

# WESTERN Recorder

December 13, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 48

## Association rallies around gift ministry

### Daviess-McLean Baptist churches sustain jail Christmas project for nearly quarter-century

By Ken Walker

Owensboro—Leslie Rice kept her motor running at full speed last week, coordinating final steps for Daviess-McLean Baptist Association's delivery of hundreds of Christmas gifts.

"It's my favorite time of the year," said Rice, a ministry assistant at the association. "One lady from Florida called last year and couldn't grasp why we did this. It was hard for her to comprehend.

"One mother who was divorced from an inmate said this was an answer to prayer. She and her family had been praying for her ex-husband, that somebody would talk to him in jail," Rice added. "This was proof that somebody was there for him."

Those are just two of the enthusiastic receptions to the Jail Ministry Christmas Mission Project.

It started about 25 years ago under the direction of the late Don Bratcher, the association's first full-time jail chaplain.

With the exception of a two-year break in the 1990s, every December the association has delivered gifts to the children of inmates at the Daviess County Detention Center. That makes it almost as old as Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree, which has operated for 29 years.

"They always look forward to it," said Curtis Daugherty, who, though now retired as chaplain, still preaches Sunday sermons at the jail.

Daugherty keeps a hand in the project by distributing gift forms to inmates. Despite its long-standing history, he said in early November prisoners started asking if the association would deliver gifts again this year.

"When we first started, it wasn't a big deal because we had a small jail and not many inmates," said Grace Bristow, secretary at Owensboro's Buena Vista Baptist Church, which started sending gift-wrapping teams in the 1980s. "Now we need 600 presents to give each person one."

□ See Gift ministry ... Page 2



Ola Brown, a member of Buena Vista Baptist Church in Owensboro, wraps a gift that will be delivered to a child of an inmate at the Daviess County Detention Center. Volunteers from Daviess-McLean Baptist Association churches have participated in the Jail Ministry Christmas Mission Project for nearly 25 years. (Photo courtesy of Daviess-McLean Baptist Association)

## Eurasians 'heartbeat' of church planting

By Laura Fielding

Kiev, Ukraine—Kiev, Ukraine, gives new meaning to the term "opposites attract."

This capital city of nearly 3 million people is one of the oldest in Europe. It is a mixture of old Soviet architecture and highly developed transportation systems, traditional Slavic mindsets and modern Western European culture, and Orthodox religion and mystic, occultist beliefs.

Home to the first large Slavic kingdom, it also is where Slavic people first became Orthodox. Ukraine later became part of the



**GROWING CHURCHES** People attend a Sunday service at a church started by a graduate of Kyiv Theological Seminary. Dan and Lori Upchurch teach church-planting methodology at the seminary so students can take the gospel back to their own home countries. The seminary attracts students from all over Eurasia, including Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Azerbaijan and Romania. (IMB photo)

Russian empire and consequently the Soviet Union, but gained its independence after the collapse of the USSR in 1991.

A "veneer of western Europe put on an old Soviet heart" sums up the philosophy of most residents.

Slavic people "can easily hold two ideas in their head that radically conflict each other and see

no problem," said Dan Upchurch, an International Mission Board missionary who serves in Kiev with his wife, Lori. "It's not hard for them to deal with the fact that they are Orthodox by tradition, but atheist by practice."

This dichotomous mindset is a major challenge in the couple's ministry work. They and another

□ See Ukraine seminary ... Page 7

## Send North America: Indianapolis

### Indy church plant buoyed by Kentucky Baptist partnership

By Tobin Perry

Indianapolis—Church planter Tony Manning can do a lot with a church of 60.

They can mobilize to canvass the neighborhood and pray for people door by door. They can host a "Parents' Night Out" to help out young families in the area and introduce them to the church.

But holding a marriage conference to help husbands and wives in the church and broken marriages outside of it would have been a tall order for Hamilton Village Church in Fishers, Ind., just outside of Indianapolis.

That's when one of the church plant's partners, Highview Baptist Church in Louisville, pitched in to help.

"We sent young couples from our church on a family mission trip to help Tony put together a marriage conference," Corey Abney, a teaching pastor at Highview who taught the seminar, recalled. "We want to be there to help the church planters with whom we partner in any way they need. This was just one example of that."

Last summer's marriage conference was the third mission trip by Highview members to help the church

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# Christmas project's former organizers reflect on its history

By Ken Walker

**Owensboro**—The widow of the man who started Daviess-McLean Baptist Association's Christmas project marvels at the fact it still is going some 25 years later.

"It's remarkable to think that Don started something and it's still a ministry," said Jodie Bratcher, a member of Lewis Lane Baptist Church in Owensboro. "A lot of people are being ministered to in different ways."

Don Bratcher, who died in 1997, was pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Calhoun when he started visiting inmates at the Daviess County Detention Center in 1984.

A year or two later, Mrs. Bratcher said the Christmas project kicked off after her husband asked what he could do to help prisoners at Christmas.

An inmate replied: "If you want to do something for the inmates, then do something for their children."

The first year's gift drive was a modest effort, backed solely by the donations and volunteer help of Mount Vernon.

After that, the association took it over because it grew to be too much for the country church to handle, Mrs. Bratcher recalled.

However, the Bratchers remained actively involved in the effort.

"There are a lot of stories about children getting gifts when their father was in jail and they weren't expecting anything," Mrs. Bratcher said. "One time a girl got a teddy bear, which was exactly what she wanted. Who knows who put it in someone's mind to give her that gift?"

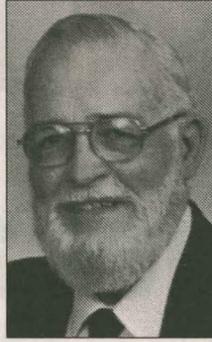
A pastor who oversaw the outreach for about eight years before moving to the Louisville area in 2003 also is thankful it still is operating.

"I think of people with broken lives who need the Lord and I think of the kids," said Don James, pastor of Hopewell Baptist Church in Jeffersonton. "I remember some of the letters we would get from some of the moms, telling how much it meant to the child and the family. It was a relationship-building ministry to the inmates."

Then pastor of Sugar Grove Baptist Church—located just south of Owensboro—James stepped in to help jail chaplain Curtis Daugherty in 1995.

James' then 12-year-old daughter, Corrie Ann, gave him a lot of help that first year and the next few, when distribution averaged around 200 presents.

Gradually, more Sugar Grove mem-



## MINISTRY FOUNDER

The late Don Bratcher started what became Daviess-McLean Baptist Association's Jail Ministry Christmas Mission Project about 25 years ago while pastor of Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Calhoun. His widow, Jodie, called the ongoing ministry "remarkable."

bers and then other churches within the association got more involved.

"Money came from the churches," James said. "We were real active in the association and went to meetings. Brother Curtis always had a report about the Christmas gift project, and churches would take up offerings or put it in their budget."

In fact, the activity grew so fervent they had to open a checking account as a way of accounting for how donations were spent, the pastor recalled.

James said the effort peaked at about 900 gifts around 2001, with about 50 volunteers showing up to wrap presents. Another 30 to 40 later came to deliver them, with each driver taking 8 to 10

gifts for distribution.

"It just seemed like it raised everybody's spirits," James said. "I wouldn't put this ahead of anyone's profession of faith but there was something special about people willing to go out and do something for somebody else."

Yet, even taking heartwarming letters and touching visits into account, the most important aspect was those who came to Christ, James said.

"Oh, yes, people accepted Christ" as Savior, James said. "I remember several opportunities we had to share Christ—deliveries where we had an opportunity to explain why we were doing this."

Although it was hard to follow up on those contacts, Daugherty later visited a number of homes and led people in salvation prayers, he added.

Mrs. Bratcher said she likes the fact that Bibles are included with each gift, as well as the knowledge that God is directing the entire process.

"There are plenty of stories where the right gift hit the right person at the right time," she said. "It's a remarkable thing. There are plenty of stories happening now. Even today I have former inmates come by to see if I need anything because Don was so good to them." (WR)

## Gift ministry

Continued from page 1

After mailing numerous packages to children around Kentucky and across the nation, many will be delivered this weekend by associational volunteers.

While a final count hasn't been determined, since 2008 the ministry has averaged nearly 550 gifts per year.

These aren't popular items like Leap Frog, Nintendo game systems or self-propelled scooters. Toys are to have a maximum value of \$10, meaning things like simple board games, footballs or stuffed animals.

Yet, when it comes to children who often expect nothing, these presents prove it really is the thought that counts.

"We get letters from the kids and it gives them a sense of people reaching out and showing love," said Jerry Carter, pastor of Apollo Heights Baptist Church, the first Owensboro congregation to wrap presents this year. "This is a way we're able to reach out and minister to people we may never know or see."

The project also draws the association together, said Jerry Tooley, longtime director of missions.

He estimated that nearly two dozen of the 56 churches in the association participate through monetary donations, sending members to wrap presents, or delivering them the week before Christmas. "It's a big event," Tooley said.

### Church groups involved

The youth group from Walnut Memorial Baptist Church started the ball rolling Nov. 29 by setting up work stations in a room at the association's headquarters.

Among the other Owensboro churches that followed were Apollo Heights, the seniors group from Buena Vista Baptist, and the seniors' Sunday school class from First Baptist Church.

Since it started about six years ago, First Baptist makes an evening out of it, bringing along chili and sandwiches for the 25 to 30 members who wrap gifts.

Because some state and federal prisoners are housed at the detention center, Rice said their children can live in many other states. That is why the association

spent more than \$800 last year on postage to mail gifts.

Whether delivered by a postal carrier or a volunteer, each gift includes a New Testament for the child's parent or guardian. This year's package will include a new set of Scriptures—a soft-bound Bible storybook for preschoolers and a full Bible for older children.

Gift wrappers know the details of children's gender and ages because inmates complete forms with their children's name, address and guardian's name. Sometimes they include additional information, like the inmate who said his girlfriend wouldn't live much longer because of her heart condition.

"He wanted special prayer for her," Rice said. "We sent the request out to everyone in the association."

Three years ago, it had an unexpected request to send gifts to three children in Mexico. Rice said she thought about sending Walmart gift cards, until she learned they lived in such a small town the only stores around were in open-air markets.

Finally she decided to ship Spanish

Bibles, along with a card for each child signed the way the inmate requested and \$10 in cash.

"The package had to go (through customs) ... and we knew if they got it, it was something really special," Rice said. "We have no idea if they got it. But we also had to draw a line and say we can't ship outside the U.S. anymore."

Even personal deliveries can be tough, said Don Bryant of First Baptist, Owensboro.

"Sometimes you have gifts for two children and five kids come to the door," he said. "Wrapping is a challenge, too."

### Worth the effort

However, in the end all the effort is worth it, Carter said. Since Daugherty is a member of Apollo Heights, they often get word of testimonies and letters from the jail chaplain.

"When you get 'thank you's' and hear testimonies of how people felt when they got the gifts and the love they felt, it kind of grips your soul with a great deal of joy," Carter said. "That's the big influence it has on us." (WR)

# With no funding lined up, religious liberty group takes steps to shut down

**Washington**—The United States' watchdog for worldwide religious liberty has taken steps for its closure if Congress does not extend its life by Dec. 16.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom will cease to operate if Congress does not pass and President Obama does not sign into law no later than Dec. 16 legislation either reauthorizing it or continuing its funding. USCIRF currently is funded in a spending bill that expires on that date.

USCIRF released a resolution Dec. 6 outlining preparations for its closure in case of congressional or presidential inaction. The nine commissioners called

for USCIRF Executive Director Jackie Wolcott and the staff to make sure the commission follows federal law in shutting down, saves and archives the panel's records, and arranges for storage of the archives. The panel said it was required by federal law to make such preparations.

In announcing their action, the commissioners said it is their "most fervent hope" USCIRF would be reauthorized.

USCIRF has played a major role in bringing attention to the persecution of Christians and other religious practitioners since it was established by the International Religious Freedom Act in 1998.

The bipartisan panel advises the White House, State Department and Congress on the status of religious freedom overseas.

Among its responsibilities is to make a yearly report on global conditions for religious adherents and to recommend to the State Department governments that it believes qualify as "countries of particular concern," a designation reserved for the world's worst violators of religious liberty.

### Closure would be a 'catastrophe'

Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty

Commission, and other religious freedom advocates have urged Congress to reauthorize the commission, saying not to do so would be a disaster for faith adherents overseas.

"It would be a catastrophe for religious freedom and human rights around the world if USCIRF were to be defunded and go out of business," he said. "It would send a terrible signal to persecutors and human rights abusers around the world that the government of the United States is no longer as interested in defending those they victimize as it has been in the past," said Land, who is a member of the USCIRF. (BP)

## SBC's Land calls baseball's anti-tobacco policy 'progress'

By Tom Storde

**Washington**—Baseball's new labor agreement does not include the prohibition on smokeless tobacco they wanted, but its new policy still marks an important step, according to Southern Baptist ethicist Richard Land and other advocates of a ban.

The agreement between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association included the following stipulations regarding smokeless tobacco:

- Players, managers and coaches may not have tobacco tins or packages in their uniforms during games or any other time spectators are in the stadium.

- They may not use tobacco during televised interviews or at appearances on behalf of their teams.

Baseball and the players union agreed to establish an education and outreach campaign regarding the dangers of smokeless tobacco. The union also said it will inaugurate a center for helping players cease their use of smokeless tobacco, ESPN reported.

"While not a complete victory, this is tremendous progress in the right direction," said Land, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission. "I want to express my appreciation to all of those who contacted (the MLBPA) and urged them to take this very positive step, which will help to protect the health not only of major-league players but the millions of young men who idolize them, as major-league players have always been idolized by young men in America."

The Knock Tobacco Out of the Park Coalition—which includes medical and public health groups, as well as religious leaders—said it, like Land, continues to back "a complete prohibition on tobacco use at games and on camera."

"Still, this is significant progress. ... This agreement marks the first time that the league and the players have recognized it is time to break this unhealthy addiction," the coalition said in a statement.

"We urge individual players to go further than the agreement, and com-



**TOBACCO CRACKDOWN** According to Major League Baseball's new labor agreement, players and coaches are not permitted to have tobacco tins in their uniforms during games or use tobacco during televised interviews in order to keep it out of the view of the fans. (File photo)

pletely eliminate their use of smokeless tobacco at games."

The five-year labor agreement, which was announced last month, will take effect in 2012.

In May, Land and 24 other religious leaders urged the MLBPA to agree with MLB Commissioner Bud Selig's backing of a ban on smokeless tobacco on the field and in the dugout. They made the appeal in a May 30 letter to Michael Weiner, the union's executive director.

Land also encouraged ERLC constituents to write the players' union to ask that it support such a prohibition.

Smokeless tobacco—in the form of dip or chewing tobacco—has long been a part of professional baseball. A 1999 survey of major league rookies found 31 percent were using smokeless tobacco. There has been a 36 percent increase in the use of such tobacco by high school males since 2003, according to the letter from Land and the other religious leaders.

Such tobacco use has been found to cause oral cancer, gum disease, tooth decay and mouth lesions.

Tony Gwynn, who played for the San Diego Padres and was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007, underwent treatment last year for salivary gland cancer that he attributes to smokeless tobacco use throughout his professional career.

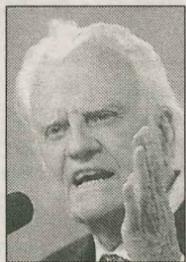
Major League Baseball prohibits smoking by players in view of fans and cameras, and minor league teams have had a complete ban on tobacco use since 1993. (BP)

## Graham released from hospital

**Asheville, N.C.**—Evangelist Billy Graham returned to his North Carolina home Dec. 6 after a six-day stay in a nearby hospital where he was treated for pneumonia.

Graham, 93, responded well to antibiotics and grew stronger and more mobile after physical therapy, said Mark Hellrich, the pulmonologist who treated Graham at Mission Hospital in Asheville.

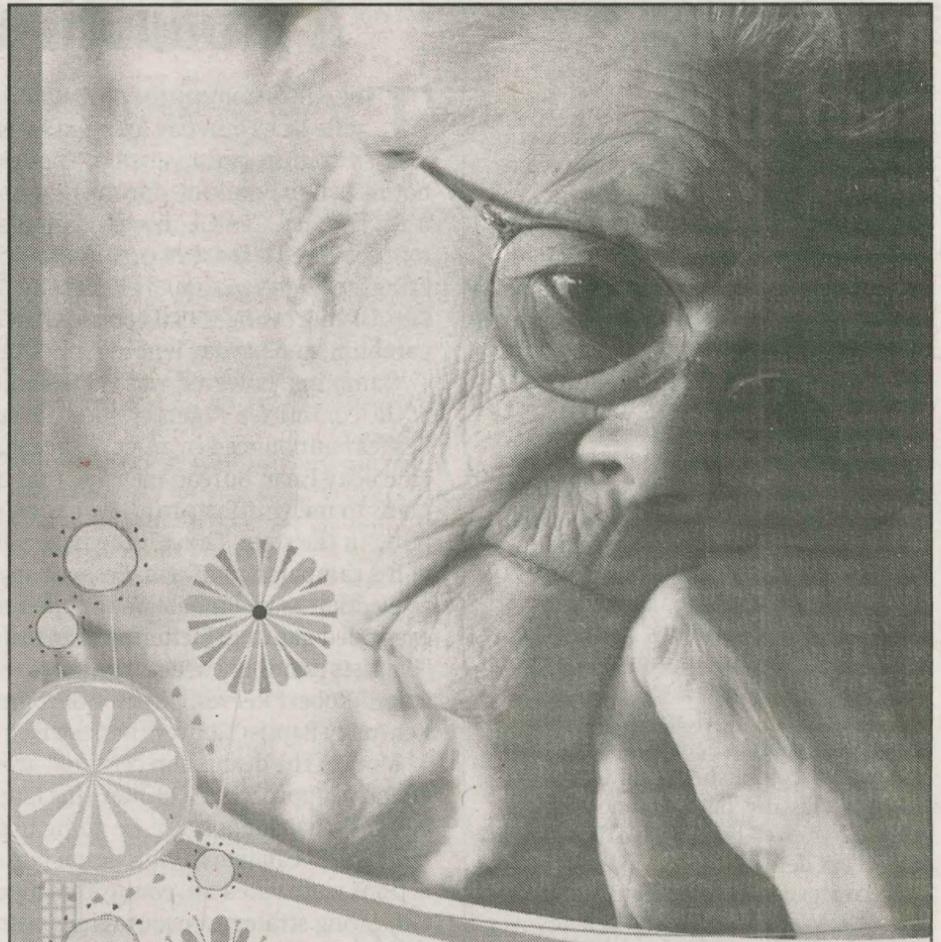
"I am especially looking forward to seeing my home decorated for Christmas and spending the holidays with members of my family," Graham said in a statement.



He also expressed thanks for "the many thoughts and prayers expressed by individuals across the country and around the world" during his hospital stay.

Graham, who suffers from significant vision and hearing loss, will continue to receive physical therapy at his mountain home in Montreat, N.C., to allow him to return to his usual level of activity within the next few weeks, according to his doctors.

Graham continues to write, publishing "Nearing Home" this fall, a memoir on growing old and grieving for his wife Ruth Graham, who died in 2007. (RNS)



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## End the drawdown, start the surge!

The ongoing debate over withdrawing troops from Iraq and Afghanistan seems to revolve around at least four basic issues: the cost of troop deployment; the purpose, success, failure of the mission; the desire of families to get their loved

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

ones back home; and, of course, the politics. As the U.S. economy struggles and the wars wear on, the cost of troop deployment, the desire of families to get their loved ones back home, and the waning political enthusiasm have resulted in plans to withdraw most of the troops sooner rather than later.

That leaves us with only the mission to debate. Has the mission been accomplished? Can we see evidence of a lasting victory? If not, are we willing to move ahead with a drawdown and accept defeat?

As concerned as Americans should be about the War on Terror and debates over the deployment or withdrawal of our military troops, as Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists, we must be conscious of a drawdown with much greater consequences.

Tom Elliff, president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, recently shared with me that the current number of IMB missionaries is 4,886. When I served as chairman of the trustee board of the IMB two years ago, that number was close to 1,000 more.

The drawdown of missionaries over the past two years is nearing 20 percent. Is it a matter of politics? No, the vote on the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force recommendations revealed that SBC politics are on the side of the Great Commission. Is the drawdown a matter of families wanting loved ones back home? As painful as is the separation of loved ones, the greatest cheerleaders for our missionaries are usually their families here at home. Are we withdrawing troops because the mission has been accomplished? With over 3,000 people groups still unreached and unengaged, clearly the mission has not been accomplished.

That leaves us with but one issue remaining—the cost of troop deployment. That is the issue. To state it plainly, more than 15 million Southern Baptists and more than 45,000 Southern Baptist churches have failed to provide the support necessary for a mission force of more than 5,000 troops. Our actions suggest that we believe the mission is just too expensive.

But we don't really believe that, do we? If you haven't already done so, would you join Michelle and me in making a sacrificial gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering? Beyond that, would you challenge your church to give at least a tithe of undesignated receipts through the Cooperative Program to ensure the ongoing support of our missionaries who serve at home and abroad?

The time has come, not for a drawdown, but for a surge!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## A productive brainstorming session for CPA

The KBC's Committee on Public Affairs met in Louisville last Thursday for what essentially amounted to a brainstorming session. Though state legislators will not return to Frankfort for the General Assembly session until January, CPA Chairman Chip Hutcheson, of Princeton, conveyed a sense of urgency in discovering strategies to support Kentucky Baptists in addressing social concerns such as gambling and payday lending practices.

Gambling, however, was at the forefront of the committee's agenda since Governor Beshear announced in a Dec. 1 speech at a Kentucky Farm Bureau meeting that he plans to revive efforts to allow casino gambling in the state. Though the issue was not a primary part of his campaign platform, Beshear apparently considers his re-election as a mandate and is open to ideas to allow expanded gaming, including a constitutional amendment. "Baptists definitely need to be prepared to have a strong voice," Robert Reeves, director of communications for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, advised the committee.

Most of the discussion centered around determining an effective approach to counter this latest advance of gambling. "What support are we going to give churches as they fight this?" Chairman Hutcheson posed. While no specific actions were voted on, committee members settled on a two-prong strategy: encouraging pastors to seriously address the gambling issue from the pulpit, providing church members with a strong, biblical perspective; and seeking a means by which Kentucky Baptists can have a greater influence on state legislators.

The biggest challenge, it was said, may not be in persuading our elected officials in Frankfort, but with those who are seated "right in our pews." One PAC member observed, "There are pockets in every congregation that don't seem to have a moral and biblical perspective on gambling." Hutcheson concurred, sharing about one pastor who after preaching on the subject of gambling had several people tell him "point blank" that they did not see anything wrong with buying a lottery ticket. "That mindset exists," he allowed, "and there needs to be a strong word from the Lord in our pulpits to say why this is wrong."

Another idea of particular merit that emerged was forming community action committees. If pastors, deacons and church leaders could form small community clusters

that would lead Christian business leaders to step out and begin talking about related topics such as theft in the workplace, chronic absenteeism, the loss of family stability, and other issues, it could put "a new twist" on our efforts to oppose gambling. "What will get a legislator's attention

most is a local group of church people and business leaders coming together who are going to be tracking and watching what he is doing to stop the expansion of gambling and holding him accountable," one member said. "It wouldn't take too many of these groups forming around the state to get their antennas up," and if Baptists are serious about stopping this expansion, taking this extra step could make a difference.

### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

Legislators have grown accustomed to hearing what we as Baptists oppose, another remarked. "As we think through this issue, we need to make sure we are not just condemning the wrongs, but we also are promoting the ethical side, the productive side, of how to create stronger, healthier economies, families and communities," he urged.

Another idea that frequently comes up at committee meetings is producing video testimonies about the destructive impact that gambling additions have upon families and businesses in the community. But the CPA needs assistance from pastors and church leaders in identifying those who may be willing to share powerful testimonies. "Gambling is not just an economic issue, it is an emotional one," Hutcheson explained. "You are divorced from your family and your business, because gambling dominates your thoughts. It becomes a spiritual issue because you are not going to grow stronger spiritually. You are only going to go downhill," he added, noting that many business thefts are associated with drug or gambling additions.

Through social media, pastors now have the ability to share video testimonies and anti-gambling messages by providing links on Facebook pages or Twitter feeds, in blogs and through websites, connecting thousands to helpful resources. And, the committee's overwhelming consensus is, "We need to start now" to educate and equip Kentucky Baptists with biblical perspectives on gambling and other social concerns. "We cannot wait for some proposed legislation to come up," Hutcheson urged. "We have to start laying the groundwork now in our churches." Churches can find resource materials at [www.kbcpublicaffairs.com](http://www.kbcpublicaffairs.com).

## Give the gift that keeps on living

For our anniversary gift, I found a beautiful leather briefcase for my husband. The brand's tagline was "Your kids will fight over it when you're dead." It was a great gift, but here's a Christmas gift idea that's much more valuable.

We all know someone who is not a Christian. Would you give that person the ultimate Christmas gift? God's word—the Bible—is a gift that can impact someone's eternity! Here's how:

■ Prayerfully determine the recipient. A friend, acquaintance, or relative who needs Jesus? A teen or co-workers or

elderly neighbor?

■ Choose the Bible. Select a translation and cover they'll like. If you splurge for a leather edition, imprint their name on the cover. A teen might enjoy a contemporary cover. Bookstores carry inexpensive Bibles, perfect to give to your team or neighborhood.

■ Prepare a printed page to clearly explain how to become a Christian. Include a place to sign and date it, and instructions for a new Christian's next steps.

■ Write a personal note inside the cover, such as "Because you are a special

### Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

friend, I want to share this important book with you. It's changed my life!" Highlight verses or add a Bible promise.

■ Wrap the priceless gift beautifully and present it to your friend.

■ Ask God to give you opportunities to chat with that friend about Him. Invite her to church. Ask if she's begun to read the Bible. Did she read the laminated page? If she's undecided, continue to pray. God is at work. When she accepts Christ as Savior, celebrate!

Interestingly, that briefcase I mentioned came with a 100-year warranty. That's nothing! God's gift of salvation lasts for all eternity. Will you give the gift that keeps on living?

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director and author of "Deacon Wives."

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## Learn their culture to better share gospel with youth

This time of year as we collect the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and participate in the Week of Prayer for International Missions, I always think of our missionaries that are taking the gospel to the ends of the world.

We have good friends that have spent the last 12 years overseas. They work in Eastern Europe as missionaries. To protect their ability to enter and live in the country, we won't name them or the country where they serve, but to effectively take the gospel to the people group they live among they have spent a lot of time learning the culture. They have learned their language, thoughts and way of life.

So it struck me as odd this week, when on two occasions I was privy to conversations about learning the culture of students today. They meant well, but what they wanted were three or four bullet points that would tell them everything they need to know about how to reach students. I could have easily suggested some highlights of this culture: technologically savvy, prefer text messaging to phone calls, service oriented, starving for healthy relationships with adults, etc. Yet, when it comes to really learning the culture, there are no short cuts.

If we are serious about reaching this culture of students, we have to spend time with them, live life with them, and get to know them in their environment. The holiday season provides ample opportunities:

Go to a local high school sporting event. Several schools have holiday basketball tournaments. Don't just go to watch the game. Go and watch the students. Watch the students in the crowd, in the halls, in the concession stands. See how they communicate with each other, what they are wearing, how they interact.

Check with your youth minister/director to see if you can volunteer to help with or chaperone your

church's youth Christmas party. More importantly, watch and interact with students. Ask them about what Christmas is like at their home. See who talks with whom and who isn't talked to at all. Ride the van or bus on the home and see where they live.

Spend some time on FaceBook or Twitter. Open an account if you don't have one and ask a student that you know to "friend" you on FaceBook, or follow some of them on Twitter. You will be immersed in their culture in just a small amount of time. Don't be a stalker and reserve comments about what you may see for a later time.

Talk to the teenagers that you are around at Christmastime. When you gather together at family functions, don't let them wander off into a room to themselves. Go with them, sit with them and engage in conversation. Ask them about their favorite band, TV show, or store to buy clothes. Better yet, invite them to the "adult table" and engage everyone in conversation about life and family. Ask them about their favorite Christmas, and tell them about yours.

Watch a few minutes of MTV or anything on the CW network. You can learn a lot in a small amount of time. Be careful not to jump too quickly to conclusions. Not all students are doing what is being portrayed on these networks. Still, it is a good look at what your students are facing on a daily basis.

Go to the malls—not to shop, but to people watch. It is amazing in Louisville the difference in culture that each mall attracts. Look at what they are wearing, what they are doing, how they interact, where they are eating, and you can learn a lot about culture.

A couple of internet sites that can give quick snippets of youth culture information are [www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org) and [www.youthministry360.com](http://www.youthministry360.com). Both have great sections on culture, and you can subscribe to regular culture updates from either site.

If we are serious about reaching this generation of students, we need to do the hard work of learning their culture and then present the gospel to them within their culture. That's exactly what we are giving to and praying that our international missionaries are doing this time of year. May we join them in the task of taking the gospel to all the cultures of the world.

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

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## Are your children seen as a blessing or a burden?

By David Garrard

In the movie "Armageddon," Steve Buscemi says, "Guess what guys, it's time to embrace the horror! Look, we've got front-row tickets to the end of the earth!"

Parenting is not that bad. Then again, if you ever have taken a couple of preschoolers to a restaurant or sat with them in worship ....

Without question, having children changes your life in ways you cannot begin to imagine until it happens to you. At the beginning, you cannot go anywhere without taking everything you own with you. I remember wanting to declare the day we graduated from car seats a national holiday!

When I hear parents complaining about how children cramp their lifestyle, I want to ask, "Where did this child come from? How did they come to be part of your family?" I also find myself to the contrary, "That's just the way it is. It comes with the territory, and it's GOOD territory. Sure, it is a tremendously demanding season of life, but it is also a precious time that will pass all too quickly. Embrace the horror and get on with it! You may find yourself later grieving how quickly those days went by.

This Christmas, as you give thanks for the gift of a small child born in a manger, give special thanks as well for your own children. Ask God to help you welcome and embrace the additional responsibilities that having children and being a parent involves—difficult and challenging though they may sometimes be. Ask God to help you see your children as a blessing, not a burden. Remember that Immanuel means "God with us."

Because Jesus was born, you can depend on God to be with you and to give you the strength, the patience and the wisdom you need.

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

## Window of opportunity closing

By Laurie Valentine

Included in federal tax law changes enacted in December 2010 (the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act) was an extension of the Charitable IRA Rollover provisions first enacted in 2006. Those provisions allow certain IRA owners to use taxable IRA funds to make charitable gifts without negative tax consequences. The extension expires Dec. 31.

Generally, IRA owners must report distributions out of their IRA as income. A donation of an IRA distribution to charity is a charitable contribution for income tax deduction purposes (if you itemize); however, the increase in income and restrictions on the amount of charitable gifts that may be deducted in a given year could result in the IRA withdrawal followed by charitable gift not being a "wash" for federal income tax purposes.

The Charitable IRA Rollover provisions permit a person who is 70.5 or older to make tax-free gifts in any amount up to a total of \$100,000 from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualified charities. The IRA owner is not entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the qualified charitable distributions, but such distributions are not included in the IRA owner's income.

The distributions must be made directly from your IRA to the qualified charitable organization. A distribution to the IRA owner/donor, followed by a gift to charity, does not receive the special treatment. Distributions from 401(k), 403(b) or other types of retirement accounts are not eligible.

Your church and our KBC and SBC agencies and institutions are "qualified charitable organizations." Private foundations and donor advised funds are not.

While qualified charitable IRA distributions are not included in the donor's income for income tax purposes, they are treated as part of the donor's required minimum distributions. Therefore, those 70.5 and older who must take required minimum distributions from an IRA and plan to make contributions to charity should consider taking advantage of the ability to use their IRA as the source of making charitable gifts. For those age 70.5 with IRA assets, make sure you take a look out this "window of opportunity" before it closes on Dec. 31.

*Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.*



## What would you do with a bucket full of gold coins?

By Wanda Lee

America lost a much-loved entertainer in 2010: Art Linkletter.

I remember watching a show he hosted called "Kids Say the Darndest Things." Regardless of the topic, children would respond to his questions with honesty and openness.

Children are often busy trying to sort out the many things they are learning and are not afraid to articulate what they think and feel. While you couldn't help but laugh at their responses, often a deeper lesson emerged.

Recently Russell, my 6-year-old grandson, was riding down the road with his grandfather when he asked a rather serious question: "Daka, what would you do if someone gave you a bucket full of gold coins?"

Realizing that many of their serious conversations take place while Russell is strapped in a car seat, his grandfather took a moment to give what he thought was a good answer

for a child that age. Then he turned the question back to Russell and asked what he would do.

Without hesitation, Russell responded in a rather thoughtful tone, "I would keep one coin for myself and give the rest to my church so more missionaries could be sent."

What prompts a six-year-old to ask such a question?

More importantly, what led him to his answer?

All of our life experiences shape the person we become. It is important to expose our children to as many good, positive learning environments as we possibly can.

When I think about Russell's experiences so far, I realize his answer came from the things he has been exposed to through his family and the Baptist church he has attended all of his short life. His parents have a missions heart and model that regularly with their actions. They involve both of their children in missions projects in the community.

Their church engages its members in missions through giving, going on trips and sharing their stories in worship services when they return. They also believe in the importance of missions education.

Russell has attended Missions Friends since he could walk into the classroom. He hears stories about missionaries and the places they serve on a regular basis. At 6, he is connecting the dots of what he experiences at church and what he hears in worship as Scripture is read and testimonies are shared with what he is learning at home.

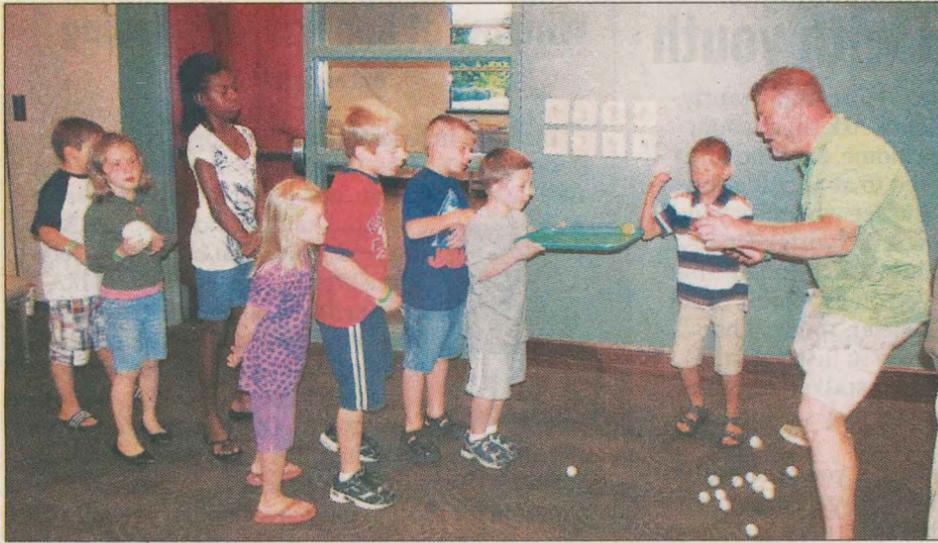
Russell knows that God's love is not just for him but for all the people of the world.

As we focus attention in a special way during this Christmas season on the Week of Prayer for International Missions and giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, let's keep Russell's question before us.

What would you do if you had a bucket full of gold coins?

*Wanda Lee is executive director-treasurer for national WMU.*





**MISSION FOCUSED** A mission team member from Highview Baptist Church in Louisville plays a game with kids while their parents attend a marriage conference at Hamilton Village Church, a Southern Baptist church plant in Fishers, Ind. Highview Baptist is one of four Southern Baptist churches that have partnered with Hamilton Village over the past two years. During that time they've helped Hamilton Village by sending people, providing resources and praying. (Photo by Jim Whitmer/NAMB)

## Partnerships

plant. Both trips involved entire families, engaging dads, moms and kids at the same time. Through the trips, Highview provided much-needed manpower for evangelistic ministry projects to help Hamilton Village disciple its members and reach its community.

That's just been one part of the comprehensive partnership Highview has provided to Hamilton Village. The church regularly prays and financially supports the ministry as well.

It's that kind of partnership the Send North America: Indianapolis coalition hopes to multiply among other church planters in the years to come. The coalition—consisting of local Southern Baptists, state convention partners and representatives of out-of-state churches—wants to connect church planters with strong, established churches that can help them through prayer, mission teams and resources.

Those partnerships are desperately needed in the Indianapolis area.

In recent years Fishers, the suburban Indianapolis community, has become a graveyard for evangelistic church plants of all denominations. Just four years ago, all 12 elementary schools in the city had a church plant in them. Now only a few remain. Most died because of the community's high cost of living and difficult evangelistic soil. Manning estimated that less than 15 percent of the community attends church on a typical weekend.

That's why partners are critical, said Manning, who also is a NAMB missionary. He compares the tough-to-reach Fishers community to running a marathon.

"If you've ever run in a marathon, there are water stations every so many miles," Manning said. "They are there to help you get refreshed, get a burst of energy, get cooled down. That's how we think of partnerships. Partnerships are important because they help encourage and sustain us as we keep moving in the way God is leading so this community will have a gospel presence."

Highview is among four Southern Baptist churches that have taken on the two-year-old church plant as a partner.

It's been a win-win situation for families at Highview and the church plant, said Andy Crouch, who has been on fam-

ily mission trips to help church planters four of the last five years. Although he said he doesn't always see the long-term impact of the trips on the church plant or the community, the impact they make on families that participate is obvious.

"You can see the difference that God is making in our kids' lives through these trips," said Crouch, who organized the marriage conference mission trip. "You can see it in the questions they're asking and the boldness they've shown in sharing their faith with their friends."

And at Hamilton Village, the influence also has been real. Of the seven local families who participated in last summer's conference, two came from outside the church. It allowed families inside the congregation a much-needed opportunity for support and recharging and it yielded evangelistic fruit as well, with one of the new families having become regular attenders at the church.

"Our commitment is not just to go on a week-long trip, share our faith and see people converted without a place for them to grow and be discipled," Abney said. "We believe that where major concentrations of lostness exist, we need to plant churches where people who are being reached can grow and be discipled." (NAMB/BP)

## NAMB launches 'Send' Indianapolis

**Indianapolis**—Indianapolis' Fall Creek Baptist Church, which had started half of the city's Southern Baptist churches before Pastor John Newland arrived, has launched three churches in the last five years.

Now, as chair of the Send North America: Indianapolis coalition, Newland is leading an effort to bring a new generation of church planters and church planting partners to Indianapolis to help him reach the city with the gospel.

Send North America is the North American Mission Board's strategy to mobilize and assist churches and individuals in hands-on church planting in 29 cities throughout the U.S. and Canada.

The Indianapolis coalition will connect Southern Baptist partners from across North America to church planters with a passion to start evangelistic Southern Baptist churches in the city.

One of the 11 largest cities in the United States according to 2010 U.S. Census statistics, Indianapolis is home to more than 820,000 people. Two million people live somewhere in the metro area.

Yet local Southern Baptist leaders

believe only 1 in 5 Indy residents go to church each weekend. While Southern Baptists have been in the city since 1953, today you'll only find one Southern Baptist church for every 18,000 people in the metro area—as compared to one SBC church for every 1,732 people in nearby Kentucky.

Newland said he believes church planting is the key to reaching the city and turning those numbers around.

"The size of churches in Indianapolis ... is dreadfully small," Newland said. "If we're going to reach this city with the gospel of Jesus Christ, we're either going to have to get way better than we currently are or we're going to have to start new work—or both."

To meet the growing church planting needs, the coalition is looking for 90 church planters to join them in Indianapolis over the next five years.

"We're desperate for those partners who are going to come alongside and provide hands to the plow, energy for the horses and vision," Newland said. "We need people with vision for their own communities to come and share with us and help us and pray with us, to give us a new perspective on how to reach our community." (NAMB/BP)



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## Decision of SBC name change task force due Feb. 20

By Erin Roach

Atlanta—The task force appointed to study the possibility of changing the Southern Baptist Convention's name has reached a decision they believe "will please the Father and greatly strengthen our ability to reach more people with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The 20-member group appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright gathered for its second meeting Dec. 7 in Atlanta.

"There was a unanimity both in the discussions and in the decisions we made," task force chairman Jimmy Draper said in a statement.

The task force, Draper said, has been asked by Wright to present recommendations "with full explanation and rationale" during the president's report to the Executive Committee meeting Feb. 20, "so all Southern Baptists can understand how we arrived at our conclusions."

"We are excited to make these recommendations believing that we have come to decisions that will please the Father and greatly strengthen our ability to reach more people with the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ," Draper said. "From the beginning we have desired only to discern God's will in this matter."

The task force meeting came the same day a study was released by LifeWay Research saying the majority of Americans have a favorable impression of Southern Baptists but 40 percent of respondents had an unfavorable view of the denomination (see related story on this page). More than a third strongly assumed an SBC church was not for them, and the negativity was higher among the unchurched, the study found.

"When you've got a culture where 35 to 40 percent of the people have repeatedly said they would not even consider an evangelical church, it's not surprising that 44 percent of the people said the Southern Baptist name would impact them negatively," Draper said. (BP)

## LifeWay Research study

# Americans have mixed impressions of Southern Baptists

Nashville, Tenn.—The majority of Americans have a favorable impression of Southern Baptists, according to a recent LifeWay Research study.

However, 40 percent of respondents have an unfavorable view of the denomination, more than a third strongly assume a Southern Baptist church is not for them, and the negativity is higher among the unchurched.

The study was conducted in September after the president of the Southern Baptist Convention appointed a task force to consider a possible name change for the 166 year-old convention.

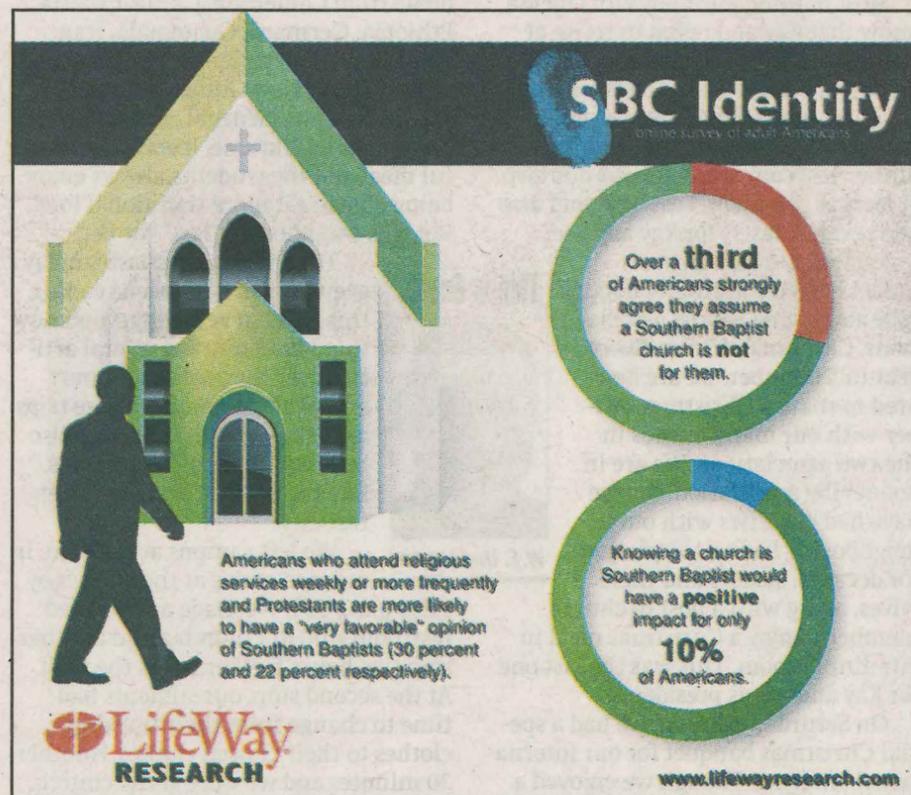
The study indicates a segment of Americans have unfavorable opinions of Southern Baptists in comparison to other faith groups. However, with 53 percent being favorable toward Southern Baptists, both sides need to be considered, noted Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research.

"On one hand it does look like the SBC has higher negatives than other faith groups—and the unchurched numbers are particularly disconcerting," Stetzer said. "But on the other, most people don't seem to be concerned either way because there is a level of indifference to denominations or religion in general."

In fact, two-thirds of Americans are without strong feelings in regard to all the Christian faith groups included in the survey.

Respondents were shown the names of five "denominations or faith groups" and asked to indicate their impression of them. The study indicates 62 percent of Americans have a favorable view of Methodists compared to 59 percent for Catholics, 53 percent for Southern Baptists, 37 percent for Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), and 28 percent for Muslims.

The study also sought to determine how the name might impact interest in with a congregation. When asked if a church of a particular denomination is for them, 35 percent strongly agreed a Southern Baptist church is not for



them, higher than for Catholics (33 percent), Baptists (29 percent), Methodists (26 percent), and community or nondenominational churches (20 percent).

Significantly more respondents disagree with this statement for community or nondenominational churches, indicating they are considered as a possible fit compared to other Christian faith groups included in the survey—58 percent compared to Baptists, 44 percent; Catholics, 43 percent; Methodists, 42 percent; and Southern Baptists, 38 percent.

This positive reaction to community or nondenominational churches reflects other recent LifeWay Research analysis that indicated growth among such churches while Southern Baptists are trending in a membership decline.

Respondents also were asked if knowing that a church is Southern

Baptist would affect whether they would consider visiting or joining that church. Forty-four percent of them indicated that it would negatively impact their decision, 36 percent said it would have no impact and 10 percent said it would positively impact their decision.

"The negative impact numbers concern me most," Stetzer said. "Knowing a church is SBC would make four out of 10 Americans less likely to visit and join—and many of those are the unchurched."

"The study did not explore why some respondents hold a negative view of Southern Baptists," he added. "For instance, one reason may be because they disagree with positions Southern Baptists take on certain issues such as sanctity of life or the exclusivity of the gospel, and that is the only point of reference they have." (LW)

## Ukraine seminary

Continued from page 1

IMB couple, Joel and Mary Ellen Ragains, teach church planting at Kyiv Theological Seminary. The four-year, undergraduate program requires students to attend classes four times each year for 10 days at a time.

In Ukrainian culture, people think in two distinct categories: knowledge and practice. They love to gain knowledge, but "they have no idea what to do with it," Upchurch said.

"Their default setting would be to put theological education in the knowledge category but not in the practice category," he pointed out.

The seminary's church-planting program, however, pushes students to put knowledge into practice. Not only do they study theology, students must be involved in planting churches in order to earn their diplomas.

Students from all over Eurasia—including Lithuania, Belarus, Russia, Azer-

baijan and Romania—have come to learn the church-planting methods at the seminary.

"Our goal is to get students from as many of the countries as we can so that they can go back home and start church planting," Lori Upchurch said.

"Nationals are the ones that are going to get the job done," Dan noted. "Americans in eastern Europe, unless trends change, are going to directly be able to do less and less, but nationals have the capability and the freedoms still in many places where we can't do anything in terms of direct church planting and mass evangelism—they can still do that. They are the heartbeat."

Though the church-planting program is only about six years old, the Upchurches said they are encouraged by the progress being made. More than 30 students have graduated from the program and have started more than 30 churches. These graduates also have baptized about 600 new believers. Current seminary students have planted an additional 30 churches. (IMB)

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## A busy weekend

### With retirement fast approaching, Underwoods sharing many 'lasts'

Most of those familiar with Oneida know that Kay and I plan to retire at the end of March. Therefore, we find ourselves doing a lot of "lasts" these days. In August, I had my last pre-school meeting. This past Thanksgiving dinner with our students was our last, at least as president. Last weekend also had several "lasts" for Kay and me.

On Friday evening, our school hosted the annual Booneville and Irvine Baptist associations' Christmas dinner. Every year in December, we are honored to share a Christmas dinner with our many friends in the two associations. We are in Booneville Association, but we have had close ties with our neighboring Irvine Association for decades. Pastors and their wives, along with a host of church members, enjoy a Christmas meal in our dining room. This was the last one for Kay and me as president.

On Saturday evening, we had a special Christmas banquet for our international students. Though we enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving meal which included most of our international students, the traditional Thanksgiving meal is not food our international students are accustomed to eating. So, the ladies on our OBI faculty and staff and the Oneida Baptist Church WMU prepare a special meal for our international students every December.

The ladies work very hard to be creative and try to prepare foods that would be more indicative of a meal our international students would enjoy if they were at home. It's no easy task to prepare food that would satisfy the

appetite of so many students from around the world.

This year we had more than 100 students from Cameroon, China, Croatia, Ethiopia, Germany, Guatemala, Iran, Ivory Coast, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Korea, Thailand and Ukraine. It was a wonderful meal and the students always enjoy being able to eat more traditional food. But this was another "last" for us.

Then we had our last Sunday event. If you have been reading this column very long, you know that I have written several articles over the years about our school choir. Some of those trips are relatively short. But we also have our share of longer trips, like the one last Sunday to Central City.

We left campus at 6:30 a.m. in order to arrive at the church by 10:30 a.m., CST. We made a scheduled restroom stop in Columbia and another stop two hours farther down the road. At the second stop, our students had time to change from their traveling clothes to their church clothes. Another 30 minutes and we were at the church.

After a wonderful lunch we headed back home. We arrived back on campus at 9 p.m., which concluded a 15-hour day for our choir students.

While I deeply enjoy those trips, as the bus driver it does put a little extra workload on my shoulders since there is no "nap time" for the driver. We still have one more short trip, but this was our last long trip. It seems every day Kay and I are experiencing another "last."

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## A lasting influence

### Gift inspired by pastor's service still impacts God's kingdom work

At the top of our classroom building, stained-glass windows remind us of several great Bible themes. Inside that building, pictures remind us of people God used to provide those classrooms. At least one of those portraits shows us how God prepares people to influence others to be channels of blessings.

That portrait depicts Ben Baird. Upon retirement, Ben and his wife, Velma, built their dream home in London. His plan was to teach pastoral ministries at Clear Creek for many years. Cancer cut that time short, and Rev. Baird went home to his Master in 1995 at age 68.

In 1996, the classroom building project was underway and the financial need was substantial. A suggestion was made that those who had been touched by Rev. Baird's ministry may want to do something in his memory. It seemed fitting that something would be done to memorialize his work and his love for the college.

Clear Creek received an anonymous challenge gift of \$50,000 in honor of Ben and Velma. The anonymous donor recalled moving into the community

where Rev. Baird had pastored years before. He admitted being determined to sleep in on Sundays rather than attend church. Baird's persistent visits resulted in the man being baptized and joining the church.

Later, Baird preached a sermon on tithing. The man again was determined not to participate. His wife was convicted differently and eventually won a compromise. The husband agreed to give \$25 a week.

"That was the beginning of our stewardship," he remembered. "I doubt that Bro. Baird ever knew the influence he had on my life."

That Christian steward's anonymous challenge pledge resulted in \$103,000, making possible the large lecture room now dedicated to the Bairds.

The same God who called Rev. Baird to preach and teach His word also used him to prepare another heart for service and stewardship. Because they both were faithful to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, God still uses their offerings to train servants.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



TIME OF REMEMBRANCE Members of Highland Baptist Church in Louisville gather for an annual tradition memorializing homicide victims during Advent. (Photo by Bill Campbell)

## Louisville church marks drop in city's homicide rate for '11

By Bob Allen

Louisville—A somber Advent tradition was mingled with hope as Highland Baptist Church in Louisville placed 46 crosses on its lawn Dec. 4—one for each of the city's homicide victims so far this year.

Pastor Joe Phelps said he hopes this year's tally ends at 46, nine fewer than last year.

"We grieve with those families for whom this is not a season of joy, and hold out the life of Jesus as a model for putting away violence," Phelps said. "We also pray for all who work to make our community safe and just. It is a testament to the hope that God is not done."

WLKY-TV reported that criminal homicides in metro Louisville are on track for the lowest number since a merger of city and county governments in 2003. Christopher 2X, a community activist formerly known as Christopher Anthony Bryan, attributed the downward trend in part to increased awareness.

"The main goal is to try and make sure we do our best to hopefully send a

message, especially to the young, about the trappings of violence," he said.

Highland Baptist first placed crosses on the second Sunday of Advent—also known as Peace Sunday—in 1997, Phelps' first year as pastor. It was intended as a one-time event to draw attention to a spike in the city's murder rate, but the response was so great that it was repeated in 1998 and every year since.

The ceremony includes reading the names of each person killed during the year in an act of violence and placing a cross in his or her honor. Joining this year's observance were St. William Catholic Church and Ridgewood Baptist Church, a Louisville congregation that has been in a shared pastoral leadership partnership with Highland since 2008.

Some of the people in attendance were there to remember loved ones lost to violence. Martha Dickerson told the Louisville TV station about her son, Kirk Harrison, who was shot in December 2003 and died the following month.

"It doesn't get easier," she said. "You just get to a point where you can live with it. The joy you had before this happened is not there anymore." (ABP)

## Campbellsville University starts club for military veteran students

Campbellsville—For those who have protected the freedom of the United States, Campbellsville University has designed a new club especially for military and veteran students called the Upsilon Sigma Alpha club.

"This veterans' club fits the university like a glove," noted Tom Finley, a junior social work major from Campbellsville who is helping lead the club. "The school emptied out during World War II because so many students went off to war. We have many veteran alums."

"We have more people coming back into the university who served, and we need to have a support group for them."

The goal of the club is to become a permanent structure that will "support the government but not become a political debate," said Joe Milazzo, a graduate student from Campbellsville.

Milazzo is the student leader of the new club. He is a graduate assistant for Chaplain David Sandifer, coordinator of

the Center for Bivocational Christian Ministry at CU, who is the sponsor of the club and a military veteran.

Another goal of the group is to provide support for one another, especially for those individuals suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"We want to build one another up," Milazzo said. "We want to help prepare those going in and support them throughout their time in the military. And when they get out, continue to support them."

The club's members also will do service projects, Sandifer said. "We would like to do things for service members and their families—anything they need."

The club also intends to raise funds for an on-campus memorial for veterans who have served their country and graduated or attended CU.

Group organizers say the club plans to eventually establish a scholarship for veterans and their family members. (CU)

## Supreme Court upholds ban on churches meeting in NYC schools

**New York**—The U.S. Supreme Court Dec. 5 let stand a lower court ruling that bars congregations from using space in New York City schools for after-hours worship services.

The decision appears to end a legal saga that began in 1995 when the Bronx Household of Faith sued the city for barring congregations from using public schools for religious services.

The church had been holding services at P.S. 15 in the Bronx since 2002, after it won an injunction against the initial ban.

Last June, however, the U.S. 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the city had "a strong basis to believe" that allowing the religious services to be conducted in schools could be construed as violating the First Amendment's prohibition on an establishment of religion.

The church argued that the ban violated its First Amendment guarantee of religious expression because the city allowed other community groups to use schools for their activities.

The court also distinguished the church's worship services from Bible studies, which are allowed to meet in public schools.

City officials say about 60 congregations use public schools for worship services. It was unclear how soon those congregations would have to stop using the spaces. (RNS)

## Southwestern Seminary dedicates new chapel

By Keith Collier

**Fort Worth, Texas**—Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary opened its new 3,500-seat chapel with a daylong celebration Dec. 1, including a ribbon cutting, dedication chapel service, baptisms and a Christmas concert. The J.W. MacGorman Chapel and Performing Arts Center is the largest venue of its kind in Fort Worth, Texas.

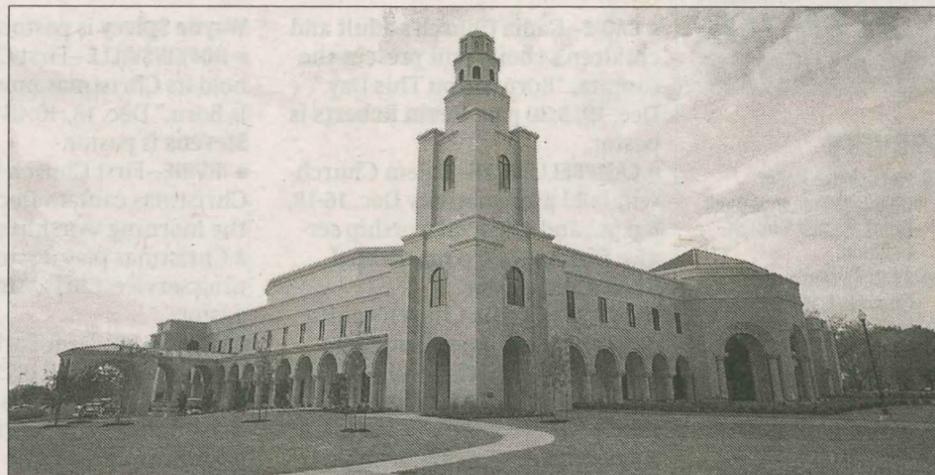
The 96,000-square-foot complex will serve as the setting for the seminary's weekly chapel services, as well as graduation ceremonies, musical performances, conferences and other special events. Beginning in July 2012, it will house the "Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible" exhibition.

Seminary President Paige Patterson said his prayer for the chapel was that it would be a place to honor the name of the Lord, a place to seek His face, and a place to experience His presence.

Citing the many uses of the chapel and events that will come, Patterson said, "Never miss the point that all of that is add-on. It comes to nothing if certain things are not true of this place. All we seek of God today is that He will choose this place—that His presence will be known and experienced here."

Immediately following the chapel dedication service, guests gathered in the main lobby for the dedication of the Southern Baptists of Texas Baptismal Pool. The Southern Baptists of Texas Convention provided funds for the dual-purpose fountain and baptismal pool.

Following the dedication remarks, Birchman Baptist Church in Fort Worth baptized five new believers in the baptismal pool. (SWBTS/BP)



## LifeWay ROAR to develop free mobile apps for 1,000 churches

**Nashville, Tenn.**—LifeWay Christian Resources and ROAR, a mobile app development group, are giving mobile church apps to 1,000 churches throughout the month of December.

ROAR, LifeWay's recommended church app development partner, will customize mobile apps on the platform of the church's choice. Church leaders can choose either iPhone/iPad, Android or both.

"We can collect all of the content on a church's website and from other pages—Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs, iTunes—and package it together in an app so people can find it all in one place on their phone," said Matt McKee, the president of ROAR.

"Churches can upload audio sermons as podcasts, post calendar events and event details, upload photos from church

events or mission trips, create separate pages for separate ministries and allow people to donate to the church from their mobile devices," said Matt Morris, project manager for LifeWay's Digital Church.

Developing an app usually costs approximately \$750 per platform per church, McKee said. As part of the giveaway, churches only will have to pay a discounted hosting fee of \$30 per month for one app or \$50 for two platforms.

"We want to resource 1,000 churches with this technology," Morris said. "Churches will be able to communicate their messages to people through a device that's almost always in their pocket or purse."

To find out more about the free mobile app offer, visit [www.ROAR.pro/DigitalChurch](http://www.ROAR.pro/DigitalChurch). (LW)

## Kingdom impact in 2012

### With new year ahead, Crossings has much for which to give thanks

By Lindsay Swartz, Guest services coordinator

What were you most thankful for during your recent Thanksgiving celebration? Maybe it was a work promotion, a great health report or a particular victory in your walk with the Lord. Or maybe this Thanksgiving could have been called anything but a "celebration" because you are walking through a dry and weary land with suffering as your constant companion.

Many writers throughout the blogosphere offered timely and gentle reminders that as believers in Jesus Christ, no season seems more appropriate than Thanksgiving. Giving thanks to the God of our salvation is expected, commanded and should be a natural overflow of a new heart, even if it feels more like a sacrifice of praise (Hebrews 13:15).

Thanks-giving is easy to come by at Crossings Ministries this year. In God's sovereignty, we are positioned to make a bigger impact for God's kingdom through the gospel than ever before and are charting new territory in several areas. One of those areas is the way we

hire and train more than 100 college-age summer staff through initiating a new event called C.O.R.E.

C.O.R.E. stands for Crossings Onsite Regional Event and will play a key role in preparing our summer staff. The purpose of the event is to explain the

"core" of Crossings Ministries, which is providing a gospel-centered camp, building relationships and serving with excellence. C.O.R.E. also will provide an invaluable pre-camp opportunity for staff to meet one another, meet Crossings full-time staff and to develop a heart for the Crossings mission and vision.

Our summer staff is among the many reasons we are thank-

ful to the Lord this season. We have been given more than 100 summer staff to shepherd, several D6 interns to invest in and more than 10,600 students and adults to point to the gospel.

Our prayer is that we all will have a heart to, above all, rejoice that our names are written in heaven by God, whether for the first time or as if it was the first time (Luke 10:20).

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

### Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Keep the chain reaction going

### Eliza Broadus provides funds for associations, special ministries

"Chain Reaction" was both the theme and goal of the 2011 Season of Prayer for State Missions. The Eliza Broadus Offering goal of \$1.25 million is vital to the missions chain reaction we want to see across Kentucky.

As we receive this offering, let me remind you that \$135,000 of the goal is designated for associational missions and special ministry grants.

New this year will be a \$500 grant to every Kentucky Baptist association to use for missions and evangelism, for a total of \$35,000. Each association will determine how to use the funds. The only requirement for future grants is that the association must complete an accountability form explaining how the grant was used.

We also will continue to give grants for various special ministries across Kentucky. These are sponsored by associations, churches and/or MSC missionaries that share Christ. Some of the ministries include: crisis pregnancy ministries, food pantries, Celebrate Recovery programs, Hispanic ministries, tutoring programs, Baptist centers, ministries to racetrack backside workers,

jail ministries, homeless ministries, Christian Women's Job Corps, cowboy churches, and much more.

The deadline for a special ministry grant application is Dec. 15. This allows Kentucky WMU time to compile the

applications and send them to

our finance committee for

review. In February, the committee will meet and stretch

available funds as far as they

will go. They seek to provide

funds for every ministry that

meets the application guide-

lines. While we are not always

able to provide the full amount

of the requests, our finance

committee desires to help every

ministry in some way.

Please pray for the ministries across

our state that are sending in applica-

tions. Pray that by Feb. 1, the offering

goal will be within reach so that Ken-

tucky WMU can proceed with 100 per-

cent of the special ministry grant fund-

ing of \$100,000. As of Dec. 5, the total

EBO received stood at \$756,463. This is

far short of our goal of \$1.25 million.

It all begins with a chain reaction.

Start one today as you pray, give and go.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer

of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union,

PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253;

(502) 489-3534; [www.kywmu.org](http://www.kywmu.org)

### EBO at Work



Joy Bolton



## 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.
- 9** Strength in Numbers Deacon Ministry Training, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 9-11** Basic Training Journey for Church Planting, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10-11** Imagine Preschool and Children's Ministry Conference, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.

# MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church's adult and children's choirs will present the cantata, "Born to You This Day," Dec. 18, 5:30 p.m. **Kevin Roberts** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Salem Church will hold a live nativity Dec. 16-18, 6 p.m., and a special worship service Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. **Michael Goodwin** is pastor.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church's children's choir will perform the musical "The Birthday of a King" Dec. 18, 11 a.m. **Erdie Carter** is pastor.

■ **CYNTHIANA**—Cynthiana Church will present the Christmas cantata, "An Old Fashioned Christmas," Dec. 18, 11 a.m. **Patrick Whyte** is pastor.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will hold a live nativity Dec. 17. **Scott Casebier** is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—Pleasant Hill Church will hold a live nativity Dec. 14-16, 6 p.m. **Robin Redd** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a Christmas meal and children's program Dec. 14, 5 p.m. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a single women's ministry wrapping party Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church's choir will perform the musical, "Light Looked Down," Dec. 18 6 p.m. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Carter Creek Church will hold a Christmas cantata Dec. 16, 6:30 p.m., featuring **The Mike Speck Trio** and the Muhlenberg Community Choir. **Tommy Wilhite** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church's children's choir will present its Christmas musical Dec. 14, and the sanctuary choir will present its Christmas musical Dec. 18.

**Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold its Christmas musical, "Hope Is Born," Dec. 18, 10:45 a.m. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—First Church will hold a Christmas cantata Dec. 18 during the morning worship service and a Christmas play during the evening service. **Chris Winkler** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church's Chancel Choir and orchestra will present "Christmas Canticles" Dec. 18, 10:45 a.m. **David Platt** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church's adult choir and orchestra will perform its Christmas cantata, "Celebrate the King," Dec. 18, 10:45 a.m. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church's youth choir will present its Christmas program Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church's children's choir will present its Christmas program, "Star of Wonder," Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m., and the sanctuary choir will present its Christmas musical, "O Holy Night," Dec. 18, 10:45 a.m. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church recently called **Adam Schell** as pastor. He previously was pastor of First Church of Carlisle. The church's adult choir will present "O Holy Night" Dec. 18, 6 p.m.

Parkland Church's children's choirs will perform "Christmas in Egypt" Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will hold its children's Christmas program Dec. 14, 6 p.m. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will hold its Christmas program Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Rick Hatley** is

pastor.

Trace Creek Church will hold its annual "Christmas at the Creek" event Dec. 18. **Ronnie Stinson** is pastor.

■ **MAYSVILLE**—Central Church's children's choir will present its Christmas program Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Mark Powell** is pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will hold an international missions dinner Dec. 14. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church's **Spirit Kids** will present their Christmas musical Dec. 18, 7 p.m. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

Maretburg Church will present its Christmas musical, "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem," Dec. 18 during the morning worship service. The church's youth will perform "The Colors of Christmas" during the evening service. **Wayne Harding** is pastor.

Pine Hill Church's youth group will present its Christmas play, "The True Meaning of Christmas," Dec. 18. **Clyde Miller** is pastor.

Scaffold Cane Church will present its Christmas play Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Chris Cobb** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church's children's choir will present "The Great Christmas Give-away" Dec. 14, 6:30 p.m.

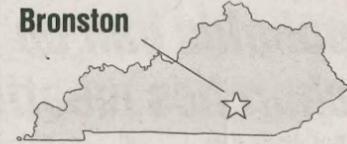
■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host **Joyce Goodwin** and **Joy Malone** in concert Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PERRYVILLE**—Perryville Church will hold a movie night Dec. 16, 7 p.m., with a screening of "The Nativity." Also, the church's music ministry will present a "Christmas Worship Celebration" Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Doug Davis** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will hold its children's Christmas

## Spotlight on ...

### Bronston



First Church will present "Journey to Bethlehem," an interactive walk-through event Dec. 16-18, 6 p.m. **Carter Stewart** is pastor.

program Dec. 18, 10:45 a.m. **Den- nis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church's choir will present its musical, "Hope Is Born Emmanuel," Dec. 18, 6 p.m. **Buddy Crabtree** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church's sanctuary choir will present its Christmas musical, "Breath of Heaven," Dec. 18, 7 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will hold its Christmas play Dec. 18. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

■ **WALTON**—New Banklick Church's adult choir will present "Down From His Glory" Dec. 18, 11 a.m., and the children's choir will hold its Christmas program at 6 p.m. **Tim Cochran** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Willisburg Church will present the Christmas cantata, "Beautiful Star," Dec. 18, 11 a.m. The church's children and youth will present their Christmas musical at 6 p.m. **Jay Hatfield** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Corinth Church will hold a Christmas program Dec. 18 during the morning worship service. **Jim Rediford** is pastor.

Kiddville Church's children and youth groups will perform the Christmas play, "The Fear Not Factor" Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m. **Steve Evans** is pastor.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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**SEEKING:** Part-time interim middle school/high school youth minister for Pinckard Looking for someone to provide direction and leadership for our youth through Bible study, discipleship training, outreach, fellowship and mission action. This position has the potential to lead into a permanent part-time position. College or seminary degree is preferred, plus experience. Please send a resumé to Pinckard Baptist Church, 3401 Pinckard Pike, Versailles, KY 40383. Phone: (859) 873-6260. Email: [pinckardchurch@aol.com](mailto:pinckardchurch@aol.com).

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for blended services and leading an adult choir at Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Nicholasville, Ky. Phone toll-free: (877) 770-1677 or (859) 224-0383. Email: [stan.n.frazier@gmail.com](mailto:stan.n.frazier@gmail.com). Web: [www.mtpleasantbaptist.net](http://www.mtpleasantbaptist.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time director of missions for Greenup Association of Baptist Churches. Accepting resumé now through Feb. 18, 2012. Send resumé to 12127 Midland Trail Road, Ashland, KY 41102; or by email to [gba@zoominternet.net](mailto:gba@zoominternet.net).

**SEEKING:** Part-time music minister needed in Georgetown, Ky. Familiar with blending hymns, modern music and a choir. Send resumé to [safeharborpastor@gmail.com](mailto:safeharborpastor@gmail.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.com](mailto:personnel@calvarybapcbc.com); or mail: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

**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 [erict.harris@mchsi.com](mailto:erict.harris@mchsi.com).

**SEEKING:** Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Pioneer Baptist Church in Harrodsburg. General Sunday attendance: 80-plus. Parsonage on property. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, Pioneer Baptist Church, 260 Sparrow Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330; or email to [pioneerbaptistchurchpsc@gmail.com](mailto:pioneerbaptistchurchpsc@gmail.com) by Jan. 17, 2012.

**SEEKING:** Minister of music for Green-land Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky. Apply by submitting resumé to [colecaven@greenlandbaptistchurch.com](mailto:colecaven@greenlandbaptistchurch.com).

**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 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). 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.

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**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](mailto:srice@shelbyvillebaptist.com). Phone: (502) 633-1317; website: [www.shelbyvillebaptist.com](http://www.shelbyvillebaptist.com).

# Urgent need for biblical literacy

By Ed Stetzer

I am a student and teacher of God's word. I went to school—a lot of school—committed to studying things rooted in the Scriptures. I write books and articles; I lecture, preach and speak at conferences all around the world on the centrality of God's mission expressed in Bible.

For me, reading the Bible is essential to my spiritual growth. I make a habit of consistent and regular study in the word of God—not just for messages I preach on Sunday but to be changed by the word of God. Every time I open the word of God and teach at church I ask the Lord to speak through it. As believers, it is essential that we read, memorize, study and meditate on the word of God.

There is much research that shows the correlation between spiritual maturity and reading the Bible. In Brad Waggoner's book "The Shape of Faith to Come," which is based on a LifeWay Research study, and in George Guthrie's "Read the Bible for Life" material, we see that reading the Bible is the best predictor of spiritual maturity. In other words, if you are in the Bible, you are growing spiritually.

Many people are realizing that we aren't making as many disciples as we would like. Studies done by LifeWay Research show a lack of discipleship among many evangelical Christians. So we need to ask: What's the answer to that? Issues such as preaching, missional living and "doing life" in a covenant community are all part of the solution. But I think there's no question that an essential element is leading God's people to consistently engage God's word through reading, studying and memorization. Biblical illiteracy is prevalent and personal commitment to God's word is the only real answer.

It is critical for church leadership to challenge believers to be in the word of God, consistently growing in their knowledge of the Scriptures. One way to do that is to teach and encourage study of the Scriptures in the context of the grand narrative of redemption. I try to read the Bible in the way it unfolds. The Bible is not a series of isolated morality tales.

Instead, by looking at it as a whole through a Christ-centered lens, I read the Scriptures with the whole story of redemption in mind.

I regularly hear of people who would rather read devotional books than read the Bible. Certainly, when wading through Leviticus, the chapter on identifying and treating skin diseases doesn't exactly bring great joy and warmth to the heart. But we need to remember that even that passage plays a part in the unfolding plan of redemption.

All parts of the Bible are equally inspired, but not all are "equally applied to my life in this very moment." I recognize my view can be easily misunderstood, but I think that I probably need to spend more time praying on and thinking through Philippians chapter 2 than I do Leviticus chapter 13, the skin disease chapter. So, I think what we have to do is remember why they're both there.

**"... there's no question that an essential element is leading God's people to consistently engage God's word through reading, studying and memorization."**

With that being said, one of the things I do is make it a habit to read through the Bible once a year. If I simply read the parts I think I need the most, I will miss a big part of God's design for my growth. Even though my tendency, like a lot of Christians, is only to

read the New Testament, I need to spend time in the Old Testament as well. It is essential for all believers to get the full picture of God's revelation.

Churches today face some big challenges. One of the greatest is the evangelical angst occurring in North America. Evangelicals in our country are just not sure of who they are or where they're going.

Perhaps what evangelicals need most right now is a strategy for biblical literacy. We need to reengage the biblical narrative and immerse ourselves in consistent study. It will help us be more gracious and winsome in the way we communicate. It will help us have a clearer view on controversial issues. It will help us to understand and communicate a clear gospel as laid out in the Scriptures—a gospel of the cross and of the kingdom. The word of God is essential to where we are right now. (BP)

*Ed Stetzer is vice president of research and ministry development at LifeWay Christian Resources.*

## Preacher's Kids

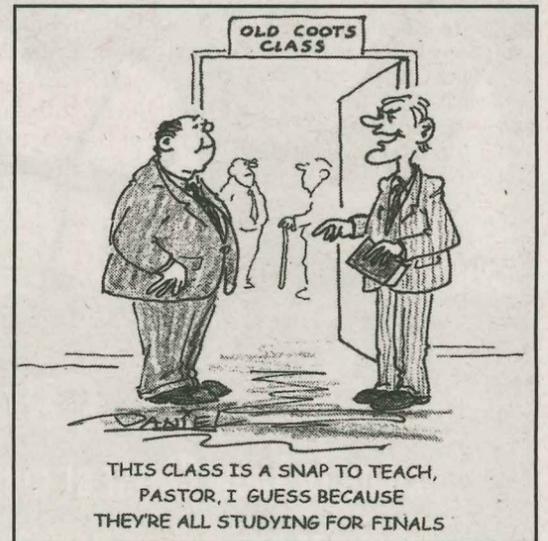
David Ayers



Joe McKeever



Fletch



Dennis Fletcher

## Bible Crosswords

By Janet W. Adkins

- Across**
- 1 Croaker
  - 5 "The priest shall pronounce him clean: it is but a \_\_\_\_" (Leviticus 13:6)
  - 9 Female sibling, for short
  - 12 South American country
  - 13 Layer
  - 14 Gold, Sp.
  - 15 "And they bowed their heads, and made \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 43:28)
  - 17 Familiar name for Saul's son (1 Samuel 14:42)
  - 18 "Master, the Jews of \_\_\_\_ sought to stone thee" (John 11:8)
  - 19 "Then Saul fell straightway all \_\_\_\_ on the earth" (1 Samuel 28:20)
  - 20 "Though thou shouldst bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 27:22)
  - 23 Plural suffix
  - 24 "And be ye kind \_\_\_\_ to another" (Ephesians 4:32)
  - 25 "Stolen \_\_\_\_ are sweet" (Proverbs 9:17)
  - 28 "Woe unto them that draw iniquity ... and sin as it were with a cart \_\_\_\_" (Isaiah 5:18)
  - 30 "The liberal soul shall be made \_\_\_\_" (Proverbs 11:25)
  - 31 Conceited person
  - 33 "Cut the bars of iron in \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 107:16)
  - 35 Before, poetic
  - 36 Talking horse
  - 37 "And the harp, and the viol, and the \_\_\_\_ ..." (Isaiah 5:12)
  - 40 "They fell on their \_\_\_\_: and they said, The Lord ..." (1 Kings 18:39)
  - 42 Volcano output
  - 43 Burned residue
  - 44 "If ... I may provoke to \_\_\_\_ them which are my flesh" (Romans 11:14)
  - 49 Black sticky substance
  - 50 "And his allowance was a ... daily \_\_\_\_ for every day" (2 Kings 25:30)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18					19				
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24							25			26		27
28			29		30					31		32
	33			34							35	
				36			37	38	39			
40	41					42						
43				44	45					46	47	48
49				50						51		
52				53						54		

- 51 Sharpen
- 52 Compass point, abbr.
- 53 "Thou sawest the feet and \_\_\_\_" (Daniel 2:41)
- 54 Precipitation

### Down

- 1 Fleet post office, abbr.
- 2 Confederate soldier
- 3 Mine product
- 4 "But thou shalt put away the \_\_\_\_ of innocent blood from Israel" (Deuteronomy 19:13)
- 5 "For I have learned, in whatsoever \_\_\_\_ I am, therewith to be content" (Philippians 4:11)
- 6 Motion picture
- 7 Atomic Energy Commission, abbr.
- 8 "That the \_\_\_\_ may be waved for a wave offering" (Leviticus 7:30)
- 9 "For I am a stranger \_\_\_\_, and a \_\_\_\_ as all my fathers were" (Psalm 39:12)
- 10 "Thou shalt not lift up any \_\_\_\_ tool upon them" (Deuteronomy 27:5)
- 11 "And he hath put a new \_\_\_\_ in my mouth" (Psalm 40:3)
- 16 My Gal \_\_\_\_
- 20 For, Sp.
- 21 "And Seth ... begat \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 5:6)
- 22 "Their throat is an open \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 5:9)

- 23 "And they shall \_\_\_\_ the flesh in that night, roast with fire" (Exodus 12:8)
- 25 "Joshua made \_\_\_\_ a long time with all those kings" (Joshua 11:18)
- 26 Einsteinium, chem. symbol
- 27 Painful
- 29 Printer's measure
- 30 "When saw we thee an hungered and \_\_\_\_ thee?" (Matthew 25:37)
- 32 Wager
- 34 "The \_\_\_\_ shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" (Isaiah 35:1)
- 37 "And their words seemed to them as idle \_\_\_\_" (Luke 24:11)
- 38 "The king of Assyria brought men from Babylon ... Cuthah, and from \_\_\_\_" (2 Kings 17:24)
- 39 Twenty thousand measures of barley, and twenty thousand \_\_\_\_ of wine" (2 Chronicles 2:10)
- 40 Destiny
- 41 Belonging to Abia's son (Matthew 1:7)
- 42 Ancient musical instrument
- 45 Late Chinese Communist Chairman
- 46 Charged particle
- 47 "The children of Lod, Hadid, and \_\_\_\_" (Ezra 2:33)
- 48 Not old

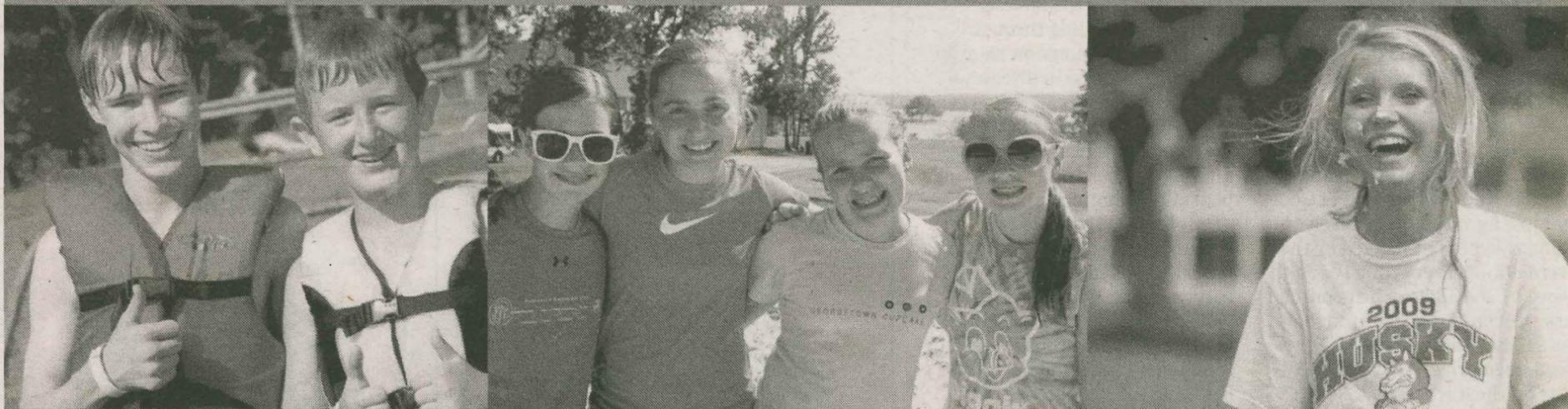
## Last puzzle's solution

1	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G		D	A	Y			
11	E	D	O	M		12	L	O	R	D		R	E			
14	G	E		15	A	B	E	L		A		18	K	L		
19	I	N		20	G	E	L		21	A	V	I		22	L	
27	N		23	E	N	M	I	T	Y		25	A	D	O		
31	I	N		32	A	G	A	I	N		34	I	M			
35	N	A	K	E		37	A	R	C		38	O	I		39	
40	G	M		41	V	I		42	C	E		43	H		44	N
49	S	E	T	H		46		47	S	O	L	I	D			
54	O	V	U	L	E		52	H	E	B		53	S	O	L	
59	W	L	A	R	G	E		60	E	E	L		Y			

# WEB ADVERTISING

Web advertising is available on the Western Recorder Website: [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org). For more information, call (502) 489-3428, or e-mail Business Manager Tom Townsend at [Tom.Townsend@WesternRecorder.org](mailto:Tom.Townsend@WesternRecorder.org).

# EXPERIENCE CROSSINGS CAMPS!



HERE AT CROSSINGS our mission is to create an environment where our guests can come to know Christ or more fully experience Him. We do this by facilitating 10 weeks of camp during the summer and a wide variety of retreats and conferences throughout the year.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT:

## THE GOSPEL

At Crossings, we're serious about the Gospel and inviting our guests to trust Christ for the gift of salvation and follow Him as Lord. This is the reason we exist. In everything we do, we aim to provide an environment where students and adults can cross over from death to life.

## OUR LOCATIONS

CEDARMORE  
located 40 miles  
northeast of Louisville

JONATHAN CREEK  
located 120 miles  
northwest of  
Nashville



## RELATIONSHIPS

We are passionate about building relationships for Christ's glory. Our goal is to connect with you, your students, and connect you with Christ.

TO BOOK YOUR RETREAT OR TO REGISTER FOR CAMP  
VISIT [WWW.CROSSINGSCAMPS.ORG](http://WWW.CROSSINGSCAMPS.ORG) OR CALL 502.491.7000

[www.facebook.com/crossingscamps](http://www.facebook.com/crossingscamps)

[www.twitter.com/crossingscamps](http://www.twitter.com/crossingscamps)



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

John 5:24