

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

May 10, 2011  
Vol. 185, No. 18

## FOR THE RECORD



**Kentucky**  
Pair of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief veterans receive national honors for their service. *Page 2.*

**People**  
Georgetown minister recovering from being shot by stray bullet, says he is thankful for the incident. *Page 2.*



**Nation**  
Dozens of Southern Baptist disaster relief teams work to help Alabama clean up after deadly tornadoes. *Page 6.*

**World**  
The death of Osama bin Laden prompts calls for prayer from Southern Baptist workers overseas. *Page 8.*

## A Special Ministry

8-year-old Neal Hawkinson awaits his turn to run under the brightly-colored parachute while playing at Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro. Hawkinson is one of a half dozen children who regularly attend a Saturday evening worship and Bible study at the church geared toward nurturing families with special needs children. (Photo by Robin Bass)



## Church offers community for special needs children

By Robin Bass  
Partnerships Director

Owensboro—Five years ago, Annette Tapp walked away from her church after she was given the choice to find a babysitter for her autistic son or find another place to worship.

She was told that 6-year-old Daniel was just too disruptive during services. But Tapp didn't find another church to attend. She barely even looked, visiting only a handful through the years.

"I've just been angry," Tapp said, "angry at organized religion. It was at a time in my life when I needed to feel God next to me. My mom had just died and I was going through a divorce. I came out of my home church (that day) bawling."

Tapp basically had given up the thought that she and her adopted son Daniel, now 11, would be part of a church community again—that is, until earlier this year when Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro began a

□ See Owensboro church meets ... *Page 3*

## Kentucky Baptist disaster relief shares hope in Alabama

By Robert Reeves  
Kentucky Baptist Convention

Henagar, Ala.—For Lowell and Didi Barron of Section, Ala., the morning of April 27 was horrifying. Fast-moving storms streaking across the state drove them and their three young daughters first to a closet and then into a dank cellar.

"I was watching the trees going back and forth, back and forth, and then one time I saw them go forth and I never saw them come back into view," Barron said of the storm that hit the area around daybreak. "I said alright girls, it's time to get down in the cellar. ... I figured if the trees—big trees—were disappearing from view, we needed to get under the house."

For Johnnie Jones, an elderly woman living alone in a mobile home in nearby Macedonia, there was no lower level.

"I was here and I was so scared," Jones said. "There wasn't anything I could do. I didn't know if the house was going to go or what."

"I heard the limb hit the house and it sounded like a big tree but it wasn't one of the big ones, it was just a limb," she said. "It was a blessing that it didn't come toward the trailer. If it had, it would have crushed the trailer and me."

For the Barrons and Jones, the day ended well. When the storms passed, both found they had large trees partially resting on their

□ See Kentucky Baptist ... *Page 7*



Bibles and hymnals salvaged from what's left of Mountain View Baptist Church in Sylvania, Ala., are stacked amid the rubble, while pews from the sanctuary (at left) sit without a building to house them. (Photos by Larry Brannin & Robert Reeves/KBC)



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## Pair of Kentucky Baptists receive top awards for disaster relief work



By Mickey Noah  
Special to the Western Recorder

Lynchburg, Va.—Two longtime Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers from Kentucky—one deceased, one still living—were honored during the annual Disaster Relief Roundtable's awards dinner held in Lynchburg, Va., April 26.

The Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award in disaster relief was presented to the late Bernard Randall. The award was accepted on Randall's behalf by members of his family: his wife, Rona, and his children—Misty, Robbie, Clifford and Leslie.

Coy Webb, associate men's ministry director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and Mickey Caison, disaster relief coordinator with the North American Mission Board, presented the award.

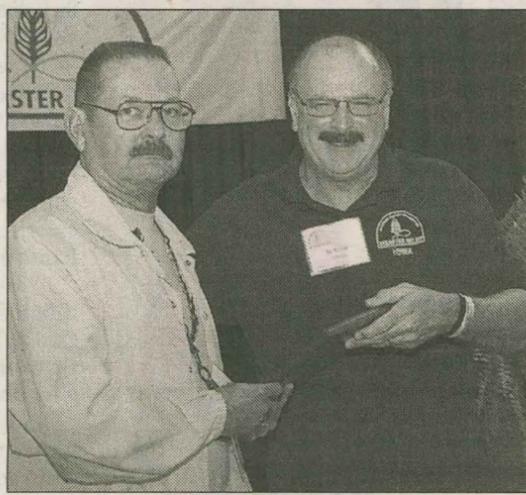
Randall, a 15-year veteran in Kentucky disaster relief, was honored with the award—a "Most Valuable Player"-type of honor—for his "above and beyond the call of duty" service over many years in disaster relief. Randall was selected because he demonstrated "Christ in the Crisis" and provided outstanding leadership in Southern Baptist disaster relief.

According to Webb, "Bernard was a long-term leader on our Kentucky Baptist disaster relief state leadership team. He has often been the first to respond and the last to leave. Bernard had a servant heart that exuded the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

"This past year, even as difficult as it was for him with his health (battling colon and liver cancer), Bernard continued to serve faithfully," Webb said. Randall succumbed to the cancer on Jan. 8, 2011 at the age of 69. He was a longtime member of First Baptist Church of Monticello.

The award given to Randall is named for Joel W. Phillips, who was an important leader in Georgia Baptist disaster relief for many years. He played a key role in the development and growth of disaster relief both in Georgia and at the North American Mission Board. Phillips served until his death in 2004.

"Blue Hat" Harold Smith, of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, is a 10-year veteran of disaster relief who was recognized with a Distinguished Service Award during the banquet. The award was presented by Ty Berry, state disaster relief director for the Iowa Baptist Convention.



■ **Top:** The family of the late Bernard Randall accepts the Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award at the recent 2011 Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Roundtable in Lynchburg, Va. Randall's widow, Rona (second from right), receives the award from Mickey Caison (far right) of the North American Mission Board and Coy Webb (third from right) of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

■ **Above:** Kentucky Baptist disaster relief veteran Howard Smith (left), a "blue hat" from Shepherdsville, receives a Distinguished Service Award from Ty Berry of the Iowa Baptist Convention. (Photos by Ishmael LaBiosa)

Smith was nominated by Webb, who wrote in his nomination letter: "Harold has been a faithful volunteer with Kentucky Baptist disaster relief in local, state and national responses. He is the leader of our state chainsaw leadership team.

"Harold is a quiet but effective leader who leads by example, and motivates others to follow through. ... He demonstrates a Christ-like but strong leadership style," Webb wrote.

## Deeper Still to end five-year run in Louisville

Louisville—After five years, 10 events and more than 100,000 women reached, LifeWay Women will present its final Deeper Still event in Louisville June 10-11

Deeper Still features three of the nation's best-known female Christian authors and speakers, Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and Priscilla Shirer. Each presenter brings her own unique style of Bible teaching to women as they share their personal journeys and experiences at each event.

The Louisville event, which will be held at Freedom Hall featuring a "freedom" theme, will include three brand-new messages to inspire and educate women. Acclaimed worship leader and Dove Award winner Travis Cottrell and his praise team will provide the music for the weekend.

The event will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday evening and from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Saturday. Tickets are \$79 each.

To get more information or to register, call (800) 254-2022 or visit [www.LifeWay.com/Deeper-Still](http://www.LifeWay.com/Deeper-Still).

### Ongoing and new events offered

Even though this will be the final Deeper Still gathering, LifeWay Women has pledged to continue offering in-depth Bible teaching events to women across the country through events such as "Living Proof Live with Beth Moore" and "Going Beyond with Priscilla Shirer," along with a new, "yet-to-be-named" multi-platform event scheduled for next year.

## Georgetown minister says he's thankful for stray bullet

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Georgetown—Not many people would be thankful for getting shot. Pastor Harry Hargis isn't one of them.

"I can't get over what God has done with it," Hargis said, recalling a terrifying incident he experienced while on his way back to church April 6.

Hargis, an associate pastor at Gano Baptist Church in Georgetown, was driving in Lexington through one of the city's rougher neighborhoods.

"It seemed as though it happened all at once," Hargis said. "The hole in the windshield, the intense smack in the mouth and the blood. ... I didn't have any idea what it was."

It was a stray bullet. Hargis had been shot in the mouth.

Trying to hold back the blood that was pouring from the wound, the 73-year-old minister drove another half-block before pulling onto a sidestreet and getting out of the car.

Two men ran over to help Hargis, sitting him down on the curb and calling 911. One man was able to flag a passing ambulance at about the same time EMTs and police officers arrived on the scene.

While being interviewed by an officer, Hargis was asked if he knew what happened to him. He spit out part of the bullet that had fragmented in his mouth and said he was pretty sure he'd been shot.

Police later determined Hargis had been hit by a stray bullet from a .45-caliber handgun that had been fired several times near a convenience store about 125 feet away.

The man who fired the shots, 19-year-old Mekale Turpin, was arrested the next day on a parole

violation. While still in Fayette County Jail, police charged Turpin April 26 with assault and wanton endangerment for shooting Hargis.

The Georgetown minister has said he has no ill feelings for Turpin and that he forgives him for what he called simply a "wild shot."

But what Hargis wants others to know above all is how the Lord was present throughout the whole ordeal.

"The hand of God was just so prevalent through all of this," Hargis remarked. "The fact that the bullet went through the windshield instead of going through a side window; the fact that had the bullet been maybe an eighth of an inch higher, it would have been fatal."

Ultimately the only thing Hargis will lose is his four front teeth, which he said will be removed soon. "Other than that, everything should be fine."

Following the shooting and subsequent oral surgery, Hargis received requests for interviews. Initially he didn't want to talk about the incident.

"But the more I prayed about it, the Lord said, 'Talk about Me,'" Hargis said, "and that's what we ended up talking about."

Hargis' story was picked up by several state and regional media outlets. He said he used all the interviews as opportunities to witness to others and share what God has done in his life and with the shooting.

"I have really been just thanking the Lord that He selected me to get shot," Hargis said, noting that the bullet could have hit another driver or even a child walking home from school.

"We'll just give God all the glory for it, including the shooting."



Campbellsville University students show off the origami figures they made and sold to raise funds for their homeland after an earthquake and tsunami hit Japan in March. The students are (from left) Komaki Ochi, Yuko Kaida, Miwa Matsuo, Mami Adachi, Kayoko Matsumoto and Miho Shimoda. (Campbellsville University photo)

## CU students raise funds for Japan

Campbellsville—In response to the earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan in March, Campbellsville University's Japanese students got together and formed their own relief team. The group raised more than \$2,400 for the school's Japanese Relief Fund, given through the

Kentucky Baptist Convention.

For several weeks the students manned a table outside the school's cafeteria and accepted donations for the fund. Also, they promoted their relief-related Japanese Cultural Night, featuring traditional food from Japan.

## Owensboro church meets 'special' needs for kids, parents

Continued from page 1

ministry designed to meet the needs of parents with special needs children.

"It was amazing when I did go," Tapp recalled. "It was our first time and Daniel was running around. I was starting to get anxious, but they told me it was OK and that really put me at ease.

"I have met a lot of nice people that have embraced me and my son," she added. "I have also met some wonderful parents and we've formed kind of a support group. For me, I feel like Lewis Lane walks the talk."

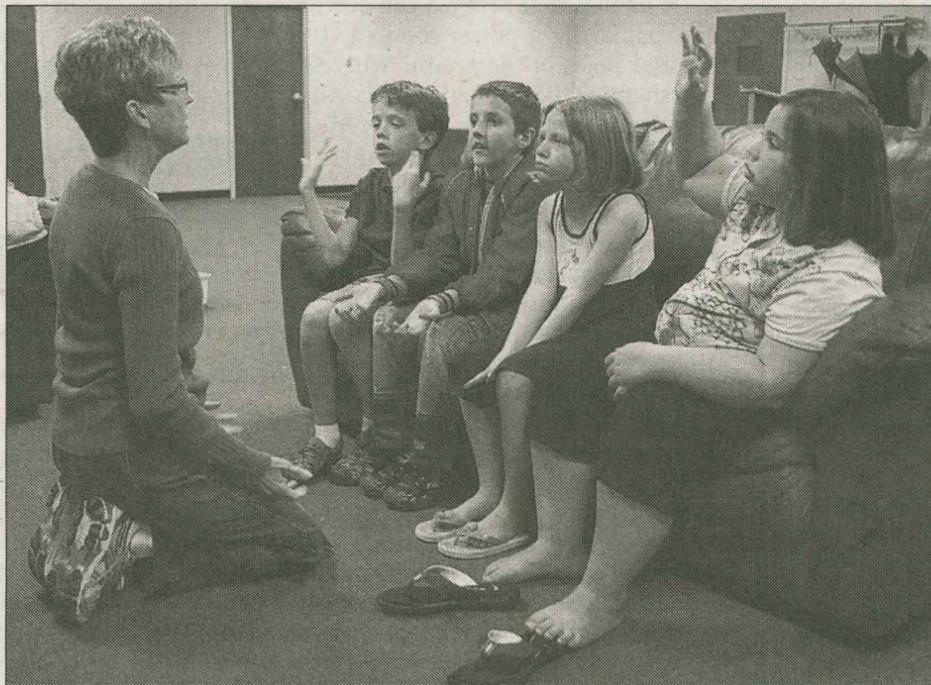
The Saturday evening blend of blue jeans and Bibles has been a mainstay among Baptist churches for some time. What Lewis Lane Baptist offers, however, is an opportunity for parents of special needs children to participate in the worship experience without constantly worrying if their kids are distracting others.

During a typical weekend service, the kids are escorted to children's church after singing a few praise songs with their parents in the sanctuary. While the parents settle in for the sermon, the half-dozen kids are treated to a Bible lesson, then some adult-supervised playtime.

"We really are ministering to the parents," Lewis Lane Pastor David Wiggins said. "They are the ones living with this day in and day out. We wanted to provide an atmosphere where the parents could rest easy and know that someone is teaching their kids and doing it because they genuinely love them."

Kathy Baird is one of those volunteers. Her love for the children is evident in how she plainly relates stories in the Bible and patiently answers each of the children's questions.

"I try to adjust the lesson depending on



**STORY TIME** While parents listen to the sermon at Lewis Lane Baptist Church, Kathy Baird introduces a group of children to a story in the Bible. Baird said volunteering as a Bible study teacher for special needs children has been an "eye-opening" experience. "I had no idea the need that was out there and how much I had missed by not being a friend to these people," she said. Children attending on a recent Saturday evening were (from left) Neal Hawkinson, 8; Hunter Shain, 11; Destiny Shain, 7; and Maddie Hawkinson, 9. (Photo by Robin Bass)

which kids show up," Baird said.

By utilizing a LifeWay Christian Resources curriculum called "Special Buddies," she has found it easier to mold the lessons around children who may have short attention spans or lack verbal skills.

"Some know the Bible stories. Some don't. I just ask God to give me the words to explain on their level when they ask questions," Baird said. "We just accept them

where they are and go with it."

Baird said the parents and special needs children are not the only ones benefiting from Lewis Lane Baptist's new ministry. The experience has proven to be an eye opener for her.

"I had no idea the need that was out there and how much I had missed by not being a friend to these people," Baird remarked.

### Western Recorder editor takes home first-place award for editorial piece

Alpharetta, Ga.—Western Recorder Editor Todd Deaton recently was recognized for editorial writing by Baptist Communicators Association when he was awarded first place in the opinion category at the organization's annual convention.

Deaton's winning selection, titled "Kentucky Baptists Weigh Upside, Downside to GCTF Report," was selected from among a number of Southern Baptist entries. Deaton also received an honorable mention in the same category for an opinion piece titled "Shoebox Savings and the Lure of Easy Money." Other winners in the category included Bob Terry of The Alabama Baptist and Brian Kaylor of Churchnet.

Larry Brannin, media production associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, won three awards for his video productions. Brannin received first place in the news story category for a video less than five minutes titled "Haiti Disaster Response," second place for a magazine format video called "Why?" and another second place award for "Find It Here," a news story video of more than five minutes.

More than 300 entries were submitted to BCA's annual award competition. Awards were presented in Alpharetta, Ga., April 29.

## Cumberlands student uses faith & film to impact lives

By Meghann Holmes  
University of the Cumberlands

Williamsburg—Rob Floyd is in the zone—he moves swiftly from boy to boy, answering quickly-thrown questions.

"Hey Rob, how do I make that knot again?"

"Rob, Rob, come here and help me!"

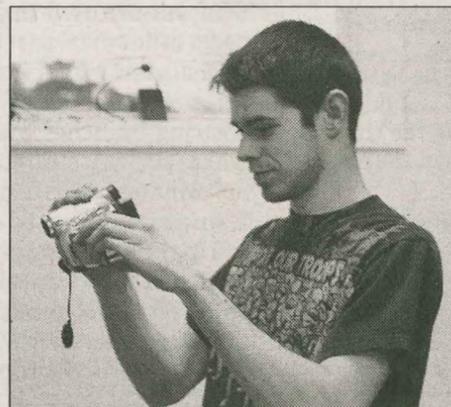
Floyd takes it all in stride, with the patience of someone much older. He darts from one boy to another, occasionally finding time to pick up his video camera to capture a moment. He stands close, then slowly backs away as he films, his eyes focused, getting the perfect shot. Quick as a flash his camera is back down and off he goes again, helping the boys tie square knots and string beads.

Rob is teaching a group of teenagers to make necklaces, and his snippets of film will be a part of a documentary that will show the importance of investing in relationships with troubled kids.

But, that's not the only reason he's there. He's there because he cares about what happens to the boys.

First United Methodist Church in Williamsburg is the meeting place of Reclaiming Futures, an after-school program for teenage boys who have been in trouble with the law. The court appoints the boys to spend three to four hours each weekday with a group of therapists and volunteers who give them a safe environment where they can experience healthy, positive relationships with caring adults.

Floyd, a senior religion major at University of the Cumberlands, was introduced to the Reclaiming Futures ministry one year ago when he was sent by his advisor to in-



**PASSION FOR FILMMAKING** University of the Cumberlands senior Rob Floyd films a documentary about the Reclaiming Futures ministry at First United Methodist Church in Williamsburg.

tern with Mike Albertson, the pastor of First United Methodist, who connected Floyd with the program.

Floyd's involvement with Reclaiming Futures did not end when his internship did, however, and he stayed on as a volunteer, "even though he didn't have to," according to Albertson.

"It's been amazing," Floyd said, "just seeing how you can make a difference in the community. I've had the opportunity to use my interests, my passion in film. ... I think if you seek God in doing the right thing, He'll open doors and let you use your passions."

Rob's two passions—film and faith—play a vital role in his dedication to the young men in the program.

"He has a passionate love for good film and good scripts and sees both as a great,

Wiggins said the church as a whole has been positively affected by participating in the outreach ministry. "We have a new awareness of what some of our families are going through. God presented us with an opportunity and we're trying to pursue it."

That opportunity became evident when Lewis Lane opened their gymnasium doors in 2008 to Two Rivers Buddy Ball—a non-profit, non-denominational athletic league for kids with special needs. Billy Shain, president and creator of Buddy Ball, said what started out with 43 special needs athletes playing baseball has grown over the past three years to encompass 300 families and year-round sports leagues.

"It did not take the church but one look at the 43 special needs kids that were there that first year to see the ministry potential. The second week, more than half of the volunteers were from Lewis Lane," Shain said.

"One of the blessings of the Lewis Lane church family is there has been a number of kids with disabilities in the church over the years, so they were used to adjusting Sunday school classes to fit the kids' needs."

After three years of patience and persistence; inviting the parents to trunk-or-treat and Advent Journey events, Shain said the church finally began to win their trust.

"At the first service there were about 35 people that came out and about half were visitors," he noted. "We are praying that more people will come, but we pray deeply the ones that do come will be healed of the hurt caused by other churches and that they come to accept the Lord."

Annette Tapp said she is just thankful she found a church that would embrace her and Daniel.

"I just feel so welcome here. It's our little piece of heaven on Saturday night."

effective way to share the gospel and help Christians grow in their faith," said Bob Dunston, Floyd's advisor and chair of the religion and philosophy department at Cumberlands.

That is exactly what Floyd said he is trying to do with the documentary.

"I'm trying to capture what (the boys) do, ... the nitty-gritty," he explained. "I'm not trying to stage anything. I'm trying to capture what it's really like, and try to show other churches and organizations what they can be doing and what we can be doing, as people, to help."

"I think when we look at trouble-making kids, we almost look at them as being in another class of people (as if) we look down on them," he added. "But it's been amazing seeing them, the things they do, because I get ministered to by these damaged boys that people say are not going to have a future."

For Floyd, filming the documentary is a way he has found to incorporate his love of film into ministry, something he plans to do in the future. He said he plans to attend seminary in the fall, and always will find ways to use his interest in film.

As he moves from boy to boy, filming, tying knots and building relationships, it is clear Floyd is acting on that promise.

"One of my professors, Geraldine Allen, said: 'You don't have to make all of your interests and your passions into a career,' and you know, that really spoke to me," Floyd said. "I don't really care if I make money off of my film, it's more about expressing myself creatively, using it to get people to think. It's a ministry tool. That's where my passion is."

## Kentucky Baptists Connect update

The Mission Board staff recently prepared progress reports on Kentucky Baptists Connect goals. These are goals established by the Kentucky Baptist Mission Board for 2009-12 and focus on efforts to help Kentucky Baptists develop leaders, strengthen churches and reach people with the gospel.

### Partners in the Mission



By Bill Mackey

In reviewing the reports, I was delighted to see an abundance of innovative approaches being employed to help Kentucky churches. Coaching and mentoring networks have been established with youth ministers, ministers of education, children and preschool ministers, pastors, music ministers, church planters, directors of missions, and other groups.

Youth ministry director Joe Ball has even enlisted 173 youth ministers to connect on Facebook. John Bennett has 864 children/preschool workers on an e-mail list he uses for communications.

The KBC also now has numerous blogs with growing readerships. The KBC website also has a wide range of resources that can be accessed and downloaded from all Mission Board ministries.

It was encouraging to learn that 448 churches grew by 2 percent or more in three of five vital growth areas: resident membership, baptisms, Sunday school/small group attendance, worship attendance and undesignated receipts.

Although the annual church profiles are reporting some decline statewide, I am encouraged that 280 churches reported a 6 percent or more increase in Sunday school attendance in 2009-10. Also, 1,583 churches have grown by 3 percent or more in undesignated receipts.

Although the number of baptisms reported is down 752 from the previous year, we are grateful for the gospel sowing efforts that have been made with Find It Here during the last two years. About 33,000 Kentucky Baptists were involved in praying and fasting for three unreached friends 21 days before Easter. (Two of our friends from other countries went to church for the first time with us on Easter Sunday!) About 70,000 marked Scripture portions were delivered to prisons, jails and nursing homes.

The reports also show that 36 Anglo churches and 15 ethnic churches were planted last year.

Thousands of Disaster Relief workers have been trained and hundreds mobilized in relief, recovery and rebuilding. Disaster Relief teams have reported 241 professions of faith and 5,171 ministry contacts.

In the mission service and ministries department, the number of short-term volunteers reported by Teresa Parrett in 2010 reached 60,018. The goal set was 26,000.

I am grateful to God for the privilege that He has given me to work with such a creative, committed and talented staff. Please continue to pray for them during the time of transition that will come with my retirement at the end of the month.

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

## Ky. 'saints' offer hand, hope to Alabama's hurting

Not far off the interstate, we caught our first glimpse at the destructive power of the tornadoes that ravaged the northeastern corner of Alabama. Eight power company trucks were putting new poles in the ground where huge trees had been snapped like broken pencils. All that remained of some houses were splintered shells with roofs blown off and outer walls missing or collapsed. But this was only an introduction to what we would soon encounter.

Tornadoes seem to jump around, hitting here and missing there. In some places, damage appeared minimal; but as we approached Happy Home Baptist Church, near Henagar—where about 80 Kentucky Disaster Relief volunteers were working last week—more and more yards had multiple trees toppled over or snapped off. Most had barely missed houses, but some residents did not fare as well. Huge limbs lay on roof tops; some even had come crashing through.

Then there were sections where a tornado cut a wide swath, obliterating nearly everything and leaving only foundations behind. Lumber, siding and furniture were strewn for a hundred yards in the direction the tornado traveled. Clothes fluttered high in the stripped trees like flags marking the tornado's territory. Vehicles were crushed or overturned. It's a miracle that anyone survived.

"I've never seen anything that compares with what we've seen around here this week," said Pastor Clinton Graham, referring to the devastation and numerous families affected. "More than two-thirds of the people on this mountain were affected, or they had a relative or know someone who lost their life or whose home was damaged." According to Graham, as many as 45 people were killed in a 20-mile radius of the church.

As we pulled up to Happy Home, the church's name seemed ironic. The church obviously had weathered a horrific storm. A disaster relief trailer from Crittenden Baptist Association was across the street on a lot full of uprooted trees. One of the first volunteers I met was Ian Sterling from Las Vegas, who was featured in a March editorial. He traveled 1,690 miles to be part of the Kentucky team. Six other chainsaw teams were scattered into communities across Jackson County, assisting area residents with clearing branches. We followed a crew to one site, where six men cleared three fallen trees in less than 30 minutes and then cut down another that was leaning precariously.

Up the road, we spotted Blood River Association's trailer. A crew was sawing a huge tree trunk in the front yard of a ruined home. An elderly couple who had lived there for 62 years had huddled together on a couch as the roof and walls were blown away.

Yet, both escaped with only minor injuries.

At dinner, Warren Association's disaster relief trailer pulled in. Pulaski and Little River associations were also represented. And, the shower trailer purchased by the state's directors of missions, with assistance from the Eliza Broadus Offering, was being put to good use at Happy Home.

"We've had the opportunity to meet some awesome people from Kentucky," Graham told me. "They are the real deal!" The pastor had three trees down at his house. "When I came outside and saw six guys with chainsaws, I broke down to see people out helping each other. Words cannot describe the joy that comes over you," he said.

Meeting in the sanctuary, DR volunteers shared "wow moments" from nine jobs they completed that day. They had shared the gospel 11 times, and chaplains gave out 14 Bibles. At one house, a 50-year-old man thanked them, saying it was the first one he had ever owned. Several people said they were going to start attending church again. "We can't understand why you'd leave the comfort of your homes to come help us," some said, setting up an opportunity to tell them about Christ.

In a devotional that evening, Terry Holt, of Freedom Baptist Church in Lincoln County, shared how he had become interested in disaster relief when a chainsaw crew from Sand Mountain Association in Alabama, helped his father after the 2009 ice storm that crippled much of Kentucky. He noted that some members of that team were serving at Happy Home. On his first DR trip out of state, Holt affirmed, "In the midst of things that don't seem to make sense, God can work."

Referencing Matthew 9 and 14, Holt recalled how Jesus was moved with compassion for people who were hurting, sick, grieving and suffering. "How can we just sit in our comfortable living rooms watching our televisions, seeing all that's going on in the world, and not be concerned and want to help those who are hurting and suffering?" he asked. "We are supposed to be serving others." Pointing out some inconveniences that volunteers experience, Holt added, "But we wouldn't be any place else. We are where God wants us, doing what He wants us to do. All the sawdust, aches and pains—it's worth it all!" When people are hurting, they need a Savior, he asserted.

I left Alabama the next day heavy-hearted and traumatized by the vastness of destruction. At the same time, it was encouraging to observe the unshaken faith and courage of the residents, and it was uplifting to hear the compassionate witness of some of our Kentucky "saints" as they offer a hand and hope to the hurting.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Mackey: missional qualities constant, contagious

By Richard Adams

How has God's mission, expressed through the lifestyle, influence and ministry partnership with Bill Mackey, changed the direction and design of my life? As the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development director and Southeastern Kentucky church development strategist, I am serving with him for my third time. The Lord has blessed us to serve Him and His people together as ministry partners for 22 years of the nearly 40 years of my Christian journey.

Let's start with a few stories from the first seven years because the present missional characteristics of Bill's life have consistently been modeled throughout his ministry. In October 1969, Bill was called as

pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg. In June 1972, Bill Mackey became pastor to my wife, Patsy, and me when we were saved in a revival he had planned. Implemented with a belief that revival music and message should be relevant and in the language of lost people, Bill invited a revival team whose love for the Lord, His people and the lost was as contagious as his.

From our earliest experiences with Bill, my wife and I knew that he was a leader and a pastor unlike other pastors in our past. Most loved to preach but did not make manifest their love to their people as Bill did. Bill would drive hours to Lexington, to Louisville and all over the hills and hollows

of Eastern Kentucky to visit and pray with the sick or to pray and woo the lost to Christ. As we experienced life with him in our church, we became infected with the same love for the lost and for people. His love and servant leadership has remained contagious and constant throughout his ministry.

Bill baptized Patsy and me on July 2, 1972. Almost immediately, he began engaging and equipping us for ministry. Building on my truck driving skills, I volunteered to drive a church van for our Sunday evening services. Soon, Bill encouraged me to attend a bus ministry conference with him and another deacon, Don Collins, at Walnut Street Baptist Church. Receiving training and hearing stories of changed lives

□ See Mackey: ... Page 5

## WESTERN Recorder

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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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## After Osama's death: violence or mercy?

By Erich Bridges

Flying into Cairo on the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001, we heard something terrible was happening in New York and in Washington, D.C., the city we had departed approximately 15 hours earlier.

A photographer and I had come to gather material for a profile of the great Egyptian city. But as we watched the planes fly into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on our hotel-room TVs—and learned who was behind the attacks—we wondered if and when we would be able to leave the hotel, much less the country. How would a couple of nervous Americans fare on the “Arab street” in that moment?

No sooner did we emerge from a taxi in a Cairo neighborhood than we were surrounded by a crowd of Egyptian Muslims—not to be taunted or threatened, but to be comforted. They led us by the arm to a nearby coffee shop and surrounded our table, offering the passionate expressions of friendship and condolence for which Arabs are famous.

They didn't want to believe Muslims had participated in the airborne attacks on thousands of innocents. They begged us to convey their grief and deepest sympathies to the victims' families and to all Americans.

“We would never do this,” one man urgently repeated, tears in his eyes, as he gripped my hand. And he meant it.

But Osama bin Laden would do it.

A veteran terrorist determined to exact revenge for his many grievances against America and the West, bin Laden was quite willing to plan the attacks, carry them out through his al-Qaida network—and proudly claim responsibility. And it was only the beginning, he promised. Many more assaults would come and many more innocent people would die until the terrorists' aims were accomplished.

So began the attacks and counterattacks, the violence and retaliation, the skirmishes and full-scale wars that continue to this day across multiple borders. But Osama bin Laden is dead, shot down in a U.S. operation after a nearly decade-long manhunt that began in the days follow-

ing 9/11. Few war-weary people—not just in the West but also in the Muslim-majority nations most affected by his bloody ideology—will mourn him.

Will he become a martyr? An enduring symbol of radical Islamic defiance of the decadent West? An inspiration to new waves of terrorist true believers? Perhaps. Even if al-

Qaida has suffered a mortal blow, others will take up its radical cause. The United States and other nations will take the actions they see as necessary to defend themselves and their interests. The cycle of attack and counterattack might continue.

However, the “Arab Spring” now under way in many parts of the Middle East and North Africa suggests an alternative future. Millions of young adults are bravely—and nonviolently—pushing for change and freedom, even in the face of violent repression. Their aspirations, openly expressed on the streets and through the potent tools of social media, suggest that history *might* have rendered the bin Ladens of the world irrelevant.

These peaceful revolutions will be hijacked by extremists or crushed by dictators in some places, but in others they will take root.

In another generation, young Muslims might even reject radical Islamism altogether. Naïve? Who would have believed that the Soviet empire would collapse in the space of a few years? The pace of change in our era is unprecedented in human history.

Whatever happens in the political realm in the days to come, however, an unseen kingdom is silently spreading across the region: the Kingdom of God. It is a Kingdom of justice and mercy, and its power comes from divine love, not weapons of war. It transcends all cultures.

Muslims, like all other people, hunger for God. Millions are seeking Him. More and more are finding Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Persecution of Christians and churches in the Muslim world has increased, along with the exodus of many Christians targeted by extremists.

Yet reports of Muslims deciding to follow Christ, regardless of the consequences, continue to emerge from across the world. They continue to tell of dreams and visions of Jesus, of their desire for a close relationship with a God of mercy, of indescribable joy when they meet Him.

As we walked the streets of Cairo that sad day after 9/11, a Muslim man approached us near Al-Azhar University, the intellectual center of Sunni Islam for more than a millennium. Every night for years, he said, when he closed his eyes to sleep, he had seen a bright cross. “What does this mean?” he asked. We told him of the Lord who extends mercy and salvation to all who seek Him.

Don't be afraid to tell the person who may ask you. The love of Christ is a far more powerful force than hatred, fear, war or vengeance. (BP)

Erich Bridges is IMB global correspondent.

### FIRST PERSON

## Staying ‘connected’ with teens

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: How can I be more than a Facebook friend and really stay connected to my teenager?**

**A:** Since the countdown clock is ticking and the launch sequence is already initiated, it is a wise parent at “mission control” who keeps in contact with a teen. The ancient wisdom of Psalm 90:12 encourages the judicious use of time: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”

Just like mission control, parents who want to keep in communication must carefully monitor what is happening, while at the same time initiating conversation in various ways. With younger teens, car rides are a great way to do both while at the same time minimizing anxiety because of teens not having to look you in the eye. Eye contact is surprisingly intimidating to many younger teens. Transporting their friends allows you to listen and learn. Be careful to do more listening than talking when friends are aboard.

Just as times of day matter when spotting animals in the wild, certain times of the day and night are more likely to be times that your teen will want to communicate. If your son wakes up slowly and is silent at breakfast and on the ride to school, perhaps he is more of a “p.m. personality.” Don't disturb the young bear early in the morning! Instead, be available when he is active ... and feeding. Wait up until he comes home from a date or outing and order a pizza. While I know that middle aged parents aren't big about eating pizza late at night, he won't think about that. He'll just eat ... and probably talk!

Remember that to stay connected you have to be willing to do some things that may not be the most comfortable or natural for you. Moms, are you willing to go to a monster truck rally or a ballgame? Dads, how about going shopping with your daughters ... and not complaining about it? Remember that you must make some sacrifices in the short run, but the payoff of a healthy long-term relationship is a primary goal of mission control.

Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.



## Ten biggest estate planning errors

By Laurie Valentine

**1. Not executing a will.** If you don't make a will, Kentucky will do it for you. Your assets may not go where you want and, if your estate is big, unnecessary taxes may be paid.

**2. Wanting just a “simple will.”** Some people leave their spouse everything regardless of the estate's size because the spouse pays no estate taxes. For estates over the estate tax exemption (\$5 million for persons dying in 2011 or 2012), that could cost your heirs.

**3. Putting everything into joint tenancy.** While that avoids probate, joint ownership between spouses has the same danger as a simple will. If you own property jointly with others, like children, “your” property may become subject to the claims of the child's creditors and you may get taxed on your own property if the child dies before you.

**4. Thinking that avoiding probate will avoid taxes.** It doesn't always. There are advantages to avoiding probate, but saving taxes isn't generally one of them.

**5. Leaving property to one child to “work things out.”** If you leave your assets to one child, they are not obligated to give it to other members of your family. It may even cost them in gift taxes to redistribute your assets as you would have wanted.

**6. Letting your children “take care of” your grandchildren.** In larger estates, it may cost less for you to leave property to grandchildren directly rather than letting your children do it through their own estates.

**7. Failing to consider how your affairs will be handled if you become incapacitated as the result of a stroke, accident or illness.** If you don't plan, a costly guardianship may be required to give someone authority handle your personal and financial affairs.

**8. Not using trusts to help beneficiaries handle their inherited wealth.** You can ease beneficiaries into the management of inherited wealth with the use of testamentary trusts.

**9. Not planning for taxes that may be due at your death.** Children may be forced to sell important family assets at reduced prices if you do not have a proper plan in place.

**10. Procrastination.** The government will love you for this.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



## Mackey: missional qualities constant, contagious

Continued from page 4

through the bus ministry at Walnut Street, Bill drew me under his mentoring wing. Using the bus ministry, he disciplined me how to do missionary work in Eastern Kentucky. The bus ministry became our tool of outreach and evangelism.

On our first Saturday visitation to invite children to First Baptist, Bill and I knocked on the door of a young couple who were lost. Living on top of one of the high mountains in Eastern Kentucky, no one had invited them to church or to Christ since they had moved there. Bill shared the gospel and the love of Christ with the young couple that day. Willingly, they received Christ and joyfully surrendered their lives to Christ. Sixty-plus children attended church from the first bus ministry Sunday.

Flowing out of his servant leadership, his missionary drive and his love for the lost, First Baptist would begin three mission churches. Beginning with his car, Bill would transport children to church and to the mission churches. When the church leaders saw the receptivity of the families and the servant leadership, they volunteered to help Bill. The

church would expand the bus ministry from one bus and van to four buses and five vans. A bus ministry team of drivers would be enlisted to bring mountain children and adults to worship, Sunday school, revivals and tent crusades, vacation Bible schools and mission points.

VBS attendance would swell from 400 in the early 70s to 2,261 in 1979. In 1979, this small mountain church in Whitesburg would lead the state in the number of children who attended vacation Bible school. A team of young leaders, who had been captured by the missionary spirit and vision of Jesus lived out in the life of Bill, would come alongside him to expand the mission of God.

During those seven years and adopting the missionary methods modeled and mentored by Bill, a small army of fellow workers was sent by God for the missionary endeavors. Visiting in homes located on the mountains and up the hollows, Bill would see hundreds of people open their lives to Christ.

Many of the converts grew in their love for Jesus and simultaneously for Christ's mission lived out in his life. David Banks, affectionate-

ly known as Herb, would retire as a school principal and would become pastor of a mission that later became Premium Baptist Church. Steve Hogg, a youth baptized and mentored by Bill and me, would become bus ministry director and later became pastor of Colson Baptist Church. He is now pastor of First Baptist Church of Rock Hill, S.C.

Until his resignation in September 1979 to become the South Carolina Baptist Convention's evangelism director, Bill served as a missional pastor, mentor, coach and equipper. Over the years at Whitesburg, his ministry would expand from serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Whitesburg to becoming the missionary pastor of Eastern Kentucky. People all over Letcher County loved him and saw him as the man of God with a contagious love.

Our Heavenly Father would use the same missional qualities that endeared him to the mountain people to endear him to the pastors and leaders of the South Carolina Baptist Convention and later to the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Richard Adams is leadership development director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

# Southern Baptists doing 'all they can to help'

*Disaster relief crews from several state Baptist conventions help Alabama pick up the pieces*

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

Rainsville, Ala.—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief has mobilized more than 50 recovery teams throughout Alabama since April 27 when the deadliest outbreak of tornadoes in 79 years ripped a 200-mile swath across the state from Tuscaloosa to the Georgia state line, killing 249 Alabamians.

In all, killer tornadoes claimed 350 lives in six states. In addition to Alabama's fatalities, the death toll from other southern states was 34 in Mississippi, 34 in Tennessee, 15 in Georgia, five in Virginia and 14 in Arkansas.

Southern Baptist feeding units have prepared and delivered more than 33,000 hot meals since April 27. Alabama feeding units currently are operating in Rainsville, Tuscaloosa and Birmingham, while Kentucky Baptist Convention volunteers are feeding victims in Henager and Florida Baptist volunteers are feeding in Double Springs. A Texas feeding unit also is deployed in Tuscaloosa, the hardest-hit city in Alabama, and a South Carolina kitchen is feeding in Huntsville.

Thirteen shower units from Alabama—offering victims and volunteers shower facilities and washers and dryers for laundry—have been mobilized in Pleasant Grove, Jasper, Vance, Moulton, Coker, Russellville, Hoover, Wellington, Ashville, Rainsville, Montgomery and Cottondale.

Bill Carter and Fred Kornegay, representing Alabama's Coosa Baptist Association, manned a shower unit with six stalls and four washers and dryers at Oak Grove Baptist Church in the Wellington/Glencoe area, where pastor Rick Luallen led a special worship service outside, although the 161-year-old church received only minor roof damage.

However, about one mile south down U.S. 431, Mamre Baptist Church's 2-year-old

building was practically gutted by the tornado. The two churches will hold joint Sunday services for the foreseeable future.

"I believe God wanted us to have it outside and be accessible to the community," said Luallen, who preached to about 80 people under two green cemetery tents. As if church members needed a reminder, close by was a large oak tree felled by the tornado and a giant pine tree broken off at a 45-degree angle.

As the aroma of barbecue wafted through the crowd, Luallen closed the service by extending an invitation. As a woman on a portable keyboard played "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior," a dozen crying men and women—some of whom lost everything in the tornado—knelt on blankets used as a makeshift altar.

"Our church name got blown away," Luallen said, pointing to the hole in the nearby sign in front of Oak Grove church. "But the cross is still up there. At night, we're putting a floodlight on the cross."

John Thomas, director of missions for Calhoun County Baptist Association in Anniston, said the tornadoes devastated that northeast Alabama county from one end to the other.

"Chainsaw crews are out trying to do all they can to help homeowners," Thomas said, adding that larger area churches such as Parker Memorial, Greenbriar and Grace Baptist churches in Anniston, First Baptist of Oxford and First Baptist of Jacksonville are shouldering much of the load for the response in the Calhoun County area.

Another 50 disaster relief teams from Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Michigan, Louisiana, Florida and Texas converged at a staging area in Ashville, Ala., where they were deployed to various tornado-affected sites, according to Bruce Poss, disaster relief unit coordinator at the North American Mission Board's di-



**CHAINSAW CREW** Howard Edwards (left) and Jeff Peters, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers from Immanuel Baptist Church in Somerset, work to remove a fallen tree from the Barron family yard in Section, Ala. The Kentucky Baptist Convention team is one of 50 working in Alabama to help clean up after the April 27 tornadoes. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

saster operations center in Alpharetta, Ga.

According to SBDR reports, more than 45 Southern Baptist churches in Alabama were destroyed or suffered damages from the historic tornadoes.

Charles Watson, a disaster relief leader from Central, La., near Baton Rouge, said five chaplains, six damage assessors and 21 chainsaw teams—60 volunteers in all—arrived in Geraldine, Ala., April 29. They're using First Baptist Church of Geraldine as their base.

Larry Murphy and Kyle Jeffreys, DR leaders from Enterprise, Ala., said 22 feeding unit volunteers cranked out some 10,000-11,000 meals at Rainsville's Broadway Baptist Church the weekend after the storms.

"We brought 3,000 meals with us," Murphy said. "We had tractor trailers of ice and water donated from Kentucky and Tyson Foods. We'll be here at least another week. Power is coming back on and that takes the pressure off the feeding operation."

Alan Reese, an assessment volunteer from Marshall County Baptist Association in nearby Guntersville, is working with Louisiana chainsaw teams.

"We've been in neighborhoods where there's nothing we can do because everything is gone—total destruction," Reese said. "Our primary focus is 'priority ones,' places with trees on houses or driveways. There's plenty of work to do—not only here in Rainsville but on jobs in Albertville and Arab. We're covering a pretty big area, just trying to find chainsaw jobs that will give people hope."

Ken Clements, director of missions for DeKalb County Baptist Association in Rainsville, said 38 people were killed in DeKalb County.

"Mountain View Baptist Church in rural DeKalb County was totally destroyed, but they had 200 people in the worship service" May 1, Clements said. "Gov. Bentley was there."

"We're just telling Southern Baptists that this is your Cooperative Program dollars at work," Clements added.

Rainsville resident Roger Bouldin, himself a Southern Baptist and member of nearby Fyffe Baptist Church, was grateful for Kenny Hester of Pine Ridge, Ala., and the other five members of the Alabama chainsaw team who took a large oak tree off his house.

"They've done a great job and I'm tickled to death," said Bouldin, whose home was largely undamaged by the tornado. "It came through here about 6 p.m. Wednesday night, and we took off to the basement. It was really scary. But a lot of people had it a lot rougher than we did."

Southern Baptists and others who want to donate to NAMB's disaster relief fund can visit [www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net) and click the "Donate Now" button. Donations also can be made by calling (866) 407-NAMB or by texting "NAMBDR" to the number "40579." A one-time donation of \$10 will be added to the caller's mobile phone bill or deducted from any prepaid balance. (BP)



**EMOTIONAL SERVICE** Rick Luallen (right), pastor of Oak Grove Baptist Church in Glencoe, Ala., comforts church members during the invitation at the church's May 1 services which were held outside. Photo by John Swain/NAMB

# Alabama on hearts of Kentucky pastors who once called it home

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

Paducah—Alabama drivers have the phrase on their license plates and it's the title of one of the best-known rock songs of all time.

It's also an expression Dan Summerlin has kept close to his own heart in recent weeks: "Sweet Home Alabama."

Summerlin was born and raised in Northport, Ala., just across the Black Warrior River from Tuscaloosa, the hardest-hit of the dozens of Alabama towns in the path of the deadly April 27 tornadoes.

As the first photos and video emerged of the devastation left in the wake of the storms, Summerlin had only three words: "shock and disbelief."

"It was just all gone," Summerlin, who is pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, said of his Tuscaloosa hometown.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention first vice president is a University of Alabama graduate who served as pastor at a couple of churches in his home state before moving to Paducah in 2002.

Seeing much of his hometown reduced to rubble was hard to comprehend, he said.

"Every picture I've seen, I know that area," Summerlin said, "but since there were no landmarks in the pictures, I couldn't recognize it at first."

One photo in particular stood out of a Tuscaloosa hospital building. Prior to the storm from where the picture was taken, the view of the hospital was obstructed by a two-story housing complex. That complex was completely destroyed, he said.

"I saw the hospital and thought, 'Well, wait a minute, there are buildings there.' But I realized the tornado had destroyed them all."

Growing up in Alabama means knowing all about living with the threat of tornadoes, Summerlin said, particularly in the spring.

"We do know tornadoes," he said. "I cannot even tell you the number of times I have been in the bathtub during a storm. I can't tell you the number of times I've gone to the center of the house."

The sound of a tornado is commonly described as a freight train roaring by. "That is legitimate," Summerlin confirmed.

While pastor of Big Sandy Baptist Church on the southern outskirts of Tuscaloosa in the mid-1990s, Summerlin said it was not uncommon for the county to be under a tornado warning during Sunday services. During these times, he would have men posted at the church's north, south, east and west entrances with radios watching the sky for funnel clouds.

Summerlin said he has even preached by flashlight in a hallway during a tornado warning. "This is just the way we do it."

Another former Big Sandy Baptist pastor is Bob Ehr, who now is a Kentucky Baptist pastor in Lawrenceburg. He served the Tuscaloosa church from 1999-2006.

Barely a year into his ministry at Big Sandy, a rare December tornado ripped through an area just a few miles from the church. A dozen people were killed, some of them were relatives of church members.

"It certainly changed my perspective



**HOPE AMID THE RUBBLE** The Christian and American flags fly at what is left of Mountain View Baptist Church in Sylvania, Ala., which was destroyed by a tornado April 27. Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers have been working to help clean up the church since last week. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

forever on tornadoes," said Ehr, who has been pastor of Lawrenceburg's First Baptist Church since 2006.

Following the deadly storm, Ehr said he urged his congregation to get out and help their neighbors.

"We just tried to encourage people to serve in any way they could," he recalled.

It's that spirit of selflessness Summerlin has witnessed through news reports and first-hand stories on Facebook and Twitter.

Summerlin said a family member told him about a FEMA representative assessing the damage in Tuscaloosa who made the comment that he had never seen a closer religious community than what was taking place in Tuscaloosa County.

"Again the religious community has

come forward in an incredible way," Summerlin noted.

It's just an example of the mindset of Alabamians, he pointed out. "We're going to keep helping whoever needs it."

Tragedies like the tornado outbreak often bring more questions than answers. But when Christians get involved in relief work, showing Christ's love in the process, "that speaks volumes to hurting people," Summerlin said.

"I do think there is an opportunity right now for ministry," Ehr echoed. "I think there are doors that will be opened that will allow these churches to witness and to reach out to some people that they never would have had the opportunity (to reach) before."

## Kentucky Baptist disaster relief teams share hope message in Ala.

Continued from page 1

homes. But unlike 249 other Alabamians, they had escaped with their lives.

They had survived the worst outbreak of intense tornadoes in 79 years. Across six southeastern states, 350 people were killed and billions of dollars in storm damage tallied.

The storm outbreak has led to a major mobilization of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers, including nine chainsaw and two shower units from Kentucky. Staging from Happy Home Baptist Church in Henagar, Ala., the teams have been fanning out since May 1 across northeastern Alabama to cut trees and restore hope.

Larry Koch, a veteran disaster relief volunteer who is serving as the incident commander for the Kentucky teams, said more than 80 volunteers are participating in the response.

He said the volunteers' purpose in serving is to meet both physical and spiritual needs.

"Yes, we are here to help people recover their homes and property, but our No. 1 goal is to be the hands, the feet, the eyes and the heart of Jesus Christ," Koch said. "We want to serve them in Jesus' name. ... The hands-on type of work opens up doors of ministry that would never open up otherwise."

Koch said he especially is pleased with the work of chaplains that are accompany-

ing each chainsaw crew and three additional chaplains who are ministering to individuals in the streets of the affected areas.

"We saw an 81-year-old lady make a profession of faith today," beamed Howard Evans, a volunteer from New Enterprise Baptist Church in Somerset. "It was special."

Happy Home Baptist Church Pastor Clint Graham said he sees God working even in the midst of the tragedy. After taking one couple food and money donated by the Kentucky volunteers, he said he saw a man who previously had been hardened against the gospel tear up and ask for prayer.

"I found out that they do more in Kentucky than play basketball," Graham said. "I've met some of the most awesome people."

Barron, who had a Kentucky disaster relief crew cut and remove the trees from his house and yard last week, said the crews' presence was lifting the spirits of the people in the communities.

"It makes everybody feel the Lord," he said.

Jones said she was grateful for the Kentucky group that cut up the huge tree that narrowly missed her home.

"It was a big help to me," she said. "I am crippled, can't get around too good, and so I was just thankful that they came."

"We had a wonderful prayer before they left and I was thankful for that."

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# Terrorist leader's death prompts overseas calls for prayer

**South Asia**—While some Americans danced in the streets and chanted "USA! USA!" in response to Osama bin Laden's death May 1, others fell to their knees in prayer.

American workers in South Asia prayed for doors to open in the Muslim world to the gospel with the death of the al-Qaida leader. They prayed for the safety of Americans living throughout the Muslim world as fears of retaliation surfaced. And they prayed for local Christians who might be subjected to possible persecution.

The near-10-year hunt for bin Laden has been seen as a war against Islam throughout much of the Muslim world and not just an attack on terrorism.

Bin Laden was the architect of a number of atrocities, including the attacks on New York and Washington on Sept. 11, 2001—as well as the deaths of countless thousands in other parts of the world. To many in the West, bin Laden was the embodiment of global terrorism, but to many in South Asia, he was revered as one who fought world powers in the name of jihad.

Deanna Cassmore\*, a Christian living in South Asia, encouraged fellow Christians to pray for the possible volatile situation in Muslim countries around the world.

"Praying immediately for peace to prevail is the only thing that can keep things under control," Cassmore said. "There is a very real mob mentality that takes over in situations like this, so praying for believers and Americans (in these areas) can save lives."

Cassmore once visited the area where bin Laden and his colleagues hid out, just outside of Islamabad, Pakistan. She described it as a beautiful city near the mountains.

"I was surprised this morning when they said that was where bin Laden stayed," she said. "I could picture in my mind many, many places in the tribal areas where he might have hid—mountains, caves, deserted valley—but I never dreamed he would be in the city."

Goldie Francis\* said she was "weirdly sad" to receive the news. The American Christian who has lived in South Asia for years had been praying specifically for bin Laden's salvation.

Cade Rutledge\*, another American living in South Asia, said he first heard about the death over the loudspeakers at a mosque in his neighborhood.

"They weren't talking in an angry way," Rutledge said. "It feels like a calm before a storm. You just don't know how people are going to react."

Christians in Pakistan and surrounding countries said the day after bin Laden's death was peaceful, but word about the U.S. ground operation that killed the man at the top of the country's "most wanted" list was just starting to get out.

Those living in Pakistan warned that while the average Pakistani does not support al-Qaida or bin Laden, many in the country were not happy that American soldiers were on Pakistani soil. They fear retaliation will be taken out on local Christians.

Any conflict involving the U.S. often implicates local believers since Christianity is associated with the U.S.

"Pray for strength to stand firm in persecution," Leigh Weil\*, a Christian who lives in South Asia, urged. "People are kidnapped and killed every day. Pray that (Christians) will stand firm in their faith."

A senior U.S. official warned American citizens living abroad to take extra safety precautions. Rutledge and other foreign Christians said their national friends often warn them when trouble is brewing.

Rutledge and Weil said it often is hard for Americans to think of Muslims in this area of the world as "people."

"Everybody here does not support the Taliban" or al-Qaida, Weil noted. "They're people. They want peace. They are in a struggle for freedom."

"These are real people, with real issues. Moms (and) dads looking for jobs. Looking for peace. It's this internal struggle that everyone has until they find that freedom in Christ," she continued. "They're not all scary terrorists."

\*Names changed for security reasons

## After bin Laden's death, 'grace mission' continues

**Central Asia**—The diversity of comments following the death of Osama bin Laden was evident on most any Facebook news feed.

Some pitied him. Some cheered for the shots fired. "This is a great moment for every American," one noted.

But Greg Turner\* winces at the thought.

"I confess mixed feelings," said Turner, a Christian leader in Central Asia. "On the one hand, there is no doubt that Osama bin Laden was a wicked man, and there is no injustice in what happened to him." But God says in Ezekiel 18:23 that He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked, Turner added.

"If God takes no pleasure in this, then we can commend the justice of bin Laden's death, but we should never gloat about it," Turner said. "Walk wisely, brothers and sisters, and take every opportunity to share Jesus with those on their way toward destruction."

Drew Carson\*, a Christian leader among the peoples of Northern Africa and the Middle East, said Christians can respond in a way that makes clear who they are.

"As people of (God's) kingdom, our responsibility is not to respond like a human being but to respond with a kingdom response," Carson said. "That way, we won't just see the moment, but

through the moment to the real issue."

The real issue involves mission, Carson said.

"We should advocate for justice, but we are not on a justice mission. We are on a grace mission. What we do and who we are is from a whole different perspective," he explained. "None of us deserves grace, but He's giving it and wants to give it through our lives."

It's not that the military can't respond in carrying out justice—Romans 13 says the government has the power of the sword, Carson noted. "As followers of Christ we want people to have justice, but our job is more the grace job."

Natalie Shepherd\* takes that job seriously. She prayed for 10 years for bin Laden's salvation.

"Today I still carry a picture inside my Bible of another top terrorist wanted by the United States government," said Shepherd, a Christian worker in the Middle East. "His photograph reminds me to pray for his salvation and the salvation of his family. And when I look at him, I am reminded that God excels in doing what seems impossible to me."

Saul is the perfect example of that, she said, explaining that if God transformed Saul into Paul—who reached much of his part of the world with the gospel in his day—He can transform others for the same purpose. (BP)

## His seat is still empty

**Though not all OBI students find Christ on campus, all need constant prayer**

By Paul Davidson  
OBI campus minister

"Dahlen" (not his real name) came to us last August, a 19-year-old international student with self-assurance and slender good looks. He arrived a week late because he had stopped off to see a family member along the way and stayed for a week of partying.

I had Dahlen as a student in Bible class. Although he came from the same country as many of our students who are Christians, he himself was not a Christian. He didn't know much about the Bible, but when he stayed awake, he would ask some good questions. Unfortunately, he usually didn't think it was worth staying awake in class.

The first sign I had that Dahlen might be headed for trouble was when we had our first book report assignment. Dahlen and a friend both submitted the same report on the same book, each with their own names on the front page—after having been warned in class and in the computer lab where I saw them sharing the same book. Both students got a zero. Dahlen admitted to having used his friend's flash drive and was given an F for the quarter, a stiff penalty for a senior.

The next unwanted adventure with Dahlen came when an inappropriate picture was found drawn on the back of the seat in front of his. After continually denying his involvement, Dahlen eventually admitted to the school principals and me that the drawing was his. I almost burst into tears from the tension of the interrogation. I could only put my arm around his shoulder, tell

him I loved him, go take care of my class and pray for Dahlen. I thought he might be expelled, but he was suspended again.

I thought we were making progress with Dahlen. He said he was trying to do things "God's way" but couldn't seem to change some of his habits. We talked about how he needed Jesus "on the inside" to help him do that.

The proof of that need came soon after we talked. Dahlen again had been suspended and was out of class the day before a test. He asked if he could use the test day to study and take the test the next day. I said yes. He put his head down and rested until late in the class, when he began to copy the answers he would need from the paper of a student sitting across the aisle who had positioned his paper so Dahlen could see it. It ended in Dahlen receiving a zero for that test and being suspended again, along with his classmate.

I wish I could end this story happily by telling you that Dahlen still is at OBI, has accepted Jesus and is on course to graduate in a few weeks. Unfortunately, that isn't the case. He was expelled a few weeks ago, the culmination of recurring problems in the classroom and the dormitory, as well as a lack of respect toward those in authority. His seat in my classroom is still empty.

His spiritual needs still are heavy on my heart. Please join me in praying for Dahlen and his salvation. Please pray for all of our students, especially those without Christ—and also pray for those of us who work with them every day. Thanks.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Another direction

**Student finds God's direction for his life at Clear Creek**

First-year student Casey Carver, from Ashland, thought he had his life all planned out. "I was saved when I was 13," Carver said. "Since my salvation experience, I have always been seeking God's direction for my life."

"Going into my last semester of my senior year in high school, I had been looking at some colleges to attend," he recalled. "Math was a field that I was always interested in. I felt like I was going to become a civil engineer. I was in the process of getting a scholarship that would pay for all of my schooling. I thought this was the direction my life would take."

"As I got closer to graduation and continued praying about God's direction in my life," Carver said. "I just didn't have the peace I needed to have about moving in the direction I was headed. I backed off and decided I would take some basic courses at a local community college for a year or so and then decide what direction I needed to go. Well, I got all my classes scheduled and was about to start, but God still kept telling me that was not the direction I was supposed to be going."

"This was when Clear Creek

came into the picture, and I began to find God's direction for my life," he recalled. "We had an associate pastor at my home church who is an alumnus of Clear Creek. He shared some things about the college with me and helped point me in that direction. I scheduled a visit to the campus and came to see if this was where God wanted me to be."

"I fell in love with the college from the moment I got here," he said. "I began to pray as I was here and seek God's direction. God told me this was where I needed to be."

"I feel God's direction for my life now is to serve as pastor of a local church. I have a desire to share the gospel," Carver said. "I am involved with a group of students here on campus who go out in the community every week and share the gospel through door-to-door evangelism. We have had three people saved since we started."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

## LifeWay unveils church planter tool

Nashville, Tenn.—An online Church Planter Candidate Assessment made its debut at a church planting conference in Orlando, Fla., last month. Nearly 100 church planting leaders at the Exponential Conference attended a separate breakout session on the new resource.

A LifeWay Research study that shaped key steps in the process was sponsored by 11 denominations and church planting networks, including the North American Mission Board, Assemblies of God, Presbyterian Church in America and the Evangelical Free Church of America.

"There are numerous other instruments available for evangelical church planting organizations to use," said Ed Stetzer, LifeWay's vice president of research and ministry development. "However, a statistically validated assessment instrument has been missing from this field."

As a result, Stetzer and his team at LifeWay Research developed the Church Planter Candidate Assessment to aid churches and other church planting sponsors in evaluating strengths and weaknesses of candidates who desire to establish new churches.

"The Evangelical Free Church partnered on this because we love planters," said George Klippenes, church planting director of the Evangelical Free Church. "This tool helps us to help them discern their call as they consider church planting."

The cooperative spirit was echoed by NAMB President Kevin Ezell. "NAMB has gladly partnered with LifeWay Research to help study church planters and develop the CPCA. We believe that a better self-understanding a planter has, the better engaged that planter and church can be with the Great Commission work of the church."

LifeWay Research used a research-driven process to develop the CPCA. Thirty assessment experts were interviewed

to identify key characteristics in church planters. Questions were developed and reviewed by additional experts in church planting. Then three rounds of quantitative tests among more than 500 church planters and pastors were used to identify the best questions.

The CPCA contains more than 20 scales, each proven to be statistically reliable at measuring a specific church planter characteristic. The series of scales provides indications of strengths and weaknesses that are helpful to organizations in the church planter assessment process. Some organizations will use these indications to decide whether to move forward with further assessment of a candidate or in guiding the assessment steps that follow.

"This tool is what we've been looking for," said Steve Pike, director of the Assemblies of God Church Multiplication Network.

"The intention for the CPCA is to serve as a solid 'initial indicator'—testing for measurable characteristics found in successful church planters," Stetzer noted.

Further, LifeWay Research took into account questions such as how success is defined when planting a new church, acknowledging that it can take years for a church plant to establish independence and a self-sustaining level of church membership.

"LifeWay Research and other sponsoring organizations of this project understand that a variety of circumstances ultimately determine the planter's ability to 'succeed' in a variety of given conditions," Stetzer said. "Therefore, the tool is not intended to serve as a stand-alone, comprehensive assessment process."

All questions are answered and scored online and immediately shared with the candidate's organization. This makes the CPCA easily accessible to organizations and church planting candidates. (BP)

## Arizona Baptist leader Bass is NAMB's West VP nominee

Alpharetta, Ga.—Steve Bass, state missionary for the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention, will be presented as the candidate for the North American Mission Board's West Region vice president post when NAMB's trustees meet this week in Alpharetta, Ga.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell placed Bass' name before the board of trustees April 30.

Bass, 54, who has served as the Arizona convention's top administrative leader since 1996, said the prospect of witnessing something monumental captured his imagination.

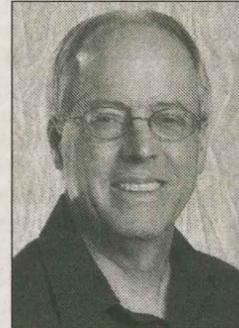
"I am incredibly fascinated by, and drawn to, the possibility of being part of a church planting movement in North America. That excites me—to be a part of something we have not seen here," Bass said. "A vision that big, where there is no way we can get this done without an in-

credible outpouring of God—I am excited to be considered to be a part of that.

Bass added that he is "flattered, honored and humbled by the nomination to be part of the NAMB team. If the board affirms me, I can't wait to get started."

Born in Tulsa, Okla., Bass graduated from Oklahoma Baptist University and received a master of divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School.

After serving as pastor of three churches in Oklahoma, Bass was executive director of Tulsa Metro Baptist Association before joining the Arizona convention staff. Bass and his wife, Dorothy, have three children, Stefanie, Lucas and Andrew. (BP)



Steve Bass

## Music prof Stam, 58, served SBTS, KBC

Louisville—Carl "Chip" Stam, professor of church music and worship at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and the founding director of the seminary's Institute for Christian Worship, died May 1 after a four-year battle with an aggressive form of non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma He was 58.

"Chip Stam was such a great gift to Southern Seminary and to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ," said Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler. "He was a gifted musician, as indicated by all of his musical accomplishments. But Chip Stam was so much more. He was a warm and faithful friend, an energetic faculty member and a wonderful worship leader. To know Chip Stam was to know a warm-hearted artist with a deep commitment to Christ."

During his time at the seminary, Stam conducted the school's oratorio chorus. Stam also was the conductor of the Ken-

tucky Baptist Convention's Men's Chorale for more than 10 years. Since 2002, he had served Louisville's Clifton Baptist Church as its minister of music and worship.

Before coming to Southern Seminary, Stam served in Chapel Hill, N.C., from 1991-2000. From 1981-91, he was the director of choral music at the University of Notre Dame.

Stam, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees at the University of North Carolina, served as the national chair for American Choral Directors Association's Repertoire and Standards Committee for Music and Worship.

Stam is survived by his wife, Doris, and their three children. Funeral services and a public memorial service at Southern Seminary were held May 7. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Clifton Baptist Church in Louisville and Southern Seminary. (BP)

## Cherish God's word above all

**Everything Christians do and say should point others to Jesus Christ**

By Kelly Collins  
Executive assistant

It seems as if there is a new report of a devastating natural disaster every day. In one instant, thousands of lives are lost. We shudder in fear and grieve with those affected, but never really believe it could be us. However, those who have lost loved ones in these events are all too familiar with this stark reality: Our lives are temporary.

The Bible clearly teaches this over and over again. Our lives are referred to as a "mist" in the book of James, a "shadow" in Ecclesiastes, and "fading flowers" and "withering grass" in Isaiah. The word pictures painted here remind us that our lives are fleeting and frail (Psalm 39:4).

But, the Bible gives hope and speaks life into our fragility. God has promised us that, although our flesh is fading, His word will remain forever (1 Peter 3:25). Our message is timeless, and the good news Christians share offers an eternal gift (Romans 6:23) that will never perish. Even so, how many of us really believe and live in light of these truths?

We should cherish God's word above all

things because it points us to Christ, the source of eternal life. Yet, much of what we do and say reflects that we are enamored with temporary things. This often shows itself in what we talk about. Are we sharing words of life when we open our mouths to speak, or are we concerned

Ky. Baptist  
Assemblies



David Melber

with what's popular and with what will make us popular? Are we talking merely to hear ourselves speak and share our opinions, or are we pointing others to Christ by pointing them to His word?

Crossings is given the opportunity to interact with thousands of guests each summer. We only get a few days to make a lasting impact on their lives. Yes, we hope they enjoy the fun activities, but we know those things will pass away. Ultimately, they have no eternal value. But, what we faithfully share with them from God's word will make an eternal difference, and we have confidence that it will not return void (Isaiah 55:11). Pray He accomplishes more than we could imagine this summer.

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 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.
- 24-25 Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 24-25 Courage 2011, Camp Joy Baptist Assembly, Brownsville.
- 24-25 Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 24-25 Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad; Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.

Americans continue tradition with National Day of Prayer

Washington—Americans gathered May 5 in thousands of locations in observance of the National Day of Prayer for the first time since a federal appeals court upheld the occasion.

Only three weeks before, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago had unanimously reversed a 2010 opinion that invalidated the National Day of Prayer. Federal Judge Barbara Crabb of Wisconsin had ruled in April 2010 that a law establishing a day for the observance violated the First Amendment, but she permitted the event to proceed while her decision was appealed.

Crabb's ruling, which was overturned April 14, had threatened a tradition as old as the American republic and a specific observance that was recognized for the 60th time this year. Congress passed a resolution in 1952 calling on the president to establish the National Day of Prayer as an annual event. President Truman initiated the observance the same year, and presidents since have recognized it with proclamations. In 1988, Congress amended the law to set the first Thursday of May for its observance.

President Obama issued a National Day of Prayer proclamation April 29, inviting Americans, "as their own faith or conscience directs them, to join me in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy, and I ask all people of faith to join me in asking God for guidance, mercy, and protection for our nation."

In his proclamation, the president encouraged Americans to ex-

press gratitude for their freedom and to pray for the members of the U.S. military and their families, as well as for law enforcement and emergency response personnel, and people in this country and overseas impacted recently by natural disasters.

This year's theme, as established by the NDP Task Force, was "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," based on Psalm 91:2: "I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Joni Eareckson Tada, a well-known evangelical Christian whose books have inspired many since a diving accident in 1967 left her a quadriplegic, served as honorary chairman for the NDP Task Force. She gave the keynote speech at the Capitol Hill service.

"Almighty God, you are our mighty fortress, our refuge and the God in whom we place our trust. As our nation faces great distress and uncertainty, we ask your Holy Spirit to fall afresh upon your people—convict us of sin and inflame within us a passion to pray for our land and its people. Remember America, we pray. Remember the foundations on which this country was built. Remember the prayers of our nation's fathers and mothers, and do not forget us in our time of need," Eareckson Tada said.

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization that says it encourages participation in the observance by people of all faiths but the events it organizes represent "a Judeo-Christian expression." (BP)

Former Western Recorder associate honored for lifetime achievement

By Norman Jameson

Winston-Salem, N.C.—Former Western Recorder associate editor Gene Puckett was honored by Associated Baptist Press with the Greg Warner Lifetime Achievement Award in Religious Journalism during a special event May 1.

Puckett, associate to longtime Western Recorder editor C.R. Daley from 1966 to '69, is the second recipient of the lifetime achievement award, inaugurated and given in 2009 to Greg Warner, ABP's founding executive editor.

Puckett, who edited Baptist state newspapers longer than anyone in the 20th century, said accepting the award was "just as much for" Daley, for whom Puckett worked three years before going as editor to Maryland, as for himself. Daley advocated hard for racial equality before it was safe to do so.

Puckett credited seasoned editors including Daley, who died in 1999; Texas Baptist Standard Editor E.S. James; John Jeter Hurt, who edited both the Baptist Standard and Georgia's Christian Index; and Reuben Alley of Virginia's Religious Herald for helping him with a huge learning curve when he took the editor's job at the Ohio Baptist Messenger in 1958 with no journalistic experience.

Puckett said as a young editor his mentors "taught me very quickly how important it was for Baptists to



LIFETIME OF SERVICE Associated Baptist Press board chair Don Lattimore (left) of Memphis, Tenn., presents R.G. "Gene" Puckett with a memento of his Greg Warner Lifetime Achievement Award in Religious Journalism May 1 at Ardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, N.C. (Photo by Norman Jameson/ABP)

be informed."

"The effectiveness of any democracy depends on an informed constituency, and if Baptists don't know, they can't do," Puckett said.

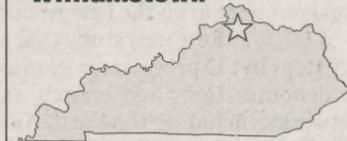
A native Kentuckian, Puckett earned degrees from Campbellsville College (now University), Western Kentucky University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Prior to his career in Baptist journalism, Puckett served as a pastor of churches in both Kentucky and Ohio. (ABP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Williamstown



Williamstown Church will hold Spring Worship Celebration services May 13-14, 6:30 p.m.; May 15, 8:45 & 11 a.m., with Greg Heisler, associate professor of preaching and speech at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., as evangelist. Darrell Morgan is pastor.

May 15, 11 a.m., with KBC Executive Director Bill Mackey as guest speaker. Richard Brown is pastor.

SOMERSET—First Church's women's ministry will hold an "Afternoon Tea" May 15, 2 p.m., with Suzanne Lindgren as guest speaker. French Harmon is pastor.

VERSAILLES—Versailles Church's children's choir will present the musical "Sermon on the Mound" May 15, 10:30 a.m. John Brandon is pastor.

CRESTWOOD—Crestwood Church will host a Master's Meal May 12, 6:30 p.m., with University of Kentucky Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart as guest speaker. A \$10 donation is requested. Registration is required by contacting Paula Yaden at (502) 241-8534 or Paula@CrestwoodBaptist.org. Donnie Patrick is pastor.

GREENVILLE—Carter Creek Church will hold revival services May 15-18, 7 p.m., with Donnie Wilkins, pastor of Nelson Creek Church in Central City, as evangelist. Tommy Wilhite is pastor.

HENDERSON—Hyland Church will host The Barnett Trio in concert May 15, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 827-1258.

HORSE CAVE—Horse Cave Church recently called Jason Lowe as minister of education. He previously was pastor of Morningside Church in Louisville. Kevin Denton is pastor.

LOUISVILLE—Ormsby Heights Church will host a performance by the Living Hope Angels from China May 15, 10 a.m. For more information, call (502) 447-6867. Rick Bowden is pastor.

RICHMOND—Union City Church will hold homecoming services

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

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music and worship for Central Baptist Church of Bearden (Knoxville) Tenn., following the retirement of Dr. Wendell Boertje, who served faithfully in this position for 27 years. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of five years experience as a minister of worship and music, a music degree from an accredited college or university; seminary degree preferred, along with other qualifications. Information, including our church profile and the job description, may be viewed at www.cbcbearden.org under "Resources," then "Employment." Interested individuals may forward a resume to: Search Committee for Minister of Music and Worship, PO Box 51348, Knoxville, TN 37950-1348; or by e-mail to: musicsearch@cbcbearden.org.

SEEKING: Full-time student pastor. Will be working with students who are in kindergarten through 12th grade. Resumé deadline is June 8, 2011. Please send resumé to Tusculum Baptist Church, 775 Erwin Hwy., Greenville, TN 37745, Attn: Danny Bentley. Any questions, call (423) 638-8361.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Tates Creek Baptist Association. A strong missions-minded person with active involvement in associational work is desired. Final candidates subject to background checks. Please send resumes to: Tates Creek Association, PO Box 69, Berea, KY 40403, Attn: DOM Search Committee; or tcbasearchcom@yahoo.com. Resumes accepted thru May 31.

SEEKING: Full-time coordinator of student ministries—including youth ministries for 6th through 12th grades (75%) and college/secondary education ministries (25%) for Gardenside 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 resume to gbcjobsearch@gmail.com. Go to www.gardensidebaptist.com for more information about Gardenside Baptist Church and a pdf version of the full job description.

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

## The Royal wedding & the gospel on display

By Mary Kassian

An estimated 2 billion viewers—about a third of the world's population—watched the Royal Wedding. As is common in marriage ceremonies, the officiant opened with:

"Dearly Beloved; we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the face of this congregation to join together this man and this woman in holy matrimony—which is an honorable estate, instituted by God Himself, signifying to us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and His church."

I wonder how many observers caught the depth of meaning in those opening words. That one sentence contains some profound, staggering truths about marriage and the meaning of manhood and womanhood and sex. The traditional opening to the marriage ceremony acknowledges that marriage isn't a man-made institution. It was instituted by God Himself. He's the author of marriage, and therefore, He alone defines what marriage is all about.

### The reason god created marriage

The opening states that the reason God created male and female and marriage was to "signify" to us "the mystical union between Christ and His church." When God described the work of His Son as the sacrifice of a husband for His bride, He was telling us the ultimate reason why He made us male and female, and why He created marriage and sex. Christ and His bride is the reason.

God created manhood, womanhood, marriage and sex because He wanted us to have symbols, images and language powerful enough to convey the idea of who He is and what a relationship with Him is all about. Without manhood, womanhood, marriage and sex, we would have a tough time understanding concepts such as desire, love, commitment, fidelity, infidelity, loyalty, jealousy, unity, intimacy, marriage, oneness, covenant and family. We would have a tough time understanding God and the gospel.

God gave us these images so that we would have human thoughts, feelings, experiences and language adequate and powerful enough to understand and express deep spiritual truths. The visible symbols display and testify about what is unseen. That's why the symbols are so very important.

### Marriage puts gospel on display

Human sexuality is a parable—a testimony to the character of God and to His spectacular plan of redemption through Jesus. This spiritual truth is so magnificent that God chose to put it on display per-

manently. Everywhere. Men were created to reflect the strength, love and self-sacrifice of Christ. Women were created to reflect the grace and beauty of the Bride He redeemed. God created marriage and sex to display the joining of Christ and the church in an indivisible covenant.

History started with the covenant wedding and sexual union of a man and woman because it will end with the covenant wedding and spiritual union of Christ and His Bride. Marriage was created to tell the cosmic love story of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Marriage is holy and honorable

Finally, the introduction to the ceremony identifies matrimony as "a holy and honorable estate." The Lord wants us to respect the deep, holy, sacred meaning of marriage, and uphold the sacredness of the sexual act. God intended that sex "seal the deal" of a marriage covenant. The physical union of a husband and wife illustrates—in the physical realm—that a permanent, legal, unbreakable covenant of love has been established in the spiritual realm.

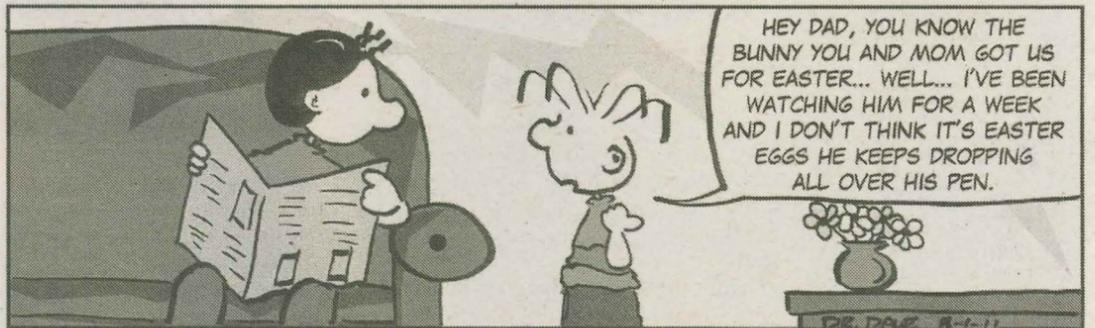
The one-flesh union of husband and wife is to model and mimic cosmic truths about the mystical union between Christ and the church. A covenant must be in place before any union can occur between God and man. The Lord wants us to tell this same story with our sexual conduct. Sex outside of a permanent, one-flesh, legal, heterosexual marriage covenant is a violation of God's design. Hebrews 13:4 says, "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

The Royal Wedding was a joyous event. I was so glad to hear the officiant acknowledge—right up front—that as splendid as the marriage of William and Kate was, it pales in comparison with that to which it points. The guests in Westminster Cathedral, the millions of spectators on the streets of London, and the billions crouched around TV screens in nations all around the world were all "gathered in the sight of God" to witness the joining of another man and woman in holy matrimony—which is an honorable estate, instituted by God Himself, signifying to us the mystical union that is betwixt Christ and his Church.

I wonder how many got the real message. (BP)

Mary Kassian is an author, speaker and professor of women's studies at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

## Preacher's Kids



Joe McKeever



Fletch



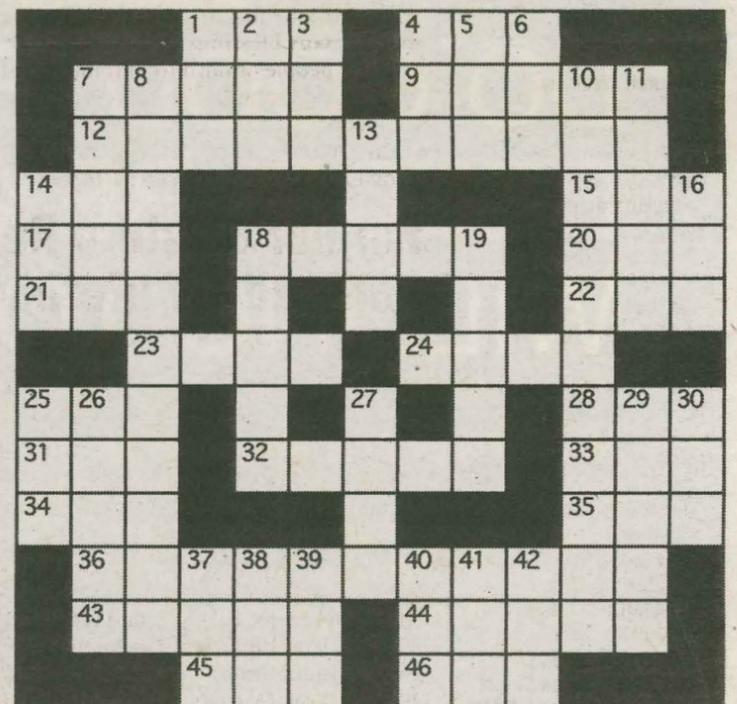
Dennis Fletcher

## Bible Crosswords

By John Thornberg

### Across

- 1 "Whose \_\_\_\_\_ is in his hand" (Matthew 3:12)
- 4 To sink downward
- 7 "Turn not \_\_\_\_\_ from following the Lord" (1 Samuel 12:20)
- 9 Half quarts
- 12 Where David's story begins (2 words)
- 14 Nothing
- 15 Doze
- 17 Raw material
- 18 "Queen of \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Kings 10:1)
- 20 "\_\_\_\_\_ the kine to the cart" (1 Samuel 6:7)
- 21 "Cast him into the \_\_\_\_\_ of lions" (Daniel 6:16)
- 22 Deoxyribonucleic acid, abbr.
- 23 "Under a pomegranate \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 14:2)
- 24 "Sing unto the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ song" (Isaiah 42:10) (2 words)
- 25 Prohibit
- 28 \_\_\_\_\_ and flow
- 31 A friend, Fr.
- 32 Former
- 33 Sheltered side
- 34 Marker
- 35 "As the \_\_\_\_\_ ran, he shot an arrow" (1 Samuel 20:36)
- 36 David was one, in other words
- 43 Fixed gaze
- 44 "Jonah was exceeding glad of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Jonah 4:6)



- 45 Light brown
- 46 "\_\_\_\_\_ no man any thing" (Romans 13:8)

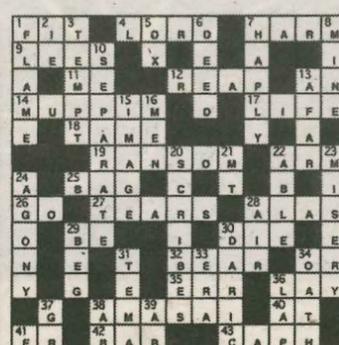
### Down

- 1 "Instruments made of \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 6:5)
- 2 Advertisements, abbr.
- 3 "Cast the \_\_\_\_\_ on the right side" (John 21:6)
- 4 A mineral spring
- 5 Point at target
- 6 Wildebeest
- 7 "\_\_\_\_\_ shall devour before him" (Psalm 50:3) (2 words)
- 8 A Christmas carol (2 words)
- 10 One who lives in a tent
- 11 "Worthy is the Lamb that was \_\_\_\_\_" (Revelation 5:12)
- 13 "A rod out of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1)
- 14 Affirmative expression
- 16 A legume

- 18 "A deep \_\_\_\_\_ fell on Abram" (Genesis 15:12)
- 19 "\_\_\_\_\_ the son of Ner" (2 Samuel 2:8)
- 25 A baseball \_\_\_\_\_
- 26 Gather great numbers
- 27 "Jonah was in the belly of the \_\_\_\_\_" (Jonah 1:17)
- 29 "His spittle (fell) down upon his \_\_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 21:13)
- 30 "David arose from off his \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Samuel 11:2)
- 37 "(David) did \_\_\_\_\_ the shewbread" (Matthew 12:4)
- 38 An epoch
- 39 "The \_\_\_\_\_ of a ready writer" (Psalm 45:1)
- 40 The conscious self
- 41 "Frankincense upon each \_\_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 24:7)
- 42 "A word spoken in \_\_\_\_\_ season" (Proverbs 15:23)

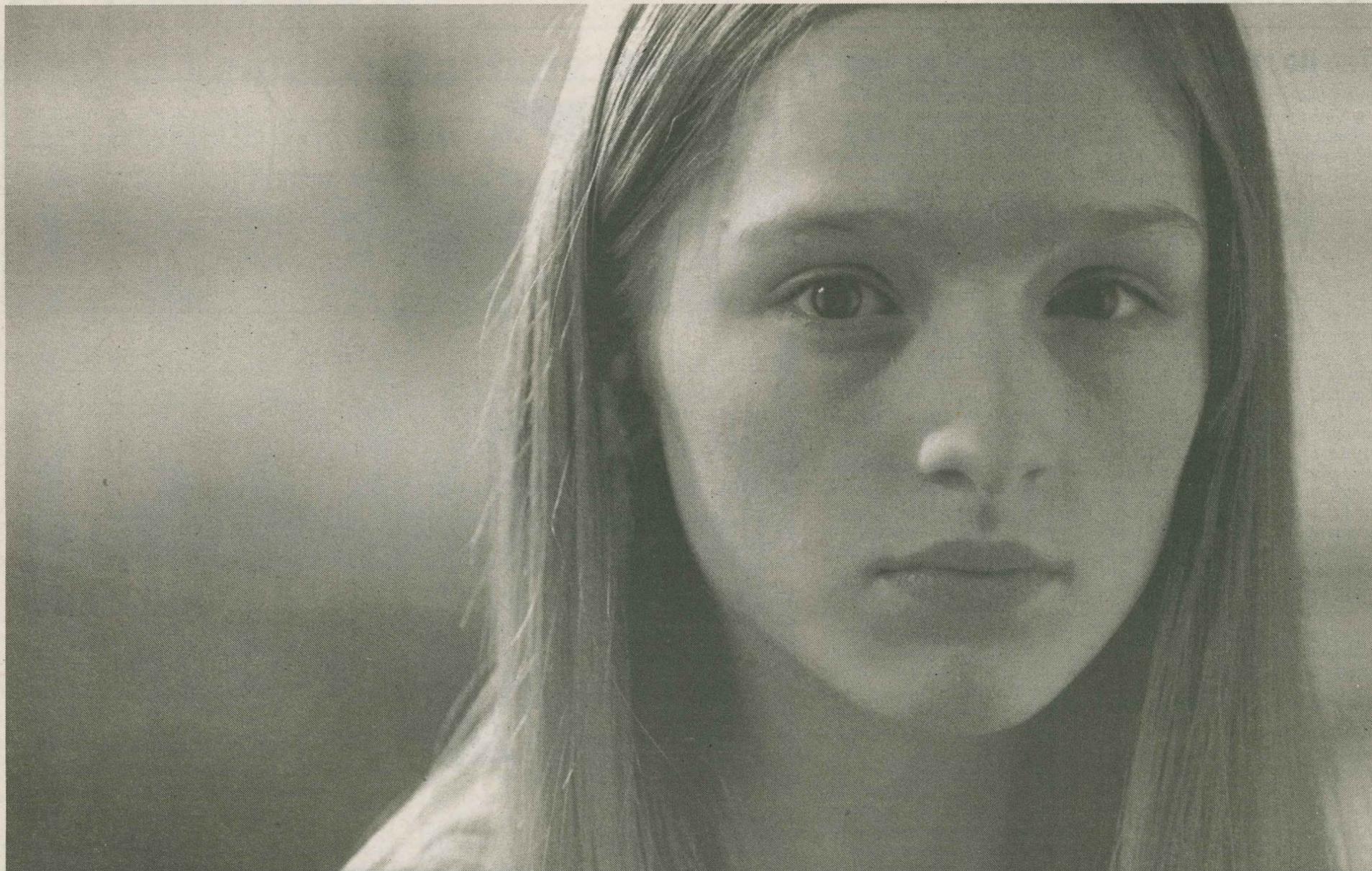
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### Last week's solution



## WEB ADVERTISING

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“DO GOOD, BE RICH IN GOOD DEEDS, BE GENEROUS AND WILLING TO SHARE.”

1 TIMOTHY 6:18

**May is Foster Care Awareness Month**, a time when we celebrate our loving foster parents and promote the need for more dedicated people to care for hurting children. Thousands of children each year are removed from their homes in Kentucky due to abuse and neglect. Today, Sunrise Children's Services is providing care for almost 300 of those precious children in our foster homes. Sunrise foster families are in-home missionaries with whom children are placed to receive treatment, love, and encouragement. During the month of May, we are asking you to prayerfully consider foster parenting through Sunrise Children's Services or financially supporting the cause.

You can help children in crisis shine:

- Consider answering the call to foster parent. Call us for more information about our program.
- Your church can financially support the children by collecting the Children's Offering. Although traditionally taken up in November, many churches are now participating in May as a more convenient alternative. Bulletin inserts and envelopes are available by request.
- Organize a volunteer project. From Bible studies and group outings to landscaping and minor maintenance, we can find a project to fit your group.



Helping children in crisis shine.

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