

Shine like stars in the world
Philippians 2:15

WESTERN Recorder

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Vital, Blessed & Successful

Small churches doing big things with Vacation Bible School

By Robin Bass
Partnerships Director

Morgantown—Pastor Roger Taylor was moderately pleased when 37 children attended Vacation Bible School his first summer at Aberdeen Baptist Church in Morgantown back in 1996. The following year, he beamed as enrollment jumped to 65.

This summer, Taylor almost could outshine the sun with joy when his rural church played host to 287 school-aged children from around the community.

"It is not by accident that Aberdeen has become a place where youth of all ages desire to attend Vacation Bible School each year," Taylor said.

No, the pastor continued, this VBS success story was the result of community outreach, word-of-mouth advertising, numerous dedicated volunteers, and an overwhelming zeal for leading children to Christ.

The influx began two years ago when Taylor crafted an arrangement with the local Boys and Girls Club of Butler County. Church volunteers

were permitted to bus in more than 60 elementary-aged children so they could participate in Aberdeen's VBS program each day. Organizers also created a simple—but effective—T-shirt design that Taylor said he often sees in the community throughout the year. Children, teens and even adults clamor for these royal-blue tees that exclaim with white lettering "I (heart) VBS."

"I am happy they love our T-shirts," Taylor said. "However, I am more excited that they are hearing the word and memorizing verses of scripture to receive a free Bible."

With attendance representing 11 percent of Morgantown's population, volunteers are key to making the weeklong program entertaining and spiritually powerful. Taylor said the more than 55 missions-minded adults are what make his VBS run smoothly.

"This work has grown because of the dedicated servants who have given their lives to this ministry," the pastor said. "Every year there are many individuals who take their vacation during this

More than 280 people enrolled in Vacation Bible School at Aberdeen Baptist Church in Morgantown. Each child, student and adult volunteer are provided an "I (heart) VBS" shirt that serves as an advertising tool for the church's VBS outreach throughout the year. (Photo courtesy of Roger Taylor)

week to work in the VBS program. I am blessed to have many dedicated teachers in our public school who commit themselves to this ministry, as well as workers from every walk of life."

Because of the messages received at VBS this summer, Taylor said 13 children made professions of faith.

And, other churches in Kentucky are experiencing similar results.

At Wolf Creek Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Music Minister Kenneth Carr said his small church was blessed with 254 participants this summer and witnessed 20 children make decisions to accept Christ. On a typical Sunday, about 80 attend worship services at the church.

"Lives were changed forever," Carr said. "God blessed us to have help from a sister church from See VBS ... Page 3

State Baptists, pro-family group denounce Instant Racing decision

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Lexington—Kentucky Baptists joined with a state pro-family organization last week in criticizing a decision to allow slot machine-like games at a horse racing track in Franklin.

On July 14, the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission unanimously approved the addition of up to 200 Instant Racing machines at Kentucky Downs in Franklin, near the Tennessee border. The electronic games, which resemble slot machines, allow bettors to wa-

See Instant Racing ... Page 2

In Honduras, chaplains find unique ways to serve locals

By Mickey Noah
North American Mission Board

Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras—While scores of Southern Baptist military chaplains minister to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, others are serving faithfully in other hot spots, often in isolated regions.

In the mountainous heart of Honduras, for example, where the four military branches work together in drug interdiction, Chaplain (Maj.) Dan Thompson and Chaplain (Capt.) Paul Cartmill serve some 500 soldiers who are part of Joint Task Force-Bravo located at Soto Cano Air Base near Comayagua.



REACHING OUT Chaplain (Maj.) Dan Thompson (center) distributes a 40-pound backpack of food and supplies to a resident of El Paraiso, Honduras. Thompson is aided in the outreach by chaplain assistant Brandon Jones (left). Each backpack contains staples for six to eight meals. (NAMB photo)

Even though enemy fire may not be as prevalent as in the war on terrorism in the Middle East, the troops in Honduras are on the front lines of efforts to stem the rising tide of illicit drugs entering the United States—tantamount to another attack

against the U.S., but much closer to home.

Thompson, 38, has served as a chaplain since 1996, first in the Navy and now in the Air Force. His military service began as an enlist-

See Honduras chaplains ... Page 7

Kentucky WMU calls boys' missions education consultant

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Louisville—Not since 1956 has a man worked on Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's consulting staff.

That soon will change.

With the recent transfer of the Royal Ambassadors and Challengers programs back to the national WMU, the Kentucky auxiliary has hired a consultant to oversee boys' missions education in the state.

Jon Auten now is the Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and church staff relations consultant for Kentucky WMU. He previously was pastor of Poplar Level Baptist Church in Louisville. He will begin July 25.

In the newly created role, Auten will work with church, association and regional RA and Challengers leaders in planning events and starting new missions groups for boys. He also will play a role in strengthening ties between WMU and Kentucky Baptist church leaders.

Auten is only the fourth man to serve on Kentucky WMU's consulting staff, the first

since J.C. Ballew left in 1956. One of those men was Glendon McCullough, an RA consultant from 1949-50, who later became executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's Brotherhood Commission.

"We believe this is a new day for involving boys in missions," Kentucky WMU Executive Director Joy Bolton said. "With the growing awareness of the need to mentor boys and help them grow into manhood, the renewed emphasis on gender-specific missions is very timely."

Auten's involvement with Royal Ambassadors dates back to his childhood at Louisville's Highview Baptist Church where his parents were RA and Girls in Action leaders.

Auten and his wife, Misty, started RA and GA groups at Poplar Level Baptist Church when he became pastor there in 1995.

"Growing up as an RA, I always felt a great deal of respect and awe for Southern

Baptist missionaries and their families," Auten said. "The people they worked with, the places they went and the work they accomplished always filled me with a sense of wonder and amazement."

"Through this new position, ... I hope to help Kentucky Baptist boys and teens discover that same sense of awe and wonder through missions education."

Two years ago, Auten served as assistant coordinator for the Crossover Louisville event that preceded the SBC annual meeting. He also has served extensively with Long Run Baptist Association and was a member of the

KBC Mission Board from 2002-05.

National WMU founded Royal Ambassadors in 1908. The organization is designed for boys in grades 1-6. Challengers is geared toward those students in grades 7-12.

The RA program was transferred to the Brotherhood Commission in 1953. In 1997, the Brotherhood Commission became part

of the newly formed North American Mission Board which has directed RAs and Challengers since.

In March, NAMB President Kevin Ezell announced the missions entity would partner with national WMU in the day-to-day operation of Royal Ambassadors. The move was part of NAMB's overall organizational restructuring and its newly adopted "Send North America" strategy that focuses primarily on church planting.

"We love RAs," WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee said at a "hand-off" ceremony at last month's WMU annual meeting. "They were born from our hearts. ... We now gladly receive them back."

According to Kentucky WMU's Bolton, a transfer of boys' missions education responsibility to WMU from the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Mission already was in progress when the NAMB announcement was made. Bolton said she saw the national move as confirmation of the direction Kentucky WMU is moving.



Jon Auten

1:8 team embarks for Ecuador



Keith Inman (center), head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate department, prays for a group of students from the 1:8 Leadership Experience shortly before they leave for Ecuador on the second leg of their summer missions experience. The group is one of four student teams serving both in the state, the nation and abroad this summer through the KBC's short-term college missions program. More than 50 students are participating this summer. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Instant Racing

Continued from page 1

ger on past races without knowing where or when the races took place.

The Louisville Courier-Journal noted that the machines could be in place at Kentucky Downs by the time its next meet begins Sept. 10.

The commission's decision was met with criticism from a pair of anti-gambling groups, including the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs.

"Expanded gambling is bad for the citizens of Franklin because it will destroy families and be a detriment to their community," public affairs committee chair Kevin Milburn said in a statement to the Western Recorder.

"If legally allowed in Franklin, expanded gambling will quickly make its way to every other Kentucky racing site in short time," added Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church in northern Kentucky.

Meanwhile, the Family Foundation of Kentucky accused the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission of a conflict of interest in approving the Instant Racing request.

"The racing commission is on record as saying that it has a 'common interest' with the tracks on this issue," Martin Cothran, senior policy analyst with the Family Foundation, wrote in a news release following the decision.

"The racing commission is supposed to be regulating the industry and working for the good of all Kentuckians," he noted. "How can it do this if it has a conflict of interest?"

An attorney for the foundation also sent a letter to the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission July 14 questioning the agency's actions.

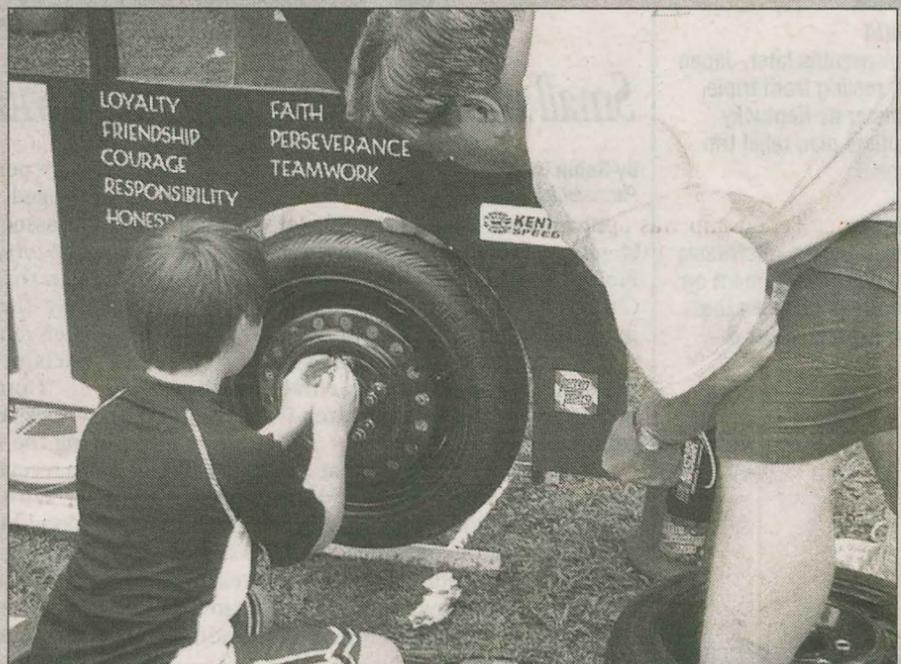
"If any other state regulatory body were this cozy with the industry it was regulating—by their own admission—there would be calls for investigations," Cothran said in the Family Foundation statement.

The question of whether Instant Racing in Kentucky is legal or not still is before the state's Court of Appeals. A decision is expected on the matter later in the year.

In the meantime, Milburn urged "concerned Baptists and pastors" to pray and "let our voices be heard."

"Baptists in Louisville, Princeton, Lexington and Ashland should speak up now to protect the families who will eventually be negatively affected by the addictive grip of expanded gambling," he said.

Courage 2011



Mammoth Cave—About 180 boys and men participated in a one-night Royal Ambassadors "Courage" camp near Mammoth Cave June 24. The state boys missions education event challenged campers to find the courage to follow Jesus.

During the weekend, boys enjoyed RA Racers competitions, archery, campfires and an equestrian exhibit. They also were encouraged to bring canned goods to donate to a local homeless shelter. The experience provided an opportunity for boys, fathers and RA leaders to invite friends who might not otherwise hear the gospel.



Daviess-McLean Association to vote on church's removal

By Drew Nichter
News Director

Owensboro—A Kentucky Baptist association will vote next month to remove a church that allows a pro-homosexual group to meet at its facility.

The credentials committee of Daviess-McLean Baptist Association voted overwhelmingly last week to disassociate with Owensboro's Journey Fellowship because the church permits the local Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays support group to meet at its building.

A statement released by the credentials committee said the PFLAG group's definition of family is in direct opposition to that which is found in the Bible.

"While Journey Fellowship may or may not have formally adopted the position of PFLAG as it relates to the definition of family (to include homosexual relationships), Journey Fellowship has given the appearance to not only the community, but also to members of DMBA that Journey Fellowship supports those beliefs by allowing that organization to meet within its facility," the statement noted.

Journey Pastor Bob Coons met with committee members last week in an effort to talk them out of removing the church from the association. He said he believes the association is overstepping its authority by asking the church sever its ties with PFLAG.

"They don't have the ecclesiastical authority to tell us who can meet in our building," Coons told the Western Recorder.

Journey Fellowship was approached by PFLAG about using the building as a meeting place last fall. Not long after, Coons said

the church received a letter from the association asking them to withdraw the invitation to PFLAG or be removed. Church leaders refused, he said.

"We feel like it's the Christian thing to do to allow them to meet in our building," Coons noted.

In its statement, the Daviess-McLean credentials committee said it recognizes Journey Fellowship's autonomy and the "right to define its own doctrine, but it has no right to define the doctrine of DMBA."

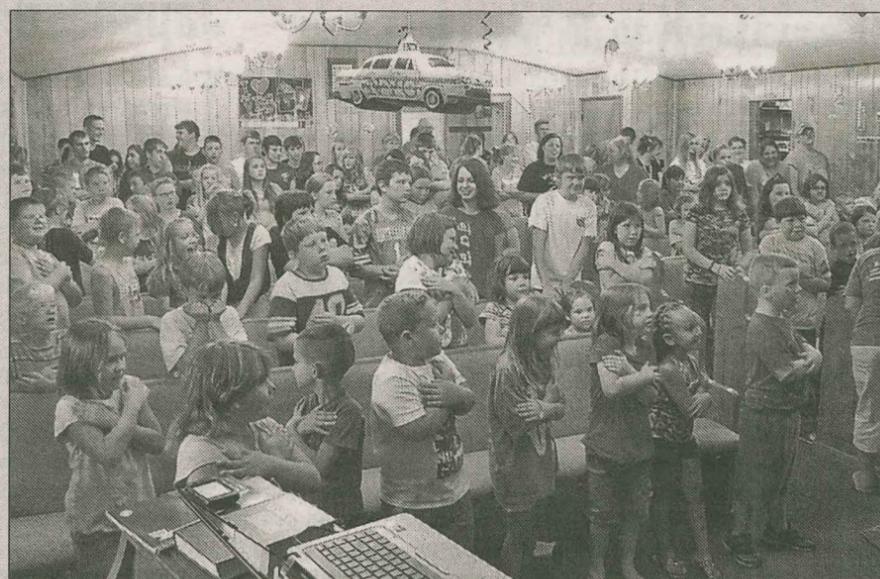
The committee said it recommended disfellowship because of "disharmony" the church has caused within the association "by supporting the positions of PFLAG" and supporting the "belief that the homosexual lifestyle is acceptable."

Coons said the church does accept a "broader definition of family" and is unapologetic about that stance. But he did express regret that the church's 100-plus-year relationship with the association likely will end soon.

Journey Fellowship previously was known as Seven Hills Baptist Church. The church closed down last September and reopened in October with the new name.

While still Seven Hills, it withdrew its membership from the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2008. It now is affiliated with the Cooperative and Kentucky Baptist fellowships, but maintained a connection with DMBA "because we know them (and) have a long history with them," Coons said.

A special-called meeting to consider Journey Fellowship's future with the association is set for July 15 at Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun.



CRAMMED IN Wolf Creek Baptist Church in Williamsburg, averaged more than 250 children, students and volunteers for their Vacation Bible School this summer. On a typical Sunday, the church accommodates about 80 worshippers in the small sanctuary. (Photo courtesy of Kenneth Carr)

VBS

Continued from page 1

Alabama—Whitesburg Baptist Church. They had 21 workers come on their team and help us during VBS. This group of friends has helped us for a couple of years now, and their help was such a god-send to us."

Tara Clark, youth and children's minister at Clayvillage Baptist Church in Shelbyville, recently discovered the staying power of God's word in the hearts of VBS children.

"Last year, I attended a senior night program at one of our high schools. Each senior had prepared a visual that included important milestones in their lives," Clark recalled. "When I came to the visual of one of our seniors, I noticed three things: a note I had written to the student, a pocket-sized scripture card, and a flyer from Game Day Central VBS—the first VBS in which this student led worship."

"This student has returned home from her first year of college, and she took a week off work to lead worship and music again at VBS," Clark continued. "She continues to give back through a ministry she found meaningful as a child."

In fact, many high school students who led during Clayvillage's VBS this summer were introduced to the evangelistic outreach as children through the church-van ministry, Clark noted.

"Everybody has had a really successful VBS this year," said John Bennett, preschool and children's department director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He noted that a third of all decisions made for Jesus Christ at local churches each year are the result of evangelism through Vacation Bible School.

According to the Southern Baptist Convention, more than 2.8 million children, students and adults attended Vacation Bible School in 2009 (the most recent data available) with 88,000 participants making professions of faith in Christ.

With so many lost and unchurched children coming to know Christ through this worldwide event, Jerry Wooley, VBS

specialist with LifeWay Christian Resources, said he understands the responsibility shouldered by creators of Bible school curricula.

While most Baptist churches are focused on this year's "Big Apple Adventure" theme, Wooley said LifeWay is gearing up to develop the curriculum for 2013.

This month, an invitation-only group representing Baptist churches of various sizes, ethnicities and geographical settings are taking part in a VBS think tank. Wooley said the 10 to 15 people in the group consist of at least one pastor, one state convention VBS director and several experienced VBS volunteers.

"We ask them to come with no preconceived ideas," Wooley said. "We really want to see God working through it. We

start with a blank sheet of paper, and our hope is they will give us one or two themes. We may not have all the details worked out (but) at least we'll have the big picture."

The past 16 VBS themes have originated within this think-tank environment, Wooley noted. Including LifeWay's 2012 theme "Amazing Wonders Aviation: Encountering God's Awesome Power," which was announced in June.

"We changed things up a bit," Wooley continued. "In the past the VBS theme has been based on one location or idea. This theme is based on six beautiful God-made natural wonders."

Previews of next year's curriculum will be held Jan. 6-7 at LifeWay's Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina; Jan. 13-14 at Travis Avenue Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas; Jan. 26-27 and 27-28 at LifeWay headquarters in Nashville, Tenn.; and Feb. 17-18 at First Baptist Church, Kissimmee, Fla.

Preview events typically sell out, Wooley said. Each state convention is invited to bring 14 individuals to the preview. The 700 people who attend then are responsible for training 600,000 to 800,000 state associational leaders, church VBS directors and volunteers in their home states.

"We bring in the best of the best for these two-day, high-energy events. Most people go back to their home church and they are driven to do more," Wooley said.

"I am happy they love our T-shirts. However, I am more excited that they are hearing the word and memorizing verses of scripture to receive a free Bible."

—Roger Taylor, pastor of Aberdeen Baptist Church in Morgantown, whose Vacation Bible School T-shirts are a huge hit with the more than 280 people who attended this year.

8-27 | Elizabethtown Severns Valley Baptist Church
9-10 | Lexington Porter Memorial Baptist Church
Paducah Lone Oak First Baptist Church
9-17 | Prestonsburg First Baptist Church
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An opportunity to do 'More for Christ'

One of the questions I have been asked is, "What changes should we anticipate coming to the KBC?" I communicated to the search team five key areas I want to focus upon as I begin to serve Kentucky Baptists. While many other important roles for the Kentucky Baptist Convention will always exist, these are "opportunity areas" that can help us ensure Kentucky Baptists of the value of your Cooperative Program investment and, God willing, grow that investment.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The first opportunity concerns the Great Commission Task Force report. With an estimated 1.7 billion persons in the world having virtually no access to the gospel, and so much work yet to be done in Kentucky, the appeal of the task force for Kentucky Baptists to make a "recommitment of our lives, our churches, our families, and our resources" to the Great Commission is a prophetic call.

Regardless of differing opinions on how that recommitment should impact the work of the KBC, I know Kentucky Baptists are passionate about the Great Commission.

Under Bill Mackey's leadership, KBC staff immediately began to align their work with both the recommendations and the spirit of the GCTF report. Since the magnitude of change envisioned by the task force requires an adjustment of resources and personnel that will continue for multiple years, I want to assure you of the commitment of your new executive director to embrace these changes.

The report called first for the launch of "More for Christ," an intentional time of repentance, renewal and redirection for the future. Understanding that reaching Kentucky for Christ will require God's blessing and our sacrifice, the "More for Christ" theme is being embraced and promoted by your KBC staff.

Second, the report included a reallocation over the next 10 years to provide for 50 percent of Cooperative Program funds (after shared administrative expenses) to be forwarded to the Southern Baptist Convention and 50 percent going to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. While this directive will continue to be challenging for your staff, the sacrifice required for getting the gospel to the nations should be a source of joy for each of us.

Third, the goal was set to grow CP receipts at least 3 percent per year for the next seven years. We pledge to do everything we can to keep our pastors and churches informed of the mission work and ministries being accomplished by CP dollars. As we do, your CP investment will be seen for what it is, a wonderful opportunity to be faithful to the Great Commission.

How can we help you and your church become more excited about investing your Kingdom resources through the Cooperative Program? Send me an email at paul.chitwood@kybaptist.org or post your suggestions on my blog at paulchitwood.com.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Japanese beetles may soon swarm Franklin's families

I had not been growing roses long when I encountered my first Japanese beetle and learned of their ravenous appetites. Just a handful of these notorious insects can riddle the leaves and petals of a healthy rosebush in a few days, stripping a plant of foliage and robbing it of essential nutrients. The presence of one beetle invites hundreds more to come feast on the other rosebushes in your garden. They then drop larvae, which become grub worms that eat the grassroots of your lawn while awaiting next season.

Gambling is a lot like Japanese beetles. Once gambling starts nibbling away at your paycheck, one becomes ever more susceptible to its destructive cycle. It doesn't take long for gambling to riddle a family's security and stability as a provider's livelihood is stolen away, rendering one unable to provide life's necessities—food, shelter, clothing, medicine—for children and other family members who are counting on them. Moreover, because of its strong, emotional lure, gambling's grasp is extremely difficult to rid. It embeds itself deep into one's psyche, only to re-emerge and wreak havoc time after time, tearing apart lives, dreams and homes.

This past Thursday, a swarm of Japanese beetles began making their way to Franklin. The Kentucky Racing Commission—even before the court has ruled on its legality—approved an expansion of gambling, allowing 200 Instant Racing machines to be set-up at the Kentucky Downs (see story on page 1). In September, the track will be the first in the commonwealth to offer a slots-style game in which bettors wager on videos of previously run horse races. At issue here is whether watching a video and using a slot machine to bet on a previously run horse race is the same as para-mutuel betting on a live horse race. Either way, though, it is gambling. And, while proponents are playing up the larger purses that Instant Racing could bring to horse races at the track, opponents warn of the reduced purses that gambling inevitably will bring to a majority of players and the harm it causes to families and area businesses.

"Gambling destroys families as money lost is money that will no longer be available to provide for necessities," said Kevin Milburn, chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs. "Expanded gambling is bad for the citizens of Franklin because it will destroy families and be a detriment to the community," warned the pastor of Union Baptist Church.

Many studies also have shown slot machines to be an extremely addictive form of gambling, tak-

ing large sums of money from players in a short amount of time. "When money goes into the pockets of a gambling corporation, it is no longer available to be used to buy groceries and needed services in the local economy," further explained Robert Reeves, director of the KBC's communications team.

Of grave concern to Baptists and other gambling opponents is that the Franklin track is a test case. "If this gambling expansion is allowed to stand there, you can be sure that these machines will be popping up at every other racing venue in the state," Reeves predicted. "And, if these machines become accepted, it simply makes it all the easier for other forms of gambling expansion to become accepted as well." Hence, Baptists in Louisville, Princeton, Paducah, Lexington, Ashland and elsewhere should be concerned. "It's not too late," Milburn urged. "In fact, I hope that this will be a wake-up call," he said, reminding Baptists that "part of our mission as Christ-followers is to build up families in the love of Christ, while opposing those things which would bring about their destruction."

Any expansion of gambling should be morally reprehensible also because it promotes greed, selfishness, risk and belief in luck, in opposition to the biblical values of integrity, honest work, charity, love for others and trust in God. But what can one do?

As Christians, we can pray for all of our state's elected leaders, and for God's deliverance for those dealing with gambling addictions. And, as individual Christians, we can do our part in expressing our concerns to make sure our communities are safe from this scourge.

"Kentucky Baptists and Christians in general tend to be very passive on this and other important issues, which often leads politicians to think that it is OK to take the actions they take," Reeves noted. Contact information for legislators can be found at www.lrc.ky.gov/Legislators.htm.

Many Christians have heard sermons, read editorials in state Baptist papers or attended Sunday school classes in which gambling was decried and condemned. Some even have known someone who was addicted to gambling and lost large sums of money—or a house, career or spouse—because of gambling and faces bankruptcy or, worse, turned to crime and wound up in prison. Yet, these painful lessons seem to have been lost on others. Thus, church leaders and fellow Christians must be vigilant in insulating our homes from a parasitic swarm that leads to financial ruin, destroys families and mars communities.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

*"It's not too late.
In fact, I hope
that this will be
a wake-up call."*

—Kevin Milburn

'Unknown' in Tombstone—a sad epitaph

By Lonnie Wilkey

One of my all-time favorite western movies is "Gunfight at the OK Corral" which starred Burt Lancaster and Kirk Douglas. It's probably a little corny by today's movie standards, but I still love that movie.

I have always been fascinated by the old west and when I went to Phoenix for the SBC annual meeting, I discovered I was only three hours or so from Tombstone. So, I took time to travel there to visit this historic site.

I was not disappointed. In addition to the OK Corral, I also visited "Boot Hill," one of several such cemeteries located in old western towns.

Just walking through the cemetery was worth the time and effort to

go to Tombstone. It was fascinating. The epitaphs on the grave markers are original as far as I know.

Several of the markers simply had the word "unknown."

How sad. Someone in that grave lived his or her life, but no one knew enough about that person to even put a name on the marker.

As a journalist my mind normally wanders where "normal" minds would never explore, so I began to think about what would God write as an epitaph for our Christian walk.

Could He write, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" Or, here's an-

other one: "Sunday morning Christian, unheard from rest of week."

Another possibility: "Tried most of the time to live for Me, but was easily distracted by Satan."

Or, here is one that could fit some Christians: "More concerned about what church could do for him/her than what he/she could do for Me." And, I probably could come up with quite a few more, but will stop.

The one epitaph that I pray will never apply to my Christian walk and to yours is that God would never look at our witness after we are gone and have to write the word, "Unknown."

Our world today needs the gospel. We need to live our lives so that He is known through us. May we never be remembered as "unknown."

Lonnie Wilkey is editor of the *Tennessee Baptist & Reflector*.

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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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Robinson Crusoe was not a pastor

By Bob Terry

Robinson Crusoe is the lead character in one of the most popular stories ever told. He was adventuresome, resourceful, compassionate, intelligent and religious. His life took him to the depths of despair as a slave and to the heights of success as a wealthy plantation owner.

But most people remember Crusoe for his 28 years of scraping out a living as a castaway on a deserted island, which he named the Island of Despair. His only friend was a prisoner brought to the island to be sacrificed by cannibals. After the prisoner escaped, Crusoe befriended him and named him Friday for the day of the week he appeared. In time, Friday learned English and Crusoe converted him to Christianity.

Sometimes readers forget that Crusoe read the Bible daily and thanked God for his fate that included all the necessities of life, save human companionship.

"Robinson Crusoe" is a thrilling story and a wonderful book to read nearly 300 years after its first publication (1719). However, Crusoe was not a pastor.

Still many men seem to use his story as a model for pastoral ministry. Like Crusoe, these men possess great personal skills. Experience has taught them valuable lessons through victories and defeats. They are good and godly men. But circumstances have led them to churches that have become their own Islands of Despair.

Like Crusoe's story, theirs are stories of isolation. They feel alone in ministry, scraping out a living by their personal ingenuity and reliance on God. Stories of others remind them that they live as pastors at the whims of others. Comparison to neighboring churches or even TV ministries reinforces the idea that competition, not cooperation, is the name of the game, further increasing their isolation. Responsibility for ministry under these conditions can become a burden too heavy to bear. The loneliness can be overwhelming. Even with people all around, these pastors live on Islands of Despair.

In some places, a growing number of pastors are finding another storyline for their ministries. It is a storyline that includes companionship of other pastors through peer group participation. And for those who are writing this new storyline, it is making a difference.

A study for Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary found "the longer a pastoral leader has participated in a peer group, the more likely is his congregation to experience growth." The study was not just of Presbyterians. It included participants of all denominations. For Baptists, who

often are accused of judging a church on the basis of "nickels, noses and noise," that finding is worth noting.

Peer group participation also made a difference in ministry style, the study found. Lay leadership was significantly more active in churches led by pastors who participated in peer groups. Also a significantly greater percentage of youth was involved in planning church events and serving on committees and boards in churches where pastors participated in peer groups.

In addition, peer group participation influenced the direction of ministry. Community service and ministry were more prevalent in churches where the pastor participated in a peer group. Not only did the churches "strongly emphasize community service" but the pastors also represented the churches in community life and their congregations saw themselves as agents of change through community ministry.

One might expect participants to value sharing ideas and resources with each other, which two-thirds did. What may surprise some is that the greatest value was "sharing personal concerns and struggles" (83 percent). Second was "sharing and getting feedback on ministry problems and challenges" (80 percent).

Evidently the peer groups became times of respite from the Islands of Despair during which pastors could be honest without worrying about repercussions in the deacons meeting or community. The result was companionship in the life of ministry rather than isolation.

Perhaps that is why slightly more than nine out of 10 pastors rated their participation in peer groups as an important part of their continuing education.

Baptist pastors have not been as involved in peer groups as those of other evangelical denominations. They usually go to conferences led by well-known pastors, where they seek a listening ear. Increasingly they have become involved in mentoring networks led by nationally known pastors. Some join organizations like Leadership Network. For many, these steps are to escape the Island of Despair as they grow in their pastoral skills.

The Robinson Crusoe model may be a popular ministry model for Baptists, but it is not our Lord's model. During His earthly life, Jesus invited others to join Him in moments of great glory such as His transfiguration and great agony such as in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus modeled companionship in the life of ministry. That is a far better model than the isolation of Crusoe. After all, he was not a pastor.

Bob Terry is editor of *The Alabama Baptist*.

The Robinson Crusoe model may be a popular ministry model for Baptists, but it is not our Lord's model.

Reviewing car insurance

By Don Spencer

Too often, people take a laissez-faire approach to insurance. The bill arrives and you pay it with little or no thought to reviewing the coverage and premiums.



This may not be good stewardship. This month, I offer a few things to be considered when you get your next car insurance bill.

One of the easiest ways to reduce car insurance premiums is to increase deductibles. Raising your deductible from \$200 to \$1000 could save as much as 40 percent on your premium. If you are driving an old car, consider dropping collision or comprehensive coverage, or both. Collision covers damage to your car in an accident. Comprehensive covers loss due to theft or the cost of repairing damage caused by something other than a collision. If the car is worth less than 10 times the premium, the coverage may not be worth the cost.

One area not to skimp on is liability coverage. This protects you in case you are at fault in an accident and get sued. Kentucky has a required minimum of liability coverage. You can buy more. However, if you have major assets to protect, you may be better off buying an umbrella policy which provides coverage over and above the protection you have with individual home and car policies.

Other issues to address with your insurance agent:

- For car repairs, can you use any repair shop or only those on an approved list?

- Will brand name parts be used? If after-market parts are used, will that invalidate your warranty?

- If there are disputes over coverage, how will they be resolved? Many companies mandate arbitration.

If you decline certain coverages, remember that those coverages may need to be added if you rent a car.

Finally, ask about discounts. Some companies will lower premiums if you travel fewer miles than average, if you haven't filed a claim or received a moving violation for a certain number of years. Having side air-bags or anti-theft systems can also lower your premium. Sometimes your credit history can also generate a discount.

Making sure you have appropriate insurance coverage at the best possible price is just a matter of good Christian stewardship.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department

Pray for your children

By David Garrard

One of the privileges of being a parent is getting to pray for your children. My own children are now 27 and 29, and I still pray for them daily.



I pray that God's Spirit will be at work in their lives. I pray that God will put people in their lives who will help them know Him better. I pray that God will help them make good choices. I also have a special Bible verse that I pray for each of my children.

Recently, I received an e-mail from Rick Fisher, a friend and colleague who works at a wellness center in South Carolina. He was passing along a prayer that his wife, Deb, had prayed over their children. I found it meaningful, and I am passing it along to you in hopes that you will also find it helpful:

"Father, thank you that you bless our lives so that we can be a blessing to others. I pray that by your grace and power, You will stir within my children the things that will help them to bring encouragement and enrichment to the lives of those they touch.

"Give to them the soothing words that heal a hurting heart; the wise words that will guide a seeking heart; the assuring words that will comfort a grieving heart; the accepting words that will embrace a lonely heart; the affirming words that will strengthen a fearful heart; the life-giving words that will fill an empty heart.

"I pray that through the testimony of the lives of my children, there will be others who know You better and love You more."

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

The census & the future of the Great Commission

By Denny Burk

The findings from the 2010 census are being released this summer. Every Southern Baptist (and indeed every Christian) who wants to understand what Great Commission ministry is going to look like in this century needs to pay attention to these numbers.

Probably the most significant item in this report relates to minorities. No doubt, many readers have already heard that demographers predict that by 2050 whites will no longer be the majority in the United States. This census finds that for the first time minorities already make up a majority of babies in the U.S. This means that the churches in America that wish to fulfill the Great Commission will have to have a strategy for reaching America as it is, not as it was. In short, that means that we are going to have to believe and practice what our parents taught us: "Red, yellow, black and white—they are precious in His sight." If a church is not welcoming to minorities, not only will it be in sin (Matthew 28:19; Revelation 5:9-10), it will also become increasingly irrelevant.

Here's another item from the report that we need to pay attention to, according to one demographer quoted in the story: "We're moving toward an

acknowledgment that we're living in a different world than the 1950s, where married or two-parent heterosexual couples are now no longer the norm for a lot of kids, especially kids

of color." This reality is as sad as it is sobering. But it also alerts us to another set of challenges.

First, more than ever, androgynous disciple-making is no longer going to cut it. Making disciples in our churches must include an unflinching commitment to a biblical vision for families. This means that our churches are going to have to teach our men to be faithful husbands and fathers, our women to be faithful wives and mothers, our little boys to grow up to be Christian men, and our little girls to grow up to be Christian women. We have to live out biblical manhood and womanhood. The culture is pressing us to abandon this vision, and apart from a tenacious commitment to that vision our families will disintegrate just like they are in the rest of the culture.

Second, our churches need to be ready to minister to people who do

not belong to a traditional family. We are already facing this reality, and it looks like the trend is only getting more dire. Who else but the church of Jesus Christ will be able to bring the gospel to single moms and fatherless children? And who else but the church will be able to be a surrogate family for those who need one? Are we ready for this challenge? Again, if a church is unwilling to meet this challenge, not only will it be in sin (Matthew 25:40;

Psalm 68:5), it will also become increasingly irrelevant.

As I think about the Southern Baptist Convention, I know that these figures represent challenges to business as usual. But that is OK. Sometimes we need our cages rattled. My hope and prayer is that our response will be a deepening commitment to the Great Commission—that in our own country we would commit to making disciples of every people group. The Lord's arm is not too short to save (Isaiah 59:1). Let's join Him in this work.

Denny Burk is associate professor of New Testament at Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

My hope and prayer is that ... in our own country we would commit to making disciples of every people group.

FIRST PERSON

Four months later, Japan still reeling from triple disaster

Kamaishi, Japan—The woman examines the handmade doll. On one side, the doll's face sports a big smile and exudes happiness. She flips it over and sees the facial expression is a frown, symbolizing sadness and grief.

The Japanese woman clutches the gift and thanks the Southern Baptist volunteer who gave it to her. The simple child's therapy toy expresses how she and others in the fishing village of Kamaishi have felt since the earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on March 11—a mixture of emotions that won't come out.

Four months after Japan's triple disaster—the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear crisis—residents in the northeast still are digging out emotionally and physically from mounds of debris and mud.

The largest natural disaster in Japan's history left Kamaishi in shambles. An hour after the 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck, a 50-foot tsunami wave whipped through this hillside block of houses. Many people died as every home was badly damaged.

Since that day, many survivors have lived or camped out on the second floor of their homes rather than leave. The bottom floors are filled with layers of mud, dead fish and rubble.

Supplies still are hard to get. Some stores are open with a limited stock, but getting there is a problem. Most forms of transportation were damaged in the tsunami. The government estimates more than 146,000 vehicles were destroyed in Miyagi Prefecture alone. Considering most residents are over 60 and cannot walk up to an hour one way to the store, most just make do with whatever they can scrounge.

They are delighted if someone comes along to help.

Kentucky Baptists headed to Japan to help survivors

Louisville—Six Kentucky Baptist disaster relief team members are traveling to Japan next month to help survivors of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami.

"Our team will be asked to go into the affected areas along the sea coast of Iwate Prefecture to assist people," said Coy Webb, disaster relief associate for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We will be primarily working with people who either have lost everything or whose houses were flooded but are still standing," Webb noted. "Many of them have also lost loved ones and their jobs."

People in the northern part of Japan

Teams of Southern Baptist volunteers are heading to Japan this summer to help with the ongoing disaster response, said Jeff Palmer, executive director of Baptist Global Response. Three teams from Texas have assisted Japanese Baptists in relief initiatives in recent weeks; a team from North Carolina recently was in the country; and teams from Oklahoma, Louisiana and Kentucky are going in August.

"Most of the volunteers are serving as utility teams, which means that they are doing a number of odd jobs," Palmer said. "They are meeting needs of people in the affected areas and providing services such as mud-outs, cleaning houses, streets, parks, public areas; delivering relief supplies and encouraging disaster victims."

"The simple fact they are there, that they care enough to come help people in need, speaks volumes about God's love to people who are struggling to survive and find new lives," Palmer added. (BP)

still are suffering from that nation's largest earthquake. It measured 9.0 on the Richter scale and created a 50-foot tsunami that, in turn, led to power outages and partial meltdowns of the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Station and the additional release of radiation at another nuclear plant.

An estimated 22,000 people are dead or missing because of the disaster.

"We want to befriend people and encourage them," Webb said. "This is an opportunity to impact an area with few believers with the hope of Jesus Christ."

The team will be in Japan Aug. 29-Sept.

8. While there, Kentucky Baptists will serve alongside Japanese Baptists and personnel of the International Mission Board.

Webb, a member of Clay Village Baptist Church in Shelbyville, will be joined by Greta Wilson of Hawk Creek Baptist Church in London, Jerry and Carolyn Gray of Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton, Dovie Smallwood of Frenchburg Baptist Church, and Green Wagers of Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Williamstown.

To support the overall ministry of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief, or to specify a gift to ongoing relief efforts in Japan, visit www.KyBaptist.org/DR.



MUCH-NEEDED HELP Disaster response volunteers from Tennessee prepare boxes for a food distribution in the fishing village of Kamaishi, Japan. (BGR photo)

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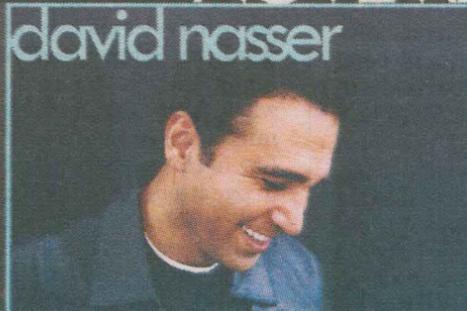
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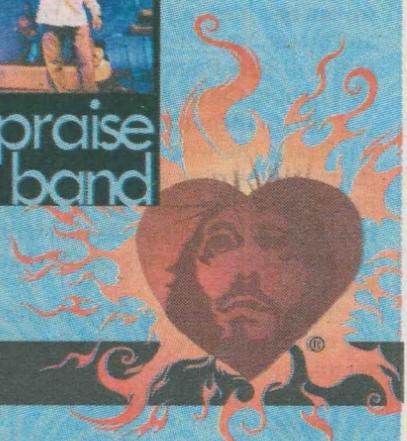
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Honduras chaplains

Continued from page 1

Marine. He's halfway through a six-month deployment to Honduras from Germany, where he's stationed and where his wife, Erica, and their three children are based.

"Even though we don't have bullets flying over our heads, it's still important to make worship services and Bible study available to our military," Thompson said. "My vision is to enrich the spiritual fitness of Joint Task Force-Bravo, providing opportunities for our people to come to worship and study the Bible, just as they could outside the military."

Many of the soldiers, airmen, sailors and marines in Honduras are veterans of one or more tours of duty in Iraq or Afghanistan. Although still on active duty, Soto Cano Air Base is a place where they can unwind and decompress from the rigors, tough conditions, bad memories and dangers of the Middle East war zones.

"There's still a lot of hardship. ... It's still hard to deal with the counseling load," Thompson said. "The men and women still have a lot of spiritual needs ... facing post-traumatic stress syndrome from Iraq and Afghanistan."

Thompson and Cartmill preach, teach and counsel, as well as baptize new believers in the base swimming pool.

And they extend their faith to the remote Honduran villagers.

Thompson and 120 fellow Joint Task Force-Bravo personnel spent a Saturday in June strapping on 40-pound backpacks of food and school supplies to hike two miles up the mountains where so many poor Hondurans live in isolated villages.

The troops hiked up to the tiny village of El Paraiso (which means "paradise") with

160 backpacks of food, with some of the soldiers carrying three or four backpacks.

The backpacks contained dry food items such as beans, rice and other staples for about 800 meals, Thompson said.

"These people have nothing and are truly starving," noted Thompson, who already had scouted the village and talked to its leaders in advance to determine how much food would be needed.

Supported by chaplain assistant Brandon Jones and his Honduran-born secretary and interpreter, Maria Santos, Thompson's group used El Paraiso's local chapel as the food distribution site, attracting lines of grateful villagers.

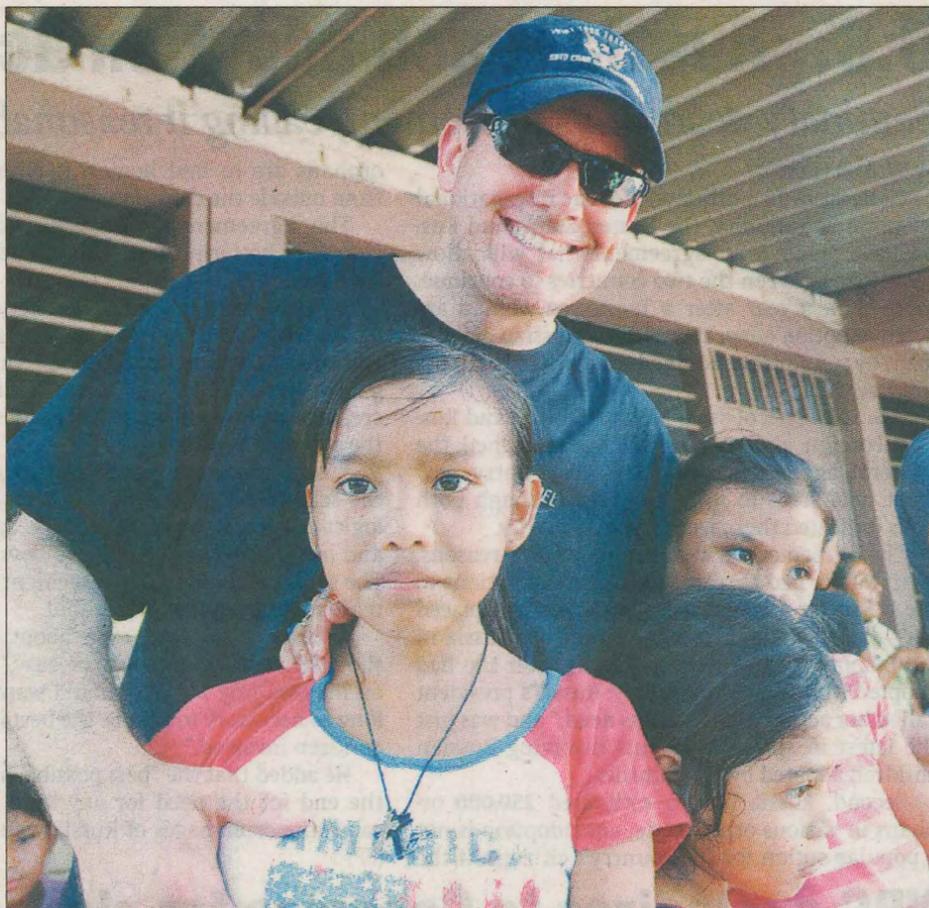
"I can't describe how beautiful it was on the top of this mountain in El Paraiso," Thompson recalled. "It is a paradise, ... untouched, green and lush."

"While most of us didn't speak Spanish, Maria translated for us. But the language of love can communicate across cultural barriers," Thompson said, mentioning that El Paraiso is one of 20 villages the troops hike to several times a year to deliver food and school supplies.

The El Paraiso hiking team was the largest group yet for the bi-monthly chapel hike, Thompson said. "It was also the largest amount of money we've ever raised for a hike and the most families we've ever been able to provide for."

All ranks from Joint Task Force-Bravo chipped in nearly \$1,700 for the food. A portion of the money was spent on school supplies for the village's children.

"I'm told that the children are not permitted to go to school unless they have their school supplies," Thompson said. "If the kids can't go to school, that means the parents can't go to work, so it's critical that



ALL ABOUT THE KIDS Southern Baptist Chaplain (Maj.) Dan Thompson said he knows Honduran children are the top priority of the bi-monthly hikes, he leads to some 20 Honduran villages. In addition to food, the children are given the school supplies that are required for them to attend village schools. (NAMB photo)

we help them." Most parents subsist on meager incomes from coffee plantations.

Thompson, a Florida native, holds a pair of degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. His fellow chaplain Capt. Cartmill, missed the recent hike because he was at the Southern Baptist Convention

annual meeting in Phoenix, where he was commissioned by NAMB as a new chaplain.

"It's through the faithful prayer support and encouragement we get from Southern Baptists and the North American Mission Board that inspires us to move forward," Thompson said. (BP)

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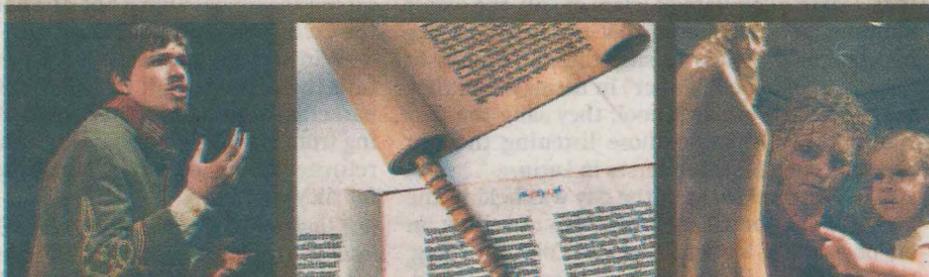
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U.S., Russia reach adoption accord

Seminary dean lauds agreement, calling it reasonable, just

By Michael Foust

Washington—In a milestone for the international adoption community, the United States and Russia have reached an agreement that will allow adoptions between the two countries to continue, more than a year after a Tennessee woman angered adoption advocates and the Russian government by sending her adopted son back to his home country.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signed the bilateral agreement July 13. Each country now must take steps to implement it, although both sides indicated those were just a formality.

The agreement is significant for two reasons. First, Russia had threatened to cease adoptions to the U.S. after a Shelbyville, Tenn., woman placed her 7-year-old son on a plane bound for Russia in 2010, approximately seven months after she had adopted him from the country. Russia's president called her action a "monstrous deed," and was just the latest in several incidents involving Russian children adopted by U.S. families.

Second, Russia has an estimated 250,000 orphans in various orphanages, and adoption is not a popular option for the country's citizens. If the

orphans are to find homes, it often must come from outside the country.

The agreement will place additional safeguards to better protect children adopted by U.S. families.

"We take very seriously the safety and security of children that are adopted by American parents, and this agreement provides new, important safeguards to protect them," Clinton said. "It also increases transparency for all parties involved in the adoption process."

Russell Moore, an adoptive father and dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, applauded the agreement. He and his wife have adopted two boys from Russia. The steps outlined in the agreement are "not only reasonable, but just," Moore said.

"Those of us who care about orphan care shouldn't want adoption to be easy," Moore wrote on his blog July 14. "We should want it to take as long as necessary to ensure the best interest of the children involved."

He added that the "best possible news would be the end for the need for any kind of accord because the orphanages of Russia would be empty." (BP)

NBC apologizes to Congress for pledge edit

Washington—NBC has issued a formal apology to more than 100 members of Congress for omitting the words "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance during a patriotic montage that aired last month.

The letter, signed by Kyle McSlarrow, president of NBC Universal, comes in response to a complaint by 107 members of Congress alleging that a montage shown during coverage of the U.S. Open golf tournament in June obscured America's religious heritage.

The montage featured video of schoolchildren saying the pledge alongside images of soldiers and American flags, but did not include the phrase

"under God." It also omitted "one nation" and "indivisible."

McSlarrow expressed regret over the segment, saying "a serious error in judgment was made by a small group of people. To be absolutely clear, this was not an ideological decision by the company and was not discussed with or approved by any senior NBC official."

The letter also stressed that action had been taken, noting, "The employees involved have been reprimanded. And we have already implemented a new checks-and-balances process for pre-produced pieces, ensuring that nothing will go on the air without senior-level approval." (RNS)

Homecoming 2011

Woman who gave school founder land on which to build honored at June event

By Myrtle Webb Cooke, OBI alumni director

June 25th was the big day. The word had gone out to all OBI alumni, friends, former staff and former students asking them to return to the Oneida campus for Homecoming 2011.

OBI's staff had been busy for weeks making the needed preparations to host our 400-plus guests. Class representatives for each of the anniversary classes had written letters encouraging their classmates to attend. We had hoped for good weather, and after a week of heavy rains, we were blessed with a beautiful, sunny day.

The first scheduled event after registration was a "hymn sing" at Oneida Baptist Church. Leading the singing this year was Billie Conrad, OBI choir and band director from 1973-78. The church was filled with alumni and former staff, anticipating the singing of favorite hymns and the telling of stories.

Bob Halcomb (class of '54) told us that Oneida's annual Homecoming began in 1951 when he was a student. Bob holds the undisputed record of having attended 60 of the 61 OBI homecomings. Lizzie Allen Barrett (class of '33), the oldest alumnus present, shared that her Latin teacher had taught her class to sing the first stanza of "The Star Spangled Banner" in Latin. When they sang it for the entire school, they sang the first stanza three times so those listening thought they had sung all three verses in Latin.

The featured event of the day was held in the Melvin Davidson Chapel. We were unveiling an oil portrait of Martha Howard Coldiron Hogg, the lady who said "yes" when the school's found-

er, James Anderson Burns, asked for 10 acres of her land to build our school in 1899.

Burns had shared with Mrs. Hogg his vision of getting men from both sides of an ongoing feud together to convince them to stop fighting and build a school to educate the children (and adults) in the area. That meeting was successful; men from both sides of the feud worked on the first school building that opened to more than 100 students—boys, girls, men, and women—on Jan. 1, 1900.

Soon after the school opened, Martha Hogg, whose farm made up what would become the town of Oneida, divided her land into lots that she sold to families who lived on Redbird, Bullsken and surrounding branches. By 1929, there were 29 property owners in Oneida.

Martha Bowman Adams Houchell (class of '56), a great-granddaughter of Martha Hogg, provided us with a list of her great-grandmother's descendants. All were invited to Homecoming 2011. We were happy to have 27 descendants present to help us honor the lady who had given the land for our school. The portrait was unveiled and will hang in the school chapel, along with our nine former presidents. One of the descendants, Otto Coldiron, presented the school with a book he had compiled of the Coldiron family genealogy.

Winston Kilgore (class of '61) was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. Winston played basketball and baseball at Oneida. After graduating from Lincoln Memorial University in 1965, he returned to Oneida, where he coached and taught for six years.

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

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W.F. Underwood

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Following God's call

Anderson shares his calling to the Clear Creek campus

Our newest staff member, Jeremy Anderson, knows what it means to follow God's call just like our students do. He is thankful for that calling that led his family to Clear Creek.

"My background is in education. I served for 10 years as a physical-education teacher in Garrard County. I loved my position there," Jeremy recalled.

"But my wife, Ellen, and I had been praying for seven years for God to really show us what it is He had called us to do," Jeremy said. "We didn't know what or where that was, but we felt God wanted us to serve together some place as a family. We also felt God wanted us to serve some place where we could teach our young girls what it meant to serve others."

"In 2009 I came to Clear Creek with my dad to bring a load of clothes to the campus thrift store for the campus families," Jeremy continued. "I met Greg and Kay Jones who supervise the thrift store and asked them if there was something that my family could do together here on campus. They mentioned that we could come and help organize the thrift store for them."

"That summer we came back as a family and worked in the thrift store. As we would walk around campus, we thought to ourselves that this would be such a great place to come and serve together as a family."

"That fall we brought a group of men from our church to campus to work on a student housing unit," Jeremy said. "At that time I was asked by President Fox to serve as a trustee and I graciously accepted. I got to attend all of one meeting, and the next summer I became aware of a position that was posted at the college for a computer systems administrator. I also did computer work in my position at the school where I taught, so my wife and I prayed about it and submitted a resumé for the position, and God opened the door for us to be here as a family now."

"It is such a blessing to be serving here together here as a family helping to equip those called of God to Christian service."

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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

Corporate giving has become newest arena in culture debate

By Nicole Neroulis

When you buy a pair of shoes, a spicy chicken sandwich, or a gym membership, does that mean you endorse everything about the company—including the CEO's religious beliefs?

It's a question that has long plagued socially conscious consumers, but sites like Change.org now mobilize grassroots campaigns against companies like Curves fitness centers, whose CEO donates millions to anti-abortion groups, and Chick-fil-A, a fast-food chain that supports faith-based groups opposed to same-sex relationships.

While protests haven't stopped those corporate leaders from supporting conservative Christian agendas, the head of TOMS shoes has felt compelled to apologize for agreeing to a June 30 interview with Focus on the Family president Jim Daly.

Blake Mycoskie, 34, an evangelical Christian, founded TOMS in 2006, promising every pair would be made with fair labor and would provide a second pair for a needy child.

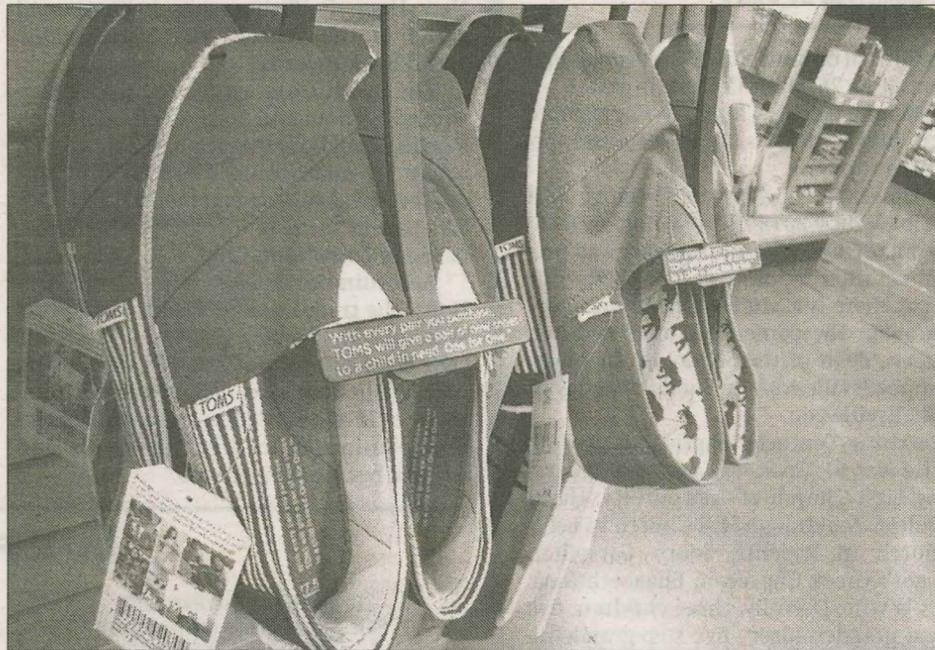
The for-profit California-based company, which has given away more than 1 million pairs of shoes, is popular on the West Coast, particularly with young adults attracted to no-frills fashions and social justice activities.

After gay-rights and feminist groups criticized Mycoskie and his customers threatened a boycott, the CEO apologized on July 9.

"Had I known the full extent of Focus on the Family's beliefs, I would not have accepted the invitation to speak at their event," he wrote on his blog.

Comments on his blog and Facebook page doubted that Mycoskie was ignorant of Focus' stance against homosexuality, especially since some had warned him when the event first was advertised.

TOMS could opt to block the radio broadcast of the interview, but as of last week, Focus on the Family still intends to air the 45-minute program this fall, reaching up to 2.8 million listeners.



WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE? The founder of TOMS shoes apologized for agreeing to appear on a Focus on the Family radio show, raising questions about how much room consumers are willing to give a CEO's religious beliefs and activities. (Photo by Nicole Neroulis/RNS)

"We approached TOMS because Blake attracts a certain audience and because his story is inspirational," said Gary Schneeberger, a Focus spokesman. "The idea that out of his faith, as a Christian, he created this company, ... we thought this was inspiring and was something our listeners would like to hear."

Mycoskie has credited faith as inspiring his business, but the TOMS website proclaims the company is nonpolitical and nonreligious.

"While we are happy to work with organizations from all religious and political backgrounds, we prohibit the giving of our shoes from being associated with any religious or political ideology," the website states.

In its application materials, the company requires potential partners to agree they won't try to convert aid recipients or

require them to participate in any kind of religious activity to receive shoes.

Companies and their leaders are free to support religious or political causes, but Chris MacDonald, a business ethicist affiliated with Duke University's Kenan Institute for Ethics, said consumers should take such actions into account.

"If you have a sense that your money is somehow, even indirectly, contributing to a cause that you find morally problematic, then it seems somewhere between reasonable and obligatory for you to vote with your dollars," he said. "Your individual purchasing decision isn't doing a lot to further the cause of the company's CEO—maybe just a few pennies—but there's also symbolic value, and you're responsible for that."

In the past, consumer complaints over gay issues were more likely to come from conservative Christian groups, with orga-

nizations like the American Family Association objecting to the corporate policies of companies like Walgreens, Walmart and Proctor & Gamble.

It's one thing to put your money where your mouth is, but it's not practical for consumers to avoid doing business with any companies whose policies or leaders support opposing religious or political beliefs, MacDonald said.

"A lot of people like the idea of companies being socially involved in their community," he said, "but if you want big companies to get involved in social issues, what makes you think they're going to come down on your side?"

Gay-rights petitions have achieved limited success in the past year: Apple pulled apps for conservative groups like Exodus International and the Manhattan Declaration from its iTunes store, and Chick-fil-A's president issued a statement that "while my family and I believe in the biblical definition of marriage, we love and respect anyone who disagrees."

The quick, direct apology from TOMS is an anomaly, MacDonald said, speculating that the company's small size and social responsibility mission made it vulnerable to criticism from its core audience.

In comparison, left-wing protests against Whole Foods, whose CEO came out against health care reform two years ago, haven't had a noticeable impact on the supermarket chain.

Focus on the Family is "not unfamiliar with being protested," but this is the first time that a business leader has felt compelled to publicly apologize and possibly withdraw from its program, Schneeberger pointed out.

"People have to make their buying decisions based on their own values and consciousness. That's America," he said. But "that is a little bit troubling and kind of chilling as we look ahead, because we have to wonder what people will say we're not fit to do next, if we're not fit to put shoes on the feet of impoverished children." (RNS)

Here today, gone tomorrow

Psalm 49 offers proper perspective on money, wealth, 'things' of life

I have discovered over the years most Christians have an honest ambivalence toward money. A proper attitude of money, wealth, possessions or things (call it what you like) is a universal struggle regardless of one's financial station in life.

Author Philip Yancey summed up his ambivalence this way: "I feel pulled in opposite directions over the money issue. I want to sell all I own, join a Christine commune and live out my days in intentional poverty. At other times, I want to rid myself of guilt and enjoy the fruits of our nation's prosperity. Mostly, I wish I did not have to think about money at all."

In Psalm 49, the psalmist reflected upon the wealth of the world and provides the answer to the question of how we should regard wealth regardless of the level of it God has entrusted to us. Notice the psalmist addresses himself to "all peoples," ordinary folks, blue bloods, rich and destitute alike. He reminds us wealth so often can be here today and gone tomorrow—thus, a slippery foothold.

After making the point that death is inevitable and the wealth of the world is of temporal value, he states in verse 15 his

conviction that what he cannot do for himself—what the world's wealth cannot buy—God will do for him. Only God can provide us with security; therefore, our confidence is placed best in Him not wealth. What a testimony!

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Then in verse 16 he advises us about priorities: "Do not be overawed when a man grows rich, when the splendor of his house increases; for he will take nothing with him when he dies." And then he states this chilling declaration in verse 20: "A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish."

Let us, like the psalmist, advocate the proper attitude toward wealth. It is not to be despised, it cannot be ignored, and it is both foolish and dangerous to put one's trust in it. Jesus reiterated this truth repeatedly and with greater clarity (Luke 12:13-21).

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

WMU's new staff member

Former pastor joins WMU to help lead missions education for boys

A new Kentucky WMU emphasis officially begins next week with the arrival of Jonathan Auten to our staff. Jon's role will be as the consultant for Royal Ambassadors and Challengers and also to assist our work in church staff relations.

It's not the first time Kentucky WMU has employed an RA Consultant. From 1944-56, three men served on our staff in this capacity.

We are excited that with the return of RAs and Challengers to national WMU, Kentucky WMU will be at the forefront of the effort to grow missions education for boys.

There is no doubt that in this age of fractured families and absentee fathers, the growth of these two organizations could make a major impact on the development of the next generation of strong male leaders in our churches.

A significant role for Jon will be in the area of church staff relations. As a former pastor and leader in Louisville's Long Run Association, Jon is experienced in building relationships. He will be a spokesman for missions education with fellow pastors and other church staff. We are grateful for Jon's ability to express a comprehensive vision for missions that will resonate with

other men in leadership.

You can meet Jon Auten at Excel, a leadership event for all WMU and Baptist Men leaders, at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, July 29-30. For conference details, a list of workshops and descriptions, visit www.KyWMU.org/Excel.

Jon will be leading a special-interest conference on "Intentionally Reaching Boys" Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. On Saturday morning, Jon will lead a conference for leaders of RAs and Challengers. Another conference of interest to those considering a move to gender-specific missions, will be led by Joe Ball, KBC youth ministries director. His conference will explore the distinct advantages of girls-only and guys-only groups in mentoring and discipleship.

EBO will be at work in the year ahead as we train leaders, provide resources, and plan events for Royal Ambassadors and Challengers, as well as all of the missions education options sponsored by WMU. Please pray for Jon and for Kentucky WMU in this new venture.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 23 Disaster Relief Phase I Volunteer Training, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 29-30 Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

August

- 20 Super Saturday-Hispanic, First Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 27 Super Saturday, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

September

- 8 Retired Director of Missions/Spouse Luncheon, Severns Valley Baptist Association Office, Elizabethtown.
- 10 Super Saturday, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah; Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 10-17 MissionsFEST, Bell County Baptist Association, Middlesboro and Pineville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CADIZ**—New Hope Church ordained Cliff Carneyhan and Marc Frye as deacons June 26. Mark Thweatt is pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Mount Gilboa Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary July 24, 10:30 a.m., with several special events. Fred Miller is pastor.

Campbellsville University's School of Theology will hold the January Bible Study 2012 Preview Aug. 4, 12:30 p.m., led by Joel Drinkard, a scholar-in-residence and professor of Old Testament interpretation at Campbellsville. The study is free, but there is a \$10 fee for the meal. For more information about the conference or to register, contact John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology, at JEHurtgen@Campbellsville.edu, or Sheila Douglas at SDDouglas@Campbellsville.edu.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Longtime Kentucky Baptist pastor W.R. Cook died July 9. He was 91. Cook was pastor of several churches including First Church of Central City; Hazel Creek Church in Belton; Muldraugh Hill Church in Lebanon; Stithton Church in Radcliff; South Carrollton Church; and Younger's Creek Church in Elizabethtown. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy, three children, five step-children, seven grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 7 step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in by two wives, Louise and Corinne. Funeral services were held July 12 at Tucker Funeral Home in Central City.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host Southern Sound in concert July 24, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. Geoffrey Lacefield is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a church-wide game night July 21, 6 p.m. Greg Barr is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a scrapbook Bible study July 23, 9 a.m., titled "This Is My Story: Creating a Scrapbook Legacy of Faith." The cost is \$30 for the study book and session; \$45 for the study book, session and a scrapbook. For more information, call (502) 589-5290.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church will host The Shireys in concert July 21, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 256-2922. Eddie Nation is pastor.

New Hope's 'Red Ink' named top novel

Atlanta—"Red Ink" by Kathi Macias from New Hope Publishers has been named Novel of the Year in the 2011 Golden Scroll Book Awards.

The awards are sponsored by the Advanced Writers and Speakers Association, a professional organization of 250 women active in publishing, TV/radio ministry and/or speaking engagements, and AW-SA's parent ministry, Right To The Heart, based in Longmont, Colo.

According to a news release from New Hope, the trade books division of national Woman's Missionary Union, "Red Ink" is "the riveting story of Zhen-Li and her incarceration and separation from her family in a Chinese prison. There she continues to minister to other prisoners and even to her sinister guards."

"Red Ink," Macias noted in the news release, "was inspired by the true life of Li Ying, currently serving a 15-year prison term in China for the crime of printing and distributing non-state-approved Christian literature, particularly to children. Not only do I dedicate this book to her, but the award as well. I pray this book/award will heighten recognition of persecuted Christians around the world, and reaffirm our commitment as believers to pray for and support them in any way we can."

"Red Ink" is the third novel in New Hope's "Extreme Devotion" series focusing on the persecuted church around the world. The other titles are "No Greater Love" based in South Africa and "More than Conquerors" based in Mexico. (BP)

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SEEKING: Senior pastor with strong leadership and administrative skills and ability to cast a vision, articulate a ministry plan, and work with staff to grow a church. Expectations include a master of divinity degree from an accredited Southern Baptist seminary and 10-15 years pastoral experience. Visit our website at www.hylandbaptist.org. Send resumé to Pastor Search Team, Hyland Baptist Church, 1400 Wright Street, Henderson, KY 42420; or e-mail Glenn Lancaster at GlennL@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for Central Avenue Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Ky. Must be loving, compassionate, able to work with all ages and willing to lead the church the way God wants it. Desire at least 4-10 years pastoral experience. Send resumé to: Pastor Search Committee, Central Ave. Baptist Church, 401 Central Ave., Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Bivocational youth minister for Victory Baptist Church in Laurel County. Victory is a fast-growing church that has a special heart for children and youth ministries. Looking for a creative, energetic person who can see kids saved and disciples made. For more information, contact Pastor Brian at (606) 682-1224; or bbond01@windstream.net.

SEEKING: Bivocational minister of music to lead blended worship services and coordinate other music ministries. Victory is a fast-growing church (150-plus) located in London, Ky. Please send resumé to bbond01@windstream.net; or contact Pastor Brian Bond at (606) 682-1224 for more information.

SEEKING: Pastor for First Baptist Church of Providence. Looking for a man who loves Jesus, believes in the inerrancy of God's Word, and doesn't embrace Hyper-Calvanism. Theological education and experience is required. Send resumé, CD to: First Baptist Church, 214 South Broadway, Providence, KY 42450.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music. Responsibilities include worship leadership for blended congregation, service preparation, choirs, special events and other services. Resumes will be received by e-mail at douglasdavis85@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Dry Ridge Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Ky. Dry Ridge Baptist is a Southern Baptist church with 200-plus attending weekly worship services in a fast-growing community in Northern Kentucky. Send resumé to Dry Ridge Baptist Church, PO Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor. Send resumé to pinckardchurch@aol.com; mail to Pinckard Baptist Church, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383; or contact Eddy Litteral, (859) 229-4076. Visit our website at www.pinckardbaptist.org.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for First Baptist Church, Hodgenville. Resumes now being accepted. Church information may be found at www.fbchodgenville.org.

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

SEEKING: Bivocational pastor for leadership and direction as we seek to fulfill our vision for growth and ministry for small, mature congregation nestled in the rolling hills of Southern Indiana. Interested candidates should submit resumé, doctrinal statement and references to: Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 1340, Nashville, IN 47448; tgi@trinitygroupinc.net.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for a conservative, mission-minded church as our former pastor retired after 13 years of service. We are looking for someone who will work with all ages and lead our church in growth. Please submit resumé, references and a DVD of a recent sermon by mail to the Pastor Search Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 5469 North Mayo Trail, Pikeville, KY 41501.

SEEKING: Full-time DOM for Ohio County Baptist Association of 40 churches. Submit resumé to ocbadom@hotmail.com; or mail to OCBA DOM Search Committee, PO Box 48, Hartford, KY 42347. Resumes will be accepted until July 31, 2011.

SEEKING: Bethany Baptist Church (www.bethanybaptistchurchbg.org) in Alvaton, Ky., is prayerfully seeking the pastor that God has called to His service. Please forward resumé before July 31 to: Bethany Baptist Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 155, Alvaton, KY 42122.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Persimmon Grove Baptist Church, located in rural Northern Kentucky, 16 miles south of Cincinnati. We are a small and diverse congregation poised for growth and service, looking for a God-called man to lead our congregation. For more information about our church, please see our website at www.persimmongrovebaptistchurch.org. Interested candidates, please send resumé to PO Box 148, Alexandria, KY 41001; or via e-mail to barbgilb43@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Salyersville First Baptist Church. Applications may be obtained by written request to the church at PO Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465; or by phoning the church and leaving a message at (606) 349-6276—include full name, address and contact number.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Salem Baptist Church (150+ attendance) in rural Western Kentucky. Prefer 5+ years pastoral experience and seminary degree. Send resumé and references to Glenn Gordon, Pastor Search Committee, 1145 Pinckneyville Road, Salem KY 42078; fax: (270) 575-4614; e-mail: ggordon@csiweb.com.

Join Other Baptists

Rose Parade Vacation

Plus Big Sur & San Francisco
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Get away from the colder weather during the first week in January, avoid the post-holiday blahs, and enjoy the best New Year's Eve and New Year's Day you have had in years! Start in Los Angeles (4 nights) with a free day Saturday, December 31 to visit friends or family in L.A. or take an optional tour to the J. Paul Getty Museum or Reagan Library. That evening, New Year's Eve, delight in an exclusive, pre-parade, after public hours, float building and viewing at the Floats and Flowers Expo. Watch the artists put the finishing touches on the floats unencumbered by public crowds and enjoy a YMT exclusive presentation put together by the Tournament of Roses Committee. On Sunday, January 1, YMT will take you on your Los Angeles City Tour including Hollywood and Beverly Hills. On Monday, January 2, 2012, enjoy your reserved grandstand seats at the Rose Parade! You've seen it on TV for years, now see the most famous parade live and up close. On Tuesday, January 3, depart for Central California along the coast. Visit Santa Barbara and its Camino Real Mission; the Danish Village of Solvang; tour the Hearst Castle; and travel along Big Sur and California's famous Scenic Highway One, to Carmel-by-the-Sea and Monterey. Next, spend three nights in San Francisco with an included city tour one day, a tour of Alcatraz Island the next day, and a Saturday at leisure before flying home Sunday, January 8, 2012. *Per person, double occupancy. Airfare is extra.

For details & Itinerary call 7 days a week:



1-800-736-7300
It's time to travel

People are open, so share the gospel

By Jeff Iorg

A few days ago, my rental car shuttle bus driver greeted me as I stepped on the bus with, "God bless you." When I thanked him for the blessing and told him I was a believer, he started telling me about his dreams and visions.

During the seven-minute ride to the car lot, he told me about several experiences in which God "told him" various things about the future (talking while looking in his rearview mirror at me).

Most of his observations were innocuous, until he started telling me about China attacking California, Russia backing China, Israel then attacking Russia, and everyone going to war in the Middle East. He was so sure of his vision, I expected him to pull the bus over and show me a chart of the whole process—including dates.

After listening to his impassioned sharing, I tried to respond gently, affirming his love for God, but directly about the importance of judging all spiritual impressions by revealed objective biblical truth.

I encouraged him to read the Bible, get in a small group Bible study, and hear a pastor regularly preach messages based on the Bible. I hope he does this and balances his intuitive sense of God's presence with the stabilizing force of biblical revelation.

The conversation, however, is a significant example of a common experience in today's culture. People today seem more spiritually minded, and more willing to talk about their spirituality, than at any time

in my ministry.

When I was first learning to share my faith, the trainers spent considerable time on how to open a conversation and get people thinking about spiritual things. That was approximately 25 years ago. But today is different. People are open to spiritual conversations.

Yet, don't confuse spiritual conversations with a stereotypical understanding of discussing the Christian faith. While people are more open to dialogue about spiritual issues, they aren't automatically inclined to discuss the gospel.

Our role is to introduce Jesus into the conversation as the Source of true spirituality. Doing this isn't difficult. Sharing Jesus and your relationship with Him as your spiritual story is a terrific way to engage someone with the gospel.

Sharing your story, however, is not enough. The gospel must be explained. The gospel stands apart from your experience. Sharing the gospel is communicating timeless truth about God's love, humankind's sin, Jesus' death and resurrection, and the possibility of conversion by grace through faith.

There has never been an easier time to engage people in spiritual conversation. So, listen to the spiritual stories of others. Discern God's work in their experience. Share your experience of knowing Jesus. And, share the gospel—the good news of God's offer of true spiritual life. (BP)

Jeff Iorg is president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., just north of San Francisco.

FIRST PERSON

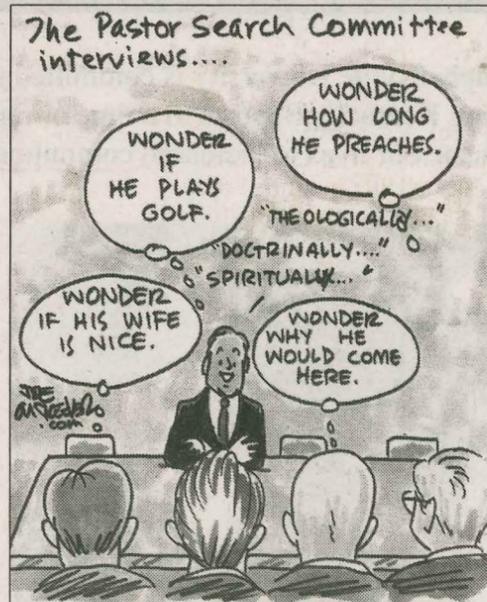
Preacher's Kids



Joe McKeever

Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel



Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottke

Across

- 1 Jacob's other name
- 5 Mr., Sp. abbr.
- 7 Selenium, chem. symbol
- 9 Middle Latin, abbr.
- 10 "The gift ... perverteth the words of the ____" (Exodus 23:8)
- 13 "Tola the son of ____" (Judges 10:1)
- 16 Concise
- 17 Each, abbr.
- 18 "For the statutes of ____" (Micah 6:16)
- 19 Neon, chem. symbol
- 20 Wisconsin, abbr.
- 21 Antimony, chem. symbol
- 22 "Why dost thou ... cause me to behold ____?" (Habakkuk 1:3)
- 26 "Great well that is in ____" (1 Samuel 19:22)
- 28 "Melech, and ____, and Ahaz" (1 Chronicles 8:35)
- 30 "Rekem, and ____, and Taralah" (Joshua 18:27)
- 32 Boy
- 34 "We were willing to have imparted unto you ... also ____ own souls" (1 Thessalonians 2:8)
- 36 Conjunction
- 37 "One that is proud and ____" (Isaiah 2:12)
- 41 "Will he ____ thy riches?" (Job 36:19)
- 44 Adam's wife
- 45 Where Joseph, Mary, and Jesus went to escape Herod
- 47 Not him
- 48 "Barley was in the ____" (Exodus 9:31)
- 51 Smallest state, abbr.
- 52 Impossible to deny

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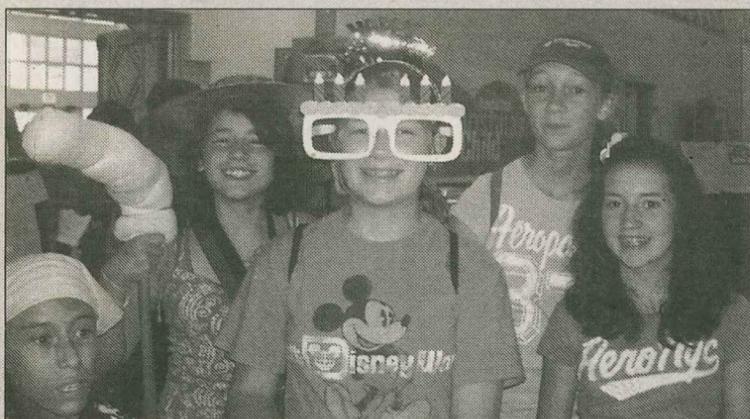
- 57 "____ thy cause with thy neighbor" (Proverbs 25:9)
- 58 "Your own husbands ... may without the word be ____ by the conversation of the wives" (1 Peter 3:1)
- 25 "Pass ye unto ____, and see" (Amos 6:2)
- 27 Condition that affects motor coordination, abbr.
- 29 Part of the Freudian psyche
- 31 "For ____, the winter is past" (Song of Solomon 2:11)
- 33 "Doe, ____, a female deer, Re ... " (2 words)
- 35 Say again
- 36 Preposition
- 38 Above
- 39 "I ____ the Lord" (Jonah 1:9)
- 40 You, King James Eng.
- 42 Address abbreviation
- 43 Magnetic resonance imaging, abbr.
- 46 Food, slang
- 49 Moses parted the ____ Sea
- 50 Peninsula state, abbr.
- 52 "____ thou count me therefore" (Philemon 17)
- 53 Iron, chem. symbol
- 54 Tantalum, chem. symbol
- 55 "Lest ... I myself should ____ a castaway ..." (1 Corinthians 9:27)
- 56 Enlisted woman, abbr.

Last week's solution

1	B	R	2	C	K	M	A	4	5	N	6	7	B
8	T	O											
12	A	S	13	14	15	16							
18	19												
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51	S	T	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62

Kentucky Acteens participate in Blume

Blume 2011 was held July 13-16 at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, Fla. The event is held every four years. For 2011, the theme verse was 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."



A Kentucky Acteen was wished a very "Happy Birthday" after stopping by Kentucky's booth during Missions Mania.



Linda Cooper, Kentucky WMU President, was the winning jockey during an impromptu derby race with Kentucky Acteens and leaders.



CU is Preparing Christian Servant Leaders Learning to do More for Christ



More than 5,000 attend CU Camps and Conferences

By the end of summer Campbells-ville University will have been host to 43 different camps bringing 5,000 campers from church groups, sports teams, children's camps and LINC freshman orientation to campus.

Steve Wigginton documented some of the highlights of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) Leadership Camp held on the Campbells-ville University campus in June. He said there were around 321 middle school and high school student athletes with total attendance of 453 including adults, huddle leaders and children.

Twelve campers indicated first time decisions for Christ and the rest came away with a renewed passion to seize the plentiful daily opportunities to engage people in eternal conversations. He said the FCA Camp was filled with great teaching, great worship and great friendships. Below are a few FCA camper's comments:

"... I WAS HEADING DOWN A BAD ROAD, BUT I'VE GIVEN EVERYTHING TO GOD AND WANT TO BE A LEADER FOR HIM."

-FCA camper 2011

"...I HAVE A NEW PASSION AND MY FAITH HAS BEEN REKINDLED WITHIN ME."

-FCA camper 2011

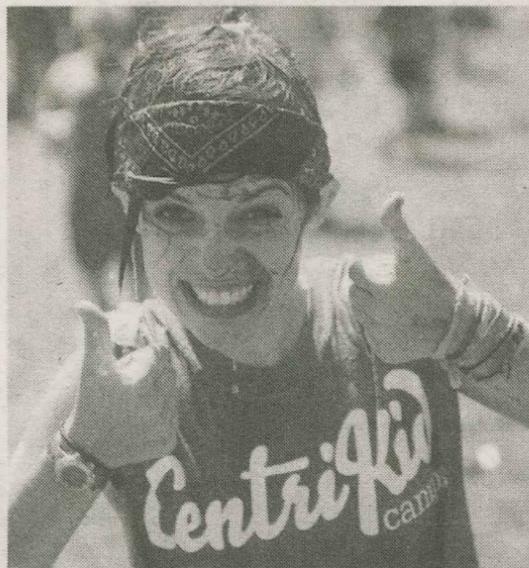
"...I LEARNED THAT I ALWAYS NEED TO LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE MY FAITH AND TO BE A LIGHT FOR HIM."

-FCA camper 2011

"...I AM GOING HOME NOT ONLY A CHANGED PERSON, BUT ALSO WITH A HEART TO TELL ALL OF MY FRIENDS AT SCHOOL AND IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD ABOUT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WHO IS SAVIOR OF MY SOUL!"

-FCA camper 2011

Campbells-ville University is committed to the KBC's *More for Christ* emphasis, which is calling Kentucky Baptists to a time of repentance, renewal and redirection so that we all dedicate our lives to increased commitment to Christ and to the Great Commission.



Lindsey Isbell of Savannah, Tenn. and others at the top of the page demonstrate the fun Christian experience that a camp can give to young people trying to find their way in the world.

Campbells-ville University's growing School of Theology offers new missions major

Our ministry-equipping programs continue to grow in the School of Theology. At the undergraduate level, there are six baccalaureate programs (Biblical Studies, Christian Missions, Educational Ministries, Pastoral Ministries, Sports Ministry, Worship Arts), an Associate in Christian Ministries (in-class or fully online!), and a Certificate in Christian Ministries (also in-class or fully online!).

At the graduate level, CU offers the 30-hour Master of Theology (fully online). Please visit us on our website: <http://www.campbells-ville.edu/school-of-theology>, for information, news and—something brand new—testimonies and interviews of students, alumni and special guests. You can also follow CUTheology on Facebook and Twitter.

Find your connection at CU today!

CU Admissions counselors are waiting for your call to set a time for you and your family to come and visit the campus!

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