

# WESTERN Recorder

September 20, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 36

## MissionsFest



### Annual missions experience reaches southeastern Kentucky residents

By Drew Nichter

**Middlesboro**—The house on 15th Street in Middlesboro is one Barbara Sampson has called home for nearly three decades.

It's also one she hasn't been able to live in since June.

That soon will change thanks to the hard work and love shared by a group of volunteers serving last week with

MissionsFest, an annual mission trip experience sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union.

Sampson's home was one of about 300 affected by flash floods that swept through Bell and Knox counties this summer. With the ground already saturated by earlier storms, an overnight downpour June 20 dropped more than 10

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A group from Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans greets homeowner Barbara Sampson (right) as they make repairs to her flood-damaged home in Middlesboro. The MissionsFest crew left behind Bible verses on the wall supports of Sampson's house. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

### Kentucky Baptists encouraged to commit 'More for Christ'

By Dannah Prather

**Louisville**—Recently, thousands of Kentucky Baptists received an invitation in their mailboxes to do "More for Christ."

The brochure, produced by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, outlines "More for Christ," a three-year initiative to encourage Kentucky Baptists to deepen their spiritual commitments to Jesus.

"We are living in days of unprecedented opportunity for the gospel all around the globe," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "God has providentially caused nations to rise and fall. He has given us tools for creative access and resources beyond what our

forefathers could have imagined. Yet I fear we are not spiritually poised to take advantage of this opportunity.

"With the International Mission Board reducing the numbers of missionaries under appointment, our state convention workforce shrinking, and many local churches making deep cuts to staff and budgets, the time has come for Kentucky Baptists to commit More for Christ," Chitwood urged.

Messengers to the 2010 annual

□ See More for Christ ... Page 2



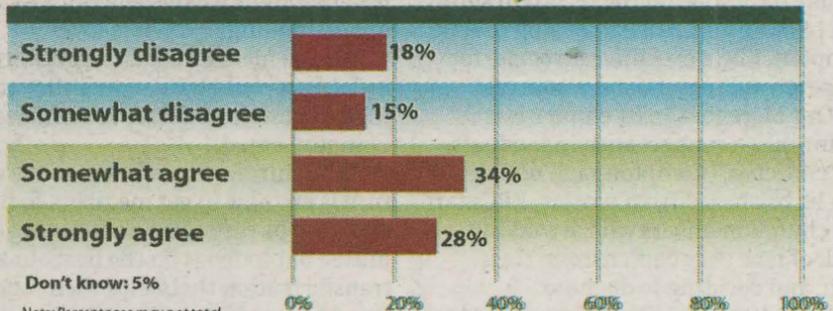
### What's ahead for denominations?

A new LifeWay survey finds that pastors with denominational affiliations believe it's important to be part of a denomination. But the survey also found many of those same pastors believe the importance of identifying with a denomination will diminish over the next decade.

See full story on page 9

Among Protestant pastors of denominational churches

I believe that the importance of being identified with a denomination will diminish over the next 10 years.



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LifeWay RESEARCH



Lexington pastor is first announced candidate for KBC first vice president post. Page 2.



IMB's Elliff tells trustees: Ask God for spiritual awakening or become irrelevant. Page 3.

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Western Recorder 9-20-2011

## Community 9/11 event sees Main Street close for prayer

By Todd Deaton

**Harrodsburg**—A community-wide unity event in Harrodsburg, remembering the 9/11 tragedy, drew an estimated crowd of 1,200 for a parade of more than 250 local "heroes" down Main Street and a service that featured testimonies and prayers voiced by area ministers.

"Our churches came together in what was a powerful movement of God in our county," said Wayne Spivey, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church and president of the Mercer County Ministerial Association. "There was cohesiveness like I've never seen before."

A strong emphasis of area ministers and the impetus behind the unity event has been praying for revival and real transformation to take place in the community, Spivey said. "We feel like this is another step toward that happening," he added, noting that "Main Street was closed down" for a community service.

Emergency vehicles lined Main Street during the parade, which included firefighters, police, sheriffs, state troopers, emergency medical technicians, representatives of the National Guard and armed services, and veterans. Area pastors prayed for each of the "first-responder" groups specifically.

From the very beginning, organizers have felt God was leading the planning process. "He is the one who brought all the people together," noted Pastor Pam Sims of St. Barnabas Church, affiliated

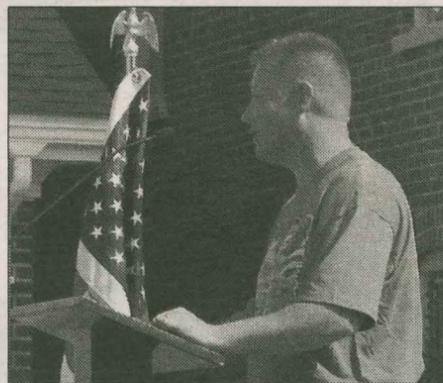


with the Christian Communion International denomination.

"We really had the whole community, the church and government officials come together under the banner of Jesus Christ and glorified God on Main Street," said Sims, who coordinated the program.

Calling it "a real coming together," Pastor John Kesel of Ebenezer Church of Christ in Harrodsburg, said, "We were able to remember this tragic event that happened 10 years ago, but also to pray for our community and nation, asking God to turn our attention and thoughts toward Him."

"We all felt that God showed up in a big way. We have received so many positive comments," said Kesel, who along with Spivey shared testimonies of how they have seen God at work in people's lives since 9/11. (WR)



**9/11 REMEMBERED** ■ **Top:** Bag pipers playing "Amazing Grace" lead a parade down Main Street in Harrodsburg marking the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. ■ **Above:** Wayne Spivey, pastor of Harrodsburg Baptist Church, shares a testimony at the 9/11 anniversary event. (Photos by Jarod Holt/Harrodsburg Herald)

## Dodson to be nominated as KBC first VP

**Hazard**—Alan Dodson, pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Lexington, will be nominated as first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention when its annual meeting convenes Nov. 15 in Florence.

Dodson will be nominated by Jim Castlen, director of missions for

Three Forks Baptist Association in Hazard. Dodson is the first announced candidate for the post.

"I have followed Alan's ministry closely over the years with prayerful and personal interest and have rejoiced in God's manifold blessing on his life," Castlen said of Dodson in a letter to the Western Recorder.



Alan Dodson

Dodson, who is only the second pastor of Cornerstone Baptist, has led the 17-year-old church to "steady numerical and spiritual growth" during his tenure, Castlen noted.

"For such a young pastor, it is also evident that KBC leaders have sensed an unusual giftedness in this man," Castlen said of the 40-year-old Dodson, who also has a passion for supporting the Cooperative Program, Castlen added.

Dodson's commitment to the Cooperative Program stems from a life of benefitting from it, he said.

"I grew up a Kentucky Baptist, went to Kentucky Baptist schools," Dodson told the Western Recorder. "I've always been supportive of the Cooperative Program."

As a KBC officer, Dodson said he would use his time at the "table of leadership" to encourage pastors who may be "disenfranchised" with giving to CP to "help them to see the benefit it's been to them in their own lives and the cultivation of their own ministries."

"To me, the Cooperative Program has been the greatest missionary enterprise the world has ever known," he noted. "It may need to be tweaked in some areas, but it's certainly not broken, and it has the potential to continue to be viable for years to come. What is there not to be supportive of?"

Dodson has been pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church since 2007. He previously was pastor at First Baptist Church of Hazard, Bethany Baptist Church in Somerset, as well as churches in Alabama and Ohio. He is a member of the KBC Mission Board and serves as a trustee for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

According to the KBC's 2010 Annual Church Profile report for Cornerstone Baptist, the church gave \$27,832 (9.7 percent) of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program in 2009-10. It also reported 14 baptisms. (WR)

## More for Christ

Continued from page 1

meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention approved the initiative as a way to encourage individuals and churches to share the gospel at home, across Kentucky and North America, and to the world.

The proposal passed at the annual meeting stated that "personal surrender, personal witness and personal sacrifice" were needed to accomplish the goal.

The brochure has a response card that individuals can fill out and return to the KBC as a first step in that increased commitment.

Several individuals and churches already have gone on the record in support of More for Christ according to Billy Compton, KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources.

"Our More for Christ emphasis is beginning to connect with individuals and churches," Compton said, noting that he has heard from pastors, KBC staff and church members who are taking stock of how they demonstrate their faith, and deciding to do more.

"Some have specifically committed to be involved in hands-on missions," Compton noted. "A pastor shared with me that the church he serves has included an intentional partnership to begin preaching points in a large city in order to reach people there, many of whom have never attended church regularly and maybe have never heard the gospel."

The scriptural basis for More for Christ comes from the Gospel of John and quotes the words of John the Baptist

who, when referring to Christ, said, "He must increase ... I must decrease" (John 3:30).

"I pray we will embrace John's willingness to humbly lay aside our agendas for the sake of God's kingdom agenda, which is to make Christ known to the world," Chitwood said.

There is a sense of urgency about the More for Christ rally cry among Kentucky Baptist leaders. In 2005, a Barna Group study commissioned by the KBC found that nearly 1 million people in Kentucky do not attend church.

The study determined that many of those are "de-churched" people who once attended church regularly, or were brought up by Christian parents or grandparents, but perhaps have had a negative church experience or lack an understanding of Christ's love.

For the "de-churched," a committed lay person could have more influence than an ordained pastor or minister, Compton noted.

"The shift for churches in today's culture is not how to get members to fill church jobs through a nominating committee but to focus on the heart-to-heart transformation that helps them understand how to be missionaries in our diverse culture," he said.

"More for Christ is mostly about this type of personal heart transformation so missionaries and missions commitment looks like teachers, business people, factory workers, etc.," he continued.

Chitwood said he would love to see More for Christ result in additional support for the Cooperative Program, but he said More for Christ is not just about more money for missions.

"While cooperative giving makes

possible a long list of kingdom work through the KBC and SBC, to interpret More for Christ as 'send more money to CP' would be to miss the spirit and intent of this effort," Chitwood explained.

"More for Christ is about Kentucky Baptists giving Christ the place He deserves and demands in every area of our lives," he said. "And that, of course, is first place."

"When Christ has first place with regard to our thoughts, families, churches, calendars and checkbooks, He will be glorified, His plan to use us will be accomplished, and He will be blessed," Chitwood said.

In addition to the brochure, Chitwood and Compton suggested Kentucky Baptists visit the More for Christ website, [www.MoreforChrist.com](http://www.MoreforChrist.com), which includes details about the initiative, testimonies from Kentucky Baptist leaders who already have signed on, and resources to help churches start or improve missions education and participation among their members.

Kentucky Baptists also can record their commitments to pray for the More for Christ initiative at the website.

Compton said he hopes Kentucky Baptists will take the time to read the material and return the card included in the brochure as an act of commitment.

"God is at work in the world and He uses our partnership and cooperative commitments to encourage one another," Compton said. "When believers go public with their conviction, commitment and enthusiasm concerning More for Christ, they trust that others will be inspired to partner with our convention to meet this challenge." (KBC)



## Nelson Association has strong kingdom focus

Attending some association annual meetings over the past few days has given me a renewed sense of the value of partnership at the local level. Churches

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

of Nelson Baptist Association gathered to celebrate God's work among them on the evening of Sept. 11. My children attended a youth event with hundreds of other teens from across the association while the adults gathered in the sanctuary of Mount Washington's First Baptist Church for worship. We heard many encouraging reports about

local and international mission efforts.

One unique effort is leveraging the energies of the entire association behind two small churches in the community of New Haven. Nelson Baptists determined they could not be faithful to the Great Commission and ignore so many unchurched in one of their own communities. They have made an ongoing commitment to assist those churches with ministry and outreach. Prayers and plans also include the hopes of planting a new church.

Regarding church planting, I was thrilled to get an update on efforts by churches of this association to reach a lofty church planting goal of 10 new congregations. Less than halfway into their time frame, Nelson Baptists have already witnessed the birth of six new congregations. I recently heard North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell state that between 800 to 1,000 Southern Baptist churches close each year. Hats off to the churches and associations working to replace these dying congregations!

Churches of Nelson Baptist Association are very diverse. Some are large, but many are small. Some are served by elders; others by deacons. Some are more Reformed in their theology than others. Some utilize a very traditional style of worship, while others are very modern in their style. Some have young men serving as pastors—but not all. Some are suburban, but most are small town or rural.

Yet, sitting in the sanctuary with hundreds of people from these very diverse churches and hearing about their mission trips, local outreach projects and church planting efforts, I was struck by the sense of unity in the body. The fact that God is using these local partnerships to advance His kingdom is without question.

Stan Lowery serves as director of missions. Stan has directed a prayer initiative and provided opportunities for training and networking. One of the keys to the success of his association is the investment he has made in helping churches partner in an Acts 1:8 model to do mission work that emphasizes church planting.

Stan and others like him in associations across the Commonwealth are to be commended for their ministry. When an association has a Great Commission focus, is enthusiastic about church planting, and leverages partnerships, kingdom advance is sure to result.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## How thinking 'big' thoughts can change our lives

What do you think? Do your thoughts really matter? Apparently so.

Last Tuesday, a Chicago chocolate company, World's Finest, set a Guinness World Record by making a chocolate bar weighing more than 12,200 pounds, according to a report I heard on the K-Love Christian Radio Station. Measuring three feet high, four feet wide and 21 feet long, the chocolate bar is made from 1,200 pounds of almonds, 5,500 pounds of sugar, 1,700 pounds of cocoa butter and 2,000 pounds of milk powder.

But the real kicker is that the company's chief executive officer said they decided to make the enormous chocolate bar to teach families—particularly school-aged kids—about "proportion distortion" as part of its "Think Big, Eat Smart" obesity campaign. "We decided we can get the kids' attention in a big way with the largest bar in the world," Eddie Opler told reporters. You think?

As for me, I confess that after seeing a photo of this decadent mound of chocolate, I suddenly had a powerful craving for a Snickers bar, my personal favorite. I can only imagine the hysteria at the candy counter that the marvelous aroma of this scrumptious concoction wafting throughout a room could cause. Let's just say it would certainly distort my thinking about proportion size. I'm thinking BIG!

Meanwhile, at high schools and college campuses across Kentucky, I heard about a series of Maze outreach events aimed at having a different, more significant, impact on the minds of our young people. The Maze events feature Jim Munroe of Dallas, who was described by Joe Ball, director of the KBC youth evangelism department, as "a thinking man's illusionist." Through a series of poignant questions and baffling illusions, Munroe presents his personal testimony, leading unchurched students to rethink their perspectives on whether the events in their lives happen by chance or if they might have some higher purpose or meaning. "At the end of the show, one concludes, 'Yes, there is order, and that order is created by Jesus,'" Ball explained. "Jim gives one of the clearest presentations of the gospel that I've ever heard someone who does what he does give."

These attractional events are seeing some amazing results. According to Ball, Munroe went into school cafeterias in Hopkinsville last week and did some street magic, creating such a buzz that some students had to be turned away at the door at the Maze event that evening because there were not enough seats. At the Alhambra theatre, the Maze drew a crowd of 750, and 184 decisions for Christ were made, he reported. And, at Murray State University,



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Campus Minister Mark Whitt estimated between 250 and 275 people gathered. "Jim's presentation is incredible and very engaging with the students, and the gospel presentation is very clear and relates directly to his story," Whitt said. "At our event, we had 53 indicate some form of decision or wanting to talk more about their relationship with Christ. An incredible response!"

Upcoming Maze events are slated for Lynn Camp High School in Corbin this Wednesday and the University of Cumberland on Thursday. Next week, the Maze will appear at Frankfort's Capital City Christian Church and on the campus of Campbellsville University, before winding up at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond on Oct. 4. The Maze no doubt provides campus ministry leaders with more opportunities and avenues to interact with students, but the students, more importantly, soon find that an encounter with the Truth has a transformational effect on their lives.

God's Word has the power to "mold our thoughts, and our thoughts shape our lives; for as we think in our hearts, so we are," writes author Robert Morgan, paraphrasing Proverbs 23:7. "If our 'little gray cells' are such an important thing about us, and if the Holy Scriptures are the very thoughts of God Himself, then Bible verses represent the most healing, clarifying, bolstering, uplifting data we can insert into our brains," he explains in "100 Bible verses everyone should know by heart"—the introductory chapters of which are an inspirational read for any minister, Sunday School teacher, youth leader or Bible Drill instructor.

Among the remarkable benefits of instilling Divine wisdom into our minds, Morgan touts clearer thoughts, steadier nerves, healthier emotions, purer habits, happier homes, greater respect and eternal optimism. "The power of Scripture is unlike anything else on earth," he maintains. "It's a force to be reckoned with, containing intrinsic power, high enough to give us insight, deep enough to give us peace, wide enough to mold our personalities, and strong enough to bear us through horrendous days."

So, it definitely does matter what one thinks, and the greatest desire of every believer should be for the words of the psalmist to be said of us: "The instruction of his God is in his heart, his steps do not falter" (Psalm 37:31). In this regard, Philippians 4:8 offers sound counsel: "Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." In that proportion, think BIG!

### Fixing our economy

There are few sins, if any, more grievous and pervasive than greed. The love of money is the root of all evil, the chief source of most of our problems on Wall Street and Main Street.

Greed and love are incompatible. Greed stands in the way of our loving God, neighbor and self.

A moral/spiritual issue, greed is America's national sin. Hope resides in

our turning away from individual, corporate greed. God's chosen drum majors for justice are needed now to lead a well-organized, non-violent movement against the greed that is destroying our country.

The key to fixing a broken economy is to fix the greed problem.



Paul Whiteley Sr.  
Louisville

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space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253

**DR. TODD DEATON**  
Editor

**DREW NICHTER**  
News Director

**THOMAS C. TOWNSEND**  
Marketing & Business Manager

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### Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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## A master 'pulpit' in the heart of the city

In chapel at the beginning of the fall term of 1974 at Belmont University, Nashville ministers sat on the stage of Massey Auditorium, waiting for a turn to sing the praises of their churches, the ideal place for Belmont students to spend Sunday mornings while away from home. While the ministers made clear that churches were not composed of bricks and mortar, they nonetheless praised their stately edifices out on the leafy edges of Nashville, away from the dirt and grime of the inner city.

Then it was the turn of the pastor of Nashville's First Baptist Church, that impressive institution in the heart of downtown. Franklin Paschall (1922-2009) should be familiar to Baptists in Kentucky and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. After all, Henry Franklin, as he was known to his family and friends, was born in Hazel in Caloway County. He was pastor of Hazel Baptist Church and First Baptist Church of Bowling Green before being called to First Baptist Church of Nashville, where he served as pastor from 1956 until his retirement in 1983. He was president of the SBC from 1966 to 1968, a position he used to try to bring peace during the traumatic years of the Civil Rights Movement. For Dr. Paschall, racism and prejudice were simply inconsistent with the gospel.

In the early 1980s, Paschall again led out as a peacemaker, this time unsuccessfully. While he was unquestionably a theological conservative, again he found it inconsistent with the gospel for fellow believers to turn on each other with labels such as fundamentalists and liberals. Paschall's idea of a Peace Commission had little impact as the views of both sides hardened.

Back in the mid-1970s, however, when I first heard him preach, Paschall was at the height of his powers. Perhaps his most famous sermon was an exposition of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation preached entirely from memory. Passages from every book of the King James Bible—all 66 books—were included seamlessly to render the gospel story clearly, using only the words of Scripture itself. No commentaries needed. No illustrations required. Just Scripture, plain and simple and Holy, and delivered with a humility that I have found to be rare in a pastor of a Baptist church of any size. Such a sermon, void of any posturing, or any attempt to impress, made quite a mark on a freshman student from Webster County in Kentucky.

When Evelyn and I married in December 1982, we spent our wedding night at Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, just a few blocks from Paschall's church. We heard him

preach that Sunday, just a few months before he retired. Paschall died in 2009 on Good Friday "at the time," as Frank Lewis, the pastor who succeeded him, said, "that 'paschal lambs' were being slain for the observance of Passover."

Back in Belmont's chapel at the beginning of the fall semester of 1974, Paschall rose to the podium to tout the virtues of his church. He readily acknowledged that the locations of other churches were indeed attractive. "We, however," he said, "are located on Broadway in downtown Nashville." And then with a gentle smile and what I would soon learn was a familiar twinkle in his eye, he continued, "We're directly across the street from Tootsie's Orchid Lounge." He turned, went back to his seat, and sat down.

I sat near the front the next Sunday in that beautiful sanctuary, drinking in the humble words of a master "pulpit." And he was that. In the pulpit, he was without peer.

I later learned that Paschall believed that it would be inconsistent with the gospel for his congregation to flee to the suburbs, that the ministry of that church was to be in that place in the heart of downtown Nashville. And there it sits today, a newer structure built on the footprint of the older structure. Right across Broadway from Tootsie's Orchid Lounge.

*Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University and in Sunday School at Murray's First Baptist Church.*

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

## Suggestions for budget planning

By Doug Strader

This is the time of year when many churches plan for a new budget year. I would suggest a few things that the budget-planning committee needs to be involved in beginning the process.

If you have not already done so, ask the church to begin praying for your committee. Also ask committee members to pray for themselves as they begin to think about what they can do to grow in their financial stewardship.

Give each program leader and committee chairperson a report of how they used their budgeted resources during the past year. Ask them to turn in a budget request form for next year.

As you work through the budget-planning process, keep a copy of the church's mission statement and goals nearby. Use these documents to make decisions of how you will allocate budget funds. If necessary, your budget committee could invite persons to share their goals and vision behind budget requests.

Invite the personnel committee to share with the budget committee their recommendations for salaries and benefits for the new budget. These should be based on a yearly evaluation of each staff member and the church's ability to ensure raises.

Every church should be encouraged to be good stewards of the tithes and offerings they receive. Is it possible to increase your percentage of giving to the Cooperative Program? Do not forget about the needs of your association. Missions begins at home, but it does not end there. Our mission includes the association, Kentucky Baptist Convention and Southern Baptist Convention.

Once a proposed budget has been drafted, hold listening sessions to get input from the membership. If the church feels that the process is an open one, they will act more favorably to its adoption.

*Doug Strader, retired director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's stewardship department, is pastor of Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville.*



## Talking about sexual problems

By Valerie Vincent

**Q: My wife is rarely willing to have sex. She says it hurts. I don't know if she just doesn't like sex or doesn't like me. We have a difficult time talking about this subject.**



**A:** Talking about problems in your sexual relationship can be challenging. Sometimes one's upbringing can make it hard. Sometimes insecurity, low self-esteem or Christian beliefs may prevent important conversations about sexual intimacy.

God created sexual intimacy for marriage. God created us as sexual beings. Often we are not taught to understand our own bodies, much less the body of our spouse.

**Read:** There are books written by Christian authors who have expertise to offer couples about their sexual relationship.

**Talk:** Pray for courage to bring up the subject with your spouse and share your concerns, needs and questions. Talk to a counselor.

Along with the emotional intimacy of sex is a physical act. Your wife may be experiencing a medical condition resulting in pain during intercourse. Though you may feel hurt and rejected, in a loving way ask her to please seek medical treatment.

Be sure that you are practicing the fruits of the Spirit in this area of your marriage. Gentleness and self-control are important so that a husband does not physically cause his wife pain during sex.

Sexual intimacy is important to a healthy, biblical marriage. It is not the only area, so be sure to attend to the emotional and spiritual intimacy of your marriage as well—out of which the desire to be loved, held and touched flows.

*Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.*

## Remembering Sept. 12, the day after the towers fell

By Thom Rainer

I certainly remember Sept. 11, 2001. Like millions of other people, I have a distinct memory of where I was and what I was doing as the towers fell.

But I also remember well Sept. 12, 2001, the day after the fateful event.

Tributes and documentaries have inundated the airwaves and the Internet regarding the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Rightfully so. The nefarious act and the loss of lives will ever scar the history of our nation.

And we must never forget the heroic acts that saved lives and rescued people. The tragedy gave us some of the greatest heroes of our nation's history.

But I also remember the day after.

It would be an overstatement to say that the shock of the event had worn off just 24 hours later. To the contrary, most Americans were still in a state of numbed disbelief.

But it was on the day after, Sept. 12, that I began to hear the questions. How could this happen? Why did this happen? Why did God let such evil people take the lives of so many innocent victims? What does this event mean for us as a nation?

So many of the questions were difficult to answer. There was no copy and paste response that could

console a grieving and frightened nation. Churches would swell with attendees the next Sunday as both church and unchurched America sought hope and tried to make some sense of this dreadful catastrophe.

I found myself captivated and challenged by the questions and the commentary the day after Sept. 11.

As I began to think and pray about 9/11 just one day later, I began to wonder about the eternity of those who had perished. I wondered how many had heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. And I wondered how many had received the gift of salvation.

How many Christian co-workers, I wondered, had taken the time to share Christ with those who would lose their lives on that fateful day? How many believers had been lovingly and sufficiently bold to tell the Good News?

And I wondered how many of those who perished told their spouses or their children that they loved them. How many of the victims left survivors with memories of their love and concern for them?

Perhaps more than anything, Sept. 12 reminded me why September 11 was so important to me. That

horrendous day became a reminder to me to give my life to those things that really matter. A national tragedy became a personal marker.

And so on Sept. 12, I prayed that God would give me wisdom and opportunities to share the gospel with greater boldness. I prayed that I would become a more compassionate Christian, and see others through the eyes of Christ. And I prayed that God would give me the heart to become a better husband and a better father.

Those were the things that mattered most.

On Sept. 12, 2001, I was reminded of what mattered most.

And after I prayed, I went home and told my wife how much I loved her. I called each of my boys to let them know how much I loved them, and how proud I was of them.

And I pledged not to let an opportunity go by where I did not share the love of Christ with others. I

pledged not to let a moment pass where I did not tell my family how much I loved each of them.

I can't make good sense out of Sept. 11. But I can let Sept. 11 make good sense of my own life.

That was the gift of Sept. 12. (BP)  
*Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.*

### FIRST PERSON

*Thom Rainer—  
"That horrendous day became a reminder to me to give my life to those things that really matter."*

# New Orleans group: 'We're ready' to help flooded Kentuckians

By Drew Nichter



**SURROUNDED BY LOVE** Middlesboro homeowner Barbara Sampson gets a hug from Franklin Avenue Baptist Church members Carmen Young (left) and Beryl McCormick during last week's MissionsFest. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

**Middlesboro**—The group from New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church already was signed up for MissionsFest in Kentucky when group leader June Pittman got a phone call.

It was MissionsFest coordinator Kristy Carr asking if Pittman's group would be willing to do flood relief work at homes in Middlesboro.

Pittman's response: "We're ready."

Having seen firsthand the devastation of flooding from Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Pittman said Carr thought the idea of doing flood relief work would be overwhelming for the New Orleans group.

"She just thought about our history," Pittman said, adding however, "we're ready to do whatever we need to do."

Pittman said the news media still portrays New Orleans as a city in turmoil with pictures of people in tears. That is not the whole story, she noted, explaining that those individuals likely are not connected to a church or have a relationship with Jesus Christ.

While there are Franklin Avenue members who have not been able to get back into their homes yet, it is not what dominates their thoughts, she said. "Our minds are focused on Jesus and hope."

Before Hurricane Katrina, Franklin

Avenue Baptist Church was not as focused on missions. Since that time, though, the church, having experienced the love and support of thousands of short- and long-term missions volunteers, is becoming more missions-minded.

"I think our emotions are on wanting to give back," Pittman said. "So many people came (to New Orleans) and helped, so we want to give back."

At Barbara Sampson's home, the Franklin Avenue group tore out walls and carpeting, gutting the inside for another group to come in and complete the rebuilding process.

Sampson called the group a "godsend" and said she plans to stay in touch with them after they return to New Orleans.

"It just means everything to me that they would take their time to come here and help me," she said. "They know what I'm going through and they're so loving."

In preparing for MissionsFest in southeastern Kentucky, Pittman said she read up on the perceived differences in culture. "We don't really see that big difference," she noted.

"People are just people. We have the same needs, the same problems, the same emotions; we just talk a little differently," Pittman pointed out. "People need Jesus all over, and it's our duty to go out and spread the word." (WR)

## MissionsFest

Continued from page 1

inches of rain on parts of southeastern Kentucky.

That caused the numerous creeks in the area to overflow, forcing water several feet high into Middlesboro homes and businesses.

Sampson received an early-morning call from her brother telling her the fast-rising water had reached a nearby fast-food restaurant. She ran out of the house to find the water only a couple of inches from getting in her car. After moving it and another vehicle, Sampson said by the time she waded back to the house, the floodwaters had gotten inside.

"It came up so fast," she recalled. "I didn't know what I was going to do."

Only two weeks earlier, Sampson's husband of 26 years, J.B., died of congestive heart failure. Sampson said he always had taken care of everything and she didn't know where to turn for help.

That was when she met Matt Duvall.

The pastor at nearby First Baptist Church of Middlesboro is part of a long-term recovery committee working to get Middlesboro residents back on their feet and, in some cases, back in their homes.

Duvall already was talking to homeowners about flood damage and any help they needed when he was contacted by Kristy Carr, a ministry consultant from national WMU, and Eloise Davis, Bell Baptist Association's WMU director.

"MissionsFest was already planned and happening when the flood happened," Duvall noted, "and they decided, 'We want to divert some of our human capital to the flood victims.'"

Although helping flood victims became a top priority, the 140 MissionsFest volunteers served in a number of ways during the eight-day event.

About 20 nurses served in Bell and Knox counties at health fairs, providing residents with much-needed health screenings and information.

Many of those same volunteers hosted baby boot camps for local mothers. The events offered valuable resources, as well as free supplies that mothers need to properly care for their babies.

Add to all that the nightly block par-

ties and cookie deliveries to area schools, police and fire stations, MissionsFest volunteers stayed busy.

MissionsFest works with the state WMU and association and asks, "What is it that you all are doing where we can assist you?" Carr explained.

"We don't come in to say, 'We're going to do this and this and this,'" she added. "It is, 'Where is God already at work ... and how can we join Him?'"

Kentucky WMU consultant Wanda Walker said the MissionsFest volunteers may be the only Christ followers with which some of the local residents will ever come in contact. "We just love on them and share Jesus," she said. "We plant the seeds, and if we anything as a result of it, it's amazing." (WR)

# MINISTRY ASSISTANTS' CONFERENCE

Training and special interest workshops for ministry assistants and other church staff

**Thursday, October 13, 2011**  
8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
Kentucky Baptist Building  
13420 Eastpoint Centre Drive ■ Louisville

Online registration underway through October 5 at  
[www.kybaptist.org/ministryassistants](http://www.kybaptist.org/ministryassistants)

- Understanding Your Boss
- Promoting Your Church and Events Using Social Media
- HELPI! How do I use EXCEL?
- Managing Your Emotions in the Workplace

**THIS YEAR'S TOPICS**

For more information e-mail  
[jenny.byrd@kybaptist.org](mailto:jenny.byrd@kybaptist.org)  
call (502) 489-3335  
toll-free in KY (866) 489-3335

## Dr. Kenneth S. Hemphill

Former President of  
Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

### COMING TO Crestwood Baptist Church

1006 East Main Street ■ Frankfort, KY  
(502) 695-2088

Saturday, October 1, 2011, 7:00 PM  
Sunday, October 2, 2011, 10:45 AM

## 9/11 sparked church's ministry

Continued from page 1

Graffiti is a church and community center committed to sharing the love of Jesus through an array of ministries including Bible studies, free meals, English and computer classes, a clothes closet and crisis counseling.

Following 9/11, Graffiti made a five-year commitment to help people impacted by the attack. The effort focused largely on assisting the thousands of service workers and manual laborers who lost their jobs because of 9/11 and counseling people with ongoing emotional trauma.

In total, more than 5,000 people benefitted from those ministries, and Graffiti experienced unprecedented ministry expansion. In 2001 the congregation met in a storefront and had about 20 ministries. Today it owns its own building, has helped start 14 additional churches in the city, and has multiplied vastly its network of outreach ministries.

Each year more than 10,000 people are affected by Graffiti's work.

"I think that 9/11 was a propulsion for some of that activity," Field said. "It put New York City on the hearts of many people, including New Yorkers. And pastorally, as I hear people talk about it, 9/11 for some people was a critical turning point in their lives."

The new building afforded unique ministry opportunities early in the decade as the congregation hired the unemployed to do construction work.

"There are still people that bring their children by our building," Field said. "And some people that had kind of a low self-concept or not a lot of confidence in what they've achieved say, 'I helped build this building,' and they want to show their children what they did because they did some part in it, and we were able to give them a stipend or say thank you to them for what they did."

Part of the reason the congregation's



**TRADING EVIL FOR GOOD** North American Mission Board missionary Taylor Field (left) has led East Seventh Baptist Church-Graffiti in Lower Manhattan into key roles in church planting in New York City and inner-city ministry since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. (Photo by Peter Field Peck/BP)

ministries have been effective is that 9/11 made New Yorkers more open to faith, Field noted. It also helped them learn how to stick together in trials, he added.

### New Yorkers sticking together

During the New York power outages of 2003, for example, Field noticed how kindly people treated one another. In comparison, similar outages in the 1970s brought widespread looting and vandalism.

"I remember sitting with a group of people that were in pretty difficult situations and asking why they thought that didn't happen this time when it did the other time," Field recalled. "And people, to a person, said 9/11. We learned that

when terrible things or difficult things happened, we could stick together rather than fighting each other."

Personally, 9/11 shaped Field's approach to pastoral care, he noted. By working with victims in subsequent years, he learned that individuals often keep secret their deepest heartaches and need more compassion than is evident. That realization prompted him to have the entire Graffiti staff trained in counseling trauma victims so they could help whenever a need arose.

"There was a big rush of impact right afterwards," Field said of 9/11. "People flocked to churches, but they didn't see a long-term impact. But I feel like, looking at it over five or 10 years, I really do see a long-term impact." (BP)

### Poll: NYC more spiritual, but 9/11 likely not why

**New York**—New York-area residents are more spiritually active since 9/11, a new survey shows, but the uptick in faith may be a matter of coincidence rather than a religious response to the terrorist attacks.

The Barna Group found that 46 percent of people living in or near New York City reported attending worship

services in 2010, up from 31 percent in 2000. However, the upward trend didn't kick in until after 2004, said David Kinnaman, Barna's president.

"The research suggests that faith and religion took on new urgency for many New Yorkers after 9/11, but the impact was neither immediate nor long-lived," Kinnaman said. (RNS)

# MORE for CHRIST

He must increase...I must decrease.  
John 3:30

**Tommy Morreau** has been a Kentucky Baptist for a long time — a family man, an owner of a successful restaurant, a leader in his church. But Christ called him and his wife, Cindy, to more. Today he's serving on the international mission field in Zambia.

**"It's not about giving up. It's about gaining. And God just wants us to be obedient to what he commands us. And when you really do that, it changes your world."**

How is God calling you to do more for Christ? It may not be a call to the international mission field. It may be to just go across the street.



Watch a video about Tommy at [www.moreforchrist.com](http://www.moreforchrist.com)

## Remembering 9/11

### Looking back, OBI students likely were safer on campus than home

It is hard to believe it's been 10 years since that awful morning. The generation before me likely knew where they were on Dec. 7, 1941, just as my generation probably knew where we were when President Kennedy was assassinated.

Most of us likely know where we were on Sept. 11, 2001. It was a Tuesday, and I was getting ready for a trustees' meeting. I happened to see the news on TV as I was about to leave the house. At the time there was uncertainty about whether or not it was an accident. By the time the trustees began to arrive, they had heard on the radio that another plane had hit the second tower and it was believed that America was under attack.

After the meeting began, I was handed a message from one of my staff. The note informed me that some of our students had relatives who often conducted business in the World Trade Center, and they were understandably anxious. My board members were kind enough to suggest that the meeting be canceled and I returned to the campus about 90 minutes away.

When I arrived on campus, it was obvious it was not just the students who were concerned. Many of my staff had not been able to follow the news all morning, so they, too, were confused and concerned. I had our students return to the chapel instead of going to class for the last period of the day. I tried to give my students and staff as much information as possible. The days and weeks that followed provided many of the answers Americans were seeking.

I remember when I was an OBI

student and President Kennedy decided to blockade Cuba because of the missiles Russia had located there. News was not as readily available in those days, and there was a great deal going on in the world that residents of Oneida likely did not hear about until days or weeks later.

My mother called and seemed rather frantic. She asked if I knew about the embargo and the missiles. I didn't know anything, and no one else seemed to know much either. My mother wanted to pick me up, but when she explained there might be a war between Russia and the U.S., it did not take me long to respond that if that happened, I likely was much safer at Oneida than at home. "Home" was Dayton, Ohio, where, at the time, the largest Air Force base in the U.S. was located. I thought Dayton was a much more likely target than Oneida.

On 9/11, I was asked by my students how they could get home. Like most of us, they felt compelled to be at home near their families. I tried to reassure them they were much safer here until we could see what was going on and whether or not there was a need for them to return home. As the days went by, it became clear that returning home was not needed and it appeared the terrorists had accomplished all they could until they had opportunities sometime in the future.

I would like to believe we will not have to deal with any more '9/11's. But the reality is that someday we will again be caught off guard by those who want to destroy America.

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneida.school.org](http://www.oneida.school.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

## The coffee fund

### Son of Clear Creek alumn provides fund for students' simple comfort

"It just ought not be that a student could not have at least a cup of coffee."

Those were the words of Tom Melzoni Jr. as he established the "coffee fund" at Clear Creek. Melzoni reflected on the accounts of his father, Tom Melzoni Sr. concerning his time as a student here.

"Often I traveled to school without even enough money to buy a cup of coffee at break," his father had recalled.

Tom Jr.'s parents were Tom Melzoni and his wife, Tressie. Rev. Melzoni received his Bible training from Clear Creek and had a tremendous love for the Appalachian region and the mission of Clear Creek. A U.S. Army veteran of World War II and survivor of the Normandy Invasion, Rev. Melzoni died in 1989 at the age of 67; Tressie Melzoni died in 2007 at age 87.

Melzoni had shared with his son about the tough financial times he faced as a student at Clear Creek. There were big sacrifices made and many comforts missed, but somehow the inability to buy a cup of coffee at break

time rang loudest to Tom Jr.

It is very much like the stories from the mission field, when you hear about people going blind or dying for lack of \$10 worth of medicine. You want to cry out, "I would give that and much more if I could reach them."

Tom Melzoni Jr. is not only a loving son and a devoted Christian, but also a successful businessman. His father's story impacted him because he could not go back in time and minister to his father.

The son obviously still was touched as he thought about his father missing such a simple comfort. "That just ought not be," Tom Jr. said. And he made sure that it would not be again.

"I'm going to make sure that everyone who comes here to study God's word will at least have a cup of coffee at break time." With those words, he established a coffee fund in honor of his brother-in-law Terry Black and his sister Sharon Melzoni Black and in memory of Tom Melzoni Sr.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Babb: Jesus is key to healthy relationships

By Todd Deaton

Elizabethtown—"The reality is we live in a culture that is increasingly hungry for authentic relationships, but equally as confused about what they really are and how to establish and maintain them," said Karl Babb, one of many workshop leaders for the recent Super Saturday events across the state.

"We have a world that is finding a lot of substitutions for genuine relationships, and those substitutions are leaving folks hungry and hollow," observed Babb, leadership development team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Citing Galatians 6:7-10, Babb emphasized the need to nurture and sustain authentic relationships as part of God's design in being a member of a family and part of a covenant community.

"Relationship is not something peripheral; it is essential, flowing from the very nature of God, initiated in creation with the family and demonstrated throughout history in community," he said. "The problem is we live in a fallen world where relationships have been battered, abused, neglected, distorted, redefined, and often not viewed in God-honoring ways."

In defining the seven relationship



spheres of God, self, family, friends, colleagues, community and world, Babb emphasized, "Our relationship with God affects all the others, which are happening simultaneously.

"It's an integrated life that we live. The challenge is living in a healthy way, not letting any one of these spheres dominate at the expense of the others."

Yet, in the center-most sphere, "How often do we struggle with our relationship with the Father and the need to develop, nurture and give priority to it?" Babb asked.

The challenge, he said, is learning to relate and trust one another on a deeper level. "You simply cannot operate on the basis that everybody is just going to be wholeheartedly in. So, how do you encourage them?"

To build trust and overcome barriers of gender differences, personality, background, physiology, environment and age, Babb suggested building some biblical bridges:

■ Philippians 2:4—Look to the interest of others.

■ Ephesians 4:29—Be sensitive to the needs of others.

■ 1 Timothy 1:15—Have an attitude of humility.

■ Galatians 5:13—Check your motives.

■ James 1:19 and Proverbs 18:13—Listen, listen, listen.

In any relationship one enters, there always is a need for extending grace, love and forgiveness, he concluded. "So, the key to forming healthy relationships is Jesus." (WR)

**"THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL, BUT THE WORKERS ARE FEW."**

MATTHEW 9:37

There are a lot of ways to help rescue these children who find themselves in troubled homes. Please prayerfully consider bringing in a child and sheltering them from their storm. Or perhaps you can be generous with your support of those who do. To learn more about foster care services or to donate to our cause, visit [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org) or call 1.855.33.iCARE.

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# Denominations important to pastors, but future uncertain

By David Roach

**Nashville, Tenn.**—A majority of pastors with denominational affiliation believe it is vital to be part of a denomination, but a majority also believe the importance of identifying with a denomination will diminish over the next 10 years.

That is the finding of a survey by LifeWay Research of more than 900 American Protestant pastors. The survey excluded pastors of non-denominational churches.

In response to the statement, "Personally, I consider it vital for me to be part of a denomination," three-quarters of pastors (76 percent) agree. Similarly, 77 percent of pastors agree with the statement, "Our congregation considers it vital for our congregation to be part of a denomination."

Despite the convictions of identity,

however, nearly two-thirds of pastors (62 percent) believe the importance of identifying with a denomination will decline over the next decade.

"Many talk about the decline of denominations today, prompting us to ask pastors of churches that belong to Protestant denominations if they consider their affiliation vital," said Ed Stetzer, vice president of research and ministry development at LifeWay Christian Resources. "Many will be surprised at how strong their response was in favor of denominational connection, but also intrigued that their outlook on the future is much less optimistic."

The survey results reveal that pastors who consider themselves mainline are more likely than evangelicals to agree (strongly or somewhat) that their personal membership in a denomination is important. While 85 percent of mainline

pastors agree that it is vital to be part of a denomination, only 74 percent of evangelicals agree.

Education and age also affect pastors' opinions of denominations. Those with at least a master's degree (62 percent) are more likely to strongly agree that their personal denominational identification is vital than pastors with a bachelor's degree (41 percent) or some college (48 percent).

Pastors ages 65 and older are more likely to strongly agree (71 percent) that their personal denominational identification is vital than those ages 55-64 (58 percent), 45-54 (55 percent) and 18-44 (48 percent).

Pastors of larger churches are most likely to agree that the importance of denominations will diminish over the next decade—72 percent of those with churches averaging 250 or more in

worship agree, compared with 62 percent of those averaging 50-99 and 53 percent of those averaging fewer than 50.

Although the majority of all groups agree that identifying with a denomination will decrease in importance, pastors 65 and older are the most likely age bracket to disagree. While 27 percent 65 and older strongly disagree, only 16 percent of pastors ages 55-64, 15 percent of those ages 45-54 and 16 percent of the 18-44 group strongly disagree.

"Ironically, the future value of most denominations depends at least in part on the very pastors who predict their decline in influence," Stetzer said. "The group most likely to predict denominational decline is pastors of larger churches, which is probably not surprising to most observers. Yet, it does point to the future challenge for denominational leaders." (LW)

## LifeWay task force to study NIV Bible

**Ridgecrest, N.C.**—A LifeWay board of trustees task force has been appointed to study the new NIV Bible in light of a resolution passed at the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting in June.

At issue is a resolution passed by convention messengers that calls the New International Version 2011 Bible an "inaccurate translation" that the SBC cannot recommend. The resolution criticized the NIV 2011 for its "gender neutral methods of translation." It also said messengers "respectfully request that LifeWay" not sell the translation. (BP)

## CBF exec Vestal announces plans to retire in 2012

**Atlanta**—Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal announced he will retire June 30, 2012.

"Fifteen years ago I sensed a calling of the Spirit to become coordinator of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship," Vestal told the CBF advisory council at its regularly scheduled September meeting. "Now I am sensing a release from that calling."

Vestal said he would serve until June 30 unless a successor is named sooner. He said he has asked officers to appoint a search committee for a new executive coordinator, as outlined in CBF personnel policies.

"Through the years I have discovered that discerning the will of God for my life and ministry has been an unfolding experience," Vestal said. "Seldom have I known providence other than in

illumination for the next decision or in strength for the next step. And that has been sufficient. Often I have prayed for wisdom as I approached times of transition. Now is such a time for transition."

Vestal was elected CBF coordinator in 1996 as successor to founding coordinator Cecil Sherman. After his unsuccessful bid to become president of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1990, Vestal convened a meeting of disenfranchised moderates that led to formation of the CBF a year later.

A Texas native, Vestal is former pastor of Tallowood Baptist Church in Houston, Dunwoody Baptist Church in Atlanta and First Baptist Church of Midland, Texas. Vestal said he and his family are anticipating their next step in ministry. (CBF/ABP)



Daniel Vestal

## Sending capacity

### Christians can do 'More for Christ' by giving of themselves, estates

I was struck by Saddleback pastor Rick Warren's observation and challenge at this year's Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference about the way we keep score on churches. He observed for the past 30 years, "We have rewarded attendance." However, in order to reach the world's 3,800 remaining unengaged people groups with the gospel in the next decade, he contended, we need to reward "not attendance but reproduction, not size but sending capacity."

So, his challenge was for church planting. His method was for churches to plant and parent churches in the U.S. and among the unreached people groups. His conviction, with which I wholeheartedly agree, was "God blesses the unselfish church." And, I would add, God blesses the unselfish Christian.

What an opportunity we Kentucky Baptists have to expand our individual and collective "sending capacity" in response to the More for Christ emphasis. More for Christ means more of ourselves, more of our families, more for the lost, more for the needs of others, and more for the nations.

More for Christ is about discipleship and a growing relationship with the living Lord and a declining relationship with the material world. It's about becoming a more kingdom-minded

steward of whatever it is the Lord has entrusted to you.

I am convinced we cannot expand our sending capacity sufficiently simply by writing checks and placing them in the offering plates on Sunday mornings. It requires us to be stewards of our incomes and our non-cash assets—our estates. And for most of us, how we plan our estates likely will be the single most important

and significant act of financial stewardship we shall ever make.

As you prayerfully ponder how God is leading you to do More for Christ and expand your sending capacity, the KBF stands ready to assist you with private estate stewardship consultation to facilitate your life-changing legacy for kingdom advancement.

Please call Laurie Valentine or me toll free. This service already has been paid for by the Cooperative Program.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Start a 'Chain Reaction'

### Eliza Broadus Offering starts off new year with \$1.25 million goal

On Sept. 1 we began a new church year, which also is the fiscal year for the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the Eliza Broadus Offering. Our 2011-12 goal is \$1.25 million.

The goal is about more than dollars. Every dollar represents a lost person who needs Jesus. Every dollar needs to be supported in prayer and personal involvement in missions. The "Chain Reaction" prayer guide is one to keep with your Bible and pray for state missions all year.

Just this week, I had a note from a WMU leader reporting on a missions ministry at her church to reach out during their community festival. Activities include being involved in a parade, backyard Bible club and a puppet ministry. This WMU leader was so thankful for a pastor who loves the community. State missions is both what we support and what we do.

Detailed information about how EBO will be used during this fiscal year was provided in the 2011 state missions materials. You can access this information at www.KyWMU.org/EBO. You are encouraged to take a look at the many areas funded by EBO.

Just recently Rebecca Carnell was named the Kentucky Mission Service Corps Missionary of the Year for her work in literacy missions. EBO has supported the annual KBC literacy conference for many years. Rebecca plans and

leads this conference as a time of training and inspiration for literacy volunteers. We are grateful for Rebecca's leadership in training literacy workers who teach adult reading and writing, who tutor children and youth, and those who teach English as a second language.

The recent call-out for disaster relief volunteers is another

reminder of the impact of EBO. While we never know where our volunteers will be needed, disaster relief is a ministry of the KBC that meets critical needs and shares the gospel. EBO provides funds for training, equipment and other expenses. Every time a Kentucky Baptist disaster relief vehicle heads out or a volunteer prays with a disaster victim, EBO is at work.

Start a "Chain Reaction" this year. Give to the Eliza Broadus Offering!

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

### EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



## September

- 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 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.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host **Hugh X. Lewis** in concert, presenting "The Christian Country Story," Sept. 24, 5 p.m. For more information, call (270) 522-6002. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

Donaldson Creek Church will hold an ordination service for Pastor **Russ Thomas** Sept. 25.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will host the REACH Evangelism Conference Sept. 24-26 with **Scott Wilkins**, the founder of REACH, as guest speaker. For more information, call (270) 465-8115.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—First Church will hold revival services Sept. 25-28 with **Steve Hussung**, pastor of Rich Pond Church in Bowling Green, as evangelist and **Benny Stofer**, worship pastor at Living Hope Church in Bowling Green, as worship leader. **Bob Lowery** is pastor.

■ **COLD SPRING**—First Church will hold Campbell County Revival services Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m., with **Mark Webb**, pastor of First Church of Highland Heights, and **Glenn Chasteen**, pastor of First Church of Fort Thomas, as evangelists. **Ronny Raines** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold a Mega Monday service Sept. 26, 7 p.m., with **Hershael York**, pastor of Buck Run Church in Frankfort, as guest speaker. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—Calvary Church recently called **Brent Rowe** as pastor. He previously was the church's associate pastor.

■ **DRY RIDGE**—Dry Ridge Church ordained Youth Director **Brian Smallwood** to the gospel ministry Sept. 11. **Joe Kitchens** is pastor.

■ **FORT THOMAS**—First Church will hold Campbell County Revival services Sept. 25, 10:45 a.m., with **Dave Simpson**, pastor of Highland

Avenue Tabernacle in Fort Thomas, as evangelist, and Sept. 27, 7 p.m., with **Ronny Raines**, pastor of First Church of Cold Spring, as evangelist. **Glenn Chasteen** is pastor.

Highland Avenue Tabernacle will hold Campbell County Revival services Sept. 25, 10:30 a.m., with **Glenn Chasteen**, pastor of First Church of Fort Thomas, as evangelist, and Sept. 28, 7 p.m., with **Mark Webb**, pastor of First Church of Highland Heights, as evangelist. **Dave Simpson** is pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church will celebrate its 187th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 25. A potluck meal will follow the morning service. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **HENDERSON**—**Jerry Pearcy** recently retired as pastor of Eastview Church. He had served the church since 2007.

■ **HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**—First Church will hold Campbell County Revival services Sept. 25, 10:45 a.m., with **Ronny Raines**, pastor of First Church of Cold Spring, as evangelist, and Sept. 26, 7 p.m., with **Dave Simpson**, pastor of Highland Avenue Tabernacle in Fort Thomas, as evangelist. **Mark Webb** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—Edgewood Church will hold a See You at the Pole student prayer rally Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m. **Nick Sandefur** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Ivory Hill Church will hold revival services Sept. 25-29. **Marvin Neal** is pastor.

■ **JOHNSON CITY, TENN.**—**Dwight Lyons**, who served as a KBC campus minister in the 1960s and '70s, died Sept. 11. He was 78. Lyons joined the KBC as a student union director at Eastern Kentucky University in 1961. He later served as the Baptist campus

minister at University of Louisville from 1969-77, after which he became the coordinator for campus ministries in the Louisville Metro area until his retirement in 1988. A Tennessee native, Lyons earned degrees from East Tennessee State University and Southern Seminary.

■ **LANCASTER**—Freedom Church will host Bates Creek Association's youth cookout and hayride Sept. 24, 5 p.m., with music, drama and a devotional from the youth group at Union City Church in Richmond. **James Hardin** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Calvary Church will host Laurel River Association's annual discipleship rally Sept. 25, 6 p.m. **Harlan Avera** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will host its annual church picnic Sept. 25 following the worship service. **David Platt** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will host a Celebrate Missions dinner Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$8. For more information, call (502) 426-2444. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a women's crafts day Sept. 24, 10 a.m., to make witnessing dolls for a missions team traveling to Honduras. The church also will hold the 4G (God, Grace, Glory and Goofiness) family event Sept. 25, 6 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will host **No Other Name** in concert Sept. 25, 6 p.m. A missions fair will follow the concert. For more information, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold a game night for adults Sept. 22, 6:30 p.m. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

Sharon Church recently called **Tony Adams** as pastor. He pre-

## Spotlight on ...

## Henderson



Green Valley Association recently named **Phillip Basinger** its director of missions emeritus. He served as DOM of the association from 1999-2009. Basinger currently is pastor of Bellfield Church in Henderson.

viously was minister of education at Trace Creek Church in Mayfield.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church will hold a senior-adult banquet Sept. 24, 4:30 p.m., with the theme "Fly Like a Butterfly" and special music provided by **29 Strings**. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—Rineyville Church will hold revival services Sept. 25, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sept. 26-28, 7 p.m., with **Don Whitt**, of Jackson, Tenn., as evangelist. **Mitch Ash** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will host a ladies' potluck brunch and secret pals reveal Sept. 24, 10 a.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Panola Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 25. **Phil Ronk** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberland will host a performance by Christian illusionist **Jim "The Maze" Munroe** Sept. 22, 8 p.m., at the Gatliff Chapel on campus. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit [www.WhatIsTheMaze.com](http://www.WhatIsTheMaze.com).

■ **WILLISBURG**—Brush Grove Church will hold revival services Sept. 25, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Sept. 26-30, 7 p.m., with **Greg Haynes**, pastor of Woodlawn Church in Lebanon, as evangelist. **Everett Hood** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Kiddville Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 25. **Gary Evans** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**SEEKING:** Bivocational youth minister for a growing suburban Northern Kentucky church. This ministry position could potentially become full-time in the future. A calling to youth ministry and love for Christ and teenagers a must. Please send resumés by Oct. 17, 2011, to Youth Minister Search Committee, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education at Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo., working with blended worship service and choir, and overseeing educational programs. Send resumés to Hillcrest Baptist Church, 399 Hoover, Lebanon, MO 65536; or email [dbrown@lebanonhbc.com](mailto:dbrown@lebanonhbc.com).

**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. Resumés should be emailed to [ashley@calvaryindanville.com](mailto:ashley@calvaryindanville.com) by Oct. 7.

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

**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.

**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:** Minister to students at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky. Immanuel is a progressive Baptist congregation with more than 700 members. The candidate will have a master's degree from an accredited seminary/divinity school, or a bachelor's degree and at least 5 years experience, with a passion for nurturing relationships. Immanuel defines youth ministry by a commitment to faith development, mission service to the local community and beyond, and creating community for students through fellowship. For more information, visit Immanuel's website:

[ibcpaducah.org](http://ibcpaducah.org). Please send letters of inquiry to Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001; or via email to [ibc@vci.net](mailto:ibc@vci.net). Applications will be accepted through Oct. 15, 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 resumés to Search Committee, SHBC, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503. Visit [www.southernheightsbc.org](http://www.southernheightsbc.org); email resumés: [flashley@insightbb.com](mailto:flashley@insightbb.com).

**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:** Minister of music at Immanuel Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky. Immanuel is a progressive Baptist congregation with more than 700 members. Worship may be characterized by a warm formality, and the seasons of Advent, Lent and Holy Week are significant. The candidate will be a

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classically trained musician with at least a master's degree and an appreciation of wide ranges of musical styles. He or she will be able to conduct major works with orchestral accompaniment. The minister of music will direct, coordinate and supervise a full music ministry program that includes sanctuary choir, orchestra, graded choir program, ensembles, handbells, chimes and other ministerial responsibilities. Recent sanctuary renovation includes upgraded sound and lighting capabilities, and a 39-rank Cassavant pipe organ. For more information, visit Immanuel's website: [ibcpaducah.org](http://ibcpaducah.org). Please send letters of inquiry to Personnel Committee, Immanuel Baptist Church, 3465 Buckner Lane, Paducah, KY 42001; or via email to [ibc@vci.net](mailto:ibc@vci.net). Applications will be accepted through Oct. 15, 2011.

## Roots, trees, fruits and you

Think of a Bible verse about money. Odds are pretty good you landed on "For the love of money is a root of all evil."

1 Timothy 6:10 may be the best known but least understood Bible verse by Christians and non-Christians alike. A lot of people can quote it, but few really know what it means.

On a plane traveling to Colorado, I sat next to a couple in the bulkhead row. We had a brief exchange when they asked me what I do for a living. I gave them a straight but gentle answer. "Well, I teach people what the Bible says about money."



Chuck Bentley

Without hesitation, the husband offered his thoughts. "I know exactly what the Bible says about money." He paused as if to think briefly. "Money is a root of all evil."

As he waited for my reply, there was an awkward moment because the look on his face indicated he was confident he had properly answered a tricky trivia question. He seemed pretty proud of himself, even though his answer was wrong.

"Well, not exactly," I said. "There's another word in there. The verse you are thinking of actually says the love of money is the root of all evil."

My fellow passenger gave the required "ah," feigning he was impressed with my profound biblical acumen, yet I couldn't escape the nagging feeling that I, too, had missed something in the often-misquoted verse.

As I studied 1 Timothy 6:10, I sensed the Holy Spirit leading me to a deeper understanding. I looked at each word and meditated on the major elements: love ... money ... evil. What was I missing? Then, as if the Holy Spirit were speaking right to me, I heard, "You're missing a key word here. Look closer at the word root."

Why is it there? Why is the love of money, an evil that Christians are to avoid, described as a root?

Let's put the verse in context. First, it was given as a warning from the Apostle Paul to Timothy. Paul knew that his young protégé one day would carry on his work of advancing the first-century church. The apostle wanted to protect the church and enable it to grow.

Digging deeper, we see that the love of money is a sin we internalize, taking it deep into the heart. It requires a suitable analogy to give it meaning. That meaning was vital not only to Timothy 2,000 years ago; it's just as important for you and me today.

Dwelling on that meaning caused me to think of the roots of a tree. Lots of things have roots, but they always make me think of trees. Trees have roots—big ones.

Then there was that voice again. "How many trees are mentioned in the Bible?"

You know what I found? There are far more trees mentioned in the Bible than I ever imagined.

I found pomegranate, mustard, balsam, olive, tamarisk, poplar, fig, nut, incense, sycamore, pine, apple, cedar, oak, broom, myrtle, almond and palm trees mentioned throughout God's word.

The Bible often uses the image of a tree to illustrate a truth, sometimes describing a given tree as good or bad.

Perhaps the best-known example of this occurs in Genesis, when the Lord plants two trees in the Garden of Eden. We see the tree of life, a good

tree, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil, a decidedly bad tree that Adam and Eve were warned to avoid at all costs. The very beginning of mankind's existence is related to the choice between two trees.

Of all of the trees mentioned in the Bible, I believe those most crucial for us to understand today are the trees used to describe you and me. I'll leave it to you to ponder whether you're a good tree or a bad tree. Just understand that Scripture compares us to trees. We are to become like trees that bear good fruit.

"No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit," Jesus said (Luke 6:43-45). "Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart. And the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart."

Let's call this evil tree, as described by Jesus, the "Me Tree." It represents a person born into this world in a natural state—without the Spirit of God living in him or her. This tree sees the world as something we can own and possess. It looks at acquiring riches through possessions.

Then we have the good tree, a person who has the Spirit of God living in him or her. Let's call that person the "He Tree," representing that He, God, lives within.

When we ask Christ into our hearts, we become His possession, a He Tree. This tree understands that God owns everything. It looks at riches from God's perspective, knowing that it is a steward and not an owner. The tree and everything on it comes from and belongs to the Lord. Psalm 24:1 makes this clear: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it."

If we are trees and expected to bear good fruit, it's important to understand the root system, because it's crucial to our ability to bear good fruit. (BP)

*This is adapted from Chuck Bentley's new book, "The Root of Riches: What if Everything You Think about Money Is Wrong." Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries and host of Crown's MoneyLife podcast.*

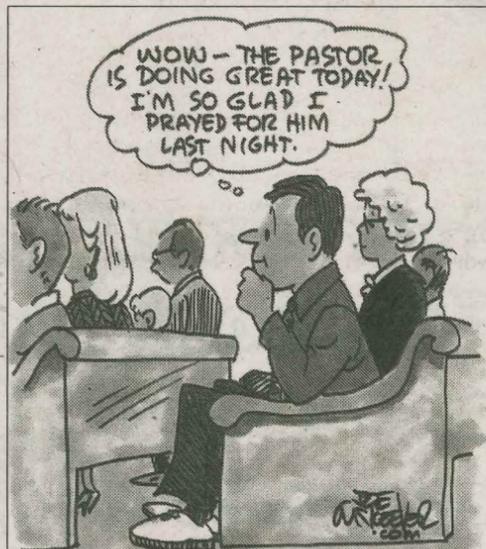
## Preacher's Kids



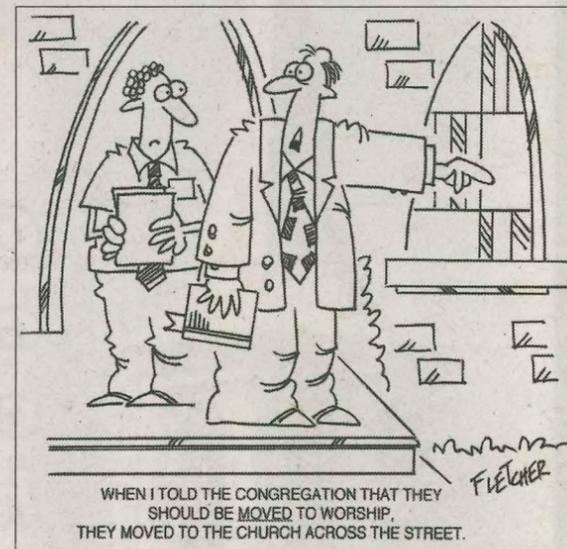
Joe McKeever



Dennis Fletcher



Fletch



## Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

### Across

- 1 "Ye who \_\_\_\_\_ were far off are made nigh" (Ephesians 2:13)
- 9 Car manufacturing union, abbr.
- 12 Removal of a mistake
- 13 Book that follows Daniel
- 15 Electrical engineer, abbr.
- 16 Memphis' state, abbr.
- 17 Not here
- 19 "\_\_\_\_\_, and ye shall find," (Matthew 7:7)
- 21 Contraction for I have
- 23 "I \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord, and he heard me" (Psalm 34:4)
- 27 West Indies, abbr.
- 28 "The eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no \_\_\_\_\_ of thee" (1 Corinthians 12:21)
- 29 Article
- 30 A long, low soft couch or sofa
- 31 Geomagnetic electrokinetograph, abbr.
- 32 Book, abbr.
- 34 Inspector General, abbr.
- 35 Letter of the alphabet before "en"
- 37 "Jesus saith unto her, ... whom \_\_\_\_\_ thou?" (John 20:15)
- 39 "Like the \_\_\_\_\_ birth of a woman" (Psalm 58:8)
- 40 Foot, suffix
- 41 Mercury, chem. symbol
- 42 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to \_\_\_\_\_" (Joshua 7:2)
- 43 "But \_\_\_\_\_ for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4)
- 44 "My heart is like wax; \_\_\_\_\_ is melted" (Psalm 22:14)
- 46 "Make me as one of thy \_\_\_\_\_ servants" (Luke 15:19)
- 47 Royal Horse Guard, abbr.
- 49 "(Abram) sat in the \_\_\_\_\_ door" (Genesis 18:1)
- 51 Center fielder (baseball), abbr.

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49		50			51		52	53		
54							55			

- 52 "Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down ... if he call thee ... say, speak, Lord" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 54 "For my yoke is \_\_\_\_\_, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30)
- 55 "And the people \_\_\_\_\_ for Zacharias, ... he tarried so long" (Luke 1:21)

- 19 "There is none that \_\_\_\_\_ after God" (Romans 3:11)
- 20 A valuable tree of Hawaii
- 22 Symbol of victory
- 24 "Lord I believe; help thou mine \_\_\_\_\_" (Mark 9:24)
- 25 Hand, abbr.
- 26 "No man hath seen God at any \_\_\_\_\_" (John 1:18)

### Down

- 1 "As a roaring lion ... \_\_\_\_\_ whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 2 A rock or soil containing some metal
- 3 Mother
- 4 This, Sp.
- 5 Musical ditties
- 6 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 7 Encountered
- 8 "The woman was a Greek, ... and \_\_\_\_\_ besought (Jesus) that he would cast forth the devil" (Mark 7:26)
- 9 Took advantage of
- 10 First 2 vowels
- 11 "So that ye come behind in no gift; \_\_\_\_\_ for the coming of our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:7)
- 14 Either
- 18 To squeeze with the arms

- 27 "Our soul \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord; he is our help" (Psalm 33:20)
- 33 "He opened not the doors ... therefore they took a \_\_\_\_\_, and opened them" (Judges 3:25)
- 36 "A sound from heaven as of a rushing \_\_\_\_\_ wind" (Acts 2:2)
- 37 "Find me, when ye shall \_\_\_\_\_ for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13)
- 38 "I will pour out of my \_\_\_\_\_ upon all flesh" (Acts 2:17)
- 39 Bring together into one
- 45 A hot or cold beverage
- 48 "In the beginning \_\_\_\_\_ created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1)
- 50 Maritime province, abbr.
- 52 Apiece, in other words, abbr.
- 53 51, Romans num.

## Last puzzle's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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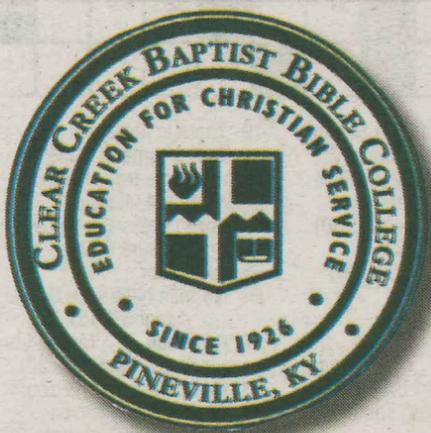
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CLEAR CREEK BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE

300 Clear Creek Road

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Dr. Donnie Fox, President

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Fax: 606-337-2372

Internet: [www.ccbbc.edu](http://www.ccbbc.edu)

E-Mail: [distanceeducation@ccbbc.edu](mailto:distanceeducation@ccbbc.edu)