

WESTERN Recorder

September 13, 2011

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 35



Kentucky Baptist disaster relief representatives stand during a playing of the National Anthem at a 9/11 memorial ceremony at Louisville's Waterfront Park on the 10th anniversary of the terror attacks last weekend. The hundreds of Kentucky Baptists who served in the aftermath of the attacks were recognized by Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer at the event. Pictured are (from left) Lou Anne Baker and husband, Larry, who is missions growth team leader at the Kentucky Baptist Convention; Coy Webb, KBC disaster relief director; Tom Garrity, a member of Jeffersontown Baptist Church; Robert Reeves, KBC communications director; and Shelly Johns, KBC women's and senior adult ministry associate.



■ Right: An 11-foot beam from the wreckage of the World Trade Center stands alongside an American flag at half-staff at last weekend's 9/11 memorial ceremony in Louisville. (Photos by Robin Bass)

9/11 changed everything

Terror attacks took Southern Baptists' disaster relief to unprecedented level

By Joe Conway

Alpharetta, Ga.—While the loss of the World Trade Center's twin towers on Sept. 11, 2001, left an unimaginable hole in the American landscape and psyche, the terrorist assaults changed more than just the lower Manhattan skyline. The unprecedented attacks in New York, Washington and rural Pennsylvania also forever changed the face of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Out of chaos came advancements that few disaster response pioneers could have dreamed. Since 9/11, tens of thousands of Southern Baptists became trained disaster relief volunteers; relationships were forged and deepened with faith-based groups, law enforcement and government entities; and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief gained recognition and influence.

That influence grew from the respect victims and other responders gave SBDR volunteers, who have used those opportunities to present the gospel and see thousands come to faith in Christ. The SBDR logo, now widely recognized, opened doors for a historic response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005—and it continues to remove barriers.

As leader of the disaster relief team
 □ See 9/11 transformed ... Page 6

'Jeff. Street' helps connect homeless to 'true life'

By Dannah Prather

Louisville—When most people are asleep, Coshack Robinson is washing and folding towels at Jefferson Street Baptist Center.

He walks around the facility frequently, making sure the doors and windows are secure, and he keeps watch over the men sleeping in the downtown Louisville shelter. Before his shift ends, he will get the day's first pot of coffee started.

"It's a small responsibility, but to me it's huge," Robinson said with a big smile.

Before he began working at the ministry center, Robinson, 52, had not held a steady job in more than two years.

"I had a 'secret' I was hiding," said Robinson, noting that eventually he learned he wasn't hiding anything from God. "I was using drugs. I was professing to be a Christian, but I was stealing from my roommates to buy drugs."

His journey from thief to the third shift led him to the place known simply as "Jeff. Street."

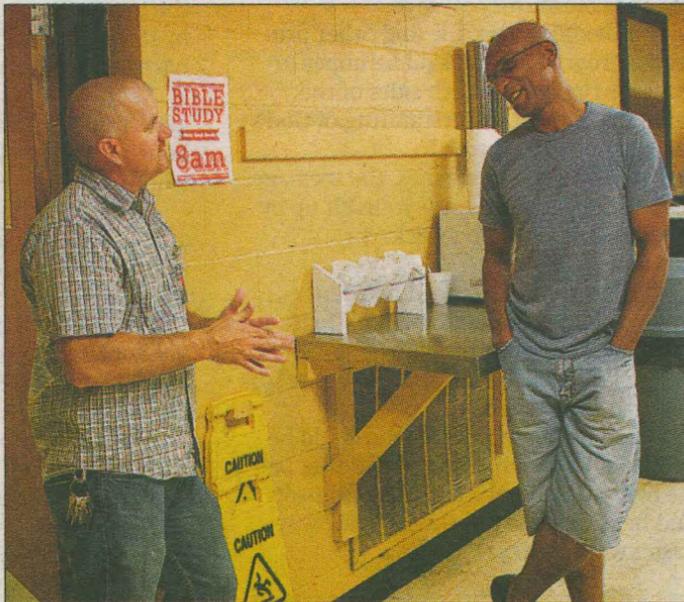
Today, when someone asks Robinson how he is doing, he actually thinks about the question before answering.

"In Christ, I am doing beautifully," he responds with a smile.

In June, Robinson and six other men graduated from Advance Louisville, a 12-week program at the Jefferson Street Baptist Center created to help people facing homelessness and other challenges.

In Advance Louisville, teachers and mentors discuss how to

□ See Jefferson Street ... Page 2



ADVANCED LIFE Coshack Robinson (right) chats with Keith Parker, director of Advance Louisville, at Jefferson Street Baptist Center in downtown Louisville. After graduating from Advance, Robinson was hired at the center as a third-shift worker. Both men are members of Immanuel Baptist Church in Louisville, a strong supporter of the Jefferson Street ministry. (Photo by Dannah Prather)



KBC executive director challenges Louisville-area Baptists to become 'Changers.' Page 3.



Kentucky Baptists part of widespread clean-up efforts following massive flooding along East Coast. Page 7.

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Western Recorder 9-13-2011

Richey, retired pastor, DOM celebrates 70 years in ministry

By Robin Bass

Madisonville—There aren't too many pastors who have been in the ministry for three decades shy of a century—but Hughlan Richey has.

The Madisonville resident celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination last month, a ministry career that began shortly before World War II and extended through churches across much of western Kentucky.

Richey, 92, officially retired as director of missions of Little Bethel Baptist Association when he was 86, but

continued his ministry by serving as interim DOM for two other associations, teaching a men's Bible study class and supply preaching.

Richey was pastor at Adairville Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Earlington. He also served churches in Caldwell, Calloway, Muhlenberg and Logan counties. For a brief time, Richey ventured across the state line and was pastor of a church in Evansville, Ind.

"I haven't had large churches, but I've had an enjoyable ministry," Richey said. "I'm thankful for that."

As leader of small-church staffs,

Richey said he has played many roles. At times he filled in as part-time music director, other times as the janitor. "You go there before anyone else and you turn the lights on and then you stay until everyone leaves and you turn the lights off," Richey recalled.

Thurmon Harris, a friend of Richey's and a retired Madisonville pastor, described Richey as an outstanding man of God.

"He is an encourager with a positive attitude; ... (a) loyal and faithful supporter of his church. I admire and appreciate Bro. Hughlan Richey. He is one of

the great men I know," Harris said.

When he first felt called to the ministry in 1940, Richey said he waited a year before being ordained. "I didn't want to make a mistake," he recalled.

His advice to young pastors today is to be sure of God's calling, then do everything to prepare by getting the proper training and education.

"It's difficult now," Richey said, "but if they are called, they need to stick with it. I've been blessed and I feel good that I've been able to help young people going into the ministry become pastors and missionaries." (WR)

Jefferson Street

Continued from page 1

write a resume and give a good job interview, but those skills are byproducts of the program's true focus: the transforming power of Christ.

"True social justice (needs) to start with a biblical understanding of creation, fall and redemption," noted John Ferguson, Jeff. Street's director.

A gospel-centered approach "makes sense and gives hope," he added.

It also works, according to Robinson.

"I really have a life now," he said, "an honest life, a true life."

Keith Parker is the director of Advance Louisville. "Our focus is not so much on skills, but on helping them become men of integrity—someone an employer would want to hire," he said.

Most students "are coming in here with some kind of (spiritual) belief," Parker explained, but many lack a true understanding of the gospel.

The doctrine class "sometimes means stripping away what their preconceived ideas of Scripture are," he added.

Through classes, counseling and the support of his home congregation, Louisville's Immanuel Baptist Church, Robinson said, "I learned true, honest repentance in Christ." The process made him realize, "I had a lot of reconciling to do."

Such surrender, although difficult, is necessary for the kind of dramatic transformation the students seek, Ferguson said.

"The joke among the staff is that the (center's) catch phrase could be, 'Come to Jefferson Street and give up,'" he said.

Robinson said he needed to "give up" more than just illegal drugs. He began using in 1997 after his 19-year-old son was shot and killed in a downtown Louisville neighborhood.

Whenever he thought of his son, the emotional pain drove Robinson to use the drugs.

He said the "concern, care and love" of the leaders and volunteers at the center

helped him grieve for his boy and let go of the past.

The ministry teaches people to "give those troubles to God," Robinson explained.

Regular church attendance is a requirement for Advance Louisville students and, Parker said, it is one of the most important factors to continued spiritual health.

"That's our follow-up plan," he noted, "ongoing discipleship."

In addition to making progress in employment and permanent housing, most of the Advance grads "seem to be getting plugged into a local congregation," said Parker, who also attends Immanuel Baptist Church.

Having church groups serve at the center is important, but just as vital are churches willing to welcome the men and women served at Jeff. Street into their congregations, Parker explained.

"Most of the guys that were part of churches (before) found themselves on the outside looking in," he said.

Connecting students with fellow believers in small-group settings such as Sunday School and Bible study groups is paramount for Jefferson Street staff.

Ferguson said the center "serves as a bridge" between the community in need and the community at large.

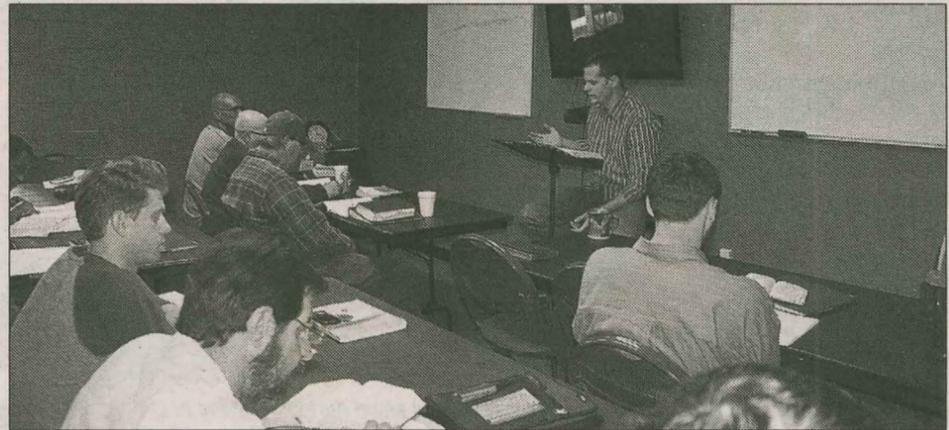
As Advance Louisville and other programs grow, Ferguson said he hopes to teach Christians on both sides of the bridge "a biblical understanding of God's role in the local church."

For established churches, the message is: "Telling people to 'pull yourself up by the bootstraps' doesn't work," he explained.

And for those who need help, an equally clear message: "Turn to Christ, and Christ's people, for help."

The latter is a lesson Robinson is ready to share with others.

When he meets people who could be helped at Jefferson Street—including people he used to do drugs with—Robinson said he is eager to tell them: "Your way hasn't worked. Try God's way." (KBC)



CLASS IN SESSION Ben Birkholz, director of operations and volunteer coordinator for Jefferson Street Baptist Center in Louisville, leads a class in the ministry's Advance Louisville initiative. The 12-week, job-and-life skills program is centered around helping homeless men develop or renew a relationship with Christ and to become active in a local church. (Photo by Dannah Prather/KBC)

Transformation of Jefferson Street continues

By Dannah Prather

Louisville—Just as the men and women served by the Jefferson Street Baptist Center are seeking transformation, the ministry itself continues to undergo change according to Director John Ferguson.

The ministry traces its roots back to the Union Gospel Mission established in 1888. With such longevity, changes have been inevitable.

At one time, the center received government funds to provide food and housing to homeless men, many of whom had severe mental illnesses.

The government funds meant staff and volunteers were unable to develop a treatment program based on Scripture.

The restrictions and the profound needs of the clientele changed the culture at Jefferson Street into primarily a relief organization, Ferguson said. The center seemed to be struggling with how to help men find employment and independence.

"No one was working," he said. "There was no desire to pursue work. People primarily were going for ... some kind of disability check."

In 2009, when leaders and supporters made a commitment to develop new biblically based programming, they knew a big financial sacrifice would be necessary.

In 2010 "we watched \$90,000 in government funding go out the door because of our new, gospel-centered mission," Ferguson said.

While still providing direct relief to about 200 men and women daily,

Jefferson Street began implementing Bible-centered programs to help people deal with addictions and conflict, while also offering assistance in developing life and job skills.

In addition to classes and counseling, a community Bible study is held Monday through Thursday for anyone who wishes to attend. To receive some services, clients are required to attend a local church regularly.

The staff and board's step of faith has been rewarded, Ferguson said, but support from individuals and congregations is vital to sustain the ministry and its gospel focus.

As a North American Mission Board missionary, part of Ferguson's salary is made possible by gifts through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention and Long Run Baptist Association also provide support, according to Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department.

Jefferson Street "depends on the donations of individuals and organizations to completely fund the ministry," Allen said. "The director is only one small part of the total budget."

Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, said Jefferson Street often receives grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

Allen also noted that the ministry receives support from Southern Baptists' World Hunger Fund to help provide meals to the 200 people who visit the center daily. (KBC)

Deacon ministry workshop set for next month

Williamsburg—The Kentucky Baptist Convention will host a Successful Strategies for Deacon Ministry workshop Oct. 3-4 in Williamsburg and Elizabethtown.

The one-evening training events for pastors and deacons will feature Bob Sheffield, who served for 14 years as Life-Way Christian Resources' national consultant in deacon ministry.

The Oct. 3 event is at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg. The Oct. 4 workshop is at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The workshops are \$10 per person with a maximum charge of \$50 per church. Check-in begins at 6 p.m. Online registration is available at www.KyBaptist.org/DeaconTraining. (KBC)

KBC exec challenges area Baptists to be 'Changers'

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood is asking Baptists in and around Louisville to join him in renovating houses for people in need, Sept. 28-Oct. 1.

Registration is underway for the fall Kentucky Changers project. With school back in session, this particular project is geared toward adults.

"This past summer our young people did a tremendous work in Bullitt County, Paducah and Maysville," Chitwood said. "Now is an opportunity for adults to get into the act."

KBC Mission Board staff are joining in the effort too, he said.

According to Peggy Murphy, Kentucky Changers' leaders hope to repair and renovate a total of four houses.

Modeled after the Southern Baptist youth missions endeavor World Changers, Kentucky Changers organized 18 years ago. Last year, approximately 90

projects were completed by 1,050 volunteers from 51 churches across Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and Virginia. Most of the work occurred during the summer and was completed by students.

"All that is needed is a willingness to serve," Murphy said. "No matter how skilled or unskilled you are, there will be jobs for you."

The KBC's Baptist Men on Mission department is working with the Fuller Center for Housing on the project, a non-profit organization that "exists to renovate substandard housing to support home ownership and eliminate homelessness," Murphy noted.

With so many Kentucky Baptists in the metro Louisville area, Murphy said she hopes prospective volunteers who might be unable to serve the entire project will consider contributing a single day to help.

"If several people can help even for

one or two days, it's possible we could meet our goal of repairing all four houses," she said.

The \$75 per person registration fee includes lodging for out-of-town volunteers, meals and a T-shirt. The fee for a single day is \$25 per person. Online registration is underway at www.KyBaptist.org/KyChangers.

Chitwood said the Changers project is a perfect example of how Kentucky Baptists can act on the challenge to be and do "more for Christ."

Last November, messengers to the KBC annual meeting voted to launch the three-year "More for Christ" initiative in 2011 as a way to encourage Kentucky Baptists to deepen their spiritual commitment to Jesus through increased prayer, service and giving for the gospel.

"Kentucky Baptists are always ready to accept a challenge," Chitwood said, "and we have been challenged." (KBC)

BCNE head: State of Vermont in 'desperate need' of mud-out help

Montpelier, Vt.—As Southern Baptists ramp up recovery efforts in flood-stricken Vermont, an avalanche of requests for assistance is overwhelming available resources.

"We're in desperate need of some mud-out teams," said Bruce James, evangelism and men's ministry director of the Baptist Convention of New England.

According to Jim Wideman, BCNE executive director: "There have been 600 requests for mud-out (work), and I don't know that we're going to be able to fulfill all of those. We just don't have the personnel."

More than 100 mud-out requests already have been assessed and approved for work, said James, who serves as the convention's disaster relief director.



THE NEED IS GREAT Flood damage in Wilmington, Vt., paralleling the challenge throughout the state, underscores the need for mud-out volunteers being voiced by Baptist Convention of New England leaders.

Mud-out teams from South Carolina and California are on the ground, but James estimated they only can do about 25 jobs total. He said the need for relief work in other states is stretching South-

ern Baptist Disaster Relief resources.

"We're spread thin right now, ... and we thank God for the help that's coming, but that's a lot of the reason" there aren't more teams coming, he said. (BP)

'State of the Church'

Barna survey reveals faith trends in decline in last 20 years

Ventura, Calif.—General faith trends over the past two decades in the United States are largely negative, according to a recent study from the Barna Group.

The Christian research organization has released the first six parts of its annual "State of the Church" tracking study, which looks at changes in 14 religious attributes since 1991. Part one examines general faith trends among Americans, with a summary on the Barna Group's website showing most traditional measures of religiosity decreasing.

Among them:

- Adult church attendance has declined 9 percentage points, from 49 percent in 1991 to 40 percent today.

- About 15 percent of adults attend Sunday School, a drop of 8 percentage points over the past two decades.

- Bible reading outside of church during a typical week declined 5 percentage points to 40 percent.

- Only 22 percent of adults volunteer at their churches during a typical week, down 8 percentage points from 1991.

- The percentage of adults categorized as unchurched (those who have not attended a religious event at a church besides such ceremonies as weddings and funerals in the past six months) has risen from 24 percent in 1991 to 37 percent today, representing more than a third of the U.S. population.

- The percentage of people who believe that God is "the all-knowing, all-powerful and perfect Creator of the universe who still rules the world today" fell five points, putting the total at 77 percent of Americans.

- Only 43 percent of Americans believe "the Bible is totally accurate in all of the principles it teaches," a decline of 10 percentage points from 1991.

The report did indicate at least one upswing among evangelicals: More adults today can be classified as born-again Christians (those who believe they will "experience eternal salvation based on their commitment to Jesus Christ, personal confession of sins, and acceptance of Christ as their savior") than in 1991, an increase of seven percentage points to 48 percent.

"Overall, the picture is not pretty though it falls somewhat short of disaster," Barna noted on his blog. "If existing tendencies continue, then we will likely see an increase in the numbers of people who do not accept a conventional definition of God's character and those who reject the accuracy of the principles taught in the Scriptures." (BP)



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Practical ways to do 'More for Christ'

Acts 1:8 commands us to be witnesses for Jesus "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We interpret Jesus' admonition as a command to evangelize our town/city, state and nation, and world. If you are looking for practical ways to do "More for Christ," let me share with you two great opportunities.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

The first opportunity is an upcoming adult mission project in Louisville organized by Kentucky Changers. The project entails renovating homes in underserved neighborhoods. I have invited our Kentucky Baptist Convention staffers, churches of Long Run Baptist Association and members of the Southern Seminary community to join us, but there is still room for you no matter what part of Kentucky you call home. Dates for the project are Sept 28-Oct. 2. The primary work days are Sept. 29, 30 and Oct. 1. You are welcome to be involved even if you only have one of those days free. Get more information or register at www.kybaptist.org/kychangers.

The second opportunity is a ministry seeking to embody both servanthood and a faithful witness. That ministry is Jefferson Street Baptist Center, a ministry of Southern Baptists, extending gospel-centered mercy to the homeless and hurting of the greater Louisville area. Officials estimate that each year roughly 9,000 people in the Louisville area find themselves homeless.

Jefferson Street Baptist Center ministers to the homeless population in a number of ways. They provide food, housing, free daily storage of personal items, mail service, a counseling and addiction recovery program, career training and job placement assistance. While many would classify such efforts as "social ministry," Jefferson Street is unapologetically evangelical, presenting the gospel as the ultimate hope for everyone they serve.

Jefferson Street accepts no government funding so they are able to remain unhindered in their primary mission: to share the gospel of Christ. John Ferguson, who serves as executive director of Jefferson Street, is a jointly funded KBC/North American Mission Board missionary. The various ministries provided under his leadership are funded through Southern Baptist Convention Hunger Relief funds, as well as donations from the Long Run Baptist Association, Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, local churches and concerned individuals.

How can you be on mission with Jefferson Street? They gladly accept the assistance of individuals and mission teams from churches ready to serve food, paint and renovate, or simply engage the guests and residents in conversation and invite them to church. You can also attend their Mercy Banquet on Sept. 23 to learn more about the ministry and ways to support it. Information on the Mercy Banquet can be found at www.jeffersonstreet.org.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

EBO challenge: Start a chain reaction!

As a kid, one of my favorite board games was Mousetrap, in which players assemble an ingenious mousetrap as the game progresses. The object is to catch the other player's piece, a mouse, under a cage. To spring the trap, a player turns a crank that starts a clever chain reaction: a stop sign hits a boot that kicks a bucket, which causes a marble to roll down a staircase and into a rain gutter, where it strikes a trigger that sends a man diving off a platform into a tub below, shaking a pole and causing the cage to drop on the other player's mouse.

Through the Eliza Broadus Week of Prayer emphasis—being observed by many Kentucky Baptist churches this week—Woman's Missionary Union leaders hope to start chain reactions in missions that will transform our state, nation and world by capturing countless hearts for the kingdom of God. This year's State Missions Emphasis prompts some serious soul-searching: "What chain reaction does God want to start through you?"

The chain reaction theme is based on the biblical account of the Samaritan woman in John 4, where a seemingly ordinary event of going to a well to draw water initiates a life-changing encounter with Jesus that sets off a chain reaction that sweeps through her village: "Now many Samaritans from that town believed in Him because of what the woman said."

In the game, a whole chain of events is started with the simple turn of the crank. In John 4, many townspeople come to know Christ because of one woman's trip to a well. In missions, a movement of God begins with one person's simple obedience in meeting a missions need. That's the stirring message conveyed by the Chain Reaction DVD in this year's EBO packet:

■ Anna Moore and Nelle Thomas set off a chain reaction when they began bringing children from a low-income neighborhood to Vacation Bible School at New Hope Community Church in Elizabethtown. Seeing the hungry kids led them to launch Kids Café, which now serves 200 meals every week.

■ Donna Clark at First Baptist Church of Mount Washington and Aaron Shipp, pastor of First Baptist Church of New Haven, have discovered the chain reaction that attractional events such as car care days, car shows and block parties can have in sharing the gospel.

■ Annette Story started a chain reaction when she saw Hispanic workers walking to a country store and felt compelled to reach them. She enlisted her Women on Mission group at Pleasant View Baptist Church in

Waynesburg to host a Thanksgiving dinner. Through that dinner and subsequent efforts arose the South Central Region Hispanic Ministry, which now serves a nine-county area.

■ Terry Stamps became part of a chain reaction happening in the children's ministry of Victory Baptist Church in Shepherdville. Through a monthly after-school program that engages children in a variety of community mission projects, church leaders have seen two Mission Friends, four Children in Action and two Youth on Missions groups started.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



In addition to a focus on prayer, the 2011 Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions has set a goal of \$1.25 million. Included in that total is \$845,000 for Kentucky Baptist Convention missions work to support church planting, ministries to various language and ethnic groups, literacy ministry, collegiate student ministries, Find it Here evangelism efforts and disaster relief training. The offering goal also includes \$275,000 for Kentucky WMU's missions education, leadership training and camps, and \$135,000 for special ministries by Kentucky Baptist associations.

Learning about, praying for, giving to and being involved in state missions is essential in starting chain reactions that reach untold numbers of unchurched individuals and families with the gospel. So, take a moment to ponder: When it comes to making a spiritual impact in our homes, church, communities and state, what chain reaction can God start through you?

Did you notice anything different?

In this issue and the last one, we've made a few changes to give the Western Recorder a fresh, bold look.

During the past months, our design team has painstakingly considered enhancements to approximately two dozen elements to make your newspaper more appealing and readable. Though most were subtle, you probably took note of a few: a new format for the front page, ragged (rather than justified) type, a new folio, a slight increase in text size, larger photos, stronger headlines and greater use of color. We tweaked our masthead to give a cleaner first impression, and we added QR (Quick Response) codes for smartphones to make it easier to subscribe and advertise.

Why all the fuss? Because we believe you deserve the best state Baptist newspaper possible! And, we want to keep on improving it. We believe a weekly news publication is vital to telling the story of our state convention and its churches, encouraging all Kentucky Baptists to "shine like stars."

'Makes me sick'

I just read the article regarding Daviess-McLean Association and its decision to remove a church from its fold. I always find it amazing at how we select certain "sins" to concentrate on and totally overlook others, or treat those others with tolerance.

When has any association thrown a church out for not giving to the poor, exercising gluttony, or having members

who have addictions to drugs? What if churches could be removed for "lusting in our hearts?" We would all be in serious trouble.



When I think that those folks who were meeting in a church to support and care for one another are once again denied acceptance, it honestly makes me sick. Jesus' message is so far beyond this narrow-

mindedness and yet we still don't get it. To those of you who stood up for this church and these people who met there,

thank you. To the rest of you, when you look in the mirror next time ask yourselves, "Since when did you deserve the open arms of God?"

Linda Waller
Shepherdsville

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

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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 or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

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

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Opening my heart to befriend our 'enemies'

By Cade Rutledge

When I first heard about the death of Osama bin Laden from people at the mosque in my neighborhood, I was in shock. Little did I know we were both living in the same country: Pakistan.

When I turned to the Internet for more information, I noticed a Facebook friend in America had updated his status: "Never forget 9/11."

Rest assured, I haven't.

I vividly remember that Tuesday morning like it was yesterday. On a rooftop in New York, I bore witness to my generation's Pearl Harbor. For 101 minutes the towers burned until they were no more.

My older brother was working on the 82nd floor when Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower. He survived and joined thousands of ash-covered New Yorkers in a mass exodus across the Brooklyn Bridge. On the other side of the bridge, thousands anxiously awaited. Some carried photos of loved ones; others offered rides to the victims.

At my family's home in New York, we gathered to watch and wait. The streets had been eerily quiet as I walked home. Phone lines were jammed. Only one TV station worked. Travel into Manhattan was banned. All we could do was wait.

In the days that followed bin Laden's death in Pakistan, all anyone could do was wait to see what would be the end result of this major

event. Public transportation was silent as people avoided the subject everyone else in the world wanted to talk about.

In the university classes I was teaching overseas, that silence didn't last long. My students have always been open to discussing issues of faith, ethics and worldview. They'll express opinions about Islam that would surprise anyone. They want freedoms of expression and religion. They want choice.

When I asked in class whether Islam is compatible with globalization, they answered reluctantly because they didn't want to be perceived as bad Muslims. This thinking prohibits people from pursuing freedom, love and peace. But peace comes only from Jesus.

I know this struggle for peace from personal experience. After my family was attacked on 9/11, we waved flags, posted pictures of the New York skyline and chanted U-S-A at baseball games. We wanted to "get those terrorists" and show our solidarity as Americans.

All of that changed for me in September 2003 when I met Jesus.

God replaced my "American" identity with one grounded in His Son. I no longer placed my security in my passport but in His Word.

I used to ask myself, "How can we possibly love the lost—the Muslim terrorists—who attacked my city?" Our answer should always be "Yes, we can" because our Jesus-

centered faith demands it.

To this day I'm convinced it was the Spirit who laid Pakistan on my heart. This country and people that had never crossed my mind became an inescapable thought.

The early church felt the same way about Saul as we do about terrorists and how I felt about those who attacked us on 9/11. But look at what Paul left behind in Jesus' name. I believe it can happen again because God can transform even the hardest of hearts. He did mine.

God opened my heart to become friends with someone whom I previously thought was my enemy. He looks like any other Pakistani, but this man fought for his country and killed Americans as a member of a terrorist group. That is, until he found a Bible and read, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." That's a truly radical thought, especially for someone taught to "kill your enemies and fight back."

My friend now disciples a group of men with similar backgrounds, all of whom he led to Christ. Recently he was beaten nearly to death for sharing the gospel, but it hasn't deterred him.

I believe individuals such as my friend can change the world like Paul did. This change will come from a place we least expect and from a people we can't imagine being anything but our enemy. (BP)

Cade Rutledge can be contacted at commission stories@imb.org.

FIRST PERSON

Dumb retirement plan mistakes

By Don Spencer

401(k) plans, 403(b) plans and IRAs are valuable tools for retirement planning. Too often people make dumb mistakes in how they use their plans:



Missing the match—Many companies provide a percentage of pay in matching retirement contributions. Many employees don't take advantage of this "free money."

Betting on the company—If your company issues company stock for your retirement, be careful. No company is immune to problems. If your company collapses so does the value of your retirement.

Freezing contributions—As pay increases be sure to increase personal retirement contributions. Otherwise, inflation erodes your contribution's value.

Cashing out—If you leave a company, don't withdraw your 401(k) money. If necessary roll it to another 401(k) or an IRA. If you take the cash you're robbing from your retirement and having to pay tax.

Misusing target-date funds—Target date funds can be an excellent way to invest 401(k) money. People often mix funds in several target date funds. This can defeat the whole purpose of using these funds.

Taking too much risk—This often happens as people get older. As you get older, your allocation should generally change to a less volatile investment.

Ducking out—In market declines many people move their money out of more aggressive investments. They often miss out when the market moves back up, as it has always eventually done.

Treating your 401(k) like an island—Don't make decisions in isolation. Your 401(k) holdings should fit properly with your savings and investments.

Borrowing from your future—Avoid borrowing from your retirement plan. While an attractive option, numerous potential problems exist.

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

What should you make a child do?

By David Garrard

Psalm 23:2 reads, "He makes me lie down in green pastures." I have read this chapter and this verse so many times that I was almost startled when this parenting insight came to me last month. But then again, God's word is like that—it has power to speak to us in fresh ways, even through familiar passages.

The shepherd makes the sheep do certain things—things the sheep may or may not want to do. The shepherd does this because he loves the sheep and wants good things for them.

My children are grown now, but when they were young, we made them do certain things. We made them brush their teeth. We made them do their homework. We made them take baths. We made them go to bed. We made them say please and thank you.

We also made them go to church. We made them attend Wednesday night activities, including choir. We made them do Children's Bible Drill (there were a few rough Sunday afternoons). We made them sit in worship (no sleeping or reading).

We didn't do any of this to be mean. We did it because we loved them and believed these experiences would make them stronger physically, mentally and spiritually.

In David Elkind fashion, my wife and I never considered the parent/child relationship a relationship of equals or a popularity contest. Like the shepherd who made his sheep lie down in the green pastures, we called the shots on some important things. Our children did not have a voice.

What about you? Are you willing to make your children do some things they may not want to do in order to help them grow spiritually?

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



Redeeming 9/11: Turning horror into hope

By Jim Denison

For some, 9/11 proves that the God of Scripture is a myth. Sam Harris, the atheist and bestselling author, claims that the existence of a single suffering child anywhere in the universe calls into question the existence of an all-knowing, all-loving, all-powerful God. How much more the murder of 2,977 innocent civilians—more than died at Pearl Harbor or D-Day. Where was God while 19 jihadists committed the worst act of terrorism in our nation's history?

God created humans with free will so we could choose to love Him, others and ourselves. When we misuse this gift, the consequences are not His fault but ours.

Our Father did not cause 9/11. The God who is love (1 John 4:8) forbids murder (Exodus 20:13). However, if He removed the consequences of our freedom, He would remove our freedom. He could have prevented 9/11, but fairness would require Him to prevent the results of all other misused freedom.

Instead, our Father grieves with His suffering children. The One who wept beside the grave of His friend (John 11:35) weeps beside every grave because of terrorism.

The King of the universe knows what it is like to lose a Son and feels the pain of every family that is

grieving today.

Elie Wiesel's books tell the story of the Holocaust through the prism of his personal suffering. No passage is more horrific than this account of a small boy hanged by the Nazis:

"For more than half an hour he stayed there, struggling between life and death, dying in slow agony under our eyes. And we had to look him full in the face. He was still alive when I passed in front of him. His tongue was still red, his eyes were not yet glazed. Behind me, I heard [a] man asking: 'Where is God now?' And I heard a voice within me answer him: 'Where is He? Here He is—He is hanging here on this gallows.'"

God shares our pain, but He also redeems all He allows. He redeemed Pharaoh's hardened heart by freeing His people from Egyptian slavery. He redeemed Judas' betrayal by His Son's atoning sacrifice. He redeemed John's exile on Patmos by giving us the Revelation.

In the same way, God is redeeming the tragedy of 9/11. Millions turned to God in prayer after the attacks. Many came to faith in Christ, while others grew stronger in their commitment. And Christians around the world are praying with greater passion for Muslims to turn to Jesus as their Lord.

God is answering those prayers. More Muslims are becoming Christians than ever before in Islamic history, many after seeing visions and dreams of Jesus. Muslims already hold a high view of Jesus: the Qur'an teaches that He was born of a virgin, worked miracles, ascended to heaven and will return at the end of history. Now Jesus is revealing Himself to Muslims, and many are turning to Him for salvation.

I met one such convert a few months ago in Bangladesh. Shortly after her father died, he appeared to her in a dream. He instructed her to go to a particular house in their village, where a man had a message she needed to hear. He showed her the face of this person, an American she had never met.

The next morning she followed the directions she had been given and was shocked to find the very man she had seen in her dream. She introduced herself to him; he shared the gospel, and she and her family became Christians.

Join me in praying each day for the Father to continue revealing himself to the Muslim world. Ask the Lord to give you opportunity and boldness to share His love with Muslims in your community. Let's join his Spirit in redeeming 9/11, turning horror into hope today. (ABP)

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

FIRST PERSON

9/11 transformed SBC disaster relief

Continued from page 1

for the North American Mission Board, Mickey Caison often is at the center of disaster response and the development of the ministry.

Like many Americans that morning, Caison was in his office working on something that quickly became less important. "It is difficult to believe that it has been 10 years. The memories still flood in," he said.

Months earlier, Caison had participated in discussions with the New York City Office of Emergency Management in a meeting held in one of the other World Trade Center buildings.

"I knew people in the building. They were in my prayers," Caison recalled. "I went in disaster response mode, making phone calls—all the while knowing that SBDR must be there."

One of Caison's first calls was to a state DR director who was all too familiar with the New York scenario, Sam Porter of Oklahoma. It had been six years since the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

"I was driving to work when the second plane hit," Porter said. "About an hour later my phone rang. 'Porter, what are you doing the next few days?' I said, 'Mickey, you don't need Okies in New York.' He said, 'You're right. We already have Tennessee and Kentucky preparing to roll. But no one knows as much about terrorism as Oklahoma.'

"Those words rang in my ears for the next 12 months," Porter said, "and literally impacted our DR ministry from that day on."

Integration of chaplaincy

While Caison and Porter were driving to New York with their respective teams, South Carolina disaster relief coordinator Cliff Satterwhite was on his way to the city to lead efforts by volunteer lay chaplains, all of whom were trained through the National Organization for Victims Assistance.

The ministry those and other chaplains provided in the 9/11 aftermath merged chaplaincy and disaster relief efforts. "My experience as a pastor living

through Hurricane Hugo made an impact," Caison said. "I wanted to see a system developed to help pastors as they walk through disaster."

Whether it was assisting firefighters and other responders who faced the daily burden of recovery efforts, or cleaning New Yorkers' apartments, Southern Baptists enhanced their crisis ministry.

"The biggest changes in (disaster relief) are in relationships and credibility," Caison said. "Our relationships are stronger and more purposeful. Our credibility with partners grew through what Southern Baptists were able to accomplish" after 9/11.

A cooperative agreement between the Salvation Army and NAMB in 2002 followed the pattern of similar agreements with the American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency and other response organizations.

"We are seen as strong leaders in the response community," Caison explained. "We probably mobilize more trained and credentialed volunteers than anyone else. ... Southern Baptists have a passion to live out their relationship with Christ and they choose to demonstrate it."

Millions of meals

Another area of change since 9/11 is training. In 2001 there were 24,874 trained SBDR volunteers. Today there are more than 82,000. The first year Southern Baptists provided more than 2 million meals in disaster response was 2001. In 2004, that number was 3.5 million. In 2005, the year of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, Southern Baptist volunteers prepared more than 17 million meals.

Meanwhile, the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief fleet—units equipped by churches, associations and state conventions for mass feeding and a range of disaster relief services—has grown from 335 in 2001 to 1,552 in 2011.

Hurricane Katrina and 2005 are the benchmarks for Southern Baptist disaster response, but it was 9/11 that set the stage to make those responses possible. Some services now expected from Southern Baptist disaster response did not exist prior to 9/11.



CHAPLAIN AT WORK South Carolina disaster relief coordinator Cliff Satterwhite encourages and ministers to two men at New York City's Union Square, a site for victim memorials after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Satterwhite coordinated the efforts of volunteer chaplains during the 9/11 disaster relief response. (Photo by Gibbs Frazier)

"A unique ministry came out of the response to New York," said Gaylon Moss, disaster relief coordinator for North Carolina Baptists. "One of our on-site coordinators ... contacted (North Carolina Baptist Men director) Richard Brunson regarding the need to wash clothes for the Red Cross volunteers. ... This was the beginning of the organized laundry ministry for Southern Baptists."

There now are 21 laundry units in the Southern Baptist disaster response fleet.

Florida Baptists' disaster relief director Fritz Wilson said he saw the importance of partnerships in critical ways at Ground Zero. Again, those relationships

would pay dividends in the future. The development of the Salvation Army partnership during the 9/11 response strengthened the Southern Baptist connection with the Red Cross, already strong in Florida after hurricanes Hugo and Andrew.

"Last year, that growth positioned (SBDR) to respond en masse to the Haiti earthquake," Wilson said. "We utilized all of the lessons learned from 9/11 on down. ... I believe the Lord has blessed this ministry since 9/11 because the focus is not only on meeting the needs of the moment, but always giving the glory and credit to the Father." (NAMB/BP)



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The flooding continues

Downpours from Tropical Storm Lee heighten crisis already left behind by Hurricane Irene

By Diana Chandler

Harrisburg, Pa.—Remnants of Tropical Storm Lee are dealing a setback to residents in Pennsylvania, upstate New York and New Jersey still suffering from the effects of Hurricane Irene, with organizations such as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief scrambling to meet the escalating needs in the region.

Historic, or near-historic, flooding from the Susquehanna River is increasing the need for disaster relief in northeast Pennsylvania and central New York state where residents have been forced to evacuate.

"The rains have not stopped now and the rivers are still rising," Karlene Campbell, disaster relief director for the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, told Baptist Press Sept. 8. "Right now, we're just in the middle of the flood. It's really affecting a lot of communities along the way."

The Susquehanna, expected to crest as high as 41 feet, prompted the evacuation of some 100,000 residents in the Wyoming Valley, Pa., area, and the evacuation of more than 10,000 in and around Binghamton, N.Y., where both the Susquehanna and the Chenango rivers have flooded.

The Baptist Convention of New York is mounting efforts to meet the Red Cross' request for an additional 16,000 meals a day from the feeding unit stationed at Trinity Baptist Church in the Schenectady, N.Y., area, said Terry Robertson,

BCNY executive director. The unit from the Kentucky Baptist Convention had been preparing 5,000-6,000 meals a day.

That unit began preparing 16,000 meals for deliveries to Binghamton, said Karen Smith, of Shepherdsville, the coordinator of the Kentucky Baptist-led feeding unit.

Needs exceeding resources

Meanwhile in New Jersey, where 43,000 homes already were damaged by Irene, another 2-6 inches of rain was expected from Lee. The BCNY has called for at least six more mud-out units. Disaster relief units are hard pressed to meet the growing need across the Northeast, BCNY leaders say.

"We are quite concerned that so many states are having so many disaster needs at this time. We're not optimistic that we're going to get those (mud-out) units," Robertson said. "I think at this point it's pretty clear we've got our hands full."

Floodwaters that had not fully receded from Irene now are rising again because of Lee, Robertson noted.

The Red Cross also has increased its earlier request of 2,000 meals a day from the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief feeding unit in Washingtonville, N.Y., where the need had not been as great before Tropical Storm Lee.

Southern Baptist disaster relief teams currently are deployed in 11 states along the Eastern Seaboard responding to needs created by Hurricane Irene and, now, Tropical Storm Lee. (BP)



GIVING INSTRUCTIONS Kentucky Baptist Convention disaster relief volunteer Karen Smith (center, blue hat), a member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, gives instructions to Red Cross workers who assisted the feeding unit in Schenectady, N.Y., following Hurricane Irene. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

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Structure and discipline

At Oneida, students learn, know boundaries & not to exceed them

Students come to Oneida for many reasons. Though the most common need is academic improvement, there are many other reasons, too.

When we do the phone interview with the parent/guardian, we ask a lot of questions about the student being considered for enrollment. The more we understand the needs of each student, the better prepared we are to know if we are the right learning and living choice for him or her.

During the phone interview, it's not uncommon for the parent to tell us what they believe to be the needs of the prospective student. Based on those comments, we often realize the student has needs we cannot meet. It would be wonderful if we could, but no institution can realistically meet the needs of every person.

A general practitioner often refers his patients to a "specialist" because the patient has a medical need the family doctor does not believe he can treat appropriately. In my mind, there is nothing wrong when a school has to acknowledge that someone with more expertise in a particular area can better meet the needs of certain students.

Many of the students who come to Oneida also are in need of structure and discipline. Often that's the result of the absence of a father in the home and a single-parent mom having to fill the dual role of mother and father. Mothers often express their desires for their children to have more structure and discipline. In laymen's terms, that means they want someone to make the child mind and follow the rules.

I believe most of the students who have graduated from Oneida would

admit that OBI provided the structure and discipline they needed to get their lives on track and help them understand the importance of accountability. I don't think you will find anyone on my staff who will say that providing structure and discipline is a simple task.

I often think of my childhood when I worked on a horse farm. Occasionally we would get a dozen or so horses—often from Louisiana—that had run wild all their lives. They had never even been touched by a human before, let alone had a halter, bridle, saddle blanket or saddle on them. A horse that never has been tethered will resist all attempts to tame him with all the energy he can muster.

I'm not suggesting we get students who are that out of control. But we do get students who have had very few boundaries in their lives. And to be honest, the boundaries they have had have not been respected or enforced.

Most children know how far they have to push—especially how far they must push single-parent moms—to reach the breaking point when mom will just give in. One of the things we tell parents during the orientation process is that Oneida deals with this in a very simple but effective way. We try to establish well-defined, non-negotiable boundaries. If everyone knows where the boundaries are and we stand firm by enforcing those boundaries, most of the problems are solved.

Yes, we do extend grace from time to time when a boundary has been pushed to the limit. But I believe most of our students would tell you it's not wise to push the limits very often.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Twice adopted

New Clear Creek student thankful for two adoptions in his young life

Our incoming class of freshman this year includes a larger number of younger students. When I say younger, I mean just out of high school—about 19 years old. While it is not unusual for us to get students right out of high school, we usually do not get a large number of them. I am encouraged to see that these younger male students have expressed a call to be pastors.

Michael Schoenherr, an Indiana native, is one of our younger students this year. Michael has a wonderful story of how he was adopted twice and ended up at Clear Creek.

"I came to know Christ as my Savior four years ago," Michael said. "I was placed with a foster family that was just a wonderful family and a great influence on my life. Not long after I was placed with them, they introduced me to church and to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I am so glad to say that my first adoption was into the family of God."

"About a year ago my foster family legally adopted me into their family,"

he noted. "That was my second adoption. Those first four years I spent with them as their foster child were wonderful years. Now I am proud to say that I am one of 13 children in this wonderful family that I have been adopted into. I now have 12 brothers and sisters."

"I am thankful that God led me to my family and then to my home church," Michael said. "When God called me into the ministry, my pastor in my home church was a Clear Creek alumnus. He encouraged me to check out Clear Creek, so that is how I came to know about the college. Now here I am studying on the pastoral ministry track."

"I have also been participating in two mission trips a year for the last four years while I was at my home church," Michael noted. "I have been to several states helping to conduct Vacation Bible Schools and building churches. I will continue to participate in mission trips while I am a student here."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Pastor's 'shocking discovery' leads to stronger relationship

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—"What does God want? What He wants is you; He wants a relationship, and relationships are built over a lifetime," John Franklin, pastor of Post Oak Baptist Church in Russellville, reminded pastors and other church leaders during a recent Super Saturday event at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

Franklin led a seminar on "Strengthening Vital Relationships," focusing on the leader's relationship with God, family and congregation.

"God's desire is to bring you closer to Him, wherever you find yourself," Franklin reassured the group. "You have to know that He loves you because everything else He wants you to do is predicated on that truth."

"If you cannot recognize when God is physically demonstrating His love to you, there will always be something missing in your Christian experience. You will forever have a sense of dissatisfaction, ... or worse yet, you will be plagued by doubt and fear," Franklin warned.

From personal experience and Scripture, Franklin said he had made a "shocking" discovery.

"God is going to be doing stuff in your life, and many times it is going to be painful and uncomfortable," he stated. "And if it is not solidified on the front end that you know He loves you, you will never be able to be used the way He

wants to use you."

Another discovery was that God is going to be "aggressively taking you somewhere," specifically putting things in one's life to maximize one's potential as a servant. "Too many times we have no sense of (being on a journey), where He is taking me from point A to point B."

Another discovery that surprised Franklin was that God tests us. "Nobody ever told me that God Himself personally

would be putting me in situations that are unpleasant, difficult and hard," he said. "I know we all have tests. I thought life's tests happen. I didn't know God did the testing."

"Now why would He do that if He loves you? Because if I am going to grow spiritually, I'm going to have to be put in situations that are beyond my ability. I'm going to have to get out of my comfort zone, my role and my little box," he said.

Comparing it to how a weight lifter gets stronger by placing some adversity and resistance on a specific muscle, Franklin concluded, "God tests us always before promotion, because the testing is what establishes character."

But the only way a leader will pass the test is by having a prayer life that helps one walk closer with Him. "If you get confused and don't know the ways of God, then when the testing comes and it hurts and it is painful, ... you just might get bitter and miss that God is about to do something in your life," he said. (WR)

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Veteran student minister urges: Keep pace with youth culture

By Robin Bass

Elizabethtown—In some circles they are called “digital natives.” Others refer to them as the “stressed generation.”

Whatever the term used to describe today’s teenagers, experts agree these young people are living in a fast-paced world that is constantly changing, both socially and technologically.

“Do you realize that kids who are graduating and turning 18 this year were born about 1993? And when you say the first George Bush, they look at you and go, ‘There were two?’” said Steve Coleman, minister to youth and families

at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

“I have kids in the sixth grade that are coming into my youth ministry this year that were not born last century. They were born in the year 2000,” he added. “We have this major shift coming our way and if we don’t know the culture, we’re in trouble.”

To emphasize his point during a recent Super Saturday workshop in Elizabethtown, Coleman provided a series of statistics and social trends facing teenagers.

Fact: 60 percent of children born in the 1990s will live without a

father in the home for a portion of their lives. “We have so many single-mom families now. Dad is no longer in the picture,” Coleman noted. “Many times mom is the leader of the household because dad has abdicated that role.”

Fact: More mothers working outside the home.

Fact: The average father (when there is one) spends only two minutes a day in conversation with his teenager.

These trends have influenced how teenagers are forming relationships

and where they are getting information. When looking for advice, Coleman said youth are 55 percent more likely to seek the advice of friends before anyone else.

Even more alarming is that 57 percent of teens say they have looked for advice from someone online they do not personally know. As for parents, teenagers seek the advice of their mothers 44 percent of the time, while dads come in the lowest at 20 percent. Boyfriends and girlfriends rank slightly higher than fathers at 23 percent.

When teenagers go out into the world seeking guidance and information via the Internet, who is there waiting?

“Our media wants their mind, their money and their soul,” Coleman said. Why else would corporations spend \$16 billion annually convincing teens—and anyone else—to believe the individual knows best how to make decisions for himself. By the time a teenager graduates high school, he or she will have seen 36,000 commercials.

To get a true sense of what teenagers are exposed to in the media, Coleman recommended youth workers watch three programs: the Teen Choice Awards, the MTV Movie Awards and Super Bowl commercials to get a year’s worth of youth culture in just a few hours.



Steve Coleman

“Our kids are swimming in this cesspool all the time and it does affect them. What we have to do is find out where they are swimming and what they are being confronted with, and then we can find out how to reach them,” he added.

As for spiritual matters, teenagers are suffering from the MTDs, Coleman said—moralistic therapeutic deism. There are five key elements of this post-modern belief system:

- That God created the world and watches over it.
- God wants people to be good, nice and fair to each other.
- The central goal in life is to be happy and feel good about oneself.
- God is not needed except to resolve a problem.
- Good people go to heaven when they die.

In today’s youth culture, Coleman said there is no absolute truth. Many teens think it is judgmental or intolerant to believe Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, yet describe themselves as Christians.

Coleman’s first recommendation for youth workers and parents is to expand their personal libraries. Among the books he suggested were: “Youth Culture 101” and “Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture,” both by Walt Mueller; “Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers,” by Christian Smith; and “Generation iY,” by Tim Elmore.

Students basically want three things from youth workers, Coleman suggested. Teens want an adult who knows their names, they want somebody who will pray for them, and they want someone who is authentic and practices his or her faith.

Another recommendation is to use the technology that has permeated youth culture. Texting, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook are vital to maintaining social interactions with teenagers.

A simple way to get started is by creating a Facebook page for the youth group. Coleman also suggested using TweetDeck on a cell phone or desktop computer to send mass tweets to youth and parents. Youth event flyers, tracts or bulletins could have QR (Quick Response) codes that direct smartphone users directly to a website. Just be sure to update the website weekly, Coleman cautioned.

Since most students have cellphones with video capabilities, Coleman said youth workers could encourage them to record youth-group events and post the videos to the Facebook page. The next day, send out tweets and texts that will drive interest in the page. Youth likely will show the videos to friends who do not attend church.

“I know you don’t like it, but it’s not about us,” Coleman said, referring to technology and social media. “The reality of youth ministry is it’s one of the greatest times ever because they are open to the social part, they are open to the technology, and we can reach kids like we never have before. ... Don’t look at it like we’re in trouble. Yes, we are in trouble, but sin is still sin and Jesus is still Jesus. Jesus is the answer.” (WR)

Crossings expands internship program

D6 is opportunity for individuals to learn camp ministry, be disciplined

From the opening chapters of Genesis, it is clear God has created us for relationships; first with Himself, then with one another. Yet, relationships are not always easy, nor are they convenient in our post-fall world, even within the church. Several years ago, a book was written that aptly summarizes how many of us might feel about the world we live in, “Relationships: A Mess Worth Making.”

As believers, we have a biblical mandate to be involved in discipleship relationships with those who either are spiritually or physically younger than us, teaching and training them in God’s word (Deuteronomy 6; 1 Timothy 2:2). Still, intentional interaction and effective discipleship is an ongoing labor of love that can bring heartache and joy. However, when God is the builder and Christ the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11-15), relationships can yield great fruit for His kingdom and His glory.

At Crossings, we are seeking to be more intentional in investing in and disciplining younger generations through the expansion of a program called D6. Now in its second year, D6 is an

internship for individuals ages 18-25, designed to promote growth in the gospel, relationships and excellence, as well as to provide opportunities to run ongoing retreats and Crossings camps.

The men and women involved in D6 will be taught practical skills in ministry, business and life, and they will be given the opportunity to immediately apply what they have learned through hands-on experiences at Cedarmore, Jonathan Creek and in the Crossings’ central office.

They also will have the opportunity to earn college credit by taking classes at Boyce College which will allow them to sit under sound teaching from some of the greatest

minds in the nation.

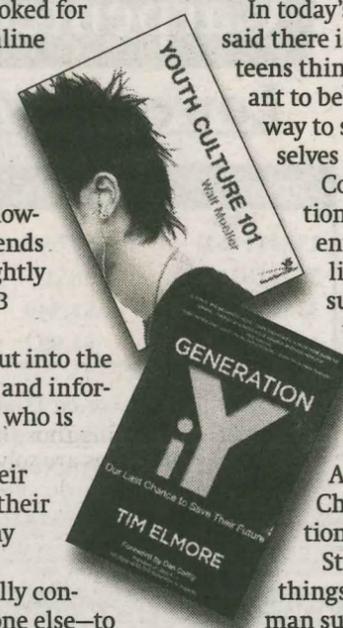
We had no idea how the Lord would shape D6 when it was just a seed He planted in our hearts a few years ago. We are filled with anticipation as we watch His plan unfold and get the privilege of walking with younger Christians, teaching them how to love God and trust Him to make our “messes” into something marvelous.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber



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For more information: www.kybaptist.org/hunger
www.worldhungerfund.com





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September

- 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.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ARLINGTON**—Shiloh Church will hold revival services Sept. 18-22, 7 p.m., with **Troy Deweese**, pastor of Mount Moriah Church in Clinton, as evangelist.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a celebration for the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible Sept. 22, 7 p.m., at the Ransdell Chapel on campus with **Larry Kreitzer** and **Deborah Rooke** of Regent's Park College at the University of Oxford in England as guest speakers. For more information, contact **Glen Taul** at GETaul@Campbellsville.edu.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church's

women's ministry will hold a state missions lunch Sept. 18 following the morning service. Proceeds from the meal will go to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. **Erdie Carter** is pastor.

■ **CLAY CITY**—Clay City Church will hold revival services Sept. 18, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Sept. 19-21, 7 p.m., with **Scott Rogers**, pastor of Friendship Church in Irvine, as evangelist. **Grider Denney** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—Green Valley Church will hold revival services Sept. 18-22, 7 p.m., with **Leroy Brent**, pastor of Fairview Church in Mayfield, as evangelist. **Eugene**

McDonald is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold a Mega Monday service Sept. 19, 7 p.m., with **Trevor Barton**, pastor of Hawk Creek Church in London, as guest speaker. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **DEXTER**—Dexter Church will hold a senior-adult rally Sept. 16, 4 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5. **David Little** is pastor.

■ **DUNMOR**—Penrod Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 18 with **Jerry Eades**, director of missions for Muhlenberg County Association, as guest speaker. **Craig Nuyt** is pastor.

■ **JEFFERSONVILLE**—Jeffersonville Church will host **New Jerusalem Singers** in concert Sept. 18. For more information, call (859) 498-0673.

■ **LEBANON**—Lebanon Church will host Central Association's Music Night Sept. 18, 6 p.m. **David Whitlock** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Liberty Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 18 featuring special music from the **Addisson Family** and a meal following the morning service. **Larry O'Bryan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Long Run Church will hold revival services Sept. 18, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sept. 19-21, 7 p.m., with **Lucky Teague**, director of missions for Walker County Association in Jasper, Ala., as evangelist. **Barry Harkness** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will celebrate its 89th anniversary Sept. 18 with **Don Dixon**, an International Mission Board missionary

Spotlight on ...

Kuttawa



Hopewell Church will hold a commissioning service for **Rick and Dee Money** Sept. 18, 2 p.m. The couple will serve as missionaries in eastern Kentucky. **Michael Farmer** is pastor.

to Portugal, as guest speaker. A meal will follow the morning service. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Trace Creek Church will host an Answers in Genesis Creation Conference Sept. 18, 5 p.m.; Sept. 19, 6 p.m., with **Bodie Hodge**, a speaker, writer and researcher for Answers in Genesis, as guest speaker. For more information, call (270) 658-3304. **Ronnie Stinson** is pastor.

■ **MEANS**—Means Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 18 with **John Ryder**, director of missions for Boone's Creek Association, as guest speaker. **Forrest Rogers** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Scaffold Cane Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 18 with **New Calvary Heirs** providing special music. **Chris Cobb** is pastor.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church will hold a "Throwback Sunday" Sept. 18, 10 a.m., featuring old hymns, a meal and an ice cream social. **Doug Davis** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a pancake breakfast Sept. 17, 8:30 a.m., to benefit the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

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SEEKING: Full-time minister of music for Calvary Baptist Church in Danville, Ky. Responsibilities include ushering the congregation into the presence of God through worship; leadership of blended worship; knowledge/experience in media ministry; and involvement in all areas of the church. Resumes should be emailed to ashley@calvaryindanville.com by Oct. 7.

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 resumes to Pastor Search Committee, 501 E. Carpenter St., Moberly, MO 65270; or email carpentersstreet501@gmail.com.

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

SEEKING: Minister of music and worship to oversee comprehensive music ministry at Southern Heights Baptist Church. Responsibilities include planning weekly worship, working with adult choir and all instrumentalists. Send resumes to Search Committee, SHBC, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503. Visit www.southernheightsb.org; email resumes: flashley@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Senior pastor for Canaan Baptist Church, a multi-staff church in St. Louis, Mo. Please email resumes to resumes@canaanst1.org; or mail to PO Box 511248, St. Louis, MO 63151.

SEEKING: Office coordinator/secretary (38 hours weekly) for Fern Creek Baptist Church. Applicant must be a spiritually mature Christian and active church member, have several years of experience and strong computer skills. Applicant must be proficient in Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint and church software programs. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; or email to Linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumes will be received through Sept. 30. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316, ext. 103 (Linda Barnes Popham, pastor).

SEEKING: Organist for growing church in a small community. Please send resume and references to Organist Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or email to nbbc2003@aol.com.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music for Northern Kentucky church. Primary duties include leading choir, congregational singing; coordinating music program and preparing seasonal cantatas. Please send resume with references to Minister of Music Search Committee, New Bethel Baptist Church, 2022 Verona-Mudlick Road, Verona, KY 41092; or email to nbbc2003@aol.com.

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.

SEEKING: Full-time spiritually mature pastor. Responsibilities include (but are not limited to) conducting worship services by communicating well-prepared sermons; ministering to the spiritual needs of the congregation and community; leading mid-week Bible study; performing weddings, funerals; counseling and providing biblical leadership for the church and community. Must be a man who desires to build unity within the church, as well as relationships with the community to grow the church ministry in meaningful ways.

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Go ahead and smile: You are blessed in ceaseless waves

By David Jeremiah

"Life is like a box of chocolates," said Forrest Gump. "You never know what you're gonna get."

I seldom bite into a piece I don't like. And when I think of life's little pleasures, I don't want to forget to thank God. After all, He made the cocoa trees and beans, the sunshine and the rain, the fruits and grains—and the Bible says He opens His hand and satisfies His children with good things (Psalm 104:28).

John 1:16 drives this home with an unusual phrase: "And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace."

When you read that verse the first time, it sounds as though some words are missing. But the actual Greek phrase is grace *anti* grace. The word "anti" is a Greek preposition that can have several meanings. The New King James Version translates it "for," but most linguists prefer using the word "upon." Out of the fullness of His own grace, Jesus gives us grace

upon grace, grace on top of grace.

Think of the ocean surf—one wave coming after another in endless succession. In his commentary on John, F. F. Bruce says that the followers of Christ draw from the ocean of divine fullness grace upon grace—one wave of grace being constantly replaced by a fresh one.

"There is no limit to the supply of grace which God has placed at His people's disposal in Christ," observes Bruce.

It's like the clouds of Noah's day that kept pouring out rain; the granaries in Joseph's days that held endless reserves of grain; the rock in the wilderness that kept pouring out the water; the cruise of oil in Elijah's time that kept issuing oil; the cup in Psalm 23 that kept overflowing.

The New International Version simply says: "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another."

Ephesians 1:3 says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ."

Psalm 68:19 says similarly, "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loads us with benefits."

Shame on us for moping around all day like desolate wanderers in the bleak woods or barren moors. We can't always be happy, but a rod of joy should run down the backbone of our attitudes. Though life has its share of burdens, God has an endless variety of ways to bless us.

We're blessed, for example, with friendly people. Sure, there are plenty of grouches around; but someone is smiling right now not far from you. It might be at the corner market, in the softball bleachers, at a church function, or across the counter at Starbucks. But if you'll look for a smile, you'll find one pretty easily.

And if you'll smile (it happens when you tell the corners of your mouth to relax and twist upward), you'll discover a good many more smiling people.

We're blessed with natural beauty around us. Lift your eyes from this page and glance out a window. See the clouds or sunshine; or if it's evening, the

moon and stars? If there's a houseplant nearby, take a moment to study its leaves. Listen for a bird's song and watch for flowers along the walkways.

*"This is my Father's world,
the birds their carols raise,
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise."*

We also see God's goodness in His providential alignment of life's circumstances. How wonderfully He weaves together the good and bad—the sad and glad—into a tapestry of praise. Look back over your life and notice how seemingly bad events have worked for your good.

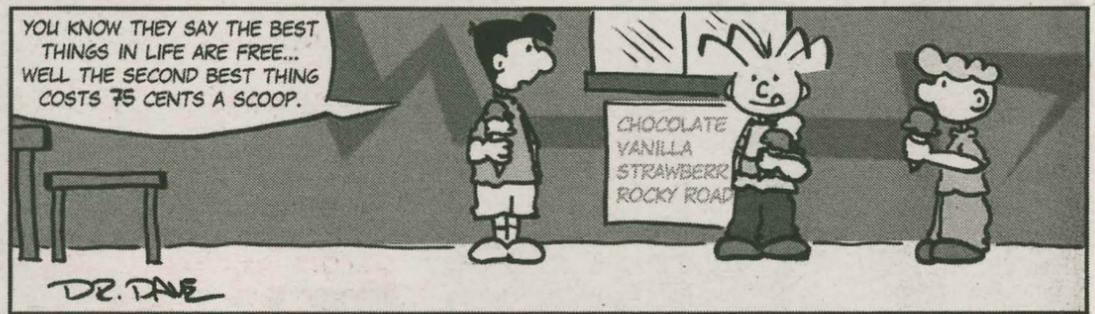
There are a million other varieties of God's goodness. If life is truly like a box of chocolates, we know that every piece is hand-dipped by our Lord, for every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights (James 1:17).

Let's savor the moments and thank Him for richly providing us with all things to enjoy (1 Timothy 6:17). (BP)

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

Preacher's Kids

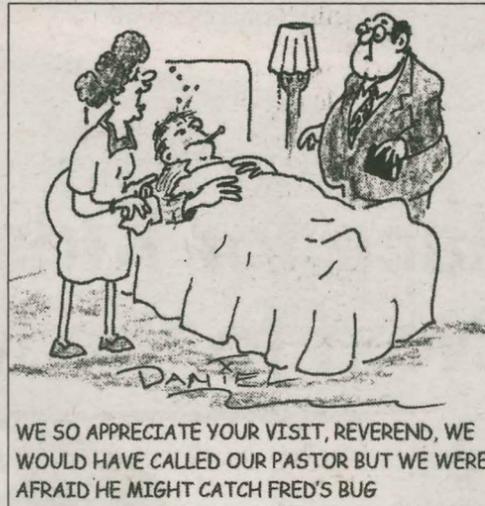
David Ayers



Brother Blooper

Dennis Daniel Fletch

Dennis Fletcher



Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottke

Across

- 1 Belonging to the father of Leah & Rachel (Genesis 29)
- 7 Kansas City, abbr.
- 9 Son of Abda (1 Kings 4:6)
- 11 Eosinophil, abbr.
- 13 South, abbr.
- 14 Indium, chem. symbol
- 15 Son of Noah
- 17 Royal Military College, abbr.
- 18 Comes after spring
- 21 "The wall of _____" (Amos 1:14)
- 23 Beryllium, chem. symbol
- 24 City near Bethel
- 25 Bind
- 26 "Destroy _____ kings and people" (Ezra 6:12)
- 27 Preposition
- 29 Belonging to Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29)
- 33 "_____ that ye refuse not him that speaketh" (Hebrews 12:25)
- 34 Village in Simeon (1 Chronicles 4:32)
- 36 Very warm
- 37 Belonging to Eve's husband
- 39 "_____ are spies" (Genesis 42:9)
- 40 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 41 Before, poetic
- 43 An altar (Joshua 22)
- 45 Arsenic, chem. symbol
- 46 "It shall no more be called ... the valley of the son of _____" (Jeremiah 7:32)

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57					58		59			60
61					62					63

- 49 "For _____ is ordained ..." (Isaiah 30:33)
- 52 Recede
- 53 A thousand thousands, abbr.
- 55 Ordinance Officer, abbr.
- 56 Mister, abbr.
- 57 Length overall, abbr.
- 58 Mother-of-pearl
- 60 Exposure index, abbr.
- 61 Picosecond, abbr.
- 62 Convulsion
- 63 Nanogram, abbr.

- 12 School, abbr.
- 16 Letters, etc.
- 19 Menan's son (Luke 3:31)
- 20 Brawl
- 22 Buzzing stinger
- 26 Solomon's great-grandson (Matthew 1:7)
- 28 No, old English
- 30 Ahitub's son (1 Samuel 14:3)
- 31 Equestrians
- 32 Address abbreviation
- 34 "_____ begat Aram" (Matthew 1:3)

Last puzzle's solution

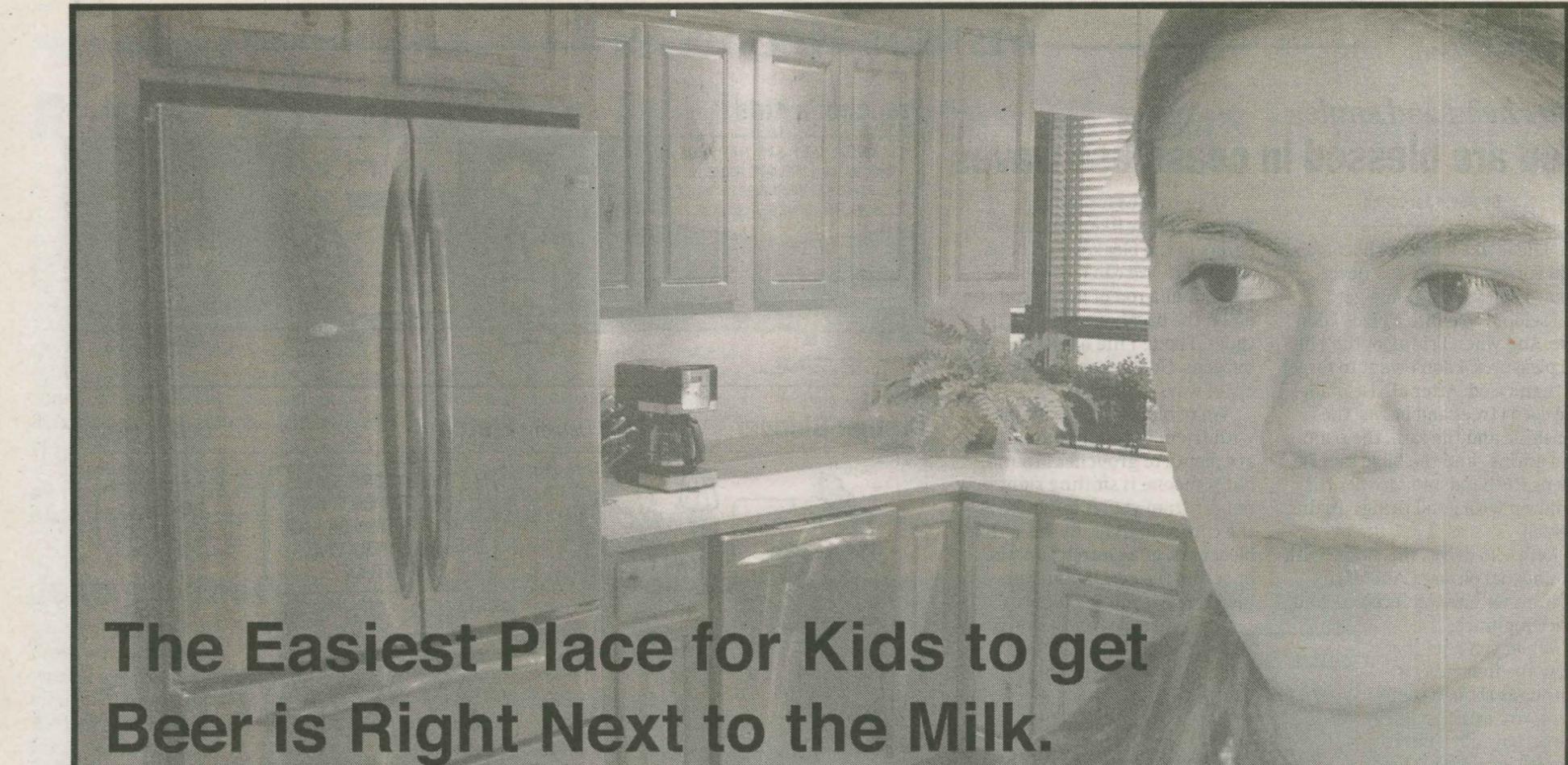
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Down

- 1 "For _____, the winter is past" (Song of Solomon 2:11)
- 2 "Eshtemoh, and _____" (Joshua 15:50)
- 3 Moza's son (1 Chronicles 8:37)
- 4 Capital of Moab (Numbers 21:28)
- 5 No, slang
- 6 Intelligent
- 7 Edge of the road, Br. spelling
- 8 Deep unconsciousness
- 9 Donkey
- 10 Duplicated
- 12 School, abbr.
- 16 Letters, etc.
- 19 Menan's son (Luke 3:31)
- 20 Brawl
- 22 Buzzing stinger
- 26 Solomon's great-grandson (Matthew 1:7)
- 28 No, old English
- 30 Ahitub's son (1 Samuel 14:3)
- 31 Equestrians
- 32 Address abbreviation
- 34 "_____ begat Aram" (Matthew 1:3)
- 35 Encounter
- 38 "And, lo, three _____ stood by him" (Genesis 18:2)
- 42 A race of giants
- 44 Entrances
- 46 "Another to _____ him up" (Ecclesiastes 4:10)
- 47 Members of a Nigerian tribe
- 48 Basketball organization, abbr.
- 50 A composition in verse
- 51 Advanced mathematics, abbr.
- 54 Where a child likes to sit
- 59 San Diego's state, abbr.

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Underage Drinking is Everyone's Problem

- ❖ Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among America's youth.
- ❖ Although the minimum legal drinking age is twenty one in all fifty states, eighty six percent of US youth consume alcohol before their twenty first birthday.
- ❖ Fifty percent of the youth who drink are binge drinkers, consuming four or more drinks in a row.
- ❖ Forty five percent of the youth who drink say they get it free from home. Sixteen percent say they got it directly from a parent, guardian, or an adult relative.
- ❖ Over 700,000 middle schoolers have had an alcoholic drink in the last thirty days.
- ❖ There are over 10,000,000 underage drinkers in the United States.

Underage Alcohol Consumption in Kentucky

- ❖ Approximately 171,000 Kentucky youth consume alcohol each year.
- ❖ In 2007, underage drinkers consumed nearly sixteen percent of all alcoholic beverages sold in Kentucky.
- ❖ In 2007, twenty two traffic fatalities, and 700 non-fatal traffic injuries involved an underage driver under the influence of alcohol.

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