

WESTERN Recorder

March 13, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 10

Love in action



Kentucky Baptist DR crews work to meet overwhelming needs all across commonwealth

By Drew Nichter

West Liberty—With all of the attention focused on the destruction in downtown West Liberty, it might be easy to overlook Woodsbend.

Hardly a dot on the map, the rural community was not spared when the deadly tornadoes ripped across eastern Kentucky. From atop the ridges overlooking the Licking River hollows, the tornado's path can easily be traced.

From along this path have come astounding stories of survival, as well as heartbreaking stories of loss.

Charlie Pack's father and grandmother were in their home at the top of one of the ridges. They sat on the couch as the tornado destroyed the house around them. They and the couch were all that remained.

"The couch was still sitting there right where it was," Pack said. Everything else was gone.

Just a few hundred yards down the hill, Wilmer and Emma Dean Cecil lived in a

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Terry Leap (left) assists West Liberty resident Dee Dee Powers as she sifts through tornado debris looking for the personal belongings of her neighbor, Sherry Flannery. Flannery's (not pictured) mobile home was blown from its foundation during the March 3 storm that killed 22 people in Kentucky. Leap, pastor of Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington, is one of nearly 175 Kentucky Baptist volunteers who have helped storm victims. (Photo by Robin Bass)

KBC employees given option to retire early, resign voluntarily

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—Preceding what will be a reorganization of the entire Kentucky Baptist Convention, Mission Board employees last week were asked to consider retiring early or resigning voluntarily.

In a KBC staff-only meeting March 7, Executive Director Paul Chitwood proposed the offer to all of the convention's 73 full-time employees.

The details of the offer include an early-retirement option for all full-time employees age 60 and older or who will turn 60 by the end of the year. Those who accept the offer will receive full retirement benefits, including health care coverage until age 65 and Medicare supplement coverage past 65. A cash incentive also will be paid out based on an employee's years of service, the equivalent of one week's pay for every year worked, up to a 20-year maximum allowance.

According to KBC officials, 26 employees are eligible for early retirement.

For those employees not yet eligible for early retirement, the KBC has offered a "voluntary resignation incentive."

Those who choose that offer

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Cincinnati church planter focuses on bringing heaven to earth

By Tobin Perry

Cincinnati—It's just about dusk at Heritage Glen apartments in the Cincinnati suburb of Fairfield. As the sun drops from sight, the lower light begins to mask some of the harsher realities of this low-income complex: the dilapidated tennis court that's populated with random cracks and missing a net, the overgrown grass, and the worn paint.

A handful of volunteers from the Red Door, a Southern Baptist church plant in Cincinnati eagerly play and laugh with the

neighborhood kids. What better way to kick off the church's fall plans than by doing what the church is all about?



The apartment complex is only about 25 miles from the posh community of Indian Hill, where Cincinnati's elite live. Yet Heritage Glen seems like a thousand miles away.

But, more to the point for church planter Joshua Lenon, it's even further away from heaven. For the past two years Cincinnati's Red Door Church, started by Lenon in 2010, has pointed people in the

□ See Missionary profile ... Page 3



RED DOOR Missionary Josh Lenon served as a youth minister prior to starting Red Door Church in Cincinnati. The church is so named because it is symbolic of hospitality and safety. The Israelites painted the doors of their homes red with the blood of an unblemished lamb, the basis for Passover. (Photo by Dale Stroud/NAMB)



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Western Recorder 3-13-2012

Southern Indiana pastor concerned for community's uninsured

By John Evans

Henryville, Ind.—"Forty percent of (the people in) our community are uninsured, and it's not because they're bad people or even that they're poor people," said Toby Jenkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Henryville, Ind., one of the towns hardest hit by the March 2 tornadoes that ripped across several states.

When the nation's economic slump hit, many residents were unable to continue the insurance on their homes, Jenkins explained.

Cecil Seagle, executive director of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, agreed that many tornado victims are facing financial crisis.

"We really need to have folks who are either uninsured or under-insured find a way to begin rebuilding their lives," Seagle said.

Never get used to 'absolute loss'

In hard-hit communities such as Henryville, Marysville and Pekin, just north of the Kentucky state line, Seagle said he sees small signs of recovery. Power poles are being raised and debris has been hauled away. But it pales in comparison to the scale of the destruction.

"We've probably been in 65 to 75 of these storms over the years ... in disaster relief, and I never, never, ever get used to the sight, the smell and the feel of absolute loss when I stand with families and people looking at the result of a storm



STOCKING UP In Henryville, Ind., relief supplies are unloaded at First Baptist Church, which survived a March 2 tornado that tore through town. The church has become a local hub for relief volunteers and supplies. (Photo courtesy of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana)

that they could not do anything about," Seagle said.

Local churches and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief teams are doing their best to help tornado victims, cutting away limbs and brush, putting tarps on damaged roofs and providing basic necessities to tornado victims, with more teams slated to arrive in the days ahead. An incident command center has opened at Bethel Baptist Church in nearby Memphis, Ind., while First Baptist serves as a hub for volunteers and ministry. The North American Mission Board also is

providing assistance.

People responded with an outpouring of donated items such as food and clothing, Jenkins said, noting that the items are appreciated and being put to use. But he said the church is well-enough stocked so that more pressing needs can be addressed.

"The pastors organized quickly and began doing a number of things—meeting needs, sharing the gospel and caring for those who were really, really needing the kind of pastoral care that would get them through the storm," Seagle

recalled of the immediate response.

Seagle said he sees daunting challenges ahead for the affected communities, including the psychological toll that a disaster can take.

"The next phase of that is a huge, huge depressive, overwhelming (sense of), 'We cannot cope with this,'" he noted. "And so the hope that we have is our disaster relief volunteers and our leaders on the ground ... will be able to step in and say, 'This is going to take us a while, but we are going to recover.'"

Jenkins said he has seen numerous examples of God at work in the midst of that recovery, such as when one of First Baptist's deacons lost everything and had no place for his family to live.

"A family from another state showed up I guess two or three days after it happened with a five- or six-person RV and signed the title over to them," he said.

Jenkins said he views his church's place of responsibility after the tornado as a blessing from God because the congregation is being used in a powerful way. He emphasizes to volunteers that what they are doing is about more than cleaning up debris or handing out food. It is about the people who are hurting and who don't know the love of God.

"We do want to cut down the tree; we do want to give out food; we do want to secure people's homes," Jenkins said. "But we're more concerned with the people ... and sharing with them the hope that is in Christ." (BP)

KBC employees

Continued from page 1

will be able to retain their jobs until June 30, then will be paid 90 days of salary and benefits. If an employee leaves earlier, the 90-day incentive will be paid upon departure.

Employees have 45 days from March 7 to accept or reject the offers.

"I believe these current offers are the best opportunities that will come for anyone who is considering either retirement or other ministry or work opportunities," Chitwood stated in a report that was presented to KBC staff.

One caveat of the deal is that for those who opt not to retire early or resign, their positions could be eliminated if the reorganization plan—which Chitwood will present to the KBC Mission Board May 7—is approved. Those employees would be terminated by the end of May. Chitwood said it is not yet known if they would receive severance packages at that time. They would not be eligible for unemployment benefits due to the convention's status as a nonprofit religious organization.

No positions have been eliminated as of yet, and Chitwood declined to say what the reorganization would look like. However, KBC staff members told the Western Recorder after the meeting that Chitwood acknowledged that the reduction of staff would be significant. (The Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and Woman's Missionary Union, which all have offices at the Kentucky Baptist Building, were asked not to attend last week's meeting.)

According to Chitwood's statement,

this move is necessitated by a decade-long decline in Cooperative Program giving from Kentucky Baptist churches, mostly due to the economic recession.

Added to that decline is the Kentucky Baptist messengers' vote in 2010 to reach a down-the-middle split of Cooperative Program funds between the KBC and the Southern Baptist Convention by 2020.

All of those factors combined "have created significant challenges for our KBC Mission Board staffing and strategy," Chitwood noted.

'Most compassionate' option

In an email to the Western Recorder responding to a series of follow-up questions, Chitwood said the KBC is indeed facing "difficult days and hard decisions."

"I believe this measure is the most compassionate plan given the current needs of the KBC," he noted. Those who are ready to retire or move on "know that at least some provision is made for them," he added.

"Staff members who choose to wait and see do so knowing that a reorganization is likely coming that could eliminate their jobs," he continued.

Chitwood said the number of positions eliminated in the reorganization plan is dependent upon the number of staff members who accept the retirement and resignation offers. He declined to speculate as to how many employees might leave.

Reaction among KBC employees—all of whom agreed to speak with the Western Recorder under condition of anonymity—was mixed. Some agreed with Chitwood that the severance packages are fair and likely are better than what

might be offered at a secular company in a similar financial position.

Others, however, said they feel unappreciated by the offers and as if they're being pushed out the door. One employee said there are those who feel they're being forced to make decisions with incomplete information.

The mood among the employees at the meeting was described as "depressed," and that while the early-retirement packages were anticipated by some, few saw the voluntary resignation offers coming.

Even before last week's meeting, tension at the KBC has been high, Chitwood acknowledged to employees, considering the pair of budget cuts that have been made just since the start of the 2011-12 fiscal year in September. The convention currently is operating on a \$21.8 million "spendable" budget. That's down nearly \$2 million from the \$23.5 million messenger-approved Cooperative Program budget for the current year.

With less than a month and a half to make a decision about whether to stay or go, Chitwood has invited KBC employees to meet with him one on one before making up their minds.

Some employees believe the executive director will be able to give them a clearer picture of whether or not their jobs are safe. When asked about that possibility, Chitwood told the Western Recorder he would not be able to tell staff members specifically if their jobs would still be around after the reorganization, if it is approved.

"I simply want to be available to our staff to help them think through their decisions if they think that would be helpful," he said. (WR)

Adults encouraged to serve through Kentucky Changers

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission department is seeking 200 adult volunteers to help provide housing for people in need.

Registration is underway for a Kentucky Changers project in Louisville, March 28-31. Adults 18 and older are encouraged to sign up for one, two or all of the days of service.

Kentucky Baptist volunteers are partnering with the Fuller Center for Housing to repair and renovate houses in the Boston Court/Shawnee neighborhoods of Louisville.

"We worked with the Fuller Center last fall for the first time, and it was a rewarding experience," said Peggy Murphy, who coordinates Kentucky Changers for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

The Fuller Center is an international faith-based organization that mobilizes volunteers and future homeowners to improve substandard housing. It has three locations in Kentucky.

Local volunteers pay \$25 per person. St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights is hosting out-of-town volunteers; that fee is \$75 per person.

Details and online registration are available at www.KyBaptist.org/KyChangers. (KBC)

Church planter envisions heaven on earth in Cincy

Continued from page 1

Heritage Glen apartments to Jesus by trying to close that distance.

"We can provide just a glimpse of heaven on earth. We can paint a picture of God's future for these people," he said.

Today that means throwing a block party for neighborhood families. In the past it has meant everything from redoing the complex's playground to providing Thanksgiving meals for residents the past two years.

Much of that ministry is thanks to the faithful gifts of Southern Baptists. "Flat out, we wouldn't be able to do what we're doing without the support of the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering," Lenon said.

The church's passionate commitment to bringing heaven to earth isn't just a trendy church planting strategy; instead it's borne out of a deeply held conviction about the Bible's most famous prayer—the Lord's Prayer, found in Matthew 6.

Lenon came to the realization in the midst of a particularly tough time in his life. Discouraged and saddened by a bad experience while on staff at a large church, 30-year-old Lenon and his wife, Tiffany, left the ministry and began a time of soul searching.

"The Lord's Prayer became really significant for me," Lenon recalled. "I thought if Jesus said to pray about this then it is probably what I should be about. ... For me, it was hitting the reset button. I knew this was going to be a critically important thing for me, to wrap my mind around this prayer."

Late one night, as he pondered the prayer, Lenon said he realized the Christian life isn't just about getting people into heaven—it's also about bringing heaven to earth. "If that prayer moves from heaven to earth, it means I have a



SIMPLE ACTS Josh Lenon (left), a North American Mission Board missionary, paints a jungle gym in the Heritage Glen Apartments playground in Fairfield, Ohio. Lenon's church plant, Red Door Church, adopted the low-income apartment complex, which has been the site for block parties for residents. (Photo by Dale Stroud/NAMB)

very specific mission for my life: to spend my life bringing heaven to earth."

Realizing this was the kind of truth that should incubate in community, Lenon called up some friends near Cincinnati, his hometown, to see if anyone would want to study it together. Thirty-five people showed up to discuss what it would be like if they spent their lives bringing heaven to earth.

Even after the group began meeting monthly, Lenon wasn't ready to call it a "church." But God soon made the word unavoidable. Josh and Tiffany moved back to Cincinnati with no money, no jobs, and the conviction that God wanted them to spend their lives "bringing heaven to earth."

For the next year, Lenon and the core team made plans to start a church in suburban Cincinnati. They called it the Red Door, which had a double meaning. In cultures around the world red doors represent places of refuge and safety.

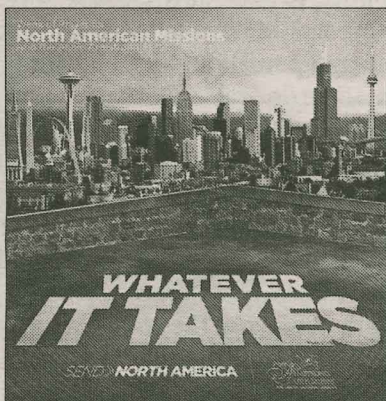
Lenon said the tradition goes all the way back to the Exodus, where the Israelites painted the doors of their homes with the blood of an unblemished lamb. Everyone behind that door was safe.

"Hundreds of years later, Jesus painted a red door over the cosmos and says, 'All who enter through me are safe,'" Lenon noted. "We tell Red Door people that whether it's your office cubicle or your daughter's soccer game, or it's your work party, or it's your neighborhood, you should be the place that people know as a place of home and welcome and safety and restoration."

Since the church officially launched in September of 2010, worship attendance has climbed past 100 on Sunday mornings. Many of those people are connecting with church for the first time or reconnecting after years of being away. Five people have been baptized in the past year.

Lenon already is planning future church plants with a similar vision of bringing heaven to earth.

"In five years we'd like to have two churches," Lenon said. "Not a satellite, but another pastor leading a community of people like the Red Door, sharing resources and sharing a vision." (NAMB)



Study: Children of divorce suffer 'mass of injustice'

By Mark Norton

Washington—Millions of children each year experience their parents' divorce, and the impact on their lives can be far reaching, even though it may be difficult to observe, according to a new report.

"It's only when you get to the macro level and begin to aggregate it all that you can see the clear pattern of the advantage of kids from intact marriages over kids from divorced families," said Patrick Fagan, director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute.

Comparing long-term studies worldwide, Fagan and MARRI colleague Aaron Churchill illustrated divorce's harm to children in a report released earlier this year.

Among U.S. children, 47 percent do not reach the age of 17 without a family split, according to the 2009 American Community Survey.

Divorce can decrease the ability of a child to function well in five areas of society, according to the MARRI study unveiled in January: Family, school, church, marketplace and government.

The report said children who have an intact married family are less likely than those who have experienced a split family to:

- Think their fathers are not warm and loving.
- Get in a fight with a family member.
- Lie, steal or damage property.
- Hurt someone, get drunk or skip school.
- Have sex before age 14 and have an unwed pregnancy.
- The child with an intact, married family has a better chance to:
 - Have a 2.9 grade-point average or higher.
 - Receive a bachelor's degree.
 - Not be incarcerated or be sexually abused by a family member.
 - Have a higher income.

"Divorced homes show a decrease in language stimulation, pride, affection, stimulation of academic behavior, encouragement of social maturity, and warmth directed towards the children," the study reported.

"There's a mass of injustice that has been done to kids by their parents when the parents split," Fagan stressed.

The emotional impact on children can be great, said Linda Jacobs, former executive director and developer of DivorceCare 4 Kids, a program that helps kids learn to cope with their emotions after a divorce.

The emotional experience of divorce can leave children sad, angry and depressed, Jacobs said. For many children, "anger speaks for them when they are young; they do not have the language to say that I am angry, so their behavior becomes their voice for them," she noted. (BP)

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Contraceptives, casinos and Christian citizenship

What do contraceptives and casinos have to do with Christian citizenship?

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Maybe more than we have realized until now.

On the issue of contraceptives, an Obama administration policy will soon require private insurance plans to cover all FDA-approved contraceptives, including those causing an abortion. Since many religious organizations provide insurance to their employees this policy would require

them to, at the very least, pay for insurance that is providing abortion-causing drugs to their employees.

In Southern Baptist life, GuideStone Financial Resources, owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, is in the business of providing health insurance (among other services) for those who serve our churches and affiliated agencies. O.S. Hawkins, president of GuideStone, remarked about Obama's policy: "It is a fundamental matter of religious liberty that threatens the very coverage of those dedicated persons who serve our churches GuideStone will never depart from the core convictions it has held dear for decades regarding the sanctity of life."

What will that mean for GuideStone? If Obama's policies do not change, GuideStone can choose to go out of business or deal with whatever consequences that may result from civil disobedience. Efforts, including legal measures, have been launched to defend the rights of churches and citizens on this issue.

On another issue, our Christian values required us to stand for the poor and vulnerable, exhibiting our love for others by using our influence to turn back efforts to bring casinos to Kentucky. Some fell prey to the mantra, "Let the people decide!" But most of our Baptist leaders and churches understand both how difficult it is to mount a political campaign against a multi-billion dollar industry and how easily voters are swayed by the false predictions of an economic boom that casinos never bring.

Efforts included a rally at the capitol the day before the vote and countless phone calls and visits Kentucky Baptists made to their legislators. Leaders like Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, challenged the faulty arguments and exaggerated promises of casino supporters to help the politicians themselves understand the mistake of supporting the bill. The result of Kentucky Baptists and others engaging this issue was that the casino bill never made it out of the state senate.

These are but two issues illustrating how we can and must be engaged as Christian citizens. The Baptist Faith & Message states, "All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love." Might we, as Kentucky Baptists, continue to meet our obligations.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

A sad day comes, but with hopeful possibilities

It should come as no surprise. It may have been inevitable, even though regrettable.

This past week, about two dozen senior employees of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board were offered an option to take early retirement. All others were offered voluntary resignation incentives. For several months, apprehension has been palpable among state convention personnel, who have been working under the constraints of a ministry budget that already has been twice trimmed. They increasingly have felt a restructuring was coming.

"Coupled with these funding challenges is my firm conviction that the time is right for the KBC Mission Board to explore new and different ways of serving our churches," Executive Director Paul Chitwood told the staff. "I am convinced that a strategic realignment will help us maximize our resources, effectiveness and relevance to the changing needs of our churches."

Still, in the days ahead, Kentucky Baptists will be losing some valuable expertise and experience in doing missions and ministry, and the departure of these choice servants of God is met with heartache and our compassion. These are our friends, laborers together for Christ. They have faithfully served our churches, encouraged our church leaders, equipped our people for outreach through worship, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, student ministry, creative arts, partnership missions, music, disaster relief and church starts. And, for the moment, it is hard to see just how the KBC's ministry is not being harmed.

So, how did we get here? The ailing national economy obviously played a role, but there are other underlying factors.

For the first six months of the fiscal year (Sept.-Feb.), Cooperative Program receipts are up 2.7 percent over last year, \$11,243,762 as compared to \$10,952,479 for the same period, according to Lowell Ashby, KBC business team leader. The SBC's portion this year, however, is \$4,895,413, up \$733,471, or 17.6 percent, from last year's \$4,161,942, while the KBC's portion is \$6,348,349, down \$442,188, or 6.5 percent, from last year's \$6,790,537.

In June 2010, Southern Baptist Convention messengers approved the report of a Great Commission Resurgence task force, setting in motion a plan to more effectively carry out the mandate Jesus gave in Matthew 28:19-20. Following suit, the Kentucky Baptist Convention formed a similar initiative in support of the resurgence, placing a primary emphasis on sending more Cooperative Program dollars to the International Mission Board to be used to appoint more missionaries.

At the heart of the KBC's Great Commission Task Force's report was a recommendation for Kentucky Baptists to embrace a 10-year goal of moving to a 50-50 division of CP funds between the SBC and the KBC. The weight of achieving this goal, however, would initially fall upon the Mission Board and its ministry partners—the agencies and colleges. The plan called for an immediate and drastic paring from 62 to 53 percent of CP receipts, requiring the Mission Board to reduce its staff

by 12 percent and its budget by 9.85 percent last year. Furthermore, all of the KBC agencies were required to reduce their budgets. While none preferred to give up budget dollars, each expressed a willingness to make the necessary financial sacrifice for the Great

Commission.

A key component of the GC task force's proposal, though, was a call for churches to be willing to sacrifice as well, thereby creating "a culture of giving" among all Baptists. In their approval, churches agreed to increase the KBC's overall Cooperative Program receipts by 3 percent per year for the next seven years. To do so, individual

churches were challenged to increase their CP gifts by 0.25 percent of their undesignated receipts each year—no easy task in an ailing economy.

At first glance, it may appear that since the KBC has seen a 2.7 percent increase in CP giving during the first six months of this budget year, we are on track with the GCTF goal, but that is not the case. The GCTF recommendations were based on CP giving levels beginning at \$23.5 million, the budget goal for 2010-11, and growing 3 percent per year. CP giving from the churches actually dropped to \$22.4 million last year. "Technically, our CP giving would have to be on track for \$24.2 million this year (\$23.5 million plus 3 percent)," Ashby explained. "So, to be on track, we would have needed to receive at least \$12,102,500 during the first six months of this fiscal year," he added. The KBC currently is nearly \$860,000, or 7.1 percent, behind that mark, even after two excellent months in January and February.

What has become painfully evident is that if we truly believe the Great Commission Resurgence can be effective in achieving the worthwhile goal of spreading the gospel by sending more missionaries to reach the nations, we must realize that its ultimate success depends upon the acceptance and commitment shown at the grassroots level: our churches. And, while there are encouraging signs, this will only happen through continued sacrificial giving, through a heart for reaching lost people and a renewed passion for doing more for Christ.

Last Wednesday was a distressing day, but our hope is that this time of transition will lead to new and greater ministry activity, both for the convention and our parting servants. At the May meeting of the Mission Board, our new executive director will unveil his plans for restructuring the state convention's work to "maximize our resources, effectiveness and relevance." What hangs in the balance at the moment is what the ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention will become, and some pivotal questions will need to be answered then: What will be the mission and ministry of the KBC? Will its primary focus be on reaching the lost of our Jerusalem and Judea—here in Kentucky—as much as on reaching the lost of the nations and uttermost parts of the world? How are these personnel changes going to impact the KBC's ministry? Will the changes made facilitate or debilitate the KBC's effectiveness in serving our churches? In short, where are we going, and will all Kentucky Baptists eagerly embrace the vision?

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



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Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

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News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Kirk Cameron stood strong—will others do the same?

By Denny Burk

Are you paying attention to the response to Kirk Cameron's recent remarks about gay marriage on Piers Morgan's television program? Cameron did not come on the program to talk about homosexuality, and he even looked like he was trying to change the subject. But Morgan pressed him, and so Cameron answered.

When Morgan asked him about gay marriage, Cameron said, "Marriage is almost as old as dirt, and it was defined in the garden between Adam and Eve. One man, one woman for life till death do you part. So I would never attempt to try to redefine marriage. And I don't think anyone else should either. So do I support the idea of gay marriage? No, I don't."

Then Morgan asked him his views on homosexuality, and Cameron responded, "I think that it's—it's unnatural. I think that it's—it's detrimental, and ultimately destructive to so many of the foundations of civilization."

What has been instructive to watch has not been Cameron's remarks, but the response. Cameron is a Christian, and he merely summarized the 2,000-year-old teaching of the church that homosexuality is a sin (Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-10). Nothing new here. Nothing has changed on that front.

What has changed dramatically over the last 10 years has been society's attitudes about homosexuality. By and large, people are more and more open to homosexuality as a wholesome, morally unproblematic way of life. But this, too, should not be news to anyone.

What is instructive about this interview has been how openly vitriolic people have become to the idea of a Christian sexual ethic. It's not just that people disagree with Cameron. No, they accuse him

of engaging in "hate" speech and of being "homophobic." I saw one public figure accuse him of being complicit in murder. The denunciations of Cameron have been relentless. They accuse Cameron, and those who agree with him, of being intolerant. All the while, they seem to be blissfully unaware of their own malignant intolerance of Christian morality.

FIRST PERSON

Are we really at a place where a Christian who is pressed for his views on a matter can no longer state those views without being tarred and feathered? I think we are. Christianity hasn't changed, but the moral consensus of our culture has.

"Heed instruction and be wise" (Proverbs 8:33). We are only at the beginning of a process that probably will not go very well for us in the long haul. The trend lines are going against us on this one. Unless something radical changes in our society, we'll all be found guilty of hate speech simply for holding to the ancient faith that was once-for-all delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

Right now, we are being censured in the court of public opinion for our beliefs about human sexuality. The days will come when the consequences of those beliefs will become more severe. I find myself thinking more and more about what may come and praying for the grace to persevere in faithfulness to Christ when the going gets tough (James 1:12; Revelation 21:7).

I appreciate Cameron for being so bold. He is under fire now from many, but I for one am grateful for his courage to speak the truth. It may not be very long before all of us are called on to display the same resolve. (BP)

Denny Burk is associate professor of New Testament at Boyce College, the undergraduate arm of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville.

Are we really at a place where a Christian who is pressed for his views on a matter can no longer state those views without being tarred and feathered?

Is your child under the influence?

By David Garrard

As a parent, I understood that at some point my children would have to make their own choice about drinking. However, my wife and I believed it was important that if our children did choose to drink, it



would not be because of us. There was not going to be any alcohol in our home, and our kids were not going to see us drinking—ever. Practically, we did not like the taste; we did not like the way alcohol affected the way people thought and acted; and it was expensive. More importantly, we did not want our kids to start drinking because we did not know for sure how they would handle alcohol. We weren't even sure how we would handle it. We did not want to take a chance with our lives, and we sure didn't want our kids taking a chance with theirs.

And there's the rub. If you drink or have alcohol in your home, your children are growing up under the influence of alcohol. Regardless of anything you say, your example sends a message to your children. You may be able to control alcohol instead of letting it control you. But here's the big question: Will your child also be able to exercise that same control?

Alcohol abuse plays a part in many of life's train wrecks—broken marriages, car accidents and a host of other problems. Do you really want to put your child at risk? Are you willing to put alcohol in your child's life, hoping that they will be able to handle it instead of having it destroy them?

"Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper" (Proverbs 23:31-32).

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

Hitting off the tee necessary in baseball and ministry

Feb. 18 was a great day for baseball fans across the country. Pitchers and catchers reported for spring training. A week later, position players reported and spring training began in earnest.

College teams already have begun playing, and in the neighborhoods I drive through regularly, I am seeing signs that it is time for little league baseball signups.

One thing all these baseball players have in common, from the 6 year old playing for the first time to the greats like A-Rod, Jeter and Pujols, is that they will spend a significant amount of time this spring hitting off a tee and fielding ground balls. Multi-million-dollar athletes will be hitting baseballs off a tee, tweaking their swings to try and gain a few percentage points in their batting averages.

What would it be like if we, as youth workers, went back to the basics every year? What would we need to do every year to make sure we stay at the top of our game? Here is my non-exhaustive list.

Spend time in Scripture. Study Scripture not just to prepare for Wednesday night's lesson or to fill a daily checklist of things you have accomplished, but to spend time

pouring over it—mediating, memorizing and marinating in the word of God. If we are to be disciplinarians to a generation of students and their parents, we have to do so out of the overflow of our time with God.

Prioritize prayer. One thing I have noticed in 30-plus years of ministry is the lip service we give to prayer. We open and close meetings with prayer, and sometimes we use prayer time to transition from one thing to the next on our program. Most of us wouldn't dare eat without praying. Yet, I just don't

hear much about honest, gut-wrenching time in prayer, interceding for our students and their families. Nor do I hear much about time spent teaching our students how to pray, calling the next generation to intercede on behalf of the nations.

Evaluate what we do. Sure, we have done DiscipleNow for 20 straight years, but is it still serving a purpose in our ministry? Are we still doing it because it is easier than facing the lynch mobs that would come to our door if we stopped? Taking time on a yearly basis to evaluate programs, literature and leadership is never wasted time.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Make time for family. There is always one more ballgame or school activity to attend, one more student that needs to talk, one more parent that wants to bend your ear, or one more event that needs planning. You only have a limited amount of time every day, and from what I have seen of most youth workers, it is our families that get the shaft. Take your calendar, mark off birthdays, anniversaries, special events, a regular date night with your spouse, and time for your children. Make that time non-negotiable, and in a real emergency or no-way-around-it conflict, negotiate a new time.

Reexamine your call. It was, or should have been, God who called you to this incredible journey of working with students and who gave you an answer to the question, "Now, why do I do this?" We need to take the time to evaluate our "why." Has it changed? Do the methods and programs we offer line up with our "why"? Do our volunteers and the church leadership know our "why"? Understanding our "why" brings a lot of things in line.

Hitting baseballs off the tee isn't rocket science, but it is a necessary exercise if we want to be the best we can be.

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

Preparing for the new retirement

By Don Spencer

A century ago, retirement was virtually unknown. One continued to work until death. Of course, very few lived to their 70s and 80s. A half century ago, retirement was becoming a regular part of American culture, but it was generally viewed as a relatively short period of years marked by reduced activity and less financial need. Modern retirement has different characteristics and temperaments. Here are six ways your retirement will differ from previous generations:

1. Many retirees will live a long and active life in retirement that may be a third of one's life span.
2. Retirement will be divided into several phases: a) retirement earnings phase with continued work, b) active "go-go" phase marked by pursuit of the "good life," c) passive "slow-go" phase, d) final phases characterized by failing health
3. The cost of retirement lifestyle will be similar to pre-retirement lifestyle. Increased activity, added interests and new technologies mean the costs of living in retirement will be much higher in proportion to one's working years than in the past. With longer life expectancy, increased medical cost will be an increasingly important factor.
4. Inflation will increase the need for income by two or three times during retirement.
5. Taxes, estate planning and insurance have become vital parts of the retirement planning process. Recent changes in tax laws increase the need for awareness of these issues as you plan for retirement.
6. Retirement issues are unique for everyone. More people are "retiring" early. At the same time, an increased number of people are working well into the 70s. Plans for retirement income will be affected dramatically by your situation and plans.

Has your planning factored in the changes? Are you saving enough for the new retirement?

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





■ **Above:** Among the shreds of insulation and tattered family photos, chaplain Jim Castlen holds a Bible found amid the belongings of Bob and Sherry Flannery. The couple's mobile home was destroyed during the March 2 tornado that struck Woodsbend. ■ **Top right:** Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers help to clear a family cemetery. While the job was outside DR's normal scope of assistance, leaders agreed to help a family access plots so their relatives could be buried there. ■ **Far right:** Bill Johnson, West Liberty site coordinator, strains to hear a phone call while managing work orders in the tornado-ravaged town. ■ **Right:** Scott Pittman visits tornado victim Marita Ferguson at her home. Ferguson was one of many West Liberty residents who chose to remain at home without electricity instead of going to a nearby shelter. Pittman helped coax Ferguson to sit outside since the temperature in her home was about 15 degrees cooler. (Photos by Robin Bass)



Disaster relief

Continued from page 1
mobile home on the land where Emma Dean grew up.

On that land is a storm cellar. The couple, 90 and 87 years old, respectively, did not make it down there in time. Neither of them survived.

Emma Dean was found not long after amid the rubble of their mobile home. Wilmer was found two days later, his body carried a half-mile away.

The couple had been married for 70 years. They were born on the same day three years apart—and sadly, died the same day.

Just across the field from where the Cecil home stood, chainsaws roared as Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief crews cut up fallen trees and cleared debris.

It was an unusual job for the "yellow shirts." The trees were not blocking a road or a driveway or sitting atop a house. They were scattered across a cemetery—the one in which the Cecils were to be buried.

The chainsaw crew found out about the elderly couple and that they could not be buried in their family cemetery if the trees were not cleared away. Without

hesitation, they got to work.

"This is more of a community healing thing than anything else," volunteer Tony Liess said. "We're getting God's face out there."

Liess, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Maysville, was one of about a dozen DR volunteers who served in the Woodsbend community last week. Looking around the fields littered with debris that once were people's homes, Liess said it was a tough thing to grasp.

"I'm just heartbroken," he said. "You just try to lift them up a little bit, ... try to give them some hope."

Residents of both Woodsbend and West Liberty were trickling back into the area last week, assessing the damage to their homes and salvaging what they could.

Not far from the cemetery, homeowner Dee Dee Powers sifted through the scattered belongings of her neighbor Sherry Flannery. Powers collected several handmade quilts and family photographs that she knew Flannery would like to have back.

Helping Powers salvage her neighbor's keepsakes were Kentucky Baptist DR volunteers Terry Leap and Jim Castlen. They were just two of the nearly 175 individuals who have served—and continue to

serve—across the commonwealth in the aftermath of the deadly tornadoes.

As of last weekend, Kentucky Baptists had served nearly 830 volunteer days, prepared more than 9,600 meals and completed close to 200 chainsaw jobs. Most importantly, though, those efforts resulted in 172 gospel presentations and 12 people praying to put their faith in Jesus Christ.

There are "a lot of willing people working together, not only for the people here, but to make Christ known," said Leap, who is pastor of Southern Heights Baptist Church in Lexington, "and that's been central to everything we've done as a team."

At the height of the response, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief had five sites operating throughout the state: Crittenden, London, Louisa, Salyersville and West Liberty.

According to DR ministry assistant Cindy Henderson, the Crittenden site has been closed and the London likely will be shut down this week. North Carolina Baptist volunteers have been working in the Salyersville and Inez areas. Local volunteers from churches in Louisa have been coordinating the clean-up efforts there. The West Liberty site is expected to remain active for some time. (WR)

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Kentucky Baptists offer short-term child care in West Liberty

By Dannah Prather

West Liberty—Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is offering families in West Liberty that were affected by the March 2 tornado a safe, nurturing place for their children during the day.

The emergency child care unit was set up last week at the Red Cross shelter in the Morgan County town devastated by the twister. Trained Kentucky Baptist volunteers are providing activities and care for the children, giving parents time to take the first steps in recovery.

"Until recently it was unsafe for people to return to West Liberty," said Coy Webb, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Men on Missions

department. "But now families are coming back to the community, and they need all the help we can give them as they try to move forward."

Children visiting the child care unit receive a handmade blanket from Kentucky Baptists. A label is sewn inside each blanket containing a message of love and care.

This is the first deployment of the child care unit which was launched last year by churches in Christian County Baptist Association.

More than 150 Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are serving around the commonwealth in communities impacted by a string of tornadoes that killed 23 people. (KBC)



SPECIAL PLACE FOR THE KIDS

■ **Above:** Kids from West Liberty families affected by the March 2 tornadoes get some much-needed rest time at the Kentucky Baptist child care unit that was set up late last week at the Red Cross shelter in Morgan County.

■ **Left:** Disaster relief volunteer Greta Wilson gives some parents a break by feeding their infant while they assess the damage to their home and try to get back on their feet. ■ **Far left:** The child care unit set-up at West Liberty marks the first time it has been deployed since it was established last year as a ministry of Christian County Baptist Association. (Photos courtesy of Cindy Henderson)



MORE for CHRIST

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

For more than 30 years, **Roger McGuffin** has been a barber in Elizabethtown as well as the pastor of a church in a nearby community. But Christ has called him to do more — not by leaving for the international mission field but by winning people for Him right in his barber chair and by giving more through his church.

“Unless we’re sacrificing, I believe we’re not doing much at all for Jesus. If we’re giving from our abundance, it’s not costing us anything.”

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



Watch a video about Roger at www.moreforchrist.com

Our history, part 9

1988: OBI cross-country runner Jeff Kelsey was chosen to participate in a cross-country international sports exchange in China. Two commercial greenhouses were built on the farm in honor of A.B. Colvin and E.L. Howerton. OBI freshman Damon Tigner won the state Class A high jump.

1989: A big flood cost the school its potato crop. The middle school basketball team had an undefeated season (37-0). The largest graduating class in OBI history saw 116 students receive diplomas. Seven new buildings were dedicated, including Larry and Linda Gritton Hall, containing classrooms and a second gymnasium; Harold and Betty Holderman Hall, a new-work program building; Maralea and Malcolm Arnett Hall, apartments for single women; Owen and Eppie Whitehouse Hall, apartments for single men; David Cooper Hall, in honor of a longtime volunteer gardener; Bill Cole House, additional staff housing dedicated in honor of a longtime friend and volunteer; and Hannah Sanderson Hall, which houses OBI's tutoring lab.

1990: The heirs of Zilphia Campbell Keith, all OBI graduates ranging from 1931-50, donated the family's 115-acre farm to the school. The Brad Dorrough Friendship Award was established as an annual scholarship for the student-elected by peer vote—who has been the most sensitive, helpful and compassionate to his or her fellow students.

1991: OBI's wrestling team, under the coaching of Harold Underwood, won the state All-A Classic High School Wrestling Championship. The Omer and Sophia Hensley Tennis Courts were dedicated.

1992: Hugh Spurlock (Class of 1927) was honored for his lifetime

achievements. A carillon in the Melvin Davidson Chapel tower was dedicated in honor of the former OBI principal, math teacher, basketball and baseball coach and drama director. OBI won the 13th Region Class A basketball championship. The entire faculty and student body attended the game at Rupp Arena.

1993: The school began the OBI Athletic Hall of Fame. Enrollment was about 550, and the yearly cost to run the school was \$3.775 million.

1994: Barkley Moore (Class of 1958) died after 22 years as president of the school. W.F. "Bud" Underwood (Class of 1963) was chosen by the board of trustees as OBI's 10th president.

1995: Floy DeJarnette, a teacher at OBI since 1972, published a book about improving modern education called "Education From Mount Moriah." The following facilities were built and dedicated: Hiram and Curtis Campbell Hall for classrooms and storage; Dennis and Juanita Rush Hall, containing a band room, the Martha Bain Rice Campus Ministry Center and business offices; Morman and Agnes Kersey Hall and Harold Combs Hall, both townhouses for staff housing. The Kentucky Baptist Convention voted to establish an annual Father's Day offering for OBI in memory of Dr. Moore.

1996: The high school chemistry lab was remodeled, central air conditioning was installed in Sparks Hall, and four outdoor classrooms were added. The new state-of-the-art swine center was dedicated to Jack and Sherry Tillman. Girls were allowed to work on the farm for the first time in the school's history.

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

This is Oneida



W.F. Underwood

Reflections from a senior

Graduate shares final thoughts about his four years at Clear Creek

Senior Matt Minnich, who is from Ohio, never thought his graduation would get here this fast when he first came to campus four years ago. Now he shares some final thoughts about his time at Clear Creek as he prepares to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in church ministries with an emphasis in youth ministry.

"When I first came to Clear Creek four years ago, I knew God had called me to youth ministry," Matt said. "That call has not changed. I believe our younger generation needs to hear about Christ. I am going to do my best to reach young people for the Lord and disciple those who do know Christ.

"I am thankful for a place like Clear Creek," Matt said. "I have had such a wonderful time sitting through my Bible classes. Each professor has taken us through the books of the Bible verse by verse and helped us to really understand what is going on in the context of the Scriptures. The ministry classes during my time here have really helped me to apply practical knowledge related to things I will experience as I serve in

the local-church setting. The one thing I can say about Clear Creek that is so important is the emphasis they put on the practical aspect of our training.

"I have learned a lot during my time here at Clear Creek," Matt said.

"The biggest lesson God has taught me is just to trust Him in all things. No matter what may happen, I just need to trust Him. If He has called me to do something, He will see me through. God provided my wonderful wife, Charity, who I met during my second year here. I can also think of many times when God provided financially for my school expenses at times when I did not know where those funds were going to come from. He has taught me to trust in Him for all things.

"I am currently serving as a youth minister in Ohio," Matt said. "I am traveling there on the weekends until I graduate. I hope to continue serving there after I graduate. Whatever the Lord has planned for me, I continue to trust in Him to show me the way."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Nasser, Pethers recall childhoods spent in danger, away from God

Lexington—As a 9-year-old boy, **David Nasser** experienced horrifying religious persecution in Iran that led his family to seek political asylum in the U.S. "I've been through some dark hours," he told those gathered at the recent Kentucky Baptist Evangelism Conference in Lexington.

Nasser shared about times a soldier placed a gun to his forehead and threatened to end Nasser's life in the name of Allah, as well as when his father was dragged out of his house to be tortured.

"When I came here, I wanted nothing to do with religion," Nasser recalled.

Then Nasser heard about Jesus, and "at age 18, I got saved," he rejoiced. A Southern Baptist pastor at Shades Mountain Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., began to mentor to Nasser, who later began an itinerant ministry.

Yet Nasser said he began to sense God was leading him to plant a new work in Birmingham. So, he and a core group began praying, "The answer is 'yes.' Just give us a vision; whatever it is, we are all 'in.'"

They then found an ample meeting place in the facility of a once-thriving but in-decline congregation situated in one of the roughest parts of the city. At first everything seemed to be going well and the new outreach was growing rapidly. "Lost people were coming out of the woodwork, and people were saying we want to come and help," he said.

During the past year and a half, however, Nasser has experienced trials worse than what he experienced as a child, he said. In the trials, he has observed a pattern of 'D's: a doctrinal controversy between the fledgling outreach and its hosts; his mother began suffering from dementia; his father went into a deep depression; his brother was diagnosed with cancer; and his sister was going through divorce.

Fear besieged him, Nasser admitted, until a good friend in the ministry reminded him of a sermon he had preached on Isaiah 41:9-10.

"Did you listen to the end of your

sermon?" his friend asked. "That is not a suggestion from our Lord; that is a command from our Lord: to fear is to disobey," Nasser had proclaimed, calling the people to "repent."

But "it doesn't matter" how many 'D's come, Nasser explained, "God says, 'Do not fear,'" pointing out what comes next in the text. "Circle that comma," he instructed. "The comma is there so we get to say, 'Why?' And, on the other side of the comma is the reason: 'for I am with you.'"

In his own childhood spent just outside of London, England, **Dennis Pethers** said it never occurred to him that he didn't know Jesus Christ. And really, neither did the hundreds of families living around him.

"Where I come from, people just don't do church, and the thing is they don't know they don't know. They haven't decided to not go; they just don't go," said Pethers, the founder of Viz-A-Viz Ministries and creator of "The Rooftop"—an evangelism initiative in partnership with LifeWay Christian Resources.

About a century ago, English people simply stopped sending their children to church, Pethers said. In a matter of three generations, he noted, England shifted from 94 percent of the population attending church regularly to a country with little to no gospel influence.

"If you are going to reach people across Kentucky—which has become more like England is now—you are going to find more and more people are going to have stories like I'm telling you today," Pethers said. "Because Baptists are not being born anymore. If nothing else, hear that. ... In your country, like mine, people are growing up and they don't know Jesus."

But rather than lamenting, Baptists should view this trend as a "crisis of opportunity," Pethers said. "This is the prayer we need to say, not 'Lord send them back,' but, 'Lord send us out.' Because that's the only thing that's going to reach these people." (WR)

Compiled by Todd Deaton and Robin Bass.

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Fla. association asks church with sex-offender preacher to leave

By Bob Allen

Jacksonville, Fla.—A Florida Baptist church that recently opened its pulpit to a registered sex offender has been asked to withdraw from its local association of Southern Baptist churches.

Jacksonville Baptist Association leaders said March 2 that conversations with leaders of Christ Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church produced a "mutual understanding that it is necessary" for the church to withdraw.

The small congregation made headlines recently after barring children from worship in order to accommodate

the terms of probation for Darrell Gilyard. Gilyard began preaching there at the end of January, one month after he completed a three-year prison term for sex crimes committed while he was pastor of a different church.

Gilyard, 50, pleaded guilty in 2009 to lewd or lascivious conduct and molestation involving two girls younger than 16. He remains on a three-year supervised probation that bars him from having unsupervised contact with minors.

David Tarkington, moderator for Jacksonville Baptist Association, and Lead Missions Strategist Rick Wheeler, said in a statement that they were "broken and

saddened" by information being reported about the church.

While "affirming the autonomy of member churches," the leaders said, "the circumstances of CTMBC do concern us." The association contacted the church to communicate those concerns, leading to an understanding that the congregation would "leave the fellowship of the Jacksonville Baptist Association." The church intends to confirm that understanding in writing, according to associational leaders.

Christ Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church is listed in the membership rolls of Jacksonville Baptist Association, the

Florida Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. Tarkington and Wheeler said the church has not contributed financially to the association since 2003 and does not provide statistical information.

The Florida Baptist Convention released a statement affirming "the role of the local association as the theological guardian of theology, faith, practice and polity." The state convention defines cooperation by giving to the Cooperative Program and reporting statistical information. While listed as a Florida Baptist church since 1998, Christ Tabernacle has done neither for the last six years. (ABP)

Time flies

Daughter's birthday reminder that time is short, must not be wasted

As the saying goes, "time just keeps marching by." Certain events in life definitely cause one to think about where the time has gone.

Recently, our oldest daughter Kelly turned 16. Looking back on life, it seems like yesterday she was making a decision to accept Christ as Savior. However, that was 2003, during a summer of Crossings at Jonathan Creek.

I am sure you will agree that time does seem to fly by. That fact is reinforced in James 4:14, "You are a mist that appears for a little time, then vanishes." With all that is made of human efforts, this is a great reminder that in light of eternity, our time here on earth is short and passes rapidly.

Reflecting back on the life of family members certainly can stir many emotions: joy, laughter, pain, regret, and the list can go on. As we do consider how we spend our time, we should remember first all time is a gift from God. We are not promised a certain amount, nor do we deserve such things. We also, as confirmed by Scripture, cannot do anything by our own efforts (John 15:5). Given these facts, we can approach life

knowing we must remain in Him and that our time is short.

Looking back on Kelly's life so far, I am very thankful that God allows me to serve in camp ministry, as it was at camp she made her salvation decision.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

Also, I am thankful for our summer staff that not only serves God by ministering to campers, they also have ministered to my family. Specifically, I am thankful for Ann Bradford (now Ann Caballero) for she was instrumental in Kelly's decision.

We are yet again rapidly approaching another summer that will again see record numbers of students in attendance.

Certainly as with summers past, this will be similar. We have limited time and can only accomplish eternal goals by remaining in Him.

We ask for your prayers as summer approaches: for safety for our campers, for us to be good stewards of the time He gives us, and that thousands will make life-changing decisions—for our time is short.

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

'GPS' initiative has new leader

Alpharetta, Ga.—God's Plan for Sharing, the North American Mission Board's national evangelism initiative, has a new team leader, Ken Ellis.

"Ken is a strong leader and I am excited about this new role for him," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said.

Ellis, a NAMB staff member for 13 years, has served with GPS since its inception. He replaces Thomas Hammond who left NAMB to become vice president of the SBC Executive Committee's convention advancement office.

"I'm excited about the future of GPS," Ellis said. "We had a great 2010 as 'Across North America' was wonderfully received by our partners, and we are looking forward to 'Reaching Across North America' this year."

Ellis began work with the former Home Mission Board as a church planter in Chicago in 1989. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville and Western Kentucky University. (NAMB/BP)

Fling, former WMU president, dies at age 97

Birmingham, Ala.—Helen Fling, a former Woman's Missionary Union president and missionary, died March 1 in Texas. She was 97.



Helen Fling

"Helen was a very special lady," national WMU Executive Director Wanda Lee said of Fling. "For those of us privileged to know her, we will remember her quick wit, enormous smile and laugh, and her deep commitment

to missions and WMU."

Born to missionary parents, Fling was introduced to missions at an early age by her mother who involved her in many WMU organizations.

She married Baptist preacher Bob Fling in 1934. The young mother of two served with her husband in Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma.

The Flings also served in New York under the former Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and in Munich, Germany, with the former Foreign Mission Board.

Over the years, Fling served in several prominent WMU posts including recording secretary for national WMU, 1957-63; president of national WMU, 1963-69; and president of New York WMU, 1971-76.

In addition, Fling made history as the first woman to hold a Texas Baptist post when she was elected second vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1967.

When her husband retired from the pastorate in 1977, the Flings moved to Birmingham, Ala., and she served on the national WMU staff as promotion coordinator for development of WMU work in "new-work" areas. She guided the founding of several state WMU organizations, including Nevada, Wyoming, New England and Minnesota-Wisconsin.

After her husband's death in 1982 and her retirement in 1984, Fling continued to be an active member of Mountain Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham and a champion for missions involvement through WMU. In 2001, she moved to Texas to be near her daughter.

Fling is survived by her daughter and her son. A memorial service was held March 6 at Mountain Brook Baptist Church in Birmingham. (WMU/BP)

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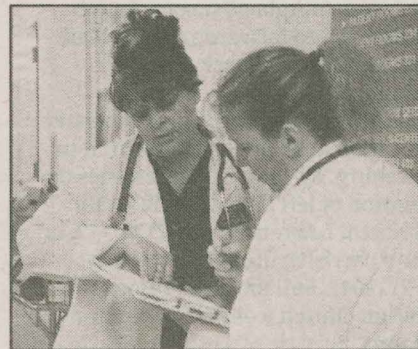
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 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 Growing Ministries Tour, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 20 Understanding Other Beliefs, Edgewood Baptist Church, Hopkinsville.
- 22 Kentucky Baptist Men's and Women's Combined Chorale Concert, Little Flock Baptist Church, Shepherdsville.
- 23-24 Kentucky WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, Beacon Hill Baptist Church, Somerset.
- 24 Region 2 RA Congress and Rally, Yellow Creek Baptist Church, Owensboro.
- 24 Vacation Bible School Clinic, Union Baptist Church.
- 26 Growing Ministries Tour, Immanuel Baptist Church, Pikeville.
- 27 Growing Ministries Tour, Unity Baptist Church, Ashland.
- 27-28 Transitional Interim Pastor Training Workshop, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 28-4/1 Adult Kentucky Changers—East, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cherry Hill will hold revival services March 18-21, 11 a.m., with different evangelists each night. Evangelists include **Travis Fox**, pastor of Woodson Church in Powderly; **Leroy Rearden**, pastor of Bethlehem Church in Bremen; **Steve Rutherford**, pastor of New Salem Church in Nortonville; **Leroy Vaught** and **Larry Vincent**. **Gene Garner** is pastor.

Temple Church will hold a dedication service and open house for its new family life center March 18, 3 p.m., with former church pastors as guest speakers. The **Breakin' Ground Quartet**, the church praise band and others will provide special music. **Adam Brown** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Farmdale Church will hold revival services March 19-20, 6:30 p.m., with **David Miller** as evangelist. The choirs from Buck Run Church and East Frankfort Church will provide

special music. **Steve Weaver** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold a St. Patrick's Day dinner March 17, 5 p.m., featuring entertainment from the young adult co-ed Sunday School class. The cost to attend is \$10 per person. **Rick Stevens** is pastor.

■ **JUNCTION CITY**—Mount Freeman Church recently called **Curtis Brock** as pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Providence Church will host **Billy Hodges** in concert March 18. **David Thomas** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Carlisle Avenue Church will hold a missions day March 18 with **Chad Everson**, pastor of Trinity Church in Southaven, Miss., as guest speaker. **Brad Walker** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will hold an "Estate Planning Mistakes and Solutions" event March 18, 9:30 a.m., with **Barry Allen** and **Laurie Valentine** of the Kentucky

Baptist Foundation as guest speakers. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will host a Red Cross blood drive March 19, 10 a.m. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will hold a "Pickin' and Grinnin'" music night March 17, 5 p.m. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

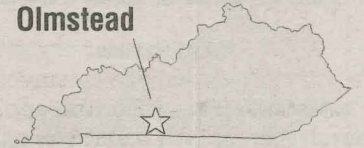
South Jefferson Church will hold a wild-game supper March 17, 5 p.m., featuring **Troy Black**, president of God's Outdoor Disciple Ministry, as guest speaker. The cost to attend is \$10; children 12 and younger are \$5. **Richard Carter** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host Make Us One and the Churches-tra in concert March 18, 6:30 p.m. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a "Let's Get Tech Savvy" Lunch and Learn event March 19, 1 p.m. The topic will be social media. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Olmstead



Dripping Spring Church will hold spring revival services March 17-21, 6:30 p.m.; March 18, 10:30 a.m., with **Jerry Chaddick** of SpiritTruth Ministries as evangelist. The **Mike Speck Trio** will provide special music. **Jeff Noffsinger** is pastor.

■ **MIDWAY**—Midway Church will host Elkhorn Association WMU's prayer breakfast March 17, 8:30 a.m. **Steve Hadden** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a sportsman's dinner March 16, 6:30 p.m., with **Tony Ruiz**, host of HeadHunters TV, as guest speaker. Door prizes will be given away. The cost to attend is \$10 for adults; children 12 and younger are free.

Former NYC mayor Giuliani to speak at U. Cumberlands

Williamsburg—Former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani will be the keynote speaker at University of the Cumberlands' annual Center for Excellence in Leadership lecture series. The event is set for April 3 at the O. Wayne Rolins Center on the Williamsburg campus.

Giuliani's address, co-sponsored by the Forcht Group of Kentucky is titled, "Principled Leadership in a Time of Crisis."

Giuliani served as the mayor of New York City from 1994-2001, during which time he worked to reduce crime and make improvements to the

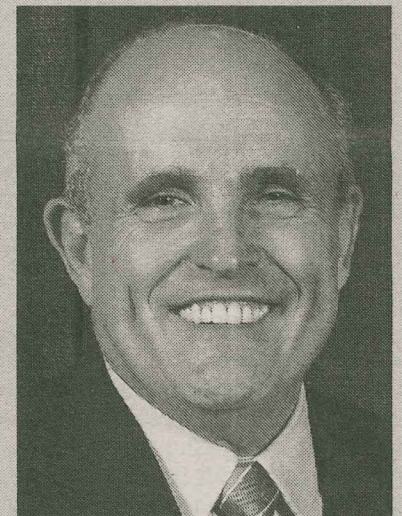
city's welfare system. In 2001, Giuliani was named Time magazine's "Person of the Year" for his steady leadership in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

In 2002, he founded Giuliani Partners, a professional services firm specializing in emergency preparedness, public safety, leadership during crises and financial management. He also is a partner at the law firm Bracewell & Giuliani LLP.

University of the Cumberlands' annual lecture series is made possible by an endowment from local business owners Terry and Marion Forcht,

who founded the Center for Excellence in Leadership in 2006. Its purpose is to provide programs and activities that enhance the development of leadership, character and good citizenship. Past speakers in the series include Roy Moore, Zell Miller, Stephen Covey, Ben Stein, Karl Rove and Mike Huckabee.

For free tickets to the leadership program, visit University of the Cumberlands' website, www.UCumberlands.edu or call (606) 539-4432. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis and are required for admission. (UC)



Rudolph Giuliani

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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.

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

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

SEEKING: Associate pastor for Greensburg Baptist Church, Greensburg, Ky. See website, greensburgbaptist.com, for job description and to forward resumé. Mail: Greensburg Baptist Church, Box 248, Greensburg, KY 42743.

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: Part-time worship leader (12-16 hours/week), Hunsinger Lane Baptist. Music a blend of contemporary and hymns. Experience preferred. Email resumé to mshell@hlbc.net. (502) 491-4356.

SEEKING: Director of missions for Boonville 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 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: 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.

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

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music/youth. 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.

Life is short: redeem the time

By Erich Bridges

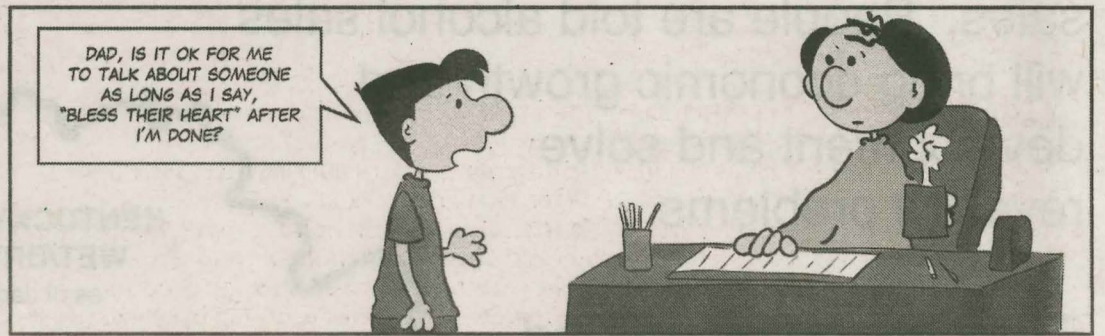
Your days are numbered. That cheery thought occurred to me—not for the first time—as I read a recent USA TODAY story headlined, “How long do I have, Doc?” Patients hesitate to ask their doctors, but many would like to know. They can visit a website that offers estimates of life expectancy based on answers to a set of questions. Similar online tools predict longevity based on age, nutrition and physical activity. One medical professional interviewed for the article questioned the value of such tools. “My experience is that patients know and families know that life is not infinite,” she told the reporter. True, but occasional confirmation of your mortality—if not the actual date—can put things into spiritual perspective, regardless of age or health. “So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom,” the psalmist prays (Psalm 90:12). Time is a holy thing, if we make it so. It is our daily, hourly, moment-by-moment opportunity to love God. We can use it for Him, or we can waste it on ourselves. “Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your

time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15-16). “Making the most” literally means “redeeming.” Time needs to be redeemed, rescued and made whole. Otherwise it is squandered. One of the saddest people I ever knew spent most of his life seeking excitement and pleasures for himself. He died virtually alone, having driven away nearly all the people who loved him. He felt cheated by the world because nothing brought him real happiness. In his last years, he kept saying, “Enough. I’m tired. I’ve lived too long. I’m ready for it to be over.” He sounded like the weary Solomon of Ecclesiastes, who finally realized the vanity of all things apart from God. Unlike Solomon, he never admitted his misery was self-inflicted. There’s a better way. We were created to love God—moment by moment, hour by hour, day by day. It isn’t always easy, but it’s never boring. And it fills our hearts with joy that cheap substitutes can’t begin to match. It’s not too late to redeem the time, no matter how much you have wasted. Time is holy, or evil. It’s up to you what to make of it. (BP)
Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

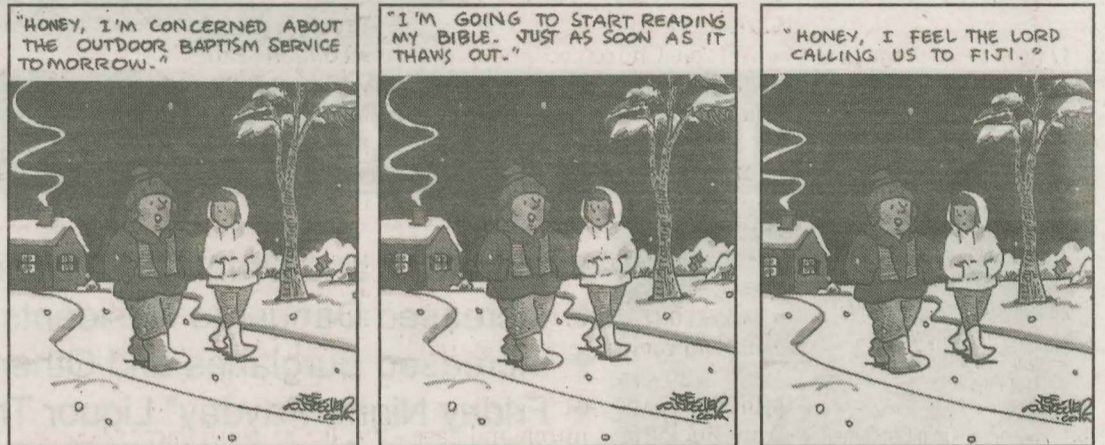
FIRST PERSON

Preacher's Kids

David Ayers



Joe McKeever



Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottko

- Across**
- 1 Regal
 - 6 "Beeroth of the children of _____" (Deuteronomy 10:6)
 - 11 Pronoun
 - 12 "A workman that _____ not to be ashamed" (2 Timothy 2:15)
 - 14 Dir.
 - 15 Hot _____
 - 17 Old Testament book
 - 19 Medical abbr. for delirious state
 - 20 Tyre and _____
 - 21 Son of Aram (Genesis 10)
 - 23 Yes!
 - 24 Arsenic (abbr.)
 - 26 "As thou goest unto _____ a mount of the east" (Genesis 10:30)
 - 30 Another name for Hagar
 - 34 Son of Midian (Genesis 25:4)
 - 35 _____ wave
 - 36 Jesse's third son (1 Chronicles 2)
 - 38 Name that means "son of my sorrow"
 - 39 Note on diatonic scale
 - 40 "Where his tent had been ... between Bethel and _____" (Genesis 13:3)
 - 42 Linking verb
 - 43 O.T. bk.
 - 46 Wheat by-product
 - 50 Ignore
 - 51 Expiates
 - 53 _____ art

1	2		3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10
11			12				13					14
	15	16					17				18	
			19				20					
21	22				23						24	25
26		27	28	29			30	31	32	33		
34								35				
36					37		38					
39					40	41						42
			43	44	45		46		47	48	49	
	50						51					52
53			54		55						56	57
58								59				

- 54 In nearest proximity
- 56 Pronoun
- 58 What to do with rosebuds?
- 59 Reposed
- 24 Naaman preferred this river in Damascus to the Jordan (2 Kings 5)
- 25 Near where John the Baptist baptized (John 3:23)
- 27 Greek letter
- 28 Part of a garment
- 29 Band or chair
- 31 Consumed
- 32 Cotton _____
- 33 Fuss
- 37 Sighing sound
- 38 Grievous
- 41 King of Judah, et al.
- 43 Preposition
- 44 So extreme
- 45 Competent
- 47 Tea, for one
- 48 Picnic pests
- 49 The royal _____
- 50 Retreat, for some
- 52 Pronoun used for a country
- 53 King of Bashan (Numbers 21)
- 55 Conjunction
- 57 "Mr. _____" of TV fame

Last puzzle's solution

1	H	I	N	E	S		H	E	A	P	S	
11	B	O	T	T	L	E	O	W	N	E	T	H
14	O	R		H	A	N	D	L	E	D		A
18	A	R		M	A	I	D	S			I	R
21	R	O	M		A	G	E			A	R	A
25	D	R	I	E	T	H		N	A	H	A	S
31	D	R	S					P	A	R		
33	S	E	E	D			S	T	R	O	K	E
38	B	A	T				A	H	A		N	O
43	A	M					S	M	O	T	E	H
47	R	I		S	A	N	D	A	L	S		A
51	S	T	A	L	E		N	A	H	A	T	H
55	S	A	L	A	D		S	H	E	T	H	



MISSIONS-MINDED
White Stone Quarry Baptist Church in Bowling Green raised more than \$1,700 through a chili supper and dessert auction for a summer mission trip to Guatemala. "It was amazing how, through prayer and faith, God stirred people's hearts to step up and contribute," said Pastor Ed Goodman. "God showed us that, if we follow His call to reach out to the nations, He will provide our every need."



DIVERSITY First Baptist Church of Oak Grove hosted a men's conference dealing with racial diversity in the church. About 30 men represented various area churches, and the Fort Campbell community choir performed gospel songs. Speakers included Dennis Pully of Cumberland Baptist Association in Clarksville, Tenn., and Bobby Melton of Christian County Baptist Association in Hopkinsville. Pully took his text from 1 Peter 2:17, which urges Christians to honor all men; Melton cited Galatians 3:26-29, reminding the group that as God's family we are all children of God.



Every year, more Kentucky cities and counties hold local option elections to allow some form of alcohol sales. People are told alcohol sales will bring economic growth and development and solve revenue problems.

They are being misled.



Does this seem like "Economic Growth" to you?



- ◆ More DUI and Drunk Driving Incidents
- ◆ Increased Danger to Residents, Children at Play, Pedestrians, and Cyclists
- ◆ Increased Burglaries and Other Criminal Activities
- ◆ Friday Night "Payday" Liquor Traffic into Our Towns and Cities
- ◆ Additional Speeding and Reckless Driving within Our Towns
- ◆ Decreased Property Values as Our Communities Become Less Safe
- ◆ More Public Intoxication
- ◆ Increased Need for Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services
- ◆ Increased Costs to Citizens for Law Enforcement, Litter Control, Crime, Medical Costs, and Insurance Rates
- ◆ Increased Violent Crimes, Spouse Abuse, and Child Neglect
- ◆ More Underage and Binge Drinking



Will Your Community Be Next?

Over the last three years, local alcohol option elections have increased dramatically in small towns across Kentucky. In 2010, wet forces won eight of ten local option elections. In 2011, voters approved alcohol sales in nineteen of twenty-two elections. There have already been three more this year, with two scheduled in the coming months. Petitions are circulating in two additional areas. Expansion of alcohol sales is on the rise, and the negative impact far outweighs the benefit.

**Please consider the costs of allowing alcohol into your community before you vote.
The life you save may be your own, or that of a loved one.**

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems
 Kentucky Ethics League, Inc.
 2722 Crittenden Drive ♦ Louisville, KY 40209-1114
 Phone (502) 635-0002 ♦ <http://www.kentuckyleague.org>

