

Shine like stars in the world  
Philippians 2:15

# WESTERN Recorder

August 30, 2011  
Vol. 185, No. 33

WMU Kentucky Notes



See insert

## FOR THE RECORD

**Kentucky**  
Cooperative Program giving dropped sharply in July by nearly \$400,000. This is after exceeding the \$2 million mark in June. *Page 2*

**Editorial**  
Editor Todd Deaton remarks on the heartache and hope for parents as they send their children off to college for the first time. *Page 3*

**Nation**  
Disaster relief work continues in Minot, N.D. after 41,000 people were affected by a flash flood in June. Hundreds of mud-out jobs remain. *Page 5*

Find us on Facebook and on twitter  
as westernrecorder

## Celebrating 20 years

### Super Saturday event marks two decades of equipping Kentucky Baptists for ministry

**SUPER DAY** Super Saturday started in a celebratory fashion with plenty of praise music and singing. Tonya Vowels joins in the jubilee with her hand raised. (Photo by Robin Bass)

By Drew Nichter  
News Director

**Elizabethtown**—Like most great ideas, Super Saturday was born out of one common thought: "There's got to be a better way of doing it."

Prior to joining the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board staff in 1969, Vernon Cole was a pastor in northern Ohio. He recalled in those days when state Baptist leaders would show up in the region every couple of weeks with a training conference for a different area of church ministry.

Cole said he spent a lot of his time trying to get his church's leaders to attend each of the meetings. And serving in a very small church, "people did multiple roles," he noted. "So, that meant the same folks were going week after week after week after week."

Standing in front of a nearly full sanctuary at the opening session of last week's first Super Saturday event at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, Cole recalled presenting the idea of one large consolidated training event to state leaders in Ohio.



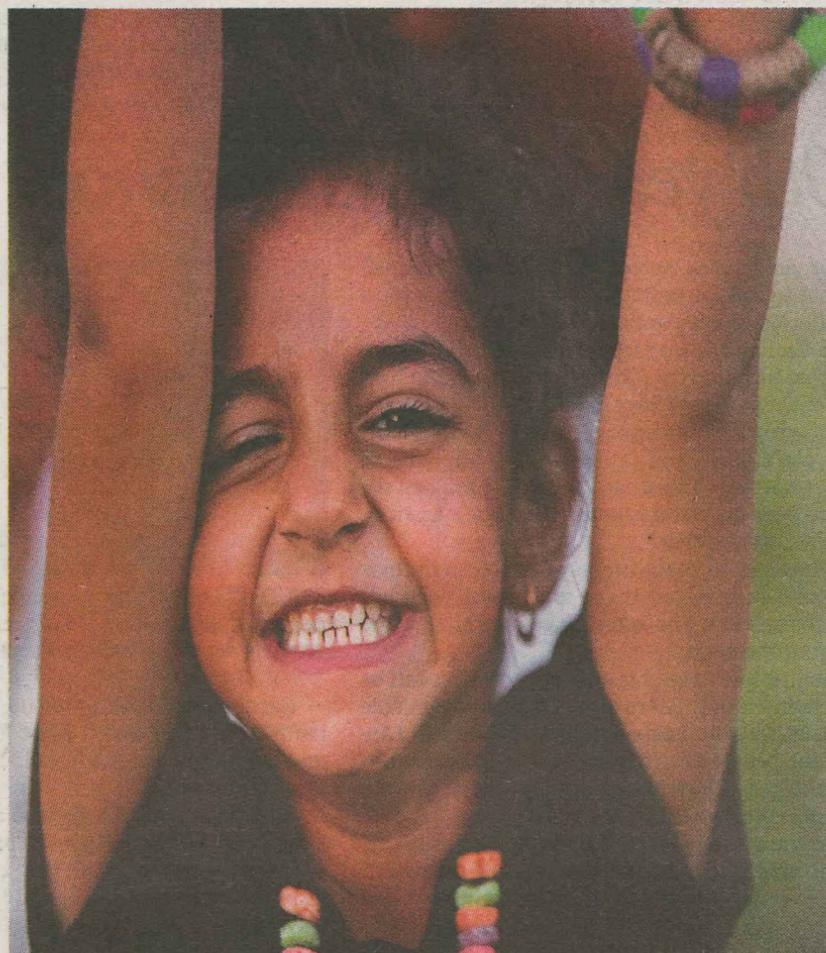
Vernon Cole

Their response: "Oh, that'll never work." But Cole was not deterred. "If I'm ever in a position of responsibility where I can put it all together, we will see if it will work."

Cole had his opportunity in 1991 after he became the KBC's church growth team leader.

"I was fortunate enough to have a team that was more than willing to do it," he recalled. "So, we experimented, and lo and behold, it worked."

□ See Super Saturday ... *Page 2*



Western Recorder 8-30-2011

## Loving Muslims

### Church members go deeper with relationships in Muslim community

**Arlington, Texas**—Jason Thibeaux said he wasn't really afraid of Muslims. But he definitely didn't love them, either.

"I was indifferent to Muslims, and that broke my heart," he said. "That was almost the worst scenario—that I would treat them as though they weren't even there. You go have your life, and I'll have mine, and hopefully we never interact."

But Thibeaux, Sunday School director at Lake Arlington Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, began to notice God at work in his heart when he started noticing Muslims.

His community was full of them. God "very much convicted my

heart," Thibeaux said. The attitude "needed to change and I needed to do something since He'd brought them here to my back door. I needed to be a part of His mission here locally in making sure that they got to hear the gospel."

So he and his Sunday School class—which had been focusing on missions—decided to build relationships with their Muslim neighbors in Arlington.

The class "had some really good discussions about what is missions and, ... it's not just those who do it as a career—it's us. It's supposed to be us, at least," Thibeaux said.

□ See Loving Muslims ... *Page 4*

**FACE OF JOY** A young Kurdish girl wears a Fruit Loop necklace and handcrafted bracelets she made in a weekly crafts time hosted by members of Lake Arlington Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas. The weekly times include crafts, sports and a Bible story for all involved.

# Bullies

By Robin Bass  
Partnerships Director

One in two students will be the victims of bullying.

This was just one of the alarming statistics provided by Stacy Nall during a Sunday school training session at Super Saturday 2011 in Elizabethtown Aug. 27 at Severns Valley Baptist Church.

Other statistics included:

- 90 percent of fourth through eighth graders surveyed say they have been bullied at least once.
- 10 percent of kindergartners through twelfth graders are bullied on a regular basis.
- Bullying can start as early as three years old.
- 71 percent of students K-12 report they have either seen bullying, experienced bullying, know someone who has been bullied or have bullied someone.

Bullying is kind of a hot topic these days," said Nall, Children and Preschool Consultant with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. "There's always been bullying, but it seems like bullying is more serious than when we were growing up."

News reports across the nation have increasingly focused on cyber bullying, citing this style of intimidation as a growing problem among teens because of the ubiquitous nature of social media. Nall's focus, however, was on getting to the heart of the matter long before young people reach their teenage years.

"You can't just wait until people grow up and tell them how to deal with these things. It starts with teaching preschoolers and children how to respect and treat others," said Nall.

Bullying is defined as deliberate hostile behavior that can include, but is not limited to physical violence, threats, name-calling, intimidation, extortion, stealing money or possessions and exclusion from a group.

Nall said part of the solution is to gain an understanding into the thought process of bullies. For some, they feel a sense of entitlement, as if they have the right to hurt or control others. For others, they possess an intolerance toward anyone that is different whether that means the victim's physical attributes or social-economic status.

"Some just feel a freedom to exclude others," said Nall. "But the root of bullying is simply the disregard and disrespect of other human beings that God has made in His own image."

The first lesson to prevent bullying among preschoolers is to teach them to be kind and help others, said Nall, and she provided the following tips for teachers:

#### Introduce children to what makes people different

Nall said it is important for preschoolers "to see the God made them differently and our differences are not bad things." She recommended using multicultural finger puppets and stories to celebrate the diversity among people groups. During the training session, Nall read "The Colors of Us" by Kathy Katz which used words like honey, peanut butter and butterscotch to describe the skin tones of people.

#### Model good behavior

"Another thing we can do to help preschoolers is to model that behavior," said Nall. "Some things that teachers say to pre-

## Teaching kids to respond



**STORY TIME** Stacy Nall, of Kentucky WMU, reads "The Colors of Us" as an example of how to encourage acceptance of differences among preschoolers. (Photo by Robin Bass)

schoolers may be helpful and others not so helpful when modeling kindness for a child."

Some examples of what not to say included: Can't you do better than that? Don't cry. Babies cry. You always color things the wrong color. Look, your grass is not green.

#### Practice good listening skills

Use listening activities like rhythm claps to train children how to listen. Becoming better listeners will help preschoolers become better communicators.

#### Use Bible stories about kindness

Nall recommended teachers use a downloadable lesson plans on kindness found on the Kentucky WMU website that uses the story of Zacchaeus to teach preschoolers about working together and how to be kind to others. There is a fee for the download.

For teachers of slightly older children, Nall provided an eight-step guideline for responding to bullies:

1. Pray together for bullies.
2. Have children write down the date and time the bullying occurred.
3. Encourage children to tell parents, teachers and counselors when they are bullied, even if they are bullied by phone or online.
4. Instruct children to stay with a group when they don't feel safe.
5. Teach children to use words instead of fighting.
6. Encourage children to do something nice for the bully, even if they don't feel like it.
7. Foster good friendships with children and encourage them to do the same with other kids and church leaders.
8. Let them know that God loves them.

"If someone is constantly picking on you, that can bring your self esteem down," said Nall, "but they will know that God loves them if you as their leaders keep affirming that."

## Ky. Baptists' Cooperative Program giving falls in July

Louisville—After exceeding \$2 million in Cooperative Program giving in June, Kentucky Baptists' CP gifts dropped sharply in July.

The total amount given to missions through the Cooperative Program in July was \$1,562,790. That was nearly \$400,000 behind the monthly budget goal of \$1,958,333.

The fiscal year ends Aug. 31, according to Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team.

"We anticipated July being one of our lowest CP months this year because the month ended on Sunday," Ashby explained. "Churches were unable to send in their July CP gifts until August."

KBC Mission Board staff have been operating from a "spendable budget" throughout the fiscal year that is 5 percent less than the overall budget goal.

"With August being our last month of the fiscal year, and ending three days after the last Sunday in August, we believe CP receipts will exceed our revised spendable budget goal of \$22,325,000 for the year," Ashby continued. "And we anticipate that August CP receipts will exceed the \$2,073,756 needed to meet that revised goal."

In order for August gifts to be included in fiscal year 2010-11 totals, they should be postmarked on or before Aug. 31 and received by Sept. 2, Ashby added.

Billy Compton, the KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, said he hopes Kentucky Baptists are ever mindful of the ministry mileage of their CP dollars.

"The bottom line of giving through the Cooperative Program is the kingdom impact through our collective gifts as they provide for ministry and mission causes," Compton said.

"The dollars given are ongoing investments in the present and future that continue to pay great dividends in connecting people to Christ."

## Super Saturday marks 20th year of Sunday school training

Continued from page 1

And it has continued to work, becoming a late-August staple on the KBC calendar. The convention now hosts about a half-dozen Super Saturday events each year at churches across the state.

The events attract Kentucky Baptists who are eager to get new ideas for established ministries or to learn how to coordinate new ones.

It was a desire to branch out into new ministry areas that brought several participants to Rebecca Carnell's workshop on literacy missions at the Elizabethtown event last Saturday.

Carnell is the literacy missions consultant for the KBC and is a Mission Service Corps missionary based in Eubank, a southeastern Kentucky community where the illiteracy rate is fairly high.

"Most people in Kentucky don't want to believe that we have at least 12 percent of our population who does not read functionally. I think the number's a lot higher," Carnell pointed out.

When compiling population statistics, the U.S. Census Bureau will ask residents how many years they attended school. If the answer is five or less, that person is counted as illiterate, Carnell said.

However, "every student I've ever had has had more than

five years of school," she noted, saying most attended through the 10th grade, a point at which in years past, a student was allowed to drop out of school.

Carnell has been doing literacy missions for more than 25 years, tutoring hundreds of individuals in learning how to read, some of them for the very first time.

"If you sit down with someone who's been told all their life that they can't do it, and ... they're actually able to read, it's just wonderful to see that," she said. "You can see a change come over a person's looks when they learn to read. That's why I do what I do."

For those who want to begin literacy ministries in their churches, Carnell encouraged them to connect with her through the convention. She often leads training workshops throughout the state.

And teaching people to read is only part of what can be done, Carnell pointed out. There also is training available for churches that want to begin English as a Second Language classes for people of different ethnic backgrounds in their communities. Churches can get involved, as well, with after-school tutoring children.

Carnell said she often is asked if literacy missions is really just social work. "It's not social work, it's ministry," she insisted. "It is scriptural for us to do ministry like this."



**SWEET CELEBRATION** Super Saturday's 20th anniversary was celebrated with cake and cupcakes following the end of training sessions Aug. 27. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Carnell cited Psalm 119:105, which says, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." If the Bible is meant to light the path, it is important to know what it says, she asserted.

The motivation for all who do literacy missions, just as it has been for Carnell for the past 25-plus years, she said, is to get students "to where they can read the Bible and know Jesus on a personal level, and let's see if we can introduce them to Jesus with what we do."

## Challenges lead to healthy evaluation

Over the past several weeks, I have been sharing about five "opportunity areas" I want to focus upon as your new executive director. These include embracing the Great Commission Task Force report, strengthening the relationship between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and local churches and their pastors, church planting, networking and creating new partnerships, and valuing our existing relationships with KBC institutions and agencies. While many other important roles for the KBC will always exist, these opportunity areas can help us ensure you of the value of your Cooperative Program investment and, God willing, grow that investment.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

A keen observer of existing convention ministries will recognize that these areas are not new work for our convention, and they represent only a small part of the vast KBC ministries. That is a vote of affirmation from me for our mission board staff and the work they do. Yet, the greatest challenge currently facing state conventions, including our KBC, is the shrinking resources limiting our ministry budgets. We simply can no longer afford to provide the wealth of ministries traditionally offered by a state convention. Given that reality, the most pressing assignment for our convention is deciding what existing ministries are most essential as we look to the future.

The financial challenges of our churches in this difficult economy, an overall declining commitment to giving through the Cooperative Program, and an effort to get more funding to mission work overseas, require us to make deep cuts in the KBC ministry budget and, therefore, impact our ministry to our churches. While I am hopeful the economy will improve and optimistic that we can help our churches see the eternal value of their CP investment, I am fully supportive of the recommendations of our Great Commission Task Force that will result in Southern Baptists getting the gospel to those who have not heard. But those recommendations, along with the present economy and declining CP funds, mean the KBC must make some difficult decisions.

In case these thoughts seem a bit gloomy, let me hasten to add that evaluating our work and seeking out the best ways to spend every CP dollar is never a bad thing. Effective churches adjust their methods and strategies to share the unchanging gospel in a rapidly changing culture. Effective associations and state conventions must be a step ahead to provide the support and training needed by our churches. That will require us, as a state convention, to constantly assess our work to ensure that we can fulfill our mission of helping Kentucky Baptists fulfill their mission.

Ask God to grant wisdom and a clear vision for the future of our work. Pray that God will find all Kentucky Baptists faithfully committed to the Great Commission in our going and giving.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Off to college ... with a notebook and our heart

The much-anticipated, yet somewhat dreaded, day has come. Laura, our oldest child, went off to college last week. We joined the ranks of tens of thousands of other families loading down cars with clothes, lamps, bed linens, school supplies, computers and many other items, heading for a dorm room somewhere. It is a significant juncture in her life—and ours.

Another parent, with a college-bound son, commiserated with us: "For quite some time, I have been using the word 'bittersweet' to describe this transition. But someone gave me a more apt description this week. They said it is like having an organ transplant! The grief involved and the pain involved is heart-breaking—but hopefully in the end will result in a healthier life." Fitting.

I'd describe it like a former associate editor of Western Recorder used to describe press days: "A dress rehearsal for a nervous breakdown." For weeks, my wife has rushed from store to store, making sure that Laura had everything a student could possibly need and more. The emotional letdown in the days after has been pronounced. The house is in a bit of a lull, missing a beat or two as we search for a new normal. Her brother, Caleb, is now the primary object of our daily attention. (He's not totally thrilled about this prospect, though.)

I'm not sure I have any wisdom just yet to offer other parents soon to enter this phase since I'm still a newbie at this college parenting thing, but here are a few reflections from the first week—organized around five "Fs" (a grade parents trust we will never see).

**Family**—As a college parent, I'm more grateful than ever for cell phones, Skype, Facebook and email. We can't always be right there to fix every problem—like when her printer stopped working—but we are always available to give advice, support, understanding and constant love. Greater still, she can find comfort in the One who always stands ready: "Cast all your anxiety on

him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

**Friends**—Forming quality friendships with roommates, hall mates and classmates is crucial. "Who you hang with determines who you become. ... Chose your friends by what you want to be like," advises Arlis Dickerson, who has served in Baptist collegiate ministry for 40 years. Cultivate reliable relationships with those whom you can depend on in the tough times, but rest assured "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

**Focus**—Much attention during the next few years will be on the future, discovering who you are becoming.

Peers are pursuing careers in sports, medicine, business, engineering, law, nursing, teaching, ministry and other fields. Apply yourself: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men" (Colossians 3:23).

**Faith**—"Many students who are committed Christians do not plan to walk away from their faith in college, but they do not make it a priority," observes Dickerson. "If growing and living as a believer at college is part of your intent, you must plan it into your schedule." College is an exciting opportunity to learn new things and explore different perspectives. Hold tightly to what lasts: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8). Be a witness: "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

**Fall break**—and parents weekend! O.K., this last one is for her mom and me. We're already gassing up our car. Here, it seems appropriate to include another comment from the parent who commiserated with us: "However, I am not sure today that I like organ transplants or bittersweet!" Nevertheless, "this is the day the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). After all, this is the day we've been preparing our children for all along.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Friends when relationship ends

By James Stillwell

**Q: My romantic relationship has ended. That's bad enough. The tougher part is that I seem to be losing my friends, too.**

**A:** It really is tough. It may be that your friends feel like they have to choose sides. If they are "trash talking" either you or your former "significant other," state your boundaries and let them know that is not O.K. But you cannot control their responses, so in the end, their friendship may be yet something else that you will have to let go.

What does real friendship look like? We get a hint from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, chapter 13. Here is J. B. Phillips' paraphrase: "The love of which I speak is slow to lose patience—it looks for a way of being constructive. It is not possessive. It is neither anxious to impress nor does it cherish inflated ideas of its own importance. Love has good manners and does not pursue selfish advantage. It is not touchy. It does not keep account of evil or gloat over the wickedness of other people. On the contrary, it is glad with all good men when truth prevails. Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen."

When you've gone to dozens of weddings you need to be reminded to hear Paul's text beyond marriage. Paul was talking about unity in the body of Christ. Your friendships, when at their best, will show the kind of love that Paul described. The New Testament writings describe what life in the family of God is supposed to look like.

Go to your old friends and own your truth. Let them know how you feel. If they accept you and will be your friend, great! In the meantime, consider finding a supplemental support system in a small group of Christ-followers where people are real and have deep friendships in the way Paul described. You deserve that kind of love in your friends.

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

## Financially married or marred?

By Jeremy White

After 69 years of marriage, my grandparents qualified as marriage experts. One afternoon my grandfather inadvertently shared an insight about the financial strengths of men and women.

My grandparents survived as farmers—no easy task. They started with nothing, worked hard, gradually obtained farmland, raised crops and cattle, and acquired more farmland. As we sat on his front lawn one day, he sighed and speculated that he could have had more if my grandmother had been willing to borrow more.

Her position had been no debt at all; he wanted to borrow to buy a lot of land. Their mutually agreed-upon approach was to borrow to buy smaller pieces of land. Then, they paid it off before borrowing for another. Through years of hard work and wise financial decisions, they met all their financial goals and had enough to last for their lives.

As Larry Burkett often said, "If each of you is the same, then one of you is unnecessary." My grandparents lived that out. She held his excesses in check a bit; he pulled her along to take some risk.

In working with many couples, I have observed similar dynamics. Men and women bring different financial strengths and perspectives to their relationship. Generally speaking, men are willing to take risks to provide for the future. They are willing to make sacrifices to take those risks, such as long hours or debt or giving up luxuries.

Women tend to prefer security and prefer to avoid risk with debt or investments. They would rather make sacrifices for their family and relationships than for future financial reward.

Notice how these strengths tend to be opposites. Ah, that's the fun challenge of marriage—maintain the right balance at the right time between these opposing strengths. If any of these strengths are carried to an extreme, they can become weaknesses. Our spouse can help check our extremes.

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



## WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON  
Editor

DREW NICTER  
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND  
Marketing & Business Manager

Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. Romans 14:19

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information, to give news tips, or to place an advertisement, call (502) 489-3535 or e-mail to news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to:  
Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit www.WesternRecorder.org and subscribe to our Electronic-Only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions on the church budget plan are \$10 per year. A church newsletter service also is available for churches of all sizes.

www.WesternRecorder.org

**Board of Directors:**  
Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;  
Duane Bolin, Murray;  
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;  
Dan Francis, Erlanger;  
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton;  
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;  
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;  
Willis Polk, Lexington;  
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;  
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;  
Dan Summerlin, Paducah.

# Loving Muslims

Continued from page 1

Thibeaux began training to teach ESL, and he and his wife and another Sunday School member connected with a local ministry to begin classes in an area of town where a number of Muslims lived.

At first, no one came—for weeks. “That was somewhat heartbreaking,” he admitted.

But then they began to see children coming, and though some won't participate when the group shares Bible stories, some will. “Some of them are getting it,” Thibeaux said.

Todd Virnoche noted the same thing. His kids participated in Lake Arlington's backyard Bible clubs and came home saying they couldn't believe the mission field was so big in their own hometown.

“They were surprised that kids hadn't even heard of Jesus and they were living here in Arlington, Texas,” Virnoche recalled.

## Long-haul relationships

Since then, Virnoche and others have been knocking on the doors of their Muslim neighbors, taking them school supplies, giving them financial help and teaching them English.

When one little girl, Joanne, was critically injured in an accident, Virnoche went nearly every day for 72 days to pray with the family in the hospital. She lived, and because of his investment of time and rela-



**PLAYFUL WITNESS** Kurdish children play kickball with members of Lake Arlington Baptist Church in Arlington, Texas, during a weekly Sunday afternoon recreation, crafts and Bible story time. Since the weekly outreach began a year ago, volunteers have noticed a change in the way the kids relate to each other. Early on, teams were formed along racial lines. Now, they're seeing kids cross ethnic barriers to become friends.

tionship, she and her family and friends welcomed him in as a close friend.

“There was a trust that was established there by God's grace—the fact that we were able to be there and to help and minister to them a little bit,” Virnoche said.

Thibeaux said that long-haul relationships are what the Sunday School group is all about.

“The thing that's been different about this is it's not just an event to build up to. It's not just, ‘OK, I'll take a week off work and I'll do my duty of missions and then I'm through,’” he noted. “It's really been a thing where God said, ‘You're here, I brought them to you. Why not love them

and make that part of your life?’ We're called to love them. God's brought them here, He's put us here for a reason. It's not an accident. We're supposed to love them because they are our neighbors.”

## Loving Muslims resources

For more information on how to reach Muslim neighbors with the love of Christ, visit [LovingMuslims.com](http://LovingMuslims.com). The website offers a two-week small-group study and an eight-day prayer guide for use with the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terror attacks next month. It also offers sermon outlines, feature stories and videos and additional resources.

# Libya after Gaddafi: Christian leader prays simply for access to Jesus

Tripoli, Libya—Tripoli, Libya, woke up Aug. 22 to the imminent end of 42 years of rule by Muammar Gaddafi—the longest-running Arab leader ever.

NATO-backed rebel forces in Libya seized control of much of Tripoli on Aug. 21 after months of brutal war tactics by Gaddafi. The rebels continue to fight for the rest of the capital city.

President Barack Obama called it a “tipping point,” saying that Tripoli is “slipping from the grasp of a tyrant.” He and other world leaders are calling for Gaddafi to end his claim to power.

Christian leaders like Nik Ripken, meanwhile, are praying for stability of a different kind in Libya.

“Often we ask people to pray that governments provide the safety and security necessary for the gospel to spread, such as the early church had under the Roman Empire,” said Ripken, who has served 25 years with the International Mission Board and is an expert on the persecuted church. “But when stability is the stability of governments that deny their people even access to Jesus, then that is the worst form of persecution.”

Ripken asked believers worldwide to pray for the kind of stability in Libya where access to Jesus is a basic human right.

*\*Name changed for security reasons*

9-10 | Lexington Paducah  
 9-17 | Prestonsburg Owensboro

Porter Memorial Baptist Church  
 Lone Oak First Baptist Church  
 First Baptist Church  
 Bellevue Baptist Church

Register at  
[www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday](http://www.kybaptist.org/supersaturday)  
 or call (502)489-3572  
 or (866) 489-3572  
 (toll-free in KY)

**SUPER '11 SATURDAY**

Building on 20 Years of Practical Training  
 Let's Celebrate!

**“DON'T LET YOUR FAMILY MISS THIS!”** —Jeanna Wolf, PARADE

BASED ON THE INCREDIBLE TRUE STORY OF BETHANY HAMILTON

**ON BLU-RAY™/DVD COMBO PACK AND DVD NOW**  
 FIND OUT WHERE TO GET IT AT [SOULSURFERWAVE.COM](http://SOULSURFERWAVE.COM)

SCREEN STORY BY SEAN McNAMARA & DEBORAH SCHWARTZ & DOUGLAS SCHWARTZ & MICHAEL BERK AND MATT D. ALLEN & CALEB WILSON & BRAD GARR  
 SCREENPLAY BY SEAN McNAMARA & DEBORAH SCHWARTZ & DOUGLAS SCHWARTZ & MICHAEL BERK DIRECTED BY SEAN McNAMARA

FILMDISTRICT ENTERTAINING

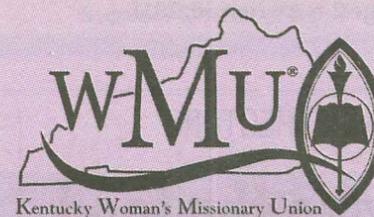
**2010-11 ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING**

for Kentucky missions  
As of 8/22/11

**\$1,064,181.15**

Thank you Kentucky Baptists  
for your faithful giving to  
reach the lost in our state.

# Kentucky Notes



A quarterly publication of the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union • Supplement to Western Recorder • Funding provided by the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program

Contact us: P.O. Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569 • (502) 489-3534 • Toll-free (866) 489-3534 • www.kywmu.org

FALL 2011

## A PERSONAL WORD

### Pray, give, go, repeat

By Joy Bolton  
Executive Director-Treasurer  
Kentucky WMU

Kentucky WMU welcomes Dr. Paul Chitwood as our KBC Executive Director. Dr. Chitwood is no stranger to us, having served as pastor and leader in our convention, including a term as president in 2005-06. From the day of his election I have pledged my personal support to Dr. Chitwood and will be working with him in the months ahead to find ways that Kentucky WMU can help the KBC in key areas. You can learn more by subscribing to Dr. Chitwood's blog, [www.paulchitwood.com](http://www.paulchitwood.com).



Joy Bolton

The changes in the Kentucky WMU staff this year have been significant with the addition of four new staff members: Amanda-Grace Richey, Maryann Lee, Lori Sharp and Jonathan Auten. Each one brings unique gifts and skills to our work. Most importantly, each one brings a passion for missions and mobilizing the next generation.

Some have asked about the "Church Staff Relations" aspect to Jon's work. Jon has served as a pastor, associational leader, and in other roles that uniquely equip him to lead our efforts in building relationships with pastors and other church staff. And since most pastors are men, having a man as a spokesperson will help in communicating the value of missions education and involvement.

**Chain Reaction** is both the goal and the theme of the 2011 State Missions emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering. The materials tell stories of people who responded to missions needs and started unexpected chain reactions across Kentucky. Our prayer is that you will be inspired by their stories, responding to ministry needs as God gives opportunity, thus starting another chain reaction. The 2011-12 offering goal is \$1.25 million. Every dollar given will start a chain reaction of ministry. Every prayer for state missions will start a chain reaction that touches lives and leads people to faith in Christ.

The Eliza Broadus Offering supplements the Cooperative Program in Kentucky, providing additional funds for missions across our state. Without EBO, ministries such as outreach to international students, language missions and church planting would be significantly reduced. New to the offering this year is a \$500 grant to every Kentucky Baptist association to assist in evangelism and missions outreach.

We encourage you to use the **Chain Reaction** promotion materials and teaching plans for all ages. These are undated and can be used any time—with any group. A print copy of the materials was mailed to each WMU director and pastor. The Chain Reaction folder includes a DVD with video and computer files. All materials are also available on our web site at [www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo).

Let's start a chain reaction this year!

# Chain Reaction

Let's start a  
chain reaction in Kentucky as  
we pray, give and go!

Offering goal: **\$1,250,000**

#### Contact Kentucky WMU

for the 2011 state missions DVD, teaching materials, posters,  
offering envelopes and promotional ideas.

Call 502-489-3534

or toll-free: 866-489-3534.

Materials are also posted on our web site:

[www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo)

#### 2011 Chain Reaction Focus:

Church & Community Ministries – Impact of reaching children

Hispanic Ministries – Growth of Hispanic ministries

Start a Chain Reaction – Find it Here 2012

KENTUCKY  
**2011** State Missions Emphasis  
and Eliza Broadus Offering

## Introducing WMU's newest staffers: Lori Sharp & Jonathan Auten

By Joy Bolton

Kentucky WMU is pleased to welcome Lori Sharp and Jonathan Auten to our staff. Lori started work June 9 as our Financial Coordinator. Jon joined us July 25 for the newly created position of consultant for Royal Ambassadors, Challengers and Church Staff Relations. Both Lori and Jon come with great skills and background in missions education which will be a benefit to our office.

Prior to joining our staff, Lori was on the staff of Hurstbourne Baptist Church as the Administrative Services Manager where she worked with all of the financial processes of the church and coordinated human resource benefits, such as health insurance and retirement. Before going to Hurstbourne, Lori had worked with the KBC Accounting Department—first, as a senior accountant and later, as an accounting projects consultant.

Lori is a graduate of Campbellsville University where she received her bachelor's degree in 1997 with a major in ac-



Lori Sharp

counting and minor in computer information services. Lori received the Wall Street Journal Business Award as a student and graduated with honors. Lori has been involved with WMU organizations all of her life and has served as a WMU director, Mission Friends leader and even led a Campus Women on Mission group at Campbellsville University. She understands and appreciates how the Cooperative Program and Eliza Broadus Offering work and their importance to missions in Kentucky and around the world.

Jon grew up in Royal Ambassadors and brings a life-long commitment to missions in his new position on our staff. Jon served as the pastor of the Poplar Level Baptist Church from 1995 until the end of July 2011. He was the assistant coordinator for Crossover 2009. He also directed block par-



Jonathan Auten

ties and worked with missions teams around Louisville. Jon served on the Long Run Association staff from 2005-08 as Associational Relations Catalyst, working with pastors to develop small groups and facilitate relationships. As pastor at Poplar Level, Jon and his wife, Misty, started Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors.

Jon is a graduate of the University of Louisville with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He earned the Master of Divinity degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1993 with an emphasis in pastoral ministries. Jon has served as a summer missionary, chaplain, member of the KBC Mission Board, clerk and finance committee member for Long Run Association.

Welcome Lori and Jon!

## WMU DIRECTORS

## Take the lead

By Wanda Walker

With the second year of our emphasis underway, there are so many opportunities to be **Unhindered**. Fall is a great time to think about and do new and innovative approaches to missions education and mission action.

Have a reception to honor the memory of Eliza Broadus during the Week of Prayer for State Missions. Have a display highlighting the life of our state missions leader.

Promote the Week of Prayer for State Missions and lead your church to be the one who starts a **Chain Reaction**.

## Getting started

- Hold a church-wide World Crafts party to emphasize Project HELP: Human Exploitation. Set One Free products help women who have been held in captivity of human slavery.

- Have an interactive Project Help display. Contact the state office for resources.

- Have a 7-cent World Hunger dinner.

- Women on Mission and/or Acteens could volunteer child care services for Sunday mornings to give the regular child care workers an opportunity to attend service.

- Host a church staff breakfast during clergy appreciation week. Give the staff a gift that will be a daily reminder of WMU and its age level organizations. GA's could make baked goodies, cards or a craft. Mission Friends could prepare a song to sing for staff during a morning service. (Make sure to ask your minister of music/song leader for time on Sunday morning.)

- On World Day of Prayer Nov. 7, have a location in your church available for 24 hours. Use the Prayer Path kit (2005) to help establish stations for prayer using the guide for World Day of Prayer.

- Leave surprise packages on the doorstep of someone you know may have a need and may not ask for help.

- Co-sponsor an event with other groups in the church, such as Sunday school, women's ministry or activities/recreation. Do something with a missions flair!

Please do not forget to return your WMU church leadership forms to the Kentucky WMU office. This is our best link to you and keeping you and your leaders informed.

Do all of your WMU team and church staff receive *Missions Leader*? If not, it is a great resource for them. Why not make it an annual gift for them? It will enhance their leadership skills as an age level and as a church leader.

## President's perspective

By Linda Cooper  
President, Ky. WMU

A national Acteen conference called BLUME, only happens every four years...and this was the year! Over 2,500 teenage girls and their leaders gathered in Orlando, Fla., to experience an intense, fun four-day focus on missions.

Acteens had a chance to interact on a personal level with missionaries and were able to meet girls from all over the world who have a similar heart for God and for missions. They also had the opportunity to participate in mission projects. Over 24,000 hygiene items and 2,000 Wal-Mart gift cards were given by the girls to be used for women in crisis situations in Orlando. Not only did the girls give the items, they put together hygiene kits and placed hand-written notes of encouragement in each kit. What a beautiful site of love it was as the girls covered tables and filled floor space with those notes. These girls also gave more than \$20,676 to the Beginning of Life ministry to help women in Moldova.

Kentucky was well represented as more than 200 of our Acteens and leaders took part in BLUME and were challenged to live fearlessly for the Lord by sharing their faith. They were also challenged to be a G3 girl as they focus on three girls: the girl in Acteens, the girl next door and the girl across the world. Through the power of Christ, Acteens can make a difference to those around them and those across the world if they trust their lives to Him. Please pray for our Acteens and their leaders as they do just that.

Excel was a huge success as many of you were "Unhindered" and attended the state training event at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. If you were unable to attend, please check with your



Linda Cooper

association or a joining association for missions training opportunities during the upcoming year. Remember, training is vital for effective leaders.

In May, a WMU team traveled to Puerto Rico to prayer walk areas where other mission teams would be ministering during the summer months. We rejoiced as we learned of the 11 salvations that were reported from just one of those teams. I'm sure there were many more. May God be praised for what He is doing.

We are very fortunate in Kentucky to have another missions trip opportunity with MissionsFEST in the Bell County Baptist Association. MissionsFEST is a partnership between National WMU, Kentucky WMU, Bell County Baptist Association and Appalachian Regional Ministry. If you cannot serve on mission in the Appalachian region of Kentucky through MissionsFEST, please be in prayer for those coming from all over the United States to Kentucky Sept. 10-17.

Missions should be a **Chain Reaction!** This is the theme for the Eliza Broadus Offering this year. The focus is on ministries where the response of one person to a need sets off a missions chain reaction! Let's keep Eliza a millionaire as we pass on the passion for missions with a **Chain Reaction!**

I also want to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who sent food, flowers, and the numerous cards after my mother lost her battle with cancer June 19. For many years, I have encouraged sending cards as a ministry to women searching for mission project ideas. I can't tell you how much your cards of encouragement meant to me as I was on the receiving end of that ministry.

May God bless you all as you continue to touch lives with the love of Christ. You will never know how deeply you touched me. Please keep me in your prayers as I serve as your president. I love meeting you as I travel our state. I am encouraged as I witness your missions heart as you minister, give, serve, go, teach and lead through Kentucky WMU.

## ADULTS

## Being a risk taker for the kingdom

By Wanda Walker

Reality TV has not gone away. We have reality courtroom drama, the lives of misspent youth, siblings, enemies and so on. Several years ago these questions were asked of the WMU adult audience:

- What would a reality show based on adults and mission education look like?

- Would it be full of excitement and always on the go? Would it be boring and repetitive?

- Would it move beyond the four walls of the church? Would it be risky?"

There were not any who beat down the doors waiting to answer! Would you today?

Today is your day to get outside of your comfort zone! Be open to taking a risk and trying new ways to reach adults with missions education and mission experiences. We can continue to do the same things and not take a risk, but we may miss the opportunity of reaching the unchurched and unsaved. The diversity of culture has opened the way for expanding

our minds, opening our hearts and being creative to share the gospel with everyone.

Where would we be if Lottie Moon had not taken a risk? How would Martha Myers or Nannie Helen Burroughs have moved forward if they had not been willing to take a risk and do something different? Got moms of preschoolers? There is a missions group. How about crafters? Sounds like a missions project in the making. Know parents of athletic kids? Take the time at practice and games to have missions experience. Kingdom growth means going where people are and where life is happening.

Speaking of kingdom growth ... it's not too late to register for the fall retreat at Jonathan Creek Oct. 7-8. Join us as Alicia Wong, of the North American Mission Board, leads us to be Shaped to Serve. The fall retreat begins with registration at 4 p.m. and early bird workshops at 4:30 p.m. We will conclude at 3 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

Be a risk taker for the kingdom!

## Fall retreat

Register now  
for Shaped  
to Serve at  
Jonathan Creek  
Oct. 7-8.

Speakers include  
Alicia Wong of the  
North American  
Mission Board.  
Register at [kywmu.org/shapedtoserve](http://kywmu.org/shapedtoserve).

## YOUTH

## Power up young women with missions education

By Maryann Lee

Blume wasn't the only thing that Acteens were involved in this summer. Acteens Splash took place at Jonathan's Creek with 40 participants. The girls heard about missions in Peru and participated in an interactive display where they learned about human trafficking.

Lots of laughter was heard while making s'mores around the campfire, swimming on the lake and doing crafts. Hopefully, we will have even more girls to continue the camping tradition next year.

Now that summer is over and fall activities are getting underway, many churches are wondering what to teach their kids this year. Several churches have already gotten ahead of the game and started new GA, Acteen and Youth on Mission groups.

If your church is wondering where to begin, now is the perfect time to get started with missions education. Contact the Kentucky



WMU office and we will let you know what you need to get these wonderful organizations going in your church.

The current Acteens theme is G3: The Power of a Girl to Change the World. Girls will be learning about the power of God within them to change to the world.

While doing this they will focus on three girls: themselves, the girl next door and the girl around the world. They will be focusing on themselves and their spiritual growth and also sharing Christ with the girl next door or in their community.

The girl around the world represents what Acteens will learn about girls in other cultures, how they can pray for them and share Christ.

As churches, this is what we should be about. We should not only focus on ourselves, but also on those in our hometowns and in foreign countries. I am glad that girls involved in Acteens get to learn this now and can start making an impact where they are in the world.

# A postcard from



By Maryann Lee

Enough cannot be said for the impact Blume has had and will continue to have on Kentucky and the lives of the participants.

More than 200 teenaged girls from the state had the opportunity to attend this event and you made it possible. Because of the Eliza Broadus Offering, Kentucky WMU was able to offer scholarships to churches that subscribe to Acteens magazines.

Here is a letter a group sent expressing their appreciation:

"Thank you so very much for the scholarship check we received for our trip to Blume. We were excited to learn we were recipients of the Eliza Broadus Offering. Each September, our Acteens group studies about how the Eliza Broadus Offering funds projects throughout the state of Kentucky. We never thought about the offering helping us. The \$100 for each Acteen and for our two



leaders was used to pay for one-third of our registration.

"We had a wonderful time at Blume. We were inspired by the speakers. We were encouraged by the missionaries. We were uplifted by the music. It was a very special time for all of us. We felt God's presence and our hearts were stirred to 'Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have com-

manded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age' (Matthew 28:19-20 TNIV). Please pray that God will make us fearless and we will share the gospel wherever we go."

Thank you to everyone who helped make Blume a success and most importantly thank you for giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering. You may never know how far the impact of your gifts will reach. In the lives of the teen girls who got to attend this event, the impact was life changing.

## CHILDREN/PRESCHOOL

### Mission Adventure Camp

Campers at Mission Adventure Camp "Set Sail for Missions" this summer at Cedar Crest. Campers learned how missionaries in coastal areas share the love of God. Children were also encouraged to use their own gifts and interests to share the love of Jesus in their own communities. Each camper made a "message in a bottle" to give to a friend who doesn't know about Jesus.

This year, the camp offering went to the Cooperative Program as part of the "Children Changing the World" campaign.

Cedar Crest is located at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad. After serving at Cedar Crest, Mission Adventure Camp staffers "sailed" west to Ohio River and Logan-Todd Associations! Associational campers, like Cedar Crest campers, learned about missions around the world through missionaries, crafts, games and mission projects.

### Overnights at the Creek

Girls in Action and Acteen campers enjoyed a missions-filled weekend at Jonathan Creek in Hardin. Campers learned more about God and His mission through worship, Bible study and missionary speakers. They also enjoyed swimming, campfires, recreation and waterfront activities.

Please contact Kentucky WMU for 2012 camp dates and prices. You can also check future Kentucky Notes for updates on next summer's camping plans.



### Praying for MissionsFEST

For more than 10 years, men and women have been serving communities together through MissionsFEST.

During Sept. 10-17, National Woman's Missionary Union will be partnering with Kentucky WMU, Bell County Baptist Association (Pineville area), Baptist Nursing Fellowship and Appalachian Regional Ministry.

Even if you are not participating, please join us in heart and spirit through prayer.

Make time each day in the week before MissionsFEST to pray for all the participants.

Pray for travel mercies to and from Bell County. There will be participants from as far away as California coming to serve in Kentucky.

Pray for workers to stay healthy as they prepare and serve during the week.

Pray for all those who will be ministered to during the week.

Pray for Jesus to shine in all the work that is being done.

Pray for kingdom growth.



# Book review: 'Not in My Town'

By Joy Bolton

When it comes to the topic of human trafficking, most of us would like to think "not in my town." Tragically, modern day slavery is happening in cities both large and small across the United States and around the world.

Project HELP: Human Exploitation confronts an almost overwhelming issue. It would be easy to say the problem is too large or "What can I do?" A study of the book "Not in My Town" is something every church can do. It is a beginning point to understanding and recognizing exploitation that is often taking place right in front of us.

"Not in My Town" was written by Dillon Burroughs and Charles Powell. As authors, they hope

that people will move from denial to action. They want the words "not in my town" to be the battle cry of individuals who choose to stand against human trafficking and modern slavery in their own communities.

The book includes an eight-session DVD and group discussion guide. Readers will learn ways to respond and make a difference in this evil industry taking place all around us.

"Not in My Town" is published by New Hope Publishers and may be ordered at [www.wmystore.com](http://www.wmystore.com).



## CALENDAR

### September

- 10 Super Saturday, Porter Memorial, Lexington, Lone Oak, Paducah
- 10-17 MissionsFEST, Bell County Baptist Association
- 11-18 Season of Prayer for State Missions and Eliza Broadus Offering
- 17 Super Saturday, First Baptist, Prestonsburg; Bellevue, Owensboro
- 24 Children in Action Day Camp, Buck Creek Baptist, Calhoun

### October

- 7-8 Shaped to Serve, Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek Baptist Conference Center
- 9 World Hunger Sunday

### November

- 7 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 12 GA JAM, Parkway Baptist, Bardstown, girls in grades 1-6

Find more at [kywmu.org/calendar](http://kywmu.org/calendar).

## Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund

The following gifts to the Heritage Fund were received during the second quarter of 2011 (April 1-June 30). Our thanks to each individual and group who gave.

### In Honor of:

KY WMU Staff & Volunteers  
Ruth Hinkle  
Joy Bolton  
Bud & Kay Underwood  
Donna Dye  
LaRaine Rice

### Donor:

Mary Lou & Bruce Walzer  
Hempridge Baptist Church WMU  
Long Run Association WMU  
Dan & Pattie Midkiff  
Pat & Dudley Reaves  
Brenda Price

### In Memory Of:

Ruby Hendrickson  
Mary Dan Price  
Jean Wells  
Dixie Carter  
Dixie Carter

### Donor:

Christian County Assoc. WMU  
Georgetown Baptist Church WMU  
Williams Memorial Baptist WMU  
Cheryl Hatfield  
Kentucky WMU

### Other Gifts:

Twyla Sheffied  
Rockcastle County Association WMU  
Dewilla Holtzclaw  
Ruth Shanklin

Patty Renfrow  
Kentucky WMU Staff  
Barry & Larie Allen

## Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

Nov. 15  
Florence Baptist Church at Mt. Zion  
642 Mt. Zion Rd.,  
Florence

Join in worship and fellowship with Kentucky Baptists. Your presence is an encouragement to our work together!



## CiA Day Camp

Saturday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (CT)  
Buck Creek Baptist Church, Calhoun, Ky.  
\$10 per person (includes lunch)

[www.KyWMU.org/ciadaycamp](http://www.KyWMU.org/ciadaycamp)



**START A CHAIN REACTION**  
Contribute to the 2011 Eliza Broadus Offering

Join with Baptist women around the world to impact your world for Christ through prayer!

**In Step with the Spirit**  
**November 7, 2011**  
Contact your church or associational WMU director for information about World Day of Prayer services in your area.

# GA JAM

Blast Off to your future in Missions!

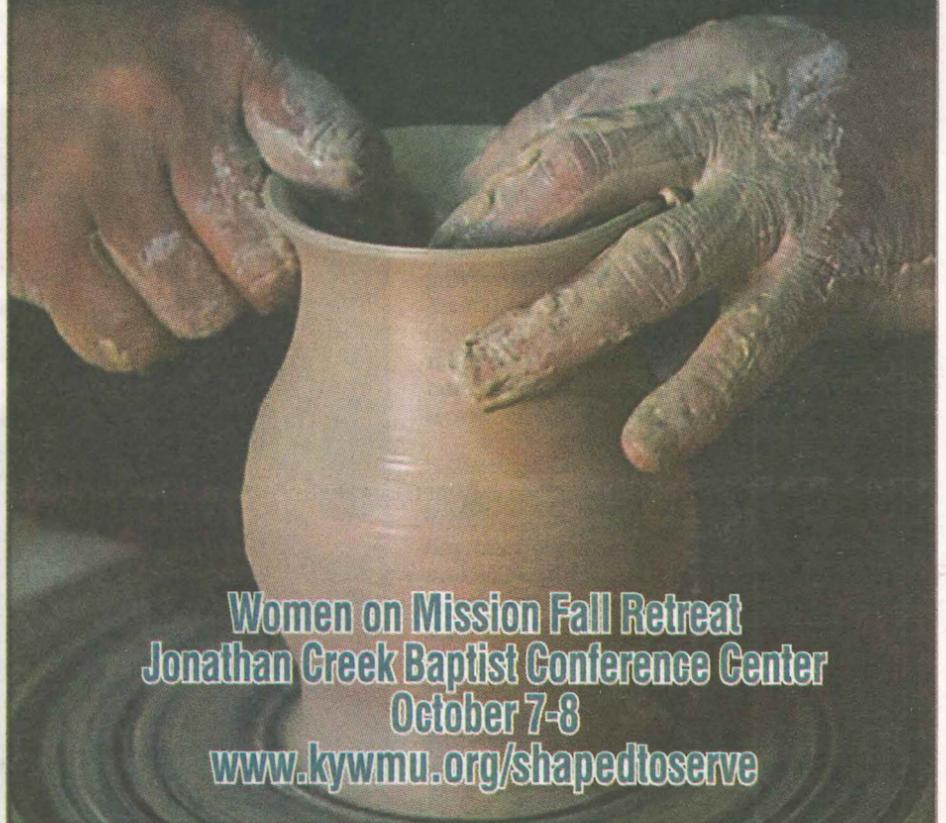
Saturday, November 12, 2011  
10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Eastern time)

Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown, Ky.  
Cost - \$10 per person (lunch provided)

- For girls in grades 1-6
- Meet international and North American missionaries
- Participate in a Live Action Project
- Enjoy music and entertainment
- Explore the Missions Career Fair

To register, go to [www.KyWMU.org/gajam](http://www.KyWMU.org/gajam)

Shaped to serve



Women on Mission Fall Retreat  
Jonathan Creek Baptist Conference Center  
October 7-8  
[www.kywmu.org/shapedtoserve](http://www.kywmu.org/shapedtoserve)

## Approaching winter creates disaster relief 'urgency' in N.D.

*DR work continues in Minot with hundreds of mud-out jobs remaining*

By Mickey Noah  
North American Mission Board

Minot, N.D.—Pastor Ben Pierce, himself a victim of the historic 150-year flood in Minot, N.D., pleaded with Southern Baptists not to forget about the needs of hundreds of flood victims in the town of 41,000.

"This is going to be a long-term project and ministry," said Pierce, pastor of Cross Roads Baptist Church in Minot. "We've cleaned up about 100 homes out of the list of 400 requests. We've only scratched the surface on mud-out, not to mention any long-term rebuild effort."

When sirens blared on June 22, Pierce, his wife and four children had to evacuate the rental home they shared at ground zero of the flooding of the Souris River, which snakes through much of Minot.

"We had less than 24 hours to get everything out of our house, and we worked around the clock to do it," said Pierce, who has led Cross Roads the past two years. "The church people and others helped, and we put our belongings in three or four different locations, including the church." The church building, located safely above the river, was not affected.

But five or six Cross Roads church families suffered extensive damage in the flood. Pierce said their homes had water as high as the rafters, and some of their homes have been condemned, circled with yellow police tape and placed off limits. In other



**HARD AT WORK** Ron Henry (left) and Meaghan Bowman, both members of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana disaster relief team, tear out the inside and clear debris from one of the many flood-ravaged homes in Minot, N.D. (Photo by Jim Whitmer/NAMB)

words, their houses are gone, and few victims had flood insurance.

"The Lord blessed my family with another rental home," Pierce said, "and if not for that, we'd be homeless."

Cross Roads Baptist Church also has been the "home away from home" for dozens of the Southern Baptist disaster relief crews from 22 states who have come to Minot in the wake of the floods. The only other Southern Baptist church in the city—North Hill Baptist, where Dan Andrus is pastor—is the site of the SBDR incident command post and feeding and laundry opera-

tions. North Hill also has sheltered volunteers from around the country.

But considerable mud-out work remains to be done before temperatures in north-central North Dakota begin to fall as autumn approaches.

"Winter is fast approaching," Pierce said. "August is really our last warm month and it starts to get cooler in September when Minot often gets its first frost. Snow can come in October. In January, it stays between 20-30 degrees below zero, with wind chill down to 70 below. There's an urgency to get as much done as we can in the next 30 days."

Pierce also said the availability of rental property in Minot is nonexistent, and the prices of homes on the local market have jumped 18 percent since the flood. Between the displaced flood victims and oilfield workers, hotel and motel rooms within a

75-mile radius of Minot are hard to find.

Several waves of disaster relief volunteers have come and gone in Minot. Currently, volunteers from Canada, Georgia, Minnesota and New Mexico are staffing the incident command post trailer located at North Hill Baptist. They are coordinating mud-out, feeding, chaplaincy, shower and laundry teams from numerous other conventions—Kentucky, North and South Dakota, Arkansas, Louisiana, California, Minnesota/Wisconsin, Tennessee, Kansas/Nebraska, North Carolina, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah/Idaho, and Virginia.

Other state conventions that have worked in Minot include disaster relief teams from Arizona, Montana, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Colorado.

According to the latest reports, since the Souris River flooded on June 22, Southern Baptist disaster relief teams have:

- Chalked up 3,500 volunteer days.
- Prepared nearly 80,000 meals.
- Completed 102 mud-out jobs.
- Provided 4,160 showers and loads of laundry.
- Recorded more than 3,100 gospel presentations, chaplaincy and ministry contacts.
- Led 37 people to Christ. (BP)



**MORE WORK TO DO** Many more Southern Baptist disaster relief mud-out teams are needed to respond to the 150-year flood in Minot, N.D. Among the crews who have aided Minot residents, a 14-member mud-out team led by "blue hat" Billy Gilmore (second from right) of Amarillo, Texas. (Photo by Jim Whitmer/NAMB)



Lower Your Churches Energy Bills!

**GREENING WEST LOUISVILLE**

As featured in the Courier Journal

Save your congregation money and energy by scheduling a Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light energy audit!

With energy rates on the rise, now is the perfect time to reduce the cost of your churches energy bills.

Most churches identify over \$1,500 in savings with an energy audit and many improvements can be made at low or no cost!

Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light also offers free audits to churches in the West Louisville zip codes of 40210, 40211, 40212 and parts of 40203!

Save money!  
Request an energy audit today!

For more information  
(502) 210-8920 or aaron@kentuckyipl.org.



### The stewardship of work

**Labor Day provides opportunity for Christians to ponder stewardship**

As we approach Labor Day 2011, let those of us who have jobs be ever more grateful and ever more mindful and helpful to those who do not.

And, on this Labor Day 2011, I want to call upon us Christians to enlarge our perspective on the work we do to make a living. Regardless of what we do as work, it should be considered as more than just making a living, but also making a life. It should be seen as a way to invest our lives.

Each one of us is on a mission to live in a redemptive way in the time God has given us. In our workplace environments, we are stewards of our time, as well as stewards of the opportunities to serve the Lord with purpose, love and passion.

By finding mission and purpose in our jobs, we are able to endure any circumstances that may arise, and that ability to endure is what gives dignity to the work.

One of my favorite quotes was spoken by Winton Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." I encourage you to incorporate that spirit into whatever

job you have and from which you make a living.

Also, this Labor Day is a good time to reflect upon the mind-boggling extent of creation, the complexity of God's work, and the awesome responsibility which is ours as God's gift from the perspective of the glorious Davidic hymn of praise in Psalm 8. The Psalm begins with "O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!"

Then the question is asked, "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?" And the Psalmist declared, "You made him ruler over the works of your hands; you put everything under his feet: all flocks and herds, and the beast of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea."

Wow, what a stewardship responsibility!

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



Barry Allen

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

# Researcher's book argues American politics now more religious than American voters

By Nicole Neroulis

Durham, N.C.—Has America gotten more religious, or just American politics?

The country has grown less religious since the 1970s, while frequent churchgoers now are much more likely to vote Republican or support the Tea Party, according to recent studies.

As a result, faith-filled rhetoric and campaign stops make Americans appear more Christian than they really are, according to Mark Chaves, a Duke University professor of sociology and religion.

The rise of megachurches, with their memberships in the thousands, also fuels the misperception that most Americans attend services weekly, when only one in four Americans actually do, he added.

"The Michele Bachmanns and Rick Perrys of the world are playing to a base that's much smaller than it was in the 1970s and 1980s," said Chaves, whose new book, "American Religion: Contemporary Trends," analyzes trends based on data from the General Social Survey and the National Congregations Study.

Using data collected between 1972 and 2008, Chaves said the U.S. not only is losing its religion, but also has lost confidence in religious leaders and wants them to be less involved in politics.

Researchers say the trends reflect myriad factors: disillusionment with clergy and political scandals; the country's increasing diversity, fueled by immigration and intermarriage; and younger generations that tend to be more highly educated and socially liberal.

Chaves also interprets these trends as a "backlash" against the politicization of religion that began with Jerry Falwell and the rise of the religious right in the 1970s.

The findings—along with new research by Harvard professor Robert Putnam and Notre Dame professor David Campbell, co-authors of "American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us"—paint a shifting portrait of American politics.

Mark Chaves—

## Megachurches fuel the misperception that most Americans attend services weekly, when only one in four Americans actually do.

The Tea Party's sinking approval rating—currently at 20 percent, below Republicans, Democrats, atheists and Muslims—signals a growing discomfort with mingling faith and politics, including the kind of "overt religious language and imagery" recently used by Bachmann and Perry on the campaign trail, Putnam and Campbell recently wrote in *The New York Times*.

What's more, Putnam and Campbell say the Tea Party is much more religious than originally thought. "The Tea Party's generals may say their overriding concern is a smaller government," they concluded, "but not their rank and file, who are more concerned about putting God in government."

Some core American beliefs have remained stable over the past two generations, however, including belief in a higher power, the afterlife and the belief that God is personally concerned with mankind.

"Compared to Europe, Canada and Australia, Americans are still very religious," Chaves concluded.

Among the other findings:

■ There is a declining (though still very high) belief in God or a higher power: In

the 1950s, 99 percent of Americans said they believed in God; in 2008, about 93 percent did.

■ Nearly 20 percent of Americans now say they have no religion, compared to just 3 percent in 1957.

■ Only 25 percent of Americans attend weekly religious services, although up to 40 percent claim they do.

■ Fewer Americans approve of their religious leaders getting involved in politics. In 1991, about 30 percent of Americans strongly agreed that religious leaders should avoid political involvement; by 2008, 44 percent felt that way.

■ Belief that the Bible should be taken literally dropped from about 40 percent in the early 1970s to about 30 percent in 2008; Chaves said this trend corresponds with the rise in college education.

■ From 1972 to 2008, the percentage of people with great confidence in religious leaders declined from 35 percent to less than 25 percent.

Immigration from Africa and Asia, intermarriage and assimilation have diversified U.S. religious beliefs since the early 1970s. Continuing that trend, Chaves said he believes Americans will grow more accepting of Muslims over the next generation, as has happened with other minorities.

Putnam called Chaves' book "an important contribution to clarifying the facts about religious change in America," but cautions against oversimplifying the data.

"The story is a bit more complicated than simply a linear trend down," he said.

Whatever the interpretation, Chaves said one thing is clear: American religiosity is either stable or in slow decline—and he leans towards the latter. "Either way," he concluded, "it's not going up." (RNS)

## Judge sides with Illinois in gay adoption lawsuit

Springfield, Ill.—An Illinois judge has ruled that state can end its adoption and foster care relationship with Catholic Charities, an organization that refuses to place children with homosexual couples.

At issue is a 40-year relationship between Illinois and Catholic Charities that is in jeopardy because the state—in light of Illinois' new same-sex civil unions law—says agencies with state contracts must be willing to place children in gay households. Catholic Charities said it would not follow any such state orders and it subsequently sued the state, saying the civil unions law provided a religious exemption that would protect its work.

Judge John Schmidt, though, said it does not matter what the civil unions law says because a more basic issue was at play: Is the state required to contract with Catholic Charities? The answer, he said, is no.

"Plaintiffs are not required by the state to perform these useful and beneficial services," Schmidt wrote in a three-page ruling in the Seventh Judicial Circuit in Springfield. "No citizen has a recognized legal right to a contract with the government."

Nearly 2,000 children in foster care are under the care of Catholic Charities in the three dioceses in question—Springfield, Peoria and Joliet.

The Thomas More Society, which is helping represent the dioceses, indicated an appeal of Judge Schmidt's decision is possible. (BP)

## The first week away from home

### Students continue to adjust to Oneida campus as school year gets underway

The first week of school has gone relatively well. Though middle-school students usually are more inclined to get homesick, older students are not immune. There have been times when a student has come to my office before the bell rang on the first day of school. That typically happens because he or she is homesick and has asked someone how he or she can go home. The usual answer is, "You have to see Dr. Underwood." Only on rare occasions will the student admit he or she is homesick. In fact, I can't remember a student ever actually admitting that.

Students have given me many reasons why they need to go home, but they will insist it has absolutely nothing to do with being homesick. I can't remember, when I was that age, if I would have thought that admitting I was homesick would have somehow been an admission to being a sissy or a wimp. It's never easy to explain to a sobbing student that he or she is homesick, and that we warned parents and students about homesickness during the orientation process.

But the bottom line is that not a single student came to me during the first week of school this year wanting to go home. That may not be a first, but typically one or two do come to see me.

Now I'm not sure how many phone calls were made telling parents the student wanted to come home. But if the parents followed our advice they encouraged the student to be patient and understand that he or she will feel much better in a few days. Typically if we can get through the first weekend without an epidemic of homesickness, it's downhill from there.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Each new academic year brings special students. The student may be special because he or she is from a country where we never have had a student from before. Last year we enrolled our first student from Papua New Guinea. A few years ago we enrolled two sisters, our first students from Madagascar.

This year we enrolled a sophomore boy from Africa whose right leg was amputated because of cancer. Many of our buildings are older and are not easily accessible to students with disabilities. But this young man gets around better than some students who have both legs. We have another new student, a seventh-grade girl, who also lost a leg to cancer.

Another unusual student this year is a young lady from Belgium. She is an adopted child who was born in China—and she is a Christian. While we have had several students from China in recent years, most do not even know who Jesus Christ is, let alone are Christians. This young lady is a senior and is here to improve her English-speaking skills so she will have the option of attending a college or university here in the states.

Her mother, who recently passed away, was an American and her father is from Belgium. She has lived in Belgium most of her life. She has visited in the states but has never lived here for a long period of time. Her English actually is quite good, but her grades are not as good as she would like. Though she makes mostly 'A's and 'B's, she knows she can do much better. During her mother's illness her grades suffered, so she is very focused on improving her grades before college.

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

## Finding his way

### Indiana native says he's glad to be at Clear Creek campus

It's always good to see all the new faces around campus with the new incoming class. The average age of this incoming class is 28 years old. This is a little younger than previous classes. It's also exciting to see young people following God's call on their lives.

Kyle Stachewicz, from Corydon, Ind., is one of the younger students who has just enrolled at Clear Creek to follow God's call on his life. At 19, Kyle is even younger than our average age of this incoming class. One thing is for sure, though, he knows God has called him to ministry and to Clear Creek.

"I was raised in church all my life," Kyle recalled. "My parents love the Lord and have always set a good example before me. In my early teenage years, I was at a church camp listening to the evangelist's sermon. I felt the Holy Spirit convict me of my sin, and I knew I had to do something about that. I went forward during an invitation at the church camp and professed Jesus Christ as my Savior."

"I was 14 years old when I received Christ as my Savior," Kyle said. "God actually called me to

preach that next year when I was 15 years old, but I ran from that call. I graduated from high school and decided I wanted to go into the criminal justice field and then go into the Army. I was at a college in Illinois going through the ROTC program. But God got hold of my heart, and I realized that I was not going the direction I was supposed to be going.

"I switched over to a Bible degree at the college I was at, but it was not a Baptist college, and I felt like I needed to be at a Baptist college since I was a Baptist. I was searching for Baptist colleges one day and I found Clear Creek. I drove down here and visited the campus. Once I visited and met all the people, God affirmed to me that this was where I needed to be."

"I am so glad God led me to a Bible college here in the same area where I feel He has called me to pastor a church."

### 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

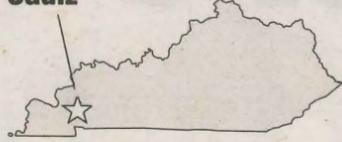
## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will hold a “Singspiration” service Sept. 4, 6 p.m. **John Chowning** is pastor.
- **IRVINE**—Thomas Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 4. **Rick Kirby** is pastor.
- **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church will have flu shots for senior adults Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (502) 363-2606. **Jason Allen** is pastor.
- **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will offer health screenings by Life Line Screening Sept. 6. Appointments are required—cost is \$149 and includes four tests. For more info or to make an appointment, call (800) 679-5609.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Cadiz



**Paul Cannon** will retire as pastor of Canton Church Sept. 11, along with his wife, **Linda**, who has served as church secretary. Cannon has served the church for more than 16 years.

### Youth workers conference, Sept. 12-14

**Nashville, Tenn.**—LifeWay Christian Resources will hold its annual National Youth Workers Conference Sept. 12-14 in Nashville, Tenn. This year's theme is “Creating a Culture of Influence.” The three-day event is designed to provide inspiration, encouragement and practical how-to's focused on equipping youth workers to develop students, not just student ministries. The conference fee is \$125.

Speakers include David Cook, author of “Golf's Sacred Journey”; songwriter, author and worship leader Kelly Minter; Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources and his son Jess, who is administration and outreach pastor at Grace Church in Hender-

sonville, Tenn.; and Pete Wilson, founding pastor of Cross Point Community Church in Nashville.

Plenary sessions will focus not only on the influence youth workers have on students and other people around them, but also on whom they are allowing to influence their lives. In addition to plenary sessions, there are 18 different conference sessions from which to choose. Topics include girls' ministries; student leadership development; student missions; discipleship; volunteer mobilization; family; small groups; and avoiding mistakes in youth ministry.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit [www.LifeWay.com](http://www.LifeWay.com). (BP)



## Miss Black USA to key on 'my generation of young sisters'

By Benjamin Hawkins  
Southwestern Seminary

**Fort Worth, Texas**—Ocielia Gibson impressed judges at the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant 2011 when asked how the nation could improve the high school graduation and college entry rates of African Americans.

“A lot of our kids need mentorship and tutoring from other successful African Americans that they can look up to,” Gibson said. “So, a key way to improve the graduation rate and college entry rate is for people just like us to come back and give back to them to show them the way, to guide them and to help them.”

Gibson, a women's ministry student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, subsequently was crowned Miss Black USA earlier this month.

Her answer during the pageant flowed from a passion for women's ministry that God placed on her heart as a teenager.

“As a 16 year old who had recently given my life to Christ,” Gibson said on her website, “I sat in my mother's living room one night watching music videos on TV. Gradually, with each video I watched—and each girl I saw degraded—I began to grieve tremendously in my heart.”

Her grief soon turned to tears as she wept and prayed for the young women she saw in the music videos. At that moment, Gibson said, God gave her a “burden for my generation of young sisters.” Three years later, as a college student, she “stepped out on this burden” and established the More Than a Pretty Face After-School Mentoring Program.

The faith-based ministry seeks to encourage young women to live in purity, to help them discover their true self-identities and to “redefine modern beauty,” according to the website [MoreThanAPrettyFace.org](http://MoreThanAPrettyFace.org).

The ministry has reached more

than 1,000 young women throughout Gibson's native state of Texas and in Arkansas, edifying them through several initiatives.

Gibson confessed that she came through many struggles and had to redefine beauty for herself before winning the Miss Black USA crown and before redefining beauty for other young women. Although raised by a caring single mother, the abandonment of her father scarred her, leaving her in pain and confusion as a young girl. She also questioned her own beauty because of unexplained hives that would appear on her skin. Her self-esteem plummeted as other children called her “leopard, spotted-bodied girl, alligator skin and ugly.”

In an interview with The Seattle Medium, Gibson said she had to overcome these issues and learn to believe in herself.

“I had to truly believe that even though I had those physical flaws, regardless of that, I was a beautiful woman,” she told the African-American newspaper. “I had to make the decision to (either) keep wallowing in that self-pity or to just hold my head high and be the best that I can be even with those physical flaws.”

Having rediscovered her own beauty, Gibson entered the Miss Black Texas 2009 pageant at the age of 19. After finishing as second runner-up for two years in a row, she made the difficult decision to persevere and enter the competition a third time. This time she won.

After winning the pageant, she decided to enter the Miss Black USA Scholarship Pageant 2011, which drew her attention because it “celebrates black women and displays who you are inside.”

Now that she wears the Miss Black USA crown, Gibson said she hopes she will be able to spread the message of More Than a Pretty Face Inc. to more young women across the nation. (BP)



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.
- 17 Super Saturday, Bellevue Baptist Church, Owensboro; First Baptist Church, Prestonsburg.
- 19-20 Kentucky Baptist Ministers' Golf Tournament, Cherry Blossom Golf & Country Club, Georgetown.
- 21-23 Missionary Retreat, Mammoth Cave National Park.
- 23-24 Men's & Women's Chorale and Wind Orchestra Retreat, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 24 Children in Action Day Camp, Buck Creek Baptist Church, Calhoun.
- 24 Men's Chorale Concert, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.
- 28-10/2 Adult Kentucky Changers—East, Louisville.

### October

- 3 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Main Street Baptist Church, Williamsburg.
- 4 Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 6-8 Ministers in Transition Conference, Louisville.
- 7-8 Celebrate the Mission, TBD.
- 7-8 Women on Mission Fall Retreat, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13 Church Secretaries Training Conference, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 13 Understanding Other Beliefs, Crosspointe Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 17-18 Senior Adult Choir Festival, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 20 Men's Chorale Concert, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.
- 20-21 Quarterly Prayer Meeting for Spiritual Awakening, Haven of Rest Family Ministries, Inez.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**To place an advertisement:**  
Rates are available upon request.  
Call (502) 489-3428;  
or visit [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org).  
Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.

**FOR SALE:** 1996 25-passanger Ford E450 PowerStroke Diesel. Great condition, many updates, 178k miles. \$12,700 obo. (502) 457-8686.

**PIANO LESSONS:** In Louisville (Lyndon), for beginners or those who want to play hymns, worship-style. (502) 396-8711.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational minister. Lynn Camp Baptist Church in Corbin is a conservative Southern Baptist body that is prayerfully seeking a bivocational minister with the potential for full time as God blesses the congregation. We average 50 in attendance with the facilities to accommodate 300, plus a large recreational center. We are looking for a man who is willing to lead by example and partake in God's harvest. Requirements: Align with 1 Timothy 3:1-7; ordained pastor with 1-3 years experience and some formal education; must have solid character exemplifying Christ. Email resumés to [lynncampbaptist@hotmail.com](mailto:lynncampbaptist@hotmail.com). PO Box 472, Corbin, KY 40702.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for Bullitt Lick Baptist in Shepherdsville. This is a paid position and will require around 20 hours per week. Resumés or questions may be submitted by e-mail to [secretary@bullittlickbaptist.org](mailto:secretary@bullittlickbaptist.org).

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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Carpenter Street Baptist Church, Moberly, Mo. Church is affiliated with Missouri Baptist Convention and adheres to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send resumés to Pastor Search Committee, 501 E. Carpenter St., Moberly, MO 65270; or email [carpenterstreet501@gmail.com](mailto:carpenterstreet501@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music for Perryville Baptist Church in central Kentucky. Responsibilities include worship leadership for blended services, service preparation, choirs and special events. Resumés will be received by email at [crappraisals@yahoo.com](mailto:crappraisals@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of youth for Perryville Baptist Church in central Kentucky. Needs to be enthusiastic and energetic in leading youth Bible studies, mission projects, special events and fundraising. Resumés will be received at [crappraisals@yahoo.com](mailto:crappraisals@yahoo.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time youth minister at First Baptist Church in Mayfield, Ky. Seminary education and previous youth experience is preferred. All interested applicants: send your resumé to 118 West South St., Mayfield, KY 42066, Attn: Youth Search Committee. Resumés must be received by Sept. 30, 2011.

# chain reaction

KENTUCKY  
**\$1.25 million goal**  
**2011-12**

## State Missions Emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering

### 2011 Chain Reaction Focus:

**Church & Community Ministries** – Impact of reaching children  
**Hispanic Ministries** – Growth of Hispanic ministries  
**Start a Chain Reaction** – Find it Here 2012

Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2011 state missions  
DVD, teaching materials, posters, offering  
envelopes, and promotional ideas.

Call 502-489-3534 or toll-free: 866-489-3534.

Materials are also posted on our web site:

[www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo)

# chain reaction