

# WESTERN Recorder

October 25, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 41

## Lexington author explores what every (Haitian) kid should know

By Robin Bass

Lexington—Tina Bryson had the opportunity to join a church mission trip to Haiti, but she quickly passed on the idea. Whether it was the hassle of traveling so far or the thought of ministering amid sweltering temperatures, Bryson remembered thinking if God wanted her to go to Haiti, then He would have to change her heart.

Through a series of events that only God could orchestrate, Bryson said she now dreams of the day when she finally can share the love of Christ with children in Haiti.

"I have been given a heart to go down there myself and hug on these kids and remind them that God loves them and has not abandoned them," Bryson said.

To help her convey this message of hope, Bryson plans to send—or, she hopes, bring in person—copies of her award-winning book, "10 Things Every Kid Should Know about God," translated into Haitian Creole.

The book, published by Leeway Artisan, Inc., offers nearly a dozen life lessons designed to help build a child's confidence in the promise of salvation. Chapter headings hint at how Bryson breaks down sometimes complex theology with titles like: "God Saves in an Instant ... the Moment We Pray" and "Once You Are in the Moment, You Are Always His."

Bryson said her own lack of understanding salvation as a child contributed to the decision to write the book.

"I heard all the Bible stories (as a child), but I never understood or really made the connection that they were not just nice stories, they were about my relationship with God," said Bryson, a former children's minister at Consolidated Baptist Church in Lexington.

One example she uses is the story of the Prodigal Son. Bryson said she remembers enjoying the Bible story as a child,

□ See Tina Bryson ... Page 2



Tina Bryson

## A Solitary Calling?

### Survey reveals many pastors feel lonely, discouraged

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Though almost all pastors feel privileged to be in ministry, a majority also experience loneliness and discouragement, according to a new survey by LifeWay Research.

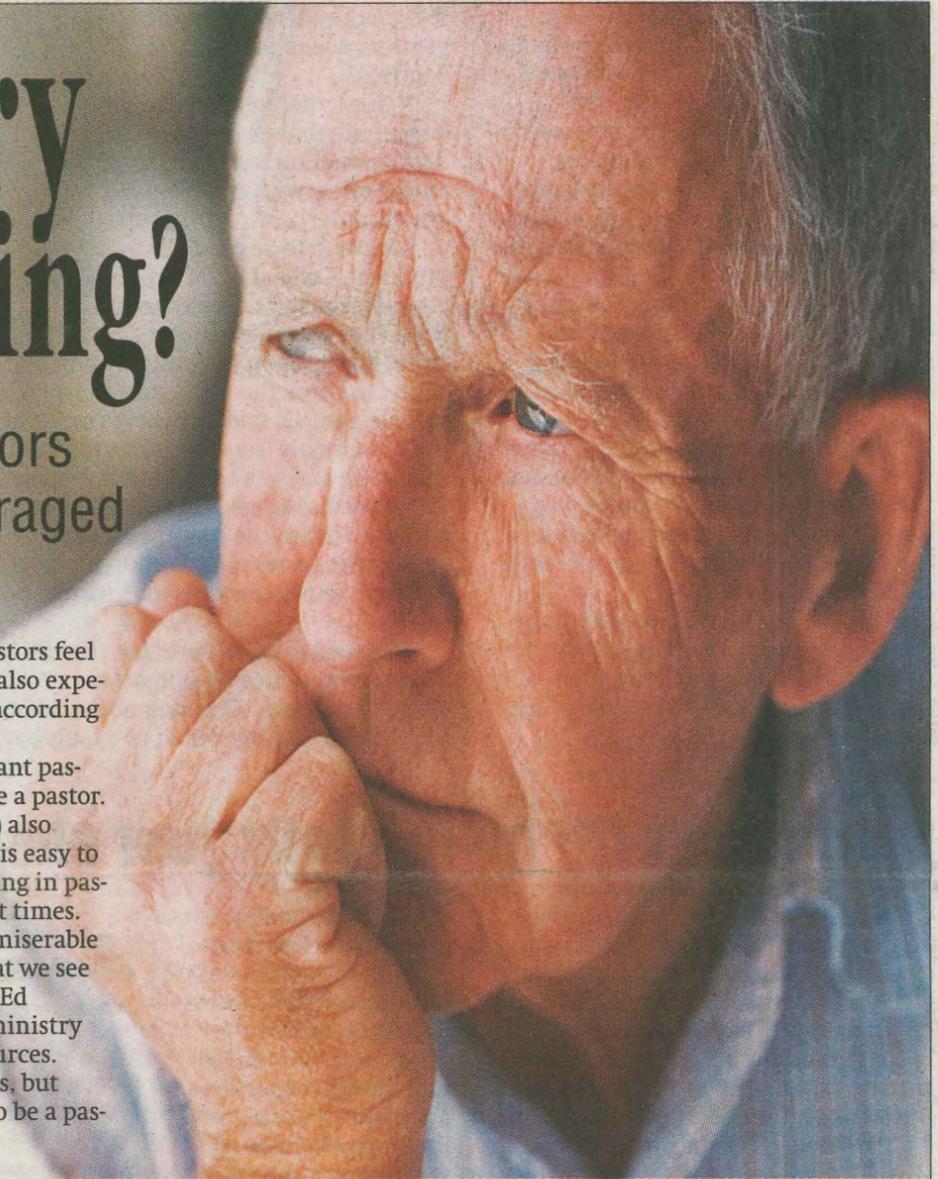
A full 98 percent of the 1,000 Protestant pastors polled said they feel privileged to be a pastor.

However, more than half (55 percent) also agree with the statement, "I find that it is easy to get discouraged," and 55 percent say being in pastoral ministry makes them feel lonely at times.

"Many oft-quoted statistics speak of miserable and unhappy pastors, but that's not what we see when we actually ask them," explained Ed Stetzer, vice president of research and ministry development at LifeWay Christian Resources.

"There is discouragement and loneliness, but when 98 percent agree it is a privilege to be a pastor ...

□ See Pastor survey ... Page 6



## NAMB commissions 67 new missionaries, chaplains

By Joe Conway

Lawrenceville, Ga.—The baptism of a new believer offered a tangible reminder of the purpose for a North American Mission Board missionary commissioning service at North Metro Baptist Church in Lawrenceville, Ga.

North Metro senior pastor Frank Cox opened the evening by baptizing Bianca, a new church member from El Salvador.

Bryant Wright, Southern Baptist Convention president, and Larry Wynn, NAMB vice president for evangelism, charged the 67 new missionaries and others gathered at the church to be obedient to God's call. The celebration concluded with family, friends and North Metro members surrounding the newly commissioned missionaries for prayer.

New missionary families shared testimonies ...

□ See NAMB missionaries ... Page 7



NEW MISSIONARIES Mission Service Corps missionary Jessica Navarre carries the California state flag, the state where she'll be serving, during the parade of flags at the Oct. 2 North American Mission Board Missionary commissioning celebration. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)



Lexington pastor Derek Coleman announced as nominee for KBC president. Page 2.

State Baptist association denies membership to church, calvinism cited as possible reason. Page 3.

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Western Recorder 10-25-2011

# Lexington pastor will be nominated for convention president

By Drew Nichter

**Lexington**—Derek Coleman, pastor of Gardenside Baptist Church in Lexington, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 15 in Florence.

Coleman will be nominated by fellow Lexington pastor Paul Sisk, who leads that city's Anchor Baptist Church.

Coleman is the second announced candidate for the presidential post. Adam Greenway, a professor and associate dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, declared his candidacy last month.

In nominating Coleman, Sisk cited the pastor's leadership and pastoral skills, heart for unity and a "burning desire to see God's people come together to do God's work for God's glory."

"He has a pastor's heart and a pastor's understanding," Sisk said of Coleman in a letter to the Western Recorder. "He knows what it's like to struggle with challenges, as well as manage success in a God-honoring way."

Sisk echoed Paul Chitwood's words, when he was introduced as KBC executive director earlier this year, expressing his desire to see the KBC become a "big-tent convention."

Coleman "strongly agrees with Dr. Chitwood that the tent is big enough for all Kentucky Baptists and understands that all sides must be represented in that tent if they are to come together," Sisk noted. "Dr. Coleman is more than capable of bringing all sides together in that tent for the greater good of Kentucky Baptists."

"I think there's more in Baptist life that unites us than divides us," Coleman said in an interview with the Western Recorder.

If he were to be elected president, Coleman said his objective during the next year would be to strengthen the "webbing between our pastors and churches throughout the state."

Coleman, 49, said he believes much of the state is only "loosely connected" and that there are even some church leaders who have disengaged themselves from participating in the convention altogether over issues such as church polity. "That obviously concerns me greatly," he said.

"We need to make sure that the entire state is represented by whomever is elected president," Coleman noted, adding that his election would go a long way

toward helping bring back those pastors who may have disconnected themselves from the convention.

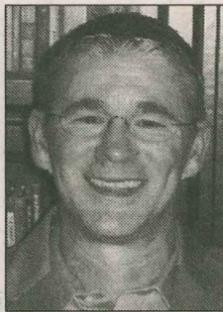
"My one goal is bring about unity and to bring about the reality that even though we do have differences of polity, we can still come together in 'More for Christ' and with the evangelistic effort and for missions," Coleman noted.

In regard to "More for Christ," Coleman said, as president, he would function as a "cheerleader" and "spokesman" for the emphasis, "trying to get as many of our pastors and churches and denominational leaders in the state engaged."

If elected, Coleman would be the first president to serve a full term alongside Chitwood, who was elected KBC executive director in June. The two were seminary classmates in the mid-1990s and have been friends since.

"I have the utmost confidence and trust in Paul," Coleman said, adding that he would like to have the opportunity to help Chitwood "in uniting our state convention to where we can be stronger than we have been in the past."

Coleman has served as pastor of Gardenside Baptist Church since January.



Derek Coleman

## September CP giving falls just short of monthly goal

**Louisville**—In the first month of the new fiscal year, Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$1.79 million to missions and ministries through the Cooperative Program.

This year's annual goal is the same as last year, \$23.5 million, but according to Lowell Ashby, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team, Mission Board staff once again will be operating from a lower "workable budget" because of ongoing economic troubles worldwide.

The workable budget for the fiscal year is \$22,522,814.

The first month's gifts were \$1,791,942, which was \$84,858 short of the monthly budget goal of \$1,876,900.

Ashby noted that the total was

\$12,320 less than the same period last year.

As the 174th annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention draws near, Billy Compton, the KBC's executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources, said he hopes more Kentucky Baptists will attend this year's meeting and learn more about how Cooperative Program dollars are used.

"The annual meeting is a wonderful opportunity to talk to people who are able to serve Christ and share the gospel with others because of Cooperative



### Kentucky Baptist CP giving at a glance

#### Giving for Aug. 1-31, 2011 & Fiscal Year End

Monthly budget goal:	\$ 1,958,333
Actual giving:	\$ 2,151,866
Over budget:	\$ 193,533
Year-to-Date goal:	\$ 23,500,000
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$ 22,403,090
Under budget:	\$ 1,096,910

Program gifts," Compton said. "Just strolling through the display area gives you an idea of the breadth of ministry made possible because of CP."

The annual meeting is Nov. 15 at Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion. (KBC)

## Tina Bryson

Continued from page 1

however, it wasn't until years later she realized the wayward son is symbolic of the selfish, sinful spirit in every person.

And children today are not immune, Bryson said. She was surprised to discover children at her church still were not grasping the concepts after participating in an eight-week course explaining the plan of salvation.

"We were finding that the basic doctrines we were teaching were not sticking," she said. "We need to help kids know not only what they believe, but why they believe it."

Bryson said her hopes for the book are that children and parents can use it to review the biblical concepts of salvation at their own pace.

When a church friend announced she

was going to Haiti to help with a Vacation Bible School ministry at an orphanage, Bryson offered to send copies of her book. It was then the seed of an idea began to grow and within two weeks, Bryson had assembled five volunteer translators to rewrite her book in Haiti's native tongue.

"The amazing part is how God brought (the translators) together so quickly and with hearts of unity. They are so committed to it," Bryson said of the group mostly comprised of Haitian college students. "They are excited to get the message back to their country."

One of the translators is Melinda Jean-Louis, who left her home of Port-Au-Prince eight years ago and now is a senior at the University of Kentucky.

"I wanted to be a part of this because it's a great way to preach the gospel," she said. "I want to do anything I can to help kids learn about God at a young age."

The translation process is expected to reach completion by early November with a goal of sending 1,000 copies of the translated version to Haiti by year's end.

The cost of printing the Haitian Creole versions would be funded entirely by donations. Bryson said if 75 churches each paid for 10 books and 50 individuals funded five books each, then 1,000 books could be printed at cost.

Currently, Bryson is developing partnerships with various Baptist organizations to transport and distribute the books in Haiti, a place that even before the deadly 2010 earthquake had an estimated 380,000 orphans.

"I want all of these kids to know that their life has purpose and that God is going to use their life in a really special way," Bryson said.

For more information about the book, visit [www.LeewayArtisans.com/EveryKidShouldKnow](http://www.LeewayArtisans.com/EveryKidShouldKnow). (WR)

## LifeWay again set to simulcast 'Secret Church'

**Birmingham, Ala.**—Marriage, pornography, homosexuality, same-sex marriage, abortion and sex trafficking are a few of the topics pastor and author David Platt will discuss during the upcoming Secret Church simulcast Nov. 4.

Secret Church events include six hours of in-depth Bible teaching and prayer for the persecuted church led by Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., and author of The New York Times bestseller "Radical."

Churches, small groups and individuals around the world are invited to participate in the event next month which will be simulcast by LifeWay Christian Resources, in partnership with Disciple-Making International and The Church at Brook Hills.

Secret Church was born out of Platt's experiences teaching in underground house churches throughout Asia. There, Platt experienced how Christians met in secret at great risk to their lives in order to study the Bible. This awareness sparked a desire to see that same urgency and hunger for biblical teaching in his own church.

In April 2010, approximately 50,000 people from 1,300 churches and small groups participated in the first LifeWay Secret Church simulcast, which reached 42 states and 11 countries. (LW)

# Calvinism cited among reasons church turned down for associational membership

By Todd Deaton

**Island**—Was a western Kentucky church denied admittance to a Baptist association because it is too Calvinistic?

Acting on a report brought by its credentials committee, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association voted 104-9 at its annual meeting last week not to accept Pleasant Valley Community Church in Owensboro for membership.

"Our concern in the initial stages of our investigation revolved around the fact that Pleasant Valley Community Church's confessional statement is one that (is) Calvinistic in nature. It affirms the doctrine of election and grace," the report from the association's credentials committee stated.

"While we know the doctrine is not heresy, we do recognize that it is vastly different than the majority of churches within the DMBA," the statement noted.

But while the church's Calvinistic views were a concern, there were other contributing issues that emerged during the credentialing process, according to a statement from DMBA vice moderator, Eddie Duke, pastor of Panther Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

"Ultimately, we were not satisfied that Pleasant Valley Community Church would be sympathetic with the purpose and work of the body of the DMBA," the committee concluded, citing "an overall lack of the key elements of cooperation found in patience, humility, kindness, compassion and gentleness."

After the committee's statement was heard, the matter would have been

concluded unless a motion to accept was made from the floor, according to DMBA Moderator Tommy Webb, pastor of Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun. That motion was brought by Barry Rager, pastor of Utica Baptist Church.

"In my dealings with the pastors from this church, I experienced good fellowship (and) good cooperation. These men love the word, they preach the gospel; ... they are taking the gospel around the world," Rager told the Western Recorder. "I didn't see any reason they shouldn't be in the local association—whether their theology is reformed or not. I thought they would be of great benefit to us."

Also among those speaking on behalf of Pleasant Valley was Greg Faulls, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Owensboro, which made the formal recommendation in May for the congregation to join Daviess-McLean Association. While he went to the meeting prepared to express his disappointment, he had not planned to make such a motion because he felt the committee had "a pretty good pulse" of the association, Faulls told the Western Recorder.

"It just wouldn't be worth having a disharmonious discussion when the chances of that being voted on affirmatively were so slim," he said. "It was obvious that the issue of more reformed thinking in this church was an issue of concern."

Though he considers himself to be "a general atonement kind of guy," Faulls said, "I thought they would also fit"

under the theological umbrella of the Baptist Faith & Message, "but apparently the association didn't agree."

In a statement to the Western Recorder, Jamus Edwards, pastor of Pleasant Valley Community Church, apologized for "any hurt we have caused or any evidence of impatience or haughtiness" exhibited during the application process. "We truly love the brothers of the DMBA and are thankful for their commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ," he said.

Edwards disagreed, however, with the Calvinist label placed on the church, saying the congregation does not identify itself as such primarily because it is not "helpful in most contexts, but actually distracting and largely misunderstood, precisely like it was in this situation with the DMBA."

As moderator and chairman of the credentials committee, Webb said he was convinced the decision concerning Pleasant Valley was "right in line" with the heartbeat of the association.

"The committee worked hard to seek God's will about the involvement of Pleasant Valley Community Church with the DMBA," Webb noted. "As while the doctrinal position of PVCC was of concern, we also were greatly concerned about the cooperation of PVCC with the other churches of our association. Our prayer and belief is the DMBA will continue to stand firm and strive for a spirit of love and unity."

Pleasant Valley Community Church is a member of both the Kentucky and Southern Baptist conventions.

"We are certainly hurt and disappointed that we have been able to joyfully and peacefully link arms with our Baptist brothers and sisters from across the state and the nation," Edwards said, referring to the church's KBC and SBC membership, "and yet have been refused the opportunity to partner in the gospel with our brothers and sisters in our very own community." (WR)

# Page: Calvinism 'divide' is SBC's top challenge

By Bob Allen

**Nashville, Tenn.**—A Southern Baptist Convention official says one of the top challenges facing the nation's second largest faith group is the increasing influence of Calvinism in churches.

"I think one of the issues which is a tremendous challenge for us is the theological divide of Calvinism and non-Calvinism," Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee said in a blog interview posted Oct. 18 at SBC Today.

"Everyone is aware of this, but few want to talk about this in public," Page elaborated. "The reason is obvious. It is deeply divisive in many situations and is disconcerting in others. At some point we are going to see the challenges which are ensuing from this divide become even more problematic for us. I regularly receive communications from churches who are struggling over this issue."

Page, a former South Carolina pastor who served as SBC president in 2006-08, authored an 80-page booklet in 2000 titled "Trouble with the TULIP: A Closer Examination of the Five Points of Calvinism." In it he termed Calvinism a "man-made" doctrine not supported by Scripture and defended what he called "the true teachings of grace."

The book countered a common acronym for the five main points of Calvinism, a theological model named after Protestant reformer John Calvin. They are: Total depravity, Unmerited election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace and Perseverance of the saints.

Page presented an alternative acronym of GRACE. "Given through Christ, Rejected through rebellion, Accepted through faith and Christ died for all" that summarized four points of a counter view of Calvinism called Arminianism. Page's final "E" departed from Arminian thought with "everlasting life/security of the believer, a Calvinist doctrine held by most Southern Baptists often described as "once saved, always saved."

Renewed interest in Calvinism, also known as Reformed Theology and the Doctrines of Grace, began with influential leaders, including Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler, who view it as a healthy return to Southern Baptists' historic roots.

Others see it as a negative trend that threatens to take over the convention in a manner similar to the conservative shift of the late 20th century that redirected the more moderate and mainstream theology held by many SBC leaders before the 1980s toward a more conservative embrace of biblical inerrancy that now holds sway.

Page claims he is neither Calvinist nor Arminian but has said there needs to be honest dialogue between the camps. A 2007 LifeWay Research study found that about 10 percent of rank-and-file pastors considered themselves five-point Calvinists. Among recent seminary graduates the number grew to 29 percent, suggesting that the small but increasing number of Calvinist-led churches will continue to grow. (ABP)

## O'Neal, 86, served nearly 40 years in Brazil

**McKinney, Texas**—Retired Southern Baptist missionary Boyd O'Neal, who served nearly 50 years in global missions, died Sept. 24. He was 86.

O'Neal and his wife, Irma, served

nearly 40 years served as missionaries in north Brazil. O'Neal also served eight years on staff at the International Mission Board headquarters in Richmond, Va. (IMB/BP)



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## Growing immigrant population an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists

New census data is revealing amazing population trends in the United States. Possibly the most remarkable trend is the explosive growth of immigrants. To illustrate that growth in Kentucky, consider that, in the past decade, the immigration population in the city of Louisville has grown by 100.9 percent!

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

In a recent article on the booming immigrant population, missiologist and church planting specialist J.D. Payne wrote, "The international migration of the peoples of the world is one of the most significant issues facing the Church today. Unfortunately, many of us representing the Church in the United States have been asleep as the nations have been moving at a rapid rate. When will we open our eyes and recognize the divine hand behind such movements and adjust our strategies accordingly?" Payne's pointed question carries with it a sense of urgency.

Some of our churches have reacted with that same sense of urgency by reaching out to ethnic peoples in their communities, but much work remains. While many of our churches may not feel they have the expertise or resources to make a significant impact, partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board makes it possible for any church of any size to be a part of reaching the nations that have come to Kentucky.

Carlos De la Barra directs the multi-ethnic missions and ministries of the KBC. The ministry began with outreach to Hispanic migrant workers more than two decades ago. By 2010, the KBC family included 67 Hispanic churches and missions throughout the state. As the Hispanic population continues to grow, so does the need for churches.

I found one of De la Barra's observations about ethnic work in Kentucky to be prophetic of what awaits us. He stated, "The work among other ethnic groups is starting to look much like the Hispanic work did in 1992." He shared with me that we are already developing missions that could potentially become churches among East Asian Indians, Nepalese, Bosnians, Turks, Somalis, and Iraqis. Can we imagine a time when the work among these immigrants will be as extensive as our work among the Hispanics?

The growth of the Hispanic population in Kentucky took many of us by surprise. Honestly, we are still playing catch-up. For all of the ministries that have succeeded, many opportunities have been missed because we were not invested in the work soon enough. I pray that is not the case with our work among other immigrant populations.

De la Barra and his team receive their support from gifts made by Southern Baptist churches through the Cooperative Program, the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, and the North American Mission Board's Annie Armstrong Easter Offering.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## 'Let It Start With Me' fans flame for missions

Kentucky Baptists were introduced to the rising contemporary Christian group No Other Name at last year's annual meeting in Lexington. The trio, which was nominated for the Gospel Music Association's New Artist of the Year Dove Award, released its national debut album, "The Other Side," this week. One of the 10 songs from the album, "Let It Start With Me," will be featured as part of the International Mission Board's Lottie Moon Missions Offering promotion this December.

No Other Name, a trio of brother and sister combo, Sam and Laura Allen, and friend, Chad Smith, met several years ago during a music conference at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. The group, which takes its name from Acts 4:12—"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"—has a heart for sharing the gospel with the nations. Their album produced by Curb Records has a strong missions and evangelism theme, and "Let It Start With Me" is featured in a music video created by the International Mission Board. The video, which was shot in Thailand, is being distributed to 40,000 Southern Baptist churches to encourage involvement in international missions, and it may be viewed at [www.noothername.com](http://www.noothername.com) or [www.letitstartwithme.com](http://www.letitstartwithme.com).

"I would never say that music can take the place of preaching God's word, but at the same time people will listen to a song where they might not listen to a sermon," Laura Allen said in a press release. "Music is clearly a language that can communicate to everybody, and we hope this album will further our goal to reach as many people as possible with the gospel of Christ."

No Other Name took to the stage to perform the IMB theme song, "Let It Start With Me," during the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting in Phoenix this past summer, where new IMB President Tom Elliff challenged messengers to make commitments to lead their churches to embrace the 3,800 unengaged people groups. Hundreds of pastors and church leaders made their way down convention aisles in response. And, in a first-of-its-kind venture back in 2009, No Other Name used its "Go Tell Tour"



### After Thought

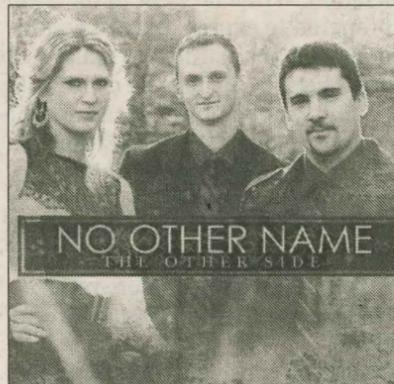
By Todd Deaton

before," she said.

The trio made a recent swing through Kentucky in September and early October, making appearances at Immanuel Baptist Church in Danville, Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Bullit Lick Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Bedford Baptist Church, and Cuba Baptist Church in Mayfield. They also will be in concert at Hawesville Baptist Church on Nov. 20. In addition to performing for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, the trio has played at several other state convention meetings, including Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Louisiana and Illinois.

"We made so many friends during our two days at the Kentucky Baptist Convention! We have developed some great relationships with the churches there," Allen told the Western Recorder. "Another highlight for us was seeing the messengers commit to doing more to reach the ends of the earth," she added. "Of course, that is where our heart is, so it was exciting for us to be a small part of such a big day in the life of the KBC."

On a family trip to Gatlinburg to enjoy a gorgeous fall weekend, we had an opportunity to listen to "The Other Side" in the car. In addition to its title track, which celebrates our awaiting heavenly reunions with loved ones, listeners will find rich vocal harmonies and powerful lyrics in songs such as "Lead You to the Cross," "The Only One" and "Before I Go" that provide a worshipful and inspiring experience. It will be exciting to see how God will use No Other Name to stir the hearts of a generation toward missions as "Let It Start With Me" becomes not just a song, but also a prayer and a calling.



## Name change? No

It was with great dismay that I read the recent article in Western Recorder concerning the president of our Southern Baptist Convention appointing a committee to study a name change for our convention.

We, as Southern Baptists, have been a people whose mission is spreading the word, the story of Jesus, to a lost and dying world. It saddens me to think our leaders would expend time, money and energy in studying a possible name change.

I understand that we live in an age of

marketing and branding. I am one Kentucky Baptist who is proud to be branded with the brand of Jesus Christ. He is the Savior of the world and our world's only eternal hope.

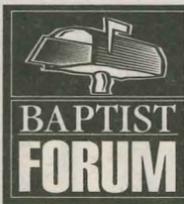
We should spend our resources spreading the knowledge of Jesus to a lost world. My wife's parents often told her when she was young to remember what her name was; we should remember that our name, "Southern Baptist," is one that has a rich heritage of sharing the story of Jesus. We should not abandon our roots or our heritage for the sake of some marketing ploy. The story of Jesus

needs no such ploy. Our job as Southern Baptists is to spread the saving knowledge of Jesus to a lost and dying world.

Please join in encouraging our Southern Baptist leaders to abandon this frivolous study of a possible name change for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Timothy Langford  
Hickman

**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.



## WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969  
Louisville, KY 40253

**DR. TODD DEATON**  
Editor

**DREW NICTER**  
News Director

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

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

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

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: [news@westernrecorder.org](mailto:news@westernrecorder.org).

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## Ten thousand lures and three rusty nails

What could the lyrics of a folk tune written and sung by a recording artist in Tennessee and the J.R.R. Tolkien epic, "The Lord of the Rings," have in common? Quite a lot, really, and the central theme of the singer's plaintive lines and Tolkien's gut-wrenching epic is common to us all. The folk recording artist, Kate Campbell, born in Kentucky and reared in Sledge, Miss., now lives in Franklin, Tenn. I've heard her sing in various venues, including the Folklife Center in Memphis, a Baptist church in Georgetown and the Bluebird Café in Nashville.

Kate's father, Jim Henry, the former pastor of Nashville's Two River's Baptist Church and then First Baptist Church of Orlando, Fla., and the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, once worried when his daughter did not devote her career to purely Christian music. He worried that his daughter played her music in church on Sunday and in clubs on Saturday.

After studying yet again a passage in the Gospel of Matthew, however, he changed his mind. In his "Sermon on the Mount," Jesus instructed His disciples and the crowds gathered to hear Him. "You are the salt of the earth," He told them. "You are the light of the world." He said, and you are to "let your light shine." Kate's father came to the conclusion that for his

daughter to be "salt and light" in the world, she must follow her calling, that she must follow the Lord's will, to fashion a ministry designed only for her.

Kate Campbell has written a poignant song called "10,000 Lures" in which she explores the temptation that marks the pilgrimages of believers and those that choose not to believe. She writes plaintively of the power and destruction of evil in the world, in the lives of saints and sinners alike, and she writes of the constant struggle to overcome temptation in language that a Kentucky Lake fisherman can understand:

"Wasn't no copperhead, wasn't no cottonmouth

Just a garden snake that brought us all down

It didn't look deadly, didn't look venomous

Wrapped around that tree so lovely and sensuous."

In a refrain, Campbell concludes: "There's vices and voodoo always enticing you

From the day that you're born 'til the day you leave this world

The devil's got a line for you for sure and 10,000 lures."

J.R.R. Tolkien's trilogy, "The Lord of the Rings," is an exceptional story on several levels, but more than anything else the tale emphasizes the power of evil and the destruction that evil brings. That

pathetic character, Smeagol or Gollum, fights an incessant battle within himself between good and evil, and Aragorn, future king of Gondor, describes the army of Orcs about to engage the 300 men and elves and one dwarf in the Battle of Helm's Deep as "an army bred for a single purpose, to destroy the world of men."

The 10,000 hideous, ferocious Orcs—portrayed in the movie adaptation—massed against the seemingly overmatched forces of good mirror Campbell's account of the devastating potential horror of 10,000 lures constantly tempting and threatening good in battles waged in individual lives. Who can doubt the existence of evil in the world? Watch any evening news program. Who can doubt the constant threat of evil in our lives? Be honest about our innermost thoughts, thoughts that sometimes translate into dangerous, destructive actions.

The theologian Frederick Buechner told the truth when he wrote that "the world works us all over before it's all through." What resources can we depend on to overcome evil, and like Campbell and Tolkien, hold out hope for the ultimate triumph of good? Well, as believers we have the ultimate resource, don't we? As Campbell concludes her song: "Three rusty nails; That's the cure, for ten thousand lures."

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

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

## Cohabitation vs. marriage

By James Stillwell

**Q: I have adult children who are cohabitating. One of those unmarried couples is expecting our first grandchild. What advice would you have for them regarding cohabitation versus marriage?**

**A:** Start with the question, "Why does the New Testament call for followers of Jesus to commit to marriage in order to have a sexual relationship?" If your children are Christians, the best argument could be simply the idea of living in obedience to Christ as a part of their discipleship and witness.

Still, today's young adults might readily tell you, "Things aren't the way they used to be." Actually, you can start the discussion right there, since that statement is simply a description of the current American relationship landscape, not a description of the way things ought to be.

Cohabitation in the U.S. has increased 14-fold since 1970. Twenty-four percent of children born today are to cohabitating couples, and another 20 percent are part of a cohabitating household at some point.

The National Organization for Marriage reports that children living with their mother and her live-in boyfriend are 33 times more likely to be abused than those living with both biological parents. Children in those situations are 50 times more likely to die from inflicted injuries.

Magazine editor Rich Lowry says, "Children benefit from the structure, rituals, and identity that come with a lasting marriage between their parents. The very act of committing to the norms of marriage makes adults better marital partners and parents."

If you're married, model what a good marriage looks like. Sharing a positive example is more effective than a moralistic lecture. Participate in a marriage enrichment program and consult a good marriage counselor to keep your relationship up-to-date. James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.



## Can Jesus swim?

By Jeremy White

Bad news sells. Bad news gets your attention. When economic challenges are present, the bad news receives much attention. Any good news or positive indicators are given little attention.

Look at the size of the headlines when the stock market is down significantly compared to it being up. No surprise—the down days receive bigger headlines. At a recent conference, I heard Stuart Varney, an economic journalist with FOX Business Network, speak about the prevalent negative media spin on the economy. He said, "If the media today were to report on Jesus' miracle of walking on the water, the headline would read—'Jesus Can't Swim!'"

With more time to fill on the 24/7 news channels, talk radio and cable networks, the media supplies a steady stream of depressing news. Even commercials—buying gold, reducing debt, resolving IRS tax debt—focus on negative financial events. Here are my suggestions for maintaining sanity:

- Limit your daily commercial news intake. Use trusted sources that don't try to alarm you.
- Try to avoid commercials and advertising. The goal of advertising is to make you discontented enough to buy something.
- Know that the economy has ups and downs. It always has, and always will have, good and bad times.
- Remember the positives—and they always exist. Paul said in Philippians, "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."
- Read truths in God's word more often and longer than the newspaper.

Jeremy White is a CPA with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.

## 'Kisses for Katie' deserving of our affection

By Keith Inman

Recently I came across an article in Collegiate Magazine (LifeWay) about a young lady from Brentwood, Tenn., who has planted her life in Uganda and is ministering to "the least of these." This led me to purchase her book, "Kisses from Katie," a gripping page-turner that documents her radical life and radical love that at times created such discomfort that I had to stop reading. Talk about crazy love, you will find it in this book!

Katie Davis has thrown the gauntlet down for those of us who live in the comforts of Western Christianity faith expression. Her desire to live an integrated life and faith, taking the two Great Commandments seriously and doing them, challenges everyone who comes into her sphere of influence. (She recently spoke at Catalyst, a high octane leadership conference in Atlanta.)

Her story is breathtaking, mind-boggling, and spirit arresting. It is a story captivated by a love that compelled her to leave the comforts of upper-class suburbia, clean bed linens, hot water, good food and a convertible sports car. It's a love that called her to make tough choices, saying goodbye to parents who love

her, a little brother who adores her, and a boyfriend who dreamed of a future family with this remarkable young woman.

Katie has fallen in love with a country, Uganda, and her people. More than that, she has fallen in love with Jesus. And, it is so obvious. Her love for Jesus can make one uncomfortable, like two lovers pushing the boundaries of acceptable public displays of affection.

What began as a simple desire to serve on the mission field for one year before going to college has turned into a non-profit organization, whose leader is now a single mom at 22. She has adopted 14 young girls with stories that will rip your heart out.

If you want to see a picture of the heart of Jesus being moved with compassion, look at the things that are moving Katie's heart. Hundreds of children are being schooled, fed and given medical attention through her ministry, Amazima. Her home is a compound of love with a huge welcome sign.

There's that word again: love. Richard Walker, a former SBC missionary to Brazil, once defined love as "the giving of the best you have on behalf of another regardless of their response." And, Oscar Thompson, former evangelism professor at

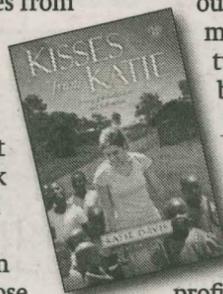
Southwestern Seminary, defined love in his book, "Concentric Circles of Concern," as "meeting needs."

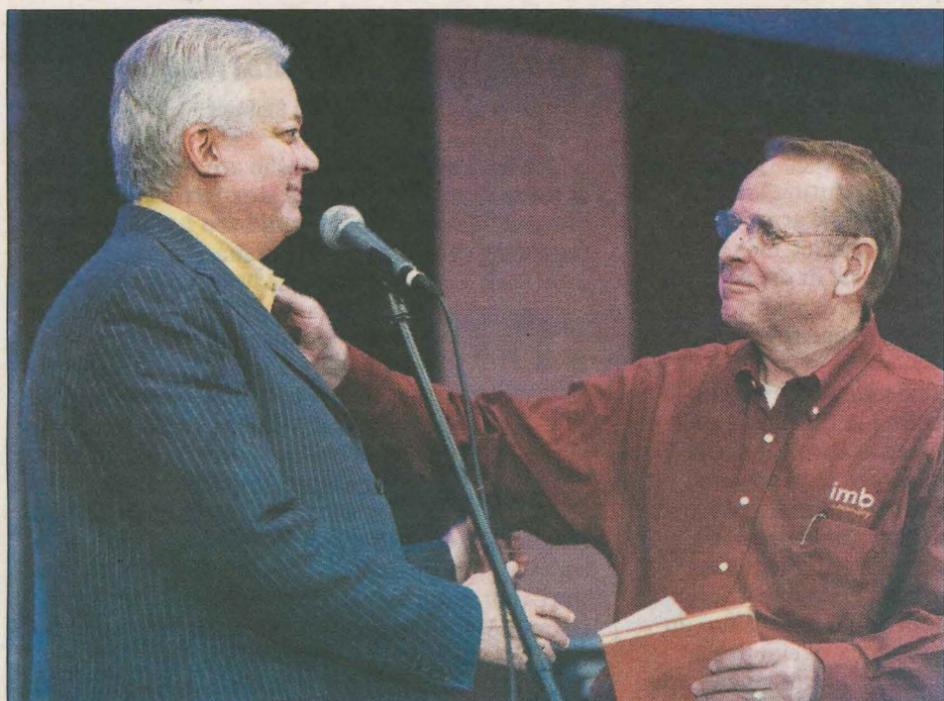
This is certainly an accurate description of what is flowing through the heart of Katie Davis. It is the driving theme of the book and her life. It is a contagious expression of the heart of God. It nurses 85-year-old, abandoned "grandmothers" to a respectable death. It wraps arms of love around children with the HIV virus. It changes diapers filled with feces containing worms.

This love moves jiggers from the feet of children and laboriously treats families infected with lice, scabies and other maladies. It rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep. It lays awake in the heat of the night under a mosquito net, pouring over the Scripture, praying for strength and resources to love one more day in the face of what appears to be insurmountable odds.

This love touches, kisses and embraces hurting humanity. It seeks and saves that which is lost. Rarely have I been confronted with such pure and unadulterated love. Is it not odd, that we do not see it more often?

Keith Inman is leader of the KBC's collegiate and young-adult ministry department. For more information, see [www.kissesfromkatie.blogspot.com](http://www.kissesfromkatie.blogspot.com) or visit [www.amazima.org](http://www.amazima.org).





**MOVIES FUNDING MISSIONS** Michael Catt (right), pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., presents International Mission Board President Tom Elliff with a check for \$100,000 at the mission organization's annual staff retreat in Rockville, Va., shortly before Sherwood Pictures released its fourth film, "Courageous." (IMB photo)

## 'Courageous' church gives \$100K for overseas missions

Rockville, Va.—A few days before the movie, "Courageous," was released, Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.—the church that produced the film—acknowledged that projects such as this have blessed the congregation with tremendous resources and opportunities.

Catt spoke at a staff retreat for the International Mission Board in late September at the International Learning Center in Rockville, Va. He presented IMB President Tom Elliff with a book printed in 1899 by the Church of England. The book was filled with stories of how God answered prayers for the church's missionaries.

Catt shared a few words from the book, noting there still is much work to be done. Inside the book was a check for \$100,000.

The gift from Sherwood will go toward supporting the nearly 5,000 Southern Baptist missionaries who are serving overseas.

"We get resources through the films," Catt said. "My prayer is, 'God, we want to get it from Your hand and out of our hand as quickly as we can. We don't want to hold on to it.'"

Elliff thanked the church, calling the gift an "eternal investment."

The revenue from Sherwood's movies is split multiple ways, and the church gets only a portion of it. The majority of the gross goes to theater owners and the church's film partners. Still, the church has made enough money from its films to make a difference in several ministries, including building an 82-acre sports park that is open to Albany, Ga., residents. (BP)

## Pastor survey

Continued from page 1

tor, we also know there is a great honor to being a pastor."

In what may seem ironic, pastors of larger churches say they are lonelier. Of those in congregations with average attendance of 250 or more, 17 percent strongly disagree that pastoral ministry makes them feel lonely at times. By comparison, 32 percent of pastors with churches of 0-49 and 27 percent with churches of 100-249 strongly disagree.

"Pastors feel privileged, but clearly the reality of constant service can take its toll," Stetzer said. "There is discouragement and loneliness in ministry. It appears that the larger the church, the more present the loneliness."

The survey had good news for the families of ministers: Nearly eight in 10 pastors (79 percent) disagree with the statement, "Being in ministry has had a negative effect on my family." A majority (58 percent) strongly disagree.

"This statistic has to be one of the biggest surprises," said Stetzer, who also has served as a pastor. "Pastoring can be stressful on a family, but contrary to some hyped statistics, most do not believe that being a pastor has hurt their family."

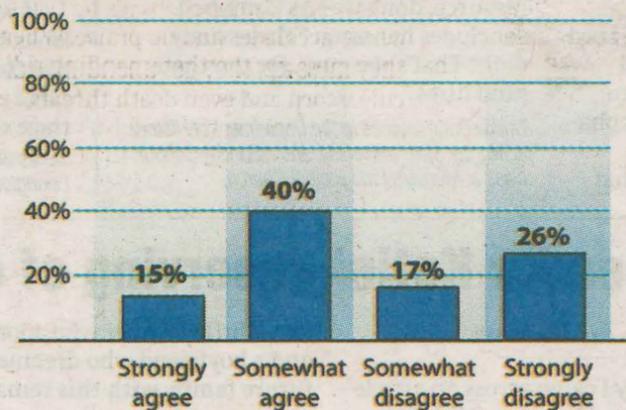
"Pastoring is difficult, and family life is a fishbowl, but overstating the challenge and dangers of pastoring can discourage pastors and create an expectation of family disruption, leading to that very problem," he said.

The study also found that 18 percent of pastors have more than 10 close friends in their congregations. Sixteen percent have six to 10, 38 percent have three to five, 10 percent have two and 4 percent have only one. Twelve percent of pastors have no close friends in their congregations.

"Relationships matter and it appears that pastors value those friendships—particularly as they get older," Stetzer said. "Older pastors—and I would add, younger pastors with wisdom—have developed more close friendships within their church and are less likely to be discouraged or lonely." (LW/BP)

Among Protestant pastors

"Pastoral ministry makes me feel lonely at times."



2% not sure

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HONOR BEGINS AT HOME  
**COURAGEOUS**

## 'Courageous' opens in pair of Kentucky cities

Albany, Ga.—The church-made film "Courageous," which remains the top-rated fan film on one major movie ticketing website, opened in about 80 new cities last weekend, including two Kentucky cities.

Movie-goers in Cannonsburg and Pikeville were able to see the latest offering from Sherwood Films, which also is responsible for the successful films "Facing the Giants" and "Fireproof."

After placing No. 4 at the box office on its opening weekend, Courageous stayed in the Top 10 during its next two weekends, despite playing in less than half of the theaters as most other films.

Courageous is the top fan-rated film on Fandango.com, a leading ticketing website. It also is one of just four movies this year to receive an A+ exit poll score from viewers in CinemaScore ratings. (BP)

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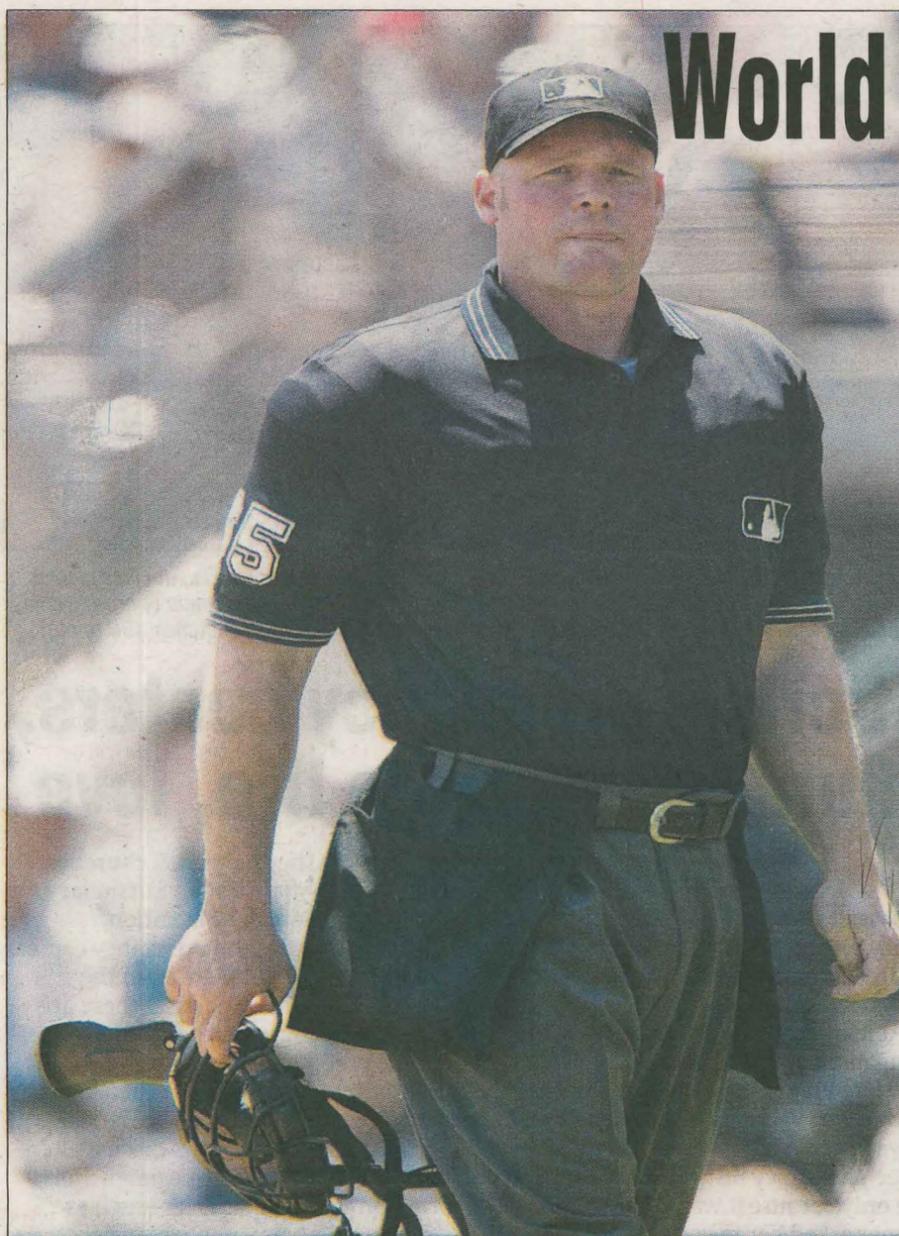
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# World Series umps have seen Christ change lives

By Tim Ellsworth

**St. Louis**—He's on the field for every game, right in the middle of the action, but he doesn't throw a pitch or take a swing. Yet, Ted Barrett feels the pressure nonetheless.

Barrett knows the stakes are high as the World Series plays out between the Texas Rangers and the St. Louis Cardinals. But while the players are doing their best to leave their mark on the Fall Classic, Barrett and five other guys hope nobody even knows they are there.

"All eyes are on the game," said Barrett, one of the six umpires working the series. "The biggest fear is for something to happen where you become the story."

That means no mistakes for Barrett and his crewmates. It means no controversial calls that have haunted umpires like Don Denkinger (who missed a crucial call at first base in the 1985 World Series) or Jim Joyce (whose blown call cost Detroit Tigers pitcher Armando Galarraga a perfect game in 2010).

Such is life for a major league umpire. When they do their jobs perfectly, they get no accolades and no praise. When they mess up, they get unending ridicule, scorn and even death threats.

But his job on the field isn't the only place where Barrett likes to deflect attention. As a Christian and one of the founders of the ministry Calling for Christ, Barrett said he hopes his actions ultimately point to Jesus. "My sole purpose is to glorify God. Whatever happens, if I can walk off the field and glorify God, then I'm in."

Barrett and fellow major league umpire Rob Drake began CFC a few years ago as a ministry to umpires in both the major and minor leagues. Their primary method of outreach was a yearly retreat held at the Falls Creek Baptist Conference Center in Oklahoma.

Drake and Barrett enlisted the help of Dean Esskew, who was pastor of New Hope Baptist Church in El Reno, Okla., at the time, to organize the event. A dozen umpires showed up the first year; last year, nearly 70 attended.

Esskew now works full time as the CFC pastor. He has baptized 27 umpires who have come to faith in Christ as a result of the CFC ministry.

"Guys used to hide their walk with God," Esskew said about the umpires. "It was something you didn't talk about. You didn't bring God into the locker room or on the field. Now, they'll pray before this year's World Series."

"It's so exciting to see God change the lives of these men."

Two of the umpires Esskew baptized are Alfonso Marquez and Gary Cederstrom, who also are on this year's World Series crew.

"God put this person in my life back in 1993 when I met Teddy" Marquez said, referring to Barrett. "Now, here we are, and we're going to work the World Series together. We're going to share the moment and live it the way God wants us to."

Marquez grew up as a Roman Catholic and was faithful to the church and prayed every day, but said it was more out of routine than out of conviction. He then strayed from the Lord after he made it into the major leagues as an umpire. He and his wife divorced, and Marquez began drinking heavily.

But he attended the CFC retreat one year, where Marquez heard the gospel and understood the truth of Christ's death on the cross paying for his sins. Esskew later baptized him.

"How I didn't lose my job or end up dead is by the grace of God," Marquez said. "Thankfully, God put people like Ted in my life since day one. He planted that little seed a long time ago."

Barrett said he is encouraged by the results he's seen from the CFC ministry. In addition to the growing interest in the annual retreat, several major league umpires take part in a regular prayer conference call during the season. With crews scattered all over the country, Barrett began scheduling times where they could pray together over the phone.

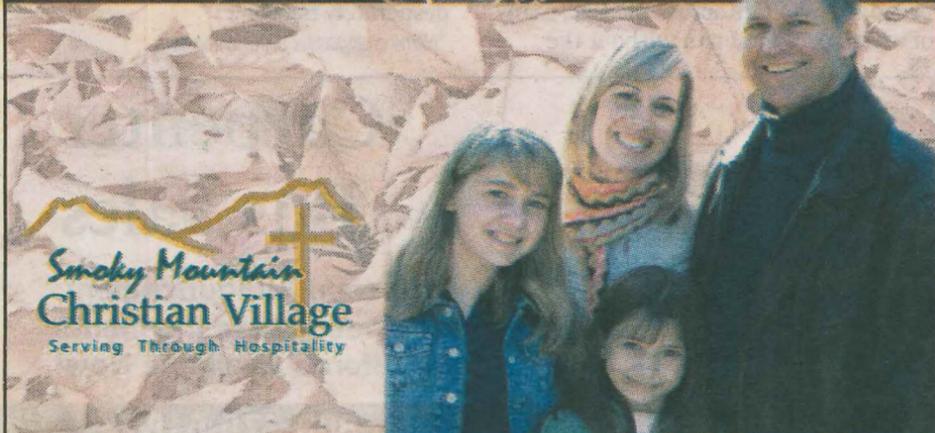
Esskew said he has seen God's work not only in those who have come to faith in Christ, but in the growth of Christians like Barrett.

"He's become more confident," Esskew said of Barrett. "When I first met Ted, he was confident in his ability to umpire, but he had no confidence any other way. But he knows his true calling now is not to be an umpire; it's to be a minister." (BP)

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## NAMB missionaries

Continued from page 1

timonies about how God is working in their lives and missions ministries.

In Indianapolis, Erik and Tanisha Hansen and their five children are reaching apartment communities.

"We started the process when God called us to multi-housing ministry," said Erik Hansen, a Mission Service Corps church planter. "We just did not know where. We explored the possibilities with NAMB and they connected us with Bob Burton in Indiana. One trip to

Indy was all it took. We loved the city.

"After three months we hosted our first block party and we had 50 kids. That night at our first Bible lesson, I held up a Bible. Not a single person knew what it was. We knew we were where God wanted us," Hansen recalled.

The Hansons already have launched their first church and have two more core groups preparing to launch the next two churches. They said they hope to have five churches started by the end of 2012 in five apartment and multi-housing complexes. "Apartments are neighborhoods. That's how we approach them," Hansen said. (NAMB/BP)

October 25, 2011

## A mom, a dad, a teacher ... a friend

### Oneida faculty, staff often must fill multiple roles for students

When new students come to Oneida, most of my staff know little about them. Only two or three of my staff and I have access to their files and the information we have gathered in order to determine if OBI would be a good fit for the them. After nearly three decades of interviewing students, I have heard any number of sad stories about young people who have had very little of what you and I would call a normal family life.

Recently a middle school boy came to sit beside me on a bench in front of the dorm. He is a delightful young man who is a new student this year and has done really well. He smiles a lot and likes to interact with adults. He asked me if I knew much about him, and I admitted that since I didn't do the interview when he enrolled, I didn't know much. He told me that his parents abandoned him shortly after birth and before being adopted, his foster father died in a tragic accident and his foster mother died of cancer.

It's inevitable that from time to time, we are going to be the bearer of bad news, like telling a young person about the death of a family member or friend, which never is easy.

In late August, a new student arrived from California where she had been living with her sister. She was born in Ethiopia and was in the U.S. on a green card. An older sister brought the girl to our campus because both parents were in Ethiopia. She was an attractive young lady with a beautiful smile and a pleasant personality. Normally I do not interview girls, but occasionally, for

various reasons, I do. I could not help but notice during the tour that she wore a scarf concealing nearly all of her beautiful dark black hair. I suspected she was a Muslim and during the interview she confirmed my thoughts. She keeps her hair covered, a custom of her faith.

#### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

It may seem odd that Muslim parents would send or even allow their children to attend a Christian school, but over the years we have had many Muslims and students of other faiths or no faith. I always have considered it a compliment when parents of other faiths are willing to send their children to Oneida; it nearly always means they have heard good things about our school.

During the interview, she acknowledged she was a strong student academically. A friend told her she likely could do even better at OBI. She told me she wanted to make good grades so she could go to a good college. Oneida has a strong history of helping international students prepare for college.

Our students were preparing to go home for fall break when I was contacted with the tragic news that her father had passed away in Ethiopia. The sister here in the U.S. did not want her to know about the death until she could be with family members. We were asked to help make last-minute arrangements to change her original home-going plans, which had been to stay in the U.S. but now included an unexpected flight to Ethiopia.

We never know from one day to the next if we will be asked to fill the role of W.F. Underwood is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; www.oneida.school.org; e-mail: president@oneidaschool.org

## One copy of the gospel goes a long way

### Clear Creek professor Elli Gillum recalls mission trip encounter

He was a security guard at the ruins of an ancient monastery where our team visited. The first time we met him, we gave him a New Testament and started to share with him the real story of Jesus. He listened intently and seemed to be open to prayer, yet he said that he could not pray with us right then.

A week later we went back up to the monastery. He saw us pull into the parking, and he came over to talk with us. He was quite excited as he explained to us what had happened since we last saw him.

He shared that his daughter is an English teacher and had been home over the previous weekend. He had begun to read the New Testament we gave him and had realized the truth of the gospel—that Jesus is the Son of God and His sacrifice on the cross took away our sins if we believed in Him. He had begun to pray to Jesus that day. When his daughter came home, he read to her from the Bible we had given him. They both watched the Jesus DVD several times.

He then told us that the next day he went to the imam in his village to share

the good news of Jesus with the copy of the New Testament we had given to him. The imam asked to borrow his New Testament and he, too, proclaimed the truth as he read the gospel.

He told the imam that he must pray to Jesus to receive this gift of atonement and eternal life. The imam called everyone in the village together and they all watched the Jesus DVD several times. He told the villagers that he could pray to Jesus any time and their prayers would be heard.

When we left, he hugged each of us and thanked us for this marvelous gift we had given him. We gave him as many sets of New Testaments and Jesus DVDs as we had with us.

Just one copy of the gospel, and the village was reached for Jesus.

#### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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



**HELPING MOTHERS IN NEED** The Osceola Pregnancy Center in Kissimmee, Fla., donates clothes to mothers. It is a ministry of First Baptist Church of Kissimmee. There are hundreds of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers in the U.S. like this one that receive financial help from churches. (BP photo)

## At crisis pregnancy centers, churches promote life, love

By Whitney Jones

**Phoenix**—For some women, crisis pregnancy centers—staffed often by church volunteers—are a haven that provides life-saving support.

At least that was the case for Fiona Wingate\*, a young woman who visited New Life Pregnancy Center in Phoenix in March. Lori Palmer, the center's director, prayed over Wingate after administering a free pregnancy test, which was negative only because it was taken too early. Palmer asked her to come back in several days for another test.

But Wingate did not return until four months later when she obviously was pregnant.

She had not come back to the center earlier because she hoped by not acknowledging her pregnancy, the problem would just go away. But now she had returned to the one place that had made her feel loved.

"I felt so good," Wingate told Palmer. "I felt so loved after you prayed for me that I just really wanted to feel that again."

Palmer told her that love was readily available through a relationship with Jesus Christ, and Wingate accepted Him and now is plugged in to a church she found through the pregnancy center.

Not until Palmer was a director did she understand just how much churches provide for pregnancy centers. The New Life Center is a ministry of Arizona Baptist Children's Services, but items like diapers, clothing and bottles come from church donations and drives.

Wingate's story is just one of many found in the thousands of pro-life crisis pregnancy centers across the U.S., many of which could not run without the

partnership they have with churches, said Ray Newman, a state missionary for the Georgia Baptist Convention.

"In many cases the pregnancy centers are staffed by volunteers from the churches, and in some cases there are some of the churches that actually operate the pregnancy centers as a part of their outreach ministry or their care ministry in the community," he said.

The pregnancy centers discuss alternatives to abortion with women and often provide free services—such as clothing and baby supplies—not provided at an abortion clinic. Many also provide ultrasounds. Nearly 80 percent of all women considering abortion choose life when they see their unborn child on the ultrasound screen, pro-life leaders say.

In Palmer's case, her involvement with pregnancy centers began within the walls of her church, Mountain Ridge Baptist in Glendale, Ariz., where she would make announcements for clothing and diaper drives that would benefit the centers.

Now as a director, she said she realizes just how much the churches provide for the centers. The donated items allow New Life to give them to the women—who can come in once a month for care packages—for free. New Life also has "baby bucks," which new parents can earn by attending classes at the pregnancy center and use to buy larger items like car seats, cribs and strollers.

The goal of Baptist-supported pregnancy centers is not just caring for pregnant women and advocating for the lives of their babies. Ultimately, it is sharing the love of Christ, so women like Fiona Wingate can find the spiritual care they desperately need. (BP)

\*Name changed for security reasons



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## Texas Baptists push to end violence along Mexico border

**Brownsville, Texas**—While drug cartels brandish guns and other weapons, Baptists are seeking to end the violence through prayer, said Daniel Rangel, director of Texas Baptists' River Ministry.

Texas Baptists are encouraging Christians to pray for the border and are training residents to have a positive impact on others in their communities.

Texas Baptists are working in partnership with No Mas Violencia—No More Violence.

The joint effort customizes the No Mas Violencia curriculum first used in Argentina to quell violence before, during and after soccer matches. Since then, it has been used throughout South America to end violence in various situations.

"We're showing them how to love themselves, how to have a good self-esteem," said Samuel Soto, a student in Brownsville. "By that, they can teach the children."

Individuals and teams are trained to make wise decisions and positively influence others around them. Each lesson is undergirded by biblical principles and paves the way to present the gospel, organizers noted.

The No Mas Violencia initiative is in direct response to a Baptist General Convention of Texas annual meeting motion to take action regarding violence along the border. (BGCT/ABP)

## Disaster relief gets \$175,000 gift from church

By Mickey Noah

**Houston**—Sometimes life's tragedies and losses of loved ones and possessions—as sad as they are—are turned into seeds of blessings for others.

As a result of a sermon and personal appeal by David Self, executive pastor at Houston's First Baptist Church, \$175,000 has been contributed by the church's members to the North American Mission Board's disaster relief effort.

The church runs some 5,000 people in three worship services each Sunday and following Self's sermon, church ushers collected a total of \$75,000. But before Self's staff could wire the offering to NAMB, an anonymous couple in the church added a personal \$100,000 check, for a total of \$175,000. The donors, who asked to remain anonymous, are a couple in the church "with a heart for helping others," Self said.

In his sermon on that Sunday—which came just after the deadly tornado in Joplin, Mo., in May—Self recalled the life and tragic death of his 86-year-old father, Jake Self, one of 32 victims who perished in a 1999 Oklahoma City tornado. Self's mother survived the EF-5 storm that day 12 years ago, but not only lost her husband but also her home and everything in it. All she had left was what she had on—her housecoat.

As Self recalled the loss of his father during the sermon, he showed photos and news clippings featuring his dad. At the time of his death, the elder Self had served First Southern Baptist Church of Del City in Oklahoma City as associate pastor for 40 years.

"Dad once rebuilt a church knocked down by a tornado. He had a history with tornadoes," said Self, who also is a member of NAMB's board of trustees. "He always joked that he wanted to be taken

up in the rapture but if that didn't happen, his second choice was to be taken up in a whirlwind like Elijah."

Self told the story of the personal devastation he felt of losing his dad and what his mother went through losing everything. But then he reminded the congregation: "Now, we have fellow Christians in Joplin, Mo., who are going through the same suffering after a tornado. They need our help. When the family of God rallies together, it doesn't change the grief you feel but it helps you to know, I'm not in this by myself."

The \$175,000 given to NAMB and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief by First Baptist, Houston was not a surprise since the church contributed \$864,000 after Hurricane Katrina six years ago, Self pointed out. "Our people just have a heart for helping people, and they believe in missions. It's not a one-time thing," he said. (NAMB/BP)

## D.C. Baptist pastor to lead Democrats' faith outreach

By Daniel Burke

**Washington**—As President Obama gears up his re-election campaign, the Democratic National Committee has tapped a well-connected Washington pastor to lead the party's religious outreach.

Derrick Harkins is senior pastor of Nineteenth Street Baptist Church, one of Washington's oldest historically black churches, where Obama and his family worshipped right before his inauguration.

Harkins also is a board member of the National Association of Evangelicals and Faith in Public Life. Earlier this month,

Obama hosted NAE leaders at the White House.

"I have every expectation that people of faith will be a key part of a successful election for Democrats in 2012," Harkins said. The pastor added that he will attempt to engage religious Americans on immigration reform, Obama's new health care law and the role of religion in public life.

Joshua DuBois, who currently directs the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, ran religious outreach for Obama's 2008 campaign and helped him gain a larger percentage of Catholics, Jews, mainline Protestants

and evangelicals than Sen. John Kerry's 2004 campaign. As a federally commissioned officer, DuBois now is barred from some campaign activities, including fundraising.

Harkins is stepping into a role the DNC left empty during the 2010 midterm campaign, an absence that some party insiders blamed for large swaths of religious voters turning to the GOP.

Burns Strider, one of those critical voices, praised Harkins' appointment.

"We fail in our politics and causes when we fail to dialogue with and build relationships in our faith communities," Strider said in a statement. "Derrick has a deep and profound understanding and respect for these communities." (RNS)



Derrick Harkins

## Christ alone

### Crossings focuses solely on Christ as Savior who transforms lives

By Lindsay Swartz, guest services coordinator

The gospel has been receiving a lot of press among evangelical churches in recent days. Bloggers, authors and preachers have been issuing passionate pleas for the church to return to the good news that once seemed so living, active, precious and awe inspiring.

Somewhere along the way, many true believers have resorted to trying to find comfort and power in what they do rather than the Spirit of God at work in those who have repented of sin and placed their faith in Christ alone for salvation (Galatians 3). Many churches teach things more like 12-step programs to fighting sin, with the gospel being put aside as a one-time decision that no longer is needed.

Yet, Paul tells us that the gospel is the power of God for the salvation of all men (Romans 1:16). As a result, we are passionate about being gospel centered at Crossings Camps. The message that Jesus Christ died on a cross in the place of those who were separated from the one true God because of sin, saving, by grace, those who repent and believe

permeates and drives everything we do. We do not hold out the false hope of cleaning up, getting it together or being good. None of this lasts and none of this saves.

Instead, like Paul, we have decided to know nothing among our guests except Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2) because salvation comes from Christ alone (1 Thessalonians 5:9). He is our power, our wisdom (2 Corinthians 1:24), our life (Colossians 3:4), our hope (Colossians 1:27) and our peace with God (Ephesians 2:14). We strive to make sure that everything we do and say points students to the only work that is necessary: believing in the one who worked on our behalf (John 6:29).

So, we want to join those who are calling Christians back to the gospel by calling students to trust in Christ for their salvation, looking to Him for the power to live transformed lives. We anticipate that more believers than ever will be strengthened and more guests than ever will cross over from death to life for His glory.

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



David Melber

## Calling 'Courageous' men

### Movie reveals sobering statistics about children in fatherless homes

Americans go to the movies to be entertained, humored, inspired or just to escape. But occasionally a motion picture comes along that will challenge you to be a different person when you walk out of the theater than you were when you walked in.

"Courageous" is one of those movies. The latest offering from Sherwood Films centers on the tragedy taking place in every part of the U.S. that stems from young people growing up without the strong, guiding influence of an honorable man in their lives.

At one point, the film shares the sobering statistics that reveal:

- 85 percent of children who exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes.
  - 71 percent of all high school dropouts come from fatherless homes.
  - 63 percent of youth suicides are from fatherless homes.
  - Young men who grow up in homes without fathers are twice as likely to end up in prison as those who are raised in traditional two-parent homes.
- The movie revolves around the lives

of several fathers, all of whom are facing various challenges in their relationships at home. A crisis for one prompts some serious soul searching of what it means to be a godly father, and he encourages the others to join him on a quest to take seriously the task of raising their children.

Of course, the sad reality is that there are children right here in Kentucky who are fatherless, either because the dad is out of the picture, or perhaps he's abusive, neglectful or simply disengaged. Is there hope that these children can escape the troubled lives that statistics indicate awaits them?

The good news is there is hope. But only if men like you who may be reading this are willing to step up and invest yourselves in the lives of children who need you.

At Sunrise Children's Services, we always are looking for new foster parents who can provide love, support and direction for the life of a child who has been abused, neglected and forgotten.

If you're one of the "Courageous," you can learn more by logging on to [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org).

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or [www.sunrise.org](http://www.sunrise.org)



Bill Smithwick



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 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.
- 14 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion.
- 14 Youth Ministers' Forum, Hebron Baptist Church.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BREMEN**—New Harmony Church will host a Hope for the Home Conference Oct. 28-30, led by Evangelist **Jerry Drace** and his wife, **Becky Dan Yeager** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek Church will hold revival services Oct. 30-Nov. 2 with **Jim Simmons** as evangelist.

East Cadiz Church will hold revival services Oct. 28-30. **Lester Watson** is pastor.

■ **COLUMBIA**—Pierce's Chapel recently called **Cary Dunbar** as pastor.

■ **DeMOSSVILLE**—Unity Church ordained **Jeff Burnett** and **Jim**

**Howell** as deacons Oct. 30. **Bobby Barnes** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will celebrate the 100th birthday of **Elizabeth Wells** Oct. 29, 2 p.m. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Dubin Memorial Church recently called **Michael York** as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Greenmount Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 30 with **Mountain Connection** providing special music. **Claude Maggard** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church will hold a stamping and scrapbooking event Oct. 29, 8 a.m. The

cost is \$5 and includes a light lunch and door prizes. **David Hughes** is pastor.

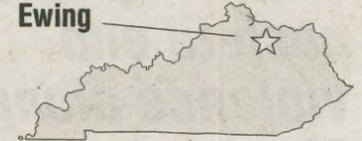
Fern Creek Church will dedicate its new facility Oct. 30, 10:45 a.m. A potluck meal will follow the service. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a world crafts bazaar Oct. 26, 5:30 p.m. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold a one-day revival Oct. 30, 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m., with **Ronnie Sivells**, KBC church development strategist, as evangelist. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Ewing



Ewing Church will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 29, 3 p.m., with an open house, worship and chili supper; Oct. 30, 11 a.m., with special music and guest speakers. **Keith Abrams** is pastor.

■ **MORGANTOWN**—Salem Church recently called **Derek Cain** as pastor. He previously was director of children's worship at Berea Church.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Immanuel Church recently called **Michael Sanders** as pastor.

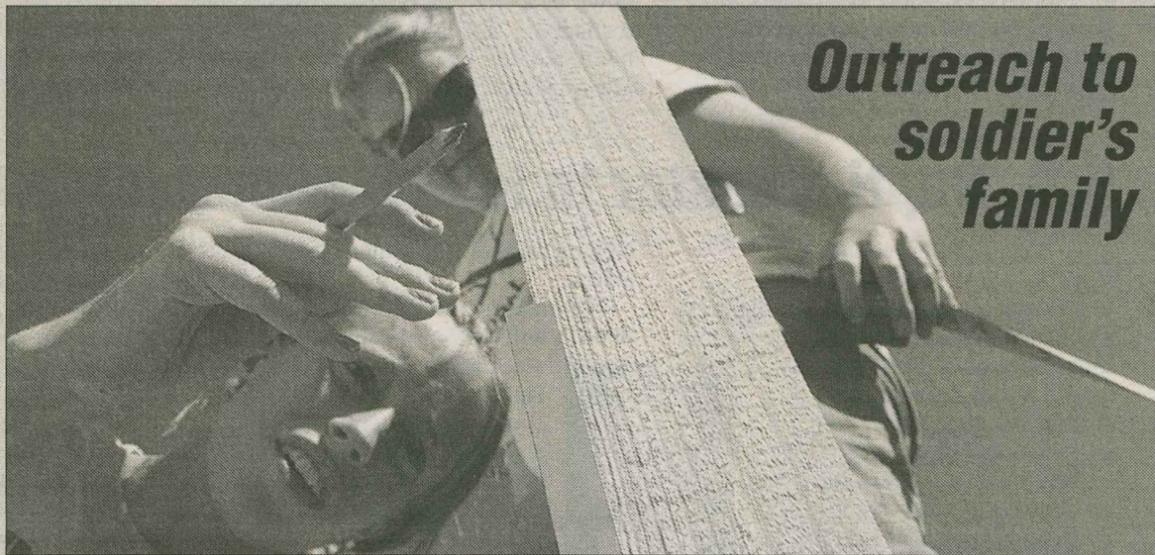
■ **PRINCETON**—Northside Church will hold a "Men Who Win" conference Oct. 28, 6 p.m.; Oct. 29, 8 a.m., with evangelist **Steve Hale** as guest speaker. **Jeff McCarty** is pastor.

■ **RAVENNA**—Williams Memorial Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 30. **Jeff Ryder** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—Second Church recently called **Steve Smith** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Russellville Church in Tennessee.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a World Hunger Bean Supper Oct. 30, 5 p.m. Proceeds from the meal go to benefit the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will host **Richard Ross**, a spokesman for True Love Waits and a professor at Southwestern Seminary, as guest speaker Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m.



University of the Cumberlands students who volunteer with Mountain Outreach work carefully to construct the deck on the house for a family whose father/husband is a soldier serving over in Iraq. The Mountain Outreach volunteers completed their fall semester project earlier this month. "It's great to know that we can give back just a little to a family that is giving so much to our nation with their service," said Marc Hensley, director of Mountain Outreach. (Photo by Jennifer Wake-Floyd/UC)

## 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, KY 40962; or email to preachermanken@gmail.com no later than Oct. 31, 2011. Resumés received prior to Sept. 13 must be resubmitted.

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**SEEKING:** Full- or part-time minister of church administration. A degree in church administration is required with a minimum of five years experience. Shelby computer software experience is a plus, as well as the ability to provide pulpit relief for the senior pastor. Please submit your resumé and salary requirements to: [personnel@calvarybapcbc.com](mailto:personnel@calvarybapcbc.com); or mail: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

**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 [bfdcb@bardstown.com](mailto:bfdcb@bardstown.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and education at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Waynesburg, Ky. Please email resumés to [pvcsearchteam@gmail.com](mailto:pvcsearchteam@gmail.com); or mail to 13571 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489.

**SEEKING:** Pastor for First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky.—a beautiful small town located near University of the Cumberlands. Diverse membership with an average Sunday attendance of 140. Mission-minded, dually aligned church actively participating in local missions and supporting missions around the world. Must have a minimum of M.Div degree and pastoral experience. Send resumé to First Baptist Church, 230 S. 5th Street, Williamsburg, KY 40769; or email to [fbcwoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fbcwoffice@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister to students and missions catalyst. Responsible for ministry to youth (grades 6-12) and their families; also, to encourage and mobilize the entire church to be involved in missions locally, regionally and globally. Send resumé to Personnel Committee, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, 8800 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, KY 40222; or email to [moneal@hurstbournebc.org](mailto:moneal@hurstbournebc.org).

**SEEKING:** Christian elementary school teachers needed in tropical paradise. Art, music and kindergarten through grade 4. Please view website at [lighthouseprimaryschool.org](http://lighthouseprimaryschool.org); for more information, email [headmaster@lighthouseprimaryschool.org](mailto:headmaster@lighthouseprimaryschool.org).

**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:** 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.

David Ayers

# Keep God in the driver's seat

"Hey, lead foot, are you sure the speed limit is 95?" "Are you waiting for some particular shade of green?" "Are you tailgating or is that car towing us?" Backseat drivers feel the need to be in control.

Here are the truths we should be learning and affirming daily to keep us from becoming backseat drivers to God on the days life gets dangerous:

## Remember Who's been driving the longest

"From of old" describes all of the following: God's compassion and loving kindness (Psalm 25:6); the throne from which He rules (Psalm 55:19; 93:2); His kingship (Psalm 74:12); the time His ordinances have been in place (Psalm 119:52); the time He has been the only God (Isaiah 45:21); the time He has been our Father and Redeemer (Isaiah 63:16); the time Jesus has existed (Micah 5:2).

Is there any danger, any trouble, any situation or circumstance that God has not seen in His existence "from of old"? Isn't that a good reason for you to trust Him today?

## Remember Who knows the best route

When God rescued the children of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt, He did not lead them by the short route. It went right through "the land of the Philistines," and God knew the Israelites would have retreated to Egypt in fear if they encountered these seafaring warriors. So He led them through the desert—and we have no evidence that God ever explained His actions until Moses wrote the Book of Exodus.

Have you learned that the path God chooses for you is the best one—even if He doesn't explain why?

## Remember Who has been down this road before

The Book of Hebrews tells us that everything you and I experienced in life has first been experienced by Jesus Christ (Hebrews 2:18; 4:15). In fact, we are told that, "though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered" (Hebrews 5:8).

If Jesus stayed obediently on every road the Father sent Him down, can He not help you learn obedience on similar roads?

## Remember Who's never been lost

On the night before Jesus' crucifixion He said to His Father, "I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do" (John 17:4). Jesus was sent into the world for a purpose (Mark 10:45; John 20:21; I John 3:8), and He never got lost along the way. In spite of severe obstacles, He reached His destination—the cross of Calvary.

Could not One with such singular focus guide you when you feel lost?

## Remember Who never falls asleep at the wheel

You and I might fall asleep at the wheel—but God never has. Elijah chided the prophets of Baal when their false god failed to show up on their behalf: "perhaps he is sleeping and must be awakened" (1 Kings 18:27). Even when we grow weary, God's eyes are always on the path (Matthew 26:36-46).

Are you willing to relax and enjoy the trip knowing that God is forever alert to your safety?

## Remember Who has the perfect driving record

All of God's work is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4); His way is perfect (2 Samuel 22:31); His knowledge is perfect (Job 37:16)—indeed, God Himself is perfect (Hebrews 4:15b). Never—not even once in the infinity of His existence—has God made a mistake or taken a wrong turn in the universe. And He will not mar that perfect record when guiding you.

Do you really believe you are going to be the person with whom God makes a wrong turn?

God is always with us, offering His perfect and all-knowing words of direction and correction. Let's keep Him where He belongs—in the driver's seat. (BP)

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

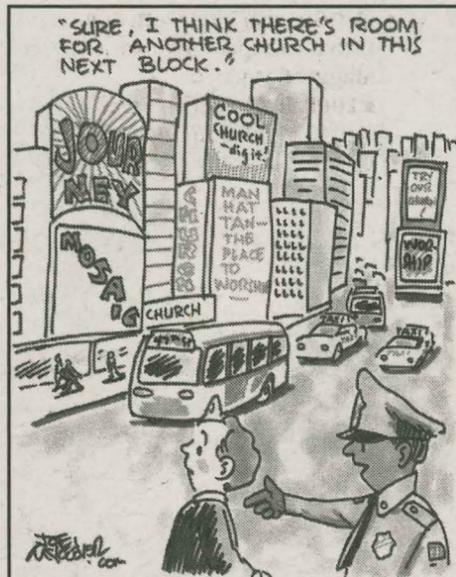


David Jeremiah

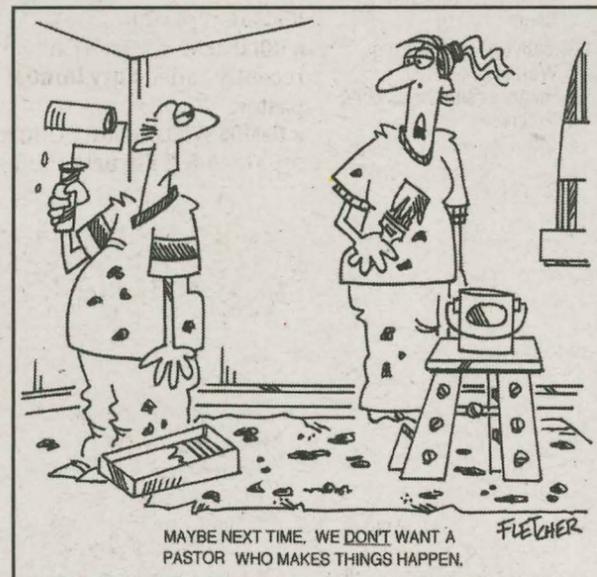
## Preacher's Kids



Joe McKeever



Fletch



Dennis Fletcher

## Bible Crosswords

### Across

- 1 Has ability
- 4 "Thou that liftest me up from the \_\_\_ of death" (Psalm 9:13)
- 9 Astatine, chem. symbol
- 11 A son of Bela (1 Chronicles 7:7)
- 12 "Henoah, and \_\_\_, and Eldaah" (1 Chronicles 1:33)
- 13 Fuss
- 14 A little woman
- 15 Chief among the captains of David's mighty men (2 Samuel 23:8)
- 16 "Iniquity of \_\_\_ house" (1 Samuel 3:14)
- 17 A Colossian woman Paul greets (Philemon 2)
- 19 The Israelites craved this fruit in the wilderness (Numbers 11:5)
- 21 "He shall be like the \_\_\_ in the desert" (Jeremiah 17:6)
- 22 Sprint
- 23 Gaius was from here (Acts 20:4)
- 24 "Their coast was from \_\_\_" (Joshua 19:33)
- 27 "Out of whose womb came the \_\_\_?" (Job 38:29)
- 28 Obadiah, abbr.
- 30 Account of, abbr.
- 31 The woman on the scarlet beast had this written on her forehead (Revelation 17:4-5)
- 34 Race of giants (Deuteronomy 2)
- 37 Not him
- 38 "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every \_\_\_" (John 13:10)
- 39 Capital of Moab (Numbers 21:28)
- 40 He was the officer over Solomon's household (1 Kings 4:6)
- 43 Grow
- 47 Exhaust
- 48 Also
- 49 "\_\_\_ will I sit" (Joel 3:12)
- 51 Poetic contraction that means early night
- 52 To stitch
- 53 Employed
- 54 Boy

### Down

- 1 "Michmash, and \_\_\_" (Nehemiah 11:31)
- 2 "The gift of \_\_\_" (1 Corinthians 13:2)
- 3 Titanium, chem. symbol
- 4 Someone from Gad
- 5 Hezron's wife (1 Chronicles 2:24)
- 6 Stannum, other name
- 7 "Wise men out of \_\_\_" (Obadiah 8)
- 8 Southern continent, abbr.
- 9 Returned exiles (Ezra 2:15)
- 10 Throw
- 13 By oneself
- 15 Jezebel's husband (1 Kings 16:30-31)
- 16 6th month of the Hebrew year (Nehemiah 6:15)
- 18 Machir's son (1 Chronicles 7:16)
- 20 Before, poetic
- 23 Unclear
- 24 A laugh
- 25 Girl's name
- 26 Hosea, abbr.
- 28 Either
- 29 Near
- 32 Drop of sadness
- 33 "He that refuseth reproof \_\_\_" (Proverbs 10:17)
- 34 A son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)
- 35 Haze
- 36 Jesaiah's son (Nehemiah 11:7)
- 38 Adverb of location

By Teri Grottke

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	
31			32	33				34	35	36		
			37				38					
				39			40				41	42
43	44	45			46				47			
48					49			50		51		
52					53						54	

- 40 "Of the tribe of \_\_\_ were sealed" (Revelation 7:6)
- 41 Length x width
- 42 Rip
- 43 Possessive pronoun
- 44 Greek form of Noah
- 45 Female bovine
- 46 Son of Abdiel (1 Chronicles 5)
- 50 An altar (Joshua 22:34)

## Last puzzle's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
M	E	O	W	S	W	A	S	T	J	A	R
A	R	A	H	A	B	I	A	E	M	U	
N	A	K	E	D	N	E	S	S	R	A	T
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
P	A	L	P	E	S	E	A	S	E	L	I
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
A	B	A	S	E	D	H	E	L	M	E	T
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
A	L	T	D	E	C	A	P	O	L	I	S
57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68
S	E	I	G	A	L	N	E	R	I		
69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
D	O	R	B	O	N	S	T	A	R		

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