

# WESTERN Recorder

April 10, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 14



## Underwood honored OBI says 'good-bye' to longtime president

By Robin Bass

**Oneida**—The Oneida family said farewell to one of its most loved and revered sons when Bud Underwood stepped down as president after ser-

ving nearly three decades at the Baptist school.

Hundreds attended a retirement service and reception in honor of Underwood at the Oneida Baptist Institute campus March 31. His last

*Kay Underwood is joined by family members as she unveils a portrait of her husband, Bud (seen behind Kay), during a retirement service in his honor. (Photo by Robin Bass)*

day at the southeastern Kentucky boarding school was spent bathing in the kind words, well wishes and bittersweet tears of his family, students and staff. By his side, as  
□ See Underwood honored ... Page 6

## 'Underground' church

### In Houston's 'tunnel,' church planter shines God's light

By Mickey Noah

**Houston**—Lee Hsia is proof that the most effective evangelism tool ever created is God's word. A native of Communist China who immigrated to the United States with his family as a child, Hsia found a Bible as a teenager that had been left at the house.

"To this day I don't know who put it there," Hsia said.

"I read it right away. It took me from passage to passage of Scripture and explained the gospel. I chose to pray the sinner's prayer and follow Christ as my Lord and Savior from that day forward."

Today, Hsia leads an underground church, not in China but in downtown Houston, 20 feet below the city's streets. And for many, the downtown church literally has become the light at the end of the tunnel.

Already serving as minister of evangelism and new initiatives at Houston's First Baptist Church, Hsia was named last fall as campus pastor for its new downtown church plant, located in the city's six-mile tunnel system under the downtown business district.

Houston's downtown tunnel system links office buildings, restaurants, shops, convenience stores  
□ See 'Tunnel' church ... Page 2



Lee Hsia

## World's most manicured mission field is pro golfer Lehman's calling

By Chris Turner

**Spring Hill, Tenn.**—When Scott Lehman stands on the first tee of a golf course, he's gazing out across one of the most manicured mission fields on earth—his mission field.

And rarely is one's mission in life embroidered on every shirt, hat, wind vest and jacket one wears, with his logo for In His Grip Golf serving as a constant reminder of his purpose in launching the golfing ministry six years ago: to reach men with the gospel through the game of golf.

Lehman lives the vision because he has lived both sides of it: an empty life constructed around golf, which nearly cost him everything, and an introduction to the saving power of Jesus Christ through the sport.

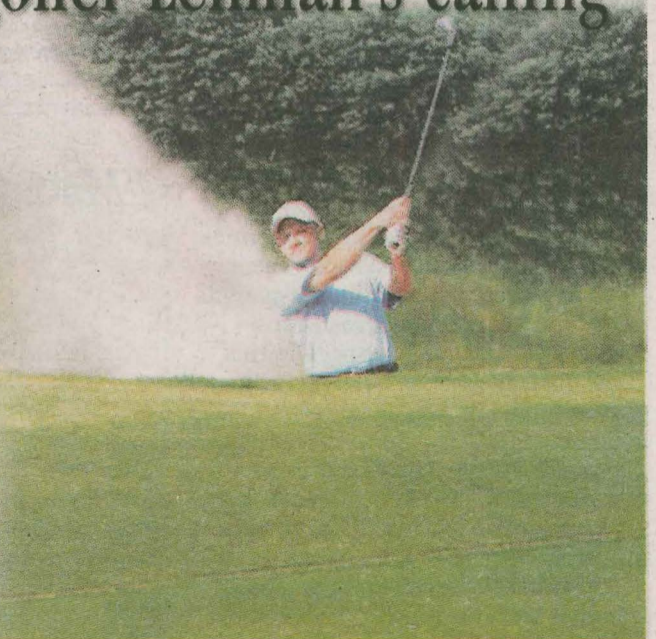
He is wired for golf and wired for Jesus, and he knows there are a lot of other guys—millions of them—who are chasing empty dreams, living empty lives, and he wants to connect with them. Through golf, for Jesus.

"Guys are out there on an island dying to be a part of friendship and fellowship," Lehman said. "There are 60 million golfers worldwide—20 million male golfers in the United States. We're looking to connect with these men and their passion out on the course, developing those relationships and ultimately sharing Christ, what He's done in our lives and in our families."

Lehman is a walking testimony to that statement. A dream trip to the 1997 Masters—and seeing a young Tiger Woods dominate the field on his way to his first major—became a nightmare when he returned home to hear his wife say she wanted a divorce two years into their marriage. Financial debt, isolation and loss of a job had taken a toll.

"It was the first time in my life, at age 36, that I started looking to God and asking Him those questions of why am I here? What is my purpose? Do You really have a plan for my life?" Lehman said. "I came across a little devotional book called 'In His Grip,' and when I

□ See Scott Lehman ... Page 3



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Western Recorder 4-10-2012

# Lexington T-shirt business in battle with gay-rights group

By Todd Starnes

**Lexington**—A Lexington T-shirt company is under investigation by the city's Human Rights Commission after it refused to print T-shirts for a local gay-rights organization.

The owner of Hands On Originals, a well-known T-shirt company in the region, declined to print the shirts for the city's Gay and Lesbian Services Organization because it would conflict with his Christian convictions.

The privately owned company now is accused of violating Lexington's Fairness Act, which protects people and organizations from discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The attacks are out of line, said Jim Campbell, an attorney with the Alliance Defense Fund, the organization representing Hands On Originals.

"No business owner should be forced to violate his conscience simply because someone demands it," he said. "The Constitution absolutely supports the rights of business owners to decline a request to support a message that conflicts with their deeply held convictions."

Raymond Sexton, the executive director of the Human Rights Commission told Fox News that Hands On Originals will be "required by law to participate in the investigation."

"We have subpoena power and have the backing of the law," he said. "We are a law-enforcement agency and people have to comply."

Should the company be found guilty of discriminating against the Gay and Lesbian Services Organization, Sexton said they could be subjected to fines.

## Social-media boycott

Hands On Originals has faced a barrage of attacks since the accusations were made public. More than 2,000 people have joined a boycott movement on Facebook.

The Fayette County public school system placed a temporary hold on buying T-shirts from the company until the issue is resolved. The University of Kentucky also is reviewing its future business with the T-shirt maker.

Lexington's openly gay mayor, Jim Gray, has condemned the privately owned T-shirt company, telling the

Lexington Herald-Leader: "People don't have patience for this sort of attitude today."

"I'm against discrimination, period," Gray said in a statement released to television station WKYT. "It's bad for business and bad for the city. I support the Human Rights Commission in a full and thorough investigation."

GLSO wanted Hands On Original to print shirts for the city's fifth-annual Lexington Pride Festival. The store offered to find another company that would honor its price, but GLSO was not satisfied.

"Our feeling on that is separate but equal wasn't OK during the civil-rights movement and it's not OK now," Aaron Baker, GLSO board president, told WKYT.

## Adamson: 'Respect my right'

Blaine Adamson is the managing owner of Hands on Originals. He defended his company in an op-ed piece that appeared in the Herald-Leader and unequivocally denied that he is guilty of discrimination.

"I decided to pass on the opportunity because, as a Christian owner, I cannot

in good conscience endorse groups or events that run counter to my convictions," Adamson wrote.

Adamson, who has been in business for more than 20 years, wrote that he "does not expect, or even ask, people to agree with my view."

"All I ask for people is to respect my right as an owner to not produce a product that is contrary to my principles."

Adamson called on people to stand up for the rights of small-business owners not "to be forced into producing a product with a message that conflicts with their beliefs and consciences."

"Over the past 20 years, we have declined to produce several other products with different messages than the one at issue here because we disapproved of whatever message it was, and it never had anything to do with discrimination," he wrote. "People reading this may disagree with my view on the current issue, but I hope they will join us in supporting our right to decline an order that promotes a view so contrary to our personal beliefs."

Sexton said it could take six months to investigate the charges. (Fox/BP)

## 'Tunnel' church

Continued from page 1

and residences under downtown streets. Some 280,000 Houstonians have access to the tunnels and on any given day, 180,000 "go underground," as Hsia put it.

"People hate to walk in downtown Houston in the summertime because of the heat and humidity," Hsia said. "The tunnels are self-contained and cool."

## A pastor's journey

Hsia's life reflects an incredible personal journey as a Buddhist living with his parents in Shanghai; moving to the Houston suburb of Sugarland at age 7; accepting Christ through what may have been a house-to-house Bible distribution campaign; graduating from Rice University; going on to success in business; losing his parents and grandmother in a fatal car accident; entering the ministry; and joining First Baptist's staff.

His parents' and grandmother's tragic death in a car accident in 2002 forever changed Hsia and his priorities. They were on their way to Dallas to see Hsia, who, at the time, was riding the technology wave as a successful entrepreneur.

"God spared me," he said. "My parents and I used to take a lot of road trips together, and I could have been in that car. It made me realize how fragile life was, and I just decided I wanted to make good use of the time I have left on earth."

Already a Christian, Hsia took a half-year sabbatical, traveled, did some soul searching and felt God calling him into ministry.

The tunnel church plant that Hsia leads has been meeting in the basement of a 19-story building since October. It is one of only 10 houses of worship in downtown Houston, most of which, Hsia said, are not Christian.

"We're now running about 230 a week," he said. "Our members and visitors are a diverse, eclectic group. Some people come during their Sunday walks



**'UNDERGROUND' CHURCH** Lee Hsia (center), pastor of Houston's First Baptist Church-Downtown, preaches to some 230 attendees at a Sunday worship service. The "underground" church is located in downtown Houston's six-mile tunnel system, which includes offices, restaurants, shops, stores and residences under the city streets. The church, which launched last fall, is a church plant of Houston's First Baptist Church, which is located in the suburbs. (Photo by Jack Potts/NAMB)

**"Many folks in downtown Houston are unsaved and unreached who wouldn't step foot in a traditional church."**

Lee Hsia, who planted a satellite campus of Houston's First Baptist Church in the city's tunnel system

downtown. Some come in with their dogs. Some are homeless, who we always welcome." Yet others are longtime First Baptist members who choose to leave the suburbs every Sunday and drive downtown to support Hsia and the church plant.

## Launched for outreach

"When we launched last fall, I thought we'd have mainly young people in their 20s and 30s. As it turned out, we have people of all age groups and all kinds of ethnicities. At last count, 33

nations are represented," Hsia said.

Although the downtown church is supported by a megachurch, Hsia said help from other churches also is needed—"to cooperate as one church of Jesus Christ to be able to handle Houston's future growth."

The tunnel church was launched "for the sake of outreach," Hsia said. "Many folks in downtown Houston are unsaved and unreached who wouldn't step foot in a traditional church like Houston's First or any other church building to consider the claims of Christ." (NAMB/BP)

## Parents angry after school drops 'God' from popular song

**Bellingham, Mass.**—Parents at a Massachusetts elementary school are furious after educators first removed the word "God" from the popular Lee Greenwood song "God Bless the USA" and then pulled the song altogether from an upcoming concert.

A Boston TV station reported that children at Stall Brook Elementary School in Bellingham, Mass., were told to sing, "We love the USA" instead of "God Bless the USA"

After parents started complaining, school officials removed the song from the school assembly concert. The school's principal released a statement saying they hope to "maintain the focus on the original objective of sharing students' knowledge of the United States, and because of logistics, will not include any songs."

Greenwood released a statement criticizing the school's actions.

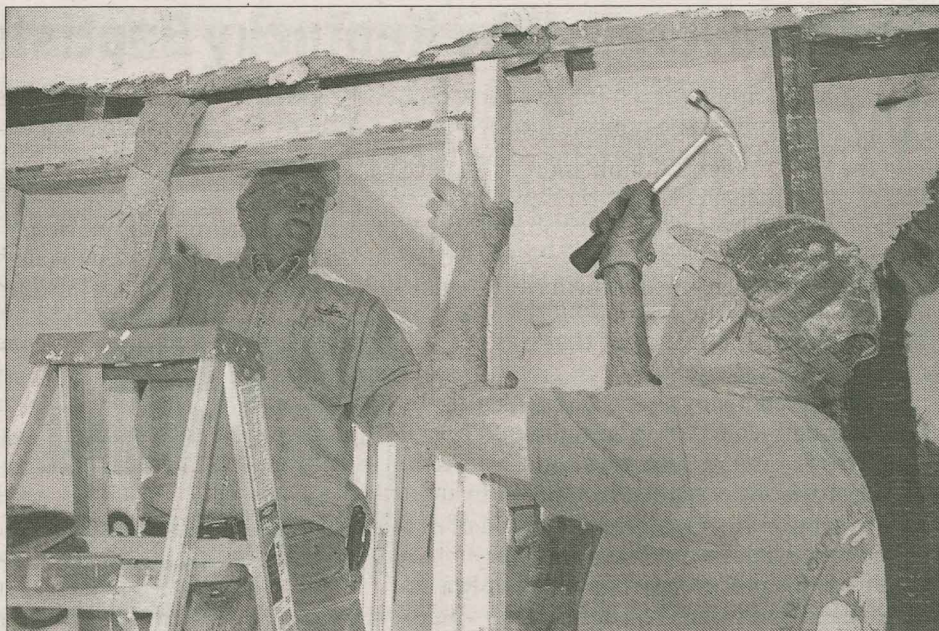
"The most important word in the whole piece of music is the word 'God,' which is also in the title 'God Bless The USA,'" Greenwood said. "Maybe the school should have asked the parents their thoughts before changing the lyrics to the song. They could have even asked the writer of the song, which I of course, would have said you can't change the lyrics at all or any part of the song."

Greenwood said the phrase "God Bless the USA" has a "very important meaning for those in the military and their families." (Fox/BP)

## Kentucky Changers @ work

Hiram Knight (left) of Zion Baptist Church in Henderson holds things steady while Dallas James of Immanuel Baptist Temple in Henderson, drives a nail during a Kentucky Changers project in Louisville March 29. A group of Kentucky Baptists helped further homeowners refurbish houses in the Boston neighborhood of the city.

(Photo by Larry Brannin/KBC)



## Scott Lehman

Continued from page 1

brought it home, I asked my wife, Leslie, if we owned a Bible.

"She was shocked. Neither one of us had ever cracked open God's word."

Lehman came to Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding but in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your path straight." It was the beginning of his faith journey with Christ, "from the deep, deep, bunkers of my life," he said.

Involvement in a local church and small group helped grow his biblical understanding. That group faithfully prayed for Leslie, who recommitted her life to Christ nine months later.

In His Grip Golf actually began as a local church ministry in Iowa. Lehman's pastor at the time encouraged church members to find a ministry and get involved. Nothing fit Lehman's personality, so the pastor told him to start a golf ministry. For seven years he did, and it became obvious to Lehman that God wanted it broadened.

"We were seeing a lot of unchurched

guys participate," Lehman said. "That was the intent from the beginning."

Reaching men for Christ through the local church still is In His Grip Golf's modus operandi.

"We want to equip laymen in the local church to own a ministry they're excited about and is a natural bridge for them to share the gospel with their friends," Lehman said. "Statistics show that if a man comes to Christ, 93 percent of the time, the rest of the family will follow. That's a staggering statistic, especially when coupled with the statistic that only 15 percent of churches have a strong men's ministry. The place those families are ministered to is in the local church. So, we want what we do to support the church."

Michael Catt, pastor of Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., the church that produced the movies "Courageous" and "Fireproof," supports that approach. A resounding message in Sherwood's movies is biblical manhood and leadership, a message championed by In His Grip Golf.

"The vision to reach men for Christ resonates with my heart," Catt said. "I love the game (of golf) and I love to see men come to Christ. I love to see their

lives changed and their families changed. I believe as pastors and churches partner with In His Grip Golf, they will see some men reached (with the gospel) that they would never see reached through traditional methods."

Bert Dargie, a member of The People's Church in Franklin, Tenn., has been involved with In His Grip since the church hosted its first golfing event.

"The effort is worth it," Dargie said. "Guys who otherwise might stay on the periphery of ministry dive in and support (the tournament). It's a way to invite friends or co-workers who don't go to church to something both you and them love. They hear the gospel and get to hang out with other guys."

Lehman said he envisions reaching 2 million men with the gospel through the game of golf by 2020. While he has worked with a lot of churches and thousands of men, there is no question he sees the pristine fairways of America's golf courses "white unto harvest," and golfers as an unreached people group.

"I totally recognize it is a huge vision to reach 2 million men in the next eight years, but I believe that is the vision God has given us," Lehman said. "I recognize that to get there God is going to have to provide and lead. It certainly isn't going to happen because Scott Lehman made it happen." (BP)



Scott Lehman

## Pair of Kentucky Baptists named to SBC's Committee on Resolutions

New Orleans—Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright has named the members of the Committee on Resolutions who will serve during the June 19-20 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans.

Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in Marietta, Ga., appointed the committee in keeping with the provision in SBC Bylaw 20 that its members be named 75 days prior to the start of the annual meeting.

A pair of Kentucky Baptists were appointed to the committee: **Kevin Smith**, the pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville and an assistant professor of Christian preaching at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and **Stephen Wilson**, a dean emeritus and chair of the social studies and history department at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield and a member of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Wright named **Jimmy Scroggins** as committee chairman. He is the pastor at First Baptist Church of West Palm Beach.

The other committee members are: **Stephen Farish**, pastor, Crossroads Church, Grayslake, Ill.

**Cheri Jimenez**, member, Taylors First Baptist Church, Greer, S.C.

**Manpoong Dennis Kim**, pastor, Global Mission Church, Silver Spring, Md.

**Gary Lowe**, member, Alta Canyon Baptist Church, Sandy, Utah.

**Tim Ohls**, pastor, Believers Southern Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.

**Kevin Ueckert**, pastor, South Side Baptist Church, Abilene, Texas.

**Joe Wright**, DOM, Dyer Baptist Association, Dyersburg, Tenn.

The procedure for submitting resolutions is as follows:

- Proposed resolutions may be submitted as early as April 15 but no later than 15 days prior to the SBC annual meeting. Resolutions no longer may be submitted during the annual meeting.

- Proposed resolutions must be accompanied by a letter from a qualified church certifying that the individual submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.

- Proposed resolutions preferably should be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the Committee on Resolutions. The drafts must be typewritten, titled, dated and include complete contact information for the person and his or her church.

- No person will be allowed to submit more than three resolutions.

- If a properly submitted resolution is not forwarded by the Committee on Resolutions to the SBC annual meeting, a two-thirds vote of messengers would be required to bring the proposed resolution to the convention floor. (BP)

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## Why CP is worth celebrating

Why is Cooperative Program Sunday, on April 22, worth celebrating? Because through the CP, Kentucky Baptists are helping make possible the work of nearly

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

5,000 International Mission Board missionaries, who are sharing Christ with more than 900 people groups around the globe. Through the CP, we also support more than 5,000 North American Mission Board missionaries.

When the churches I served as pastor forged partnerships in other parts of the state, nation and world, we almost

always found ourselves working alongside of and receiving guidance from missionaries who were supported by the CP. Without the CP, we could not have benefited from those partners. As much as I believe in "hands-on" missions in the local church, to walk away from CP missions and only support hands-on missions is akin to cutting the roots from the tree before you plant it.

Kentucky Baptist Campus Ministries on more than 20 campuses across the commonwealth are touching the lives of more than 20,000 students each year because of your CP support. Furthermore, Kentucky missions programs, such as church planting, disaster relief and Kentucky Changers, are only possible because of the CP.

Our Mission Board staff members minister to churches and their pastors and leaders through CP-funded events like Shepherding the Shepherd, Super Saturday and the Growing Ministries Tour. Other CP-funded ministries include Campbellsville University, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Crossings Ministries, Kentucky Baptist Foundation, Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, Oneida Baptist Institute, Sunrise Children's Services, University of the Cumberland and the Western Recorder.

Because of the CP, students in our Southern Baptist seminaries and colleges pay only a fraction of the actual cost of their degrees. As a recipient of three degrees from CP-funded institutions, I was never willing to pastor a church that did not give a significant percentage of its undesignated receipts through the CP.

When Michelle and I made the transition from the pastorate to serving our state convention, we immediately began looking for a new church home for our family. Once again, we joyfully made the decision to join a church that was generously supporting the CP. I could not, with a clear conscience, benefit from those who had made sacrificial gifts through the CP and choose not to pass the same blessing along to others seeking to prepare for ministry.

My life and ministry have been shaped by the CP. Before becoming your executive director, I served as state convention president, an IMB trustee, a trustee of the University of the Cumberland, and earned paychecks from two of our CP-funded colleges and one of our seminaries, all of which are CP ministries.

I believe in the kingdom value of the CP, vow my support, and challenge you to do the same.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Rediscovered: Why Kentucky Baptists need a newspaper

While doing research for an article on George Jewell for a soon-to-be-published collection of Kentucky Baptist biographies being edited by Bill Whittaker, I rediscovered an important bit of the Western Recorder's history. Previously, I had not heard of Jewell and, sad to say, I doubt many Kentucky Baptists today recall his contributions to Kentucky Baptist life. Jewell was assistant editor of Western Recorder for nearly four decades in the mid-20th century, but that was not all that I rediscovered.

Jewell loved history, especially Kentucky Baptist history, and while doing research I ran across a tabular history of the Western Recorder that he compiled in 1935. In reading his tabular history, I was reminded of a significant event in the Recorder's story that from his perspective happened only a scant 15 years earlier. On Aug. 28, 1919—in its 94th year of existence—a phrase proudly appeared beneath the Western Recorder's nameplate which had never been there previously: "Published by the Baptists of Kentucky." That naturally led to a key question: Why did Kentucky Baptists believe they needed a state Baptist newspaper?

To answer that question, one must understand what was happening in the Southern Baptist Convention and the nation in 1919. Historians will immediately recognize that World War I had just ended and a spirit of national optimism was prevailing. Southern Baptists caught the zeal of the times and were on the cusp of their "75 Million Dollar Campaign." The last seven months of the year were designated to promoting specific aspects of the campaign: preparation, information, intercession, enlistment, stewardship and Victory Week. The five-year campaign ultimately fell short of its ambitious goal. Yet, in spite of the nation entering a severe depression in the early 1920s and the ensuing rampant unemployment, more than \$58.5 million was raised for missions, Christian education and other benevolences through the sacrificial generosity of Baptists.

Something of even greater significance, however, was set in motion: "Furthermore, the campaign lifted the sights of the Baptist people concerning their potential in missions and stewardship. For the first time, the average Southern Baptist was called upon to make a significant gift to missions and education," observes author Robert Baker in "The Southern Baptist Convention and its People." These sentiments gave impetus to a financial program "for eliciting, combining and directing the energies of the whole denomination in one sacred effort," the Cooperative Program, in

1925. To some extent, this unified stewardship and enlistment program would be modeled after a concept born on Kentucky soil.

L.R. Scarborough, then president of Southwestern Seminary, who became general director of the campaign, understood the importance of denominational papers, calling them "a tremendous factor" in achieving victory. "It is generally understood by denominational leaders that the most enlightened people, and the most co-operant people in all denominational movements are those who take and read the denominational papers. It is also widely agreed that the denominational paper is one of the most important factors in the life of the churches and the building of the Kingdom of God," he wrote in the July 24, 1919, issue of the Western

Recorder. "We want an enlightened Baptist democracy," he continued. "The papers are the leaves of light, and the greatest agency in this enlightenment. We want that a leadership shall be trained in all of our churches, that all our people shall be enlightened and enlisted to full co-operation in the kingdom work."

A statement from Western Recorder's board of managers in the Aug. 28, 1919, issue reported on a meeting of the State Board of Missions, held at Broadway Baptist Church in Louisville in July, at which KBC Corresponding Secretary O.E. Bryan offered "a resolution looking to denominational ownership of State papers." The need for such an arrangement, the article maintained, was made apparent by the \$75 Million Campaign. "The conviction was strong that Kentucky could not win out in her campaign for \$6,500,000 unless our interests were more unified, and as a part of the program was the placing of denominational papers in Baptist homes," the statement read. The Western Recorder and a sister publication, the Baptist World, subsequently agreed to sell their lists of subscribers, and on Aug. 18 the Mission Board voted to "proceed at once" with publishing a state paper that would be known as the Western Recorder.

Thus, missions and unity were twin heartbeats in the rebirth of the Western Recorder as a state Baptist newspaper. Nearly a century later, these still are its heartbeats. And, as Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists stand on the cusp of a new campaign to carry the gospel to the nations, the Great Commission Resurgence, the Western Recorder's role of disseminating missions information and fostering a spirit of cooperation among Baptists is as critical today as ever in advancing the Kingdom of God.

## After Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Report of KBC audit work group

The audit work group of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board's business and finance committee met Dec. 13, 2011, to perform its annual review and evaluation of the financial condition and practices of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's affiliated entities and its Mission Board as reflected in their 2011 audited financial statements.

This annual audit review process is an important way Kentucky Baptists receive an accountability report from the convention and its affiliated entities. Kentucky Baptists can be pleased that this procedure exists whereby the convention and its institutions and agencies can give an accounting of the stewardship of the resources entrusted to them.

These entities include Campbellsville University, University of the Cumberland, Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, Oneida Baptist Institute, Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, Sunrise Children's Services, Baptist Healthcare System, Woman's Missionary Union, Western Recorder, Kentucky Baptist Foundation and the Kentucky Baptist Mission Programs and Subsidy.

Kentucky Baptists also can be pleased and encouraged with the sound financial condition and stability of the institutions and agencies and the level of cooperation demonstrated by them. The work group complimented the board and administrative leadership of the convention and each of its affiliated entities.

Kentucky Baptists are encouraged to increase their support of these institutions and agencies prayerfully and financially.

Members of the audit work group were: Chairperson Don Mathis (Bowling Green), John Birchett (Lexington), Doug Miller (Hardsburg), Greg Nimmo (Dry Ridge), Steven Scherer (Worthville), Business Manager Lowell Ashby, Executive Director Paul Chitwood, Accounting Services Senior Accountant Tonya Penick, Accounting Services Director Cathi Roy-Sanders, and Executive Assistant Steve Thompson. In addition, a certified public accountant met with the group.

The work group's report was made to the full business and finance committee on April 3, 2012, and approved.

Don Mathis, chairperson  
KBC audit work group and  
business and finance committee

## WESTERN Recorder

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## Spring break offers opportunity for missions, planning

Spring is in the air. You can tell it by the new NCAA championship banner being hung in the rafters at Rupp Arena. That also means spring break is here, and for many school districts in Kentucky, it is this week.

For me, spring break was always a good time to get out and do something with our students. We had been cooped up in the youth room at church most of the winter, and this was one of our first opportunities to spend some extended time together. I recently asked some youth ministers what they were doing this spring break to involve students in missions.

A few were taking advantage of the time off from school to help with cleanup from the rash of tornados that passed through the region a few weeks ago. Jerrod Brooks, who serves at Bellevue Baptist in Owensboro, is "taking a group of students on Good Friday, April 6, and Saturday, April 7, to Harrisburg, Ill., to help with disaster relief from the tornados." Rich Smith, at Lawrenceburg's First Baptist, is "taking just a couple to West Liberty to help clean up." Chris Bumbalough, at Allen Baptist, is "doing a Friday-Sunday mission effort to help with the continuing disaster relief in Salyersville." Bumbalough added, "We have two other youth groups coming to join us—one from Virginia and one from Tennessee—and we are going to work together for a weekend."

Some—like Cody Turner, youth minister at Hillcrest in Hopkinsville—are pairing mission projects with end-of-the-week activities. He says, "We have partnered with a local business owner who is part of our church. The business is 'Mr. Mulch,' and we have made a list of those in our church who need mulching done and are partnering them with students who are willing to serve. The scheduling is very flexible throughout the week. There are two concerts we are making available: 'Jesus Culture' in Nashville and Toby Mac in Paducah. Lastly, on Friday we are addressing the hot topic of bullying. We are giving out tickets for our students to invite others from school. We will be showing 'To Save a Life.'"

Others are planning multi-day trips and immersing their students into a different culture. One of these is Josh Houk, minister to students at Crosspointe Church in Owensboro. He says, "We are taking some of our students to Wayside Christian Mission to serve for a couple of days at the end of spring break. They are excited to have the opportunity to serve in a way they never have before. One of our students has decided to clean out her closet before we go so she can take items to the mission."

Another is Jonathan "Woody" White, of New Friendship Baptist in Auburn, who is taking his group to Haiti through Crossings Ministries during spring break. Then, "at the end of April we have our association's D-Now event. Our mission projects for that are planting flowers and other plants for the widows in our church, doing some maintenance work at the park in town, and some landscaping work around the nursing home."

Mike Green, interim youth minister at First Baptist Church of Paris, will "continue our ministry to the homeless by serving sack lunches to them on Wednesday afternoon." They will follow that in May with a "ServeNow" weekend, where they plan to help tornado victims with cleanup. "We are trying to encourage parents to serve alongside their students," he said.

Steve Coleman, at First Baptist Church of Richmond, is taking a completely different approach: "I am taking a group of our students who are leaders in our youth group on a half-day leadership retreat. Specifically, we will be focusing how our programs are working from our students' perspective. We will brainstorm, evaluate and then put together some things we might be able to do in ministry. This will include missions, ministry, evangelism, worship and fellowship."

Let me encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities given to involve your students in ministry to and in the world around them.

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

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

## A letter of final instructions

By Don Spencer

Ask most people what it means to have an estate plan and their answer speaks of the need to have a will. Although many neglect having an up-to-date will, another large group of people neglect a simple but extremely important estate-planning document: a "letter of final instructions."

A letter of final instructions does not require an attorney. It is not a legal document. It can be used as an informal, personal financial inventory. It is usually addressed to one's spouse, adult children, or executor. Through this document, a person is able to make sure the people most important to them are aware of assets that otherwise might prove difficult to find when death or incapacity occurs.

An important part of this letter is information about funeral preferences. This can include a description of the service, information about pre-planning arrangements and burial location. Information to be included in an obituary can also prove helpful.

Without a letter of final instructions, heirs typically have to reconstruct the assets without guidelines, sometimes causing nightmarish results and significantly increased probate costs. At the very least, the letter should spell out complete details and the exact location of all significant assets. Disclose the location of statements, receipts, tax returns, etc. The letter of instructions can give survivors helpful, timely information before a will is read. This letter is also a place to list persons and businesses that should be contacted in case of death. This includes information regarding current insurance policies.

Finally, I must emphasize two important details: First, make sure the information is up-to-date. Revise as needed. Not being a legal document, a person is not restricted by the formalities of a will. Second, make sure those who need access to this letter always know where to find it.

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



## Rules about your child's friends

By David Garrard

I have a standing line that I use in my magic show that never fails to get a laugh. After I do a trick like sawing a woman in half, I lower my voice, get very serious and tell the boys and girls in the audience, "Do not try this at home." I usually say it twice. Then I say jokingly, "Go to a friend's house! That's where you learn all the good stuff."

Without question, friends are a huge influence on our children. That influence grows as our children get older and spend more time with friends.

A couple of months ago, I was talking with a group of children about friends. I asked them, "What kind of rules do your parents have about your friends and about who you can be friends with?" Most had rules, and for good reason. Proverbs 22:24 says, "Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared." Beyond the example of anger, the biblical principle is clear: We become like who we run with.

When our son was about 9, he had a good friend who was a nice boy, but often a bad influence. We finally had to tell our son we could not allow him to be with this friend unless we were around because when he was, he did things that got him in trouble.

Pay attention to your children's friends. Get to know them and, if possible, their parents. Notice how your child acts when he or she is with a friend. Talk with them about ways in which you see them being influenced or being an influence. Help your children choose their friends wisely, and be willing to make the call when they can't, won't or don't.

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



## Handling violence in 'The Hunger Games' and the Bible

By J. Muckenfuss

News is still buzzing with talk of "The Hunger Games" and its spectacular opening weekend. With three kids who have read the book, we, too, were anticipating the opening. I took one of my girls to see the movie.

Like many parents, I've been concerned about the themes the book develops: a futuristic, fascist society forcing impoverished kids to battle to the death in gladiator-like combat for the pleasure of the wealthy, privileged few.

Equally concerning has been the unabashed marketing of the books and the movie to kids. The book series is labeled "Young Adult," and the movie bears a PG-13 rating. Yet, I observed families at the movie with kids age 7 or 8.

"The Hunger Games" is a good movie and a good story. It also has some negative aspects, such as violence. It's not a movie I took my child to without a plan for how to talk about what we saw. I'd recommend that step for any parents who allow their children to see it: See it with them, and be prepared to help them process the things they see.

As parents hoping to disciple our children, we have to practice the skill of seeing what is in the world, even if it is difficult to talk about.

Even the Bible is populated with stories that we'd prefer to keep from our kids: rapes, murders, incest and more. We can't sanitize every story or we risk losing vital elements of their meaning.

When is the last time you heard or saw the end of the David and Goliath story (when David takes Goliath's sword and cuts off Goliath's head) presented to kids—or adults? It's fine to leave that part out, especially for young children.

But our faith is built around Jesus, who was arrested, beaten, bloodied, sent on a torturous procession bearing the weight of the instrument of his death and then nailed to a cross to await his death by blood loss and asphyxiation. It isn't just the story; it's the details that matter.

And the manner in which we share details can help facilitate our children's path to discipleship, or it can inhibit it. Parents should use their discretion as the best experts on their own kids, but here are some of my general suggestions:

■ **Vocabulary matters.** To stick with the Easter example, we can't be afraid to use the word "death." Jesus didn't pass away and he didn't go to sleep. He was really beat up and he really died for three whole days. Without that, there's no real power in Easter.

■ **Repetition with kids is not just a short-term thing.** Kids learn by repeating not just in an individual lesson in a classroom, but by revisiting some stories from the Bible over and over through the years and adding new elements each time. Let your talk about parts of the Bible grow over time as kids develop more understanding.

■ **Stick with the truth.** Potiphar's wife didn't ask Joseph to be her boyfriend, she tried to lure him to her bed and then accused him of rape. Solomon's wisdom led him to offer to cut a baby in half so that two women could share it. Some things aren't pretty. You're going to get asked hard questions. As Peter would say, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect," (1 Peter 3:15). Joseph obeyed God by running away. Solomon found out the real mother of that baby and was able to save it. And Jesus didn't stay dead. The truth will set you free.

Easter teaches us that you can't have Jesus' resurrection without His harsh death. Growing in faith isn't always pretty. Tell it like it is, with gentleness and age-appropriate care, in order to grow children as disciples, well-versed in their faith. (ABP) *J. Muckenfuss is minister of children's discipleship at Yates Baptist Church in Durham, N.C.*

### FIRST PERSON

# 'State of the Plate' shows church giving rebounded in 2011

By Annalisa Musarra

Washington—The recession and a sluggish recovery have made for a lighter collection plate in recent years, but a new study shows that giving to U.S. congregations bounced back in 2011 as the economy improved.

According to the fourth annual "State of the Plate" survey released late last month, 51 percent of churches last year saw an increase in giving, up from 43 percent in 2010 and 36 percent in 2009.

The national survey, sponsored by MAXIMUM Generosity, Christianity Today and the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability, asked more than 1,360 congregations of different sizes to report on their donations and budgets.

"This has been the worst season of our lifetime in declines in giving," said Brian Kluth, founder of MAXIMUM Generosity and the "State of the Plate" research. But 2011 "is the first time we're seeing an upswing after three very hard years."

A separate report issued recently as part of the 2012 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches showed the impact of the recession's worst damage: churches lost \$1.2 billion in giving in 2010—nearly three times as large as the \$431 million in losses reported in 2009.

The increase seen in 2011 was most noticeable in the largest of megachurches: 86 percent of churches with more than 10,000 congregants saw the greatest rise in giving, compared to 39 percent of churches with fewer than 100 people that saw an increase.

Still, nearly one-third (32 percent) of churches said giving was down in 2011—although a smaller share than the 39

percent of churches that reported a decline two years ago, according to the survey.

The survey included small and large churches, although more than half had fewer than 250 members.

Respondents included mainline Protestant, evangelical, Pentecostal and non-denominational congregations. Church leaders attributed the reversal in fortunes to better attendance, which was reported by half of the churches surveyed.

Many others also cited their efforts to address giving and generosity with their congregations.

In addition, according to the survey, 51.3 percent of churches enjoyed a bigger budget, with extra money going to pay

raises (40.3 percent) and missions (36.5 percent), among other priorities.

A shift away from "envelope packets" toward electronic giving—such as using cell phones, online donations and lobby kiosks—changed the way churches received donations in 2011, a trend that has accelerated in the past four years, according to the report.

The survey also showed churches in the past year have tried to be more transparent with their finances: 92 percent make their financial statements available by request to members, and 89 percent do the same for their annual budgets.

The majority of churches "really do desire to handle their finances with integrity and they use financial best practices that ensure that integrity," said Matt Branaugh, the editorial director for Christianity Today's Church Management Team.

"If you handle your finances with this kind of integrity up front," he said, "then people will respond." (RNS)



## Underwood honored

Continued from page 1

always, was his wife and administrative assistant, Kay, who also retired.

Judy Lawson, a former Oneida staff member, used many adjectives to describe her former boss during the ceremony at Melvin Davidson Chapel.

"He's a man of wisdom. He is dependable and forthright; honest; frugal; sincere; faithful; and witty," Lawson said. But there was a light-hearted side to the man as well, she noted, one who was capable of playing practical jokes and perpetuating the rumor that he once was a welterweight boxer.

"He was fun to work for," Lawson said, "and one thing I always appreciated about Bud and Kay is you always knew where you stood."

For former student John Saldaris, his most memorable encounter was when Underwood told the young lad he "needed to grow up" after Saldaris rudely complained about not getting his choice of residence halls. It wasn't until the spirited student came back to Oneida seven years later as a faculty member that Saldaris said he truly appreciated Underwood's tough Christian love.

"Dr. Underwood became a very important person to me shortly after coming back here," Saldaris recalled. "One word describes Dr. Underwood and that is 'servant.' ... He understands what it is to be a servant, to give of his time and his self, to put his family aside and do what God has asked him to do."

While Underwood smiled and graciously accepted the accolades of faculty and staff, he said it was time for Oneida to benefit from the new energy and enthusiasm that comes from a new leader.

"It's been 28 years so, physically, my wife and I are very, very tired," Underwood said. "This is not an eight-hour a day job as any administrator knows of a ministry like this. You don't go in at eight o'clock and go home at five. So, our bodies are just flat out worn out. But our hearts are here, and they always will be here."

The outgoing president expressed his gratitude to Kentucky Baptists for believing in the ministry of Oneida by faithfully contributing their time and financial resources. Without that support, Underwood said, they would not be able to continue the 100-year tradition of positively changing the lives of students.

"It's going to be a loss," Saldaris said of the Underwoods, "but God knows the next chapter that's going to be written. They are going to start a new chapter of their lives now. Get back to their family and their grandchildren. Oneida's going to begin a new chapter, too, and I'm sure it's going to go far."

Underwood said he envisions his next chapter set among the peaceful rows of his vegetable garden and the checkerboard pattern of his lawn.

"I'm just going to rest and relax. I love to garden. I've put that on hold for the last 18 years. So, I'm going to mow my grass, work in the garden and just rest for a while," Underwood said. (WR)

### JUST GRANDPA NOW

Bud Underwood, outgoing president of Oneida Baptist Institute, gets a hug from his granddaughter, Makenzie, during a retirement reception March 31. Underwood served at Oneida for 28 years, the last 18 as president. He has said he and his wife, Kay, will retire to a new home in nearby Owsley County, where he will spend his time gardening and mowing the grass, two hobbies he hasn't had much time for while running the southeastern Kentucky boarding school. He also said he is looking forward to spending more time with the grandkids. (Photo by Robin Bass)



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# Taipei

## Parade of idols sparks prayer

By Emily Stockton

**Taipei, Taiwan**—It started off as a typical Tuesday morning in Taipei for Southern Baptist missionary Erin Pendleton\*.

After cooking breakfast for her husband and sons and getting the boys off to school, Pendleton started down her to-do list for the day, which included a trip to buy a Dustbuster. The young mom cycled past familiar neighborhood sights such as vegetable and fruit markets, Starbucks and the modern subway system in Taiwan's highly developed capital city.

Then she froze—partly because the road was blocked and she had to stop, but mostly because she was shocked by what she saw.

For 45 minutes, she watched a parade of idols, transported on floats, proceed down a main road in Taipei. Blue utility trucks decked in flowers and colorful tissue paper pulled the heavy idols in celebratory fashion.

The eerie music, loud firecrackers and haze of smoke caused her to shudder. She looked around at the crowd. Some people exuded the kind of enthusiasm she had seen in the U.S. at pre-game parades. Others looked bored. She

was confused at first by what was happening but then realized she was seeing a manifestation of idol worship.

"Jesus, You are Lord," she cried out in anguish to God.

"Show them, Lord," she prayed, only to have her voice drowned out by the fireworks and music so loud that even those closest to her couldn't hear her.

She returned home later that day, heartbroken and disturbed at the reminder of how modern Taipei is steeped in traditional idol worship.

The main religions—Buddhism, Daoism and animism—have a stronghold in the city's urban culture along with secularism and materialism.

Pendleton learned from her Chinese language tutor Chen Li\* that the parade was a joint celebration of five temples. The idols were being carried through the streets to raise awareness and promote more visits to the temples.

"That's the one we worship in my home," Chen exclaimed, pointing at one of the photos.



**FALSE GODS** A worshiper prays to one of the many idols in Taipei's historic Bao-An temple. Although Taipei is a modern city in many ways, the majority of its population holds to traditional Chinese religious beliefs and practices. (IMB photo)

She and her parents have an "earth god" idol statue sitting on a shelf at their home, along with the ashes of her ancestors. Chen, a graduate of one of Taiwan's most prestigious universities, chose the idol for herself. Each morning and evening, the 28-year-old helps her mother make the climb to the third floor where the idol shelf is located. She bows to both the ancestor's ashes and the idol. She talks daily to the effigy about her problems.

Although the "earth god" is not considered a powerful idol, Chen likes

him because of what she describes as his warm face; because he is here on earth rather than far away in the heavens; and because she believes he once smiled at her.

Chen has heard the gospel many times, and Pendleton\* said she believes the young woman is interested in knowing Christ and is in the process of counting the cost. She's very close to having the courage to turn from her family's beliefs and follow Christ. (IMB/BP)

\*Names changed for security reasons.



# 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](http://www.moreforchrist.com)

## First day in office

### Time with students, teachers, God highlight first day as OBI president

If you were president of OBI, what would you want to be the highlight of your first day in office? Here was my first day (April 1). Take your pick.

- Arrive at school at 8 a.m. to get ready for visitors' tours and interviews. Find 13 big garbage bags filled with shoes. Put the bags in the back of the presidential van to get them out of the way—and hope to figure out from whom they came and what the donor(s) intended. Give thanks to God for the van—and the shoes.

- Enter the president's office for the first time as president.

Find that someone (probably Dr. Underwood, who has mentored you for the previous six weeks and who put his arm around you strongly and prayed for you) has put your new nameplate on the desk, along with a ring of keys, two cell phones, important papers, etc.

- Go to the chapel, worship with music led by a staff member and three students and preach from Luke 19.

After the service, talk and pray with a student who stayed seated when everyone was asked to stand and sing. Talk with the dean of girls about the houseparent schedule in the girls' dorm so as to, hopefully, increase our experienced houseparents' weekend ministry.

- Introduce the orientation video and conduct a campus tour for four Kentucky families.

- Conduct an interview for a young man and his family who are going through some difficult times following the death of the father/husband. Admit the young man, praying with the family before they head for the dorm,

hoping and trusting that OBI can be a place of help for them.

- Send an email announcement allowing students to wear shorts in the dining hall during evening meals.

- Attend the evening chapel service. Talk with the dean of boys about your concern for the young man with whom

### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

you spoke after the morning service. Meet a candidate for a teaching position who has come for an interview. Worship with music led by our school choir director and four female students. Pause and reflect during a musical presentation by two of our female staff members.

Rejoice in the clear and engaging preaching of the gospel by this week's revivalist for Oneida

Baptist Church. Rejoice to see many students come forward to pray during the invitation.

- After the chapel service, talk with a Korean student who has made a decision for Christ during his time here at OBI and who has been trying to talk to his fellow Koreans about the Lord. Listen to his insight that his compatriots don't respond to preaching about Jesus because they doubt the authenticity of the Bible. Pray with the student and ask for the Lord to bless him and to help you both in reaching our Korean population with the gospel.

- Check voice mail. Hear that one of your senior girls was taken to the hospital by a staff member last night. Receive word that a neighboring community college wants to donate materials.

- Write about this day for Western Recorder. Ask readers to pray for OBI.

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

## A preacher with a purpose

### God's blessings overshadow small difficulties for Clear Creek student

One of many opportunities Clear Creek students have to get practical experience is an event we call Clear

Creek days. Associations invite students to come in for the weekend and get some pulpit time. Many good stories come back to campus the following week. Freshman Michael Ticknor participated in a recent Clear Creek Days event and came back with a story of determination and purpose.

The group traveled to an association in another state on a Saturday and spent the night in the community. The church where Michael was to speak had facilities that enabled him to spend the night on church grounds. The group had gone, to that point, in a school van and disbursed from there to various preaching points.

Since the van and Michael were to stay at that particular church for the weekend, he left some personal items in it, including his dress shoes. Another student, being very conscientious, locked the van and took the keys with him.

Not to be defeated by small glitches

in the plan, Michael set out on foot to find a store that sold shoes, realizing this could be a long journey for a man wearing a suit and tennis shoes. Someone told him there was a Dollar Store about a half-mile down the road. So, the

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

well-dressed jogger pressed on, only to find the store was not a Dollar Store, neither did they have shoes. They did have information: There was a Dollar Store on that road, about a half-mile farther. Off he went again in pursuit of appropriate footwear.

Obstacles stood in his way, one of which he decided to jump over. The landing was a little off, leaving him with a slightly soiled suit, scuffed tennis shoes and blood dripping from a bad case of road rash.

The story goes on, but space in this column is limited. I will get to the obvious question in it all. Michael did get to his appointed pulpit; God's messenger was not stopped by bumps in the road (literally), and yes, he says he will do Clear Creek days again. God's blessings overshadow small difficulties for the determined preacher.

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.

# Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir

Louisville—The public is invited to two free performances on April 22 of this year's Kentucky Baptist All-State Children's Choir. The choir is comprised of students in grades four through six. They will rehearse April 20-21 at Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad prior to the Sunday concerts.

This year's performances will be held at 11 a.m., EDT, at Campbellsville Baptist Church, and 3 p.m., CDT, at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green.

This year, 131 boys and girls from 34 churches are expected to participate in the All-State Children's Choir.

This year's choir members are:

**Foley Abovssa**, Parkland Church, Louisville.  
**Chandler Acquaviva**, Beaver Dam Church.  
**Alexis Adams**, First Church, Fisherville.  
**Natalie Allen**, First Church, Kuttawa.  
**Jordan Anderson**, Fern Creek Church, Louisville.  
**Jacob Autry**, Beaver Dam Church.  
**Jake Ballard**, Central Church, Paris.  
**Miles Bickers**, Fern Creek Church, Louisville.  
**Jaren Blakeman**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.  
**Holly Blansette**, Fern Creek Church, Louisville.  
**Audrey Bondurant**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.  
**Alaina Bowman**, First Church, London.  
**Kourtney Brewer**, Valley View Church, Louisville.  
**Emma Brogli**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.  
**Madison Brooks**, First Church, Madisonville.  
**Abbi Brookshire**, Immanuel Church, Paducah.  
**Donavon Brown**, First Church, Kuttawa.  
**Macy Bruner**, First Church, Fisherville.  
**Job Bush**, First Church, Lawrenceburg.  
**Cailee Carter**, Cave City Church.  
**Eli Clapper**, First Church, Richmond.  
**Kelsey Coates**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.  
**Lindsey Coates**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.  
**Morgan Collins**, Cave City Church.  
**Billy Conn**, Cornerstone Church, Lexington.  
**Molly Cornett**, Emmanuel Church, Stanton.  
**Mallory Couch**, Immanuel Church, Paducah.  
**Emily Cox**, Cornerstone Church, Lexington.  
**Ben Daniel**, First Church, Bowling Green.  
**Abbey Daugherty**, First Church, Taylorsville.  
**Johanna Davis**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.  
**Molly Denzik**, Valley View Church, Louisville.  
**Elijah Douglas**, Millville Church, Frankfort.  
**Gabriel Douglas**, Millville Church, Frankfort.  
**Emily Ruth Drew**, First Church, Murray.  
**Sara Beth Duggins**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.  
**Graceyn Earlywine**, Central Church, Paris.  
**Shawna Edwards**, Edmonton Church.  
**Anna Grace Ehr**, First Church, Lawrenceburg.  
**Clay Ehr**, First Church, Lawrenceburg.  
**Mollie Fields**, First Church, Lawrenceburg.  
**Hannah Flaig**, Parkland Church, Louisville.

**Logan Flecke**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville.

**Morgan Flecke**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville.

**Julia Forsythe**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Alexis Fortner**, First Church, Murray.

**Kara Frederick**, Valley View Church, Louisville.

**Logan Garza**, Central Church, Paris.

**Asmita Gill**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Richard Gill**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Jenna Goin**, Parkland Church, Louisville.

**Ainsley Golden**, First Church, Madisonville.

**Matthew Golden**, First Church, Madisonville.

**Ben Graham**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Megan Graham**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Hunter Groves**, Glasgow Church.

**Malorie Hall**, Cornerstone Church, Lexington.

**Arren Hash**, Campbellsville Church.

**Isaac Hopkins**, First Church, Frankfort.

**Alyssa Howie**, First Church, Fisherville.

**Whitley Howlett**, First Church, Mount Washington.

**Bradley Hughes**, First Church, Frankfort.

**Amiya Hunt**, Pleasureville Church.

**Katherine Isaac**, First Church, Lawrenceburg.

**Emily Jackson**, Hartford Church.

**Destiny Kendall**, Fern Creek Church, Louisville.

**Kailey Kennedy**, First Church, Kuttawa.

**Addison Lander**, First Church, Madisonville.

**Micah Lauer**, Campbellsville Church.

**Malinda Lemons**, Cornerstone Church, Lexington.

**Hallie Anna Lindsay**, First Church, Bowling Green.

**Casey Love**, First Church, Brandenburg.

**Mariah Lyons**, First Church, Murray.

**Keeliw Martin**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Parks Mason**, First Church, Frankfort.

**Logan Mattingly**, First Church, Murray.

**Madeline McCay**, First Church, Madisonville.

**Isabella McKinney**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.

**Sam Midkiff**, First Church, Frankfort.

**Lilly Minnich**, First Church, Bowling Green.

**Jake Mitchell**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.

**Leah Mosgrove**, Hartford Church.

**Gracie Murt**, Lone Oak First Church, Paducah.

**William Nisbet**, First Church, Madisonville.

**Rachel Oakley**, First Church, Kuttawa.

**Zack Owen**, Glasgow Church.

**Breeze Patterson**, Beaver Dam Church.

**Oliver Payton**, Crescent Hill Church, Louisville.

**Katie Peck**, Immanuel Church, Paducah.

**Sophie Pemberton**, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

**Kelsey Powell**, First Church, Richmond.

**Rachel Redden**, First Church, Bowling Green.

**Parker Ridings**, Millville Church, Frankfort.

**Wesley Ridings**, Millville Church, Frankfort.

**Caroline Robinson**, First Church, Richmond.

**Casey Robinson**, Edmonton Church.

□ See Children's Choir ... Page 9

## Q &amp; A

## Actress Sheri Rigby

Her role in 'October Baby' &amp; her own post-abortive experience

By Megan Basham

**Birmingham, Ala.**—When producer/directors Jon and Andrew Erwin asked Shari Rigby to consider a small but crucial role in their film "October Baby," none of them realized how closely the script about a young woman who discovers she survived an abortion attempt paralleled Rigby's own life.

Rigby, who turns in an emotionally wrenching performance as the young woman's biological mother, recently spoke to World Magazine about the experiences she brought to the part and what she hopes audiences will take away from October Baby, which just completed its third weekend in theaters.

**WORLD MAGAZINE:** What was your reaction when you first read the script and realized how much of it resonated with your own life?

**RIGBY:** When Jon called me and said please read the script, the first thing I saw on the front cover was Rachel Hendrix (the main character). And my husband said to me, 'Wow she really looks like you—she could be your daughter,' which made it even more intriguing. Then halfway through the script I realized it paralleled my life 20 years ago. (The character I play) was in the profession I worked in—I was a paralegal. I, too, had had an abortion.

Then when the character goes and

speaks with her husband and shares with him what she'd done—that same exact thing happened in my life when my husband and I were probably in the sixth or seventh year of our marriage. So, it was really intense to read something so close to my life that not that many people knew about. Certainly the Erwins had no idea that this was part of my past.

**WM:** You could have taken the part, turned in a wonderful performance, and never mentioned the personal pain that allowed you to bring so much authenticity to the role. Instead you told the Erwins about your own experience with abortion and decided to talk about it while promoting "October Baby." Why?

**RIGBY:** The Erwins asked me if I would be interested in sharing my testimony and they were so great about it, telling me to pray about it and assuring me that they didn't want to push me into anything. But I kept feeling this urging that this wasn't about me, that this was God's film.

I'm a woman who's post-abortive, and if I could do anything with this film it would be to love on other women and be an encouragement to them, to say, "I know you've gone through a lot emotionally, physically and spiritually, but there's healing for it." And I think that's why God gave me this part.

**WM:** Obviously putting yourself out

there in such a vulnerable way must impact your husband as well. How has he felt about your willingness to share your story while promoting the film?

**RIGBY:** My husband is an amazing, godly man, and one of the hardest things for me was when I had to tell him that I had had an abortion because I really didn't know what that conversation would sound like. But much like in the movie, he put his arms around me and held me and told me he loves me. And in all of this, he's been my biggest fan and supported me. He's held me when I've cried and constantly tells me that I'm brave and courageous.

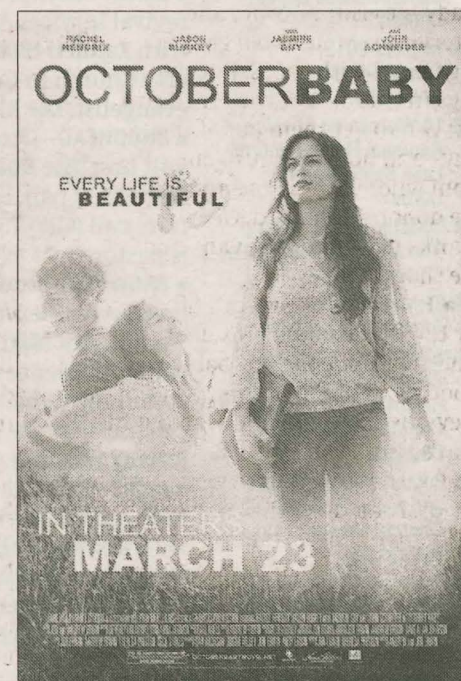
**WM:** What do you think people should know about the personal experiences behind abortion statistics?

**RIGBY:** We're such a health-conscious society—we preach constantly about what we're

putting in our mouths and what we're doing to our bodies so that we'll be healthy. And yet, most people that you talk to really don't know anything about abortion. They don't know what goes on or what the physical or mental or emotional ramifications are. So, I think they need to be better educated on that.

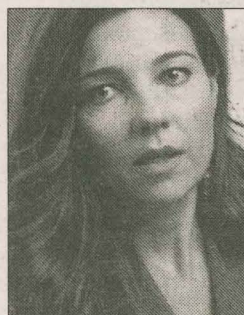
One out of three Christian women say they have had an abortion, and many of them say they have had more than one. We've got to do a better job of talking to the next generation and helping them cope with the emotional and physical pain that comes when this has been a part of their life.

**WM:** That's one of the things I so enjoyed about "October Baby"—it wasn't



just about the young woman who survived the abortion, it was also about the woman who tried to end her life. It wasn't political, it didn't cast one of them as the good guy and one of them as the bad guy, but it follows the pain both of them go through.

**RIGBY:** Yes, I really love that you can go into "October Baby" and put your political talking points aside. You're going to go on a journey with a young couple and experience their personal story. Jon Erwin said it so well when he said, "We didn't create October Baby to draw lines in the sand. We created it to draw circles." They're trying to get people talking about (abortion) and look at it from different perspectives. (World Magazine/BP)



Shari Rigby

## Retreat season

## Crossings' centers accommodate retreat groups as well as campers

The desire and drive of Crossings Ministries is to see our guests come to know Christ or more fully experience Him. Keeping this mission statement in mind, Crossings not only hosts summer camps, but serves a wide variety of groups by hosting retreats year round.

We have two retreat centers: Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore. Jonathan Creek is located in the town of Hardin in western Kentucky on beautiful Kentucky Lake. Cedarmore is in Bagdad, conveniently located approximately one hour from Lexington, Louisville and northern Kentucky. Each property is equipped to serve a large variety of groups.

We still have availability for the spring months. We would be happy to serve your group in any way. Whether you are planning a weekend group retreat or are interested in using our facilities for a day, we have many different options that could meet your needs.

One thing that sets Crossings apart as a retreat facility is that we allow you to customize your event based on what you are looking for in a retreat. With a wide variety of activities, lodging and

meal options, Crossings retreat centers can tailor your event to your specifications. The rate for each retreat is catered to meet the groups' needs based on the selection of housing, number of meals and programming options.

We have a variety of housing options that range from motel-style to cabins. Our meals are served in our dining hall with buffet-style service. We also offer programming options at an additional cost including: Bazoooka Ball, a camp fire, climbing tower, team building, ziplines and waterfront activities (depending on the season).

In everything we do, we strive to provide our guests with distinguished customer service, a place that is distraction-free that can allow for focused time with Christ. Because we are dedicated to seeing our guests come to know Christ or more fully experience Him, we would be happy to serve your group this year. For more information, please contact our central office at (502) 491-7000 or visit us online at [www.CrossingsMinistries.org](http://www.CrossingsMinistries.org).

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

## Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

## Children's Choir

Continued from page 8

James Sams, Millville Church, Frankfort.

Ramey Schenk, First Church, Kuttawa.

Eriona Shabani, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Katelyn Shannon, First Church, London. Samantha Shipman, Parkland Church, Louisville.

Olivia Simpson, First Church, Frankfort. Dru Smith, Coral Hill Church, Glasgow.

Jalen Spaulding, Greenup Fork Church, Owenton.

Sophia Speller, First Church, Richmond. Ellie Stanko, First Church, London.

Cassidy Stearman, Parkland Church, Louisville.

Hannah Stephens, Main Street Church, Williamsburg.

Makayla Steward, First Church, Bowling Green.

Evan Stewart, Parkland Church, Louisville.

Anna Suggs, First Church, Bowling Green.

Hanna Terry, First Church, Lawrenceburg.

Garrett Theodore-Powell, First Church, Richmond.

Caryn Thomas, Living Hope Church, Louisville.

Liam Thomas, First Church, Madisonville.

Abigail Thornton, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Grace Thornton, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Cheyenne Toon, Immanuel Church, Paducah.

Justin Tucker, First Church, Madisonville.

Emma Tuggle, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Ashtyn Vandiver, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Chase Wainscott, First Church, Richmond.

Cameron Walker, First Church, Madisonville.

Whitley Wardrip, First Church, Brandenburg.

Madison Wells, First Church, Bowling Green.

Katherine Whitaker, Main Street Church, Williamsburg.

Isabella Willoughby, First Church, Lawrenceburg.

Avery Witcher, First Church, Bowling Green.

Claudia Witcher, First Church, Bowling Green.

Madeline Wix, Rich Pond Church, Bowling Green.

Samantha Womack, Valley View Church, Louisville.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

- 13-14** 4:GO 2012, Campbellsville Baptist Church.
- 13-14** Exalt 2012, Campbellsville University.
- 13-14** Women on Mission Regional Retreat, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.
- 14** Disaster Relief Training Phase I & II, First Baptist Church, London.
- 19-21** Ministers in Transition, Louisville.
- 20-22** All-State Children's Choir—East and West, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 21** Region 4 RA Congress and Rally, First Baptist Church, Mount Washington.
- 21** Youth and High School Bible Drill and Speakers' Tournament, Parkway Baptist Church, Bardstown.
- 23** Senior Living Celebration, Lone Oak First Baptist Church, Paducah.
- 24** Developing and Managing People, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 24** Iron Sharpening Iron, Bowling Green Ballpark.
- 24** Senior Living Celebration, Severns Valley Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.
- 26** Iron Sharpening Iron, Great American Ballpark, Cincinnati.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BENTON**—Vanzora Church will hold spring revival services April 15-18 with **Mike Farmer**, pastor of Hopewell Church in Kuttawa, as evangelist. **Randy McClure** is pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Galilee Church will hold revival services April 16-20, 7 p.m., with **Zandell Hasty**, pastor of Liberty Church in Crab Orchard, as evangelist. **Lee Abney** is pastor.

■ **BRODHEAD**—Ottawa Church will host **The Roarks** in concert April 15, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 758-8453. **Jim Craig** is pastor.

■ **BROWDER**—Browder Church will hold revival services April 15-18, 7 p.m., with **Matt Wilkins** as evangelist. Muhlenberg Association's community choir will provide special music at the April 17 service. **Jeremy Jessup** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—East Cadiz Church will hold revival services April 15-18 with **Rodney Wallace**, pastor of New Zion Church in Benton, as evangelist. **Lester Watson** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church

will hold "Spring Revival and Renewal Sunday" services April 15, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m., with **Todd Parrish**, executive director of Kentucky Heartland Outreach, as evangelist. A potluck meal will precede the evening service. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CLAY CITY**—Powell's Valley Church will hold revival services April 15-18 with **Jesse Kline**, pastor of Northside Church in Winchester, as evangelist. **Gary Wiloughby** is pastor.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will hold a youth rally April 13-15. **Scott Casebier** is pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—David's Chapel Church will hold revival services April 15-18 with **Chip Davis**, pastor of Lake Road Church in Union City, Tenn., as evangelist. **Charles Southerland** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Hopewell Church will host the **Fair Haven Quartet** in concert April 15, 5 p.m. For more information, call (502) 267-7870. **Don James** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host

the premiere of "Rendezvous with Destiny," a production composed by **Theodoros Sflotos** and produced by **Mozelle Clark Sherman**, April 13, 7 p.m., and April 14, 2 p.m. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Bethany Church will host Faith's Crossing in concert April 15, 6 p.m., as part of its quarterly "Gospel Sing" fellowship. **Cloys Bruce** is pastor.

High Point Church will hold a men's and women's conference April 13-14 with husband-and-wife authors **Jim and Elizabeth George** as guest speakers. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.


New Life Church recently called **David Sassaman Jr.** as pastor. He previously was the church's music minister.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village will host Boone's Creek Association's children's Bible drill April 14, 4 p.m. **Todd Wiley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Fairview Church will hold revival services April 15-18 with **Jon Burdette**, youth pastor at Hickory Grove Church in

## Spotlight on ...

### Lancaster



Gilbert's Creek Church recently honored Pastor **Morris Traynor** for his 60 years in ministry. He has led the church since 1989.

Independence, as evangelist. **Vaughn Raser** is pastor.

Northside Church will hold revival services April 15-18 with **J.R. Hume** as evangelist. **Randy McPheron** is pastor.

Pine Hill Missionary Church will hold a women's prayer breakfast April 14, 10 a.m. **Clyde Miller** is pastor.

■ **PIKEVILLE**—Meta Church will host Pike Association's Vacation Bible School training April 12. **Bill Staggs** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the Cumberlands will host the second annual Tri-County Prayer Focus event April 13, 7 p.m., at the Gatliff Chapel on campus.

## Mount Washington church again calls Compton to pulpit

**Mount Washington**—Billy Compton, executive associate for Cooperative Program and resources for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, once again has been called to lead First Baptist Church of Mount Washington.

Members of the Bullitt County congregation made the call official at all three worship services April 1. Compton, who led the church from 1992-96, will return to the pulpit on June 3.

First Baptist, Mount Washington has been without a pastor since last July when Paul Chitwood began serving as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Compton had been serving as interim pastor.

Compton's most recent season of service on the KBC Mission Board staff began January 2008, when he took on the



Billy Compton

role of stewardship education and Cooperative Program promotion. He also was on staff 1989-92 as associate director of the evangelism office.

Compton described his return to First Baptist Church as "a privilege." The church "has continued to grow along with the community, providing tremendous opportunities to build

the present strengths of the congregation and reach even more for Christ," he said.

Prior to accepting the KBC position, Compton was pastor of Severns Valley Baptist Church in Elizabethtown for 12 years.

At this time, there are no plans to fill Compton's current position at the KBC. Chitwood will release details of a major restructuring of the mission board staff in May. (KBC)

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

**FOR SALE:** Book, "The Journey of a Shepherd's Wife," by Virginia Cooper Stokes, a pastor's wife. Purchase at Amazon.com, TatePublishing.com or BarnesandNoble.com; or purchase direct for \$15 (includes postage) by calling (270) 487-0503.

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**SEEKING:** Full-time minister of music and youth. Responsible for the worship and the growth and development of youth. A BS or BA in music or related field; master's degree preferred. Full job description is available upon request. First Baptist Church, Fulton, Ky. Email: [office@fbcfulton.org](mailto:office@fbcfulton.org).

**SEEKING:** Administrative assistant. Little Flock Baptist Church at 5510 N Preston Hwy. in Shepherdsville, is accepting resumes for a part-time secretary (scheduled hours: 8:00-4:30, Monday-Thursday). Duties will include church membership, missions and discipleship. Secretarial experience is required, along with strong skills in grammar. Send resumes to Mary Thomason at [maryt@littleflock.com](mailto:maryt@littleflock.com); or call (502) 995-8760, ext. 236.

**SEEKING:** Office coordinator/secretary for Fern Creek Baptist Church (38 hours weekly). Applicant must be spiritually mature Christian and active church member, have several years of church office experience, and very strong computer skills. Applicant must be highly skilled in Word, Publisher, Excel, PowerPoint and Church Software Programs. Send resumes to: Personnel Committee, Fern Creek Baptist Church, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291; or email to [linda@ferncreekbaptist.org](mailto:linda@ferncreekbaptist.org). Resumes will be received through April 18. Questions? Call (502) 239-0316, ext. 103. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor.

**SEEKING:** Camp director and staff for 2012 camp season at Boone's Creek Baptist Camp, Winchester, Ky. Camp starts June 4 and goes through July 20. Must be 18 years old or older. For application, go online to [www.boonescreekbaptistassoc.com](http://www.boonescreekbaptistassoc.com); or call (859) 744-0037. Applications must be received by April 23, 2012.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor/minister to youth and young adults at Pleasant View Baptist Church, Waynesburg, Ky. Please forward resumes to [pvcsearchteam@yahoo.com](mailto:pvcsearchteam@yahoo.com); or mail to 13571 Ky. Hwy. 1247, Waynesburg, KY 40489, Attn: Search Team/Don Story.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational pastor for a church with an average attendance of 50; parsonage provided. Reply to Short Creek Baptist Church, 6212 Hwy. 22 W., Falmouth, KY 41040.

**SEEKING:** Bivocational music director for Bullittsburg Baptist Church. Must have working knowledge of music; be able to play one or more instruments; and be responsible for providing worshipful music for all applicable services. Annual salary: \$5,200. Submit resume to [music@bullittsburgbaptist.org](mailto:music@bullittsburgbaptist.org); or to Music Search Committee, 2616 Bullittsburg Church Road, Petersburg, KY 41080. Church phone: (859) 689-4945.

**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader for blended services and leading an adult choir at Gamaliel Baptist Church, Gamaliel, Ky. Send resumes to [carder@scrtc.com](mailto:carder@scrtc.com).

**SEEKING:** Director of missions for Pike County. Email resumes to [bill@eliteky.net](mailto:bill@eliteky.net); or mail to Bill Staggs, moderator, PO Box 2973, Pikeville, KY 41502. Resumes will be received by May 4. Pike Association consists of 25 churches and one mission. For more information, call (606) 434-8289.

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**SEEKING:** Part-time worship leader who is familiar with hymns, modern music and leading a choir for Georgetown, Ky., church. Send resumes to [safeharborpastor@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:tfbc302@scrtc.com). Email resumes or mail to First Baptist Church, 302 N. Magnolia, Tompkinsville, KY 42167.

**VOLUNTEER:** Want to change a life as well as your own? Become a volunteer host family to an international teenager (ages 15-18; speak English; have health insurance and spending money; will attend local high school). More info? Contact [Stacey@pieusa.org](mailto:Stacey@pieusa.org); or (877) 863-2503. <http://pieusa.org> not-for-profit exchange organization.

# An MLB opening day confession

By David Prince

I have a Major League Baseball opening day confession to make. When I attend a baseball game, I feel kind of like I do when I go to church. My children stay home from school on opening day because I have declared the day a cherished family holiday. I love baseball. It has been the background music of my life.

I remember the first time my family traveled from Montgomery to Atlanta to watch the Atlanta Braves at old Fulton County Stadium. Today, I am glad that old, stadium-style facility was put out of its misery in favor of an actual ballpark. But as a boy, turning off of the concourse toward the field and seeing that perfectly manicured diamond for the first time was one of the most breathtaking sights I had ever laid eyes on.

I still consider a perfectly manicured ballpark one of the most beautiful works of art to be found in our world. When traveling, I always try to work in time to visit a ballpark or two—and no game need be played at the time. The simple enjoyment of taking in the confident uniqueness and beauty of a well-worn and well-kept ballpark is enough to savor.

I have always appreciated the fact that baseball fans are not simply drawn to the atmosphere of the event like many football fans are (for many, tailgating is the main event). Generally, baseball fans love the game and all of its quirky nuances. This love for the game never begins in the abstract. There is always a particular time, a place and a person. Have you ever noticed when baseball players are asked about the origination of their love of the game, most often, their first words are, "my dad" and then at some point "there was this little park in my hometown." Catch with dad, countless conversations, and the soil of a particular baseball diamond.

When you arrive at the ballpark, the people you see are ethnically, socioeconomically and culturally diverse, but most have essentially the same story; Dad, catch, and a little league diamond in their hometown. A time, a place, and a person, provides a wonderful rootedness in a transient rootless culture. It also explains why people who sit beside one another at baseball games almost always chat. They talk about the game they are watching and their general love of the game.

But as much as I appreciate the inherent beauty of an empty ballpark and its idiosyncratic design, it was built for a game to be played and the stands to be filled. No day in sports possesses the excitement and hopefulness of baseball opening day. A baseball season does not simply begin; it is celebrated, from tiny, dusty, rural diamonds to Yankee Stadium. Unlike any other

sport, the beginning of a new baseball season births a newness and hopefulness that this just may be the year for your favorite team. There is a sense, as Thomas Boswell has written, that time begins on Opening Day.

## FIRST PERSON

This hopefulness is warranted because baseball depends as much on the intangibles as it does 40-yard dash times and bench press maxes. As you watch your favorite team on opening day, you are right to be full of hope. This could be their year.

I also love the rhythm of baseball. One of the greatest features is the 162-game regular season. The uninitiated see the length as a knock against baseball, but it is the very element that makes the game such a powerful metaphor for life. A sport where one loss ruins an entire season and perfection as an attainable goal is at odds with the managed failure of our actual lives. The 2011 World Series champion St. Louis Cardinals lost 72 games last season—that's 45 percent of the regular season. Miguel Cabrera led the Majors with a .344 batting average, which means his failure average was .656. Managed failure in the pursuit, not of perfection, but of greater consistency. Now that is something that resonates with my daily Christian life.

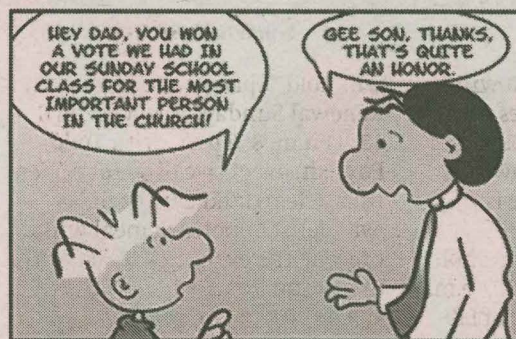
As much as I love and enjoy the game of baseball it pales when compared to my love and enjoyment of the gathered church. One of my favorite moments every week is walking in to the worship center and seeing the eternally hope-filled faces of people from different ethnic, socioeconomic, and cultural backgrounds. A group of people who would never have gotten together if not for the fact they possess a common meta-narrative of the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Their stories are all different and yet at their core they are all the same. They did not begin to follow Christ in the abstract. There was a time, a place and a person when they heard the Good News and believed. Now their lives are forever rooted in His grace. As they gather for a church service to celebrate the resurrected Christ, they have struggled all week and often failed, but their goal is not perfection—but simply greater consistency. The Lord's Day is a precious gift built into the rhythm of our lives. Every Sunday is full of newness and hope through faith in Jesus no matter our failure.

Baseball is not heaven, and it is not church, which is a glorious taste and window of heaven on earth. But I do confess, baseball reminds me of church and for that I am glad and say with renewed gusto, "Play ball!" (BP)

David Prince is pastor of preaching and vision at Ashland Avenue Baptist Church in Lexington.

## Preacher's Kids



Joe McKeever



Dennis Fletcher

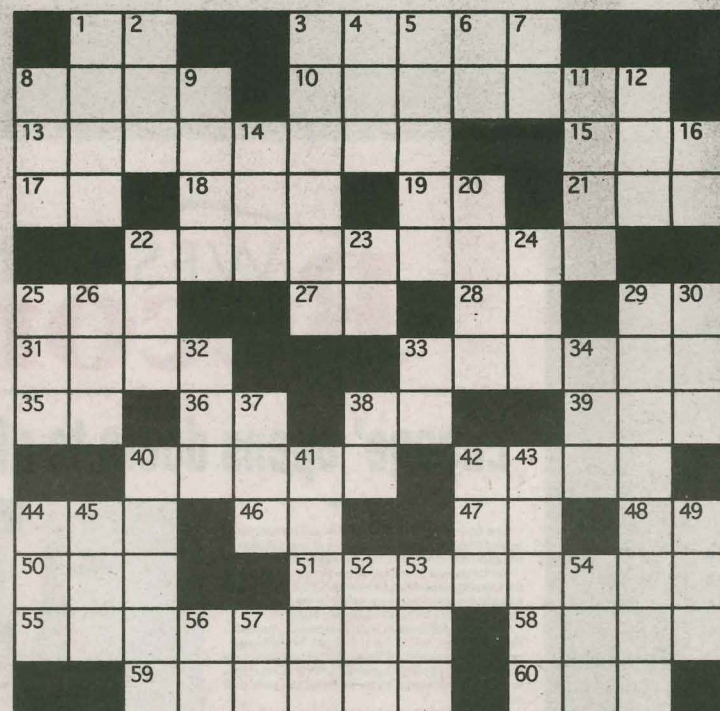


## Bible Crosswords

By Teri Grottke

### Across

- 1 Stop! (arch.)
- 3 Son of Tahath (1 Chronicles 6:24)
- 8 Father of Simon Peter
- 10 Assyrian god, which had a house in Nineveh (2 Kings 19)
- 13 Jealous gems?
- 15 Nephew of Abraham
- 17 Pronoun
- 18 Linking verb
- 19 Home of the brave (abbr.)
- 21 Postember state
- 22 Reproved
- 25 "In the night \_\_\_\_ of Moab is laid waste" (Isaiah 15:1)
- 27 Dir.
- 28 Where Miami University is (abbr.)
- 29 Hectare (abbr.)
- 31 Of starch (comb. form)
- 33 Pilfers (colloq.)
- 35 Musical abbr.
- 36 Where "The Music Man" was set (abbr.)
- 38 Figure on many TV crime shows (abbr.)
- 39 Hardwood
- 40 Son of Joktan (Genesis 10:26)
- 42 Son of Salah (Genesis 10:24)
- 44 Exclamation
- 46 Metric abbr.
- 47 Part of middle-school curriculum (abbr.)
- 48 Word in a command
- 50 Big \_\_\_\_, CA
- 51 Age of Jehoiachin when he began his reign
- 55 Deception
- 58 Too



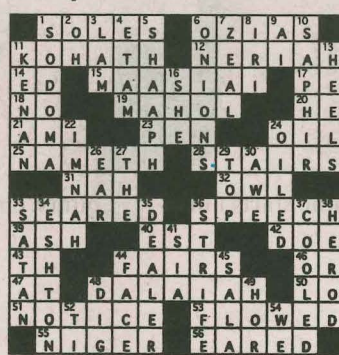
- 59 Commanded
- 60 Strike

### Down

- 1 Domicile
- 2 Chemical suffix
- 3 Except that
- 4 To free, with "of"
- 5 Assign
- 6 Hesitation sound
- 7 Biblical exclamation
- 8 "He is a \_\_\_\_, which is one inwardly" (Romans 2:29)
- 9 Son of Ulla (1 Chronicles 7:39)
- 11 Attired
- 12 O.T. minor prophet (abbr.)
- 14 First name of famed football coach
- 16 Symbol of thorium
- 20 "As \_\_\_\_ in summer ... so honour is not seemly" (Proverbs 26:1)
- 22 \_\_\_\_, the Beloved Country (Paton book)
- 23 Preposition
- 24 Son of Benjamin (Genesis 46:21)

- 25 Eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 26 Mischievous child
- 29 Was told, KJV style
- 30 Question
- 32 Untruth
- 33 Where Durban is (abbr.)
- 34 Nineteenth-century American writer
- 37 Prepare for battle
- 38 AL lineup abbr.
- 40 Assyrian king mentioned in Hosea
- 41 Alter
- 42 N.T. epistle (abbr.)
- 43 City where David took "exceeding much brass" (2 Samuel 8)
- 44 Snake
- 45 With Aaron, he held up Moses' arms
- 49 City built by descendants of Benjamin (1 Chronicles 8:12)
- 52 To cause to be (suffix, Brit.)
- 53 Bk. of the Torah
- 54 Father of Hophni
- 56 Note of the diatonic scale
- 57 Singer Ames

### Last puzzle's solution



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## WESTERN Recorder

November 29, 2011

Shine Like Stars \* Philippines 2:15

Volume 185, Issue 46

### 'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact

By Kristie Randolph

Cave City—In a time of global unrest and turmoil, laughter and friendship between hundreds of international students from different countries might seem impossible. Yet for the past 57 years, that is what has taken place at the Cave City Convention Center during the Engage International Student Conference, hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

More than 400 students from 35 countries attended this year's event, held earlier this month. While Engage primarily is a cultural conference for Kentucky's international students, it also is a strategic piece of BCM's efforts to reach international students for Christ alongside local churches.

"As campus ministers who take American students abroad to share the gospel, we've realized they are here at our door," said Cindy Pelphrey, campus minister for Owensboro area schools and the event's coordinator. "We're trying to engage them while they are here. The world is becoming very small."

Event coordinators seek ways to share the gospel and plant seeds for ongoing conversations, she said.

Three years ago, Pelphrey befriended Chinese student Sunny Lu. As a college freshman, Lu was eager to attend the event. Now a graduating senior at Kentucky Wesleyan College, Lu just attended her final conference, and credits the event for many positive memories, experiences and friends.

□ See 'Engage' conference ... Page 2



A student pins a small Germany flag over his home country on a world map. This year more than 400 students representing 35 countries attended the Engage International Student Conference sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. (KBC photo)

### IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

By Don Graham

Richmond, Va.—Eight months after unanimously electing Tom Elliff as "God's man" to lead Southern Baptists' global missions efforts, International Mission Board trustees officially inaugurated him as the mission board's 11th leader.

Meeting Nov. 14-15, trustees dedicated an evening to inaugurating Elliff during a special service in Richmond, Va.

Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, a guest speaker at the inauguration, compared Elliff to Barnabas in Acts 11:24—a "good man" of great faith, filled with the Holy Spirit.



INAUGURATED Former International Mission Board president Jerry R. Connor as denominational leaders lay hands on Tom and Joannie Elliff Nov. 14 as the newest president of the IMB.

"There are 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups (in the world), and God has put on Tom's heart that we challenge the churches of our convention to go out there and reach all 3,800. ... Now that is great

faith," Bryant said. "We know beyond doubt that God has a role," Wright told Elliff at the 2011 South

□ See Elliff inaugurated

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