

# WESTERN Recorder

October 4, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 38

## 'Changers' share Christ through hard work



### Dozens of adults wrap up Kentucky Changers' statewide summer projects

By Robin Bass

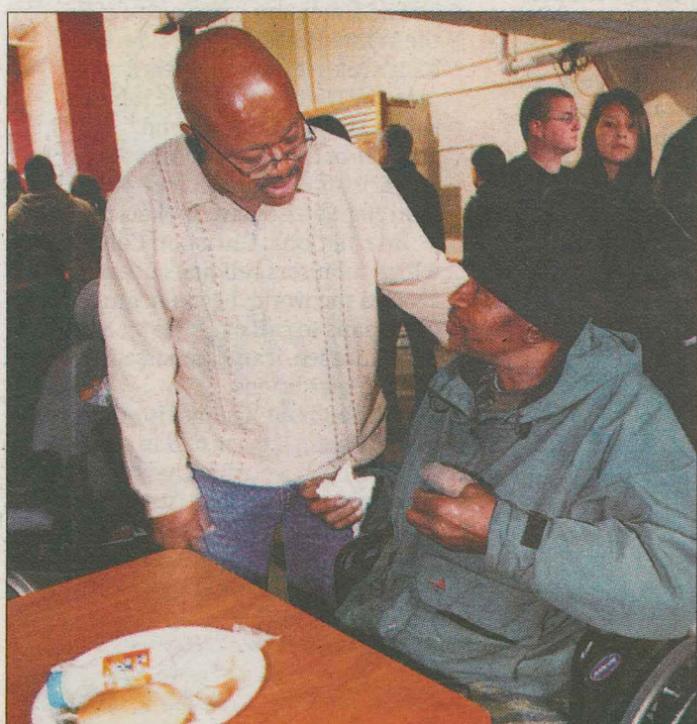
Louisville—Kentucky Changers wrapped up this summer's long list of construction missions projects by enlisting adults to take on four home repair assignments in a west Louisville neighborhood last week.

More than 50 adult volunteers—half of which were Kentucky Baptist Convention staffers—took the challenge and joined together to hammer, saw and even demolish their way to showing others the love of Christ.

The Kentucky Changers were assisting the Fuller Center for Renovating the Shawnee neighborhood of Louisville. The Fuller Center, started by Habitat for Humanity founder Millard Fuller, is a faith-driven and Christ-centered nonprofit organization that offers repairs and renovations to substandard housing for the purposes of supporting home ownership and eliminating homelessness.

Throughout 2011, Kentucky Changers  
□ See Kentucky Changers ... Page 7

Harold Thompson (on ladder) of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Benton said volunteering with Kentucky Changers is his idea of a vacation from his regular job as a carpenter. Thompson joined more than 50 volunteers last week working on one of four Kentucky Changers projects in west Louisville. (Photo by Robin Bass)



**FREE FROM HUNGER** Ron Thomas (left), pastor of Set Free Church in Los Angeles, visits with guests at the church's Thanksgiving dinner, provided in part by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Oct. 9 is World Hunger Sunday in the Southern Baptist Convention. (Photo by Greg Schneider)

## Church plant helps feed L.A.'s Skid Row

By Sara Shelton

Los Angeles—Home looks a little different down on L.A.'s Skid Row.

There are no white picket fences, no meticulously manicured lawns, no picturesque homes lining the blocks. Here, the sidewalks are littered with wilted cardboard boxes and dilapidated camping tents that shelter the nearly 8,000 homeless people who lay their heads down each night on the streets of this dispirited area of Los Angeles.

Years ago, Ron Thomas was among these nameless faces making his home on the streets and sidewalks of Skid Row.

"I was homeless ... dirty, hungry, in need," Thomas recalled. "I was smoking crack cocaine and my life was a mess."

Yet in an instant, Thomas' life changed. As he sat one afternoon on a park bench, a little girl

### World Hunger Sunday // October 9

approached him to deliver one simple message of truth: Jesus loves you.

"I knew then, without a shadow of a doubt, this was my way out: through the Lord Jesus Christ," Thomas said.

Compelled by the power of Christ, Thomas cleaned up his life, got off the streets and left Los Angeles to start fresh. But that same power soon sent him right back to Skid Row, this time to plant and lead Set Free Church in the heart of the homeless population. Set Free is a church plant of Los Angeles Baptist Association and the California Southern Baptist Convention.

Since the doors opened at Set Free Church Skid Row, the goal  
□ See Set Free Church ... Page 6

### A brief glimpse at Hunger in the U.S.

49 million Americans struggle with hunger, including 17 million children. That means 1 in 6 people do not get enough food to be healthy. (source: Feeding America)

An estimated 35 percent of poor families in the U.S. are forced to choose between buying food and paying their rent or mortgage.

Nearly half of all families headed by a single mother are food insecure.

In U.S. cities, 1 in every 4 people in a soup kitchen line is a child.

The average cost of a meal at a Southern Baptist hunger ministry is 30 cents per meal. (source: NAMB)



University of the Cumberlands ministry at heart of community center's rebirth in Whitley County. Page 2.

Study shows Campbellsville University has significant economic impact on surrounding community. Page 3.

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# UC ministry sees rebirth of community center

By Tiera Ball

**Williamsburg**—Mid-Springs Community Park was, for more than 25 years, a place for children to play, families to meet and for University of the Cumberland's Appalachian Ministries program to minister to the children of western Whitley County.

As time went on, however, committee member squabbles, community disinterest and extreme vandalism forced the children out, families to go elsewhere and Appalachian Ministries to start meeting in local churches.

For 14 years, the park stood nearly abandoned and in severe disrepair until Appalachian Ministries found itself in need of a new place to meet. Community members responded favorably to reopening the park as a family meeting place. Last fall, Appalachian Ministries began holding its Monday and Wednesday evening Bible studies at the park.

Slowly and steadily, work progressed on the park. Cumberland's students, individuals from the community, members of South Union-Mount Zion Baptist Association and visiting groups from churches as far away as Kansas City, Mo., have contributed time, materials and labor to reconstructing and refurbishing the park.

"Expectations for future generations are promising and we are happy to work in conjunction with UC to help our community," noted David Aker, director of missions for South Union-Mount Zion Association.



**WORSHIP SPACE** Students from University of the Cumberland's Appalachian Ministries worked with the community in Canadatown holding Vacation Bible School this summer at the new Mid-Springs Community Center.

During the summer of 2010, Mountain Outreach, another UC ministry, donated time and materials to rebuild the picnic shelter while a group from Verona built a 12-by-28-foot storage building.

"The community center is an answer to almost 20 years of prayer," said Magan Atwood, the school's Appalachian Ministries director. "Appalachian Ministries has been praying for a steady place to hold our weekly ministries for years. We are so thankful for the way God has provided."

"It's been incredible to watch the community, local and out-of-state churches, and the students of the University of the

Cumberlands come together to make this dream a reality," she added. "It's been really neat to watch the progression as so many people have volunteered their time and resources."

The new centerpiece of the park is the new 1,800-square-foot Mid-Springs Community Center, built in part by a group from Kansas City.

The center consists of a large gathering room, two classrooms, a kitchenette, restrooms and rustic front and back porches. It was dedicated recently at a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Atwood, Whitley County Judge Executive Pat White and Community President Raleigh Meadors. (UC)

## U.S. government, others mount efforts to save Iranian pastor

**Washington**—Pressure on Iran has continued to mount for the release of a Christian pastor facing a death sentence.

The U.S. State Department issued its first statement late last week and a leading religious liberty organization urged Christians worldwide to contact Iran's United Nations ambassador.



Yousef Nadarkhani

The pastor, Yousef Nadarkhani, refused to recant Christianity four times last week and could be executed at any time for his

faith. A court sentenced him to death because his parents are Muslim and he is a Christian.

The State Department issued a statement that mentions Nadarkhani and said the United States remains "deeply concerned by reports of the Iranian government's continued repression of its people." The statement also said the department remains "particularly concerned" about the pastor.

"The United States stands with the international community and all Iranians against the Iranian government's hypocritical statements and actions, and we continue to call for a government that respects the human rights and freedom of all those living in Iran."

The statement came a day after the White House urged Nadarkhani's release, saying a death sentence by Iran "violates the religious values they claim to defend." Speaker of the House John Boehner and British Foreign Secretary William Hague also have spoken out.

International Christian Concern, which monitors religious liberty around the world, began urging Christians to call or email Mohammad Khazaei, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

"Throughout his imprisonment, (Nadarkhani) has trusted in the Lord and has been a bold witness of the redeeming work of Christ in his life," ICC said in a statement, adding that the pastor "has learned to delight in hardships and persecution for Christ's sake."

Meanwhile, Iran's Fars News Agency reported last week that Nadarkhani was to be put to death for rape and extortion—charges not present in any previous court document since his 2009 arrest, CNN reported. Religious liberty experts immediately defended Nadarkhani, calling the charges false.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide, a religious liberty group, said last week it has "court documents that are very specific" in charging the pastor only with apostasy. (BP)

## Conference encourages church secretaries, assistants

**Louisville**—Church secretaries and administrative assistants often wear many hats: receptionist, bookkeeper, church historian, newsletter editor, webmaster, computer support technician—and the list goes on.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Ministry Assistants' Conference is an opportunity for these vital servants to encourage one another, exchange ideas and learn from guest presenters.

This year's event is Oct. 13 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. Workshop topics are:

- Understanding Your Boss.
- Managing Your Emotions in the Workplace.
- Promoting Your Church and Events Using Social Media.

### ■HELP! How do I use Excel?

Presenters are Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah; Pat Burkhart, adjunct professor, Xavier University, Cincinnati; Brenda Smith, electronic media specialist for the KBC; and Jay Parker, KBC ministry assistant serving in youth and creative ministries.

The conference also will be an opportunity for ministry assistants to meet KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

Jenny Byrd, ministry assistant for the KBC's church development team, has served as the convention's liaison to church secretaries and administrative assistants for 11 years. She said events such as this conference are important.

"It's a chance to learn from others,

and it is an opportunity to be with people with very similar experiences," Byrd said. "It doesn't matter if churches are big, small or somewhere in between, the issues that ministry assistants face on a day-to-day basis are very similar."

Byrd said she believes strongly that God demands both spiritual and professional growth in ministry. These training and interest conferences provide the arena for fellowship, as well as learning opportunities.

The conference fee is \$35 per person and includes lunch and materials. Register online at [www.KyBaptist.org/MinistryAssistants](http://www.KyBaptist.org/MinistryAssistants).

For additional information, contact Byrd by phone at (502) 489-3335, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3335.

## Report: Trends for U.S. churches mostly pointing down

**Hartford, Conn.**—American congregations have grown less healthy in the last decade, with fewer people in the pews and aging memberships, according to a new Hartford Seminary study.

But there also are "pockets of vitality," including an increase in minority congregations.

The findings come from the new Faith Communities Today (FACT) survey based on responses from more than 11,000 congregations in 2010 and more than 14,000 congregations in 2000.

In the first decade of the 21st century,

the median worship attendance at a typical congregation decreased, from 130 to 108. "It means we have a lot more smaller congregations," said David Roozen, author of the report and director of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research.

The percentage of congregations with average weekend worship attendance of 100 or fewer inched up from 42 percent to 49 percent over the decade. More than a quarter of congregations had 50 or fewer people attending in 2010.

While the number of megachurches almost doubled over the decade,

congregations with 2,000 or more weekly attendees make up just 0.5 percent of all congregations.

In many cases, congregations are seeing not only fewer people but older ones in their pews. At least one-third of members in more than half of mainline Protestant congregations are 65 or older.

In the meantime, Roozen said, the percentage of congregations with majorities of members from racial/ethnic groups, often including immigrants, grew from 23 percent to 30 percent over the decade. (RNS)

# Campbellsville U.'s impact on county economy significant

By Joan McKinney

**Campbellsville**—Campbellsville University has a total economic impact from its operations of more than \$93 million in Taylor County and total tax revenues generated by university operations of more than \$1.3 million according to a new study by a national research firm.

The economic impact of Campbellsville University and its related operations is a measure of the total number of dollars that flow through the Taylor County economy each year because of the university.

The new study, conducted by Younger Associates of Jackson, Tenn., shows the school supports a total of 1,258 jobs through all related Campbellsville University operations.

The growth of economic impact from 2011 is up 3.6 percent from the 2009 amount of more than \$90 million, an

increase that is even more significant given a longstanding recessionary period when the economy otherwise decreases, Campbellsville President Michael Carter noted.

The 1,258 jobs (457 direct and 801 indirect) result in more than \$42 million in wages in the local economy, the report stated.

In local taxes, Campbellsville University paid more than \$1.3 million with a total capital spending impact of more than \$6.1 million. Local tax revenues include the direct city school utility tax, occupational taxes from employment and indirect property tax.

One out of every 10 jobs in Taylor County is supported by CU-related operations. The university accounts for 14.2 percent of total expenditures in Taylor County each year, according to the study.

Each year the staff, faculty, coaches, students, contractors, service providers

and other vendors spend more than \$32.9 million at local businesses. Students alone spend more than \$17 million of that amount in the local economy.

"Campbellsville University plays a vital role in the stability of the county's economy," Carter said. "We are proud to partner with the various businesses in Taylor County."

CU's impact on the local economy is further illustrated by the earnings of a typical college graduate, which averages \$6.7 million over a 25-year-career (the total for a high school graduate over the same period is \$3.9 million). As the study noted, the overall impact of Campbellsville's higher education operations cannot be measured entirely in terms of dollar impact.

There are quality-of-life factors for which there are no definitive measures, Carter pointed out.

"Certainly, a major factor in our

community's continuing economic growth and development is the availability of skilled workers and the availability of lifelong learning opportunities via the undergraduate and graduate degree options offered by CU and the numerous options available through the Technology Training Center," the president noted.

"The quality of life is further enhanced by the cultural, social, recreational and educational impacts provided by CU," he added. "We deeply appreciate the support Campbellsville University receives from the people and organizations of this great community."

"From the city of Campbellsville and Taylor County governments to the Chamber of Commerce and Team Taylor County to the churches and community organizations in Campbellsville, we are very fortunate to be a part of Campbellsville/Taylor County." (CU)

# Bell not first megachurch pastor to seek life beyond pulpit

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

**Grandville, Mich.**—For pastors with ambitions to reach huge audiences, there's often no better platform than the megachurch, which has given rise to powerhouse media empires from T.D. Jakes to Max Lucado to Joel Osteen and many others.

But some high-profile pastors are opting to leave congregational ministry altogether to pursue publishing and other media ventures full time. And that, some observers say, carries its own risks and rewards.

On Sept. 22, Rob Bell announced he's leaving Mars Hill Bible Church in Grandville, Mich., in December. Bell's best-selling book, "Love Wins," raised more than a few eyebrows with the premise that hell doesn't include eternal torment. Now, he's moving on.

Bell's resignation makes him the latest in a string a celebrity pastors who have said goodbye to church life. "Crazy



**STEPPING OUT** Rob Bell (left) has followed in the footsteps of other megachurch pastors and bestselling authors like Francis Chan in pursuing a publishing success outside the confines of the local church.

Love" author Francis Chan, "Deep Church" author Jim Belcher and the popular British Bible scholar N.T. Wright all have left their church leadership positions in recent years.

Having left high-profile pastoral roles, these big-name pastors have become prolific publishers. But not all evangelicals

are convinced the gospel is well served when pastors trade a local flock for a global one.

Within hours of the Mars Hill announcement, best-selling author and Saddleback Church Pastor Rick Warren was on Twitter, saying pastors who leave churches have less impact and no base for credibility. "Speaking tours feed the ego = All applause & no responsibility," he tweeted. "It's an unreal world. A church gives accountability & validity."

It's not uncommon for megachurch pastor-authors to consider leaving church leadership, said Rick Christian, president of Alive Communications, a literary agency that represents megachurch pastors. At a certain point, some feel more like CEOs than shepherds and can be tempted to leave the headaches behind—especially when they're making good money from royalties.

But Christians said he encourages them to go slow and remember "there's something inherently great about the

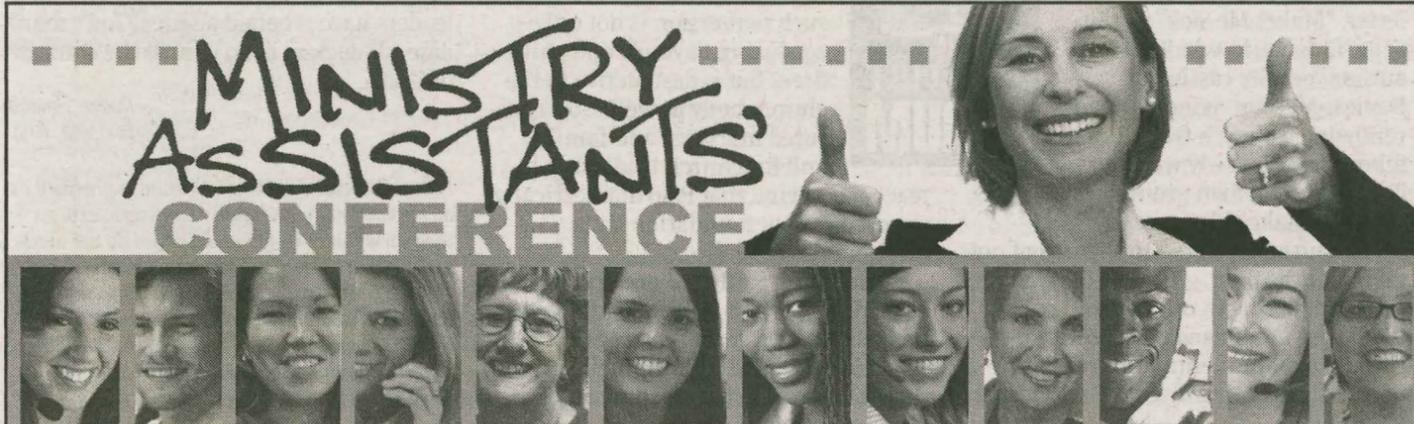
accountability that comes with" leading a congregation. New risks, he noted.

"You can have somebody who leaves for the wrong reasons and becomes a lone ranger," Christian said. "They're just running and gunning for the Lord on planes, in hotels, zipping around at 30,000 feet. You can lose touch very quickly."

But, many megachurch pastors still find value in sustaining congregational ties. Lucado, for instance, earns his living from various publishing ventures and the royalties on more than 80 million books sold, but he still serves without salary as minister of preaching at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio.

"From a business standpoint, I just think there is a grounding that happens in the local church," Christian said. "It's not for everybody. Seasons can change; callings can change. But if you're called in (to church ministry), make sure you're called out for all the right reasons." (RNS)

## 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

- Understanding Your Boss
- Promoting Your Church and Events Using Social Media
- HELP! 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

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

## Conference helps in understanding different beliefs

**Owensboro**—Kentucky Baptists interested in learning how to better relate to people from other religious backgrounds are encouraged to attend the "Understanding Other Beliefs" Conference Oct. 13 at Crosspointe Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Participants can select from three topics: "Understanding Cults," "Comparing Mormonism and Christianity" and "Understanding the Times."

The free event is sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's evangelism growth team. For more evangelism, call (502) 489-3576, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3576. (KBC)

## CP vital for meeting needs

I was privileged to spend time recently with dozens of our in-state missionaries at their annual retreat. The meeting served as an excellent reminder of why some of the Cooperative Program

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

dollars given by our churches are needed right here in Kentucky.

While I am still excited about the decision of Kentucky Baptists to get more of our resources to the nations, I am also enthusiastic about what God is doing through our investment in our own nation and here in our state.

Because of your investment of CP funds,

one of my former students, Job Juarez, is able to serve as a pastor and planter of a new Hispanic church in Kentucky. He also serves as a KBC Hispanic strategist, supervising, guiding and assisting Hispanic pastors in the Bluegrass Region. The Hispanic work in Kentucky is rapidly growing and Job's responsibility for training new leaders is critical.

Because of your CP investment, Greg and Alice Whitetree serve as directors of the Freeda Harris Baptist Center, sharing the message of Christ through a variety of ministries like after school ministry, Vacation Bible School, sports camps, hunger relief, clothing distribution, transportation to medical appointments for seniors, seasonal celebrations and special evangelistic events.

Because of your CP and Eliza Broadus Offering investment, many ministry expenses are covered for George and Cathy Chinn as they serve as directors of Mississippi River Ministry, coordinating the partnership of North American Mission Board, Woman's Missionary Union and the area's eight state conventions. They coordinate short-term volunteers to provide ministries, evangelize the lost, strengthen churches and start new ones in over 165 counties referred to as the "third world along the Mississippi."

Your investment also provides for many of the ministry needs for Harrell and Debbie Riley as they minister to prisoners through the Malachi Dads program, Rubies for Life, Returning Heart Celebrations, worship services and discipleship courses. They also involve local churches in ministry to the students on several of Kentucky's Job Corps campuses through tutoring, Bible study lunches, transportation to church, job shadowing, extra-curricular activities off campus and special evangelistic events.

Amy and Neil Wilhelmus conduct an inner-city ministry reaching thousands of people by meeting needs and sharing Christ through after school tutoring, craft classes, a coffee house, Celebrate Recovery meetings, computer and job skill training, family fun nights and back to school programs that offer back packs, supplies, free haircuts, etc. Many of their expenses are covered by your investment through the CP and EBO.

I could go on listing names and ministries but I trust that from this short list you are able to see that an investment through the Cooperative Program is an investment in the kingdom. Together, we are the KBC!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Ready to swing a hammer or paintbrush?

Over the past 25 years, I have written dozens and dozens of stories on construction and home-repair projects by World Changers, Baptist Builders, Disaster Relief teams, MissionsFest participants, Habitat volunteers, Carpenters for Christ and other missions groups.

This past week, I experienced firsthand the blessings of doing "hands-on missions." While I have a purple thumbnail and sore shoulders to prove it, I also have a deep joy that only comes from knowing you have truly helped meet another's need in the name of Christ.

The Kentucky Baptist Mission Board—along with the Woman's Missionary Union, the Baptist Foundation and the Western Recorder—had an opportunity to participate in a Kentucky Changers project in downtown Louisville. Approximately 30 KBC staff members assisted the Fuller Center for Housing, a Christ-centered non-profit organization, in renovating four homes in the Shawnee neighborhood. The Fuller Center was started by Habitat for Humanity's founder, Millard Fuller, to renovate substandard housing and promote home ownership by low-income individuals and families.

Many youth and education ministers across the state are aware that Kentucky Changers, a Baptist Men on Mission program, provides their young people with two missions experiences each summer to do home repair projects for elderly and needy homeowners. This past summer, students from Kentucky Baptist churches, led by capable and caring adult crew chiefs and other skilled volunteers, worked in Paducah, Mayesville and Louisville and in Bullitt County. But did you know that Kentucky Changers offers two missions experiences—one in the spring, another in the fall—for adults, too?

Installing siding and soffit with State Evangelism Team Leader Ross Bauscher and me were several experienced volunteers from churches across the state: Corky and Belinda Johnson, of Hopkinsville; Terry Fields, of Richmond; Dallas and Dora Stallons and Harold Thompson, of Benton. Meanwhile, Joy Bolton, of Woman's Missionary Union, and Denise Withers, Carla Purvis and Kay Sue Lepert, of the KBC staff, were part of a painting crew that

gave the house's foundation and front porch a fresh coat. Just a few doors down, KBC executive director-treasurer Paul Chitwood and Billy Compton, associate executive for Cooperative Program, were among those working on a demolition crew, gutting a house to ready it for renovations and new shingles.

As we worked, I noticed a woman sitting on a porch across the way. She was watching us, smiling all the while. A Kentucky Changers group had restored her home earlier this year. And during a short break, Leigh Karr, a volunteer from Harrodsburg, initiated a conversation with an area resident and ended up leading

him to accept Christ. These were powerful refreshers of the real reason we were there: to be witnesses of the transforming difference that Christ makes—not just in restoring a home, but in renewing lives.

"We were excited about KBC staff partnering with us at Adult Changers. Their partnership will enable us to complete the four home projects in the Boston Court area, as they have given us a real boost in volunteer labor," Coy Webb, Baptist Men on Mission director, told the Western Recorder. "I hope that each of them walk away with a fresh vision of the ministry that is birthed through our work and have been reminded afresh of our call to minister to the least of these."

I know I did. After this weekend, many of those on your KBC staff and I now can attest to the positive missions experience that Kentucky Changers provides for both youth and adult groups from our churches. Many of the volunteers whom I met said that they look forward to participating on Kentucky Changers' projects year after year. Fields, for example, said he had been on two trips every year since 2005. He and others have seen the tremendous impact the program can have on youth and adults, giving them a fresh vision of meeting needs and opportunities in their own communities and fostering a passion for being involved in state and international missions.

Kentucky Changers truly is "hands-on mission training" that is habit-forming fun. I'm ready to do it again! Are you ready to swing a hammer or paintbrush to share Christ's love with others?

### After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Erroneous viewpoint

My father once advised me to never "go spoiling for a fight," but every so often a viewpoint is espoused that is so erroneous, it must be confronted. I am referring to the letter, "Makes Me Sick" in the Sept. 13 issue, in which the author verbally castigates Daviess-McLean Association for removing a church from its fellowship. Not only was the association on firm ground for doing so, it had to make this move.

The author referred to the sins of not giving to the poor, gluttony, drug addiction and lusting in our hearts. I concur that these are indeed sins; however, there is a monumental difference in personal sins committed by individuals

and the leadership of a church condoning and approving of a sin that the word of God calls "an abomination."

I Corinthians 14:33 states that "God is not the author of confusion." The practice of church leadership condoning and approving of such perversion is not only confusing to youth and children, but is destructive to the church body as well. God instituted marriage and family, and for church leadership to

teach a doctrine that is so diametrically opposed to that foundation is astounding.

When King Saul deliberately disobeyed the Lord in failing to kill Agag, he was removed from the kingship and was told by Samuel in I Samuel 15:22-23 that "to obey is better than sacrifice ..."

and "rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft."

It is no wonder that many of today's youth have rejected the Church. They have no solid foundation and are so confused concerning basic teachings and proper doctrine, because many church leaders have rebelled against God's mandate to "declare unto you all the counsel of God."

Rodger Howard  
Cumberland Gap, Tenn.

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## When sharing Christ, all barriers must fall

By Erich Bridges

Years ago, a missionary sat in the dirt with some pastors in post-revolution Zimbabwe.

The newly independent African nation was a dangerous place at the time. Chaos ruled in some areas. The missionary, Tom Elliff (now International Mission Board president), had found a spiritually responsive group of people in one such place.

"Who will pastor those people?" Elliff asked the church leaders. They looked at each other. Eyes clouded. Heads shook.

"We're not going," one pastor finally replied, speaking for the group. "People get shot down there. Just last week, someone was shot off the top of a bus."

Another pastor reported that a missionary had been killed in the area recently.

"Well, at least we can pray," Elliff said. So they prayed to the Lord of the harvest to send someone.

The meeting dismissed. Everyone left—except one young pastor, barely out of his teens. He limped slowly over to Elliff and said, "I'll go."

"Wait a minute," Elliff cautioned, stealing a glance at the pastor's thin legs. "You heard what they said about the danger, didn't you?"

"I'll go," the young man repeated firmly. "But you've got to promise to bring me a bicycle. I had polio and I can't walk very well. I'm about eight miles away, so walking out there is

going to be tough."

Elliff promised to bring the bicycle as soon as possible. He returned a few weeks later with a two-wheeler in tow.

"Where have you been?" the pastor demanded. "I've been walking out there and back on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Several people are awaiting baptism."

Dumbfounded, Elliff stammered, "What about those stories of people getting shot?"

The young man smiled. "Brother," he said, "if God could stop the mouths of the lions for Daniel, he can stop the muzzles of the guns for me."

Elliff told that story at a recent appointment service for new missionaries. It illustrated the Apostle Paul's case for missions:

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for 'Whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.' How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'" (Romans 10:12-15).

Even hobbled feet are beautiful when they bring good news. The young pastor answered the mission

call when other "stronger" men refused. He also embodied Paul's other point: In the age of Christ, all distinctions between Jews and Greeks, differing people groups, friends and enemies, family and strangers must fall. The gospel invitation to God's kingdom is for all. Paul himself learned that truth as he read the Scriptures with new spiritual eyes following his encounter with Christ. Once he grasped God's mission, the one-time Jewish zealot and persecutor of believers became the missionary to the Gentiles, launching the Christian church as a global enterprise.

Missions, in contrast to sharing your faith with someone who looks, talks and thinks like you, involves crossing lines, some of which aren't visible. They might be national borders, cultural and language barriers, racial and ethnic differences, religious divisions, sometimes physical danger zones like the one crossed by that young African pastor. Even in the barrier-blasting age of broadcast and social media, transmitting the gospel to a previously untouched people usually requires personal, face-to-face, potentially risky contact.

The gospel's most powerful foes, however, aren't hostile cultures or persecution. They are believers who don't take the message seriously enough to share it across any and every barrier. The Good News isn't good news if it never arrives. (BP)

Erich Bridges is an International Mission Board global correspondent.

## Give an income stream

By Laurie Valentine

Is your church in a building program? Would you like to fund your annual giving for missions, child-care ministries or other charitable causes for the next few years in a creative way? If you would like to coordinate your charitable giving with a tax-saving way to transfer assets to your family, consider a charitable lead annuity trust.

A charitable lead annuity trust, or CLAT, is a giving plan that provides a fixed income stream to charitable causes for a designated period. At the end of the trust term, the remainder can be returned to you (a "grantor lead trust") or be distributed to your children or family members (a "non-grantor lead trust").

While a lifetime gift to a "non-grantor" CLAT does not entitle you to a charitable income tax deduction, it does provide a way to pass assets to children at reduced costs. Gift tax savings come from the fact that the tax value of the future gift to your family is the present value of the remainder interest in the trust, not the full value of your gift. With careful coordination of the fixed amount being paid to the charitable beneficiaries and the trust term, you can reduce the present value of the remainder gift significantly. Estate tax savings result from the removal of the asset, any subsequent appreciation and the future income it generates from your estate.

Example: John and Martha Brown set up a seven-year, 6-percent CLAT funded with \$100,000 of stock. The \$6,000 per year income stream will be divided equally between the building program at their church, their Baptist college alma mater and international missions. Over the term, the charities will receive a total of \$42,000 (\$14,000 each). Assuming the trust assets earn an average annual return of 6.5 percent, approximately \$104,000 will be left to pass to children and, if the gift tax value of the future gift is only \$60,000, \$44,000 of that value passes tax-free.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



## Humor is a gift, not sarcasm

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: Our teenage son is funny. The problem is that he is often using sarcasm to put others down. When we call him on it, he simply says that God gave him a sense of humor. How should we answer this line of reasoning?**



**A:** Good humor is a gift from God. While there are not a lot of places in Scripture that are outrageously hilarious, we must understand that the delight that most people take in humor is rooted in our being created in the image of a God, who is the Giver of that good gift.

Healthy humor and laughter are rooted in our createdness. After all, who can even imagine a God who could not laugh or smile? And what person would ever admit to not having a sense of humor?

Like everything else in the created order that sin has corrupted, the healthy humor of creation has at points become coarse, hurtful and destructive. Such is the case with sarcasm. In fact, the very origins of the word connote "the tearing away of the flesh."

Sarcasm most often refers to cutting language that is the opposite of what it seems to say and is intended to mock or deride others.

Sarcasm, rather than building others up, tears them down and is a tool not of a balcony person, but a basement person. Balcony people seek to lift others up and to use their language to encourage.

Paul exhorts the church at Ephesus to avoid "coarse and foolish talking and crude joking" (Ephesians 5:4). He reminds them, "No rotten talk come from your mouth, but only what is good for the building up of someone in need ..." (Ephesians 4:29).

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

## Stop giving alcohol and gambling a pass

By Kelly Boggs

Imagine driving by an abortion clinic and seeing half of the building covered with images of dead pre-born babies.

Envision a beer can or bottle of liquor with half of the container plastered with pictures of wrecked cars, DUI arrests and diseased livers. Visualize a gambling establishment with half of its entrance adorned with posters depicting destitute families and divorce proceedings.

Now imagine that the U.S. government mandated all that in an effort to curb the activities because they were deemed unhealthy and costly to the American public. That is exactly what is happening to the tobacco industry.

The Food and Drug Administration recently unveiled new regulations for tobacco-related products. The mandate entails that 50 percent of packaging and 20 percent of an ad be of vivid color image of the possible negative consequences of smoking.

Among the nine images the FDA has designed are a diseased lung, teeth damaged by tobacco and a man with a long scar running the length of his torso. The warnings include: "Cigarettes cause lung disease," "Cigarettes cause cancer," "Smoking can kill you."

### FIRST PERSON

There is no doubt that tobacco use is unhealthy and will kill. But if the government is going to demonize tobacco products because of adverse physical and fiscal effects—some estimates put the cost

of treating tobacco-related health problems at \$95 billion annually—then why doesn't it similarly highlight the negative aspects of abortion, alcohol or gambling?

Tobacco is estimated to claim the lives of approximately 440,000 lives a year. Comparatively, it is estimated that abortion ends the lives of 1.3 million pre-born children annually. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released a study in 2005 showing that alcohol kills some 75,000 Americans each year and shortens the lives of these people by an average of 30 years. Of that 75,000, 41,000 died in automobile accidents or other mishaps.

While there are no hard statistics for the health consequences of gambling, studies do reveal that, as a group, problem gamblers suffer from a variety of maladies most likely due to stress. Gambling addiction also is tied to broken families, lost jobs, and lost income. Millions of Americans are gambling addicts, and many state governments are accomplices by promoting lotteries and casinos.

The economic costs of abortion

—while difficult to calculate—are not hard to imagine. Since abortion was declared legal in the U.S. in 1973, more than 50 million pre-born babies have lost their lives. That means there are millions of fewer citizens who otherwise would be contributing to the economy and the tax base.

A 2006 report by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism found that alcohol abuse costs the United States an estimated \$185 billion annually. However, only \$26 billion—14 percent of the total—comes from direct medical costs or treating alcoholics. Almost half—\$88 billion—comes from lost productivity. Additionally, in 2006 George Washington University researchers reported that excessive drinking adds \$35 billion to health care coverage annually.

There is no doubt that tobacco use results in poor health and a drain on the economy. But so do abortion, alcohol and gambling.

If the U.S. government is really concerned about the long-term well-being of its citizens, why does it cherry pick tobacco to regulate in an effort to discourage its use while all but ignoring abortion, alcohol and gambling? Of the four, none help to make our nation more healthy, wealthy or wise. (BP)

Kelly Boggs is editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

# Kentucky Baptist leader: World Hunger Fund used in state, too

By Dannah Prather

**Louisville**—With unemployment in Kentucky hovering around 10 percent and "double-dip recession" on the minds of many in the commonwealth, Kentucky Baptist ministries that provide food for hungry people are having problems meeting demand according to one Kentucky Baptist Convention leader.

"Here in Kentucky, hunger fund gifts are down 26 percent from just five years ago, but the number of people served by our ministries has increased considerably," said Eric Allen, director of the KBC's mission service and ministries department.

Oct. 9 is World Hunger Fund Sunday

in Southern Baptist life, and Allen said some Kentucky Baptists may be unaware that the fund provides food for people close to home, in addition to those who are hungry in other parts of the world.

"We distributed over \$43,000 in food this year to Kentucky Baptist churches or associations for hunger relief ministries, such as soup kitchens or food pantries," Allen said.

Those ministries provide more than groceries and hot meals, he pointed out.

"It was rewarding and exciting to know that 125 people professed faith in Christ as a direct result of hunger relief

ministries in Kentucky last year," Allen noted.

Online contributions to the World Hunger Fund can be made at [www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger) by clicking on the "donate" button.

Another way to support the fund is through Fast One to Feed One. Participants simply fast one meal

each month and use the meal time to pray for needs in their communities. They then donate the amount of money they would have spent on the meal through their churches to the World Hunger Fund.

"One hundred percent of every dollar

given to the World Hunger Fund goes directly for the purchase of food," Allen said. "None of it is used for administration, salaries, buildings or transportation."

In tough economic times, even though Christians may have fewer resources themselves, Allen said they must continue to make a concerted effort to minister to those who are less fortunate.

"It's sad that 41 percent of Kentucky's children live in poverty and many of them go to bed hungry each night, yet the average Kentucky Baptist church member gave less than the price of a canned soft drink last year to the World Hunger Fund," he said. (KBC)



## Set Free Church

Continued from page 1

has been simple: to reach the homeless, hurting, addicted and hopeless who are forgotten and often lost to the desperate lifestyle on Skid Row. Thomas saw his life changed by the simple outreach of a young girl. He said he hopes to replicate that type of simple outreach through the ministry of Set Free Church.

Having once been one of the desperate people he now serves, Thomas said he recognizes the need to begin this sort of ministry by meeting their most basic needs first.

"They need to eat; they need to be warm," Thomas said. "But I think with that, if we really minister to the heart and the minds of the people, that's where we see change."

Last year, the ministry of Set Free Church took a huge step forward in this endeavor, hosting its largest outreach to serve the hungry on Thanksgiving. With the help of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and in partnership with local churches and businesses, the ministry saw 1,500 homeless and hungry people fed, all while receiving the message of Christ's love.

"We used to put tables in the middle of the streets and just made like a little dining room. We invited the people on the street to come and have a seat," Thomas said. "Then we invited various churches and youth groups to serve plates of food and drinks and just had a blessed time."

Though the population of hungry and homeless is more concentrated in areas like L.A.'s Skid Row, the need to serve them is great throughout the United States. As the country's economy has taken continued hits over the last few years, nearly 35 percent of American families have found themselves forced to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.

The result of struggles like this is a growing population of hungry and needy people spread throughout the U.S. In the land of plenty, some 49 million Americans struggle with hunger; 17 million of those are children, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

To help churches like Set Free combat the growing epidemic, the Southern Baptist Convention has set up direct funds to provide assistance to ministries and churches in their efforts to feed the hungry. The World Hunger Fund allocates



**THANKFUL** Volunteers from Set Free Church and other local congregations serve a full Thanksgiving meal to more than 1,500 homeless people who live on the streets of L.A.'s Skid Row. (Photo by Greg Schneider)

donations to Southern Baptist churches and ministries in both North America and abroad in an effort to come alongside them in their ministries to the hungry.

In 2010, \$1.1 million dollars was given through the North American Mission Board's domestic hunger fund. Some

2,000 hunger ministries provided more than 5 million meals to the hungry in the U.S. Through these hunger ministries, 33,000 professions of faith were declared last year.

In an effort to bring to light the growing hunger problem in the world and encourage Southern Baptists to act,

World Hunger Sunday  
October 9

[www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Hunger)  
& click 'donate'

churches will recognize Oct. 9 as World Hunger Sunday. For more than 30 years, Southern Baptist churches have participated in this event to raise awareness of the need in their own communities and encourage church members to respond.

Offerings designated for World Hunger are used not just to feed the physical hunger, but also to introduce the gospel of Christ to satisfy spiritual hunger. Everyone who receives food at one of the hunger ministry locations in North America also has an opportunity to hear that gospel.

This is the ultimate goal of church planters like Ron Thomas: to reach and rejuvenate their communities for Christ. With the help of the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, they can start by meeting the most basic needs of those around them, in an effort to meet their ultimate need for Christ in their hearts. (NAMB/BP)

Did you know that over  
**32,000**  
people came to  
know Christ  
last year through  
hunger relief ministries?

Through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund, our missionaries and volunteers are offering nourishment for the body and soul. If we take God's word seriously, the malnourished and hungry are our problem. Those who are afflicted were made in the image of God. He cares about them, which means we are to care about their welfare as well.

You can join the effort by:

- Collecting money in the World Hunger Bread Bank.
- Contributing to the World Hunger Fund offering.
- Participating in Fast One to Feed One.
- Raise awareness by showing the three-minute video, 'It's Time to Get Personal' in your church!

Download at [www.kybaptist.org/hunger](http://www.kybaptist.org/hunger)



For more information: [www.kybaptist.org/hunger](http://www.kybaptist.org/hunger)  
[www.worldhungerfund.com](http://www.worldhungerfund.com)





**MUCH WORK TO BE DONE** Kentucky Changers worked on four projects in west Louisville last week. While other crews were working on installing vinyl siding or painting, some volunteers assisted with roof repairs on a home.



■ **Above:** Adults volunteering with Kentucky Changers last week were encouraged to spread the joy of Jesus Christ with people in the neighborhoods where they were working. Belinda Johnson (left) of Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville takes a moment from cleaning up a job site to chat with west Louisville resident Juanita Ingram. ■ **Top Left:** Peggy Murphy utilizes the claw end of her hammer to remove aged plaster from a west Louisville home last week. Murphy, a ministry assistant with Baptist Men on Mission at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was one of two dozen KBC staffers volunteering with Kentucky Changers. (Photos by Robin Bass)

## Kentucky Changers

Continued from page 1  
completed more than 75 projects in Paducah, Maysville, Louisville and Bullitt County, according to Wendell Bowen, construction coordinator for the west Louisville site. The workforce behind those projects was more than 1,250 youth and adults who gave their time and money this year to participate in the outreach program.

"They got me hooked," said Kimberly Prokopchak of Mount Olivet Christian Church in Williamstown. "It's a fun and easy way to serve the Lord. This is where all of my vacation time goes."

Prokopchak said the demolition project she was working on in Louisville last week was her 15th Kentucky Changers event in four years.

While one crew worked to clear an aging home of old plaster and walls, another crew repaired the roof joists of a neighboring house. Further down the

street, a third team of volunteers carefully measured vinyl siding as the home they were working on received a much-needed facelift.

Among the volunteers from all parts of the state were about two-dozen staff members from the KBC offices in east Louisville. Last month, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood encouraged staff members—and Baptist adults from surrounding areas—to join in the mutually rewarding cause.

"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."

Coy Webb, director of the KBC's Baptist Men on Missions, said the event provided an excellent opportunity for KBC staffers to get out of the office and be reminded of their purpose in Christ.

"So much of what we do is in churches and with church leaders," Webb said. "It's good for us to get connected with lost people and to be reminded of why we do what we do."

Volunteers were required to pay for the honor of serving with Kentucky Changers and many stayed the entire duration of the Sept. 28-Oct. 2 project. They even slept in the gymnasium at nearby St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church at Shively Heights.

Kentucky Changers was organized in 1993 and is modeled after the Southern Baptist youth missions endeavor World Changers. The first project of 2012 is scheduled for the spring in western Kentucky. For more information about participating, contact the Baptist Men on Missions Department at the KBC. (WR)



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## The needs of our days

### Walking alongside students amid life's trials part of OBI's ministry

By Paul Davidson, OBI campus minister

There stood Tristan, shoulders slumped, tears forming in his eyes. "It's not easy," he whispered.

Tristan had spoken in response to my affirmation that I had been praying for him, particularly since our interrupted conversation of the previous evening. At that time he told me he had gone for what was to have been a routine sports physical at one of the nearby clinics. He expected to be told he could participate fully in our athletic program. He was interested in being a member of the cross country team this fall and had been training for the opportunity by running up to six miles a day on his own.

To his painful surprise Tristan had been told he couldn't participate in any sports because his lungs were unequal in size and probably the two sides of his heart were also. He had been restricted to a half-hour a day of playing tennis. Tristan spoke the truth when he said it was hard for him to take that decision.

It isn't that Tristan has been a stranger to difficult and unpleasant situations. He has faced them many times before. His mother died while he was still very young. He was born with a physical handicap and even today walks with a slight limp and a unique curve to his body. In the past his body sometimes has crumpled against a wall, being supported only by those trying to help him.

Tristan has been at OBI for the past three years. He is an outspoken Christian, but as he told a chapel full of

students last year, he isn't perfect. He has trouble controlling his temper and has spent his own share of days on suspension for a variety of misbehaviors.

But Tristan is maturing as a person and as a Christian, and before we finished our brief conversation he characteristically found a way to put a more positive spin on the whole situation. As we both affirmed, God indeed does work all things together for good for His children, even if they don't understand why or how it all can turn out for good. We have to live by faith in Jesus Christ.

Helping Tristan and other students deal with the bumps and bruises of life is part of the ministry here. As in the "real" world, there is no day when everything goes right for everybody. Comments about studies bear witness to that: "This is hopeless. I feel like quitting." "I'm dumb. I'll never get this stuff." "My test grades are never good, even when my homework grades are."

Prayer requests also bear witness to the challenges of everyday life: "Sam lost his balance on his prosthesis and hit his head against the wall." "I talked to my mom last night; I'm really feeling homesick." "Arlene has a high fever again today." "I got injured again in yesterday's soccer game."

For Tristan and other students, education isn't just about learning from a textbook. It's about how to deal with challenges that come from living in a world broken by sin. As we try to show them, only the grace of God is sufficient for the needs of our days.

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)

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## God first

### Student learns important lesson about putting God's priorities first

I wonder sometimes how many of us are limited by our own ideas about how or through whom God will work. We think of salvation and we get a picture of a pastor kneeling at the altar with a penitent sinner, leading them to the cross. Or, maybe we think of a missionary wearing a pith hat communicating the good news of Christ to the natives of some primitive corner of the world.

How many of us, when we think of salvation, would visualize an 8-year-old boy sitting at a table, eating Cheerios with his pastor's daughter?

That was the scene of Tyson Bloor's salvation experience. He had heard the gospel before, but it was at that particular time, as the gospel was shared by a pastor's daughter, that Tyson yielded his life to Christ.

A few years later, while still just a teenager, God called Tyson to the ministry. He was not as receptive to that call as he had been to the salvation call. Tyson rebelled, and tasted what the world had to offer for a while. Gang membership, violence and other sin preceded his return to church.

After coming back to the Lord and

serving as a youth minister, another distraction came. Much different than the violence of his first detour, this time his career took God's place. Reminded again of the call he received as a teenager, Tyson put God off in favor of his position with a major retail company. Three months later, he was terminated.

Tyson sat on the unemployment line for nine months before securing another job—and getting another reminder of his call from God. Once again, he put other things first, choosing his job over God. Three weeks later, he was laid off.

This time, Tyson was ready to answer God's call.

God led Tyson to speak to his pastor who introduced him to three colleges. He visited Clear Creek first and knew he had found the place where God wanted to prepare him. Now Tyson not only knows God has called him to pastoral ministry, he is doing something about it.

We thank God Tyson has found and accepted God's will for him, and we are thankful for Kentucky Baptists' support as we help him prepare.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## LifeWay Bible translation survey:

# Word-for-word translations tops among Bible readers

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Most American Bible readers prefer word-for-word translations of the original Greek and Hebrew over thought-for-thought translations, saying they value accuracy over readability, according to a new LifeWay Research study.

When asked whether they prefer "word-for-word translations, where the original words are translated as exactly as possible" or "thought-for-thought translations, where the translators attempt to reproduce the intent of the original thought rather than translating the exact words," 61 percent chose word-for-word.

Regarding accuracy, respondents were asked what they believe is more important, "total accuracy to the original words or easy readability." Three out of four opted for total accuracy.

"It is interesting to note that Bible sales do not necessarily follow these preferences," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "Those reading the Bible each month represent only a portion of all Bible purchasers."

"Bible readers can share their preferences for different translation principles, but may not be aware of which characteristics are present in specific translations—even the ones that they own," he added. "Without specific instruction,

most readers will not notice when a translation moves away from a literal or word-for-word translation."

Respondents hold a variety of opinions regarding the style of language they prefer in a Bible translation for personal reading. Among them:

- 68 percent want language to be simpler to understand while 7 percent want it to be more difficult to understand.

- 81 percent say it should be more enjoyable to read while 4 percent prefer it to be more of a chore to read.

- 27 percent favor contemporary language while 46 percent want traditional language.

- 19 percent feel understanding the language should require a higher level of education while 49 percent say it should not require a higher level of education.

- 63 percent believe it should be simple for anyone to understand while 14 percent say the language should be meant more for people who have a lot of experience with the Bible.

- 40 percent prefer more formal language while 26 percent say it should be more informal.

"In the same way drivers want big, powerful, fuel-efficient vehicles, Bible readers want word-for-word translations that are easy to understand," McConnell said. "As translators try to cross the globe and two millennia, fully accomplishing both is not always possible." (LW)

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# See You at the Pole

## 3 million students pray for their schools

By Diana Chandler

**New Orleans**—Ninth-grader Theresa Sanon offered an impassioned prayer for classmates and administrators at Helen Cox High School in New Orleans last week, saddened that only two students joined her for the 21st annual See You at the Pole global day of student prayer.

Sanon, 15, still was thankful she obeyed God's command in asking her classmates to join her in a global moment of prayer that organizers say draws more than 3 million students at schools in all 50 states and 20 other countries. Students gather at their schools' flag poles before the start of the day to pray for classmates, administrators, teachers and others.

"This year, God just put it on my heart to do it," said Sanon, whose father is the

former pastor of a Haitian mission church in New Orleans. "I prayed that God would just move into the school. I prayed that God will open their hearts and they'd be able to see He's the one who will help them through their problems."

Jimbo Stewart, Sanon's youth pastor at New Orleans' Calvary Baptist Church, said he was moved by the gathering, however small.

"It was heartwarming for me that as she prayed, she literally was weeping and moaning for her school," Stewart said. "It has been my burden for the past year to charge our students to be missionaries in their schools."

Stewart encouraged the 60 or so members of his youth ministry to initiate See You at the Pole events at the 35 schools represented among the membership. He



**STUDENTS INTERCEDING** More than 3 million students at schools all around the country gathered to pray for their classmates, teachers and others at See You at the Pole rallies last week. (See You at the Pole photo)

said the students initiated events at about seven area schools.

The event has the potential to reach more students than Stewart could reach as a youth pastor, Stewart said, and has the added strength of being led by students themselves.

"I challenged our students to take this as an opportunity to stand for Christ. Many of them are scared because no one at their school does it," he said. "When a

student owns that, I think you see something pretty incredible."

Calvary Baptist ended the day with a special service during its weekly youth ministry meeting to which students invited their classmates to hear Stewart's gospel message. Of the 250,000 teenagers in Orleans and Jefferson parishes, Stewart said, only 3 percent attend church on a regular basis, according to a survey conducted by a local ministry. (BP)

## Former Ky. Baptist retiring from CBF

**Atlanta**—Terry Hamrick, coordinator of missional visioning at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a former Kentucky Baptist minister, announced he will retire next year.

Hamrick's announcement comes weeks after CBF Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal announced plans to retire. CBF leaders said no decisions on the future of Hamrick's position will be made until recommendations are returned from a task force studying the organization's effectiveness and a new

executive coordinator is named.

"It has been a joy to be a part of CBF's many transitions since its beginning," said Hamrick, 61. "I have focused on transitions in CBF, in congregations, in culture and now in my own ministry. I am excited about where this transition might lead."

A Southern Baptist Theological Seminary graduate, Hamrick served as minister of education First Baptist Church of Somerset and DeHaven Memorial Baptist Church in La Grange. (CBF/ABP)

## Supreme Court to weigh church hiring rights

**Washington**—The Supreme Court this week will hear one of the most important religion cases in decades, centered on the degree to which religious institutions should be exempt from anti-discrimination laws.

The question before the justices in the Oct. 5 hearing concerns the "ministerial exception," a 40-year-old legal doctrine that protects churches and other religious institutions from government interference in their employment decisions.

"Advocates for the ministerial exception argue that religious institutions, in their hiring and firing, should be regulated as little as possible," said

Ira Lupu, a professor at George Washington University School of Law. "On the other side are those concerned that a particular group is cast outside the various protections of civil rights laws."

One of the toughest questions facing the court, experts say, is whether the government should be allowed to decide which employee duties are "religious," and which are not.

The court has never ruled on the ministerial exception, and its decision will guide lower courts on whether to weigh more heavily the rights of religious institutions or their employees. (RNS)



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### Foundation's work over decades has meant millions for ministries

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Just imagine for a moment the impact on kingdom advancement that has resulted from the distributions of the investment earnings from the accounts established with the KBF by the faithful and generous gifts of hundreds of Kentucky Baptists across the past 66 years of the KBF's existence. Most of these accounts are perpetual, and therefore, will continue to advance the kingdom until Jesus comes again.

Since 1945 the KBF has distributed \$142 million for kingdom advancement through the various causes specified by donors. These funds are over and above offering plate giving. Interestingly enough, \$86 million was distributed in the last decade (ending 2011),

\$41 million in the 2001 decade, \$10 million in the 1991 decade, \$3 million in the 1981 decade, \$2 million in the 1971 decade and \$500,000 in the 1961 decade. Wow! Hallelujah!

These funds have been used to connect people to Jesus in your communities, throughout the Commonwealth, North America and to the ends of the earth. The ministries to which these funds have flowed like a river include churches, associations, Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberland, Georgetown College, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute,

Mid-Continent University, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Kentucky WMU, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, KBC Mission Board, Kentucky Ethics League, International Mission Board, North American Mission Board, Southern Seminary and other Great Commission ministries.

Call Laurie Valentine or me toll free to discuss how we can help you multiply the benefits of wise giving.

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

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



Barry Allen



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

- 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.

### November

- 3-5 Basic Training Journey for Church Planters, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 4-6 Engage International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Ponderosa Church will hold revival services Oct. 8-12 with **Paxton Redd**, pastor of Oak Grove Church in Cadiz, as evangelist. **Norman Cotton** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a celebration for the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible Oct. 6, 7 p.m., in the banquet hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus with **Bob Doty** and **Glen Taul** of Campbellsville University as guest speakers. For more information, call (270) 789-5390. The school's orchestra also will perform Oct. 6, 8 p.m., at the Ransdell Chapel on campus. The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call the School of Music at (270) 789-5237.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Columbia Church recently called **Randy Copeland** as pastor. He previously was a pastor's assistant at Decatur Church in Alabama.

■ **CYNTHIANA**—Cynthiana Church will hold a Celebration for All Women Oct. 8, 10 a.m., with **Katie Jacobs** of Georgetown College, who is involved with the Invisible

Children organization in Africa, as guest speaker. For more information, call (859) 234-1575. **Patrick Whyte** is pastor.

■ **DE MOSSVILLE**—Unity Church will celebrate its 30th anniversary with homecoming services Oct. 9, 11 a.m., with **Mike Jones**, pastor of Big Bone Church in Union, as guest speaker and **Higher Ground** providing special music. **Bobby Barnes** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will host **Newsboys** in concert Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (270) 765-7822. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **HARDIN**—Olive Church will hold a family night Oct. 8, 6 p.m., featuring "The Balloon Guy" **Daniel Heron**. **David Whitaker** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will host the **Young at Heart Big Band** in concert Oct. 6, 11 a.m. For more information, call (859) 734-2339. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold a Girls' Night In Oct. 7-8 for girls in grades 3-6. The theme is "I Am a Princess."

■ **LEXINGTON**—South Elkhorn Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 9, 11 a.m., with a potluck meal following the morning service and a concert by **Shannon Bunch**. **Damon Jones** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—East Pittsburg Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 9 with an all-day service, special music and a meal. **Denny McCowan** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Beechmont Church will celebrate its 100th anniversary Oct. 9, 10:45 a.m. **Derek Yelton** is pastor.

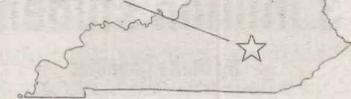
Fern Creek Church will hold a community flu shot clinic by the Visiting Nurse Association of Louisville Oct. 9, noon. The cost is \$26 and is available only to adults age 18 and older. For more information, call (502) 239-0316. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold Fast & Furious Friday Oct. 7, 6 p.m., for kids in grades 1-5 with pizza, games and activities. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Louisville Deaf Church will celebrate its 40th anniversary Oct. 7-9 with **Johnnie Miller** of the deaf congregation at First Church of

### Spotlight on ...

#### Orlando



Flat Rock Church will hold a fall ladies' gathering Oct. 10, 10 a.m., featuring the "Seed, Feed and Nesting" program by **Roger and Karen Amburgey**. **Larry Burton** is pastor.

Knoxville, Tenn., as guest speaker. **Tim Bender** is pastor.

■ **McDOWELL**—First Church will hold a cookout Oct. 8 featuring gospel music and a church history slide-show presentation.

■ **McKINNEY**—McKinney Church recently called **Jeff Draper** as pastor.

■ **SMITHLAND**—Potter's House Worship Center will hold a judgment house called "Web of Lies" Oct. 13-15, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 16, 2 p.m. The presentation is not recommended for children younger than age 10. A \$2 donation is suggested. For more information, call (270) 928-9905. **Desi Ginn** is pastor.

■ **SYMSONIA**—Elva Church will hold revival services Oct. 9-12 with **Kyle Rudd** as evangelist. **Mike Littrell** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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**RESOURCES:** Need a church pianist? We have piano CDs for churches to sing by. Hymns, praise, Christmas, hundreds of songs. Special church pricing; free demo. Worship Service Resources, (877) 977-6800. [www.wsrpianocds.com](http://www.wsrpianocds.com).

**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:** 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:** Part-time youth pastor for Covington Baptist Church, located in between LaGrange and Westport, Ky. Please send resumés by email to [covingtonbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:covingtonbaptist@gmail.com); or call Pastor Ryan, (502) 544-9201. Job description at <http://covingtonbaptist.com>.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music, student and family ministries. Responsible for the music worship and the growth and development of student and family ministry. A BS or BA in music or related field—Master of Divinity preferred. Full job description available upon request. Resumés should be submitted by Oct. 9 to First Baptist Church Fulton, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041; or email [office@fbcfulton.org](mailto:office@fbcfulton.org).

**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 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 Casavant 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.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music to plan, arrange and lead the weekly worship services of Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky. Interested individuals should email resumé by Oct. 31, 2011, to [colecaven@gmail.com](mailto:colecaven@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and worship for New Bethel Baptist Church of Hardinsburg, Ky. Interested applicants may respond by forwarding resumés with cover letters to [newbethelbaptist@gmail.com](mailto:newbethelbaptist@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor of students and education to serve a growing, mission-focused church in Northeast Nelson County. Responsibilities include leading the student ministry (grades 7-12) and the education ministry (all ages). A master's degree from an accredited seminary is preferred for this position. Full job description is available at [www.bloomfieldbaptist.org](http://www.bloomfieldbaptist.org). Resumés should be submitted by Oct. 31 to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Bloomfield Baptist Church, PO Box 217, Bloomfield, KY 40008; or by email to [bfdbc@bardstown.com](mailto:bfdbc@bardstown.com).

**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:** 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.southernheightsbcc.org](http://www.southernheightsbcc.org); email resumés: [flashley@insightbb.com](mailto:flashley@insightbb.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](mailto:bbcpastor1@windstream.net).

### Seeking: President for Oneida Baptist Institute.

Oneida Baptist Institute is a non-profit school organized under the applicable laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and also operated under the terms of the contractual agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Oneida is a large boarding school nestled in the hills of eastern Kentucky. The purpose of OBI is to provide young people with a high quality Christian education. Oneida accepts children grades 6-12 who are mentally, physically and emotionally competent to be away from their families and have a sincere desire to attend OBI. Enrollment is not affected by race, nationality, religion or genuine financial needs. (From the bylaws of the Board of Trustees of OBI.) The person we are seeking:

1. Must be a born-again Christian, have a strong marriage, have a clear sense of God's call to Christian education, and be willing to serve for a modest salary.
2. Must be affiliated with a Southern Baptist church and must work closely with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, local churches and associations.
3. Must understand the culture, mission and history of OBI.
4. Must have the capability, education and experience necessary for the fiscal management of budgets, fundraising and other matters pertaining to the effective operation and administration of OBI.
5. Must be responsible for leading a diverse staff of educators, administrators and volunteers to provide a quality Christian education for all the students enrolled at OBI.
6. Shall work with the Board of Trustees in fulfilling the goals and mission of OBI.
7. Will promote and be the ambassador for OBI in the state, nation and the world.

Mail resumés to Ken Bolin, 308 Main Street, Manchester, Kentucky, 40962; or email to [preachermanken@gmail.com](mailto:preachermanken@gmail.com) no later than Oct. 31, 2011. Resumés received prior to Sept. 13 must be resubmitted.

# Prayer essential for growing class

By David Francis

Following the Transformational Church research project, LifeWay's team of consultants reported to Ed Stetzer and his team that prayer is the fuel that drives transformational churches. It will be the fuel that undergirds the work of a transformational Sunday school class, too. What might that look like?

## FIRST PERSON

**Before class.** The Sunday School teacher or leader who wants a transformational class will arrive early—not just to prepare before the first member or guest arrives, but to pray. Picture a leader standing in an empty room, arranged for people who've yet to arrive, asking God to provide direction for the activities that will soon take place. The leader envisions the faces of the boys, girls, men or women who will enjoy Bible study, and prays about the needs they will share during class.

**During class.** Sometimes the best thing to do—even in the middle of class time—is to stop and pray. How will you know? The Holy Spirit will lead you. Just obey Him. This is a regular and spontaneous pleasure for preschool teachers: "Thank you, God, for hands," as Megan's tiny fingers manipulate Play-Doh. "Thank you, God, for birds," as Tyler looks out the window. Even in an adult

class, you can pause briefly to exhibit prayerful dependence.

**In care groups.** One of the many good reasons to organize an adult class into care groups is that it provides the opportunity to pray in those groups. About 10 minutes of prayer time should be sufficient. Circle up into care groups. Account for any absent member. Hear requests. Pray dependently.

Prayer requests are perhaps the best indicator of transformation. In my little book, "Connect3: The Power of One Sunday school Class," I propose that groups operate on three progressive levels: Class, Community or Commission.

What's the best indicator of where a class is? Listen to the prayer requests. At the class level, they are general and safe. At the community level, requests are more personal. At the commission level, they start out as appeals for missions in general, and then perhaps for an unreached people group in particular. Requests increasingly focus on people in the group's circle of influence who are far from God.

A tear sheet or poster in a room that lists the names of the people being prayed for is powerful evidence of a class that has discovered the transformational power of prayerful dependence.

David Francis is director of Sunday School at LifeWay Christian Resources.

# Pastor Appreciation Day

By Diana Davis

They chatted, teary-eyed, about the enormous encouragement of Minister Appreciation Day each October. The pastor and his wife said, "They really go all-out!" Over the years, their church's thoughtfully-prepared gifts had included a gift card to a fancy restaurant, a personalized gift basket, a two-night stay at a state park, and golf at a nice course. Last year, they were blown away when the church surprised him with his dream recliner.

It doesn't take a lot of effort to say "thank you." Will your church put thought and action into acknowledging the pastor and ministry staff God has given you? Need fresh ideas?

**Text Blast.** If your pastor has unlimited text messaging on his phone, ask all church members to text an appreciation message to the pastor on a specific day.

**Bound Book of Personal Quotes.** Ask every church member to write a one-sentence quotation about the pastor. Combine them into a book and have it bound at the local print shop. Or ask avid scrapbookers in the church to create a beautiful book.

**Tie Wardrobe.** If your pastor wears a tie, ask groups in the church to purchase a nice tie and have everyone in that group sign

the back with fabric pens. Choirs, deacons, committees, organizations, and all ages of Sunday School classes can participate.

**"My Pastor" Video.** Interview children to ask what they like best about the pastor, then create

a short video. End it with a funny rap about the pastor by middle school youth.

**Everybody Bring Twizzlers.** Carefully select two items your pastor really likes, i.e. golf ball, popcorn, fishing lure, sunflower seeds. Ask every church member to bring one of the items on Sunday, then have a processional where everyone brings their small encouragement gift to put in a huge basket. Provide extras for forgetful members.

**Facebook Flood.** If your pastor uses Facebook, distribute an announcement to church members asking them to post a Facebook message of appreciation on his page. For example, snap his photo and post "This is what a great pastor looks like!"

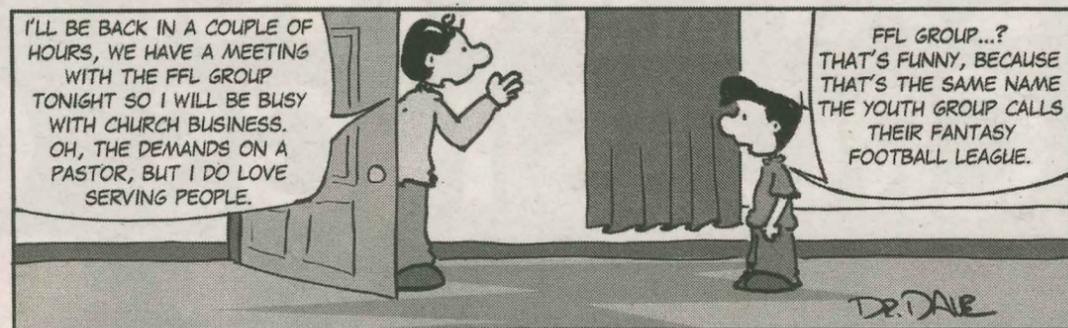
**"Love Our Pastor" T-shirt.** A children's class can write their name with fabric ink on a T-shirt, then invite the pastor to their classroom for the presentation.

Will your church "honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work"? (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

For more pastor appreciation ideas, see Diana's blog—www.KeepOnShining.com.

# Preacher's Kids

David Ayers

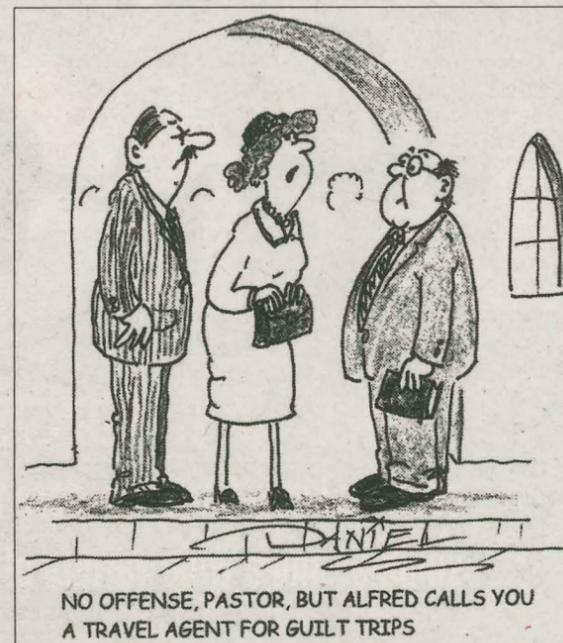


Joe McKeever



# Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel



# Bible Crosswords

By Mary Louise DeMott

- Across**
- This spiritual fruit means to bear provocation patiently
  - Diving bird with loud wild cry
  - White, foot-length robes worn by some Christian priests
  - Loose-fitting brightly colored shirt
  - Family doctor, for instance, abbr.
  - Rooms, abbr.
  - Philadelphia's state, abbr.
  - Do, \_\_\_\_\_, mi
  - This spiritual fruit means a deep emotion of pleasure
  - That is, Lat. abbr.
  - Young adults, abbr.
  - Either
  - Myself
  - Church, abbr.
  - An exclamation of surprise, delight, or pain
  - To perform or carry out
  - Juno's state, abbr.
  - Verity
  - Nautical mile, abbr.
  - Memphis' state, abbr.
  - Dorothy's state, abbr.
  - Beast of burden
  - Each, abbr.
  - Suffix that means "dear little one"
  - Girl Scouts of America, abbr.
  - Tin, chem. symbol
  - Osmium, chem. symbol

1		2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9				
			10					11						
				12								13	14	
15	16				17			18				19		
20				21		22	23			24			25	
26				27	28				29				30	
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34				35					36	37				38
39						40		41						42
43					44				45	46				47
48				49						50				
								51				52		53
54														

- Down**
- A flow of tears
  - National League, abbr.
  - Creator and ruler of uNiverse
  - Used for washing and cleaning things
  - To take back or retract
  - CarNIVals
  - A Swedish woman's name
  - Runs batted in, in baseball, abbr.
  - Longest book of prophecy, abbr.
  - This spiritual fruit means the quality of being good
  - People with uncontrollable impulse to set things on fire
  - This spiritual fruit means quietness and obedience
  - Actinium, chem. symbol
  - Has common boundaries
  - An exclamation of doubt, inquiry, or surprise
  - Heights, abbr.
  - An exclamation of surprise or exultation

- Blue grass state, abbr.
- Christian, abbr.
- Angry stare
- Good-bye, Fr.
- Flavorless
- Inquires
- School, abbr.
- Egg layer
- Surgeon general, abbr.
- Compass point, abbr.

# Last puzzle's solution

1	F	I	N	I	N	G	P	O	T					
2	I	D	A	I	E	A	H	N	I					
3	R	E	F	L	E	S	H	O	K	B				
4	E	A	T	M	T	R	O	A	S	T				
5	P													
6	A	W	L	I	E	L	M	S	F					
7	N	E	U	S	E	P	A	O	F					
8	S	P	I	N	D	L	E	T	O	E				
9	T													
10	H	A	P	I	O	N	L	A						
11	L	O	A	N	A	C	A	C						
12	O	I	B	R	I	C	K	L	L	I				
13	W	I	N	E	P	R	E	S	S	N	E	O		

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I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word  
and believes him who sent me has  
eternal life and will not be condemned.  
He has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:24