

WESTERN Recorder

November 29, 2011

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 46

'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact

By Kristie Randolph

Cave City—In a time of global unrest and turmoil, laughter and friendship between hundreds of international students from different countries might seem impossible.

Yet for the past 57 years, that is what has taken place at the Cave City Convention Center during the Engage International Student Conference, hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

More than 400 students from 35 countries attended this year's event, held earlier this month. While Engage primarily is a cultural conference for Kentucky's international students, it also is a strategic piece of BCM's efforts to reach international students for Christ alongside local churches.

"As campus ministers who take American students abroad to share the gospel, we've realized they are here at our door," said Cindy Pelphrey, campus minister for Owensboro area schools and the event's coordinator. "We're trying to engage them while they are here. The world is becoming very small."

Event coordinators seek ways to share the gospel and plant seeds for ongoing conversations, she said.

Three years ago, Pelphrey befriended Chinese student Sunny Lu. As a college freshman, Lu was eager to attend the event. Now a graduating senior at Kentucky Wesleyan College, Lu just attended her final conference, and credits the event for many positive memories, experiences and friends.

□ See 'Engage' conference ... Page 2



A student pins a small Germany flag over his home country on a world map. This year more than 400 students representing 35 countries attended the Engage International Student Conference sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. (KBC photo)

IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

By Don Graham

Richmond, Va.—Eight months after unanimously electing Tom Elliff as "God's man" to lead Southern Baptists' global missions efforts, International Mission Board trustees officially inaugurated him as the mission board's 11th leader.

Meeting Nov. 14-15, trustees dedicated an evening to inaugurating Elliff during a special service in Richmond, Va.

Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, a guest speaker at the inauguration, compared Elliff to Barnabas in Acts 11:24—a "good man" of great faith, filled with the Holy Spirit.



INAUGURATED Former International Mission Board president Jerry Rankin prays for his successor as denominational leaders lay hands on Tom and Jeannie Elliff at Elliff's inauguration Nov. 14 as the newest president of the IMB.

"There are 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups (in the world), and God has put on Tom's heart that we challenge the churches of our convention to go out there and reach all 3,800. ... Now that is great

faith," Bryant said.

"We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God has called you to this role," Wright told Elliff.

At the 2011 Southern Baptist

□ See Elliff inaugurated ... Page 4

Southern Baptists called to Jan. prayer

By Joe Conway

Alpharetta, Ga.—In January, Southern Baptists again are being called to a time of prayer and spiritual awakening. The Southern Baptist Convention Call to Prayer is an opportunity to focus on praying missionally, leaders say.

"I can't think of a better way for our churches to start the new year than to be in prayer for our families, our churches, our new church plants and our efforts to reach the unreached people groups of the world," said Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board.

"NAMB is pleased to have the privilege to coordinate this effort this year. We want to

□ See Call to Prayer ... Page 4

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Western Recorder 11-29-2011

Ky. Baptist pastor pens Bible study for Harry Potter movies

By Bob Allen

Hustonville—With the recent release of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2," the eighth and final film in the long-running series based on books by J.K. Rowling on DVD and Blu-ray, a Kentucky Baptist pastor has written a Bible study to help young people discern between the series' mixed messages about good and evil.

"Depending on who you talk with in the evangelical community, you'll receive a variety of opinions concerning Harry Potter: 'Christians shouldn't watch it,' 'Christians can enjoy God through it,' and even, 'It's of the devil,'" author Jared Moore writes in "The Harry Potter Bible Study."

Moore, pastor of New Salem Baptist Church in Hustonville and a Baptist blogger who contributes to SBC Voices, admits the stories contain "some evil

elements," yet he said he believes the stories are "still an avenue through which Christians can enjoy God."

Moore, a graduate of Liberty University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, contends that instead of trying to shield their children from all worldly influences, parents should teach them to discern between truth and lies.

"One way to help our children cultivate discernment in this wicked world is to engage in the media wars with them as a guide," he writes.

Finding positive messages

In the study, Moore confronts parts of the Harry Potter series that some evangelicals find objectionable—the element

of witchcraft and wizardry, occasional inappropriate language and the central role of revenge.

He then draws out other positive mes-

sages for discussion such as, "Are we willing to lay down our lives for our enemies?" "Should Christians stand up for truth?" and "Are all humans equally valuable?"

Moore even finds fodder for current issues including, "Should Christians use performance-enhancing drugs as they participate in sports?" and situation ethics in, "Is telling untruth ever permitted by God?"

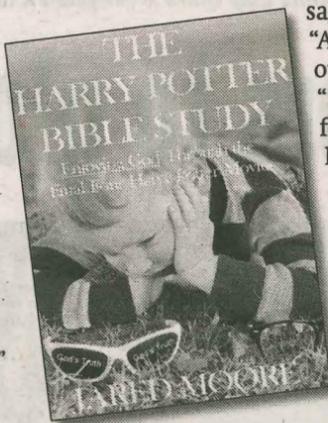
"In God's world, all truth is God's truth and all lies are Satan's lies," according to a description on the book's dust jacket. "The Harry Potter series, like all

forms of media, presents truth and lies interwoven into a complicated web. The purpose of this Bible study is to help Christians take every thought captive to obey Christ as they untangle this web."

Moore writes in an appendix that some Christians avoid watching scary movies because they fear it will cause them to doubt that God is in control.

"First, if you doubt God, scary movies are not the reason; rather, scary movies merely bring to the surface the doubt that is already there in your heart," he says.

"The answer to your sin problem is not attempting to minimize your outside influences," Moore writes. "You should be able to face scary situations, whether voluntary or involuntary, without doubting God. Rather, your answer should be to pray, memorize Scripture, and face voluntary fears while believing what God has said in His perfect Word." (ABP)



'Engage' conference

Continued from page 1

"I was interested in it at first because, as a freshman, I was interested in everything," Lu said. Engage "was amazing. Everyone loves Engage. They are always very excited and they always want to stay there longer."

Lu does not claim to be a Christian, but said Engage helped her understand Christianity better and to see the positive impact it has on believers.

"They would talk to us about Christianity and would help us understand more about the Bible," she said. "Another girl from China that I met said she is a Christian now. She wants to go back to China and introduce other Chinese people to Christianity."

According to Pelphrey, respect for the culture of each student is a key theme throughout the entire weekend.

Each year, students represent their home countries by wearing traditional dress during the Saturday night parade of nations and cultural fashion show. A talent show allows students to incorporate their traditions and languages into performances, and "family groups" serve to encourage questions and sharing about faith and culture.

The positive atmosphere created at Engage is critical to the weekend's success. One might anticipate conflict with so many cultures represented, Pelphrey said, but instead there always has been a sense of excitement and community.

"We can come together and be unified for three days. We love each other and talk openly about our faith," she said. "For some, it's the first time they have ever heard about Jesus."

"We ask them to come to a worship service on Sunday as an optional part of the conference. We tell them we respect their culture and faith, but that we would like them to come experience something new," Pelphrey added.

Professions of faith often are made at the event, she said, "but many times it happens in the weeks following when the conversations really can take place."

With record numbers of international students on Kentucky's campuses, Engage is just one of the many ways cam-

pus ministers are seeking to reach them for Christ.

According to the Institute of International Education's Open Doors Data report, 723,277 international students have studied at colleges and universities in the U.S. during the past year. More than 4,800 of those students are pursuing degrees at a college or university in Kentucky.

Just 10 years ago, the report accounted for 547,867 international students in the U.S. In 1950, only 29,813 international students were recorded.

Lizzi-beth Spence, collegiate ministry specialist for the KBC, said international student outreach is a key piece of BCM's strategy to reach college campuses.

"We have an ongoing presence on most of our major campuses that focuses on reaching international students," she said. "We have five semester missionaries partially funded by the KBC and the North American Mission Board who target this demographic."

Other outreach programs include teaching English as a Second Language courses, language partners, Bible studies, fellowship meals and more.

"The fulcrum of society is the university campus. We have access to students from all over the world, including places where we cannot place missionaries," Spence pointed out. "The goal is to share the gospel with them and help them grow in their faith so when they go back home, they can reach their families and people groups."

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has long been a partner with BCM in international-student ministry. The majority of the funding for Engage comes from the Eliza Broadus Offering, granted through WMU, Pelphrey said.

"WMU gives a large amount to international ministry, not just to the Engage Conference, but also for things like interns on college campuses," she said.

Maryann Lee, WMU youth and college consultant, said sponsoring the event is one way WMU can be involved in campus ministry.

"Engage provides a chance for them to hear about spiritual things and hear from other Christians in a non-threatening way," she added. "I think God was at work the whole weekend." (KBC)



CULTURAL DISPLAY
Students from China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam pose for a photo during the parade of nations and cultural fashion show. The parade and fashion show are a highlight of the annual Engage conference sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. (KBC photo)

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Creativity, ingenuity needed in St. Louis

The creativity and ingenuity that emerges from the mind of man is truly amazing. Our capacity to think, reason, dream, imagine and envision greater possibilities is a splendid blessing from our Creator. It is a blessing that provides us with an infinitesimal glimpse of the awesome mind of God.

The current issue of Time magazine features a list of the 50 best inventions of the year. Many iPhone users recently were introduced to Siri, an intelligent personal assistant who reminds them of appointments, finds helpful information such as directions, and even takes dictation. And just last Saturday, NASA launched a new rover, Curiosity, which will explore the Gale Crater, an area the size of Rhode Island and Connecticut, when it lands on Mars in August.

Here are a few more of the incredible innovations—just to let you know what else we have to look forward to: Scientists at MIT believe they have developed a drug that will cure 15 viruses, including the common cold. Intel is expected to release a 3-D transistor chip next year that will perform 37 percent faster. BMW is working on headlights that use lasers instead of LED bulbs. A California company makes a hummingbird-size drone that can be used by the military to scout or to hunt for earthquake survivors. And those who have ever sat in a wing seat next to a roaring jet engine will appreciate the PurePower engine, which not only boasts a significant improvement in fuel burn, but also makes half as much noise.

In an article accompanying Time's list, "Reinventing the Inventor," Lev Grossman describes an inventor as someone "who's thinking really different." An inventor, he maintains, is somehow able to "make things do what they're not supposed to do—what's not even supposed to be possible." Grossman explains: "... (Y)ou have to think truly different(ly) to look at sour milk and see a new textile, which is what the German biologist and fashion designer Anke Domaske did. Or to use electricity to put out fires rather than start them, as Harvard researcher Ludovico Cademartiri does. What if you could refocus a picture after you took it? Lytro's Light Field camera can. What if you could use an fMRI machine to capture a picture straight from someone's imagination? It's been done. Gallant did it."



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

"Thinking different"—now there's a clever way to put it. And, as Kentucky Baptists approach their new partnership with Baptists in the St. Louis area, that ability is exactly what we need, especially when it comes to finding ways to plant 125 churches by 2020. Suppose we put a little creativity and the ingenuity of God's people to work in accomplishing the task. Imagine the possibilities!

The challenge is tremendous. An estimated 2.7 million people live in the St. Louis metropolitan area, comprised of 15 surrounding counties in Missouri and Illinois. Currently there is one Baptist church for every 7,500 residents. (By comparison, there is one Baptist church for every 1,600 people in Kentucky.) Innovative strategies in successful church planting will be essential in reaching out to approximately 1.35 million people there who claim no religious affiliation whatsoever.

Yet, because St. Louis is only a few hours away for most Kentucky Baptists, this missions partnership also provides a tremendous opportunity for our churches to use their collective, creative energies in innovative outreach efforts. Perhaps new prayer ministries will be envisioned to link members, churches and associations in providing support for missions projects. Perhaps youth or students will discover clever ways to conduct community probes and surveys to help determine ideal locations to begin churches. After holding Vacation Bible Schools at our churches, perhaps leaders can be recruited to lead a mission VBS or backyard Bible clubs in a St. Louis neighborhood or apartment complex. Perhaps adult choirs—after putting all that rehearsal time in preparing Christmas pageants, Easter cantatas or patriotic musicals—might plan a missions trip to sing at a new church, a mall or park. Or, perhaps a Baptist Men's group could form a construction team to help build a worship facility or remodel an existing one, or WMU and Sunday School leaders could train GA, Acteens and RA or Bible study leaders at a new church.

Scott Pittman, partnership missions director at the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is responsible for enlisting volunteers for approved projects, which have been requested by Baptists in the St. Louis area. Contact Pittman to find out more creative ways your church can be involved in starting churches.

Denominations exist, but do they matter?

Elton Trueblood first popularized the term "post-denominational" in 1967. In an article appearing in Christianity Today, Trueblood stated, "If we are truly conscious of what time it is, one of the

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

chief facts we must know is that, so far as the Christian religion is concerned, we are in a post-denominational age." Forty-four years have passed since Trueblood made that statement and we still have our denominations.

The question today is not whether denominations exist. The question is: does anyone care?

I grew up reaping benefits of denominational life without realizing it. My Sunday School literature and offering envelopes were produced by the denomination. The hymnals and pew Bibles were from the denomination. Most of the songs the choir sang were published by the denomination. My pastor was educated by a denominational seminary. My youth pastor was being educated at a denominational college. Most of my family members who went to college attended a liberal arts college supported by the denomination. I attended summer camps built and staffed by the denomination and youth events sponsored by the denomination. I learned about missions from missionaries supported by the denomination.

While some of that has changed, much of it has not.

Twenty years ago, a young editor, Al Mohler Jr., wrote in the Christian Index, "American religion is experiencing a fundamental restructuring which will transform the landscape of the nation's religious life. Virtually every religious denomination or body is engaged in a process of reorientation, reorganization, or focused on a search for identity." Some things never change!

In fact, the reorientation of religious life, and of Baptist life, seems to be accelerating. Beginning with the reorganization of the International Mission Board, the advancement of the Great Commission Resurgence agenda at the national convention and state conventions, as well as a host of retirements marking the generational transition of leadership, and the shrinking financial commitments of local churches to the Cooperative Program, everything about denominational life seems to be in flux.

I contend, however, that the greatest change we are experiencing is a lack of understanding of, and interest in, the kingdom role of the denomination. Some see it as irrelevant. Some see it as financially competing with their local church agenda. Some simply refuse to exhibit the kind of loyalty required for denominational structures and ministries to thrive. Most remain uninformed regarding the partnership opportunities afforded by the denomination.

Given the reality that denominational structures within the SBC still exist and are trying desperately to serve our churches, what does all this mean for the KBC? Tune in next week ...

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Grace giving

By Doug Strader

Recently one of our members shared with me that a statement that I had made during our Stewardship Emphasis was true from his perspective. Specifically that tithing is a heart issue and not a pocketbook issue. He further stated that he had grown up in a very conservative rural church where tithing was neither taught nor practiced. People gave enough for the church to pay her bills, but nothing more. That is quite a contrast to the way the Macedonians gave according to the Apostle Paul.

How did the Macedonians give? In 2 Corinthians 8, Paul describes their

giving philosophy to the offering he was receiving for the Jerusalem Christians:

- He described their giving as the grace of God.
- They were being severely afflicted.
- They had an overflow of joy.
- They were in extreme poverty.
- They had an overflowing wealth of generosity.
- They not only gave according to their means, but beyond their means.
- They did it of their own free will.
- They begged for the privilege of giving to the saints in Jerusalem.
- They first gave themselves to the Lord and then to Paul and his companions,

Paul was using the Macedonian example to inspire the Corinthians to

action. As you think about your giving philosophy to the Lord's work, how does it compare to the Macedonian example? Are you a grace giver, or do you give only what you think you can afford? Think about what the Lord has done for you, how you have been a recipient of His grace? Then compare your giving habits with the grace He has given to you.

Each Sunday when we worship through giving, it should please us to know that we have offered to God our best. We have trusted Him for our salvation, now we trust Him by giving Him our tithes and offerings. As the words of the song says, "Because I have been given much, I, too must give." That is grace giving.

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



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Tenn. Baptists voice opposition to exploring SBC name change

By Lonnie Wilkey

Hendersonville, Tenn.—Messengers to the Tennessee Baptist Convention annual meeting adopted a resolution opposing a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The resolution passed by a show of hands vote during the closing session of the state convention meeting Nov. 15-16 in Hendersonville, Tenn.

SBC President Bryant Wright announced in September the appointment of a 16-member presidential task force to study the prospect of changing the 166-year-old convention's name. Wright cited two reasons for the study: church planting limitations related to the convention's regional name and reduced effectiveness in reaching a 21st-century audience with the gospel.

Phillip Senn, a messenger from Blessed Hope Baptist Church in Troy, Tenn., submitted the resolution. It acknowledged Wright's appointment of a task force and said "it has been argued that keeping the name Southern Baptist Convention could cause harm to our missionary efforts worldwide."

The resolution noted that "messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention have repeatedly turned away such proposals" and that the SBC is "recognized worldwide as a convention of churches partnering together for 'One Sacred Effort, the Propagation of the Gospel.'"

Among the reasons listed in the

resolution for why the name change is not needed:

- "The costs associated with such a name change could be used for things that relate more closely to our task of winning the lost to Christ;

- "Many costs associated with such a name change would be borne by the churches associated with the Tennessee Baptist Convention;

- "There may also be other unanticipated negative consequences of such a name change."

Messengers resolved to "support retaining the historic name 'Southern Baptist Convention' and oppose any change to such name."

The resolution also stated that "we ask the president of the Southern Baptist Convention to cease the work of the task force" and that a copy of the resolution "be forwarded to each member of the SBC presidential task force, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the members of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention."

Wright, in a statement after the Tennessee convention adjourned, said: "We are asking all Southern Baptists to pray for the task force as we study and explore the possibility of a name change. The key question we are asking as we study all possible ramifications is, 'Would a name change enhance our mission of better fulfilling Christ's Great Commission in North America in the 21st century?'"

(Tennessee Baptist & Reflector/BP)



ON HIS KNEES Tom Elliff concludes his inauguration as president of the International Mission Board by inviting those in attendance to kneel with him in prayer. (BP photo)

Elliff inaugurated

Continued from page 1

Convention meeting in Phoenix, an "Embrace" initiative was launched to challenge churches to do "whatever it takes" to make Jesus' name known among unengaged, unreached people groups in which less than 2 percent of the people are evangelical Christians and no active church planting strategy is under way among them.

The Embrace initiative, born of a prayer-laden collaboration between Elliff and Wright, sets an ambitious goal for congregations of long-term commitments to UUPGs.

Also during their meeting, IMB trustees appointed 77 new missionaries, all of whom were present at the inauguration. Elliff spoke about his passion for reaching those who do not place their faith in Jesus Christ and

underscored the importance of anchoring one's identity in Christ.

"We must not confuse our role at the present moment with our identity—that is, who we are," he challenged. "Sometimes I'm introduced as president of IMB. ... That may be what I am doing right now, but that is not who I am. I am a bond slave" of Christ.

"It haunts me to think of any man, woman, boy or girl ... being alive a million (or) billion years from now in an actual, awful, but always place called hell, which is the destiny of every person who does not name the name of Jesus and has not repented and received Him by faith as their Savior.

"Jesus had compassion on those who came to Him. It moved Him viscerally," Elliff noted. "But please understand that what ultimately keeps us going is that what we do is not just for the lost; it is primarily for Jesus' sake." (IMB/BP)



CALLED TO PRAY Kevin Ezell (second from left), president of the North American Mission Board, links hands in prayer with NAMB staffers. Ezell and NAMB are calling Southern Baptists to join in concentrated prayer efforts in January. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

Call to Prayer

Continued from page 1

make it easy for every Southern Baptist pastor to lead his congregation in focused prayer," Ezell added. "I can't think of anything more essential in our efforts to reach North America and the world."

NAMB will provide resources to assist churches in participating in the prayer emphasis.

"We are encouraging Southern Baptists to begin the new year praying for spiritual awakening that will penetrate lostness," noted Al Gilbert, executive

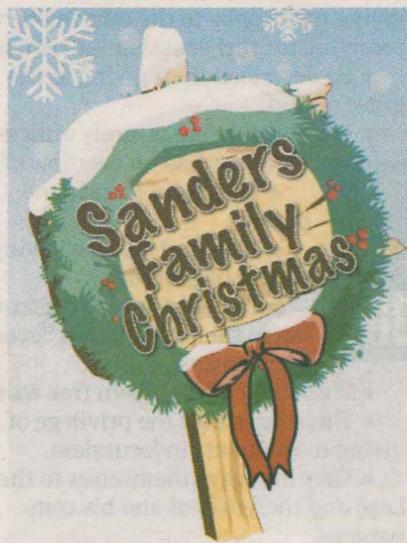
director of NAMB's Love Loud ministry. "Continuing in the spirit of what happened at the SBC in Phoenix, NAMB and the IMB are working together to provide specific ways for people to pray for our communities, our nation and our world.

"We are providing tools for pastors to use any time in January. These tools will assist church leaders in calling their people to prayer," Gilbert said.

State convention prayer leaders will assist churches in their states to implement Call to Prayer strategies. The emphasis will focus on five key areas of prayer: family and friends; church; nation; world; and the Southern Baptist Convention. (NAMB/BP)

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Study: More than half of children grow up in broken homes



Low attendance disappoints New Baptist Covenant planners

Atlanta—Planners of the Nov. 17-19 New Baptist Covenant gatherings were disappointed with attendance but pleased with the diversity and quality of presentations, one of the organizers said Nov. 21.

"We had hoped for a larger attendance," said David Key, director of Baptist studies at Candler School of Theology at Emory University. "At the same time we feel like our content with the program was very strong."

Key said planners were disappointed that more people didn't hear them in person, but thanks to Internet technology, video of all the plenary sessions is available on demand at the New Baptist Covenant website. He said

more than 1,000 people viewed the site over the weekend.

Crowds at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church in Atlanta, host site for sessions broadcast by satellite to eight other venues across the United States, ran about 250.

While numbers did not match organizer's hopes, diversity did. Participants primarily included African-Americans and Anglos, but Hispanics and Native Americans also joined in.

Steven Avinger, pastor of Philadelphia's Greater Saint Matthew Baptist Church, said initiatives like the New Baptist Covenant II help lower racial barriers, but there is "still a lot of work to do." (ABP)

Washington—Only 46 percent of children in the United States will reach age 17 having grown up in a home with biological parents who are married—a figure that has a significant impact on the nation's graduation, poverty and teenage birth rates, according to a new report.

"We have never faced anything like this in human history," said the Family Research Council's Pat Fagan, one of the co-authors of the study.

Compiled by Fagan and psychologist Nicholas Zill and released by the Family Research Council's Marriage & Religion Research Institute, the data shows that:

- The intact family rate is highest in the Northeast (49.6 percent) and lowest in the South (41.8 percent).

- Minnesota (57 percent) and Utah (56.5 percent) have the highest intact family rates among all 50 states, with Mississippi (34 percent) the lowest.

- Asians (65.8 percent) have the highest rate among ethnic and racial classes; blacks (16.7 percent) have the lowest.

The authors call their report the index of family belonging, and say there is a direct correlation between a low "family belonging" rate, and high poverty and low graduation rates. A north-to-south trip on the Mississippi River, from Minnesota to Mississippi, is a good example of this correlation, the authors say.

The percentage of children who reach age 17 with married biological parents falls drastically as one travels down the river, from 57 percent in Minnesota, to 49 percent in Illinois, 40 percent in Tennessee and 34 percent in Mississippi. At

the same time, the graduation rate also falls significantly (Minnesota, 86 percent; Illinois, 80 percent; Tennessee, 75 percent; Mississippi, 64 percent). The family belonging rate is "more closely linked" to graduation rates than is government spending, the report noted.

Likewise, the child poverty rate is closely tied to the breakup of the family; in Minnesota it is 14 percent. The rate then climbs during the trip down the Mississippi River: Illinois (19 percent), Tennessee (24 percent) and Mississippi (31 percent). Similarly, the unmarried teen birth rate climbs: Minnesota (6 percent), Illinois (9 percent), Tennessee (11 percent) and Mississippi (14 percent).

The report suggested four reasons

why the poverty rate is tied so closely to the breakup of the family:

- Even if wages are low, a couple is more likely to avoid poverty if both parents contribute financially.

- It is "inherently more costly" for parents to live apart and to spend money on two houses.

- A father is "motivated to work harder to support a child" when he lives with the child and mother.

"The foundational relationship of marriage has quite an impact on the wellbeing of children, and on the welfare of both the states and the nation," said Fagan, director of the FRC's Marriage & Religion Research Institute. "Sad to say, our family culture today is primarily a culture of rejection between parents. ... Most American mothers and fathers cannot stand each other enough to raise the children they brought into existence." (BP)

Pat Fagan:

"The foundational relationship of marriage has quite an impact on the wellbeing of children, and on the welfare of both the states and the nation."

Refuge, love, hope, healing

Kentucky's abused, neglected kids get help, healing through Sunrise

Regretfully, there are thousands of children across the Commonwealth of Kentucky who are abused and neglected on a daily basis. They suffer 24/7 from physical, sexual and emotional abuse. We wish these tragic circumstances would go away, but they do not. In fact, they are escalating. There is evidence the commonwealth leads the nation in the number of deaths directly related to abuse and neglect.

Fortunately, we Kentucky Baptists have a solution which includes providing these children a safe place to stay (a refuge), in the care of people who love them and give them hope, which in turn results in healing and the opportunity to mature and live fulfilled lives as adults toward a brighter future.

Sunrise Children's Services is the oldest Southern Baptist-related children's ministry, dating back to its beginning in 1869 when the women of Louisville's Walnut Street Baptist Church stepped out to do "more for Christ" and opened up a shelter for children left orphaned by the Civil War.

So many things have changed in the

generations since, including the kind of care most children need today. The days of orphanages are past, and now we face challenges best met through foster homes and residential programs.

What hasn't changed is the mandate for Kentucky Baptists to provide solutions to children who continue to suffer from abuse and neglect. This is no easy task, and it can be accomplished best by cooperation. Indeed, we can do "more for Christ" together than we can alone.

How can you plug into being a part of this Christ-honoring solution? First, include Sunrise

President Bill Smithwick, the staff and the volunteer board members who give leadership to this vital ministry in your prayers. Second, be sure to make a generous contribution through your church or directly to the Thanksgiving Offering which benefits this ministry. Third, call Sunrise toll free (855) 334-2273 for information about becoming a foster parent. Finally, call Laurie Valentine or me about making Sunrise a part of your estate stewardship plan.

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

Room for another at the dinner table?

Holidays offer reminder that many children need loving foster homes

As we embark on the Christmas season, our thoughts are filled with images of gathering around a table with relatives and loved ones. While we'll spend plenty of time at shopping malls and parties in the coming weeks, the most festive and warming holiday setting remains the home.

That is, if you have a home.

For thousands of children across Kentucky who suffer from abuse and neglect, home might not bring such warm feelings or memories. Instead, these children are battered by memories of suffering, loneliness and abandonment. For these children, family holiday traditions are nothing more than pictures on a greeting card or images on a commercial they may have seen. Reality for them is much colder.

Fortunately, many of these children find peace in the form of a foster home where, possibly for the first time in their lives, the children feel the love and warmth of family.

At Sunrise Children's Services, we've heard touching stories of children and young people enjoying the holidays for the first time because they're in a safe,

secure setting and surrounded by people who care for them. Some have known hunger, many have known pain, and almost all of them have known fear. But this year, things will be different all because a family made an extra place at the table for them.

Others however, still are waiting—waiting for homes where a good, warm meal can be enjoyed; where it's safe to close their eyes and enjoy a peaceful night's sleep; homes where morning will find them welcomed as part of a loving family.

As you enjoy the holiday season this year with your family, we hope you may consider if

there might not be room for more at your table. You can learn more about foster parenting by visiting our website, www.Sunrise.org.

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and we thank you for your continued prayers for and support of Sunrise Children's Services.

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

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

'Nobody's easy job'

Oneida's tutoring lab seeks to take students to where they need to be

By Martha Harmon, OBI tutor

The tutoring lab is a "special place" at Oneida Baptist Institute. In the beginning it was called the special help program. The work began in 1972 with Hannah Sanderson working alone; the second year there were two teachers. In 1976 Floy DeJarnette became the supervising teacher. By 1978 there were six full-time adults, plus student volunteers, working with 30 students.

A 1978 Oneida Mountaineer article quoted the state superintendent of public instruction, James Graham, who said, "The special help program is one of the most exciting programs in Kentucky education today."

Mrs. DeJarnette used her many years of experience in education to develop a method of helping students. They learn at different paces. We need to teach the student and not the subject. Take time and patience with slower learners. She often said, "This is nobody's easy job."

Social promotion results in some high-school students who cannot read, spell or do simple math. The cure for the problem lies in giving more individual attention. Encouragement and allowing the student to work at his or her own pace helps bring success. Having problems with school work often leads to behavior problems with which the student must deal before he or she can be successful.

We emphasize that the student can learn and "together we will do it." Quoting the Mountaineer article: "Our entire special help program is an affirmation of our Christian belief in and commitment to the worth and potential of each God-made person."

The special help program is not and

never has been "special education." We have students who are behind their peers, have gaps in their learning, and are struggling in school. We try to take them from where they are to where they need to be, giving them extra guidance in study skills. Often students are able to return to the classroom after they fill in gaps in their academic skills.

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

When I came to work as a tutor in the summer of 1986, we met in three classrooms and Mrs. DeJarnette's office. Most of our work was with middle schoolers. In 1989 we moved to a new building located near where old Marvin Hall once stood. On May 2, 1989, it was dedicated as Hannah Sanderson Hall. There is a middle school side and a high school side in addition to a small library area, the supervisor's office and an extra room.

In 1991 Mrs. DeJarnette retired and Charmaine Nichols became the special help chairperson. Over the years, our program has adjusted to meet the needs of our students. For several years, there were three sections—middle-school reading and math, high-school reading and math, and high-school tutoring in study skills. State curriculum requirements necessitated some changes, so we now have two sections—middle school and high school.

In 1998 the name of the program was changed to tutoring lab. Mrs. Nichols retired in the summer of 2007 and Sharon Grant became lab supervisor. There now are six other teachers. Sometimes we have student peer tutors as part of field placement, a school-to-work program. The tutoring lab continues to provide opportunities for students who are struggling to get the help they need.

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

Back on the right track

Grenko travels long road back to where God wants him in his life

New student Jason Grenko, from Pulaski, Tenn., is thankful for the place God has him in his life now. He recalled the long road it took him to get back on the right track.

"I was saved at an evangelism event when I was 13," Jason said. "My father was not a Christian at the time. When I got saved, my father pulled me right back out of church. I had no one to disciple me and give me direction with my new Christian life. It took me until I was 22 years old to actually get back on the right track with my life.

"When I was 22, I had four good friends who I lived and worked with. One of my friend's father was a deacon in his church," Jason noted. "I had watched him live his life for the Lord. It touched my heart because I knew that was how I needed to be living my life. I started talking to him about my life because God was convicting me about a change I needed to make.

"One Sunday morning, I just showed up on his doorstep after a weekend of

doing things with my friends that I didn't need to be doing," Jason continued. "I talked to him and told him God was convicting me about my life and I needed to make a change. He took me to talk to his pastor and I told him I had

been saved, but I needed to recommit my life to the Lord. His pastor talked to me about that and I recommitted my life to the Lord that day, and God has been doing great things in my life since then.

"I am 32 years old now. My father is a Christian now also," Jason said. "He is living a wonderful Christian life. He stays in his Bible every day.

"God has called me to the pastoral ministry," Jason affirmed. "I am thankful for a place like Clear Creek where I can now get some training to help churches. I have a heart for churches that are experiencing division and conflict. I want to be able to help them reconcile where they have been hurt."

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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Taste and scent: the blessing of remembrance

Sitting at a crude wooden desk in our backyard writing cabin in the cool of a recent evening, sipping an iced tea and writing this column, brought to me memories of the past. I'm not sure if it was the taste of the cool tea or the scent of that languid moment, an evening November scent of musty falling leaves and a dying garden, that caused me to remember, but I understood again the power of the sense of taste and the sense of smell, the two senses that perhaps more than any other can bring on the remembrance of things past.

It caused me to remember the sweet sensation of taking a break from a sandlot baseball game to drink from a tin cup in a neighbor's backyard. It caused me to remember the crunch of garden-fresh cucumber on a summer visit to my aunt and uncle's farm near Atoka, just north of Memphis. It caused me to remember our own backyard in Arkansas where a fence was laden with honeysuckle vine. Our daughter Cammie Jo, though just a baby then, still recalls that wonderful scent of honeysuckle.

I often go to the front of our house here in Murray to run my hands through a boxwood, just to recall through that musky smell the head-high, boxwood mazes that we walked through one summer in Virginia, in Lexington and Williamsburg, when Wesley was just a small boy. Wesley still remembers that smell from the times that summer when Evelyn would read to him "The Boxcar Children" beneath a boxwood arbor in Charlottesville. I encouraged Wesley to take the time to run his fingers through our boxwood, just for no other reason than to recapture that magical summer in Virginia.

I remember the scent of the sourdough bread, freshly baked, that filled my mother's home. That scent represented to me the care that went into the preparation of the starter and then the kneading of the dough. Oh, and her Thanksgiving feasts of turkey and dressing and sweet potato casserole and all manner of other vegetables and fruits and desserts.

I remember an indefinable smell that greeted customers walking into my father's drugstore, what must have been

a potent mixture of powders and salves and ointments and elixirs mingled with the scent of boxes of King Edward cigars.

Marcel Proust knew the power of taste and smell in remembering his childhood in the first volume of his "In Search of Lost Time." Proust wrote: "But when from a long-distant past nothing subsists after the people are dead, after the things are broken and scattered, taste and smell alone, more fragile but more enduring, more immaterial, more persistent, more faithful, remain poised a long time, like souls, remembering, waiting, hoping, amid the ruins of all the rest; and bear unflinchingly, in the tiny and almost impalpable drop of their essence, the vast structure of recollection."

Years ago, my former pastor in Murray, Terry Ellis, preached a sermon that I will never forget. He told us about the scent of a charcoal fire around which Peter denied Christ three times just before the crucifixion. And then, after the resurrection, Peter encountered the risen Lord, this time cooking breakfast on a charcoal fire.

Ellis reminded us of the powerful sense of smell, and suggested that Peter must have remembered that first charcoal fire when he denied knowing Jesus, even as he was given the opportunity around this second charcoal fire to state—three times—his unequivocal love of the Lord. For Peter, the scent of charcoal became the scent of grace.

Saint Peter knew. Marcel Proust knew. And we know, too. The taste of a birthday cake made just for you. The smell of a musty bookshop with treasures waiting to be found by patient booklovers. The taste of the wafer and the juice at the Lord's Supper. The scent of sweet rolls wafting up the stairs at a small church at a sunrise service on Easter morn.

How great the power of the sense of taste and scent to conjure up the remembrance of things past. How great the power of the sense of taste and scent to praise the God of creation for all that He has blessed us with, for all that He has done for us. Oh praise His name!

Duane Bolin teaches in the Department of History at Murray State University. He and his family are members of Murray's First Baptist Church.

A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

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MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church's choir and orchestra will present "Emmanuel God With Us" Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

Campbellsville University's School of Music will hold its annual Christmas Tapestry concert Dec. 2, 7 p.m., at the Ransdell Chapel on campus. For more information, call (270) 789-5237.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Immanuel Church will host Severns Valley Association's pastor/staff/spouse appreciation Christmas banquet Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. **Chuck Darland** is pastor.

Severns Valley Church's choir and worship teams will present "Heaven's Light: A Christmas Worship Celebration" Dec. 4, 6 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

Tunnel Hill Church will celebrate its Hanging of the Green Dec. 4, 7 p.m. **Nathan Whisnant** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church's Angel Choir and King's Kids will perform their Christmas program Dec. 4, 6 p.m. **Hershael York** is pastor.

Crestwood Church's choir will perform "Majesty of Heaven" Dec. 4, 6 p.m.; Dec. 5, 7 p.m. **Michael Hail** is pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church will hold a ladies' Christmas brunch Dec. 6, 10 a.m. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold a Children's Breakfast in Bethlehem event Dec. 3, 8:30 a.m. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

Hillcrest Church held its "I Love

Sunday School" event Nov. 20 with more than 1,100 people in attendance. **Don Mathis** is transitional pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will hold a "Lottie's Party" event Dec. 3, 6 p.m., to kick off the season of giving for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church's children's choirs will perform its Christmas program Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold a Christmas crafts night Dec. 1, 7 p.m., offering two crafts classes. The cost to attend a class is \$5. Also, the church's children's choir will present its Christmas program Dec. 4, 6 p.m. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will hold its Christmas banquet and musical Dec. 2, 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. For more information, call (502) 454-4681. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a Christmas party for single adults Dec. 4, 12:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$12. The church also will host a pair of Christmas concerts featuring pianists **Vicki Daugherty** and **Patty Murrell** Dec. 5, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and includes a catered dinner. For more information about both events, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church's senior-adult choir will present "Come and Adore

Him" Dec. 4.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host Sweet Assurance and the men's quartet in concert Dec. 4, 6 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will hold Missions Emphasis Sunday Dec. 4, 10:30 a.m., with KBC Executive Director **Paul Chitwood** as guest speaker. A fundraising lunch will follow the worship service. **John Brandon** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Hodgenville



First Church will hold a performance of "The Gift of Christmas" Dec. 2-3, 7 p.m.; Dec. 4, 10:45 a.m., with a reception following each performance.

British Baptist paper to cease publication

Didcot, England—The Baptist Times, an award-winning newspaper published weekly for British Baptists for 156 years, will cease both print and digital editions at the end of the year.

Bill Johnston, chairman of the Baptist Times board of directors, said due to declining circulation and advertising sales, the newspaper has increasingly had to depend on subsidies from the Baptist Union of Great Britain to operate. In July the Baptist union's trustees voted to end financial support for the newspaper next spring.

"The directors have considered a number of business options for the paper but with profound regret now conclude that it must close," Johnston said. He expressed gratitude to the Baptist Times staff for their work and expertise to produce a

weekly publication "greatly appreciated by its readership and widely respected in the Christian publishing world."

Jonathan Edwards, general secretary of the Baptist Union of Great Britain, responded to the news with a tribute.

"The Baptist Times has occupied a huge place in the life of our union and its passing will be a matter of sadness to thousands of people," Edwards said. "It was not only valued by Baptists in this country but also by many of our ecumenical and international partners, who often tell me of how much they appreciate it."

The Baptist Times is independent but has had a close working relationship with the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The newspaper's offices are in the Baptist House at Didcot in Oxfordshire. (ABP)



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.

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.

AVAILABLE: Pastor with 20-plus years experience available for pulpit supply or interim. Contact Art Hardin, (502) 863-1642, Georgetown, Ky.

AVAILABLE: For speaking, singing, pulpit supply in churches that will allow me to share the good news of what God can do in their lives. Contact me at home: (859) 748-9003; cell: (859) 612-8447; email: jwscss@bellsouth.net. Jerry Shepherd. Angels at the Crossroads—my story of redemption and love.

DEGREE: Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. www.newburghseminary.com.

SEEKING: Minister of music for Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky. Apply by submitting resumé to colecaven@greenlandbaptistchurch.com.

SEEKING: Bivocational lead pastor for Colesburg Baptist Church, a small Southern Baptist church of around 60. Looking for someone who has a heart to grow with our church, a man who has the ability to effectively communicate the Word of God to our congregation. Candidate needs to have strong communication skills, a consistent prayer life and a passion to reach the lost in the community. To apply for this position, please send resumé and cover letter to Chrystal Baker, chairperson, Pastor Search Committee, 2772 Bardstown Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

SEEKING: Part-time associate pastor of a growing church. PO Box 248 Greensburg, KY 42743. Info: www.greensburgbaptist.com/job.php.

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Wickland Baptist Church, Bardstown. Contact pastorsearchwbc@gmail.com; or WBC, 510 Bloomfield Road, Bardstown, KY 40004.

SEEKING: Kings Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking to the fill the position of children's pastor or children's director. This individual must have a call to lead families to become gospel-centered in their walk. This individual must be willing to work with a team of pastors whose goal is gospel-centered ministry. The position is slated as part time, but as the ministry grows, this position has the potential of becoming full time. The ministry is in great spiritual and physical health due to a great former children's pastor and his wonderful team of volunteers. Our children's ministry teams stand ready to work with God's individual. If after prayer you are lead to inquire about this position in a growing SBC church, please email our elder team at Kjoseph@kingsbaptist.net and you will be sent a detailed job description.

SEEKING: Full-time director of children for Elkton Baptist Church. We are looking for someone who is a team player, energetic, self-motivated, well-organized and can relate to children, parents and the rest of the church. A bachelor's degree is required and experience is a plus. Send or email resumé to: Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220; or ericharris@mchsi.com.

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: 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: 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. Resumé 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.

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; or mail: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

To place an advertisement:



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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. For more information about Gardenside and a full job description, go to www.gbc-lex.com. Resumé 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: 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 resumé by Jan. 8, 2012, to Dr. Stephen C. Rice, 1516 Midland Trail, Shelbyville, KY 40065; srice@shelbyvillebaptist.com. Phone: (502) 633-1317; website: www.shelbyvillebaptist.com.

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