years later, we still would be struggling.

This recession has been anything but normal. Many people were beginning to feel a little better about the economy until the November unemployment numbers came out in early December. As difficult as it has been for ministries like Oneida, I'm not sure I honestly can imagine what it must be like for those who have lost their jobs and much more.

It would not be truthful, nor would it be believable to say that the Oneida ministry has not been affected by the recession. Fortunately, God did lead me to make several adjustments to our expenses very early in the recession, so we have not been hit as hard as some have. On the other hand, no matter how much one cuts back and tries to use the best stewardship possible, there is just so much an administrator can do.

If our Oneida friends had not continued to support us, the past three years could have been much more difficult. OBI is no stranger to economic hard times. During our nearly 112-year history, we have gone through some really rough times; most notably, the closing of our school for four months in 1921. School debt at local businesses was getting out of control. While the businesses had been very lenient about allowing the school to charge purchases and even had allowed us to be delinquent for many months, eventual-

ly our vendors simply couldn't allow the school's charge accounts to get any higher. That may seem a little harsh, but these were locally-owned small businesses that simply were not in a position to carry such a large amount of debt on their books, to say nothing of allowing the past-due account to get even higher.

With no money and no local credit, OBI administrators couldn't make purchases, including food. So for four months, our students were sent home. World War I and other factors contributed to the reality that though students and staff raised much of their food on campus and the school operated on a very modest budget, we still had to have some financial support to pay the bills.

That part of Oneida's history and other fiscal hard times caused me some serious concern when the economy began to fall in 2007. As we all know now, the loss of assets was steep—and quick!

As 2010 comes to an end, I hope and pray for better times in 2011. I want to use this last article in 2010 to say a heart-felt "Thank You" to all of our friends who have made it possible for us to not miss any meals and to pay our bills on time. It has been difficult, and we have made many cut-backs. I honestly believe we have done about everything reasonable to reduce our expenses, and our friends came through by maintaining their support.

Thank you ever so much and may the Lord's richest blessing be upon you in 2011, especially to those who have lost their jobs.

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneida.school.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## God is in control

### Lindsey glad to be following the plan God has for his life

Many people would not have given first-year student Jeremy Lindsey much of a chance to even get to Clear Creek at this time in his life. But Jeremy knew God had a plan for him.

"I am a cancer survivor," Lindsey said. "At age 5, I was diagnosed with cancer of the brain. I had surgery, but the cancer came back. At age 16, I was told I would not survive after the cancer came back again. The cancer had spread throughout my brain and into my brain stem. It was in the last stage it could be in."

"When the doctor told me that I would probably not survive, I told him that the Lord was in control... and that through God and my faith in Him, the Lord could remove this mountain from my life," Lindsey recalled. "The only reason I am here today is because God did remove that mountain, and the cancer is gone from my body and I am completely cancer-free."

"Through all my struggles with the cancer I knew God had a plan for my life and He was not finished with me yet," Lindsey said. "Years ago when I was going through some struggles with the disease, I went to serve as a counselor at a summer

camp and I began to sense that God was calling me into the ministry to work with youth.

"But with all that was going on in my life with my struggles with cancer, I still ran from God's call for a time," Lindsey said. "It wasn't until a couple of years ago that I finally got serious about following God's plan for my life. I talked to my pastor who is an alumnus from Clear Creek. He suggested that I check out the college. So, I came for a visit and felt like this was where God wanted me to be to get equipped for His call on my life. I filled out an application and was accepted. Now here I am already finishing up my first

semester.

"Now, wherever the Lord leads me, I am willing to go to follow His plan."

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: www.ccbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbbc.edu

## San Francisco appeals court hears Prop 8 'gay marriage' case

San Francisco—A panel for the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments Monday in a high-profile case that could lead to all 50 states being forced to recognize "gay marriage."

At issue is California Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment passed by voters of that state in 2008 that defines marriage as being between one man and one woman. It reversed a state Supreme Court

ruling that had legalized "gay marriage."

A lower court this year ruled Prop 8 unconstitutional, and if that decision stands, the statutes and constitutional amendments in the 45 states that define marriage in the traditional sense could be in jeopardy. Five states recognize "gay marriage."

California is one of 31 states that have decided the issue by ballot, with the traditional definition winning in each instance.

Opponents of "gay marriage" warn that its legalization will negatively affect all of society, impacting everything from the tax-exempt status of religious organizations to the way private businesses are operated to what is taught in elementary schools.

"The people of California, and Americans throughout the country, are engaged in an earnest and profound debate about the meaning, purposes and definition of

marriage," argued Charles Cooper, the attorney for ProtectMarriage.com, the group behind Prop 8. "... This court is presented with this fundamental question: It is whether the definition of marriage—that momentous issue—is one for the people themselves to resolve through the democratic process, as they did in enacting Proposition 8, or whether our constitution takes that issue essentially out of their hands."

### Sharing the gospel worldwide

#### GCTF vote reflects Kentucky Baptists' desire for missions

I have been asked several times since the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting what I think of the Great Commission Task Force report and its passage by Kentucky Baptist messengers.

While I would confess I'm still learning much in regard to Baptist life, I must say that I do support the GCTF report.

While I realize the timing of the phasing in of the budget reprioritization may be questioned, I am one who believes in moving quicker as opposed to slower. I always think the right decision should be acted on sooner as right is right and there is no need to wait.

The GCTF report does impact our ministry in that our budget will be reduced. But I believe that ultimately our efforts to send more Cooperative Program dollars to national and international missions causes is the wise choice.

While Southern Baptist Convention causes do include a significant amount of work that takes place in the United States, I believe the impact of the seminaries training future missionaries and pastors who will take the gospel to

places that have yet to hear merit our reallocation.

Additionally, as the North American Mission Board continues to prioritize church planting, I believe the establishment of new church plants also merits our support, especially when churches are planted in areas that have few evangelical churches.

Any time we do an evaluation, we always must be prepared and willing to make changes. Given that we are human and prone to error, I know that at any point, whether through personal or ministerial evaluation, I find areas that need change in my life and in the ministry of the camps.

As Kentucky Baptists, we should be proud that our convention has taken a stand to send more resources to national and international missions causes. We do want to be a people known for making tough choices and saying no to good things so we can say yes to the highest need—taking the gospel to locations that have little or no access to hearing the name of Jesus Christ.

David Melber is president of Kentucky Baptist Assemblies. Contact him at Box 99918, Louisville, KY 42069-0918; phone (502) 491-7000.

#### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Stand together on marriage, leaders urge

By Tom Strode

Washington—Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land and other religious leaders Dec. 6 urged Americans to stand together in protecting the traditional understanding of marriage for the good of society.

The president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and representatives of 25 other religious organizations issued an open letter affirming their commitment to marriage as the union only of a man and a woman. They also explained in the three-paragraph letter such a view of marriage benefits all people, not just people of faith.

"The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all," the letter said. "Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

The letter was released on the same day the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco heard oral arguments in a case regarding the definition of marriage.

The court is considering an appeal of federal Judge Vaughn Walker's August invalidation of California's 2008 voter-approved constitutional amendment that protected the traditional definition of marriage.

If the case goes to the U.S. Supreme Court and Walker's ruling stands, then every state could be forced to recognize "marriage" between homosexuals.

Among those joining Land in signing the letter were Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals; Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Cath-

olic Bishops and archbishop of New York; George Wood, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God; Harry Jackson, bishop of the Fellowship of International Churches; and Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference.

Others endorsing the letter included leaders of the Anglicans, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Pentecostals, Wesleyans, General Baptists, Jews, Mormons and Sikhs.

Following is the full text of the letter, which is titled "The Protection of Marriage: A Shared Commitment:"

"Marriage is the permanent and faithful union of one man and one woman. As such, marriage is the natural basis of the family. Marriage is an institution fundamental to the well-being of all of society, not just religious communities.

"As religious leaders across different faith communities, we join together and affirm our shared commitment to promote and protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman. We honor the unique love between husbands and wives; the indispensable place of fathers and mothers; and the corresponding rights and dignity of all children.

"Marriage thus defined is a great good in itself, and it also serves the good of others and society in innumerable ways. The preservation of the unique meaning of marriage is not a special or limited interest but serves the good of all. Therefore, we invite and encourage all people, both within and beyond our faith communities, to stand with us in promoting and protecting marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

The document and the list of signers may be accessed online at [www.usccb.org/defenseofmarriage/shared-commitment.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/defenseofmarriage/shared-commitment.shtml). (BP)

## Seminary panel: Court's deliberations impact society

By Josh Hayes

Louisville—Court deliberations over the constitutionality of California's Proposition 8 carry remarkable weight in the culture. The question is, "How should the church respond?"

"The outcome of the institution of marriage in American culture has to do with more than just this case," Albert Mohler Jr. said in a Prop 8 panel discussion at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. "Proposition 8 has become a symbol of the conversation into which we are all now drawn."

But Mohler, president of the seminary, noted, "The fate of marriage in the church, that's a topic of ongoing conversation of even greater urgency."

Joining Mohler in the discussion were Russell Moore, senior vice president for academic administration, dean of the school of theology and professor of Christian theology and ethics at Southern Seminary; Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy and research and director of the Research Institute for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission; and Eric Bancroft, senior pastor at Castleview Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

A video of the panel's discussion of "Marriage in a Post Prop. 8 Culture" can be accessed at the SBTS Resources webpage, [www.sbts.edu/resources](http://www.sbts.edu/resources).

People on both sides of the national debate must clarify their understanding of marriage, Moore said in the discussion held at Southern's campus in Louisville.

Duke noted how the cultural discussion buffeting Prop 8 affects the church on practically every level.

Bancroft highlighted a pastoral and evangelistic concern for how local churches deal with those from the homosexual community. (BP)

CONSIDERING  
PLANTING A CHURCH?

**BASIC TRAINING  
JOURNEY**  
FOR CHURCH PLANTING

An equipping event for *anyone* interested in starting a new church!

**February 24-26, 2011**

Kentucky Baptist Building | 13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive | Louisville, KY 40223  
Online registration underway at [www.kybaptist.org/basictraining](http://www.kybaptist.org/basictraining)  
or call 489-3528 or (866) 489-3528 (toll-free in Kentucky).

**Cumberlands' "Our Gift To You" to air statewide**

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberlands' Christmas music program, "Our Gift to You," will be aired on TV stations throughout the state this month leading up to Christmas.

In the Bowling Green area, the performance will air Dec. 19 at 12:30 p.m. on WBKO's ABC channel. The program will air the same day in Lexington on WKYT's CW channel at noon.

Southeastern Kentucky viewers will be able to see it on the Knoxville, Tenn., station WBIR at 1:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve and on 10News2 on Christmas morning at 5 and 9 a.m. Louisville's CBS affiliate, WLKY, also will show the performance on Christmas Day, but the time has not yet been announced.

KET, the statewide public television network will air "Our Gift to You" on its flagship station Dec. 21 at 1:30 p.m.; on KET-KY that same day at 9 p.m. and Dec. 24 at 4:30 p.m.; and on KET2 on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. (All times listed are eastern standard time.)

Each year, Cumberlands' music and video productions departments produce "Our Gift to You," a 30-minute program that showcases the Cumberland Singers, as well as the university's chorale and chamber choir. Directed by Jeff Smoak and David Etter, the groups share traditional and contemporary music to celebrate Christmas.

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Saloma Church's choir will present the Christmas musical, "Holy Child," Dec. 19, 11 a.m. The church also will host a family Christmas celebration Dec. 19, 6 p.m., with the telling of the Christmas story and holiday music. It also will hold a candlelight communion service Dec. 22, 7 p.m., with special music and a devotion. For more information on any of the events, call (270) 789-0082. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Southern Seminary's **Doxology Vocal Ensemble** will present Handel's Messiah Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m., at alumni chapel on campus. The concert is free and open to the public.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Plainview Church recently ordained **Chris Boston** as a deacon. **Al Simmons** is pastor.

■ **SHARPSBURG**—Sharpsburg Church recently called **Frank Goss** as pastor.

■ **TOMAHAWK**—Tomahawk Church recently ordained **Mark Spence** to the gospel ministry. **Jack Ward** is pastor.

**KHO teams up with university, local church to help family**

Campbellville—The snow may have started falling and the winter chill may already have set in, but Kentucky Heartland Outreach, Campbellville University and Scottsville Baptist Church have partnered together to make local residents' needs their top priorities.

An Allen County family will receive a new roof and two wheelchair ramps with the help of a group of Campbellville students who are using part of their Christmas break to fulfill the homeowners' needs.

The family applied to KHO's Home Repair Program and were approved based on their income and level of need. Now that they have volunteers for the Scottsville area, the project can begin, said Melissa Green, a case manager with KHO.

"Each year, CU takes students on mission trips during their break from classes, and we thought this would be a perfect time to ask for their help to complete a much-needed local project," Green said.

Six students from CU will be attending the trip, along with the staff from KHO.

"Currently, the family we are assisting does not have adequate entrances to their home and their roof is in desperate need of repair," said Heather Hensley, a KHO client advocate. "In a matter of four days, we hope to make sure this family has a secure way to enter and exit their home, while also having a dry place to lay their head at night."

The KHO staff said, however, the trip would not work without the help of Scottsville Baptist Church.

"Scottsville Baptist has opened their doors to our group in so many ways," said Chuck Cassada, KHO's chief of operations. "They are providing us a place to stay and meals throughout the week."

Cassada said Brian Gatlin, Scotts-

ville Baptist's youth minister, helped in planning the project. He contacted other churches in the Scottsville area to help provide meals for the mission team.

"It makes such a big difference in our ministry when we have the support of the local community," Cassada said.

"We have worked with Scottsville Baptist for many years," said Todd Parish, KHO's executive director. "Any time we contact them, they go above and beyond to make sure we have the resources needed to minister to this community."

Parish said Scottsville Baptist Church not only has participated in the KHO summer youth camps each year, but also has hosted those groups in the past. He said the church continues to be a huge asset as KHO ministers outside of its home area.

"It's difficult for us to always be in every community we serve, since we have a small staff and only one office," Parish noted. "But it makes me proud to know that we have churches and other organizations that see the reason for what we do and help us meet the needs of the families in every community we work in."

"Our goal is to proclaim the name of Jesus Christ by meeting the physical needs of people, in hopes of opening the door to share the gospel," he added. "Scottsville Baptist is helping us carry out that mission."

KHO is a non-profit organization that specializes in providing minor home repairs at little to no cost for families who could not afford to complete them on their own. They are funded by Kentucky Housing Corporation and Campbellville University, along with other donors. Each year, the group works with more than 1,000 volunteers to complete numerous home repairs.



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**January**

**14-15** Celebrate the Mission, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.  
**20-22** Shepherding the Shepherd, Hilton Downtown Hotel, Lexington.

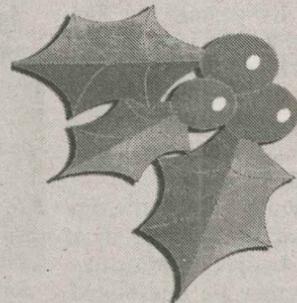
**February**

**3-5** Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
**5** Disaster Relief Regional Training, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.  
**7** Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Broadway Baptist Church, Lexington.

**8** Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Eastwood Baptist Church, Bowling Green.  
**11-12** Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.  
**19** Kentucky Changers Volunteer Training, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.  
**24-26** Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.  
**28-3/1** Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

For more information, call (800) 266-6477 or visit www.kybaptist.org

Please Remember ...



The Western Recorder offices will be closed  
Dec. 24, 27-31. Look for our first issue  
of the new year Jan. 11.

Merry Christmas from the Western Recorder staff.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**To place an advertisement:**  
Rates are available upon request.  
Call (502) 489-3428;  
or visit www.WesternRecorder.org.  
Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

**FOR RENT:** Gatlinburg condo or cabin. January/winter rates \$80/night; 2BdRm, 2Bath, full kitchen. (832) 922-0401; e-mail: pdiw4760@att.net.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for small, 20-year-old church in growing community north of Georgetown, Ky. If interested, send resumé: Ed Boden, 2629 Frankfort Road, Georgetown, KY 40324; e-mail: edboden@qx.net.

**SEEKING:** Part-time children's and youth minister at Willow Baptist, a growing rural church with desire to grow current children's and youth ministries. Lots of potential to grow. Interested candidates should submit resumé to Pastor Mark Ketron at mketron@hotmail.com; or mail to 2535 Powersville-Willow Road, Brooksville, KY 41004; or call (859) 462-2028.

**SEEKING:** Qualified applicants for part-time youth minister at Locust Grove Baptist Church in Cadiz, Ky. Locust Grove BC is a loving church serving a living Lord. All applicants: please submit resumé to lgbcpastor@yahoo.com; or mail resumé to 73 Locust Grove Church Road, Cadiz, KY 42211.

**SEEKING:** Church secretary for Beechland Baptist. Strong computer and organizational skills are essential; 35 hours per week. Salary TBD. Please send resumé to bbcbishop@bellsouth.net.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Bethlehem Baptist Church in Bethlehem, Ky., 40 miles NE of Louisville. E-mail Search Committee: lindamroberts@bellsouth.net.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music. Send resumé to Great Crossing Baptist Church, 1061 Stamping Ground Road, Georgetown, KY 40324.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor of students for Zion Baptist Church in Henderson. Candidate must have 5 years leadership experience, be visionary in student ministries, a team player, highly relational with students and families, and passionate about reaching youth and families for Christ. Responsible for development and leadership of all student ministries, middle school through collegiate. Resumé should be sent to Zion Baptist Church, 8158 Hwy. 351, Henderson, KY 42420.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth director, Livermore Baptist Church. Seeking individual with strong love for Christ, knowledge of God's word and the ability and desire to connect with teenagers and their families in a way that will bring glory to God. Send resumé to Youth Search Committee, PO Box 287, Livermore, KY 42352.

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor who will work to build God's kingdom at Liberty Baptist Church. Vision to fill 500 chairs in new family life center. Send resumé to liberty@duo-county.com; or mail to Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson St., Russell Springs, KY 42642.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth pastor for church with growing youth ministry. Send resumé to Search Committee, Northside Baptist Church, 611 Lochridge, Mayfield, KY 42066.

**Scenic Germany**

**Fathers of the Faith Tours**

**5 wonderful packages - year-round**

**Excellent value for groups and individuals**

**Also: Steps of Paul Tours/Cruises, Greece, Turkey, Italy, Churches of Revelation, Israel, Nile Cruises, Exodus, Petra.**

www.pilgrimtours.com 800 322 0788

"Christian Fellowship Tours Since 1987"



**Christmas Cookies**  
By Todd and Michelle Deaton

Opening her front door slowly, Sunny Starfish stuck her head out and peered in both directions. She thought she heard a knock, but as far as she could see, no one was there.

Sunny was just about to shut the door when she saw the box on the steps. She bent closer to take a look. Inside was a wrapped present. Next to it was a plate of cookies and a note:

"These Christmas cookies are for you to enjoy. Just bake another batch and to the box add a toy. Then pass the box along to a girl or boy. Now be quick as a wink and clever as a fox, So they won't know who brought the box. If it's the day of our party, for goodness sake, To the church, the box full of presents take."

"Yum! Sugar cookies!" Sunny squealed with delight.

Seamore Seahorse, who was hiding behind a large kelp plant in Sunny's front yard, started to giggle.

"Shhh!" whispered Pastor Porpoise, putting a fin to his lips. "She'll hear you."

But Sunny was too excited to notice them. That afternoon, she picked out a red scooter at the store, wrapped it, and placed it inside the box with the other present.

"Now, to whom can I take the box?" she wondered. "I know, Lenny Lobster," she answered herself. "I'll bake some macadamia nut cookies for him."

That evening, she set the box on Lenny's doorstep, rang the doorbell, then hid behind his dad's car.

"What's this?" Lenny asked, as he opened the door. "Mom, someone left us some cookies and a box of presents!"

"This is fun!" Sunny giggled behind the car.

"Hey, the note says we're supposed to put a present in the box and take it to someone else's house," he told his mom. "But we get to eat the cookies," he smiled, gobbling one down.

Lenny took the box and some cookies to Craig Crab ... who sent them to Syd Squid ... who sent them to Ollie Oyster ... who sent them to Clarice Clam. Pretty soon, every kid in Sand Dollar Cove had found Christmas cookies on his or her doorstep, added a present, and took the box to someone else.

"What's going to happen with all those presents?" Sunny asked Seamore.

"The last person to get the box is supposed to take all those presents to the church," Ollie reminded them.

"Maybe we will draw numbers," suggested Syd, "and get to pick out a gift."

"Or, someone will draw a name, and that person will get all of them!" Craig exclaimed. His eyes were wide with glee.

That night at the Christmas party, there were some surprise guests. A group from a nearby children's home came to sing carols.



When they finished, Pastor Porpoise stood up, holding the box filled with presents. "Merry Christmas!" he exclaimed. "We wanted to be sure each of you received a gift this Christmas."

Joy filled the faces of the delighted children, and everyone at the party was thrilled. The Cove Kids forgot all about themselves, and none of them minded that they didn't get the presents.

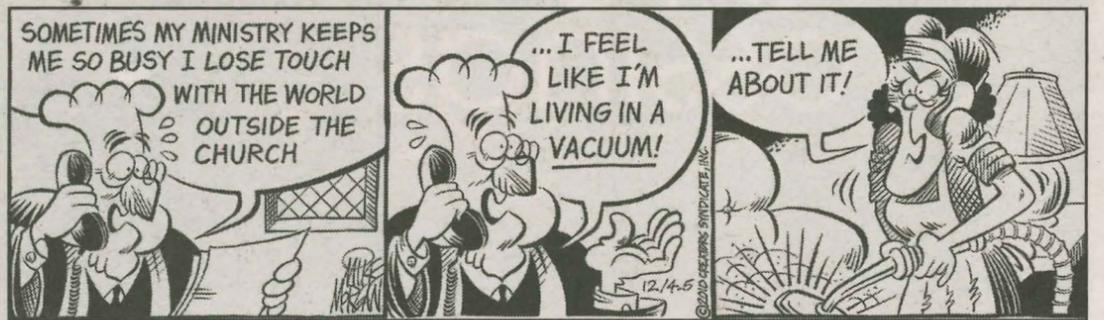


## Treasure Chest

What did Sunny Starfish find on her doorstep? What was she supposed to do? Who did the Cove Kids think might get the presents? Who did? How will you share some Christmas joy this year? Read Acts 20:35 together.

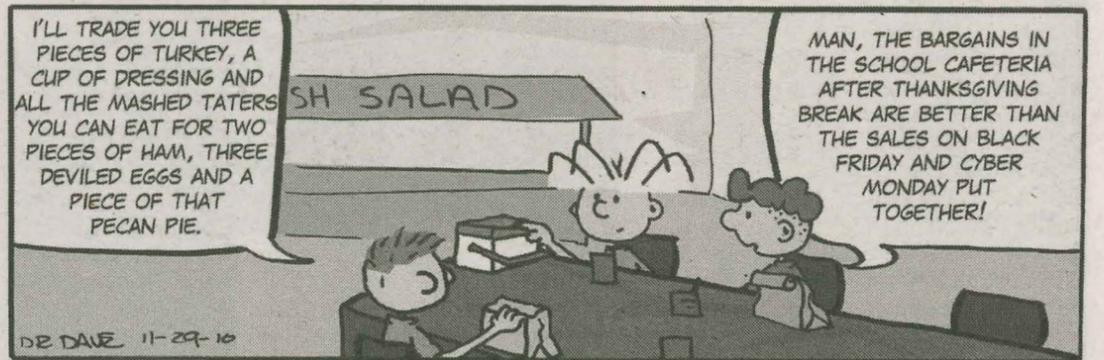
## For Heaven's Sake

Mike Morgan



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

By Rebecca Souder

### Across

- 1 "The \_\_\_ of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23)
- 5 "Jesus Christ our \_\_\_" (Romans 1:3)
- 9 Civil Servant, abbr.
- 11 "To God \_\_\_ wise, be glory" (Romans 16:27)
- 12 "Walk in the \_\_\_, as he is" (1 John 1:7)
- 13 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 14 "The fallow \_\_\_" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 15 "The grace \_\_\_ our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all" (Revelation 22:21)
- 16 Tender loving care, abbr.
- 17 "Whom I \_\_\_ with my spirit in the gospel" (Romans 1:9)
- 19 "The Word was made flesh, and \_\_\_ among us" (John 1:14)
- 21 New England state, abbr.
- 22 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 23 Abraham's wife (Genesis 12:5)
- 24 Southern continent, abbr.
- 25 "We have seen his \_\_\_ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- 26 All news station, abbr.
- 27 "He ever \_\_\_ to make intercession" (Hebrews 7:25)
- 31 Heligram, abbr.
- 32 Got down
- 33 "And \_\_\_ himself in water" (Leviticus 15:5)
- 36 "My heart's desire and prayer to God for \_\_\_ is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1)
- 39 "One \_\_\_ stretched forth his hand ... unto the fire" (Ezekiel 10:7)
- 42 French article
- 43 Assistant, abbr.
- 44 "A virgin shall conceive ... and shall call his name \_\_\_" (Isaiah 7:14)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10
11					12					13	
14					15					16	
		17		18				19	20		
	21			22		23					
24				25						26	
27		28	29					30		31	
32						33	34		35		
36				37	38		39			40	41
				42					43		
		44	45			46		47			48
49	50					51				52	
53				54							

- 48 Biblical land: \_\_\_ of the Chaldees
- 49 "I am the true \_\_\_" (John 15:1)
- 51 "He \_\_\_ again the third day" (1 Corinthians 15:4)
- 52 Spring month
- 53 Preposition
- 54 "His name shall be called \_\_\_" (Isaiah 9:6)

### Down

- 1 "For \_\_\_ is my witness" (Romans 1:9)
- 2 Chemical suffix
- 3 "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the \_\_\_ is of God" (1 John 4:2)
- 4 "The coasts of \_\_\_" (Matthew 15:21)
- 5 "He that hath the Son hath \_\_\_" (1 John 5:12)
- 6 King of Bashan (Numbers 21:33)
- 7 The damsel that opened the door for Peter (Acts 12:13)
- 8 Dental technician, abbr.
- 9 "That ye may know what is the hope of his \_\_\_" (Ephesians 1:18)
- 10 "After the most straitest \_\_\_ of our religion I lived a Pharisee" (Acts 26:5)
- 12 "He that \_\_\_ not knoweth not God" (1 John 4:8)

- 16 "When for the time ye ought to be \_\_\_, ye have need that one teach you again" (Hebrews 5:12)
- 18 "We which have believed do enter into \_\_\_" (Hebrews 4:3)
- 20 American actor and humorist, initials
- 21 "Except I shall ... put my finger into the print of the \_\_\_, I will not believe" (John 20:25)
- 23 Jr. 's dad
- 24 "The Lamb that was \_\_\_" (Revelation 5:12)
- 28 Mary was a \_\_\_ when Christ was born
- 29 When you'll reach your destination, more or less, abbr.
- 30 Bachelor of Theology, abbr.
- 34 "Do not think that I will \_\_\_ you to the Father" (John 5:45)
- 35 "Come down, and \_\_\_ his son" (John 4:47)
- 37 Shade tree (Hosea 4:13)
- 38 "Take my yoke upon you, and \_\_\_ of me" (Matthew 11:29)
- 40 Habitual
- 41 Battery, abbr.
- 45 Kitten's cry
- 46 Biblical land (Genesis 4:16)
- 47 Before, poetic
- 49 South Carolina's neighbor to the north, abbr.
- 50 Neuter pronoun
- 52 Missouri University, abbr.

## Last week's solution

1	H	O	L	Y	3	G	H	O	S	T	7	U	R
	A	O	8	H	A	9	A	A	R	O	N		
10	A	R	R	O	W	12	T	R	I	13	I	A	
	D	O	A	N	15	H	E	B	R	O	N		
17	S	B	19	Y	E	A	20	E	U	22	N	E	
23	E	R	24	S	E	25	L	A	26	W			
27	A	G	E	28	T	R	E	S	P	A	S	31	
32	M	A	33	J	34	O	D	E	35	T	I	E	S
37	T	W	O	38	O	C	I	39	W	E			
40	W	41	I	T	42	O	R	T	O	44	I	S	E
45	H	O	D	46	P	E	47	N	M				
49	I	R	O	N	50	M	U	T	52	R	E	54	
	P	55	W	O	R	M	S	56	O	B	I	O	



**crossings**  
cross over from death to life



**JONATHAN CREEK  
SPRING RETREAT  
SPECIAL**

**20% OFF**

**JANUARY THROUGH APRIL 2011**

All inclusive pricing • Three-day, two-night stay • Five meals • Recreation Activity • \$89.00 per person\*

\* - price is an estimate

Call 502.491.7000 or visit [www.crossingscamps.org](http://www.crossingscamps.org)