

# WESTERN Recorder

November 15, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 44

## Stepping up for students

### Bowling Green church, WKU BCM team up to save learning center

By Drew Nichter

**Bowling Green**—The Twitter message came across Kevin Hash's cellphone: "I think God's opening up something for your church."

The city's housing authority had just announced it was going to close its after-school program at Bryant Way, one of the city's three low-income housing complexes. Like so many other government programs, the learning center was a victim of a sluggish economy.

The news was significant for Hash. He had been ministering to the kids and families of the Bryant Way complex for some time. Burton Memorial Baptist Church, the tiny congregation he has led for nearly 10 years now, even had purchased a van specifically to facilitate ministry to kids there and another nearby public-housing community.

This fellow pastor knew "we were getting a foothold in Bryant Way," Hash said.

The news came last month, right in the middle of Warren County schools' fall break. Nevertheless, Hash forged ahead, contacting the housing authority to see what could be done to save the center.

Burton Memorial already had a one-day-a-week tutoring ministry to students at nearby Cumberland Trace Elementary School, done primarily by high-school and college students from the church. Taking on another such

□ See Church, BCM partner ... Page 8



■ Above: Zach Johnson (left), a Western Kentucky University student and member of Burton Memorial Baptist Church, works with Cameron, an elementary school student who attends an after-school program at the Bryant Way housing complex in Bowling Green. The tutoring program nearly was eliminated by the city last month. Burton Memorial Pastor Kevin Hash teamed up with WKU's Baptist Campus Ministry to keep the learning center open two days a week. ■ Left: A young boy practices his 'ABC's' at the Bryant Way Learning Center. (Photos by Katherine Devine)



## Church sees that area school kids get enough to eat

By Ken Walker

**Cold Spring**—After learning children at a nearby elementary school were going hungry on weekends, First Baptist Church of Cold Spring decided missions included meeting needs in its community.

Since starting in the 2009-10 school year, the northern Kentucky church's backpack ministry has grown dramatically. Originally providing food for about 10 youngsters; today the initiative reaches nearly 60.

"I saw kids coming in hungry, especially on Monday morning and said, 'What's wrong?'" recalled Linda Alford, then assistant superintendent of Campbell County schools. What she was hearing from school principals was the kids "didn't get any food on the weekends."

Alford's missions involvement made her aware of similar food ministry efforts in other

places, including eastern Kentucky. So, she approached Pastor Ronny Raines about starting one in Cold Spring.

"We have a desire to have an Acts 1:8 strategy," Raines said. "Even though we want to go to the ends of the earth, we didn't want to overlook an opportunity a mile down the road."

The food is packed every Thursday and delivered to Crossroads Elementary School, where staff members discreetly slip food into recipients' backpacks on Friday.

This fall the initiative got help from the city's Asbury United Methodist Church, which offered to supply food to about 20 of the children receiving weekly help.

Each package contains an estimated \$5 worth of food. It includes such items as canned soups, crackers, pasta, cereal, breakfast and granola bars, fruit cups and pudding.

□ See Backpack ministry ... Page 2



**HELPING KIDS IN NEED** Members of First Baptist Church of Cold Spring prepare to feed about 1,000 people at a back-to-school open house at Crossroads Elementary School back in August. The event stemmed from its ongoing backpack ministry which provides weekend food for students who may not get regular meals outside of those provided by the school. (Photo courtesy of FBC Cold Spring)

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Western Recorder 11-15-2011

# Paris: 'More for Christ' vision brought to 'person in the pew'

## Ashland pastor reflects on year as KBC president

By Todd Deaton

Louisville—Being elected president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention undoubtedly would be considered a high point, but for Floyd Paris subsequently being placed on the search committee and having a part in selecting the next executive director was "an unexpected pleasure" that came with the territory.

"I think we certainly did find God's man for God's time for the Kentucky Baptist Convention," said the pastor of Ashland's Unity Baptist Church, referring to the election of Paul Chitwood in June.

But there were other joys, too.

"I have enjoyed working with all the leadership from around the state," particularly in promoting the "More for Christ" emphasis, he reflected.

Among some of the other noteworthy accomplishments during his tenure were the changes regarding the December meeting of the Mission Board—changes that have saved the convention an estimated \$42,000 thus far.

"That's a good thing. It means we are

able to do for more for Christ," Paris explained. "We led by example, not just by our words."

The board's decisions to reduce its mileage reimbursements for travel and to conduct some committee meetings via teleconference show the commitment of the KBC staff and the Mission Board to lead by example, Paris underscored. "That's certainly a wonderful thing for every Kentucky Baptist to see."

But one of the biggest highlights for Paris was the launching of the More for Christ initiative and then "trying to figure out a way to break it down" so that every Kentucky Baptist across the state can participate.

"Bringing the More for Christ concept down to the level of individual church members by helping them to see that by just giving \$3 more each week, you can do more for Christ in your local church, in your association, in your state and the world—I like that," he said.

As for the "Children Changing the World" initiative to promote collecting change for a special Cooperative Program offering during Vacation Bible Schools, "I would love to see more churches get involved," Paris urged. He noted that it was the "Children Changing the World" offering that actually put



the KBC over its spendable budget goal for the year.

He said he also would like to see more youth groups participate in reaching the "\$1 Million More for Christ" goal.

So, was his year as convention president all he anticipated?

"Actually, it was a little bit more," Paris agreed.

"There were a lot of meetings," he admitted. "But there also are a lot of good people across the state, and just their willingness to roll up their sleeves to take a hard look at some things and having a commitment to Christ and a willingness to work together as Kentucky Baptists was very impressive and much appreciated."

And, what does he want Kentucky Baptists to remember about his time as president? "That I didn't make very many mistakes," he joked.

On a more serious note, Paris said he hopes Kentucky Baptists will be proud of the practical ways they found to encourage each other in doing more for Christ.

"Sometimes in the past we, as Southern Baptists, haven't always taken that step to bring a vision down to the person in the pew. Or, when we did, the vision somehow got lost or blurred," he noted.

"But when you can bring it down to the person in the pew and say what it is specifically that you want that person to do, then that's a great advancement."

"I would hope that Kentucky Baptists would remember me as a president who tried to bring it down to the people," Paris said. (WR)

## Backpack ministry

Continued from page 1

The church will add extra provisions next week because of the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Members donate most of the supplies. However, the outreach is included in the church's mission fund, which comes from undesignated gifts. The money is allocated to local outreach and helping members take mission trips. "If we see we have some needs, such as more soup, we can go buy that," Raines said.

Member Bea Crump spearheads the collection by promoting a list of needs in the bulletin, encouraging Sunday School classes to donate, and packing the items for delivery.

In addition to delivering the food to Crossroads for more than a year, Linda Flora recently got involved in a second missions outreach. Twice a week she picks up food donated by Kroger and drives it to the Care Mission operated by Alexandria's Main Street Baptist Church.

"It's rewarding," said Flora, secretary at First Baptist Church of Highland Heights. "I feel we're making a difference for some kids. I couldn't stop thinking about them going hungry."

With 63 percent of the 600 children at Crossroads Elementary enrolled in the federal free-lunch program, Principal Kim Visse said those getting food for the weekends represent the "poorest of the poor."

Not only has the assistance been a boon to the students, First Baptist, Cold Spring inspired the Parent Teacher Organization to provide cartons of non-perishable milk for the backpacks, she said.

"The parents thought what the church was doing was great," Visse said. "Nobody approached them; they did it on their own."

"They've done a great job," she said of

Cold Spring First. "We appreciate everything they do for us. They've always asked what they can do and how they can make a difference."

Not surprisingly, the project has forged closer ties between the congregation and the school.

Because Crossroads faced budget constraints, in mid-August the church provided hot dogs, chips and refreshments for a back-to-school open house. About 25 volunteers served free food to a crowd of nearly 1,000 people.

A number of contacts resulted from the event. And, Raines said even though they didn't aggressively initiate spiritual conversations, when visitors asked ques-

tions, church members were free to engage them.

"It's definitely opened the door to share Christ with families and reach out and minister to them," the pastor said. "It lets the people know the church is there to serve them."

The ministry also has spurred a stronger missions vision within the church.

In early October, it purchased all 299 tickets for a Sunday matinee showing of the movie "Courageous." The crowd included more than two dozen law-enforcement officers and their spouses. A police chaplain now is leading a follow-up Bible study.

In late October, more than 100

volunteers participated in the church's Trunk or Treat, which included a cook-out and free photos of kids in their costumes. That allowed the church to collect names and addresses to mail the pictures and for future follow-up.

While not all of the activity stems directly from the backpacks, Raines said he considers the project to be an unqualified success. "It's meeting needs right where people are. We're the hands and feet of Christ in doing what He said."

"It partners First Baptist with a local entity, is making a difference, and gets our folks involved in serving people. It's a win-win for the school, the church and God's kingdom." (WR)

## Church's ministry inspires fellow congregation to action

By Ken Walker

Highland Heights—Inspired by its counterpart in Cold Spring, this fall First Baptist Church of Highland Heights began collecting food for 15 students at Cline Elementary School to help sustain them for the weekend.

The initiative's roots stem from the church's "Pantry of Hope," founded in 2007 to provide food and clothing to needy residents. Volunteers also distribute furniture donated to the church.

Last year, pantry leader Brandy Mebaugh approached Pastor Mark Webb to see if they could get involved in helping First Baptist Church of Cold Spring's backpack ministry.

After providing supplies to fill 10 to 15 backpacks at Crossroads Elementary, this school year the Highland Heights church decided to branch out to a new group of students.

"Ministry was already being provided at Crossroads and it seemed Cline was the best match for us," Webb said. "They had a distinct need for help."

The Highland Heights project is volunteer driven, most of the help coming from members already working in the food pantry. Most of the food donated for the students is non-perishable.

Its backpack project and food pantry have made a noticeable impact, the pastor said. "So much of what churches do ministry-wise is not always 'hands on.'"

"This is a tangible ministry we can see, and we're meeting a social need. We believe we're being socially responsible. We want to meet the needs of our community as best we can."

That included hosting a "Harvest Festival" in early October. They invited people receiving help at the pantry, children getting backpack supplies, and their families.

About 100 people attended the Sunday afternoon event, which included hayrides, a pumpkin patch, a series of games, face painting and free food.

First Baptist, Highland Heights also collected school supplies in late summer and donated leftovers to Crossroads Elementary and other schools.

In early December it again will host "Santa's Closet." The annual event offers families a free meal, games and an opportunity for parents to select presents for their children, which then are gift wrapped by volunteers.

"So much of what we do is not just church members," Webb said. "Civic organizations, some businesses and seniors organizations donate things that are a big help. We want to give them credit as well."

The increased emphasis on local missions is paying benefits by helping members understand that they can do something—and if each of them does a little, it accomplishes a lot, he noted.

In addition, the insights they received from other churches before starting the food pantry, and First Baptist, Cold Spring in setting up the backpack project, shows how the body of Christ is stronger working together.

"It helps you become aware of the things you can do that make a huge difference," Webb said. "And they help other people." (WR)

## Ohio Baptists ask NAMB to reconsider funding cuts

Lima, Ohio—Ohio Baptists passed a resolution Nov. 3 asking the North American Mission Board to reconsider funding cuts they say would have “potentially disastrous impact” on church planting in the state.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell recently unveiled a new strategy called Send North America with a goal of 55,112 Southern Baptist congregations by the end of 2012. That would be a net gain of 5,112 congregations in less than a decade, more gained than any decade since 1900.

At the same time, according to a resolution passed at the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio annual meeting in Lima, Ohio, NAMB wants to reduce funding for Mission Ohio, a cooperative effort of Southern Baptists to reach 1 million believers in 2,020 Ohio congregations by the end of 2020.

Since its inception in 2006, NAMB has assisted in the starting of 231 Ohio Baptist congregations that still are active, representing 33 percent of the state convention's 699 congregations and accounting for 27 percent of last year's baptisms.

Now, the resolution says, NAMB has indicated a desire to change the funding percentage for Mission Ohio from the current 62/38 percent split between NAMB and the state convention to an even 50/50 split by 2018. Ohio Baptist officials estimate they will have to add \$3 million to their budget to recoup lost funding from NAMB.

Ezell has said he wants NAMB's budget to evolve so that at least 50 percent of funds are designated for church planting. The Ohio Baptist resolution points out that 60 percent of the funds the state convention receives from NAMB are used for church planting.

While Ezell has said he wants there to be more NAMB missionaries, Ohio Baptists say they have been told the agency desires fewer missionaries in Ohio. A separate resolution urges NAMB trustees to “continue their financial support of their missionaries in Ohio.”

While expressing appreciation for partnership with NAMB over the years, convention messengers said they “respectfully request the leadership and trustees of the North American Mission Board reconsider their decisions which threaten a potentially disastrous impact upon the unified mission effort of Southern Baptist churches and associations of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio who are cooperating to reach the lost in an under-reached and underserved area.”

Mike Ebert, NAMB vice president for communications, said when the resolution is received it will be referred to the board of trustees. (ABP)

# Ministry's name says it all

## 'Burlington Baptist Cares' affirms church's focus on reaching out

By Robin Bass

Burlington—Amanda's face revealed her disappointment. The 30-year-old waitress had been looking forward to wearing her new shoes. She yearned for the comfort they might bring her tired feet.

But when she arrived for her shift, the shoes were gone—stolen, she said when asked by a concerned customer.

As the customer continued to listen to the despondent woman, he learned the single mother of four was a recovering addict trying to provide for her family. Moved by her story, he left a few extra dollars with his tip and promised to lift her up in prayer.

Jim Woolums, minister of strategy at Burlington Baptist Church, still was thinking about Amanda the following Sunday when he stood before the church. He told the congregation about his encounter with the struggling waitress and encouraged them to visit the restaurant, ask to be seated at one of Amanda's tables, and give her a little more than a tip.

After several generous customers stopped by the restaurant, Amanda began to question why anyone would go to such lengths to help her. One church member replied: “Because we want you to know God loves you.”

### Caring community outreach

Woolums said Amanda's story is one of hundreds in Boone County that illustrate the simple purpose of Burlington Baptist Cares, an all-encompassing outreach ministry of the northern Kentucky church.

“Inevitably, all of them ask, ‘Why are you doing this?’ And that's when we get to tell them about Jesus,” Woolums noted.

Burlington Baptist Cares, now in its third year, is the umbrella ministry that covers a variety of community service-oriented activities. A sample of the outreach events organized this year by Woolums and the church missions council include:

- Offering free oil changes for single mothers.
- Helping elderly residents with simple home-repair projects.
- Handing out bottled water at area soccer parks on hot Saturday afternoons.
- Holding festivals at nearby nursing homes with crafts, food and gift bags.
- Hosting children's carnivals and free clothing yard sales.
- Delivering baked goods to civil employees and thanking them for their service to the community.

A couple of times a year, Burlington Baptist sets aside a day “where we go all out,” Woolums said. During recent Care Days, church members gathered in the morning to receive ministry assignments. They return later that afternoon to help with a carnival or yard sale.

“It's all part of a concentrated effort to be missional,” said Todd Toole, Burlington Baptist's pastor. “A main component of these ministries is to be very open with the fact that Jesus loves them. We are not just reaching out to people in need, we are reaching out to those who are lost and far from God.”

Toole estimated that Burlington Baptist Cares touches the lives of 1,500 people annually in their community through the various outreach events—and half of those people are being served by the church on a regular basis throughout the year.

Todd Toole:

**“We are not just reaching out to people in need; we are reaching out to those who are lost and far from God.”**

### Blessings follow

In return, God is blessing the church, Toole noted. “In three years, we have doubled in size.”

The pastor attributed the growing congregation to an intentional outward focus. The church's missions council plans an outreach event each quarter and twice a year organizes Care Days.

In 2009, Burlington expanded their food pantry ministry when they partnered with Freestore Foodbank, a regional food supplier for the needy that works with a network of 325 agencies in 20 Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio counties. In addition to providing one grocery-sack full of staples to hungry families each week, the church now distributes massive amounts of perishable and non-perishable food items twice a year.

Later this week, Burlington Baptist volunteers will hand out 5,000 pounds of food, enough for about 100 families to receive 50 pounds each of boxed, canned and frozen foods, including ham, chicken and maybe some turkey.

“Hopefully this will help 100 families that may not have a Thanksgiving without it,” Woolums said. “It's all part of our strategy: Seek, study and serve. We have been going outside of our comfort zones, learning to be outwardly focused, to help the voiceless and fill the gap. We just hope through it all, Jesus' name is a lot more famous.” (WR)

## Indiana Baptists call Cecil Seagle as new exec

Monticello, Ind.—The State Convention of Baptists in Indiana welcomed Cecil Seagle as its sixth executive director last month. The convention's Executive Board voted 31-3 in favor of calling him as exec.

Seagle, 72, who has served as interim executive director since March, directed the Florida Baptist Convention's missions division for 22 years. He succeeds Stephen Davis, who resigned in February to join the North American Mission Board as its Midwest regional vice president.

The executive director search committee told Executive Board members it

had considered 12 candidates and interviewed one prior to Seagle but did not sense God leading them to call that candidate. In September, the committee began to consider Seagle and, after much prayer and discussion, unanimously agreed to interview him.



Cecil Seagle

Seagle's relationship with Indiana Baptists began in 2003 when Indiana and Florida developed a missions partnership. In 2007, that venture focused on how to impact the state's urban centers, culminating in Indianapolis being designated as a “Send City” in NAMB's new “Send North Amer-

ica” strategy.

Seagle told Executive Board members that he and his wife “are overwhelmed by the sense of God's plan and timing.”

“What an honor to be considered and invited to lead the Indiana Baptist family,” Seagle said. “My challenge: Let's determine today to give ourselves fully to those things Jesus loves and did. We can hardly wait to launch out into the deep.”

A graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and the Baptist College of Florida, Seagle has served as pastor of churches in Florida, Virginia and South Carolina. He also is the author of the book, “Stress in the Life of the Minister.” (SCBI/BP)

## More for Christ

The theme for the Kentucky Baptist Convention's annual meeting is "More for Christ." The key verse is John 3:30: "He must increase ... I must decrease." More than a theme, more for Christ has become the rallying call of Ken-

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

tucky Baptists longing for a Great Commission resurgence.

Lostness in Kentucky, North America and across the globe weighs heavily on the hearts of those who love Christ and desire to see Him glorified and His salvation experienced by those who do not know Him. My prayer is that our

burden for the lost will grow heavier day by day to the degree that we will fall under the conviction expressed in the old catechism: "We have nothing to do but save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in that work." I believe that conviction captures John's sentiment when he tells his disciples that he must decrease and Christ must increase.

If we, as Kentucky Baptists, will be found faithful to our Lord and His commission, we must be willing to give more for Christ. As I reflect upon what Christ asks of me personally, Paul's words from Galatians 2:20 come to mind: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Christ didn't give more for me, He gave all. So I'm putting all of me at His disposal. "All of me" means all of my time, my family, my money, my stuff. "All" means all. Will you join me?

In addition to the "More for Christ" emphasis, other recommendations of the Great Commission Task Force continue to guide our ministry and budget planning process. My hope is that the call to prayer, repentance and spiritual renewal will be heeded and result in a fresh pouring of the Spirit of God upon Kentucky Baptists. Should that happen, the work of Kentucky Baptists and the resources needed for that work will again begin to grow. The nations need strong, healthy churches sold out to the Great Commission. Our nation and our state need the same.

Anticipating my first annual convention meeting as your new executive director, I am incredibly humbled by and grateful for the confidence Kentucky Baptists have expressed in me by inviting me to serve in this new role. You have welcomed our family with warmth and enthusiasm. Thank you.

I look forward to what God has for us. I pray our annual meeting will be a time of renewed relationships and commitments and the beginning of a new era of Kingdom work among Kentucky Baptists.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

# Snowflakes soon melt, salvation lasts forever

As incredible as it may sound, I am fairly certain I saw a snowflake last Thursday.

I was on my way back into the Kentucky Baptist building that afternoon when I thought I saw a snowflake float down to the pavement, where it sat for only a moment before melting away. What was even more bewildering was that there was only a single dark cloud overhead in a sky that at the time was partly sunny. Had I really seen what I thought I saw? I returned to my car to check the thermometer. 47 degrees. Surely not! It couldn't have been, I reasoned.

Yet, as I started back toward the building, I stopped, held out my hand, and caught one. Sure enough! 47 degrees or not: A brisk breeze was blowing and it sure seemed cold enough at that moment. In my hand I held the evidence.

At that moment, Barry Allen of the Baptist Foundation walked out of the building, and Jon Auten, the new mission consultant for Royal Ambassadors with the Woman's Missionary Union, walked up. "Is that snow?" they both queried, gawking at the lone cloud above us. I trust they will corroborate my story.

Excitedly I strode back inside to herald this wintry anomaly. As you can imagine, I was instantly subjected to the jeers and a few good guffaws of my Western Recorder colleagues—as though a South Carolina boy wouldn't know a snowflake when he saw one. "It landed right there," I insisted, pointing to the spot on my palm where it landed. They undoubtedly thought the editor had lost his mind.

But that night, as I watched the evening news, the weatherman validated my experience. Evidently, the fingertips of a northern clipper had passed through parts of Indiana and briefly grazed the Louisville area. It was possible for an isolated, light snow shower to have occurred directly beneath those clouds, he explained. I knew it!

As I reflected on the day's events, three thoughts began to form. First, how eager I was to share the thrill of a falling snowflake with someone. I wonder, are we just as eager

to share our amazing news of salvation with others? Second, how incredible the tale of seeing a snowflake must have sounded to others (and still does). How extraordinary the gospel story must have sounded to those who heard the accounts of the first disciples. A risen Savior! Incredible!

Thomas thought so at first—but then he saw the nail-pierced hands extended to him. We need to recapture the wondrous joy and amazement of what God has done for us. Third, a snowflake soon melts; the difference Christ makes in a life is everlasting. Which news should we be more eager to share?

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



In a recent column, fellow editor Lonnie Wilkey shared with Tennessee Baptists the following statistics, which really drive home the need for us to get busy in sharing Christ with those around us:

- The world's population will soon top 7 billion. (Of that number, 4.3 million people live here in Kentucky, where it is estimated that as much as 65 percent do not know Jesus Christ as Savior, according to the North American Mission Board.)
- Of the earth's 7 billion people, more than 6 billion are lost without Christ.
- There are 258 million lost people in the United States and Canada.
- An estimated 93,000 people pass into eternity every day without Jesus.

During his remarks that will follow his commissioning as our new executive director at this week's annual meeting, Paul Chitwood will issue a pointed challenge to Kentucky Baptists: "So what will our response be? Will it be less for Christ? Will it be status quo for Christ? Or will it be 'More for Christ'?" And, as the prophet Isaiah observed (40:8), "The grass withers, the flower fades"—and to that we could add "the snowflake melts"—"but the word of our God stands forever." So, the question we must ask ourselves is, where do we want to spend our time and efforts? Counting snowflakes? Or, counting souls?

## Saving Lottie

By Jon Auten

Christmas is fast approaching and missions leaders across the Southern Baptist Convention are demonstrating their support for international missions through their efforts to meet the 2011 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering Goal of \$175 million. Few, if any, however, have gone to the lengths that Vicky Simpson, Girls in Action leader from Poplar Level Baptist Church in Louisville, did on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

It was Election Day and Vicky and her husband Roger had gone to the polls to place their votes. When they returned home, they found an unknown vehicle parked and running in their driveway. Roger pulled up behind it and went through the garage and into the house to investigate while Vicky remained outside by the car.

Roger quickly learned that their house had been broken into. What he

didn't realize was that the thief was still in the house when they arrived home. Hearing the activation of the garage door, the sneaky burglar decided to slip out by way of the sliding glass door that he had broken and return to his car by walking around the other end of the house. As he went, he took along the large plastic bucket of change that the Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors of Poplar Level had been collecting for Lottie Moon since May.

Vicky spotted the crook as he came around the house and into the front yard. As he casually walked across the lawn, she noticed the bucket of change. She immediately recognized it as "our bucket of money" and thought, "He can't take that. That's for Lottie Moon!"

"Put the money down!" she shouted at the thief.

"No," he responded, as he proceeded to open the car door.

"Put that money down!" Vicky replied, louder than the first time.

Roger, hearing his wife shouting, rushed outside just in time to see that the robber had given way before Vicky's determination, placed the money on the ground, and made his get-away driving through the front yard.

The story, which could have had a terrible ending, has a happy one instead. Not only was the Lottie Moon Offering rescued, but the burglar was apprehended after Roger reported the incident and the car's license plate number to the police. Several other possessions, which had already been placed in the thief's car, were returned as well.

Later that day, Vicky and her husband decided to go on and process the money through a coin counting machine where they discovered that the bucket held more than \$200 in change. She would later tell a friend, "I am not a brave person, but the GA's and RA's had worked so hard to raise the money. I couldn't let it be taken away."

Jon Durlauf is mission consultant for Royal Ambassadors with Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

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## Immigrant influx reshaping American cities

By Erich Bridges

Immigrants flowing into urban America live mostly in the inner cities of huge metro areas, form tight ethnic enclaves and stick together, right?

Wrong, wrong and wrong.

Yesterday, cities were in the nations. Today, the nations are in the cities, urban ministry pioneer Ray Bakke has observed. But to reach those nations, or peoples, for Christ, we need to understand who they are, where they are and how they are moving and changing.

"The epicenter of the urban wave in North America is ethnic minorities," Troy Bush told church leaders during a session of "ethnéCITY: Reaching the Unreached in the Urban Center," held in Brooklyn, N.Y. "How are we going to tap into this, not only to reach them with the gospel, but to mobilize them so that they will be the ones reaching people groups? ... We must recognize what God is doing in our cities and seize the day."

Bush, a former International Mission Board missionary to Moscow, leads the Dehoney Center for Urban Ministry Training at Southern Seminary in Louisville. He also directs The Rebuild Initiative, a national urban leadership and church-planting network in Atlanta, one of the most ethnically diverse communities in America.

Using new data about urban immigrants from the Brookings Institution, Bush examined some key changes in the decade between 2000 and 2010. The number of foreign-born people in the United States reached 40 million in 2010, a 28 percent increase since 2000—and about 13 percent of the population. More than a third of new immigrants came from Asia, while the fastest-growing group came from Africa.

Immigrants living in the 100 largest U.S. metropolitan areas increased 27 percent during the period. The five cities with the largest foreign-born populations: New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and Houston. But the top five's share of the total immigrant population dipped from 43 percent to 38 percent during the decade. The fastest growth came in smaller and mid-sized cities.

The Brookings study reports: "A swath of metro areas

from Scranton (Pa.) stretching southwest to Indianapolis and Little Rock and sweeping east to encompass most of the Southeast and lower mid-Atlantic saw growth rates on the order of three times that of the 100-largest-metro-areas rate. These include Charlotte, Raleigh, Nashville and Indianapolis, all of which passed the 100,000 mark for total foreign-born population by 2010."

"These aren't your Chicagos, L.A.'s, New Yorks, your normal gateway cities for immigrants," Bush said. "These are medium-size cities.... Many coming from places like Somalia are only passing through LaGuardia or JFK as they go straight to Louisville, straight to Kansas City, straight to Memphis. They're bypassing these large cities right from the start."

Similarly, the state with the fastest-growing immigrant population isn't California or New York, but North Carolina. Number two: Georgia—followed by Arkansas, Nevada and Tennessee.

"So when we think strategically about where we're going to engage unreached people groups, it's OK to think about coming to Atlanta," Bush said. "It really is. Why? Because they're coming there!"

Another key trend: New immigrants are increasingly settling in the suburbs of metro areas rather than traditional inner-city ethnic enclaves as they seek better neighborhoods, jobs and schools. By 2010, slightly more than half of all immigrants could be found in suburbs.

"The younger generations that are moving in today, almost regardless of where they are coming from, are skipping completely over the center city. They're actually starting in the suburbs," Bush said.

Perhaps even more significant is the increase of second-generation immigrants in the cities and the nation at large. They now account for more than 11 percent of the national population.

"This is a wave that we've really, really got to get on the radar," Bush urged. "But here's the thing to watch: Second-generation immigrant children represent 25 percent of all of the children under 18 in the United States. It is an enormous wave that is beginning to crash down on us."

□ See *Influx reshapes cities ... Page 13*

## Is your child overweight or obese?

By David Garrard

Let's play a word association game. Thanksgiving ... food! Thanksgiving ... football and food! Thanksgiving ... friends and food! Thanksgiving ... shopping and food!



Do you see a pattern? For most of us, food will be a centerpiece of our celebration of Thanksgiving.

As we enjoy the bounty, we will give thanks for God's goodness and provision—not just for this special feast, but throughout the year.

I don't want to put a damper on any of this, but I do find myself wondering if perhaps the focus on food that accompanies Thanksgiving might provide parents with an opportunity to think about a problem that plagues Kentucky families: childhood obesity. The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky reports that Kentucky has the second highest rate of childhood obesity in the U.S. Thirty-seven percent of children ages 1-17 are considered overweight or obese.

A KET Kid's Health Special reports that overweight children are more likely to suffer from Type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and orthopedic problems. Long-term health consequences include increased risk of stroke, heart attack and cancer of the colon, prostate and breast. In addition, overweight children are more often teased by peers, suffer the consequences of negative social stereotypes and are more likely to have low self-esteem.

Here are a few suggestions parents and children could put into practice beginning this Thanksgiving:

- Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- Try low-sugar snacks and cut out soft drinks.
- Aim for 60 minutes of exercise each day.
- Record what you eat and see how it compares to the Food Guide Pyramid.
- Set limits on computer and TV time.
- Limit fast food meals.
- Assign active chores to family members.

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

## Not just getting older, but better

By Jeremy White

If you are a bit down about the proverbial "middle-age crisis," then be encouraged by a recent study. Researchers from the Brookings Institution found that middle-age people make fewer financial mistakes than those who are younger or much older.

Researchers found that age 53 is the best age where the fewest financial missteps occur. Overall, people are really hitting their mental stride between 43 and 63. Although the ability to process and retain new information peaks around age 20, the better type of wisdom—based on both experience and knowledge—actually increases with age.

So, I began thinking about the mistakes we likely made when we were younger. What do we know now that we wish we knew back then. If you could go back, this is likely the list of things you would do:

- Spending less than you earn consistently and over a long period of time.
- Remembering the longer-term your perspective the better your decision.
- Saving earlier in life is better than waiting.
- Learning from other people's experience. Here is a nugget from a client of mine: "When my friends were buying new Chevrolets in the 1960's, I was buying farmland. Years later, I got something to show for that decision and they don't."
- Giving more sooner in life.
- Relying on God's principles of money management instead of financial fads (such as Internet stocks, low or no down-payment mortgages, or gold).
- Listening to my spouse, parents and advisor.
- Borrowing less and paying less in interest.
- Giving more generously.

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

## Finding simple ways to be a church family again

Recently I had the privilege of going back to Hopkinsville to officiate Alisha Sargent's wedding. Alisha is one of our former students, and she also served as ministry intern one summer. It always is an honor to be asked to do these, and we love going back to Hopkinsville and seeing dear friends.

The beauty of the autumn days and an outdoor wedding reminded me of those fall break days in Hopkinsville, when we would gather what students we could and rake leaves for some of the senior adults in our church. It wasn't anything that took a lot of planning or resources. Honestly, it was more of an excuse to hang out with students and get out of the office. Students would show up at the church about 10 a.m., and we would rake a small yard or two in town, grab some lunch, and then rake some more that afternoon.

Whether this was a one-day or multi-day project, our last house would always be Violet Wolfe's. She lived out in the country and had a little more than an acre that was covered with trees. It would take most of the afternoon just to rake her leaves. It was always our students' favorite place to rake for a couple of reasons: We didn't have to bag leaves and haul them off, but

we could wind roll them into her ditch; and, when we were done, we could burn the leaves.

There's nothing like a van-load of students with permission to burn something. I think some of them would have raked every yard on Antioch Road if they could have set fire to something when they were done.

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

I thought about those fall days with students when we passed Violet's house coming back into town after Alisha and Dustin's wedding, and about the simplicity of some youth and children from Edgewood working together at the home of some of our senior adults.

The bonds that were formed, the familial feeling it gave to what we were doing, and who we were as a congregation—all brought together by a simple time of raking leaves.

That wasn't all we did to bridge the gap between our students and our seniors. We would go caroling at Christmas, at least once a year the students would program and sponsor one of the PEP club's monthly meetings, and we would visit some of our shut-ins in nursing homes a couple times each year. Several of the seniors became grandparent figures not only for our children, Jordan and Karen, but

also for the students in our ministry. I think, Mrs. Juanita, our church secretary, even attended a couple of grandparent days at school with Karen.

We've been gone from Edgewood almost seven years now, and the Sunday after the wedding when we walked into the church for worship, some of these same seniors came and walked past Gina and me to make over Karen and Jordan—mostly Jordan. After all, he is the one who has changed the most. He was only 13 when we left. Those relationships that were forged through just being family don't just disappear.

Simple things built relationships—not high dollar programs, not hours and hours of time spent planning, not a lot of adult volunteer leadership, just hanging out. Statistics tell us that 50 to 85 percent of students leave church after they graduate high school.

And the same research tells us that one commonality among those who stay is that they have developed relationships with adults in the church—outside of youth ministry volunteers. Maybe it's time we simplified things and found ways to be a church family again.

Fall and the upcoming holiday season are great times to start.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## 2011 Report of the KBC Committee on Nominations

SPRING REPORT  
KBC MISSION BOARD:

**Shelby (Region 4):** 2012 Unexpired Term—Ruth Hinkle (Waddy)

**South Union/Mt. Zion (Region 7):** 2012 Unexpired Term—Brian Burkhead (Corbin)

FALL REPORT  
KBC MISSION BOARD:

**Region 2:** 2014 term—Bob Lowery (Central City)

**Region 3:** 2014 term—Don Mathis (Bowling Green)

**Region 7:** 2014 term—Chad Fugitt (Corbin)

**Bracken (Region 5):** 2014 term—Robert Lewis (Ewing)

**Central (Region 7):** 2013 unx term—Vic Stansbury (Lebanon)

**East Lynn (Region 7):** 2014 term—Robert Batcher (Campbellsville)

**Enterprise (Region 8):** 2014 term—Jerry Workman (Prestonsburg)

**Freedom (Region 7):** 2014 term—Jim England (Albany)

**Gasper River (Region 3):** 2014 term—Jim McDaniel (Morgantown)

**Henry County (Region 5):** 2014 term—Jerry Anderson (Pleasureville)

**Irvine (Region 8):** 2014 term—Roger Williams (Annville)

**Long Run (Region 4):** 2014 term—Yurian Santiesteban (Louisville)

**Taylor County (Region 7):** 2014 term—Jamie Bennett\* (Campbellsville)

**Ten Mile (Region 5):** 2014 term—Josh Howell (Dry Ridge)

BOARDS OF AGENCIES  
& INSTITUTIONS:

## Campbellsville University (Trustees)

2012 Unexpired Term (1): Joel Carwile (Louisville); 2013 Unexpired Term (1): Norris Priest (Henderson); 2015 Terms (11): Skip Alexander (Indianapolis, IN); John Ball (Lancaster); Ivan Bennett (Russell Springs); Kenny Bennett (Campbellsville); Anna Mary Byrdwell (Louisville); Karl Clinard (Somerset); Doug Feltner (Campbellsville); Alex Montgomery (Campbellsville); Larry Noe (Campbellsville); Paul Osborne (Campbellsville); Ava Bingham Reynolds (Louisville).

## University of the Cumberland (Trustees)

2013 Unexpired Term (1): French Harmon (Somerset); 2014 Unexpired Term (1): John Mark Toby (Somerset); 2015 Terms (7): Ray H. Hammons, Jr. (Louisville); Tony Hancock (Lexington); Jim Oaks (Jacksonville Beach, FL); Donnie Patrick (Williamsburg); Scott Thompson (Oneida, TN); Lonnie Walden (Williamsburg); Jon Westbrook (LaGrange).

## Clear Creek Baptist Bible College (Trustees)

2015 Terms (8): Harlan Avera (London); Kenneth Dick (Monticello); Craig Garland (Harlan); Rob Ison (Murray); Johnny Jervis (London); Tin Langford (Hickman); Stan Lewis (Gaffney, SC); Ellis Payne (White Plains).

## Oneida Baptist Institute (Trustees)

2012 Unexpired Term (1): Ron Rose (London); 2015 Terms (6): Ferrell Isenberg (Owensboro); Pat Key (Central City); Gerald Murphy (Hodgenville); Dennis Raisor (Worthville); Kevin Roach (Corbin); David Sargent (Mt. Vernon).

## Kentucky Ethics League (Trustees)

2014 Terms (5): Charles Barnes (Louisville); Kenneth J. Bolin, Jr. (Manchester); Steve Delaney (Owenton); Brad King (Harrodsburg); Doug Strader (Louisville).

## Sunrise Children's Services (Directors)

2013 Unexpired Term (1): Thomas Adkisson (Shelbyville); 2015 Terms (6): Rick Fyffe (Catlettsburg); Jerry W. Hurt (Louisville); Bethann Ayers Johnson (Bowling Green); Stan Spees (Paducah); Brent Yonts (Greenville); Michael Zimmerman (Paducah).

## Kentucky Baptist Assemblies (Trustees)

2015 Terms (3): Larry Housman (Paducah); Tim Jarm (Louisville); Kevin Pugh (Cunningham).

## Kentucky Baptist Foundation (Directors)

2013 Unexpired Term (1): Shirley Spalding (Louisville); 2015 Terms (4): Charles Barnes (Louisville); Travis Cochran (Crestwood); Roy H. Keith, Sr. (Elizabethtown); Jane Gilkerson (Catlettsburg).

## Western Recorder (Directors)

2012 Unexpired Term (1): Rick Stevens (Hopkinsville); 2015 Terms (3): Bill Bartleman (Paducah); Rick Robbins (Burlington); Wayne Spivey (Harrodsburg).

## Recommended by Committee on Nominations:

*Committee Members:* Ronnie Mayes (Chairperson), Brian Burkhead (Vice-Chairperson), Ed Amundson, Rick Bowden, Kenneth Brown, Jim Castlen, Tim Cole, Ron Davis, Andrew Dyer, Bob Ehr, Bob Haile, Susan Hutcherson, Mike Jones, Bill Patterson, Pat Reaves, David Roach, Kevin Roberts, Paul Schmidt, Jerry Shacklett, Mark Shelton, Jamie Ward, Thomas Webb, and Norm Workman.

*Ex Officio Members:* Executive Director, Paul Chitwood and Convention President, Floyd Paris.

## 2011 Report of the KBC Committee on Committees

## ◆ Committee on Nominations

**Region 1:** 2013 Term—Rodney Cude (Smithland); 2014 Term—Kyle Noffsinger (Fredonia)

**Region 2:** 2014 Term—Nick Sandefur (Hopkinsville)

**Region 3:** 2013 Term—Steve Hussung (Bowling Green); 2014 Term—Steve Hill (Glendale)

**Region 4:** 2014 Term—Pat Reaves (Louisville)

**Region 5:** 2013 Term—Bill Clark (Independence); 2014 Term—Kevin Milburn (Union)

**Region 6:** 2014 Term—Richard Gaines (Lexington)

**Region 7:** 2014 Term—Bill Wright (Williamsburg)

**Region 8:** 2013 Term—Paul Badgett (Pikeville); 2014 Term—Dot Crace (Ashland)

## ◆ Committee on Annual Meeting:

2013 Unexpired Term—Brandon Carrier (Harrodsburg); 2014 Terms—Jo Pelham (Hopkinsville) and Mark Swadley (Paducah)

◆ **Committee on Constitution & Bylaws:** 2014 Terms—Jason Fleming (Hopkinsville), Josh Landrum (Dry Ridge) and Ben Stratton (Farmington)

◆ **Committee on Credentials:** 2014 Terms—Greg Faulls (Owensboro), Ralph Neal (Harrodsburg), and Tom Westerfield (Hopkinsville)

◆ **Committee on Public Affairs:** 2014 Terms—Brian Burkhead (Corbin), Richard Davis (Hopkinsville), and Steve Weaver (Frankfort)

◆ **Committee on Resolutions:** 2013 Unexpired Term—Tom James (Bowling Green); 2014 Terms—Adam Greenway (Taylorsville) and Chip Pendleton (Louisville)

## Recommended by Committee on Committees:

*Committee Members:* T. J. Francis (Chairperson), Darrell Crawford, Tom Curry, Phil Fisher, Dan Summerlin, and Hershanel York

*Ex Officio Members:* Executive Director—Paul Chitwood and Convention President—Floyd Paris

## 2011 Report of the KBC Committee on Annual Meeting

## Persons to Report—2012:

## Preacher of the Annual Sermon:

Jason Pettus (Bowling Green); Alternate—Greg Faulls (Owensboro)

**Cooperative Program:** Bill Fort (Richmond); Alternate—Chad Fugitt (Corbin)

**International Mission Board:** Butch Tanner (Richmond); Alternate—Howard Atkinson (Paducah)

**North American Mission Board:** Harold Moore (Ashland)

**Obituaries:** Don Mathis (Bowling Green); Alternate—Don Dilday (Lexington)

## Recommended by Committee on Annual Meeting:

*Committee Members:* French Harmon (Chairperson), Rodney Alexander, Howard Atkinson, Don Dilday, Terry Leap, Linda Polley, and Roger Taylor

*Ex Officio Members:* Convention President—Floyd Paris; First Vice

President—Dan Summerlin; Second Vice President—Greg Nimmo; President, Pastors' Conference—Chad Fugitt; President, KBMC—Mickey Ballard; President KBREA—Sam Newman

*Permanent Member:* Executive Director—Paul Chitwood

# Merritt: Bible makes clear case for Christians to 'go green'

By Drew Nichter

**Campbellsville**—Who was the world's first environmentalist? According to the Bible, it was the Creator God, Jonathan Merritt claims.

In the first two chapters of Genesis, "God goes green and He never looks back," noted Merritt, author of the book "Green Like God: Unlocking the Divine Plan for Our Planet."

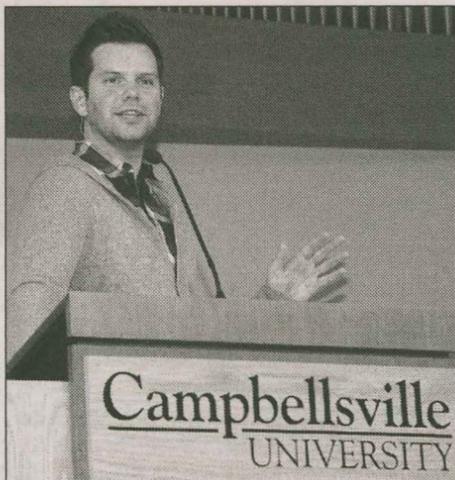
The young Southern Baptist championed the cause of creation care at the Nov. 1 Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy event at Campbellsville University.

Today, "going green" has become trendy primarily among the younger generation, many of whom may not profess to be Christians. It often is a movement embraced by many on the liberal side of the aisle and scorned by others to the right.

However, Christ followers have a "bigger and better reason to be eco-friendly," Merritt stressed. "Because as God followers, we want to be transformed into His likeness. We want to become more and more like Him. We want to please Him with everything we do."

Therefore, Christians should lead the way in caring for the creation which the Creator said in Genesis 1:31 was "very good," Merritt noted.

The 29-year-old Merritt is founder of the Southern Baptist Environment and Climate Initiative. He also is on staff at Cross Pointe Church in Duluth, Ga., where his father, James Merritt, a former



Southern Baptist Convention president, is pastor.

Merritt said he chose "Green Like God" as the title of his first book "because I think God has a lot to say about green issues."

Many environmentalists have had their say, but "God beat them all to the punch to say, 'This earth is a good thing,'" Merritt said.

That statement, however, provokes an important question: "How should we, those of us who claim to be a part of God's creation, who claim to love God and follow after God, how should we relate to the rest of God's creation?"

That answer is found in Genesis 2:15, Merritt explained, where God, who has placed the first human in the Garden of Eden, asks Adam to "cultivate it and keep it."

Jonathan Merritt:

**"Ultimately, the way that we treat the world around us is an act of worship to the Creator God who made these things."**

Oftentimes, when broaching the subject, preachers "gloss over this verse," Merritt said. There is a tension between it and Genesis 1:26-28, which states man is meant to "rule and subdue" the earth—the idea of dominion.

Christians read Genesis 2:15 "as if to say that we can use the earth for our own purposes so long as it benefits us," Merritt said, "as if we're masters who sort of beat the earth, our slave, into submission with no regard ... for the world around us or the God who created it. That's not what it's saying at all."

Merritt noted that some conservative religious scholars even have translated Genesis 2:15 to mean not only to cultivate and keep the earth, but "to worship and obey."

"Ultimately, the way that we treat the world around us is an act of worship to the Creator God who made these things," Merritt said.

## Rediscover and re-evaluate

It was as a student at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in North Carolina that Merritt said he began to realize the importance of creation care. A professor there equated the destruction of the earth—"God's revelation"—to

that of tearing a page out of the Bible.

That compelled Merritt to do two things: rediscover God's word and re-evaluate God's world. "And we have to do both of those things ... in that order or it doesn't work so well."

During his rediscovery process, Merritt said he found a number of Scripture passages that reinforce Christians' responsibility to care for God's creation. The most important of which is the Parable of the Talents in Matthew 25.

A common thought among evangelicals, Merritt pointed out, is: "Well, we can just forget about this whole creation care thing because Jesus is going to return anyway."

The parable in Matthew 25 negates that argument, Merritt insisted, because "as we learn in this story, the knowledge of a returning master doesn't free us from our earthly obligations, it actually calls us to them."

"Because we know," he continued, "that one day that master will return, and when He does, the very first thing He's going to ask us is: 'What did you do with all that stuff I left here for you to take care of?'"

"Did we steward them properly and cause them to flourish and to grow in His absence? Or did we just sort of bury them over here and say, 'I'm not going to worry about that. I'm going to go and live my life?'"

"God is asking for us to care for the things He gives us, including this world," Merritt said. "Should we not heed that call?" (WR)

## Coal 'difficult issue' for Kentuckians

**Campbellsville**—It's an undisputed fact that coal is king in Kentucky.

Coal companies employ thousands of people in the commonwealth—mostly in the eastern half of the state.

But how that coal is extracted from the Appalachian Mountains is a "difficult issue" for Kentuckians and one that has no easy solutions, according to a Southern Baptist creation-care advocate.

At a recent Kentucky Heartland Institute on Public Policy event at Campbellsville University, Jonathan Merritt encouraged Christians to champion the cause of caring for the earth as an act of worship to God.

"Today we stand face to face with environmental crises that threaten to silence God's revelation all over this planet (and) threaten the lives of some of the poorest people on earth," Merritt said.

Among those crises is that of mountaintop removal mining, the process of removing layers of coal most often found beneath the mountains in eastern Kentucky, southern West Virginia and parts of Tennessee and Virginia.

This type of mining has come to replace the more traditional practice of underground mining. Strip mining is a cheaper method that ultimately results in more extracted coal.

However, the negatives outweigh the positives when viewed through the lens of creation care, Merritt noted.

"Those mountains which should be declaring God's glory are being

devoured into desert land by developers," he said.

Merritt described the mining process: First, the forest trees are removed. "Once the mountain is totally bald, it's then filled with explosives ... that are detonated again and again and again."

As much as 1,000 feet of a mountain are destroyed in these operations. Citing a writer describing the process, Merritt said, "Think decapitation, not a hair cut."

"Does a decapitated mountain declare the glory of God?" he asked. "Does it speak of the great Creator who said this is a good thing and shaped these things with His hands?"

The environmental aftermath is what threatens the surrounding communities most, Merritt noted.

"The dirt and the rocks, now contaminated with toxic waste, are then dumped into surrounding valleys, burying or contaminating headwaters and rivers," Merritt explained.

When asked what could be done to curb mountaintop removal mining in Kentucky, Merritt acknowledged that the industry does provide a livelihood for thousands of residents in Appalachia. Therefore, he said, there are no easy answers. "What do you do?" he asked. "Do you shut it down tomorrow and send all those poor people to soup kitchens?"

Merritt said what's required is a "slow, culture-changing solution," but that if or when that is presented, it may be too late. (WR)

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## Church, BCM partner to save learning center

Continued from page 1

endeavor would stretch the church's resources pretty thin, Hash said.

So, Hash contacted Tommy Johnson, campus minister at Western Kentucky University, to see about forming a partnership between Burton Memorial and WKU's Baptist Campus Ministry. Johnson said they jumped at the opportunity.

"It connects with a goal we have of involving our students in serving the community," he noted. "Our first outreach is to the campus, but we also want to extend that outreach into the community."

What resulted was a quickly prepared proposal for the housing authority. It involved staffing the center two days a week—BCM volunteers would serve on Tuesdays; Burton Memorial folks on Thursdays—all at little cost to the city. "All they would be out is the electric for turning the lights on," Hash said.

The plan was approved over fall break, and the learning center remained open, albeit with some changes. The center's previous staffers, all city employees, were transferred elsewhere. The center also is now open just two days a week instead of five.

On the plus side, where families had to pay to attend the program before, it now is free, an incentive Hash expects will bring more children to the center.

### 'We just want to love on them'

On a recent Tuesday afternoon, about a dozen kids, kindergartners through middle schoolers, hop off the school bus

and are greeted by "Pastor Kevin" and about half a dozen BCM students.

Inside, backpacks are opened and school books and papers are spread out on tables. Each of the college volunteers takes time to tutor the kids or help them with that day's homework.

At one end of a markerboard, April Estes helps Jada, a fourth grader, do long division. "You got this," Estes encourages Jada as she works through the problem.

At the other end of the board, 5-year-old Jaden is sitting on Rebecca Morgan's lap as she coaches him through writing the letter 'G'.

"We really do care about their grades. ... We really want to see them succeed," said Estes, a junior at WKU. "But really, we just want to love on them."

In the month-plus that the BCM students have worked with the Bryant Way kids, Morgan, a junior from Sonora, said she has seen the kids' good and bad sides. She said initially the children had a "tough shell" to get past, seeing the new volunteers as "outsiders."

Now, "they're really starting to open up to us," she noted.

Johnson said the tutoring experience not only is an opportunity for college students to provide much-needed mentoring for at-risk kids, but it also has had a "spill-over effect" for Burton Memorial. "This church is making inroads into this neighborhood," he said.

Those connections have given the church's Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings a boost, and more of its members now are involved in ministering to



**INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY** Pastor Kevin Hash (center) jokes around with Andi (left) and Faith at the Bryant Way Learning Center. The church's ministry to the Bowling Green housing complex is an international one—Andi is from Albania; Faith is Liberian and his stepfather is Muslim. There also are Bosnian, Iranian and Vietnamese students who attend the after-school program and the church each week. (Photo by Katherine Devine)

the kids from Bryant Way.

Many of the kids who attend the after-school program have become regulars at the church. Wednesday night kids' time "is pretty much all about the Bryant Way kids," Hash explained, many of whom are natives of other countries—Albania, Bosnia, Liberia and Iran, among them.

Getting those kids to church has mobilized previously uninvolved members to start driving vans, preparing meals and teaching. "Ministering to them is changing us," Hash said.

The young faces in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings even have somewhat altered the way Hash preaches.

"You cannot ask rhetorical questions with them in attendance," he joked,

"because they will raise their hands and want to give an answer."

But, Hash said, he welcomes the unpredictability that comes with having the kids at the church. "When people see what their mission is, they expect the inconveniences," he said. "This is the ministry. This is why we're here."

Alluding to the often-asked question, "If your church closed today, would anyone in the community notice?" Hash admitted, "that probably could've been said about Burton at one point.

"But not today. People would notice if we weren't there," he added quickly. "And I think God's going to provide for those churches that are making a difference." (WR)

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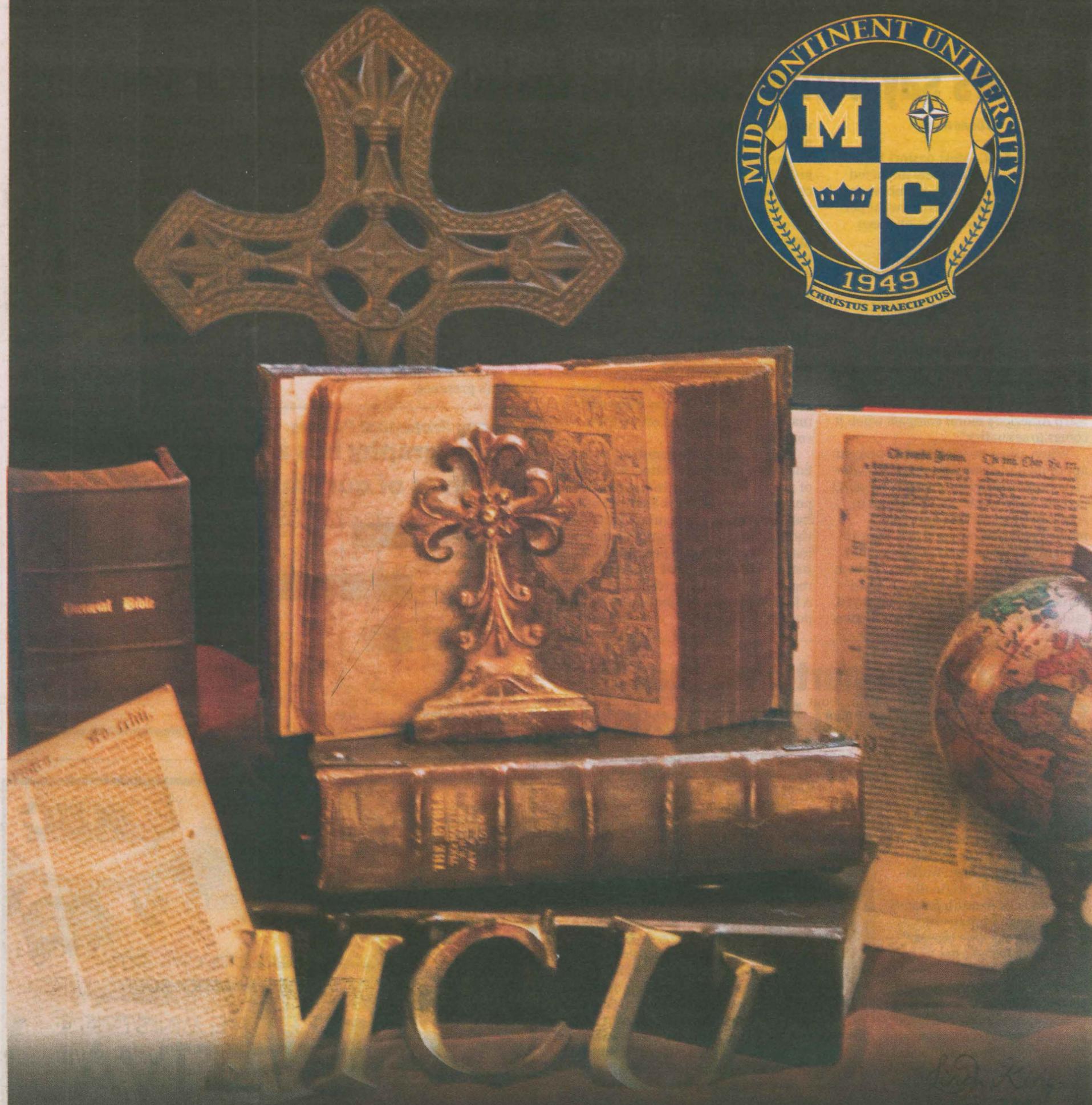
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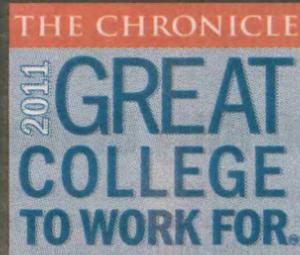
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# Pastors say pornography pervasive among church members

By David Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—Most pastors believe pornography has adversely impacted the lives of their church members, but almost half cannot estimate what percentage of their congregation views porn.

That is the finding of a newly released survey by LifeWay Research of American Protestant pastors.

Nearly 70 percent of the pastors agreed that pornography has harmed the lives of their church members.

"Most pastors know pornography's poisonous effects," LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer said. "They've seen it destroy marriages, wreck lives and warp America's moral compass when it comes to sexuality."

When asked to estimate the percentage of men in their congregations who view pornography on a weekly basis, 43 percent were unable or unwilling to respond. Of those who did reply, a majority (62 percent) said less than 10 percent of men at their churches look at porn, while nearly a quarter of them said that number was between 10-24 percent. One-tenth of pastors surveyed said between 25 and 49 percent of men

watch pornography; 4 percent said more than half of their men viewed it.

The results are similar when pastors are asked about the women in their churches. Forty-four percent were unable or unwilling to estimate the percentage of females in their congregations who view pornography on a weekly basis. Of those who did answer, 87 percent said less than 10 percent of women watch it; 10 percent said it was between 10-24 percent; and 3 percent of pastor said it was 25-49 percent of the women in their churches.

## Underestimated results?

Statistics from other studies, however, suggest pastors may underestimate pornography's effect on their congregants.

According to data compiled by the Education Database Online, 43 percent of people who use the Internet visit pornographic websites. Some 40 million Americans are regular visitors to those sites, with pornographic downloads representing 35 percent of all Internet downloads. Of the 40 million regular visitors, 33 percent are women. A full 70 percent of men age 18-24 visit porn sites monthly.

"Though pastors know generally that pornography is harmful, many may not realize that it is coming into the homes of their members," Stetzer said. "Large numbers of church attendees are included in the nearly half of all Internet users who visit porn sites."

"We were surprised that so many were unable or unwilling to estimate considering how pervasive pornography is inside the church," Stetzer added. "If a third think that less than 10 percent of the men are looking at porn and almost a half aren't sure, we may very well have a lack of awareness of porn's presence."

"Studies show that committed Christians engage pornography less, but the issue is still a big one that the church must face."

In a recent blog, Stetzer said that "the church has been given all that is needed to address sexuality from a biblical perspective." He called for more awareness and clear biblical teaching on the issue.

"Scripture clearly teaches God's plan for sex. Yet we stumble awkwardly past the issues," he wrote. "If the church refuses to address the issues, not only do we become irrelevant, but we leave the conversation open to others who feel more free to do so." (LW/BP)

## U.S. State Department 'has not forgotten' jailed Iranian pastor

Tehran, Iran—The U.S. State Department is trying to help free an Iranian pastor who faces possible execution for his Christian faith, and an Iranian decision on the pastor's fate is expected by mid-December, the pastor's supporters say.

The case of pastor Yousef Nadarkhani has drawn worldwide attention. He originally was sentenced to death for apostasy, although Iranian officials in recent weeks have brought forth unrelated charges—apparently in an attempt to lessen international pressure. His supporters say the charges are false.

Nadarkhani's case has faded from the news since September, but the State Department has not forgotten, said Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the American Center for Law and Justice. A team of ACLJ attorneys met with members of the State Department Nov. 9, a meeting that was initiated by government officials.

The State Department "is very much

engaged on this, has not forgotten about pastor Yousef and will not forget about pastor Yousef," Sekulow told CBN News.

Nearly 200,000 people signed an ACLJ petition supporting Nadarkhani.

Additionally, Suzan Johnson Cook, the State Department's ambassador at large for international religious freedom, recently mentioned Nadarkhani during a speech at the U.S. Institute for Peace.

"I want to echo President Obama's and Secretary Clinton's—and repeat my own—condemnation of his conviction and our calls on Iranian authorities to release Pastor Nadarkhani immediately," Cook said.

"I urge all of you to do the same."

Meanwhile, Christian Solidarity Worldwide, which follows cases involving religious freedom, said Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei is expected to issue his decision on the pastor by mid-December. (BP)



Yousef Nadarkhani

## 1,600 Billy Graham messages now online

Charlotte, N.C.—More than 1,600 of Billy Graham's sermons dating back to 1949 now are available online in audio format.

The sermons—available at BillyGraham.org—are categorized by year, location and topic. The messages include everything from Graham's famous Los Angeles crusade in 1949 to his comments at President Lyndon Johnson's 1973 funeral to his sermons in Baltimore and New Orleans in 2006.

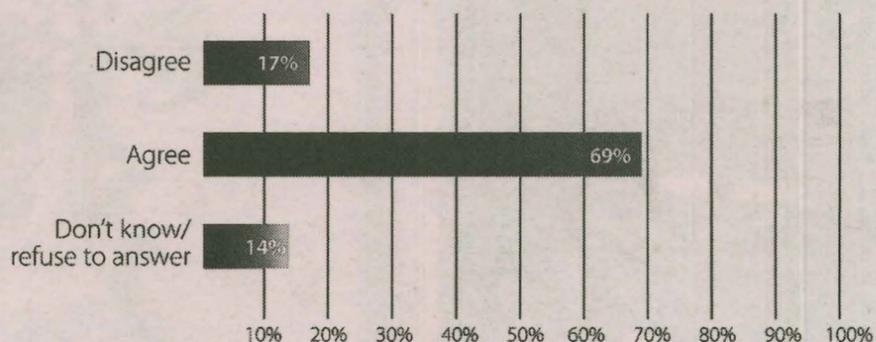
"Mr. Graham's messages have inspired millions around the world and will

continue to do so with the release of this audio library," said Ken Barun, senior vice president of communications for the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association.

"With more than 2 billion users on the Internet, his messages can now be accessed by many more for easy listening and sharing," Barun added. "Our ultimate goal is to continue Billy's mission of using whatever means possible to spread the gospel."

The website and audio files are compatible for desktop computers and smartphones. (BP)

### Among Protestant Pastors Pornography has adversely affected the lives of our church members



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## Fla. pastor in school-prayer dispute

Jacksonville, Fla.—A Florida Southern Baptist pastor says he has no intention of ending weekly prayers around an elementary school flagpole that the school district's attorney says are unconstitutional.

"We're not changing anything," Ron Baker, the pastor of Russell Baptist Church in Green Cove Springs, Fla., told the Florida Times-Union.

Baker, who celebrated his 30th anniversary Nov. 6 at the church affiliated with the Florida Baptist Convention, has been conducting flagpole prayers at four Clay County schools for 12 years. They went largely unnoticed until the principal at Clay Hill Elementary School recently sent a memo to his 40-member staff saying the First Amendment applies only to Christians.

That prompted a letter from the Freedom From Religion Foundation

viewing the flagpole rallies as an unconstitutional endorsement of religion by government.

Superintendent Ben Wortham initially asked Baker to stop holding the prayer meetings but later said they could continue if the sessions were moved up before 7:10 a.m. when teachers report to schools. The prayers were beginning around 8:15 a.m.

Baker initially agreed but changed his mind. "I think if I were to stop, it somehow sends the message that I think it must be wrong," he said.

Baker said he was advised by Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice "that there is nothing illegal about what we're doing and that it falls well within the perimeters of what the Constitution allows." (ABP)

## Bodies to bullets?

### Business venture provokes theological debate about handling one's remains

By Daniel Burke

Bay Minette, Ala.—When he dies, Clem Parnell expects his soul to ascend heavenward. He wants his ashes to be loaded into a shotgun shell and blasted at a turkey.

"I will rest in peace knowing that the last thing that turkey will see is me screaming at him at about 900 feet per second," Parnell said.

Parnell and his business partner, fellow Alabama state game warden Thad Holmes, believe other hunters have similar hankerings. This summer, they launched Holy Smoke LLC, which offers to load the cremains of customers into shotgun shells, rifle cartridges and bullets.

For about \$850, a customer will receive 250 shotgun shells, 100 rifle cartridges or 250 pistol cartridges packed with the deceased's ashes. Discounts are available for the military, police and firemen.

After most funeral rites, scattered remains become trodden dirt; gravesites go unvisited; and ash-filled urns sit unnoticed, Holmes said. Loading up a loved one for one final duck hunt would be a more fitting send-off, he insisted, especially for avid outdoorsmen.

"We want to give people an alternative to celebrate a person's life," he said.

Holy Smoke insists that remains are handled reverently by a team of ATF-trained loaders. There is no commingling of ashes, and unused cremains are returned. Parnell, a Southern Baptist, said all seven Holy Smoke employees are "good Christians, with good moral values."

"Just because you're getting shot out of a gun doesn't make it irreverent," Holmes assured.

#### Is cremation anti-Christian?

But some Christian scholars say Holy Smoke is firing spiritual blanks.

"It's a terrible idea," said David Jones, a professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"This idea of putting grandpa in a rifle shell or scattering his ashes on a baseball field goes against Christianity. We're supposed to show respect for ashes, not throw them to the wind," said Jones, who has written about cremation in the Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society.

For centuries, Christians shunned cremation as a heathen practice. Burying the dead, church fathers taught, continues the tradition of the Jewish patriarchs and honors bodies made in the image of God. More importantly, Christians believe that bodies and souls one day will be raised to eternal life, just as Jesus was.

"The Christian tradition is unambiguous about burial being the norm," said Andrew Harvey, a professor of English at

Grove City College in Pennsylvania who has written on the cremation trend.

"Jesus' burial is a template for our own. But I don't think many people make that concrete connection anymore," he said.

Instead, Harvey noted, many Christians have adopted a modern form of Gnosticism, believing the soul shakes free from the body after death just as a snake sheds its skin.

Church strictures against cremation have loosened in recent decades, and few consider it a mortal sin. But some caution that there are good theological reasons for burying bodies.

"If the endgame is that we live in physical bodies on a physical earth no longer affected by sin and worship God forever, then maybe we need to show respect for our bodies when we die," Jones suggested.

#### A growing trend

Funeral industry experts say Holy Smoke is unique, but not unusual. Cremation accounted for 37 percent of all final dispositions in 2009, according to the National

Funeral Directors Association, and is expected to cross the 50 percent threshold this decade.

Meanwhile, more Americans are planning their funerals in advance, often with highly personalized send-offs.

Surfers scatter their ashes over favorite swells. Californians fill fireworks with their remains and shoot them over the San Francisco Bay. Cremains can be inserted in coral reefs, fashioned as diamonds, or launched into space.

"There has been an ongoing proliferation of innovative forms of memorializing the dead and taking care of the human remains," said Gary Laderman, an expert on religion and American death rites at Emory University in Atlanta.

"People want to do it themselves and make sure it fits with their personality and commitments," he said.

In other words, instead of religious services that prepare a soul for the afterlife, funerals are becoming a final act of self-expression, said Matthew Lee Anderson, author of "Earthen Vessels," a book about Christianity and the body.

At the same time, more Americans find transcendence and meaning outside church walls, scholars say. Holmes said watching the sun rise through the trees while sitting in a hunting stand is about as sacred as life gets.

"You see the birds and animals and you say, look at what God has wrought," he said. "It's a soul Band-Aid."

When he dies, Holmes said he believes his bandaged soul will float away from his body.

"Your spirit is not with your body anymore," he said. "You've either gone up or down." What's left, he said, is "nothing more than organic matter and ash." (RNS)



# GO! Africa

Is God calling your church to serve through KBC's Go! Africa initiative? Check out the project opportunities that are available.

Stop by the Partnership Missions Department booth during the KBC Annual Meeting for more information.

#### Sanyati Baptist Hospital Makeover 2012

Project #	Description	Location	Dates
1	Roofing Construction Team	Zambia	May-Sep
2	Roofing Construction Team	Zambia	May-Sep
3	Renovation Project	Zambia	May-Sep
4	Renovation Project	Zambia	May-Sep

#### GO Africa!

Project #	Description	Location	Dates
184	Bible Schools in Malawi	Malawi	Open
185	Missionary Home Remodel	Zambia	Open
186	Church Planting/Evangelism	Zambia	Open
187	Evangel Conga of Malawi	Malawi	Open
188	Evangelism/Discipleship	Zambia	Mar-Nov
189	Short Term Seminary Professor	Zambia	Jan-Nov
190	Seminary Library Assistant	Zambia	Open
191	Pastor Training	Zambia	Open
192	Seminary Buildings Repair	Zambia	May-Sep
194	Evangelism	Zambia	Jan-Sep
195	Apple Mac OS X Trainer	Zambia	Open
196	Medical Volunteer Teams	Various	Open



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## It takes dedication

### A lot can be accomplished when all are dedicated to task at hand

Every coach knows that for a student or team to excel it takes dedication—lots of it. While I would like to believe that if our students had the same dedication, we could achieve similar goals, but I know that's not likely to happen.

Since we have fewer than 300 middle- and high-school students who typically do not spend all of their high-school years at Oneida, and since our students do not have the opportunity to be on the same team(s) from year to year, we are at a serious disadvantage.

For example, when the soccer season began this fall, on the first day of practice, about half of the team never had played together before. Many of the students were new to OBI; others were here last year but didn't play soccer.

Now I know it sounds like I'm being a crybaby, but I'm not. This is a part of who we are and, like every other school, we have to learn to deal with the disadvantages we face. No matter how you look at it, whether you are a student at Oneida Baptist Institute or at one of the larger county schools in Kentucky, you could list a number of disadvantages you must face. The topic, however, is "dedication," not disadvantages and obstacles.

I always have admired the dedication of our school's choir. Long before Kay and I came back to Oneida to work, our oldest daughter was in the choir. From her schedule we knew a little about the trips that required leaving very early on Sunday mornings and those that kept them on the road until after midnight. Choir was not her

school "job" that all students must have, and being in the choir didn't normally give them extra perks for their efforts.

When I became president 18 years ago, Kay and I became a part of the school's traveling choir. I became the bus driver and morning speaker; Kay became the greeter and chaperone. Yes, even OBI students need a chaperone.

The past four weeks have been typical of the responsibilities of our choir. The first trip was to a church in Lexington, about two hours away. The choir students didn't have to get up much earlier than the rest of the students who are required to attend Sunday morning worship. The second trip was 30 minutes on the other side of Bowling Green, three hours from our campus, not counting restroom breaks.

The third trip took us another 30 minutes down the road. On those two trips, the choir students had to get up around 5 a.m. in order to leave campus at 6 a.m. This is where the "dedication" part comes in.

With very few exceptions over the past 18 years, I've been able to count on the choir students getting up early on Sunday mornings—sometimes very early—and making their way in the dark to the bus which I have warmed up. A nice warm bus makes it easier for the students to go back to sleep so the driver can have some peace and quiet.

Then there was the trip this past Sunday. It was one of those rare trips when the traveling time was just one hour. On those occasions the choir students can sleep a little longer.

*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

## Whenever God calls

### Young student encourages others to be obedient to God's calling

First-year student Teague Umberger, from Tennessee, is one of our younger, single students who has come to us just out of high school. Teague said he has known from a young age God was calling him to ministry.

"I grew up in a Christian home. My salvation experience was at a young age," Teague said. "I was at a day camp where kids go to have some fun during the day. Toward the end of the day, they gather everyone together and share the gospel and give an invitation to accept Christ.

"I remember very well that I was 6 years old at the time I heard the gospel presented to me. I was convicted of my sins and felt God calling me to accept Christ as my Savior that day.

"I always felt like God was calling me into the ministry," Teague recalled. "After I graduated from high school, I was looking around for a college to attend. There was a Clear Creek alumnus in our church who suggested that I check out Clear Creek. My mom and I came for a visit, and I felt God was leading me here.

"I definitely feel God is calling me to

the mission field," Teague said. "A couple of years ago, I had the opportunity to go to Africa on a mission trip. Our group was involved in church planting. We also visited many of the orphanages and helped feed many of the children. It's definitely life changing when God gives you an opportunity to help those out in

the world who have so little. My heart has been there ever since I came back from that trip.

"I'm so thankful to be at a place like Clear Creek where I can receive the training I need to fulfill God's call on my life," Teague noted. "Since I have arrived on campus, God has provided such a great group of new friends in my life who support and encourage me. The support I get from my church family has

been amazing. It's wonderful how God uses others to touch your life and encourage you.

"No matter what age you might be," Teague encouraged, "whenever God calls, listen; whenever God calls, obey. Never forget that God always has a great plan for your life."

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

# Virginia Baptist convention elects first black president

**Richmond, Va.**—For the first time in 188 years, the predominantly white Baptist General Association of Virginia has an African-American president.

Suffolk, Va., pastor Mark Croston was elected to the top spot during the BGAV's annual meeting Nov. 8-9 in Richmond, Va. Croston, pastor of East End Baptist Church in Suffolk, had been serving as the BGAV's first vice president.

Croston has been pastor of the Suffolk church since 1987 and long active in BGAV, serving as its second vice president in 2005 and as president of the Virginia Baptist Pastors Conference from 2006-08. He has been a trustee of Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and for more than 15 years has been a board member of the National African American Fellowship of the Southern Baptist Convention, serving as its president from 2005-08.

He also has been involved in the Virginia Baptist State Convention, a historically African-American Baptist conven-

tion in the state. He continues to serve as its first vice president.

Messengers at the meeting also agreed to restore ties with Averett University, which were ended six years ago in a dispute over homosexuality.

The action mended a breach that stemmed the severing of a 146-year-old relationship in 2005—a dispute largely centered on Averett's response to what were seen as gay-friendly statements by the chair of its religion department and a student-advocacy group.

Under the new relationship, Averett once again will be included in the BGAV's budget, and the state association will nominate three members of the school's 27-member board of trustees.

The proposal, adopted without discussion or apparent opposition, was initiated by Averett's trustees and its president, Tiffany Franks, who was elected three years after the separation. (Virginia Religious Herald/BP)

## Baptist women's group reforms in Ky.

**Georgetown**—Dormant for a decade, a Baptist Women in Ministry chapter in Kentucky was reborn Nov. 8 at Georgetown College.

Pam Durso, head of the national Baptist Women in Ministry organization based in Atlanta, said when a group of women spearheaded by Becky Caswell-Speight, minister to children and families at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville, began discussing the need to support and network with women ministers throughout Kentucky, they envisioned creating a new organization. They soon learned that a Kentucky BWIM chapter had been in existence since the mid-1980s but stopped meeting about 2001.

Members of the initial group shared stories and supported reinstitution of the organization. Twenty-seven women from across the state and both generations met at Georgetown.

The rebirth of the BWIM chapter recalls a time when Kentucky was viewed as a hub for women encouraged to study for M.Div. degrees at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in the 1970s and 1980s. Soon after Southern Baptist Women in Ministry formed in 1983, a Center for Baptist Women in Ministry opened at Louisville's Crescent Hill Baptist Church and began publishing a newsletter called Folio.

Baptist Women in Ministry estimates about 2,200 women in formerly Southern Baptist congregations have been ordained to ministry, but most serve in roles other than pastor. In 2010 the group identified 135 Baptist women serving as pastor or co-pastor of churches aligned with the Alliance of Baptists, Baptist General Association of Virginia, Baptist General Convention of Texas or Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. (ABP)

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# Q&A with Keith and Kristyn Getty on why hymns matter

By Michael Foust

**Nashville, Tenn.**—The word “hymn” usually doesn’t lead to thoughts of “modern,” but hymnwriters Keith and Kristyn Getty are trying to change that.

The husband-wife team from Northern Ireland just released their third CD, “Joy: An Irish Christmas,” and in late November will embark on a U.S. tour.

Baptist Press recently interviewed the Gettys after they sang in chapel at Life-Way Christian Resources:

## **Baptist Press: Why are you so passionate about hymns?**

**Keith Getty:** I think the things we are most passionate about are, first, making sure that congregations are able to sing together and, secondly, making sure that the Word of Christ dwells in us richly. The whole concept of congregational worship is to represent the church here on earth as to what it will one day be in heaven. So it is a unifying thing.

When we look at the models of hymns that we have in Scripture, there is a strong sense of God’s faithfulness, but there’s just a much greater level of lyrical

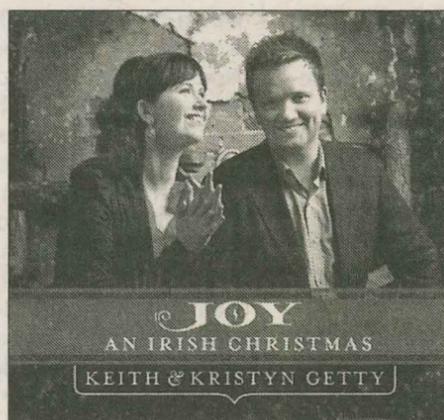
depth. Songs can be short, they can be long. They can be any structure. That’s not the issue. But we do have to write songs of substance, because there is a direct correlation with what we sing as to how we live our lives.

## **BP: What distinguishes a hymn?**

**Keith Getty:** There’s no scientific answer. If you go to England, they will tell you that hymns are songs in the English tradition of hymn writing, and something like “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” or “I Come to the Garden.” (In America, everything written before 1980, for the most part, is called a hymn, and everything written after about 1980 ... suddenly is a worship song. So everybody has a different definition of it. Because they have an artistry that is slightly more timeless and slightly stronger, I kind of gravitate toward (hymns). And I think there is something to be said about valuing the heritage that we have.

## **BP: When you’re writing a hymn, what is the goal?**

**Keith Getty:** To write a piece of art that somehow helps a congregation of people be illuminated by some character



of God, and respond to it in a song. In congregational worship, you’re writing for an artist, and that artist is singing to an audience. In congregational worship, the artist is the congregation and the audience is God.

## **BP: What role do hymns play in teaching theology?**

**Keith Getty:** We learn through many different things. If you’re asking us, should hymns be used as expositional Bible teaching? No, they shouldn’t be. They’re pieces of art. A song with a great

lyric and a bad melody is an awful song. The point is that your soul and your emotions are engaged with others around you to sing. It is a piece of art like poetry is a piece of art. It’s creating a picture, it’s creating an illustration.

**Kristyn Getty:** And no song can tell the whole story. We try to structure a song in such a way that it tells a story or carries a thought in some sort of coherent pattern through a song, as opposed to several different phrases put together that are all true. One time we did the song called “By Faith,” and I tried to put an entire chapter of Hebrews 11 into the song. And they were saying, “You’re going to give the congregation a headache if you make them sing that. Let’s try to stand back from this a little. What’s the whole movement of the passage saying?” You only have three minutes to sing it, and it’s not necessarily the place for me to have people cite Hebrews 11. There’s more creative ways of getting the main points across. There will be points that we miss, but then we’ll write another song about it. There’s always something to write about. (BP)

## Influx reshapes cities

Continued from page 5

Second-gens often leave their parents’ homes, neighborhoods and ethnic communities. They move around. They change. Their worldviews change. They create new patterns and cultures. In some cases, they actually form new people groups. “New American ethnic groups are forming more quickly than ever before the children and grandchildren of today’s immigrants,” write Alejandro Portes and Ruben Rumbaut, authors of “Legacies: The Story of the

Immigrant Second Generation.”

Bottom line: There’s no simple formula for reaching the “nations in the cities.” But any number of creative ministries can meet specific needs. Bush cited 11 different church-planting models that work effectively in different contexts.

“No one church can get its arms completely around any metro, especially a larger metro,” Bush said. “So what I encourage churches to do is begin in their own neighborhoods, geographically and relationally. Because in many cases, through their work and their play, they’re encountering many of the different ethnic groups that are coming into

their communities.

The census is certainly a good starting point, but relief agencies and immigration agencies are actively looking for church partners who will come alongside as they’re bringing in peoples—many of whom are coming from closed countries and unreached people groups.”

What ultimately works, regardless of location or context, is Jesus Christ’s model of disciple-making.

“There are no two cities that are exactly the same, but when it comes down to it, the heart of everything we need to do comes back to proclaiming the gospel, displaying the gospel and

making disciples that congregate into reproducing, multiplying churches,” Bush said.

“We need to model how to live as believers with immigrants. We need to share meals with them. We need to share life together. Our homes need to be places where we invite them not to come for a meal but to come for a month.... They see how you cling to Christ when there’s nothing else to cling to. It’s not just something you talk about in a Bible study. It’s who you are as a disciple.” (BP)

Erich Bridges is a global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

## Guilty of what?

### **Parable in Luke’s Gospel reminds of dangers of covetousness, greed**

Why is it so few Christians typically include covetousness or greed as evil and harmful desires for which we need to confess and repent in the same way we include adultery or lust? Does not the Bible teach covetousness and greed are manifestations of sin?

In the parable of the fool in Luke 12:13-21, Jesus seized the opportunity to warn us of the dangers of covetousness and greed, which literally means the desire to have more—the constant craving for more. Covetousness and greed are dangerous things, and Jesus teaches us in this parable the reasons why. In verse 15 Jesus said, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” So, covetousness and greed blind us to the reality that there is more to life than things.

In the remainder of that parable, Jesus tells the story of a rich farmer who spent his life accumulating things and made no preparation for eternity. The farmer’s philosophy was stated in verse 19, “Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” Jesus called this person a fool.

Verses 20-21 state, “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ This is how it will be with anyone

who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.”

Someone has said “greed is like drinking saltwater—the more you drink, the thirstier you become.” So, covetousness and greed blind us to the truth about eternal things.

Jesus continued teaching His disciples in Luke 12:22-34 not to worry about tomorrow. “But seek his kingdom and these things will be given to you as well.”

So, covetousness and greed make us anxious about life, rob us of the peace that comes from trusting God, and blind us to the priority of our lives, which is to advance the kingdom, not acquire wealth.

Therefore, let us confess and repent, and let us learn to exchange what we cannot keep for what we cannot lose. Amen?

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Caring for state missionaries

### **Adopting missionaries is one way to supplement funding from EBO**

As we approach the Christmas season when we often are more aware of the need to care for the less fortunate, the Eliza Broadus Offering already is at work. Through NAMB-appointed career and MSC missionaries, Kentucky Baptists are reaching out to people in need.

The KBC’s mission service and ministries department supports MSC- and career-appointed missionaries, coordinates with regional ministries, promotes prayer and provides other services to churches and missions leaders.

This year the Eliza Broadus Offering will provide \$164,000 for these ministries. This includes funds for appointed missionary personnel serving poor communities in Kentucky; church and community outreach initiatives; missions mobilization; literacy conference; a retreat for NAMB career-appointed and MSC missionaries serving in Kentucky; and Mountain Missions Baptist Centers building repairs.

But these funds cannot be provided in full unless they are given. Your generous gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering are needed more than ever to help make

these ministries possible.

You can go a step further in your support of state missions through “Adopt a Missionary.” By adopting one of our Kentucky missionaries, you can do extra things like:

**Pray:** Their No. 1 need.

**Communicate:** A call, letter or email can offer much-needed encouragement.

**Send something:** A birthday or holiday care package will let them know you are remembering them on this special day.

**Visit:** Arrange a visit and assist them in their work.

**Invite:** Let them share with your church, small group or missions organization.

**Meet a need:** There always is a shortage of ministry resources. What does your missionary need that you or your church group could provide?

Learn more about Adopt a Missionary at [www.KyBaptist.org/AdoptaMissionary](http://www.KyBaptist.org/AdoptaMissionary), or call (502) 489-3530 or (866) 489-3530. View a listing of Kentucky missionaries, including pictures and other information at [www.KyBaptist.org/Missionaries](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Missionaries).

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



## December

**12-13** KBC Mission Board Meeting, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

## January

**19-20** Disaster Relief Chaplain Training, Buck Creek Baptist Church, Calhoun.

**19-21** Shepherding the Shepherd, Hilton Downtown Hotel, Lexington.

**20** Disaster Relief Volunteer Training Phase I and II, Buck Creek Baptist Church, Calhoun.

**26-28** Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## February

**3-4** Disaster Relief Chaplain Training, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

**4** Disaster Relief Volunteer Training Phase I and II, First Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

**6** Strength in Numbers Deacon Ministry Training, First Baptist Church, Danville.

**7** Strength in Numbers Deacon Ministry Training, Westport Road Baptist Church, Louisville.

# MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church recently called **Bobby Ewing** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Emmanuel Church in London.

■ **CADIZ**—Donaldson Creek ordained Pastor **Russ Thomas** to the gospel ministry Nov. 6.

Hurricane Church will hold revival services Nov. 18-20 with **Hal Shipley** as evangelist. **Mike Wimberly** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a production of "The Singing Princess" Nov. 18, 7 p.m., at the Russ Mobley Theater in the Alumni Building on campus. The performance is free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5266.

Campbellsville University's

Opera Workshop will hold a performance of "Gianni Schicchi" Nov. 19-20; 8 p.m.; Nov. 21, 3 p.m., at the Gheens Recital Hall on campus. The performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will host **Brad Stine** in concert Nov. 19, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 241-8534. The church also will hold a Thanksgiving potluck dinner celebration Nov. 20, 5 p.m. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold a community Thanksgiving service Nov. 22, 7 p.m.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church will hold a free community

dinner Nov. 17, 5 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

Okolona Church will hold a community Thanksgiving worship service Nov. 23, 7 p.m. **John Carter** is pastor.

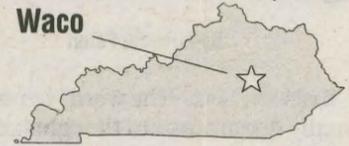
Walnut Street Church will hold a Christmas Gift Shoppe Nov. 19, 9 a.m., with handmade gifts, arts & crafts, Tupperware and other items. Snacks and drinks will be available. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold its annual Missions Day Nov. 20, 10:30 a.m., with an Acts 1:8 celebration service and missions banquet and auction.

Kings Church will hold a community Thanksgiving service Nov. 22, 7 p.m. **Keith Joseph** is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

### Waco



Waco Church recently honored longtime pastor **Fred Livingood** with a reception and special service. Livingood recently retired after 40 years as the church's pastor.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church will hold a benevolence benefit concert Nov. 20, 6 p.m. A special offering will be taken up for ministry to area families in need. **Doug Davis** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will host the Williamsburg Ministerial Alliance's community Thanksgiving service Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Main Street Church will hold a women's conference, "Discovering the Power of Your Life Story: Finding Purpose and Peace in Every Season," Nov. 18, 6 p.m., featuring **Lois Jane**. A dinner precedes the conference, which is hosted by University of the Cumberland's Baptist Campus Ministries. Tickets are \$10 each. For more information, call the church at (606) 549-2006 or BCM president **Stephanie Lawless** at (606) 620-3783. **Bill Wright** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will hold a community Thanksgiving service Nov. 20, 7 p.m. **Darrell Morgan** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will host KBC Executive Director **Paul Chitwood** as guest speaker Nov. 20, 10:45 a.m.

## Henderson church sends eight to Thailand

Henderson—An eight-member team from First Baptist Church of Henderson partnered with members of Hope Baptist Church in Las Vegas to assist the ministry of Mekong Evangelical Mission in Thailand. The team led a training conference for 450 area pastors, worked with nearly 600 Thai students, and assembled 500 relief kits for families displaced by record flooding.

"God has blessed numerous people in many ways," reported Minister of Education Rich Stratton in a trip blog. "Over 100 Southeast Asians can see better with their new glasses. Almost 150 churches will have access to basic medical supplies. Pastors of churches in hostile areas have been encouraged. And two young ladies have new hearts and the salvation of Jesus Christ."

Henderson First has partnered with MEM since 2009, and this was its third trip to Thailand. (WR)



## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AUDITIONS:** The Lexington Passion Play is having open auditions (by appointment) for the role of Jesus (singing and drama skills) for performances March 28–April 1, 2012. Contact Gloria Gadd for appointment or more information: (859) 223-2569.

**DEGREE:** Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. [www.newburghseminary.com](http://www.newburghseminary.com).

**FOR SALE:** Beautifully decorated pump organ with stool. Bellows need to be repaired. Asking \$150 or make offer. Phone: (859) 278-7505.

**SEEKING:** Permanent part-time youth ministry coordinator to lead and grow youth ministry in a church with great potential. Must have experience in youth ministry and may have or be pursuing a degree in Christian youth development. Send resumé to Mr. Ira Linville, Personnel Committee chair, Crestwood Baptist, 1006 E Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601. For information, call Ira Linville at (502) 226-6517.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music for Gardenside Baptist Church. Applicant must have two years experience, be an excellent, experienced musician, worship leader and educator, and must exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Please email resumé including references to [gbcjobsearch@gmail.com](mailto:gbcjobsearch@gmail.com). For more information about Gardenside and a full job description, go to [www.gbclex.com](http://www.gbclex.com). Resumés will be accepted through Dec. 31. If you have specific questions, please contact the church office at 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504; or call (859) 277-7391.

**SEEKING:** Full-time senior pastor at Piner Baptist Church in Northern Kentucky. Our SBC church supports many ministries locally and internationally. Average Sunday attendance is 225. For more information, go to [www.pinerbaptist.org](http://www.pinerbaptist.org). Resumés should be submitted by Jan. 1, 2012, to Pastor Search Committee, Piner Baptist Church, 15044 Madison Pike, Morning View, KY 41063; or by email to [pastorsearch@pinerbaptist.org](mailto:pastorsearch@pinerbaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister at Westport Baptist Church in Westport, Ky. (Oldham County). Individual selected for this position will work closely with the pastor in the leadership of the church's ministry to youth in the church and within the community. Ministry experience is helpful, but not required. Candidates for the position must have a deeply rooted faith in Christ and a strong desire to work with youth and children. A background check is required. Interested applicants should submit resumés with cover letters as soon as possible to [taraws@insightbb.com](mailto:taraws@insightbb.com).

**SEEKING:** FBC Bethany, Mo., a conservative Southern Baptist church in Northwest Missouri, is seeking God's man for the position of associate pastor—worship and youth. Job description can be found on our website at [www.fcbethany.org](http://www.fcbethany.org). Interested candidates may submit their resumés with cover letters to: Personnel Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 North 22nd St., Bethany, MO 64424; or email to: [fcbethany@gmail.com](mailto:fcbethany@gmail.com). All resumés must be received by 12/30/2011.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for New Liberty Baptist Church, located in the small town of New Liberty, Ky. Send resumé to Search Committee, PO Box 53, New Liberty, KY 40355.

**SEEKING:** Senior pastor, Glasgow Baptist Church. Prefer 5 years experience and seminary degree. Lead both contemporary and traditional services. Send resumé to Jesse R. Brown, 107 Karakal DR, Glasgow, KY 42141.

**SEEKING:** Part-time minister of music and worship for Perryville Baptist Church in central Kentucky. PBC enjoys exciting, blended worship of contemporary music and hymns. Interested applicants may respond by sending resumés with cover letters to [douglasdavis85@yahoo.com](mailto:douglasdavis85@yahoo.com).

**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.comcastbiz.net](mailto:personnel@calvarybapcbc.comcastbiz.net); or mail: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

**SEEKING:** Permanent part-time children's ministry coordinator to lead ministries for K-5th grade in a church with great potential. Must have or be pursuing a degree in Christian childhood development. Send resumé to Mr. Ira Linville, Personnel Committee chair, Crestwood Baptist, 1006 E Main St., Frankfort, KY 40601. For information, call Ira Linville at (502) 226-6517.

### To place an advertisement:



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

**SEEKING:** Full-time pastor for Airline Missionary Baptist Church. General attendance 120; parsonage available. Send resumé to Airline Baptist Church, 1942 Clay St., Henderson, KY 42420, Attn: Pastor Search Committee.

**SEEKING:** Minister of children and recreation for Shelbyville FBC. We are a Bible-driven ministry with a weekly attendance of 500-600 with great potential for continued growth. Candidate should be energetic, self-motivated, well organized, and a creative team player who can relate to children, families and other adults on a personal and spiritual level. A bachelor's degree is required and a master's degree with related experience is a plus. Send or email resumés by Jan. 8, 2012, to Dr. Stephen C. Rice, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; [srice@shelbyvillebaptist.com](mailto:srice@shelbyvillebaptist.com). Phone: (502) 633-1317; website: [www.shelbyvillebaptist.com](http://www.shelbyvillebaptist.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.

# Awakening: World's No. 1 need

Research suggests that only 11 of every 100 people in the world claim Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. About 50 percent of the world's population presently has no realistic opportunity to hear the gospel and the percentage is growing. Every minute, 120 people are born, likely to live their entire lives and never hear the name of Jesus—not even once.

What is the greatest need in the world today? Awakening! We need to see an awakening of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the earth. We must go places we've never gone to, talk to people we've never talked to, and share Jesus where His name has not yet been spoken. Our last great hope in this world is to experience an awakening of the Great Commission.

Consider three brief questions that I believe must be answered if we are going to meet our world's greatest need:

### 1. How should we define the Great Commission?

It really is a clear vision: Tell every person in the world about Jesus and make disciples of all nations. The challenge is getting people to realize that the Great Commission is about more than going "over there." It is also about reaching people "right here."

In fact, Jesus shows us in Acts 1:8 the progression of how we are to fulfill the Great Commission. "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Jesus starts where the listeners were and moves farther away. Notice it is not progressive in a chronological sense. He never uses the word "then." We are not intended to go here then there, but here and there. We are to be witnesses for Jesus locally, nationally and internationally—all at the same time.

The Great Commission is the task of reaching every person in the world with the life-changing power of the gospel and helping them grow in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### 2. How can I see my church awakened?

We need to see a major global spiritual awakening in the church of Jesus Christ. We need a global spiritual shaking to occur all around the world. In seeking the catalyst for this spiritual movement, we need to:

■ Wake up to the need itself. The world has seen too long what the arm of the flesh will do in and through the church. We need the world to see what God will do in and through the church. Business as usual has to stop immediately. We need to experience a mighty spiritual movement of God.

■ Prioritize prayer. When we pray, it demonstrates that we are

depending on God. When we do not pray, it shows we are depending on ourselves. Prayerless worship services will develop prayerless churches. Prayerless churches will operate in the power of the flesh, rather than the power of the Spirit.

### First Person



Ronnie Floyd

■ Act on fulfilling the Great Commission. Now! Yes, this is our NOW moment. We can no longer delay in capturing our communities with the gospel or proclaiming the gospel to the ends of the world. Spiritual awakening will occur when the church is doing gospel work. Acts 1:8 affirms that spiritual power is commensurate with our commitment to taking the gospel to people and places where the gospel has never been before.

3. How can I make the Great Commission more personal?

One of the reasons many churches do not have an emphasis on the Great Commission is that the members and leadership are not personally committed to it. Each Christ-follower must own the Great Commission! To awaken the Great Commission personally, we each need to ask ourselves three questions:

■ Do I know Jesus intimately? Developing an intimate relationship with Jesus will create a deep desire to fulfill the Great Commission. It works the other way, too. The more passionate you are about the Great Commission, the more intimately you will know Jesus.

■ Do I love Jesus passionately? There is no better way of becoming passionate, intimate Christ-followers than through prayer and the Word of God. Despite our best efforts, awakening the Great Commission will lack its full effectiveness if we do not follow biblical principles and cover everything in prayer. Pray for a personal rediscovery of your passion for Jesus and a Great Commission awakening will surely follow.

■ Do I share Jesus constantly? Knowing Christ intimately and loving Him passionately will always lead to sharing Him with others. These three are inseparable. To know Christ is to love Him; to love Him is to share Him.

Never has there been a better time to live than today. While we might bemoan the events occurring in the world today, we need to see these moments as God moments. This is a special defining moment for the church to become awakened spiritually, resulting in an awakening of telling every person in the world about Jesus Christ and making disciples of all the nations.

I am believing God for a global spiritual awakening. This is our last great hope! (BP)

Ronnie Floyd is senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, with campuses in Springdale, Pinnacle Hills and Fayetteville.

## Preacher's Kids

David Ayers

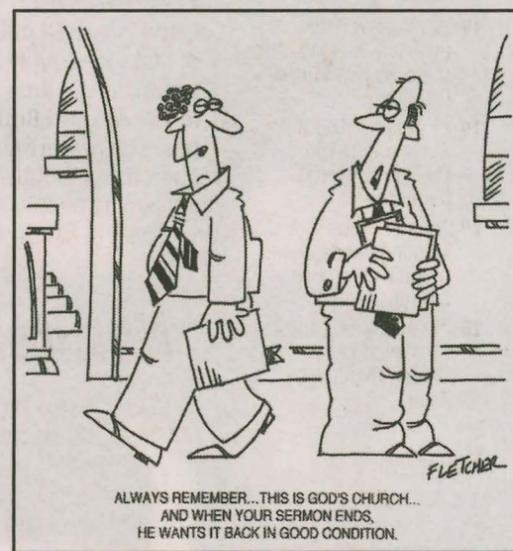


Joe Mckeever



Fletch

Dennis Fletcher



## Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

### Across

- 1 Engrossed
- 5 "In God will I praise \_\_\_ word" (Psalm 56:10)
- 8 "The Lord came unto the prophet Gad, David's \_\_\_" (2 Samuel 24:11)
- 12 "Wilt thou \_\_\_ destroy the righteous with the wicked?" (Genesis 18:23)
- 13 "Of \_\_\_, the family of the Erites" (Numbers 26:16)
- 14 "He would not spend the time in \_\_\_" (Acts 20:16)
- 15 Seriously wound
- 16 "But it \_\_\_ thou" (Psalm 55:13)
- 17 "Rejoicing, so that the city \_\_\_ again" (1 Kings 1:45)
- 38 Chemical suffix
- 20 "Let my last \_\_\_ be like his!" (Numbers 23:10)
- 22 "There is nothing \_\_\_ for me" (1 Samuel 27:1)
- 25 "It is \_\_\_ a spiritual body" (1 Corinthians 15:44)
- 29 "They are vanity, and the work of \_\_\_" (Jeremiah 10:15)
- 30 "A soft \_\_\_ turneth away wrath" (Proverbs 15:1)
- 31 American Institute of Electronics, abbr.
- 32 Mine product
- 33 "His hands were \_\_\_ until the going down of the sun" (Exodus 17:12)
- 37 Girl's name
- 40 Exam taker
- 41 "It \_\_\_ fire and brimstone from heaven" (Luke 17:29)
- 42 Hot and cold beverage
- 43 "His master shall bore his ear through with an \_\_\_" (Exodus 21:6 NKJV)
- 44 "I will speak but this \_\_\_" (Judges 6:39)
- 47 Agent, in other words, abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15				16				17			
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			42				43				
44	45	46			47	48		49	50	51	52
53					54				55		
56					57				58		

- 49 Greek god of love
- 53 "Where the body of Jesus had \_\_\_" (John 20:12)
- 54 Confederate general
- 55 "And they \_\_\_ upon horses" (Jeremiah 6:23)
- 56 "Exceeding in \_\_\_ attire upon their heads" (Ezekiel 23:15)
- 57 "\_\_\_, of the Gentiles also" (Romans 3:29)
- 58 Spit out
- 22 "Ye shall slay the \_\_\_" (Leviticus 20:15)
- 23 A descendant of 13-Across
- 24 "I see men as \_\_\_, walking" (Mark 8:24)
- 26 "For they had \_\_\_ with all their heart" (2 Chronicles 15:15)
- 27 Inspiring fear
- 28 "\_\_\_ not, nor be dismayed" (1 Chronicles 22:13)
- 34 "\_\_\_ unto my cry" (Psalm 17:1)
- 35 River in Scotland
- 36 "And this man went up out of his city \_\_\_" (1 Samuel 1:3)
- 37 "For our vines have tender \_\_\_" (Song of Solomon 2:15)
- 38 "There is one \_\_\_ for them" (Leviticus 7:7)
- 39 Tankers for refueling ships
- 44 "And a nourisher of thine \_\_\_ age" (Ruth 4:15)
- 45 "\_\_\_, my son, let us not all now go" (2 Samuel 13:25)
- 46 Business house, Fr. abbr.
- 48 Shoe width
- 50 "And \_\_\_ up their women with child" (2 Kings 8:12)
- 51 Poem
- 52 "Woe to the women that \_\_\_ pillows to all armholes" (Ezekiel 13:18)

### Last puzzle's solution

F	R	Y		S	H	G	P	A	N		Y	A	R	C
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17	G	A	C	A	L	F		20	B	O	W	L	S	
21	O	T		22	U	S	E	T	H		24	E		
25	N	E		26	P	A	T	A		27	P	R		
28	R	O	S	S		30	A		31	32	P		33	
34	S	P	D		35	R	E	P	L	A	N			
37	P	O	E	T	S		39	V	I	A		40	M	E
41	O	T		42	K	E	T	T		43	L	E		R
44	A	R	B	O	R		46	H		47	U			N
48	N	A	V	A	L		50	H	E		51	O		R
52	S	I	G	H	S		53	F	O	R	K	S		L



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