

WESTERN Recorder

March 6, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 9

2012 Evangelism Conference

Speakers offer encouragement, hope to pastors

Lexington—The “hope of glory” mentioned in Colossians 1:27 served as the backdrop for last week’s Kentucky State Evangelism Conference, attended by hundreds of Kentucky Baptist pastors and church leaders.

The annual gathering, sponsored by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, was held Feb. 27-28 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington. It featured nine speakers from all areas of Kentucky and Southern Baptist life, each offering different perspectives, challenges and motivation about evangelism and sustaining hope in ministry through Jesus Christ (more on pages 2, 3 and 8).

Paul Chitwood

Jesus’ encounter with a demon-possessed man in the synagogue recorded in Mark 1:23-24 teaches some important lessons about spiritual warfare, KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood noted. □ See Evangelism conference ... Page 2

Hope amid destruction



Bill Page (right), pastor of Crittenden Baptist Church, and Bob Perkins (second from right), Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief site coordinator, prays with a Kenton County family March 4 near their tornado-ravaged home seven miles west of Piner. The house was destroyed during a deadly tornado outbreak March 2. Family members include (from left) David List, Samantha Barnes, Eric Lunsford (blue hood) and Regina List (yellow jacket). (Photo by Robin Bass)

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Kentucky Baptist volunteers mobilize following tornadoes

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief leaders are fielding requests and have mobilized teams to serve communities affected by a string of tornadoes that struck around the region March 2.

An incident command center was opened over the weekend at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville where Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and volunteers are receiving damage assessment □ See Ky. Baptist ... Page 6

2012 Annie Armstrong missionary profile

Canadian church planters: All things work together for good

By Adam Miller

Toronto—If Liam McGibbon had been tumor-free, you might not be reading about his parents this week. They probably never would have made it to Hamilton, Ontario, and certainly not as miraculously.

For one, Jason and Kimberley McGibbon didn’t really imagine themselves as church planters. At least that’s what they’ll tell you. And two, they weren’t looking to leave their life in Milton, a suburb of Toronto where Jason served as worship leader at The Sanctuary Church, and move to the other side of Lake Ontario.

The McGibbons are among the missionaries featured during the Week of Prayer for North American Missions, March 4-11, 2012, and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering emphasis. The offering helps support the Jason McGibbon and other missionaries like him who are serving on behalf of Southern Baptists in North America. With a goal of \$70 million, this year’s offering theme is “Whatever It Takes.”

Their story began three years ago in

a pediatrician’s office. Little 8-year-old Liam was complaining of headaches. Migraines run in the family, and so they assumed the best. When Kimberley heard it was much more serious, a parent’s worst nightmare materialized before her eyes.

“I remember when I found out about Liam and I thought, ‘I can’t breathe,’ and the room got very cold,” Kimberley recalled.

A tumor was growing in the middle of Liam’s brain.

The next week Jason, Kimberley and Liam were in Hamilton meeting with neurosurgeons at MacKids, the pediatric division of McMaster University Hospital. This couldn’t be happening. But it was.

Two surgeries and several weeks passed. As Liam, now 11, recovered—regaining his faculties and vital signs improving—God opened Jason and Kimberley’s eyes to the needs of those around them and shifted their hearts.

Looking around the waiting room, the couple could see a desperate loneliness across other parents’ faces.

“As we waited, we saw people sitting there by themselves in the hardest □ See Missionary profile ... Page 3



JAPAN Survivors struggle for peace

one year later

Kamaishi, Japan—Shukuko Sasaki starts her day the same as she has every day since March 12, 2011—remembering those who died in the tsunami.

The Japanese woman kneels in front of the family altar that takes up half of the small bedroom in her government-issued temporary housing unit. The altar is packed with fruit, candles, food, flowers, water and anything else a deceased Buddhist might need in the afterlife. She moves a few items around to make room for today’s offering—some sweets—and bows her head.

The room is so quiet one can practically hear her thoughts of love when she reaches out to caress a photograph of her husband. She breaks the silence to explain □ See Japan ... Page 7



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Western Recorder 3-6-2012

McDowell: Internet pornography 'greatest threat' ever to family

By Robin Bass

Lexington—When it comes to the epidemic of Internet pornography and its debilitating affect on men, families and young children, many Christians refuse to believe the problem is prevalent in the church, Josh McDowell told the Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference crowd last week.

"We cannot act like an ostrich anymore. It's unbiblical," McDowell declared. "We're facing the greatest threat to the cause of Christ in 2,000 years. ... We're facing the greatest threat to the family—whether it's Christian or non-Christian—that has ever existed, and right now adults won't wake up."

McDowell, a noted apologist, author and founder of Operation Carelift, demonstrated how the digital age has permeated every aspect of modern life and, in particular, youth culture. He then peeled back the brown-paper wrapping of the Internet's less-savory aspects.

"The Internet has changed everything," McDowell said, noting that 1 in 3 people worldwide is online. "Your children, your grandkids, anyone under 25 years old, they don't watch the TV news. They don't read the newspapers. They get their information from blogs with absolutely no truth filter."

When this digital generation is not reading the opinions of the world's 141 million bloggers, they are scanning some of the 25 billion tweets sent out each year, connecting with their portion of the 899 million "friends" on Facebook, or viewing some of the 4 billion YouTube videos.

However, "one click away" from those relatively harmless pursuits, McDowell said, are more than 5 million pornographic websites containing nearly 1 billion pages just waiting to tempt the eyes and lure in hearts and minds. For kids, clicking on porn sites happens by accident while researching homework.

"Within 20 seconds of clicking on to it by accident, (for) 91 percent of all kids, that image is burned into their minds forever," McDowell said. "And 38 percent will become addicted to pornography."

Among the other alarming statistics McDowell shared:

- 67 percent of 12 to 25 year olds regularly view Internet pornography.

- 55 percent of teens admit they have visited pornographic websites.

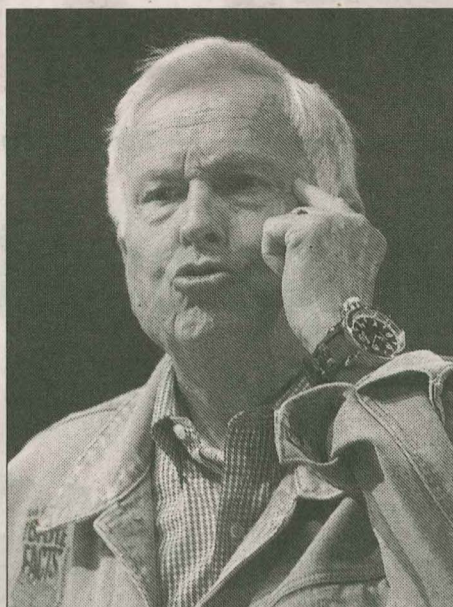
- 80 percent of 15 to 17 year olds have viewed hardcore pornography online.

- Of the 27 percent of all 4 to 6 year olds who regularly go online, 35 percent regularly view pornography.

So, what are parents to do? First, they should take the initiative to begin building loving, intimate relationships with their children, McDowell noted.

"Studies show that when parents have middle schoolers, they become concerned about hormones, peer pressure, Hollywood, the Internet (and) pornography," he said. "By the time they get to high school, (parents) panic and get pretty well give up when they get to college. There's one thing that overrides all of that, ... a loving intimate relationship with one's daddy. ... The power of a parent is incredible."

Next, parents should arm themselves with knowledge. McDowell suggested



Josh McDowell

the downloadable resources at www.Just1ClickAway.org. Among the content is McDowell's recently released position paper that includes statistics and tips that can help families navigate students through immoral pitfalls online.

"Most parents have no idea about the truth of sexuality," McDowell said, and encouraged adults to use proper names for body parts. "Why not? God created it. ... You don't have to build unnecessary pictures, but you do have to be honest and straightforward."

If parents are not honest, McDowell warned, kids who "Google" the real answers will see their parents as untrustworthy. "When you get to tell them (about sex), you get to put it in the

beauty of what God created in Song of Solomon."

But whatever you do, he stressed, do not have "the talk," that tortuously embarrassing lecture that many adults remember from their childhood.

"The talk' is straight from the pit of hell; it's a creation of Satan," McDowell said. "The best sex education is 10 seconds here, 20 seconds there." He recommended taking advantage of life's opportunities to step in, share some knowledge, then step back out.

The most important point for parents to remember, McDowell said, is that kids are naturally curious, and when they become inquisitive, parents should be careful that their body language does not give off the impression that the subject is dirty or taboo.

"Don't be afraid to answer their questions. If you don't answer your child's questions at 4 to 6 years old, they won't ask when they are older," McDowell said, which often is the time in their lives when the influences of their culture, the Internet and pornography take root.

As the generations stand at a virtual Tower of Babel, McDowell said the everyday language of pastors and parents no longer computes with young people. The Internet has changed everything, he noted, from the way the digital generation communicates to the way they learn and occupy themselves.

"So many of us are trying to live and talk and act like we did in the past, and it's not going to work," McDowell said. "Truth does not change, but you better change the way you present it or you're going to be obsolete." (WR)

Evangelism Conference

Continued from page 1

First, the encounter teaches the need to acknowledge the reality of the enemy.

"I need a reminder on a regular basis that there is a battle taking place that may not always be visible with the naked eye," he said. "I need a reminder on a regular basis that there is a being who seeks to destroy my life, my ministry, my church, my God's work in this world."

Citing a Barna survey in which two-thirds of professing Christians said they do not believe the devil is a real being, Chitwood lamented, "All the while America is heading headlong into a hell we don't believe in."

Yet, refusing to believe that the enemy exists is to welcome defeat and commit spiritual suicide, he admonished, noting more than 85 scriptural references to Satan. "To put it plainly, Jesus believed in the devil."

Second, the encounter teaches the need to be armed for spiritual battle. Jesus taught His disciples the most powerful weapons in spiritual warfare are the word of God and prayer, Chitwood said. "We need not fear the enemy, but we'd be foolish to disregard him."

Finally, the church must announce hope. Sharing about a favorite fishing spot that only can be reached by floating 20 miles down river and then paddling back upstream, Chitwood compared the strenuous exertion with opposition faced in advancing the kingdom of God in this



Paul Chitwood

world. Though the number of lost people is staggering, and it would be tempting to give up and "just sit in the boat and float; that would be going in the wrong direction," he said.

"Let us not wait for the battle to come to us," he urged. "Let us take the battle to the enemy."

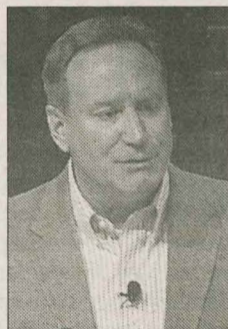
Bill Langley

"If you're going to be a pastor, ... you better know that God has called you, because sometimes that's the only thing you have," Bill Langley stressed.

Langley soon will mark his third year at Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown. But it was at his previous church where he said he knew had indeed called him to be a pastor.

In 2000, Langley was called to lead Harvest Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, a prominent congregation that was in the midst of difficult times. The former pastor had resigned amid a sex scandal, leaving behind a grieving church that was dwindling in numbers and millions of dollars in debt.

"Sherry and I had to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God was calling us to Harvest Baptist Church, because we knew it was going to be a difficult minis-



Bill Langley

try," Langley recalled.

It was a difficult tenure indeed, Langley assured, but it also was a very rewarding season of ministry.

Now at Severns Valley, Langley acknowledged the church has just as many problems that Harvest Baptist did—they're just different. But, he affirmed, "it's the certainty of your call that gives you confidence in ministry."

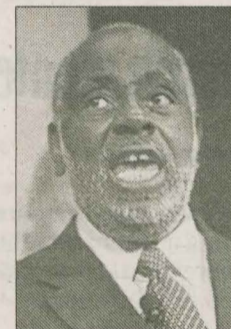
Robert Smith

Professor Robert Smith took his inspiration from John 11:17-27, 38-44 as he spoke about the "great hope" found in Jesus Christ.

"This passage is about believing in the authentic Jesus so that you can hope even when the situation looks hopeless," said Smith, who teaches preaching at Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

Sometimes God places believers in positions where they feel there is no hope, Smith said. In the noted Bible passage, Jesus waited three days after Lazarus died before traveling the two miles from Jerusalem to Bethany.

"Why?" Smith asked. "I'm glad for your sake I was not there," the professor said, paraphrasing Jesus. "I am glad for your sake so that you



Robert Smith

would believe, because I want to put you in a position where there was no hope at all so that your faith would be stretched and you would believe.

"Faith that is untested is not little faith; it is no faith at all."

Much like Job, believers often can feel the weight of God's silence and the frustration of unanswered prayers, Smith pointed out.

"Job had to wait 35 chapters before God spoke," Smith pointed out. "How many chapters will you have to wait? Some of us are on the very edge of God turning it around, but we have gotten to a place where we are throwing it in. If you can just hold out until tomorrow, everything will be all right."

God's purpose is not to keep believers out of adversity, Smith explained, but to help during adversity. Sometimes He wants believers to use all their earthly options—their props and crutches—so there is no other way to explain an outcome other than the grace of God.

"Don't put a period where God has put a comma," Smith challenged. "God is giving time for certain things to take place. You may not know what it is. You have been waiting on deliverance, but it ain't time." (WR)

Compiled by the Western Recorder staff

Kentucky Baptists launch statewide media campaign

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists are broadcasting a message of Christ's love across major portions of Kentucky now through April 12 in a TV campaign tied to the 2012 "Find it Here" evangelism emphasis.

The campaign, which focuses on the Bowling Green, Lexington, Louisville and Paducah TV markets uses a 30-second spot that directs viewers to the Find It Here website or to call a special toll-free line.

"This is part of our continuing efforts to let people know that God loves them and that there are places and people of hope," said Robert Reeves, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's communications team. "If you just watch the news and see story after story about recession, unemployment, war, crime and political turmoil, it's easy to feel that things are out of control. We want to let people know that they can find peace in a relationship with God."

Reeves said Kentucky Baptists are spending approximately \$70,000 on the campaign, using funds provided by the North American Mission Board and the Eliza Broadus offering.

In addition to the TV campaign, KBC will have placed Spanish-language billboards in key locations around the state and is using social media advertising to promote Find it Here. (KBC)

Winning lost requires renewed passion for evangelism, new 'infiltration' strategy

Lexington—Larry Wynn has an urgent message for Kentucky Baptists: "If we do not return the passion for evangelism to the local church, then many, many, many millions of people are going to die without a relationship with Jesus Christ, and they're going to spend an eternity in a place the Bible calls hell."

The senior vice president for evangelism and leadership development with the North American Mission Board lamented the perception that too many churchgoers today are more focused on themselves than others.

"We are focused on so many things other than what the church was established for," Wynn noted. "We have no passion nor time to do what God's called us to do."

In Matthew 9:36-38, Jesus sees the multitudes and is overcome with compassion for them. He then tells His disciples: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

"Do you sense the urgency in the voice of Jesus?" Wynn asked.

The NAMB VP pointed out three things Kentucky Baptists must do in order to reinstall an urgency for the lost.

First, believers must obey what Jesus says. "We must pray," Wynn challenged, "and we must pray that God will bring forth laborers from within our churches and give our people ... a burden for the lost and a passion for the gospel."

Second, Kentucky Baptists must see



Larry Wynn

what Jesus sees, Wynn pointed out. "Today, we don't see the multitudes; we just see each other."

Third, Christians must love people the way Jesus does. When

Jesus saw the multitudes, it broke His heart, Wynn noted. "It's been a long time since I saw brokenness in a church over people who do not know Christ." And, he warned, "if there's not brokenness, we'll never see this world won to Christ."

As ways to win the world for Christ, Jeff Iorg outlined three broad categories of evangelism—attractional events, engagement ministries and infiltration—advocating the latter strategy of deploying believers throughout the culture to introduce unbelievers to faith.

Describing evangelism in today's church as a three-legged stool that is "wobbling badly," the president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary acknowledged that all three strategies have value, but he believes the first two methods are becoming less and less effective for communicating the gospel.

Referring to Mark 2:13-17, Iorg observed that Jesus took time to relax and enjoy being with lost people. He urged church leaders to break out of their Christian subcultures and go to where the lost people are—ball games, movies, arts and other social events.

Iorg advocated cultivating companion-



Jeff Iorg

ship and closeness with lost people to gain opportunities for sharing the gospel. "What is wrong with us that we have lost our capacity to enjoy people and to live so transparently with them that they see our joy and feel comfortable in our presence?" he asked.

"Do you realize that most of the people in your church live, work and recreate with lost people all the time?" he observed. "The people in our congregations are already there. But the reality is, we have so often taught them that out there is from where you need escape, and in here is where you need to come," he continued. "And, we've not equipped them to understand that out there is a harvest field for the gospel."

Yet, Iorg also reminded believers to "stay on message." Emphasizing the primary objective is to communicate a need for repentance, he explained, "I am not telling you to just go out and be friendly. ... The Bible does say they will know we are Christians by our love; it does not say they will know how to become Christians by our love." (WR)

Compiled by Todd Deaton and Drew Nichter

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Missionary profile

Continued from page 1

times of their lives. We wondered how they made it through," Jason said. "We heard so many stories from other parents whose lives were rocked by illness. They had no real hope outside of medicine and science."

In the end, Jason and Kimberley couldn't get away from the idea of true community, which they had experienced with church members praying for them, visiting with them and practically camping out at the hospital with them.

And then there were these parents in Hamilton who had no Christian presence, no church family to walk with them during their own difficult journeys. To leave the area without a gospel presence seemed out of the question, they said.

"I'd been to Hamilton before. I'd pass through it when I was at graduate school," Jason said. "But I'd never really thought much about it."

Anchored there for weeks, the McGibbons learned of a city full of beauty, diversity and creativity, but with no true spiritual direction. Ask people who cared nothing for church to drive 30 minutes for church? Not an option.

Hamilton is a Toronto-area city on the west side of Lake Ontario. More than 500,000 people live there; more than 100,000 are immigrants. Only 3 percent of the Greater Toronto area population is evangelical.

The McGibbons chose to live in a section of Hamilton frequented by artists and musicians, just the type of people Jason, a musician, wants to reach.

So they moved—but first they prayed.

"Hudson Taylor once wrote: 'If you should enter that province you must go forward on your knees,'" Jason noted. "Once we found our neighborhood and found every street in that neighborhood, we signed people up from our church to prayerwalk every street in our neighborhood."

Jason and Kimberley are planting The Hamilton Fellowships, a plant of The Sanctuary Church Milton, which itself is a church plant.

In the early days, planting in Hamilton has centered on building relationships with neighbors and with people on the street, inviting people over for meals and Bible study. The McGibbons launched their first house fellowship in September 2011. Their vision, they say, is to start several fellowships throughout Hamilton.

"When I sit down and think about it, I can become very intimidated," Jason acknowledged. "I'm a pretty normal, average guy, and to be quite honest, when I see some of the church planter-kind of stuff, I don't see myself as fitting that mold all that often."

"But one of the things we know is that God has called us to do this. We just know God is there and God works. Even when you seem like you're up against the biggest, thickest, brick wall, it's then that you see God work." (NAMB)

KBC disaster relief responds to tornadoes

Seeing scenes of the devastation left behind by last week's tornadoes left

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

most of us who were spared from the disaster asking the same question: "What can I do to help?" If you are part of a church in the Kentucky Baptist Convention, let me give you a quick update on what you are already doing. Your church had damage assessment done as soon as the weather cleared on the Friday afternoon and evening of the storms. In less than 24 hours, communications centers were set up, trained volunteers were being organized, and chaplains and chainsaw crews were already working in many of the devastated areas. In no time at all, shelters were set up and mobile kitchens were on standby. As volunteers and donated items began to flood into the affected areas, your church had experienced leaders on hand in most locations to help coordinate the efforts.

If you are wondering how your church was able to accomplish all that literally overnight, it was your Cooperative Program dollars at work through Kentucky Baptist disaster relief. As your church participates in a mission partnership with roughly 2,400 sister churches in Kentucky, it allows everyone to be a part of ministering to the hurting. Cooperative Program gifts train volunteers, purchase mobile kitchens, showers and laundry units. All of these resources and workers stand ready to respond on a minute's notice.

Greg Nimmo, director of missions for Crittenden Baptist Association, shared with me about the response of one family to seeing an army of disaster relief volunteers show up to help them. "We are so thankful the Baptists have come. We know where we are going to church on Sunday."

In addition to the assistance of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief, teams from neighboring states were quick to offer their assistance. Kentucky has also received assistance from the North American Mission Board. NAMB president, Kevin Ezell, himself a Kentucky native, contacted me on the day of the storms to offer assistance. Several thousands of dollars of relief aid from NAMB soon followed that call.

As tragic as has been the loss of property and life, the disaster relief efforts of Kentucky Baptists and Southern Baptists have been a wonderful reminder of the value of our mission partnership. We have also been reminded of the beauty of the love of God that becomes visible when God's people help the hurting in their hour of need.

Thank you for your faithfulness in giving through the CP. If you would like to receive training to become part of a Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief response team, dates of upcoming training sessions can be found at www.kybaptist.org/drtraining.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Signs of hope in West Liberty after monster tornado

obliterated!

Even that description doesn't do justice to the amount of devastation caused by a monster tornado packing winds of 150 miles per hour. There is little left of what was West Liberty, a once beautiful mountain community about an hour's drive southeast of Lexington. The municipal building, the courthouse, the bank, First Baptist Church, a Methodist church and all of its businesses in the heart of town were demolished. Houses, apartment buildings, a hospital that stood atop the hillside were destroyed—walls collapsed, roofs ripped off. Gone!

Loose boards, crumbled bricks, twisted tin, shredded sheetrock, torn insulation, tattered furniture and snapped electrical wires are rolled into jumbled masses of rubble lining each side of the streets so state emergency management, Red Cross and National Guard vehicles and an army of electrical power trucks can get to where they are desperately needed. Street after street of leveled houses, downed trees and crushed cars are everywhere. But noticeably missing are the town's 3,200 residents. They aren't here anymore. Many now reside in shelters at three area schools, where rows of cots fill gymnasiums, and libraries and hallways overflow with donated clothes.

Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crews are hard at work,

though, ministering to the victims and bringing hope amidst chaos, where lives and livelihoods have been torn asunder in a matter of mere seconds. Chainsaw crews are clearing limbs and debris and putting tarps on roofs, our feeding unit is cooking meals for residents and volunteers, our communications center assists the efforts of emergency personnel, and our chaplains are distributing blankets and water, bringing comfort and compassion.

While a crew cleared a large tree blocking her street, I talked with Linda Nickell, who rode out the storm with her granddaughter in their basement. She and her husband saw the terrifying "huge black, swirling ball" as it tore down the hillside, carving up Main Street. Remarkably, their house was spared. A house adjacent to theirs, however, lay in shambles. The man who lived there huddled beneath a mattress while its top floor and front were ripped away.

In the center of town, a sign that leans against a crumpled building ironically reads "Haven of Hope." Perhaps it is a reminder that our true haven isn't a building after all, and while forlorn residents salvage whatever remains of their homes and businesses, our disaster relief crews are pointing them to the Source of everlasting hope. And, in turn, they receive the blessing and joy that comes through serving others in Jesus' name.



After Thought

By Todd Deaton

The state's full-court press against religious freedom

By Tim Gilbert

In basketball, a full-court press involves harrying the opposing team in all areas of the court. The term is used in politics to describe a strong, diversified effort. But who needs definitions when both federal and many state governments are showing Americans of faith exactly what full-court press means in the early part of this year. Consider the following cases.

First, the Department of Health and Human Services announced a mandate requiring religious institutions to pay for contraceptive health care services, including abortifacients, without regard to their conscientious objections. The outcry prompted an accommodation from the Obama administration that shifted the burden of providing these services to the healthcare providers. The policy shift, however, seems to be a distinction without a difference because healthcare providers must provide these services free of charge, meaning the costs will likely be passed to employers.

There is a larger concern surrounding this mandate. As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated, the contraception mandate "continues to involve needless government intrusion in the internal governance of religious institutions." That is, the federal government is maneuvering in the direction of telling people of faith just how far our First Amendment protections reach. The

sense is that where the state says our religious liberties end, they end.

Second, the federal government has also exempted religious leaders from participation in a popular federal student loan program. Under specific provisions, individuals working fulltime for a 501(c)(3) organization would be eligible for federal student loan

forgiveness after 10 years of regular, timely payments. The definition of a 501(c)(3) organization includes "corporations ... organized and operated exclusively for religious ... purposes." In other words, it includes your local church. However, the government has now exempted from this policy people of faith whose "job duties are related to religious instruction, worship services, or any form of proselytizing."

The policy makes it decidedly more difficult for those called into ministry to answer that call. Thus, to the government's unconstitutional imposition of affirmative duties on religious entities, it now adds targeted discrimination aimed against people whose public service includes strengthening believers in their faith.

Third, some higher education institutions are getting in on the act as well. Vanderbilt University is probably the most well-known example. That school's non-discrimination policy is being used to censor free religious expression and could result in as many as four Christian groups being

kicked off campus. At the heart of this is Vanderbilt's new "all-comers" policy, which states that student groups of faith do not have the right to insist that their members or leaders share that faith. Many universities seem to have been emboldened by the case as the number of InterVarsity chapters facing challenges from school administrators has increased from two in 2010 to 15 in 2011.

Finally, the pressure on Americans' religious freedoms extends to local governments as well. Consider New York City's prohibition against churches renting space in public school buildings when those buildings are not in use. This policy, now temporarily on hold under a court's injunction, could result in about 60 churches being forced out of their meeting places. The possibility is especially serious because space and rental prices are at premiums in New York City.

In 1787, at the close of the Constitutional Convention, a woman asked Benjamin Franklin what type of government the Constitution created. He promptly replied, "A republic, if you can keep it." The statement is just as relevant today. The fact is that pressure on Americans' religious freedoms is coming from all quarters. But freedom of religion is quickly being changed to freedom from religion. We must make our representatives at all levels of government aware that we will not stand for these injustices.

Tim Gilbert is a recent graduate of Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and holds a law degree. He is a member of Buena Vista Baptist Church in Lancaster.

GUEST VIEWPOINT

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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On Adoniram Judson bicentennial: please go and dig

By Jason Duesing

The rocks signified a specific event in Israel's history. The crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land—a supernatural event—revealed God acting on behalf of His people to keep His promise, show His faithfulness, and display His might. While the generation who migrated across the divided river would never forget walking through that divinely-made aisle, human nature and subsequent circumstances likely would have prevented those memories from remaining with the next generation.

So, the Lord God instructed Joshua to create the small tower—not a man-made object of worship or a magical location for accessing the divine favor—but rather a catalyst of remembrance, a memorial (Joshua 4:19-24). Prone to wander, the Israelites needed a physical object to remind them of the great work of God so that they might remain grateful and faithful.

Not long after the international celebration of the Judson Centennial in 1913—the anniversary of the gospel being brought to the country—Baptists in Burma erected a sizable memorial stone on the site of the Let-Ma-Yoon prison to commemorate Adoniram Judson's missionary legacy and sacrifice for the Burmese. Pictures of the stone are difficult to find today, but an inscription on one side tells how Judson, "in this prison of horror which stood here sustained in his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and

by the devotion of his heroic wife, endured unrecorded sufferings from June 1824 to May 1825."

After the political winds changed in Burma and it became Myanmar, the government sought to eradicate all references to Judson. In 1988, the bicentennial year of his birth, Myanmar authorities tried to bulldoze the stone and throw it in the river. Due to its immense size, all attempts failed and the authorities determined to bury it. For the last 24 years, the monument designed to introduce Judson and his God to future generations has been covered.

During the summer of 2010, I set out to see if the prison or location of the memorial stone could still be found. To my surprise however, it was not the ultimate discovery of a hidden prison, but what I heard there, that made all the difference.

Had my translator and I not sought the help of a local elderly man, we would not have found it. Remarkably, the man not only knew where to take us, but also knew the significance.

As I took video footage and photographs, I realized the elderly man and my translator's conversation had grown in intensity. The old man kept pointing to the ground under the trees and repeating the same phrase. My translator had tears in his eyes when he explained.

"This man knows about the memorial stone that is buried here. He says he has lived in this area his entire life and remembers the time when the stone was visible. Now that it is buried, he knows there is a

generation who knows nothing of what Judson did for Burma.

"He said that should the political situation ever change in this country, he wants me to promise him that I will come and dig up the stone and restore it so people will once again know of Judson.

"And then he started pleading, 'Please come and dig.'"

The cry of an elderly Burmese man still rings in my ears. Just as Paul heard the Macedonian call in Acts 16, such is the substance of this man's call to dig.

Memorial stones and missionary legacies are important, but one day they, too, will fade. The call to please come and dig is the call Judson first answered when he left for Burma 200 years ago. It is the call that still goes out for many no longer to build upon other's foundations (Romans 15:20), but instead to go to places where the name of Christ is suppressed or not known.

Nearing the 200th anniversary of Judson's departure for missionary service it is fitting to unearth this metaphorical stone and present a call to imitate Judson in taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Right now, an old man is holding out hope that someday someone will unearth the large granite stone and tell a new generation of Burmese about Judson. However, what the people of Myanmar need more is a new generation of Judsons coming to tell them about Jesus. (BP)

Jason Duesing is assistant professor of historical theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and editor of the forthcoming book, "Adoniram Judson: A Bicentennial Appreciation of the Pioneer American Missionary."

Rate environment offers opportunity

By Laurie Valentine

The current low interest rate environment has increased interest in charitable gift plans that use a factor tied to current interest rates to value the gift to charity. When interest rates are low, the value of the charitable portion of those plans is higher. One such plan is a gift of a remainder interest in real estate.

To give a remainder interest in real estate, you deed property to a charity while retaining for yourself the right to full use and enjoyment of the property for a term of years or the rest of your life. At the end of your retained interest, the property is immediately owned by the charity.

The income tax deduction for your gift is available in the year you deed the remainder interest to charity, not when your interest in the property ceases. This type of gift plan allows you to take action now, but continue to have use of the property for whatever period works for your situation.

For example, Martha and John Smith, ages 58 and 60, own a primary residence and a vacation home in Kentucky. The vacation home has a current value of \$50,000. Martha and John plan to sell both homes and move to Florida when John retires in five years.

The Smiths' church is in a five-year capital campaign. If they fund their gift to the capital campaign by deeding the vacation home to their church now, retaining the right to use it for the next five years, the value of their remainder interest gift to the church would be \$44,050, if the interest rate factor used to value the charitable interest is 1.4 percent (the March 2012 factor).

Martha and John's gift may provide over \$11,000 of income tax savings, if they are in the 25 percent tax bracket and itemize deductions. They have six years to use the full \$44,050 deduction amount. At the end of the five years, their interest terminates and the church will own the vacation home outright. It can sell it as the capital campaign is coming to an end.

Real estate remainder interest gifts are a gift plan that provides income tax savings to the giver now and a significant gift to charity in the future.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Developing healthy friendships

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How can we help our teenage son to develop healthy friendships?

A: Open the Bible with your son to the story of the friendship between Jonathan and David. Jonathan, the oldest son of the king of Israel, had great strength, charisma, respect, wealth and influence. There was only one thing he wanted more—a friend.

In 1 Samuel 18 and subsequent chapters, we read about the friendship that Jonathan forged with David, the youngest son of a no-name. This story is marked with some great truths about friendship. Notice in 18:3-4 that Jonathan takes initiative based on an initial connection. Too often, we sit back and wish others would be our friends, forgetting that Jesus called us to follow His example of reaching out in John 15:16.

Notice in chapters 19-20 that Jonathan is loyal to his friend even in the face of adversity. Notice as well that Jonathan is able to appreciate the greatness and success of his friend without succumbing to jealousy or envy.

When David and Jonathan have to part ways, the Scripture reminds us in 20:41-42 that solid relationships are marked both by a willingness to be vulnerable and by concrete gestures of friendship. While most of the time these gestures of friendship will be supportive and encouraging, sometimes real friendship is marked by painful honesty. Proverbs 27:6 says, "Wounds from a friend can be trusted."

Scott Wigginton is associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University and minister of counseling at Campbellsville Baptist Church.



'October Baby': Abortion and the power of forgiveness

By Dwayne Hastings

There have been more than 52 million abortions performed in the U.S. since the ignominious Roe v. Wade court decision in 1973. For every abortion, there is a woman who to some degree "knowingly or unknowingly" is complicit in the taking of her baby's life.

While those around her may have tried to convince her that it was in the baby's "best interest" not to live and that it was good for her well-being that she abort her unborn child, the reality is that no one walks out of an abortion clinic totally whole.

Abortion doesn't just impact the unborn child. The emotional and sometimes physical damage to its mother is severe and long lasting, even if the mother herself denies it. The ring of damage extends to the baby's extended family, including his father and grandparents, particularly if they advocated for the abortion.

The statistics about abortion are staggering. Nearly half of the 6 million pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned and about 1.3 million end in abortion. At this pace, nearly a third of U.S. women will have had

an abortion by the time they are 45.

Those who push a so-called pro-choice perspective disavow reality when they say that women can have an abortion and be

unchanged. Apart from Christ, they have been inalterably changed.

Most often abortive women seek to deal with the emotional trauma and distress on their own. Society tells them to get over it and to get on with their lives.

Yet there is healing and forgiveness with no strings attached in Christ. He knows the pain; He feels their hurt. He wishes each person, no matter his or her background or baggage, to come to Him in faith.

This is a spiritual issue. The scourge of abortion is the sour fruit of a culture that denies that all human life is beautiful and valuable. The reality of abortion is evidence the church has failed to teach truth and to be salt and light.

As Christ's followers, we must forgive because we have been forgiven. The soon-to-be released film "October Baby" centers on the redemptive power of forgiveness. The film, written by brothers Andrew and Jon Erwin, follows a college freshman, an abortion survivor, as she searches for answers to

a growing list of questions.

"October Baby," which will be released in selected theatres March 23, is a powerful tool for encouraging church-goers to re-engage in the "life" issue.

As Christians, it is our responsibility to support women in difficult pregnancies, particularly when they lack a support network. It is the church's duty to teach the biblical precept of the sanctity of every human life. The burden rests on people of faith to care for children who are unwanted—either to foster care, adopt, or support those who are called to do so.

Christians are obligated to reach out in love and in forgiveness to those who are still struggling with a decision they made years earlier to abort their child.

The tragic reality is that the state of the culture in the area of "life" in the 21st century can be laid at the feet of Bible-believing Americans who are neither speaking out nor stepping out for the innocent and defenseless. When God's people go silent and hide their light under a basket, children are at risk and people suffer.

Dwayne Hastings serves as the vice-president of communications for the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

FIRST PERSON

Ky. Baptist Disaster Relief at work following deadly storms

Continued from page 1
reports from hard-hit communities.

According to Coy Webb, director of the Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission department, impassable roads initially made it difficult for emergency personnel to determine needs in some areas.

As of late Sunday, Kentucky Baptist volunteers had established feeding and shower units, chainsaw crews and chaplaincy teams to serve those affected by the deadly tornadoes. The teams are working primarily in Crittenden in northern Kentucky and Debord, London and West Liberty in eastern Kentucky. It was the second time in a week the Morgan County town of West Liberty had been hit by tornadoes.

"West Liberty is really hurting," Webb said. "We are sending chaplains, chainsaw and other clean-up crews, and likely our new emergency child care unit." (See Todd Deaton's editorial on page 4 for more on West Liberty.)

After working over the weekend in Grant County, a chainsaw crew will remain in the area this week to work on a handful of debris-clearing jobs.

Kentucky Baptist churches in Grant, Kenton, Morgan, Pendleton and Laurel counties have opened their doors as storm shelters and disaster-relief staging areas. Many other churches in the commonwealth are serving as emergency shelters and donation drop-off points.

In addition to Morgan, Grant and Laurel counties, Kentucky Baptists are expected to be called upon to serve in other areas hit hard by the March 2 storms which struck western, central and eastern Kentucky. As of early Monday, the death toll in the state had reached nearly two dozen people.

Because of the difficulty in accessing disaster areas, Webb said it is important for volunteers to wait until they know for sure how best they can help.

"When you see these devastating images on the news, it's hard not to want to jump into action, but sometimes that is what is best in the early hours of something like this," Webb said. "The blessing is that Christians can do something right now: We can pray for God to offer the healing and comfort that only He can provide."

Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to



visit www.KyBaptist.org/DR often for updates. Trained Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are asked to e-mail DR@KyBaptist.org or call (502) 489-3582 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3582.

"Right now only trained volunteers are needed," Webb pointed out. "We encourage anyone in our churches interested in serving in a hands-on way to join us for training on March 10 in Lexington. There is every chance that we will need you to serve right away."

The March 10 training will be held at Porter Memorial Baptist Church. For details or to register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/DRTraining. (KBC)

With additional reporting by Western Recorder staff



HELP ARRIVES Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers carry in supplies for crews to begin working near a devastated apartment complex in West Liberty. Many homes and buildings in the eastern Kentucky town were either completely destroyed or heavily damaged by the March 2 tornadoes. It was the second time in a week the area had been hit by severe storms. Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear toured the town over the weekend and said it looks as if it had been bombed. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

SAFE PLACE

Samantha Barnes shows Bob Perkins, a Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief site coordinator, the hallway where she huddled with her family as a tornado ripped apart her family's home located seven miles west of Piner in Kenton County. Three women—one in a wheelchair—a man and two children survived as winds sheared off the top and front walls of the home. "I got what I wanted and that was my girls," Barnes' mother Regina List said. Less than a quarter mile away from the List home, the bodies of an elderly couple were found amid the rubble of their home with their arms wrapped around each other. "We have lots of things to go through; they have nothing," Barnes said of their neighbors whose homes were swept off their foundations. (Photo by Robin Bass)

See more photos from West Liberty and Grant and Kenton counties at our Flickr page

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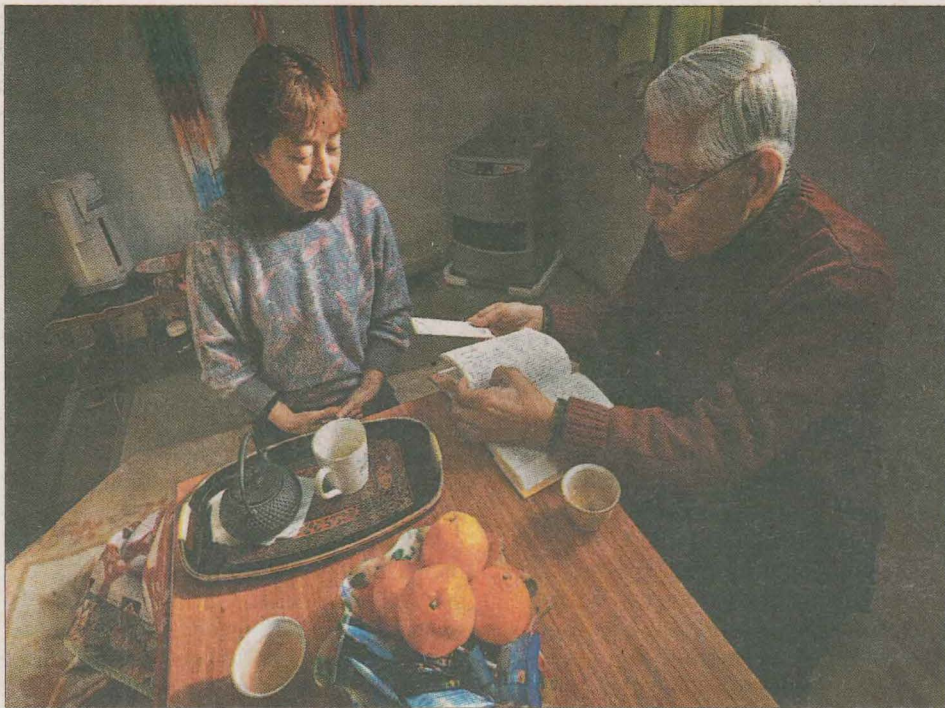
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The producers of **OCTOBER BABY** have assigned 10% of the profits of the movie to the Every Life is Beautiful Fund, which will distribute funds to frontline organizations helping women facing crisis pregnancies, life-affirming adoption agencies, and those caring for orphans.

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COMFORTING THE SURVIVORS Tak Oue, an International Mission Board missionary and Kentucky native, reads the Bible with Shukuko Sasaki. Many tsunami survivors have received comfort from the compassion, prayers and practical assistance of the Japanese and foreign Christians who traveled to Japan to help in the aftermath of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami. (IMB photo)

JAPAN: Survivors struggle to find peace

Continued from page 1

they had just shut the gate on the village's seawall when the first wave came in "like a stealth ninja" on the afternoon of March 11.

She and her husband, along with two distant relatives, ran for higher ground—but the water quickly engulfed them. The current twisted them away from each other. Some debris snagged her foot and dragged her down. Her boot slipped off and she shot up like a cork. Someone threw a rope and pulled her, the lone survivor, to safety.

Sasaki offers a sad smile and picks up the picture of her parents. They found their bodies together, buried beneath rubble in their favorite spot—the family garden.

The widow looks up at her friend, IMB missionary Tak Oue, who is watching the daily ritual. There are no tears in her eyes, just deep sorrow. She scoots over so he can pay his respects, too.

Tak never met Sasaki's husband or parents, yet he and his wife, Lana, have heard enough stories this past year to feel as if they were all old friends. The missionary drops to his knees beside Sasaki and prays for her and the hundreds of thousands of survivors still struggling for any semblance of normalcy after the triple disaster—a 9.0-magnitude earthquake, tsunami and nuclear crisis.

The catastrophe left an entire coastline destroyed, nearly 20,000 dead or missing and a nuclear crisis that triggered a global health scare. Rebuilding the now muddy wastelands of the three most severely hit prefectures—Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate—is expected to take decades.

The government's temporary housing units—small, prefab houses—squeeze into any open, flat space up the narrow mountain roads. Sasaki sits in an elementary school's parking lot, overlooking a clump of cleaned-up cement foundations near the water's edge. It's another daily reminder of what she lost. Her entire fishing village, Shirahama, was wiped out. She grabs a framed aerial picture taken a few years ago to prove

that it once was a beautiful coastal town.

"We had about 130 households in our village before the tsunami. Now, there are 60 families left," she says, placing the picture back on the altar.

When the Oues first met Sasaki, she spoke of rebuilding her home on the same site—but reality has hit. The tsunami not only took friends and family, but all of the fishing boats, the village's livelihood. Even if they could get more boats, most of the younger generation was washed away, leaving behind those too old to work. Sasaki admits the chances of reviving her village are slim.

"I'm not the only one in this community with a deep pain in the heart. It has affected all of us," she says, and then whispers, "Pray for us."

Before the tsunami, an admission like this, indicating emotions or religious thoughts, would be out of character for those living in this region known as being "the coldest and hardest" in the entire country. Missionaries say Tohoku in northeast Japan has been closed to the gospel for hundreds of years. Less than 1 percent claim to be evangelical Christian. In the last few months, however, the Oues have seen a small crack in this wall of resistance.

"We are not seeing massive movements of people coming to Christ, but we are seeing an openness to the gospel that's never been here before," says Tak, a Kentucky native and veteran missionary of 42 years. "For the first time, people are open to outsiders coming in and certainly open to Christians coming to care for them. They are inviting us into their homes and sharing their lives.

"Some are even open to us praying with them and reading the Bible," Tak adds, motioning to Sasaki's New Testament Lana gave to her on their last visit. "This might seem small to some, but for here, it's a start."

The missionary pulls his Bible out and the two read a short passage talking about hope and peace. Sasaki listens intently, twisting the gold wedding band on her finger. She admits these are the exact things she searches for daily but seem so elusive to her. Believing that a Savior can give you these gifts for free is a new concept, one that's hard to imagine.

With the anniversary of the tsunami just around the corner, she tries harder than ever to find comfort. She pulls a string of multi-colored origami cranes from the wall as an example of her own search.

"I decided to fold 1,000 cranes for each family member who died and take it to the (Buddhist) temple for the anniversary," she explains. Her village will have a ceremony early on March 9, her wedding anniversary. "As I fold the cranes, I think about my husband, mother and father. Somehow, they'll know I'm remembering them every day."

The words get stuck in her throat as emotions well up. She wipes a tear and confesses that she feels guilty that she lived while the others standing next to her perished.

"I don't know why I survived. A whole year has gone by, I had to do something," she says, making a perfect crease on the small, purple crane. "I hope this will bring comfort to me. I hope it brings peace to my heart." (IMB)

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Our history, part 8

1978: The yearbook featured the seniors in color for the first time. Bige and Rachel Hensley Hall was built with maintenance on the first floor and the boys' dorm on the second floor. Tolman Burns-Luther Wells Hall, containing faculty apartments, was dedicated. A campground was made on the field. A movie about OBI titled, "For Time and Eternity," was filmed.

1979: The OBI girls' fencing team won the state championship, becoming the first team in Clay County to win a state championship in any sport.

1980: The Bertha Johnson Prayer Chapel for girls was dedicated. The Double Creek schoolhouse was moved and rebuilt on campus, where it was used for high-school history classes. Anderson Hall was remodeled and used for faculty and guest housing.

1981: Hensley Hall was partially destroyed by fire. Dawn Comes to the Mountains, a book about Oneida featuring 130 very old pictures, was published.

1982: Hensley Hall was restored and used strictly for maintenance. Preston and Ruby Baker Hall was built as a dorm for younger boys. It was the only dorm with air conditioning and carpet.

1983: The Red Bird Mission donated a portable classroom building to be used for middle-school classes. Originally dedicated as Cardinal Hall, it later was renamed Rick and Jennifer Coffey Hall. A new bridge was built across the South Fork of the Kentucky River.

1984: A big flood in the spring cost the school most of the year's crop. The J.A. Burns Museum was remodeled and an addition was built to house the student craft program. The Emma Ayer Dining Room was remodeled and expanded to include the Julius Hacker

Dining Room and the J.D. Embry Grill. The last of all six classroom buildings was air conditioned.

1985: The home economics department was doubled in size and renovated. Goins-Houchell Hall was remodeled. The first advanced-placement, college-credit classes were offered to high-school students. A large underground potato house was built. Grades K-5 were added for faculty children. The choir traveled to Florida to perform at Walt Disney World and First Baptist Church of Orlando, one of the nation's largest churches at the time. A.B. Colvin began his tenure as assistant to the president.

1986: The yearly cost to run the school was \$2 million. The Bob Halcomb-Joe Barnes Athletic Field was dedicated. A modern track plus baseball, softball and soccer fields were constructed. The first OBI marching band was formed under the direction of Richard Burns, a descendant of OBI founder James Anderson Burns. Oneida presented a diploma to its 2,000th graduate.

1987: The Lawrence "Cap" Baker Swinging Bridge was dedicated. Built across Goose Creek, it connected the main campus to the farm. Senior Debra Thomas, a Governor's Scholar, was invited to speak at the Kentucky governor's mansion at the annual dinner of the board and financial patrons of the Governor's Scholars program. Debra was one of two Kentucky students invited to speak at the dinner. The 3,000-square-foot J.B. Henson Agriculture Center was dedicated.

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

All because of the Lord

God's call to come to Clear Creek too strong for student to ignore

New students Jason and Kristy Brogan never thought Clear Creek was some place they would end up, until they just couldn't miss the direction God was leading them.

"My dad was a preacher and I grew up in church," Jason said. "But when I grew up, I just didn't want anything to do with church. I worked as a truck driver after I was married. I was gone for weeks at a time. When I was home, my wife would ask me to go to church with her. I would make excuses by saying it was my only day off and I didn't want to spend it in church. But I slowly started to give in to her, and I started going to a service every now and then.

"One night I was driving in Ohio," Jason recalled. "There were storms all around me, and all of a sudden I just started crying. I couldn't see anything between the windshield that was covered with water and tears filling my eyes, so I pulled off to the side of the road and was just sitting there.

"It was as if the Lord spoke to me

and said, 'Jason, you may not make it home to your family if you don't give your life to me,'" he recalled. "I knew the Lord was convicting me. I stayed right there and prayed to the Lord until

I knew things were right between us.

"I was called to preach three years ago," Jason said. "At the time I had a good job and thought I didn't need to mess that up by moving off. Life became more of a struggle than a blessing even though I had a good job. So we thought we would come to Clear Creek and just check it out and see what would happen.

The admissions director asked us if we wanted to live on campus," Jason said. "We told him we would need a three-bedroom house before we could come. He said a three-bedroom home had just become available. It was the Lord saying to us that we need to be here. The Lord made a way for us. We have a house and our schooling is paid for. It's all because of the Lord."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

McFarland: Evangelism can be bolstered through apologetics

By Drew Nichter

Lexington—In American churches today, the practice of evangelism has leveled off or is in significant decline, according to a leading Christian apologist.

"If we're going to obey our Lord's Great Commission, if we're going to see our nation saved, it is time we rediscover an ethic of evangelism," Alex McFarland challenged Kentucky Baptists at last week's Evangelism Conference.

The popular author and speaker said that reigniting evangelism can best be done when Christians know how to effectively defend their faith.

When it comes to apologetics, "not only does it equip the saved, it can persuade the lost," McFarland said.

With so many false Internet urban legends floating around about Christianity and its origins, McFarland posed the question to pastors: Could your church members respond?

McFarland called on pastors to teach their congregations to remember three words: present, explain and defend.

"I want you to train your people, as they go, ... as a witness, to present, explain and, if need be, even defend the gospel," McFarland said. That does not mean to be abrasive or argumentative, but to just explain what they believe and why, he added.

Recently, while waiting for a early-morning flight out of Florida, McFarland

said he was presented with the opportunity to share the gospel with a Boston man who was returning home from his brother's funeral. McFarland admitted he didn't really want to do it.

But with McFarland sitting beside him at an airport Starbucks, that man prayed to accept Jesus Christ.

"Those opportunities, I believe, come along every single day when we can present, we can explain (and) we can defend," McFarland said.

Apologetics can, in fact, lead to an increase in evangelism, McFarland pointed out. And in the United States today, that is most needed since the message of the gospel often gets lost among the many voices vying for people's attention.

"Hollywood has more money, the media can shout more loudly, the Muslims are more well-funded," McFarland pointed out, "but we've got prayer and the Holy Ghost and we've got the word of God.

"We need revival. And we need to invoke the tools that are at our disposal," he challenged.

When it comes to revitalizing evangelism, McFarland challenged Christians to remember the content of their message. This applies directly to apologetics, he said. "Before we can defend the faith, we've got to have the faith," he stressed.

"We've got a crucial, critical and important role—and what we do counts for eternity."

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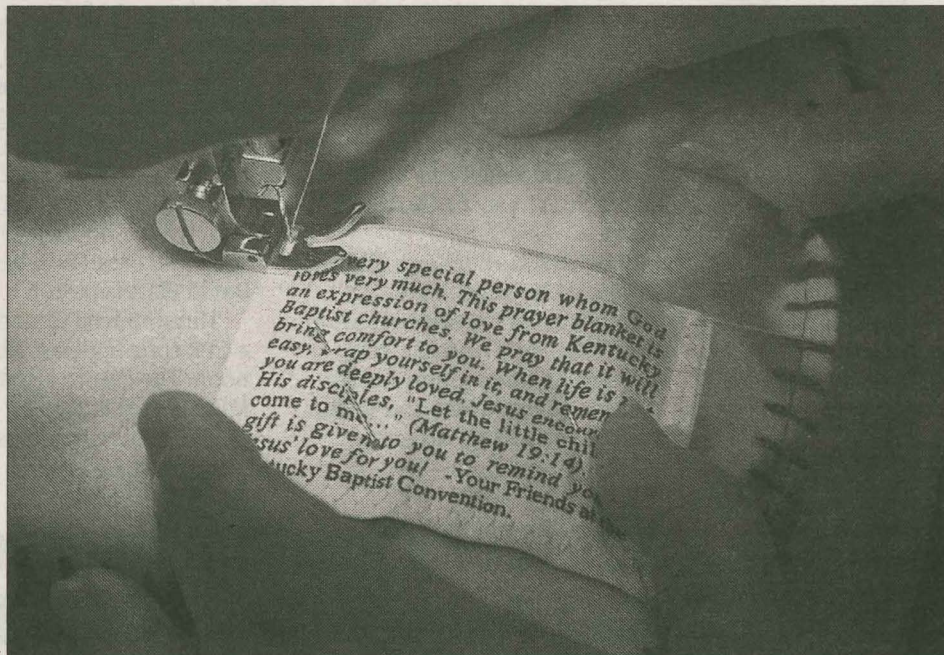
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A CHILD'S SECURITY Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union volunteer Elaine Koch folds a blanket donated for the new Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief mobile child care unit. (Photo by Robin Bass)

Blankets of Love



MESSAGE OF HOPE ■ Above: Each donated blanket included a stitched-on message for the child who receives it. It reads: "To a very special person whom God loves very much. This prayer blanket is an expression of love from Kentucky Baptist churches. We pray that it will bring comfort to you. When life is not easy, wrap yourself in it, and remember you are deeply loved. Jesus encouraged His disciples, 'Let the little children come to me...' (Matthew 19:14). This gift is given to you to remind you of Jesus' love for you! —Your Friends at the Kentucky Baptist Convention." (Photo by Robin Bass) ■ Below: A pair of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief workers bring in a load of blankets that will be distributed to children in the tornado-ravaged town of West Liberty. (Photo by Todd Deaton)

Deadly love

Love, pursuit of money can have devastating effects, lead to death

We all want more of what we love. It's a universal principle, and it applies to every living person.

Another universal principle is what we love most we have the most fear of losing. And, since we love the things of this world, we naturally want more of them and we fear the loss of them because we find security in them. Chuck Bentley correctly describes this human circumstance as one of Satan's favorite schemes.

This is a spiritual battle that requires each of us to make a profound decision. Jesus summed up this decision in Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."

Here Jesus warns us money is a power unto itself, not because of what it can do but because of what it can become—namely, a personal master, just as God can.

By loving and becoming devoted to money we attach ourselves to the

ultimate fate of money. In Matthew 6:21 Jesus stated plainly, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Jesus understood the power of materialism in our lives.

The Apostle Paul added his own warning in 1 Timothy 6:9-10, "People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." I think J.C. Ryle's observation is instructive at this point: "It is possible to love money without having it, and it is possible to have it without loving it."

Therefore, do not love money, for to do so is to be condemned to follow it in its ultimate destruction, disappearance, annihilation and death. Instead, "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 12:2).

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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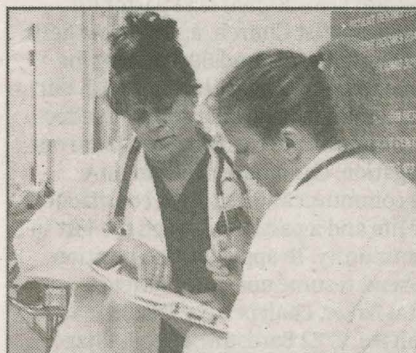
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HARD AT WORK At the sewing machines last week were Joy Bolton (front), executive director of Kentucky WMU; Pat Reaves, former Kentucky WMU president and a member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Louisville; and Anna Mary Byrdwell (back), former WMU staff member and a member of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville. (Photo by Robin Bass)



March

- 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.
- 17** Region 6 RA Congress and Rally, Kirksville Baptist Church, Richmond.
- 17** Region 7 RA Congress and Rally, Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church, Monticello.
- 19** Growing Ministries Tour, Graefenburg Baptist Church, Waddy.
- 20** Get Acquainted Day, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

- **BARDWELL**—George Gardner recently resigned as pastor of Antioch Church. He had served the church for 22 years.
- **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold a picnic and kite-flying event March 10, 11 a.m. **Erdie Carter** is pastor.
- **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will hold an evangelism rally March 8. **Scott Casebier** is pastor.
- **EUBANK**—Polly Ann Church recently honored longtime missionaries **Geneva Faw** and **Velma Martin**. **Gary King**, director

of missions for Lincoln County Association, presented the women with plaques. **Terry Holt** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will host a Highlands Community Ministries' Lent in Reflection event March 8, noon. The theme is "Christian Simplicity." A lunch of soup and bread will be served. **David Platt** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold a CPR training class March 8, noon. The cost to attend is \$45. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

The Louisville Christian

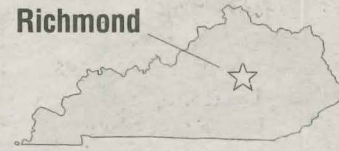
Business & Professional Women organization will hold a luncheon March 8, 11:30 a.m., at Hurstbourne Country Club. The cost is \$13 and is open to all women.

Parkland Church will host Greater Vision in concert March 11, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 969-1387. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will offer vascular disease screening tests from Life Line Screening March 8. To register, call (800) 679-5192. **John Brandon** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Richmond



First Church will host **Youth Connect 2012** March 11-14, 7 p.m., featuring **Jon Barron**, Baptist campus minister at Eastern Kentucky University; youth ministry expert **Kevin Burgess**; **Randy Calico**, youth pastor at Pilot Knob Church in Berea; and **Bill Houpt**, pastor of Little River Church in Herndon, as guest speakers.

Kentucky pastors invited to 'Get Acquainted' with KBC

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors, church staff members and their spouses who are new to their churches are invited to attend "Get Acquainted Day" at the Kentucky Baptist Building March 20.

Get Acquainted Day is designed to help build relationships and welcome new church staff members—especially those who have not served in Kentucky before—to ministry in the commonwealth. The one-day event will familiarize new church staff members with Kentucky Baptist Convention resources and ministries.

KBC Leadership Development Team Leader Karl Babb said the event also will give pastors and church staff members an opportunity to connect with others who are in the similar situation of being new.

"We want to address the sense of isolation that new ministers sometimes feel due to geography or the varying sizes of churches in their area and help them identify things they have in common with their fellow ministers," Babb said.

Babb said pastors or church staff members who are not new to Kentucky but have never had an opportunity to visit the Kentucky Baptist Building also are invited.

The schedule includes an overview of the KBC and its ministries, a Kentucky Baptist Building tour, an address by KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood, and presentations on the Cooperative Program and the KBC's "More for Christ" emphasis.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m.; sessions run from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. (KBC)

KBC workshop to train ministers for transitional pastorates

Louisville—A training conference to help prepare ministers for interim pastorates will be held March 27-28 at the Kentucky Baptist Building.

The Transitional Interim Pastor Training Workshop is designed for experienced ministers interested in helping guide churches through times of transition, said Karl Babb, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's leadership development team.

"Guiding a church through a time of transition between one pastor to the next can be both challenging and rewarding," Babb said. "It's not the same role as that of a permanent pastor and this workshop can provide tools the interim pastor will

need for success."

The workshop will cover such topics as the role and responsibilities of the interim pastor, the transition process, ways to assess the church's history and current realities, strategic preparation for the church's future, preaching and teaching during the interim, conflict management, congregational healing, supporting the search committee, preparing the church for the next pastor, and leaving gracefully.

The workshop hours on March 27 are 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m.; 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. on March 28.

The workshop fee is \$100 and is due by March 15. To register, visit www.KyBaptist.org/TIP. (KBC)

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

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

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

OPPORTUNITY: Christian values technology company seeks mature business professionals for high-income opportunity. Home-based office; hands-on support and apprenticeship-style training. For complete information, call Keith at (888) 395-6557.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Booneville Baptist Association in Clay County. Send resumé by April 15 to John N. Routh, PO Box 279, Oneida, KY 40972; or email to johnnrouth@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader who is familiar with hymns, modern music and leading a choir for Georgetown, Ky., church. Send resumé to safeharborpastor@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time director of ministry and education at Alton Baptist Church in Lawrenceburg, Ky. Please send resumé to the attention of Jeff Lilly Alton BC, 1321 Bypass North, Lawrenceburg, KY 40342; or email to v.parrish@altonbaptist.org by March 21, 2012. Full job description is available on church website: www.altonbaptist.org.

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

SEEKING: 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: 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. Email resumé or mail to First Baptist Church, 302 N. Magnolia, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

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 associate pastor (music and education) at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Please forward resumé to pvcsearch@gmail.com; or mail to 13571 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, Attn: Search Team.

SEEKING: Part-time pianist for Lyndon Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky. Must be comfortable sight reading choral anthems as well as accompanying both hymns and praise songs. Sundays and Wednesdays. For more details, call (502) 425-7150.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor for Cadiz Baptist Church, Cadiz, Ky., a small town located in southwestern Kentucky near Ft. Campbell Army Base and the Land Between the Lakes. Applicants must have a college degree and leadership skills to lead our church to its full potential; previous experience as pastor preferred. Forward resumé to jan@cadizbaptist.org; or mail to Cadiz Baptist Church, 82 Main St., Cadiz, KY 42211.

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.

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: Part-time music minister needed in Bagdad, Ky. Familiar with blended hymns, modern music and a choir. Send resumé to ksheets67@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Full-time senior pastor, First Baptist Church, Bethany, Mo. (www.fbcbethany.org). Conservative Southern Baptist Church affiliated with SBC; 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: 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.com; or mail to: Personnel Committee, Calvary Baptist Church, 163 N. Jefferson Cir., Oak Ridge, TN 37830.

Avoiding temptation on social media

By Terri Stovall

Social networking—few things have so defined and shaped our culture. From Facebook to Twitter to Pinterest, it seems like everyone who is anyone has one, if not multiple, ways to stay connected. Whether it is looking at pictures of family celebrations, grandparents keeping up with grandchildren, businesses and ministries promoting themselves or reminiscing about old friends and flames, social media is today's yellow pages, white pages, yearbook, family album and party line—all rolled up in one.

Through them the gospel has been proclaimed, many a woman has been mentored, and relationships have been strengthened. Conversely, social media sites offer a method of connection that tickles our desire for instant gratification and provides a glimpse into the lives of others, often leading to damaging and destructive consequences.

The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers has been in the news in the past couple of years, highlighting the use of Facebook as either a cause of infidelity and subsequent divorce or as a way to build a case for divorce. While reports are mixed as to whether social media is playing an increasing role in marital infidelity and divorce, it is clear that this new way of connecting with people can be used for good and for bad.

Whether it's reconnecting with an ex-boyfriend, private interaction with a co-worker, or making personal info about your life open to an acquaintance, sites like Facebook offer daily opportunities for a downward spiral.

As Christians who seek to follow after God's own heart and want to protect our marriages and our families, we must determine our personal boundaries when it comes to social networking. Only if we place hedges of protection and accountability around us are we guarded.

We must remember that no marriage is so safe that we can let our guard down. Based on the commitment to protect your marriage and family, consider these practical suggestions:

Use the Internet in public. It is good practice for your family to make Internet access on a computer placed in a public part of the home, such as the living room. Using the computer in more private areas such as a study or bedroom can easily provide an opening where temptation can seep.

Joint account. Create a joint account with your spouse or, at the very least, make sure you know each other's password. Yes, you both trust each other; yet this simple accountability can often be all that is needed to make us stop and consider our actions. Once one person has something to hide, trouble can follow.

FIRST PERSON

Mutual friending. Do not friend anyone of the opposite sex that is not also a friend of your spouse's. If a friend of yours requests to be a Facebook friend, only accept the invitation if your spouse is friends as well. Single

gals, consider this when you friend-request a married man. If a married man sends you a friend request, check if you're friends with his wife. If not, be sure to take the initiative of accountability and friend-request her, or just decline his request.

Make yourself unavailable. Keep logged off in the online chat arena. In order to do online chat, even with your girlfriends, you have to make yourself available or "online." This opens the door for men to initiate online chat with you, which is never appropriate, and can provide for some awkward situations. The solution is never to be available.

Unplug. If you find yourself still struggling with boundaries and getting too close to the line, just deactivate your account. Maybe it is time for a little face-to-face time with your husband, children and friends, rather than electronic words on a screen.

Perhaps after reading this, you realize that you've gone outside the boundaries of wisdom in social networking. What if you have already crossed the line? God heals and redeems. We serve a God who loves us with an everlasting love. Admit to Him that this is a desire that you have and its enticement is strong. Ask Him to forgive you, to cleanse you and to restore the damage that you have done to yourself and the relationships around you. Then take the steps necessary to guard your heart and mind from future indiscretions.

Find an accountability partner. Enlist someone who can be a true accountability partner for you, who can ask the tough questions about your Internet use, your marriage and your relationships. Find someone to whom you can be completely transparent and who will challenge you to take steps towards holiness rather than helping you figure out how close to the line you can be.

Disconnect from all social media sites. If you cannot control your use of social media, you are, at some level, addicted. Pull the plug and remove what is causing you to stumble.

Social media is a great way to stay connected to friends and family. Through a tweet of 140 characters we can give encouragement to a discouraged friend. Through pictures posted on Facebook we can relive the fond memories of a recent celebration. However, social media can also be a gateway to destructive behavior that tears down and separates. It all depends on the user. (BP)

Terri Stovall is dean of women's programs at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Preacher's Kids

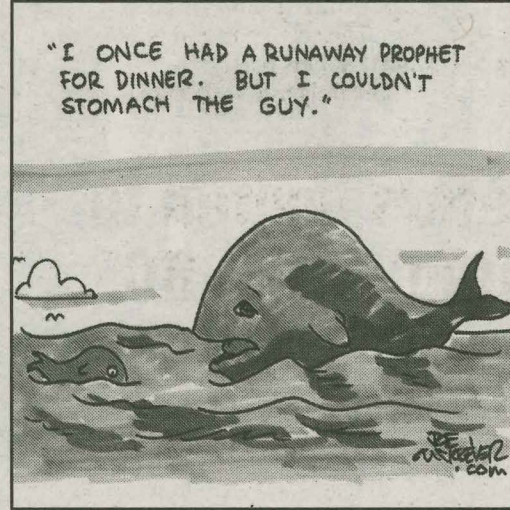


Joe Mckeever



Brother Bloop

Dennis Daniel

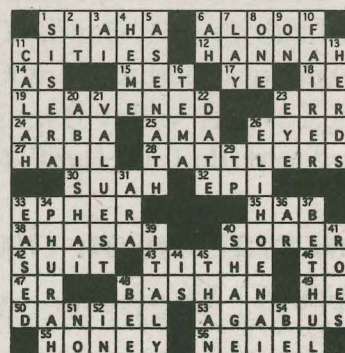


Bible Crosswords

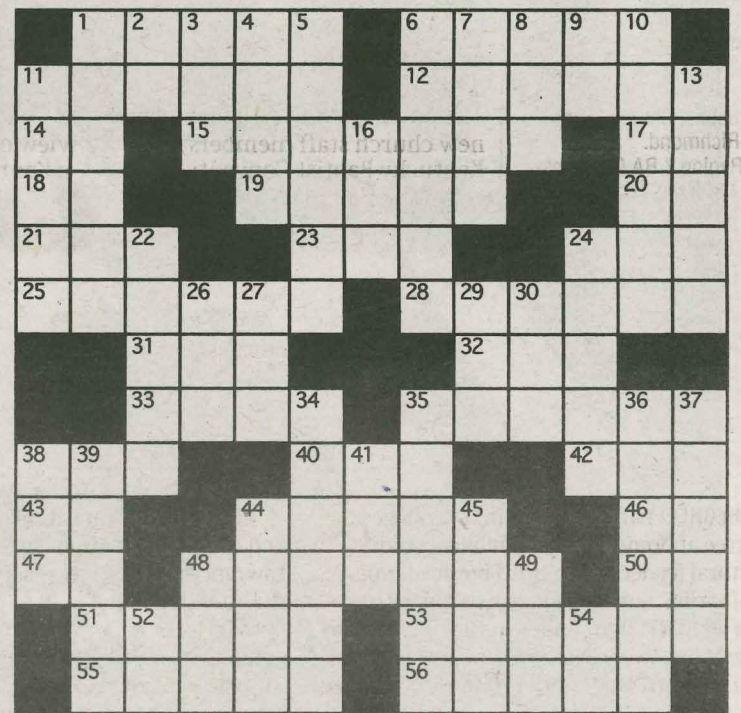
Across

- 1 Cake mix maker (last name)
- 6 Amasses
- 11 Store under pressure
- 12 Has (arch.)
- 14 Conjunction
- 15 Touched
- 17 City near Bethel
- 18 Military abbr.
- 19 Marian, et al.
- 20 Chemical element (abbr.)
- 21 N.T. book (abbr.)
- 23 Gilded or Jazz
- 24 Son of Jether (1 Chronicles 7:38)
- 25 Wipe away (arch.)
- 28 Ammonite who invaded Jabesh-gilead (1 Samuel 11)
- 31 More than one orthopedist (abbr.)
- 32 Normal, but maybe not for Nicklaus
- 33 "For the ___ shall be prosperous" (Zechariah 8:12)
- 35 "Smote all their enemies with the ___ of the sword" (Esther 9:5)
- 38 Familiar cavern sight
- 40 Exclamation
- 42 Son of Elishama (1 Chronicles 7:27)
- 43 I ___ (Jehovah)
- 44 Struck (arch.)
- 46 Laughing sound

Last puzzle's solution



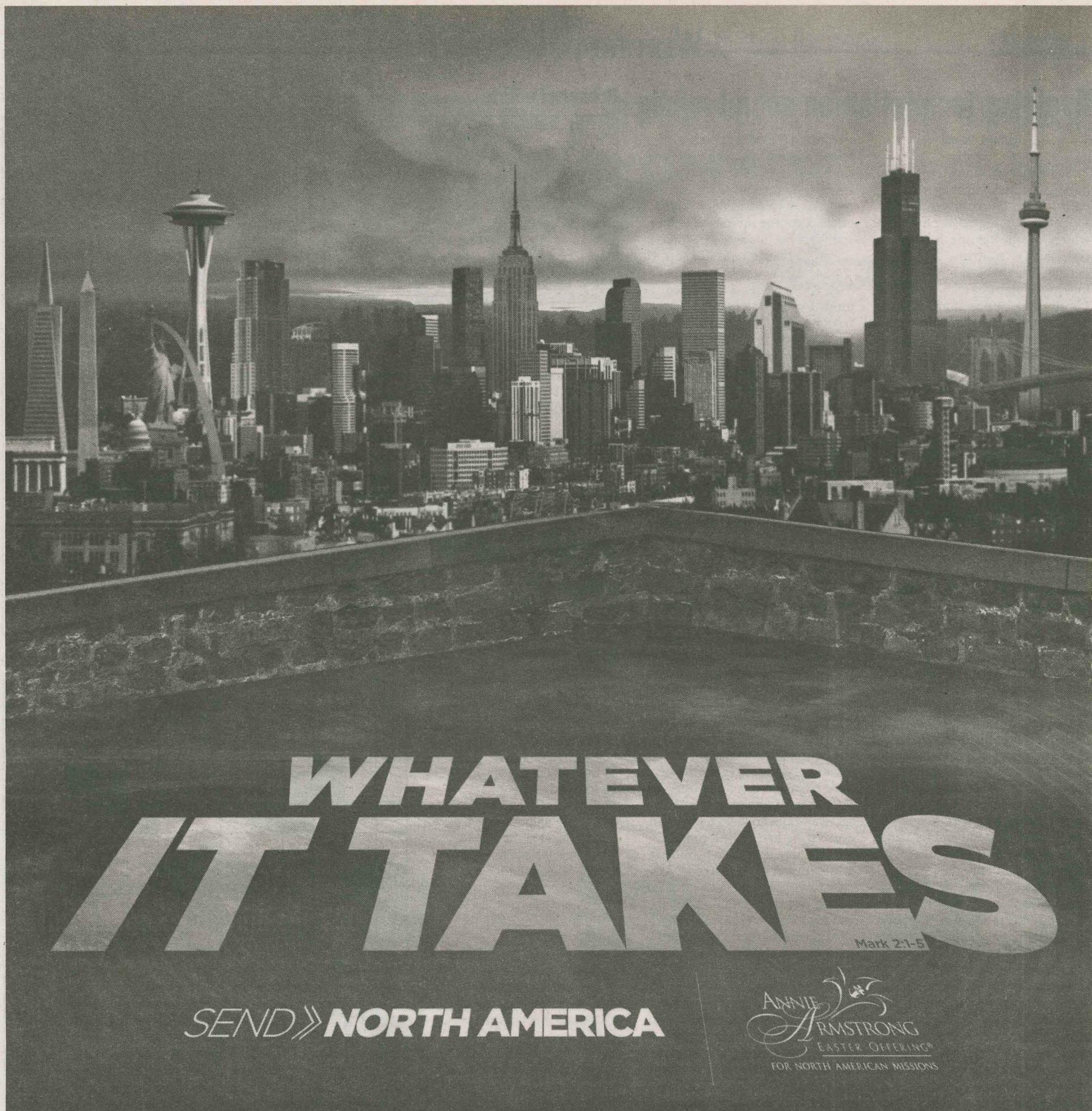
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- 47 Eastern seaboard state (abbr.)
- 48 Worn by the disciples, among others
- 50 Simile word
- 51 Hackneyed
- 53 Son of Reuel (Genesis 36:13)
- 55 ___ days
- 56 "A sceptre ... shall ... destroy all the children of ___" (Numbers 24:17)
- 11 Room or walk
- 13 Judah stayed with him in Adullam (Genesis 38)
- 16 Archaeological site
- 22 In the course of
- 24 Brother of Moses
- 26 Before (poet.)
- 27 Double this for a deadly fly
- 29 Likely
- 30 Laughing sound
- 34 Condemned
- 35 Belonging to the evil one
- 36 Son of Levi (Genesis 46)
- 37 Son of Seth (1 Chronicles 1:1)
- 38 Prohibit
- 39 Wrong
- 41 Son of Zophah (1 Chronicles 7)
- 44 Father of Heber (Luke 3:35)
- 45 King of Israel, son of Baasha (1 Kings 16:8)
- 48 "Gal" of songdom
- 49 Pronoun
- 52 'Bye, to Brits
- 54 Preposition

Down

- 1 Dread
- 2 Pronoun
- 3 ___ degree
- 4 Son of Shem (Genesis 10:22)
- 5 Family of returning exiles (Ezra 2:35)
- 6 Grasp (arch.)
- 7 Some of Bo-Peep's brood?
- 8 Conjunction
- 9 Required subject in school (abbr.)
- 10 Escalator option



Upcoming Kentucky WMU Events:

Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Beacon Hill Baptist, Somerset, March 23-24

Exalt, Campbellsville University, April 13-14

A Wrinkle Free Woman, Women's Retreat, Laurel Lake, Corbin, April 13-14

4:GO, Campbellsville Baptist Church, April 13-14

A Wrinkle Free Woman, Women's Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville, April 27-28

SALT, Elizabethtown Baptist Church, May 19

National WMU Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, June 17-18

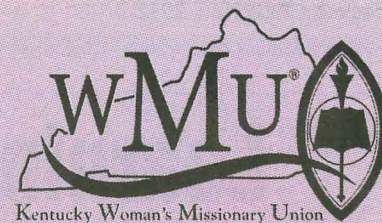
BNF Summer Meeting, Severns Valley Baptist Association Office, June 30

Excel, Hodgenville First Baptist Church, July 28

**For more information on these events visit the
Kentucky WMU Website: www.kywmu.org**

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Theme Interpretations by **Debby Akerman,**
President, National WMU

Friday Morning — 9 a.m.

NEW: Early Bird Missionary Conferences
Registration, Bookstore, Displays,
Silent Auction of Baskets. Proceeds benefit the
Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund Endowment

Friday Morning — 10 a.m.

Theme Interpretation — Debby Akerman
Live Sent to Central Asia — Harold & Julie
In-Home Missions Testimony
Live Sent to Southern Europe — Joe
Offering for Kentucky WMU Ministries to Missionaries

Friday 12 p.m. — Live Sent Luncheon

Box Lunch by pre-reservation
Bookstores, Displays, Silent Auction Open
Missionary Letters Project

Friday Afternoon — 1 p.m.

Theme Interpretation — Debby Akerman
State Missions & EBO — Arlene Miller
Kentucky WMU Staff Skit
Business Session & Election of Officers

Friday Afternoon — 2:45 p.m.

Missionary Conferences at the Church
(2:45-3:30 p.m. and 3:45-4:30 p.m.)
Mission Education Coffeehouse (2:45-4:45 p.m.)
Ministry Project at the Church
Silent Auction & Bookstores Open

Collection Projects: Diapers (AIM Pregnancy Support Center); Snacks that will ship well (Care Packages for American Troops); Christian books & Bibles (Book Link); home care items and cleaning supplies (Potentials, Inc.); and hygiene and toiletry items (Mississippi River Ministry).

Friday Evening — 6:40 p.m.

Concert — Beacon Hill Baptist Church Choir
Theme Interpretation — Debby Akerman
Welcome, Children!
East Meets West —

Bill Barker, Appalachian Regional Ministry
George & Cathy Chinn, Mississippi Regional Ministry
John & Melissa Fitzwater, Loaves & Fishes Ministry
Arlene Miller, Impact Ministry/CWJC
Kentucky Missionary of the Year Award
Kentucky Missions Challenge — Paul Chitwood

Saturday Morning — 7 a.m.

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Breakfast
by pre-reservation

Saturday Morning — 8 a.m.

Missionary Meet & Greet — Fellowship Hall
Silent Auction open until 9 a.m.
Displays and Bookstore Open

Saturday Morning — 9 a.m.

Theme Interpretation — Debby Akerman
Helping Boys Live Sent — Jon Auten
Living the Legacy — Acteens Panelists
Thank You, WMU — Missionaries
Live Sent to All the World — Scott Pittman
Living Sent — Acts 1:8 Team Members
Closing — Linda Cooper

Saturday Afternoon — 12 p.m.

Missionary Parents Luncheon by pre-reservation

The Prelude will begin 10 minutes before
the start of each session

All times listed are in Eastern Time

A PERSONAL WORD

Impacting our churches, Kentucky and the world

By Joy Bolton

Executive Director-Treasurer of Kentucky WMU

Last spring I wrote this column about change. Certainly we have experienced much change over the past year as we have said good-bye and hello in the same year with not only Kentucky WMU staff, but also with the KBC. The changes have been good. Our new staff members fit right in and began making great contributions to our work quickly. Having Jon Auten around the office has been fun and added a new dynamic to the work of Kentucky WMU.



Joy Bolton

We are so pleased with the response to the transition of Royal Ambassadors and Challengers to WMU. Our national WMU office is in the midst of writing the new curriculum and getting ready for the official launch of RAs and Challengers under the WMU banner. We encourage church and association WMU leadership teams to enlist RA and Challenger leaders. They should be a part of WMU leadership teams just as we include other age-level organization leaders.

To celebrate the start of Royal Ambassadors with Kentucky WMU, we will have an RA racer track at the WMU Annual Meeting. If you have an RA racer or can borrow one, bring it to race on the RA track in the display area. The WMU staff will also be hosting a Missions Education Coffeehouse on Friday afternoon. It will be a great time to meet all of our new staff and see what's new in WMU age-level work.

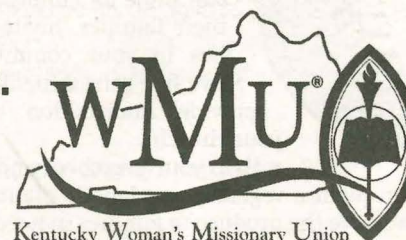
Cooperative Program Sunday is April 22. This is a great day to launch "Children Changing the World." The idea behind this emphasis is to enlist the children of your church in collecting change for the Cooperative Program from CP Sunday through your Vacation Bible School. The change collected will be sent to the Kentucky Baptist Convention as the children's contribution to the Cooperative Program, demonstrating that children can change the world. What I like best about the approach is that there are lesson plans, game board, and bank labels for teaching the children about the Cooperative Program. Learn more at: www.kybaptist.org/moreforchrist.

The foundation of missions support is the tithe. When believers tithe, God has promised to bless faithful giving. This is true for individuals and for churches. Today we are encouraging every church to give a tithe (or more) through CP. It must be noted however, that the original WMU dream for missions support was that 50 percent would leave the local church, 50 percent would leave the state, and 50 percent would leave the United State for international missions. We are moving towards the goal of 50 percent of the Cooperative Program leaving Kentucky.

This year 43.54 percent is leaving Kentucky, an increase of 5.54 percent. This has resulted in an increase of \$391,117.70 leaving Kentucky in just the first four months of the new plan which started September 1, 2011. Since 50.2 percent of the funds which leave Kentucky go for international missions, that's enough to fund four more missionaries at an average cost of \$46,700 per missionary according to the IMB. More for Christ results in real dollars making an impact around the world!

Join us for the 2012 Annual Meeting to hear missionary speakers, participate in missions conferences, write letters to missionaries, and a host of other missions activities. May we all Live Sent!

Change a life.
Change the
world.®



ADULTS Learning lessons from children

By Wanda Walker

I was taught as a toddler to fold my hands together to pray. That was the way Mom told me to show respect and reverence to our Lord. I did that for most of my toddler and early childhood years and I knew that I was praying and God heard those prayers.

During this past Christmas season, I took my 3-year-old granddaughter to the children's program at 'big' church (her first time.) I wanted to use the closing prayer as a teaching moment. I told her to fold her hands together to pray. She immediately responded and said that she did not have to fold her hands, God listens to her prayers. Well, guess who got put in her place? ME!

That is insight into life today. We don't have to do things the way that our foremothers and fathers taught us. Think about it...do you live and do things that your parents taught you the same way? I am not being critical; I am merely acknowledging this is a new time.

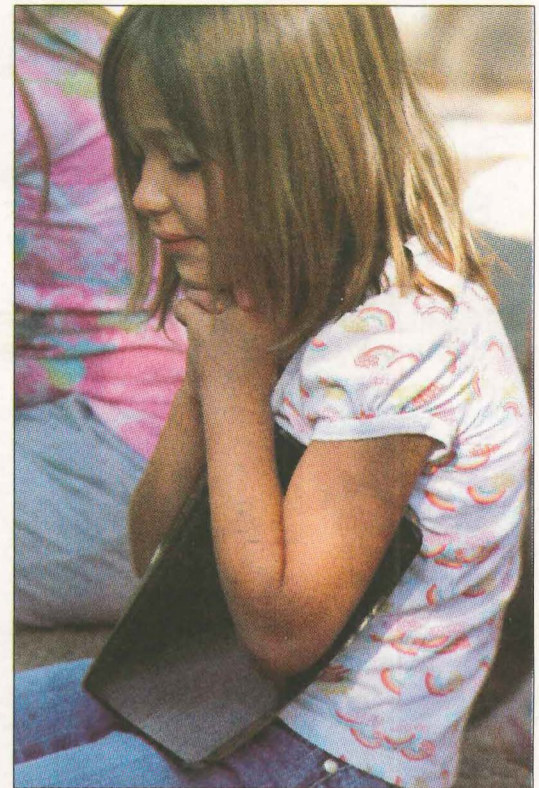
As parents and grandparents we struggle with change. We want things to be relevant and enticing to all, however we hold on to some traditions that no longer reach folks. I used to get frustrated as an adult leader in my own church with the lack of adults participating in missions education. However, I now see a surge in those who participate in missions. Most are a product of Mission Friends, GA, RA and Acteens. Today there may not be as many in 'meetings' but there are more engaged in missions and missions education than we 'count.'

So, how do we get folks to be involved? We need to engage women and men in missions where they are. Recently, a young woman told me she "doesn't want anyone to tell her how to meet." She continued by saying, "give me the resources to use; it starts with a relationship and then unites for a cause." As life experiences change and opportunities continue to increase, you may find that your "group" may meet through Facebook; a myMis-

sion chapter; or a twitter following. Anyone can pray for missions and missionaries anywhere and anytime. It is when we limit our opportunities we allow our passion to fade away. Missions education does not have to be a meeting and just doing whatever is in the Missions Mosaic. As a leader, help adults see how life experiences can guide participation in missions.

Teaching a child to pray with their hands folded together is still a great thing. (By the way, my granddaughter has us all hold hands when we say prayers at meals and other prayer times. She is the one who says we can't eat until we pray holding hands.)

Change is good. New, creative ways to learn missions is okay. Traditions and meeting regularly still has its place and importance. We individually and collectively have to decide how we will serve God and live our passion for missions and mission education. God will honor however they serve Him.



(File photo by Baptist Press)

YOUTH

Jump into teen events this spring

By Maryann Lee

Spring is my favorite season. I love to see all the trees and flowers coming back to life. I especially love the opportunity to celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union has so much planned this spring and I am glad to be a part of all of the wonderful things that God is doing through these events. The major event that I have the privilege of planning is Exalt.

Exalt is for teenage girls in grades 7-12 and will be held at Campbellsville University April 13-14. Our theme for this event is "Blank Canvas" and we will be focusing on how we are made new in Christ when we accept Him into our lives.

Kristi McCartney will be our featured speaker for this event. McCartney is a native of Louisville with a passion for reaching teenage girls. She and her husband, Will, currently serve at Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville and have three small children.

Her passion extends into missions as well and she has traveled internationally to 10 different countries on 13 missions trips. Please join me in praying for McCartney as she plans for this event and as God shares with her His message to present at Exalt.

There is so much more planned for Exalt. Missionaries will talk about what they are doing around our nation and world to share the good news of Christ. Breakout conferences will cover a variety of topics—from dating to friendships—that will better prepare participants for life. All of this will culminate in exciting times of praise and worship. For more information and to register please visit our website www.kywmu.org/exalt4go.

Exalt is not the only thing we have planned for teenage girls. **Acteens Splash** will be held July 13-14 at Jonathan Creek. Splash is a unique overnight camping experience for teenage girls. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about missions and enjoy Bible study, worship and fun!

PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN

Ideas for getting kids involved in missions

By Stacy Nall

With warmer spring weather arriving, you and your preschoolers and children will have many opportunities to be on mission. Try some of these outdoor mission projects:

- Plan and host a T-ball game for preschoolers and their parents or a softball game for children and their families. Invite families in your community. Serve free refreshments and provide information about your church.
- Help your preschool and children plant a vegetable garden. As plants mature, give the produce to families in need.

Preschool

Even Mission Friends can begin to learn

about the WMU ProjectHelp: Human Exploitation emphasis. Preschool leaders can teach preschoolers to be kind. "Kindness Counts" is a downloadable, two lesson curriculum on kindness.

Find this curriculum and other downloadable books and resources for preschoolers on www.wmystore.com. Learning to care for God's creation is also part of the emphasis.

Children

Children across Kentucky and throughout North America participated in Children's Ministry Day Feb. 18. This special day, sponsored by national WMU, was an opportunity for children in churches with or without Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors or Children in Action to participate in hands-on mission projects. This year's theme was "Operation Education."

Children's groups encouraged teachers, See Children ... Page 3

RA's/CHALLENGERS

RA Regional Congresses

By Jonathan Auten

RA Regional Congresses are great events for Royal Ambassadors and their leaders where they can hear an interesting missions speaker, match their Royal Racers against boys from other RA chapters, participate in other fun activities, and network and share ideas with leaders from around their region.

The RA's of Region 1 (in far western Kentucky) held their Congress on February 17 at Lone Oak Baptist Church in Paducah and can testify to the fun you can have at one of these events. Their Congress is over now, but the majority of these fantastic events across the state have yet to happen. Check out the list below and make your plans now to get your RA's to the Congress in your area.



Region 2 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, March 24
Start time: 8 a.m.

Place: Yellow Creek Baptist Church
Address: 5741 Highway 144,
Owensboro, KY 42303

Contact for info and to RSVP:
Michael Ponton at (270) 993-5466
or at YCBC at (270) 281-4118

Region 4 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, April 21
Start time: 9 a.m.

Place: Mt. Washington First Baptist Church

Address: 320 N. Bardstown Rd.,
Mt. Washington, KY 40047
Contact for info and to RSVP:
Ken Hallmark at (502) 216-8480

Region 5 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, March 31
Start time: 9 a.m.

Place: Knoxville Baptist Church
Address: 110 E Fairview Rd.,
Williamstown, KY 41097

Contact for info and to RSVP:
Everett Musgrave at (513) 680-1391

Region 6 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, March 17
Start time: 9 a.m.

Place: Kirksville Baptist Church
Address: 542 Kirksville Road,
Richmond, KY 40475

Contact for info and to RSVP:
Rick Gastineau at (859) 339-0006 or
Johnny Webb at (859) 314-1253

Region 7 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, March 17
Start time: 9 a.m.

Place: Elk Spring Valley Baptist Church
Address: 3600 E Highway 92,
Monticello, KY 42633-8747

Contact for info and to RSVP:
Wimpy Hudson at (270) 618-0498

Region 8 RA Congress

Date: Saturday, March 10
Start time: 9 a.m.

Place: Russell First Baptist Church
Address: 901 Ashland Dr.,
Russell, KY 41169-1833

Contact for info and to RSVP:
William Mullins at (606) 232-6618

If there is a Congress in a neighboring region that is nearer to you than the one in your region, please feel free to attend the one that is closest. You may only compete in one Congress but you are welcome to attend more than one.

Please note: RA chapters from Region 3 will need to attend a Congress in Region 2, 4, or 7.

President's perspective

When you think of March, you could think of March madness, the beginning of spring time, or the Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union's Annual Meeting! It's the 109th annual meeting, to be exact.

Hopefully, you have already made plans to be with us as Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset hosts the celebration on March 23-24! National WMU president, Debby Akerman will be leading our theme interpretations during the sessions, focusing on our theme "Live Sent." You will hear from International and North American Mission Board missionaries about their work on the field as well as local missions



Linda Cooper

workers who serve in and around our state as they are living sent.

You will get a chance to be a missionary as local projects have been arranged for your participation such as assembling care packages for our Troops. You will also have a chance to write a letter to a missionary. Our silent auction is back for another year supporting our Heritage Fund so that the work of Kentucky WMU can continue for years to come.

On Friday evening, we invited local Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors and Children in Action to attend "East Meets West" with Appalachian Regional Ministry, Loaves and Fishes Ministry, Mississippi River Ministry, and Impact Ministry/Christian Women's Job Corps share, panel style. We will also award the Kentucky Missionary of the Year!

There is so much more planned for you when you come. We hope to help you focus

on living sent into the world and fulfilling your call to missions, locally and around the world where there are 3,800 people groups who have never been exposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ...We must "Live Sent" every day. Register online at www.kywmu.org/annualmeeting.

Many other events are planned through WMU for the spring. Acteens, Challengers, or any boy or girl grades 7-12 are invited to gather in Campbellsville on April 13-14 for Exalt and 4GO. Send your teenagers for a fun-filled weekend of special interest workshops and a focus on missions. It's always a GREAT time! Register online at www.kywmu.org/exalt4go.

There are also two Women on Mission retreats planned for April with the theme A Wrinkle Free Woman (or how to add starch to your life). Go to www.kywmu.org/wrinklefree for more information and registra-

tion.

If you haven't had a chance to give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for state missions, it is not too late. The offering has not yet met the goal and many ministries here in our state are dependent on this offering. Please take a moment to pray about what the Lord would have you give so that the many people who are lost, right here in our state, can hear and respond to the message of Christ.

Please pray for me as I travel our wonderful state as you invite me to share about missions work, missions education and how to be involved in the Great Commission through WMU.

If I can be of help to you or your association in any way, please let me know. May God bless you as you live sent where He has planted you!

CALENDAR

March		April	
4-11	Week of Prayer for North American Missions & Annie Armstrong Easter Offering	31	Region 5 RA Congress, Knoxville Baptist, Williamstown
10	Region 8 RA Congress, Russell First Baptist, Russell	13-14	Exalt, Campbellsville University
17	Hispanic WMU Event, Hodgenville Baptist, Hodgenville	13-14	4:GO, Campbellsville Baptist Church
17	Region 6 RA Congress, Kirksville Baptist, Richmond	13-14	Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin
17	Region 7 RA Congress, Elk Spring Valley Baptist, Monticello	21	Region 4 RA Congress, First Baptist, Mt. Washington
23-24	KY WMU Annual Meeting, Beacon Hill Baptist, Somerset	27-28	Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Camp Schafer, Hawesville
24	Region 2 RA Congress, Yellow Creek Baptist, Owensboro	May	
		19	KY WMU State Associational Leadership Training (SALT), Elizabethtown Baptist Church

Children

From page 2

prepared snack packs for students, prayerwalked neighborhood schools and more! Read and post stories about Children's Ministry Day on the Children's Missions and Girls in Action Facebook pages. You can also share on the Kentucky Girls in Action Facebook page.

Kentucky WMU sponsors two Missions Camps in Kentucky. Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys at Cedar Crest is held at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad. Overnights at the Creek are held at Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center in Hardin. Find out about some exciting changes at camp listed below.

Missions Challenge

2012 Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys

Get ready to take the "Missions Challenge" at Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys! This summer Kentucky WMU is offering three full weeks for girls and boys. Campers will participate in worship, Bible study, swimming, recreation, and, of course, missions. Each week hosts a camp missionary. Each group of 1-7 children attending camp need to be accompanied by a church chaperone.

Contact Kentucky WMU about discounted rates for chaperones.

Weeklong Camps, \$195*

- June 11-15—Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
- June 18-22—Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
- June 25-29—Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights

In addition to Mother/Daughter Overnights, Kentucky WMU is also offering Father/Son Overnights this summer. Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms and boys in grades 1-3 and their dads will enjoy learning about missions as they grow closer to God and each other.

Mother/Daughter and Father Son Overnights, \$50*

- June 15-16—Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads
- June 22-23—Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads

*All rates are Early Bird rates through May 25. Rates are per person.

Overnights at the Creek July 13-14

Campers at Jonathan Creek will also be encouraged to accept the "Missions Challenge" as they discover missions by a beautiful lake, surrounded by woods and open fields. Campers will also enjoy worship, Bible study and recreation.

- Mother-Daughter Overnight—Girls in grades 1-3 and moms, \$50*
 - GA Overnight—chaperones, \$50*
 - Acteens Splash—Girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones, \$50*
- *All Jonathan Creek rates are Early Bird rates through June 25. Rates are per person.

4:GO
For Guys Only
April 13-14, 2012
Campbellsville Baptist Church
Campbellsville, KY

Visit www.kywmu.org/Exalt4Go for more information about these events and to register

Exalt
 The Event for
 Teen Girls
 April 13-14, 2012
 Campbellsville University
 Campbellsville, KY

