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Philippians 2:15

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Deadly tornadoes sweep South

Massive So. Baptist disaster relief effort underway



Alberta Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., was one of an unknown number of Southern Baptist churches damaged during the April 27 tornadoes. Nearly 350 people died across the South in what has been called the largest and deadliest tornado outbreak since 1974. (Photo courtesy of Alberta Baptist Church)

Birmingham, Ala.—One of the most devastating tornado outbreaks in the nation's history left almost 350 people dead in six states April 27 as Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers work to assess damaged church buildings and assist in disaster relief in the midst of power and telephone outages and tons of rubble.

In Alabama alone, as many as 250 people died in 16 counties, and the governor estimated as many a million people were left without electricity.

Tennessee was the next hardest hit with a reported 34 deaths. Another 34 were killed in Mississippi, 15 in Georgia, five in Virginia and 13 in Arkansas. Entire neighborhoods were leveled in the affected regions.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers in Alabama are assisting emergency response personnel in an effort to find survivors.

After initially not expecting to be deployed to the hard-hit South, nine Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams were mobilized last weekend. The seven chainsaw teams and two mobile shower units are serving primarily in Dutton, Ala., in the northeastern part of the state.

The teams of 60-70 Kentuckians are stationed in nearby Henegar, Ala., at Happy Home Baptist Church. Larry Koch, former Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission director, is coordinating the crew.

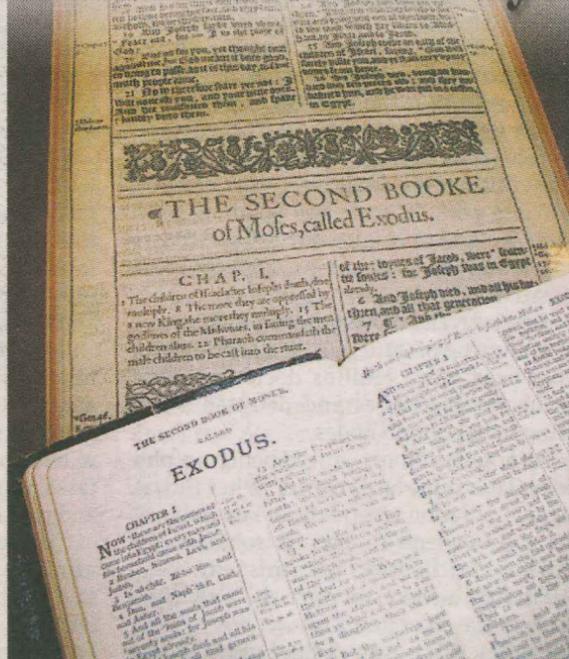
Kentucky is just one of several state Baptist conventions responding to what the Weather Channel called the deadliest tornado outbreak since 1974.

Rick Lance, executive director of the Alabama State Board of Missions and treasurer of the Alabama Baptist Convention, said last See South hit hard ... Page 7



ONLY A MIRACLE A tornado lifted Mike and Susan Hornsby's house in Troup County, Ga., off the ground, turned it completely around and dropped it 137 feet away. Hornsby, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in LaGrange, Ga., and his wife were unharmed. (Photo by Sherri Brown/Georgia Christian Index)

400 Years of the KJV



Until mid-20th century, King James was 'the Bible,' professor says

By Erin Roach

Louisville—The King James Version of the Bible, first published 400 years ago on May 5, 1611, is the Bible God used to give believers many of the riches of the Puritan movement, and it was the Bible at the heart of the Great Awakenings of the 18th century and the modern missionary movement, one Southern Baptist Bible expert noted.

"Until the 1950s, the King James Bible was 'the Bible.' It's the version that English-speaking Christians used," according to Michael Haykin, professor of church history and biblical spirituality at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

"People like John Wesley and George Whitfield and Jonathan Edwards would all have used this version in their preaching," Haykin pointed out. "When the modern missionary movement begins with people like William Carey and Hudson Taylor and David Livingstone, this again is the Bible that's used through the 19th century."

Into the vernacular

A key thrust of the Reformation was to get the Bible to the people, which required translating it into the vernacular, the speech that people were using, instead of leaving the Bible in Latin, Haykin said.

"There's a massive amount of translation activity going on between the 1520s and 1611, and the King James Bible is the crowning achievement of this long period of 80 years of translation into English," he noted. "The goal of that translation is to give the common reader an understanding of the word of God."

"Now, in places, obviously, they try to be true to the text, and if the text is difficult to understand, then there are going to be challenges in understanding, sometimes, the theology of the Bible. But the goal is always to give the Scriptures to the people."

As the translators worked, Haykin said they were aware that a saving knowledge of God, which is given through the Bible, was something that promoted the spiritual health of individuals, but also would have a deep impact upon society.

"I would seriously doubt that any of the people involved in the Bible translation of the 16th century felt that significant numbers of people who are English- See King James Version ... Page 8

Eastern Ky. ministry looks toward future without founder

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Inez—For more than six years, Haven of Rest has provided lodging for families visiting inmates at a nearby federal prison, including nearly 900 adults and children during 2010.

Started with \$2,000 in seed money from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the outreach fulfills a vision born out of Eileen Mullins' prison visits to her son in the 1990s.

Now 70 years old and battling throat cancer, the ministry's director has taken steps to see that the mission continues after she is gone.

"The Lord told me to do this," Mullins said of departing from the board of directors last year. "It took two years to get it done. We had to change our bylaws, constitution and job descriptions. We kept refining all that."

However, the move proved providential. In the spring of 2010 during a check-up for a bad heart valve, Mullins' doctor ran a test on her neck arteries and detected something in her lymph nodes.

Although a biopsy proved benign, a physician later discovered cancer in her throat. After a radiation treatment in late January, she had to spend 16 days in isolation. She will have further tests later this year.

Finding a successor isn't the only challenge in Haven of Rest's future.

Housekeeper Ann Kidder retired last month. Last year, longtime board member June Rice moved to Louisville to be closer to family. Several key supporters have died in recent years and the poor economy has further diminished contributions.

The current transition started five years ago when doctors discovered a tumor on Mullins' brain stem, something that Eileen said concerned other board members.

"I realized I'm not indispensable but I needed to make preparations because the No. 1 thing is that this ministry does not die," Mullins said. "I started thinking about it then."

After she and various board members wrote job descriptions and new policies and procedures, Tom Biddle took over last year as chairman.

The director of missions for Enterprise Association of Southern Baptists, Biddle said he feels the ministry is better prepared

to survive the founder's eventual absence.

"It's Eileen's baby, but can it go beyond the one who started it?" he asked. "Some ministries in eastern Kentucky are so tied to those who started it you wonder what's going to happen to them."

"There's too much (Kentucky Baptist) involvement up there to let that happen," Biddle said of Haven of Rest. "Eileen still does day-to-day operations but if there's a problem she calls me as chairman."

The situation in Inez underscores the necessity facing ministry centers across the commonwealth, according to Eric Allen, director of mission services and ministries for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The KBC currently has partnerships with 117 centers, which are operated by associations, churches, boards or individual missionaries. They provide such services as food and clothing distribution, after-school programs, job training, emergency shelter and life skills development.

In addition, the state convention has affiliations with 51 pregnancy care centers around Kentucky.

Allen said he reminded directors three years ago that one of their most important tasks was to identify potential successors and pass on their vision.

"If they hadn't thought about that, the ministry could have ceased to exist," Allen said of the steps taken by Haven of Rest's board.

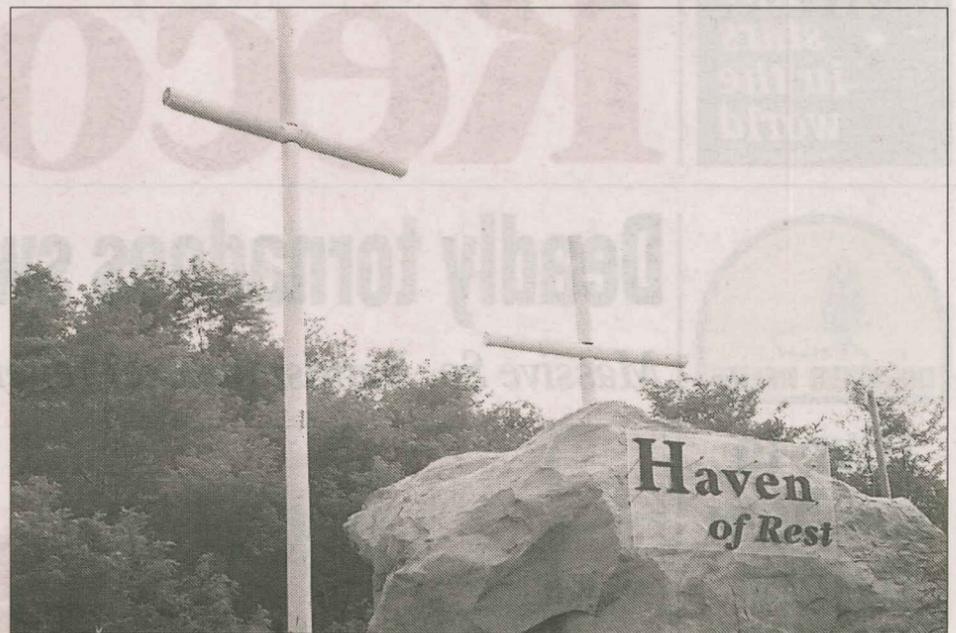
"Other ministries need to face that issue. Who will be the successor? There are things they need to plan for so someone can pick up their mantle and carry on."

Allen said there are two major steps directors can take. The first is teaching someone what they have learned so if they move, retire or die, another person won't have to start from the bottom.

In addition, allowing another person to complete on-the-job training while observing and gaining insights will enable someone to be ready to step in should the need arise, Allen said.

"We use the term around here: 'If we get hit by a bus,'" Allen said. "You've got to know what would happen. In addition to giving leadership, it's just as important to prepare someone to continue leading in your absence. You don't want to see it just die."

He said this preparation includes ac-



knowledging that the next person won't necessarily continue operating the ministry exactly as the founder does.

Some things may need to be changed or updated; the founder has to understand that in order to continue the ministry may need to adapt but that is better than it dissolving, Allen said.

"I think there needs to be something in writing that deals with the vision and goals of the ministry," he said of the succession process.

"They need a way to formalize that. The best way is in writing. Without making it too complicated, they need to have guide-

lines in place and a number of documents others can refer to."

However, as they prepare for the future, Mullins said all ministries have to retain a dependence on God to take care of their needs.

She has repeatedly seen miraculous provisions to meet Haven of Rest's monthly budget of \$6,000, even though it only has ongoing commitments from supporters for about \$1,500.

"Sometimes the devil will say, 'The money's not going to come in,'" Mullins said. "But it always comes in. It's very interesting."

Foster: Ministries need wake-up call

By Ken Walker
State Correspondent

Louisville—While the health problems of Eileen Mullins may offer a wake-up call for ministry centers, the director of Baptist Men on Mission said for many in the eastern part of Kentucky it's too late.

Randy Foster estimates that of 45 centers once identified by the KBC missions office, today only a dozen still are in operation.

Those that have closed include the Hazel Green Center at Compton and a distribution center in Berea formerly operated by the Mountain Missions Development Corporation.

Baptist Men helped organize the non-profit MMDC, which was set up to manage properties and other items donated to further missions work in the region.

Today, Foster said the agency only has two properties left.

One of them, the historic Himmler mansion near Inez, still needs \$350,000 of renovations to fulfill plans to become a transitional center for women.

The fact that director Morris Norfleet hopes to retire soon symbolizes the situation facing other ministries with aging founders, Foster said.

"We haven't found anybody who has a vision to pick it up and take the time and energy to make it go," said Foster, himself getting ready to step aside in late August.

Part of the problem these ministry centers face is the inability or unwillingness of directors to share leadership and prepare others to carry on once they are gone, Foster said.

He recalled a workshop at a mountain missions conference in Hazard several years ago. Not only is the clothing distribution center that hosted the meeting

out of business, few center directors showed any interest in identifying their successor, Foster said.

"The fact that (Eileen Mullins) is doing what she's doing is good," Foster said. "There's been a lot of Kentucky Baptist involvement there. I hope the ministry outlives Eileen and uses her as a Father Biden image," referring to a Catholic priest whose charity work in the region inspired numerous people to get active in mountain missions work.

"I see Eileen as one of those colorful characters who will make a difference for a long time," Foster added. "The more successful Haven of Rest is in the future, the more her memory will live on."

Foster said the founders who want their vision to outlive them need to find a younger assistant who can get involved in operations and share responsibilities.

Directors also must be mature enough to acknowledge that the ministry likely will evolve and not be an exact replica of them in the future, he said.

"Saying, 'You have to keep it exactly the same way' won't work," Foster said. "Saying, 'Here it is; do it yourself' won't either. There has to be a continuation and discussion. You have to discuss possible changes and have shared leadership."

However, the challenges of finding a successor also stem from economic factors.

Often, the ministry leader either is self-supporting through individuals who fund that missionary's work or there isn't enough income to support two families, Foster said.

"It's difficult to generate that much money for a ministry," he said. "That's one reason it's not happening. There's not enough money to go on while the leader is training another person."

Youth ministers' retreat featuring Richard Ross set for May 23-24

Georgetown—Richard Ross, author of "Student Ministry and the Supremacy of Christ," is the guest speaker for the 2011 Youth Ministers' Spring Retreat, May 23-24, in Georgetown.

The event, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, will be held at the Thomas & King Leadership and Conference Center adjacent to Georgetown College.

Ross is a former youth ministry consultant with LifeWay Christian Resources. Currently he is a spokesperson for True Love Waits and a professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

"It is an honor to have Richard Ross in Kentucky," said Joe Ball, director of the KBC's youth ministry department. "His heart for students and student ministers is second to none."

Youth ministers are invited to start the retreat May 23 with a golf scramble

at Kearney Hill Links Golf Course in Lexington.

The activities in Georgetown begin with registration at 4:30 p.m. that afternoon followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the first session with Ross at 7 p.m. The retreat continues until 5 p.m. on May 24.

"The retreat is scheduled to minimize the time that ministers will be away from their families and churches," Ball noted. One-day rates also are available.

The \$80 per person fee includes one night's lodging and three meals. The golf scramble is an additional \$40 per person. Advanced registration is required. The deadline is May 11. Register online at www.KyBaptist.org/YMRetreat.

The spring retreat "is one of my favorite events," Ball said. "It has long been a great time of learning and fellowship among youth ministry leaders from across the state."

Ministry swaps temporary relief for permanent change

By Dannah Prather
Kentucky Baptist Convention

McDowell—Looking at the numbers, most people would say that God's Appalachian Partnership is a huge success.

The first month Lynn and Angie Wagoner opened GAP's doors to the needy in the Floyd County community of McDowell, they served 35 families. Twelve years later, that monthly number has climbed to 350.

GAP's staff and volunteers provide food, clothing, furniture, household items, home repairs, utility assistance, a back-to-school program, a Christmas ministry and more—all while sharing the gospel with those whom they serve.

They attract mission teams from Kentucky Baptist churches and congregations in other states. GAP draws so many volunteers initially they had problems finding housing for them—so they built a 26-bed lodge in McDowell.

But, even with all the positive activity, the Wagoners sensed something wasn't right.

"People had become dependent on us, and that was never our intention," Angie Wagoner said.

Each month they were seeing many of the same faces come to the center for food and clothing. For those people, GAP was not a port in a storm that provided temporary assistance; it had become a dry dock.

"We just weren't being as effective as we wanted to be," Lynn Wagoner recalled.

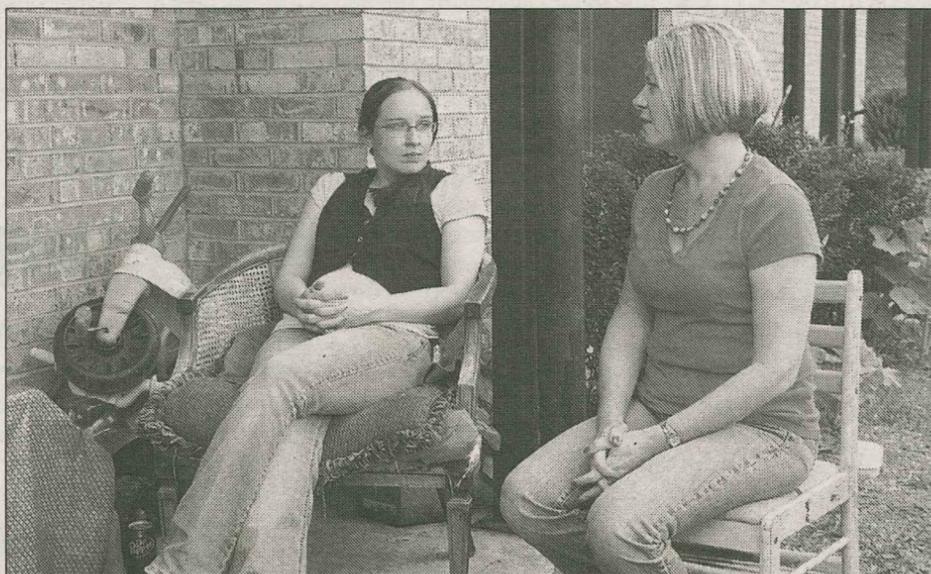
Around the same time, Eric Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's mission service and ministries department, gave the Wagoners the book, "When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor ... and Yourself" by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert.

Upon reading the book, Angie said she and Lynn thought, "Oh my. These are some of the answers we've been needing."

The book examines common pitfalls of benevolence ministries. The Wagoners' experience of seeing the same faces on food and clothing distribution days is one example. The book also explores how ministries can change, offering people "a hand up" instead of "a handout."

The KBC is hosting a "When Helping Hurts Workshop" May 16 at the Baptist Building in Louisville. Corbett, co-author of the book, will lead the training.

The Wagoners, who are Mission Service Corps missionaries, talked to GAP staff about the book and how God was leading them to develop closer relationships with those they served. Through those relation-



TALKING TRANSITION Kim Blackburn (left) and Angie Wagoner chat outside Blackburn's home in McDowell. Both women serve on the staff of God's Appalachian Partnership, a ministry undergoing a shift in how it serves the economically disadvantaged in the Floyd County community. (Photo by Dannah Prather/KBC)

ships, they wanted to equip people to make real, lasting changes and no longer depend on GAP for life's necessities.

"God had already been working with our staff," Angie said. There were many questions, but everyone agreed the change would better serve the people.

Then, the Wagoners proposed to GAP board members that the ministry officially change its course and move beyond relief and into community development. The board agreed and the transition began.

Moving forward by scaling back

GAP is maintaining a supply of food, clothing and household items for families affected by fires, floods or other crises. The back-to-school and Christmas ministries that serve more than 1,000 families annually will continue.

Phasing out frequent donation distribution is intended to free up time to address the larger issues of job training, affordable housing and a weekly sustainable ministry to children.

There are days, Lynn Wagoner said, that he wishes Allen had just kept the book.

The simple, but labor intensive, act of closing out GAP's clothing room was the first step in getting to know people better, Angie said.

It took elbow grease, fresh paint and trips to Big Lots stores in five counties for the matching café chairs, but the former clothing room has been transformed into

BeansTalk, GAP's meet-and-greet place. Anyone is welcome to stop by for a cup of coffee and a snack.

Like the home and hospital visits the Wagoners make each week, the idea of BeansTalk was out of reach before the transition. "We never had time," Angie said. "We need to be with the people rather than hanging up clothes."

The official course change for the ministry will mean expansion of some efforts GAP already had underway.

A volunteer developed a "simple, biblical budgeting curriculum," Angie explained. The three monthly classes teach students how to track expenditures and develop a budget.

One woman, when faced with the staggering cost of her smoking habit, took steps to quit. Another student, after completing a budget, discovered he had enough money to purchase life insurance.

Now, when a resident comes to GAP requesting financial assistance to pay a utility bill, or a volunteer team to help with home repairs, they are asked to complete the budgeting course.

Another effort is the Dorema Project, which provides stable families who perhaps would not qualify for a mortgage, an opportunity to own a home. It began with a single mobile home GAP purchased that was renovated by volunteer teams.

GAP screens applicants, obtains references and works with the prospect to set up monthly payments at 0 percent interest. GAP maintains the title on the mobile home until the family has paid off the debt.

The monthly payments are used to purchase or outfit the next mobile home, Angie explained.

They also launched Faith Cleaning Service, a two-year training and placement program for people interested in starting their own cleaning services. One of their "graduates" now has her own business with three employees.

"Job training is the hardest part of the ministry," Angie said, noting that some of the people GAP serves are the third or fourth generations of their families to depend on public assistance as a way of life.

The average income of those served at GAP is \$750 per month. According to the U.S. Census, more than 21 percent of Floyd County residents live in poverty. The national average is less than 10 percent.

Some of the families the Wagoners have served and grown to love seem unable even to visualize a better life for themselves, Lynn noted.

Describing the despair, he said, "You look in their faces and it's the same look you see on the faces of people in Third World countries."

Without GAP, Kim Blackburn might have been one of those faces. "I honestly believe God led me to GAP because He knew it would change my life," the 25 year old said.

The mother of two was pregnant with her first child when she came to GAP for help with a utility bill. Even though she "had no income at all," Blackburn said it was not an easy trip through the door. "I'm the type of person that doesn't like to have to ask for help."

Blackburn returned to GAP as a volunteer, satisfying a requirement to receive public assistance. Through the ministry she became involved in a local church, accepted Christ as her Savior and later was baptized.

"Her life is probably the greatest example of the awesome, life-changing power of the Lord," Lynn said. "She has done a 180 in every aspect of her life—and is excited about it."

Blackburn shared the gospel with her niece who accepted Christ. Her growing faith also has had an influence on her mother, who was baptized the same day as her daughter.

The Wagoners were so confident in the change in Blackburn's life, they hired her to handle GAP's distribution ministry. The move freed up Brenda Carswell to help her husband, Terry, in coordinating the dozens of mission teams that come to GAP every year. Like the Wagoners, the Carswells are MSC missionaries.

Blackburn said she jumped at the chance to work at GAP, even though her paycheck barely will compensate for the dollars lost in public assistance. She also will lose Medicaid coverage for herself.

The trade-offs seem minor. "I went from no income to income; unsaved to saved; and I used to have a hard time with my emotions," Blackburn said. "It's easier to deal with the hard things now that I have Jesus in my life."

Starting young

Breaking the cycle of dependence on public assistance is why GAP wants to build a consistent ministry to children.

"We need to pour our lives into these kids," Angie said. "We need them to see that God has a plan for them and it's not just what (they) see around here."

This year, GAP welcomed its first children's outreach director, Kasie Osborne.

Osborne, a recent college graduate, said she wants to provide children the same support she received from GAP when she began attending the youth group.

"For me it was having people show me there was something better (in life) and that I could do better," Osborne said. "My mom was a very big part of it but so were the people here."

And she needed the encouragement. Osborne worked full-time while attending Big Sandy Technical and Community College in nearby Prestonsburg, graduating with an associate's degree.

The transition for God's Appalachian Partnership still is in its early stages, but Angie said staff, board members and volunteers are confident in the new direction. GAP soon will finalize the purchase of new property that will set the stage for expanded services.

"We were kind of afraid our dreams were too big," Angie said. "I honestly believe this vision came from God. I don't think we could have come up with this on our own."

Children's ministers' retreat set for May 12-13

Bagdad—Art Murphy, founder and president of Arrow Ministries, will lead the Kentucky Baptist Convention Children's Ministers' Retreat, May 12-13, at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad.

Murphy has more than 30 years experience in children's ministries and is the author of "The Faith of a Child" and "Step by Step: Leading Your Child to Christ."

A former children's minister at First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., Murphy "understands, in depth, the issues that children's ministers face every day," said John Bennett, KBC's director of preschool and children's ministries. "There is no other organization in the world that requires the unique set of leadership skills that church ministry does."

Bennett said he hopes a children's

minister or children's ministry leader from each Kentucky Baptist church will attend the retreat.

"The bottom line is that quality training is directly related to effectiveness as a ministry leader," Bennett said.

Murphy will discuss a variety of topics including "The Two Missing Elements of Most Children's Ministries," and "Four Decisions Your Church Faces Regarding Children."

The retreat is \$100 per person which includes meals and lodging. Participants are asked to bring their own bed and bath linens and pillows.

Online registration is underway at www.KyBaptist.org/CMRetreat. For additional information, e-mail the department at Children@KyBaptist.org or call (502) 489-3575, toll free in Kentucky at (800) 489-3575.

Influence of mothers

As a part of preparations for retirement and downsizing, I have been going through boxes of books. I discovered a book of sermons by my mentor, Truett Miller. I served as his associate at First Baptist Church of Middlesboro for three years following seminary graduation.

Partners in the Mission

By Bill Mackey

He had a sermon in the book entitled, "A Challenge to Mothers," based on Luke 2:40-52. The passage provides an interesting account of the activities of Mary during an incident in the early life of Jesus.

Obviously the responsibility of the mother is more than just giving birth to a child. It is also to rear the child to adulthood. Luke 2:40 shares that Mary did this: "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him."

The first years of a child's life are the most influential in shaping the character of the child. Miller states, "... the entire tenor of a child's life is basically formed here ... mothers will consciously or unconsciously teach a child how to live."

The passage tells us that the parents of Jesus were focused on His spiritual development when they went up to the synagogue to observe the Feast of the Passover, and they took Jesus with them. Thus, when Jesus encountered Satan on the mount of temptation, He knew the Scriptures and answered each one with the word of God.

Miller wraps up his sermon with the challenge, "recognize mistakes and correct them." Mary and Joseph went a full day's journey without knowing where their son was. But upon discovering that He was not with them, they returned to Jerusalem to search for Him. Miller concludes, "If we make mistakes, as we often will, let's hurry to clean them up in order that we might know and not just suppose what is happening to our children."

The very next verse states that Jesus returned to Nazareth with them "... and was subject unto them" (verse 51). "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man" (verse 52).

Miller concludes, "I think there are lessons that mothers of today could learn from Mary of long ago and apply them right now; and if they do, there is hope for tomorrow."

I thank God for my mother who dedicated me to the Lord before I was conceived. She spent her life serving her family, her Lord Jesus Christ, her church and others. When she died, a neighbor and leader in the church and community said, "We have lost our missionary."

Mother's Day is a great time to thank God for your mother and to pray for all mothers who have been given an awesome opportunity by God.

Bill Mackey is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A week of celebration and devastation

At the beginning of the week, I anticipated writing about celebrating the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible. As the week unfolded, however, the devastation and loss of life in the wake of monstrous tornadoes that swept across six states also commanded attention.

The King James Version, published in 1611 by King James I, was the first translation to put God's Word in the hands of English-speaking people. Today, more than 62 percent of Americans own a KJV Bible. Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research, keenly noted, "It's hard to overstate the influence of the KJV not just on language and idioms, but because it brought the Word of God to English-speaking peoples in the first widely available format." Several years ago, another study found most pastors prefer either the King James or the New International versions. In fact, for some congregations, the KJV is the only one read from the pulpit. Though its noble intent was to promote the reading of God's Word by the common man, as author George Guthrie recently observed: "[M]ore than 50 percent of the people who come through the doors of our churches on a regular basis only read their Bibles occasionally, perhaps one or two times per month, if at all." Clearly, we still have much work to do in helping our generation encounter God's Word in a meaningful way.

Mid-week, while some Kentucky communities were reeling from unrelenting rains and flooding, more than a hundred tornadoes cut a swath of destruction and despair across Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, Ala.; Ringgold, Ga.; Smithville, Miss.; and a host of other Southern towns—many of which were nearly obliterated. Thursday morning's newspaper headlines reported an early death toll of 70, but by Saturday, the tally was rapidly approaching five-times that number, with hundreds still unaccounted for. Reporters were calling it the second-deadliest, single-day tornado outbreak.

Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak Baptist Church in Paducah, is a native of Tuscaloosa and served as a pastor there for seven years and in Huntsville for six. Summerlin told the Western Recorder: "It is hard to comprehend the destruction. In Huntsville, my neighborhood was hit hard, and we did not hear from any-

**After Thought**

By Todd Deaton

one until Friday night." A link to the Huntsville newspaper on his Facebook page showed horrifying images of splintered homes and shattered lives. "Churches started working immediately in clean up, and there is much to be done," he urged. "Entire neighborhoods are completely gone, and some churches are severely damaged." While relieved that his and his wife's families are safe, Summerlin quickly added, "But many are hurting. As one person told me, 'It is like a third world country here.' Be in prayer."

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crews are heading to Dutton, Ala. Eight chaplains, seven chainsaw units and two shower units were mobilized over the weekend. Meanwhile, two disaster relief heroes from Kentucky were honored by the North American Mission Board last week: Harold Smith of Shepherdsville and Bernard Randall of Monticello (posthumously). Southern Baptists were again reminded of how God's love and grace are shown to those who are suffering and grieving through the compassion of our DR volunteers.

As the week closed, some awoke very early on Friday to watch "The Royal Wedding." I wasn't among those early-risers, though I did see the blissful newly-weds' carriage ride to Buckingham Palace and their much-anticipated balcony kiss. The pomp and pageantry of the ceremony offered a grand diversion to closer troubles and tears—if only for a brief interlude. And, later that afternoon, those who ventured to the Cape to view the last space shuttle launch were disappointed when an electrical failure kept the Endeavour grounded.

Joys and disappointments, celebrations and heart-wrenching losses, births, weddings, anniversaries and funerals—these are the turns and twists that comprise our days. James 4:14-15 aptly advises us to realize the uncertainty of life: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." The winds of change may be kind or contrary. Accordingly, we should live each day focused on what truly matters: loving God, sharing Christ's love with others, and treasuring time with family and friends.

Mackey: Trademark smile, twinkle in eyes for witnessing

Editor's Note: Throughout May, as a way to honor the KBC's retiring Executive Director-Treasurer, Bill Mackey, the Western Recorder will be running reflections about his ministry and contributions to Kentucky Baptist life from various KBC and SBC leaders.

By Floyd Parris

Bill Mackey and I began serving in our current positions about the same time. He and Kay were moving to Louisville, and Penne and I were heading to Ashland. Our first meeting was in a parking lot before the annual meeting. I was a bit nervous, not knowing exactly where to go and searching for a familiar face. He had that trademark Mackey smile that was warm and disarming. When I

told him of my dilemma, he just smiled and confessed that he wasn't sure either, but we would find it together.

At the time I had no idea that he was the executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He was a welcoming brother helping another brother find his way. That day was the first of what would be many "together" projects that we have done over the past 13 years.

That trademark smile, that humble spirit, and the Christ-like manner have encouraged, exhorted, equipped and inspired the churches of the Kentucky Baptist Convention for more than a de-

cade. The twinkle in his eyes when he talks about witnessing has never flickered. His passion to see the world come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ has never faltered. His leadership under the Lordship of Christ has never failed.

His job has not always been easy, the days are never short, the nights are often too long, but he has remained faithful to the Lord Jesus and to Kentucky Baptists. It is with mixed emotions that we say farewell to Dr. Mackey, but we can all say, "A man of God has walked among us."

Floyd Parris is president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland.

WESTERN
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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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'Crucified on Thursday'

Concerning the day of the week on which Christ died, it's really very simple. He was crucified on Thursday, 14 Nisan, in a Jubilee Year. He thus stayed in the tomb over a high (double) Sabbath, John 19:31, Friday and Saturday—like the back-to-back Sabbaths in the 49th and 50th years.

He did not eat the Passover at the scheduled time, so that He could be our Passover Lamb, dying at the scheduled time. That the upper room event was not the regu-

lar Passover is seen in that when Judas went out, the others thought he would buy needed supplies (John 13:20); he found the Priests in the temple, not partaking in their homes; and a Jewish mob was available to take part in the arrest. On a high holy day, none of these things would have been possible.

Allowing parts of days and parts of nights, this gives the stated "three days and three nights" and still sees a Sunday morning resurrection, while the Wednesday view "proves" too

much, requiring the resurrection to be on our Saturday evening, the actual beginning of the Jewish "first day of the week," but not at dawn. The Greek of Matthew 28:1 reads: "Now after the Sabbaths"—one for the Feast of Unleavened Bread, the other for the regular Saturday Sabbath.

Charles Blair Clinton

Editor's Note: The Western Recorder also received a note from Lee James, pastor of Bellview Baptist Church in Paducah, which enclosed an article by M.R. DeHaan, a proponent of an alternative view that Jesus was in the tomb from Wednesday evening until Saturday evening.



Christ, tornadoes and Alabama the Beautiful

By David Prince

As a child I spent countless evenings with my family huddled in the bathroom of our Montgomery, Ala., home listening to the wails of tornado sirens. As the cooler temps of spring began to give way to summer, dealing with tornado watches and warnings was simply a part of life.

Since I was a boy I have possessed a sense of awe, wonder and fear, mixed with disgust at the amazing destructive power of tornadoes. There is nothing quite like walking or driving through the aftermath of a tornado. When trees that no force for hundreds of years has budged have been snapped and tossed around like toothpicks, it's an unnerving sight.

But I have never felt quite like I felt the evening of April 27 as I sat in my Kentucky home and watched cable coverage of Alabama being devastated. There was the immeasurable angst of waiting to hear from friends and family while praying they had survived. But I also felt uneasy because I was not there. I do not know how to explain it other than to say that my life is rooted in Alabama soil.

Our transient, globalized culture often feels awkward about our rootedness but we must remember that when the cosmic Lord came in human flesh he was known, even by demons, as "Jesus of Nazareth" (Mark 1:24). Some saw his rootedness in an ordinary family and a modest town as a liability (John 1:46, 6:42, 7:27). But Jesus was from somewhere and it mattered, and the same is true for us. Our rootedness in a particular place in this fallen world should serve our longing for rootedness in the world to come (Hebrews 11:16). We have already had the opportunity to experience family, fellowship, love and place, however imperfectly.

When I saw streets in Birmingham and landmarks in Tuscaloosa that have been there my entire life—gone in an instant—I felt queasy and wept. The loss of home, as the

familiar is obliterated in an instant, makes one feel violated and hurts deeply.

Creation groans in bondage to corruption in a sin-soaked, chaotic world captivated by the Serpent. The adopted sons of God groan as well, eagerly anticipating the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:18-23). But even this groaning is permeated with gospel hope which overshadows both our past and our future (Romans 8:24-25). Events like the tornado that ravished Alabama remind us that sin, rebellion and the parasitic rule of Satan are enemies. Scripture does not give simple, tidy explanations of these kinds of tragic events, but neither does it hesitate to conclude that they should serve as a warning to us of the need of personal repentance (Luke 13:4-5).

But such disasters also remind us that these groanings are not empty; they are headed somewhere. The writer of Hebrews says that in this fallen world we do not yet see all things in subjection to man as He intended, but we do see Jesus (Hebrews 2:8-9a). And He is the one who can say to an EF 5 tornado "Peace! Be still!" and the winds obey Him (Mark 4:39-41). But His Kingdom unfolds in ways that so often defy our understanding. He is also the one who suffered and was crucified. His death seemed senseless to his disciples (Matthew 16:21-22, Luke 24:21). It was not (Hebrews 2:9b-10). Our suffering often seems senseless, but we know that, in Christ, it is not (Romans 8:18-39).

One day Christ will utter the final "Peace! Be still!" and usher in the new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:3-5). In that day the waters will no longer churn, His voice will forever still every supercell and no tornado siren will ever be heard. As we long for that day I am glad that my life is not only rooted in Alabama culture but also in an Alabama church that told me about the voice that can still the storms and can declare "your sins are forgiven" (Luke 7:48).

Alabamians are tough. They will weep together, clean up the mess, replant and rebuild. Alabama churches will be on the frontlines of that effort. But the hope for Alabama does not reside in replanted pine trees and rebuilt strip malls but in the message of those churches. Tragedy will give way to triumph as those churches say without hesitation that God has a billion purposes in this tragic event beyond what we can see. Trust Him.

I love Alabama. But my tears give way to a smile when I remember that He loves Alabama far more than I do. In fact, He is going to redeem Alabama and the entire created order and root His people forever in a new heavens and new earth. In that day, "Alabama the Beautiful" will be more than a state slogan. (BP)

David Prince is pastor of preaching and vision at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky.

FIRST PERSON

Big homes may mean big trouble

By Jeremy White

Two recent articles in The Wall Street Journal brought to my attention the financial challenge that many have due to investing too much and borrowing too much for their dream home.

The first article described how the rich and famous are being hit with more and more foreclosures. From star actor Nicholas Cage to Wall Street executives, many of the higher dollar homes—and higher dollar mortgages—are being foreclosed upon. Houses with loans of \$5 million or more had a record number of foreclosures in 2010.

It appears the bigger they are, the harder they fall. No matter one's standing or income level, it is possible to spend more than you earn. This is the recipe for trouble. Borrowing based on the assumption your income will increase is not a safe bet in an uncertain economy.

In a related phenomenon, consider the unexpected consequences from the TV show "Extreme Makeover." The show's classic formula is that the producers find a struggling family with a heart-tugging story. They send them away on a vacation while volunteers work to provide a much bigger and nicer home. Other businesses and contractors donate furnishings and provide all kinds of extras like bowling lanes or movie theaters. The finale is a tear-filled tour of the new home.

Certainly this has been beneficial to some families. For others, the experience has been a financial nightmare. To the embarrassment of the show producers, some of the homes have been foreclosed upon and have caused the homeowners more financial challenges.

The ongoing expense of bigger, more lavish homes have come at a price. The larger utility bills, increased property taxes, higher insurance premiums, and ongoing upkeep expense have stretched family budgets to the breaking point. Even more challenging is that when some families have tried to sell their house, they have difficulty because the makeovers tend to be large fancy residences plopped into working class or rural communities.

Just as a reminder, these earthly homes come with consequences. Our eternal mansions in glory have no dangerous side effects or foreclosure risk.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.

Gottman Relationship Therapy

By James Stillwell

Q: My pastor suggests that we find a marriage counselor trained in the research of John and Julie Gottman, authors of "Why Marriages Succeed or Fail" and "The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work." What would this counseling be like?

A: John and Julie Gottman have spent over 30 years in their "love lab" in Seattle, Wash., researching both the "masters" and "disasters" of relationships. Based on their research, they can predict within five minutes with 91 percent accuracy which relationships will stay together. Their principles are about emotional intelligence in marriage—how to keep it, how couples lose it, and how to get it back.

One key to Gottman therapy is a three-session assessment process. Marital therapy often fails because a couple comes into a counselor's office with the counselor knowing very little about the couple, the couple having very little self-awareness, and the counselor simply acts as a referee. An assessment process circumvents that exercise in futility by taking three sessions for information-gathering.

In the first session, the counselor hears the couple's story and observes their relationship dynamics. In the second session, through time spent with each individually, the counselor assesses the commitment level as well as the presence of any betrayals or abuse. Also, the couple completes a comprehensive inventory of their relationship, their emotionality and family of origin. The third session is a conversation between therapist and couple, with the results of the assessment shared and the couple deciding if they will proceed.

Sessions are held weekly until the couple begins to make progress. Then they are moved to every other week, then every third week, to every month, until eventually the couple have learned the principles enough to connect emotionally on their own.

The goal is for the couple to build a "Sound Relationship House." The seven levels are: 1) Enhance your love maps. 2) Nurture your fondness and admiration. 3) Turn toward each other instead of away. 4) Let your partner influence you. 5) Solve your solvable problems. 6) Overcome gridlock. 7) Create shared meaning.

There are three levels of Gottman training. To find a counselor in your area, go to Gottman.com.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.



'Psst ... I'm praying for you'

By Dick Staub

I have a confession to make. I love to pray ... for strangers.

I don't know when it started. Perhaps it was when an ambulance left our neighborhood and I realized that some hapless soul trapped in a failing body needed medical assistance that I was incapable of offering. So I offered what I could: a prayer.

During visits to Disneyland, I've seen families erupt into anger and frustration and I've prayed for relief from whatever pressures they brought into the happiest place on earth.

On a flight, I spotted another passenger just ahead of me wiping a tear from an eye, and I've asked God to help them remember that some day "God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

I've watched the news and seen a fiancé whose partner was washed away in a tsunami, or a mother whose child is waiting for a kidney transplant, or an elderly person about to lose their home. I've prayed for them as if they are my own family.

Catharine Doherty said in her classic book "Poustinia," "If I touch God I must touch man." Shouldn't a deeper

connection with God lead to a richer connection with our fellow humans?"

I've prayed for authors I interviewed because I have sensed their writing is the product of some inner, festering wound, their eloquent words coated in personal pain.

Once, during an advertising break, a National Book Award winner started weeping. "I don't know why I'm telling you this, but last week I tried to take my own life." A prayer was said as my anonymous practice became more personal.

People often feel alone in this world, as if God is absent or silent or both. Maybe it's because we are failing to love as we should by being with people and praying for them.

A few weeks ago I discovered a soul mate in novelist River Jordan, whose book, "Praying for Strangers," warmly and humorously tells how she fulfilled a New Year's resolution to pray for one stranger each day for a year.

The idea was born of a mother's heart when her two sons were being deployed to war zones and she felt compelled to pray selflessly, instead of just for her boys. Parties, bus stops, book signings, newspaper articles and kitchens soon became the scene of her walk-by prayers.

FIRST PERSON

Frequently, as she told a stranger she had prayed for them, it became clear she was a timely emissary from God. One woman said, "I was just praying this morning for other people, but I stopped and asked the Lord, 'God, is there anybody in this whole wide world who is praying for me?'"

Jordan came to understand what evangelist F.B. Meyer meant when he said, "The great tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer."

The idea of "paying it forward" has become practically a cliché, but in a world so filled with suffering and pain, there still seems to be more than enough room for the idea of "praying it forward."

Prayer, of course, should never replace hands-on help for friends or stranger in need. But think about it: what would happen if every person on our planet said one heartfelt prayer for one stranger they encountered each day?

I can't know for sure if praying for strangers is good for them, but I can tell you that it's been good for me. Once you take seriously Jesus' commandment to love one another, you find yourself connected to the whole of humanity. And when I do something to relieve someone else's suffering, I relieve some of my own. (RNS)

Dick Staub is author of the just-released "About You: Fully Human and Fully Alive."

400 Years of the KJV

340 million people worldwide still need Bible translations

By Ava Thomas
International Mission Board

Redhill, England—Every Sunday, Vicar Gary Jenkins parts the pages of his Bible and preaches the word to the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church in Redhill, England, about 20 miles south of London.

In the United States, the King James Version of the Bible elicits mixed emotions from Christians, all the way from extreme loyalty to distaste. But in British cathedrals like Holy Trinity, it has special meaning Americans might not fully grasp.

Four hundred years ago, it was the gospel widely brought to the British people in their heart language for the first time.

"It was devised to be read by churches in both England and Scotland," said Neil Mac-

Gregor, director of the British Museum. "It is one of the first things made by the whole island to be used by the whole island."

And the whole island—churches, organizations, even the BBC—is celebrating the 400th anniversary with a yearlong slate of events.

"Undoubtedly the Authorized (King James) Version has had a huge impact on the life of the nation, shaping our culture and even the language itself," Jenkins said. "But even more importantly, this celebration gives the churches a great opportunity to convey the living word of God afresh to a nation where there is now so much ignorance of Scripture."

And, he said, it gives his church the opportunity to focus on the looming need

King James Version important for historical perspective, expert says

Continued from page 1

speaking knowing the Scriptures would have a harmful effect upon their culture," he said.

"One of the ways in which they could build a solid culture and society was through a knowledge of the Scriptures. That's one of the manifest aims."

King James in literature

Haykin called the King James Version the most important piece of literature in the West in the past 500 years, profoundly shaping language and thought.

The English language is peppered with phrases that come from the KJV, and from the 1650s onward, poets such as Alfred Lord Tennyson, William Blake and T.S. Eliot and secular authors including Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and Charles Dickens were influenced by that particular translation.

"So when you're reading through their writings, you hear echoes, the way they construct language, because the King James Version attempts to follow the syntax of the Greek and Hebrew," Haykin pointed out. "So in many ways it actually shapes the English language."

Without knowledge of the KJV, it's difficult to understand the type of language that was used in English literature from the late 17th century through the mid-20th century, Haykin said.

"Even authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald who are manifestly opposed to the theology of the King James Version—the Bible and Christianity and biblical religion—are shaped by it because there is so much public speech," he said, adding that some believe Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and Winston Churchill's notable World War II speeches would not have existed on one level apart from the KJV.

King James Only debate

In the 20th century, what is known as the King James Only debate arose when some believers maintained that the King James Version was the inspired version of the Bible and no other version should be used. All other versions, as one author said, were considered "perverse."

"The debate obviously turns on two things. One is the issue of the actual translation. The other issue has to do with the underlying text," Haykin pointed out.

"There are problems on both levels. The King James Version that a person picks up today and buys today is not the exact version that was published in 1611. There have been modifications and changes to it.

Those changes consisted of the addition of commas, italicization and changes of singulars to plurals—but the text essentially was the same.

KJV supporters typically will "argue from the basis of the underlying Greek and Hebrew," Haykin noted. "The problem with that argument is that today we have about 5,300 copies or portions of copies of the Greek New Testament, for example, and 800 copies of the Hebrew Old Testament."

Conversely, the KJV translators "probably had about 25 copies of the Greek New Testament along with a printed edition that they were using, which had about six or seven," Haykin said.

The textual basis of any recent English translation, he said, "is a much better textual basis than the King James Version."

Subsequent translations

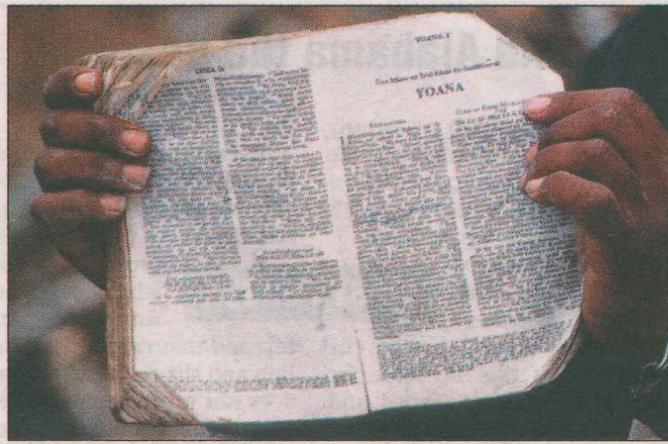
In the 1950s, significant calls to revise the King James Version arose because its language increasingly was not the language people were speaking. The Revised Standard Version was released in the 1950s, but Haykin said that didn't catch on among evangelicals because they found certain segments of the new version objectionable.

The ESV, Haykin said, is probably the key Bible today that is in the King James Version tradition. Another is the New American Standard Version, which was published first in the 1970s as a revision of the American Standard Version published in 1901.

KJV still relevant

Haykin said he believes it's the duty of every Christ follower to know at least something of their history as Christians, and he said familiarity with the King James Version is helpful in understanding Christian English-speaking church history for the past 500 years.

"Failure to know the King James means that if you're studying the history of the church, a lot of the allusions to the Bible—not the exact quotes, but the allusions and the echoes—you'll miss them because you don't know the King James Version," Haykin noted. (BP)



MILLIONS REMAIN
A Masai man proudly shows a copy of the Bible translated into his own language. Four centuries ago this year, the King James translation of the Bible opened the Scriptures to English-speaking people. Translations in other languages followed. Yet today, 380 million people around the world still have not received Scripture in their own languages.

worldwide—the "islands" that, 400 years after the KJV, still need the Bible in their own languages.

Millions have yet to hear

The need is about 340 million people speaking 2,078 languages, to be exact. These hundreds of millions of people don't even have Bible translation programs started in their languages, according to Wycliffe Bible Translators.

That's why Andrew Lancaster*, who has a degree in Bible translation and is headed to serve overseas, has a passion to see the need met.

"Why is it that there are now hundreds of English translations of the Bible, yet more than 2,000 languages of the world do not even have one word of it? English versions are produced left and right while thousands are dying without having ever had access to the word of God," Lancaster pointed out.

Something needs to be done about this injustice, he said.

"If the efforts spent toward new English versions were redirected to translating Scripture into languages that have nothing, imagine what could be accomplished,"

Lancaster said. "There are people who would pay a month's wages, sell all they have or go to any number of extreme measures to experience the luxury of owning even one Bible in their language."

Bob Creson, president of Wycliffe Bible Translators USA, said the task of translation indeed is urgent.

"We are committed to providing access to the good news of the gospel for all peoples as rapidly as we can," Creson said. "We feel an urgency to make Scripture available sooner rather than later, so that millions will not pass into eternity without ever knowing God. Bible translation is a means for God's word to transform lives, and unlike ever before, it is possible that in this generation people from every tribe, tongue and nation will be reached in their own language."

According to Wycliffe, the greatest need lies in Sub-Saharan Africa, Papua New Guinea and Asia.

"Pray for those without Bibles and for those involved with getting Bibles to them," Lancaster urged. "Give your life in some capacity to seeing this work accomplished." (BP)

*Name changed for security reasons

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DEVASTATED Eastside Baptist Church in Cullman, Ala., was another church in the South that sustained heavy damage during last week's tornadoes. (Photo by Neisha Fuson/The Alabama Baptist)

South hit hard by deadliest tornado outbreak since '74

Continued from page 1

week, "This is our Katrina," according to The Alabama Baptist newspaper.

Mel Johnson, director of disaster relief for the Alabama Baptist Convention, said disaster relief volunteers "have been asked to assist in search and rescue efforts"—a first for the Alabama volunteers.

Johnson was one of about a dozen Baptist state convention disaster relief leaders who participated in an April 28 conference call coordinated by the North American Mission Board. State representatives shared about damage in their states while others offered resources and volunteers when needed.

"Entire communities disappeared,"

Johnson said. "Many hospitals, police departments, local fire departments all sustained damage. At one campsite campers were picked up and swept into a lake.

Johnson said after search and rescue, their top priority is establishing several feeding sites near large population centers so they can serve hot meals to victims.

Southern Baptist disaster relief leaders in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia also reported damage from last week's outbreak. The lack of electricity in Alabama is making meal distribution a high priority.

Lance also said via Twitter last Thursday he was thankful for a call from Southern Baptist Executive Committee President

Bardwell Baptist damaged

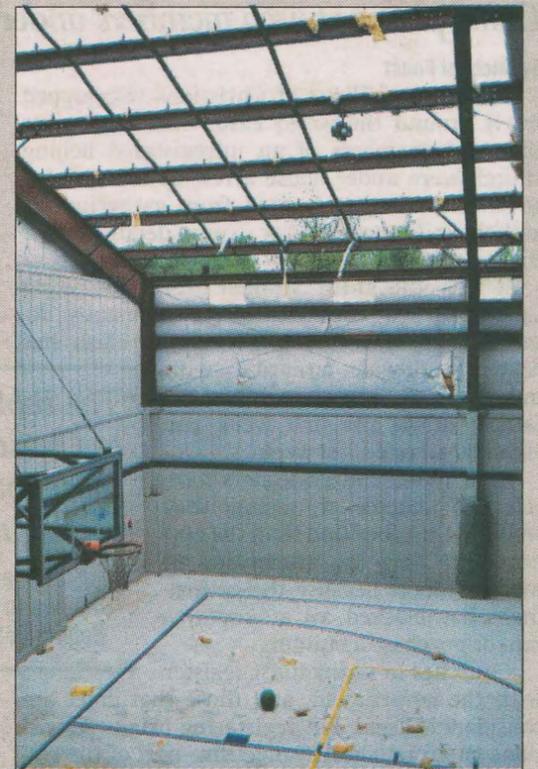
Bardwell—Recent storms that swept through Kentucky and much of the South caused extensive damage to one Kentucky Baptist church.

A portion of the roof of Bardwell Baptist Church's multi-purpose facility was torn off in storms that passed through the area the day before Easter Sunday.

Pastor Rodney Bice said damage to the 15-year-old Christian Outreach Center included not only the roof, but a glass entryway that was destroyed. The building houses church staff offices, classroom space, a kitchen and a gym/fellowship area. Three church vans parked outside also were damaged and left unusable.

The church's sanctuary sustained only minor damage, a shattered window that sent glass through the sanctuary. Bice said church members pitched in to help clean up the glass so the sanctuary could be used the next for Easter services.

Bice said the church does plan to repair the damage to its Christian Outreach Center, although insurance adjusters had yet to put together an estimate on how much that would cost.



STORM DAMAGE A photo from inside the Christian Outreach Center at Bardwell Baptist Church shows the extent of the damage from the April 23 storms. Pastor Rodney Bice said the church also had three vans that were left unusable and a severely damaged glass entryway to the multi-purpose facility. (Photo courtesy of Rodney Bice)

Frank Page pledging prayer and other support. The SBC family is needed in Alabama, Lance said.

President Obama visited Alabama last Friday to view the damage and meet with state and local officials, as well as families affected by the storms.

Mickey Caison, NAMB's disaster relief coordinator, called it the "storm you never want to see."

"Our top priority is to help people just get through the next few days and weeks," he said. "After that, Southern Baptists will be called upon to help with the longer-term effort to remove debris and help victims rebuild."

The tornados came as Southern Baptists volunteers also were in the midst of responding to floods in Kentucky, Missouri and Arkansas as well as earlier deadly

tornadoes in North Carolina.

Kentucky Baptist teams currently are responding to flooding in the state. A shower unit and mud-out teams are part of the response which is operating in West Point. The team is stationed at the Baptist church there, directed by Bob Perkins of Louisville.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell called for prayer for those affected by the tornadoes, "but I would also like to ask every Southern Baptist and every church to donate to our disaster relief efforts."

Ezell said people can visit NAMB.net in order to give to a specially designated fund for tornado and flood victims that will ensure that 100 percent of donations go directly to help disaster victims. Donations also can be made to the disaster relief units of each state convention.

"God has blessed Southern Baptists with more trained disaster relief volunteers and more disaster relief units than any other ministry or organization," Ezell said. "Now is a time to respond generously with our resources and our services to meet physical and spiritual needs."

At least one strong tornado cut a path through Tuscaloosa, Ala., killing dozens, destroying hundreds of homes and businesses and leaving roads impassable. Mayor Walter Maddox said the storm obliterated blocks of the city, causing unprecedented devastation to the city's infrastructure.

"I don't know how anyone survived," Maddox told CNN. "We're used to tornadoes here in Tuscaloosa. It's part of growing up. But when you look at the path of destruction that's likely five to seven miles long in an area half a mile to a mile wide, ... it's an amazing scene. There's parts of the city I don't recognize, and that's someone that's lived here his entire life."

The same tornado that hit Tuscaloosa also hit Birmingham, Ala., causing significant damage with a Red Cross spokesman telling CNN the number of ambulances on the street there was "just like taxicabs in New York."

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and the Kentucky Baptist Convention

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Led by **Steve Corbett**, co-author of *When Helping Hurts—How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself*

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GP COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The persecuted church

China places church members under house arrest, blocks Easter services

By Michael Foust

Beijing—As millions of Christians worshipped freely around the world Easter morning, more than 500 members of an unregistered Beijing church were under house arrest by the Chinese government and prevented from gathering together, while another 40 or so were detained after they tried to worship.

It was the third straight week Shouwang Church defied the Chinese government's demands not to gather together. The clash has drawn worldwide attention, with more than 160 church members detained during the first week and about 50 arrested last week.

Each week, church leaders have released statements saying they would rather obey God than the government. They are attempting to meet outdoors because the government has blocked all attempts to rent or purchase a building.

Churches in China must register with the government, and those that don't are considered illegal. But registering brings restrictions on growth and evangelism—part of the reason the underground church movement has flourished in recent decades. Shouwang is one of the largest house churches in the country.

The BBC recorded the arrests the first week. A CNN camera crew tried to do the same on Easter but was turned back. Hundreds of uniformed and plain-clothes police officers were involved in the Easter arrests, which took place at a public plaza, CNN reported. Police officers were waiting at the plaza for the members to gather.

As part of the Easter crackdown, the government prevented all church staff, lay leaders and church choir members from leaving their homes. Senior pastor Jin Tianming, who has led the public defiance, was one of those under house arrest. Some church members were able to avoid government interference by gathering in smaller groups

at restaurants.

"One of the deacons returned to his home (April 22) and the police came to ask him if he planned to attend the Easter Sunday service," church member Kathy Lu told Voice of America News. "He said yes, so the police said from this moment, you cannot leave this house."

Church members say they are being obedient to Christ. Some have lost their jobs and even have been evicted from their homes because of their stance, with the government pressuring employees and landlords.

"The Bible tells us, as Christians, we must not give up meeting together."

Statement from Shouwang Church in Beijing Easter week

"The Bible tells us, as Christians, we must not give up meeting together. Furthermore, as the church of Jesus Christ, we should not change our mode of Sunday worship just because someone or some entity decides that we may or may not use a particular gathering place," the church said in a statement released Easter week.

"Our attitude before God should be the same as Daniel's, that is, despite the pressure and difficulties our circumstance presents, we should behave as we normally would, coming before our God weekly to worship Him and offer up our thanksgiving, praises and petitions."

If the church could rent or own its own space, the confrontation could stop, the statement noted.

Observers say it's the toughest church crackdown in a decade or more.

"We are deeply disappointed that the Chinese authorities chose to disrupt peaceful worshippers who were simply celebrating Easter today," said ChinaAid's founder and president, Bob Fu. ChinaAid monitors religious liberty in the country.

"By doing this, Chinese government again demonstrates its total disregard for Chinese citizens' basic religious freedom and freedom of assembly. We continue to call upon the free world to stand firm in solidarity with the persecuted faithful in China." (BP)



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Meet the class of 2011

Pair of international students share what God has done for them at Oneida

Oneida's work with international students began in the 1950s with a handful of students from outside the U.S. During the past 40 years, however, our outreach to international students has grown significantly. For the 2010-11 academic year, we have students from 22 countries.

One of my interests in international students is the opportunity to share Christ with students who have had little or no exposure to the gospel message. However, a good percentage of international students who enroll at OBI already are Christians. This year a young man from Thailand will be graduating. Here is part of his "Oneida Experience."

"I was born into a Christian family. My family had regular prayer time and we read our Bible together. We also worshipped and praised God. But I did not have peace in my heart.

"I went to a Christian school in Bangkok. ... One day I had an experience with God which I will never forget. A friend of mine had a problem with another student from a different school. A fight started and during the fight, I was stabbed in my back. Blood began to block my lungs and I couldn't breathe. ... I started to pray for God to help me.

"My friend called a taxi and took me to the hospital. In the taxi I almost passed out because the blood was getting into my lungs. I thought I was going to die. I was in the hospital for a week and I believe it's a miracle I am alive. I'm grateful for all the people who prayed for me.

"Before I came to Oneida, I began to think about needing to get closer to God. One day my

dad's friend told me about Oneida. ... So my dad and I discussed coming to Oneida and how that would help me become a better person. ... I believe God wanted me here.

"At Oneida I have time for God and time to study. One thing that happened at Oneida that I will never forget is that I told one of my friends about God and he accepted Christ. Now we are best friends."

Keep in mind these comments were taken from this young man's senior essay, "My Oneida Experience." The very next essay I read was from the young man who had been led to the Lord by the boy from Thailand. The young man who became a Christian is from China. We have had several Chinese students in the past six years, and to my knowledge none of them knew anything about Christianity before coming to OBI. Here is part of the essay from the boy from China.

"I've been at Oneida for three years and I'm a totally different person. ... I came to America to get a better education. My uncle told me that it would be easier to get into an American college if I went to a high school in America.

"I had a dream that one day I would be able to experience the world for myself. Not just by looking at pictures or watching videos. I wanted to see the world with my own eyes.

"I have to mention one person and his name is Shalome. He helped me realize that it was God's plan for me to come to Oneida. I will never forget Shalome. ... Now it's time to graduate. I want to say farewell to Oneida because I'm going to chase my dream."

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Defending the Scriptures

Student shares research that affirms biblical Jericho story

Our spring semester chapel services pretty much are dedicated to our seniors who are graduating in May. We give each of them an opportunity to preach a sermon they have developed and share it. It is a proud moment to listen as these men take what they have learned over the years from their professors and present a challenging word from the Scriptures.

We recently had senior Dan Haggerty present his chapel sermon. Dan is a little different than most of our graduating seniors in that he does not express a call to preach but feels led to be a Bible College professor when he completes his education at the seminary level.

Dan has been on two trips to Israel where he has participated in some archeological digs in conjunction with an archeological educational consortium in which Clear Creek participates with some other colleges and seminaries. Dan also received seminary credit for his participation along with the completion of some research work as a part of the archeological digs.

On his last trip to Israel, Dan became interested in research that

has been presented over the years on the biblical account of the walls of Jericho. Dan was surprised to find out that on these trips there are some archeologists who do not believe the biblical account of the walls falling at Jericho as the Scriptures record the events.

"I believe all of the Scriptures," Haggerty said. "I remember being really taken back when I was sitting in a lecture there in Israel and I first heard an archeologist say that the biblical account of the walls of Jericho didn't really happen. That was really the inspiration for me to present my research paper in defense of the biblical account of the falling of

the walls of Jericho." Dan did an excellent job in presenting his research based on the actual evidence from archeologists that affirm the biblical account of the walls of Jericho.

Thanks so much for your support that enables us to equip students like Dan to follow God's call on their lives to preach and teach the wholly inspired and inerrant word of God.

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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Blume tapped as N.C. Baptist editor

Raleigh, N.C.—North Carolina Baptists have chosen a pastor as editor of their state newspaper.

The Biblical Recorder reported April 24 on the April 18 election of Allan Blume, pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Boone, N.C., as the newspaper's editor and president. Blume will begin his duties May 25.

Blume succeeds Norman Jameson, who resigned Oct. 21 amid a threat to defund the newspaper's budget at the state convention's annual meeting last November.

Blume has served in elected leadership positions at both the state and national denominational levels. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention and has been appointed to serve on the SBC Resolutions Committee this summer. Due to convention bylaw requirements, he now must resign both positions.

Blume said in an interview with the Biblical Recorder that he views the newspaper as a "central convergence" for various voices of Baptists to come together. He said others tell him his administrative and leadership abilities will serve his



Allan Blume

new job well.

Blume said he didn't want the Recorder to get caught "in the world of the negative" but rather to move ahead. He pledged not to "rewrite history" but said his goal would be for the Biblical Recorder to "live up to its name" and be biblical in theology, practice and conduct, including integrity and civility.

Gerald Hodges, chair of the Recorder's board of directors, said the committee received 18 resumés from qualified candidates and chose Blume from three finalists interviewed in March. Hodges said during the board's time with Blume and his wife, "I think it was clear to all of us that God had long been at work in many ways preparing them for this task."

A North Carolina native, Blume holds degrees from Wingate University, Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

Prior to serving at Mount Vernon Baptist Church, Blume was pastor of two churches in Charlotte, N.C., and served on church staffs in Texas and Oklahoma. (ABP)

'Secret Church' simulcast draws 50,000 for teaching, prayer time

Birmingham, Ala.—On Good Friday, more than 50,000 people around the world participated in Secret Church, six intensive hours of biblical teaching and prayer for the persecuted church led by author and pastor David Platt of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala.

The event—held at the church but simulcast to 42 states and 11 countries—was designed to call the church to greater awareness of biblical fidelity and to build unity with the persecuted church worldwide.

While thousands gathered live and on location at Brook Hills, more than 50,000 people from 1,300 churches and small groups participated via simulcast. They gathered in church sanctuaries, fellowship halls, living rooms, dorm rooms and LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center to hear God's word taught. It was the 10th Secret Church event but the first one simulcast.

It was aired by LifeWay Christian Resources and Disciple-Making International, a nonprofit, Christian-equipping organization founded by Platt.

Secret Church was born from Platt's experiences teaching in underground house churches throughout Asia. There, Platt experienced how Christians met in secret for fear of persecution. This awareness sparked a desire to transplant the urgency of sound gospel proclamation to congregants in his own church.

"We set up a Friday evening where we would gather from 6 p.m. until midnight for two main purposes: to worship through intensive study of the word, and to identify with our persecuted brothers and sisters by praying intentionally for them," Platt said. "Just a simple six hours of straight teaching and prayer."

"People are hungry for the word," he pointed out. "There's really nothing special or creative about it. It's just the study of the word and then prayer for our persecuted brothers and sisters. The word itself does the work. One of our goals in Secret Church

from the beginning has been to study not just for our own sake, but for the sake of the nations."

Partnering with LifeWay for the simulcast was a way to share the message of Secret Church with churches around the nation and the world, LifeWay President Thom Rainer said. There had been nine prior Secret Church events, but after the first meeting The Church at Brook Hills was forced to start a reservation system due to the sell-out capacity. Its on-site popularity led to the idea of a simulcast.

"We recognized that God was doing something big through Secret Church," Rainer said. "We were also painfully aware that more and more people were being turned away from each successive Secret Church event. After much prayer and deliberation, we made the decision to simulcast the tenth Secret Church with the hope that God will use these resources well beyond the single event itself."

Micha Fries, pastor of Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., said the turnout at his church for the simulcast was beyond his expectations.

"I attribute it to the hunger for rich theological training," Fries said. "Our churches have been defined, to such a great degree, by less and less theology over recent decades."

Randy,* a Southern Baptist worker among unreached peoples in Asia, participated in the simulcast with members of his home church while on leave in the U.S.

"This was a great event for me personally, because seeing the gospel spread to the last peoples on earth is what I'm passionate about and what moves me," he said. "All the people who attended with me just finished a study on (Platt's book) 'Radical.' ... The one thing they walked away with was getting the big picture of the doctrines of salvation and how they all fit together within the big picture of the gospel and redemption." (BP)

*Name withheld for security reasons

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She gave all she had to live on

Story of the widow's mite teaches that giving to God is a heart matter

Remember the account recorded in Luke 21:1-4 and Mark 12:41-44 when Jesus observed the poor widow putting her copper coins into the temple treasury?

What a comparison Jesus made that day to the others who were putting their money into the treasury as well.

Mark's version said: "Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.

"But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

"Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all of the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.'"

In terms of the coins she used, this woman made the smallest gift, but to Jesus she made the most significant gift to God's work. What are the truths Jesus would have us learn from this experience?

First, no one is excluded from the privi-

lege of making a worthy gift to our Lord.

Second, the gift that counts is the gift that costs.

Third, it's not the amount of the gift but the proportion.

Fourth, it's not the size of the gift but the size of the sacrifice.

Fifth, to God the depth of our giving is not dependent upon the depth of our pockets, but upon the depth of our love and commitment to Him.

Giving is a matter of the heart. The poor widow demonstrated a heart of faith and love. She deprived herself of necessities in order to give to the cause she loved, and she did it believing God would not overlook her needs.

God has honored this poor widow's legacy by her place in holy Scripture. Have you given Him your heart? He is not asking us to give all we have to live on.

But, if we want to be commended by Him, we must give Him our hearts like she did.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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

EBO at full speed

Eliza Broadus Offering at work this summer at Kentucky Speedway

NASCAR is said to be the fastest growing spectator sport in the U.S., and evidence of that can be found right here in Kentucky. Approximately 200,000 people will attend NASCAR events at the Kentucky Speedway this July, including up to 40,000 people camping on speedway property for up to 10 days. In October, there will be another race that will attract approximately 50,000 people. This is a big opportunity for ministry in Kentucky.

During these events EBO and Kentucky Baptist volunteers will be at work sharing Christ with racing fans through Kentucky Raceway Ministries. Under the sponsorship of Owen County, Ten Mile and Whites Run Baptist associations, KRM is the official fan outreach of the Kentucky Speedway. It includes campground, vending area, trauma team and guest services ministries

In the campground, KRM operates a hospitality tent where Christian literature and light refreshments are available. Prayer requests are prayed for on the spot and in the days following the races. There also is a Saturday morning worship service.

Fun activities such as horseshoes, corn hole, ladder tennis and miniature car rac-

es are offered to children and adults. And "Drama Queens for the King" is an outreach ministry to ladies in which volunteers paint nails and spend time chatting with female race fans.

The KRM booth in the vending area is near the main entrance gates of Kentucky Speedway. Volunteers share Christian literature, cookies and ice water. KRM also publishes a newsletter called Bump Draft which contains a list of drivers who are in the current race, Christian testimonies and other articles of interest.

The KRM Trauma Team works with emergency personnel when accidents or other traumatic situations occur. KRM volunteers also staff guest services booths at the speedway, handling problems such as lost children.

An EBO Special Ministry grant of \$2,500 will be at work this summer helping provide equipment, liability insurance, motor racing edition New Testaments and other Christian motorsports literature. Volunteers are needed and training is being offered May 7 and 21. Learn more at www.Go2KRM.com or call J.T. Marsh, KRM director, at (859) 496-0106.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253; (502) 489-3534; www.kywmu.org

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 5 Iron Sharpening Iron, Kentucky Dam Village Lodge, Gilbertsville.
- 5 Senior Living Celebration, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
- 6 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Somerset; Reidland Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 6 Senior Living Celebration, First Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 7 Children's Bible Drill, First Baptist Church, Bowling Green; First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 9-10 KBC Mission Board, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 11-13 Directors of Missions Leadership Event, Mammoth Cave Hotel.
- 12 Iron Sharpening Iron, Great American Ballpark, Cincinnati.
- 12-13 Children's Ministers' Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 14 WMU State Associational Leadership Training, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 16 Kentucky Youth Ministers' Day at the Ballpark, Whitaker Bank Ballpark, Lexington.
- 16 When Helping Hurts Workshop, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17-20 Ministry Partner Development School, Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 20-22 Kentucky Baptist Conference of the Deaf, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 23-24 Youth Ministers' Spring Retreat, Thomas & King Leadership and Conference Center, Georgetown.

June

- 4 Church Weekday Education Seminar, Crestwood Baptist Church.
- 11-17 Kentucky Changers, Bullitt County.
- 12-13 National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Phoenix.
- 14-15 Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Phoenix.
- 18-24 Kentucky Changers, Paducah.
- 19-26 All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Retreat and Tour, Campbellsville University.
- 20-24 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.

Jeannie Elliff

God taught me to live 'out of control'

By Erich Bridges
International Mission Board

Richmond, Va.—The most important lesson daily life teaches Christians can be summed up in five words, as Jeannie Elliff sees it: You are not in control.

Elliff, wife and ministry partner of new International Mission Board President Tom Elliff, has learned that lesson many times over the years, sometimes painfully. She's still learning it. But she's also learned the corollary: God is in control—and He is faithful.

It's a lesson she plans to put to good use in the coming years as she supports her husband in the mammoth task of mobilizing Southern Baptists' global missions efforts.

"I've always been a person who wants to control things," she admitted. "My temptation is, 'Oh, you can handle this. You can do it on your own.'"

Every time she tries, however, God shows her otherwise.

"We've had quite a few adventures in our life," Elliff said with a wry grin. Some might call those "adventures" disasters, but each experience has taught her to depend on herself less and God more.

In 1999 the Elliffs' Oklahoma home burned to the ground. Three months later, a monster tornado blew away the condo where they were living, taking their remaining possessions with it.

"These things happen in life, the fires and tornadoes and tsunamis, so you might as well get used to it," she advised. "We've got to understand God's sovereignty in all of it."

"I guess (losing everything) several times has made me realize it's no big deal. It's all going to burn up anyway. Every woman has to come to a submission to that truth. If you know God and know His word, you will understand that the things of this world are not to cling to."

Giving possessions up to God is one thing, but what about children?

Many missionaries struggle with that question—before and during their time on the field. As a new IMB missionary, Elliff faced it one day in 1982 in Zimbabwe when she and her four children were in a terrifying auto crash.

"When the accident happened, the van rolled several times," she recalled. "Three of the children were thrown out. Amy and I were left in the van. We got out and I saw Jon and Sarah beside the road. They were fine, but I could not find Beth. I looked all around and couldn't find her. Then I saw that the tires were

off the van. I looked under it and there she was.

"I was just devastated. I didn't know if she was alive or dead. She was lying on her side. I remember saying, 'God, she's Yours. She's not my child, she's Your child.' Then I noticed her little chest move. She was breathing. Some men who had seen the accident ran across the field and lifted the car, and I pulled her out."



Jeannie Elliff

Weeks of hospitalization and multiple surgeries followed as Beth was treated for extensive burns. Ultimately, the Elliffs resigned as missionaries to get their teenage daughter the care she needed.

Back in the U.S., Tom Elliff went on to lead several key churches, including First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Okla., where he was pastor from 1985-2005. He twice was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

But Jeannie never has forgotten what God taught her that awful day in Zimbabwe.

"That was a huge lesson for me," Elliff said. "The Lord said, 'You're not in charge, Jeannie.' Another thing I learned was I have to give my children to God. I cannot cling to them. That's a mother's desire, but when we give them to the Lord they're in much better hands."

She has learned that lesson anew with the passing years. Two of her children became missionaries. At one time, 11 of the Elliffs' 25 grandchildren lived overseas. In recent years, two bouts with cancer reminded her yet again to rely on God's grace rather than her own resources. She's healthy now but is thankful for the reminder.

"God used the cancer to humble me," she said.

An entire wall of the Elliffs' walk-in bedroom closet is covered with the photos and prayer cards of IMB missionaries. When things get hectic, she likes to go into the closet, close the door, sit down and pray. Her primary prayer for missionaries: That they will seek to know God first, and do great things as a result.

How can others pray for her in her new role? She asks for health, strength and plenty of energy to encourage missionaries and to support her husband in his demanding job as IMB leader.

"I can't do it," she readily admitted. "It's got to be God working through me."

Sounds like she's learned the lessons He's been teaching her for a lifetime. (BP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Henderson



Greater Norris Chapel will host a "Lift Up My Hands" women's retreat May 14, 8 a.m., in the Boswell Room at the Housing Authority of Henderson. The cost is \$15 and includes breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register by May 7, call **Glenda Dixon** at (270) 577-5935 or (270) 212-2098.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Roland Memorial Church will hold revival services May 8, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; May 9-11, 7 p.m., with **Adam Brown**, pastor of Temple Church in Central City, as evangelist. **Danny Mooneyhan** is pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will hold "Renewal Weekend" services May 13-15 with **Bill Patterson**, director of missions for Green Valley Association, as evangelist and **Alan Chamness**, minister of music at First Church of Henderson, as worship leader. The church also will host its children's spring musical May 15, 6 p.m. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—Sorgho Church recently called **Larry Birkhead** as pastor. He previously served the church as pastor from 1969-73.

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SEEKING: Full-time, experienced student/college pastor for FBC Murray, Ky. Please send resumés to fbc_murray@fbc_murray.org; or to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 40271. Deadline is Sunday, May 15.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students (grades 7-college) and recreation. E-mail resumés to MiltonBost@MiltonComputer.com; or mail to Search Committee, 1500 East Walnut Street, Chatham, IL 62629.

SEEKING: Full-time coordinator of student ministries—including youth ministries for 6th through 12th grades (75%) and college/secondary education ministries (25%) for Gardendale Baptist Church in Lexington, Ky. Coordinator is responsible for planning, developing, implementing and directing outreach, education and discipleship programs for both our youth and college ministries. Coordinator works along with ministry and administrative staff under the supervision of the pastor to build the church's capacity to disciple and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A degree and/or work experience in youth or student ministries is preferred. Salary commensurate with education. Please e-mail resumé to gbcjobsearch@gmail.com. Go to www.gardensidebaptist.com for more information about Gardendale Baptist Church and a pdf version of the full job description.

SEEKING: Certified lifeguard for Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest (Cedarmore). Applicants must be young women who have completed their junior or senior year in high school or who are enrolled in college. Employment is for 3-6 weeks. Please contact Kentucky WMU for more information: (502) 489-3454; Stacy.Nall@kybaptist.org.

SEEKING: Part-time (paid), enthusiastic minister of music for a small church of approximately 100 in Sunday service. Knowledge of at least one instrument is a must. Minister would be in charge of scheduling musicians for Sunday morning and evening services, along with special music throughout the year, including a blended selection of traditional and some contemporary music. Minister also would be involved in working with kids and youth to nurture talent within the church. Send your resumé to: Campbellsburg Baptist Church, PO Box 128, Campbellsburg, KY 40011, Attn. music minister; or e-mail to secretary@cbcky.net.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Grace Baptist Church, Lexington, Ky. The church is prayerfully seeking a qualified individual to lead and oversee the music programs of all ages from children to adults. Please submit your resumé by mail to: Minister of Music Search Committee, 811 Bryan Ave., Lexington, KY 40505; or by e-mail to: dfoley@gbclexington.org by May 15, 2011.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Salem Baptist Church in rural Western Ky. (150+ attendance). Prefer 5+ years pastoral experience and seminary degree. Send resumé and references to: Glenn Gordon, Pastor Search Committee, 1145 Pinckneyville Road, Salem, KY 42078.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Lynn Camp Baptist Church, Corbin, Ky. Applicants should be Spirit-filled, greatly interested and motivated in church growth and the uplifting of God's Kingdom. Prefer five years experience and seminary degree (or pursuing such degree). Applicants should have good leadership and communication skills relative to all age groups. Send resumé and DVD of recent sermon (if available) to: Pastor Search Committee, Lynn Camp Baptist Church, PO Box 306, Gray, KY 40734.

WEB ADVERTISING

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www.WesternRecorder.org. For more information, call (502) 489-3428, or e-mail Tom.Townsend@WesternRecorder.org.

Is your brain fried or fit?

By Vicki Heath

I have a really bad habit of preparing my oatmeal and walking around the house eating it. Last week I set it down somewhere and could not remember where I left it. Occasionally I misplace my car keys or lose my phone, but when I lose my food something is seriously wrong.

FIRST PERSON

My brain has been on information overload this past month and is totally worn out. No wonder I am losing it! As a fitness professional, I encourage people to keep their bodies fit, but I have come to realize that we need to be as intentional with brain fitness as we are with physical fitness.

Maintaining brain fitness is really not that hard; you will barely work up a sweat. Here are some proven suggestions:

1. Maintain a connection. Studies show that people who have an active social life can actually reduce the risk of dementia. I need a lot of people in my life! I have friends whom I pray with, another group that I exercise with, another group that I connect with on a daily basis. We were not designed to do life by ourselves. As leaders we can get so busy and become so self-sufficient that we suddenly realize we have no one in our life that stimulates our thinking. I have friends who help me see things from a different perspective.

2. Keep learning. Every time you learn something new you develop new brain cells. I love my in-laws. They are retired Southern Baptist ministers in their 80s and still are amazing learners. I am delighted when my husband Rob talks to his Dad and tells him about a new book he has read and Papa says, "Oh yes, I finished that one myself last month." They never cease to amaze me. This spring, consider signing up for a course or lessons in something that piques your interest.

3. Seek peace. "Why pray when you can worry?" the saying goes. It's humorous but too often true. We all live stress-filled lives. Jesus said it would be this way. The problem comes when I get stress overload and I become "distressed." Stress over-

load can manifest itself into worry. Too much stress may lead to excess cortisol in the brain which can affect memory. Seeking time with God, listening for His voice, letting Him lead me beside still waters rejuvenates my mind and my spirit and reminds me of His sure and precious promises.

4. Turn off the TV.

Since we moved to Edisto Island, off the coast of South Carolina, we have a new TV provider—basically cable TV on steroids. We now have about a hundred more channels not to watch. New studies show that people who watch more than seven hours of TV a day are at a higher risk of developing memory loss.

5. Eliminate hurry. Nothing makes me crazier than having too much to do in my 24-hour day. It causes my thinking to become frantic and unclear. I tend to make hasty and impulsive decisions when I am in a hurry. I make more mistakes and tend to forget things a lot more. I have a lot to think about these days and I certainly don't need to have my decision-making process compromised. Having my prayer time every morning and praying over my "planner" helps me keep things in perspective.

6. Keep moving. I can't begin to tell you the studies that conclusively show how exercise keeps the brain healthy. It helps with blood flow; it lightens mood. I have discovered that when my mind is bogged down with too much information, even a short walk clears my mind.

7. Finally, let God renew your mind with His word. He has changed my mind about so many things over the years. I used to think I could not write, I used to think I could not speak in public, I used to think I could not understand the Bible, I used to think He did not love me. I have changed my mind about all of these because He has transformed my mind with a new way of thinking—His Holy Spirit is a good and kind personal trainer who is teaching me brain fitness. (BP)

Vicki Heath is associate national director of First Place 4 Health and an American Council on Exercise certified fitness professional.



LIVING CROSS The worship choir from Grapevine Baptist Church in Madisonville presented its first Living Cross on Easter weekend. Almost 600 people attended the two presentations. Joe Christian is minister of music, and Greg Gaddis is pastor.

Smile! In upcoming issues, the Western Recorder will showcase photos of people and events from our Kentucky Baptist churches. Submit photos as e-mail attachments to Smile@WesternRecorder.org or through our website at www.WesternRecorder.org/info/submit-items.

Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



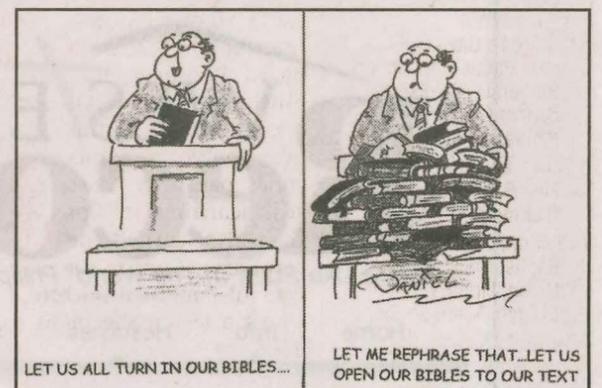
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Dennis Fletcher



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Dennis Daniel

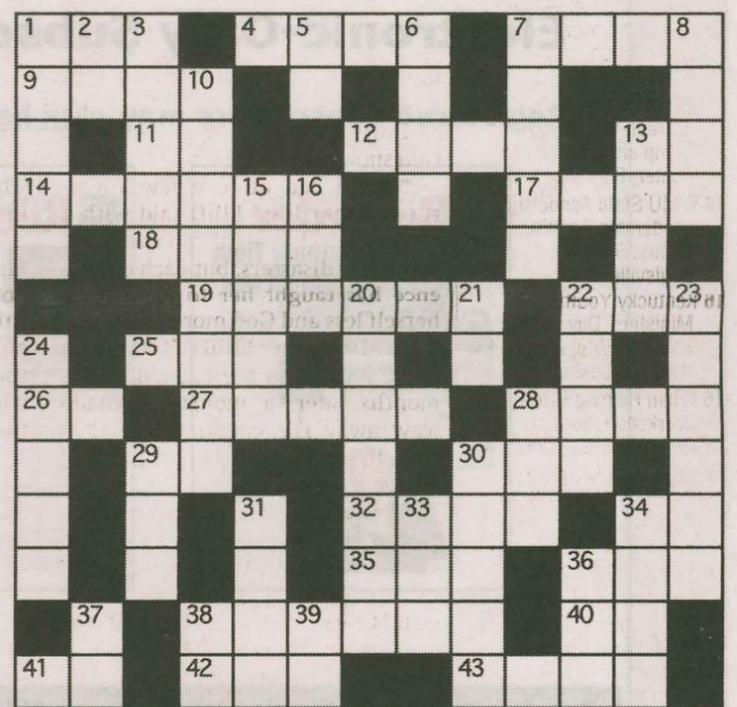


Bible Crosswords

By Michael J. Landi

Across

- 1 "Away with such a fellow from the earth, for it is not ___ that he should live" Acts 22:22)
- 4 "The joy of thy ___" (Matthew 25:21)
- 7 "Do thyself no ___" (Acts 16:28)
- 9 "A feast of wines on the ___" (Isaiah 25:6)
- 11 "Believe also in ___" (John 14:1)
- 12 "And sow wickedness, ___ the same" (Job 4:8)
- 13 "Called to be ___ apostle" (1 Corinthians 1:1)
- 14 A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 17 "Seeing he giveth to all ___" (Acts 17:25)
- 18 "Chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man ___ him" (Mark 5:4)
- 19 "His life a ___ for many" (Matthew 20:28)
- 22 "Hath the ___ of the Lord been revealed?" (John 12:38)
- 25 "Because Judas had the ___, that Jesus had said unto him" (John 13:29)
- 26 "___, and do thou likewise" (Luke 10:37)
- 27 "Wash his feet with ___" (Luke 7:38)
- 28 "And stamp with thy foot, and say, ___ for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel!" (Ezekiel 6:11)
- 29 "That where I am, there ye may ___" (John 14:3)
- 30 "Let him ___ the death" (Matthew 15:4)
- 32 "Whose shoes I am not worthy to ___" (Matthew 3:11)
- 34 "Be ye not as the horse, ___ as the mule" (Psalm 32:9)
- 35 "Do ye not therefore ___, because ye know not the scriptures?" (Mark 12:24)
- 36 "I ___ in Sion a chief corner stone" (1 Peter 2:6)
- 38 Blew trumpet before ark of God (1 Chronicles 15:24)
- 40 Preposition
- 41 Forefather of Jesus, El-mo-dam was the son of him (Luke 3:28)
- 42 "Simon ___ -Jona" (Matthew 16:17)
- 43 11th letter of Hebrew alphabet

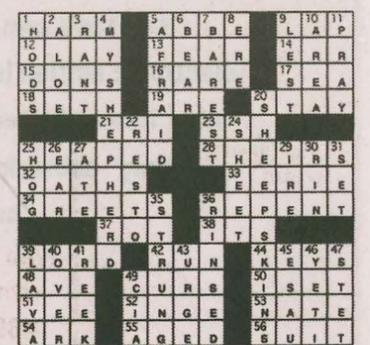


Down

- 1 "His eyes were as a ___ of fire" (Revelation 19:12)
- 2 Same as, or that is, Lat. abbr.
- 3 "Thou shalt not ___ the Lord thy God" (Matthew 4:7)
- 5 "Whose ___ have I taken?" (1 Samuel 12:3)
- 6 "Mighty in ___ and word" (Luke 24:19)
- 7 "That they should seek the Lord, if ___ they might feel after him" (Acts 17:27)
- 8 "Is not ___ to give" (Mark 10:40)
- 10 "Who shall ___ us from the love of Christ?" (Romans 8:35)
- 13 "But having seen them ___ off" (Hebrews 11:13)
- 15 "Whose is this ___ and superscription?" (Matthew 22:20)
- 16 "Honour all ___" (1 Peter 2:17)
- 20 "The pen of the ___ is in vain" (Jeremiah 8:8)
- 21 First Gospel, abbr.
- 22 "Believe ye that I am ___ to do this?" (Matthew 9:28)
- 23 "Thou shalt forget thy ___" (Job 11:16)
- 24 "And being in an ___ he prayed more earnestly" (Luke 22:44)
- 28 "The prince of the power of the ___" (Ephesians 2:2)

- 29 "To ___ I am ashamed" (Luke 16:3)
- 30 Gold coin used in Palestine (Ezra 2:69 rsv & av)
- 31 "The troops of ___ looked, the companies of Sheba waited for them" (Job 6:19)
- 33 Period of time
- 34 "Neither by any other ___" (James 5:12)
- 36 "Lot is cast into the ___" (Proverbs 16:33)
- 37 Greek, abbr.
- 38 Hebrew 5th month
- 39 "Pass over through ___, the coast of Moab" (Deuteronomy 2:18)

Last week's solution



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