

# WESTERN Recorder

February 21, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 7



## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Miami—Southern Baptist churches gave 3 percent more to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions in 2011 than they did in 2010.

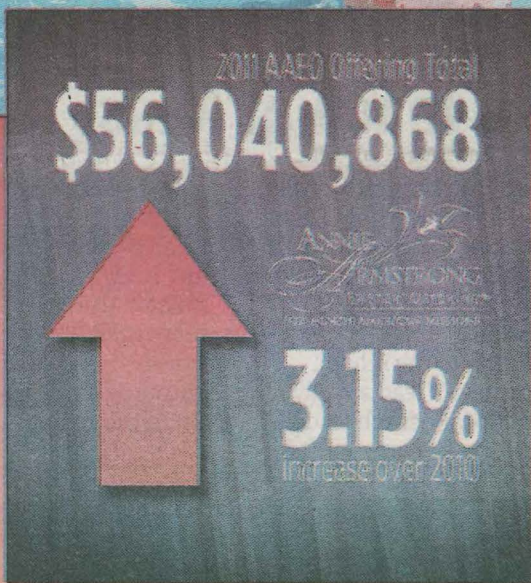
For the year ending Dec. 31, 2011, the offering totaled more than \$56 million.

The offering directly pays for missionary salaries and provides field resources for missionaries serving in North America. Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board, shared the offering total at the recent meeting of NAMB's board of trustees in Miami.

"I want to thank Southern Baptists for their generosity and for continuing to make North America a priority," Ezell said. "I also want to

See Annie Armstrong ... Page 7

UP  
in  
2011



Above: Money given to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering helps support missionaries like North American Mission Board church planter Shaun Pillay (left), who celebrates with new believer Sheri Billits after baptizing her at a special service held by Cornerstone International Church in Norwich, Conn. (Photo by Peter Field Peck/NAMB)

## Expanded gambling opponents speak out after bill unveiled

By Robin Bass

Frankfort—In his announcement of an expanded gambling bill last week, Gov. Steve Beshear repeatedly spoke of letting voters decide if they want casinos in Kentucky. Opponents called the governor's strategy to change the state constitution misleading and an abuse of the system.

"The whole slogan of 'let the people decide' is misrepresenting of the referendum process," the Family Foundation of Kentucky's Martin Cothran said. "The governor is trying to make everyone think this is a ballot-initiative state."

But Kentucky is not a ballot-initiative state, Cothran explained. Instead, Kentucky's government structure is based on voters electing representatives who make decisions based on the wishes of their constituents and their own convictions, he pointed out.

"What this bill does is let campaign contributors to

See Expanded gambling ... Page 2



BATTLE BEGINS Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear introduces an expanded gambling bill Feb. 14 that would allow casinos to operate in the state. Opponents of the plan have vowed to fight the bill, led by Kentucky Baptist pastor Hershael York who has helped organize an anti-gambling rally at the Capitol this week. (Photo by Robin Bass)



EXPLORING ST. LOUIS Members of last week's Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored "Vision Trip" to St. Louis get a quick tutorial of the city by map before setting out to visit with pastors and church planters in the Gateway City. (Photo by Scott Pittman/KBC)

## Kentucky, St. Louis Baptists en'vision' partnership

By Drew Nichter

St. Louis—Standing inside a boxing ring that sits smack-dab in the middle of the fellowship hall, the tattooed pastor of Have Bible Will Travel Church asked for prayer.

His request: that "everyone will understand that the vision is larger than them," Pat Rankin told a group of Kentucky Baptists.

Rankin, who looks more like he belongs on a Harley-Davidson than behind a pulpit, leads the church

in Bridgeton, Mo., a St. Louis suburb. Rankin came to know Christ as Savior in 2001 through the work of the church's founder, who sought to reach people inside bars and tattoo parlors.

In addition to ministering in places some would never dare go, Have Bible Will Travel hosts sanctioned boxing matches as a way to reach people with whom most churches might never connect.

It's these types of unique ministries that are needed to reach St.

Louis' 2.7 million people with the gospel, Scott Pittman noted.

The director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's partnership missions department led a two-day "vision trip" to St. Louis last week. More than 40 Kentucky Baptists traveled to the Gateway City to explore the many missions and ministry opportunities there.

The trip was just the beginning of a missions agreement between the KBC and St. Louis Metro Baptist. See Ky. Baptists explore ... Page 7



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Western Recorder 2-21-2012

## Lexington church parts ways with association

By Drew Nichter

Lexington—Doctrinal differences have prompted a Lexington church to remove itself from its local Baptist association.

In a Feb. 10 news release, Central Baptist Church announced it had voted last December to sever its almost 60-year affiliation with Elkhorn Baptist Association.

In a statement, Pastor Mark Johnson called the move a "natural and predictable course of direction" for the church, which left both the Southern and Kentucky Baptist conventions in 2000.

Director of Missions Don Reed said the Elkhorn accepted the church's decision to disfellowship and that it required no action on the association's part.

According to Johnson, Central Baptist's decision was prompted by a letter from a fellow pastor to Elkhorn's membership committee questioning whether the church was in friendly cooperation with the association.

David Prince, pastor of Ashland Avenue Baptist Church, cited a September 2011 post on Johnson's blog that applauds an Indianapolis church's marketing campaign called "Who Stole Jesus?"

The campaign's points suggest how the "real Jesus" would feel about several social and church-related issues, includ-

ing celebrating gay and transgender individuals and empowering women in ministry leadership roles.

In a response to a reader's comment disagreeing with the point about homosexuality, Johnson wrote: "In my understanding, homosexuality is no more a sin than say, heterosexuality."

It was this comment that Prince cited in his letter to the association asking its membership committee to investigate if Central Baptist had "disqualified itself from membership in the association by practices, conduct and/or preaching doctrines contrary to the doctrinal statement of the association."

In the letter, Prince acknowledged that Central Baptist is "free to follow their convictions on matters of faith and practice. The only matter in question is whether or not they should do so as a cooperating member" of the association.

Johnson told the Western Recorder the church felt the best course of action was to sever ties with Elkhorn Association.

"The decision on our end was instead of trying to stand up and say, 'We want to stay in the Elkhorn Baptist Association,' maybe this was just the time for us to go ahead and leave," he noted.

Reed said he felt Central's decision not to fight to remain in the association was the best move since it likely would have

been a divisive issue, akin to what occurred in Owensboro six months ago.

Last August, Daviess-McLean Baptist Association messengers voted to remove a member church, Journey Fellowship, which maintains similar doctrinal adherences to Central Baptist Church and allows a pro-homosexual group to meet at its building.

Prince said that while he was not aware of the Daviess-McLean vote, he believes Central Baptist's preemptive move away from the association was the right one.

"It showed a measure of integrity because I think they understand they are outside the lines of the doctrinal parameters set by the association," Prince told the Western Recorder. "My only question is why wasn't it done voluntarily earlier?"

Johnson said the extent of Central Baptist's participation with Elkhorn over the past 12 years was limited primarily to ministry in Lexington's Irishtown neighborhood, which the church helped establish 50 years earlier. He said the church intends to continue working in that community.

Johnson said the church's decision was not done as a way to ostracize itself and that the congregation still is willing to work with all churches, including those in Elkhorn Association. (WR)

## Carson-Newman trims faculty, staff positions

Jefferson City, Tenn.—Carson-Newman College has reduced its workforce by 3 percent, eliminating 11 faculty and staff positions.

Additionally, the school plans to outsource its 44-member housekeeping operation in the coming weeks.

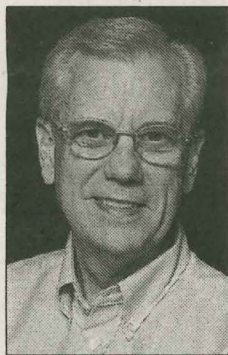
The efforts are designed to trim institutional costs and strengthen Carson-Newman's economic position for the future, according to school officials.

"We are strategically addressing the financial realities that have been and continue to confront families, businesses and other educational institutions," noted Parker Leake, senior director of marketing and communications at Carson-Newman.

"While it has been difficult news to share with employees, our senior administration put everything on the table and sought to trim tightly while maintaining the academic program, Christian commitment and dedication to community service for which Carson-Newman has a strong reputation," Leake added.

The reduction includes the end of three academic programs: athletic training, computer information systems and French.

"These are difficult decisions, but they are necessary for us to be as lean as possible as we move forward into a strategically planned future, while offering the quality academic program for which we are known," Carson-Newman President Randall O'Brien said. (Tennessee Baptist & Reflector/BP)



## Former IMB head to teach at Miss. college

Hattiesburg, Miss.—Jerry Rankin, former president of the International Mission Board, will teach a class at William Carey University in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Rankin will teach a class called "Principles and Practice of Missions" during the school's spring trimester which begins

this week. One of the texts for the class will be Rankin's own book "Empowering Kingdom Growth: To the Ends of the Earth, Christians Fulfilling the Great Commission."

According to the school, Rankin also will lead a study course for local-church leaders.

Rankin retired from the IMB after a 17 years as the organization's president. Prior to that, he and his wife, Bobbye, served as missionaries to Indonesia for more than 23 years. Rankin now travels the preaching circuit, encouraging others to answer God's call to missions. (WCU/BP)

## Expanded gambling

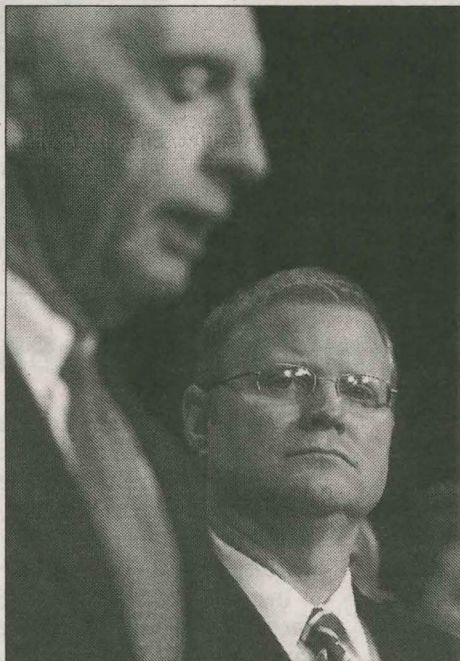
Continued from page 1

the governor practically write their names to the constitution, and we think that is an abuse of the constitution," Cothran said. "We think this is an attempt by wealthy casino interests and horse-track owners to buy their way into Kentucky's constitution like box seats to the ballgame."

In response to the bill's introduction, Hershael York, former Kentucky Baptist Convention president, organized a rally for Feb. 21 at the Capitol Rotunda. Last week, York responded to SB 151 through a video on the Family Foundation of Kentucky's website.

"What's a stake is nothing less than the integrity of our families," York said, pointing out that government's job is to protect citizens from "predatory industries."

"There is a moral dimension that transcends whether the majority says they want to vote for it," said York, the pastor of Frankfort's Buck Run Baptist Church. "We have elected representatives to go and act on our behalf. ... I don't think we should give legislators a pass. ... (Tell representatives) live up to your conviction. Vote your conviction."



**GAMBLING PUSH** Damon Thayer, the Republican senator from Georgetown who is sponsoring Senate Bill 151, looks on as Gov. Steve Beshear details the plan to expand gambling in the commonwealth. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Chip Hutcheson, chairman of the KBC's Committee on Public Affairs, said last week he supported the idea of a rally at the statehouse and hopes the demon-

stration will show the true heart of why Kentucky Baptists oppose the legislation.

"Certainly this rally is one aspect of ways we can make our voices heard. But I think it cannot be underestimated the impact that it has on legislators for laypeople to contact their senators and kindly ask them not to vote against any expansion of gambling," Hutcheson said.

Beshear, joined by Sen. Damon Thayer (R-Georgetown), announced the introduction of Senate Bill 151 at the Capitol Feb. 14. About a dozen elected officials representing both political parties and both legislative bodies stood in support of the bill—including Lt. Gov. Jerry Abramson, Agriculture Commissioner James Comer and House Speaker Greg Stumbo (D-Prestonsburg).

When Thayer took his turn at the podium, he smiled broadly and waved a piece of paper in the air.

"Here it is," Thayer, the bill's sponsor, said, "the long-awaited legislation proposing to amend Kentucky's constitution relating to casino gambling."

The entire constitutional amendment relating to casino gambling is contained on one sheet of paper, barely more than two paragraphs, and is the result of "a compromise of ideas," the governor said.

"We have, on purpose, kept this

amendment simple and left a lot of details to be worked out if the people make the decision they want expanded gaming in Kentucky," Beshear said. "Then their elected representatives will come back and work with me and we will figure out how to implement it."

If the constitutional amendment is approved by a three-fifths majority of the General Assembly, the bill in its current state would allow seven licensed casinos in the state—five at horse racing tracks and two free-standing venues.

Two days after its introduction, lawmakers already expressed concern about the bill's language. In particular, some question the provision that protects horse tracks from a free-standing casino being licensed within a 60-mile radius. The governor reportedly is considering changing the "mileage protection" language.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this that won't be determined until we pass the enabling legislation," Beshear said.

Thayer, who sponsored a similar bill in 2010, said he plans to call SB 151 before committee Feb. 22 and has asked Beshear and Comer to testify on its behalf. Cothran also has been invited to present the opposing view, Thayer said. (WR)

# Kentucky Baptist women aim to touch lives, share Christ

By Kristie Randolph

Louisville—Ordinarily, someone seeking the services of a medical doctor, dentist, family photographer, or even a hair stylist would not think to visit a church.

Yet for hundreds of low income Shelby County residents, First Baptist Church of Shelbyville will host volunteers who offer all of these services and more, free of charge, as part of the Shelby Touched Twice project on March 17.

"The main reason for the clinic is to touch people with Jesus' love and to win them to Christ," said Suzanne Barrett, project captain for the event.

Now in its third year, Shelby Touched Twice is linking with an evangelistic initiative called "Project More Women," sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The initiative challenges women to undertake an evangelistic project between March 3 and May 19.

Those interested in participating can choose from a list of projects online at [www.kybaptist.org/projectmore](http://www.kybaptist.org/projectmore), or they can work together to develop and submit their own project.

According to Barrett, Touched Twice is a perfect example of what Project More Women is seeking to accomplish because it provides a tailor-made opportunity for Christians to share their faith.

Each family that comes through the door is greeted by a "shepherd" who stays with them the entire day and shares the gospel with those guests.

"The shepherds get to witness to them the whole time. That's where the 'touched twice' comes in. We touch them with our love and with God's love," she said.

Last year, the clinic helped 474 individuals and involved more than 500 volunteers from 76 churches in the area. All of the services and products given away came from donations, Barrett said.

In addition to medical, dental, vision, hearing and beautician services, guests are treated to a meal and family photos. They can also "shop" the courtesy clothes closet and food pantry.

"They leave with food, clothing, a full tummy, and they feel good about themselves," said Barrett, noting the enormous amount of advanced preparation for the one-day clinic.

"We all know there are needy people out there, but when you sit with them, talk to them and eat with them, you see there are so many lost souls," she said.

The idea for Shelby Touched Twice originally came from Judy Phillips of Salem Baptist Church in Southville. Phillips was struck by her experience with a Touched Twice United event in Eastern Kentucky in 2009 and began dreaming about bringing the event to her county.

"The Lord laid it on my heart that

people in Shelby County needed that kind of help," Phillips said. "I thought, 'I can serve my neighbors and don't have to go somewhere else.'"

As they anticipate what could be the event's largest year yet, Barrett and Phillips are hopeful that other women will volunteer for the Shelby Touched Twice event through Project More Women.

"The volunteers receive much more than the guests," Phillips said. "The reward is the feeling that you have truly served."

Shelly Johns, women's ministry/senior adult associate for the KBC, said events like Shelby Touched Twice capture the heart of what Project More Women is about. She hopes the initiative will mobilize women to think creatively and work together to reach their communities.

"My prayer for the women who participate is that God will remind us of the

**F**or more information about Project More Women, email the KBC at [projectmore@kybaptist.org](mailto:projectmore@kybaptist.org) or call (502) 489-3591 or (866) 489-3591 (toll-free in Kentucky). The blog, [crosseyedliving.com](http://crosseyedliving.com) and the Facebook page "KBC Women Connect" also will carry updates.

impact we can have in our churches, communities, cities and beyond as we seek to intentionally share Christ in all that we do," Johns said.

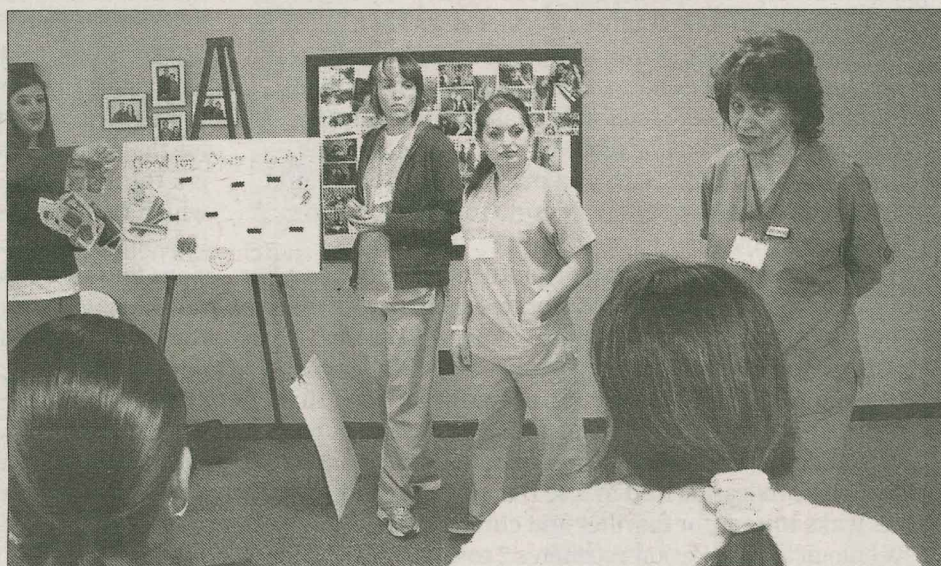
The only requirement for a project is that it must involve direct contact with people in the community to encourage evangelistic conversations, Johns said.

"My heart is that women in our churches would ask other women to pray and brainstorm ways to reach their communities, and then to submit a project based on that," she said. "This is ideal because it gives the opportunity for direct follow-up after the project."

Women's groups that have already planned an evangelistic project can submit that project online. All projects must be submitted by May 1. Individuals may sign up as a captain or volunteer for an existing project at [www.kybaptist.org/projectmore](http://www.kybaptist.org/projectmore).

Once projects are completed, captains will share the results online. A celebration of the collective results of what God has done is being planned as part of this year's Encounter: Women of Worth Lifestyle Evangelism Conferences on May 21 and 22, Johns said.

"My greatest excitement is over the numbers that will not even be in the count, for generations now and yet to come will be touched by our efforts to intentionally share Christ," she said. (KBC)



**MEDICAL MINISTRY** Dental care specialists answer questions during Shelby Touched Twice, a day of ministry provided by First Baptist Church of Shelbyville, that provides essential services at no charge to individuals and families in need. Project More Women, an initiative of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, is mobilizing women of faith across the commonwealth to undertake an evangelistic project this spring. (Photo courtesy of First Baptist, Shelbyville)

# Pastor's widow starts language ministry to internationals

By Shirley Cox

Georgetown—While some Kentuckians perhaps viewed the influx of Hispanics with a wary eye in the 1990s, Garnett Jones placed a large sign beside the front door of her white frame house in Georgetown that read, "Bienvenidos, amigos."

"Welcome, friends."

That welcoming spirit continues today.

The Hispanic ministry that began in her home now involves 18 nationalities, including immigrants from Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Ghana and refugees from the Congo.

"Congolese refugees may have a university degree from South Africa, but they never have used an ATM or had a bank account," Jones said. "I take them shopping, teach them to drive and loan my car for driver's tests."

Jones and her late husband, Clarence, a pastor, worked in ministries ranging from inner city to Appalachia. "I loved being a pastor's wife," she said.

After 36 years of marriage, Clarence died suddenly, leaving her alone.

"Lord, you know me better than I know myself," she prayed. "Please help me find something to do."

She was not prepared for the answer. "God moved me to study Spanish at age 67," Jones said.

The following summer, Jones went on a mission trip to Ecuador. After she came home, she began working with a Hispanic ministry. The next summer, she returned to Ecuador to study Spanish with a private tutor and at a language institute. She later worked as a teaching assistant to Hispanics in Dry Ridge and taught English to Hondurans in Cincinnati.

The third summer, she went to Ecuador to work in a medical clinic but was injured when she fell down a mountain.

"They used two tree trunks and horse blankets to make a stretcher to carry me," she said. Following surgery, she developed complications and a doctor told her that her leg might have to be amputated.

When the Hispanic community in Williamstown heard about her accident, they began to pray. "Let Garnett's antibiotics start working." And, her leg began to heal, she said.

After Jones was well enough to return to Kentucky, she became a Mission Service Corps missionary. Gradually her home in Georgetown developed into a

school and social center for Hispanics.

"The Hispanic women brought their children and we studied English in the kitchen," she said. In the evening, she taught classes for men and women.

Her home also became a place where her Hispanic friends could invite loved ones for birthday parties and other special occasions.

Eager to serve, Jones approached internationals in grocery stores or at Walmart to invite them to her English classes. "In 14 years, I never had an international that was not receptive," she said.

Once while Jones was posting a notice for English classes for Hispanics, a motel owner asked her, "What agency do you work for? Who pays you?"

"I work for the Lord," she answered. The man asked Jones to teach English to his 60-year-old wife, a Pakistani, who was not conversant.

"It was so neat to see how the Hispanic women welcomed her," Jones recalled.

A certified instructor for English as a Second Language, Jones teaches three evenings each week for the local school district and on Wednesdays at Georgetown Baptist Church.

The Woman's Missionary Union of Georgetown Baptist purchases materials and provides other support.

Jones has become an advocate for internationals. She contacts lawyers, helps with legal papers, provides information about immigration laws, attends court hearings and helps obtain visas.

"I recorded 100 questions and answers on CDs to study for citizenship," she said. "The internationals know enough to converse, but these words are unfamiliar." She also interprets at doctor and dentist offices and provides comfort and reassurance.

On Sunday evenings, Jones teaches 14 children at Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, a Hispanic congregation she helped plant that meets in the basement of Gano Baptist Church. "We began with two people and now we have 40 to 50," she said.

With the help of a businessman, Jones founded the Georgetown/Scott County Hispanic Initiative, an organization of local citizens and community leaders that addresses issues related to the Hispanic community.

"Jesus was compassionate about people's needs," she said. "There are people all around us who are hurting." (KBC)

## Gambling is more than a values issue

As the gambling expansion drama continues to unfold in the Kentucky legislature, I want to share excerpts from a timely piece recently posted by Russell Moore on his blog, "Moore to the Point" at [www.russellmoore.com](http://www.russellmoore.com):

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

"...[G]ambling isn't merely a 'values' issue. Neither is it primarily a 'moral' issue, at least not in terms of what we typically classify as 'moral values' issues. Gambling isn't primarily a question of personal vice. If it were, we

could simply ask our people to avoid the lottery tickets and horse tracks, but leave it legal. Gambling is a social justice issue that defines how it is that we love our neighbors and uphold the common good.

"Gambling is a form of economic predation. Gambling grinds the faces of the poor into the ground. It benefits multinational corporations while oppressing the lower classes with illusory promises of wealth, and with (typically) low-wage, transitory jobs that simultaneously destroy every other economic engine of a local community.

"In the end, the casinos will leave. And they'll leave behind a burned-over district with no thriving agricultural, manufacturing, or tourism economies. In the meantime, they leave behind the wreckage of 'check-to-cash' loan sharks, pawn shops, prostitution and 1-2-3 divorce courts.

"Conservative Christians can't talk about gambling, if we don't see the bigger picture.

"First of all, most of the 'market' for gambling comes from those in despair, seeking meaning and a future. The most important thing a church can do to undercut the local casino is to preach the gospel. By that I don't just mean how to get saved (although that's certainly at the root of it). I mean the awe-filled wonder in the face of the really good news that Jesus is crucified and resurrected, the old dragon is overthrown.

"Second, we must understand that gambling is an issue of economic justice. We can't really address the gambling issue if we ignore the larger issue of poverty. Evangelicals who don't care (as does Jesus, the prophets and the apostles) about the poor can't speak adequately to the gambling issues. By this I don't simply mean caring about individual poor people but about the way social and political and corporate structures contribute to the misery of the impoverished (James 5:1-6). We will never get to the nub of the gambling issue if we don't get at a larger vision of poverty ....

"Let's oppose state-empowered gambling, but let's do so while loving the poor the industry seeks to devour. Let's work toward rebuilding families, honoring honest labor, and encouraging the flourishing of communities in which the impoverished are not invisible.... And let's hold out a vision, for all of us, of an inheritance that comes not through predation, and not through luck, but through sonship, through grace."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Are we gambling with our children's future?

There he stood behind me in line, busy playing roulette on a casino app on his iPhone. I assumed he was playing just for amusement—at least, I hope so—because he could not have been more than 16. To him, it probably seemed like only a game. Something to do to pass the time, to prevent boredom. Already, though, he may be beginning to form a creeping addiction to the "thrill" of gambling, and he didn't even know it. Were his parents concerned or even aware? Would they try to stop it before it is too late, and he unwittingly gambled away his future?

This week, Gov. Beshear and Sen. Damon Thayer are leading state legislators to consider an amendment that eventually could allow up to seven real casinos to be established across the state, likely bringing one to within driving distance of every home. While they are promoting the move as "the best way to keep hundreds of millions of dollars here at home," what is closer to the truth is that it is the best way to take hundreds of millions of dollars from our homes and businesses—the vast majority of which will end up in the gambling industry's pockets. And, if those in favor of expanded gambling stopped for a moment to consider that it might be their spouses', children's or grandchildren's future they were placing at risk of forming a highly addictive behavior that one day could cost their marriages, jobs, homes, cars and maybe their lives, would they still be so eager to allow a casino to come so near to their families?

In responding to a recent blog on the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce website, which advocated gaming as a means of helping the state's horse industry, Robert Reeves, a spokesperson for the Kentucky Baptist Committee on Public Affairs, likewise observed: "It is equally amazing that people of goodwill, as I know that most chamber members are, would want to endorse a business model that exploits those who can least afford to lose their income and leaves in its wake misery for families and children. The American Psychological Association estimates 2 to 4 percent of Americans have an active gambling problem. I would ask each chamber member to ask himself or herself, 'If one of my family members were to be sacrificed as one of the many who will be in this 2 to 4 percent, would I still be so keen on bringing casinos to Kentucky?'"

"What's at stake is nothing less than the integrity of our families," agreed Hershael York, a Frankfort pastor who is leading a rally at the capitol this Tuesday of concerned

citizens opposing expanded gambling. Emphasizing good government's responsibility to protect its citizens, York is urging state lawmakers (and possibly its electorate): "Please don't unloose this scourge on our state. Do the right thing" and not allow casinos to "open up a black hole in our economy that will suck the life right out of it."

Revenue from gambling facilities would be spent for job creation, education, human services, health care veterans programs, local government, public safety and support for horse industry, gambling proponents are prone to claim. Yet, in a recent "Breakpoint" column, Chuck Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship, counters that state-sanctioned gambling is "an easy cop-out for tax-hungry politicians."

Colson further warns, "In virtually every instance, actual revenues fell far short of expectations: There was no pot at the end of the gambling rainbow. Whatever added revenue was gained came at the expense of social problems associated with gambling." Colson doesn't mince words: "Licensing and taxing gambling is an easy out for every lily-livered politician who refuses to make tough political and budgetary decisions. And it perpetuates the illusion that you can get something for nothing."

Kentuckians wish to vote on it, and the time has come for that opportunity, proponents also maintain. That, too, is a thinly veiled attempt to shirk legislative responsibility, which they were elected to do; namely, to study matters thoroughly and to make well-informed, responsible decisions for the welfare of all Kentuckians—which, incidentally, includes all our families, not just those involved in the horse or gambling industry. There is a reason this issue has been lingering for nearly two decades: Many concerned citizens aren't convinced that gambling is the wisest or soundest solution to the state's budgetary problems. In fact, they understand all too well that gambling is much, much more than an economic issue; it comes with a steep moral and social price to our communities as well.

The governor's bill needs a three-fifths approval in both houses of the General Assembly before a referendum can appear on a ballot. In the Senate, that means the approval of 23 senators. While the governor believes he has the 23 votes needed, other sources say he has only 19. Either way, the margin is extremely close and it is especially important now for Kentucky Baptists who do not want to see casinos negatively impact our state's families to call the legislative message line at 1-800-372-7181.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## 'More than money'

The Feb. 7 issue, revealing the shortfall of cooperative gifts and the appointment of 18 people to an advisory committee that will deal with the perceived problem, evokes various reactions.

While the economy, without doubt, may have some effect on the lagging gifts, there is no way to know the validity of that assumption. Some of the shortfall may be coming from Baptists who are opposed to the 50/50 split of money that is kept and money that goes to the Southern Baptist Convention offices in Nashville. It has

not been a popular move in some churches as members wonder why state money needs to match the amount that is sent away with no further oversight. Some may feel state money might be better spent in mission work that can be seen and the results evaluated.

The 18 members of an advisory committee are mostly pastors and directors of missions. There is one lay member. It is difficult to think that the leaders of a state convention would make no effort to include several women when seeking advice as to how money expecta-

tions might be improved. This continued bias is not helpful. The absence of women from the group, while perhaps not arbitrary, is, nonetheless, an unmistakable exclusion. With this action as evidence, "cooperative," in Kentucky, needs to be defined as far more than just money.

Edward Clark Danville

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## Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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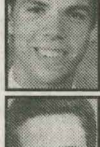
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- Student must be a member of a cooperating Kentucky Baptist Convention church.
- Student must have been a Kentucky resident for at least one year prior to application.



# LifeWay to continue selling disputed '11 NIV

By Marty King

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Trustees of LifeWay Christian Resources have voted to continue selling the new NIV Bible in LifeWay stores.

Meeting last week in Nashville, Tenn., trustees heard a report from a special task force appointed to follow up on a non-binding resolution approved by the 2011 Southern Baptist Convention that requested LifeWay consider not selling the New International Version 2011 Bible in their stores.

Committee chairman Adam Greenway, a member of First Baptist Church in Mount Washington, told the board "vast amounts of scholarly research and other relevant information was gathered and studied, ... and a number of subject matter experts addressed the task force."

Greenway said LifeWay received support for continuing to carry the 2011 NIV from Albert Mohler and Russell Moore of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; former LifeWay president Jimmy Draper; George Guthrie, a professor at Union University; and Douglas Moo, chairman of the Committee on Bible Translation, which translated the new version.

Greenway, who serves as senior associate dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism at Southern Seminary, also told trustees: "Messengers to the 2011 SBC annual meeting were encouraged to vote for the resolution based on incorrect information." As an example, Greenway said the 2011 NIV contains no gender-neutral wording for the names of God. The new version, he said, "follows translation methodologies that are embraced by the overwhelming majority of Bible translators in the world."

"It is not that we are endorsing the 2011 NIV," Greenway said. "We endorse what we publish, and the translation we publish is the Holman Christian Standard Bible. That is the translation that we endorse." Greenway told trustees, "We do not believe the 2011 NIV rises to the level to where it should be pulled or censored or not carried in our retail chain."

The task force, the executive committee and the full trustee board unanimously approved the recommendation "to continue to carry the 2011 NIV alongside other versions of the Holy Bible."

Greenway said many of the differences between the 2011 and 1984 NIV versions involved such changes as "brothers" to "brothers and sisters." One example is Luke 17:3, which the 2011 NIV renders: "If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them."

Greenway did address 1 Timothy 2:12, which has been the most-discussed passage among 2011 NIV critics. The version rendered it: "I do not permit a woman to teach or to assume authority over a man; she must be quiet." The 1984 NIV translated it "have authority." The verse, some say, takes sides in the debate over female pastors by allowing a female pastor to say, "I'm not assuming authority on my own initiative; it was given to me by the other pastors and elders."

The committee did examine that passage closely, Greenway said.



**TASK FORCE REPORT** LifeWay Christian Resources' executive committee chairman Adam Greenway delivers a special task force presentation on the NIV resolution. (Photo by Devin Maddox/LifeWay)

## Greenway elected LifeWay board chairman

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Kentucky Baptist Convention President Adam Greenway has added a new title to his list: LifeWay board chairman.

Greenway was elected chairman of LifeWay Christian Resources' board of trustees at the group's Feb. 13-14 meeting in Nashville, Tenn.

A professor and dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, Greenway was elected

president of the KBC last November. At 34, he is the youngest person to serve in that post.

In addition to Greenway, the other LifeWay trustee board officers for the coming year are: Mark Dance, pastor at Second Baptist Church of Conway, Ark., vice chairman; and, Rick Geist, a financial advisor and member of First Baptist Church of Seminole, Okla., recording secretary. (LW/BP)

"The issue comes down to the Greek, and very conservative inerrantists, Greek scholars (on the Committee on Bible Translation), believe that the more literal translation of the Greek there is the word 'assume,' and it is left to the interpretative community to understand what 'assume' means," Greenway said. "Is that a change from some renderings of the past? Yes. But again, our issue should not be merely to maintain traditional translations; it should be to always more fully get to the accuracy and intention of what God originally inspired through those who penned the Scripture."

Greenway added, "We are not giving a stamp of approval. ... We are simply saying from a retail perspective, we do not believe that we should cease carrying and make available to the public the 2011 NIV."

**In other news,** trustees unanimously elected Eric Geiger as vice president of the organization's church resources division which offers discipleship materials and training events for Bible studies, Vacation Bible School, leadership development, music and worship, and the family.

Geiger comes to LifeWay from Miami, where he served nine years as executive pastor of Christ Fellowship Miami. During that time, the church grew from a weekend attendance of 1,200 to nearly 8,000 and was recognized as one of the fastest growing churches in America.

Geiger co-wrote the book "Simple Church" with LifeWay president Thom Rainer who said he was drawn to Geiger to lead CRD because of his passion for the local church. (LW/BP)



Eric Geiger

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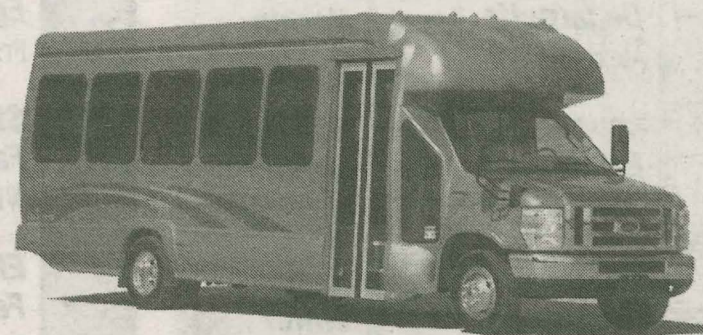
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## Ky. Baptists explore St. Louis opportunities

Continued from page 1

tist Association, signed last November.

During last week's trip, Pittman said the group visited several churches and ministries in and around St. Louis, ranging from well-established congregations to recently planted churches. Most, if not all, need significant help, he said.

Matthew Sickling, DOM for Ohio County Baptist Association, described many of the churches as desperate. "They need individuals and churches to come alongside of them and help push back the darkness that is threatening to overtake them," he said.

Among them is First Baptist Church of St. Ann, an older, suburban congregation that is in need of revitalization. Symbolizing the country's economic struggles, St. Ann once boasted Missouri's largest shopping mall; it closed for good in 2010.

But help is coming, by way of northern Kentucky.

While in St. Louis, Bill Clark, pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, visited with First Baptist's pastor, John Stack. Clark got a tour of the church's facilities and discussed ways his church could help minister to the area's 13,000 residents.

Clark said a family mission trip likely is in Hickory Grove's future. Many of the St. Ann church's needs involve putting on backyard Bible clubs and sports camps, as well as doing light repair and jobs. "I really



**THE GOOD FIGHT** Pat Rankin, pastor of Have Bible Will Travel Church in suburban St. Louis, talks to Kentucky Baptists from the boxing ring in the church's fellowship hall. (Photo by Scott Pittman/KBC)

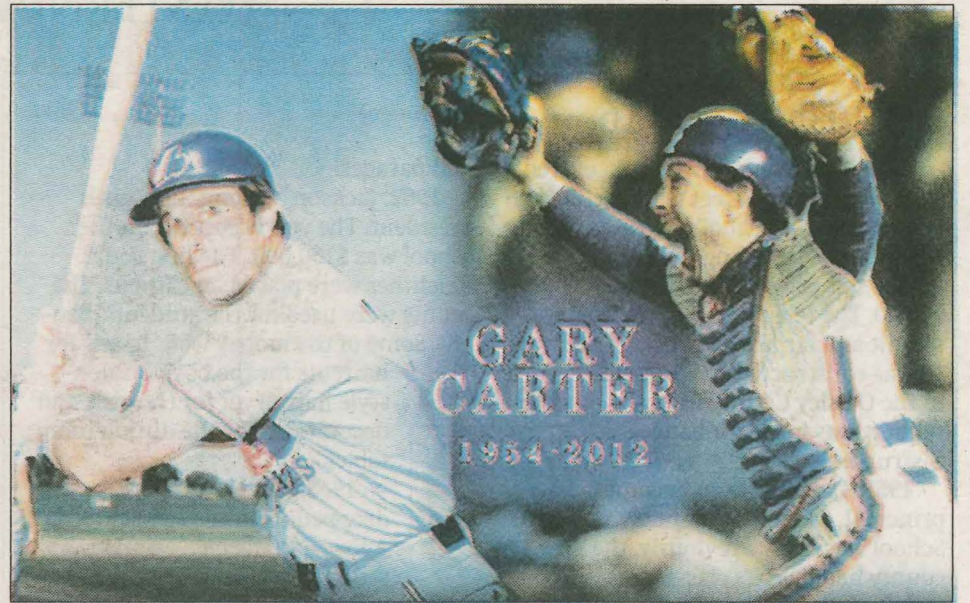
feel like that's where the Lord is leading us right now.

"We just want to really be an encouragement to him," Clark said of Pastor Stack, "because I know it's very difficult when you're revitalizing a church."

Despite the challenges the St. Louis church leaders face, Clark said the energy with which go about their work is infectious. "These folks are just so passionate to reach their city," he said.

That passion, he added, not only will affect St. Louis, but should have a carry-over effect in Kentucky as well.

"We need to bottle that up and have that same infectious compassion for our own cities here." (WR)



## 'The Kid' remembered as man of faith

**West Palm Beach, Fla.**—After a nine-month battle with brain cancer, Hall of Fame catcher Gary Carter died Feb. 16 in West Palm Beach, Fla.. He was 57.

Nicknamed "The Kid" for his infectious smile and enthusiasm, Carter was diagnosed with four small brain tumors in May 2011 and had been receiving chemotherapy and other medical treatments for a type of cancer that was deemed inoperable.

Inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in 2003, Carter is considered one of the game's best. Spending a majority of his 19-year career with the Montreal Expos and New York Mets, Carter helped lead the Mets to a World Series championship in 1986.

Following his playing career, Carter went into coaching within the minor-league ranks and independent baseball before becoming the head baseball coach at Palm Beach Atlantic University, a Christian college in Florida, in 2009.

"My primary goal is to help these young athletes become better Christians and prepare them for life, not just baseball," Carter said back when he was hired by the school.

Those who played for Carter said they chose the school because they wanted to learn under the Hall of Famer.

Travis Murray, a catcher just like his coach, said Carter took him under his wing and taught him the physical and mental aspects of the game.

"He's always positive, trying to motivate people to do their best and give 100 percent," Murray said, adding that Carter enjoyed telling the team stories from his successful past.

"But he's always quick to say he never would have made it as far if he didn't have Christ as his Savior," Murray noted. "He's always giving glory to God."

Carter is survived by his wife of 37 years, Sandy, three children and three grandchildren. (PBAU/BP)

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## Annie Armstrong

Continued from page 1

promise that we place a high value on stewardship and that your offering dollars are being spent carefully and wisely."

Funds given to Annie Armstrong go directly to missionaries serving on the mission field. They are not spent on salaries for staff serving at NAMB's Alpharetta, Ga., building and they are not used for administrative costs.

"We have downsized significantly in Alpharetta and cut all of our budgets to put even more money on the field for church planting and other work our missionaries are carrying out," Ezell said. "These funds are in addition to the Annie offering which only goes to missionaries and resources for them."

NAMB promotes Annie Armstrong in partnership with Woman's Missionary Union. Ezell thanked WMU leaders and members for their "tireless efforts on behalf of our missionaries and on behalf of this offering."

"Wanda Lee (WMU's national executive director) and WMU are champions for our missionaries and they are the best partners we could ask for when it comes to encouraging Southern Baptists to support this offering," Ezell said.

"It is both exciting and encouraging to see the 2011 offering total up from



**GREAT NEWS** North American Mission Board president Kevin Ezell's shares with NAMB trustees that the 2011 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions finished the year at \$56,040,868, an increase of 3 percent over the previous year's offering. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

last year as these funds are used to reach North America for Christ," Lee noted. "We are grateful for our strong partnership with the North American Mission Board, the committed missionaries who serve all across North America to make Him known and share His love, and Southern Baptists who give sacrificially each year so that their work might not only continue but flourish."

The 2012 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering theme is "Whatever It Takes" and spotlights the work of five church planters serving throughout North America. The offering goal is \$70 million. Downloadable videos, photos and other resources can be found at AnnieArmstrong.com. (NAMB/BP)

## Our history, part 6

**1957:** In late winter, a flood covered the low lands in 10 feet of water. It damaged one of the school's barns and killed nine young hogs. The total loss for the school was approximately \$1,000. The telephone system was rebuilt and largely enhanced. Highway 11 was constructed from Oneida to the Owsley County line. A request was made for band instruments.

**1958:** David Jackson became principal. Oneida Elementary School was built. Previously, the county had held its classes in OBI classrooms. The "Burns of the Mountains" play was performed under the Sparks gymnasium.

**1959:** Thirty-two seniors graduated in the spring. An anonymous donation of \$250,000 from New York was given for a girls' dormitory. New clubs added this year included wrestling for boys, a first-aid club and the camera club. The student body included boys and girls from 20 Kentucky counties, 10 states and one foreign country (Iran).

**1960:** Grand Ole Opry stars Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs made an appearance at the school to help raise money for the senior trip. The OBI band made its first public appearance in February. For more than a month, the ground was covered with a heavy snow, sometimes as deep as 15 inches. Marvin Hall received repairs after a section of the wall fell loose. James Anderson Burns Hall, a girls' dorm, was completed.

**1961:** Cliff Hagen, the University of Kentucky All-American, was the main speaker at the spring athletic banquet. Room, board and tuition was \$30 a month. Thirty-five seniors graduated. Oneida had its first majorette squad; it performed with the band at all games

and parades.

**1962:** Jackson became the eighth president. The yearly cost to run the school was \$100,000. The first soda machines were placed on campus. The profits were used for the students' benefit. Some of the money went to pay for haircuts for the boys, a salon-style hair dryer for the girls and decorations for the dining-room tables.

**1963:** Grades K-8 were dropped from the curriculum. A low-water bridge was constructed across Goose Creek. It was decided that the Oneida Mountaineer would have two of its issues combined—December/January and June/July. Many students and faculty were stricken with severe cases of the flu. The South Fork of the Kentucky River flooded much of the valley in April. Twenty-nine seniors graduated.

**1964:** Work was started on the basement of the Sparks gymnasium to make much-needed classrooms. The student body consisted of 166 students from Kentucky, 13 from Ohio, 10 from Michigan, one from Alabama, one from New Jersey, one from Florida and one international student from Iran.

**1965:** The ground floor of Sparks Hall was finished. Top Value and S&H green stamps, plus Betty Crocker coupons sent in from loyal Mountaineer readers, helped furnish the new classrooms. Thirteen faculty members taught the high-school curriculum and spoke off campus informing others of Oneida's work. The school's 1,000th graduate received his diploma.

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

### This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

## Clear Creek's missionary-in-residence

### Alumnus returns to campus to fill unique role, service to students

We see students return to Clear Creek after graduation many times and in many ways. Students sometimes return to serve here as faculty or staff members. Often they come back to introduce a prospective student to their alma mater.

We are enjoying one of those returnees now as we welcome Joe and Ira Booher to our campus for a while as they serve as missionaries-in-residence. Joe graduated in 2000, and went on to Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. After earning a master's degree at Mid-America, he traveled abroad and spent some time working with Albanian people.

Joe will teach on our campus for a semester then will be off again to work with Macedonians. While he is here, he will get to talk to our students about missions and what God has done in his life.

As a young man, Joe was introduced to the Lord by a church youth group, and he embraced Jesus as Savior during a stint in the hospital. An automobile accident had almost taken his life, and the witness and prayers of that church

impacted the young man in such a way that he realized his need for a Savior.

God answered the prayers of those saints and brought both physical and spiritual healing to Joe's life. He soon

realized that God had a purpose for him. Very soon after his salvation, he knew he was to touch others for the cause of Christ.

Soon after high school, Joe came to Clear Creek to prepare for the work God had in store for him. Immediately after graduation, he went on a school-sponsored trip to Russia, where God introduced him to his future partner, Ira. She was serving as interpreter for the group, and

Joe knew right away there was something special about this young lady.

Joe waited until he was back home to let her know how he felt, and he did so by letter. It took weeks for her to get his letter and weeks more for him to receive her reply, but the news was good. She was interested in pursuing a relationship with him. Now the team has grown to four, as Joe, Ira, Joseph and Nicholas minister to the needs of people wherever they go.

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

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Washington becomes seventh state to legalize gay marriage

**Olympia, Wash.**—Gov. Chris Gregoire signed legislation last week that makes Washington the seventh state to legalize same-sex marriage.

"Today is a day that historians will mark as a milestone for equal rights," she told a crowd at the state Capitol in Olympia.

The House passed the bill with a 55-43 vote on Feb. 8, one week after the Senate approved it. The gay marriage law is slated to take effect June 7.

Opponents, however, are determined to overturn the measure by collecting enough signatures to send it to the ballot box. If they collect more than 120,000 names by June 6, as expected, the law will be put on hold until the November election. A website opposing the bill, PreserveMarriage Washington.com, was launched last week.

"Ultimately the people will decide on marriage" in Washington, said Joseph Backholm, executive director of the Family Policy Institute of Washington. "And in 31 out of 31 states, they've voted not to redefine marriage, and we don't expect that Wash-

ington will be any different."

The state's Roman Catholic bishops have led the opposition to the same-sex marriage law, saying only traditional marriage upholds "the stability of family life in which a man and a woman conceive and nurture new life" as the basis for "a sound and functioning society."

However, a recent poll by the University of Washington's Center for Survey Research found that if the issue does go to the voters, most would support it. Of those surveyed, 55 percent said they would uphold the same-sex marriage law if it were challenged by referendum and 38 percent said they would vote against it.

Washington has had a domestic partnership law since 2007, and in 2009 an "everything but marriage" expansion was upheld by voters.

Also last week, the New Jersey state Senate passed gay marriage legislation. Gregoire said she will make an appeal to that state's Republican governor, Chris Christie, who has said he will veto the bill. (RNS)

*With additional reporting by Baptist Press.*

## Poll shows contraception mandate divide

**Washington**—Americans are split on a federal mandate requiring nearly all employers—even institutions with strong religious affiliations—to provide insurance covering contraceptive drugs.

That's according to a new poll that found that 62 percent of Americans are aware of the controversy, which has pitted the Obama administration against evangelical Christian leaders and Catholic bishops.

The poll, from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, showed that of those familiar with the issue, 48 percent support an exemption for religiously affiliated

institutions that object to providing contraception coverage; 44 percent said those institutions should provide it.

Among Catholics, 55 percent favor an exemption, and 39 percent oppose it. That compares to 68 percent of white evangelicals who favor an exemption (22 percent opposed) and 44 percent of mainline Protestants (46 percent opposed).

The poll was conducted between Feb. 8-12, including the day President Obama softened the mandate by requiring insurers—not religious groups—to offer the coverage. Pollsters found that respondents' answers varied little before and after the administration's policy change. (RNS)

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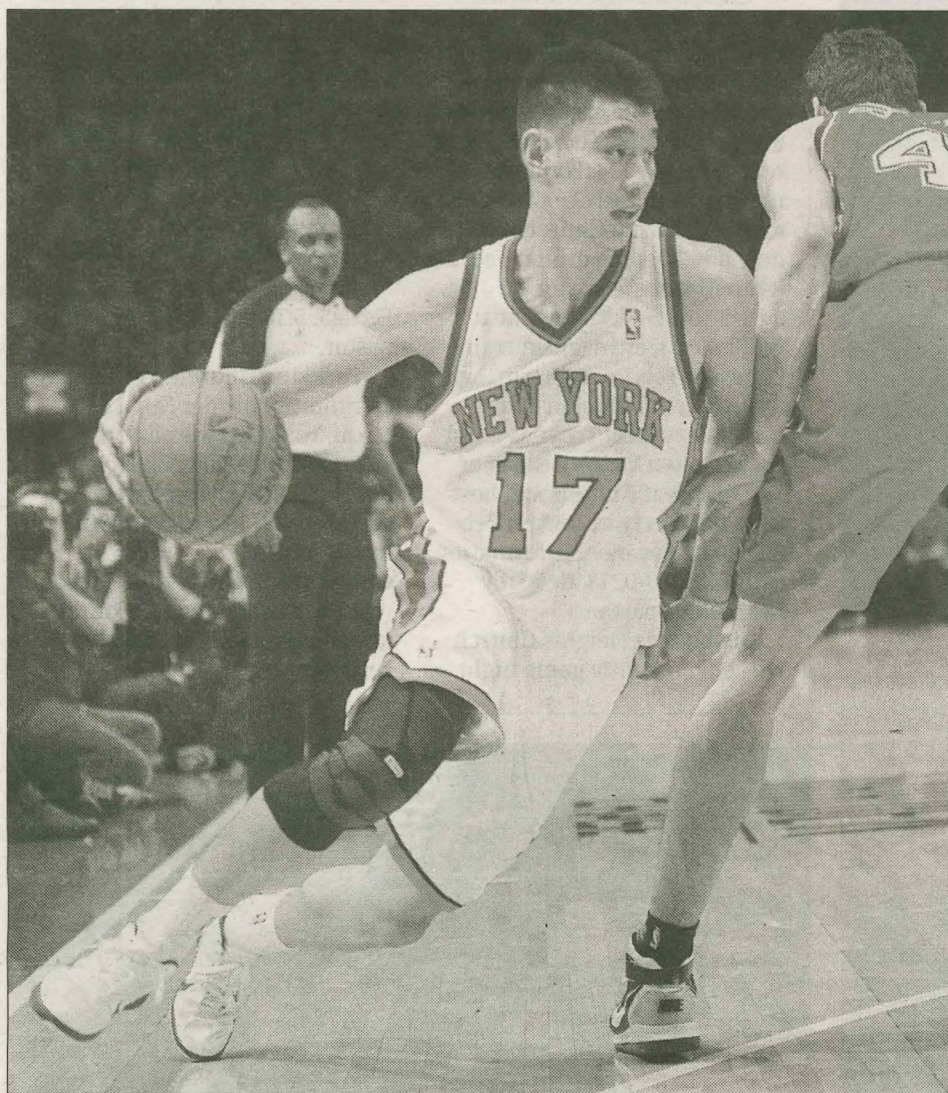
# N.Y. Knicks' phenom Jeremy Lin dubbed 'Taiwanese Tebow'

By Daniel Burke

**New York**—New York Knicks guard Jeremy Lin's underdog story and outspoken evangelical faith have some sportswriters dubbing him the "Taiwanese Tebow." But while Lin and Denver Broncos

quarterback Tim Tebow share similar Christian convictions, Lin's rise to stardom is even more miraculous.

Just a few weeks ago, the Harvard graduate was on the bench and crashing on friends' couches. Stadium security guards mistook Lin for a team trainer.



After injuries to teammates, though, Lin was inserted into the starting lineup. The Knicks promptly won six straight games, with their new point guard leading the way, sending New Yorkers and Asian-Americans across the country into a frenzy of "Linsanity."

Fans splurge for replicas of Lin's jersey, the TV ratings of Knicks games have skyrocketed and shares of the Madison Square Garden Co., which owns the basketball team, reached an all-time high.

Like any good point guard, Lin knows the art of the pass—distributing the praise to his teammates and to God.

"I'm just thankful to God for everything," Lin said in a recent post-game interview. "Like the Bible says, 'God works in all things for the good of those who love him.'"

Lin's passing reference to Romans 8:28 was caught by his longtime pastor, Stephen Chen of Redeemer Bible Fellowship in Mountain View, Calif.

Chen described the church as full of first- and second-generation immigrants, like Lin and his parents, who are "conservative in nature" and evangelical in faith. "Very early in his life he decided to pay heed to the call of Christ to take up the cross daily and follow after Him," Chen said.

Lin also credits his parents with teaching him to play "godly basketball," which measures success by sportsmanship, not stats. That means putting teammates first and showing respect to opponents and referees.

As his star rose, first at Harvard and then with the NBA's Golden State Warriors, Lin shared his faith testimony with youth groups and churches near his California home.

In a 2011 appearance at River of Life Christian Church in Santa Clara, he

quoted from the works of John Piper, a prominent pastor, and spoke of trusting in "God's sovereign plan."

Chen, who said he recently spoke to Lin, expects his sharp-shooting congregant to continue his evangelism in the bright lights of the Big Apple. "He is really looking forward to using the platform that he has to share the gospel with others," Chen said.

Lin already uses his social media platforms to spread the word.

His Twitter account's description is, "to know Him is to want to know Him more." His account's avatar depicts Jesus telling a young man, "No, I'm not just talking about Twitter. I literally want you to follow me."

Tom Krattenmaker, author of the book "Onward Christian Athletes," is among the many who see some similarities between Lin and Tebow. Like Tebow, Lin has spoken of relying on faith to help carry him through the highs and lows of his sports career, and both men often praise God during post-game interviews.

Lin himself has called Tebow "a polarizing figure," but also said that he draws inspiration from the young quarterback's example.

"I think the things he says in interviews, his approach to the game is just unbelievable and I respect him so much," Lin said recently.

Still, as one of the very few Asian-Americans to ever reach the NBA, Lin will have millions following his every move, said Melanie Mar Chow of the Asian-American Christian Fellowship campus ministry.

"We could probably count on one hand the number of Asian-Americans who are prominent Christians," Mar Chow said. "It's great to have a role model like him." (RNS)

## BCM making a difference

### Ministry to state's college students bolsters future church involvement

If you are like me, you are concerned with the high rate of young people dropping out of church once they go to college. There is a solution: It's Baptist Campus Ministry.

Based upon the results of a recent study conducted by Brian Combs, the Baptist campus minister at Northern Kentucky University, 94 percent Kentucky college graduates from 2000 to 2010 who were involved in BCM now attend church at least weekly—WOW! Furthermore, 67 percent of those graduates serve in church leadership positions.

According to Combs, "They go into churches with an understanding of what it means to relate to each other and what it means to work with ministries." What good news that should be to our churches.

Kentucky Baptists have recognized for many years the kingdom-advancement value of BCM and have been committed to providing the strongest and most effective BCM among all of the state Baptist conventions. There is a BCM presence on all of the major campuses in Kentucky, as well as some community and technical colleges. A num-

ber of those campuses have full- or part-time campus ministers and Baptist student centers.

BCM is exciting, important and challenging. The mission of BCM is to disciple and mobilize students to model

the Great Commission, become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, discover their callings in life, and be on mission to connect other people to Jesus Christ. By focusing students on missions, evangelism, leadership development, discipleship, worship and fellowship, these students emerge with hearts of service and skills to strengthen churches.

Such a mission, especially with the highly effective results it has achieved, is worthy of your consideration for a legacy gift. I am pleased to inform you of the establishment of the Baptist Campus Ministry Endowment Fund. Your legacy gift will provide perpetual support for the continued development and mobilization of the next generation of servant leaders who will change the world for the sake of Christ. For more information, please call us.

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Missions made possible

### Offering money distributed to help any number of Kentucky ministries

A year ago we introduced this column to help you know where the Eliza Broadus Offering is used across Kentucky. Throughout the year, we have reported on different ministries that receive EBO funds.

EBO is sponsored by Kentucky WMU. Through a cooperative process, we determine how the offering will be allocated for ministries through the Kentucky Baptist Convention, its associations and special ministries, and missions education. Allocations include church and community ministries, church planting, language missions, Baptist centers, collegiate ministries, disaster relief, Kentucky Changers and more.

A new feature this year is that every association is receiving a \$500 grant to be used as needed. We are encouraging them to use the grants for an evangelism or missions effort. We have 70 associations; that's a total of \$35,000.

Special ministries apply to Kentucky WMU for grants which are awarded each year. The WMU's executive committee recently approved grants from the 2011-12 offering to 89 different ministries in 46 associations. We will

continue to tell the stories of these ministries through this column. A total of \$100,000 is going to these ministries.

Christians By Choice Creative Ministries is led by Mission Service Corps missionary Robin Reeves who was featured in the February 2010 Missions Mosaic for a doll project that makes thousands of dolls used to share the gospel.

### EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

Reeves' 2011 report says that last year the ministry gave away approximately 1,000 bags of clothing; more than 1,200 pairs of shoes; 300 boxes of school supplies; 200 bags of fabric, yarn and sewing supplies; two pick-up truck loads of quilting supplies—and the list goes on.

With the help of 434 volunteers and 14 mission teams, Robin organized six backyard Bible clubs, four evangelistic block parties, and one clothing giveaway. They also completed 12 construction projects or home-repair jobs. An EBO grant of \$1,000 helped with ministry expenses in 2011, and another grant will do so again in 2012.

EBO depends on each of us to pray and give. Put a gift to work today.

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



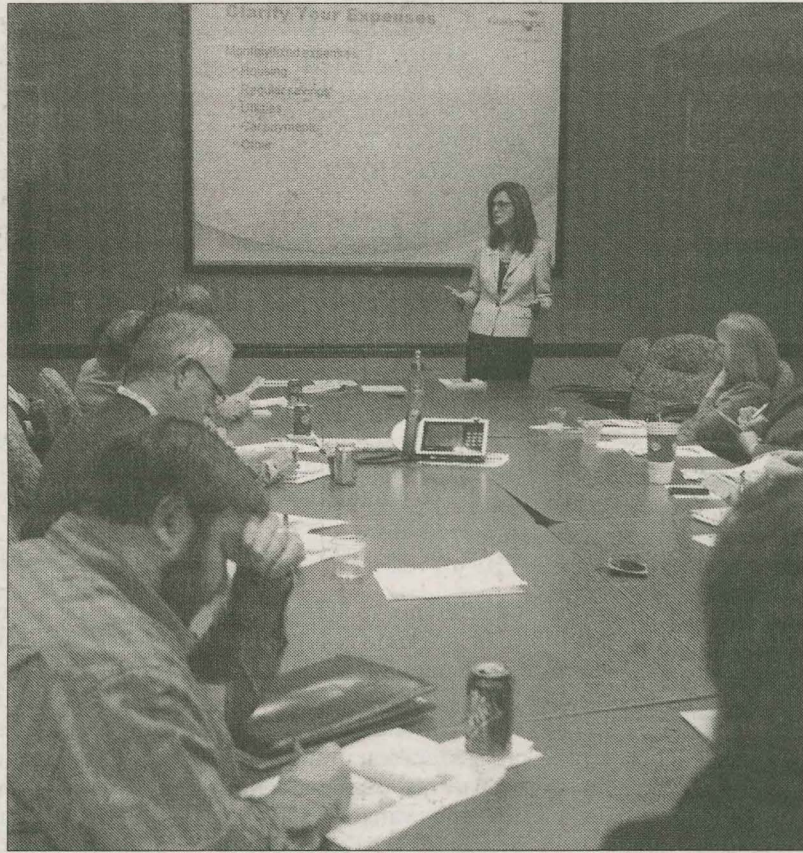
## February

- 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.
- 10** Region 8 RA Congress and Rally, First Baptist Church, Russell.
- 10** Vacation Bible School Clinic, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 12** Growing Ministries Tour, Blood River Baptist Association, Hardin.
- 12** Send>>St. Louis Forum, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 13** Growing Ministries Tour, First Baptist Church, Madisonville.
- 13** John Franklin Taping Session, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 17** Hispanic WMU Event and Evangelism Conference, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

## GuideStone Live



Participants in the GuideStone Live event Feb 16 learned from experts about a variety of topics, including "Basics of Investing," "Being Tax Smart," "Basics of Investing," and "Health Plan Basics." (Photos by Robin Bass)



John Ambra (left), director of Development at GuideStone, provides one-on-one retirement guidance for Dennis Williams, of Louisville. Williams is retired from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary where he was the dean of the School of Leadership and Church Ministry.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Campbellsville Church recently called **Ted Taylor** as transitional pastor. He serves as a professor of Christian studies at Campbellsville University.

Campbellsville University's School of Music will hold a Hymn Keyboard Festival March 24, 10 a.m., for students in grades 1-12. The cost to attend is \$15 per student. The deadline to register is Feb. 24. For more information, call (270) 789-3053.

■ **EWING**—Ewing Church will hold a wild-game dinner Feb. 27. **Keith Abrams** is pastor.

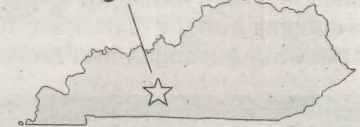
■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will hold an evangelism training event Feb. 26, 6:30 p.m., with International Mission Board missionary **John Trout** as guest speaker. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **Sons of Liberty** in concert Feb. 25, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will hold a family game night

## Spotlight on ...

## Bowling Green



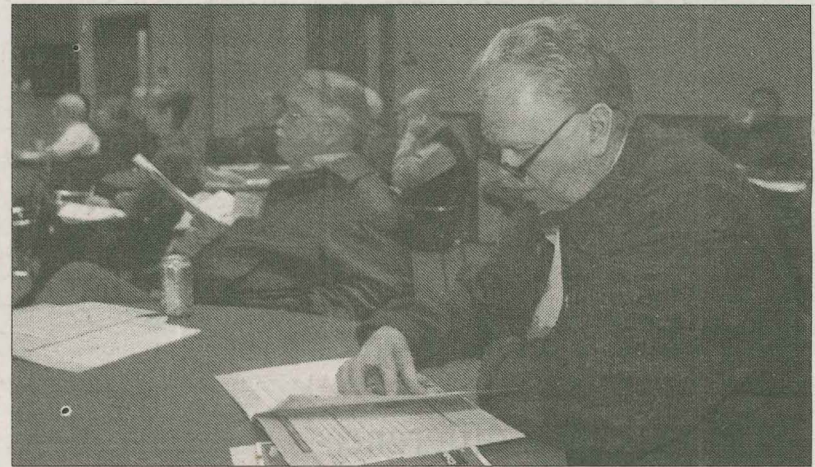
White Stone Quarry Church will hold a chili supper and dessert auction Feb. 25, 5 p.m. The cost is \$5. All proceeds will go to the church's summer mission trip to Guatemala. **Ed Goodman** is pastor.

Feb. 25, 5:30 p.m. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a community dinner Feb. 23, 5 p.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will hold an AARP Driver Safety class Feb. 23, 10 a.m. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **RINEYVILLE**—Rineyville Church will hold a showing of "Courageous" Feb. 26, 6 p.m. **Mitch Ash** is pastor.



Gary Kasey, pastor of Arcade Baptist Church in Louisville, looks over materials distributed in the Retirement Countdown (55+) session at GuideStone Live held Feb. 16 at the Kentucky Baptist Convention Building in Louisville.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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

**FOR RENT:** Two condos in Destin, Fla. Two bedrooms, two baths and sofa beds. Owned by Christian family. Special rate for April-May: \$495. [lbrammer@charter.net](mailto:lbrammer@charter.net). (423) 309-4422.

**FOR SALE:** Books by Glenn Mollette; prayer, care giving, inspirational, nursing homes, fitness, more. [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com).

**NEEDED:** Good used van for Martin First Baptist Church in Eastern Kentucky. Donation or at little cost. Please call Tom Biddle at (606) 886-3335.

**REUNION:** Ridgecrest Conference Center 2012 Staffer Reunion, July 19-21. For reservations or questions, call (800) 588-7222, or visit Facebook, Ridgecrest Staff Alumni page. Please bring your memorabilia.

**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](mailto:gasperriverassno@bellsouth.net).

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music/youth. Will consider separate part-time positions. For more info, contact Rev. Tom Stokes, (270) 487-6538; or email [tfbc302@scrtc.com](mailto:tfbc302@scrtc.com). Email resumé or mail to First Baptist Church, 302 N. Magnolia, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and youth for West Corbin Baptist Church. We are seeking God's man to serve with us in leading our music and youth programs. Please send resumé to: Music/Youth Search Committee, West Corbin Baptist Church, 200 Walden Ave., Corbin, KY 40701.

**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 Carrollton St., Central City, KY 42330.

**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 music minister needed in Bagdad, Ky. Familiar with blended hymns, modern music and a choir. Send resumé to [ksheets67@yahoo.com](mailto:ksheets67@yahoo.com).

**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](mailto:ericharris@mchsi.com).

**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, First Baptist Church, Bethany, Mo. ([www.fbcbethany.org](http://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](mailto:pastorsearch@fbcbethany.org).

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**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](mailto: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](mailto:jstudie@aol.com), or back [judy@yahoo.com](mailto:judy@yahoo.com).

# A tune-up or an overhaul?

By Larry Doyle

One of the things I remember about my dad was his uncanny ability to diagnose what was wrong with an automobile. When I was a teen, he owned and operated his own garage where he serviced cars, trucks and just about anything with four wheels. In the days before computers and electronic diagnostic devices, he would listen to the engine, ask a few key questions, and listen carefully to the owners' responses. Then, he would share his opinion about the needed service or repair. I must admit I did not learn much from my dad about cars, but I did learn the difference between a tune-up and an overhaul. A tune-up was relatively quick and inexpensive, requiring just a few hours of work without taking too big a bite out of the pocketbook. An overhaul was another matter altogether, and usually required leaving the car for a day or two, while the engine was taken apart, parts replaced and the engine reassembled. No one wanted to hear that diagnosis.

When it comes to following Christ, I've discovered most of us tend to settle for a tune-up, when what we really need is an overhaul. We think following Jesus is something we can add into the mix of our lives without too much of an adjustment in our routines. We don't mind Jesus making a few minor changes or variations. We are OK with a little "touch-up" work and a few minor alterations here and there.

However, according to the New Testament, following Jesus requires much more than a few adjustments or changes. It requires an overhaul—a transformation. A tune-up cannot fix the brokenness deep within each and every one of us. Only a complete transformation, a divine intervention, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can reach deep within us to heal our hearts, and save our souls. In other words, becoming a follower of Jesus is much more like an overhaul than a tune-up.

The "tune-up mentality," however, is seen everywhere in the American Christian culture. Like everything else in our world, we

want it fast, and we want it now. Even in some religious groups and some churches, following Jesus has been reduced to an invitation to "pray a prayer" and let "Jesus come into your heart."

## FIRST PERSON

Yes, becoming a follower of Jesus does start with a prayer, but it's a prayer of repentance and forgiveness, preceded by a deep conviction of sin and a heartfelt confession. And, yes, Jesus does come into our hearts and lives, but when He does, He brings life-changing transformation, an overhaul so radical that Jesus referred to the experience as being "born again" (John 3:3). Paul said, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

I don't know about you, but before I became a follower of Jesus, I needed an overhaul in my life. The interesting thing about experiencing total transformation is that you will never settle for just a tune-up again. As a follower of Jesus, we constantly surrender to Him, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us to produce the Christ-

likeness we could never manufacture on our own. Paul, the Apostle said it this way:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be

able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2).

If all you want out of your church or religious experience is a tune-up, just about any kind of religious experience or adjustment will do. You will get just what you are looking for. If, on the other hand, you are desperate for a total transformation, an overhaul, a completely new start, an extreme makeover, then a total surrender to Jesus is for you.

I urge you: Don't settle for a tune-up when you could get an overhaul. (BP)

Larry Doyle is director of missions of the Piedmont Baptist Association in North Carolina.

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

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## Preacher's Kids

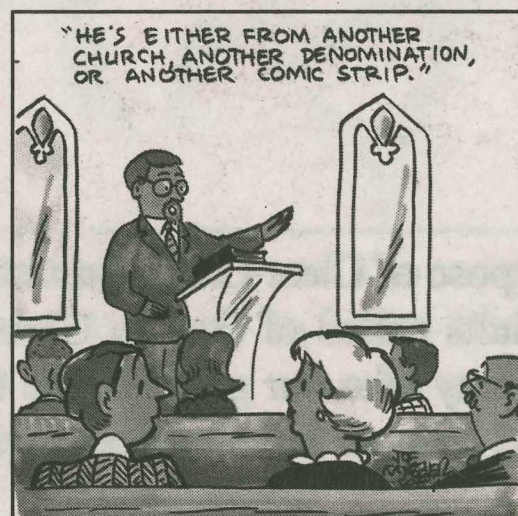
David Ayers



Joe Mckeever

## Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel

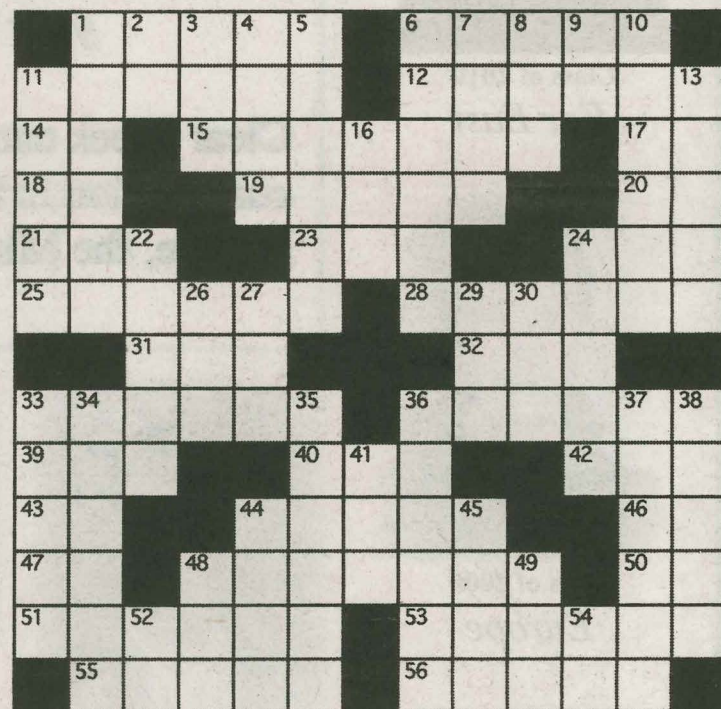


## Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

### Across

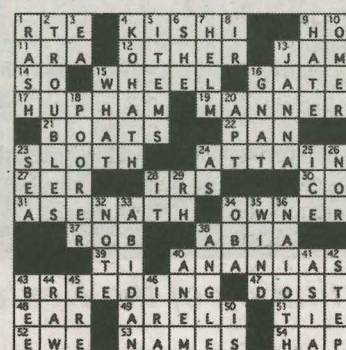
- 1 "The earth shall \_\_\_\_ before them" (Joel 2:10)
- 6 Edify
- 11 Repast
- 12 Father of "mighty men" (1 Chronicles 11:34)
- 14 Pronoun
- 15 Fearful things
- 17 Look, see! (arch.)
- 18 Printer's measure
- 19 Bosc, Anjou, et al.
- 20 Name of two O.T. books (abbr.)
- 21 Date approx. 100 yrs. before Babylonian captivity, to Caesar
- 23 Age of Joshua when he died: one hundred \_\_\_\_
- 24 "Before Abraham \_\_\_\_, I am" (John 8:58)
- 25 Son of Judah (Genesis 38)
- 28 "Believe not every \_\_\_\_" (1 John 4:1)
- 31 "To meet the Lord in the \_\_\_\_" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 32 Take advantage of
- 33 Gem in the fourth row of the ephod
- 36 Son of Pashur (Ezra 10:22)
- 39 Consumed
- 40 Owns
- 42 Article
- 43 Country part of the British Commonwealth, until 1961 (abbr.)
- 44 Sponsors
- 46 Linking verb
- 47 Conjunction
- 48 Fullness of this dwells bodily in Jesus



- 50 Number one?
- 51 "Doth not even \_\_\_\_ itself teach you" (1 Corinthians 11:14)
- 53 Son of Chislon (Numbers 34:21)
- 55 "A ram caught in a thicket by his \_\_\_\_" (Genesis 22:13)
- 56 Jobab king of \_\_\_\_ (Joshua 11:1)

- 22 Put an end to
- 24 "They that are unlearned and unstable \_\_\_\_" (2 Peter 3:16)
- 26 Insolent talk
- 27 Linking verb
- 29 King of Assyria (2 Kings 15)
- 30 O.T. book
- 33 Thessalonian Christian (Acts 17)
- 34 Wife of Jerahmeel (1 Chronicles 2:26)
- 35 Island Paul visited on his way to Tyre (Acts 21)
- 36 "Will he \_\_\_\_ thy riches?" (Job 36:19)
- 37 One of the children of Anak (Numbers 13:22)
- 38 His son was one of Solomon's twelve officers (1 Kings 4:10)
- 41 Residue
- 44 Symbol of power
- 45 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 48 King Ahaziah was wounded near here (2 Kings 9:27)
- 49 Accomplished
- 52 Preposition
- 54 Word in a command

## Last puzzle's solution



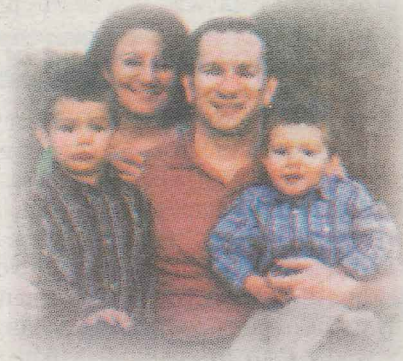
### Down

- 1 Extinguish
- 2 "What's \_\_\_\_?"
- 3 Suitable
- 4 Part of a castle
- 5 Maketh a mistake?
- 6 "Sow not among \_\_\_\_" (Jeremiah 4:3)
- 7 "Bringest certain strange things to our \_\_\_\_" (Acts 17:20)
- 8 Balaam's beast
- 9 Abbreviation preceding AKC winner
- 10 Son of Meraioth (Nehemiah 12:15)
- 11 What a dog often does
- 13 "Nor eat \_\_\_\_ grapes, or dried" (Numbers 6:3)
- 16 Feminine name

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*Africa*



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*Far East*

*"...ye shall be witnesses unto me..."*

Acts 1:8



*"...Here am I; send me."*

Isaiah 6:8

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