

WESTERN Recorder

February 14, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 6



UNIFIED VOICES Catherine Walker, a member of First Baptist Church of Woodburn, and Andrew Causey, music minister for Woodburn Baptist Church, sing during the congregations' Unity Sunday worship service. The yearly service joining the traditionally black and white churches was the springboard for Woodburn Baptist's racially diverse campus in Franklin. (Photo by Mike Morse)

Pastors: Racially diverse churches 'practice for heaven'

By David Roach

Woodburn—"Is that church down there supposed to be a black church or a white church?"

This question to Pastor Tim Harris was intended as a complaint about Woodburn Baptist Church's Franklin campus. But he took it as a compliment.

"I say, if you can't tell, we're doing something right," he said. "It's not mostly white with a few black folks or mostly black. You can't even tell. You just can't even begin to say—and it's beautiful for that."

Southern Baptist churches recently marked Racial Reconciliation Sunday, and Woodburn's Franklin campus is one place racial reconciliation is being lived out.

The vision for a multi-ethnic campus began several years ago when leaders at Woodburn Baptist Church, located seven miles outside Franklin, became spiritually convicted of the need to engage in church planting.

The church had long welcomed people of all races—even holding an annual joint service with nearby First Baptist Church of Woodburn, a black congregation.

Around 1980, the congregations began holding a joint worship service once a year, despite opposition on both sides. The pastors of both churches persevered, and Unity Sunday has become one of the year's best services, Harris said.

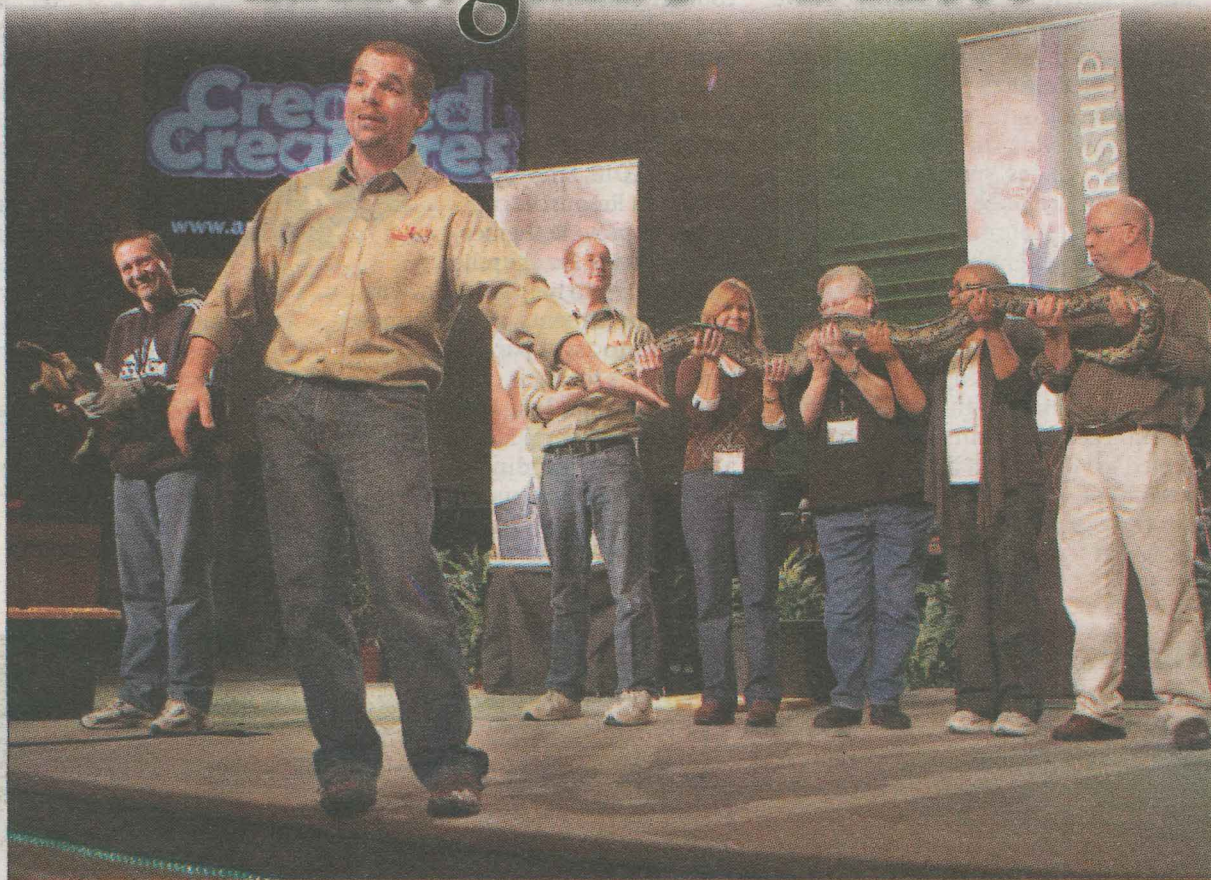
This year the two churches met at South Warren High School, where Harris preached about Jesus being the good shepherd.

"There's healing to come together," he said. "Although we've been a good community and good churches, there has been a brokenness in the body of Christ, because we as Christian neighbors continued to exist as if we weren't part of the same family of God."

Beyond Unity Sunday, the two churches enjoy "ongoing friendship," according to Harris, including joint women's ministry events. Both the joint activities with First

See Racial unity ... Page 2

'Imagine' That



Jared Baker (foreground) shows off a 15-foot python and a tortoise held by Imagine Conference attendees Feb. 10. Baker and Michael Opferman (seen here holding the snake's head) are naturalists with Animal Tales, a Mayfield-based organization that offers live animal education programs for children at schools, libraries and churches. In addition to the snake and tortoise, Baker and Opferman use other reptiles, birds and tarantulas to teach children about creation as it's presented in the Bible and present arguments against evolution. At last week's conference, the Animal Tales' guys led a session on how to use live animals to teach the Book of Genesis to children. More photos from the Imagine Conference are found on page 6. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Midwestern Seminary president resigns amid questions

By Allen Palmeri

Kansas City, Mo.—The trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary last Friday accepted the resignation of President Philip Roberts effective Feb. 29 during a called meeting and named Robin Hadaway, associate professor of missions at the seminary, as acting president.

Roberts, who served 11 years as president, was facing questions about misuse of seminary resources and verbal abuse of seminary staff. Other trustee meetings in years past had revolved around similar questions.

The resignation was announced in the afternoon by means of a press release. A morning trustee vote to express lack of confidence in the board's executive committee failed, and at some point in the meeting there was a transfer of the chairmanship from Wayne Lee of Southlake, Texas, to Kevin Shrum of Madison, Tenn., who emerged as the sole trustee

spokesman for the day's events and the interim board chair until April.

Shrum took a few questions from the media in mid-afternoon. In answering one inquiry, Shrum said Lee resigned as chairman.

According to the statement announcing Roberts' decision, a meeting to consider the president's performance was "suspended," and that before that meeting, Roberts tendered his resignation. The press release made no mention of a severance package.

Shrum said Hadaway, as acting president, will serve through the April board meeting, when the board's executive committee will recommend the process for finding a new president. Hadaway has been with Midwestern Seminary for eight and a half years. He previously served as

an International Mission Board regional leader for eastern South America, supervising missionaries in
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Philip Roberts



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Western Recorder 2-14-2012

True Love Waits marks February for purity

By Don Beehler

Nashville, Tenn.—February sometimes is called the "month of love," with Valentine's week especially being a time when people not only send cards and gifts to loved ones, but also when families and churches give special attention to the meaning of true love and the value of saving sex for marriage.

Many churches hold annual True Love Waits ceremonies for young people who make commitments to remain abstinent until their wedding day. The churches then provide encouragement and support to the youth in the months and years ahead. Tokens, such as a True Love Waits ring or necklace, offer a tangible reminder of the commitment and add to the power of the ceremony.

In the United States alone, approximately 3 million youth have signed True Love Waits commitment cards in various events and settings, pledging sexual purity until their marital vows. Another 1.1 million commitments have been documented in Africa, and hundreds of thousands of commitment cards from youth throughout the world have been displayed at several events, including the

2004 Olympics in Athens.

"True Love Waits' transition from a sex-education concept sketched out on a napkin in 1992 to an international movement has been nothing short of remarkable," TLW spokeswoman Dawn Cornelius said. "Throughout the world, scores of young people continue to take a counter-cultural stand and embrace biblical purity."

As TLW's call for sexual purity approaches its 20-year mark in 2013, LifeWay Christian Resources continues to provide themes and direction for churches and families to help students with their commitments, as well as new resources to assist parents as the spiritual leaders for their children.

For this year, True Love Waits has highlighted several ideas for churches and families, including:

- Plan a special True Love Waits study. This idea can take different forms. Some churches may want to use their Sunday

Schools or small-group times during February to share lessons on God's plan for sexuality. Other churches might hold a TLW-focused Disciple Now weekend.

Whatever the form, the combination of events and study can have a significant impact.

- Plan a special event.

A ceremony makes a huge impression on a teenager. Planning a special event such as a father-daughter or mother-son dinner can help reinforce the message of purity and give parents some footholds for continuing the conversation later.

- Plan a sermon (or a series

of them) on purity. Messages that come from the pulpit tend to carry a sense of importance and priority for a church's life.

"The message of abstinence is too vital to ignore," Cornelius said. "We encourage churches to take advantage of the opportunities February provides and build on those opportunities throughout the year." (BP)



Racial unity

Continued from page 1

Baptist and the Franklin campus reflect God's desire for racial unity in the body of Christ, the pastor said.

"It's just so good," he said. "It's practice for heaven because we'll be together in heaven."

Yet as a traditionally white church, it has been difficult for Woodburn Baptist to reach significant numbers of people from other races.

The new campus, launched in 2009, presented a prime opportunity to focus on diversity.

The first step was to hire Eric Walker, an African-American minister, as the campus pastor.

"Pastor Eric Walker was just a gift from God to us," Harris said. "Nearly from the start, it was plain that he was the man God wanted for Franklin."

Initially, Walker served bivocationally, working in a local factory as well. To free up his time for building relationships, Harris preached via video at the new campus for its first two years.

Recently, the church increased Walker's salary and assigned him preaching duties in Franklin.

Through his ministry, God has done an astonishing work, building a Sunday morning attendance in Franklin of approximately 170—comprised mainly of black and white attendees with some Hispanic and Asian worshippers as well.

Pastor Eric Walker:

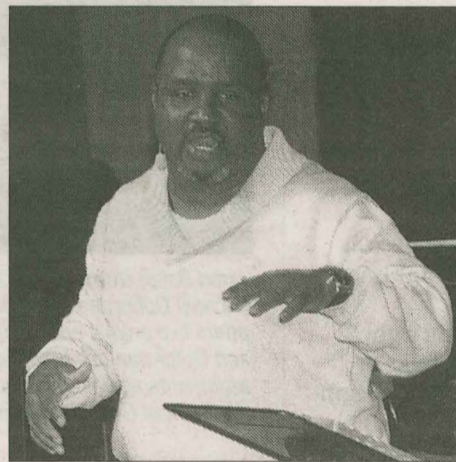
"I'm literally baptizing people who wouldn't set foot where there was a black pastor. ... It's amazing what God's doing here."

In addition to seeing troubled marriages restored, cohabitating couples repent, and police befriend criminals, the church has reached people who held racial prejudices, Walker noted.

"I'm literally baptizing people who wouldn't set foot where there was a black pastor," he said. "And you have people saying that their parents were racists all their life, and now they're members of this church. It's amazing what God's doing here."

Another unique ministry of the Franklin campus, which meets in a building formerly occupied by another church, is its outreach to biracial families.

"We've become a draw for multi-racial families who never had a church to go to," Harris said. "They never felt completely welcome or completely



comfortable in any other church. Some member of the family was always somehow different. But Franklin campus is a place where you can walk in as a multi-racial family and it will never matter."

One such family is that of John and Michelle Coats and their two daughters. Unable to find a church where the entire family was comfortable, the Coatses let their daughters attend Vacation Bible School at the Franklin campus in 2010.

When the girls came home, they asked their parents to try the church too. Soon the entire family was plugged into ministries and activities. Today John is a deacon in training being mentored by Walker.

"When we first walked in the lobby, it was friendly and we were welcomed, greeted with open arms the moment we got there," John Coats said. (KBC)

renovation of many of the school's existing buildings. The seminary currently is building a new chapel complex.

Before serving Midwestern, Roberts spent seven years with the North American Mission Board where he served as vice president for the strategic cities strategies group. He also was director of NAMB's interfaith evangelism department and vice president for urban evangelism and church planting.

In the early 1990s he was professor of missions and evangelism at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., and co-directed the Lewis Drummond Center for Great Commission Studies.

Roberts is a graduate of Georgetown College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. (Missouri Pathway/BP)

Ga. convention downsizes for fourth time, 18 positions cut

By Joe Westbury

Duluth, Ga.—The Georgia Baptist Convention experienced its most dramatic staff reduction ever Jan. 27 and Jan. 30 as 16 employees and two vacant positions were eliminated in the latest round of downsizing.

Staffing now has been cut 26 percent since the 2008 recession.

Cooperative Program receipts in 2011 finished the year 5.86 percent below 2010 income, a shortfall of more than \$2.6 million.

Ministries impacted by the layoffs include a part-time regional state missionary position, associational missions, mission volunteers, collegiate ministries, youth ministries, church and minister relations, convention financial services (part-time), Woman's Missionary Union (vacant position), communications (vacant position), employee services and support services.

The fourth round of staff cuts since 2009 now has reduced the state missionary staffing level from a high of 202 to 150. Staffing at the convention's Atlanta-area headquarters now has fallen from 133 to 103 and field personnel has declined from 69 to 47.

The convention's financial struggles were never more evident than in the days leading up to last November's annual meeting when the GBC Executive Committee had to rework the 2012 budget, cutting \$1.7 million on top of a \$1 million reduction the committee had approved in September.

GBC Executive Director J. Robert White said the late-January downsizing, in both staff and operational expenses, hopefully will put the state convention ahead of any revenue shortfall in 2012 and provide a cushion against any further reductions.

But, he added, there are no guarantees as the economy continues to right itself and while churches struggle to pay their bills without cutting ministries.

"Laying off personnel is the most painful thing I've ever done in my ministry," White told a somber gathering of staff in a called meeting Jan. 30.

"None of the 16 individuals affected by the downsizing have done anything wrong. They were excellent employees of high moral and spiritual character. These terminations are not a reflection of their job performance or their contributions to Georgia Baptists."

Offering a degree of comfort to those who remained, White said, "I don't want our staff to worry if they will be next in a downsizing. I pray that no one will be next. I am grieved over those who are no longer with us." (Georgia Christian Index/BP)

Roberts resigns

Continued from page 1

Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Roberts was elected as Midwestern's fourth president in January 2001. Among facility projects during his time were the purchase of the Koehn-Myers building, construction of housing facilities and

Lexington church's music duo sings praise of worship resource

By Polly House

Lexington—Harley Cannon, being blind, doesn't read music.

But that doesn't stop him from playing a crazy clavichord or a mean trumpet.

"That Harley is a piece of work—a talented musician," said Mike Hoover, minister of music at North View Baptist Church in Lexington. "Not only does he play keyboards and trumpet, but he sings, too."

Hoover and Cannon have been the worship-leading team at North View for nearly five years—and it's a match made in digital heaven.

Hoover uses the Worship Project on LifeWayWorship.com to coordinate all the music for the church. The website is a set of resources designed to provide the tools worship leaders need to create a rich and full worship experience for their churches.

Hoover, unlike most ministers of music, is quick to admit that he, too, doesn't read music.

"No, not at all," he said with a chuckle. "I've depended on technology to help me do worship planning since the days of the 'Celebrate Jesus' book with split tracks."

Being bivocational, Hoover said he doesn't have a lot of time for planning. He spends his mornings and afternoons driving a school bus and working at the bus garage in between.

Hoover and Cannon learned to use LifeWayWorship.com to quickly and seamlessly create an order of worship that both of them can follow.

"What I love about having access to the resources on the Worship Project," he said, "is that I can find out from the pastor what the Scripture passage for the week will be and then go online and find music that will coordinate with it."

"I can download the order of worship and music and put it in DropBox (a Web-based service where users can store and share files and folders with others across the Internet) for Harley to download," Hoover said. "Once he gets it, he translates the order of service into Braille and

listens to the music two or three times and he's ready to play."

Cannon said he usually listens to the music while he's exercising.

"I walk on the treadmill for about 45 minutes every day," he said. "Having the music to listen to helps. By the time we get together, we've heard the same music and we're ready to go."

Hoover said LifeWayWorship.com has revolutionized the musical worship at North View Baptist.

"It just makes so many things possible for us," he said. "I can find the music I want, download it for Harley and send it to him. I can download the song from the digital hymnal portion of the Worship Project so my choir can listen to it. I can get printouts of the music for the choir. It works."

Cannon agreed that the resource makes things simple, adding, "You don't have to be blind to appreciate the convenience of it. It'd work for anybody."

One Wednesday night, for example, Hoover had a cold and couldn't sing, but he needed to introduce a new song to the choir. So, he played the digital hymn and had the choir sing along while Cannon played the keyboard and added in a

trumpet part.

"Without the technology that LifeWayWorship.com offers, I couldn't have made all that happen in the time we had," Hoover said.

Having had time to go over the music in his head for a couple of days, Cannon said he has the opportunity to experiment with sounds.

"Every once in a while, I'll throw in something Mike doesn't expect," Cannon said with a laugh. "I'll drop the keyboard and just let the choir sing a chorus or a verse or maybe improvise a variation on the melody, but they are good to just follow along wherever I take them. I just tell them to keep up."

North View isn't a large church, running about 100 worshippers on Sunday mornings. Hoover said as helpful as LifeWayWorship.com is, he believes it would seem almost like a miracle for other small churches.

"My brother is the pastor of a tiny church in Viney Fork," Hoover said. "He does everything—preaching, teaching and music. He uses LifeWayWorship.com, too. He doesn't have musicians. He may just have three or four people in the choir, but he'll have good music."



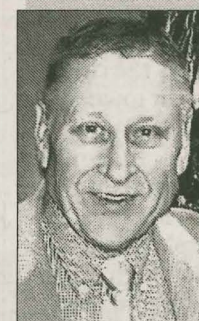
'NOT BY SIGHT' Harley Cannon, though blind, plays the keyboard, assisting Mike Hoover, minister of music at North View Baptist Church in Lexington. (Photo by Kent Harville/LW)

Mike Harland, director of LifeWay Worship, said many similar Southern Baptist churches struggle to find musicians.

"LifeWayWorship.com could be so beneficial to these churches, giving them the means to provide a quality worship experience no matter how many worshippers they have," he said. (LW/BP)

DOM Allen, 68, remembered as man who cared for community

Manchester—Roy Allen, the director of missions for Booneville Baptist Association, died Feb. 7 at Manchester Memorial Hospital. He was 68.



Roy Allen

Allen had served as DOM for the southeastern Kentucky association since 2007. He took the job about a year after completing a 17-year pastorate at New Home Baptist Church in Manchester.

"Roy was a great husband, a great

father and a great papaw to those grandkids," said Frank Peters, pastor of Pleasant Point Baptist Church in Manchester and the assistant moderator for Boonesville Association.

Peters said Allen was instrumental in creating partnerships with other states so associational churches could better meet the ministry needs of others.

Allen also was active in helping the lost in his backyard, Peters noted. The DOM played a vital role in the 2011 wet/dry vote in Manchester by urging associational churches to fund advertising against legalizing the sale of alcohol.

"Roy was just one of these guys that was continually involved in the community," Peters said of Allen, who also worked as teacher, a farmer and served in the U.S. Air Force.

Peters asked Kentucky Baptists to remember the Allen family in their prayers and to pray for the association as leaders strive to follow in Allen's footsteps in reaching the lost for the Lord.

Allen is survived by his wife of 44 years, Barbara, their three children, a brother, several grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services for Allen were held Feb. 11 at Britton Funeral Home in Manchester. Kenneth Felty, pastor of Liberty Avenue Baptist Church in Berea, officiated. (WR)

Clarification

A story in last week's Western Recorder that listed the various agencies and institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention inadvertently omitted the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

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Displaying the gospel through diversity

I kissed the little Asian girl goodbye, loaded up the dog and a couple of teenage boys, and headed to the woods.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

There I met up with two Ethiopians and a few others.

Is that not the strangest beginning to a story you have ever heard? It's actually a true story. The "little Asian girl" is my adopted daughter. The "two Ethiopians" are the adopted sons of Crossings Ministries president, David Melber.

By the way, David also kissed his Asian daughter goodbye before he loaded up the boys and set out on the two-family hunting trip. For the Chitwoods and Melbers, and a growing number of Kentucky Baptist families, race relations have become family relations.

For me, that wasn't always the case. I grew up in a small, mountain town. The only racial diversity I knew was a few impoverished African-American families who lived either in the government projects, where my family lived for a while, or in an area everyone simply called "(racial slur) Hill." I attended high school in a neighboring town and found pretty much the same scenario: just a few African-American families, mostly poor, who lived in a section known as "Slab Town."

School classrooms and ball fields provided the only significant interaction between the races. An African-American classmate played forward on the basketball team where I played center and running back on the football team where I played quarterback. He became one of my best friends. Even that, unfortunately, did not allow me to escape the inherent racism of our small town culture. Eventually, however, God was gracious enough to expose and expunge that sin from my heart.

On Feb. 12, many Southern Baptist churches observed "Racial Reconciliation Sunday." For Southern Baptists, that day is not only an effort to acknowledge and move beyond a shameful part of our history, it is an effort to faithfully display the transformative and unifying impact of the gospel. Paul communicates that impact clearly in Galatians 3:26-28: "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (NIV).

Southern Baptists twice elected Pastor Johnny Hunt, a Native American, as convention president. The recent announcement that Pastor Fred Luter, an African-American, will be a candidate for convention president is another important chapter in the Southern Baptist story. Our growing concern for increasing the diversity of our fellowship and leadership may be long overdue but it's by no means too late. I pray that diversity will allow us to more clearly display the gospel in our homes, our churches and our convention.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Two conferences, same aim: Develop passion for ministry

This past week, I attended two exceptional conferences—one, an annual associational evangelism event for pastors; the other, a training event for deacons held in three sites across the state. Both, however, had the same worthy aim: encouraging and equipping servant leaders to share Christ with their communities.

For 25 years now, Caldwell-Lyon Baptist Association has brought some notable speakers to lead the Western Kentucky Evangelism Conference. This year's meeting at Southside Baptist Church in Princeton certainly was no exception: Bob Morrison, Rick Coram, Frank Page and Paul Chitwood delivered some powerful, stirring and encouraging words.

"You can't have bitterness and peace in the same heart," Morrison, director of missions for Little Bethel Association, reminded the pastors, urging them to "get rid of it because of what it does to you." The seed of the gospel won't grow unless it is planted in good soil, he added, explaining how when a heart harbors hurt, bitterness takes root and soon anger, rage and malice follow. Drawing on Ephesians 4, Morrison emphasized that bitterness destroys our inner peace and our witness. "It's serious!" he exclaimed. "How are you ever going to be able walk with God?" he asked.

Citing 1 Chronicles 16, Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, observed that the Great Commission is not just a New Testament idea, but is a thread that runs all the way back to the beginning. Proclaiming our charge as disciples to "make known to the nations what He has done," Chitwood added, "The world needs to know that God has done marvelous things." He urged Kentucky Baptists to "catch hold of not just our obligation, but the opportunity" to make disciples of all nations.

An evangelist from Jacksonville, Fla., Coram maintained that "you can call it church" when the scriptures are expounded, the Savior is exalted, and the saints become excited. Pointing to Luke 24:32, where the disciples

describe their hearts as "burning within" while they listened to the Resurrected Lord explain Scripture, Coram asked, "When is the last time you got heartburn?" That "burning" in our hearts leads to a burden for the lost, he said.

Page, the "Chief Encouraging Officer" and president of the SBC Executive Committee, urged Kentucky Baptists not to miss those "irrecoverable moments" when we must seize opportunities to share the gospel. "None of us knows if we will have an opportunity to get it right again," Page said. Highlighting the story of the woman at the well, he observed that all over Kentucky there are people who need to respond to "an irrecoverable moment" because they desperately need a drink of Living Water from the "Jesus fountain."

Meanwhile in Danville, Lexington and Paducah, Roy Saint, of the Florida Baptist Convention's staff, was helping another group of church leaders realize that they have been "called to something special" as deacons. "Just because you walk cross the threshold of the church, you do not stop being a deacon," Saint reminded them, stressing that they are representing God to their communities. "Be ever so keen in watching the ministry of your church, and be sure nothing impedes someone from coming to know Christ," he urged. Encouraging new deacons to discover their spiritual gifts, he challenged, "No one has ever risen to the real stature of spiritual maturity until they have found it finer to serve someone else than to serve themselves."

One statement Saint made, though, was particularly striking and put a capstone on the aim of both conferences: "As a servant among God's people, you need to be observant in looking for needs, so you can establish a ministry to meet those needs" and gain an opportunity to share Christ. Here's a good word—not just for pastors and deacons, but for all God's people: Identify your gifts, find your ministry passion, then just do it! Someone near you needs to hear the good news.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Oneness, not sameness, needed to reach America

By Kevin Ezell

During my first year as president of the North American Mission Board I gained a deeper appreciation for who we are as Southern Baptists. It was my aim to get out and

meet as many people as I could. I was able to visit the majority of the state conventions and spend time with people there. The thing I was most thankful for was how diverse we are as a convention and how God is using that diversity to reach people of all backgrounds for Christ.

I am thankful for the early Home Mission Board missionaries who took the gospel to the new territories of North America so the people there would have an opportunity to hear about Jesus. I recently heard the story of one of those early pioneers, a man named Paul James.

James was the pastor of the Baptist

Tabernacle of Atlanta, one of the largest SBC churches of its day, who left his position there to move to New York City to start the Manhattan Baptist Church. James arrived in NYC in 1957 and by 1977 he had played a major role in establishing more than 100 new SBC churches in the metro area. The churches that James planted were among some of the first ethnic churches in the SBC.

James also helped the SBC cross the color barrier. Keith Cogburn's book, "Like the Book of Acts," notes that in the fall of 1958 the Manhattan congregation welcomed its first black member, Chris Oswampke, a Nigerian student who had been led to Christ by Southern Baptist missionaries. James' commitment to New York City ultimately led to thousands of people having a relationship with Christ.

James understood that Southern

Baptists are a people who are unified by our passion for the Great Commission and our unwavering commitment to the inerrant Word of God. He understood that we could be "one" without being the "same." Southern Baptists from Mississippi to Montreal will look different and have differing perspectives on personal and church life, but we are unified in the gospel of the Lord Jesus.

As we move forward in 2012, the pioneer spirit of men like Paul James is what we as the SBC are going to have to embody. Not only will we have to be willing to venture into uncharted geographies, but we will have to adapt our methodologies to reach people for Jesus and plant churches among the growing diversity of people who call North America home. It is going to take us all working together as "one" if we are going to get the job done. (BP)

Kevin Ezell is president of the North American Mission Board.

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Is it time to give up on the GCR? (part 2)

By Chuck Lawless

If you read my last column, you know that I have decided to give up on the Great Commission Resurgence in the Southern Baptist Convention. In fact, I challenged all Southern Baptists to give up on the idea, as none of us can produce the resurgence we seek.

The bottom line is this: we face a real, evil, spiritual enemy who does not want us to experience a Great Commission resurgence, and victory will come only when we realize that the battle is God's, not ours. He alone is the divine warrior when His people face an impassable sea (Exodus 14:13-14), a domineering giant (1 Samuel 17:1), or an invading enemy force (2 Chronicles 20:1-23). It is in His strength, His might, and His armor that we ever experience victory (Ephesians 6:10-11); His Spirit can accomplish what our might and power cannot (Zechariah 4:6).

Giving up, though, does not mean that we do nothing. It means we passionately, corporately seek the only one who can bring about the resurgence. Consider these practical ways to lead your church to give up and turn to God.

First, preach a sermon series on "impossibility passages" to illustrate our great need for God's help. Apart from His presence, we cannot love our enemies (Matthew 5:44), forgive those who sin against us (Ephesians 4:32), give thanks in all things (1 Thessalonians 5:18), love our wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25), or make disciples of all people groups of the world (Matthew 28:18-20). From the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden (Genesis 3) to the worship of the nations in

heaven (Revelation 7:9-10), the Bible calls God's people to do what we cannot do in our own power: follow God with all of our being. Preach that Word—and let the challenges in that Word drive your church to prayer.

Second, study great awakenings in the Scripture and in American history, and use those stories to illustrate what God does when broken people seek Him. Teach about God's work in the First Great Awakening in response to the prayers of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield. Speak of five Williams College students whose prayer beneath a haystack contributed to America's Second Great Awakening. Tell the story of Jacob Lamphier, the man God used to ignite the Prayer Revival of 1857-58. Help your church see what God has often done through just a few believers who prayerfully want Him to work.

Third, ask God to raise up a group of church members who long for renewal in your church—and who understand that renewal will come only through prayer. Meet weekly with them to pray for a Great Commission resurgence in your congregation. Be willing to start small, knowing that a few faithful, obedient prayer warriors can accomplish much. Lead them to repent of any known sin. Study passages on the power of prayer. Fast together. Patiently and persistently, ask God to touch your congregation in a way that cannot be explained apart from His power.

Fourth, partner with other congregations to pray corporately for one another. God alone knows what miracles He might work if every Southern Baptist church was praying for a resurgence in two or three other churches. Build that prayer time into your church's Sunday morning service. Pray for the churches by name. In God's economy, two needy, weak churches that admit their need and look to Him together are more potent than the "strong" church that seeks Him little. Indeed, it will likely be a church that is desperate for God that will be the center of any Great Commission resurgence.

I long for those days when we simply expected God to move among us. I long for more Southern Baptists who give up ... and pray. (BP)

Chuck Lawless is the International Mission Board's vice president of global theological advance.

What can we learn from Samuel?

By David Garrard

The familiar story of Samuel teaches several important truths about parenting. At the risk of over-spiritualizing, here they are for your consideration.

Positioned to hear. In keeping with her promise to God, Samuel's mother, Hannah took him to the temple to live and work with Eli. It was while he was in the temple that Samuel heard God's call. Granted, God's call can come to us in places besides the temple or church. However, the temple seems to be where Samuel first heard the voice of

God, and the reason he was in the temple was because his mother took him there. She put him in a position to hear God speak.

Able to hear. When God did call, Samuel was able to hear. He did not have to deal with some of the distractions facing today's child—distractions that make it difficult to hear anything, much less the voice of God. Parents might ponder this truth as they evaluate the amount of noise and activity that surrounds their child.

Helped to understand. Children often need an adult to help them recognize the voice of God. Eli did that for Samuel. He understood what was going on and helped Samuel know how to respond. Ask God to help you be that person for your child. Beyond that, ask God to put special people into the life of your child who can do for them what Eli did for Samuel.

Constant calling. This may have been the first time Samuel heard God's voice, but it was not the first time God called out to him. 1 Samuel 3:10 tells us that the Lord called to Samuel "as at other times." God's constant calling shows His desire to have a relationship with our children, and with us.

God was with Samuel. 1 Samuel 3:19 tells us that the Lord was with Samuel as he grew. What more could a parent ask for than to be assured of God's presence and spirit at work in the life of their child throughout the life of their child? Hannah did all she could to position Samuel for this to happen.

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

Do you have income insurance?

By Don Spencer

Almost everyone reading this probably has heard of medical, automobile and home owners insurance. If you have a family, you probably have life insurance. Too often, folks tend to forget to insure one of their most valuable assets: their earning power.

For a young adult, the odds are much higher of having a period of disability before age 65 than of dying before age 65. If a primary "bread winner" should suffer an extended period of disability, it can be devastating for the family. The least that person can do is protect (insure) their earning power.

We call it "disability insurance," but it is really "income insurance" since it insures a certain level of income if one becomes disabled. In shopping for disability insurance, there are several key things to consider:

- How is disability defined—your own occupation or any occupation?
- Will benefits be paid for partial disability or must it be total?
- Is the benefit affected by Social Security or worker's compensation benefits?
- Is there a waiver of premium when one is disabled?
- Are there any exclusions?
- Is there a difference in determining disability due to illness vs. injury?
- Are there rehabilitation benefits?
- How long is the waiting period before benefits start?
- How long will disability payments continue?
- Does coverage extend past age 65?
- Is there an adjustment in coverage for cost of living?
- How does the policy treat two periods of disability for the same illness/injury?
- Are there other enhancements to the policy?
- How do costs compare?
- What is the company's record of service to its customers?

There are numerous variations in plans available. Compare several plans before making a decision. Above all, don't delay or overlook having disability insurance. Make sure you protect your earning power.

Don Spencer is a certified financial planner and directs the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department.



Encouraging teenagers to make TLW commitments

I hadn't been at Edgewood Baptist Church long—maybe less than a year—when the promotion material for the first "True Love Waits" campaign came across my desk. I knew almost immediately that it was something we needed to do. I had no idea that my first major emphasis would be talking so openly to students about God's plan for sex and to embrace the True Love Waits pledge.

In the midst of planning, our pastor then, Mike Watts, got on board with the emphasis, and we decided to make it a church-wide initiative. We called the adults in our church to exhibit the same standards and commitments that we were going to ask of our students. Our thinking was, if we are going to ask this of students, shouldn't we ask the same thing of the adults as well.

So, I quickly went to talking to students about sex, which was at best uncomfortable, to talking to the entire church, which was doubly uncomfortable. I'll never forget the Sunday we launched the campaign. As we taught the principles found in True Love Waits to youth in Sunday School, I was asked a myriad of questions about sex—

from mild questions to things I was embarrassed to think about much less address in a room full of students.

We survived, mostly unscathed, and six weeks later several of our students took the pledge, signed the commitment cards and stood in front of their church family publicly affirming their pledge to purity. Brother Watts then called on the adults to make the same pledge—single adults to be celibate and married adults to be faithful to their spouses.

It has been almost 20 years since that first campaign, and those students are now in the 30s with families of their own, but I am reminded of these events about this time every year as churches across America call students to make a True Love Waits commitment.

I was encouraged last week as I received the Edgewood Evangel, the church's monthly newsletter. They and countless churches like them still see the importance of talking to students about true love. Brad Hall, their associate pastor, made this comment in his front-page article: "Teenagers in our church need to be taught about true love. We

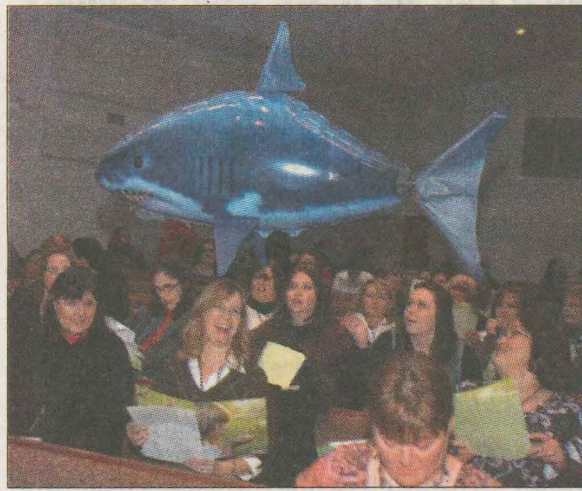
need to talk to them about what they see and what they hear every day—helping them sort through the messages of the culture to embrace the truth of what love really is. It may be hard to talk to a teen about an area we feel like such failures in, but the pain of our past mistakes can become wisdom from God for giving spiritual guidance."

Talking with teenagers isn't the easiest thing to do, but we cannot just talk about easy stuff. Our students need to know that we aren't afraid of the hard questions and can have open and honest conversations.

This culture of students also needs to know that we "practice what we preach." Hall concluded his article by saying, "And finally we need to stress the value of long-term commitment in our adults. In a culture heavy on emotion and light on commitment, we need to be constantly reminded that falling in love is one thing; staying in love is another. Lifelong love is a decision. For Christians, this decision is tied to a covenant made with God and a commandment to love each other and deny ourselves." Our students need to see this type of commitment from the adults in our churches.

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

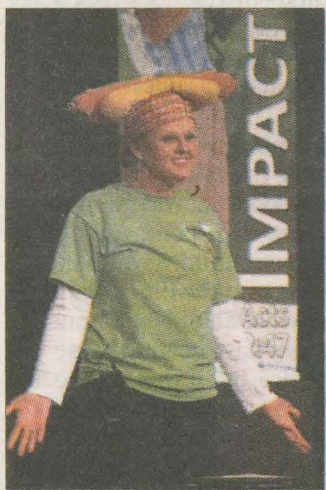




Participants at the Imagine conference were greeted Friday night with a radio-controlled shark that floated above their heads throughout the sanctuary.

Children's Ministry Re-Imagined

Kentucky Baptists gathered at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstow, last weekend for the second annual Imagine Conference, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's pre-school and children's ministry department. The event drew approximately 400 children's ministry leaders and volunteers who learned new ideas about ministering to kids and share the gospel with them. Here are some of the highlights from the Friday evening session. (Photos by Robin Bass)



Lee Ann Vincent, children's minister at Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstow, shares a humorous skit about how children's ministry workers are required to wear many different hats.



This turtle is one of many live animals used by Animal Tales to explore the fallacies of evolution and the truth of creationism. Find out more about Animal Tales at www.AnimalEdZoocation.com.



Conner Long talks to KBC children's ministry director John Bennett about the relationship he shares with his older brother Cayden who has cerebral palsy. The brothers compete in youth triathlons around the country. Conner pulls Cayden in a raft during the swimming legs, pulls him during the bike and pushes him during the run. Find out more about them on Facebook; search "Team Long Brothers"

Paige Richard (left), 12, and Amelia Bowen, 11, entertain Imagine Conference participants on Friday evening with singing and dancing. The girls were part of a children's ministry group from Campbellsville Baptist Church that performed three songs, complete with choreography.

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the hope of glory*

Colossians 1:27

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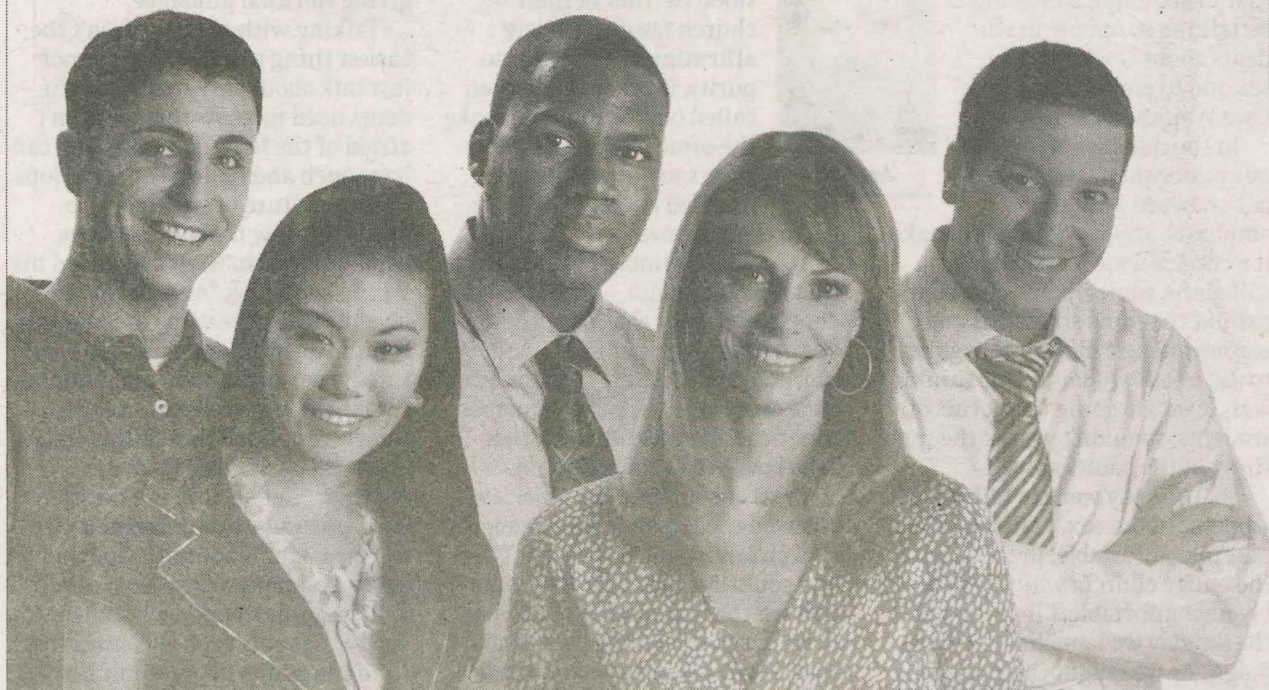
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or (866) 489-3514 (toll-free in Kentucky)



This free conference is made possible by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

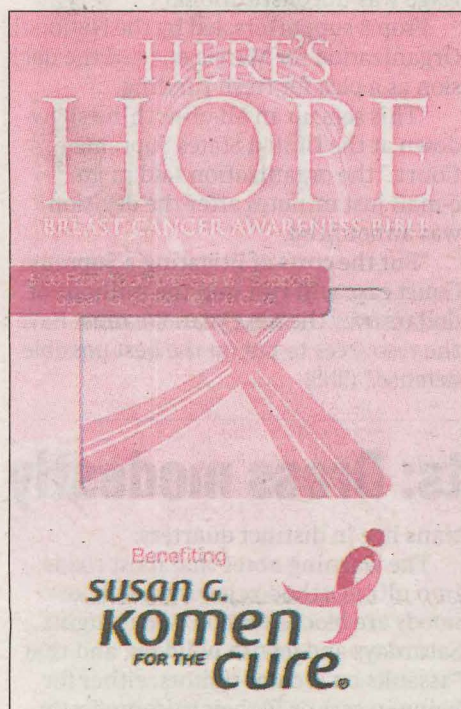


www.kybaptist.org/evangelismconference

Komen reverses course, continues Planned Parenthood funding

LifeWay's pink-bound Bibles, pulled last year, to remain off shelves

Washington—The fallout from Planned Parenthood's public relations battle with Susan G. Komen for the Cure continues, even as a new report to Congress suggests 20 percent of the abortion provider's affiliates could be guilty of waste and fraud involving government funds.



Karen Handel, Komen's senior vice president for public policy, resigned Feb. 7, only a week after her organization's decision to defund Planned Parenthood was reported. Her resignation followed an onslaught of Planned Parenthood-fueled outrage against the world's leading breast cancer charity prompted Komen to backtrack Feb. 3 by announcing Planned Parenthood affiliates would remain eligible for grants.

Meanwhile, the Alliance Defense Fund—in a report prepared for a congressional investigation of Planned Parenthood—released evidence last week of waste, abuse and potential fraud by PPFA affiliates.

Among its findings, ADF reported audits of seven of 79 affiliates over a 14-year period found nearly \$8 million of fraud, waste and abuse.

The Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its affiliates received \$487.4 million in government grants, contracts and reimbursements in 2009-10, the most recent year for which statistics are available. PPFA clinics performed 329,445 abortions in 2010, which was more than one-fourth of the lethal procedures in the United States for the year.

Some critics of Komen's defunding decision had targeted Handel for blame in the organization's initial decision to halt grants to PPFA affiliates. A former

Georgia secretary of State, Handel called for defunding Planned Parenthood during an unsuccessful gubernatorial run in 2010.



Karen Handel

In her resignation letter, Handel, who joined Komen's staff in April 2011, acknowledged her role in the process to defund Planned Parenthood but said the decision "was fully vetted by every appropriate level within the organization," and Komen's board raised no objections. The decision to change Komen's criteria for grant making, as well as the controversy over the organization's rela-

tionship with PPFA, preceded her hiring, Handel said.

Komen decided to abstain from future funding of Planned Parenthood affiliates because of a new policy that bans grants to organizations under government investigation, a Komen spokeswoman had said in a Jan. 31 report by the Associated Press. A House of Representatives committee began an investigation of Planned Parenthood in September.

Komen affiliates gave about \$680,000 to PPFA centers last year, AP reported. An analysis last year by the

pro-life American Life League found 18 of Komen's about 120 affiliates had given PPFA centers grants totaling nearly \$630,000 in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

In announcing its Feb. 3 change of course, Komen said it would amend its new criteria "to make clear that disqualifying investigations must be criminal and conclusive in nature and not political."

Meanwhile, the head of LifeWay Christian Resources said the Komen reversal means that the previously pulled pink-bound Holman Christian Standard Bibles will remain in storage.

Thom Rainer said in a statement he was "deeply disappointed" in the organization's decision. He had suggested that changes in Komen foundation funding policies to deny grants to Planned Par-



Thom Rainer

enthood might revive plans to sell copies of the Here's Hope Breast Cancer Awareness Bible with a portion of proceeds benefiting Komen.

LifeWay canceled the project last year amid reports that some Komen affiliates gave money to Planned Parenthood. Despite assurance that none of those grants were used to fund abortions, LifeWay officials said they did not want to be identified with Planned Parenthood even indirectly.

Compiled from reports by Baptist Press and Associated Baptist Press.

MORE for CHRIST

He must increase...I must decrease.
John 3:30

Kelsie Witham is a college student at Morehead State University. She's had life-changing missions experiences but Christ has called her to do more — to be a missionary right where she is on her college campus.

"I need to view the people I'm in class with, the people I see on the sidewalks, the people in my sphere of influence...as my mission field. I need to love them as Christ loved them and I need to share the Gospel with them..."

Christ has called us to bring the Gospel to our town, our state, our nation and around the world. He gave all. Are you willing to do "More for Christ"?

Watch a video about Kelsie at www.moreforchrist.com

Our history, part 5

1946: Saul Houchell resigned and Eri Shumaker became the sixth OBI president. A gift of \$50,000 for an endowed scholarship was given in honor of I.S. Manning.

1947: June 28 brought the worst flood in Oneida history. Many homes in the area were washed away. The water was eight feet deep in the school's gymnasium. The school and the American Red Cross helped the community recover. Many of the 73 residents left homeless spent the summer in Oneida dorms.

1948: D. Chester Sparks became the seventh president. Construction on Oneida Baptist Church began. The yearly cost to run the school was \$50,000.

1949: Oneida Baptist Church opened. Most of its furnishings were gifts from community members and friends of the school. High school enrollment exceeded 200 for the first time. The school's cistern collapsed; President Sparks sent a personal letter with the Mountaineer to plead for immediate help. One month later, the money was raised. The school's first yearbook was published.

1950: Route 11 was paved to Oneida. The senior class made its first trip to Washington, D.C. Oneida's first gymnasium burned. The basketball team made it to the regional tournament championship game for the first time.

1951: The parsonage for Oneida Baptist Church was built on the site of the Hacker Hotel.

1952: Thirty-four seniors graduated in the spring. A request was made in the Mountaineer for books and magazines to supply the newly opened Melrose reading room. One year's tuition for dorm students was \$180, or \$20 a

month. Day students paid \$5 a month. The school's tractor finally wore out, and word was sent out that a Model C or M would be needed to replace it.

1953: The school had a radio program every Tuesday on Corbin's WCTT. Only two Baptist schools remained in Kentucky—OBI and Magoffin Institute. Work started on the new health building, originally called the James Anderson Burns Memorial Health Building. It later was named D.C. Sparks Hall. Boys and girls in all grades took on the "Brick Buying Campaign" for the new building.

1954: The D. Chester Sparks Hall gymnasium was completed. Permission was given for Oneida

to accept non-immigrant international students. Plans were made to start a bus route for day students. The need for laboratory equipment was the topic of a Mountaineer article.

1955: Because of the dragging coal business and the striking L&N Railroad, the school had several months of extra financial hardship.

1956: A dryer was donated by a group of churches from northern Kentucky. Now, clothes could be dried come rain or shine. The local REA completed a survey on the school's wiring and the process of overhauling and enhancing the electrical wiring was begun. Oneida hosted the 49th District basketball tournament in the Sparks Gym for the first time. Gov. A.B. "Happy" Chandler spoke at the commencement. A girls' physical education class was started, and a request was made in the Mountaineer for three gym mats.

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

The 'West Kentucky 8'

Study group enjoys online class format, maintains accountability

"I have considered taking an online course for years," said trustee Tim Langford, from Hickman. "I finally decided that if I did not do it soon, I would simply have wished for it and not ever attempted it.

"I also needed the accountability that a study group gives in order to be confident that I would complete the course," Tim added. "I was concerned that should I take the course online that after a few weeks, I would find more pressing matters that would demand my time, and I would not put in the time necessary to successfully complete the course."

So, Tim got to work and recruited some students from his area to take the Baptist doctrine online class with him which resulted in the formation of the "West Kentucky 8." The group consists of Langford (who is a circuit judge), Chad Parker (who works for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife), Tommy Stewart (a pastor), Rick Major (an attorney), Josh Murphy (a truck driver), J.L. and Melanie Atwill (a school board member and a special deputy), and Matt Govey (a Celebrate Recovery group leader).

"This study group gives us needed accountability and the members of the group encourage each other to complete the task," Tim said. "We all hope to gain a greater depth of knowledge into our Baptist history roots and a deeper study of the doctrines of our Baptist faith. Our

plan is to have a meeting each week with as many of us attending as possible. We intend to have one member study ahead and lead the discussion on that week's lesson.

"I did mention to my wife, Karen, recently as I was going out the door to a study group: 'Whose idea was it that I take this class?'" Tim recalled. "She smiled and replied, 'Um, it was yours, honey.'"

"While it may be a challenge for us all to work it into our schedules, the online nature of the class should give us the benefit of flexibility so that we can all make it through the class," Tim said. "The format of the online classes is very manageable while challenging and should be rewarding."

For information, contact Jay Barnett at JBarnett@ccbnc.edu.

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.ccbnc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbnc.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Appeals court strikes down Calif. ban on gay marriages

By David Finnigan

Los Angeles—In a decision that likely will set the stage for a high-stakes showdown at the U.S. Supreme Court, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals struck down California's Proposition 8 ballot measure that banned gay marriage, saying there is no "legitimate" reason to keep same-sex couples from marrying.

Prop 8 supporters immediately announced plans to appeal the 2-1 ruling to a larger panel of the 9th Circuit and, ultimately, to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"No court should presume to redefine marriage. No court should undercut the democratic process by taking the power to preserve marriage out of the hands of the people," said Brian Raum, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, which is representing an umbrella group of Prop 8 supporters known as Protect-Marriage.com.

The appeals court's decision upheld a 2010 ruling by U.S. District Court Judge

Vaughn Walker, saying that "although the Constitution permits communities to enact most laws they believe to be desirable, it requires that there be at least a legitimate reason for the passage of a law that treats different classes of people differently."

The Prop 8 amendment to the state constitution was approved by 52 percent of California voters in 2008, just five months after the state Supreme Court ruled that a state ban on same-sex marriage was unconstitutional.

Prop 8 supporters, led by the National Organization for Marriage, used the decision as a plea for fresh funding.

"This sets up an all-or-nothing showdown at the United States Supreme Court," the organization said in an e-mail just minutes after the decision was announced.

"But the costs of litigating a Supreme Court case will run into the millions of dollars over the next year. We must have the resources to put on the best possible defense." (RNS)

U.S. to Israel tourists: Dress modestly

Washington—The U.S. State Department is advising visitors to Jerusalem to dress modestly when visiting certain neighborhoods, or to avoid the areas entirely, in hopes of not provoking local sensitivities.

The State Department guidance did not specify which neighborhoods are considered problematic, or what, exactly, constitutes "modest" attire.

The Jerusalem advisory says travelers "should exercise caution at religious sites on holy days, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays" and "dress appropriately" when visiting ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods and the Old City of Jerusalem, where religious Jews, Muslims and Chris-

tians live in distinct quarters.

The warning notes that most roads into ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhoods are blocked off on Friday nights, Saturdays and Jewish holidays, and that "assaults on secular visitors, either for being in cars or for being 'immodestly dressed' have occurred in these neighborhoods."

The advisory was added to the State Department's website for travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. It comes in the wake of many recent incidents in which ultra-Orthodox Jewish extremists physically or verbally attacked women they said were dressed immodestly. (RNS)

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"Ask about our "Send Your Pastor Away Program"

Obama exempts religious groups from contraception mandate

By David Gibson

Washington—Facing growing furor from religious groups, President Obama Feb. 10 unveiled an “accommodation” in which health insurance companies, rather than religious institutions, will provide employees with contraception coverage.

The revised approach effectively removes all faith-based organizations—not just houses of worship but also hospitals and universities—from covering employees’ contraception costs.

“Every woman should be in control of the decisions that affect her own

health,” Obama said in an address at the White House.

“Now, as we move to implement this rule, however, we’ve been mindful that there’s another principle at stake here—and that’s the principle of religious liberty, an inalienable right that is enshrined in our Constitution,” Obama said. “As a citizen and as a Christian, I cherish this right.”

At issue was a mandate, part of Obama’s 2009 health care overhaul, that employers provide free birth control coverage. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the mandate Jan. 20.

Religious groups, particularly Catholics, fiercely objected, saying the federal government should not force institutions to violate the tenets of their faith. Women’s advocates argued that employees should have access to birth control regardless of where they work. The furor over the contraception mandate appeared to catch the White House off guard, as it struggled to keep the focus on access to contraception, which is broadly used by American women, even Catholics.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which led the charge against the contraception mandate, said on last week that it would study the revised rule.

“We hope to work with the administration to guarantee that Americans’ consciences and our religious freedom are not harmed by these regulations,” said New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan, president of USCCB.

Pressure to compromise

Obama was under fierce pressure to forge a compromise. Conservatives labeled the mandate an abridgment of religious freedom.

Under the new plan, a religiously affiliated institution would not be required to provide contraception coverage. Rather, the institution’s insurance company would offer the coverage for free and without raising premiums.

Sister Carol Keehan, head of the Catholic Health Association, an umbrella group for more than 600 Catholic hospitals, said she was “very pleased” with Obama’s compromise, which she said “protects the religious liberty and conscience rights of Catholic institutions.”

The contraception compromise was not welcomed by all conservatives. Southern Baptist leaders continued their criticism of the plan (see sidebar), while Family Research Council President Tony Perkins called the proposal “paperwork gimmicks.”

“This revised HHS mandate does nothing to change the fundamentally anti-religious, anti-conscience and anti-life contraceptive mandate,” he said. (RNS)

SBC leaders blast plan

Washington—President Obama’s compromise to not permit religious institutions to cover birth control for employees doesn’t do enough to protect religious liberty, Southern Baptist leaders maintain.

Obama said Feb. 10 that the burden on providing emergency contraceptives would fall on insurance companies, and that the coverage still would be free.

“If a woman’s employer is a charity or a hospital that has a religious objection to providing contraceptive services, ... the insurance company—not the hospital, not the charity—will be required to reach out and offer the woman’s contraceptive care free of charge, without co-pays and without hassles,” Obama said.

Some religious leaders, though, were not pleased, and said the same problems with religious liberty remain.

“It is an attempt to deal with a matter of religious conviction with an accounting gimmick,” said Richard Land, president of the Southern Baptist Convention’s Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

Land and others said an insurance company’s money is fungible, and that a religious employer still would be providing the funding to pay for an employees’ birth control drugs.

O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone Financial Recourses, called the compromise an “approach that does not address the issues at hand for Southern Baptists who oppose so-called contraceptives that can and do cause an abortion.” GuideStone provides health insurance coverage to 60,000 people, including pastors and missionaries.

“The president’s statement today,” Hawkins said, “is an insulting affront illustrating a basic lack of understanding that this issue will not be solved by sleight-of-hand word games. It is a fundamental matter of religious liberty that threatens the very coverage of those dedicated persons who serve our churches and affiliated organizations. GuideStone will never depart from the core convictions it has held dear for decades regarding the sanctity of life.”

Obama’s statement does “not take into account the needs of many of the oldest and largest church plans in the nation,” Hawkins added.

“He showed a total lack of awareness of self-funded insurance programs like GuideStone,” Land said. “GuideStone cannot comply with this, because GuideStone would be forced to pay for abortifacients, which we find unconscionable.”

“This administration,” Land added, “has shown a very disturbing trend of when religious freedoms collide with sexual rights, sexual rights trump religious convictions every time. If the insurance company is forced to provide the coverage, the insurance company is going to pass the cost on to the person paying for the insurance—us.” (BP)

Summer of service

Camps’ summer staff will top 100 to serve record number of guests

By Whitney Hopperton

Being a summer staffer for Crossings Camps is the “Hardest Job You’ll Ever Love.” While this may be a catchy slogan to help recruit staff, the definition and application are evident in the lives of those who work for Crossings.

Summer staffers work long hours and are pushed further than they ever have been before. However, the hard work and dedication is rewarding because they are pouring themselves out for the gospel of Christ.

The “Triangle” is a guiding principle at Crossings by which we strive to live. As believers, there is no greater calling than what Jesus states as the greatest commandment in Matthew 22:37-40, to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and to love your neighbor as yourself.” Framing the words “Love God, Love People, Be a Servant” around a triangle helps to remind us of His calling. The Triangle is a Scripture-based model and a lifestyle that our summer staff has been commissioned to adopt.

With the Triangle as our standard,

summer staffers build relationships with those who come to camp by intentionally and clearly communicating the gospel. From leading small-group Bible studies to facilitating recreation activities to serving meals in the kitchen, these staffers embody the spirit of being servants.

At Crossings, we are humbled to see the Lord blessing this ministry with more than 11,000 people registered for camp. Because we have been entrusted with much, we know that much will be asked and required (Luke 12:48). This summer we will be hiring more summer staff to assist with the growth of the ministry. Summer staffers are an essential role in the programming function of our camps.

As camp quickly approaches, we covet your prayers for the more than 100 staffers that will be offering their summers to serve the Lord through Crossings Camps. Also pray for them as they embark on a summer of ministry where they will witness many people cross over from death to life through the power of the gospel.

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



Get Acquainted Day

Tuesday, March 20
10 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Kentucky Baptist Building
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New pastors & church staff, we want to get to know you!





February

- 15** GuideStone Live Church Compensation Issues Conference, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 16** GuideStone Live Church Compensation Issues Conference, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17** RA Region 1 Congress and Rally, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 27-28** Evangelism Conference, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.
- 28** Evangelism Conference Women's Emphasis, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

March

- 2-3** Creative Ministries Festival, Hillvue Heights Church, Bowling Green.
- 3** Vacation Bible School Clinic, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 4** Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale Concert, Sand Spring Baptist Church, Lawrenceburg.
- 9-10** Go! Africa Zambesi Cluster Base Camp, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10** Disaster Relief Training Phase I & II, Porter Memorial Baptist Church, Lexington.

'Spring training' helps equip Ky. Baptists to serve

Bowling Green—For Kentucky Baptists and other Christians seeking to learn more about how to serve God and others, this spring offers many opportunities from the Kentucky Baptist Convention for training and encouragement.

■ The Creative Ministries Festival, March 2-3 at Hillvue Heights Church in Bowling Green, offers workshops on drama, puppetry, interpretive movement, clowning and other fun and effective ways to share the gospel. Find out more at www.KyBaptist.org/CMF.

■ Three Vacation Bible School clinics will help churches prepare for one of the greatest evangelistic opportunities of the year. Events are March 3 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah; March 10 at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset; and March 24 at Union Baptist Church. Learn more at www.KyBaptist.org/VBS.

■ Ministers, missionaries and church members who have served in sub-Saharan Africa will be on hand to help prepare Kentucky Baptists to share Christ in that region and to help start churches. The Go! Africa Base Camp is March 9-10 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. Learn more at www.KyBaptist.org/BaseCamp.

■ KBC staff are going on tour, meeting pastors, ministers and church members to offer practical insight on how to improve various church ministries. The Growing Ministries Tour is March 12-27 and will stop in Hardin, Madisonville,

Waddy, Elizabethtown, Pikeville and Ashland. Event information at www.KyBaptist.org/Growing.

■ Learn about different cultures and religions at a free Understanding Other Beliefs workshop, March 20 at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. Details at www.KyBaptist.org/Understanding.

■ Many ministers and retired pastors serve faithfully as interim or transitional pastors of churches that are seeking new leaders. Transitional Interim Pastor Training helps these servants in this vital calling. The workshop is March 27-28 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. Find out more at www.KyBaptist.org/TIP.

■ Retirees are among the most active servants in Kentucky Baptist life. The Senior Living Celebrations offer them insight on how to stay active in learning, serving and having fun. Events are April 23 at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah; April 24 at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown; and April 26 at First Baptist Church of London. More information is available online at www.KyBaptist.org/SeniorCelebration.

■ For people called to mentor others in ministry, the Developing and Managing People workshop provides valuable information. The event is April 24 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. Learn more at www.KyBaptist.org/DevelopingPeople.

■ Ministering to students is a calling that requires creativity

and enthusiasm. Iron Sharpening Iron is a way for youth ministers and youth ministry leaders to learn from one another and from Joe Ball, director of the KBC's youth ministry department. There are seven events this year from April 24-May 17 in every region of the state. Find out when and where at www.KyBaptist.org/Iron.

■ More Kentucky Baptists than ever are taking mission trips overseas. It is vitally important to be prepared and to prepare early. Team Leader Training for International Missions is a free equipping

event that could make the difference in a trip being a blessing or a disappointment. The workshop is April 27-28 at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville. More information can be found at www.KyBaptist.org/TLT.

■ This year's Youth Ministers' Spring Retreat is May 21-22 in Georgetown and features Kentuckian Brad Griffin, co-author of the youth edition of "Sticky Faith," as guest speaker. A golf outing is offered the morning before the retreat begins. Sign up at www.KyBaptist.org/YMRetreat. (KBC)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will host Little River Association WMU's Children's Ministry Day: Operation Education event Feb. 18, 9 a.m.

■ **CORBIN**—Lynn Camp Church recently called **Jerry Lowrie** as interim pastor.

■ **DANVILLE**—Willow Grove Church will host **The Anchor-men** in concert Feb. 18, 7 p.m. **Johnny Thompson** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church will hold a "Let's Get Tech Savvy" Lunch and Learn event Feb. 20, 1 p.m. The topic will be "Computers: Where Do I Start?" **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will hold an afternoon of crafts Feb. 18, 2 p.m., to make Salvation Dolls that will be sent to

Spotlight on ...

Morgantown



Bob Martin will resign as director of missions for Gasper River Association April 30. He has served as DOM there for eight years.

children in impoverished countries. **John Brandon** is pastor. ■ **WILLISBURG**—Willisburg Church will hold a Children's Ministry Day: Operation Education event Feb. 18, 1:30 p.m., for kids in grades 1-6. **Jay Hatfield** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

AVAILABLE: Ordained Southern Baptist minister seeks bivocational or full-time pastorate within the central Kentucky area. Resumé available upon request. Call me at (859) 494-0316, leave voicemail.

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

FOR RENT: Two condos in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths and sofa beds. Owned by Christian family. Book before March 1 and receive a 5% discount. (423) 309-4422. lbrammer@charter.net.

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

SEEKING: Youth-minded pastor for Community Church, Central City, Ky. Great growth potential. Actively engaged in local and youth missions. College degree preferred. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, 900 South Carolina St., Central City, KY 42330.

SEEKING: Part-time director of missions for Gasper River Association of Baptists. Association has 26 churches and is located in Butler County. Please send resumé to: Gasper River Association, PO Box 148, Morgantown, KY 42261. Deadline is March 1, 2012. For more information, call (270) 526-6913, or email gasperriverassno@bellsouth.net.

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. Web: www.mtpleasantbaptist.net.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of students to lead youth and children's ministries. Must have a college degree with experience in youth and children's ministry. Please send resumé to First Baptist Church, PO Box 327, Paris, KY 40362, Attn: Gary Ellcessor.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Westside Baptist Church in Murray, Ky. Average worship attendance: 450. Seminary degree required; previous experience preferred. Send resumé 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 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 resúmes to First Baptist Church, 425 Eastern Bypass, Richmond, KY 40475, Attn: Search Committee; or email to fbcrésúmes@firstbaptistnet.com. Resúmes must be received by March 2, 2012.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Bethany, Mo. (www.fbcbethany.org). Conservative Southern Baptist Church affiliated with SBC, MBC; adhering to 2000 Baptist Faith & Message. Send resumé to Pastor Search Committee, First Baptist Church, 302 N. 22nd St., Bethany, MO 64424; or email pastorsearch@fbcbethany.org.

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 and experience are a plus. Send or email resumé to Elkton Baptist Church, PO Box 547, Elkton, KY 42220; or ericharris@mchsi.com.

SEEKING: Pastor, First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Ky. Located in a small town near a university, actively engaged in local missions, including a food pantry, home repair ministry, outdoorsmen ministry, Center Shot, Upward Basketball, a quilting ministry, and distribution of necessities to the needy, including coats, shoes, hygiene items and laundry detergent. FBC supports missions worldwide, including missions supported by Samaritan's Purse, Compassion International, SBC and CBF. Church is seeking new avenues of ministry and outreach. Candidates should have completed Master of Divinity; pastoral experience desired. Submit resúmes to fbcwoffice@gmail.com; or mail to First Baptist Church, 230 S. 5th St., Williamsburg, KY 40769.

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.



SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Grace Baptist Church, located 7 miles south of Pikeville at Shelbiana, Ky. (rural Pike County in Eastern Kentucky). Seminary preferred. Average Sunday worship attendance: 105-130. Church provides part-time secretary. Send resumé to Grace Baptist Church, c/o Larry F. Compton, 7129 Millard Hwy., Pikeville, KY 41501-8101.

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 resumé 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.

If your pastor made a sermon blunder, would you catch it?

By Terry Dorsett

A couple of weeks ago I was traveling and, due to computer problems, I could not get on the Internet. That meant that I had to prepare my Sunday sermon without any commentaries from my library or any help from the Internet. Turns out it was harder than I realized.

The sermon was from Galatians 4:21-31. It focused on why it is important to wait for God's timing and methods instead of trying to do things in our own way and in our own time—an important message for the church to hear.

In that passage, Paul builds an illustration based on the relationship Abraham had with Hagar, which produced Ishmael. That story is not well-known among many Christians, so I decided to tell it as part of the sermon.

The problem was that I decided to tell the story from memory. My memory failed me and I got the characters wrong and told the story as if Esau, instead of Ishmael, was the son of Hagar.

Most of the congregation never realized I had messed up the story. But about 10 percent caught the error. Some realized my mistake the moment I made it. Others knew something about the story

seemed off, but they did not know what it was until they looked it up. Needless to say, we had a great laugh afterwards, and I sent out an email to correct my mistake.

FIRST PERSON

But all week I have not been able to get out of my mind how "easy" it was to tell a "messed up" biblical story and have most of the congregation go along with it.

Though we might chuckle about having a name wrong, what if it had been a key theological point? I suspect many people still would not have caught the error.

Regretfully, most Christians sitting in church today are biblically illiterate. They do not know the Bible well enough to spot an error when a pastor or teacher makes one.

I learned to study a bit harder from this experience. But I was also reminded that we need to help people in the church study the Bible on their own so they will be able to spot an error when it happens.

Each of us needs to spend time in the Bible each day. We must be good students of the word. Otherwise, what starts as a small mistake, if not corrected, can grow into a big problem. (BP)

Terry Dorsett serves as director of Green Mountain Baptist Association and a bivocational pastor.

Four reasons you should call someone instead of writing

By Thom Rainer

I really do like the digital age of communications. I can send emails at faster speeds of communication than I would have dreamed years ago. I constantly communicate via text messages. And I send hundreds of brief messages through Twitter and Facebook each month.

But there are times when you should call someone instead of writing them. It would be difficult to establish rules and guidelines for calling. Instead, I offer four advantages of calling over writing:

■ Written communication does not always make emotions clear. Even with the availability of a wide range of emoticons, the written word cannot fully replace the inflections of the voice, the pauses, and the emphases that are readily detectable by phone.

■ Written communication can appear cowardly. With few exceptions, I first communicate bad news in person or by phone. I do not want to appear to be avoiding talking with that person. Sometimes it's easier to send an email than to make a call because you don't have to face that person. But that doesn't make it right.

■ Written communication does not allow for instant dialogue.

Messaging was originally called instant messaging because one party could respond immediately to another party. But talking in person or by phone is even more instantaneous. You don't have to wait for the person to complete his or her thought. You can get immediate clarification even while a person is in mid-sentence.

■ Written communication does not carry the investment of one's self as a call does. How many times have you heard someone say that they appreciate your call? Communicating by voice gives the impression, rightly so, that you took time to find that person, to say your words, and to allow them to respond immediately.

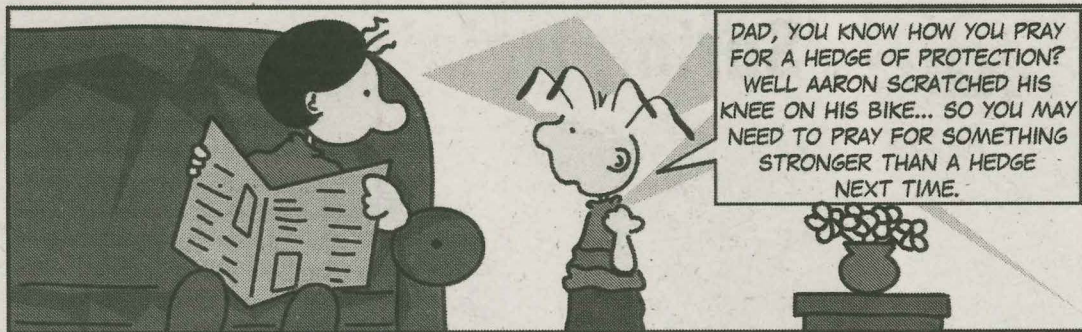
Sure, it's not always easy to connect with someone by phone. It may take a while to reach them, and the conversation may go longer than you would like. But in all likelihood, the person you called will appreciate your making the effort more than they would had you texted or emailed them.

As a result, relationships will be better with family members, business associates, friends and even foes. Then we will know that the extra effort to make that call was really worth it. (BP)

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

Preacher's Kids

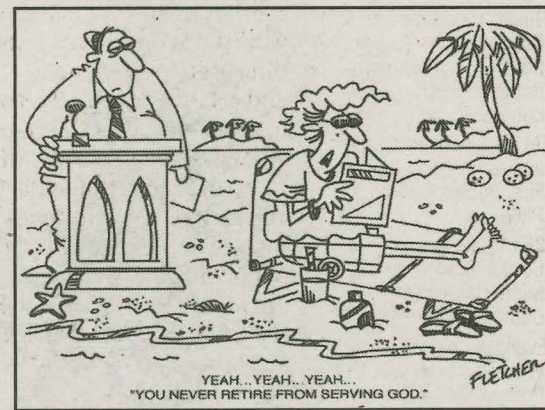
David Ayers



Joe McKeever



Fletch



Dennis Fletcher

Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottke

Across

- 1 66 or 80, for example (abbr.)
- 4 Father of Ethan (1 Chronicles 6:44)
- 9 Laughing sound
- 11 Jether's son (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 12 One of two
- 13 Preserve
- 14 Compass dir.
- 15 "Bread corn is bruised; ...nor break it with the ___ of his cart" (Isaiah 28:28)
- 16 Ancient entrance
- 17 One of the families of the tribe of Benjamin (Numbers 26:39)
- 19 "They made their lives bitter ...and in all ___ of service" (Exodus 1:14)
- 21 Certain vessels
- 22 ___ fried
- 23 Laziness
- 24 Achieve
- 27 Poetic contraction
- 28 April correspondent
- 30 Together with (prefix)
- 31 Wife of Joseph (Genesis 41)
- 34 Possessor
- 37 Commit larceny
- 38 Son of Roboam (Matthew 1:7)
- 39 Note on diatonic scale
- 40 Reluctant visitor to Saul in Damascus
- 43 "Surely Moab shall be as Sodom ...even the ___ of nettles" (Zephaniah 2:9)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12					13	
14			15					16	
17		18				19	20		
		21					22		
23						24			25 26
27				28 29					30
31			32 33				34 35 36		
		37					38		
			39			40			41 42
43 44 45				46				47	
48				49			50		51
52				53					54

- 47. Biblical verb, KJV
- 48 Drum or drop
- 49 Son of Gad (Genesis 46:16)
- 51 Bind
- 52 She may be out to pasture
- 53 Identifies
- 54 Occurrence (arch.)

Down

- 1 Measles symptom
- 2 "For my soul is full of ___" (Psalm 88:3)
- 3 Apiece (abbr.)
- 4 Son of Levi (Genesis 46:11)
- 5 List components
- 6 Pronoun
- 7 Ship steering
- 8 European isle (abbr.)
- 9 Loathe
- 10 Unit of measure for manna
- 13 Father of Melchi (Luke 3:24)
- 15 "___ meanest thou, O sleeper?" (Jonah 1:6)
- 16 Tiny winged insect
- 18 More destitute
- 20 Likely
- 23 Red or Dead

- 24 Simile component
- 25 "Out of whose womb came the ___? and the hoary frost of heaven" (Job 38:29)
- 26 Conjunction
- 28 Pronoun
- 29 With "factor," a group of antigens
- 32 Memo
- 33 Son of Gideoni (Numbers 1:11)
- 34 Minor prophet (abbr., var.)
- 35 "Who hath gathered the ___ in his fists?" (Proverbs 30:4)
- 36 Refuge for David, when first fleeing Saul (1 Samuel 19)
- 38 Hook
- 40 City of the tribe of Issachar (1 Chronicles 6:73)
- 41 Continent
- 42 Instruction manual word
- 43 Competition
- 44 Weather beaten
- 45 Before (poet.)
- 46 Gershwin
- 50 Linking verb

Last puzzle's solution

1	E	2	H	3	O	4	R	5	P	6	A	7	H	8	M	9	E					
11	H	12	E	13	N	14	O	15	U	16	S	17	S	18	A	19	Y					
14	U	15	Z	16	T	17	A	18	B	19	L	20	E	21	H	22	I	23	D			
17	D	18	E	19	B	20	A	21	T	22	E	23	R	24	I	25	N	26	E			
21	K	22	E	23	R	24	O	25	S	26	S	27	E	28	A	29		30				
23	W	24	I	25	S	26	E	27	R	28	K	29	E	30	L	31	I	32	T	33	A	
27	E	28	A	29	T	30	A	31	B	32	S	33	A	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
31	T	32	H	33	I	34	R	35	S	36	T	37	Y	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
43	C	44	O	45	N	46	S	47	I	48	D	49	E	50	R	51	L	52	53	54	55	56
46	O	47	R	48	E	49	N	50	E	51	B	52	A	53	T	54	A	55	56	57	58	59
52	L	53	O	54	W	55	G	56	N	57	A	58	S	59	H	60	61	62	63	64	65	66



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