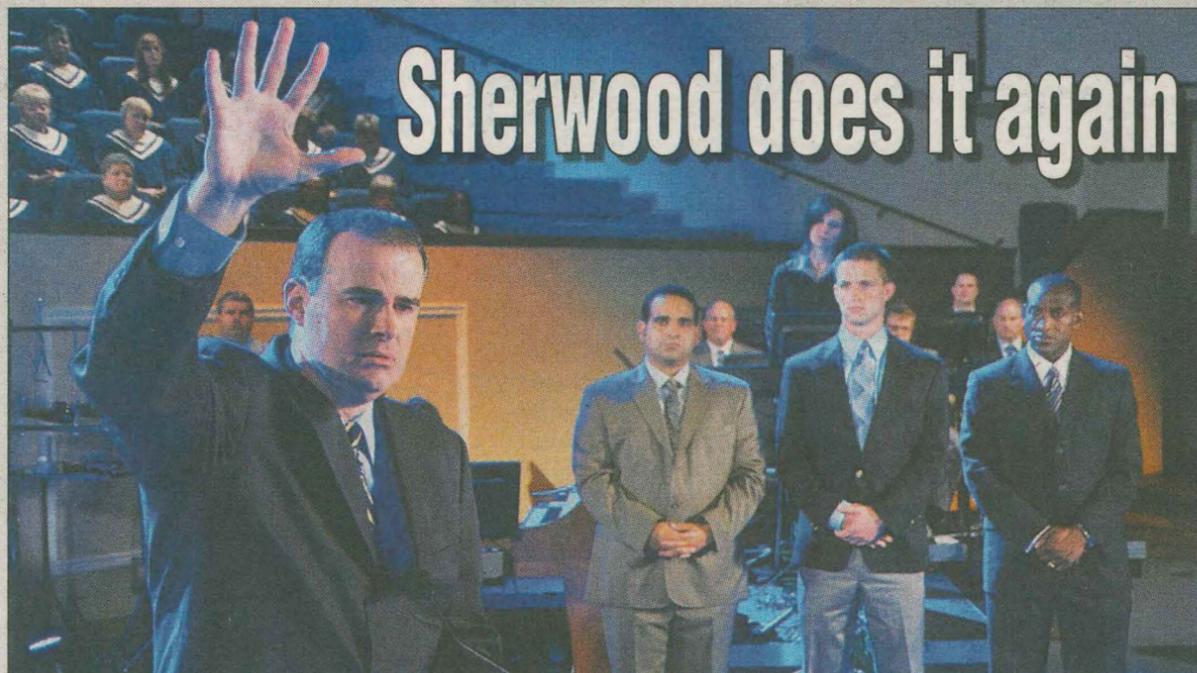


WESTERN Recorder

October 11, 2011

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 39



Sherwood does it again

Opening weekend sellouts propel 'Courageous' to No. 4 film

Albany, Ga.—Thanks to sold-out theaters from coast to coast, Sherwood Baptist Church once again shocked Hollywood when its latest film "Courageous" finished No. 4 in total gross, No. 1 among new movies and No. 1 in per-theater average, nearly doubling most of the competition in that category.

The film's \$9,063,147 placed fourth at the box office. However, every film in the Top 10 played in nearly double the number of theaters than "Courageous," which opened in just 1,161 theaters.

The Sherwood film's average per theater of \$7,806 blew out the competition. It follows the story

of five men—four of them police officers—as they seek to become better fathers.

"I woke up this morning just praising the Lord," "Courageous" Producer Stephen Kendrick said.

More than 1 million people saw "Courageous" on its opening weekend. (BP)

State leaders: Kentucky Baptists must be vigilant in gambling opposition

By David Roach

Frankfort—Kentucky Baptist leaders and other experts say that with a gubernatorial election in November, a racing industry in decline and a dedicated expanded-gambling lobby in full force, Kentuckians are at a crossroads regarding the issue of gambling.

The stakes are high according to Kent Ostrander, executive director of the Kentucky Family Foundation, who said history is witness that expanded gambling would victimize citizens.

The toll on individual lives should be as great a concern noted Kevin Milburn, pastor of Union Baptist Church and chairman of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs.

□ See Gambling opposition ... Page 3



In sunset of life, Graham reflects on growing old

By Adelle Banks

Montreat, N.C.—For much of his 92 years, Billy Graham has had one main title: evangelist.

But in a new memoir set in the twilight of his remarkable life, Graham reveals a lesser-known side of himself: a grieving and ailing widower who has difficulty getting up from a chair or putting on his shoes.

"I can't truthfully say that I have liked growing older," Graham writes in "Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well," which hits bookstores on Oct. 18. "At times I wish I could still do everything I once did—but I can't."

To be sure, his book includes his signature focus on evangelism, asking non-Christian readers

□ See Billy Graham ... Page 7

Retirement? What's that?

Retirees find 'calling' with Campers on Mission

By Ken Walker

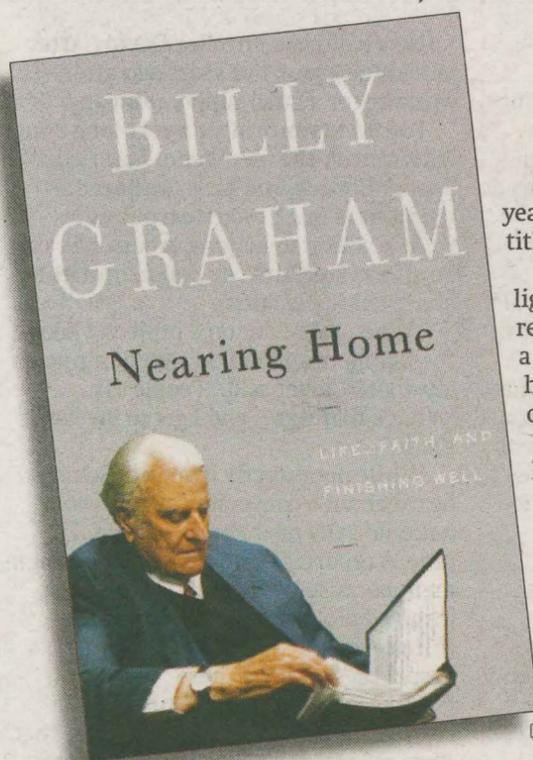
Cadiz—Though about to step down as president of Kentucky's Campers on Mission, 67-year-old Ann Schisler will continue working with the ministry long after her tenure ends.

"We believe in this from the bottom of our hearts," said Schisler, who is leaving office after two years.

"It's a calling," said the member of Ponderosa Baptist Church in Cadiz. "I don't believe this is something the Lord has for everyone. There's times when connections are made and this is what the Lord is telling you to do."

A former telephone company clerical worker, Schisler and her husband, Jerry, are finishing 13 years with the group.

□ See Campers on Mission ... Page 2



Page: CP finish 'cause for joy'

Nashville, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention's Cooperative Program allocation budget ended its fiscal year with its first increase since 2007, a moment that Executive

Committee President Frank Page said was a "cause for joy" in light of difficult economic times.

The Cooperative Program budget finished 2010-11

□ See Year-end CP ... Page 3

Southern Baptist disaster relief volunteers leave mark on Northeast following storms. Page 2.



Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference to urge pastors' to 'Fan the Flame' of revival across commonwealth. Page 6.



Western Recorder 10-11-2011

Southern Baptist relief work leaves mark on Northeast

By Diana Chandler

Boonton, N.J.—A displaced couple in their 90s and a widow forced to live in her car for a week have been among those assisted after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee by the North Jersey Network of the Baptist Convention of New York.

Disaster relief directors David and Elaine O'Neill said God's grace has been at work after the storms' onslaught in late August and early September.

Having led a team of volunteers in cleaning and gutting homes in northern New Jersey, O'Neill's work now will move to south Jersey in cooperation with World Cares Center, a group coordinating disaster relief for more than 1,000 residents who've requested help.

The Baptist Convention of New York, meanwhile, closed its relief work last week after cleaning and gutting 50 properties in several New York communities, including Binghamton and Johnson City, said Mike Flannery, BCNY disaster relief director. All Southern Baptist feeding units in the state also have ended their operations. Disaster relief units from 15 states, including Kentucky, joined in the



CHECKING INVENTORY Marty Gillespie of Zion's Cause Baptist Church in Benton and Pat Sigler of First Baptist Church of Kuttawa go over the food plans for the Kentucky Baptist feeding unit in Schenectady, N.Y. (Photo by Robert Reeves/KBC)

BCNY work over the course of a month, assisting residents while advancing the cause of Christ.

"We helped them ... in a practical way they could take to the bank," Flannery said. "They could not believe that people actually volunteered to do such nasty work, and then we gave them Bibles."

The convention also mobilized nearly 350 college students from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and Davis College in Johnson City, N.Y.

In the adjacent Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania/South Jersey, volunteers have cleaned and gutted 29 properties to

date, according to disaster relief director Karleen Campbell, who expects work to continue through October in Bloomsburg and Williamsport, Pa., as volunteers become available. The BCPSJ's feeding unit, with the help of the Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia, served nearly 110,000 meals during the 17 days it was mobilized, Campbell said.

Work could continue in New York through October as well, Flannery said, if volunteers were available. But he said Samaritan's Purse International Relief is mobilizing in the area for long-term recovery work. (BP)

Convention hosts workshop for church planters

Louisville—As pastor of First Baptist Church of Mount Washington, Paul Chitwood said when his congregation felt called to start a new church, "one of the first things we did was to put together a team to attend Basic Training Journey for Church Planting" sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Now as KBC executive director, Chitwood said he hopes the three-day training event Nov. 3-5, will be filled with Kentucky Baptists from all walks of life who are interested in sharing the gospel and discipling new believers through church planting.

"I'm convinced that church planting is absolutely necessary to turn the tide of growing lostness in the United States," he noted.

Basic Training Journey for Church Planting certainly is valuable for pastors and others called to lead new churches, but according to Larry Baker, leader of the KBC's missions growth team, others would find the experience informative and beneficial.

"It is not only a workshop on how to plant a new church. It is a journey of growing in your faith in Jesus Christ," Baker said.

The 18 hours of instruction includes hands-on activities to help teams take the first steps in launching a new congregation.

Basic Training Journey for Church Planting is \$30 per person or a maximum of \$120 per team. The event will be held at the Kentucky Baptist Building. Online registration is underway at www.KyBaptist.org/BasicTraining. (KBC)

Creative ministries workshop in Bowling Green Nov. 5

Bowling Green—Church leaders interested in getting their creative juices flowing are invited to the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Creative Ministries 101 Workshop on Nov. 5 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green.

Participants will learn how to incorporate drama, puppets, clowning, creative signing, interpretive movement

and other activities in worship and other ministry efforts.

The Creative Ministries 101 Workshop is designed for beginners, and is ideal for church leaders just beginning to consider creative ministries.

Online registration is available at www.KyBaptist.org/101Workshop. Early-bird rates apply through Oct. 24, and

group rates are available. Lunch is provided at the church.

The workshop kicks off at the Hillvue Heights at 9 a.m., local time.

For additional details, contact the KBC's creative ministries department by e-mail at Creative@KyBaptist.org or by phone at (502) 489-3574 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3574. (KBC)

Campers on Mission

Continued from page 1

The 20-year-old Kentucky organization is affiliated with the national fellowship that recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Sponsored by the adult volunteer mobilization unit of the North American Mission Board, the nationwide organization has 27 chapters and more than 6,000 members.

Paying their own travel expenses, the mobile volunteers use their campers for lodging while saving churches and other groups thousands of dollars in construction costs.

The Kentucky affiliate has completed 13 projects this year and logged 6,600 man hours, which translates to an estimated savings on labor of \$132,000.

Ironically, although they have traveled statewide to help numerous churches, last month the Schislars were working closer to home.

The group's final project of the fiscal year was renovating an old auto parts store for use by a nonprofit agency in Cadiz that distributes food, clothing and other help to the needy.

"It's a community project," Schisler said of extending help beyond the

church. "There's as many hungry Baptists as there are anything else."

Campers on Mission belie the image that retirement means idling away time in a rocking chair. Elderly women helping install sheetrock at Barren County Baptist Church near Park City in July surprised Pastor Charles Hankins.

"Some of the ladies had been to a seminar on how to do that," said Hankins, founding pastor of the 16-month-old church. "I was amazed that they could do the work."

A former staff member at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, he became aware of Campers on Mission while working in Pineville.

After the rent on the old restaurant building Barren County Baptist used increased to \$700 a month, Hankins told their landlord for that price they could pay for their own building. The pastor then enlisted help from the campers and church groups from eight other states to make that possible.

While needing to put final touches on its building, after starting construction May 30, the church held its first service Aug. 7.

Opening-day attendance in the 30s has since jumped to the mid-40s. Since it began, the church has baptized 14 new

believers and has two more awaiting baptism.

Hankins said he appreciates the campers' help in finishing the 6,700-square-foot building, which includes a sanctuary, fellowship hall, nursery, kitchen and two Sunday School rooms.

"I was thrilled to death," Hankins said. "If it hadn't been for them, we couldn't have done it. We built that building for half what it would have cost somebody else."

Each of the some 35 COM participants takes an active role. Women no longer able to handle the physical challenges of construction sew quilts. This year's creations are being donated to tornado victims in Alabama and Tennessee.

Members come from such varied backgrounds as school teaching and truck driving. Royce Tucker spent 43 years as a welder but now gets his kicks as the group's construction coordinator.

"It's a blessing to me to help people and see the expressions on their faces," said Tucker, a member of Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun.

"If somebody had told me I would be doing this when I retired, I would have told them they were crazy. I just feel like this is what I needed and that's why I'm doing it."

New Medicare enrollee David Carter joined the group five years ago after working for a farm supply company.

Forced to retire after a year-long bout with cancer, the member of East Cadiz Baptist Church said he is overjoyed to spend time in a productive pursuit.

In addition to helping others, he said he also appreciates the opportunities he has to share his faith.

"When we're out on a project, I keep the Campers on Mission sign hanging on my door," Carter said. "People ask, 'What's that sign?' and I get to lay it on them."

While not directly involved, Schisler heard about a conversion at this year's national rally near Pensacola, Fla., in June. A reporter—who resisted the assignment because he thought the meeting involved old people doing "churchy" things—accepted Christ after hearing a gospel presentation there.

Mike Rust, director of missions for Little River Baptist Association, said that story reflects the witness campers present through camaraderie, clean language and laughter-filled fellowship.

"The influence they have while working is tremendous," he said. "The way they conduct themselves is by the Golden Rule." (WR)

Father and son team up to snag roles in 'Courageous' film

By Dianna Cagle

Garner, N.C.—When Rusty Martin Jr. was born, his parents, Rusty Sr. and Kim, were awestruck by the miracle God had given them.

Since doctors had told them having a child was unlikely they said they have treasured their son during his 16 years on earth. "We've just been very blessed to raise him," Rusty Sr. said.

Junior's big screen debut came recently when "Courageous," the latest offering from Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., opened across the U.S.

The film highlights the importance of fathers, and shows how five men struggle to become better fathers.

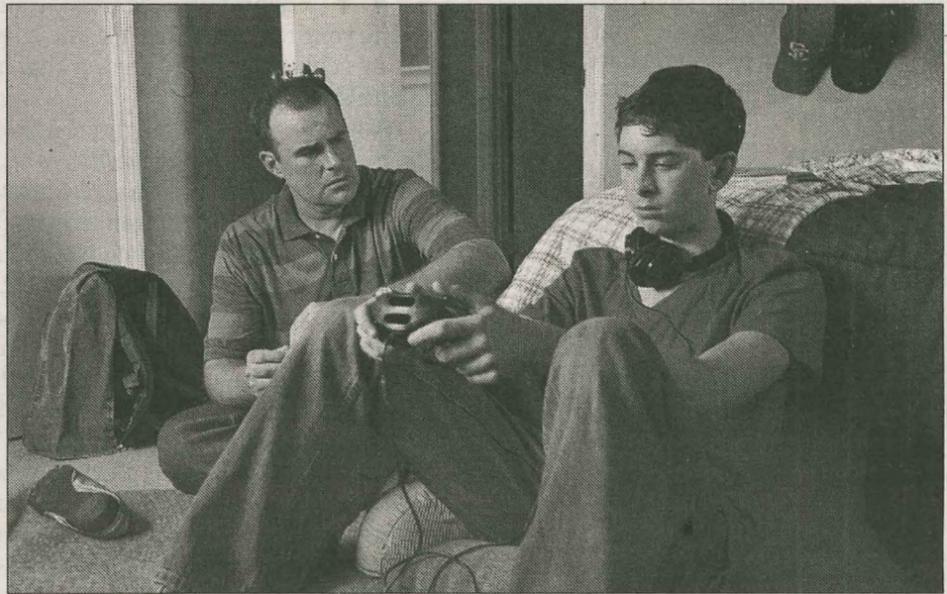
Junior plays Dylan Mitchell, the son of Adam Mitchell, played by Alex Kendrick, who also helped write the script. Rusty Sr. also has a part in the film. He plays a businessman who challenges one of the

characters with a moral dilemma.

The Martins are members of Turner Memorial Baptist Church in Garner, N.C. The parents have flexible work schedules to coordinate with Rusty Jr.'s filming schedule. In the midst of juggling a budding acting career, Rusty Jr. said he tries to stay active in his church's youth group. "I call acting a passion," he said.

Rusty Jr. was 14 when he was cast in "Courageous." Both father and son said they want people to be changed by "Courageous."

While Rusty Jr. said his relationship was "rock solid" with his dad before the movie, he said the film's subject challenged him to be a better son. Senior echoed the sentiment about being a better father. "I get emotional every time I see it," he said. "It just really tugs at the heart. It makes you want to stand tall and makes you want to do better as a father." (North Carolina Biblical Recorder/BP)



FAMILY AFFAIR Rusty Martin Jr., right, and his father (not seen) have roles in the Sherwood Baptist film "Courageous." Martin plays the son of the lead character in the film (played by Alex Kendrick).

Gambling opposition

Continued from page 1

"Believers should care about the issue of gambling because to gamble is to be an unwise and unfaithful steward of God's gifts," Milburn said. "The Bible reveals that God's plan for making money is called work. Believers need to understand that gambling can be extremely addictive and is, therefore, something unwise to play with."

As pastor of the Boone County congregation, Milburn said he has seen the effects of gambling up close. Recently, one member of his church lost his marriage and family because of a gambling addiction that began as a hobby.

"While I realize that not everyone who gambles becomes so addicted that they lose their families, I do believe that gambling produces untold heartbreak and sorrow behind the closed doors of our homes while padding the pockets of a smiling gambling industry," he said. "The enemy is attacking our families and the people of God must oppose any

tool he is using to do so."

The most recent attempt to expand gambling in Kentucky is Instant Racing, which allows patrons to use the slots-like machines to bet on previously run races with the date of the race, track and names of the horses removed.

While gambling advocates claim Instant Racing machines are legal as a form of pari-mutuel betting, opponents point out that they are marketed with machine names that have nothing to do with horse racing.

Last month, Kentucky Downs in Franklin opened a new gambling parlor with 200 Instant Racing machines. Other tracks also may purchase the machines. The Kentucky Family Foundation has challenged the legality of the machines with the Kentucky Court of Appeals expected to issue a ruling next year.

"When you look at the front of these things, it is simply a slot machine," Ostrander said. "And how those things are somehow related to (horse) racing is beyond me. ... They are clearly illegal based on the current Kentucky statute, but they are operating in Kentucky."

Expanded gambling is bad public policy, Ostrander said, because it raises revenue for the government by taking advantage of citizens.

"It is bad public policy for government to want to make its own citizens losers so that it can gain and its friends can gain," he explained. "Government should be in the business of protecting and alerting citizens to potential dangers, not bringing the people to those potential dangers."

Gambling brings corruption

Historically, expanded gambling leads to more permissive abortion laws and attacks against the biblical model of marriage and sexuality, he said.

"When gambling comes in, the gambling industry owns the legislature," Ostrander said. "The gambling industry does not give a whit about the sanctity of life or the sanctity of marriage. ... They want you in front of those machines. So, the Family Foundation is standing against the corrupting influence of the gambling industry because we know they will be a force in the issues that we

really care about."

Kentucky Baptists can play a major role in the fight against gambling by contacting their legislators whenever a gambling-related issue arises, Ostrander said, adding that Baptists have helped stop previous attempts to expand gaming.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood agreed that gambling is a detriment to Kentucky and urged the state's Baptists to stand against it.

"It's an important issue for our families because of the destruction that gambling and gambling addiction bring to the family," he said. "Being a good steward of the resources God has entrusted to us leaves no room for gambling. Also, knowing the plight of children and families that have been affected by gambling and gambling addiction, it really becomes not only a spiritual issue, but a moral issue for us as people of faith."

Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to contact their state legislators to express their opposition to expanded gambling in Kentucky. The website, <http://lrc.ky.gov/>, provides contact information for the Kentucky General Assembly. (KBC)

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Deadline
October 14!

The Kentucky Baptist Convention Committee on Resolutions will be receiving resolutions to be considered at this year's annual meeting until October 14.

This year's meeting is to be held Nov. 15 in Florence at

Florence Baptist Church at Mt. Zion

RESOLUTIONS MUST:

- Be typewritten, titled & dated
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church. No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.

If you have a resolution to be considered:

E-mail to: executive@kybaptist.org (preferred)

Mail to: Committee on Resolutions
c/o KBC Executive Office
P.O. Box 43433
Louisville, KY 40253



Executive Office
502-489-3577 or 866-489-3577
www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

Year-end CP

Continued from page 1

fiscal year with receipts up 0.06 percent and combined CP and designated giving for the year up 0.17 percent, although total receipts were 3.98 percent below budget, Page noted.

The total includes receipts from state conventions and fellowships, churches and individuals for distribution according to the 2010-11 SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget.

Page applauded the increase in light of 2010's large decrease in receipts and the badly depressed economic conditions churches are facing. The CP allocation budget was down 4 percent last year.

More than \$191.8 million in CP gifts was received by the SBC during 2010-11, up by nearly \$115,500 from the previous fiscal year's total.

During the 2010-11 fiscal year, an additional \$191.8 million in designated gifts brought the fiscal year's overall giving for national and international

missions and ministry to spread the gospel to more than \$383.7 million—0.17 percent above the previous year's combined figure.

Designated contributions include the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions, Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund and other special gifts.

"While this is a slight increase, ... when placed in the context of last year's \$8 million decline in the SBC portion of the CP, it is an encouragement and a cause for joy," Page said. "We know that our nation continues to struggle in what one friend of mine called 'this generation's Great Depression.'"

"Given the tremendous economic trials so many of our people face, I want to say a special thank you to the many faithful Christ followers who have given so faithfully to the Lord's work," Page added. "I also want to say thank you to the many pastors who are leading their churches to significantly turn around their Cooperative Program giving." (BP)

Who would miss the KBC?

If state conventions went away, would we miss them? That question might not sound strange coming from a young pastor who abhors bureaucracy and prioritizes investing in personal relationships over supporting systems and structures. But it probably sounds very strange coming from an executive director of a state convention. Nevertheless, I think it is a fair and helpful question.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Might I propose some answers? Before I do, I want to stress that I am answering for only one state convention. Like local churches, each state convention sets its own priorities and determines its own way of doing business. Each convention is unique and operates in a distinct geographical, cultural and spiritual context. State conventions look and operate differently and, to be relevant, they should.

Who would miss the Kentucky Baptist Convention?

Tens of thousands of **college students** would miss the KBC. The KBC employs Baptist Campus Ministry directors and maintains ministry centers on many of our campuses, resulting in more than 500 students giving their lives to Christ this past year.

Thousands of **teenagers** would miss the KBC. Through mission opportunities like Kentucky Changers and the camp ministries of Crossings, teens are able to hear the gospel and live it out on mission. Over 500 teens committed their lives to Christ through Crossings alone.

Churches without pastors would miss the KBC. KBC staff members occupy the pulpits of many of those churches as supply and interim pastors and assist with the search process through training search committees and providing resumes of potential candidates.

Hurting people would miss the KBC. Disaster Relief trains and equips volunteers to respond immediately to the needs of people in disaster-stricken areas. Volunteers serve thousands of meals, remove fallen trees, shovel mud, and provide clean water, a hot shower and a clothes washer.

Ethnic peoples in Kentucky would miss the KBC. Missionaries minister to those who find themselves strangers in a strange land. They provide ESL classes, a gospel witness, discipleship training and church plants.

The homeless would miss the KBC. Shelters like Jefferson Street Baptist Center receive financial support from the KBC as well as volunteer involvement.

This list goes on but let me just say that I believe **the kingdom** would miss the Kentucky Baptist Convention. If I didn't, I would work somewhere else.

Some might ask, "Couldn't individual churches provide many of the ministries accomplished through the KBC?" My response is that individual churches are already providing these ministries ... through the KBC. The KBC is an extension of the local church and allows the local church to do more by partnering with 2,400 other churches.

Together, we are the KBC.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Courageous' movie convicts, challenges, encourages

What kind of father are you?" The question most likely sent a jolt. And, chances are, the word "courageous" wouldn't be among your top responses. Yet, the latest film by Sherwood Pictures challenges us to answer that question honestly—for our children's sake.

With a story about firefighters a few years ago, Alex and Stephen Kendrick, movie producers at Sherwood Church in Albany, Ga., led Christian couples to "fireproof" their marriages against the ravages of divorce. Now, in a compelling story of four police officers, Sherwood issues a stirring call for fathers to reclaim their role and responsibility in being spiritual leaders of their families.

As the officers are warned, though, in living out a resolve to be better fathers with integrity, conflicts and controversy will inevitably come and "you will need courage, courage, courage." Yet, fathers will leave inspired by these "everyday heroes who long to be the kinds of dads that make a lifelong impact on their children."

In a companion book, "The Resolution for Men," the Kendricks with Randy Alcorn elaborate on the movie's charge: "Every human father is called to be a daily, physical representation of God to his children, to introduce Him to the next generation. When a child looks at his earthly father he should be able to see these qualities of God:

- a loving Provider
- a strong Protector
- a truthful Leader
- a respectful Authority
- an intimate Friend

"This affects how a child thinks," they explain. "If my earthly father loves and cares for me, then my heavenly Father loves and cares for me. If my father means what he says, then God means what He says. If my father would die for me, God would die for me.' On the other hand, if a child's earthly father is harsh or distant, what will the child think when someone says, 'God is your Father?'"

Not surprisingly, a survey conducted by LifeWay Christian Resources several years ago placed the absence of a father figure in the home as one of the most significant family issues facing today's church. And since approximately 24.7 million American children—more than one-third—live without their biological fathers, some startling statistics

cited on the Courageous website certainly should give us pause. Researchers found fatherless homes produce:

- 63 percent of youth suicides.
- 90 percent of all homeless and runaway children.
- 85 percent of all children with behavioral disorders.
- 85 percent of all youth in prisons.

While a mother's contribution is certainly as important to child development, the educational, emotional and psychological problems frequently associated with a father's absence strongly suggest there is no substitute for his involvement in the lives of his children.

More specifically, children often learn intangibles, such as personal identity, social values and self-worth, from their father's perspectives. "A father's wise words

and actions constantly reinforce the higher priorities and deeper truths of life. So if he is not there—or if he's there but not intentional in his training and leadership—his kids will be walking through their most important decisions without the one person who should be loving and leading them the most," the Kendricks emphasize. "When a child has a dad who says, 'I love you. I'm proud of you, and I'm going to stand with you and always be there for you,' it changes a child forever," they observe.

While some may find the movie convicting, their intent also is to be encouraging. "We want to give you some very real hope and direction toward future success in your journey. No man and no family is a lost cause when God gets involved," the Kendricks affirm. "... [Y]ou can become the one He uses to steer your family back onto the path that will lead them to a place of safety, strength, and health."

As the movie ends, one officer gives this challenge: "I now believe that God desires for every father to courageously step up and do whatever it takes to be involved in the lives of his children, but more than just being there or providing for them, he's to walk with them through their young lives and be a visual representation of the character of God, their Father in heaven. ... So where are you men of courage?"

But the image that stuck with me long after the movie was over was of that officer running a 5K race with his teenage son, side by side, joined by another boy whose dad was absent. It's a powerful metaphor for Christian fatherhood—a race that demands integrity, compassion and courage ... for the long haul.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Bean-picking witness

The name "Baptist" should be kept in "Southern Baptist Convention," if there were to be a name change.

I have preached in, visited and been pastor of many churches from the mountains of Eastern Kentucky to the flatlands of Western Kentucky. I have been in the ministry for 33 years, and there are two names I have never grown tired of: "Christian" and "Baptist."

The preaching of God's word contained in Baptist doctrine and the conviction of the Holy Spirit are what led me to Christ. I dearly will hold in my heart these names until the day I leave this world.

I have met people in Baptist churches who do not know what to believe. Yes, those people are in your church, too. It is up to teachers and pastors to honor the name "Baptist" and to lift it high as they teach the Baptist doctrines to members.

I also would like to share a few thoughts concerning personal witnessing. I have found the Word is not being taken to our kinfolk and acquaintances.

Many Christians are just not visiting and talking about the Lord.

We need some "bean-picking witnessing." I was out visiting one day and an elderly man was in his bean patch. I parked my car and walked into the bean patch, introduced myself and asked if I could help. After picking beans, I invited

him and his wife to church. That Sunday not only he and his wife were at church, but also their two sons, their wives, and their three children as well as two of the wives' brothers. I have loved picking beans ever since.

If we want churches to grow, we have to take the Word to the people, and be thankful we are Christian and Baptist.

Jess Allford, pastor
Baltimore Baptist Church
Mayfield

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



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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Recalculating: Finding the path God envisioned

By Bill Wilson

It comes in a variety of accents. It can be a man's voice or a woman's (my favorite is the female Australian). It can break your heart or serve as a warning. It will mock you. It will scold you. When I am behind the wheel, to hear it makes me cringe.

If you have a GPS in your vehicle, you know the word "recalculating." It means you have taken a wrong turn, you might be lost or at the very least you have wandered off the path your GPS prefers that you take. The unspoken message is, "Way to go, dummy, now wait patiently while I figure out how to get us out of this mess."

Every generation comes up with words that aptly describe their era. From "groovy" to "whatever," the English language has an amazing ability to morph and shape itself to fit an ever-changing population. Could it be that "recalculating" is a word that describes congregational life early in the 21st century?

Every healthy minister and congregation I know is doing some form of recalculating. Most ministers come out of their theological training only semi-prepared for what they find when they go to work in a local church. No surprise there—that is the prevailing model of higher education in most specialties. Why do you think medical school graduates go from school to a residency, rather than straight into practice?

For most clergy, our theological education is the background for the ongoing education that begins at graduation. Every sensible minister understands that recalculating is the normative way of life for us.

While we serve an unchanging God and represent eternal truth, the methods by which we do so change daily.

FIRST PERSON

Recalculating is the standard operating stance for effective ministers. Every day, our antennae are up and sensitive to the ebb and flow of the world we live in. We must read, think, pray and experience our culture constantly if we are to be able to link the good news of Christ with those around us.

Likewise, congregations are awakening to the fact that recalculating is an essential skill that we must master. Some things do not change about us, and those unchanging eternal truths are the values at our very core. Everything else, however, is changeable. Whether it be worship times, styles, music, structure, facilities, VBS schedule, ministry partners or staff job descriptions, the operative word must be recalculating.

Healthy congregations and clergy invest significant money, time and effort in this regard. They engage in proactive thinking, rather than reactive. They actually schedule time to think, brainstorm and project into the future. Most of us are so busy trying to do all that has to be done, that the idea of taking time away to think and reflect,

in the spirit of Jesus, is laughable. Actually, it is laughable to imagine that we can do the work of the kingdom without time for recalculating.

To embrace recalculating as an essential ingredient in our congregational life will mean sending staff and key leaders away on retreats, to conferences, and insisting that they leave day-to-day operations to others in order to recalculate. It will mean we invite clergy to think more and do less, to pray more and perform less, to reflect more and talk less.

The new reality of congregational and clergy health includes a healthy dose of what the corporate world calls "R&D," or research and development. How are you going to make such thinking part of your daily and weekly diet of responsibilities? What are you going to do to encourage your ministerial staff members to recalculate regularly?

Occasionally, I get fed up with my GPS and its insistence on recalculating. I turn it off and launch out on my own, choosing to ignore the fact that I am hopelessly lost. Such journeys seldom end well, either for me, your staff or your congregation.

Perhaps we need a female Australian voice over the loudspeakers at our churches inviting us to stop and recalculate. Would we be so wise as to cultivate a congregational culture that encourages recalculating among its leadership? If we do, we may find ourselves squarely on the path God has envisioned for us. (ABP)

Bill Wilson is president of the Center for Congregational Health in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The three greatest financial risks

By Don Spencer

Good financial planning can help you avoid or reduce the risk of these financial disasters:

Dying too soon. No one likes the thought, but some do die sooner than expected.

The least one can do is make sure there is adequate life insurance to take care of the needs of their family and other heirs. Life insurance is basic to every sound financial plan. If you still have dependent children, adequate life insurance is even more critical.

The amount should be adequate to cover any final illness expenses, burial, family living needs, education, etc. Most people have insufficient coverage, but some coverage is at least better than none.

Becoming disabled. Have you every considered what would happen to your family if you become disabled—no longer able to provide financial support for your family. Protecting yourself and your family from the financial effects of disability is essential and can be done by having adequate disability insurance. Otherwise your disability could cause drastic changes in your family's lifestyle. This is true whether the disability is temporary or permanent. Think of disability insurance as "income insurance."

Living too long. Most people understand the consequences of dying too soon, but most probably do not adequately foresee the danger in outliving their incomes. People are tending to live longer. With inflation, more and more elderly folks find that they can't afford those things they consider necessities. Sound financial planning includes saving adequate amounts to fund your retirement years, no matter how long you live. Former first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, said, "It takes as much energy to wish as it does to plan." Set concrete, attainable goals for retirement, commit to those goals, then set aside the funds needed to reach that goal. Just do it!

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



Do your children worry too much?

By David Garrard

Former New York Yankee baseball player Mickey Rivers may have said it best: "Ain't no sense worrying about things you got control over, 'cause if you got control over them, ain't no sense worrying. And there ain't no sense worrying about things you got no control over, 'cause if you got no control over them, ain't no sense worrying about them."

When I was in college, I received a letter from my dad in which he

said: "Worry is a waste of time and energy. Most of the problems we fear in anticipation never materialize. I think Jesus meant this when he said, 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Therefore, don't be anxious about tomorrow.'"

These thoughts were more than just words to my dad. I saw that kind of "careless in the care of God" attitude in the way he lived his life.

Dad was right. We waste our time and energy when we worry, and yet most of us still do. Children are no exception. Here are some of the things kids at my church said they worry about: failing a test, being punished, a family member or friend dying, forgetting homework, parents divorcing, not being able to watch a favorite TV show, missing the bus.

Help your children learn that worry is like a rocking chair; it makes a lot of motion, but doesn't go anywhere. Be sensitive to the things your children might worry about, but help them know they can give their worries to God. Show them how by doing it yourself.

Rivers may have had the first word in this column, but I'll give Jesus the last: "Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes" (Matthew 6:34, The Message).

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



Preparing students for the transition to college

By Joe Ball

The change in seasons is a good time to look at how we prepare juniors and seniors for their transition into their post-youth ministry church experience. I asked several youth guys from across the state what they would suggest to help us do a better job of preparing students for this transition.

Tree Akers, youth minister at Northside Baptist Church in Elizabethtown, gave four suggestions:

1. For those going away to school, try to connect them with the college ministry on campus. Hopefully, they will be able to connect not only with the midweek programs, but also with ministry teams that are serving.

2. In some cases, try to connect them with a local church in their college town. That would include either contacting the church to say, "Here are some students coming to your area," or giving students a few church names to check out.

3. For students attending a local college, offer a 20-somethings class that combines the college and work scenes.

4. To help them connect, look for ways to plug them into leadership roles. "Personally, I don't have college students help with a weekly

activity with youth since they are still too close in age, but I might have them assist with retreats, mission trips or lock-ins," Akers said.

"The goal is to connect them in areas where they not only serve, but

also champion areas in which they are serving. Those activities might include serving with our children's ministry (Awana, children's church), or maybe a men's ministry project team that is out serving people.

"Whatever the case, the key has been to enable and empower them in areas where they have strengths and gifts," he said.

David Buckner, youth minister at Westport Road Baptist Church in Louisville, offered these suggestions:

1. Have a mentor from a different generation.

2. Educate students about participating in business meetings, deacon ordinations and all church-wide functions.

3. Include students in taking up the offering, ushering, passing out elements of the Lord's Supper.

4. Provide opportunities for students to serve on church committees and shadow deacons.

5. Offer various opportunities for youth Bible studies and discipleship, but avoid separate youth

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Conference will urge pastors to 'Fan the Flame' for revival

By Drew Nichter

Florence—Serving last year on the committee tasked with setting a new direction for Kentucky Baptists, convinced Chad Fugitt of one thing for sure: "Our churches need a fresh touch from heaven."

"I believe the Lord wants to use our pastors to be the catalysts for revival to spread across our commonwealth," said the president of this year's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference.

The "More for Christ" emphasis, spawned by the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force report nearly a year ago, also is a driving force behind this year's gathering, Fugitt added.

The Nov. 14 conference

precedes the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion. This year's theme is "Fan the Flame: Purity - Preaching - Passion," taken from 2 Timothy 1:6.

What that verse teaches, Fugitt said, is that "every minister of the gospel has a responsibility to nurture and fuel the call that God has placed on their lives."

The pastor of Central Baptist Church in Corbin said the Lord directed him to this year's theme out of a "dire need" for revival among Kentucky Baptists.

Incorporating the conference's emphasis with the overriding "More for Christ" push ideally will send pastors back to the churches to "fan the flame" of purity, preaching and passion, Fugitt noted. That will, in turn, compel their

congregations to follow their lead.

"If our churches are going to do more for Christ, it has to begin in the hearts of our pastors," he explained.

This year's Pastors' Conference line-up features pastors and teachers from around the state and the U.S., as well as a famous evangelist's grandson.

Preaching during the afternoon session will be Adam Greenway, a professor and associate dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Joining Greenway in the afternoon will be Tony Merida, a Kentucky native and University of the Cumberlands graduate who is the lead pastor of Imago Dei

Church in Raleigh, N.C. Jim Shaddix, pastor of Riverside Baptist Church in Denver, rounds out the morning session.

The evening session starts with Louisville pastor Kevin Smith, followed by Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Baptist Church in Pensacola, Fla.

Closing out the conference will be Tullian Tchividjian, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and the grandson of evangelist Billy Graham.

As added bonus, the first 500 pastors and seminary students who attend the conference will receive a gift bag containing books and other resources centered on the "Fan the Flame" theme. (WR)



Adam Greenway



Tony Merida



Jim Shaddix



Kevin Smith



Tullian Tchividjian



Ted Traylor

Hill to be conference president-elect nominee

Louisville—Steve Hill, pastor of New Horizon Baptist Fellowship in Glendale, will be nominated as president-elect of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference when the meeting is held Nov. 14 at Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion.

Hill will be nominated by Mark Payton, lead pastor of Louisville's St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights. The annual conference is held one day prior to the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting.

Hill has led New Horizon Baptist since 2002. His leadership at any

church he has served has resulted in increased giving to the Cooperative Program, Payton noted.

"God has blessed Steve's ministry wherever he has been," Payton said.

If elected, Hill will serve one year as president-elect, then slide into the president's role, presiding over the 2013 Pastors' Conference. Corbin pastor Chad Fugitt is this year's conference president. Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, is the current president-elect and will preside over next year's meeting. (WR)

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

Shuttlesworth, 89, was one of 'Big Three' of civil rights effort

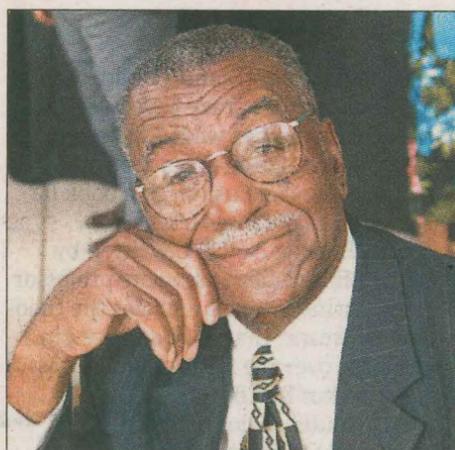
Birmingham, Ala.—Fred Shuttlesworth, the last of the "Big Three" of the civil rights movement with Ralph Abernathy and Martin Luther King Jr., died Oct. 5. He was 89.

Among the general public, Shuttlesworth was the least well known of the three co-founders of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957, but few advanced its agenda of non-violent resistance at greater risk. By his own count Shuttlesworth was bombed twice, beaten into unconsciousness and jailed more than 35 times.

"Fred Shuttlesworth did not become a martyr, and it was not for lack of trying," biographer Andrew Manis told the Birmingham (Ala.) News.

Manis, a professor at Macon State University, first met Shuttlesworth when his uncle was owner of the construction company that built The Greater New Light Baptist Church's sanctuary in 1978. At the time a master of divinity student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Manis arranged to have Shuttlesworth speak at the seminary, the first time many of the predominantly white ministerial students had ever heard of him.

Born March 18, 1922, in Montgomery County, Ala., Shuttlesworth moved to Birmingham at age 3, where he lived with his mother and stepfather. He studied for the ministry at Selma University and by 1949 was preaching at Selma's First Baptist Church for \$10 a week.

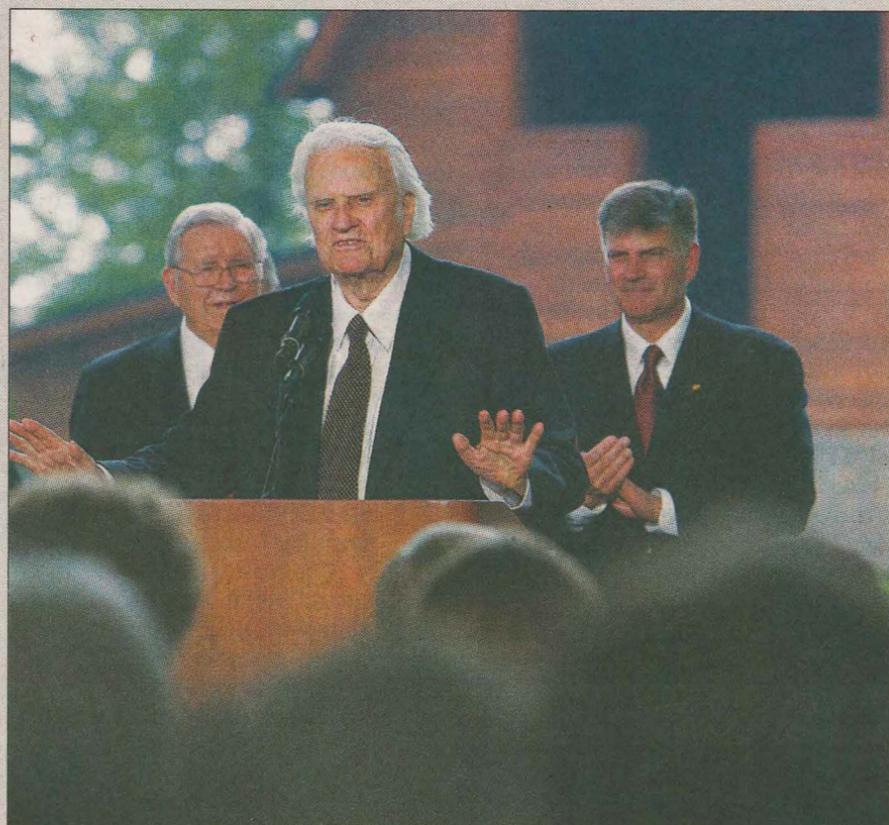


Fred Shuttlesworth

In 1953 he took over as pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham. He became an activist in the city, calling for the hiring of African-American police officers and joining voter registration efforts of the NAACP.

He became known as chief nemesis of Bull Connor, Birmingham's police chief whose use of police dogs and fire hoses on the Freedom Riders in 1962 helped build public support for the civil rights movement and inspired other similar campaigns.

Shuttlesworth compared himself to Daniel in the lion's den and said the only reason he could think of that he survived the civil rights struggle while others like King and Medger Evers were assassinated was God's protection. (ABP)



'NEARING HOME' Billy Graham makes a rare public appearance at the 2007 dedication of the Charlotte, N.C., library and museum that traces the evangelists' life. Graham's new book, "Nearing Home," focuses on steps for living well at the end of life.

Billy Graham

Continued from page 1

numerous times to come to Jesus before it is too late. But most of the book's 180 pages are filled with messages on growing old, or preparing younger readers for the reality of old age.

"All my life I was taught how to die as a Christian, but no one ever taught me how I ought to live in the years before I die," he writes in the introduction. "I wish they had because I am an old man now and believe me, it's not easy."

So, a month before he turns 93, Graham has become a teacher of sorts in *How to Grow Old 101*.

Stay involved, he recommends. And spend wisely. As the great-grandfather of 43, he warns against going into debt buying expensive gifts for grandchildren.

Prepare a will and medical directives to reduce family conflict after you're gone, he advises. And look out for the "hidden perils" of depression, anger and self-absorption.

"Sometimes I have to force my mind to turn away from whatever problem is absorbing me at the moment and make myself focus on the needs of others," he writes.

Despite their limitations, he assures, the senior years can nevertheless be rewarding. He cites biblical examples, including Moses, who died at 120 after leading the Egyptians to the Promised Land, and Elizabeth, who gave birth to John the Baptist though "well along in years."

"Are you willing to be used by God regardless of being bound by physical ailments, financial constraint, or the loneliness of growing old?" asks the man who once crisscrossed the world but now seldom leaves his home in the North Carolina mountains.

He counsels on a range of possibilities: getting involved in church or

other ministries, helping others who may be ill or grieving, and building a mature faith through books and Bible study.

"God forbid that we should ever retire from prayer, the sweetest work of the soul," he writes.

Graham even manages to find humor in the gradual loss of senses that accompanies old age. Recalling hearing younger people screaming "Can you hear me?" into their cell-phones, he said: "It's sometimes comical to hear the younger generation ask their peers to repeat themselves."

For years, news reports have chronicled Graham's physical decline: pneumonia, hearing and vision loss, even tripping over his dog. His wheelchair, cane and walker now are close to his bed, and he dictated the book that took him several years to write.

"I often wonder if God, in his sovereignty, allows the eyesight of the aged to cast a dim view of the here and now so that we may focus our spiritual eyes on the ever after," he writes.

Graham reserves his most poignant prose about grief for his beloved wife Ruth, who died in 2007, two years after he held his last official crusade in New York. He always thought she would outlive him.

"Not a day passes that I don't imagine her walking through my study door or us sitting together on our porch as we did so often, holding hands as the sun set over the mountaintops," he writes.

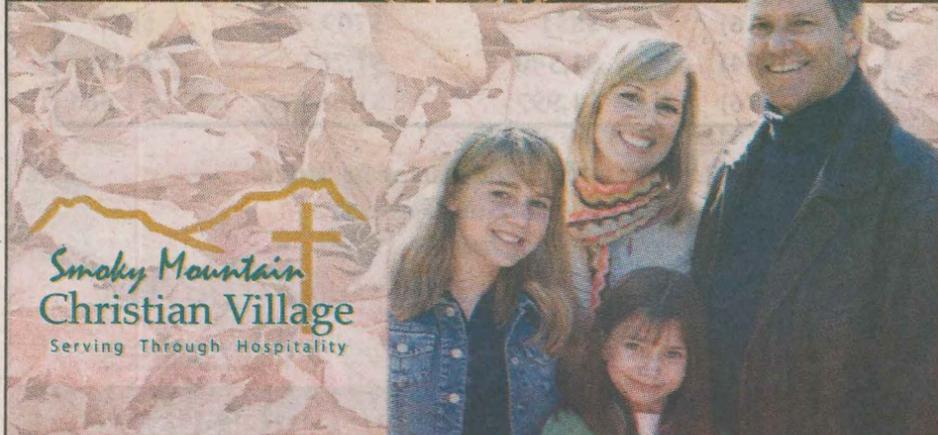
In recent years, Graham has marked his Nov. 7 birthday with a media release about his hopes for a heavenly home. In the book, Graham writes that he looks forward to death because he's eager to be reunited with his wife. In the meantime, he appreciates the "touches of Ruth" in each room of his house.

"Before long Ruth and I will be reunited in heaven," he writes. "More than ever, I look forward to that day!" (RNS)

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Thanks, I needed that

Fall break is much-needed chance for staff, students to rest, relax

You may remember a TV commercial years ago in which a man was slapped on the face and responded, "Thanks, I needed that!" I believe the commercial was about an aftershave product.

Well, I don't need anyone to slap me on the face to know that the fall break is here and "we need it!" Some things do not change much over the years and our first break is needed right now. We've spent the last six weeks getting our returning students into being back at Oneida and working overtime to get our new students through the adjustment period they always need.

Dealing with homesick boys and girls is one of the more difficult challenges we face during the first few weeks of school. When a child is homesick—to say nothing of a homesick mother—nothing we do seems to make sense. The only thing on the child's mind is getting home.

Those first two or three weekly phone calls home are difficult for the child and the parents, especially moms. No matter how frustrated a mother may have been when she enrolled her child at Oneida, the sound of the child's voice sobbing on the phone is more than some moms can deal with.

During the orientation process, we warn parents and students about homesickness. But no matter how much we try to prepare the parents, they often are not prepared for a child's pleas to come and get them.

For most of our students, that happened during the first two or three weeks of school in August. Now, six weeks later, it's my staff who are

saying, "Please come and get me!" It takes a great deal of patience on the part of my staff to deal with the emotional needs of our boys and girls, and to help them discover the joy of learning—it's hard work. Thus, our faculty and staff are as excited about the October break as our students are.

The students who were desperately homesick a few weeks ago will be going home with a better understanding of why they are here. Many are getting the individual academic help they needed. Though most still have a long way to go, we have been trying to make learning fun.

One reason many students do not do well in public school is that often they do not understand what's being taught. That is not always the fault of the teacher or the school. Often it's simply having too many students for each teacher. With an average of 11 students in each OBI class, the teacher can address the individual needs of each student more easily. In a smaller classroom environment, the slower or struggling student is less intimidated. If we can help the student discover the fun of learning and achieving academic success, we have taken a giant step forward.

But all of this has been stressful for our students and staff. Everyone needs the fall break to have a few days to rest and relax. Hopefully the students will go home a little more excited about the help they are receiving in the classroom. Each student also will take home a mental list of things they want to bring back.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

The tape

Husband and wife discover school through long-forgotten videotape

Solomon advises, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days." This is advice on investments—financial or spiritual—and on trusting that the investment will pay off. Some investments pay sooner and others later; some pay more and others less. We just cast and trust that we will find it again.

When we distribute information about Clear Creek, we really are casting bread on the waters. Solomon's illustration likely was drawn from sea travel and foreign commerce as he knew it. The base idea was investing over the distance and waiting patiently for the reward to come home. We use our resources to produce and distribute flyers, brochures and multimedia presentations informing people of the mission and ministry of Clear Creek. We cast them widely and trust there will be a return. We never know when or how greatly that effort will see reward.

Some time ago—we do not know when—a church received a VHS tape of the Clear Creek story. (The format dates it somewhat. Now we use DVDs.) We do

not know if it was one of many that reached that church or if it arrived alone. We cannot say how long it sat on a shelf, unwatched and forgotten. We do know that one day as he was cleaning the church office, Doug Pitchford came across that video and it sparked an interest in Clear Creek.

Doug had surrendered to the ministry when he was single. Now, with a wife and child, he realized he needed to surrender to preparation and training for that work. The bread on the waters brought fruit as Doug and his wife, Amy, started making plans to move to campus.

As true as it is that you never know when the returns will be realized, it is just as true that you never know how great the reward will be. Doug now is finishing up his course of study, and Amy sits in class as a new student. She realizes the ministry she will have as a pastor's wife, and she wants to be prepared. Who knows what others they will lead to Clear Creek or when that tape again will pay dividends?

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; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Author Francis Chan wades into hell debate with new book

By John Evans

Simi Valley, Calif.—Francis Chan, the popular author of "Crazy Love" and "Forgotten God" who has waded into the controversy surrounding eternal punishment, says the conclusions of a book he has written make him sick.

With "Erasing Hell," co-written by Eternity Bible College associate professor Preston Sprinkle, Chan engages the theological firestorm that has been brewing for months over the ideas of fellow pastor and author Rob Bell.

Bell disputes major tenets of historical Christianity in his recent book, "Love Wins."

Among other things, Bell suggests Jesus' warnings about hell referred not to an eternal state of punishment but rather to suffering on earth that results from people disobeying God. Bell argues that all people, either in this life or the next, will embrace Jesus and be reconciled to God.

Bell's book drew a storm of criticism from evangelical leaders, including Southern Baptists. But for Chan, "Love Wins" sparked something different, especially on hell and eternal destiny.

Reading Bell's book "set a lot of things spinning in my mind," Chan told Christianity Today. "Some of it was concern, but some was doubt: Am I sure of what I believe? Let me go back and study."

In "Erasing Hell," subtitled "What God Said About Eternity, and the Things We've Made Up," Chan presents himself as a reluctant warrior on the topic of hell, a Christian deeply uncomfortable—even sickened—by hell's implications, and who would love to erase it from Scripture if he could.

The introduction to "Erasing Hell" recalls Chan's grief at the death of his grandmother, who wasn't a believer. He writes that he had brushed aside any thoughts of hell for more pleasant musings, refusing to let a doctrine believed with his head penetrate his heart.

He writes: "I had to figure out if the Bible actually taught the existence of a literal hell. How great would it be if it didn't? Then I would be able to embrace my grandmother again."

With that in mind, "Erasing Hell" is formulated as a journey through what the Scriptures say about hell and eternal destiny. What Chan finds, he writes, is not comforting.

He examines verses used by those who teach that God eventually will save everyone. Corinthians 15:22, for example, says that, "In Christ all will be made alive," and seems to suggest, some say, that Jesus will save all mankind.

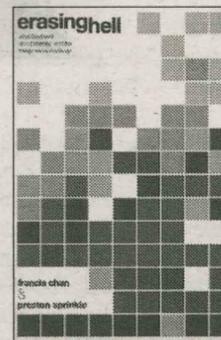
But Chan points out that the next verse—"But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him"—indicates Paul is speaking only of believers.

In the end, Chan concludes the Bible teaches that hell is real, not because that's what he wanted to find, but because that is what the teachings of Jesus clearly reveal. Chan says he finds the reality of hell deeply unsettling and that he doesn't want to believe it, but realizes he has to stick to what the Bible says.

"As I've said all along, I don't feel like believing in hell. And yet I do," Chan notes in his book. "Maybe someday I will stand in complete agreement with Him, but for now I attribute the discrepancy to an underdeveloped sense of justice on my part."

The process of writing the book, Chan explains, has led him to repent of soft pedaling some of the Bible's statements, and he feels compelled to proclaim the reality of hell.

Chan says he believes he's done his best to share where he stands and urges others to study the issue. "We need to surrender our perceived right to determine what is just and humbly recognize that God alone gets to decide how He is going to deal with people." (BP)



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KBC MISSION BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention at Lexington November 16, 2010 set the 2011-2012 goals and percentages as shown below.

The Mission Board recommends to the Convention in Florence on November 15, 2011 the following 2012-2013 goals and percentages.

I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL	APPROVED		PROJECTED	
	2011-2012		2012-2013	
	BUDGET		BUDGET	
A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET	\$23,500,000		\$23,500,000	
1. SBC CAUSES (a)	\$10,231,649	43.54%	\$10,231,649	43.54%
2. KBC CAUSES (b)	\$12,328,351	52.46%	\$12,328,351	52.46%
3. SHARED EXPENSES (b)	\$940,000	4.00%	\$940,000	4.00%
B. "MORE FOR CHRIST" CHALLENGE	\$705,000	3.00% **	\$705,000	3.00% **
1. SBC CAUSES	\$429,768	63.50% **	\$429,768	63.50% **
2. KBC CAUSES	\$247,032	36.50% **	\$247,032	36.50% **
3. SHARED EXPENSES	\$28,200	4.00% **	\$28,200	4.00% **
TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL (c)	\$24,205,000		\$24,205,000	
1. SBC CAUSES	\$10,661,417	44.05%	\$10,661,417	44.05%
2. KBC CAUSES	\$12,575,383	51.95%	\$12,575,383	51.95%
3. SHARED EXPENSES	\$968,200	4.00%	\$968,200	4.00%
II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME	\$2,652,933		*	
A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY	\$280,000		*	
B. OTHER	\$2,372,933		*	
III. TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET GOAL	\$26,152,933		*	
TOTAL CHALLENGE BUDGET GOAL	\$26,857,933		*	

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) Any Cooperative Program receipts in excess of the goal will be distributed at the same percentages as the "More for Christ" Challenge.

* To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 7-8, 2012.

** 3% growth in CP divided KBC 36.5% and SBC 63.5% after 4% shared expenses per GCTF-KY CP Distribution Plan.

Note: The proposed 2012-2013 Budget Goals for the Kentucky Baptist Convention were approved by the Business and Finance Committee for presentation to the Convention in annual session on November 15, 2011, subject to the approval of the Mission Board by means of a mail poll and subsequent ratification at its November 14, 2011 meeting.

Supreme Court hears from both sides in religious hiring case

By Lauren Markoe

Washington—The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments Oct. 5 on religious exemptions to employment law, and advocates for greater church autonomy say several justices seemed to be on their side.

Those justices focused on the motivation for a Michigan religious school to fire teacher Cheryl Perich, and expressed concern about a more robust role for the government in the internal affairs of churches, synagogues and other religious groups.

Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito and others worried that limiting a church's right to hire and fire would violate the constitutional doctrine of the separation of church and state.

"We are very encouraged," said Douglas Laycock, a University of Virginia law professor who argued on behalf of Hosanna-Tabor Evangelical Lutheran Church and School. "The court was

openly skeptical of much of the (government's) position."

Attorneys for Perich, who taught secular subjects and religion at the now-closed school, argued that she was fired for threatening to sue under the Americans with Disabilities Act, but said church and school officials used her religious duties as a pretext for firing her.

The church, meanwhile, argued that Perich was a special kind of teacher—a "commissioned minister"—and said she was fired for not upholding her religious responsibilities, including a mandate to solve disputes within the church.

At the heart of the case lies the question of the boundaries of the "ministerial exception," a 40-year-old doctrine that allows religious institutions some exemptions from employment law.

Justices questioned why the government would want to get in the business of deciding who is or isn't a religious employee and therefore subject to the ministerial exception. (RNS)

Court urged to protect church rights

Washington—The rights of churches and other religious organizations to determine their leaders and teachers is protected from government interference, two Southern Baptist entities said in a brief for a case argued Oct. 5 before the Supreme Court.

The International Mission Board and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission signed onto a friend-of-the-court brief to support the argument of a Lutheran church in a case considered by observers as one of the most significant religious freedom cases to reach

the high court in decades.

In the brief, the IMB and ERLC, as well as three other religious groups that signed on, contended a "robust 'ministerial exception' is critical to religious liberty.

"Religious groups have the right to choose, free from governmental interference, who will lead them and who will pass their faith onto the next generation," according to the brief. "Congress has no authority to interfere. This is the essence of the ministerial exception." (BP)

In the belly of a big fish

Crossings 2012 will bring campers face to face with story of Jonah

By Lindsay Swartz
Guest services coordinator

Being a man or woman of your word is not as highly esteemed in our day and age as it was in previous generations. Flippant promises are not unusual anymore, but are tolerated as the norm. However, it used to be that a person's character was linked to the keeping or breaking of his or her word. There is a reason for this: The God in whose image we all are made has undoubtedly revealed that He is a God of His word.

God is clear that every word of His proves true and that it is living, active and transformative. Amazingly, He causes us to be born again through His gospel, which is why we are passionate about making the teaching of God's word central during each week of Crossings Camps. We seek to intentionally do this through Bible studies, evening worship and interactions with the students.

We are excited to be studying the story of Jonah during Crossings 2012. We will explore how it is so much more than a man being swallowed by a really

big fish. In fact, the book of Jonah contains deep truths about who God is and who we are at our core.

We will discover how we all are more like Jonah than we care to admit, defying God, rejecting His call, running in rebellion and desperate for His rescue. More importantly, we will see how God, not Jonah, is the main character of this story, using yet another sinful man to carry out His redemptive plan and remain true to His word.

God's word is so rich, and we are eager to demonstrate to the students this summer how every story points to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We exist to see students cross over from death

to life through faith in Christ, and that only will come through hearing the word of God.

Please join us in praying for the hearts of the students who will be studying God's word and learning about the gospel from the Book of Jonah. Undoubtedly, there are some who still are in the belly of a big fish, ready to call out to God for their rescue.

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

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber



October

- 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.
- 5 Creative Ministries 101 Workshop, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green.
- 11-13 All-State Junior High Choir, La Grange Baptist Church.
- 12 GA Jam, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
- 13 Men's Chorale Concert, Main Street Baptist Church, Alexandria.
- 14 KBC Mission Board Meeting, Union Baptist Church.
- 14 Kentucky Baptist Music Conference, Receptions Conference Center South, Erlanger.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BEREA**—Liberty Avenue Church recently called **Kenneth Felty** as pastor.
- **CADIZ**—Maple Grove Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19 with **Paul Cannon** as evangelist. **Ronnie Hooks** is pastor.
- **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary Oct. 16, 8:30 & 10:50 a.m., with KBC Executive Director **Paul Chitwood** as guest speaker. Campbellsville University will hold a celebration for the 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible Oct. 13, 7 p.m., in the banquet hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus with **John Hurtgen** and **Shawn Williams** of Campbellsville University as guest speakers. For more

information, contact **Glen Taul** at GETaul@Campbellsville.edu or (270) 789-5390.

Campbellsville University will hold performances of the musical "Little Shop of Horrors" Oct. 13, 7 p.m.; Oct. 14, 8 p.m.; Oct. 15, 7 p.m.; and Oct. 16, 3 p.m., at the Russ Mobley Theater in the Alumni Building on campus. Tickets are \$5. For more information or to make reservations, call (270) 789-5266 or visit www.Campbellsville.edu/Theater-Box-Office.

Saloma Church will hold a Revival and Renewal Sunday Oct. 16, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., with **Mark Shelton**, pastor of Burkesville Church, as evangelist. A potluck meal and fellowship will precede the evening worship service.

John Chowning is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Pilgrim's Rest Church will hold a women's prayer breakfast and quilting class Oct. 15, 9 a.m. **Carl Allen** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19 with a different evangelist each service. **John Mitchell** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a ladies' crafts night Oct. 14, 6 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FANCY FARM**—Beulah Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 16. **Jon Allred** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Walnut Grove Church will hold revival services Oct. 16-19 with **Gary Frizzell**, pastor of Enon Church in Mayfield, as evangelist. **Rich Gardner** is pastor.

■ **GILBERTSVILLE**—First Church will hold revival services Oct. 16, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Oct. 17-19, 7 p.m. **Brian Hall** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold revival services Oct. 16, 8:30 & 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.; Oct. 17-19, 6 p.m., with **Robert Browning**, pastor of Smoke Rise Church in Stone Mountain, Ga., as evangelist. **H. Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will host **The Patriot Quartet** in concert Oct. 16, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 358-3193.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—Moreland First Church will hold revival services Oct. 16, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 17-19, 6:30 p.m., with **Ed Amundson**, pastor of High Street Church in Somerset, as evangelist. **Eric Douglas** is pastor.

■ **LaCENTER**—First Church will

King moving on to LifeWay

Nashville, Tenn.—Longtime denominational communicator Marty King has been named director of corporate communications for LifeWay Christian Resources.

King currently is associate executive director of the Illinois Baptist State Association and has led the state's communication team as editor of the Illinois Baptist newspaper for the last five years.

In his new position at LifeWay, King will lead the team responsible for LifeWay's internal and external communications including Facts and Trends

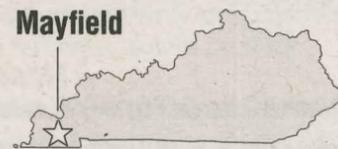
magazine, news media relations and a number of social media platforms.

King's vocational career has focused on journalism, marketing, fund development, advertising and denominational communications. He served both the Home Mission Board and its successor agency, the North American Mission Board, as director of corporate communications for 15 years.

King succeeds Micah Carter, who has taken a position with LifeWay's church resources division. King officially will take on his new role Nov. 1. (LW/BP)

Spotlight on ...

Mayfield



Trace Creek Church will host the "Rooted" student conference Oct. 15, 9:30 a.m., with **Jared Schuler**, college and missions pastor at Englewood Church in Jackson, Tenn., as guest speaker and recording artist **Kristian Stanfill** as worship leader. **Ronnie Stinson** is pastor.

hold a Judgment House Oct. 16, 6 p.m., featuring a walk-through drama of decisions and their consequences. The presentation is not recommended for children younger than sixth grade. **Mark Sickling** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Laurel River Church will hold revival services Oct. 16, 6 p.m.; Oct. 17-19, 7 p.m., with **Norm Brock**, pastor of First Church of East Bernstadt, as evangelist. **Darren Cupp** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—New Home Church will host the Graves County Singing Convention Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m. **Charles Jackson** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a world crafts party Oct. 14, 7 p.m., for GAs and their mothers.

■ **PAINT LICK**—Faith Decision Church recently called **Luther Allen** as pastor.

■ **STANTON**—Emmanuel Church recently called **Jake McPherson** as minister of music and youth. He previously was minister of music at Northside Church in Mount Vernon. **Greg Webb** is pastor.

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FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. Owned by Christian family. Check website for photos and information: www.harmonyventures.net.

FOR SALE: 2002 Ford 15-passenger bus; 1-ton diesel; tires good; runs, drives good; interior, exterior good. Call (606) 481-0444; or email double-r-farm@att.net. Attention: Mill Knob Baptist.

SEEKING: Christian elementary school teachers needed in tropical paradise. Art, music and kindergarten through grade 4. Please view website at lighthouseprimarieschool.org; for more information, email headmaster@lighthouseprimarieschool.org.

SEEKING: Bivocational youth pastor for a growing suburban Northern Kentucky church. A love for Christ and teenagers a must. Please send resumé by Oct. 17, 2011, to Youth Pastor Search, Union Baptist Church, PO Box 194, Union, KY 41091.

SEEKING: Full/part-time minister of youth and children with emphasis 6th-12th grades at Concord Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, Ky. Applicant must possess or be pursuing an accredited college and/or seminary degree. Interested individuals should email resumé by Oct. 14, 2011, to pastorofconcord@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth pastor for Covington Baptist Church, located in between LaGrange and Westport, Ky. Please send resumé by email to 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. Resumes should be submitted by Oct. 9 to First Baptist Church Fulton, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041; or email office@fbcfulton.org.

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.

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

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. Resumes 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.

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

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

Seeking: 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 resumé to Ken Bolin, 308 Main Street, Manchester, Kentucky, 40962; or email to preachermanken@gmail.com no later than Oct. 31, 2011. Resumes received prior to Sept. 13 must be resubmitted.

What you believe about God and money really matters

By Chuck Bentley

Vishal Mangalwadi has been described in Christianity Today as "India's foremost Christian intellectual." He's the author of 14 books, including "Truth and Transformation: A Manifesto for Ailing Nations."

Mangalwadi observes key differences between eastern and western cultures and asks a straightforward question: "Why don't American women haul water and cow dung on their heads?"

The answer, according to Mangalwadi, has nothing to do with technology or economics.

Mangalwadi contends that Indian women still carry water and cow dung on their heads because of Indian beliefs about marriage. In his country, polygamy is still practiced. Culturally, men are not required to love their wives. It is not considered morally wrong for a man to love a mistress instead of his wife or to seek the services of religious prostitutes for companionship, pleasure and even "enlightenment." Wives must compete for their husband's affection and are not inclined to ask him to carry water or cow dung.

Mangalwadi believes it was the Christian belief of marriage and sexual faithfulness that fueled the rapid economic advancement of western nations.

This belief in monogamous marriage brought the couple together in such a way that the energy of the husband and wife was harnessed into a mutual desire to solve problems, and so progress was more rapid than in cultures where the husband would say, "forget it, you are on your own!"

Don't miss this key point: Our individual beliefs not only shape our lives, but they form a culture that shapes the direction of an entire nation.

The Lord has His own philosophy concerning money. He goes to great lengths to make that simple financial philosophy known to us: We are to love and serve Him only, not money.

There's a name for God that we seldom use. That name is Jealous. Exodus 34:14 states, "Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

God has the title of Jealous because He's the only one worthy of all our affection and adoration. He is God Almighty.

So we understand how God is a righteous Jealous God, but why is He jealous for our adoration?

Because God knows that the accumulation of money and possessions has the power to control our lives, He seeks to keep our heart close to His so that we will not wander off like sheep to become lunch for wolves.

In "Money and Power," French theologian Jacques Ellul underscores the seriousness of this spiritual battle for our affections. He focuses on Jesus' teaching on the profound decision we all must make (Luke 16:13): "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Ellul contends that Jesus is warning us that money is a power unto itself—not because of what it can do, but because of what it is, intrinsically. He says that our love for money can become a paramount relationship in our lives, one in which we attach ourselves to money's fate. It is vitally important, Ellul contends, that we understand the utter totality of our decision to love money and to become free of it:

"Ultimately, we follow what we have loved the most intensely either into eternity or into death. To love money is to be condemned to follow it in its destruction, its disappearance, its annihilation and its death. It is thus extremely important that we never try to justify, however little, an attachment to money or the importance we attribute to it. Nowhere are Christians told that their love for money justifies it or causes it to be used to God's glory or elevates it toward the good. The exact opposite is said: that our attachment to money pushes us with it headlong into nothingness."

You see how it's essential that our philosophies are consistent with God's word? If they're not, we are at risk of being enslaved by the spiritual power of money.

This is an edited excerpt from Chuck Bentley's book, "The Root of Riches: What if Everything You Think about Money Is Wrong." Bentley is CEO of Crown Financial Ministries.



SIX DECADES OF TEACHING Louise Grace, 90, was honored Sept. 26 for teaching the older women Sunday School class at Concord Baptist Church in Hopkinsville for 17 years. She previously had taught for 45 years at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Christian County. Members of "The Golden Grace Class," which was named after her, presented a print of "Amazing Grace" to her, and members of Grace's family surprised her by attending the service. Dennis Wilder is the pastor of Concord.

Preacher's Kids



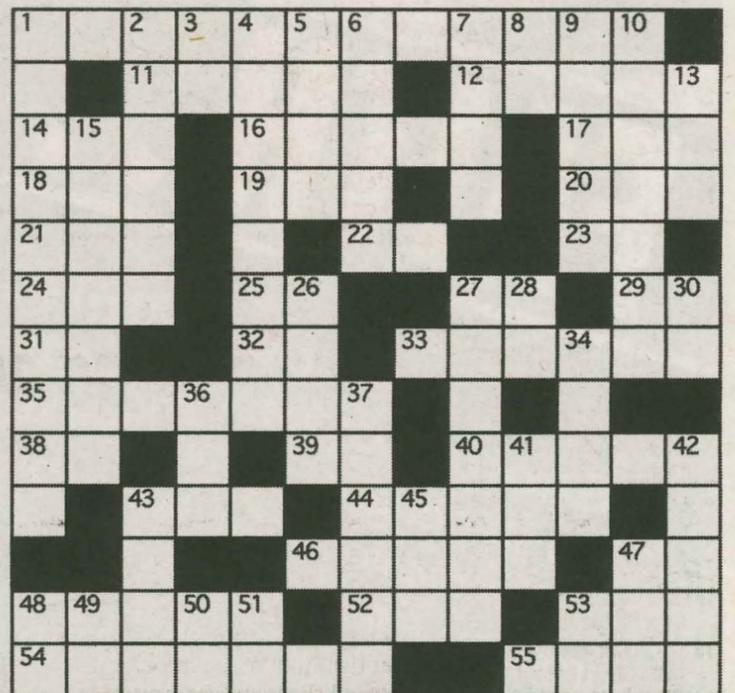
David Ayers

Bible Crosswords

By Janet Kennedy

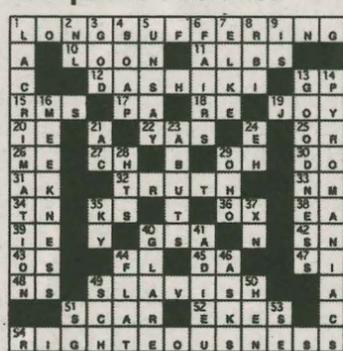
Across

- 1 "The foundations of the wall of the city ... the tenth, a _____, the eleventh, a jacinth" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 11 An enzyme which causes decay
- 12 "And David's two wives ... and Abigail the wife of _____ the Carmelite" (1 Samuel 30:5)
- 14 Air Force Base, abbr.
- 16 Pale and wan
- 17 Stone or soil containing metal
- 18 A flower necklace
- 19 For each
- 20 Beverage
- 21 The third letter of the alphabet
- 22 City of Angels, abbr.
- 23 The seventh tone on the musical scale
- 24 Edward and Edwin
- 25 Iridium, chem. symbol
- 27 Local magistrate able to perform marriages, abbr.
- 29 "_____ man hath seen God at any time" (John 1:18)
- 31 Prefix: twice, double
- 32 Prefix: again, once more
- 33 "The first foundation was _____" (Revelation 21:19)
- 35 Unity, agreement
- 38 National Guard, abbr.
- 39 Third day of the week, abbr.
- 40 "Out of the _____ palaces" (Psalm 45:8)
- 43 Reverence
- 44 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall _____ their strength" (Isaiah 40:31)
- 46 "And the third row a figure, an _____, and an amethyst" (Exodus 28:19)
- 47 Gold, chem. symbol
- 48 "And the fourth row a _____, and an onyx" (Exodus 28:20)
- 52 KJV verb suffix
- 53 Wager



- 54 "And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a _____" (Exodus 28:18)
- 55 A washing of the body
- 15 "And there was an herd of many swine _____ on the mountain" (Luke 8:32)
- 26 "Come unto me, ... and I will give you _____" (Matthew 11:28)
- 27 "And the foundations of the wall of the city were ... the eleventh, a _____; the twelfth, an amethyst" (Revelation 21:19-20)
- 28 Letter addendum, abbr.
- 30 Either
- 34 "Doth the plowman _____ all day to sow?" (Isaiah 28:24)
- 36 "No man also seweth a piece of _____ cloth on an old garment" (Mark 2:21)
- 37 Swelled or heaved with great force
- 41 The symbol of victory
- 42 "My manner of life from my _____" (Acts 26:4)
- 43 Magic word: _____ - cadabra
- 45 "Take, _____; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26)
- 47 Of age, Lat. abbr.
- 48 Bachelor of Divinity, abbr.
- 49 A, _____, O, U
- 50 Young Men's Christian Association, abbr.
- 51 "_____, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20)
- 53 Barium, chem. symbol

Last puzzle's solution



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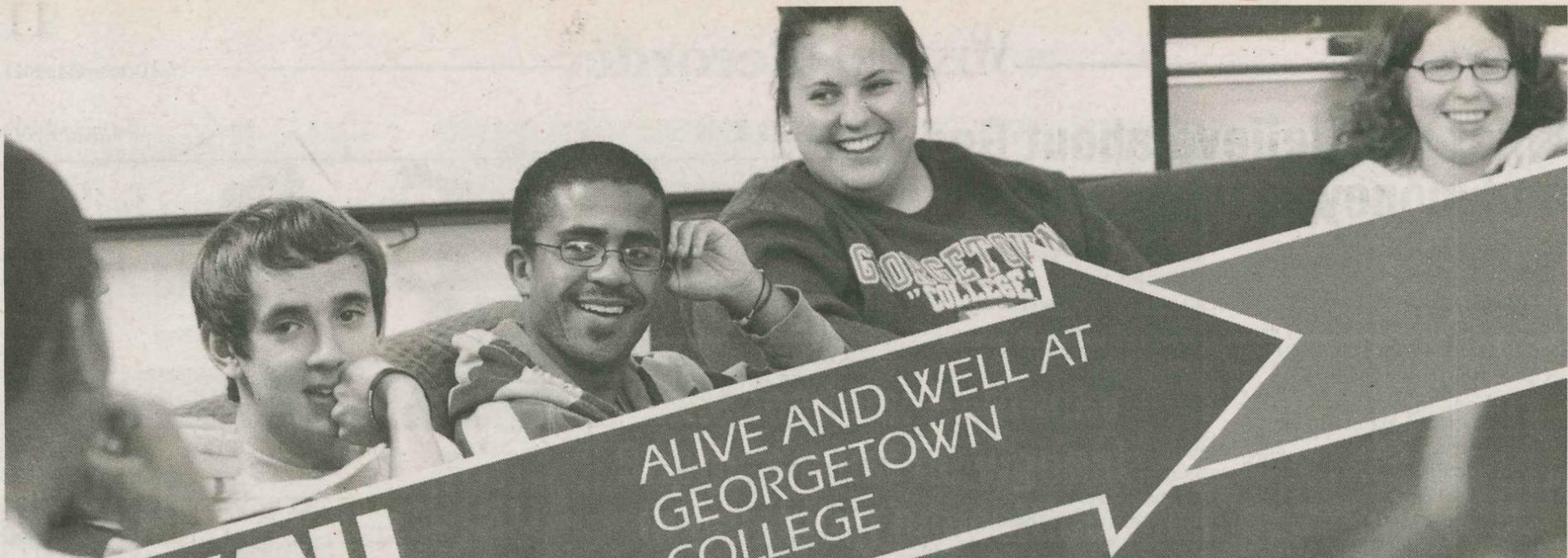
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FAITH . . .

ALIVE AND WELL AT
GEORGETOWN
COLLEGE

Campus Ministry at Georgetown College is open to students of all faith backgrounds. Our mission is to love people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

This year, 115 first year students have voluntarily chosen to participate in a Freshmen Family Group. In this discipleship small group ministry, students pray together, study the Bible together, encourage one another, and grow deeper in God together.

Each of ten groups is led by an upper class male and female student under the leadership and guidance of the campus minister in the Office of Religious Life.

Learn more about GC's ministry to students online:
www.georgetowncollege.edu/campusministry



Freshman Family Groups

are one of the easiest and most common ways for freshmen or new students to get involved in campus life.

