

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

February 1, 2011  
Vol. 185, No. 4

FOR THE RECORD

MORE for CHRIST

**Kentucky**  
This year's edition of Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference to focus on doing 'More for Christ.' Page 2.



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Muslim population in the U.S. is expected to double by 2030, report says. Page 8.

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Bridging the church's

## Digital Divide



*LifeWay survey finds website usage among churches is either feast or famine*

By David Roach  
*LifeWay Christian Resources*

Nashville, Tenn.—Though most churches have a website, there is a divide between congregations that use their sites only for one-way communication and those that maximize their online presence with interactive technology.

That is the finding of a new LifeWay Research study sponsored by Axletree Media, one of LifeWay's partners in the "Digital Church" initiative designed to enhance delivery systems and keep up with the digital needs of the church.

The survey of more than 1,000 Protestant churches found that while 78 percent have a web-

site, less than half of those congregations use their sites for interactive purposes like obtaining and distributing prayer requests (43 percent), registering people for events and activities (39 percent) and automating more church processes (30 percent).

A majority of congregations with a website use it for one-way communication, the survey revealed. A full 91 percent provide information to potential visitors online and 79 percent provide information to the congregation. Fifty-seven percent encourage increased attendance and involvement among the congregation and 52 percent solicit interest in ministry or volunteer opportunities.

□ See *LifeWay survey finds ...* Page 7

## Ezell offers preview of new NAMB strategy

Alpharetta, Ga.—North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell will propose new strategy, new vice presidents and a staff reorganization when he meets with NAMB trustees at a board meeting scheduled for Feb. 9 in Alpharetta, Ga.

Ezell issued a statement last week in advance of the board meeting.

"I believe NAMB's strategy needs to revolve around church planting that is focused on penetrating lostness in North America," Ezell said. "We will mobilize churches to become part of this church-planting effort. Then we will equip them for the task and help them get it done."

"This national strategy will be implemented regionally, working in close partnership with state Southern Baptist conventions in a way that prioritizes the largest areas of lostness," Ezell added. "I am proposing that these five regions—Northeast, South, Midwest, West and Canada—each have their own leader who will report directly to me."

Ezell will present trustees with two candidates as regional leaders. Stephen Davis, who has served

as executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana since 2003, is to be considered as vice president for the Midwest region. Jeff Christopherson, a NAMB church planting missionary in Toronto, will be considered as vice president for the Canadian region. Ezell said he will present two other vice presidential candidates to trustees at next week's meeting.

Ezell also will unveil a proposed organizational structure for NAMB that reflects the entity's redefined priorities.

"As I have said over the past months, once we determine our strategy, we will need to realign our organization in a way that will let us best carry out that strategy," he said, adding there will be no staff reductions proposed with this re-alignment plan.

In order to reduce staffing costs and place more money on the mission field, Ezell offered a retirement incentive package to Alpharetta-based NAMB employees late last year. Savings from the 99 people who retired or chose a severance package by year's end is estimated to be \$6 million. (BP)

Changes for KBC teams

## Webb to lead Baptist Men, campus ministry drops 7 positions

By Todd Deaton  
*Editor*

Louisville—The administrative committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board, meeting by teleconference Jan. 27, elected a new director for the Baptist Men's ministry and approved scaling down the KBC's campus ministry program.

Coy Webb will be promoted to director of the Baptist Men on Mission department, pending approval of the state Mission Board at their May meeting. Webb, who has served as disaster relief associate since January 2008, will succeed Randy Foster, who will retire Aug. 31.



Coy Webb

"Coy has the gift of administration and a pastor's heart," Missions Growth Team Leader Larry Baker told committee members in recommending Webb's promotion. "He is a strategic thinker and has great relational skills. He has proven able to multi-task and relates well with his peers at the KBC and nationally. He has a great understanding of the local church and served as pastor of churches since 1980."

Webb has played a significant role in coordinating Kentucky Baptist's disaster relief work in Haiti after the major earthquake last January, Baker noted. Webb, who served pastorates in Monticello and in Tennessee prior to joining the KBC staff, is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.



Randy Foster

### Campus ministry cutbacks

In light of a reduction of funding in the convention's 2011-12 budget, the administrative committee approved the elimination of seven part-time campus ministry positions, upon the recommendation of Ross Bauscher, leader of the KBC's evangelism growth team, which directs the collegiate ministry department. The move is expected to generate a cost savings of approximately \$130,000.

Campuses affected include Berea College, Centre College, Mid-Continent University, University of Kentucky-metro Lexington, as well as community and technical colleges in Ashland, Elizabethtown and Hopkinsville. Bauscher reported, however, that several of the campus ministers involved have agreed to stay on in a volunteer capacity because of their commitment to the programs.

"In all of these situations, we've sought to have a strong relationship with the local association and its churches," said Keith Inman, □ See *KBC scalebacks begin ...* Page 2

Dated material. Please deliver by Wednesday, Feb. 2

## Bass cleans up at Kentucky press awards ceremony

Louisville—The Western Recorder's newest staff member was among several state journalists who received recognition from the Kentucky Press Association Jan. 21 for achieving excellence in newspapers.

Robin Bass, partnership editions director, was awarded first place in four categories for writing, photography and design at the KPA 2010 Winter Convention in Louisville. She received a total of nine accolades for her work while editor of the Spencer Magnet newspaper in Taylorsville. Bass joined the Western Recorder in November and is responsible for editing and designing newspapers for six partnering state Baptist conventions.

Bass was awarded first place in the weekly class two division for best picture essay, best graphic, best business/agribusiness page design and best general news story—a category where she also took second place. Bass received three third-place awards for best spot news photo, best sports page design and best lifestyle page design. Bass also was given an honorable mention in the best graphic category.

The volume of awards won by Bass and others at the Taylorsville paper led to the Spencer Magnet earning first place in General Excellence for mid-sized Kentucky weeklies.

The Kentucky Press Association received 3,982 entries from 85 weekly, multi-weekly, daily, university and associate newspapers. The 2010 contest was judged by members of the Alabama and Tennessee press associations.

# Evangelism Conference to focus on 'More for Christ'

Elizabethtown—A renewed commitment from believers to become "More for Christ" is the focus of this year's Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Feb. 28-March 1, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

This year's theme and focal scripture should encourage those who attend the conference "to become more intentional and bold in sharing the good news of the gospel," said Ross Bauscher, Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team leader.

The focal scripture is Ephesians 6:19: "Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel."

Becoming "More for Christ" is "to realize that God wants to work through us, and that we should never be ashamed to share our faith with boldness," Bauscher added.

The free event begins with the Kentucky Baptist Vocational Evangelists' Conference, 10 a.m. to noon., on Feb. 28. The first session of the evangelism conference begins at 1 p.m.

This year's speakers include:

**Steve Hale**, vocational evangelist from Woodstock, Ga., and founder of the Steve Hale Evangelistic Association.

**Richard Harris**, retired vice president of the sending missionaries group of the North American Mission Board and former NAMB interim president.

**Rick Howerton**, "small group-ologist" with Serendipity House, an arm of LifeWay Christian Resources.

**Fred Luter**, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

**Mark Mittelburg**, author, apologist and former evangelism director at Willow Creek Community Church in Chicago.

**Frank Page**, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee and former SBC president.

**Herb Reavis**, senior pastor of



Richard Harris



Rick Howerton



Fred Luter



Frank Page



Herb Reavis



Ed Stetzer

North Jacksonville (Fla.) Baptist Church.

**Alvin Reid**, professor of evangelism and student ministry at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

**Ed Stetzer**, author, missiologist and director of LifeWay Research

This Hope, from Woodstock Ga., will lead in worship. The group, which formed in 1996 in Alaska, provided special music at last year's evangelism conference.

Joining This Hope on March 1 is Kerry Jackson, a North American Mission Board missionary and church planter from Atlanta. Jackson will share his artistic talents during the worship sessions.

The conference concludes with a preview of the new Sherwood Pictures film, "Courageous."

### Breakout sessions

In addition to the large-session speakers, Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist ministry leaders will be on hand to facilitate breakout sessions on March 1.

Youth ministry leaders are invited to an extended breakout session from 12:45-3:15 p.m. with Stuart Hall. The author and former youth pastor at North Point Community Church in Atlanta will speak on "Developing Spiritually Influential Students Who Engage Culture."

Other breakout sessions will be held from 12:45-1:45 p.m., including three topics for women:

■ "Older Woman, Younger Woman: The Legacy of the Mentor," led by Nicole Coomer, founder of the women's ministry Eden Revisited.

■ "Gifted2Go: Solving the Gift Puzzle," led by Jaye Martin, director of women's leadership at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

■ "Working with Difficult People," led by Elizabeth Ellis, a counselor at Crestwood Baptist Church, serving through the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center.

"We are focusing on small-group interaction through breakouts this year," said Shelly Johns, KBC's women's ministry associate. "These free sessions will be led by dynamic leaders who are extremely passionate about serving and sharing Christ, and encouraging others to do so."

Some of the speakers from the

main sessions also will facilitate breakout sessions.

The conference is free, but tickets for a box lunch can be purchased for \$10 per person at [www.KyBaptist.org/EvangelismConference](http://www.KyBaptist.org/EvangelismConference) or at the event. The first 200 people to register online receive Lee Stroebel's DVDs, "The Case for Christ" and "The Case for Faith."

The conference is "a time to celebrate our faith through worship and praise, and to challenge ourselves with the urgency of being bold in the sharing of the gospel with a lost world," Bauscher said. "We could not hold the evangelism conference without Cooperative Program giving from our KBC churches."

## Historic Bibles to be displayed

Princeton—A pair of historic Bibles will be on display at next week's Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference courtesy of Mid-Continent University.

The Mayfield school will exhibit a Hexapla Bible, as well as a Geneva Study Bible that once belonged to Baptist evangelist Samuel Pearce. The Bibles will be on display at the Feb. 7 gathering at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The English "Hexapla" (from the root word "hex," meaning "six") was printed in 1841 by Samuel Bagster and Sons of London, England. It contains six translations for every passage. It also contains the original Greek at the top

of each page, and a comprehensive 160-page preface on how each version led to the next.

While hardly known today, Pearce was, in his day, well known for the anointing that attended his preaching and the depth of his spirituality. He was a close friend of church planter William Steadman, who played a major role in the Baptist renewal in the North of England. Pearce also had close ties to Andrew Fuller, a founder of the Baptist Missionary Society.

Mid-Continent University President Robert Imhoff will be on hand to answer questions about the Bibles. For more information about the evangelism conference, call Rick Reeder at (270) 365-9919.

## KBC scalebacks begin with Baptist Men, collegiate ministries

*Continued from page 1*

state collegiate ministry director. "Our hope is that they will be able to continue these ministries with support from their local constituencies.

"Particularly with the community college system that is currently exploding in enrollment and at our four-year schools, we really need for our churches to have a burden for reaching young adults," Inman added, pointing out that the University of Kentucky—where support for a part-time ministry position will be cut—has more than 25,000 students.

After eliminating the seven positions, Kentucky Baptists' campus ministry program will be left with four part-time and 11 full-time personnel. The reduction was part of a larger downsizing that will reduce the Mission Board staff by 19—for the most part in consultant or vacant positions and through retirements.

Among other cutbacks, the Baptist Men on Mission associate position being vacated by Webb and two

part-time consultant positions in that department—one in missions education held by Greta Wilson of London, the other in R/6 ministry to ex-offenders held by Gary King of Stanford—will be eliminated next August. Responsibilities for the R/6 ministry will be reassigned to retiring BMOM Director Randy Foster in a consultant capacity, Baker said.

### Task force reductions

The administrative committee's actions come in anticipation of the reallocation of Cooperative Program funds supporting KBC ministries in a move toward achieving a 50/50 split with Southern Baptist Convention ministries by 2020, as directed by the messengers' approval of the Great Commission Task Force's recommendations during the KBC annual meeting last November. The task force's report called for a 5 percent reduction in CP funds for KBC ministries and a 12 percent reduction in the size of the Mission Board's staff.

The actions also come in light of a continued shortfall in CP receipts from churches for the 2010-11 KBC budget. Through the first four months of the fiscal year, CP receipts are running approximately \$440,000 behind last year's CP gifts at this point and more than \$712,000 off the mark needed to stay on track to meet this year's budget of \$23.5 million, according to KBC Business Services Team Leader Lowell Ashby.

"Unless something really big happens in January and February, we could be approximately \$1 million behind in the budget by mid-year," Ashby cautioned. Because of the potential shortfall, the Mission Board staff has been asked to operate on a spendable budget of 5 percent less than the approved budget, he said.

The administrative committee also adopted a 2011-12 paygrade structure that includes no pay increases or merit raises for KBC personnel during the upcoming fiscal year.

In other action, the terms

"church planting" and "associational missions" were added to the missions growth team office's name. Team director Larry Baker explained that the new name reflects work that his team already is doing and raises awareness of their increasing importance and priority among Kentucky Baptists.

### First meeting by teleconference

In keeping with a request from the KBC Mission Board, the committee meeting was conducted by teleconference, marking one of the first times a KBC committee intentionally has convened in this manner.

Committee Chairman Don Mathis, who coordinated the meeting from the Baptist Building in Louisville, anticipates that—at a cost of only 12.5 cents per minute per person—holding other Mission Board committee meetings via teleconference could result in considerable savings. Six committee members were present, while eight participated by teleconference.

## Campbellsville students care for Haitians

By Calen McKinney  
Central Kentucky News-Journal

**Port-au-Prince, Haiti**—Their mission was to help those who are less fortunate, both physically and spiritually. But after their return, they said they also were changed.

Nearly 40 Campbellsville University nursing and Baptist Campus Ministries students recently spent a week in Haiti operating a free medical clinic. Donnetta Tungate, a Taylor County Health Department registered nurse and diabetes educator, also went on the trip.

Rhonda Vale, a clinical lab coordinator, and nursing instructors Angie Atwood and Brandy Pierce said a nursing student—Jayna Turner of Ohio—was instrumental in getting the trip going.

Turner said she believes she is called to do medical missions. At first, she said, she thought a dozen students would want to go to Haiti—but the number grew.

"It completely blew my mind," she said. "God just kind of laid it on my heart to get started."

Tungate said she went to Haiti two years ago and wanted to go again because the country is in need. The trip made her appreciate more of what she has.

"There's such a great need over there for people to reach out and help the Haitian people," she said. "And it changes people."

After deciding to plan the trip, the CU students began hosting fundraisers and eventually raised enough money to go.

"I didn't have to pay for anything," Atwood said. "God just provided."

On the team's first day in Haiti, the group organized its clinic. The next four days were full of caring for Haitians—from first providing prayer to treating their ailments. In all, the group helped more than 1,800 people.

It cost \$1,000 a day to operate the



**'FOR THE LEAST OF THESE'** Clinical lab coordinator Rhonda Vale holds a baby at the clinic she and others from Campbellsville University helped operate during a mission trip to Haiti earlier this month. (submitted photo)

free clinic, Atwood said, which provided antibiotics, vitamin supplements, prenatal treatment, cough syrups, blood pressure medicine and more. Each night, the students gathered to bag medications to hand out to their patients.

Four Haitian doctors assisted the group and 12 translators helped the students communicate with their patients.

Vale said the clinic wasn't like those people would see in the United States. The clinic in Haiti had dirt floors and extremely outdated medical equipment.

"What they had would be in a museum in the United States," Atwood said.

Whitney Bledsoe said she, like Turner, felt called to go to Haiti for her first mission trip. And even though the days were hot, she said the trip was worth it.

"It's a different world there," she said. "They're so thankful for you. There are no words that can describe

your feelings at the end of the day."

And though the conditions were primitive, Vale said the group never felt threatened or scared.

Turner said the group was able to visit an orphanage full of Haitian children who were eager to see them.

"They're just desperate for love and attention," she said.

Turner noted that many of the scenes she and her classmates saw were heartbreaking, but they knew they couldn't focus on that. "You've just got to remember what you're there to do."

Days at the clinic began with an announcement on a loud speaker that free medical attention was available. Atwood said some of the Haitians didn't understand why the students had come to help them.

"They didn't understand why we love them so much," she said. "It was humbling, so humbling."

While helping those in the clinic, the group gave their patients gifts, from shirts off their backs to candy and ink pens. Atwood said one of the children was especially marveled by candy. "I know he'd never had a sucker," she said.

Pierce said the children lit up when they received candy "like it was Disneyland on a stick."

Atwood recalled a powerful moment during the trip when a baby with breathing troubles was brought into the clinic.

"If (the baby) had been in an ER, it would have been put on a ventilator and sent to Kosair," she said. "It was lifeless."

The clinic didn't have a ventilator, she said, and the team had to use other methods of helping the child, including gathering and praying. Within 10 minutes, Atwood said, the baby's condition had turned around.

"God just worked a miracle," she said. "It all taught us the power of prayer."



**REMINDER** Cumberland's Mountain Outreach students build a shack on campus, which the school's Baptist Campus Ministries and other groups will use this month to raise awareness and provide tangible ways to help fight four specific injustices in the world: poverty, human trafficking, lack of safe drinking water and children's issues.

## Shack on UC campus meant to serve as reminder of world's widespread injustices

By Laura Silvers  
University of the Columbians

**Williamsburg**—During the month of February, students on University of the Columbians' campus will raise awareness for social injustices around the world through an unlikely structure: a shack.

The shack was built from scavenged materials directly in front of the Gatliff Building on campus. During each of the four weeks in February, the structure will serve as a reminder to students, staff, faculty and members of the community of four injustices happening in our world: poverty, clean water, human trafficking/slavery and children's issues.

Although Baptist Campus Ministries is the main force behind the shack, other campus organizations, such as Mountain Outreach, Appalachian Ministries, Global Awareness Program and Campus Crusade for Christ, also are involved.

"We want to make students, faculty and staff aware of the reality of injustices that are happening every day, especially those that are so easily pushed to the back of our minds, because we ourselves are not directly confronted with them on a daily basis," Cumberland's BCM President Katie Smith said.

"The idea came initially when many of us involved in serving in BCM continued to be confronted with the many injustices facing our world today," she explained. "We soon realized that our knowledge of these injustices needed to be transferred into action, and that there was an entire college campus that needed to be informed."

According to Magan Atwood, director of Appalachian Ministries, the shack will contain information such as posters and papers with statistics about the specific injustice for that week. It also will serve as a place of prayer and will have information on practical ways to help with each of the injustices.

"They want to give people a tangible way to make a difference," said Dean Whitaker, campus minister at UC.

"With knowledge comes a responsibility to act," Smith noted. "For Christians, we are called to step out and fight against injustices."

Campus ministries' leaders said they hope the shack will help generate interest, concern and ultimately action from those who see it.

"What I hope is that through all of it, God will be glorified," Appalachian Ministries volunteer Michell Pratt said. "I hope that people will stop talking about things and start doing them. I hope that people will see that they can make a difference, and that with God, anything is possible."

"We are confident that this campaign will lead to action on our campus," Smith said. "Hearts and minds will be moved toward love as they learn about the reality of the lives of people living all across our world—and the love stirring up within them will result in action."

The students agreed the work of God is evident on the Cumberland's campus. He is stirring hearts and preparations are being made to follow him completely.

"People need help that we can give. Not just non-Christians, not just Christians, but people," Pratt said. "So what's happening on campus? God is."

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Youth in grades 9-12 who are active in their church's music ministry are invited to audition for the 60-voice, 30-piece Kentucky Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra. As you use your talents to praise God, you will make new friends, improve your skills and share the gift of music with others! Auditions are held throughout the state March 5 and 12.

**Advanced registration is required!**

Visit [www.kybaptist.org/asyco](http://www.kybaptist.org/asyco) for a list of locations and other details.

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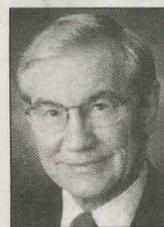


Questions? Contact the KBC Worship and Music Department at (502) 489-3524 or (866) 489-3524 (toll-free in Kentucky).  
[www.kybaptist.org/asyco](http://www.kybaptist.org/asyco)

**Growth at FBC Walton**

First Baptist Church, Walton, has experienced significant growth in new members, outreach to children, giving and support for missions through the Cooperative Program under the leadership of Pastor T.J. Francis.

**Partners in the Mission**



By Bill Mackey

During 2010, Sunday school attendance has grown from 160 to 200 and worship attendance has grown from 215 to 275. There were 12 baptisms, including the pastor's mother and step-father, and 50 other additions.

On a recent Sunday, I was privileged to be the guest preacher. Following the worship, service a meal was planned for the new members and it looked like most of them were present.

My wife, Kay, and I were encouraged to see so many young parents and children in the worship service. Forty-five children sat on the pulpit steps for the children's sermon led by the pastor.

We discovered that 124 youth and children were present the previous Wednesday night for AWANA and that the church had prepared a meal for each one, which is done each Wednesday. The church van and bus drivers make two trips each to enable most of the children to come. We were especially captured by a young child who quoted the call to worship scripture.

This church has been impacted by the economic downturn, but has chosen to increase support for missions through the Cooperative Program from 5 percent of undesignated receipts to 8 percent in 2011. The church plans to increase 1 percent per year until they reach 10 percent. The church also supports Baptist Collegiate Ministry, the Northern Kentucky Baptist Association and the airport chaplaincy program directly.

The church also supports the missions offerings and participates in hands-on missions. A missions trip to McCreary County and an international missions trip to Thailand are planned for 2011. The First Baptist Builders are also involved in missions projects locally and beyond.

Additionally, the church plans to set aside 1 percent of undesignated gifts for church planting in 2012.

Church life is also rich and vibrant. On the Sunday I was there, the church was enlisting cast and support persons for production of the Last Supper play.

Financial Peace University will be launched in February and other discipleship opportunities were being scheduled for members including home prayer meetings and Baptist Basics. Church activities for members also included Scrapbook/Craft Day, Men's Breakfast and Game Night.

It was meaningful for me to know that two men were in the prayer room praying for the service as I preached.

Please join with me in praying for pastors, churches and members as they seek to respond to challenging opportunities that surround their churches and at the same time seek to be obedient to the Great Commission as stated in Acts 1:8.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

**Adamson: What truly makes someone beautiful?**

Corrie Adamson, a young wardrobe consultant from Birmingham, Ala., understands the pragmatic importance of cultivating a counter-cultural, Christian worldview and the instrumental role that the Christian home plays in molding one's faith and values.

Corrie is the niece of a Louisville children's minister and Western Recorder columnist, David Garrard, and his wife, Stephanie, but Reality TV fans will recall that she was one of 25 contestants on The Bachelor program last year. Advancing through several "rose ceremonies"—where women are requested to stay on the show with a rose—Corrie was among the final five. During the episodes, however, it was disclosed that she was a virgin, a commitment she rightly treasures. "My dad gave me a purity ring when I was in the eighth grade, and I am excited to give it to my future husband," she said. A purity ring is associated with making a True Love Waits commitment. Though at first apprehensive about the disclosure, she hopes God will use it to encourage other girls.

Corrie has no regrets about being on the program, calling it a "once-in-a-lifetime experience." Coaxed into it by close friends, Corrie did not take her decision lightly, making it a matter of prayer. Because of her love and respect for her parents, she sought their permission. At first her mother, a women's ministry leader at an Orlando church, objected. But a few days before she was to leave for the show, her mother said she had a sense of peace. Corrie said, "I really felt it was something that the Lord wanted me to do." Here, one encounters a hard lesson for any parent: Teach your children Christian values and then entrust them to God, who loves them even more than you do.

Even though she made it to the final five, Corrie felt her relationship with the bachelor was not progressing as quickly as others, presumably because of her conservative values. Some viewers felt her chances were thwarted when she refused to go on a fantasy suite date night because of the potential for misperception. And, on a date in a park, she took an otherwise romantic setting of a rowboat on an idyllic lake to inquire about priorities. "I asked for two reasons: I wanted to know what they were, where he stood. I had heard he was a Christian, but I really didn't know," Corrie said. "I also asked because I wanted to affirm him in it, if they were what I hoped. At the same time, he could know that those were also my

top priorities." While some might have perceived her as serious and boring, she's fine with that: "At least my values and morals were shown, and that's more important to me."

The groundwork for that conversation, though, was laid years earlier in her home. "My parents were very purposeful in shaping us and molding us to walk with the Lord and encouraging us in our relationship with Him," Corrie recalled. "Dad was very intentional in talking with us about what kind of character we wanted in a man, and what our list of priorities should be." She offers to dads a word

of encouragement: "Be a part of your daughter's life. Love her, spend time with her, and be an example in sharing your faith. Build security in your daughter by just affirming who she is. You are going to want her to be with a man who is going to build security in her, and until she is with him, that's your job."

Being on the show helped her to see what truly makes one beautiful, Corrie said. "I feel it has helped me understand the value of a woman and just how precious we are," she said. "You can have the prettiest face and the most beautiful body, but if your heart is not right and you are ugly on the inside, it doesn't matter how good you look on the outside, your insides will show through at some point."

The Bible encourages exhibiting an inner beauty that has more to do with a gracious and gentle spirit than how one looks. So, her advice: "Take care of yourself, but don't be consumed with your beauty." While our culture may prize physical beauty, she cautions girls not to play the comparison game. "Put a little effort into your outward appearance, but let your focus be on your heart." And, she encourages parents to help their children understand that God made us, God loves us and that's what truly makes us beautiful.

Corrie is not disappointed with the show's outcome. Instead, she now feels her prayers have been answered. In February, she will marry Chris Coghlan of the Florida Marlins, the 2009 National League Rookie of the Year. "Wow! God does such a better job in planning that I do," she said. "If I had been in charge, I might already be married, and he'd be the wrong guy." Hers is a beautiful testimony of the joy found through living out a Christian worldview: Let God guide you. Put Christ in the center of your life. Love Him with all your heart, and He will direct your paths.

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton



**Gauge yourself in missions involvement**

By Richard Harris

Many people who run out of gas admit they simply forgot to check their gas gauge. Even a quick look at that vital indicator can fend off hours of waiting or walking for help.

The same is true with missions involvement.

We set out to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission and get so caught up in doing the "what" of missions that we forget to look at Jesus to gauge our effectiveness. It is only when we keep our eyes on Him that we perform at our best.

As I consider the "dashboard" of missions, one indicator that greatly concerns me is that the church seems to be losing ground on reaching the lost.

The worldwide mission field is much different than a generation ago, yet it is also strangely the same. Global commerce and travel are the norm in many places. Unfortunate-

ly, secularism and intolerance for Christian ideals and principles are as well. While it is easier now for people to "go" to the mission field, it is often difficult to get them engaged in "going." Many to whom

we used to go are now coming here. With 587 people groups identified in North America, we have even more opportunities to impact the world.

Consider Prasad and Jalil. Prasad grew up in India where his father was a Hindu priest. When his father chose to follow Christ, persecution followed. The challenges did not stop Prasad from also following Jesus. Today he is starting churches in Louisville, Ky. He is introducing fellow Indians in that city to Christ.

Jalil fled his native Iraq during the Iraq/Iran war in the 1980s, winding up in the United States as a refugee. Lost spiritually and emotionally, he heard the gospel and accepted Christ. Today, as a church planter in

Dallas, Jalil helps current refugees, many of whom are Muslim. He helps the refugees with their needs and introduces them to Christ, the one who can meet their greatest need.

Language, culture and experience easily give these missionaries common ground and connection to those they seek to reach. Missionaries like Prasad and Jalil are vital to Southern Baptist efforts to fulfill the Great Commission, but they cannot do it alone.

What "dashboard" gauges do you need to check regarding your missions involvement? Do a quick review, pull aside to make needed adjustments and get quickly back out on the road.

We've got a long way to go and little time to get there! (BP)

Richard Harris will retire Dec. 31 as vice president of the North American Mission Board's sending missionaries group. He was interim president from August 2009 until mid-September 2010 during 29 years of service with NAMB and its predecessor, the Home Mission Board.

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**Recorder**

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Louisville, KY 40253

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*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.

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## A back to school prayer for students and teachers

Evelyn and I will always be grateful for elementary, middle and high school teachers and principals who teach so well and who care so much. Perhaps it is harder to go back to school so early in January after the all-too-brief Christmas and New Year's break than it is to begin school in August.

As parents, we are excited about what our children will learn. We saw and heard what our son, Wesley, learned, and now that he is in college, we are still seeing what our daughter, Cammie Jo, a high school junior, has learned and will learn.

Now that Cammie Jo is back to school, we can return to our old after school routine. "Hey, Cammie Jo. How did school go today?" "Fine," she says simply. "Just fine? Well, what did you learn today?" "Well, we learned a lot of things today." "Anything specific you might want to tell us about?" "No, not really, but we learned some things."

Evelyn and I are resigned to let it go at that, so as to let her unload her things, get out her books for homework, and crash into an easy chair in our family room. Only after the unwinding takes place can we expect, perhaps over supper, a more detailed accounting.

During the school day itself, back at home and at our work, Evelyn and I are wondering where all the years have gone. The child has become a teenager, but—and I know this is a cliché—she is still our little girl. Parents love their children that way, don't they? We always will.

So we mope around the house, we think about our children while at work, and we pray for them throughout the day. I can't get around it, this matter of prayer, simply because it is impossible for me to get through a day without it. I sometimes tell my students at the university, either through e-mail or in person, that I am praying for them. I pray for their safety and I pray that they will flourish as Murray State undergraduate and graduate students.

In the same way, Evelyn and I pray for Cammie Jo and Wesley, for their safety and that they will flourish in high school and college. And we pray for their teachers, whose sacrifices are balanced by their passion, for their subjects and for their students. "What do you teach?" I asked one

teacher (meaning what subject do you teach). "I teach students," she replied.

My friend, Arly Scott, a member of my church, a World War II veteran, and a former professor at Murray State, knows a great deal about prayer. He told me once that despite a court decision, there will always be prayer in school as long as students continue to have tests. I understand the truth in Professor Scott's statement. Students continue to pray, not just about tests, and not state mandated prayers, not prayers read over the intercom, but private prayers asking for help, or thankful prayers full of joy and hope. Make no mistake; students still pray.

And we pray for them. And my prayer for them is that they will prosper in their efforts to learn new things, that they will become excited about what they learn, that they will learn the skill of weighing different points of view, that they will respect the points of view of others, even when

they disagree. I pray that they become at once interested and disinterested—not uninterested mind you—but disinterested, which means that they will share their views honestly and openly, without being influenced by selfish motives. I will pray that our students will soak up the learning that is generated by their teachers, that they will learn from books, not just the internet, and they will learn to love those books.

I will also pray that they will take up for and love others not like themselves. I will pray that they will be molded into individuals of sound character and great integrity and bold faith, that they will become human beings who care; that they simply care. And I will pray that students of faith will be willing to share that faith with others.

I realize that parents must play a leading role in teaching these things to their children at home, and I pray that we can find the grace and strength to do that. I understand, too, the teaching and saving mission of the church. But today, I offer a prayer for our schools, for our students and for our teachers. Who will pray with me?

*Duane Bolin, a layman in Murray's First Baptist Church, teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University.*

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

## Developing a family budget

By Doug Strader

For the past few years, the economic situation in our country—and the world, too—has been on the decline. Some economists are saying that we have seen the worst of the recession, and we are beginning to turn the corner economically. However, that is not the perception of everyone, especially those who have lost their jobs or taken a cut in pay. Neither is it the perception of those whose pay has not kept up with increases in the cost of living, especially the escalating fuel costs. What can we do?

Although I am not an economist, it seems to me that a family must either take in more money, or they must reduce their spending. Families cannot have deficit spending and stay afloat economically for very long. Now seems to be a good time to develop and use a budget. Below are some basic things to consider:

- Get the entire family to own the budget process.
- Write down the entire family income for a week, a month and a year.
- From your checkbook register and/or credit card statement determine how much money you are spending weekly, monthly and yearly.
- If your expenditures are exceeding your income make a family decision about how to increase your income and/or cut back on expenditures.
- Make every effort possible to stop using credit cards to make purchases.
- Learn how to be more frugal. Ask God to help everyone in your family to become better stewards.
- Begin to save some money each pay period for emergencies, even if it is only a few dollars.
- Continue to give to the Lord each pay period at least a tithe.

Remember this is a starting point, begin with these things and watch the Lord bless you.

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



## Need a Valentine's Day gift idea?

By Valerie Vincent

What is a good, not-store-bought gift that I could give my spouse for Valentine's Day?

Ask yourself this question: What are all the reasons that you love your spouse? Write every one that you can think of on a specialty sheet of scrapbooking paper or parchment. Then roll it up and tie it with a ribbon or fold and seal it with a wax seal. Present this to your spouse as a special gift. Once he or she has opened it, read it out loud to them.

Consider such categories as acts of kindness, valued personality traits, gifts of selflessness, routine behaviors that make your life easier or better, faith expressions, fun aspects of life, whatever you value about your spouse.

- Here are a few examples: I love you because ...
- you always open the car door for me.
  - you think about my wants before your own.
  - you work very hard to provide for us.
  - you support the ways God has gifted me.
  - you have a beautiful voice.
  - you help with laundry, cleaning and shopping.
  - you have an incredible ability to learn how to fix things around the house.
  - you love God.
  - you go out of your way to help and care for others.
  - you like to play sports.
  - you like music.
  - you like to go to the movies.
  - you are kind to your parents.
  - kids like to be with you.
  - you like to joke with your friends.
  - you know how to listen.
  - you read your Bible.
  - your prayers are thoughtful and meaningful.

Whatever the reasons you have for loving your spouse, write them down this Valentine's Day and read them to the man or woman to whom you said, "I do." They need to hear it, and you need to say it.

*Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.*



## The glory of God & developing the life of the mind

By Albert Mohler Jr.

To be human is to think, and to think is to operate within a worldview. Every individual operates out of a basic set of convictions about reality, truth, meaning and how the world works. As thinking creatures, we create, perceive, absorb and base our thinking upon certain intellectual assumptions that, in essence, allow the world to make sense to us.

There is nothing distinctively Christian about having a worldview. The very process of intellectual activity requires some framework, and no idea is independent of prior assumptions. As human beings, we can hardly begin each moment of intellectual activity without dependence upon assumptions that are, in essence, pre-philosophical. This is true for all human beings, regardless of the actual content and shape of their worldviews.

The great challenge for the Christian is to craft a worldview that is distinctively Christian in its shape, substance and structure. This is no easy task, especially in an intellectually complex world that is marked by an incredible diversity of worldviews and ideologies.

In this generation, a growing number of Christians understand the responsibility for developing a Christian worldview. Nevertheless, for many of these Christians, the development of a Christian worldview is reduced to certain principles of conviction that are assumed to lead to certain pragmatic conclusions and practical applications. There is no shortage of seminars, books, courses and curricula directed toward the development of the Chris-

tian worldview. There is good reason to be thankful for this recovery of interest in developing a Christian worldview, but there is an even greater need to advance toward a more comprehensive understanding of the Christian worldview that finds its beginning and end in the glory of God.

Christianity recognizes and affirms the importance of the intellect. The life of the mind is understood to be a central issue of Christian discipleship. The Christian is not only to live in obedience to Christ, but is also to serve Christ through the development of a distinctively Christian mind.

Christian faithfulness requires the development of the believer's intellectual capacities in order that we may understand the Christian faith, develop habits of Christian thought, form intuitions that are based upon biblical truth, and live in faithfulness to all that Christ teaches. This is no easy task, to be sure. Just as Christian discipleship requires growth and development, intellectual faithfulness requires a lifetime of devoted study, consecrated thinking, and analytical reflection.

As Anselm of Canterbury, a leading Christian theologian of the 11th century, affirmed, the Christian task is well defined as "faith seeking understanding." In other words, the Christian faith honors intellectual responsibility and the life of the mind. The faith that justifies sinners is a faith that requires a certain knowledge and then leads to a responsibility to advance in knowledge and understanding in order to move "from milk to meat" in terms of intellectual sub-

stance. All this is necessary in order that the disciple would grow in grace and in understanding, but it is also necessary that Christians will grow in intellectual discernment. This intellectual discernment is a necessary component of the Christian's responsibility to know the truth, to love what is true, to discern the difference between truth and error, and to defend the faith "once for all delivered to the saints."

The Christian affirmation of the life of the mind has produced schools, colleges, universities, seminaries and a host of other centers of intellectual activity. Christianity honors the life of the mind and has made literacy a central issue of the church's concern. Christianity is a religion of the Book—the Bible—and it is a faith that takes the tasks of reading and writing with profound seriousness.

In the end, Christianity honors the life of the mind, not because it celebrates the power of human intellect, but because Christ himself instructed Christians to love God with heart, soul and mind.

The fact that God would command that we love Him with our minds indicates in a most profound and unmistakable sense that our Creator has made us to know Him in order that we would love Him and to seek His glory above all else. Understood in this light, our intellectual capacity and the discipleship of the mind are to culminate in the development of a Christian worldview that begins and ends in the glory of the self-revealing God of the Bible. (BP)

*Albert Mohler Jr. is president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.*

# Ky. Baptists heeding biblical mandate of adoption

**"We believe that's part of our mandate as believers, to be able to go and help those who are in need."**

Tera Melber

## GROWING FAMILY

The Melber family is (back row) Tera and David and their children, Alex, (front row) Jonathan, Maritess, Isaac, Kelly and Jonas. Maritess was adopted from the Philippines in 2005, while Jonas, in 2007, and Isaac, last year, were adopted from Ethiopia. David Melber is president of the Kentucky Baptist Assemblies which operates the Crossings camp ministry. Tera coordinates an adoption ministry at Louisville's Highview Baptist Church. (Photo courtesy of the Melber family)

By Peter Smith  
Louisville Courier-Journal

Louisville—David and Tera Melber always knew they wanted a large family, but they didn't expect it to grow the way it did.

The southern Jefferson County couple already had three biological children when David's overseas visit several years ago to a crowded, seedy orphanage convinced the couple there were too many children in need of a home to ignore.

In 2005, they adopted a daughter, Maritess, from the Philippines, followed by two sons from Ethiopia, Jonas in 2007 and Isaac last year. Their six children now range in age from 4 to 16.

"We believe that's part of our mandate as believers, to be able to go and help those who are in need," said Tera Melber.

The Melbers are part of a growing adoption movement among evangelical Christians. They see taking in children—whether locally or from different countries—as fulfilling biblical mandates to help the needy and to evangelize children.

Religious groups such as the Southern Baptist Convention and Focus on the Family, a prominent Colorado-based evangelical organization, have made a strong push in recent years for adoptions.

Christianity Today, the flagship evangelical journal, published a cover story in July promoting adoption, authored by Russell Moore, a dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

The movement does have critics, who see it as severing adoptees from their culture and religion, particularly in the case of foreign adoptions.

Such criticism was further stoked early last year, after the arrest of a Southern Baptist church team suspected of child smuggling after the devastating Haiti earthquake.

But evangelicals say adoption is simply a way to spread their religious message and provide orphaned children a loving home.

## Adoption upswing

Researchers into evangelical family trends say the adoption movement is too new to have been studied or to count how many adoptions it has inspired. But nationally, adoptions grew 22 percent to 57,466 between 1999 and 2009, according to U.S. figures.

But adoption has unquestionably risen as a major focus of evangelical churches and organizations through sermons, conferences, support groups, subsidies and orphan-awareness Sundays.

Tera Melber coordinates an adoption ministry at Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, where 95 fami-

lies have adopted 140 children—the majority since the ministry started five years ago, she said.

At least 13 families have adopted or cared for foster children, she said.

"We have various people who are adopting little babies from right here in Louisville, Ky., or going overseas and adopting a sibling group of three children," Tera Melber said.

Other church members volunteer their time to care for orphans or donate money.

"We don't really believe every Christian is called to adopt, but we do believe every Christian is called to do something," Melber said.

The trend partly "reflects a desire of evangelical Protestants to pursue family-related goals that are softer, less divisive" than confrontations over volatile cultural issues such as abortion, said Brad Wilcox, a University of Virginia researcher into evangelical families.

Evangelicals say they want to put their anti-abortion words into deeds by providing an alternative.

"Being pro-life is not simply holding to certain legislative goals about abortion," Southern Seminary's Moore said.

Evangelicals also depict adoption in theological terms—as a real-life parable of biblical texts describing salvation as adoption into God's family.

Christians who are adopting "get a new sense of the gospel that they've already embraced," said Moore, who adopted two sons from Russia and authored the book, "Adopted for Life."

A 2009 Southern Baptist Convention resolution called on churches to "be concerned for the evangelism of children—including those who have no parents ... (who) will never otherwise hear the gospel of Jesus Christ."

But critics warn there are deeper subtexts to the push for adoption.

Mirah Riben, author of books calling for ethical reform of adoption practices, said the evangelical

push "satisfies several right-wing fundamental Christian agendas," from evangelism to opposing abortion.

Writing on the blog "Dissident Voice," she warned of unregulated international adoptions and the potential for birth parents being shamed into giving up children.

Kathryn Joyce, author of "Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement," warned of a "strong taint of colonialism" in the evangelical adoption movement. It is casting Americans "as saviors and focusing on adoption as a solution for impoverished communities," she wrote in a Daily Beast blog post.

But Terry Singer, dean of the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville, said he isn't as concerned about a possible goal of building "an army of converts" if "some of these kids can be given some permanency and consistency in their lives and some love."

And Terry Brooks, executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates, said, "The option for any of these kids is not a good one if they're not adopted. It's pretty difficult for me to have concerns about folks taking kids in and loving them."

## Adoption as 'gospel witness'

Blake Ring, an adoptive father and a minister at Ninth and O Baptist Church in Louisville, said his church unapologetically sees adoption as "a gospel witness to these children" in deed as well as word. Church families have adopted about 15 children in recent years, with 11 families now in the adoption process, he said.

The evangelical initiative also is showing practicality, warning against adopting because it's trendy.

Parents should be prepared to deal with children with potential health problems or with distress over separation from birth parents and homelands, they said.

Parents adopting cross-racially may learn "who the bigots are in their extended families," Moore added. "That can be quite painful."

For the Melbers, where the children are home-schooled together and cooperate on child care and other chores, the adoption experience has broadened the perspectives of both parents and children.

"It's given me more thought about more countries," said Jonathan Melber. He said "we're so blessed" to live in this country, but he realizes the world is "not just America."

David Melber agreed with those who say crises of poverty and child welfare can't be solved by trying to "adopt every orphan in every country." He cited church mission teams that work alongside locals to improve conditions for everyone in a country, including its orphans.

Oldest son Alex Melber, 16, for example, already has volunteered to work with orphans in Haiti and plans to do so again.

"Having siblings that didn't speak English, it helped me communicate with kids down there," he said. "I had already done it here."

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# Become a Fan

## More churches turning to Facebook, other social media as ministry tools

By David Roach  
LifeWay Christian Resources

Nashville, Tenn.—Churches are turning increasingly to social networking tools as ministry aids, and Facebook is by far the most popular tool, according to a new study by LifeWay Research.

The survey of more than 1,000 Protestant congregations was conducted in September and sponsored by LifeWay's "Digital Church" partner, Fellowship Technologies. It found that 47 percent of churches actively use Facebook.

The second most popular way of networking is through the tools included in church-management software packages, actively used by 20 percent of congregations. Three percent use MySpace, 2 percent a church-specific package like Cobblestone, Unifyer or The City, and 1 percent use Ning.

However, a full 40 percent of churches do not use any social networking tools.

"Churches are natural places of interaction," according to LifeWay Research Director Scott McConnell. "Congregations are rapidly adopting social networking, not only to speed their own communication, but also to interact with people outside their church."

Large churches use Facebook far more than small ones. Eighty-one percent of congregations with 500 or more in average worship attendance use Facebook, compared to 27 percent of churches with one to 49 attendees. Forty-three percent of churches with 50 to 99 attendees use Facebook, as do 46 percent of churches with 100 to 199 attendees and 56 percent of churches with 200 to 499 attendees.

Large-city and suburban churches are more likely than their small-city



**"If churches desire to connect with their congregation and community in meaningful ways, then they need to establish a strategy for actively engaging in the social media conversation."**

Curtis Simmons, vice president for marketing and community at Fellowship Technologies

and rural counterparts to use Facebook. While 57 percent of suburban and 54 percent of large-city churches use it, only 46 percent of small-city congregations and 39 percent of rural churches are on Facebook.

Among churches that utilize social networking tools, 73 percent use them for interacting with the congregation, 70 percent for distributing news and information in an "outbound only" manner, 52 percent for fostering member interaction, and 41 percent for managing the church's group ministry.

A majority (62 percent) of churches that utilize social networking tools use them to interact with individuals outside the congregation.

"Social networking tools have become an integral part of most peo-

ple's daily lives and relationships," said Curtis Simmons, vice president for marketing and community at Fellowship Technologies. "If churches desire to connect with their congregation and community in meaningful ways, then they need to establish a strategy for actively engaging in the social media conversation."

"Thousands of individuals are sharing support and encouragement through these tools. The church needs to be an active participant in these conversations and connections."

### Online pastors

A separate LifeWay Research survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors last October found that many pastors are personally using social media to interact with their congregations. Nearly half (46 percent) of pastors personally use Facebook, 16 percent use blogs and 6 percent use Twitter. In addition, 84 percent send e-mails to groups.

"Biblical community requires feet and faces, not only retweets and fan pages," McConnell cautioned. "But clearly social networking is a helpful tool to build and maintain community."

## LifeWay survey finds churches use websites a lot, not much at all

Continued from page 1

"Many churches are using their website like a Yellow Pages ad characterized by basic information and infrequent updates," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "This is in sharp contrast with churches that use their website like a bustling church receptionist registering people for upcoming events, collecting prayer requests and obtaining volunteers."

"There is nothing wrong with using a church website to simply give directions to the church or state the church's beliefs," McConnell added. "However, we must realize that more and more people expect to be able to interact online without having to drive or make a phone call to the church."

### Large vs. small churches

Larger churches are more likely than their smaller counterparts to use their websites interactively. Among churches with a website, 69 percent of churches with 500 or more in average worship attendance register people for events or activities online, but only 25 percent of churches with one to 49 attendees do the same. Fifty-two percent of congregations with 500 or more attendees seek to use their websites to "allow more processes at (their) church to be automated," compared with 15 percent of churches with one to 49 attendees.

In contrast, large and small churches are about equally as likely to use their websites to provide information to potential visitors. There also is little difference between large and small churches using their websites to provide information to their congregations.

The study also found differences in the frequency of website usage. Forty percent of churches with websites update their sites once a week and 15 percent update more than once a week. But nearly half of churches with websites (42 percent) update them once a month or less. That includes 7 percent that update once a year or less.

Among the factors that keep churches from providing more content and services online are limited time among church staff (46 percent), limited financial resources (41 percent), limited time among volunteers (39 percent) and little interest expressed by the congregation for more online content or services (35 percent).

### Churches should utilize websites

Bill Nix, CEO of Axletree Media, lamented that more churches do not take advantage of online ministry resources.

"With the low cost of online technology today, any size congregation can build and maintain a helpful website," Nix said. "Plus, updating a website has become so easy that no church needs to feel like it lacks the technological savvy to have a presence on the Internet."

Digital photos are the most common technology utilized among churches with websites and the only technology used by a majority of those congregations. Eighty-two percent use digital photos in their online ministries, 47 percent use digital audio files or podcasts, 31 percent utilize digital video files, 26 percent use text messaging, and 26 percent of congregations use blogs.

**Churches "must realize that more and more people expect to be able to interact online without having to drive or make a phone call to the church."**

Scott McConnell,  
LifeWay Research  
director



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## Report: Muslim population in U.S. expected to double in 20 years

By Omar Sacirbey

Washington—The United States Muslim population is expected to double over the next 20 years, fueled by immigration and higher-than-average fertility rates, according to a new report released last week.

The authors of the report, "The Future of the Global Muslim Population" from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, said fears of a Muslim takeover of Western society or Muslim global domination are overblown.

The number of Muslims in the United States is projected to rise from 2.6 million (0.8 percent of the total U.S. population) to 6.2 million (1.7 percent) in 2030.

That rate of growth would make Muslims about as numerous as Jews or Episcopalians in the U.S. today.

The report comes as some critics accuse Muslim Americans of seeking to impose Shariah, or Islamic law, in the U.S., and some Europeans raise the specter of a Muslim-dominated "Eurabia" if countries don't tighten immigration.

"The numbers are very far away from the Eurabia scenario of runaway growth," said Alan Cooperman, one of the report's co-authors.

Although Muslim populations in some Western countries are expected to double in the next 20 years, they would still not be high enough to fundamentally shift the religious or ethnic balance of European societies, the authors noted.

Even some conservatives expressed skepticism at the idea of homegrown Islamic fundamentalism threatening to overtake the U.S.

"We welcome all Muslims here who pledge allegiance to the Constitution and believe in the separation of religion and state," said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Liber-

ty Commission. "I don't worry about Shariah creep because Americans won't let it happen."

Researchers also found that nearly two-thirds (64.5 percent) of Muslim Americans are immigrants, while 35.5 percent were born in the U.S.—a figure that is projected to rise to almost 45 percent by 2030.

Assuming that many of these young immigrants start families, the number of U.S. Muslims younger than 15 will more than triple by 2030, to 1.8 million in 2030.

According to the report, the world's Muslim population is expected to increase by about 35 percent in the next 20 years—rising from 1.6 billion in 2010 to 2.2 billion by 2030—compared to a general population growth rate of about 16 percent.

If current trends continue, Muslims will make up 26.4 percent of the world's total projected population of 8.3 billion people in 2030, up from 23.4 percent of the estimated 2010 world population of 6.9 billion.

At least one Christian observer said the numbers, as well his own experience, suggest that Muslims are doing a better job evangeliz-

ing and gaining converts, especially in developing countries.

"The assistance that's coming in from the Muslim world is outpacing what's coming from the Western world and Christian organizations," said Jordan Sekulow, director of international operations at the American Center for Law and Justice, a conservative activist firm founded by religious broadcaster Pat Robertson.

"We have to be the ones also building schools, building medical facilities, or else we're going to lose the race for souls," Sekulow said. (RNS)

**"We welcome all Muslims here who pledge allegiance to the Constitution and believe in the separation of religion and state. I don't worry about Shariah creep because Americans won't let it happen."**

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Liberty Commission

### 'Why did I sign up for this job?'

#### At Oneida, life lessons extend beyond classroom to after-school chores

Being a student at Oneida Baptist Institute is not like being a student at any other school I know. Several things are different about our program, but none is more unusual than our work program.

For the past 112 years our students have shared the responsibilities of helping with the daily chores. After-school jobs include cleaning classrooms and restrooms, sweeping and mopping floors, helping in the kitchen and dining rooms, using a weed trimmer or mower to keep our campus looking nice, working on the farm, and much more.

Some students choose to work later in the evenings or at bed check, which is the time we clean our dorms. It's difficult to clean the restrooms, showers, hallways, stairs, etc., if people are using those facilities. But when everyone is in bed, except the dorm cleaning crews, it's much easier to do their jobs.

The students who work on the farm always have been special to me. They work harder than most of our other students. They get more fingers pinched and toes stepped on than other students and, like the mowing crew, they frequently have to work in some very warm or downright cold weather.

The farm has a morning work crew and an afternoon crew. Many of my readers know I was on the morning milk crew when I was a student at Oneida back in the early 1960s, so I know what it's like getting up early and making my way to the farm. I also know what it's like doing those early morning chores when it's cold—sometimes

very cold!

Last Saturday morning the temperature was 12 degrees. I really felt sorry for our students on the morning farm crew. Unless they're ill, they can't stay in their nice warm beds. Anyone who grew up on a farm knows the challenge of taking care of livestock and performing other chores when the weather is less than agreeable.

With nearly 200 cows, 80 goats and 600-700 pigs ranging from newborn to breeding sows, just feeding the livestock is a challenge. I guess the only ones I feel sorrier for than the students in such cold weather are the livestock. Since I travel past our livestock several times a day, I always marvel at how God has provided them with the ability to withstand such harsh weather conditions.

When the weather is so severe, it's even more important to feed the livestock and to make sure their water supply is not frozen. The calves that are being bottle fed always are hungry and ready for breakfast when conditions are not so extreme, but on those near-zero mornings, they are ready for breakfast long before the students get the bottles ready.

Most of our farm students never will earn a living on a farm or even work in some form of agribusiness. But the life lessons learned day in and day out on the farm will serve those students for a lifetime. It's been nearly 50 years since I made my way to the farm on those cold January and February mornings, but I confess that very few days go by that I don't think of those experiences. I deeply appreciate our friends who make this opportunity possible for our students today.

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

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### Taking inventory

#### Guest columnist Miller offers up one of his 'outdoor truths'

Currently I am out of the country on a mission trip. I know you will enjoy guest columnist Gary Miller, president of Outdoor Truths Ministries. You can learn more about his ministry at www.OutdoorTruths.org.

Each year I take inventory for the upcoming hunting season. I try to make sure I have what I need. Most of the time what I think is a need actually is a want. It never fails that each season I get by without something I thought I could never do without.

It also seems that it takes more and more equipment to hunt. Sometimes it takes more for convenience and other times it takes more for the best chance to tag a big buck.

I've noticed that today's hunter is hunting more in ground blinds. Tree stands forever will be the most flexible, but the ground blinds sure are a lot easier and more convenient. And almost as important as a gun has been the introduction of the trail camera. They offer 24/7 scouting, and can make the amateur look like he's been chasing deer for years. The problem with them, however, is you have to have two of them; one watching the deer and the other watching the guy

steal the camera.

With all of these tools, my yearly inventory not only is growing, but now needs its own building. I'm afraid to figure out how much money it takes just to get one area ready to hunt: stands, cameras, ropes, steps, plot prep—and the list goes on. I just have to make sure it's all there.

Sometimes it also is good to take a personal inventory, one that looks at what we have and what we need, that evaluates last year and determines what is needed to make this year better, and one that is willing to ask the questions that no one wants to ask about things like aging, health, our contribution

to the world, family, life and death, heaven and hell.

To ignore these things is to deny the inevitable. Some people think if they never talk about it, it will, by some miracle, go away.

The easy cure is simply to take a healthy inventory and make sure that what is needed for the days ahead is firmly in place. That way you will be ready for anything, even if it shows up unexpected.

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

#### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Baptist leaders decry Belmont's policy shift

### Tenn. Baptist exec: School has abandoned 'Christian heritage and roots'

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—Less than two months after facing a controversy over the departure of a lesbian soccer coach, Belmont University's trustees Jan. 26 added "sexual orientation" to the school's nondiscrimination policy, a landmark move that is being criticized as a major departure from its Christian founding.

Located in Nashville, Tenn., Belmont had ties to the Tennessee Baptist Convention for more than 50 years until the university's board, in 2005, voted to move away from a convention-elected board to a self-perpetuating board. Two years later, the two sides reached a settlement in which Belmont would pay the TBC \$11 million over a period of 40 years.

"For decades Tennessee Baptists poured

themselves into making Belmont what it is," said Randy Davis, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Convention. "We did sever ties in 2007, but many of us never dreamed that the school would walk away so rapidly from their Christian heritage and roots. My heart is broken for all of the Tennessee Baptists that have loved and invested themselves in Belmont over the years."

#### Coach's family life questioned

The controversy began in early December, when former women's soccer coach Lisa Howe left her position. It was unclear whether she resigned or was fired, but her players claimed she was let go when she told them her lesbian partner was pregnant. Howe implied her sexuality was an issue.

Belmont initially stuck to its decision, with Belmont trustee chairman Marty Dickens saying "we do adhere to our values as Christ-centered, and we don't want to make apologies for that."

Just days after Howe left, Belmont President Bob Fisher held a press conference and said that in his 10 years, "sexual orientation has not been considered in making hiring, promotion, salary or dismissal decisions." He also acknowledged there are "many gay and lesbian students, as well as gay and lesbian faculty and staff."

Belmont also faced pressure from record executive Mike Curb, who had given \$10 million toward construction of the school's basketball arena and said he would "do everything" he could to get the board of trustees to "change its policy on homosexuality and rehire Howe."

Fisher held a press conference Jan. 26, saying the new policy simply reflects the school's long-standing practice.

"We are a Christian community that is welcoming, loving and inclusive of everyone," Fisher said, according to the Belmont Vision newspaper.

Belmont's board Jan. 26 also affirmed that school faculty and staff are expected to "uphold high Christian standards of morality, ethics and conduct," The Nashville Tennessee newspaper reported.

Tennessee Baptist exec Davis said the school cannot logically claim to be biblically grounded while affirming unbiblical values.

"If you hold to a high Christian moral standard, and yet you embrace a lifestyle that the scripture condemns, there is a conflict," Davis said. "In this postmodern era, there is a strong temptation for believers to become more tolerant of sin because they are afraid of being labeled. I think (homosexuality) is a flagpole kind of issue that many Christians are silent on. But compassion toward people and a biblical conviction can coexist."

"The truth about the love of God is paramount in scripture," Davis added. "Dr. Fisher spoke of holding to a high standard of Christian morals. The biblical high standard is one man, one woman marriage. Anything less than that is a drastic lowering of the standard that is biblical and Christian." (BP)

## Christine Gregory, 89, broke barriers for Baptist women

By Robert Dilday  
Virginia Religious Herald

Danville, Va.—Christine Gregory, a Virginia missions leader who broke barriers to women in Baptist leadership roles, died Jan. 22 in Danville, Va. She was 89.



Christine Gregory

Gregory was elected first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1981, the first woman to fill one of the SBC's top elected positions, and in 1982 became the first woman to serve as president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

In the 1970s, she was president of the Woman's Missionary Union and of WMU's Virginia affiliate, roles that placed her at the heart of Baptist administrative life and catapulted her into leadership roles previously held only by men.

"I certainly would not have been elected today if it hadn't been for WMU, because that's where I got my leadership training," she said following her 1982 election as Virginia Baptists' president.

Her long list of involvements included service as a vice president of the Baptist World Alliance and a trustee of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. Both the University of Richmond (Va.) and Averett College (now University) in Danville—schools with historic Baptist ties—awarded her honorary doctorate degrees.

In 1985, Gregory was named to the SBC Peace Committee, an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to resolve theological conflicts between conservatives and moderates in the convention. She was one of two women added just before approval of the 22-member committee—originally consisting only of men.

Her involvement on the committee "caused me more pain than any experience in my Christian pilgrimage," Gregory later told the Virginia Religious Herald.

"I was perceived to be a liberal because I am a Virginian, have been closely associated with an agency of the convention, and do not tell other people what God is saying to them."

A South Carolina native, Gregory was raised in Baptist churches with a steady diet of missions education. She earned a bachelor of science degree from Winthrop College (now University) in Rock Hill, S.C.

"From its beginning, WMU of Virginia has been blessed by women of vision and courage," said Laura McDaniel, executive director of Virginia WMU. "Mrs. Christine Gregory leaves a legacy of servant leadership, faithfulness and wisdom that continues to be an example for generations to come. Indeed, we will always remember her as a bold and influential leader, not only for the women within WMU but throughout Virginia Baptist life."

Gregory, whose husband, Harrison, died in 1994, is survived by three sons. A memorial service was held Jan. 30 at First Baptist Church of Danville. (ABP)

## Wise foolishness

### Paul reveals the differences between human and divine wisdom

In 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, the Apostle Paul contrasts human and divine wisdom.

To understand his argument, one must pay attention to the shifts in the meaning of the word "wisdom." When Paul uses it for human reason apart from God, it has a negative connotation, which is "wisdom of the world." When he uses it of God, it has a positive force, which is something like "God's wise plan of salvation." Since God's plan of salvation ultimately is revealed in the cross of Christ, the word is personified. In other words, Christ on the cross is the ultimate wisdom of God.

Thus, the contrast is between wisdom as a human intellectual striving to attain the ultimate and wisdom as revelation, God's gift. The cross is the divider which separates those who are on their way to salvation and those who are perishing. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (verse 18).

In verses 19-20, Paul establishes the premise that God has rendered worthless

all human-centered attempts at salvation: "Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?" Not only did God reject the fruitless striving of human wisdom, but also He chose a means of revelation actually contradictory to that wisdom, namely, the foolish proclamation of a crucified Savior: "but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (verse 23). But those whom God has called are able in faith to understand Christ is the ultimate wisdom and power of God (verse 24).

"For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength" (verse 25).

Therefore, let us demonstrate in our lives this wise foolishness about which Paul wrote, which is the true wisdom of the cross that reduces to foolishness everything the world values, and let us be faithful in living sacrificial lives as we share the gospel to a culture to which the gospel seems foolish.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

#### Ky. Baptist Foundation



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**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.

**March**

- 1 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference Women's Emphasis, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 3 Growing Ministries Tour, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 4-5 Creative Ministries Festival, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Auditions, Central Baptist Church, Corbin; First Baptist Church, Walton; Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Owensboro; Mount Zion Baptist Church, Paducah; Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.
- 5 Vacation Bible School Clinic—West, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 8 Growing Ministries Tour, Crittenden Baptist Church.
- 10 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, Crestwood Baptist Church.
- 10 Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Whitesburg.
- 11 Developing Multi-Housing Ministries That Last, West Union Baptist Association, Paducah.

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BREEDING**—Harrod's Fork Church recently called **Ray Judd** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Walleria Church recently called **John Ray Baker** as pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's School of Theology will host a scholarly paper presentation by **Jarvis Williams**, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek, Feb. 7, 4 p.m., at the Badgett Academic Support Center banquet hall. The paper is titled "A New Race in Christ: The Soteriological Foundation Underneath Paul's Theology of Racial Reconciliation." The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Williams at (270) 789-5481 or JJWilliams@Campbellsville.edu.

Campbellsville University will host **Galen Carey**, director of governmental affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals, as part of the school's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy Feb. 8 in the banquet hall of the Badgett Support Center on campus. Carey's presentation is titled "For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility." The event is free and open to the public.

■ **EUBANK**—Eubank Church recently ordained **Mike Broughton**, **Mike Phelps** and **Martin Wheeldon** as deacons. **Shelby Reynolds** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Pleasant Ridge Church recently called **Scott Coats** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Cedar Grove Church in Glasgow.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—Mount Salem Church recently called **Kevin Pittman** as pastor.



**PREACH ON** More students from Campbellsville University participated in last month's Festival of Young Preachers in Louisville than those from any other school. Professors Scott Wigginton (far left) and Dwayne Howell (far right) accompanied students (from second to left) Jamie Bennett, Trask Murphy, Curtis Clemons, Andre Morton, Andrew McGinnis and Jesse Reese. (Campbellsville University photo)

**Campbellsville has most 'young preachers' at recent festival**

Louisville—Campbellsville University was recognized for having the most students participate at last month's Festival of Young Preachers in Louisville.

It was the second consecutive year Campbellsville students outnumbered participants from any other schools affiliated with the Academy of Preachers, the festival's host organization. Last year's festival was the inaugural event.

"Both last year and this year, our students have not only benefited from the varied opportunities to hone their preaching skills, but they have mixed and mingled with a broad variety of persons," noted Scott Wigginton, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville.

"These men and women come from places as diverse as Vanderbilt, St. Meinrad Seminary, Yale, Criswell College, Morehouse College and the University of Chicago, just to name a few," Wigginton added. "Despite varying theological viewpoints, all (of the students) feel called to preach."

The Campbellsville students who participated in this year's Festival of Young Preachers were Jamie Bennett, Curtis Clemons, Andrew McGinnis, Andre Morton, Trask Murphy and Jesse Reese.

During the festival, 130 young

people from across the nation delivered sermons based on the Ten Commandments.

"I think it's a great experience for all believers. They get challenged, fed and have their eyes opened to the ways that God is moving in the generation to come," said Bennett, a Campbellsville graduate and pastor of Green River Memorial Baptist Church in Campbellsville.

The young pastor said one of the most interesting aspects of the experience was being exposed to so many different traditions and backgrounds.

"Theologically, I think everybody heard a sermon or two that made them wince," he recalled. "That was the beauty of the experience; everybody had to stand back and think, 'OK, I don't agree with that, but why don't I agree with it? Is it because it isn't biblical, or is it because I've made a few false assumptions about who God is and what the message of Christ means?'"

The Academy of Preachers is a interdenominational organization with a mission to "identify, network, inspire and support young people who sense God's leading into a vocation of enormous social significance—gospel preaching," according to the Academy of Preachers' website.

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**SEEKING:** Highly motivated and called student minister to lead outstanding youth group at Lewisport Baptist Church. For more information, contact Bob White at (270) 295-3905; or [lewisportbaptist@tds.net](mailto:lewisportbaptist@tds.net). Please submit resumé by Feb. 28, 2011.

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth/college consultant, Kentucky WMU (non-gender-specific position). Looking for an individual with a vision for involving students in missions. Prior experience in Acteens, Youth on Mission, or other WMU age-level work preferred. Position will include additional duties in support of the total work of Kentucky WMU. Qualifications: masters degree, strong public speaking, event planning, writing, and strong computer skills. Ability to travel and work weekends required. Send resumé by March 1 to Joy Bolton, Executive Director, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569; or e-mail: [Joy.Bolton@KyBaptist.org](mailto:Joy.Bolton@KyBaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Emmanuel Baptist Church in Stanton, Ky., is prayerfully searching for a Christian man, called by God, to lead its blended music ministry. The ministry includes a fully-assembled praise band, choir, quintet, children's choir, and a host of gifted soloists. Send resumé to Search Committee, Emmanuel Baptist Church, PO Box 910, Stanton, KY 40380; or e-mail to [info@ebcstanton.org](mailto:info@ebcstanton.org).

**SEEKING:** A passionate leader to direct the children's ministry with a vision to grow a dynamic ministry at Lawrenceburg First Baptist Church, a central Kentucky church located in the heart of Lawrenceburg with a heart for Lawrenceburg. Interested applicants my send their resumé to Wayne Stratton, First Baptist Church, 111 North Main St., Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; or e-mail to [wayne.stratton@lawrenceburgfbc.org](mailto:wayne.stratton@lawrenceburgfbc.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time children's minister to lead ministry for approximately 125 children and preschoolers and their families at Westside Baptist Church, Murray. College degree preferred, experience a plus. Send resumé along with cover letter to WBC Search Committee, 207 Robertson Road South, Murray, KY 42071; or e-mail to [westside@wbcsmurray.org](mailto:westside@wbcsmurray.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth, Lakewood Baptist Church, Louisville. Send resumé to LBC Personnel Committee, 13803 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40245; or (preferred) e-mail [shughes@lakewoodbc.org](mailto:shughes@lakewoodbc.org).

**SEEKING:** A spiritually mature individual with strong musical training and leadership experience to serve as minister of music and worship in a church with attendance of 750-800. Skills in both contemporary and traditional worship styles and the use of media in worship are required. Send resumé to Search Committee, Westport Road Baptist Church, 9705 Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40241; or [chip@mywrbc.org](mailto:chip@mywrbc.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Reid Village Baptist Church in Mt. Sterling, Ky. We are looking for the Spirit-filled man that God has called to be the pastor and to preach the word for our congregation, looking to grow our congregation and God's kingdom. Send resumé to Eddie Ratcliff, 1827 Stratford Place, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353; or [eddie.ratliff@roadrunner.com](mailto:eddie.ratliff@roadrunner.com).

**SEEKING:** Ordained Baptist minister to fill position of full-time senior pastor at Midway Baptist Church, a dually aligned CBF/SBC church with both traditional and contemporary services. Prefer 4-year college plus seminary degree with 6 years ministry experience with 3+ of those as senior pastor. The church's vision statement is "Pointing the World to Christ through Love and Service." Additional information regarding MBC and its ministries can be reviewed at [www.midwaybc.net](http://www.midwaybc.net). Resumé should be sent to [office@midwaybc.net](mailto:office@midwaybc.net); or Midway Baptist Church, PO Box 352, Midway, KY 40347.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of youth, children and families. Woodburn Baptist Church is a growing, medium-sized, multi-generational and multi-site SBC church. Proven strengths in leadership and administrative management skills are essential. Previous successful experience in local children and student ministries, and an applicable bachelor's degree are required. Pursuit of a seminary degree is preferred. A detailed job description may be found on our website: [www.woodburnbaptist.org](http://www.woodburnbaptist.org). Submit a cover letter and resumé via e-mail to: [personnel@woodburnbaptist.org](mailto:personnel@woodburnbaptist.org); or by mail to Woodburn Baptist Church, PO Box 38, Woodburn, KY 42170, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for First Baptist Church of Dayton, Ky. Please send resumé to: First Baptist Church, PO Box 76, Dayton, KY 41074, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music. Job description on website at [www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com](http://www.horsecavebaptistchurch.com). Please e-mail resumé to [hcbc@scrtc.com](mailto:hcbc@scrtc.com); or fax: (270) 786-4650. Deadline is Jan. 28, 2011.

**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; or e-mail to [general@zionbaptist.org](mailto:general@zionbaptist.org). For more information, visit [www.zionbaptist.org](http://www.zionbaptist.org).

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## Saving your family from selfishness

"I'm afraid they're becoming really selfish," my friend said. "My two girls fight over everything, from what movie they're going to watch, to who gets the Wii first. I don't know what to do about it."

### FIRST PERSON

Children's squabbles are part of parenting, for sure. Sometimes they're a sign of tired bodies, surging hormones, or natural orneriness. But, other times, they're a flashing beacon that something is at work: selfishness.

Our culture offers so much, materially, that it's easy for our children—and for us, too—to take for granted how much we really have. We stop noticing all that we do have in our endless quest for what we don't have. We forget to consider what our lives would be like without the gifts—people, talents, possessions, opportunities—that already have been given to us.

The antidote? Gratitude.

Researchers have found that people who cultivate the habit of gratitude reap all sorts of benefits, from better health, to greater happiness, to stronger relationships.

For adolescents, gratitude is a vital piece not only for character formation, but also for day-to-day perspective. A recent study by researchers at several leading universities reports that children who show more gratitude experience less envy and depression.

Conversely, children who rank higher on materialism experience less happiness and struggle more with grades and contentment.

Back to the squabbling sisters. What will help them change course? How can parents cultivate gratitude instead of envy and discontent?

First, set limits.

When selfishness is a problem, parents need to limit their children's constant access to entertainment, diversions, trendy possessions, and fleeting "wants"—at least for a time. Materialism grows where material possessions abound and

when there are few limits on when and how often they will be enjoyed.

It's not that these possessions—amazing electronic advances like the iPad or elementary school fads like "Silly Bandz"—are bad in themselves. They are not.

But our children's vision quickly becomes nearsighted, focused only on what's in front of their noses. Then they want more. And, they don't want others to have it, lest they feel like they've "lost" something. Multiply that attitude by a dozen beloved possessions, and you've got the makings of a selfish child.

So pare down and limit.

Second, start a daily exercise in which whining children (or parents) write down things they are thankful for. Researchers have found that the simple act of keeping a "gratitude journal" increases happiness and wellbeing.

When we have to stop and think about what we are grateful for, and write it down daily, we reduce the tendency to take our things, talents, and friendships for granted. We appreciate the good in our lives more.

Third, encourage humility.

Robert Emmons, one of the premier researchers on happiness and gratitude, emphasizes that it's not enough to be grateful, in the abstract, for the good things in our lives. We need to be grateful to someone. We need to look outside ourselves and acknowledge our dependency on others—particularly God—for the source of the goodness in our lives.

Make it a daily practice to thank God for His goodness and blessings. Let's start with a humble acknowledgement of the good in our lives and a vow that we will always remember that all good flows from the hands of the One who created us—and that He is worthy of our thanks and praise. (BP)

Rebecca Hagelin is a pro-family advocate, speaker and author. Her latest book is "30 Ways in 30 Days to Save Your Family."



Rebecca Hagelin

## For Heaven's Sake



Mike Morgan

## Preacher's Kids



David Ayers

## Bible Crosswords

By Joyce Handzo

### Across

- "Behold I make all things \_\_\_\_" (Revelation 21:5)
- "Praise him for his mighty \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 150:2)
- Spheres or heavenly bodies
- "Why make ye this \_\_\_\_ and weep?" (Mark 5:39)
- "I will \_\_\_\_ a place for my people" (1 Chronicles 17:9)
- Recreational vehicle, abbr.
- "The kingdom of heaven is \_\_\_\_ hand" (Matthew 4:17)
- "His teeth shall be set on \_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 31:30)
- Southeast, abbr.
- Let \_\_\_\_ esteem other better than themselves (Philippians 2:3)
- Registered nurse, abbr.
- "\_\_\_\_ so, come Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20)
- "The Lord is my \_\_\_\_" (Hebrews 13:6)
- "\_\_\_\_ and prepare the Passover" (Luke 22:8)
- "Adam called his wife's name \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 3:20)
- "I send an \_\_\_\_ before thee" (Exodus 23:20)
- "Be \_\_\_\_ to maintain good works" (Titus 3:8)
- British Thermal Unit, abbr.
- "By which it had gone down in the \_\_\_\_ of Ahaz" (2 Kings 20:11)
- New York, abbr.
- "Thou shalt bind this \_\_\_\_ of scarlet thread" (Joshua 2:18)
- "For \_\_\_\_ are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14)
- Education, abbr.
- "He maketh them also to \_\_\_\_ like a calf" (Psalms 29:6)

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- "This is my beloved \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 17:5)
- "His soul shall dwell at \_\_\_\_" (Psalms 25:13)
- "Though an \_\_\_\_ should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear" (Psalms 27:3)
- North America, abbr.
- Professional, abbr.
- A post erected by certain American Indians
- A book of Psalms
- A yearning
- "For it was now \_\_\_\_" (Acts 4:3)
- "They had but \_\_\_\_ set the watch" (Judges 7:19)
- "\_\_\_\_ perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17)
- Referee, abbr.
- "\_\_\_\_ things are passed away" (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- "He is \_\_\_\_ also to save them" (Hebrews 7:25)
- A firearm
- A synthetic gum used in medicine
- Alabama, abbr.
- "Woe is me! for I am \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 6:5)
- Curved shape
- Vicious
- "Neither was any thing \_\_\_\_ secret" (Mark 4:22)
- "For there is none other \_\_\_\_" (Acts 4:12)
- A king of Judah
- Moses sprinkled the blood upon Aaron's great \_\_\_\_ (Exodus 29:20)
- Associated Press, abbr.
- A prefix meaning to do over
- Tennessee, abbr.

### Down

- "This is the \_\_\_\_ that ye have heard" (1 Kings 1:45)
- The year of our Lord, Lat. abbr.
- A tutor or instructor
- "I have not found \_\_\_\_ great faith" (Luke 7:9)
- "The \_\_\_\_ number of them" (Numbers 3:48)
- Worthless piece of cloth
- "And he came and touched the \_\_\_\_" (Luke 7:14)
- Shipping Note, abbr.
- "\_\_\_\_ not yourselves" (Romans 12:19)
- "The plowman shall overtake the \_\_\_\_" (Amos 9:13)
- Definite article

## Last week's solution

1	L	A	Z	A	R	U	S	6	W	I	N	E
2	O	9	E	N	10	T	A	L	E	N	T	12
13	S	A	N	D	14	M	I	D	15	P	R	E
16	T	A	S	17	P	A	N	D	18	A	N	D
19	21	S	O	N	22	V	I	R	G	I	N	S
23	25	H	I	26	M	I	N	I	O	N	30	E
27	E	L	M	28	H	E	T	29	G	31	W	O
32	E	A	33	E	D	A	M	34	N	E	W	
35	P	E	N	36	N	37	T	A	R	E	S	
38	T	A	39	S	H	O	T	40	S	H		
41	42	M	E	T	43	R	A	44	A	45	W	E
46	47	C	A	N	D	L	E	48	E	49	I	L
50	51	R	O	C	K	52	P	R	O	D	I	G
53	54											

## Bartleman honored for community service

By Robin Bass

Louisville—Bill Bartleman, director of community relations at Mid-Continent University, was recognized for outstanding service to his community at the Kentucky Press Association Winter Convention.

The Lexington Herald-Leader presented Bartleman, 61, with the Lewis Owens Award for Community Service Jan. 21 in Louisville. The award was named in honor of Owens, the newspaper's publisher emeritus.

"I am humbled, but honored to receive the recognition from the Kentucky Press Association and Lexington Herald-Leader," said Bartleman. "I thank God that He provided me the opportunity and talent to do something for Him that I enjoyed for 39 years."

Bartleman joined the staff at Mid-CU in November and is responsible for promoting and rep-

resenting the interests of the university. Previously, he worked nearly four decades as a reporter for the Paducah Sun. Toward the later part of his journalism career, Bartleman was named the chief government and political reporter.

During the award presentation, Bartleman's peers learned of his two mission trips to Russia with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in the mid 90s. While visiting St. Petersburg, Vyborg and other communities, his group distributed more than 10,000 Bibles. Bartleman wrote a series of newspaper stories sharing what God was doing in Russia with readers.

Bartleman and his wife of 34 years, Carlotta Travis Bartleman, are members of Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah. During his time there, Bartleman has served as deacon for 25 years.



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