

WESTERN Recorder

January 31, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 4

Oneida Baptist Institute calls new president

Paul Davidson to succeed Bud Underwood, is 11th president in school history

By Drew Nichter

Manchester—A new era of leadership at Oneida Baptist Institute will begin April 1 as Paul Davidson becomes the school's 11th president.

Trustees for the 113-year-old Kentucky Baptist boarding school elected Davidson by a 21-0 vote Jan. 27 at Manchester Baptist Church. Davidson will succeed Bud Underwood, who will retire March 31 after 18 years as OBI president.

Davidson, 60, was chosen from among 11 candidates to become Oneida's next president, according to Ken Bolin, chair of the trustees' five-member executive committee which handled the search process.

Bolin said that of those candidates the search team considered, Davidson and the Oneida presidency were a perfect fit.

"We believe that he was the hands-down choice for this position," said Bolin, pastor of Manchester Baptist Church.

Davidson's resumé was "loaded," Bolin pointed out, "but it was his humble, gentle spirit ... that really sold it for us."

Davidson does indeed have an extensive educational, ministerial and missionary background. He and his wife, Diane, have served at Oneida Baptist Institute since 2005, where he has taught Bible, math and music classes. Davidson became the school's campus minister in August 2010, replacing the late Michael Spencer who died in April of that year after a brief battle with cancer.

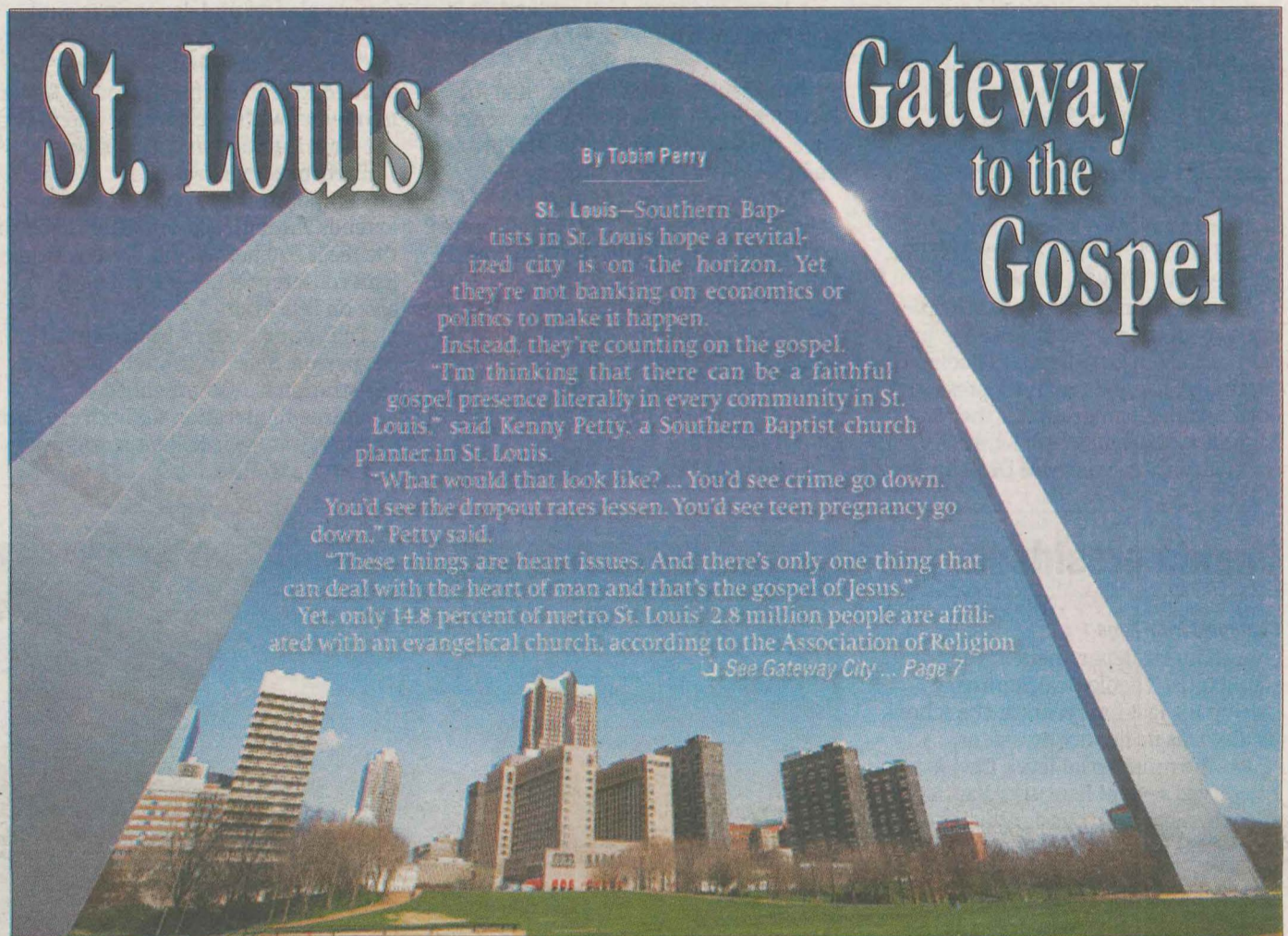
Prior to arriving at Oneida, the Davidsons served as career missionaries in Nigeria through the International Mission Board. Health concerns with their daughter, Anna, compelled them to return to the United States in 2005.

While in Nigeria, Davidson was a faculty member, dean and director of the

□ See Oneida president ... Page 2



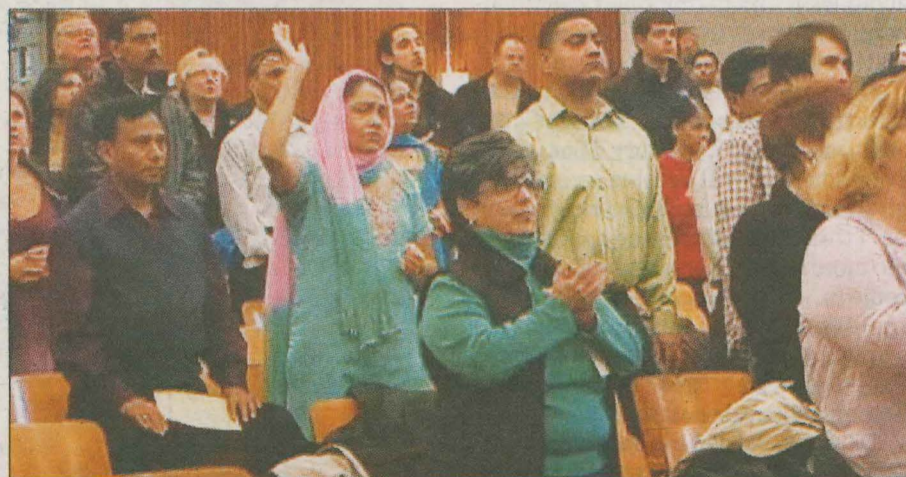
Paul Davidson



NYC pastor: Church ban 'major opportunity' for Christians

By Erin Roach

New York—A New York City pastor said a recent ban on churches meeting in schools, though troubling for constitutional and practical reasons, offers an unprecedented occasion for believers to demonstrate the love of Christ.



MOVING OUT? Crossroads Church, a Southern Baptist congregation in Staten Island, N.Y., has been meeting in the Public School 52 auditorium for more than four years. If a recent New York City ban on churches meeting in public schools is not reversed, Crossroads will have to transition to another meeting space. (BP photo)

"I personally believe this is the beginning of great things that God wants to do in New York," said Ray Parascando, pastor of Crossroads Church in Staten Island, N.Y.

"This is a major opportunity for the church to strengthen within as people, kind of rally together and depend on

God like never before and to renew and reignite our passion to reach the city like never before."

Effective Feb. 12, the New York City Department of Education is banning the use of public schools by religious organizations, citing a need to protect the minds of "impressionable youth."

"There's such a need for the church to step out, not in a rallying sense but in a loving sense," Parascando urged.

Crossroads, a Southern Baptist congregation founded in 2002, has been meeting in the Public School 52 auditorium for more than four years, averaging 250 people in worship on Sundays. If the ban is not reversed, the church will have to transition to another meeting space.

"As of now, we're hoping to lease an abandoned movie theater, but we're still waiting for the final paperwork to go through," Parascando said. "Right now we're still up in the air."

Finding appropriate space for a church to meet in New York City is extremely difficult, he explained.

"If you're looking for an apartment

□ See NYC churches ... Page 3



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Western Recorder 1-31-2012

2012 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference

Speaker lineup features state, national leaders

Lexington—"Christ in you ... the hope of glory" is the theme for the 2012 Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference set for Feb. 27-28, at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

This year's speakers include apologist and author Josh McDowell; former Muslim and expert on "Generation Next," David Nasser; Dennis Pethers, the founder of Viz-A-Viz Ministries and international director of More to Life; Robert Smith, a preaching professor at Samford University's Beeson Divinity School; and the author of "10 Answers for Skeptics," Alex McFarland.

Leaders from Southern Baptist life also are on the program. Jeff Iorg, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary; Larry Wynn, vice president of the evangelism group for the North American Mission Board; Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul

Chitwood; and Bill Langley, pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown.

The Atlanta-based group, This Hope, and Amanda Carter of Southland Christian Church in Nicholasville, will lead in worship.

Two special events are planned for Feb. 28 in conjunction with the conference: the women's emphasis and brunch and the young leaders' luncheon.

The women's event features Lori Salierno, founder and CEO of Celebrate Life International. Salierno "communicates God's truth plainly and with power," said Shelly Johns, women's ministry associate for the KBC. "She gets straight to the heart of the matter and leaves you inspired, joy-filled and a bit more equipped to live out your faith courageously and lovingly."

Leaders in Kentucky Baptist life who

are 40 years of age or younger are invited to a special luncheon with Golden Gate President Iorg.

Iorg "is an effective pastor, writer, church planter and denominational leader," said Alan Witham, leader of the KBC's church development team. "We wanted to offer a time for young leaders to interact with one another and to benefit from interaction with Jeff Iorg."

Early-bird registration for the women's emphasis is \$15 per person and extends through Feb. 20. After the 20th, the fee is \$20 per person. At the evangelism conference, tickets will be available on Feb. 27 only.

The young leaders' luncheon is \$7 per person. Space is limited, so early registration is recommended.

Online registration for both events is underway at www.KyBaptist.org/EvangelismConference. (KBC)

WR staff garners Kentucky Press Association honors

Lexington—The Kentucky Press Association awarded the Western Recorder for excellence in journalism at the KPA Winter Convention in Lexington Jan. 20. Staff members were recognized for their efforts in writing, graphics, web and page design.

Todd Deaton, editor of the Western Recorder, said he was delighted.

"Our outstanding staff has received some well-deserved recognition from this professional journalism organization," Deaton said. "I am blessed to work with—and Kentucky Baptists are blessed to have—such a talented staff. I congratulate our staff for continuing their commitment to providing our Kentucky Baptist family with the finest state Baptist newspaper we can produce."

Award recipients from the Western Recorder at the 2012 Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers competition were:

- Robin Bass, partnership editions director, first place and second place for Best Graphic; third place for Best General News Story; and honorable mention for Best Feature Story.

- Deaton, third place for Best Editorial.

- Drew Nichter, news director, second place for Best Front Page.

- Jeff Wise, composition specialist, second place for Best Website.

The total number of entries submitted was 3,800. Eighty-five newspapers across Kentucky competed in divisions for daily, weekly, association and university publications. The Western Recorder competed in the association division, which, according to KPA Executive Director David Thompson, is designed for newspapers that "do not typically cover news like city councils, fiscal courts, but do contain news of interest to their readers or subscribers." (WR)

Oneida president

Continued from page 1

church music department at the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary. During his last four years at the school, he also was its deputy president.

On the ministerial level, Davidson has served several Kentucky Baptist churches, including as a minister of Shepherd's Lick Church in Shepherdsville from 1983-85. He and his family remain members there. Most recently, he served as the interim music minister at First Baptist Church of Hazard.

Like his OBI campus minister predecessor, Davidson, too, has dealt with cancer in recent months. In late November, he had surgery to remove a cancerous prostate. He said doctors caught the problem early and the surgery was successful. "I'm cancer free," Davidson told the Western Recorder, adding that his energy level is at about 98 percent.

Bolin and other search team members said Davidson's health and age were the only two question marks that arose when considering him as OBI's next president.

"I don't think I've ever heard a more passionate, Christian, godly man talk about his love for God and children (and) education at Oneida Baptist Institute," executive committee member Marvin Cress told trustees.

Calling Davidson as president now gives him two months to learn the ropes under current president Underwood, a move the trustee board intended to make when Underwood announced his retirement last September.

Underwood said he will spend time with Davidson daily bringing him up to speed on a number of school business-related items.

Davidson said, however, that until he takes the helm April 1, Underwood remains Oneida's president. "The shots are coming from him and the buck is still stopping at his desk for the next two months."

The soon-to-be president acknowledged that with a new leader on board, changes are inevitable. But what will not change, he insisted, is Oneida's mis-



COVERED IN PRAYER Outgoing Oneida Baptist Institute President Bud Underwood (left) and school trustees place their hands on and pray for Paul and Diane Davidson (seated) following Paul's Jan. 27 election as the next president of OBI. (Photo by Drew Nichter)

sion to provide students with "education for time and eternity."

"The gospel is going to be just as important and central to the work we do there in telling all of our kids ... about Jesus and giving them every opportunity we can to accept Him as Lord and Savior," Davidson noted.

OBI currently has students from 22 countries on its campus, more than at any time during its history. That, Davidson said, will become an emphasis given his overseas missions experiences.

"I think it sensitizes me and makes me more aware that when our kids come in, ... there's definitely a cultural transition," he said, adding that he wants to "spread our international nets even more widely" and "help the gospel become more relevant to them."

Davidson earned his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He has a Master of Divinity degree from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary in Lombard, Ill.; a Master of Theology degree from the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago; and a Master of Church Music and Doctor of Musical Arts from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Davidson and his wife, Diane, have two children, Andrew, a 2007 graduate of OBI, and Anna, who is a junior at the school. (WR)

Iowa Baptist editor to become DOM for Missouri association

Des Moines, Iowa—Richard Nations, editor of the Iowa Baptist newspaper, has resigned to become director of missions for Thousand Hills Baptist Association, in Kirksville, Mo.

Nations has served as editor of the Baptist Convention of Iowa's newspaper for the last 11 years. It is produced by the Western Recorder through a partnership agreement with the two publications.

In addition to his editor duties, Nations also has served as a church health strategist for the Iowa convention, a role he has held for more than 18 years.

"The Lord is leading Rachel and me to return to my hometown, and be the DOM for the association where I grew up in the '60s and '70s," Nations told the BCI staff. "I thank God for all of you as we have worked together the past several years. I have loved serving the churches, associations, pastors and

church leaders in Iowa.

In his new role, Nations will lead Thousand Hills Association, which has 36 member churches in five counties in northeast Missouri not far from the Iowa border.

Nations began his work in January 1994 with what then was known as the Iowa Southern Baptist Fellowship. It became the Baptist Convention of Iowa two years later.

"Richard has a tremendous love for people. I first noticed this as he has ministered to

the pastors and staff of the BCI churches," BCI Executive Director Tom Law said. "I have enjoyed working with him these past few months and even though he has not left yet, I am already missing him. Although we are going to miss Richard I know that he will do a wonderful job in Missouri and he has promised that his association will partner with the BCI, our associations and our churches." (BCI)



Richard Nations

SBC disaster relief teams deploy after Ala., Ark. tornadoes

By Mickey Noah

Birmingham, Ala.—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers from a half-dozen local associations in central Alabama are responding to three tornadoes that struck the state Jan. 23, including one that raked the northeast Birmingham area, killing two people.

The National Weather Service said the tornado that hit the Oak Grove community southwest of Birmingham and ripped northeastward through Center Point, Trussville and Clay was in the EF-3 category, with winds of 150 mph. The two victims were an 81-year-old man in Oak Grove and a 16-year-old girl in Clay.

In addition to the two deaths, more than 100 people were injured, with 22

hospitalized, and some 500 homes damaged or destroyed in Jefferson County by the rare January tornado, according to news reports. Fifty businesses were damaged and Center Point Elementary School was leveled.

A second tornado—labeled as an EF-2 tornado—ripped through Chilton County in south-central Alabama, heavily damaging several dozen houses and businesses but claiming no lives. A third tornado, also an EF-2, touched down in Tuscaloosa County.

Last April, historic killer tornadoes claimed 248 lives in Alabama, most in the Tuscaloosa and Birmingham areas.

Tommy Puckett, longtime disaster relief specialist for the Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions, said First Baptist

Church of Center Point, Ala., will be the base for Southern Baptists' response to the latest tornado damage in the northeast Birmingham area.

"Birmingham Baptist Association is setting up its mobile feeding kitchen at First Baptist and is gearing up to serve 1,000 meals a day," Puckett said. In addition, an on-site coordinator and assessment teams from the nearby St. Clair Baptist Association have combed the Center Point/Trussville areas assessing recovery needs.

Bessemer Baptist Association is working in the Oak Grove community just west of Birmingham, while Chilton County and Selma Baptist associations are doing assessment and recovery work in the hard-hit Maplesville area near

Clanton, Ala.

Puckett applauded Southern Baptist churches and others who were quick to volunteer in the wake of the recent tornadoes. "Our Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are trained and experienced in responding to such emergencies.

"Baptists should pray for the victims directly affected by the tornadoes and for the safety of our volunteers as they move in and especially for opportunities to share the gospel with homeowners," Puckett said.

Tornadoes with 111-135 mph winds also touched down last Jan. 22 near Fordyce, Ark., where Arkansas Baptists have deployed two recovery teams. (NAMB/BP)

LifeWay's 'Gospel Project' to provide in-depth curriculum across all age groups

Nashville, Tenn.—For the first time in more than a decade, LifeWay Christian Resources is releasing a new ongoing Bible study series for children, students and adults all under one theme.

"The Gospel Project" is an in-depth and gospel-centered Bible study designed to help participants examine the deeper theological and missional concepts in the text. It is slated for preorder in June and features a three-year study plan with 13-week units. Each unit uses an age-appropriate voice, depth and course of study.

For example, The Gospel Project for

Kids follows a chronological timeline of Bible events, while The Gospel Project for Students focuses on biblical theology, apologetics, missions and the overall story of Scripture.

"This is more than curriculum," said Trevin Wax, managing editor of The Gospel Project. "The goal is to provide a theologically driven study that points people to Jesus.

"It's easy to come to Scripture looking

for just new information or immediate application. We can even have Bible knowledge and not be focused on Christ," Wax said.

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, serves as general editor for The Gospel Project.

"Going 'deep' means different things to dif-

ferent people. Some of what passes for 'deep' is merely information, Bible trivia and minutia," Stetzer said. "Others pit

'deep' and 'relevant' against one another. Yet, more church leaders realize today that unless you dig deep and help people know and live out the Scriptures, you are not relevant.

"Much Bible study material is created under the assumption that to be relevant to the new believer or unchurched visitor, the leader needs to stay on the surface," he added. "Some even say, 'Dig deep and you lose people.' We think leaders must make the profound truths of Scripture accessible to everyone."

Samples of the study are available at GospelProject.com. (LW/BP)



NYC churches

Continued from page 1

for a family of four, you can find that," he said, but finding a space for 250 people is a different story, especially when appropriate space for children is needed. Doing children's ministry in a theater "is going to stifle us a bit, so we're going to need to be creative."

Crossroads has a good relationship with the Department of Education as a whole, Parascando said, thanks in part to a Southern Baptist initiative called Paint the Town. The church has helped paint 16 public schools in all five boroughs, including the one in which they currently meet.

"There are a lot of things we do in the community. So, the school loves us because we're catering to the kids."

The ban on churches meeting in schools, Parascando said, is a bad idea in several ways. First and foremost, it's unconstitutional.

"You can't say that a soccer team can use the school but a church can't. You can't say Girl Scouts can meet there but the church can't," he pointed out. "It's unconstitutional to single out one group over another.

"If this was happening to Muslims, this would be a major national issue. There would be major pushback on it," Parascando said. "But because it's the Christian church, it's labeled as, 'They're just trying to get something for free.'"

A New York Times op-ed piece contained misinformation, the pastor said, when the writer portrayed churches as using public schools for free. Churches

pay between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per month to meet in the schools, which Parascando said is a fair price and "a nice extra flow of income" for the city.

"Economically, it doesn't make sense for the city of New York to do this," Parascando said. "They cry about their lack of budget to pay teachers. They cut the custodial budget every year. ... This is bringing money into the system."

More importantly, the pastor said, New York's ban sends a message that this sort of regulation is acceptable, fearing it this will serve as a precedent for further restriction of churches' access to public facilities.

"I know God has a plan no matter what, and when people try to persecute, God's going to use it for promotion," Parascando said. "When people accuse and try to discredit, God's going to use it to do more. He's doing that, but it concerns me as a Christian and as an American that our rights are being manipulated this way."

As a way to present the facts clearly, Parascando has invited local officials to a news conference he plans to hold before the ban takes effect. He said he hopes the ban will be reversed, but if not, Crossroads will comply.

"We're going to go one even better than that. Knowing all of this, we will still paint the schools this summer because we care about the children, we care about the faculty, we care about the Department of Education and what they're about," Parascando said.

"So even though we don't agree with a lot of their decisions, especially this regulation, we still want to minister in the love of Jesus Christ by serving." (BP)

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Western Recorder is a great ministry tool

I am grateful for a recent opportunity to visit with Western Recorder editor Todd Deaton. Todd is celebrating his third anniversary as editor.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

I recall my delight in 2009 as I listened to Todd share his testimony with the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board. The son of a Baptist pastor, Todd sensed a very clear call on his life to serve in Christian journalism. He spoke openly of his love for the Lord and his desire to serve the Lord's churches.

Todd also talked about the direction he would like to take the paper. I was convinced he would stand good on his promises to seek to advance the cooperative mission efforts of Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists by telling the stories of what God is doing through us.

In fact, I was so optimistic Todd would set a positive tone of encouragement and support for our churches and denominational partnerships that I went home to my church with a plan to take advantage of the program that allows churches to use the back pages of the Western Recorder as a means to distribute their newsletter. At First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington, that plan resulted in an immediate and significant financial savings as the Western Recorder somehow manages to distribute an entire newspaper for a fraction of the cost of distributing a newsletter from the local church.

The greatest benefit of using the Western Recorder, however, had much more to do with "getting" than "saving" as church members began getting updates on God's work through Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists. They received ideas for outreach as they read success stories of sister churches. During prayer meetings, they offered requests for missionaries serving in difficult places and for disaster relief workers as they labored in the rubble, brokenness and suffering left behind by floods, tornados, fires, hurricanes and tsunamis.

The Western Recorder can only be a blessing, however, if it reaches church leaders and members. Every pastor already receives the paper each week, and I'd like to encourage all to take a fresh look at this vibrant publication.

Pastors, even if you had concerns in the past about making available to your church members a potentially divisive newspaper, I believe you will see a positive and helpful ministry tool today. If you look and agree with me, I would encourage you to provide a subscription for at least your top five church leaders. Todd will be sharing with you soon a very attractive offer to make it easy for your church to do this.

I am an enthusiastic cheerleader for today's Western Recorder, a great ministry partner keeping readers informed of mission opportunities, gospel advance, prayer needs and telling the story of Kentucky Baptists. Happy anniversary, Editor Deaton. We're glad you're here!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Tricks can be fun, but not like this'

"Tricks can be a lot of fun, but as long as I hold the cards, you are never going to win."

Christian illusionist David Garrard wants to help Kentucky Baptists send that clear, strong message to state legislators and fellow Kentuckians. "The same holds true for proposals to expand gambling in Kentucky," he points out. "It may look like a good thing, like easy money, but in the long run, we just all lose."

Garrard, who recently celebrated 35 years as children's minister at Louisville's St. Matthews Baptist Church, is a family forum columnist for the Western Recorder. He is concerned about the destructive impact that gambling will have on families. Last week he was in the Kentucky Baptist Building to film two short videos to help get an anti-gambling message out in a creative and entertaining format using social media.

Performing at a Christmas dinner for Western Recorder trustees three years ago, Garrard was one of the first Kentuckians I met after being elected as editor. I since have seen him perform on several occasions. Not only does he continually amaze audiences with astounding illusions, but he also often pairs tricks with a strong Christian message.

"I just had a couple of card tricks that have gambling themes, but they certainly don't promote gambling," he said. "If anything, they show the fact that you just can't win." While the tricks are a lot of fun to watch, he hopes people will pass them around to fellow church members, family and friends through email, Facebook and Twitter. The videos convey an important message aimed at expanded gambling: "It's fun to be fooled, but not like this. Please vote 'No.'" While gambling proponents want to shift our focus by creating an illusion of mounds of money to be gained, the horrific reality is of desperate lives and homes destroyed through gambling addictions.

The illusion videos are a great example of how people can use their talents and abilities for God's purposes. "For me, I was so grateful to have the opportunity to use a gift, a talent, an ability that I think God has given me and allowed me to develop and enjoy for His purposes," Garrard said. "I really feel like fighting this is something that God wants Christians to do, to stand up against this."

And while KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood and Frankfort pastor Hershael York certainly have led the charge, speaking out against expanded gambling efforts through their powerful and pointed prayers before legislators, what is urgently needed now is for all Christians to stand up and be heard.

Bonnie Abner of Louisville, for example, recently

shared with us a letter dated Jan. 19 that she sent to Governor Beshear:

"I'm disappointed that you are planning on commitments to the gambling industry.

"I don't think that you are going to like yourself later on, when you see what this increase in gambling in Kentucky has done to the families of the gamblers and our state.

"If my memory serves me right, your father, and maybe your grandfather, were ministers/pastors. Would they be pleased with the big increase in gambling in Kentucky, brought about by one of their family members? Is this the way you want to be remembered? I doubt it.

"I appreciate your hard work for our state. I pray for you, and our state legislature, every day, asking God to give you His wisdom, directions and guidance for every decision that you must make.

"My vote helped elect you, because I had confidence at that time, that you would follow the God-directed advice of our Lord."

More Baptists need to take a few minutes to contact their legislators, encouraging them to stand against any proposal to expand gambling. Be short, direct and clear: Our state needs less gambling, not more.

Chip Hutcheson, chairman of the KBC Committee on Public Affairs, urges, "It is important for pastors to call, but in reality legislators expect that. What is so vital is for laypeople to make that call. You don't have to explain your position, just relate to them you are against any expanded gambling proposal because it is not good for Kentuckians.

"Quite often we hear about bad legislation going through because there was little or no opposition to it. That cannot be the case now," Hutcheson, editor of the Princeton Times Leader added. "Let's not be guilty of being lax and allowing this malady to inflict Kentucky."

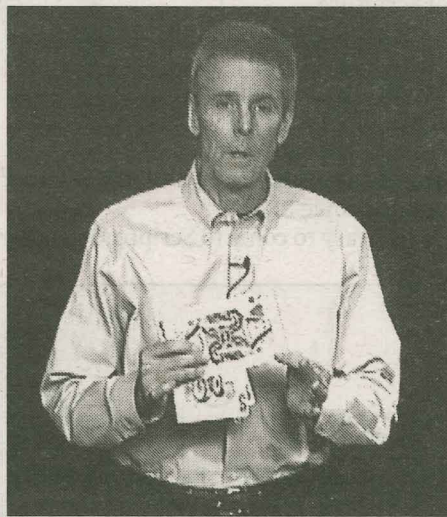
Last week, Governor Beshear and Sen. Damon Thayer, the likely sponsor of the casino gambling amendment, reached an agreement on the bill's language, suggesting that it will be filed soon. This bill is yet another example of seeking a quick and easy solution to the state's complex revenue problems that will in the long term do much more damage to the

state than good. It is vital for Kentucky Baptists to speak out very clearly to our elected officials before gambling interests begin pouring in money to sway public opinion. Call the legislative message line (800-372-7181) and state your opposition to any legislation that puts expanded gambling on a ballot as a Constitutional Amendment.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton



David Garrard performs a card trick as part of two new anti-gambling expansion videos produced by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Committee on Public Affairs. A message at the end of each video asks viewers to call the legislative message line at 800-372-7181 and urge their legislators to vote against gambling expansion. The videos are designed for release through social media like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter, and Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to pass them to others. To see and share the videos, visit the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs blog at www.kbcpublicaffairs.com.

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What's an 'open door' to do with the gospel?

One of the challenges of maintaining ministry or witnessing relationships is knowing when and how to offer spiritual input into another person's life. It's easy when "visitation" of people who first visited your church is your only model of sharing the gospel or offering ministry to others. You know the purpose of the meeting, the other person knows it, and the conversation isn't really started until the spiritual purpose is introduced. That's fine in that context.

But what about your family members—the people you share holidays, family events, and life's ups and downs? What about your co-workers, neighbors, friends at your gym, or other people you interact with on a consistent basis? Every conversation isn't about the gospel or other spiritual issues. In fact, if that is all you talk about you may find you don't have too many of these people in your life. They see you coming—and go the other way.

As Christians, we have a responsibility to share the gospel. We want to do that as often as appropriate. We are also supposed to be kind, not browbeating people or otherwise being a nuisance. When that happens, the Good News becomes bad news! None of us want that. So, when and how do you help your friends and family consider

spiritual issues, particularly the gospel? You look for open doors of opportunity.

First Person



Jeff Iorg

"These four phrases encapsulate the 'open doors' we are looking for: people die, health fails, relationships struggle, things break."

Paul used this imagery in 2 Corinthians 2:12 and reported praying that "God may open a door for us" in Colossians 4:3. The image of an open door means "a created opportunity." We should pray for and look for these in the lives of people around us. That begs the question, "What does an open door look like?"

Working with people, particularly as a corporate chaplain in the baseball world, has helped me to crystallize an answer. These four phrases encapsulate the "open doors" we are looking for: people die, health fails, relationships struggle, things break. When any of these things happen—and one or more of them is inevitable—the opportunity to speak up about the gospel (and other spiritual resources God provides) is presenting itself. Pay attention and walk through the open door.

For example, a few years ago a friend's mother died. I showed up at the funeral. He asked, "What are you doing here?" I replied, "I thought you might need a friend today." Through tears he replied, "Thanks." That moment opened

the door for further conversation about his life, his mother, and his questions about life after death (and the gospel). In another instant, a friend was injured in a work-related accident. I showed up, sat with his wife while he was being treated, and she said, "Can you say a prayer for us?" After that, we freely talked about God, the gospel, and his care for us.

Pay attention to what's happening to people in your circle of relationships. Don't stress about how to bring up the gospel or otherwise dialogue about your faith. Just watch for open doors—and have the courage to walk through them. Remember, when people are hurting most other people avoid them—afraid of saying the wrong thing or uncorking emotions they can't handle. Don't be that person. Have the spiritual maturity to draw close to distressed friends. When you do, amazing things happen. (BP)

Jeff Iorg is president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., and author of "Live Like a Missionary." Iorg recently was a presenter for the Shepherding the Shepherd Conference, and he will be a keynote speaker for the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference, Feb. 27-28, at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Divorce prevention in churches

By James Stillwell

Q: Lots of people seem to be getting divorced in our church, some of them "leadership" types. What can we as a church do to prevent divorces?

1. Create awareness using bulletin blurbs, website resources, Facebook and Twitter posts, and video or drama in worship to let people know this is a priority.

2. Cover marriage in sermons in a pastoral way. Humility and vulnerability of the preacher are good vessels for God's word to shine through.

3. Use Scripture in sermons in a practical way so people in a variety of situations can see themselves in the stories of God's word. Priscilla and Aquilla were married leaders who served together. Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Isaac and Ishmael were one mess of a "blended family" that resulted in divorce.

4. Announce verbally and in church bulletins specific opportunities for people who have been married at least 15 years to be trained as marriage mentors.

5. Make sure the pastor or some other leader in the church is trained in a premarital counseling program such as PREPARE. Require at least three sessions before couples are allowed to be married in the church building or by one of the ministers.

6. Interview professional counselors in your area. Create a list of those who would be willing to do a one-session, free "marriage check-up" for couples in your congregation. Have an accessible means of sign-up such as church bulletin or online registration.

7. Emphasize "marriage education" over "counseling" as it avoids the stigma and can be more effective. Make sure teaching sessions following the "marriage check-up" are skills-based using research-validated skills from programs such as PREPARE-ENRICH, PREP, and PAIRS.

8. Assign premarital couples, young and newly married couples to trained marriage mentors, encouraging them to get together for natural, informal times of discussion of married life.

9. Have someone in your congregation trained in one or more excellent marriage education programs such as DivorceBusting, PREPARE-ENRICH, Gottman, PREP, and PAIRS. Many of the programs not only include skills but also biblical support.

10. Send couples to marriage enrichment retreats. Married church staff set the example by attending these as well.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Is your collection collecting dust?

By Jeremy White

Do you have a collection of items that you were once excited about but now is taking up a lot of space? Precious Moments' figurines, baseball cards, beanie babies, or postage stamps? Many lifelong collectors find that their interest in, and the value of, their collections can decline over time.



A recent newspaper article featured a Pennsylvania man who had 7,178 rare cigarette packs. He

started collecting in the 1950s and spent many vacations, even a honeymoon, trying to find rare cigarette packs. Even though many of the packs are indeed rare, their value has dropped substantially because very few people are now interested in collecting them. His grandkids are no longer interested in taking over a collection that takes up a significant portion of their grandparents' house.

Whether coins, comic books, or collectible toys, we seem to have an attraction to gather and collect. From a spiritual perspective, large collections can be a great sponge of time, energy, money and space.

Collections are often not financially rewarding. Although various items can experience a peak in demand, they often are subject to changing taste. Antiques of a certain type may be in vogue during one period of time, but can be bountiful at any auction in later periods. Sport cards may have been in demand at one time, but new generations no longer find interest in them.

Don't save those rare cigarette packs or 55 glass figurines for future generations. They likely won't have the same interest as you do. Because it is rare for collections to experience significant financial appreciation, you should enjoy them for your own sake and not count on future generations to enjoy your hobby.

As believers with an eternal perspective, we should keep in mind not to collect and expect to have treasures on this earth. It could be that our collectibles are such a diversion that we are distracted from things and activities of eternal value. Those never gather dust or cause a space problem.

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.

So, how is self-dependence working for us?

By Jim Denison

Keith Ablow is a forensic psychiatrist and graduate of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

He made national headlines recently with a column titled, "America is drunk."

Ablow cites new data from the Centers for Disease Control revealing that one in six Americans downs eight mixed drinks within a few hours, four times a month.

Twenty-eight percent of young people between the ages of 18 and 24 binge drink five times every month. Thirteen percent of those between the ages of 45 and 65 do the same.

According to Ablow, this is equivalent to news that a quarter of our young people were abusing cocaine or injecting heroin more than once a week. "The psychological/cognitive effects of seven or eight drinks are no less intense, and, possibly, even more dramatic," he warns.

What is behind this trend?

His answer: "My theory is that Americans are on a flight from reality" as we face "the precarious state of the economy, the gathering

storm represented by militant Muslims, in general, and Iran, in particular, the crumbling state of marriage in this country, the fact that our borders are being overrun, and the fact that our health-care insurance is in shambles (to name just a smattering of the troubles we desperately need to address)."

What are we doing in response?

"We as a nation are drinking, drugging, gambling, smoking, Facebooking, YouTubing, Marijuaning, Kardashianing, Adderalling, Bono-ing (as in thinking of Chaz's flight from reality as good), Prozacking, Twittering, and Sexting ourselves into oblivion."

Then the psychiatrist makes this claim: "The fact that we are doing this as a culture is the single most ominous psychological trend we have ever faced. I am not exaggerating."

What is the answer?

According to Ablow, "The only antidote is the decisiveness of individuals to live their lives, to be present and to count—for real." On his website he states his message: "By harnessing your innate capacity for courage, faith, truth and compassion you will find the power to reach most any goal."

"The fact that we are doing this as a culture is the single most ominous psychological trend we have ever faced."

Note that God isn't part of the equation. Self-reliance is the gospel of our culture. Religion is a hobby—something for you to do on Sunday while others sleep in or play golf. They can't force their hobbies on you any more than you can force yours on them.

But let's think about Ablow's prescription that we become more self-reliant. Reread his list of the

issues that have driven our nation into such a perilous state. What has produced them? How is self-dependence working for us? (ABP)

Jim Denison is president of the Denison Forum on Truth and Culture and theologian-in-residence for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

'Miniature Christian bookstore' no bigger than a fingertip

By Kay Campbell

Crete, Ill.—God may hold the whole world in His hands, but persecuted Christians now can hold an entire seminary library on a fingertip.

Bible League International is working with the Digital Bible Society to carry the thumbnail-sized chips to Christians in countries, such as China or Saudi Arabia, where possessing unapproved religious materials can result in prosecution or even death.

"It's like a miniature Christian bookstore," said Robert Frank, Global CEO of Bible League International, an Illinois-based nonprofit evangelical ministry dedicated to training church leaders to use the Bible.

The digital ministry continues the historic work of the Bible League, which went international after World War II when Gen. Douglas MacArthur asked U.S. Christian groups to send the Bible to Japan.

The Bible League's 2011 merger with the Texas-based World Bible Translation Center expanded its abilities to get materials to Christians around the world in

their own languages.

The Digital Bible compresses data for maximum storage, then copies the material to cell phone cards, thumb drives, CDs and DVDs, depending upon the country where they will be used. The advantage of the format is that a person can use them, but leave no trace on a computer of their use, unlike the trails left by accessing websites.

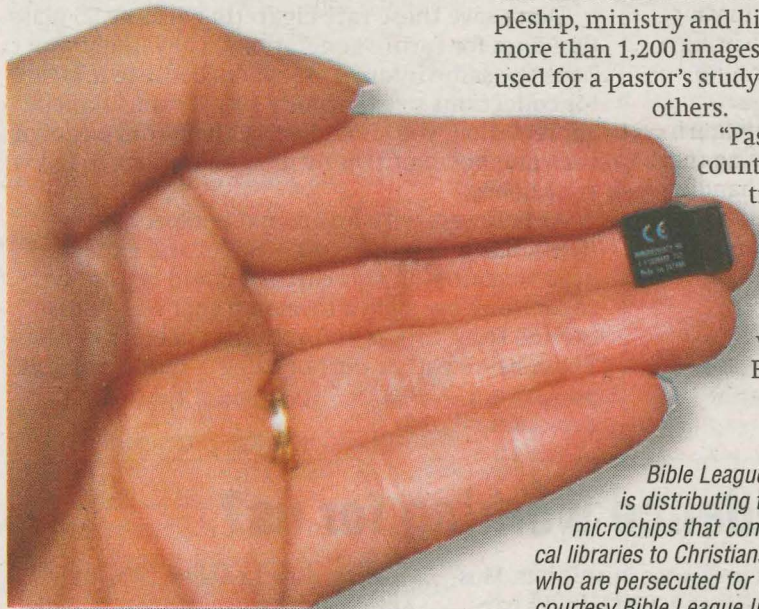
Publishers who made their work available for the chip also have agreed to allow the copying of the cards without a fee, Frank said. The works have been translated into Arabic, Farsi, Mandarin and other languages spoken in areas where Christians are persecuted.

"And the content has been donated," said Synetta Armstrong, senior director of global communications for the Bible League, who demonstrated the chip at last fall's Religion Newswriters Association conference. "We want to spread the word of God."

In addition to several versions of the Bible, each of the Digital Bible libraries include worship music, movies, Bible commentaries, a study library, a copy of Rick Warren's "The Purpose Driven Life" and other landmark books about discipleship, ministry and history, as well as more than 1,200 images which can be used for a pastor's study and for teaching others.

"Pastors in these countries want to be trained, but they have no seminaries," said Melany Ethridge, a spokeswoman for the Bible League. (RNS)

Bible League International is distributing thumbnail-sized microchips that contain entire theological libraries to Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith. (Photo courtesy Bible League International)



Church planting



Peter Oh (right), pastor of Juneau Korean Church, and his son, Daniel (center), visit Rae McAlister at her alteration shop in downtown Juneau, Alaska. Oh regularly visits with fellow Koreans in the Alaska capital on Saturdays and now has developed relationships with about 40 fellow Koreans in the community. (Photo by Tyler Malone/BP)

Korean church planter takes gospel to Alaska's capital

Juneau, Alaska—Believing that God was stirring him to reach unchurched fellow Koreans, Peter Oh relocated his family from the largest city in Alaska three years ago to plant a Korean church in the state's capital, Juneau.

Oh and his wife, Jong, and their three children moved from an established Korean Baptist church in Anchorage and relocated to Juneau "totally on faith," said Mike Procter, executive director of the Alaska Baptist Convention.

Oh said he "noticed God was calling me to go to Juneau" about two years after learning that the Korean church in Juneau had closed.

Procter said that Oh "has done a tremendous job developing a Korean congregation" in Juneau, which meets on at the city's Emmanuel Baptist Church.

"He has a high sense of calling," Procter said of Oh, "and he's got a com-

mitment to that calling of God."

Oh reaches into the city's Korean population in practical ways, such as visiting fellow Koreans in their businesses on Saturdays, carrying gifts of traditional Korean food, and handing out CD recordings of his sermon and the church's most recent bulletin.

"Our church started out with only three families," Oh said—17 people from among about 70 Koreans in Juneau. "Now I have a relationship with about 40 of the 70 Koreans in Juneau."

Oh said five Korean business owners have joined his church, which has about 25 attending weekly.

Procter said that Oh is impacting all of the Korean population. "They all may not be coming to church," he said, "but he is having an influence on all of them because of his consistency and because of his ministry to them outside of the local church." (BP)

'Courageous' tops U.S. DVD sales list

Hollywood, Calif.—The church-made film "Courageous" once again is surprising the pundits thanks to strong DVD sales that have made it the No. 1-selling DVD nationwide.

Made by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., "Courageous" was the top-selling DVD for the week ending Jan. 22, according to Nielsen. With a budget of only \$1 million, "Courageous" bested several movies with much larger budgets.

The "Courageous" DVD, released Jan. 17, includes more than two hours of special features. It was the top-grossing box office new film on its opening weekend and also was No. 1 in per-theater average.

The movie follows the story of five men as they strive to become better fathers. (BP)



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ST. LOUIS: Barbershop patrons inspire much-needed church plant

By Tobin Perry

St. Louis—You can tell a lot about a community from the inside of a barber shop. Just about everyone, at some time or another, needs a haircut.

Yet of all the patrons at the beauty and barbershop operated by Sean and Taquella Boone in metro St. Louis, one group stood out to the couple—young African-Americans who wanted no part of the traditional church.

The Boones saw them every day. They needed to hear about Jesus, but most wouldn't have felt comfortable in the nearby aging churches.

"There's this huge generation of people who just have never heard the gospel in a language they can understand," Sean Boone said.

So Boone started New Beginnings Christian Fellowship three years ago to reach people no one else was reaching—those who frequented his barbershop.

Now a North American Mission Board church planter working bivocationally, Boone is one of a handful of church planters engaging metropolitan St. Louis with the gospel in new and fresh ways.



NEW BELIEVER

Reggie Jackson cuts the hair of a youngster at Boone's Beauty and Barber Shop. Church planter Sean Boone led Jackson to Christ after numerous spiritual conversations at the shop.

The community New Beginnings calls home—Hazelwood in the North County communities of St. Louis County—has been in the midst of near-constant change over the last several years. Boone estimated that the African-American population has grown from around 55 percent to more than 75 percent, with much of the increase stemming from the relocation of those living in public housing to the area.

"We still have some Anglos in the



A CHURCH FOR THE PEOPLE North American Mission Board church planter Sean Boone cuts the hair of a patron at the barber and beauty shop he and his wife, Taquella, own. God used the shop to help call Boone to start New Beginnings Christian Fellowship, a Southern Baptist church plant in metro St. Louis. (Photo by Elizabeth Comer/NAMB)

community," Boone said. "But they no longer are doing life with the African-Americans. Their kids no longer go to school with our kids. ... We've experienced 'white flight' in our area. For the most part, North County has become an urban environment."

Boone said he believes most in the community don't attend church—primarily because surrounding churches are speaking a different language and meeting a different set of spiritual needs.

"Established churches exist to meet the needs of established church people," Boone said. "A person who has a history of attending church wants to see things done a certain way and wants to have programming that meets their spiritual needs."

"For the unchurched person, none of those things are important. In fact, most of those things are unattractive to the person because they're seen as part of a system of religion."

At New Beginnings, Boone has sought to make sure the church isn't doing anything that stands in the way of guests

hearing the gospel.

That includes changing a variety of terms for typical church activities. Instead of preaching a sermon, Boone teaches a lesson; instead of having an altar call, he provides guests with a life-change opportunity.

Boone said he believes church plants can be more effective when they're connected with strong partner churches. A partnership with Second Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., has been particularly helpful for New Beginnings, which has 50 people in attendance most Sundays. Second Baptist has come to St. Louis and helped the church with a block party, door-to-door ministry and mailers.

Since most of the people at New Beginnings are new believers, Boone said many don't fully understand their part in the church's ministry. That's why the partnership with Second Baptist has been so crucial.

"They're not only helping us with their resources," he said, "but they're giving our congregation an example of what it's like to live on mission." (NAMB/BP)

Gateway City

Continued from page 1

Data Archives. Even though Southern Baptists have been in the city for as long as there has been a Southern Baptist Convention, there is only one SBC church or church-sponsored mission for every 7,037 residents.

Local Southern Baptists have begun efforts to start more than 75 new Southern Baptist churches in the city over the next five years through their Send North America: St. Louis initiative.

Send North America is the North American Mission Board's national strategy to mobilize and assist individuals and churches to get involved in hands-on church planting in 29 major cities throughout the continent. Through the initiative, NAMB will work alongside Southern Baptist churches that are not directly involved in church planting and help connect them to a plant.

Kentucky Baptists are involved as well, having approved a three-year ministry partnership with St. Louis Metro Baptist Association last November. Churches from the Bluegrass State are being encouraged to get involved with St. Louis Baptists to plant new churches and work alongside existing ministries.

They are just the latest in a line of Southern Baptists who have been meeting since August to develop the local strategy. While there are vast church planting needs throughout the metro area, starting churches among the mostly African American urban core is one of the highest priorities of those developing the plan.

"We're like most Southern Baptists in urban environments in that we vacated our cities 30-50 years ago to go and move to the counties and suburbs," said Jim Breeden, executive director for St. Louis Metro Association. "So, there is a huge need and gap for new church plants in the urban core."

Send North America: St. Louis organizers have been particularly aware of the city's racial divide. While penetrating the large pockets of lostness within the city is the primary objective, many believe intentionally cultivating indigenous African American church planters can help bridge that divide.

"I think people want to see real gospel change," said Kenny Petty, a St. Louis native who is starting The Gate in University City, an inner-ring suburb of St. Louis. "And the gospel changes things like no other—even race."

St. Louis also needs more non-English speaking church plants. Local Southern Baptists say the city has more than 60,000 Bosnians and receives some of the largest amounts of Iraqi refugees in the country. Organizers say they would like to train indigenous leaders from these nations to start new churches within their communities. (NAMB/BP)

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Our history, part 3

1926: Oneida founder James Anderson Burns, H.L. McMurray and J.H. Walker were reunited at spring commencement after being apart more than 20 years.

1927: The Chautauqua tour visited Oneida with music, lectures, plays and various acts. This was the first exposure to the "outside world" for most students and community members. Burns started work on his autobiography, "The Crucible."

1928: Burns returned to Oneida for his second term as acting president. The hospital was completed after 18 years of fundraising by Adeline McConville, Sylvia Russell, OBI's third president, secretly raised money to have a house built for Burns.

1929: Oneida was one of six high schools in the county. Among them, there were 338 students; 149 of them were enrolled at OBI. The school purchased an addressograph (\$350) for the Oneida Mountaineer staff. Officers, faculty and trustees considered expanding Oneida into a junior college.

1930: The Oneida Mountaineer reached 10,000 readers. A drought from March 1930 to February 1931 kept the road to Manchester passable all winter.

1931: Since Clay County received only 40 percent of its normal rainfall the previous year, this year began with dry wells and riverbeds. The month of March finally brought some refreshing rain. The enrollment was approximately 362 high school and elementary school students; 17 seniors graduated.

1932: An unseasonably mild winter caused some flowers and trees to bud in January. The first three months of the year brought temperatures as warm as 80 degrees and no colder than freezing, and that was only on a few occasions.

The depression did not immediately affect Oneida's financial support, but by this time the letters received from contributors contained more and more notes of apologies rather than much-needed donations. After several months' deficit, the school's treasury finally was exhausted. In December, the faculty agreed to donate their salaries to help keep the school open another month.

1933: This was the first year seniors had to meet state graduation requirements and pass a survey examination given by Prof. Burns. Tuition was \$2 a month for day students and \$5 a month for dorm students.

1934: James Anderson Burns resigned as acting president. Trustees named him president emeritus. Charles Goins became the school's fourth president. He had been a teacher and business manager since 1915.

1935: Lilius Fry wrote an article in the Oneida Mountaineer requesting that well wishers not send clothing unfit for wearing, but instead send the postage it would take to mail them. The money was much more useful than a box of clothes that had to be discarded.

1936: A very cold winter with sub-zero temperatures on several occasions forced the school to close for two and a half days because the classrooms could not be made warm enough. Grading work began on Route 11. A request was made for battery-operated radios for students; electric radios picked up too much static to be useful. A spring drought cut the vegetable crop in half. The berries and apples were almost all lost, making for higher grocery bills.

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 better plan

First-year student realizes God's will for her life better than her own

Many of us have had those defining moments in life that motivate us to stop and reassess the direction our lives are taking. First-year student Tyler Camp, from Oklahoma, recalled that moment in her life.

"I was in a car wreck when I was 17," she said. "I literally thought I was going to die. It was that moment when I began to think about God's purpose for my life. I began to question the direction I was headed, and I knew I needed to get serious about following God's will for my life.

"I had felt God calling me to missions service, and this incident motivated me to get serious about following through with God's plan for my life. I looked at several colleges as I was preparing for my undergraduate studies. Both my father and a friend in our church in Oklahoma knew about Clear Creek and shared information about the college with me. When I came for a visit, God gave me a peace that this is where I needed to be.

"Clear Creek is preparing me for my

calling to serve on the mission field," Tyler said. "I recently had the opportunity to participate in a mission trip to the part of the world where I feel God is calling me. I was able to work among teenagers teaching English, building relationships and sharing the gospel.

"One day as I was sitting next to a young lady on a bus, I was able to start a conversation with her and share the gospel. She had never heard about Jesus before and was amazed at what she heard. She didn't make a decision that day, but I continue to correspond with her through email and I am praying she will give her life to Christ. I know

God is calling me to go back to that area to build relationships and share the gospel with more people.

"Isaiah 55:8-9 sums up my walk with Christ now," Tyler said. "Before I came to Clear Creek, I had a different plan. Now God has reminded me that He has a much better plan for my life—a plan I could never come up with on my own."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

LifeWay survey

Americans split on candidates who express religious beliefs

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—Presidential candidates who discuss their faith on the campaign trail may not be helping their bids for the nomination, according to a LifeWay Research survey.

The online poll asked: "When a candidate running for office regularly expresses religious conviction or activity, how does that impact your vote?"

According to the poll, only 1 in 6 Americans (16 percent) are more likely to vote for a candidate who regularly shares his religious beliefs.

While 30 percent indicate they would be less likely to vote for a candidate expressing religious activity, 28 percent say it would have no impact on their choice of candidate. Twenty-one percent say it would depend on the candidate's religion.

According to age distinctions, the survey revealed younger Americans ages 18-29 (24 percent) and ages 30-49 (24 percent) are more likely to select depending on the religion of the candidate. Those age 65 and older are the most likely (37 percent) to say a candidate's expression of religious conviction or activity would have no impact on their choice.

"Millennials are not known for active involvement in matters and practices of faith," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "Yet this survey reveals that young adults do have stronger feelings and that they are more likely to vote differently depending on which religious convictions a candidate expresses."

Americans who consider themselves to be born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Christians are more likely (28 percent versus 11) to select "more likely to vote for the candidate" expressing religious conviction compared to Americans who do not share their religious beliefs. Similarly, these Christians are more likely to select "depends on the religion" compared to those who do not identify with these beliefs (36 percent versus 20).

Americans who never attend a place of worship are most likely (67 percent) to say a candidate's expression of religious conviction or activity would make them "less likely to vote for a candidate."

"Different people get a different picture in their mind when a political candidate shares or shows their religious convictions," McConnell said. "While some Americans warm up to this, many don't see it as a positive."

African Americans are most likely to be put off by a candidate's religious expression—just 2 percent say they would be "more likely to vote for the candidate." Hispanic Americans (41 percent) and African Americans (43 percent) indicate they would be less likely to vote for a candidate expressing religious views.

"In fact, two-thirds of Americans who never attend a place of worship appear to flee from candidates who repeatedly put their religion in front of them and 4 in 10 Hispanic and African American adults take it as a cue that the candidate is not for them," McConnell said. (LW/BP)

Scott McConnell:

"Different people get a different picture in their mind when a political candidate shares or shows their religious convictions. While some Americans warm up to this, many don't see it as a positive."

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"Christian Fellowship Tours Since 1987"

Display tells story of Southern Baptists and Civil War

By Erin Roach

Nashville, Tenn.—To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the American Civil War, the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives is presenting a display on Baptists and the war.

The display cases, located on the fourth floor of the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville, Tenn., illustrate what caused the war—particularly the issue of slavery—how Baptists reacted and served as chaplains, and how Baptists responded after the war.

Bill Sumners, director of the library and archives, said that when he began looking through collections for items pertaining to the Civil War, he found more than he anticipated.

As a starting point, Sumners said he wanted to reflect on how the issue of slavery divided Baptists in America.

"We have one case that has some of the documents and some of the other dialogue that was going on in Baptist circles about slavery and the events that happened in the 1840s when the Southern Baptist Convention was organized," Sumners said.

Documents, publications and other writings illustrate the divide between those who supported slavery and those who did not.

"We have records that show how in many places in the South, slaves and slaveowners worshipped in the same church," he said. "You had churches where well over half of the congregation was black and maybe only 30 percent of the congregation was white.

"So you had the slavery issue that separated Baptists, but you had Baptists in the South who worshipped in the same building—maybe not in the same pew—as

their slaves," Sumners said. "We wanted to set the stage for what was going on in Baptist life because there was some debate going on in Baptist circles about the moral rightness or wrongness of slavery."

The next two display cases tell about what occurred during the war from a Baptist perspective.

"We have a list of missionaries that the Home Mission Board appointed, and there are various chaplains who were appointed to the Confederate Army," Sumners said, adding that Baptist statesman I.T. Tichenor was among them.

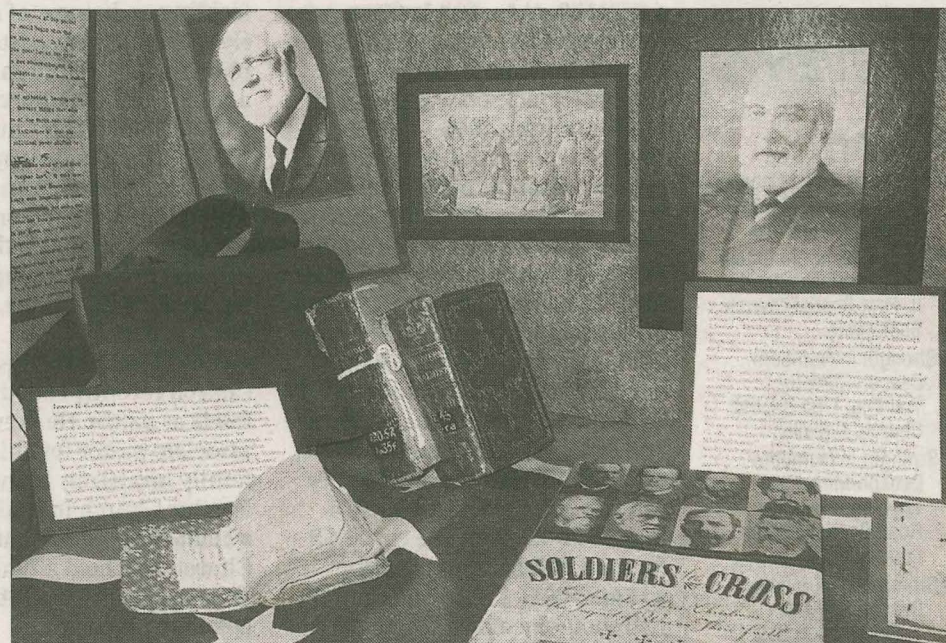
Also, many books have been written about the role of religion in the war, and some of those are on display. Sermons preached by chaplains, some handwritten and some typed, are included.

The final case in the display illustrates the effects of the war, Sumners said. Baptists and other Southerners in general struggled with questions such as, "What did we do wrong?" "Were we not faithful enough?" "Were we not good enough?" "Were we not the right kind of people?" and "How do we make sense of this devastation?" Sumners said.

Photographs of burned churches, as well as examples of how Baptists wrote about the war, are on display. Items belonging to J. William Jones, a chaplain in Robert E. Lee's army and author of "Christ in the Camp: The True Story of the Great Revival During the War Between the States," are included.

Last month, a group of about 20 people, "both black and white folks," toured the SBC building and were particularly intrigued by the display, Sumners said.

"It is a topic a lot of people have family stories about or have a connection with or just enjoy the study of Civil War history," he said. (BP)



BAPTIST HISTORY The 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War is shown from a Baptist perspective in a display by the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives at the Southern Baptist Convention building in Nashville, Tenn. (BP photo)

N.M. Baptists form Glorieta committee

Albuquerque, N.M.—The Baptist Convention of New Mexico's Executive Board has followed up on a resolution adopted at the convention's annual meeting authorizing the creation of a committee to "explore the future and possibilities of Glorieta," LifeWay Christian Resources' conference center near Santa Fe, N.M.

BCNM messengers resolved last October to "strongly urge the Southern Baptist Convention and LifeWay Christian Resources to insure that Glorieta continues its vital ministry to the people known as Southern Baptists now

and well into the future or until Jesus returns."

The resolution was New Mexico Baptists' response to a decision last September by LifeWay trustees to begin offering only summer events for students and to pursue "viable options for the disposition of the property."

During the BCNM Executive Board meeting Jan. 16, members authorized the creation of an ad hoc committee that will "explore the future and possibilities of Glorieta and present their findings to the executive board." (Baptist New Mexican/BP)

Who will take care of your children if you die?

Difficult question is one for which all parents must have an answer

As a parent you may find this question a difficult one to answer. I trust, however, you will agree it is a crucial question you must answer—and the sooner the better. Not to answer this question leaves the fate of your "orphaned" child entirely up to a stranger, namely, a judge. Therefore, naming a guardian for minor children in a will is one of the most important stewardship actions a parent should perform.

Remember, a guardian isn't forever. If you decide to change the guardian, you can always make that change either with a codicil to your will or a new will.

For example, if your children are young, their grandparents may be the best choice. However, when they become teenagers, grandparents may no longer be the wisest choice. The person or persons you choose do not have to be blood relatives; it should be someone you feel would be the best surrogate parent.

Geography, religion, education, family size, financial resources and lifestyle also are important factors in choosing a guardian. You might decide an aunt—your sister—is the clear choice, but she

lives quite a distance away in another state. As a result, your children could be uprooted from their community, church and school at a time in their lives when they most need those relationships.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

After considering all the relevant factors, you may conclude you still have not identified the "perfect" candidate and, therefore, you continue to delay the decision. Perhaps in such cases an imperfect choice would be better than no choice at all.

And, finally, I recommend you talk in advance to the one you choose, and secure his or her consent before naming them. Although the law does

not require it, it's the prudent thing to do. Even though the overwhelming majority of guardians named in wills never have to fulfill the duty because most minors reach age 18 with at least one parent alive, it's wise stewardship to name one.

So, parents, don't wait! And, grandparents, make sure your children have taken care of this for the sake of your grandchildren.

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

Long journey to healing

Working to restore trust in abused kids is first step to sharing gospel

Since its inception in 1869, Sunrise has always been committed to providing hope and healing to hurting children through Christ-centered ministries.

A lot has changed over the last 143 years. However, our Christian mission remains the foundation of our ministry.

Children come into our care devastated by abuse and neglect, along with the byproduct of trusting no one. Gaining trust from authority figures is a long, tedious journey for many of our children.

The hurt and distrust often is transferred into their spiritual lives. The thought of God as Father is inconceivable to a scared boy or girl who has been removed from a home filled with abuse and neglect.

Through the process of healing and working through trauma, children slowly begin to trust authority figures, as well as with those trying to build positive relationships. While in our care, children have the opportunity to see the love of God through amazing people in and through churches across the state of Kentucky.

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Through consistent prayer and support, our children have the opportunity to see and hear the gospel. Many of us would agree that it is through brokenness that God launches the most amazing stories of grace, redemption and restoration.

Often we have the great privilege of seeing and hearing stories of healing and hope.

We thank all of our Kentucky Baptist Convention partner organizations and churches for visiting, planning Bible studies and birthday parties or just spending time at our all 10 of our residential centers across the state.

Also, thank you for welcoming new foster children into your congregations when they arrive. We could not provide the care and support our children need without you.

If you would like more information on how you or your church could get involved in our ministry or invite a speaker to share, please contact Carmen at (800) 456-1386 or at CPeckenpaugh@Sunrise.org.

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

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF



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.
- 14** GuideStone Live Church Compensation Issues Conference, Griffin Gate Marriott Hotel, Lexington.
- 15** GuideStone Live Church Compensation Issues Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

■ **DECATUR, ALA.**—**Bob Jackson**, who twice served as pastor of Buck Run Church in Frankfort, died Jan. 13. He was 75. Jackson was pastor at Buck Run from 1966-73 before returning to his native Alabama to lead a church there. After a pastorate in Mississippi, Buck Run called Jackson as its pastor again in 1990, a position he would hold until 2003. Jackson was a graduate of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., and Southern Seminary. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gail, children, Jeannece and Rob, and eight grandchildren.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a ladies' craft night Feb. 3, 6 p.m. The cost is \$5 for food. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church will show the movie "Facing the Giants" Feb. 5, 6 p.m. **Michael Hail** is pastor.

■ **HARTFORD**—Ohio County Association recently called **Matthew**

Sickling as director of missions. He previously was pastor of Sulphur Spring Church in Franklin and Centertown Church.

■ **HENDERSON**—Zion Church will host a "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" video seminar Feb. 3, 7 p.m.; Feb. 4, 9 a.m., presented by author and pastor **Mark Gungor**. The cost is \$35 per couple. To register, visit ZBChurch.net. **Mark Galloway** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—Middle Creek Church recently called **Merrill Kurtz** as pastor. He previously was associate pastor for children and family ministries at Ovesen Heights Church in Hodgenville.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Jeffersontown Church will hold a "Share Jesus Without Fear" class Feb. 4, 8 a.m. **Luke Bray** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will hold a senior-adult event Feb. 7, 10 a.m., with **Bob Mueller**, speaker, author and vice president of gift

planning for Hosparus in Louisville, as guest speaker. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold an open gym time for young families Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a "Let's Get Tech Savvy" Lunch and Learn event Feb. 6, 1 p.m. The topic will be cellphones and smartphones. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will hold a Friday Nite Live event Feb. 3, 6 p.m., for elementary schoolers with Bible stories, games, movies and skating. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **SIMPSONVILLE**—Simpsonville Church recently honored Pastor **Steve Boyd** for his 20 years of service to the church.

■ **VINE GROVE**—Valley View Church recently called **Shawn Edwards** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Hebron Church.

Spotlight on ...

Campbellsville



Lowell Avenue Church will hold a memorial service for former pastor **William Beard** Feb. 5, 2:30 p.m. Beard died Dec. 29 at the age of 89. In addition to leading Lowell Avenue, Beard also was pastor of Locust Grove Church, Round Top Church and Valley Creek Church, all in Elizabethtown; Mackville Church; Muldraugh Hill Church in Lebanon; and three Ohio churches. After retiring from the pulpit, Beard served as director of missions for Taylor County Association. He is survived by his wife, Frances, daughters, Anna and Marilyn, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Poll: Most Americans knows what John 3:16 references

Ventura, Calif.—The popular Bible verse John 3:16 often is seen at sporting events and throughout popular culture, but do Americans even know what it references?

A new survey suggests they do. A Barna Group poll conducted for the American Bible Society asked U.S. adults: "When you hear the phrase 'John 3:16' in reference to the Bible, what does the '3' mean?" All total, 68 percent of

adults correctly said it was a chapter in the Gospel of John.

Nationwide discussion of John 3:16 has skyrocketed in recent weeks after Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow—an outspoken Christian—passed for 316 yards in a first-round NFL playoff victory. The day after the game, "John 3:16" was the No. 1 search topic on Google. A Wikipedia search for the verse saw a huge spike the two

days after the game, with 183,000 people visiting the page. The next Saturday, an ad from Focus on the Family—showing young children reciting the verse—ran during the Broncos' second-round game.

The Barna survey even found that 59 percent of people who are not Christians—including atheists and agnostics—knew what the "3" referenced.

"The controversy surrounding

Mr. Tebow ends up affecting so many people because—whether they have an affinity for sports or not—most Americans have at least some knowledge of the Bible and connection to Christianity," said David Kinnaman, president of the Barna Group. "Despite the pundits' protestations, more Americans than one would expect know exactly what Tim is 'Tebow-ing' about in the end zone." (BP)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

FOR RENT: Gatlingburg cabin (\$90 per night) and condo (\$70 per night). For info or booking, call (832) 922-0401; or email pdw4760@att.net.

FOR SALE: Children's ministry murals. Call toll-free (800) 925-3084 and learn how to receive 50% discount on a mural. Offer KW-1. www.biblestorymurals.com.

FOR SALE: Books by Glenn Mollette; prayer, care giving, inspirational, nursing homes, fitness, more. Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com.

NEEDED: Donation of van or bus for small SBC church to bring children into fellowship. Please call (606) 418-1823.

RESOURCES: If your church is in need of help with sound, projection, theatrical lighting, go to jcamediasolutions.com; or call Jim Cottrell at (270) 862-9586 or 312-7492.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music at First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, Ky. Qualified candidates should possess at least a bachelor's degree in music, a seminary degree from an accredited seminary, or be enrolled and actively pursuing a seminary degree. It is preferred that candidates have a minimum of three years experience in church music ministry. Our church profile and job description may be viewed at www.firstbaptistnet.com. Applicants may send resumés to First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Search Committee; or email to fbcresumes@firstbaptistnet.com. Resumés must be received by March 2, 2012.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister at Trinity Baptist, Lexington. Resumé to: 1675 Strader DR, 40505; or tbc@yourtrinity.com

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music, students and family ministries. Responsible for the music worship and the growth and development of student and family ministries. A BS or BA in music or related field; master's degree preferred. Full job description is available on request. Submit resumés to First Baptist Church Fulton, PO Box 1140, Fulton, KY 42041; or email office@fbcfulton.org.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music to serve alongside four full-time ministers at First Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn. Sunday morning worship includes one contemporary service and one traditional service. Contact Pastor Herb Hester at 108 E. Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388; or hester.herb@fbctullahoma.org.

SEEKING: Office coordinator/secretary for Fern Creek Baptist Church (38 hours weekly). Applicant must be spiritually mature Christian and active church member, have several years of church office experience, and have very strong computer skills (highly skilled in Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint, and Church Software Programs). Send resumés to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; or email to linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumés will be received through Feb. 8. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316, ext. 103. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

SEEKING: Part-time pianist for Parkland Baptist Church. Please send all inquiries: jason_stewart@bellsouth.net; or call (502) 969-1387.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Westside Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Average worship attendance: 450. Seminary degree required; previous experience preferred. Send resumés to Westside Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 750 Murray, KY 42071; or email to thph048@gmail.com by March 31, 2012.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music to serve alongside four full-time ministers at First Baptist Church, a conservative Southern Baptist Church in Tullahoma, Tenn. Sunday morning worship includes one contemporary service and one traditional service. Contact Pastor Herb Hester at 108 E. Grundy St., Tullahoma, TN 37388; or hester.herb@fbctullahoma.org.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of church administration for Calvary Baptist Church located in Oak Ridge, Tenn. A degree in church administration with a minimum of five years experience in church administration is requested; Shelby computer software experience is a plus, as well as the ability to provide pulpit relief for the senior pastor. Please submit your resumés and salary requirements to personnel@calvarybapcbc.comcastbiz.net; or mail to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

TOUR: 11-day Holyland and Jordan tour, departing Oct. 29. All-inclusive \$3,798. Contact pastors Jack Studie, (270) 889-7604; or Foy Back, (270) 922-1084 for a color brochure. Email jstudie@aol.com, or back.judy@yahoo.com.

To place an advertisement:

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



How will you be remembered?

Ever thought about writing your autobiography? Just jot down key dates and events in your life. Beside each date write something. It'll be a treasure to your grandchildren later.

Our words and deeds are actually writing our autobiography every day, creating a legacy for good or ill. Our decisions are blazing a trail for others, setting the course, determining the future of those we love. What kind of legacy are you creating?

It's time to begin "righting" the story of your life. Writing and living your autobiography requires the same handful of crucial elements.

Keep the end in view

Good writers think through their plots, mapping them out, beginning with the end in view.

Are you an immediate-thinker instead of an ultimate-thinker? As long as everything is status quo in the here-and-now, you don't think much about where you're headed.

Travis, 37, no longer liked his job, his prospects. A friend recommended a counselor who said: "Write the epitaph you would like engraved on your tombstone." That rattled Travis. How would he want to be remembered? What did he want to accomplish?

What would you like your epitaph to read? What do you want to accomplish? What is God's purpose for you on earth? An important question when you want to "right" your story.

Streamlining

Our writing and living also need streamlining. "The secret of good writing is to strip every sentence to its cleanest components" (William Zinsser).

Too much "clutter" can choke the Word, making us unfruitful ("the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches"—Matthew 13:22). Do you have too many things—debt, distractions, obligations—for the really important things in life? Remember the "one thing" passages in the Bible:

■ "One thing you lack: ... sell whatever you have ... and follow Me (Mark 10:21).

■ "One thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that (Luke 10:41-42).

■ "One thing ... I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God (Philippians 3:13-14).

Are you doing the one thing

needed to fulfill God's will for your life, or is your life cluttered with so many trivial pursuits and urgent trifles that you can't get around to doing that "one thing"?

First Person



David Jeremiah

Persevere

"Righting" your autobiography also requires perseverance. Writers set aside daily time to work—writing one word at a time.

Do you want to change this world by creating a legacy for those who follow? We live a chapter at a time, day by day, and every moment is an opportunity

to persevere in godliness.

If God has called you to do something for Him, don't grow discouraged. Keep at it. Whatever sin God wants you to overcome, whatever project He wants you to pursue, whatever prayer He wants you to offer, whatever ministry He gives you—don't quit.

Know your 'editor'

The great secret of our living Christian autobiographies is that good writers have good editors. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

Writing in the original Greek, Paul used the word "poiema" (made, crafted, or composed). It means, "We are God's masterpiece.

He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so that we can do the good things He planned for us long ago" (New Living Translation).

We are God's productions, His compositions. Your life is really the story of God's life in and through you. It's the story of the grace of the Lord Jesus exhibited daily in your heart. As

"We live a chapter at a time, day by day, and every moment is an opportunity to persevere in godliness."

you remain close to the "Editor-in-Chief," He will form and fashion you. As His Masterpiece, He intends your life to inspire those who follow.

Writing the story of your life requires careful attention to the end of the story, deliberate "clutter"-cutting, a spirit of stick-to-itiveness, and a growing intimacy with your Editor-in-Chief. Keeping these principles in perspective will help you not only write, but also right, the story of your life in a way you will surely want to be remembered. (BP)

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

Preacher's Kids

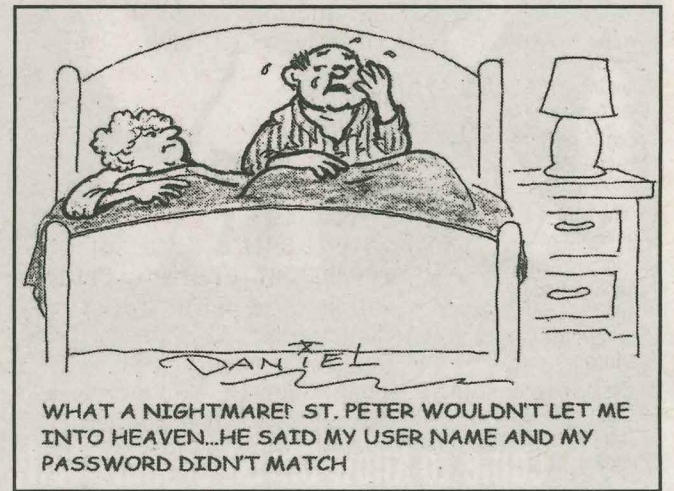
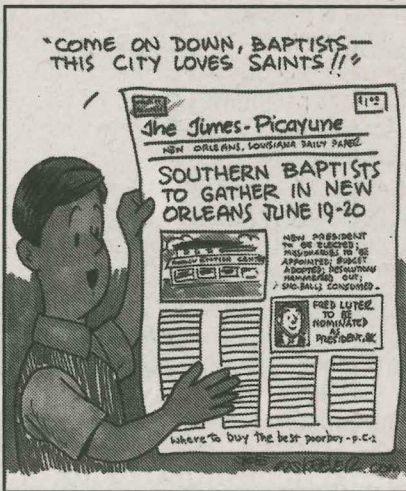
David Ayers



Joe McKeever

Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel



Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

Across

- 1 "But whoso hath this good" (1 John 3:17)
- 6 Ratio of the weight of a given volume of a substance to that of an equal volume of another substance (abbr.)
- 8 Operatic solo
- 9 Mother of Hezekiah
- 12 Kind; sort (pl.)
- 15 Gorged
- 17 Tall spar
- 18 Time frame? (abbr.)
- 19 O.T. book
- 20 Crush
- 22 Angered
- 27 Frequent follower of what or as
- 28 Good buy (colloq.)
- 29 Great Commission verb
- 30 Relative of corp.
- 31 Teacher
- 32 Near
- 33 Capital of Moab
- 34 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 35 Cried
- 37 Pile
- 39 "And he (Josiah) defiled _____" (2 Kings 23:10)
- 42 Absalom rode one _____ down
- 46 "False teachers ...who ...bring in _____ heresies" (2 Peter 2:1)
- 49 Noxious weed
- 52 Outside; outer (prefix)
- 53 Those not included in the clergy
- 55 Conjunction

1	2	3	4	5	6	7					
8				9	10	11		12	13	14	
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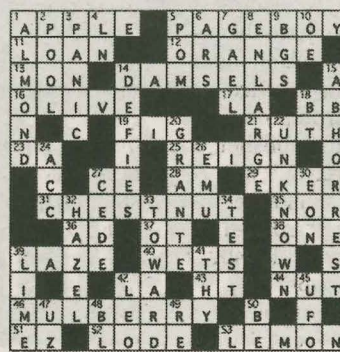
- 56 Benign skin tumor
- 57 Greek letter
- 58 Engineering field (abbr.)

Down

- 1 "Before Abraham _____, I am" (John 8:58)
- 2 Mouth (pl.)
- 3 Traditions
- 4 Father-in-law of Michal (1 Samuel 25:44)
- 5 What Lot did in the gate of Sodom
- 6 "_____ called Zelotes" (Luke 6:15)
- 7 Mirror
- 10 Chem. symbol
- 11 Part of the psyche
- 13 Midwest state (abbr.)
- 14 State or Main (abbr.)
- 16 Preposition
- 19 Father of Mary's husband (Luke 3)
- 20 Minor prophet
- 21 Prior to this (arch.)
- 22 Type style (abbr.)
- 23 Father of Solomon's adversary (1 Kings 11:26)

- 24 Thing to hail
- 25 Land of Moses' birth
- 26 Kind of doctor (abbr.)
- 28 Spanish matron (abbr.)
- 32 One of the sons of Zophar (1 Chronicles 7:37)
- 34 "And all the women ... brought that which they had _____" (Exodus 35:25)
- 35 Reporter's question
- 36 Chem. symbol
- 38 "I will not give thee of the land of the children of _____" (Deuteronomy 2:19)
- 40 Is in debt (arch.)
- 41 Favorite school subject, for some (abbr.)
- 43 _____ land
- 44 Son of Shobal (Genesis 36:23)
- 46 What washed Nebuchadnezzar in the wilderness for seven years
- 47 Hatchet
- 48 _____ service
- 50 Fish eggs
- 51 Before (poet.)
- 54 How one pronounces ja

Last puzzle's solution



The Western Recorder showcases photos of people and events from Kentucky Baptist churches. Submit photos to news@westernrecorder.org or through our website at www.westernrecorder.org/info/submit-items.

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.

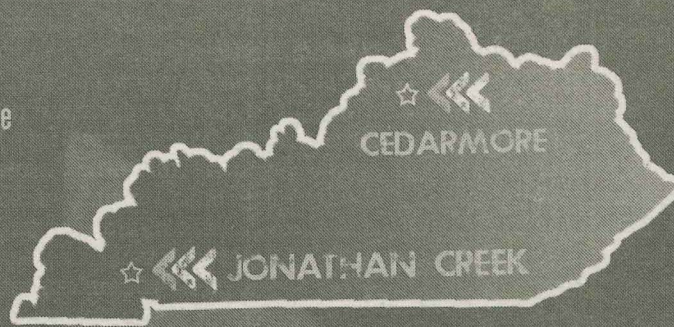
RELATIONSHIPS

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

OUR LOCATIONS


CEDARMORE
located 40 miles
northeast of Louisville

JONATHAN CREEK
located 120 miles
northwest of
Nashville



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crossings
cross over from death to life

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