

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

March 29, 2011  
Vol. 185, No. 12

## FOR THE RECORD



**Kentucky**  
Kentucky Changers project in Bullitt County this summer still in need of student volunteers. Page 2.



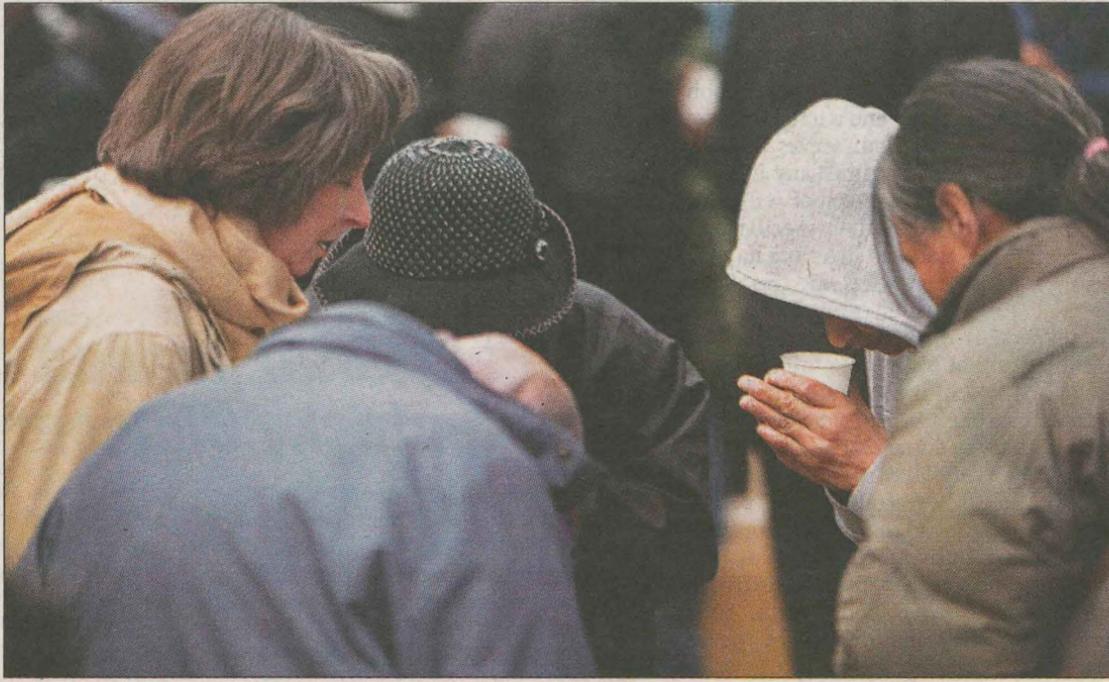
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IMB sends out 67 new missionaries to reach the unreached around the world. Page 7.

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## Tragedy in Japan



Relocation meant International Mission Board missionary Wendy Hoshizaki had to say goodbye to people she has worked among for years, including this group of homeless women. (IMB file photo)

## Missionaries relocate, vow to return

Tokyo—Suitcases and backpacks sit neatly lined up, waiting to be loaded in the vans. International Mission Board missionaries in Tokyo shuffle nervously and make jokes in an effort to cope with their relocation orders.

No one knows how to react to Japan's nuclear crisis. For several days, scenes at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant have worsened. While the U.N.'s nuclear agency says there have been positive developments in stabilizing the nuclear reactors, the overall situation remains serious. Thus, all IMB personnel north and east of Nagoya must move to southern Japan.

Questions swirl around the circle waiting to leave: "Will our Japanese friends think we've abandoned them?" "How do we leave our friends behind in a time of crisis?"

These questions haunt Mark and Wendy Hoshizaki so much that they spend their final hours March 19 handing out the last of their food to the homeless in a Tokyo park. Mark Hoshizaki said the after-effects of the earthquake and tsunami have greatly affected the people they work with—food shortages for the general public means there is even

See Relocated Southern Baptists ... Page 8

## Living 'unhindered' lives

Hundreds gather for state WMU annual meeting in Bowling Green



■ Above: A total of 630 Kentucky Baptist women (and a few men) gathered March 25-26 for the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. In addition to hearing from several state, national and international missionaries, WMU members gave more than \$6,100 in offerings to fund the organization's ministries to missionaries. ■ Left: Women of the Korean Ministry at First Baptist, Bowling Green perform a traditional fan dance during last weekend's Kentucky WMU meeting. The dancers used brightly colored fans to represent flowers and waves. (Photos by Robin Bass)

See next week's Western Recorder for full WMU coverage.



ANNIE ARMSTRONG  
EASTER OFFERING®  
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

## 'Miss Vickie' is role model for women at Md. university

By Laura Sikes  
North American Mission Board

Baltimore—College freshman Shemaiah Strickland suffered with horrible nightmares when she first came to Morgan State University in Baltimore.

Adjusting to being away from her home in Atlanta for the first time, she said she just wanted to belong. Strickland attended a university organization fair and met Southern Baptist missionary Vickie Stewart, who was staffing a booth with fellow campus chaplains for the University Memorial Chapel.

Strickland had prayed to God for help with her loneliness. "I asked God what to do, and He sent me to Vickie," she recalled.

Stewart gave Strickland her card and invited her to call whenever she wanted to talk. She made the call and Stewart later led her to Christ.

Though Strickland had attended church off and on, she said she never felt she had a personal relationship with Jesus. She started going to Stewart's weekly on-campus Bible studies with other young women and said she was impressed right away with the teaching and was inspired with the seriousness of the students' study of the scriptures.

Reaching students like Strickland is what Vickie Stewart is passionate about. Simply known as "Miss Vickie," Stewart energetically moves around campus on mission "to connect," as she puts it, with students whenever she can. "Not preaching, but connecting and building relationships" with them is the key to her ministry, she noted.

"I might say, 'Hello, my name is Miss Vickie. How can I pray for you?' They'll say, 'Oh, really, you want to pray for me?' And I'll say, yes, and I tell students, 'I am here to serve you. Here's my number, if you need prayer or want to talk. I am available.'"

Stewart—jointly funded by the North American Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware—is one of more than 5,000 missionaries in the United States, Canada and their territories supported by the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

See Missionary seeks ... Page 6



'Miss Vickie' Stewart

## Kentucky Baptists soon to kick off statewide radio campaign

By Dannah Prather  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists will be broadcasting a message of Christ's love on more than 100 radio stations across the commonwealth during the two weeks leading up to Easter.

The radio campaign, set to run April 11-24, is part of Find It Here 2011, a special evangelistic push that follows up on last year's television campaign and door-to-door distribution of the gospel message to 1.3 million households.

The statewide radio campaign will use a 60-second radio spot produced by the North American Mission Board to direct listeners to visit the FindItHere.com website or to call a special toll-free line, (800) Jesus2010. The website features the stories of people who have found hope, purpose, peace and life through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

"In this time of economic uncertainty, natural disaster and war, we feel it's especially important to let people know that God loves them and that there are places and people of hope," Kentucky Baptist Convention Communications Director Robert Reeves said.

Reeves said Kentucky Baptists will spend more than \$50,000 on the campaign in Kentucky, using funds provided by churches through the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions promoted by Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

The radio campaign will provide support for Kentucky Baptist volunteers who will be distributing a portion of the Bible—

the books of John and Romans—to friends for whom they have been praying and to individuals in group settings such as nursing homes, college campuses and prisons.

Reeves said the campaign was put together by the Van Winkle and Associates advertising firm of Atlanta which also handled Southern Baptists' national Find It Here campaign last year.

The campaign is designed to reach 85 percent of Kentucky's adult population with the message three and a half times on average during the period. Reeves said the number of times any individual hears the spot will vary based on their specific location and listening habits.

Reeves said the advertising campaign also is expected to be strengthened by churches that have radio ministries of their own and will incorporate the Find It Here spot into their broadcasts. The spot is available as a free download by churches at [www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere](http://www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere).

The radio spot features three people sharing snippets of their life stories—a woman whose husband died, a man who lost his job and another man who still felt empty despite success and wealth. Each shares that they finally found peace through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

At the site, which is available in English and Spanish, visitors can read more about the Christian faith, use a search feature to find a Southern Baptist church near them, and download a free e-book.

More information about the Find It Here evangelism initiative can be found at [www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere](http://www.KyBaptist.org/FindItHere).

## At fiscal year mid-point, Cooperative Program giving lags behind target

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program dipped below the monthly budget goal in February, and at the halfway mark of the fiscal year, are running 6.79 percent behind the \$23.5 million annual budget goal.

Giving for February totaled \$1,857,349, just less than the monthly goal of \$1,958,333.

"The mid-year total is crucial as Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff adjust ministry activities and initiatives according to CP receipts," said Lowell Ashby, the KBC's business services team leader.

In addition to falling short of budget goals, this year's contributions to missions through the Cooperative Program are down more than \$530,000 compared to the fiscal year 2009-10, Ashby noted.

Rising gas prices and ongoing economic struggles are having an impact on giving,

### Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance



Giving for Feb. 1-28, 2011 & Year-to-Date

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Monthly budget goal: | \$1,958,333 |
| Actual giving:       | \$1,857,349 |
| Under budget:        | \$ 100,984  |

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Year-to-Date budget goal:   | \$11,750,000 |
| Year-to-Date actual giving: | \$10,952,479 |
| Under budget:               | \$ 797,521   |

said Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

"We continue to appreciate the gifts to the Cooperative Program that make our ministries and missions causes possible

## Kentucky Baptist seniors invited to celebrate 'characters in our lives'

Hopkinsville—Kentucky Baptist senior adults are invited to celebrate "the characters in our lives" at this year's Senior Living Celebrations in May.

Joe McKeever, preacher, teacher, cartoonist and former director of missions for New Orleans Baptist Association, will be speaking. Comic ventriloquist Steve Brogan also will share his talents.

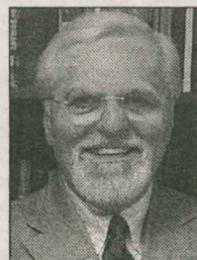
Shelly Johns, senior adult ministry associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, said McKeever's work inspired the theme, "Celebrating the Characters in Our Lives." The cartoonist sent Johns several ex-

amples of his work, which she has used to promote the event.

"I found myself laughing and thinking that Dr. McKeever was such a 'character' as he puts a humorous spin on some characters in our churches and lives," Johns said.

"I am consistently reminded that we are all characters created by God," she added.

In addition to the guest speakers, each event includes worship and workshops on various topics such as financial planning, "sec-



Joe McKeever

ond-half" careers and life ideas, travel, missions, music and computers.

The KBC has provided the "celebrations" for senior adults for nearly 15 years. Events will be held this year in Hopkinsville, Bardstown and Richmond.

"Each year we try to add new workshops to familiar ones that participants have come to love and expect," Johns said. "Our goal is to encourage the participants in their faith walk as they glean insights and perhaps even

and continue to impact lives during a difficult economic environment," he said.

Among the ministries and resources provided by the Cooperative Program is the KBC's Team Leader Training workshop, scheduled for April 8-9 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville.

Kentucky Changers volunteers pay to do manual labor in the summer sun and sleep on gymnasium floors in sleeping bags or air mattresses in order to "show the love of Jesus in a tangible way" to people in need, Murphy said.

"We have a saying, 'Once a Changer, always a Changer.' There is no greater blessing than watching God work through you to win souls for Christ. When you see a homeowner

"It is so amazing to see students arriving at Changers with the goal to change a community, and they leave on fire to serve our Lord because they were the ones changed," Murphy said.

"Many students have gone on to serve in some form of missions from their own hometown to all parts of the world," she added.

Last year more than 1,000 students and adults assisted needy individuals and families around Kentucky with free home maintenance and repair. This is the 18th year that the KBC has organized the Kentucky Changers ministry.

Louisville—Student volunteers still are needed for this year's Kentucky Changers project in Bullitt County, June 11-17.

According to Peggy Murphy, ministry assistant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission department, projects in Paducah and Maysville are full.

CHANGING LIVES Student and adult volunteers work on a home during a Kentucky Changers project. More volunteers are needed for this summer's first Kentucky Changers project in Bullitt County, set for June 11-17. (file photo)

## Students still needed for Bullitt Co. Kentucky Changers project



accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior because they have seen Him in you, ... how can it get better than that?"

Bible study and worship are integral components of the weeklong projects. Joe Ball, director of KBC's youth ministry department, will serve as pastor for the Bullitt County project.

Leading in worship in Bullitt County will be Rachel Hurt, winner of the Gospel Music Association's 2007 Artist and Song of the Year. Hurt is a native of Shepherdsville and lives in Nashville, Tenn., when she is not on the road performing or leading worship and women's conferences.

Online registration for the Bullitt County Kentucky Changers project is available at [www.KyBaptist.org/KyChangers](http://www.KyBaptist.org/KyChangers). For additional information contact the Baptist Men on Mission department at (502) 489-3527 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3527.

Adults interested in serving through Kentucky Changers are encouraged to contact the Baptist Men department by phone or e-mail at [BaptistMen@KyBaptist.org](mailto:BaptistMen@KyBaptist.org) for details on the fall project, Sept. 28-Oct. 2, in Louisville, or about becoming a part of the crew for summer projects.

In addition to the students' registration fees, funding for Kentucky Changers is provided by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

"This is a free event and is absolutely critical for anyone leading an international mission trip," Compton said. "For those who complete the training and later lead a KBC-coordinated mission trip overseas, they will receive a \$500 scholarship toward their in-country expenses."

try something new and different."

The early bird registration fee of \$15 per person ends April 8. After that, the fee is \$20 per person. A light breakfast and lunch are included.

Senior Living Celebrations will be held May 3 at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; May 5 at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown; and May 6 at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

Online registration is available at [www.KyBaptist.org/SeniorCelebration](http://www.KyBaptist.org/SeniorCelebration). For additional information, call (502) 489-3570 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3570.

## Pitman addresses concerns raised about Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference slate

By Norman Jameson

Las Vegas—The president of the 2011 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference defended a program he's put together for June 12-13 in Phoenix, Ariz., saying critics who find it outside the convention's mainstream hold too narrow a worldview.

"The kingdom of God is bigger than Southern Baptists," said Vance Pitman, 2011 Pastors' Conference president and pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas, a church plant in partnership with First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga., and the North American Mission Board.

"The main intent of our conference is to communicate the big picture of the kingdom of God," Pitman said in a telephone interview March 18. "God is alive and at work all over the world. We as the Southern Baptist Convention are one very small part of that."

The Pastors' Conference has long been a barometer for Southern Baptist theological weather patterns and a launching pad to the SBC presidency for its leaders. Consequently, although it is not an official organization of the SBC, its direction is closely monitored.

Negative reaction has included placement on the worship team of Jamar Jones, executive director of music and fine arts at the Potter's House Church in Dallas. That is because he is on the ministerial staff of T.D. Jakes, who critics claim holds to the belief of "modalism."

Modalism, a non-Trinitarian view that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are three different aspects, or modes, of one God rather than three distinct, co-equal and co-eternal persons, first was condemned as heresy in the fourth century but is held by some Pentecostal and Apostolic churches today.

Dwight McKissic, an African-American pastor in Arlington, Texas, and former trustee of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary who advocates greater inclusion of minorities in convention life, said even though he doesn't think Jakes is a heretic that the pastor was the real target and Jones "a casualty of not-so-friendly fire from fellow kingdom soldiers."

Jones, a boyhood friend of Pitman's worship arts pastor, withdrew to avoid controversy, a move McKissic called "tragic, sinful and shameful" because Southern Bap-

tists "missed an opportunity to bridge an obvious racial divide and to fellowship with a kingdom saint who is not of the SBC fold."

People Pitman trusts tell him "Jakes is not a modalist." Besides, Pitman said, his books are for sale in SBC bookstores. "How ridiculous is it that we can sell his books but his music guy can't play piano at our meeting?" he asked.

Others have protested inclusion of speakers who are prominently recognized as Calvinists and the fact that the Pastors' Conference is heavily subsidized by the SBC operating budget.

Calvinist preachers like former SBC President Johnny Hunt and nationally prominent pastor Rick Warren.

"The vein that unites all of them is that they are all practitioners," Pitman said. "They are all engaging nations and planting churches."

Pitman, exasperated at what he feels is unmerited criticism for a conference lineup that will inspire pastors and give them an encouraging view of God's work in the world, agreed it is important for believers "to be defenders of the faith."

There is a difference, however, "in being discerning and in having a judgmental

**"The main intent of our conference is to communicate the big picture of the kingdom of God. God is alive and at work all over the world. We as the Southern Baptist Convention are one very small part of that."**

Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference President Vance Pitman



Included among speakers is Acts 29 Vice President Darrin Patrick. Acts 29 is a church planting network linked to the "emergent church," a movement that presents the gospel in culturally relevant ways that critics call theological compromise. Mark Driscoll, pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church in Seattle and Acts 29's founder and leader, was the target of eight negative motions at the 2009 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Louisville.

Also on the docket is John Piper, pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis, not affiliated with the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist State Convention or the Southern Baptist Convention. His writings have been a strong influence among young Calvinists.

"We are wandering in a wilderness in our current SBC life," said blog writer Ron Hale. "Our leaders are hyper on Piper; Life-Way materials encourage our people to visit Mark Driscoll's website to download his sermons, ... and we have a couple of Acts 29 guys preaching."

Pitman termed accusations that he has put together a "Calvinist" conference "beyond my wildest imagination." He pointed out the lineup includes well known non-

spirit."

Other questions have been raised related to conference expenses. While the public image is that the independent organization pays its own way, and offerings are collected each session to cover conference expenses, in fact the SBC heavily subsidizes the meeting, first held in 1935.

The Pastors' Conference reimburses the SBC \$38,000—as it has since 1992—to reimburse expenses for additional use of the meeting hall, shuttle buses, audio-visual expenses and security. In 2012 that amount will increase to \$50,000.

SBC Executive Committee records show that the SBC operating budget covered \$141,549 of Pastors' Conference-related expenses in 2010, in addition to the \$38,000 reimbursement received from conference participants.

Pitman says in a series of video presentations at www.SBCPC.net that this year's expenses already are covered by sponsors. All offerings received at the meeting will be dedicated to translate the "Jesus" film for evangelistic use in the Arabian Peninsula and to start pastors' conferences on two other continents, reaching and training pastors in as many as 20 countries. (ABP)

### BAPTIST DIGEST

**Ind. Baptists launch exec search**—The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has announced its search process for a new executive director has begun. A profile of potential candidates, posted on the convention's website, www.SCBI.org, says the search committee is looking for a visionary leader with a passion "to take the cross to the crossroads" and develop partnerships at all levels of Southern Baptist life. The potential candidate must "understand where SCBI is; how we got here; and how we need to move forward" and be able to define a vision and implement an action plan to follow the vision, the profile states. The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana was founded in 1958 and today has nearly 85,000 members in 425 churches, according to Steve Davidson, chairman of the SCBI Executive Board, which also serves as the search committee. The convention is seeking a replacement for Stephen Davis, who was named Midwest region vice president for the North American Mission Board Feb. 9. Davis had served as SCBI executive director since 2003. All referrals, resumés or input can be directed to the search committee by e-mail at ExecutiveSearch@SCBI.org.

**CBF budget cuts total \$1.1 million**—Deep staff cuts announced in January will help reduce the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's budget shortfall in the 2010-11 fiscal year by more than \$1.1 million, officials said recently. The loss of 16 jobs—mostly support staff positions spread across various ministry areas in the organization's Atlanta staff—reduced personnel expenses by \$383,639 for the remainder of the budget year, said Lance Wallace, director of communications. Combined with \$748,300 in program cuts, Wallace said total savings for the fiscal year are \$1.13 million. All of the cuts were effective at the end of January, except for a Korean initiative consultant/assistant specialist job that ends in May. CBF leaders are in the process of developing a budget for 2011-12 anticipating revenues of \$12.3 million, 15 percent less than the current budget of \$14.5 million, making even deeper staff cuts inevitable, CBF Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal told Coordinating Council members in February.

**TMC offers Great Commission minor**—Truett-McConnell College voted recently to offer a Great Commission minor. Beginning with the fall semester, incoming students will be required to take the classes outlined in the new field of study, and current students will have the option of taking the classes. "Students can go to many schools and receive a strong liberal-arts education. Students can also go to many schools and receive a strong biblical education. At TMC, we are grateful to announce the best of both worlds—the broadest of education," school President Emir Caner said. "Truett-McConnell will equip students with the highest caliber education available in their field ... while also equipping students to love the Lord, love His word, love the local church and love the lost. Graduates will be well trained in their field and passionate about their faith." Truett-McConnell, in Cleveland, Ga., is affiliated with the Georgia Baptist Convention.

### TEAM LEADER TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION TRIPS

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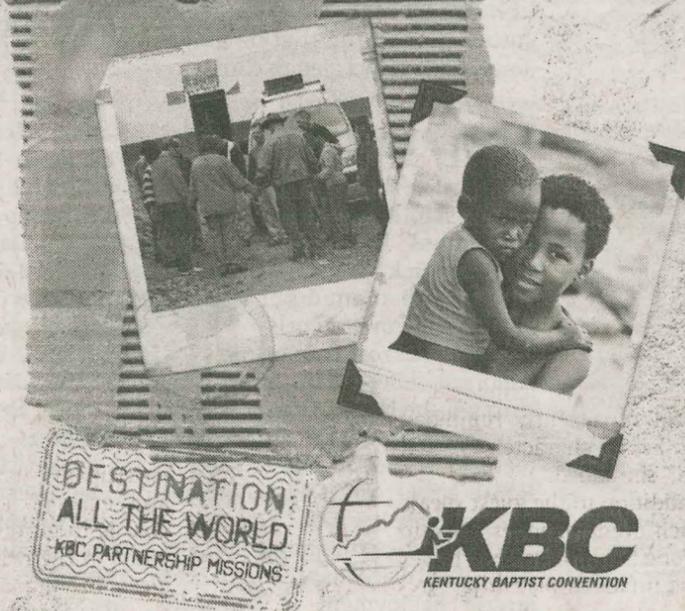
Friday-Saturday, April 8-9

Kentucky Baptist Building  
13420 Eastpoint Centre Dr., Louisville



This free event is made possible by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

Registration is required. Go online to [www.kybaptist.org/tlt](http://www.kybaptist.org/tlt) or contact the KBC Partnership Mission Department at (502) 489-3529 or (866) 489-3529.



**Across Kentucky**

My wife, Kay, and I had the privilege of being in four Kentucky Baptist churches recently. Each is serving the Lord in special ways.

**The Potter's House in Smithland** had a special beginning under the leadership of Fred Lowrance in 2005. Providence Baptist Church had outgrown its facilities and planned to relocate. When the time came to make the move, some members decided to remain at the current facility but blessed the relocation group with building funds for the new site. With the excellent start, The Potter's House has grown and become a strong supporter of missions through the Cooperative Program.

**Partners in the Mission**



**By Bill Mackey**

We were invited to visit by the new pastor, Desi Ginn, whom I had known when he served as preacher for a summer youth evangelism team in South Carolina.

I also spoke recently at **Fern Creek Baptist Church in Louisville**, where Linda Barnes Popham is pastor. To our surprise, Kay and I were recognized in light of my upcoming retirement at a luncheon following worship.

The church is strong in all church programs, including missions education. Week day programs of Bible study, prayer and ministries are extensive. The church is in a building program to remodel the sanctuary and build an indoor ramp that will access all three levels. It was gratifying to see the church's strong support of missions.

On another Sunday, we traveled to **Bethel Baptist Church in Henderson**. Although it is a smaller congregation, Pastor Russell Wood has led the congregation to provide a recreational site for the community.

It was my privilege to speak as a part of the 200th anniversary celebration of the church. A part of the sanctuary is more than 160 years old. This church has also grown in support of missions through the Cooperative Program.

More recently I was invited to speak at **Slate Branch Baptist Church in Somerset** by Pastor Bill Dawson. Bill is very active in Pulaski Baptist Association and has led his church in stewardship development and strong support of missions through the Cooperative Program. Seventy-five percent of the church's total gifts to support missions through CP have been given during his 16-year tenure.

It was a special blessing to visit with a member of the congregation, C.A. Easterling, age 95. C.A. was a leader in Three Forks Baptist Association when I served at First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. He was a great encourager to me then and continues to be a great encourager in his church, association and state convention.

Kay and I have been blessed to see God at work in churches of all sizes across Kentucky. We want to invite you to join with us in praying that all church members and leaders will be involved in connecting all people to Jesus Christ.

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

**Ian Sterling: 'By this all will know ...'**

Among the verses that many children memorize for Bible drills is John 13:35: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." By the time most of us reach adulthood, we've heard so many sermons and Sunday school lessons on this one Scripture that it seems almost a cliché for an evangelist or teacher to ask us, "Could someone look at your actions or the way you treat others and tell you are a Christian?" Nevertheless, seeing someone put their faith into a selfless act of love by helping those in need provides a powerful and effective witness. Just ask Ian Sterling.



**After Thought**

**By Todd Deaton**

Sterling was among the many disaster relief workers in Mays' Lick on a mid-March weekend to receive training. What makes this so unusual, though, is that Sterling is not from Kentucky—not even close. He drove 2,300 miles from Las Vegas to be recertified, but "it couldn't have been for a better reason," he said.

To understand why he feels so strongly, you have to go back almost seven years to when he was working as a kitchen coordinator with an American Red Cross unit in Bay Minnette, Ala., after Hurricane Ivan. That's when he first came into contact with a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team that had been deployed to Alabama. Sterling noticed not only how the Kentucky group cared for the hurricane victims, but also the way in which they interacted with each other, and he began to sense that something was truly special about them.

What was it about them that drew him? "They were clearly performing a ministry, more than a task," Sterling explained. "There was not a question that this team from Kentucky was a disaster relief ministry, as opposed to a disaster relief response. And, the difference could not be more profound," he said.

"Any type of disaster relief ministry—whether it is based here in Kentucky, in other states, or anywhere in the world—the thing I think that makes it so special and so engaging spiritually is the fact you are putting your faith into action," he added. "It's something that takes your spiritual life to a whole new level."

During that week, Sterling had an opportunity to visit with many of the team members in the church gym where they were staying. "Not only were they doing an amazing work, they were doing it in a deeply spiritual way," he recalled. Seeing a compassionate demonstration of the gospel to those in need, Sterling began to open up to hearing the gospel—something that he may not otherwise have done. And, he was led to Christ.

At one of the Kentucky team's devotional times, Sterling asked Larry Koch, former state disaster relief director, if he could share with the group. Since Sterling was a new believer, Koch agreed, expecting him to only speak a few minutes. But 40 minutes later, Sterling was still going around the room, letting each person know just how much their actions had touched him. "Yesterday, I observed you doing this ...," he would begin, and then he proceeded to tell each one how their actions had made an impact on him personally and what it meant to those they were serving," Koch recalled. In essence, Sterling wanted them to know he knew they were Christians by their love.

Now an active member of Shadow Hills Baptist Church in Las Vegas, Sterling continues to serve alongside Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers and anxiously awaits their next deployment to assist other hurricane, tornado or flood victims. Serving others has become "a fundamental component" of his growing faith because it makes one's spiritual life broader and richer, he said.

After the Mays' Lick training session, Sterling came to Louisville for a video interview with Billy Compton at the Kentucky Baptist Building. The



**CP VIDEO** Ian Sterling, a Las Vegas real estate manager, accepted Jesus after seeing Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers in action in 2004. In a CP Missions podcast, Sterling, who is now a Kentucky disaster relief volunteer himself, tells his story. The video is an excellent resource for churches to use in observing CP Sunday April 10.

10-minute video, which can be downloaded through the KBC website, [www.kybaptist.org/kbc.nsf/pages/Ian-CP-2011.html](http://www.kybaptist.org/kbc.nsf/pages/Ian-CP-2011.html), is one that every Kentucky Baptist should see—perhaps as part of a CP Sunday observance April 10. Sterling speaks about how Southern Baptists are enabling what he calls "the multiplier effect" through the Cooperative Program. The CP facilitates ministries such as disaster relief through which Baptist volunteers reach out to people like him, he explained.

But in doing so, the CP also creates a multiplier effect, he said, in providing a

tremendous network of opportunities to minister to others. The work of numerous volunteers and missionaries, who are serving in many other states and disaster relief situations, reaches many others who like him then will reach even more with the gospel.

Sterling's testimony wonderfully illustrates how being involved in missions and ministry works to strengthen and enrich one's faith. Moreover, in telling about the powerful influence of watching how a Kentucky disaster relief team worked together so well had upon him, Sterling reminds each of us to be mindful that someone who is "looking and longing along the way" may be watching us. May it be as evident that we are His disciples by our love for one another.



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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*

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**Prayer support**

I am the brigade chaplain for the 149th MEB (Maneuver Enhancement Brigade) of the Kentucky National Guard and a member of Buck Grove Baptist Church in Ekron. I am an endorsed SBC chaplain through the North American Mission Board and a member of the KBC Committee on Nominations. SBC Chaplain Brent Kelly will deploy, too.



I am requesting prayer support from Kentucky Baptists for the largest deployment of Kentucky

National Guardsmen since WWII. The 149th MEB is headquartered in Louisville and will deploy in June in support of Operation New Dawn to Iraq. More than 1,500 Kentucky soldiers will deploy with a brigade total of more than 2,500 National Guard soldiers, including Virginia and Utah.

The brigade commander, COL Scott Campbell of Rineyville, has approved my request to seek prayer support for all of our soldiers and their families. Therefore, I humbly request that the KBC partner with us in prayer

for God's protection and blessing to include our families and the Iraqi people.

*MAJ, Chaplain Jerry Shacklett Ekron*

**Forum Disclaimer:** Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints on a variety of subjects. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

## What's in your (mental) fridge? Stock it with healthy food

By David Jeremiah

Our health depends on wise nutrition. The food we eat is assimilated into our bodies and becomes our nails, skin cells and blood. In the same way, we are actually becoming—emotionally and spiritually—what we put into our minds. Proverbs 23:7 is the biblical version of “you are what you eat.” It says, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he.”

What we read and view has a determining effect on us, and what our children are taking into their minds will determine what they become. Many children and adults have a high-fat mental diet that's heavy in “screen time.”

It's easy for any of us to “catch” the philosophy of the world by what we're reading, watching or hearing. But the Bible says, “Whatever things are true ... noble ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

People who feed their minds with lots of entertainment develop lazy minds. When we watch too many movies and too much TV, we're letting other people do our thinking for us. Those who feed their minds on a steady diet of celebrity magazines can become shallow. People who feed their minds on pornography become sexually immoral in their thoughts and behavior.

But what of those who feed their minds on quality literature, solid educational materials, truly relevant information, and regular Bible study? They become wise and sought-after leaders. Romans 8:5 says, “Those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

The secret of a healthy mind is the retention and meditation of Scripture. In his book “Your Inner You,” Pastor

Leslie Flynn tells about Oscar Lowry, author of the book “Scripture Memorizing for Successful Soul-Winning.” Lowry entered Christian service as a young man with an undisciplined mind. Thinking he could not memorize Scripture, he filled the flyleaf of his Bible with references useful for counseling and evangelism, but it proved awkward to stop his conversations long enough to track down the right verse. Finally he determined to succeed at Scripture memory.

He rose early and chose a seemingly difficult passage, Romans 10:9-10. He paced the room, saying to himself, “I will do this thing.” He struggled with this passage for half an hour, but finally succeeded in memorizing it completely. The next morning, he reviewed and reinforced those verses in his memory, then added a new one. He kept reviewing his chosen passages and adding new ones until it dawned on him one day that he could repeat 100 verses without looking in his Bible.

By the end of his life, he had learned over 20,000 verses, and he could locate each by chapter and verse without his Bible. No wonder his Christian life was full of joy, his mind full of wisdom, and his evangelistic efforts full of success.

What if I came to your house today, knocked on your door, walked into your house, and opened the door of your mind? What if I could peer into your brain? In a sense, I could do that by noticing the materials on the coffee table, the channels showing on the television, the DVDs scattered near the entertainment system, the books beside your bed, or the magazines under it. By observing how you fed your mind, I'd know a lot about your spiritual health.

Someone once said, “You are not what you think you are; but what you think, you are.” Let's clean out the mental fridge and start stocking it with nourishment that benefits those with the mind of Christ.

“Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray,  
“Give us the mind of Christ each passing day;  
“Teach us to know the truth that sets us free;  
“Grant us in all our thoughts to honor Thee.”

—William Foulkes, 1918. (BP)

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

### COMMENTARY

## Arrogance in marriage

By Valerie Vincent

**Q: My spouse can be incredibly arrogant. Even if you have achieved a lot in life, how do I keep living with such arrogance?**

**A:** Living with a spouse that seems consumed with self and is not aware of the impact that he or she has on a spouse or family is very challenging. It is clear in Scripture, especially the wisdom literature that God is not pleased with arrogance (Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil—Proverbs 3:7).

Specific instructions are given to us to be humble (“Too much pride brings disgrace; humility leads to honor”—Proverbs 29:23); to boast about the Lord (“Therefore, as it is written: ‘Let him who boasts boast in the Lord’”—1 Corinthians 1:31); and to view ourselves with the right perspective (“Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips”—Proverbs 27:2). Often when we compare ourselves with others we may look better, seem smarter, or appear more valuable, but when we compare ourselves to Jesus Christ, we will always fall far short. So this is the only comparison we are to make and so strive to be like Christ.

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves” (Philippians 2:3). Jesus had every right to value Himself above others, but we do not. Consider telling your spouse how valuable he or she is to you as well as to God. Let your spouse know that some of what is said or done you find hurtful and offensive. Then gently ask them to consider the impact of their words and attitude on their relationships. Be clear that the attitude of arrogance is coming between the two of you and eroding true intimacy. Arrogance puts people off, rather than draws them in.

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



## Benefits of tithing through church

By Doug Strader

“What's in it for me?” is a popular theme for many today. Although that question might be more popular with a certain age group, it is not uncommon for all ages to feel the same way. Most of us

want to know what benefits we will get if we participate, and that includes giving to the Lord through our church. Listed below are some benefits that members of Kentucky Baptist Convention churches will receive by giving tithes and offerings through their churches.

- First, you will be obedient to the Lord's command given by the Prophet Malachi when he said, “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse ...” (Malachi 3:10) RSV.

- You will be showing that you trust the Lord with a life of obedience as it relates to your material possessions.

- You will be participating more fully in the act of worship because you are offering to Him not only your time and spiritual gifts but also your tithes and offerings. Giving tithes and offerings should always be an act of worship.

- By giving your tithes and offerings you will be setting an example to other Christians.

- Your giving will help the church do all the ministry and missions in which they are involved.

- As your church gives to the work of the local association, you will be assisting the association in all the ministry and missions in which they are involved.

- When your church gives to the Cooperative Program, you will be assisting The Kentucky Baptist Convention in doing all of its missions and ministries.

- As your church gives through the Cooperative Program, you will be joining with every church in the Southern Baptist Convention in support more than 10,000 North American and international missionaries.

When you think about the benefits derived from giving to the Lord through your church, it is mind-boggling. What a blessing it is to be able to worship by giving your tithes and offerings to God through your church.

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



## Are these the 'end times?' Are the prophecies being fulfilled?

By Jim Denison

Japan's prime minister calls the March 11 earthquake and tsunami his country's worst crisis since World War II. More than 12,000 are dead or missing, a number which will continue to grow. Nuclear reactors have been damaged catastrophically. It will take years for the world's third-largest economy to recover fully.

Add the tragedy in Japan to the ongoing revolution in the Arab world and global economic distress, and people begin asking if these are the “end times.” What did Jesus predict? Are his prophecies coming to fulfillment in our day?

It was Tuesday of Holy Week. After Jesus predicted the destruction of Herod's massive temple (Matthew 24:1-2), his disciples asked him, “what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” (v. 3). Jesus responded with six “signs,” each of which has been fulfilled to a remarkable degree in the last century:

False religions would “deceive many” (v. 5). The 20th century witnessed a significant rise in the popularity of world religions and alternative spiritualities.

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars” (v. 6). More than 39 million people died in World War I, 51 million in World War II, and 16 million in the 150 wars since. The 20th century was the bloodiest in history.

“There will be famines” (v. 7). More than 70 million people died

in famines during the 20th century, the most ever.

“There will be earthquakes” (v. 7). The National Earthquake Information Center tells us that the number of quakes is not increasing today, but they are far more catastrophic as populations in earthquake zones escalate.

“You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death” (v. 9). More than 25 million Christians died for their faith in the first 19 centuries after Christ; more than 45 million have died for Jesus in the 20th century.

“This gospel of the kingdom must be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come” (v. 14). Communication technology will soon make it possible to reach the entire planet's population with the gospel.

Do these facts indicate that we are in the “end times”? Yes and no.

Jesus was clear: “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (v. 36). No human should claim to know more than Jesus.

The Lord could delay his return by a decade, a century, or a millennium. At the same time, Jesus taught us to be prepared for him to return today: “keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come” (Matthew 24:42). We are one day closer to eternity than ever before in human history.

In biblical terms, we have been

living in the “last days” for 20 centuries. According to the Jewish worldview, the “former days” would precede the Messiah; the “last days” would follow his ministry on earth. And so John could write, “Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour” (1 John 2:18).

For 20 centuries, Christians have been awaiting our Lord's return. If we live each day as though it were our last, one day we'll be right. And each day we'll make Jesus our Lord and King.

Consider one of my favorite paragraphs by C.S. Lewis: “The Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth ‘thrown in’; aim at earth and you will get neither.”

At what are you aiming today? (ABP)

Jim Denison is president of the Center for Informed Faith and theologian-in-residence for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

### FIRST PERSON

# Missionary seeks to be Christian witness for campus' women

Continued from page 1

The petite 48 year old's upbeat spirit seems to draw students and staff to her like a magnet at Morgan State, a historically black college.

Doctoral student Katherine Lloyd meets weekly for lunch with Miss Vickie for fellowship and support. Lloyd said it was hard for her, too, coming to a new environment, leaving a rural area to attend school and live in an urban area for the first time. But a mutual friend introduced her to Miss Vickie via Facebook and the two "immediately connected."

"Vickie is my only consistent Christian woman friend I have," Lloyd said. "She's the only person I know here that I can go to as a woman and talk about stuff and know that this is coming from someone who is like-minded in Christ. It's a quick hour but it's just good to know that once a week I have that fellowship."

## Desire to work with students

In 2008, when Stewart came to Morgan State as a NAMB campus missionary, she said God brought her back home to her native Baltimore and gave her the desires of her heart. Since she first felt called to missions in 1981, Stewart had wanted to work with college students.

But first God led her to work with the urban poor in Brazil as an International Mission Board missionary. When she was commissioned in 2000, she was hired to work with students but ended up serving as a church planter while there. Stewart said she never intended to leave Brazil but



**ROLE MODEL** North American Mission Board missionary Vickie Stewart (center), campus minister at Morgan State University in Baltimore, leads a weekly women's Bible study at the school. To the students, she is known as "Miss Vickie." (Photo by Laura Sikes/NAMB)

returned home after her father passed away to help care for her mother.

Soon after coming home in 2007, Stewart applied for the campus ministry position at Morgan State.

Stewart was a natural to continue the work begun a year earlier at the school by Ryan Palmer, pastor of Seventh Metro Church in Baltimore. Palmer said his church and others within the state convention had been praying for three years for direction and for someone like Stewart to come along.

"Vickie is an evangelist at heart," Palmer said. "She is sincerely concerned

about lostness. That's just a good fit for the work we're doing at Morgan State."

Together, Palmer and Stewart lead an off-campus, coed Bible study, called "The Point," which targets unchurched students. Vickie also holds a weekly Bible study for young women on campus.

Stewart described most of her students as hurting. The young women in her Bible study have many emotional needs, she explained. They are searching and figuring out what they want to do with their lives.

Stewart said she prayed for God to send her students much like Shemaiah Strickland who have teachable spirits, as

well as for those who are not Christians and are hungry for God's word.

## Thursday night Bible study

Each Thursday, Stewart's Bible study begins with a boxed meal and a praise report, in which students share answered prayers and good things that are happening in their lives.

"We talk about what it means to love God and what it means to be a Christian," Stewart said. "Christianity is a way of life. It's a relationship, not a religion."

Her enthusiastic teaching style is both intimate and thought provoking and shows her love of apologetics. She often plays devil's advocate with the students to teach them how to defend their faith.

"Don't let philosophies determine how you think about God. Get in the word," she urged. "We have something good."

Stewart gives students basic practical advice, reminding them they have everything when they trust God, and encourages them to memorize scripture verses that are significant to them.

Sophomore Charlene Thomas takes it all in and even carries flashcards with verses on them to memorize. She said she likes meeting with a group of young women who share questions and look for answers. And she said she values having access to Miss Vickie for godly advice.

"She's so open, not only to us but to God and you can see God in her. That makes her trustworthy," Thomas noted. "Her spirit, her smile and the way she talks to us makes us feel like family."

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## 67 sent forth to join the IMB's global missionary force

By Don Graham  
International Mission Board

Dallas—It was a secret Ishaq\* held close for 13 years—one that caught journeyman missionary Craig Evans\* by surprise when the young man revealed it.

In 2007, Evans began visiting a quaint central Asian village where he befriended Ishaq. One day while Ishaq's family answered the local mosque's call to prayer, Evans was able to talk with his Muslim friend alone for the first time. Glancing around nervously, Ishaq leaned closer and whispered, "My one desire in life is to be near to God."

He explained that he had happened upon a Bible 13 days earlier and began reading it. But when the Bible was discovered by Ishaq's parents, both devout Muslims, they took it and harshly discouraged any further interest in Christianity. What his parents couldn't take, though, was the seed that already had been planted in Ishaq's heart. And so, without any other gospel witness, Ishaq waited for the day God would send someone who could tell him about Jesus.

Ishaq's story was one of dozens of testimonies at an International Mission Board missionary appointment service March 16 hosted by First Baptist Church of Dallas. Evans and his wife, Katie\*, were among 67 new missionaries sent forth on Tom Elliff's first day as IMB president.

"I immediately recognized (Ishaq's words) as something divine, something God had orchestrated," Evans said. "This is an area that is very much unreached by the gospel, to the point that an average guy, from the time he's born to the time he dies, without God's grace will probably never even rub shoulders with someone who understands the gospel."

Indeed, Evans was the first Christian Ishaq had encountered, and the pair soon began meeting discreetly to talk about the Bible. But after months of conversations,



**AT THE ALTAR** Newly elected IMB president Tom Elliff prays for greater missions involvement during an altar call at IMB's March 16 missionary appointment service in Dallas. "Going 14,000 miles (from home) will not make you a missionary," Elliff said. "You'll not be anything overseas that you're not here, right now. And that's true for every one of us." (IMB photos)

Ishaq wasn't yet ready to make a commitment to Jesus, and Evans' two-year term as a missionary journeyman was ending.

"I left the country without him having professed faith," Evans said. "I don't know where God has led him. I would love it if we could run into each other someday and I could see how God's been working in him since."

Evans might get that chance. Energized by short-term mission trips and divinely appointed encounters like his meeting with Ishaq, Evans is returning with his family to minister full time in the same area where he served previously.

"Ishaq's story encourages you in a way an appetizer prepares you for a buffet," Evans said. "Knowing that we serve a God who is drawing people like Ishaq—people who have not humanly had any chance to hear—but have been given by God that hunger and longing to know Him ... that is the kind of stuff that encourages you to go back."

While some of the appointees were called to missions later in life, many said they felt God drawing them to missions as children. Sebastian Vazquez and his wife, Erin, are carrying on a family legacy, serving among international university students in Toronto as fourth-generation church planters.

Nearly 100 years ago, Vazquez's great-grandfather, Angel, was led to Christ in Argentina by a Southern Baptist missionary from Mississippi. Angel, a baker who immigrated to Argentina from Spain, eventually became a church planter, as did his son, Ramon (Vazquez's grandfather). Ramon's son, Raul (Vazquez's father), became a pastor and church planter in Texas after the Vazquez family moved there.

"At first, I carried (the legacy) as a burden because I thought that it was something that was pushing me into ministry, sort of like the family business," Sebastian Vazquez said. "But now I really have peace with it and love to share the story because I

really think it shows God's faithfulness—a missionary 100 years ago who probably never realized that the one little baker he led to the Lord would be the first of four generations of church planters."

In his remarks, new IMB President Elliff spoke specifically to the missionaries' parents. As a former missionary and father of two missionaries, he said parents may be thinking, "Why is my son or daughter being called to the mission field?" Elliff said the answer begins with the reality of hell.

"Hell is an actual place. It's an awful place. And it's an always place. There's never a moment where a person who spends eternity in hell will say, 'Well, I've about got this handled.' No—there's always as much out in front as there is behind."

The appointment service brings the IMB's global missionary force to 5,014. The next IMB appointment service will be held May 22 at Mandarin Baptist Church in Los Angeles. (BP)

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**GENERATIONS** Fourth-generation church planter Sebastian Vazquez and his wife, Erin, talk about God's call to missions during the IMB's March 16 missionary appointment service at First Baptist Church of Dallas. More than 100 years ago, a Southern Baptist missionary to Argentina led Vazquez's great-grandfather to Christ, beginning a missions legacy that continues today.

# Chicago-area pastor prays for revival in Japanese homeland

By Alan James  
International Mission Board

Mount Prospect, Ill.—Japan always has been Yugo Kobari's home away from home. He grew up there. Once or twice a year he visits family who still live there. He also has early memories of long bike rides not far from the nuclear plant in the coastal town of Fukushima, Japan.

Kobari, now 52 and pastor of Chicago Japanese Mission Church in Mount Prospect, Ill., admitted he struggles to keep back tears when he watches the news. The 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami March 11 devastated towns and villages where many of his relatives live. Two of Kobari's distant relatives who lived near the beach in the Miyagi Prefecture remain among the thousands missing after the tsunami swept away their village.

Now a nuclear crisis close to where he grew up has created more concern for the pastor.

"My heart is broken," Kobari said. "It's really tough. ... This is not (some) other country. This is Japan, near my hometown."

Immediate family members of Kobari and his wife, Keiko, who live in the disaster area and in Tokyo are safe. The couple is keeping in touch with them by phone as much as possible. Kobari's 79-year-old mother lives with his brother about 45 miles from the nuclear power complex in Fukushima. Though the house they live in remains intact, concern about nuclear radiation has led to some evacuations near areas at risk of exposure.

"They are not evacuated yet," Kobari said. "But they are really concerned. ... It's dangerous."

Kobari asked his mother what he could do to help her and his brother. She re-

sponded, "Don't come. ... There's no way through. You are the pastor. Stay there. Pray for me."

Though Kobari's mother and brother have shelter, finding stores with food and fuel remain a challenge. He said one relative went to the supermarket and all that was left on the shelves was mayonnaise and soy sauce—staple items like bread and rice were nowhere to be found.

"It's still difficult," Kobari said. "And it's still winter there. ... It's really cold. ... We have to pray for them."

Though Kobari admitted he struggles with feelings of helplessness, he clings to his faith and to prayer.

Last week, Kobari led his congregation of about 50 people in evening prayer services. The church, which he started 10 years ago, also is giving money to relief efforts through the International Mission Board,



Yugo Kobari

which is coordinating its planning with Baptist Global Response.

Though most of Kobari's family is Buddhist, Kobari became a Christian at age 19 while attending a Baptist church in Japan. He moved to the United States when he was 25. Kobari said he remains uncertain when he will be able to visit family in Japan.

"I want to go soon," he said.

Kobari said he believes the crisis will give him more opportunities to share his faith with his family when he does return. His father gave his life to Christ 10 years ago and was baptized a week before he died at the age of 71.

Kobari said his greatest concern is for the spiritual condition of his family and the people of Japan.

"Revival is going to start from east of Japan," he said, referring to the earthquake epicenter. "I believe this. I believe that revival will start." (BP)

## Relocated Southern Baptist missionaries in Japan vow they will return

Continued from page 1  
less for the homeless.

The Hoshizakis' ministry to the homeless averages around 80 individuals who come for food and Bible study. On this day, however, more than 115 came. One woman tells Wendy she just can't trust anything or anyone since the earthquake. When the woman remains adamant after Wendy encourages her to trust in the Lord, the missionary's heart breaks.

"It's horrible. We are leaving," she said. "They are even worse off because the homeless are always forgotten. We had so little bread to give today, yet they were so thankful. One man said, 'We don't have anything. We are so thankful for the little bit we received today.'"

The Hoshizakis pray with their friends as tears fill their eyes.

"We are saying 'sayonara' but it's not goodbye," Wendy Hoshizaki said, tears falling. "We want to be back as soon as the 'powers that be' allow us to come."

Mark and Mie Busby leave on a somewhat higher note, but it's just as hard for the veteran missionaries. The Busby family is among the last to leave so they can baptize a city councilman and his wife. The baptism originally was scheduled for March 12, the day after the earthquake. The councilman's wife begged Mark to baptize her before the Busbys relocated.

The borrowed church where the baptisms take place overflows with joy, giving everyone the chance to briefly forget

Japan's triple disaster. It is the first baptism at the church in five years—and today there are two.

"Leaving right now is a hard pill to swallow. I'm not ready to go," Busby said. "During a time like this, we just want to do everything we can for our Japanese brothers and sisters. We can listen and share their pain. We believe we will be back to work soon."

Busby admitted there is no way the missionaries can physically get to the survivors right now. Special government permits are required to be in the tsunami and earthquake areas and no one is allowed near the nuclear plant.

Spinach and milk produced near the plant were found to contain levels of ra-

dioactive iodine higher than the legal limits, although not at levels that would be a risk to human health. There even are reports that water has been affected.

The missionaries discuss the day's latest news when veteran missionary Tak Oue gathers everyone to pray before making the trek south.

"Lord, our hearts are broken and grieved over the devastation and loss of lives. God, we know that You are in control," Oue prayed. "We all feel the pain of having to leave when our brothers and sisters are here. Lord, we really don't know what to do. I pray you give everyone a rightness, a sense of peace."

"I pray that in some way you'll turn this into a witnessing opportunity." (BP)

## Meet the class of 2011

### Graduating senior Evan recalls God's call to his parents to serve at Oneida

In the course of a year I interview a host of people interested in possibly serving at Oneida. When I'm interviewing a couple with children still at home, I know the children likely will be less excited about Mom and Dad going into "full-time ministry" than the parents are—especially if they are teenagers. Some families seem to navigate the range of emotions of their teens better than others. But in only a few cases does the transition go without some elevated stress. Three years ago a new family arrived at OBI with two children, one of whom was a sophomore.

Here is part of the senior essay written by Evan (his real name):

"My life before Oneida was a fairly normal one. ... I went to a public school until I changed to homeschooling in the eighth grade. ... I spent time with my friends in my church youth group. We would, almost every Sunday night after church, go to the local Mexican restaurant and fellowship, which means eat in the Baptist dictionary. They were the kind of people that could talk about nothing and make it interesting and laugh at everything no matter how funny it was.

"During the summer of 2008, I first found out about Oneida. My Dad was a loan officer at Regions Bank and my Mom stayed at home. They both wanted to do something better though, something that involved serving Christ.

"One day ... my family and I were enjoying a beautiful afternoon on our deck when I decided to get the mail. ... I noticed something interesting. We had received a letter from our church

informing us that their next mission trip was going to be a little place called Oneida, Ky. That was normal, a mission trip to a place I didn't know anything about, but that isn't what caught my attention. At the same time I was reading that letter, my parents were reading a letter from Oneida Baptist Institute. My parents started telling me all about this Christian boarding school. ... I didn't even notice the similarity in the names until my mom told me the school was in Kentucky, at which point I showed them the letter I was reading. We thought that the coincidence was more than a coincidence, and we decided to check out Oneida.

"We made plans to go and check out the place, and my parents interviewed for a job. My parents really loved the opportunity to do missionary work, which was their dream in the first place. After a few weeks my parents called and they were offered a job, so we moved to Kentucky in July. I really liked Oneida and what it had to offer, but it just wasn't home to me. ... But I quickly made friends, and I believe that is what really helped me transition to life in Oneida.

"Soccer was new to me and due to not having to make tryouts at Oneida, I was able to be a part of the team with no skill whatsoever. I grew to love soccer and loved going to practice every day. I was able to become acquainted with people, and I developed friendships through soccer.

"I'm proud to walk the halls and say I go to Oneida Baptist Institute because it has helped me grow mentally, physically, socially and spiritually."

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Coming home

### God's call on his life leads CCBBC student back home

First-year student Robert Dotson grew up just 20 miles from the campus of Clear Creek, but only recently discovered the wonderful ministry training that takes place here after spending the last 16 years working in middle Tennessee.

"Looking back now, it's amazing how close I was to Clear Creek growing up as a kid," Dotson recalled, "but yet I didn't even know that this college was here until about a year ago. I was saved as a young child at 6 years old. I actually knew the Lord was calling me into the ministry when I was 13. But I am a very stubborn person and I ran hard in the other direction.

"Back in 2006 God began to deal very strongly with me about surrendering to His call once again," Dotson said. "I was still very stubborn, and God literally had to put me flat on my back to get me to finally listen to Him.

"My Mom was attending my home church where I grew up there in the Harrogate area," Dotson said. "A former Clear Creek student is the pastor. He began to talk to my Mom about me and suggested that I check out Clear Creek. She got me

some information about the college. I began to pray about God's direction in my life. I came and visited the campus. I really felt God presence here and knew that He was leading me here as a student.

"Now I am back attending the church where I grew up in and glad to know about a place like Clear Creek that was so close to my home area where I can train for God's calling on my life."

Robert is making an impact in the local area already.

"I am a part of 13 students who have formed a student evangelism group on campus," Dotson said. "We go out in the

community on Thursday nights and Saturdays giving out marked editions of the New Testament with the plan of salvation and sharing our faith with people we meet on the streets. We love engaging people about a personal relationship with Christ and putting some information in their hands to help them understand how to know Christ in a personal way."

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

## Amusement train accident claims life of S.C. pastor's son

By Bob Allen

Spartanburg, S.C.—The conductor of an amusement train involved in a March 19 crash that killed a pastor's son said he was driving too fast, that he knew better and didn't know how he was going to live with himself after the tragedy, according to an incident report.

A police officer who rode in an ambulance with conductor Matthew Mark Conrad, 42, said the driver reported that he would go slow on the first lap of the miniature train ride at Cleveland Park in Spartanburg, S.C., go a little faster on the second lap and then "opened it up" to go faster on the third lap. When the train crossed a bridge on a curve he felt the back end of the engine come off the track and cars overturned, spilling passengers into a rocky creek bed.

Fifteen children and adults from Cor-

inth Baptist Church in Gaffney, S.C., were on board. Church members suffered injuries from scrapes and bruises to broken bones, lacerations and head and body trauma.

Benjamin Samuel "Benji" Easler, 6-year-old son of Pastor Dwight Easler, did not survive his injuries. He was pronounced dead at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. His funeral was held March 24 at Corinth Baptist Church.

Benji was a kindergarten student at Corinth Elementary School. Survivors include his parents, Dwight and Tabitha; two brothers, Seth and Matthew, and a sister on the way.

A fund was set up at the church to help affected families with medical expenses not covered by insurance. Any excess funds collected will be used for children's ministry in Benji's memory.

Grief counselors were on hand for a Sunday morning worship service at Corinth Baptist March 20. Prayers were spoken not only for physical injuries, but also for emotional scars of the children and adults who witnessed the tragedy.

Donnie Padgett, director of missions for Broad River Baptist Association in Gaffney, told worshippers that people often look to clergy for answers during times of tragedy.

"The truth is we don't have answers, not the answers to the kind of questions that you might have," he said. "We know all things work together for good for those who love God, but sometimes in our hearts it just doesn't seem good. We have to work through those things."

The Spartanburg Herald-Journal reported that a state worker who was supposed to inspect the train resigned after he told officials he falsified a report that cleared it for use. The newspaper said the

inspector, Donnie Carrigan, found a dead battery in the train that prevented him from giving the train a required test run, but he gave it a clean inspection report anyway.

"He was a good man who made a mistake," Catherine Templeton, director of the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, said of Carrigan, who worked as a state inspector for elevators and amusement rides for two decades.

The train derailed within one hour of its first run of the season. The newspaper said the Spartanburg Public Safety Commission was continuing an investigation into whether the accident was caused "by mechanical failure or human error" but quoted an official saying there was no evidence to indicate it was sabotaged.

The state has suspended all miniature train rides in South Carolina pending the outcome of the investigation into the accident. (ABP)

## Beyond checkbook giving

### Christians' kingdom-minded gifts should include non-cash assets

Most Christians tend to support the mission of their churches and other charitable organizations by writing a check and placing it in the offering plate or sending it through the mail. Checkbook giving also tends to be giving out of one's income without regard to certain non-cash assets the Lord has entrusted to us.

If you think about it for a moment, the non-cash assets the Lord has entrusted to you likely have greater value than the cash assets He has entrusted to you. Non-cash assets consist of real estate, stocks, bonds, mutual fund shares, business interests, retirement plan assets and life insurance cash surrender values. These non-cash assets cannot be placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning and may require the assistance of a professional adviser in making charitable gifts. Using non-cash assets for charitable giving typically is done as part of one's overall estate and financial planning and may take advantage of certain tax-advantaged methods to accomplish one's giving objectives.

Non-cash assets can be given in a vari-

ety of ways and at various times over one's life. They can be given outright; by bequest in a will or trust; by beneficiary designation of retirement plan survivor benefits and life insurance death benefits; and by payable-on-death provisions of bank and brokerage accounts.

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Since all of our possessions belong to the Lord who has entrusted them to us to manage and to use according to His purposes, it behooves us to consider prayerfully "giving beyond our checkbooks." Furthermore, the financial resources required to advance the kingdom in the future depends upon it.

There are two ways the KBF can help in educating and enabling you to move beyond checkbook giving. First, Laurie Valentine is available to you by telephone or a personal visit to provide helpful information and to answer your questions. Second, Laurie and I are available to conduct a seminar in your church or older-adult group. Please call us; we want to help.

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

## Obama looks to college campuses to head interfaith service projects

Washington—The White House is hoping to recruit America's college and seminary students in a nationwide interfaith service campaign launched March 17.

In the next month, the Obama administration will solicit plans submitted by colleges, universities, seminaries and rabbinical schools for year-long community service projects such as food drives, house building or mentoring.

Administration officials would not say how many schools they hope will take the "campus challenge." The proposal grew out of recommendations from advisers to the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships that called for projects on more than 500 U.S. campuses by the end of 2012.

Joshua DuBois, director of the office, said he hopes "a substantial subset" of the nation's schools will take part in the initiative, which will be promoted through letters to college presidents, conference calls and a website.

"As a Christian who became committed to the church while serving my community, I know that an act of service can unite people of all faiths or even no faith around a common purpose of helping

those in need," President Obama said in a White House video launching the new program.

Schools are asked to select priorities such as healthy living or disaster preparedness and commit to cultivating interfaith cooperation as part of the project.

The White House has requested that commitments to sponsor service projects, which could be led by either student religious or secular campus groups during the 2011-12 academic year, be submitted by April 22. (RNS)

## Poll: Government's childhood obesity push unpopular with evangelicals

Washington—Evangelicals are the only major religious group where a majority opposes the federal government's efforts to reduce childhood obesity, a Pew Research Center survey shows.

Asked if the government should play a significant role in reducing childhood obesity, 56 percent of white evangelicals said it should not, compared to 42 percent who said it should.

Overall, 57 percent of Americans favored such a government role while 39 percent did not.

First lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative has drawn both praise and criticism from conservatives, and divided potential GOP presidential candidates, with former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee supporting it and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin opposed.

Other groups viewed a government role more favorably, including 61 percent of Catholics and religiously unaffiliated Americans, 75 percent of black Protestants and 51 percent of white mainline Protestants.

Obama expanded her "Let's Move" initiative to include congregations last November and marked its one-year anniversary in February at an evangelical church outside Atlanta. (RNS)



## Developing & Managing People

Tuesday, April 26, 2011

9:00 am - 4:00 pm, Kentucky Baptist Building

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- ▶ Discover what it takes to lead others.
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**April**

- 1-2 Exalt, Forest Park Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 1-3 Baptist Campus Ministries Leadership Training Conference, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 2 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 7-8 Joshua Cluster Celebration, Hilton Garden Inn, Louisville.
- 8-9 Team Leader Training for International Missions, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 8-9 Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 9 Disaster Relief Regional Training, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 14-15 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Northside Baptist Church, Mount Vernon.
- 14-16 Ministers in Transition, Louisville.
- 16 Youth Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 26 Developing and Managing People Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 29 Children's Bible Drill, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 29-30 Sunday School Growth Academy, Paroquet Springs Conference Center, Shepherdsville.
- 29-30 Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Miss Schafer, Pellville.
- 29-5/1 All-State Children's Choir—East, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 29-5/1 All-State Children's Choir—West, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 29-5/1 Equestrian Trail Ride, Mammoth Cave National Park.

**Full face transplant recipient given self-described 'miracle'**

By Jerry Pierce  
Southern Baptist Texan

**Boston**—A burn victim whose face was badly marred in an accident suffered while painting a Baptist church in Texas has become the first person in the United States to undergo a full face transplant.

The trailblazing surgery on 25-year-old Dallas Wiens was completed recently, physicians at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital announced March 21. For privacy reasons, the hospital did not say which day the surgery occurred. It required a deceased donor, whose identity and date of death were not disclosed, and included a team of more than 30 physicians and nurses led by Bohdan Pomahoc, plastic surgeon and director of the hospital's burn center.

Speaking to reporters last week, Pomahoc praised Wiens "for his courage and strength" while calling the donor's gift "the most selfless gift one human can give another."

Pomahoc also thanked the New England Organ Bank, the Department of Defense, whose research grant helped fund the surgery, and the surgical team who worked more than 15 hours to transplanted the nose, lips, facial skin, "muscles of facial animation and the nerves that power them and provide sensation," a hospital news release stated.

The Defense Department has said it hopes funding will lead to breakthroughs in facial recon-

struction for wounded war veterans. Similar transplants have been done in the U.S. involving parts of the face, but this was the first transplant of the entire facial region, doctors said.

Wiens' grandfather, Del Peterson of Fort Worth, Texas, told reporters he thanked God "for walking with us through this amazing journey." Peterson told Pomahoc that he "inspired confidence" in his grandson the first time they met him and that Wiens, when he is able, plans to be an advocate for facial transplant surgery.

In November 2008, Wiens suffered life-threatening burns when he came in contact with a high-voltage wire while painting his church, Ridglea Baptist in Fort Worth. Through hours of painstaking surgery, physicians at Dallas' Parkland Hospital were able to save Wiens' life, but severe facial disfigurement and blindness resulted from the accident.

Early on, Peterson said, Wiens decided "he could choose to get better. Thank God, today he is better."

Pomahoc said Wiens is "meeting all the milestones" so far, even speaking with close family and friends on the phone. On March 21 he had yet to eat, "but that will be soon," the surgeon said.

Reflecting on the surgery, "I was very pleased with what we were able to do," Pomahoc told reporters. Asked what Wiens' appearance would be like when his

**MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI**

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy will host **Joseph Grieboski**, CEO of Just Consulting in Alexandria, Va., as guest speaker April 5, 5 p.m., at the banquet hall in the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus. The event is free and open to the public.
- **DEWITT**—Dewitt Church recently called **Jay Barnett** as pastor. He also is a professor and

director of distance education and institutional research at Clear Creek Bible College in Pineville.

■ **RICHMOND**—Tates Creek Church recently called **Eric Begley** as youth minister. **Jerry Huffman** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELL SPRINGS**—Liberty Church recently called **Greg Estes** as pastor.

■ **WALLINGFORD**—Foxport Church recently ordained **Tracy Payne** as a deacon. **Carl Hall** is pastor.

face is healed, Pomahoc said he would look neither like his old self nor the donor, but "probably somewhere in the middle."

Doctors used the donor's skin and some nasal bone to provide some added structure to Wiens' new face, which will provide most of the sensation lost in the accident and functionality of the mouth and nose. Attempts to restore sight to Wiens' one remaining eye failed last year.

Pomahoc told reporters the surgery is not merely cosmetic and functional but also involves some ethical considerations. For example, he told of a former patient who underwent multiple grueling procedures to improve his physical appearance. Asked by the hospital staff why he continued to seek treatment with so little promise of significant improvement, the patient said, "I just want a cab to stop when I'm at the curb."

Two other people are on a wait-

ing list for similar surgeries, Pomahoc said.

Wiens will spend several months in Boston recovering from the surgery before returning to Texas for more care and recovery, physicians said. He will be taking a low dose of anti-rejection drugs for the next year, Pomahoc said.

Wiens spoke to the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention's Empower Evangelism Conference in February.

"I say I'm tenacious but we know differently," he said. "On the very first line of my medical record it says, 'This young man is a miracle of God.' Even they cannot deny that it was God who saved my life. ... The doctors that I had, God put their skill to work in the right place and at the right time to keep me alive."

The accident, Wiens said, put him in a position to hear from God after running from Him since his teenage years. (BP)

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**FOR SALE:** Seventeen 15-foot solid oak pews. Contact Rodney Vincent at First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, (270) 842-0331; or by e-mail: [rvincent@firstbaptistbg.org](mailto:rvincent@firstbaptistbg.org).

**SEEKING:** Youth minister for small SBC church, 10-15 hours per week. Send resumé to David's Fork Baptist Church, 3245 North Cleveland Road, Lexington, KY 40516; or e-mail [bro\\_mickeydfb@hotmail.com](mailto:bro_mickeydfb@hotmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Interim youth director to lead our young ladies and young men to a better understanding of God's will for their lives. This position is planned to begin June 1, 2011. Please indicate your interest by forwarding your resumé with a recent photo to Glasgow Baptist Church, 401 S. Green St., Glasgow, KY 42141, Attn: Personnel Committee.

**SEEKING:** Part-time associate pastor of worship at Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, Ky. Responsibilities include planning, leading worship, and leadership of all aspects of the music ministry (choir, ensembles, etc.) Candidates should demonstrate a heart for ministry and musical leadership/ability. Pursuit/completion of a seminary degree, musical training, and ministry experience preferred. Candidates may submit their resúmes to [info@gileadbaptist.com](mailto:info@gileadbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister for a growing congregation in Gracey, Ky. Candidate will work with the youth committee to plan and promote activities. Candidate should be passionate about reaching youth and their families for Christ. Responsibilities include discipleship, outreach, and leading our youth to be mature Christ-followers. Resúmes should be sent to: Gracey West Union Baptist Church, PO Box 154, Gracey, KY 42232.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of students for Pleasant Hill Baptist Church, Somerset, Ky. Candidate must be a God-called man who can provide leadership to all student ministries of PHBC from preschool through 12th grade. He must be competent in the areas of teaching, administration, and student pastoral care. Church Website is [phbcsonerset.com](http://phbcsonerset.com). Send resumé to Personnel Committee, PHBC, 1685 Hwy. 3091, Somerset, KY, 42503; or e-mail [phbc@newwavecomm.net](mailto:phbc@newwavecomm.net).

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for Eliston Baptist Church (small rural church in Grant County, Ky.) Send resumé to: Mr. Gary Richardson, 1170 Hwy. 467E, Glencoe, KY 41046; or call Gary at (859) 643-5776.

**SEEKING:** Associate pastor for children at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Carrollton, Ga. An M.Div degree (or equivalent) is required from an accredited seminary. Candidate must have experience in planning, developing, supervising and coordinating a ministry to children from birth to sixth grade. For more information, visit [www.tabernacle.org](http://www.tabernacle.org). To apply, submit resumé by April 30, 2011, to: Search Committee, Tabernacle Baptist Church, 150 Tabernacle Drive, Carrollton, GA 30117; or e-mail: [linda.bohannan@tabernacle.org](mailto:linda.bohannan@tabernacle.org).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister. Elk Horn Baptist Church, Campbellsville, Ky., a Spirit-led, soul-winning, life-changing church seeks a creative and experienced youth pastor who has a passion for working with young people and can lead and minister to a diverse, multi-cultural youth group (grades 7-12). Send resumé to [office@elkhornbc.org](mailto:office@elkhornbc.org); or 3145 Elkhorn Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational youth minister to lead our youth to be mature Christ followers. Is the Lord leading you? Please send resumé to Turner Ridge Baptist Church, 60 McGraw Road, Falmouth, KY 41040; or send e-mail to [daleannbeighle@yahoo.com](mailto:daleannbeighle@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time children/educational minister for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville, Ky. Hours of work: 8 a.m.—4:30 p.m. during the week with scheduled day off, plus weekend ministerial duties to include coordinating Upward, VBS, etc. Starting salary commensurate with education and experience, with a range of \$35,000—\$42,000. Contact Sally Lewis at (270) 358-3193.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for Reid Village Baptist Church. Please send resumé and audio/video sermon to [eddie.ratliff@roadrunner.com](mailto:eddie.ratliff@roadrunner.com); or mail to Pulpit Committee, 1827 Stratford Place, Mt. Sterling, KY 40353.

**SEEKING:** Exciting, passionate leader to direct children's ministry and oversee daily activities of family life center. Must have vision and desire to share the love of Christ with children and families through God-given spiritual gifts. Experience preferred, college degree a plus. Please send cover letter and resumé to: Search Committee, Marion Baptist Church, PO Box 384, Marion, KY 42064; or e-mail to: [searchcommittee@marionbaptistchurch.com](mailto:searchcommittee@marionbaptistchurch.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music who will be responsible for planning weekly worship services, working with the adult choir and all instrumentalists, and overseeing the entire music ministry of the church. Contact Pastor Rodney Bice at Bardwell Baptist Church, (270) 628-3645; or [bbcpastor1@windstream.net](mailto:bbcpastor1@windstream.net).

## Developing a biblical view of work

By Chuck Bentley

Gainesville, Ga.—Of all the characteristics, gifts and virtues that indicate that we belong to God, two should obviously set us apart from those who do not profess to know

### COMMENTARY

the Lord: one is love and the other is the quality of our work. Our work is the tangible expression of the invisible reality that the power of God is at work mightily within us.

Love for God and others is our inward fuel and motivation that guides all that we do. But our labor is the visible output of that motivation. So we should view our work, regardless of what it is, not as a means to earn God's favor but to express the truth of His life in us.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom." The Lord used Solomon to teach us this practical standard for all labor that I call the Principle of All Your Might. This principle clearly establishes God's benchmark for your work ... put your whole effort to the task!

Seek to be the exceptional worker God made you to be by applying these practical steps to make progress.

### Have a 'yes' attitude

What is written on your face when you work? Does your face say "Yes!" or "No, no, no!" Proverbs 15:13 says, "A happy heart makes the face cheerful." A cheerful attitude toward your work can reduce the friction in your office, with your customers, and at home. Work with a happy heart even in circumstances that require all of your might to have the right attitude.

### Seek to solve problems

Most jobs have two parts: the fun part and the hard part. Your willingness to accept responsibility for the tough parts of the job, the areas with problems and challenges, will set you apart and allow you to make the most difference. These assignments may require extraordinary measures of patience, energy and effort—what Solomon calls "all" of your might. But these will also be the assign-

ments when you experience the end of your strength and the beginning of knowing God is there. You will discover that He is in fact able to do more than you could ever even ask or imagine.

### Perfection is not the goal

Our best effort should not be determined by standards of perfection. Only our Heavenly Father is perfect, and our labors cannot be perfect. Although good is often acceptable, it normally does not require all of our might to achieve good. We can press on to achieve excellence if we don't accept the average or norm.

Vince Lombardi said, "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence." This is a great perspective that recognizes our limitations, but does not compromise.

The Lord promises that He will use those willing to labor with excellence. "Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will serve before kings; he will not serve before obscure men" (Proverbs 22:29). We may read this and think it is a motivation for mere vanity or fame, but I think the Lord is indicating that He will display before kings what He can do through His creation. When we are given opportunities for notice because of our work, we are given greater circles of influence to express gratitude for God who enables us to work.

### Start today

Applying the Principle of All Your Might is not dependent upon circumstances or other people. You simply resolve that you can take your efforts to new levels when you are assigned a job or responsibility. If you need a mentor, there is probably a friend or co-worker you admire who would be blessed to give you advice and encouragement.

As Solomon reminded us, we are going to the grave where we can no longer work or plan. So before you get to the grave, adopt a "Yes" attitude, tackle the problems, and strive for excellence. Work with all your might and you, too, will feel His pleasure. (BP)

Chuck Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries and host of Crown's MoneyLife™ podcast.

## For Heaven's Sake



## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- God sent this man a dream of a ladder with angels ascending and descending on it (Genesis 28:12-16)
- God called this man from a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-12)
- Full of cheerful good humor
- Jesus called this man to follow Him (John 1:43)
- Osmium, chem. symbol
- Delirium tremens, abbr.
- Manganese, chem. symbol
- Maine, abbr.
- Not existing before, recently made or invented
- Belonging to the church's first missionary (Acts 9:15-16; 13:1-2)
- Suitable or quick at learning
- Tailless monkeys, or large uncouth men
- Unwell
- Without payment, costing nothing
- His Highness, abbr.
- Lanthanum, chem. symbol
- Milliliter, abbr.
- Rural route, abbr.
- Jesus called this man to follow Him (John 1:44-51)
- Society of Jesus, abbr.
- Physical Education, abbr.
- In the matter of, about, concerning, abbr.
- Printer's unit of measure
- Electrically charged particles
- Fodder
- A narrative or story
- Life-support system, abbr.
- Carried
- Central Intelligence Agency, abbr.
- Exclamation of satisfaction

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- Laughter sound
- Eastern Time, abbr.
- Rue, Amer. abbr.
- Excellent, most impressive or splendid
- Person who worked iron
- God called this man to become Israel's first High Priest (Leviticus 8:2)
- God called this man to marry a harlot (Hosea 1:1-4)

- The territory of a sultan
- Us
- Artificial Intelligence, abbr.
- Lines, abbr.
- Argon, chem. symbol
- Strikes with open hand
- Moving swiftly, nimble
- Consumed
- To damage, to spoil
- This man was called to help Paul (Acts 15:40)
- God called this man to lead Israel into Canaan (Joshua 1:1-9)
- God called this man to be the successor to Elijah (1 Kings 19:16-17)
- Fleshy or full of subject matter
- Not specified, abbr.
- "\_\_\_\_, every one that thirsteth" (Isaiah 55:1)

### Down

- Sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:27-28)
- Authorized Version of the Bible, abbr.
- Criminal Investigation Department of Scotland Yard, abbr.
- Hardy cereal plants grown in cool climates
- Barrel, abbr.
- Military Policeman, abbr.
- Units of electrical resistance
- Breaking of religious or moral law
- Elevated railway
- An affected smile
- God called this man to warn Nineveh about coming judgment (Jonah 1:1-2)
- Jesus called this fisherman to follow Him (Matthew 4:18-20)

## Last week's solution

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| 50 | I | M | R | O | A  | R |    | 52 |    | 53 | L  | I  | L | Y |
| 54 | B | E | G | O | T  | E | N  |    | 55 | M  | I  |    |   |   |



WELCOME The Kentucky Baptist Convention recently welcomed seven new pastors, two youth ministers and their spouses to Kentucky: Bobby and Jennifer Ewing of Emmanuel Baptist Church in London; Stephen Childers of Guthrie Baptist Church; Dan Hatfield of Audubon Baptist Church in Louisville; Tom and Naoko Slone of Central Baptist Church in Paris; Desi and Christi Ginn of Potter's House Baptist Church in Smithland; Sherl and Becky Johnson of Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Hopkinsville; John and Tracee Young of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Smith Mills; Jared and Ashley Baker of West Broadway Baptist Church in Mayfield; and Justin and Jennifer Glenn of Mount Sterling Baptist Church.

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