

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Heroes, welcome

Radcliff church honors soldiers, families with food, games, gospel

By Robin Bass

Radcliff—Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff recently opened its doors—and parking lot—so nearby churches and businesses could unite for the seventh annual “Hooray for Heroes” and show community support for U.S. soldiers.

“Each year on Armed Forces Day we have a very special celebration,” Stithton Pastor Gregg Curtis said of the May 19 event. “Our goal is to let our community, especially our military commu-

nity, know how much we appreciate them.”

The daylong celebration began on the church parking lot as veteran and active-duty military personnel were treated to prizes, food and music—all for free. Games and clowns also were provided to entertain the children of military parents. Curtis said local business, including corporate sponsor Walmart, and area churches band together each year to make the day extra special for soldiers and their families.

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■ Left: Maj. Gen. Jeff Smith, commanding general at Fort Knox, addresses soldiers and their families at the seventh annual “Hooray for Heroes” celebration at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff. Smith applauded soldiers for their sacrifice and selfless service. “They do not do this for riches or for glory,” he said. “They do it because they believe in a cause higher than themselves.” ■ Right: Sgt. Brad Buring holds his sleeping son, Maximus, 2, during the May 19 service. (Photos by Robin Bass)



Joplin’s devastation becomes Kentucky family’s call to mission field

By Brian Koonce

Joplin, Mo.—Thousands of people have given their time and resources to help the city of Joplin rebuild after last year’s devastating tornado. But one family answered God’s call to do even more, moving from their home and steady jobs in Kentucky to help coordinate volunteers in the devastated Missouri town.

When the EF-5 tornado struck last May, 161 people were killed and thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed or damaged. The tornado also stirred the heart of Jackie Jacobs, a math teacher in Pulaski County. He had sensed God’s call on his heart, but hadn’t known how or what it might mean.

“My heart immediately went out to the people, and I began praying for something I could do even though I lived 12 hours away,” Jacobs recalled. “As soon as school was out, I took my sons with me to rebuild what we could with the time we had.”

Jacobs’ church gave him some money to buy gas and food and sent him on his way in the middle of June last year when mangled buildings, uprooted trees and debris still dominated any major signs of cleanup and recovery.

But connecting his skills to cleanup jobs, especially ones he could do with his sons, was a challenge. Jacobs didn’t know where to start, so he contacted Pulaski County Baptist Association’s director of missions, who forwarded him to the Kentucky Baptist Convention, then to the Missouri Baptist Convention, then Spring River Baptist Association and its director of missions, Steve Patterson.

Patterson and the association were connected enough to point volunteers like Jacobs in the right direction, but the challenge was overwhelming. “I was getting hundreds of phone calls a day,” he said. “It was more than I could handle.”

For Jacobs, one week in Joplin turned into two.

□ See Jacobs family ... Page 6



CALLED TO SERVE The Jacobs family: Jackie and Rachel with their sons Richard (left) and Jonathan and daughter Kristen. The family cites Matthew 9:37 to explain why they left their home in Kentucky to help Joplin, Mo., recover from last year’s tornado: “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few.” (Missouri Pathway photo)



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Western Recorder 5-29-2012

Campbellsville students aboard diverted flight

Passenger claimed to have explosive device implanted in her body

By Bob Allen

Bangor, Maine—Passengers aboard a May 22 flight from Paris to Charlotte diverted to Bangor, Maine, due to a bomb scare included students from Campbellsville University returning home from a mission trip to Niger.

Students from the Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated school praised flight attendants, the pilot and federal authorities as they handled the situation on US Airways flight 787 as a woman suspected of having an explosive device implanted inside her was taken off the plane by federal authorities without incident.

Graduating senior Kevin Metzger, one of nine Campbellsville students sitting in the rear of the plane along with campus ministries director Ed Pavy and intern Trent Creason, said he saw the woman seated five rows in front of him walk up and down the aisle a few times but didn't notice anything unusual about her. After a flight attendant began moving up and down the aisle and medical personnel were called twice, they all assumed the woman was ill.

The pilot announced they were landing because they needed to refuel, Metzger said, and the sight of emergency vehicles on the ground was the passengers' first clue that there might be a problem.

Officials came on board very quickly, escorted the suspicious passenger out, had dogs search her luggage and took her into custody. Only then did the pilot explain what had happened.

Metzger said everybody was "really calm" and that staff were professional as they handled the situation.

Creason said the woman "didn't look like the happiest camper" when she was removed from the plane but she did not struggle as she was apprehended.

According to media reports, as the airplane neared the United States, the woman handed a note to a flight attendant saying she had a "device" inside her body. Passengers subdued her and physicians quickly examined the woman, a French citizen born in Cameroon who was scheduled to visit the U.S. for 10 days, and found no evidence of an explosive implant.

Two fighter jets were scrambled to intercept the Boeing 767 and escort it to a safe landing at Maine's Bangor International Airport. An FBI spokesman said there was no indication the plane or its 179 passengers and nine crew members were in any danger before the flight was diverted.

Last year U.S. officials warned airlines that terror groups were studying how to evade airport security by implanting bombs inside humans. CNN quoted a federal law enforcement source who said the woman likely would receive a psychiatric evaluation and posed "basically no threat."

"We are very thankful that the Campbellsville University staff and students, as well as all on US Airways Flight 787, are safe and on their way home," CU President Michael Carter said. "We appreciate the many phone calls and e-mails of concern about the safety of our CU staff and students."

Metzger, who has flown overseas about six times, said he wasn't fazed by the adventure, but it may have been unsettling for some of the team members who had never been on a plane before. "If they can survive this, I guess they are good for any situation."

The Campbellsville team spent two weeks in Niger, a western African nation largely covered by the Sahara Desert, working with Mark and Parker Hill Phillips, both 2002 graduates of Campbellsville appointed to Niger by the International Mission Board.

Students split into two teams and took turns painting a local school building and using a method called Creation to Christ to tell Bible stories in a country that according to the U.S. State Department is 97 percent Muslim. (ABP)

Kentucky Baptists' gifts through CP fall short in April

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance

Giving for April 1-30, 2012 & Year-to-Date



Monthly budget goal*	\$1,820,594
Actual giving:	\$1,706,656
Under budget:	\$ 113,938
Year-to-Date budget goal*	\$14,564,708
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$14,801,965
Over budget:	\$ 237,257

*Based on annual spendable budget \$21,847,130
Actual budget \$23.5 million

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program dropped in April, falling short of March's total and the monthly budget goal.

Contributions made through CP in April totaled \$1,707,656, which was \$113,938 below the monthly goal of \$1,820,594 for the spendable budget.

Despite the decline, Kentucky Baptists' giving through the Cooperative Program remains ahead of the annual spendable budget goal according to Lowell Ashby, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business services team.

"We are still ahead more than \$237,000 for the annual spendable budget goal," Ashby said.

CP totals so far for the fiscal year 2011-12 are 5.52 percent below what is needed to reach the \$23.5 million budget passed by messengers to the 2011 KBC annual meeting.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he hopes as Kentucky Baptists learn more about the restructuring of the KBC Mission Board staff, they will feel re-energized in their CP giving.

"By embracing the Great Commission Task Force report, Kentucky Baptists made a clear statement a few years ago that they wanted a greater percentage of their CP dollars to be sent to international missions," Chitwood said. "With the missionary head count down almost 1,000 since I was serving as a trustee on the International Mission Board just two short years ago, I understand the sense of urgency.

"In response, we cut 37 Mission Board staff positions at the KBC, and have started a restructuring of our work to continue serving churches with fewer resources so more CP dollars can make it to places in the world where there is no Christian witness," he continued.

"Now that the size of the slices are coming in line with what Kentucky Baptists said they wanted, it's time to make the entire pie bigger," Chitwood added.

"There are so many Kentucky Baptist congregations that have maintained, or even increased, their gifts through the Cooperative Program, year in and year out. Their example should be an inspiration to fellow Kentucky Baptists.

"Imagine what advances in kingdom work we could make here in Kentucky and around the world if all of us sacrificed a little more," he said. (KBC)

Longtime Southern Seminary prof Wayne Ward dies

Louisville—Wayne Ward, a longtime theology professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, died May 23 after suffering a stroke days earlier. He was 90.

In 1951, Ward was elected instructor in theology and biblical languages at the seminary. In 1980 he became the Joseph Emerson Brown Professor of Theology, a post he held until his retirement in the mid-1990s.

An adviser to the committee that drafted the Baptist Faith and Message in 1963, Ward served as interim pastor at many churches over the years, including a stint at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, Ark., where he served as adviser and minister to then-governor of Arkansas, Bill Clinton.



Wayne Ward

"Wayne Ward's zeal for Christ shone brightly through his teaching, preaching and mentoring," said Molly Marshall, a former student and now president of Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Shawnee, Kan.. "His rich grasp of biblical theology motivated many generations of students to excellence in ministry. I am blessed to be among them."

Over the years Ward spoke at the funerals of many colleagues with whom he served in the decades leading up to the conservative shift that began in the 1970s. One of the two main architects of that movement, Paige Patterson, is Ward's cousin by marriage. While the two disagreed about denominational politics, Patterson has described a

summer course he took under Ward while a student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary as his favorite class of all time.

Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler said Ward was the first professor he ever met at the school, and Ward regularly came to Mohler's home to preach January Bible studies.

"Wayne Ward was born to be a teacher," Mohler said. "He brought incredible energy and commitment to the classroom. Through his classroom teaching and doctoral supervision, he touched and influenced thousands of lives. He had one of the longest tenures of any professor in the history of this institution, and it is a matter of academic legend that he served on more doctoral committees than any other member of Southern Seminary's faculty."

In later years much of Ward's attention turned to giving care to his wife of 64 years, Mary Ann, who slipped into years of declining health and increasing dementia until her death in 2007.

Funeral services were held May 25, led by Pastor Jay Tigner of Finchville Baptist Church, where Ward was a member. A second service was held May 26 at Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, where Ward and his wife formerly attended for many years, followed by burial at Cave Hill Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial gifts go to Finchville Baptist Church or the Mary Ann and Wayne Ward scholarship fund at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark. (ABP)

With additional reporting by Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Midwestern opens president search

Kansas City, Mo.—The presidential search team at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary is accepting nominations and applications for the position of president, the team's chairman has announced.

Midwestern's next leader will be a visionary and a relationship-builder, as well as a committed Southern Baptist with substantial local church experience, Bill Bowyer, chairman of the presidential search team, said May 18.

Robin Hadaway, the Midwestern Seminary's associate professor of missions, has been serving as interim president of Midwestern since R. Philip Roberts resigned in February.

Nominations and expressions of interest should be emailed to Bowyer at MBTSPresidentialSearch@mbts.edu, or call (816) 414-3700.

Among the search team members is Kentucky Baptist pastor Larry Lewis, who leads Reidland Baptist Church in Paducah. (BP)

Expert: Churches must be proactive in protecting their children

By David Roach

Miami—He looked like the ideal youth minister—recommended by a friend of the pastor, personable, and leading a thriving ministry to teens at Wayside Baptist Church in Miami.

But looks were deceiving.

For months, he had been sexually abusing boys during sleepovers at his home. When the offense came to light, the church had its very existence jeopardized by a \$6 million civil judgment in favor of the victims. Eventually the case was settled for an undisclosed amount, and Wayside determined to do everything it could to protect children in the future.

“Now we do criminal background checks on anyone who is volunteering, and they put glass in all the doors” of children’s and youth classrooms, said Carrel Youmans, a longtime member at Wayside who taught youth when the abuse occurred in the 1970s.

Wayside is not an isolated case, said Patrick Moreland, vice president of marketing at Church Mutual Insurance Company. Church Mutual averages four to five reports of child sexual abuse each week from its approximately 100,000 clients, the vast majority of which are churches. That includes roughly 9,000 Southern Baptist congregations.

Every church needs to have policies in place to protect its children, Moreland urged.

“It is common for a congregation to think, ‘It can’t happen here. We’re small and everyone knows everyone,’” Moreland said. “That is not sound thinking when it comes to child sexual abuse. Most abusers are known to the child and trusted by the congregation. Child sexual abuse occurs in churches of all sizes and denominations and in all parts of the country—urban and rural.”

Reporting suspected abuse

If abuse is ever suspected, Moreland urges churches to contact the proper government agency immediately and to suspend the alleged offender (with pay for employees) until the situation is resolved. They also should contact their attorney and insurance company.

Representatives of the church, accompanied by a reporting agency official, should meet with the child’s parents and, in their presence with their permission, the child.

“Reassure the child that he or she has done nothing wrong and that it was right to report the incident,” Moreland said. “Allow the child to speak freely. Do not coach responses from them and do not become defensive. You want the truth and you want to protect the child’s wellbeing.”

Abuse prevention policies

Among the policies Church Mutual recommends to prevent child sexual abuse:

- Have all potential children’s and youth workers (employees and volunteers) complete an application form. Look for irregularities. Ask for and check references. Conduct interviews.

- Perform background screenings on all employees and volunteers who will have access to children. The screenings should be national in scope since it is



Movie to warn of online dangers

Lynchburg, Va.—A faith-based movie warning parents and children about online dangers will be filmed in part at Thomas Road Baptist Church and Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and is set to debut in theaters this fall.

“Finding Faith,” based on actual events about a girl falling victim to an online predator, portrays how a model family can be torn apart by tragedy and rebuilt by faith.

Thomas Road Baptist, founded by the late Jerry Falwell, will serve as the host church for the production, which centers on the work of a Virginia sheriff, Mike Brown of Bedford, and the Department of Justice task forces around the nation that have

led in protecting children from Internet predators.

“Mike Brown and his team have done an incredible job of prosecuting predators and making families aware of this danger. We are eager to support their efforts,” said Thomas Road Pastor Jonathan Falwell.

The full-length narrative motion picture is projected to open in 135 theaters nationwide in November. Among its goals: giving teenagers “a comprehensive and realistic understanding of Internet safety, cyber bullying and ‘sexting’” and to challenge teens to live “dynamically and purposefully,” according to film’s website.

For more information, visit Finding FaithFilm.com. (BP)

common for offenders to move from state to state. The Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender public website can be accessed through the Southern Baptist Convention’s website at www.SBC.net/LocalChurches.

- Never allow anyone to be involved in children’s or youth ministry who has not been active in the church for at least six months.

- Implement and enforce a two-adult rule. Never allow one adult to be alone with a minor. The two adults should not be spouses.

- Install windows in classrooms and keep doors open. Have a hall monitor circulate through the building during children’s and youth activities.

“Most incidents of child sexual abuse can be prevented by following these simple steps,” Moreland said. “The primary facilitators of child sexual abuse are failure to screen and supervise those who will be in contact with your youth and children.”

For Wayside, which averages 800-900 each week in worship, prevention stems from “good people with good training, and ... good policies to back that up,” said Leigh Byers, director of preschool and children’s ministries at the church.

Today anyone seeking to work with children in the congregation must fill out volunteer forms, including a confidential questionnaire, a background check permission form and an affidavit of good-moral character. Volunteers also

are required to provide references, and Wayside follows the six-month rule.

Though hardly any potential workers have been turned away, some have declined to go through the application process, Byers said. She added that domestic violence and sex crimes also would disqualify a member from working with children.

“If someone is a potential abuser, they’re not looking for the hardest place to accomplish their goal,” Byers said. “They’re probably looking for a place that’s a little easier. So, we try to put some things in place that would make

Patrick Moreland of Church Mutual Insurance Company:

“Most abusers are known to the child and trusted by the congregation. Child sexual abuse occurs in churches of all sizes and denominations and in all parts of the country—urban and rural.”

somebody think twice before they would necessarily say, “This is easy. I don’t have to work too hard to get access.”

Prevention at small churches

Child abuse prevention is not just for large churches, noted Jonathan Ruth, minister of music and children at Springdale Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C., which averages approximately 230 in worship.

Before his church instituted mandatory background checks for all children’s workers, one parent asked if volunteers were screened. Ruth said no, and the parent withdrew her children from an after-school program.

“I’m not saying that’s why they left, but she seemed concerned that our volunteers were not checked,” Ruth said. “And if it’s going to be a hindrance to a parent to bring their child to a church where volunteers are not background checked, I think it’s worth it to make sure you have those assurances in place for parents.”

In addition to background screenings, Springdale has an unwritten policy of always having two adults in a room where there are children. The congregation is in the process of developing official, written policies, Ruth said.

“I think every church needs to have protection in place for their children so that there’s not going to be abuse taking place,” he said.

With proper screening and an attitude of transparency though, churches stand a better chance of never having an incident to report, Byers noted.

Church members should be “watching and helping each other,” she said. No one should ever think, “There’s somebody watching the kids ... let’s not worry about it,” she added. “There needs to be working together.” (SBC Life/BP)

Matte is Pastors’ Conf. nominee

Houston—Gregg Matte, pastor of First Baptist Church of Houston, will be nominated as president of the Pastors’ Conference during the June 17-18 gathering in New Orleans.

John Bisagno, pastor emeritus at First Baptist Houston, said in a brief statement to Baptist Press May 21 that he was “deeply honored” to announce his intent to nominate Matte, his “wonderful successor” at the church.

“Pastor Gregg’s unparalleled leadership at Houston’s First is only a foretaste of a glorious conference in our beautiful city,” Bisagno said, referring to next year’s Pastors’ Conference in conjunction with the SBC annual meeting.

Under Matte’s leadership since 2004,

First Baptist Houston has “moved to the cutting edge of ministry and experienced tremendous growth,” according to the church’s website.

Before his time at First Baptist Houston, Matte founded Breakaway Ministries, the largest college Bible study in the nation, at Texas A&M University.

Matte earned a master’s degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and a bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M. His book, “I AM Changes Who I Am” was recently released. He also is the author of a Bible study guide called “The Highest Education: Becoming a Godly Man.”

Matte and his wife, Kelly, have two children. (BP)

Two key KBC changes to better serve churches

The Kentucky Baptist Convention is embracing the values expressed in our new vision statement: Created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ. In doing so, some organizational changes for our staffing structure are in order. I want to highlight two of those changes.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

First, evangelism and church planting will now be paired together. The wedding of these two pieces will better represent the New Testament model of evangelism. While church planting will not be the only evangelism method we help churches undertake, it will hold a prominent place in the overall strategy.

Two other ministry assignments will also be included on this team: ethnic work and collegiate evangelism. Since the primary thrust of our ethnic ministry in Kentucky has been church planting, it fits well on this team. Some consider university and college campuses the epicenters of lostness in the Commonwealth. A strategic evangelistic focus for our collegiate ministry can continue to be effectively facilitated on this team.

Second, we are creating a "Church Consulting and Revitalization Team." The primary assignment of this team is to provide free ministry consulting to KBC churches with a goal toward church revitalization. Various studies have suggested that 70-80 percent of churches are plateaued or in decline. Helping churches turn around is vital kingdom work.

This team will have a group of pastoral ministry consultants whose primary focus will be working with our pastors and associational missionaries across the state. They will be specialists in resources for the local church, networking leaders, and introducing strategies for church revitalization. They will also seek to be encouragers to the pastors and associational missionaries. Recent studies have indicated that eight out of 10 seminary graduates who enter the ministry leave within five years and only one in 10 will finish in the ministry. Many factors contribute to these startling realities, but I know of no one suggesting that our pastors and missionaries need fewer people encouraging them. They need more.

This team will also have a group of church ministry specialists who will provide consultation on the various ministries of the local church, including but not limited to preschool and children's ministries, youth ministries, women's ministries, senior adult ministries, worship ministries, discipleship and Sunday School ministries, church finance and benefits, conflict resolution, etc. These consultants will be equipped to assist churches of any size, but their primary target will be churches with an average attendance of 300 or less. The overwhelming majority of KBC churches fit into that size range. They are the churches that could benefit most from a ministry investment from the KBC.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Connecting wedding tornadoes and rebuilding a city wall

Last Wednesday, you may have seen the news clip of a wedding with twin tornadoes swirling in the distance. As a Kansas couple declared their marriage vows, their guests watched the path of the approaching storm. Perhaps it was because I was preparing a devotional about Nehemiah leading the people to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, but I couldn't help thinking that the scene was a good illustration of the Christian life, in general, and for Kentucky Baptists, in particular.

In the foreground, in our families, our churches and our convention, God is so often working to unite us together in accomplishing good things for His kingdom. Meanwhile, in the background, powerful forces are also at work out there that seek to distract, destroy and rip everything apart. That's why we need God all the more. As Nehemiah's rally cry declares: "Our God will fight for us!"

Nehemiah encountered this dilemma, too. In "The Helmsman," a former professor of mine at Southeastern Seminary, Ken Coley describes Nehemiah as an "ordinary man who was found faithful as a cupbearer, called to serve as general contractor, and finally elevated to the position of governor." Perhaps, that's one reason we identify so well with him: "He was not a preacher, or a prophet, or a priest," observes Stanley Anderson, author of "Nehemiah, the Executive." Anderson adds, "Yet he will always be an inspiring example of executive ability, through consecration, and complete trustworthiness." Those character traits are not just descriptors meant for our spiritual leaders; they also are intended for everyday disciples like you and me.

Nehemiah set some high expectations, stretching the citizens of Jerusalem to excel in their task, Coley explains. Half of the workers built the wall, while the other half held swords and spears. They worked from dawn until the stars came out. Still, their duty wasn't over then. They all stood guard at night. Why? Because there were "naysayers" out there who wanted to knock down their wall, discourage the workers and cause them to disband. Nehemiah urged the people to work sacrificially on a project of significance, to make their lives count. His people had been scattered in captivity. Now, it was time to return home, rebuild the broken walls, renew the broken covenant, and remember their

role as a testament of divine redemption to the nations.

Even though they were a diverse workforce made up of untrained laborers, they completed the seemingly impossible task in a staggering 52 days. They were able to achieve such a great work because they were united by their common goal and willing to cooperate and share in their work responsibilities. More importantly, they gave the credit to God—not Nehemiah, not Ezra, not the priests, not to city officials, not to themselves for their long hours and hard work.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton

The takeaway here, working together should lead to a stronger faith in God, not ourselves. That is why cooperating in missions is so important not only for those to whom we share the gospel, but also for those with whom we serve and minister. We become "one in the Spirit, one in the bond of love." Don't miss the phrase that Nehemiah uses to describe how the people gathered in the city square to hear God's word: "as one man."

As for Nehemiah, almost as an afterthought, we learn that he had become governor. Here we encounter another great biblical truth: those who prove themselves faithful in small things, like building a city wall, frequently are given greater opportunities of kingdom service and ministry. As their leaders, he and Ezra, the priest and scribe, encouraged the people to enjoy a great day of celebration, helping them to experience "the joy of the Lord is your strength." They celebrated the dedication of their wall with gladness, with hymns of thanksgiving and with songs, accompanied by cymbals, harps and lyres. It may not have exactly been the construction of a sanctuary, but it was no less a place of worship. The wall gave evidence to the fact that God was again with them.

As Kentucky Baptists, we, too, are called to be kingdom builders. May we be as vigilant in prayer and as passionate about fulfilling God's vision for our families and churches as Nehemiah. May we be united in the task and as courageous and sacrificial in our commitment to carrying out the Great Commission as the people of Jerusalem were in building a strong wall. May we be as willing to give all of the glory to God for our achievements and as eager to see and celebrate the day when His Word is worshipped among all the nations "as one man."

Does your church's deacon body need reforming?

By Joe McKeever

The most confused group of people in the average Southern Baptist church is the deacons. They have no idea what they are to be and do. Depending on the whims of the deacon chairman for that year, they become servants or managers, program heads or administrators, helpers or bosses, activists or inactive.

The church's constitution and bylaws are usually vague on who they are, what they are to do, how they should function. And, let us admit up front, Scripture does not give us a lot of guidance on this matter either. At every deacon ordination I've ever attended—and in a half century of ministry, that's quite a few—Acts 6:1-7 has been read. But there's not a word in that passage about those seven men being called deacons.

In fact, let's quit calling them deacons and start calling them what the name means: servants.

Calling them "deacons" is sort of a hedge someone must have erected to prevent them from having to do what their name implies. The word *diakonos* literally means

servant. Furthermore, in almost all the places where the New Testament uses that word, it refers only to servants, to people doing the lowliest jobs in a household or an estate, and not to a class of officers or leaders in the church.

We pause for a moment to list the places where *diakonos* refers to people simply serving: Matthew 20:26, 22:13, 23:11; Mark 9:35, 10:43; John 2:5,9, 12:26; Romans 13:4, 15:8, 16:1; 1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 3:6, 6:4, 11:15,23; Galatians 2:17; Ephesians 3:7, 6:21; Colossians 1:7,23,25, 4:7; 1 Thessalonians 3:2; 1 Timothy 4:6.

Did you notice the omission of all the references in the Bible to *diakonos* as official positions in the church? There are three: Philippians 1:1 and 1 Timothy 3:8,12.

Rather overwhelming, wouldn't you say?

In the well-known passage from 1 Timothy 3, Paul gives all kinds of qualifications for the church's deacons, but not a single word concerning their specific assignment. Either all his readers knew what deacons were to do and did not need direction from him, or, more likely, their work was open-ended,

□ See *Does your church's deacon body need reforming?* ... Page 5

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Does your church's deacon body need reforming?

Continued from page 4

whatever the church needed at the moment.

I think we are safe in concluding that the needs of the church at a given time will dictate what the deacons are to do.

The word *diakonos* itself, which literally means "through the dust," carries a hint as to the work of deacons.

In the biblical world, homes which could employ servants frequently were built as rectangles surrounding an open courtyard, which allowed for air circulation to cool the rooms. When family members moved from one section of the house to another, they stayed inside the shaded areas. The servants, however, cut straight across the courtyard, hence the "through the dust" allusion.

From that, we may conclude that servants were those who did not mind getting dirty in fulfilling their tasks. They literally "did the dirty work," and took care of the lowliest jobs.

The implications for deacons are strong.

Incidentally, even though Acts 6 does not use the word *diakonos*, this is a wonderful picture of how a deacon group should function: at the request of the ministers, chosen by the church, problem-solving, people-ministering, proclamation-helping.

Here are further thoughts for your consideration:

1. Whether a church even has deacons or not (as an official group) is strictly its decision.

Scripture does not instruct churches to choose deacons in order to fulfill the work of the gospel. There is no one-size-fits-all organization for the Lord's churches. Jesus called His people to be "new wineskins," and thus flexible, adaptable, with plenty of give and take, as opposed to rigid, unbending, stiff, inflexible.

2. What a church needs from its deacons may change from one year to the next. Thus, the body's "official assignment" should not be carved in stone.

This may be expecting a lot from people who like their tasks clearly delineated so they can build on their accomplishments from year to year. But ideally, they should be sufficiently flexible to vary what they do

according to the church's situation. One year, they may be caring for widows, another year they are assigned to get the food pantry up and working, and the next to care for members in hospitals and nursing homes.

Sometimes, deacons are trouble-shooters within congregations. When dissension arises, they deal with it.

3. I strongly suggest tossing out the name "deacons" and going with "servants" to clear up all confusion as to their identity and purpose.

Strictly speaking, we could call them "the lowliest of servants," this being the thrust of servanthood given us by the Lord Jesus all through the gospels. Doubtters should read the first half of John 13. Scholars tell us the task of washing the feet of guests who have just arrived fell to the lowest servant on the household staff. And yet, Jesus washed the feet of the disciples and then commanded that they follow His example.

4. If a church chooses to have a deacon body, it should be spelled out in the constitution and bylaws that they have no authority over anyone in the church.

To be sure, many calling themselves deacons who take pride in their prominence will take offense at the notion of servanthood and leave in a huff. When that happens, the church is vastly better off. Only those with a heart for Christ and a desire to serve His people should be deacons. It's high time we began taking Jesus seriously when He said, "Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

5. Some will insist that the church needs an accountability group of one type or other to deal with the pastor and staff. I agree. But it's not the deacons.

Let the church select a small group of the most mature and Christ-like men and women who are willing to rotate regularly. Let them meet with the pastor from time to time.

In Bible times, priests represented God before the people (proclamation, witness) and represented the people before God (intercession). A small accountability group—Christ-like men and women, rotating annually—will represent the congregation to the ministers and then, as needed, will speak to the congregation on behalf of the ministers. Such a task force will have no authority to do anything. They are helpers for both.

6. There must be written guidelines for the deacons. But they cannot write them themselves.

In one church I served, when the deacons wanted to draw the requirements tighter as to who was eligible for service on their "board," they proceeded to amend their own bylaws. I insisted that they were "deacons of the church," and that only the congregation should make such decisions. Finally, over my objections, they took their plan to the congregation. The members were not happy with what they had done, and told them so.

A deacon said to me afterwards, "I'm upset with the congregation. They didn't support their deacons." I said, "What do you think about the deacons not supporting their pastor? I told you not to do it, and you did it anyway." He had no answer. In time, he and I became great friends in Christ. Did you notice that he expected the congregation to support the deacons, instead of the other way around?

To repeat: the deacons are a body selected by the church to do whatever the church decides is needed. Therefore, the church itself (meaning, those it selects) will write the bylaws for deacons, then bring it back to the congregation for approval.

7. Let deacons work in anonymity. It will do them good.

There's not a word in Scripture that says deacons take up the offerings or serve the Lord's Supper or lead in prayer before passing the plate. In a typical Baptist church, if you took away those three tasks, the deacons would have nothing to do.

And that tells us how they get into trouble. With nothing to do, one or more deacons begin looking around for something to occupy their time and fill their monthly meetings. Sooner or later, they begin to focus on someone's complaints about the preacher.

Before long, they have turned the monthly deacons' meeting into a call-the-preacher-on-the-carpet session.

Fresh ideas to enrich marriage

By Scott Wigginton

Q: For years my husband and I have made it a regular practice to read books and to attend seminars on marriage enrichment. While this has been extremely helpful, it seems that we are starting to hear the same things over and over again. Can you give us a fresh idea to enrich our marriage?



A: Kudos on taking your marriage seriously and training to have a great marriage! Anyone who has ever run a race knows that trying is good, but training is better. I Timothy 4:7 instructs every believer about the importance of training for godliness. Luke 6:40 reminds us that "everyone who is fully trained will be like his teacher." Becoming like Christ in your character, obedience and ability to love is a pursuit worthy of a lifetime.

Recently the Holy Spirit whispered a new insight to me that had to do with a passion I have for travel. The insight was simply this, "Couples who are intentional about traveling together might use this as a way of renewing their bond and deepening intimacy." My wise friend Leigh Conver has long taught his students that intimacy is typically about making new discoveries in the presence of another person. Simply put, when we get new insights and perspectives in the company of another we grow closer. Travel creates ever-fresh opportunities for discoveries.

For couples, another benefit of travel involves relatively recent research into the brain. When persons play, research indicates that the brain secretes a hormone called oxytocin. This substance, called the "bonding hormone," leads individuals to bond with the persons with whom they play. How ironic and yet telling that persons play together during dating and courtship, but often stop when responsibilities in marriage mount. Regular travel with one's spouse not only encourages discovery, but facilitates play thus enhancing marital bonding.

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

One thing leads to another, and well-meaning deacons soon find themselves caught up in a power struggle between the pastor and a few deacons. Nothing good will come from this.

This could have been averted had the deacons been assigned specific serving jobs in the congregation and been busy doing them. They would not have had the time or energy to meddle in the preacher's work.

8. There is a great way to put a stop to a church's deacons who, instead of being trouble-shooters, have become the source of the trouble: disband them.

Almost every week, I receive a phone call or email from pastors telling me how the church was flourishing, new people were joining their congregation, and they were so happy—and then a delegation from the deacons came calling to straighten him out on a few things they found objectionable. They threaten the preacher with termination. Trouble-makers.

At any business meeting of a Southern Baptist church, a member may stand and make a motion that "Since the deacons of this church are no longer fulfilling their assignment to serve the body, and since they are in violation of their promise to support the pastor, I move that the deacon body in this church be dissolved."

It has happened before. And when it is done, the congregation will usually make several discoveries:

a) There is peace within the fellowship, the first time in a long time.

b) They will lose a few members. The disgruntled power-brokers cannot take the humbling the congregation hands them. Few things reveal their spiritual immaturity more than how they handle this comeuppance.

c) The church will finally be able to keep a good pastor for years.

I am not anti-deacon. I am for deacons living up to their names.

Joe McKeever is a preacher, cartoonist, and retired Director of Missions for the Baptist Association of Greater New Orleans (www.joemckeever.com).

Did you know ...

By Laurie Valentine

■ That between 60 and 70 percent of all adults in the United States have never written a Last Will and Testament? Making a Will is the single most important act of Christian financial stewardship we will ever take.

■ That for those who have not written a Will, the state in which they reside has a plan of asset distribution written for them? There is a good possibility that Kentucky's "Will" sets up a plan of distribution that doesn't meet your family's needs or your wishes regarding how your assets will pass at your death.

■ That the court will decide who will rear any minor children if both parents are deceased and they have not made a Will or included a nomination of guardian provision in their Will for their children? This is a far more important issue than where your assets will go.

■ That Kentucky's plan for asset distribution does not include your church or any other ministry? You also forfeit the option of creating provisions that will benefit both your family and the Lord's work.

■ That without a properly drawn Will, the death taxes and cost of administering your estate may be higher, thereby reducing what will be available for your family?

■ That by having a properly drawn Will, you get to choose who serves as executor and guardian for your children? You also get to decide who gets what and when they get it.

■ That by having a properly drawn Will you are helping to ease family friction at your death? This is especially important at a time when your loved ones are grieving your loss.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Church opens doors for Joplin's volunteer influx

By Brian Koonce

Webb City, Mo.—Any church would be thrilled to see its Sunday School rooms packed with strangers. But these strangers also have unrolled their sleeping bags and settled in for a week.

First Baptist Church of Webb City, Mo., just a few minutes north of Joplin, has opened its doors to thousands of

relief volunteers over the last 12 months. It is one of several Joplin-area churches that have housed workers since an EF-5 tornado killed 161 and destroyed or damaged thousands of homes and businesses on May 22 of last year.

"This March alone there were so many students here I can't even guess," First Baptist Pastor John Sherwood said, referring to the 400-plus college and

high school students who spent spring break on mission in Joplin.

The church hosted groups every week from the end of May last year through the start of school in the fall.

"We took a picture of how we needed the rooms set up for Sunday School and let them have at it," Sherwood said.

Every church in the area was affected by the deadly tornado, and First Baptist Webb City was no different. One family lost a brother and sister-in-law while 13 of the church's families lost homes. The church assisted in arranging their housing with other members, salvaging their remaining belongings and helping them move once they found permanent housing.

Until recently, the 130-year-old church would not have had the space for such large groups, but another dramatic weather event—an ice storm in 2007—collapsed their auditorium and spurred a building program.

"We're fortunate we got that done before the tornado came," Shepherd said. "We wouldn't have been able to have the kind of ministry we do otherwise."

So, First Baptist had plenty of education and bunk space, but they were ill-equipped to accommodate the volunteers for showers. For that, the church coordinated with local Baptist disaster relief shower units that set up in the church's parking lot.

The church has had to set boundaries



LEFT BEHIND A shattered stained-glass window is found amid the rubble of a Joplin, Mo., theater after last year's devastating tornado. (Photo courtesy of Growing Trees Photography)

and schedule the volunteers around certain ministries and even weddings, but Sherwood said it has been a blessing.

"The ministry of the church still has to go on," he said. "There were adjustments that had to be made, but nothing major."

"A lot of the groups would stay and worship with us on Sunday," the pastor added, "and that was always a great blessing." (Missouri Pathway/BP)



PRAYER CHAIN A group of disaster relief volunteers gather for prayer during clean-up efforts in the days following the deadly May 22, 2011 tornado in Joplin, Mo. One year later, thousands of volunteers continue to stream through the city helping with rebuilding efforts. (Photo by Brian Koonce/Missouri Pathway)

Jacobs family

Continued from page 1

"There was just a sense of calling," he said. "I told people I was going back to Kentucky, but just to visit, and that I'd be back (here) in a little while."

Jacobs' wife, Rachel, wasn't convinced, at least not at first, having been resistant to the idea of him going into ministry.

"I did not want to be a minister's wife," Rachel acknowledged.

But God had been working on her heart four months prior to the tornado to prepare her for the family's eventual transition.

"Whenever I would hang up the phone while talking to him in Joplin, I would just cry because I knew that's where God was calling us," Rachel said. "We just didn't know what that would mean or what we would be doing."

Jacobs, while in Kentucky, inquired through his phone chain whether there was any funding for a full-time volunteer coordinator but found no options. A few weeks later, he returned with Rachel. But before that week was over, the Spring River recovery team approached Jacobs about being the full-time recovery and volunteer coordinator in Joplin. When the couple compared the duties to lists they had made detailing what they felt God was calling them to do, it was a perfect fit.

That was the genesis of J-Hope, a separate ministry under the umbrella of Spring River and the North American Mission Board's "Missions on the Short Term," or MOST, program, working out of North Main Street Baptist Church in Joplin, where the Jacobses now are members.

Since September, the Jacobses have



FAMILY MINISTRY Jackie Jacobs (right) works with his daughter, Kristen, 9, and son, Richard, 15, to stack firewood cut from debris still scattered in Joplin, Mo., from the May 22, 2011, EF-5 tornado. The firewood ministry is just one of many aspects of J-Hope, the ministry the Jacobs family leads. (Missouri Pathway photo)

helped find housing (usually at eight local churches) and line up permission and jobs for 1,645 volunteers' skill level (sometimes up to 400 at a given time) who have come through Spring River's office.

"It has really lifted the load off of my shoulders," Patterson said of the Jacobses' ministry. "It's been a tremendous blessing to me to know that I have someone I can pass this off to and continue to do my regular job that God has called me to do."

The only catch is that there is no funding attached to MOST, and Spring River didn't have the finances to bring on any new personnel, let alone support a family of five. But within a week, in

answer to the Jacobses' and others' prayers, gifts began rolling in.

The Missouri Baptist Convention, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma and the Louisiana Baptist Convention gave enough money to fund the couple's ministry for at least three years. The Jacobses, along with their three children—Richard, a freshman; Jonathan, a seventh grader; and Kristen, a fourth grader—officially moved to their new hometown last September.

It's impossible to tell how long it will take Joplin to fully recover. City leaders' estimates range from three to five years or longer, but Jacobs said the city is moving quickly, thanks in large part to steady work from the Christian commu-

nity and groups like J-Hope.

"The cleanup has been phenomenal," he said. "The rebuilding has been a little slower than I was anticipating, but a lot of the home destruction was of rental properties, and landlords and lessors simply aren't in any hurry to rebuild them."

The Jacobses are slated to be in Joplin at least three years, depending on the need. After that, they'd like to let their oldest finish up high school in Joplin. But they're leaving it up to God, they say.

"With the experience and background we will have, I can see us going to another disaster," Jackie said.

Jackie and Rachel now seemingly have a lifetime of experience in just a few short months, but they also have seen a lifetime of blessings.

"You really learn to lean on Him," Jackie said. "You do all that you can do, schedule the people and trust that it's going to work out. And most times it works out even better than you imagined. It's amazing to see the difference one team can make in a homeowner's life. It's incredible to see them realize that someone loves them that much to come out and help them and then see how much Jesus loves them too. They're floored."

Rachel added, "It's rewarding to see how people's lives change. It also makes you appreciate how you've been blessed with a home, food and kids."

Joplin still needs volunteers to keep showing Jesus' love to its exhausted residents, Jacobs pointed out.

"Just come and be flexible," he urged. "Be ready to do anything. We need electricians and plumbers and those who have specific skills, but more than anything we just need people to be flexible." (Missouri Pathway/BP)

'Hooray for Heroes'

Stithton Baptist honors soldiers & their families

Continued from page 1

Curtis said, for Stithton, it is one "small way we can say thank you to our armed forces and that we are so very proud. We believe as we give ourselves and help with the community, we earn the right to be heard on a lot of issues and, most importantly, that's the gospel of Jesus Christ."

In recent years, the Hooray for Heroes event has featured notable guests such as Patrick Henry Hughes, of Extreme Home Makeover's Louisville episode, and Tony Rose, a 9/11 Pentagon survivor.

The special guest at this year's evening recognition service was author and motivational speaker Clebe McClary, a Vietnam veteran who suffered the traumatic loss of his left arm and eye during hand-to-hand combat. The Marine was leading his 19th reconnaissance mission in October 1968 when the enemy ambushed his unit. Despite the prognosis that he might never walk again, McClary now travels the country as part of "God's Army" with the purpose of offering the hope that is in Christ.

"You may think a guy like me hasn't suffered," McClary said, broadly smiling as his deep Southern voice boomed through the church like a drill sergeant's. "But I've suffered, and my wonderful wife has suffered—we've suffered through 40 operations and more than two and a half years in the hospital. We suffered through sickness, illness, family

and financial troubles, and through it all I have found that my Bible has become one of my prized possessions."

McClary encouraged soldiers to reach for the Bible more often and to fill their heads and hearts with the good news inside. He then directed the audience—which included several dozen soldiers in the Wounded Warriors transition program at Fort Knox—toward Romans 5 where the Bible states, "we also rejoice in our sufferings."

"Suffering produces endurance. Endurance produces character. Character produces hope—and hope does not disappoint us," McClary said. "God did a tremendous job when he created each and every one of you. He's got a tremendous plan and purpose for your life."

During the evening service, several individual soldiers were recognized for their service including retired U.S. Air Force Col. Ralph Reece who served during World War II. During the "Fallen Marine" presentation, the family of U.S. Army Lance Cpl. Matthias Hanson was recognized for their loss. Hanson died while serving as a rifleman in Afghanistan on Feb. 21, 2010.

"Soldiers commit their lives to their nation," said Maj. Gen. Jeff Smith, commanding officer at Fort Knox. "They do not do this for riches or for glory. They don't choose this life because it's convenient or glamorous. They do so out of love for their country and a sense of



HONOREE World War II veteran Ralph Reece (left) received a steady stream of appreciation from fellow military service personnel following an evening recognition service at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff called "Hooray for Heroes." The 91-year-old retired Air Force colonel told soldiers he learned to fly from a World War I veteran. (Photos by Robin Bass)

duty. They do it because they believe in a cause higher than themselves. They do it for their fellow countrymen."

In his prayer at the event, Curtis spoke about the Isaiah's prophecy of a day when nations no longer will take up

arms against other nations.

"Until that day, may we remember, honor and give thanks to those who have served and those who have died in order to give us this precious gift called freedom," Curtis said. (WR)



RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR SERVICE U.S. Army soldiers from nearby Fort Knox, many of them part of the Wounded Warrior program at the post, stand as they are honored at the May 19 "Hooray for Heroes" event held at Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff each year.

Virgin Diaries

CALLING ALL ENGAGED VIRGINS

Are you engaged to the love of your life and have been saving yourself for your wedding night? If you and/or your fiancé(e) have been waiting to be intimate until your wedding night, and now are counting down the days to your wedding day – we want to hear your extraordinary story.

Virgin Diaries is looking for couples who are waiting until their wedding night to be part of TLC's newest documentary series. If you are over the age of 27, engaged to be married in the next couple months and have been saving yourself for "the one" – this is your chance to tell your love story to the world!

If you are featured on the show, there is a \$2,000.00 compensation per couple.

We are casting in your area for a very short window of time so please apply ASAP!

To be part of "Virgin Diaries" please contact:

Virgins@virgincastingcall.com

OR

Nemesia Ramolete
Casting Coordinator
Nemesia@roadtoawe.com

ERLC trustee chairman resigns abruptly

Nashville, Tenn.—An Arkansas pastor has become chairman of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission after the resignation of a retired Indiana minister who was leading the Southern Baptist entity's trustee board.

The new chairman, Richard Piles, pastor of First Baptist Church of Camden, Ark., circulated an email notice last week of the change in trustee leadership.

Piles, who has been serving as the ERLC trustee vice chairman, noted in the email that the trustees' Executive Committee "remains committed to their previously scheduled task of making a public report by June 1 regarding Dr. (Richard) Land and charges against him of racism and plagiarism."

Land, the ERLC's president since 1988, is undergoing trustee scrutiny after a March 31 radio broadcast that sparked controversy over his remarks about the Trayvon Martin shooting and prompted an allegation of plagiarism over the use

of a source he did not identify on the broadcast.

The former chairman, Steve Faith, a retired pastor and director of missions from New Albany, Ind., resigned from the trustee board, citing "his desire to commit more of his time and energy toward the local church where he is a member as they are currently without a pastor," Piles stated in the email.

Both Piles and Faith were elected to their ERLC leadership positions during the trustees' September 2011 meeting.

An ad hoc committee created by the ERLC trustee executive committee on April 18 is investigating the plagiarism allegation involving material Land failed to attribute to a Washington Times columnist on the March 31 broadcast.

Faith was among 12 participants in a May 2 meeting when African-American leaders in the SBC were voiced concerns to Land, prompting a five-part apology by Land that was issued May 9. (BP)

48 different roads

Oneida's senior class challenged to 'make the world a better place'

May 19 was graduation day for the class of 2012. As you might expect, it was a day of high emotions. We celebrated the grace of God in the lives of our graduates. Senior class president, Adam Stockton, introduced his class to our visitors. What follows are his remarks:

"As individuals we entered this Oneida experience from 11 countries and 12 states, each with a different need. What we found were opportunities to develop relationships, build character, strengthen intellect, learn tolerance and challenge beliefs, to just name a few. Some needed the smaller classes and individual attention of the faculty; some had deeper spiritual questions that needed answered; and others simply needed a place to call home. Our reasons for coming to OBI may be as varied as each of our personalities, but somehow, this one place held the keys to taking the next step toward our future.

"This year alone our classmates hold such honors as the Brad Dorrough Friendship Award, All-Festival Choir and first place in the state for graphic design. Ten of our female classmates overcame nerves and stage fright to participate in the Yearbook Pageant. Chances are, they would not have had these honors or opportunities anywhere else.

"What's even more amazing is that while we have achieved individual milestones, we also managed to work together to accomplish many things as a class. Collectively our class has conquered challenges and impacted many aspects of the Oneida campus. Most of

us experienced the birth of a nation through the Federalist Papers and the death of a kingdom in Hamlet. Eight members of our class were on the soccer team that claimed the first place seed in our district. Nine members took the stage in our fall and spring play productions.

"We may have participated in these activities for personal enjoyment, but it led to working as a team and being stronger for it. We learned that doing our best was not only a reflection of us but also a representation of the school. A school is only as good as its students, and if we have done our best, we should proudly say, 'Oneida Baptist Institute is my school.'

"Forty-eight different roads have met at this one place in time, but not by chance. Every bump and turn had its purpose—to teach us, guide us or protect us. All things considered, we have had only a few short days together, and from here 48 roads will continue on their own way.

"Through each of our educational stages we have gathered tools to help us with what comes next. The tools for getting along with others are no less important than solving for 'x.'

"Class of 2012, individually and collectively, we have what it takes to make the world a better place. Remember the lessons you've learned—and not just the ones from a textbook—and take comfort in these words from Joshua 1:9: 'Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'"

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

This is Oneida**Paul Davidson**

Senior memories continued

Clear Creek graduates reflect on God's provisions while on campus

Enjoy one last installment of favorite memories from our graduates this year:

"The discussions in my classes and the conversations with fellow students outside of class are favorite memories for me. I just love the atmosphere of Clear Creek. I learned to study God's word." (Scotty Wayne Seiber)

"I came to Clear Creek in 2008 and didn't expect my life to change as much as it has. I came single and I leave happily married. Clear Creek is stamped with memories of my husband's loving patience for me. I came here expecting to end up in an unknown land. I leave knowing one day soon I will be in Turkey full time." (Marjorie Kathleen Cullen)

"Meeting my wonderful wife in 2000 at Clear Creek and getting an opportunity to come back in 2009 and finish what God started a long time ago." (Todd Edward Hatfield)

"My favorite memories were the times I was able to commune with God on top of Pine Mountain. I was also blessed to pray on top of that mountain with several brothers and prayer warriors like Dr. Jim Ditty." (Mark Stephen Back)

"I've made some great friends at Clear Creek and had some good times. I have learned more than I could ever express." (Adam Lake)

"My fondest memory is from the first moment on campus, everyone has been like a family. From the day we moved in to graduation, we have been treated like family." (Douglas Allan Pitchford)

"My fondest memory is the campus revival of 2009 and getting to know a lot of the faculty and staff. I learned and was encouraged by all of them." (David Smith)

"Having class with my son (finding out I am two points smarter than him). God used Clear Creek to build a relationship with my son that we never had before." (James Young Jr.)

"I have always remembered two important lessons I learned from Dr. Lucas when I first came to Clear Creek: (1) Put your priorities in order. (2) No matter how much knowledge I can gain from this place, what is the point if I never share it with others?" (Jason Boyd Moore)

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

Clear Creek Chronicle**Donnie Fox**

Collegiate teams to serve across globe this summer

Louisville—Forty-five students and five coordinators affiliated with Kentucky Baptist Collegiate Ministry are serving from the Bluegrass to the Rocky Mountains to East Asia this summer.

The 1:8 Leadership Experience mission trips begin May 29 and extend through July 25, the culmination of several months of leadership development and discipleship led by Kentucky Baptist Convention staff and Baptist campus ministers statewide.

Based on Acts 1:8, which instructs Christians to take the gospel message to "Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," the 1:8 Leadership Experience equips students to serve in their communities, throughout Kentucky, North America and overseas.

Initiated in 2008 with a group of 19 students, the 1:8 Leadership Experience has equipped students to serve as short-term missionaries around Kentucky and in several North American cities, as well as the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and countries in Europe and Asia.

Of the 118 previous participants, at least 34 have taken steps toward full-time Christian service, according to Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate ministry department. Some already are serving through Southern Baptists' international or North American mission boards.

Each of the five 1:8 teams serves in two locations. The destinations for 2012 are East Asia and Thailand; Shelbyville and Ecuador; New York and Richmond; Cedar Crest Camp in Bagdad and Haiti; and Denver and San Francisco.

"We hope Kentucky Baptists will be deliberate in their prayers of each of these teams and the people they will be serving," Inman said.

Asia Team

Allan Amburn, University of Louisville, Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville.

Ellen Cecil, U of L, Third Avenue Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Amberly Jarvis, Eastern Kentucky University, First Baptist Church of Danville.

Joel Nickell, Morehead State University, West Liberty Christian Church.

Madison Wesley, University of the Cumberlands, First Baptist Church of Somerset.

Ethan Wright, Northern Kentucky University, Fairlane Baptist Church in Alexandria.

East Team (Shelbyville/Ecuador)

Natasha Buchanan, Cumberlands, Liberty Missionary Baptist Church in Barbourville.

Alex Byrd, Alice Lloyd College, First Baptist Church of Hindman.

Elizabeth Ellison, Murray State University, Memorial Baptist Church in Murray.

Alexandria Hedges, ECU, First Baptist Church of Richmond.

Meagan McClearn, University of Kentucky, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Hannah Priest, Kentucky Wesleyan College, St. Matthews United Methodist Church in Louisville.

Samantha Ransom, Morehead State, Violet Ridge Church of Christ in Crittenden.

Sitha Salyers, ECU, Red House Baptist Church in Richmond.

Jacob Spence, NKU, First Assemblies of God in Alexandria.

Mark Watts, Cumberlands, Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Samantha Williams, Alice Lloyd, Allen Baptist Church.

New York/Richmond Team

Kyle Bradley, Morehead State, Morehead First Church of God.

Caitlin Boeschel, NKU, Zion Church in Louisville.

Kevin Harper, Western Kentucky University, East Somerset Baptist Church.

Keira Henderson, ECU, Stanford Baptist Church.

Dennis Johnson, Morehead State, Calvary Baptist Church in Covington.

Tiffany Salisbury, Alice Lloyd, New Life Worship Center in Salyersville.

April Smith, Cumberlands, Cornerstone Community Church in Corbin.

Jason Winkler, UK, Florence Baptist Church at Mount Zion.

One Life Team (Cedar Crest/Haiti)

Jordan Clevenger, Morehead State, Canada Freewill Baptist Church.

Meredith Ellis, WKU, First Baptist Church of Shelbyville.

Caleb Hetrick, Cumberlands, Bluegrass Bible Fellowship in Richmond.

Cassie Kaufman, WKU, Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green.

Amanda Sickman, Cumberlands, Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg.

Kayla Mae Smith, Cumberlands, Faith Baptist Church in Corbin.

Montez Straughn, Kentucky State University, The Point Community Church in Frankfort.

Leah Stroupe, Kentucky Wesleyan, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Louisville.

Kendel Vickers, Cumberlands, West Corbin Baptist Church.

Hailley White, Morehead State, First Baptist Church of Somerset.

West Team (Denver/San Francisco)

Samantha Anderson, NKU, Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Williamstown.

Carmen Eby, UK, Center Point Church in Richmond.

Ashleigh Guynn, Murray State, First Baptist Church of Madisonville.

Lyndsey Marsh, ECU, Center Point Church in Richmond.

Melanie Petty, NKU, Zion Church in Louisville.

Noah Polk, Morehead State, St. Patrick Episcopal Church in Somerset.

Hannah Robinson, Cumberlands, Forward Community Church in Corbin.

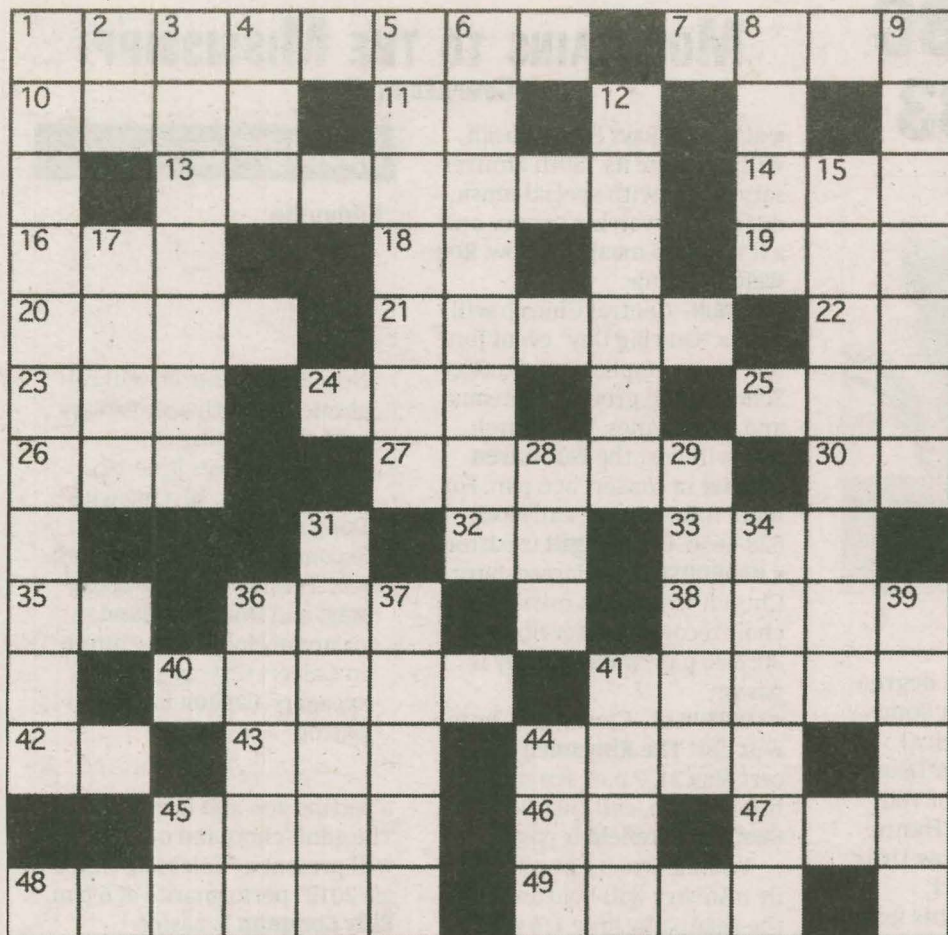
Keane Shafer, NKU, Heritage Fellowship in Florence.

Keirsten Taylor, U of L, Sojourn Community Church in Louisville.

Josh Treon, WKU, Yellow Creek Baptist Church in Owensboro.

Leslie Way, Campbellsville University, Eubank Baptist Church.

Graham Withers, UK, St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. (KBC)



Bible Crosswords

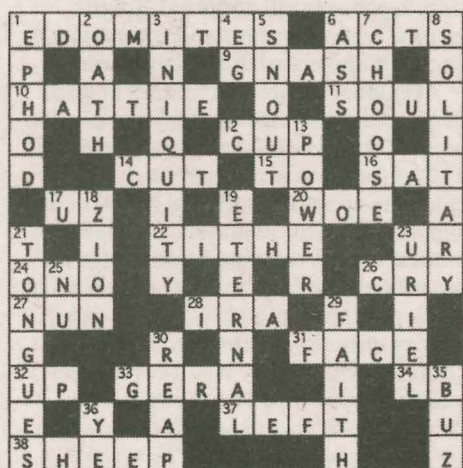
By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "There sat a certain man at Lystra, ____ in his feet" (Acts 14:8)
- 7 Recurring chills
- 10 "When her branch is yet tender ... ye know that summer is ____" (Mark 13:28)
- 11 At the age of (abbr.)
- 13 Naaman's illness (2 Kings 5)
- 14 Mischievous child
- 16 Study of art or science (pl. suffix)
- 18 Football position (abbr.)
- 19 Detail for a duffer
- 20 Stir up
- 21 Angry
- 22 Chicago's Lake Shore, for one (abbr.)
- 23 First name in life preservers?
- 24 ____ upmanship
- 25 ____ Bravo
- 26 Possessive pronoun
- 27 "____, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines" (Psalm 83:7)
- 30 Accountant's abbr.
- 32 In what state Churchill Downs is found (abbr.)
- 33 "____ said unto Samuel, Go, lie down" (1 Samuel 3:9)
- 35 What ____ ... ? (worrywart's favorite question)
- 36 Small drink
- 38 "I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the ____" (Matthew 26:29)
- 40 Sacrifice site
- 41 "Yesterday at the seventh hour the ____ left him" (John 4:52)
- 42 As stated
- 43 "But the wise took ____ in their vessels" (Matthew 25:4)
- 44 "Resist the devil, and he will ____ from you" (James 4:7)
- 45 Female deer (pl.)
- 46 Organization including Britain, France, and Germany (abbr.)
- 47 Bring legal action
- 48 "A certain man...had the ____" (Luke 14:2)
- 49 Egress

- 2 "Come unto ____, all ye that labour" (Matthew 11:28)
- 3 "And many taken with ____, and that were lame, were healed" (Acts 8:7)
- 4 Rock worth mining
- 5 "The man took a golden ____ of half a shekel weight" (Genesis 24:22)
- 6 Describing a modern take on a classical style
- 8 Trotting, for one
- 9 Nero, for one
- 12 "They ... fled unto ____ and Derbe, cities of Lycaonia" (Acts 14:6)
- 15 "A merry heart doeth good like a ____" (Proverbs 17:22)
- 17 ____ of many colors
- 28 Tournament privilege for number-one ranked team
- 29 Built to keep a river from overflowing
- 31 "And Lot dwelled in the ____ of the plain" (Genesis 13:12)
- 34 "Forsake not the Levite as long as thou ____" (Deuteronomy 12:19)
- 36 Rigged sailboat
- 37 Paralysis
- 39 "Which some professing have ____ concerning the faith" (1 Timothy 6:21)
- 41 Coming in of the tide
- 44 Assessment
- 45 "And whatsoever ye ____ in word or deed" (Colossians 3:17)

Last puzzle's solution



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Your own foundation

Kentucky Baptist Foundation is for you and your church

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation was established in 1945 and exists today for you and your church.

It exists for you as an individual or family so you do not have to incur the initial and ongoing administrative costs and responsibilities inherent in having your own private family foundation. As a result you and your family, now and into the future, regardless of your level of wealth, can accomplish your philanthropic goals through an arrangement with the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

In addition to avoiding the administrative costs and responsibilities of a family foundation, there are three other benefits of an arrangement with the KBF. First, there is a privacy benefit. A private family foundation must file detailed and public tax returns on grants, investment fees, trustees' names and staff salaries. Through an arrangement with the KBF, the names of donors can be kept confidential and distributions can be made anonymously.

Second, a private family foundation must distribute 5 percent of its net assets annually. Through an arrange-

ment with the KBF, there is no annual distribution requirement.

Third, there is a tax advantage. The tax deduction limit for gifts of cash to a family foundation is 30 percent of one's adjusted gross income. It's 50 percent through an arrangement with the KBF.

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Call us toll free for information about how the KBF can become your foundation and your church's foundation for charitable giving.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Helping abused & neglected kids

Sunrise relies on generous giving of Ky. Baptists to help kids heal

The abused and neglected children who come into our care have no control over the circumstances that leave them hurting, bruised and alone. However, the choice to help these children is something the rest of us can control. But help doesn't just happen by accident; it must be intentional, planned and generous.

Each day, Sunrise cares for more than 600 children who have suffered through no fault of their own. We depend on the prayers and faithful generosity of our supporters to help us meet the many needs of the children who look to us for help. Such care requires careful planning and preparation, which is made possible because many of you have planned and prepared to remember the children of Sunrise by sharing the blessings of your life.

Planned giving enables you to arrange a charitable contribution in a way that maximizes your personal objectives while minimizing after-tax cost. Depending upon the asset you give and the gift arrangement you select, as a supporter of the kids you can enjoy some or all of the following benefits:

- Fulfill your legacy through supporting Sunrise long into the future with just one gift.
- Reduce your income tax through a charitable deduction.
- Avoid capital gains tax on a gift of long-term appreciated property.
- Retain a stream of income for life for yourself and/or other beneficiaries.
- Increase your spendable income.
- Eliminate potential federal estate tax on property passing to charity at death.
- Reduce costs and time in estate settlement.

There are numerous options you can use to help support the children of Sunrise, including: bequests; charitable lead trust; charitable gift annuity; charitable remainder trust; life insurance.

Planned gifts help Sunrise care for the more than 2,000 children each year. Please consider a planned gift to Sunrise. To learn more about the various giving options, visit our website, www.sunrise.org, speak to your financial planner or contact Bill Smithwick at the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

Bill Smithwick is president of Sunrise Children's Services. Contact Sunrise at (502) 538-1000 or www.sunrise.org

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick



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June

- 9-16** Kentucky Changers, Harrodsburg.
- 11** Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-16** Father/Son Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 15-16** Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 17-18** National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- 18-22** Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 19-20** Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- 22-23** Father/Son Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 22-23** Mother/Daughter Overnight, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 23-29** Kentucky Changers, Paducah.
- 24-7/1** All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra Tour, Campbellsville University and various locations.
- 25-29** Mission Adventure Camp for Boys and Girls, CedarCrest Camp, Bagdad.
- 30** Kentucky Baptist Nursing Fellowship Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown.

Lee Porter, former SBC officer, dies at age 83

Franklin, Tenn.—Lee Porter, who served as registration secretary for the Southern Baptist Convention from 1977-2002, died May 17 in Franklin, Tenn. He was 83.

Porter was registration secretary for the two most-attended annual meetings in SBC history—45,519 messengers at the 1985 meeting in Dallas and 40,987 messengers at the 1986 meeting in Atlanta.

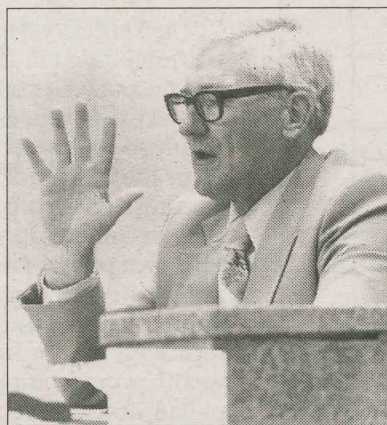
Porter also was the SBC's first vice president, elected in 1969, and second vice president, elected the year before.

A native of Missouri, Porter engaged in numerous other dimensions of Baptist life following his ordination to the ministry in 1948 at First Baptist Church of Wellsville, Mo.

He had been a pastor of churches in Missouri, Texas, Arizona and Louisiana before joining the staff of the SBC's former Christian Life Commission (now the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission) in 1972. He was a curriculum editor for the Baptist Sunday School Board (now LifeWay Christian Resources) from 1978 until 1991.

Porter resigned his post when BSSB officials stipulated in 1991 that he choose between his work for the board or as SBC registration secretary, following comments he had made to a student group at the 1990 SBC annual meeting in New Orleans that were critical of SBC conservatives.

Porter was re-elected as registration secretary the following year at the SBC annual meeting in Atlanta. He served as assistant pastor of a church in Florida from 1995-97 before retiring.



Lee Porter

Porter held a divinity degree in Christian ethics from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He also was a graduate of William Jewell College and Hannibal-LaGrange College (now University), both in Missouri.

Porter is survived by his wife of 56 years, Pat; two sons, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Memorial services were held May 21 at West Franklin Baptist Church in Franklin, Tenn. (BP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ALVATON**—Bays Fork Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary June 3 with special music during the worship service and a fellowship meal to follow. **Ron Wells** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold a "One Big Day" event June 3, with an emphasis on Sunday School small groups, baptisms and testimonies. The church also will host the **Fair Haven Quartet** in concert at 6 p.m. For more information, call (606) 528-6650. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will hold a mission and choir recognition service May 30, 5:30 p.m. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host **The Kingsmen** in concert May 31, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church's family ministry will hold an end-of-the-year party June 1, 6 p.m.

Rusty Ellison is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church's will hold a "Celebrate America 2012" event June 3, 3 p.m., featuring a car and quilt show, pie and ice cream contest,

Spotlight on ...

Eddyville



New Bethel Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary with "Embracing Our Future" services June 1-2, 6 p.m.; June 3, 10 a.m., with **Doug Anderson**, pastor of Second Church of Princeton; KBC President **Adam Greenway**; and **Duane Holland**, pastor of Holly Hills Church in Calvert City, as guest speakers. **Carlton Binkley** is pastor.

a petting zoo and face painting. The adult choir and orchestra will present a "Celebrate America 2012" performance at 6 p.m. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—Sugar Creek recently called **Jordan Roach** as pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will host Three Bridges in concert June 3, 8:45 & 11 a.m. **Darrell Morgan** is pastor.

Volunteers needed for ongoing recovery in Japan

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist volunteers are needed this summer to help in the ongoing efforts to help the people of Japan recover from last year's earthquake and tsunami.

Baptist Global Response and Samaritan's Purse are coordinating six disaster relief projects to rebuild homes and businesses in Miyagi Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, according to Coy Webb, director of the

Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief ministry.

"What we need are people who are in pretty good physical shape with the flexibility to change tasks as needed," Webb said. Volunteer groups will do light construction such as framing and drywall installation in addition to basic property clean-up.

The first project is scheduled for June 3-16. Five others are

scheduled this summer:

- June 17-30
- July 1-14
- July 15-28
- July 29-Aug. 11
- Aug. 12-25

For additional information about the needs in Japan and how to respond to them, contact Webb by email at DR@KyBaptist.org or by calling (502) 489-3401 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3401. (KBC)

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

SEEKING: Director of missions. Pulaski County Baptist Association is accepting resumés. We are looking for a mission-minded person who has the heart of a pastor who can lead our association of 61 churches to share the gospel of Jesus. If you feel that God is leading you to our association, please send your resumé to: DOM Search Committee, Pulaski County Baptist Association, PO Box 72, Somerset, KY 42502. All resumés must be post-marked by June 30. Hand delivered and emailed resumés will not be accepted at this time.

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

SEEKING: Minister of music (12-15 hours/week): A man with a heart for God and people to minister through music (blended style) at North Oldham Baptist, Goshen, Ky. Email resumé to worship@nobcky.org. www.nobcky.org. (502) 228-4325.

SEEKING: Full-time minister of music to lead our active congregation at Gardenside Baptist Church in a blended style of worship. Ideal candidate must have a music degree, a minimum of two years experience, and exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Applications will be accepted in PDF (Adobe) or DOC (Microsoft Word) format. You may email your resumé, including contact information, to gbcjobsearch@gmail.com; or mail a copy to: Music Search Committee, Gardenside Baptist Church, 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504. For more information about Gardenside Baptist Church and a PDF version of the full job description, go to www.gbc-lex.com. Resumés will be accepted through June 15, 2012.

SEEKING: Part-time minister of music to lead congregational singing and to direct choir at Crittenden Baptist Church. Please send resumé to Personnel Committee, Crittenden Baptist Church, PO Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030; or crittendenbaptist@fuse.net.

SEEKING: Part-time worship leader (16-20 hrs/week), Buckner Baptist, Oldham County. Above-average pay for above-average minister. Worship band, choir leadership, keyboard skill preferred. Email resumé with references and cover letter to bucknerbaptistchurch@insightbb.com.

SEEKING: Minister to children and students entrusted with the spiritual development of the children and youth (grades 1-12) of the church through teaching, engaging activities, spiritual guidance and support. Minister should have a degree in biblical studies or related major from an accredited college, university or seminary, and a minimum of 2 years related experience in ministry to children or youth in a church setting. Please email cover letter and resumé by June 15 to Kathy@lewislanebc.org; or mail to Search Committee, Lewis Lane Baptist Church, 2600 Lewis Lane, Owensboro, KY 42301.

To place an advertisement:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Pioneer Baptist Church in Harrodsburg, Ky. General Sunday attendance: 80-plus; parsonage on property. Send resumés to Pastor Search Committee, Pioneer Baptist Church 260 Sparrow Lane, Harrodsburg, KY 40330; or email to pioneerbaptistchurchpsc@gmail.com. by May 31, 2012.

SEEKING: Interim music minister (with possible advancement to part time) for a central Kentucky congregation. Both traditional and contemporary music desired for Sunday mornings, evenings, and Wednesday nights. Candidate will work with adult choir, strive to involve youth, plan with senior pastor and other part-time/volunteer staff. Direct questions or submit resumé to mikeharmon@yahoo.com.

In India, songwriter nurtures worship for diverse culture

By Torie Speicher

India—Jeff Bourque made his way to India from Music City USA to share the basics of songwriting.

His mission: to help musicians from several churches in India write songs that speak to their highly diverse culture. In a nation where only one of every 70 people believes in Jesus, Indian Christians are surrounded by Hindu temples full of idols and such sounds as the Muslim call to prayer.

Ethan Leyton*, an ethnomusicologist, and Mani Dutta*, an Indian pastor, invited Bourque, worship leader for Grace Community Church in Nashville, to conduct a songwriting workshop for 18 young men and women from several Indian churches in urban settings.

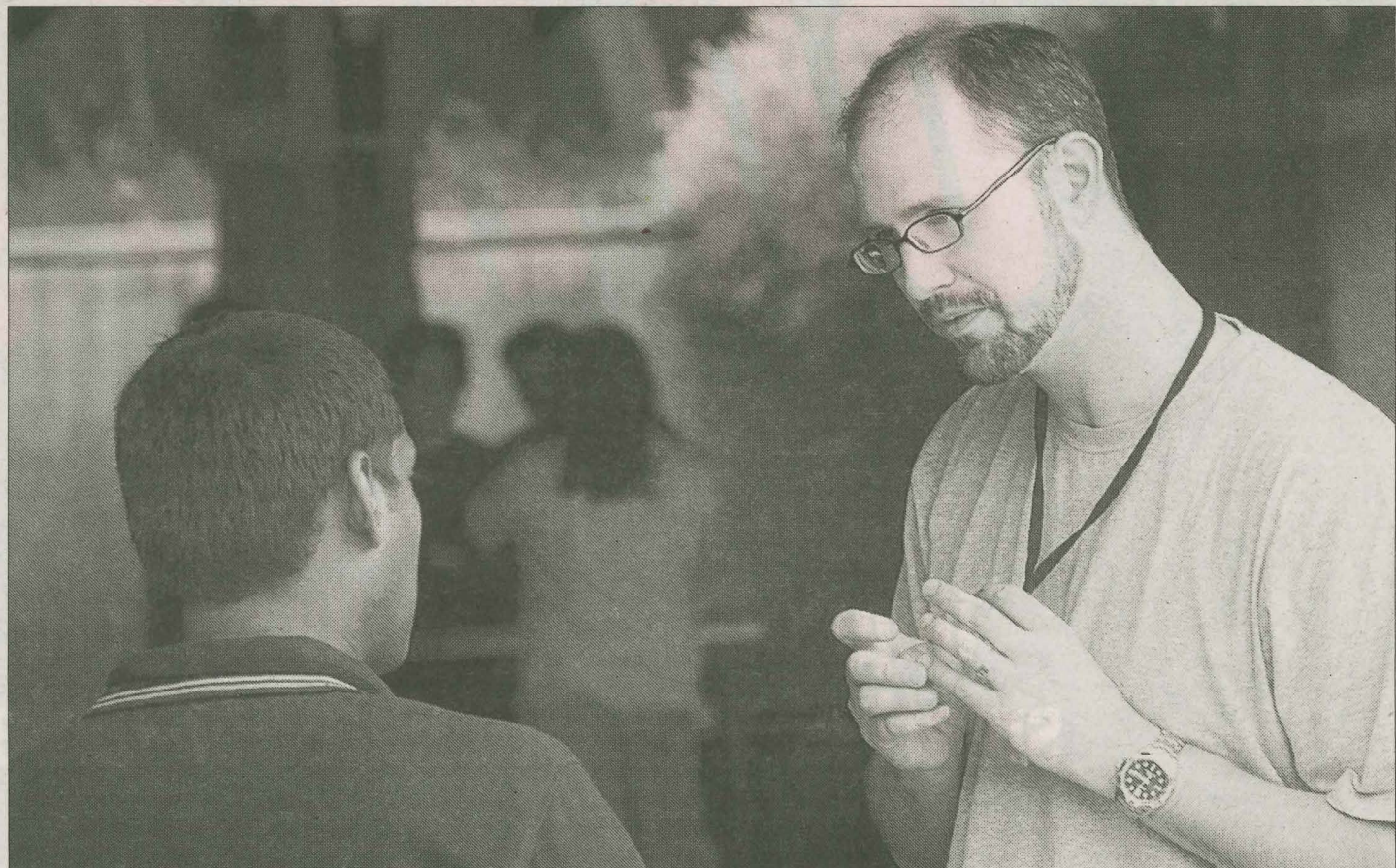
Leyton and Dutta “dreamed and prayed,” as Leyton put it, “that instead of (English-speaking) Indian believers singing Hillsong and Chris Tomlin songs all the time, perhaps they could begin writing their own English songs for worship.”

These believers have much to offer Christian music, with their distinctive identity in living out their faith in India, Leyton said, voicing a hope that their songs also might be used in American churches one day.

Leyton has organized 20 songwriting workshops for believers around southern Asia during the last seven years. Bourque’s workshop, however, is unique because it’s the first one in English. In mega-cities where multiple languages are spoken, many Christians and young professionals are more comfortable communicating in English because it’s the language they have in common.

Bible college student and church worship leader Amit Dhawan* had struggled to write songs long before the workshop, where he worked with three others to write the song “The Lord is Good.”

“Many times I came to know the truth about God through worship songs, and it encouraged me to come closer to God,” Dhawan said. “(As a songwriter.) I want people to understand that God still



TEACHER Jeff Bourque, worship leader at Grace Community Church in Nashville, Tenn., discusses basic songwriting with a participant at a workshop in India.

saves, heals and delivers people from darkness.”

Like Dhawan, the other budding songwriters also had some musical skill, but almost no experience writing songs centered on God for the purpose of building up the church. Among the participants were a former drug addict, a software developer, a banker, an engineering student, a pastor and the grandson of a witchcraft-practicing village elder.

Bourque, fueled by his 22 years of songwriting experience and a passion for the local church, became interested in teaching a workshop like this in 2005. While leading worship overseas for a group of cross-cultural workers, he heard about the importance of equipping new believers to communicate their experi-

ences with God through song.

Believers from different cultures should be able to sing songs that relate to their experiences, rather than importing songs from other cultures, like the Western-sounding songs sung in American churches, Bourque said.

“When you have an experience of salvation, everyone is saved to Christ, but everyone is saved from something, and that looks different,” Bourque said. “So, the people of this country will have a completely different perspective on what it means to be a believer.”

Although the workshop was conducted in English, the language barrier was somewhat present, but it didn’t stop Bourque from connecting with the students from not just from India but also

from Bhutan and Africa.

Impressed by how quickly the group built trust, Bourque credits their bond—and their readiness to learn—with knowing that their lives had been greatly impacted by Jesus.

“I mean, it was two straight days of thinking of nothing but songs and songwriting and I started to get fatigued,” Bourque said. “But rather than taking a break, the students said, ‘Let’s write another song!’”

Sanjeet Devar*, a church worship leader, worked with three others to write the song “You’re My Friend,” expressing God’s nature as an approachable friend, drawing from the John 15:13-15 passage in the New Testament.

“He created everything that we see and know and chooses to call us His friend,” Devar said. “God is nearer and more approachable than what most people in my culture think.”

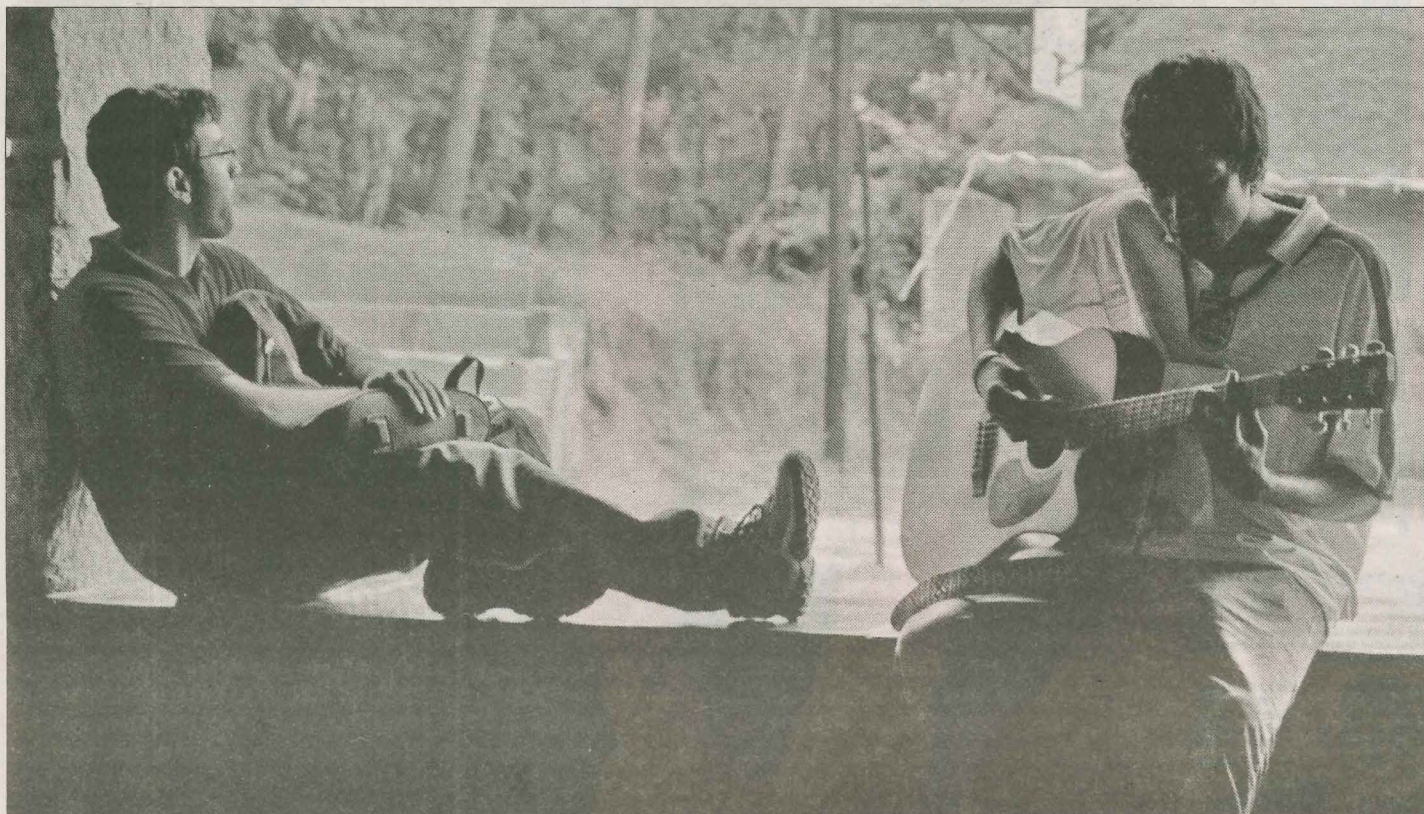
The last night of the workshop ended with a time of worship. Together, various participants sang the four songs they had completed. No one noticed the myriad of mosquitoes or the building’s flickering electricity as they praised God with their voices and with shakers, djembe, guitar and keyboard.

“I looked around the circle as we were worshipping one night just playing guitars and banging on instruments and singing songs,” Bourque said, “and their hearts were so humble and filled with love that came from an understanding of who God is and a desire to know more (of Him). They were just obviously committed followers of Christ, without any pretense or shells, and that was such a blessing for me to spend time with them.”

The experience sparked a prayer in Bourque for the seeds of God’s truth in the songs to bear fruit in the church in India.

And in his own interaction with the students, Bourque said, “Their excitement to write songs motivated me to write more.” (IMB/BP)

*Names changed for security reasons



PRAISE MUSIC Bible college students Sethi and Amit Dhawan (names changed for security reasons) practice their song, “This is not Tradition,” during a workshop for budding songwriters from various urban churches in India. (IMB photos)

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WESTERN Recorder

November 29, 2011

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 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. Cressor as denominational leaders lay hands on Tom and Jeannie 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 role." Wright told Elliff at the 2011 South

□ See Elliff inauguration



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