

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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'When you're hurting, What are you going to do?'

Substance abuse ministries provide gospel-focused care

By Dannah Prather

Willisburg—Choe Sergent grew up in a stable home, the son of hard-working parents. He didn't fit the stereotypical image of a strung-out drug abuser.

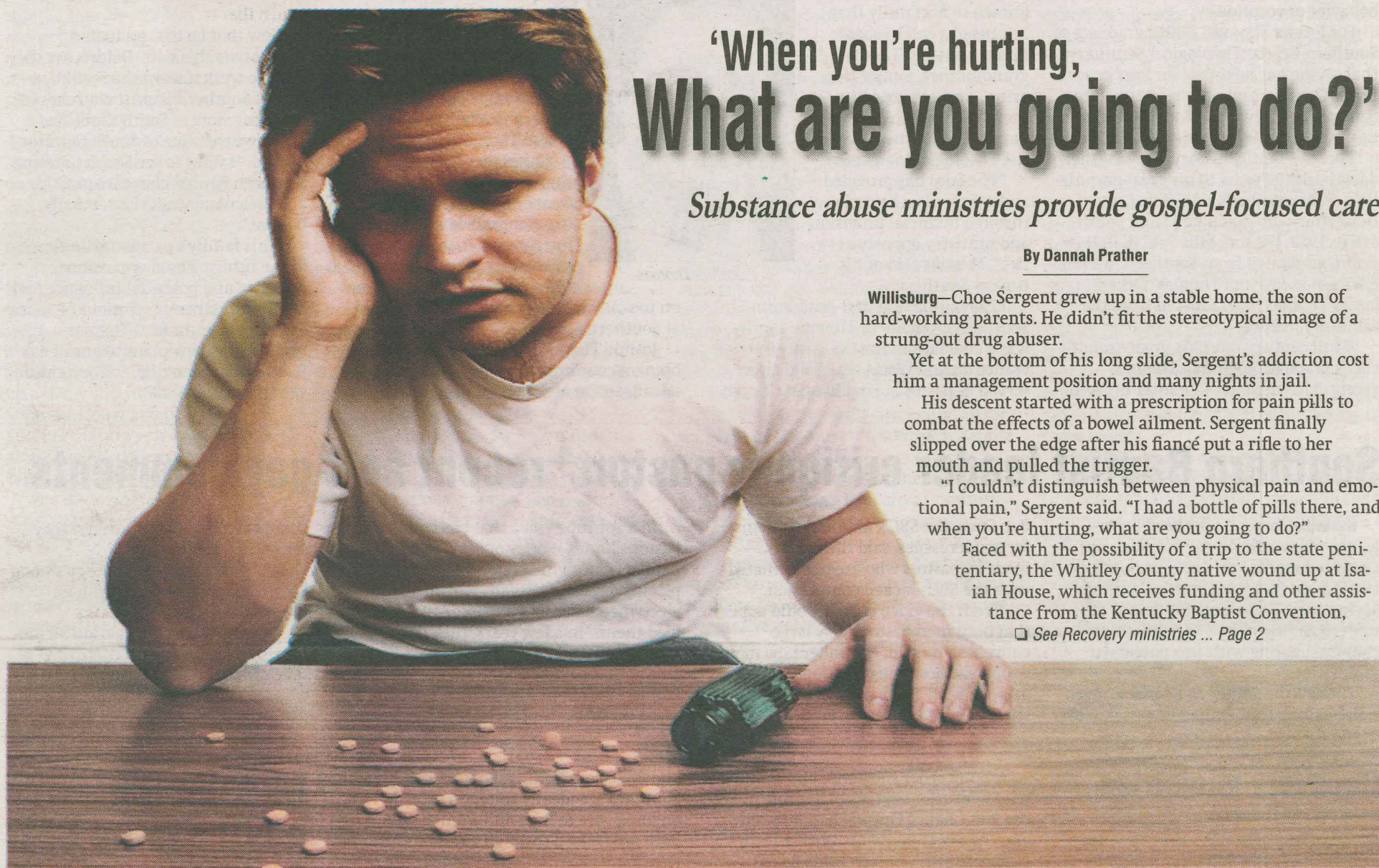
Yet at the bottom of his long slide, Sergent's addiction cost him a management position and many nights in jail.

His descent started with a prescription for pain pills to combat the effects of a bowel ailment. Sergent finally slipped over the edge after his fiancé put a rifle to her mouth and pulled the trigger.

"I couldn't distinguish between physical pain and emotional pain," Sergent said. "I had a bottle of pills there, and when you're hurting, what are you going to do?"

Faced with the possibility of a trip to the state penitentiary, the Whitley County native wound up at Isaiah House, which receives funding and other assistance from the Kentucky Baptist Convention,

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ERLC head Richard Land loses show, keeps job

By David Gibson

Nashville, Tenn.—A top Southern Baptist official accused of plagiarism in a radio segment that claimed civil rights leaders and President Obama used the Trayvon Martin case to stir racial tensions will lose his weekly call-in show but keep his job, an investigative committee announced June 1.

Richard Land, the head of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, was rebuked for racial insensitivity and for not attributing the source of his radio commentaries after a review by ERLC trustees.

The controversy over Land's explosive remarks in a March 31 radio program was especially awkward as Southern Baptists are expected to elect an African-

American pastor, Fred Luter, as the denomination's first black president later this month.

The committee chided Land for "his hurtful, irresponsible, insensitive and racially charged words" in a broadcast of the "Richard Land Live!" show in which Land accused Obama and black civil rights activists of using the Trayvon Martin shooting to generate racial strife and boost the president's re-election chances.

Martin is the 17-year-old black



Richard Land

youth who was shot to death in February by a neighborhood watch volunteer in Sanford, Fla.

Land initially dismissed criticism of the racial tenor of his comments, but two weeks later it emerged that his comments were lifted from a Washington Times column without attribution.

Faced with a growing outcry, Land issued an apology for the Martin comments, and Southern Baptist leaders announced they would launch an investigation.

It is not clear whether last week's findings will calm the storm.

Ten days before the panel was to release its findings, the head of the five-member investigating committee resigned, reportedly to spend more time volunteering for

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Merging churches across racial lines demands work

By Vicki Brown

Louisville—As its neighborhood shifts, a congregation often chooses to sell its facility and relocate. Many times, church's members have moved to a different part of town and want a building close to where they live.

Members either give away or sell the facility to another church in the neighborhood, usually one that ministers to the area's largest ethnic group.

A few congregations, however, choose to create something new by merging two distinct churches. But creating a blended Christian community takes work.

St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights in Louisville drew national media attention when the historically black St. Paul Missionary Baptist and the predominately white Shively Heights Baptist merged to create the blended congregation in August 2009.

Pastor Lincoln Bingham of St. Paul Baptist reached out to Shively Heights' pastor, Mark Payton, when Payton moved to the area 26 years earlier. The two became close friends, and as more African-Americans moved into the

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Southern Seminary graduate is fourth-generation alumnus

By Josh Hayes

Louisville—The old saying, "Like father, like son," holds a core truth: Sons tend to resemble their fathers on some detectable level, whether it is their appearance, behavior or vocation.

For Joshua Thomas, a 2012 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, that saying has held true for four generations. Thomas' completion of his degree this spring made him a fourth-generation graduate of the Louisville seminary.

Thomas' family history with Southern dates back 100 years to his great-grandfather on his mother's side, Effie Layton Howerton, who graduated from Southern in 1912. His son, Ellis Paul (E.P.) Howerton, graduated from Southern in 1956. E.P.'s son-in-law and Thomas' father, James Thomas Jr., graduated from the seminary in 1984.

A full century after his great-grandfather's graduation, Joshua Thomas received his diploma—a master of divinity

in the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism's Great Commission track.

Thomas' family ties to Southern led

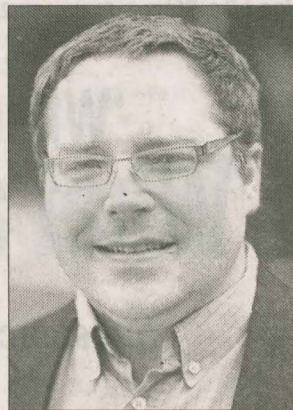
him to consider the seminary in 2008 when he made known to his family that he sensed a call to vocational ministry. Thomas' grandmother, Eunice Howerton, cordially told him then, "The only real seminary is the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary."

"The Lord has provided and affirmed us being here, through financial provision and ministry opportunities," Thomas said of his time at Southern.

Effie Layton, the first-generation Southern graduate in Thomas' family, was a chaplain in the U.S. Army in France during World War I and later served as pastor at First Baptist Church

of Pikeville.

E.P. was a church planter for the Home (now North American) Mission Board in Ohio and Kentucky. In Louisville, E.P. served as the bivocational pastor of North 42nd Street Baptist Church and a teacher at Barrett Middle School.



Joshua Thomas

Thomas' father, James, is a bivocational minister of music at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Walhalla, S.C., where Thomas grew up.

James met his wife, Martha, at South Carolina's Oconee State Park while serving alongside her brother, Layton Howerton, who was a park missionary. One year later, they married and James went

on to study religious education and music at Southern Seminary.

Joshua Thomas now serves as the development coordinator for institutional advancement at Southern in addition to

being an intern for the associate vice president for enrollment management and student services at the seminary. Thomas also is the interim elementary coordinator at Highview Baptist Church's East Campus in Louisville.

Now that he has graduated, Thomas and his wife, Deidre, say they hope to work toward the revitalization of Southern Baptist churches in his home state of South Carolina.

"I love the state of South Carolina," he said. "I want to see South Carolina Southern Baptist churches practice and articulate what they actually believe."

If his family's past is any indication of the future, Thomas' passion for ministry and potential influence may result in further generations of Southern graduates. In fact, Thomas' brother Matthew plans to enroll at Southern's Greenville, S.C., extension site this fall. (SBTS/BP)

Southern Baptist leader critiques pastors' recent anti-gay comments

Nashville, Tenn.—A Southern Baptist leader who works on gay outreach has criticized recent anti-gay comments by two Baptist pastors in North Carolina, saying they "show a complete lack of understanding of how to minister to those struggling with this particular temptation."

Though the Southern Baptist Convention has long condemned homosexuality,

Bob Stith, the SBC's national strategist for gender issues, said the remarks—made by pastors who are not affiliated with the SBC—lacked compassion.

"From the video clips it would appear that both men pastor fairly large churches," he said. "I wonder how many people in those congregations were gripped with the fear that their personal struggle might be discovered."

In a YouTube video that has gone viral, Pastor Charles Worley of Providence Road Baptist Church in Maiden, N.C., suggests placing gays and lesbians within a large electrified fence and dropping in food to feed them. "In a few years, they'll die out," Worley said.

Another pastor, Sean Harris of Berean Baptist Church in Fayetteville, N.C., apologized for recently preaching that parents

should strike their children if they sense they are gay.

Stith warned that all clergy should be careful of what they say in an Internet age.

"I would especially caution all pastors to be aware that in this cyber-savvy world, anything you say can be worldwide within moments," he said. (RNS)

Recovery ministries

Continued from page 1

local Baptist associations and individual congregations.

Founded in 2001, the residential rehabilitation facility in Willisburg houses about 50 men and soon hopes to open a separate home for women.

Not only did Sergeant accept Christ during an eight-month treatment regimen, he sensed God's call to ministry. Today he pastors Grove Ridge Baptist Church in the Casey County community of Middleburg.

The grandson of a pastor, Sergeant grew up hearing the gospel hundreds of times, but he said the message never touched his heart. It was the people he encountered at Isaiah House who helped him meet Christ.

"You had people like Mark (LaPalme, executive director) ... and people who came down there and volunteered," Sergeant said. "They had changed their lives and were walking it out. They still had problems but they had 'somebody' who helped them overcome."

Such success stories are why the KBC helps fund substance abuse ministries, said Eric Allen, director of KBC's mission service and ministries department.

"I would suspect that every Baptist church has at least one family that has been negatively affected by drug or alcohol use," he pointed out. "These families need to be ministered to, and the Lord has charged us with the responsibility to do so."

Among other substance abuse ministries Kentucky Baptists play a role in are the 2nd Chance Outreach in Jamestown and the SWAT (Servants With a Testimony) ministry of Northside Baptist Church in Mount Vernon.

Kentucky Baptists provide financial assistance in many ways, through the Cooperative Program, Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering and direct support.

Additionally, contributions to the World Hunger Fund provide groceries and hot meals for guests of Isaiah House.

Assisting individuals who have substance abuse problems, and the programs that help them, is a worthwhile "investment" of Kentucky Baptists' time and money, Allen said.

"The percentage of residents who remain drug free after treatment in faith-based centers is much higher (than other programs) because they guide residents to Christ," he added.

'Putting Christ first'

Jim Clontz, director of missions for South District Baptist Association agreed. South District Baptists support Isaiah House.

"Putting Christ first has been a very important part of it," Clontz said. "Especially when you consider there have been a lot of things (others) have attempted, and it hasn't helped."

Through small-group Bible studies

and Bible-centered 12-step programs, churches are ideally suited to provide ongoing care to men and women who have progressed through a residential treatment program, Allen added.



Choe Sergeant

"One of the greatest needs is for Christians to serve as sponsors and mentors for people in recovery who are involved in small-group follow-up programs such as Celebrate Recovery," he explained.

Some churches and associations may not be able to start a residential treatment center in their area, but according to Larry Martin, a KBC missions consultant, every Kentucky

Baptist can join the fight against substance abuse.

"In Kentucky the use of drugs is such a critical problem in all of society," said Martin, the pastor of Cane Run Baptist Church in Lexington. "I know one elderly grandmother who has lost three grandsons in three separate incidents. The church has to address all of these needs."

On average, three men each week make professions of faith in Christ at Isaiah House, noted Sergeant, who serves as secretary of the ministry's executive board. Every month about five new believers are baptized.

Over the years, many family members of Isaiah House residents also have responded to the gospel and begun their Christian walk through the ministry. "We live among one of the greatest mission fields that exists," Sergeant said. (KBC)

Mississippi pastor to be SBC 2nd VP nominee

Charlotte, N.C.—Mississippi pastor Eric Hankins will be nominated for second vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention by North Carolina pastor Clint Pressley during the SBC's annual meeting in New Orleans.

Hankins, 40, has been pastor of First Baptist Church of Oxford, Miss., since 2005.

Pressley described Hankins as "an innovative young leader in the pursuit of the Great Commission."

"Eric loves the Southern Baptist Convention enough to work within the convention to help it to honor the Lord as best as we can," said Pressley, who is pastor of Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. "This is, I believe, a factor of high importance in evaluating candidates for SBC office."

Before serving at First Baptist of Oxford, Hankins was senior pastor of Galloway Avenue Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas, from 2000 to 2005 and pastor of Gillsburg Baptist Church in Mississippi from 1997 to 2000. His father, David, is executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Hankins has degrees from Southwestern and New Orleans Baptist seminaries and Louisiana College. He and his wife, Janet, have three kids. (BP)

Appeals court rules against federal gay marriage ban

By David Gibson

Boston—Social conservatives reacted sharply to a May 31 federal appeals court ruling that declared the law barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage unconstitutional.

The First U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges are "intent on imposing their liberal, elitist views of marriage on the American people," said Brian Brown, president of the National Organization for Marriage.

In its unanimous ruling, the three-judge panel said the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act deprives same-sex couples the same rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples. The decision sets up a likely showdown in the Supreme Court and provides another culture war issue for the already contentious presidential campaign.

The Boston-based appeals court judges focused on the section of the law that denies benefits to same-sex couples. They did not address the issue of whether gay couples have a constitutional right to marry. Nor did they rule on DOMA's provision that states cannot be forced to recognize gay unions performed in other states.

Still, social conservatives saw the decision as an ominous sign.

"Under this rationale, if just one state decided to accept polygamy, the federal government and perhaps other states would be forced to accept it, too," said Dale Schowengerdt, legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund. "The federal government had the authority to step in against polygamy at one time in our nation's history, and it has the authority to step in against this attempt at marriage redefinition as well."

Gay marriage advocates welcomed the ruling, even though it focused on affirming the right of states to determine their own laws rather than asserting any federal right for gays to marry.

"This ruling will return the federal government to its historic role of respecting marriages performed in the states, without carving out a 'gay exception' that denies thousands of protections," said Evan Wolfson, head of the gay rights group Freedom to Marry.

Last year the Obama administration decided not to defend DOMA because it believes the law is unconstitutional. President Obama further angered religious conservatives last month when he announced his personal support for same-sex marriage, though he said the decision should be left up to each state. (RNS)

Statement on Calvinism draws approval, criticism

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—A group of current and former Southern Baptist leaders has signed a statement affirming what they call the "traditional Southern Baptist" understanding of the doctrine of salvation, with the goal of drawing a distinction with the beliefs of "New Calvinism."

The statement, titled "A Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation," was posted May 31 at SBCToday.com and includes a preamble and 10 articles.

The document contains signatures from two entity presidents (Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's Paige Patterson and New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Chuck Kelley), four state executive directors (Georgia's Bob White, Mississippi's Jim Futral, Louisiana's David Hankins and Alaska's Mike Procter), and, in addition to Patterson, five other former Southern Baptist Convention presidents (Bailey Smith, Jimmy Draper, Jerry Vines, Morris Chapman and Bobby Welch).

"For the most part, Southern Baptists have been glad to relegate disagreements over Calvinism to secondary status along with other important but 'non-essential' theological matters," the document's preamble reads. "The Southern Baptist majority has fellowshiped happily with its Calvinist brethren while kindly resisting Calvinism itself. And, to their credit, most Southern Baptist Calvinists have not demanded the adoption of their view as the standard."

"We would be fine if this consensus continued, but some New Calvinists seem to

be pushing for a radical alteration of this long-standing arrangement."

The document further asserts that the "vast majority of Southern Baptists are not Calvinists and that they do not want Calvinism to become the standard view in Southern Baptist life."

"We believe it is time to move beyond Calvinism as a reference point for Baptist soteriology," it reads. (Soteriology is the study of the doctrine of salvation.)

'Much-needed' discussion?

Eric Hankins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Oxford, Miss., and a signer of the statement, wrote an introduction for it at SBCToday.com.

"The concern of the developers of this statement was that the viewpoint of this majority was not well-represented by the term 'non-Calvinist' and that an instrument was needed by which that majority might articulate positively what they believe vis-à-vis Calvinism," he wrote.

"Its purpose is to engender a much-needed convention-wide discussion about the place of Calvinism in Southern Baptist life," Hankins added.

Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, said he chose not to sign the statement.

"Southern Baptists have always found a way to work together, within the framework of historical Christian faith and Baptist doctrine, to support and promote our cooperative enterprises of global missions, theological education and benevolent ministries," he said. "While I fully affirm any group of Southern Baptists to express their deeply held convictions about doctrinal

matters, especially a matter as important as the doctrine of salvation, I would prefer that any collective document to which I affix my signature be a consensus statement, developed jointly with those of various soteriological persuasions, that expresses our core commitments to those matters we hold in common. The Baptist Faith and Message is such a document."

At the same time, Page also said he believes the convention needs a "consensus accord," and said he will announce at the SBC annual meeting later this month plans for putting one together.

The document was widely discussed on Baptist-centric blogs following its release. On the SBCVoices.com blog, North Carolina pastor Brent Hobbs wrote: "As a Calvinist, I barely recognize the theology they claim is Calvinism."

David Rogers, son of the late Adrian Rogers and senior editor at the Adrian Rogers Pastor Training Institute, wrote that he doesn't know which group he'd fit in and that Southern Baptists are "likely never going to come to full agreement" on these issues.

Jon Akin, pastor of Fairview Church in Lebanon, Tenn., wrote at BaptistTwentyOne.com that he agrees with much in the statement. But, he said, the document is fighting "straw men," makes implications about New Calvinists that presumably are false, and ultimately will prove to be divisive among Southern Baptists.

"The SBC is big enough to include Calvinists and non-Calvinists," Akin wrote. "We agree on far more than we disagree on, so let's unite and fight a common enemy." (BP)

Land reprimanded

Continued from page 1

his church. His replacement immediately expressed support for Land and a desire to see Land continue his ministry.

In the findings released June 1, trustees said the "content and purpose" of Land's radio program was "not congruent with the mission of the ERLC" and that it would be terminated as soon as the broadcast contract allowed.

But the trustees also said that in reading material without attribution, Land was "accepting practices that occur in the radio industry," albeit "unwisely." They also praised Land for his apologies and said he "exhibited a very compliant spirit and was fully cooperative during the investigation."

"Damage was done to the state of race relations in the Southern Baptist Convention," the investigating committee said. "We recognize that there is more work to do before the members of Southern Baptist congregations are as diverse as the citizens of our great nation. We and Dr. Land remain dedicated to that cause."

For his part, Land said the review "was conducted in a Christian manner by Christian gentlemen" and he said he looked forward to continuing with his work as ERLC head.

Whether Land's reprimand and Luter's impending election can change the racial dynamics for the SBC is uncertain. A number of Baptist leaders and experts noted that Land is a veritable institution in the SBC, and that Luter will serve as president

for no more than two years—hardly enough time to give him the kind of visibility and influence that Land has.

Founded in support of slavery before the Civil War, the SBC has 16 million members and is the nation's largest Protestant denomination. But its growth has stalled in recent years, and church leaders are trying to broaden the SBC's appeal beyond its predominantly white, Southern base.

Luter initially called Land's radio

remarks "unhelpful" but later added, "I don't think you should throw out a lifetime of doing good because of one mistake."

In its June 1 statement, the investigating committee pledged to "redouble our efforts to regain lost ground, to heal reopened wounds, and to realize the dream of a Southern Baptist Convention that is just as diverse as the population of our great nation." (RNS)

NAAF leader ready to work 'arm in arm' for healing

Fort Washington, Md.—The president of the National African American Fellowship has voiced "a heart to forgive" following the reprimands of Richard Land issued by trustees of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

"Because Jesus died on a cruel cross for the forgiveness of our sins, we too must have a heart to forgive," NAAF President James Dixon Jr. said in statement to Baptist Press last week.

"We accept his apology and covenant not only to hold him accountable in the future but to work arm in arm in the cause of racial healing," said Dixon, who is the pastor of El-Bethel Baptist Church in Fort Washington, Md. "Racial reconciliation is not a political issue for us. It is a gospel issue—a kingdom issue."

The ERLC's trustee executive committee reprimanded Land for "irresponsible, insensitive, and racially charged words" during a March 31 radio broadcast about the Trayvon Martin shooting. A second

reprimand cited Land for "quoting material without giving attribution."

"While we may not totally agree with the outcome and feel as if it didn't go far enough, we have no choice but to honor and respect it," Dixon noted. "I truly believe (the trustees) concluded that their resolution was for the best."

"As a result of Dr. Land's actions, it is my opinion that he will begin to lose credibility in the minds of some Christians regardless of their ethnicity," Dixon added.

"It is my hope that each of us who truly love the Lord will accept what has taken place, move on and trust the final results in the hands of God. Our ultimate desire should be to bring honor and glory to our Father and leaving a positive reflection on the kingdom and this convention."

The NAAF encompasses 3,400 predominantly African-American churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP)

SBC poised to elect first African-American president

The following article is adapted from a report by Lawrence Smith, reporter for WDRB News and member of Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. The full article is available at www.wdrb.com.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

"Next month, the largest protestant denomination in the United States is expected to do something it has never done before: elect its first African-American president. The Southern Baptist Convention was born out of the conflict over slavery in 1845,

right before the Civil War. Baptists in the North refused to appoint missionaries who owned slaves. Baptists in the South disagreed, supporting slave ownership.

"When the North won the day, Baptists in the South said we'll go our own way. And that is the founding moment of the Southern Baptist Convention," says Paul Chitwood with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. And, to say the least, the Southern Baptist Convention has been struggling with race issues ever since.

"Chitwood says strides have been made toward bettering the future of the denomination. 'Southern Baptists in more recent decades have tried to live down that history. I think we're certainly making tremendous progress over the course of, especially the last two decades.'

"In fact, during its 1995 convention, Southern Baptists officially apologized for their history of racism. 'The history of the Southern Baptist Convention is tied to the history of America. You just look at how America's been transformed on issues of race and race relations and the Southern Baptist Convention is very much a part of that. Now, that's to our shame in that we should have been leading where sometimes we were following,' says Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler.

"But now, the SBC is on the verge of a historic moment—electing its first African-American president, Fred Luter, a New Orleans pastor long active in the denomination. Chitwood says, 'I think it's incredibly significant. It may be difficult in words to express the significance of it.'

"T. Vaughn Walker, pastor of First Gethsemane Baptist Church and the first full-time black faculty member of Southern Seminary, didn't think he'd live to see an African-American president of the Southern Baptist Convention. Walker hopes Luter's election is a turning point for the SBC in terms of race relations. 'Everyone knows we've made advances. Praise God. But we haven't arrived yet. African-Americans know that. And I hope Fred's election would at least put that back on the burner as a major issue.

"Kentucky's Southern Baptist leaders are optimistic that the election of an African-American president is not the end. 'There is still much progress that needs to be made. This doesn't end anything. I think it's a huge step forward. But we have a lot of work still to do,' says Chitwood."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Two disconcerting decisions by court, congress

Two momentous decisions this past Thursday should be cause for concern among conservative Christians and supporters of traditional family values. In a first-of-its-kind decision, the First Circuit Court of Appeals struck down a major part of the Defense of Marriage Act. Meanwhile, the House of Representatives failed to pass legislation making it illegal to perform an abortion because of a baby's gender. Both are troubling.

Passed in 1996, the Defense of Marriage Act defines marriage at the federal level as between a man and a woman. In ruling that DOMA "unconstitutionally discriminates," the case paves the way for extending federal tax breaks and spousal insurance benefits to same-sex couples and likely will advance to the Supreme Court. Should justices there uphold the appellate court's ruling, the federal government soon would recognize same-sex marriages from seven states and the District of Columbia. Though the ruling left intact a key section allowing states to frame constitutional amendments to define marriage, DOMA supporters fear that unless Congress steps in to defend DOMA, the court's action may become a powder keg that disintegrates protections for traditional marriage set in place by the expressed will of the citizens of 30 other states and ultimately leads to the demise of the sacred institution of marriage and family.

Paired with the ruling of the First Circuit Court of Appeal is President Obama's recent announcement of his unequivocal support for gay marriage and his instruction to the Department of Justice not to defend the Defense of Marriage Act. Particularly disconcerting to conservative Christians was Obama's misguided attempt to justify his wayward position by appealing to the Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12—rather than to human equality or civil rights—since he seemingly set aside relevant New Testament

passages that specifically speak against acceptance of the practice of homosexuality. Scriptures such as Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 and 1 Timothy 1:8-11, for example, have traditionally been viewed by the church as prohibiting homosexual activity, depicting it as shameful and unnatural. Bob Terry, editor of The Alabama Baptist, puts it plainly: "The Golden Rule is not a 'live and let live' way of life. All people must be treated with dignity and respect. None of that, however, negates the standards of righteousness outlined in God's Word. None of that provides excuses for behaviors clearly outside of biblical acceptance."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



The other cause for concern is the U.S. House of Representative's lack of action regarding a ban on abortions as a means of gender selection. The House voted 246-168 for the bill, but failed to garner the two-thirds majority required for its passage. Though the practice is often associated with China and India, evidence suggests that a pattern is developing in the United States, particularly among some immigrant communities. As one would suspect, the majority of babies aborted due to sex selection are female. Tom McClusky of the Family Research Council Action, in a recent BP article, remarked, "That anyone on either side of the political aisle would vote against a bill preventing gendercide in the United States is profoundly troubling." Indeed, for Southern Baptists who strongly adhere to a belief in the sanctity of human life, it constitutes an appalling indictment on our country and its leaders.

These are disconcerting developments, leading concerned citizens to ponder: Are we living in a God-fearing and God-honoring nation, or are we rapidly degenerating into a godless land where "everyone does what is right in his own eyes?" Is it time for His people to be courageous and for His church to let its voice be heard?

Celebrate Father's Day afresh

By Diana Davis

Need a small gift for dads on Father's Day at your church? Create a bookmark from this article. Download it at keepshining.com, add your church name and logo.

A Christian dad impacts his family and the world. Some fresh ideas:

Pray for your child

- Kneel by your sleeping child's bed and pray for him.
- Pray aloud with your child. Praise God as a family when He blesses, and take needs and crises to Him.

"Pray constantly" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Invest time in your child's life

- Create father/child traditions, such as birthday breakfast with dad, annual adventure, shared hobby.
- Even on busy days, spend at least a few focused minutes with your child. Take a walk, shoot baskets, go for a soda, play a board game. Listen. Comfort. Speak wisdom.

■ Offer to substitute in your child's Sunday School class.

"Teach a youth about the way he should go; even when he is old he will

not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Be your home's spiritual leader

■ Enthusiastically initiate family commitment to God, His Word and His church. Read your Bible. Help your child know Jesus as personal Savior.

■ Verbalize your God story. Tell your child about how God saved you. Talk about answered prayer.

■ Teach God's ways constantly—when you sit, walk, lay or stand (Deuteronomy 11:18-21).

"Tell your children about it, and let your children tell their children, and their children the next generation" (Amos 1:3).

Love your wife

■ Let your child see you show genuine affection to mom with compliments, hugs, laughs, prayers. You're teaching them how to treat their future spouse.

■ Tell your child the story of how you fell in love with mom.

"Each one of you is to love his wife as himself..." (Ephesians 5:33).

Encourage your child

■ Show family affection. Laugh together. Delight in your child. Say, "I love you" often. Compliment sincerely.

■ Be the parent. Your child needs a

FRESH IDEAS

father, not a buddy. Your loving discipline demonstrates your love.

"Fathers, don't stir up anger in your children, but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Serve God together

- Help your child discover her spiritual gifts and use them.
- Set an example of joyful service to God. Find ways to serve God with your child, such as homebound visit, church workday, mission trip.

"Serve the Lord with gladness..." (Psalm 95:1-2).

Be a man of integrity.

■ Your child is watching your life to emulate it.

■ Tape this on your dressing mirror: "I will lead a life of integrity in my own home—Psalm 101:2."

Enjoy your quiver.

Psalm 127:4-5 says that "children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him. Children ... are like arrows in a warrior's hands. How joyful is the man whose quiver is full of them!" Child-rearing days encompass less than a third of your adult years. Treasure them.

Happy Father's Day!

Diana Davis is the wife of Indiana Baptists' executive director and author of "Deacon Wives."

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Antibiotics & our future: A Christian farmer's response

By Shane Burchfiel

Ask any child to draw a farm, and they might use their Crayolas to produce an image that consists of a red barn, an apple tree on a green hill, and a cow or horse in the field. Unfortunately, this image of a "farm" doesn't change much into adulthood, and public perception of modern agriculture is often inaccurate.

Discussing the ethical, environmental and moral issues of producing our food and clothing is important. However, I would respectfully challenge some of the claims made in a recent Baptist Press piece.

First, blaming cows for obesity, antibiotic resistance and the loss of forests for corn production is an effective but fear-based tactic. The United States produces roughly half of the world's corn supply, but we are not tearing down forests to do this. Farmers are producing higher yields on fewer acres than ever before.

Obesity is a problem, but the blame lies more squarely on gluttony and laziness than it does on cows and corn. Likewise, antibiotic resistance can be a cause for concern, but are we not already the most over-medicated society on the planet? The bigger problem lies in over-usage of antibiotics among people.

Second, modern agriculture is not in defiance of nature. A full 98 percent of all farms are family farms. Farmers are working in concert with nature. We use fertilizers that are mined from the earth or come from animals, herbicides that are derived from plants, and insect protection that is naturally occurring in the soil.

Some people often make the claim that farmers are poisoning the environment. But why would we poison the land from which we derive our livelihood? We are stewards of the land. Farmers strive to operate in an environmentally friendly manner.

A good friend of mine used this analogy: "I raise pigs. I grow corn to feed them. The pigs eat the corn and produce manure. I take that manure and put it onto my corn field(s) as fertilizer. I don't know how you get any greener than that." Yet, he would be criticized because his pigs live in a barn, or because of the odor when he spreads manure. Is this not a realistic, sustainable and feasible model?

Third, Scripture is quite clear in the distinction of

humans and animals. God created humans in His likeness and gave them dominion over animals. This is not to say that animals should be treated cruelly, nor is it saying that animals are equal to humans.

Animals need food, water, protection, and yes, sometimes they need medicine. Liz Wagstrom, chief veterinarian of the National Pork Producers Council, told USA Today that without antibiotics, animals would become sick, and food prices would rise.

Until innovations occur in agriculture that enable us to move away from concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) without sacrificing production, I'm comfortable with a free market driving demand. If that means chickens and pigs live in barns/houses in addition to having access to fresh grass and sunshine to maintain an abundant and affordable food supply, I'm not overly concerned with the risks that may or may not be associated with that.

Fourth, this discussion is often framed in terms of an "us versus them" dialogue when it doesn't need to be. Why is the conversation quickly reduced to organic vs. commercial, industry vs. family, big vs. small?

The reality is there are more than 6 billion people on this planet and they eat. Population experts tell us that by 2050 global population will double, meaning farmers will have to produce more food in the coming years than we have in the history of civilization.

The real question becomes: Can we continue to feed people in a sustainable model that is environmentally friendly? Yes we can, but we are naive to think the organic, green movement or community gardens is going to carry us there alone.

People continue to have a disconnect between the reality of producing food on the family farm and the romanticized, biased picture as portrayed by documentaries. Farmers make up less than 2 percent of the population. That means 98 percent of Americans will rely on a 2 percent minority to provide food and clothing.

Modern farming families are innovators, consistently working towards safer, more efficient methods of food and fiber production. We plant and pray. We are stewards of the land. (BP)

Shane Burchfiel is a 2011 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and works on a family farm in Dyer County, Tenn.

FIRST PERSON

Financial planning myths

By Don Spencer

1. Financial planning is just investment advice.

While investing is important in financial planning, there are many other issues. These include goals, spending plans (budgets), insurance, taxes, retirement plans, and estate plans.

2. Save 10 percent of your salary. Is this enough? For some it may be. For others, it is not. Much depends on the purpose of the savings and other elements of your total financial picture.

3. Keep an amount equal to 3-5 months of spendable income in an emergency checking account. You do need an emergency fund, but not in a checking account. Consider other options for increased earnings, still keeping money accessible.

4. You will need 75 percent of your pre-retirement income in retirement. Maybe. Maybe not. You may need less or more, depending on your retirement plans and many other financial variables.

5. Life insurance should equal five times your salary. Have an insurance professional assess your needs. For some folks unique personal issues dictate a need for significantly more insurance.

6. Put a percentage of your savings equal to 100 minus your age into stocks. Many planners have used this as a general guide. This may be too conservative for some people. Younger people generally need a much higher percentage in stocks. With increased life expectancy and changes in what it means to be retired, many in their 50s and 60s may need a higher percentage in stocks.

7. I'm too young for a financial plan. The earlier the better. When you start young, you'll have more options in future years. For example, every decade you delay saving, you'll have to save about three times as much money per month to accumulate the same sum.

8. I'll retire at 65. This is false. 65 was an arbitrary number chosen in the 1940's for social security. Full retirement for Social Security is now 66 and rising to 67. More people are working longer.

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



Are you a "dry-cleaner parent?"

By David Garrard

I first heard the phrase "dry cleaner parent" from Mark Matlock, a consultant with Youth Specialties. Mark, in turn, was picking up on an idea expressed by Kara Powell, author of "Sticky Faith," related to the partnership between parents and the community of faith. Powell was describing parents who drop their children off at church and expect teachers and programs to "clean them up" and teach them everything they need to know about God.

The Bible, however, clearly refutes this model and instead challenges parents to take the major responsibility for the spiritual growth of their children. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 perhaps says it best. Parents are first of all told to love God with all of their own hearts, and to make God's ways central to their own lives. Then they are challenged to impress God's ways and God's truth on their children through the talking and walking that makes up daily life.

In a recent sermon titled Partners Together, St. Matthews Baptist pastor Greg Barr noted that even if parents bring their children to everything a church offers—Sunday School, Wednesday evening activities and Vacation Bible School, that only totals to 127 hours of influence a year. Parents, on the other hand, spend about 3,000 hours a year with their children, and that is even if both work outside the home.

Don't be a "dry cleaner parent" when it comes to the spiritual life of your child. Teach them about God. Put God first in everything and know that little eyes and ears are watching and listening.

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



Your church may be inwardly focused if ...

By Thom Rainer

Any healthy church must have some level of inward focus. Those in the church should be disciplined. Hurting members need genuine concern and ministry. Healthy fellowship among the members is a good sign for a congregation.

But churches can lose their outward focus and become preoccupied with the perceived needs and desires of the members. Dollars spent and time expended can quickly become focused on the demands of those inside the congregation. When that happens, the church has become inwardly obsessed. It is no longer a Great Commission congregation.

In my research of and consultation with churches, I have kept a checklist of potential signs that a church might be moving toward inward obsession. No church is perfect; most churches will demonstrate one or two of these signs for a season. But the real danger comes when a church begins to manifest three or more of these warning signs for an extended period.

1. **Worship wars**—One or more factions in the church want the music just the way they like it. Any

deviation is met with anger and demands for change. The order of service must remain constant. Certain instrumentation is required while others are prohibited.

2. **Prolonged minutia meeting**—

The church spends an inordinate amount of time in different meetings. Most of the meetings deal with inconsequential items, while the Great Commission and Great Commandment rarely are discussed.

3. **Facility focus**—Church facilities develop iconic status. One of the highest priorities in the church is the protection and preservation of rooms, furniture and other visible parts of the church's buildings and grounds.

4. **Program driven**—Every church has programs even if they don't admit it. When we start doing a ministry a certain way, it takes on programmatic status. The problem is not with programs. The problem develops when the program becomes an end instead of a means to greater ministry.

5. **Inwardly focused budget**—A disproportionate share of the budget is used to meet the needs and comforts of the members instead of reaching beyond the walls of the church.

FIRST PERSON

6. **Inordinate demands for pastoral care**—All church members deserve care and concern, especially in times of need and crisis. Problems develop, however, when church members have unreasonable expectations for even minor matters.

7. **Attitudes of entitlement**—This issue could be a catch-all for many of the points named here. The overarching attitude is one of demanding and having a sense of deserving special treatment.

8. **Greater concern about change than the gospel**—Almost any noticeable changes in the church evoke the ire of many, but such passions are lacking regarding the work of the gospel to change lives.

9. **Anger and hostility**—Members are consistently angry, regularly expressing hostility toward church staff and other members.

10. **Evangelistic apathy**—Very few members share their faith on a regular basis. More are concerned about their own needs rather than the greatest eternal needs of the world and community in which they live.

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. This column first appeared on his website, ThomRainer.com.



SBC presidential hopeful Fred Luter: Church shouldn't be defined by race

By Kim Lawton

New Orleans—The Southern Baptist Convention began in 1845 in support of slaveholders and now is poised to elect its first African-American president, Fred Luter, in June.

"It's a new day in the Southern Baptist Convention," Luter told the PBS program Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly. "Our doors are open to each and everybody."

Luter, 55, has been pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans more than 25 years. Under his leadership, Franklin Avenue has become one of the largest Southern Baptist churches in the state, with nearly 5,000 members. At one time, it was an all-white Southern Baptist congregation. But in the 1970s, whites moved out of the neighborhood, and the congregation became mostly African-American.

A New Orleans native, Luter grew up in a black Baptist denomination. When he arrived at Franklin Avenue in 1986, there was debate about leaving the SBC. Luter convinced the congregation to stay affiliated with the denomination.

"I knew this convention had a heart for evangelism, had a heart for discipleship and had a heart for reaching people in difficult times, and I felt this is the right place for us," he said.

Luter currently is the SBC's first African-American first vice president. He is the only declared candidate for president, although additional nominations may be made from the floor of the SBC's annual convention, which will be held June 19-20 in Luter's hometown.

The SBC is about 80 percent white. In recent years, the denomination has adopted resolutions of apology for its previous stands on racial issues.

"I have a past, you have a past, everybody has a past. This convention, unfortunately, has a past that we're trying to move forward from, and that's how I look at it," Luter said. "There was apology made, and so it's now time to move on."

Still, Luter acknowledged that racism is an ongoing issue that needs to be addressed, in the denomination and across the nation. While he doesn't agree with all of President Obama's policies, he has been troubled by what he sees as a lack of respect for the presi-

dent in many quarters.

"A lot of the things that this president has faced have not necessarily been because of his politics or his decisions, but unfortunately, it's only been because of the color of his skin. And that's what lets me know that we have a long, long way to go in America as far as racial reconciliation," Luter said.

Tensions over race cannot be ignored, he asserted, citing the Florida shooting of black teenager Trayvon Martin in February by a white neighborhood watch volunteer.

Fred Luter:

"I have a past, you have a past, everybody has a past. This convention, unfortunately, has a past that we're trying to move forward from, and that's how I look at it. There was apology made, and so it's now time to move on."

"As long as those kinds of things keep happening, ... we have to deal with it," he said, adding, there are "even some things maybe within the convention that we need to talk about and address."

Other leaders within the SBC welcome such a conversation about race.

"I'm not pretending like Fred's election to the convention now is going to do away with all racial tensions in the Southern Baptist Convention, ... but it is going to be a step—and I think a major step—in the right direction," said David Crosby, pastor of the mostly white First Baptist Church of New Orleans.

At the upcoming meeting, Crosby will be the one to officially nominate Luter as president. The two are close friends.

"I trust him. His presidency is not going to be about him. It's going to be about the health of our convention," Crosby said of Luter. "And we need his help. We need his perspective. We need his wisdom."

The two pastors' friendship began in the difficult days after Hurricane Katrina. Franklin Avenue had been devastated by the storm. When he returned to survey the damage, Luter said he was overwhelmed.

"We see pews thrown all over, the mud thick, the smell, the stench. ... I cried like a baby," he recalled.

The church had to be completely gutted and rebuilt. Most of the 7,000 congregants had fled New Orleans, but the remaining 50 or 60 needed a

place to worship. First Baptist, which had sustained much less damage, opened its doors, and the two congregations shared the space for nearly three years.

"It broadened our perspective of our own faith, broadened our perspective of the church of Jesus Christ and how we can work together," Crosby said.

After years of construction, Franklin Avenue moved back into its rebuilt church in 2008. But the relationships between the pastors and the congregations continue.

If he becomes president of the SBC, Luter said in addition to encouraging the establishment of new churches, one of his goals will be to support local congregations that are struggling to survive.

"We really have to work with a lot of the churches who are already existing but are hurting. They haven't baptized in a while," he said. "We need to go into these churches and find out, 'What can we do as a convention to help you get back on your feet?'"

As president, Luter also would help give voice to the SBC's often-conservative positions on public-policy issues, such as opposition to abortion and gay marriage. He said that is something he does not shy away from.

"We've always been out there on the frontlines," he said. "My mindset and my lifestyle is driven by what the word of God says. If God says it's wrong, then it's wrong."

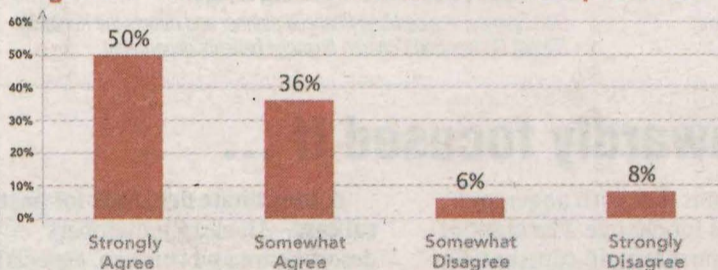
Luter said he is aware that as the first African-American up for the SBC presidency, he's disproportionately in the spotlight.

"You know whenever you're the first at something you're going to be scrutinized more," he acknowledged.

And as the convention meeting approaches, Luter said he's praying more than ever for wisdom.

"I'll be speaking on behalf of a denomination of 15 million members. ... And so I want to make sure that I represent not only them well, but most of all I want to represent God well," he said. (Religion & Ethics NewsWeekly/RNS)

6 of 7 SBC pastors with an opinion agree it would be good to have an African-American as SBC president



LifeWay
RESEARCH

Question: Without regard to any individual, I think it would be a good thing to have an African-American president of the SBC.

Poll: Pastors say it would be good for SBC to have black president

Nashville, Tenn.—Eighty-six percent of Southern Baptist Convention pastors who expressed an opinion believe it would be good for the convention to have an African-American leader.

Of the nearly 1,000 SBC pastors who responded, 61 percent agree it would be positive, 10 percent disagree, but 29 percent don't have an opinion.

LifeWay Research President Ed Stetzer said the results are good news for a denomination born, in part, out of the racial divides of the mid-1800s.

"Southern Baptists have come a long way. In the last 20 years, the percentage of non-Anglo SBC churches has grown from 5 percent to 20 percent, and now 7 percent of Southern Baptist churches are identified

as primarily African-American," Stetzer said. "But, we are still a predominantly Anglo denomination, so it is particularly encouraging to see the openness and enthusiasm for an African-American SBC president."

Stetzer said he believes the high number of those not expressing an opinion, and some of those with a negative answer, may indicate many pastors believe race should play no part in selecting SBC leadership.

The survey results are reminiscent of public-opinion polls taken four years ago that asked if Americans were ready for a black U.S. president. A pre-election CBS News poll in 2008 showed 68 percent of Americans agreed the country was ready for such a leader (LW/BP)

IMB welcomes more than 100 missionaries to global mission field

By Laura Fielding

Brentwood, Tenn.—Nate and Joanna Whitmire told God they would go anywhere if He called them to missions. "It's not like He'd ever call us to Africa," they thought.

But He did.

"We had a heart that was, in theory, open to whatever God wanted to do—we wanted to be in His will, but for whatever reason ... Africa was this big, black hole that was just not a place that we would consider," Nate said.

After the Whitmires, both from South Carolina, attended a Catalyst conference five years ago, however, their outlook changed.

"God really just hit us with the realization that our hearts had been hard in that area and that we didn't love who He loved," Joanna said of what she and her husband experienced.

The Whitmires, along with their four children, soon will serve in sub-Saharan Africa. They are two of 101 International Mission Board missionaries appointed May 23 during a service at Brentwood Baptist Church in Tennessee. Forty-one of the missionaries have served previous



COMMISSIONED Family and friends pray over new missionaries during an International Mission Board appointment service at Brentwood Baptist Church in Tennessee. IMB President Tom Elliff asked appointees' families to "let go" of their loved ones and support them as they obey the Great Commission. (IMB photo)

terms, bringing the current missionary count to 4,919.

In his message to the new missionaries, IMB President Tom Elliff noted that

the cross is a "dividing point"—everyone in the world is either saved or lost. This realization, he said, will shatter prejudices and simplify a believer's purpose.

"You'll just see that you have one responsibility, and that is to share the gospel with everybody," he urged.

The cross also is a "demanding possession," Elliff continued. One is not a missionary just because of his or her geographic location or by living a good, Christ-like life.

"Being a missionary is about confessing—not just carrying the cross, but confessing the cross—I am a blood-bought child of God," he said. (IMB/BP)



Tom Elliff

Merging churches

Continued from page 1

area, the two began talking about ways to minister to their community.

The pair wanted to lead their congregations to minister. But St. Paul didn't

have the facilities it needed, and Shively Heights members didn't have the economic resources to cover the upkeep on its building. Both pastors felt God showing them a merger would be the best way to reach a community of nearly 300,000 people—both black and white.

Merger hasn't been all that uncommon in the past 20 to 25 years, but often the result reverts to one primary culture, or a church will hold two distinct services to accommodate each culture. As co-pastors, Payton and Bingham have worked hard to lead the blended congregation to remain blended.

Currently, the church's makeup is about 60 percent black and 40 percent white. While the community is predominantly African-American, the racial mix of new members since the merger has been about 50/50, with a few Hispanics and other minorities joining, as well.

The congregation works at keeping a blend, even in its programs and governance. All Sunday School classes have two teachers—one black and one white—who rotate responsibilities each month. Every committee has a balanced representation, and the pastor scheduled to preach isn't announced ahead of time. "They know who it is when they see the bulletin," Payton said with a laugh.

Members concentrate on ministry, with an organized evangelistic outreach every Monday night, Vacation Bible School each summer and an annual back-to-school block party. For the past three years, the church has offered a basketball league, attracting 500 to 600 participants and spectators each weekend during the season.

"We've really been amazed at how well it is working," Payton said. "We just tried to determine what God's will is. ... We just don't think there's room for prejudice."

Slowly becoming one

Members of New Home Baptist Church in Kansas City say they believed God had called them to reach the



UNITED IN MINISTRY Pastors Lincoln Bingham (center, left) and Mark Payton (center, right), along with their wives, lead the congregation St. Paul Baptist Church at Shively Heights in prayer during the merged church's first worship service in August 2009. "We've really been amazed at how well it is working," Payton said. (WR file photo)

unchurched there. In 2010, the church had about 200 members, with about 75 percent African-Americans and 25 percent other groups. But they quickly outgrew their building. To continue making an impact on the area, they needed more room.

The nearby Mount Washington Baptist Church had been a large urban congregation in its heyday in the 1960s. But by 2008, when Tom Renfro became pastor, the congregation had dwindled to about a dozen senior adults. "Our youth department was two people in their 60s," Renfro quipped. Everyone else had long been retired.

New Home's pastor, Clarence Newton, and Renfro began discussing possibilities. New Home needed the room Mount Washington had, and Mount Washington needed a future. Members decided both visions could be realized by merging.

The new congregation, though, decided to maintain each culture's identity by offering two services—one

traditional and one contemporary. The traditional service, which Renfro led, became the home of white members, while the African-American members chose the contemporary service, with Newton preaching.

Last year, when the church decided it no longer could afford two pastors, Renfro resigned. Both the traditional and contemporary services still are offered, with Newton preaching both.

Each has become a little more blended as older blacks have chosen the traditional service and young whites have moved into the contemporary worship. The church has baptized more than four dozen people since the merger.

Renfro said he anticipates Mount Washington will become a predominantly black Baptist church in the near future.

"But overall, the merger has been a success because the building is being used, and the church is reaching people for Christ and moving forward," he said. (Missouri Word & Way/ABP)



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'The one who serves'

Oneida's staff continue to step up, fill in gaps when others are away

They're back!

She saw the doctors, underwent all the tests, had the serious neurological surgery, and he brought her back to continue healing. They arrived two days ago. They were in church this morning. They came to the OBI swimming pool this afternoon to witness the baptism of one of our students. Oh, what a joy to have them with us again. How very thankful we are to our great and gracious God for His care and keeping of this precious brother and sister.

This couple serves as full-time volunteers. Among other things, he oversees the work of our weekly volunteers, making sure their housing is ready and coordinating our weekly needs with their skills and abilities. She makes the seemingly unending trips to "town," whether that "town" is 17, 40, 60 or 100 miles away. They may be volunteers, but the positions they fill are crucial. They were gone for more than three weeks. We missed them but the work went on—daily trip after daily trip, volunteer group after volunteer group.

We don't have extra people on our staff for times like these when for legitimate, unavoidable reasons, one or more members of our ministry team have to be absent for extended periods of time. How do we cope? How does the work continue when the people normally assigned to do the work are not available? It continues because those who serve do just that: they serve.

When there is a need to be met, they say, "I know there is a situation. What is the need? Tell me and I'll help." There is no talk or thought of a salary bonus; there is no sense of, "That's his or her

job and I'm not touching it." There is only a commitment to seeing that the work of the Lord—the ministry committed into our hands—moves forward as smoothly and efficiently as possible so that the needs are met, and no one expects to get any glory.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

If only I saw this attitude in this most recent case I mentioned above, that would be wonderful but probably not worth noting. I want to tell you, however, that it happens again and again here at OBI. It's not about "my job" or "my position." It's about what must be done to meet the needs of our students, guests, volunteers and colleagues.

When we were short of house-parents, other staff members supplied countless hours of extra time in the dormitories on a volunteer basis. When a faculty member was out for surgery or had to be replaced for the remainder of the school year, other teachers stepped in and took on the extra teaching load. Ministry team members uncomplainingly worked extra hours when colleagues couldn't because of a death in their family. People literally came out of retirement or postponed their retirements to assist at crucial times and make sure needs were met—and the examples could continue.

It has been almost two months since I moved into the president's office. From time to time, people ask me about how it is to be president. Among other things, I am quick and happy to tell them that I am blessed to have "inherited" a ministry team that knows what it is to live by the example of Jesus who said, "I am among you as the one who serves" (Luke 22:27).

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

Ready to serve

Graduate ready to transition from Clear Creek to local church field

Graduate Mark Back is thankful for all that God has provided during his time here at Clear Creek, but he is ready to begin his ministry on the church field.

"I am so excited to make the transition to our new church field," Mark said. "God has led my family to serve a wonderful group of godly believers at Big Creek Baptist Church in Clay County. The church is located in a small mining community and is filled with a wonderful group of folks who have already been very patient with me as I begin my time of service with them. It has already been such a blessing to be with them.

"God has really used Clear Creek to help clarify my call since I came here," Mark recalled. "I knew coming in to Clear Creek that God was calling me to full-time Christian service with the idea of being a pastor upon graduation. However, part of that clarification has come in the form of additional training that I now feel God has shown me I need to pursue in the areas of theology

and philosophy. These areas are so important to life and it's important that I learn as much as I can about helping people I serve relate the areas to their lives. So, I will be looking into ways I can pursue some graduate training in

Clear Creek Chronicle

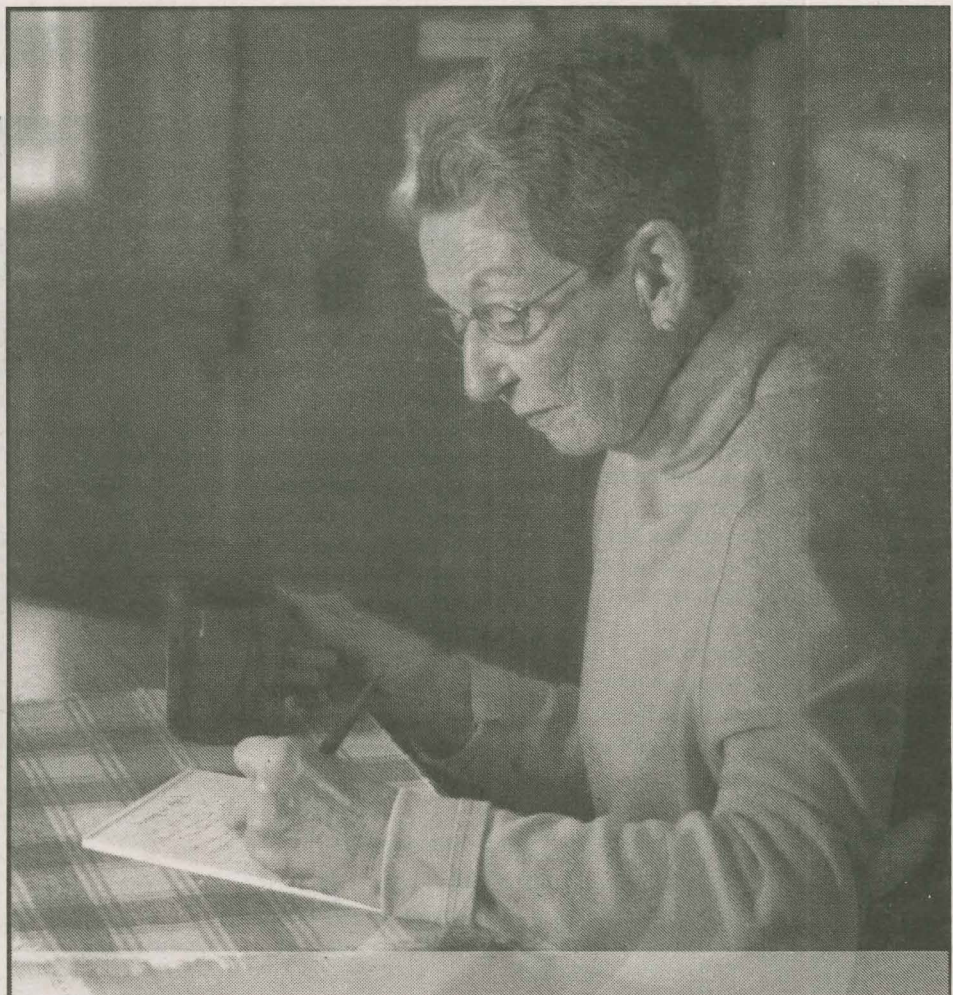


Donnie Fox

the near future. I just want to do kingdom work. I want to be right in the center of God's will.

"I have so many praises for the ways God has provided for my family since we have been at Clear Creek," Mark said. "God has blessed us so much since we have been here. When I look back over my time here, it just amazes me how God has provided for my education to attend Clear Creek. I am going to be able to graduate with an accredited degree and have all of my education paid for. I know that blessing has come in the form of scholarships that people have provided through the college. These are people who do not even know me but thought enough of this college to provide for students like me. God has truly blessed me through His people."

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



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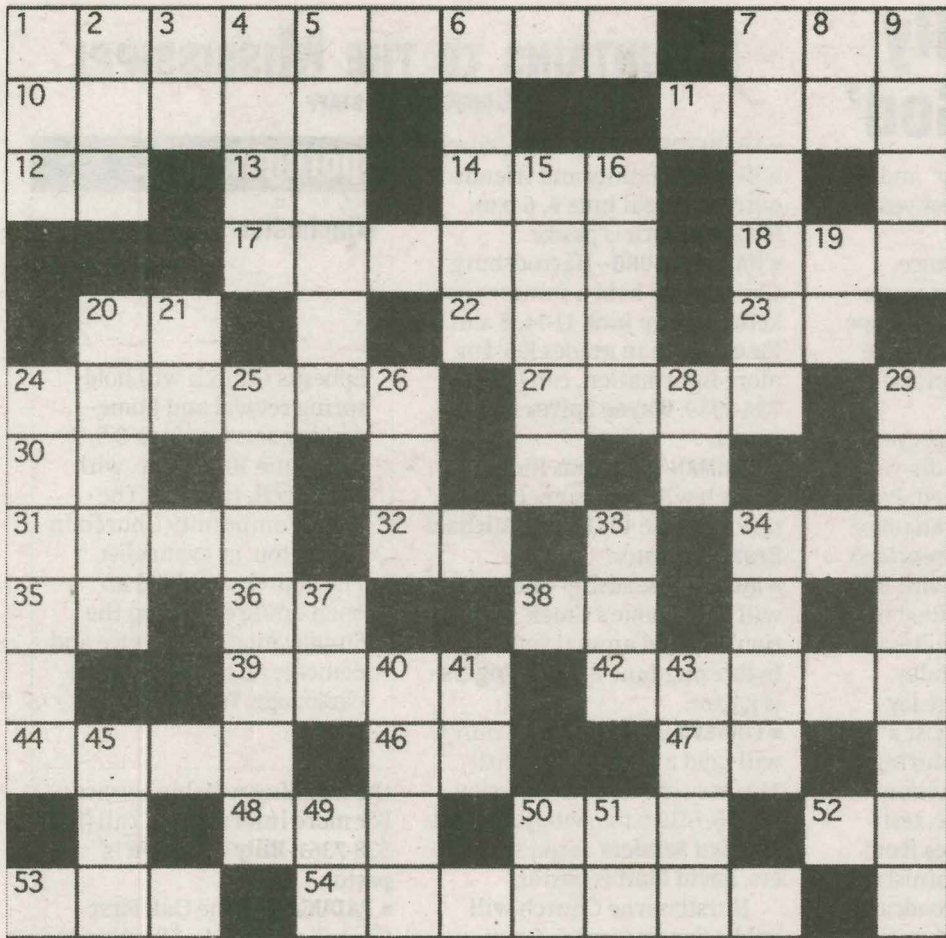
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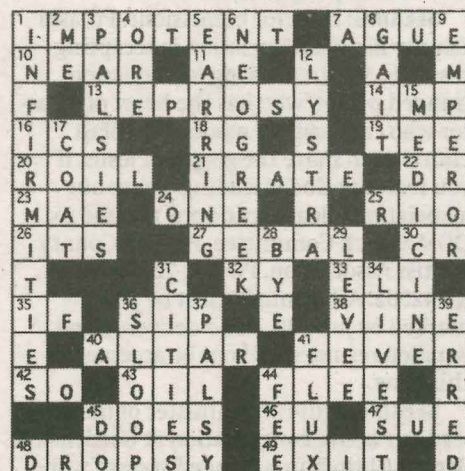
By Janet Kennedy

Across

- 1 "Thou breakest the heads of ____ in pieces" (Psalm 74:14)
- 7 "Every one that lappeth of the water with his tongue, as a ____" (Judges 7:5)
- 10 In on
- 11 Like an aria
- 12 "____ it ever so humble"
- 13 Conjunction
- 14 "Behold behind him a ____ caught in a thicket by his horns" (Genesis 22:13)
- 17 Loathing
- 18 Feminine nickname
- 20 Brit. islands (abbr.)
- 22 Blue pencil pushers? (abbr.)
- 23 Printer's measure
- 24 Wisconsin, the ____ State
- 27 Catch sight of
- 30 "I ____ the true vine" (John 15:1)
- 31 "The hart, and the roebuck, and the fallow ____" (Deuteronomy 14:5)
- 32 "All ____ like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6)
- 34 Rooster's better half
- 35 Chicago sight
- 36 Dad, in Dublin
- 38 One of the 13 original states (abbr.)
- 39 "Your adversary the devil, as a roaring ____, walketh about" (1 Peter 5:8)
- 42 Stags
- 44 What to do with the frizzies and large felines
- 46 Greek letter
- 47 Iron (symbol)
- 48 Verb in primer's vocabulary
- 50 Director Lupino
- 52 Kind of engineer (abbr.)
- 53 TV network
- 54 "Shalt thou exalt like the horn of an ____" (Psalm 92:10)

- 6 "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white ____" (Revelation 19:11)
- 7 Obstinate one, not too kindly
- 8 Chemical suffix
- 9 Rocky Mountain ____
- 15 Mosquito that carries yellow fever
- 16 Large quantity
- 19 Preposition
- 20 "Easier for a ____ to go through the eye of a needle" (Matthew 19:24)
- 21 Part of psyche
- 24 Requested (arch.)
- 25 "She maketh fine linen ... and delivereth ____ unto the merchant" (Proverbs 31:24)
- 26 Harsh
- 28 Penn's pad? (abbr.)
- 29 "The king doth not fetch home again his ____" (2 Samuel 14:13)
- 33 Exclamation of scorn
- 34 Tortoise's tormentor
- 37 City near Bethel
- 40 These may be yoked
- 41 Division of the United Kingdom (abbr.)
- 43 "And Peter followed ____ off" (Luke 22:54)
- 45 Fuss
- 49 Good or well (prefix)
- 50 Characteristic of (suffix)
- 51 Word in a command

Last puzzle's solution



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Down

- 1 Discovery zone? (abbr.)
- 2 "The poor man had nothing, save one little ____ lamb" (2 Samuel 12:3)
- 3 One of the 13 original states (abbr.)
- 4 "He shall rule ... with a rod of ____" (Revelation 2:27)
- 5 Expose to air

Preserving access to Baptist news & views

Western Recorder most complete, reliable source for Ky. Baptists

Where do you get your Baptist news and views? I read weekly the Western Recorder, our official Kentucky Baptist news journal since 1919, because I believe it is the most complete, reliable and readily available source of staying informed about key issues in Kentucky Baptist life and beyond.

I know I can depend upon the Western Recorder because I have confidence in its leadership and governance. Like the foundation, the Western Recorder is an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and therefore, is accountable to the primary constituency it serves through established reporting procedures.

In keeping with the historic, time-honored Baptist principle of a free press, I appreciate how well Editor Todd Deaton fulfills the paper's purposes with integrity and insight, and without fear or favor. I also am proud of the professional way in which the news is presented. It's an award-winning paper.

Baptist news and views from the Western Recorder are available to you today in a variety of formats. The website, WesternRecorder.org, has become a

primary portal for current news with a video segment. There is a digital edition with email alerts. Online subscriptions are available now.

Although the specific mission of the Western Recorder may not generate as much emotion and passion as the mission of a Christian education institution, a children's ministry, a human-needs ministry or a missions-and-evangelism ministry, it is nonetheless an essential component in our cooperative missions effort to connect all people to Jesus Christ, and therefore, worthy of enhancing and preserving.

Let me encourage you prayerfully to consider supporting this ministry now and/or in the future by contributing to an existing endowment or establishing your own endowment. Perhaps you have appreciated securities or real estate to give or the cash value of a life insurance policy you no longer need. Perhaps a bequest in your will or revocable living trust or a retirement plan beneficiary designation would work for you. Please call us toll free to assist you.

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

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KBC
 KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
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.

Frank Page: Meeting Billy Graham was 'gift from God'

Montreat, N.C.—Billy Graham remains passionate for the kingdom, Frank Page noted after a visit last month with the 93-year-old evangelist.

"His focus is singular as it has always been on winning the lost for Christ," Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee, said after meeting with Graham at the evangelist's home in Montreat, N.C. "He is (physically) weak. But his mind is sharp as ever."

Page visited Graham as the guest of Don Wilton, pastor of First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., where Graham is a member. Page described the meeting as a gift from God.

"It was a great encouragement to me spiritually. When I left, I wept with tears of joy because I felt I was in the presence of spiritual greatness," Page recalled. "It is one of the things I've wanted my whole life. That was a great gift from God for me to visit this great man."

Page described Graham as a humble man who has led a life of

"unquestionable integrity" and a mentor since Page's earliest years in ministry.

"He really, from a distance, became a spiritual mentor to me. ... He helped mentor me and shape me in ways he had no idea," Page said. "He quickly said all praise goes to the Lord."

Graham's "piercing blue eyes" came alive when the two discussed ministry, Page noted. Particularly, Page assured Graham of the Southern Baptist Convention's support of the "My Hope with Billy Graham" initiative scheduled in November 2013 to commemorate the evangelist's 95th birthday.

My Hope will encourage laypeople across the U.S. to host a meal for their neighbors during a special Billy Graham television broadcast featuring music, testimonies and short messages from Graham's international ministry through the years. The broadcast will give laypeople opportunities to share their personal testimonies and to encourage their neighbors to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. (BP)

Whitefield: 'Run to Win'



■ **Above:** Whitefield Academy junior Andre Klaassen crosses the finish line in second place in a Class A State Championship Meet 4x100-meter relay heat. The relay team finished eighth overall in the state. Individually, Klaassen won the state title in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes, setting a new state record in the 200-meter event. He is the son of John and Sheri Klaassen, International Mission Board missionaries who have served in Spain and Morocco. ■ **Left:** The 4x100m relay team from Whitefield included (from left) assistant coach Kara Underwood, Ben Pumpelly, Michael Hildreth, Andre Klaassen, Nathan Hepburn, Daniel Patterson and head coach Judy Deany. Whitefield Academy is affiliated with Highview Baptist Church in Louisville. (Photos courtesy of John Klaassen)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Winchester



Ephesus Church will hold spring revival and homecoming services June 8-9, 7 p.m.; June 10, 11 a.m., with **Tony Cecil**, pastor of The Point Community Church in Lexington, as evangelist. The church will hold an open house following the Sunday morning service and dedicate an addition to the parsonage. **Todd Rader** is pastor.

the morning worship services. For more information, call (502) 538-7361. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will hold a "Breakaway" student event June 11-14, 6 p.m., featuring times of worship and games each night. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a family and friends outreach meal June 6, 6 p.m. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will hold a summer basketball camp June 11-14, 8 a.m., for children in grades K-5. For more information, call (859) 734-2339. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

■ **HICKMAN**—Sassafras Ridge Church will hold homecoming services June 10, 11 a.m. **Michael Brown** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Friendship Church will host Boone's Creek Association's second annual youth hymn sing June 8. **Scott Rogers** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will hold a "What's Up With Ministry in Morocco?" session June 6, 6:30 p.m., with **John and Marilyn Sanders** as guest speakers. **David Platt** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will hold a fish fry June 6, 6 p.m. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will host No Other Name in concert June 10 during

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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: Full-time pastor for Salyersville First Baptist Church. Resumés may be mailed to PO Box 616, Salyersville, KY 41465; or emailed to salyersvillefbc@hotmail.com.

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: Full-time senior pastor for Central Baptist Church (founded in 1911) in Winchester, Ky., to lead us into the next 100 years as God's church. We are prayerfully seeking God's will to find a shepherd who is passionate about God's Word, sharing the gospel, and leading people of every age into a deeper walk with God. Applicants should be Spirit-filled, humble servants driven to uplift and expand God's kingdom. Masters required. Please send biographical sketch to Dianna Layne, 3100 Tates Creek Road, Lexington, KY 40502. DiannaL@ibc-lex.org.

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: 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: 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

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First IMB 'Embrace' churches in Europe meet people group

By Marc Ira Hooks

Europe—When Nick Hodges decided to watch the Southern Baptist Convention meeting online last summer, he never dreamed he would be navigating the “tubes,” trains and taxis of a major European city this spring as a result.

During the meeting, Hodges heard about Embrace, “and it was like a light went on inside of me,” he said. Embrace is an initiative to encourage churches to choose an unreached, unengaged people group and establish an active church-planting strategy among them.

“We’re supposed to just go and carry out the Great Commission,” he said.

Hodges serves as pastor of the 80-member Emmanuel Baptist Church in Oakdale, La. He and members of the 1,100-member First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Texas, spent the last week of April in Europe with International Mission Board trainers to begin their journey to “embrace” one of the world’s 3,800 UUPGs, 500 of which can be found in Europe.

They are the first Embrace churches to make connections with their people group on the ground in Europe.

“The thing that appealed to me about Embrace was that we were stepping in to places and situations where there was not already an IMB missionary on the ground,” First Baptist Pastor Johnny Dickerson said. “When we decided we were going to do this, I told our church, ‘We are not sending a missionary, we are sending you.’”

Hodges said he and his wife, Dawn, had never been on a mission trip or out of the country before going to Europe for training.



FINDING THEM Johnny Dickerson (right), pastor of First Baptist Church of Mansfield, Texas, talks with people on the street in a major European city as he seeks a ‘person of peace.’ His church is one of the first to make contact with a European people group adopted through Embrace, an International Mission Board initiative to encourage churches to choose an unengaged, unreached people group and establish an active church-planting strategy among them. (IMB photo)

“All of this is very new to us. Not to mention the fact that we are both introverts,” he said. “I think we (Emmanuel Baptist) represent the typical Southern Baptist church, and I’m hoping that people will see us and say, ‘If they can do it, then we can too.’”

Before the team came to Europe, the churches spent time investigating the world’s UUPGs and praying about which to adopt. After meeting with IMB personnel, each European Embrace church is assigned a “coach” who acts as a consultant for the church

as it fulfills its commitment of eight weeks per year for eight years.

Then, on the ground in Europe, the coach helps them learn about the culture and locations of their people group, as well as how to begin planting churches among them. They also go out into the city and make initial contacts with the people group.

Paul Combs, a volunteer from First Mansfield, said he “saw the Holy Spirit do stuff that only the Spirit could do.”

“We went out there today not knowing where we were going, who we were

going to talk to or if we were even going to find anybody to talk to,” Combs said. “But now, when we send teams back here, one of the hardest things about all of this has already been taken care of. We have somebody who has invited us back. They want to know when we are coming and want us to contact them when we get here.”

Doors now are open that weren’t open before, he noted.

Dickerson said the project embodies what he endeavors to preach every Sunday: “You have got to put your faith into action.”

Hodges echoed the need for faith in the Embrace project.

“There is no way that a church of 80 to 100 people in Louisiana can reach a European people group of 200,000,” he said. “This is a huge task. But if we are faithful, then God will provide the resources and the people along the way. We are not responsible for the results—God is. Our job is just to be faithful to the task.”

The Great Commission is not for professional missionaries only, Hodges pointed out—it is for all believers and all churches. “We all have a responsibility to go.”

The results are eternal, Dickerson said.

“Some day in glory, there is going to be someone from my people group,” he said. “And they are going to say, ‘Thanks for going.’ And when that happens, ... well, I know there are no tears in heaven, so when that happens I am going to just have to jump and shout or something.”

To find out more information about how to “Embrace” an unreached people group in Europe, send an email to EuroConnecting@IMB.org. (IMB)

22 deaf believers baptized, start NAME region’s first deaf church

By Ava Thomas

Northern Africa—War: It was the loudest noise 5-year-old Tobutu* had ever heard.

And then he never heard anything else again.

When the explosions of civil war came to Tobutu’s African town, they claimed his father, mother, brothers and sisters—and his hearing. He cried himself to sleep for months in a refugee camp in Sudan, alone and unable to communicate with anyone.

He learned to steal to eat and, over time, to feed his drug addiction. He eventually moved to the Middle East and, along the way, learned sign language.

But it would be nearly three decades before Tobutu learned to sign the word that would change his life—“Jesus.” Soon after, he learned to sign “baptism” and wanted to show the world his new life in Jesus Christ.

Tobutu and 21 other deaf recently were baptized in the sea and came together to form the first-known deaf church in Northern Africa and the Middle East.

“There was no fire from heaven, no battle with a giant, no plagues and no opening of the sea like with the miracles that happened in biblical times in the same area,” said Doc Douglas*, who

is familiar with work among the deaf people of Northern Africa and the Middle East. “Yet God displayed His miraculous power there once again.”

Deaf believers exist in other countries in the region but have not yet formed communities of faith, Douglas said.

“We are hoping to train deaf from several countries next year so they can plant churches in their own countries,” he said. “Deaf people are usually shut out from a lot of information, so learning new things, even about Christianity, is usually of interest. I have found a lot of responsiveness.”

Many, many deaf people have yet to see the name of Jesus signed, he said.

“There are places where there may be (hearing) churches, but the deaf have no idea who the ‘dead man on a cross’ really is,” Douglas said. “There are places where the majority of the deaf live in deep spiritual darkness. The area of Northern Africa and the Middle East, where a plethora of Bible stories took place, remains one of the most spiritually dark places on the globe.”

These deaf are the unreached and mostly unengaged, he said. They are waiting on a message—and a messenger.

“There are many places where the deaf continue to live without a witness

for Christ,” Douglas said.

When the message of Jesus Christ finally does reach them, many accept without fear, he said.

“Persecution and suffering may be in the immediate future for these folks, but to see the look on their faces as they

came baptized out of the sea, a person would be hard pressed to see any fear or expectation of repercussions,” Douglas said. “They know that no matter how close the hand of Satan may be, Christ’s hand is always closest.” (IMB)

*Names changed for security reasons



VISUAL CONFESSION Tobutu* rises out of the sea after being baptized. He and 21 other deaf believers were baptized together recently and formed the first deaf church in Northern Africa and the Middle East. (IMB photo)

All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the Lord, and all the families
of the nations shall worship before you.
~ Psalm 22:27



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Start a ... **chain reaction**

2012 State Missions materials will be mailed in July. Orders for posters, prayer guides and envelopes will be filled based on the church annual order form for missions offerings.

A PERSONAL WORD

It helps to ask directions!

By Joy Bolton

Earlier this year I was invited to speak for the Ten Mile Association Quarterly WMU meeting. I asked for pertinent details, including the name of the church where we would be meeting. I looked up the church in our KBC database and noted the address.

The night of the meeting arrived and I left the office in the late afternoon, allowing plenty of time to make the drive. I had printed directions from the internet and also plugged in the address into my GPS. As I neared the location, the GPS told me to turn on a road that did not exist. I drove past it three times, thinking that surely I had missed it. Next, I got out my cell phone and checked the map on it. All three of these sources had a different location for the church.

Fortunately, I had a cell phone number for the WMU director and called for help. As it turns out, the church really was not hard to find, but I got lost because I did not ask for directions from someone who knew

the county roads and could explain what to do.

Missions education leadership can be like this. We may have various resources and find them helpful, but there is nothing quite like learning from someone who knows. I want to encourage you to come learn from experienced leaders at Excel, our summer WMU training event.



Joy Bolton

Excel will be held on Saturday, July 28 at First Baptist Church in Hodgenville. This beautiful church is easy to get to from Elizabethtown. You may want to come spend the night in E-town on Friday to be ready for a great day with us on Saturday. Learn more at kywmu.org/excel.

Summer camps and overnights will soon be underway. We are excited to partner with the KBC Collegiate Department and have an Acts 1:8 Team as our camp staff at Cedar Crest. After leading camp with us in June, the team will travel to Haiti and lead camps there in July. We are offering three weeks of camp for girls and boys, grades 3-6 and two Mother/Daughter and Father/

Son weekend overnights. We will also have three Overnights at the Creek at Jonathan Creek in July for Mother/Daughter, Girls in Action, and Acteens. Learn more at kywmu.org/camp.

Kentucky WMU will continue the Camp Courage tradition in August at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp. All Royal Ambassadors, Challengers, Baptist Men are invited to join in our camp for guys.

Kentucky WMU made history at our recent Annual Meeting as we expanded our Executive Board to include a representative of Royal Ambassadors and Challengers. Rick Gastineau has agreed to serve in this new appointed position.

We ask for your prayers for the Kentucky Baptist Convention during days of transition. Kentucky WMU continues to be a partner to our state convention in missions and all that KBC is doing. We believe that the role of WMU will be of strategic importance in the days ahead. Thank you for your support of WMU as we continue to provide missions resources and assistance to Kentucky Baptists.

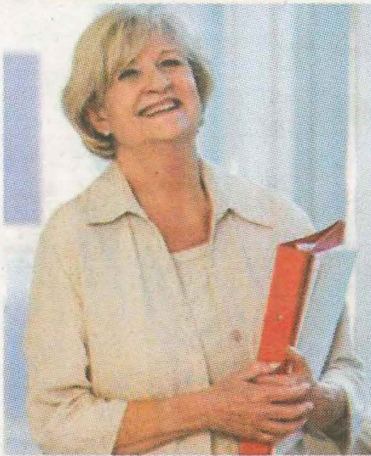
Joy Bolton is the executive director of Ky. WMU.



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WMU DIRECTORS

Excel updates for all WMU team leaders

By Wanda Walker

Lead ... Grow ... Excel.

These are great aspirations for all leaders in Woman's Missionary Union. Plan to attend EXCEL on July 28 at First Baptist Church of Hodgenville.

WMU leaders have already received a brochure and registration form. Please note the following updates:

- Childcare will be available for children birth through second grade with preregistration.
- Associational overview will be available Saturday afternoon for associational leadership. This will be a two-hour special interest option.
- Workshops that are current and relevant in your life and church will be offered in the afternoon.

Just a few words to associational or churchwide WMU directors: It is important to remember to include all members of the WMU team with updates, correspondence and planning.

Recently, an Acteens leader shared that she was not made aware of an associational event for women either by her church WMU director or her association WMU director. She is a young adult woman in her church, an Acteens leader and has been very involved in her association as a WMU leadership team member. Imagine the surprise, hurt and frustration she experienced when she was not even aware of event information.

Does this sound unfortunately familiar? It is very important to remember and include the entire WMU team. All age level leaders need to be visible and participate in events of women, students, children or preschoolers.

ADULTS

Women add 'starch' to their spiritual lives

By Wanda Walker

"A Wrinkle Free Woman (or how to add starch to your life)" was fantastic. Between the two regional retreats, we had 166 attending. That was great!

Berniece and Bertha, as well as Bertie, entertained and inspired all that were there. The weekend was complete with campfire, songs and s'mores.

Another important item to mention is that about half of all who attended were either new to Woman's Missionary Union or not familiar at all. And praise to God, we have new starts as a result—four new myMission groups. God used this change of venue for retreats and spoke to many about adults and missions education. This is very encouraging.

myMission is here! If you have young women in your church with different life experiences, take note that Kentucky WMU will offer two opportunities at Excel to learn what myMission is all about and how to charter young women into missions education even without a meeting.

Every adult, everywhere and everyday are important in kingdom work. May we never forget that as we grow our adults in missions education.

"I have been to every retreat I could possibly attend. Wrinkle Free was the best one ever! Thanks KY WMU."

"I liked this way of doing retreats. I got to know women easier than always moving from one workshop to another. I made some new friends and will be in contact ... literally, not like you usually say you will."



"Really enjoyed the weekend at Camp Schaffer. The speaker, food, atmosphere—everything was wonderful."



"The weather was perfect, the fellowship was sweet and Jesus was in the house at Laurel Lake!"



RAs/CHALLENGERS

Never a 'dull moment' with RAs and Challengers

By Jonathan Auten

RA Congresses Report

Spring was a busy time for Royal Ambassadors as RA Congresses were held in several places around the state. Paducah, Mt. Washington, Williamstown, Richmond, Monticello, and Russell all saw the boys of Royal Ambassadors come together to race their cars, tie knots, participate in the Missions Shoot Out and hear about missions in our state. There were Challengers at several of the Congresses as well, demonstrating that teen boys still want to be a part of the mission work of the church.

I want to thank Phil Spees (Region 1), Ken Hallmark (Region 4), Everett Musgrave (Region 5), Rick Gastineau and Johnny Webb (Region 6), Wimpy Hudson (Region 7), and Bill Mullins (Region 8) for serving as our regional coordinators.

Thanks also to Lone Oak Baptist, First Baptist Mount Washington, Knoxville Baptist, Kirksville Baptist, First Baptist of Monticello, and Russell First Baptist for serving as our host churches. I appreciate each church and all the leaders for their commitment to boys' missions discipleship in our state.

4:GO Report

Spring also marked the first time that 4:GO was held under the WMU banner. 4:GO was a missions-centered weekend for Challengers and other teenage guys.

Shawn Clark, former Arenacross champion and current youth pastor at Forest Park Community Church in Louisville, challenged the guys to go beyond what our society expects of teens and live for Christ, taking the gospel out into the world around them.

Chris Carder, worship pastor at Forest Park, led the guys in meaningful and thoughtful worship.

But learning and worship were not all that the guys of 4:GO did that weekend. They also went out in the name of Christ and ministered in the community of Campbellsville where the event was held. Boys from Gethsemane Baptist Church went

out and worked with Lucas and Kentucky Heartland Outreach to complete a ramp on the home of a woman whose family had to carry her from her wheel chair up the steps and into her house.

While this was going on, the guys from Bells Run Baptist, Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist, Bethel Baptist, Brodhead Baptist, and Friendship and Unity Baptist stocked the shelves of the Taylor County Ministerial Pantry with canned goods collected by the Exalt girls and the 4:GO guys. They followed this up by joining Eric Allen, of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, in prayer walking the neighborhoods around the high school.

My thanks go out to Campbellsville Baptist for hosting our event. I especially appreciate Brad Lauer, Campbellsville's discipleship pastor, who made sure we had everything we needed at the church. I also want to thank Campbellsville University. Not only did they host Exalt, but

they also provided campus tours for 4:GO and served a great lunch in Winters Dining Hall.

Courage 2012 Is Fast Approaching

With August 3-4 just two months away, Royal Ambassadors are making their plans for Courage 2012. With their Royal Racers in hand, and their gear packed in the trunk, the boys and their leaders will be heading to Laurel Lake Baptist Camp for a great two-day, one-night state missions event.

Steve Heartsill of National WMU will be there, as will John Bennett of the KBC and Sean Bryant of the University of the Cumberlands Patriot football team. The RAs will also get to hear from a special missionary speaker as they learn about "Charting Your Course by God's Word."

Of course, there will be plenty of outdoor activities like archery and swimming. So there shouldn't be a dull moment in the woods around beautiful Lake Laurel.

The deadline to sign up is July 6, so it's not too late to register. Just go to www.kywmu.org/courage to learn more about the event, download needed forms, and register online.



Some of the guys attending 4:GO, a Challengers mission weekend, helped with service projects like building a ramp for a family who would carry their wheelchair-bound relative up the steps and into their home.

JUNE

11-15

• Mission Adventure Camp for Children, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

15-16

• Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

• Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

17-18

• National WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting, New Orleans

18-22

• Mission Adventure Camp for Children, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

19-20

• Southern Baptist Convention, New Orleans

22-23

• Mother/Daughter Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

• Father/Son Overnight, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

25-29

• Mission Adventure Camp for Children, Cedar Crest, Bagdad

30

• Kentucky BNF Summer Meeting, Elizabethtown

JULY

13-14

• Overnights at the Creek, Jonathan Creek, Hardin, KY

• Mother/Daughter Overnight, grades 1-3

• GA Overnight, grades 4-6

• Acteens Splash, grades 7-12

28

• Excel, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville

AUGUST

3-4

• Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin

President's perspective

Wow! That seems to be a favorite word of mine lately. It's amazing watching the Lord work among us as we saw over 700 people gather to celebrate what God is doing all over the world at our 109th annual meeting and missions celebration as we were challenged to Live Sent as a letter from God to the world not written with ink, but with God's living Spirit. It was great to have national WMU president, Debby Akerman with us sharing how to do just that...Live Sent daily.



Linda Cooper

We traveled from Central Asia with Harold and to Southern Europe with Joe as they shared how they're living sent each day on the mission field. Our missionar-

ies need us to live sent by praying for them. Some of us are living sent here in Kentucky as God uses us to touch the world right here. From the East to the West, Bill Barker, John and Melissa Fitzwater, George and Cathy Chinn, and Arlene Miller showed us that and shared how the rest of us can minister to the world, too.

I prayed that lives will be changed as we packed donated items for our American Troops and wrote letters to Kentucky missionaries as we participated in hands on missions, sharing the love of Christ. Thank you to all who participated and especially to Beacon Hill Baptist Church. May the seeds planted come to fruition.

Boys and girls, 7th-12th grade traveled to Campbellsville to participate in Exalt and 4:Go. It was heartwarming to see teenagers putting together school supplies for those in need and building a ramp fulfilling yet another need. They were challenged by in-

spirational speakers and special interest workshops. They also prayerwalked. What have you done in Jesus' name lately?

If you missed these missions events, you missed a blessing...but more opportunities are coming! The national WMU annual meeting will be held on June 17-18 in New Orleans, La. Come join our Kentucky group as we travel to Louisiana to learn more about missions.

Talk about learning more about missions! You will have a great opportunity to do just that at Excel July 28 at First Baptist Church in Hodgenville. Gather your missions leaders or anyone in your church who is interested in missions to come and be trained in leading any branch of WMU.

WMU summer camps are coming for our children! These camps are vital to the lives of those children who come because, many will come to Christ there...that's why we do what we do! Begin registering for

camp now and praying, too. For more information for dates and places, go to www.kywmu.org/camp.

Please continue to pray for me as I travel the commonwealth and the world, sharing how to have and live a missions lifestyle as I try to Live Sent daily. KY WMU will send a team of 7 this summer to Malawi, Africa in July. We will be working with pastors wives teaching them basic first aid, addressing several health concerns, and prayer and Bible Study. Please pray for our safety and our health and that God will lead the way.

I would also like to say thank you to all of you who have invited me to come and share at your church or association. You have truly been a blessing to me. If I can ever help any of you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me. May God bless you in all you do in the name of the Lord through Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union.

STUDENTS

New heart, new identity, new mission in Christ

By Maryann Lee

I love the excitement and energy that comes from being around teenagers. It was all the excitement and energy that helped make Exalt, held April 13 and 14 at Campbellsville University, such a great event. Whether it was in worship time, the breakout seminars or in the conversations during the breaks the energy was high.

Over 180 teenage girls and their leaders from across the state attended this event.

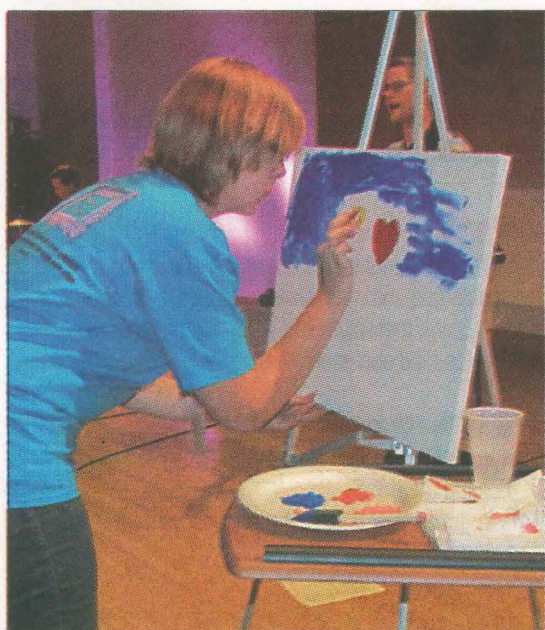
Kristi McCartney, the keynote speaker, challenged the girls to see that in Christ they have a new heart, a new identity and a new mission. The Friday night worship time ended with a special time of invitation where the girls were able to respond to the gospel and the call of God on their lives.



Kristi McCartney

Bo Warren led in meaningful times of worship and Brandy Nelson, a student at Johnson University in Knoxville, Tenn., brought life to the theme of Blank Canvas through art work.

There is still much more planned for Acteens this summer! Acteens Splash will be held July 13-14 at Joanthan Creek. This fun overnight camp is for all teenage girls in grades



7-12, not just those who are involved in Acteens.

Splash will be a time away for teen girls to be themselves and learn more about missions and grow in their walk with God. For more information or to register for this event, visit our website at kywmu.org/overnights. I hope to see you at Acteens Splash.

Leaders, I hope that you are planning to attend Excel, July 28 at First Baptist Church

Hodgenville. Many people are not aware that this event has training opportunities for those who work with teenagers. We have classes on Acteens, Youth on Mission, and Challengers. There will also be classes on reaching kids from unchurched backgrounds.

I hope that those who work with teenagers will take advantage of this opportunity for growth in their ministry.

TOP: Students worship in song during the opening session at Exalt 2012, held April 13-14 at Campbellsville University.

ABOVE LEFT: Brandy Nelson brings the Blank Canvas to life through an art demonstration.

ABOVE RIGHT: Bo Warren leads students at Exalt in worship.

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

Kids on mission

By Stacy Nall

During 2012-2013, Mission Friends, Children in Action, Girls in Action and Royal Ambassadors will "visit" cities all over the world as they learn how missionaries minister and plant churches. Your church doesn't need to be in a big city to follow the example of city missionaries. Courage, responsibility and honesty (character traits highlighted in the curriculum for preschool and children) can be developed and used to spread the Good News no matter how big your town. Preschoolers can make greeting cards and visit the local fire department to show their support. Children and their leaders can give bottles of water to park visitors. The possibilities for ministry are endless! Start planning your big city or small town adventures today!

Go to www.wmu.store for new resources for preschool and children.

Plan to take your children to Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest or Overnights at the Creek. See page 4 for details.

State Missions

In September, preschoolers and children can participate in the Season of Prayer and Offering for State Missions. They will learn about the Food Ministries of Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

Excel

Would you like to Excel at leading Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Royal Ambassadors or Children in Action? Attend Kentucky WMU's leadership development this summer, July 28, at First Baptist Church in Hodgenville. You'll learn about the basics of missions education for preschoolers and children as well as information about 2012-2013 curriculum.

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

The following persons were honored or remembered through gifts to the Kentucky WMU Heritage Fund during the first quarter of 2012 (Jan. 1-March 31). In addition, we received contributions through the Silent Auction and other Heritage Fund contributions during Annual Meeting.

In Honor of:
Wynona King
Kentucky WMU Exec. Board
Irma Woodrow
Jay Padgett

Donor:
Irma Woodrow
Irma Woodrow
Wynona King
Susan Bryant



The above image is used on the cover of the "In Honor" card.

In Memory Of:
Ginny Jones
Ngarita Cullen Sams
Norris Cooper
Louise Miracle
Ora Lee Hurst
Naomi Gilbert
Royce Greene
Sadie White
Lewis & Sylvia McDonald

Donor:
FBC Hopkinsville WMU
Maribeth Hambrick
Warren Association WMU
Eloise Davis
Cynthia Rogers
Cynthia Rogers
Kentucky WMU
Marcia Ballard
Charolette Rock

Other Gifts:
Kentucky WMU staff
Twyla Sheffield
Dr. & Mrs. Barry Allen

NEW: Beautiful "In Memory" greeting cards for the Heritage Fund are now available from the Ky WMU office. These cards are the perfect way to let the family know of your gift to the Heritage Fund gift in memory of their loved one. Distinctive "In Honor" greeting cards are a wonderful way to honor a special person with a gift to the Heritage Fund. Contact the Kentucky WMU Office for cards. You may wish to keep some at your church for future use.

CHURCH LEADERSHIP INFO

Be sure Kentucky WMU has current names and contact information for the WMU leaders in your church. You can provide updates by:

1. Completing the WMU Leadership Form sent with the 2012 Annual Church Profile (ACP).
2. Providing your church WMU Leadership information to your associational WMU director (or other leader) when contacted for this information.
3. Notifying Kentucky WMU with updates (any time of the year) by calling (866) 489-3534 or e-mailing kywmu@kybaptist.org.

NEW: The 2012 Church Leadership Form includes a box to report enrollment of each WMU organization in your church. WMU enrollment is no longer reported on the ACP.

2012-13 KENTUCKY WMU

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: **Linda Cooper**
Vice-President: **Susan Bryant**
Recording Secretary: **Marcia Ballard**

Region 1: Brenda Williams, Cathy Terrell, Linda Alexander
Region 2: Joyce Wilcox, Jenifer Shearon, Peggy Leach
Region 3: Lesa Keown, Betty Coppage, Sharon Givens
Region 4: Vicki Bierman, Pati Hoskins, Lisa Crenshaw
Region 5: Darlene Schadler, Susan Hutcherson, Patricia Callan
Region 6: Donna Fegenbush, Linda

Devine, Linda Lee
Region 7: Annette Story, Maribeth Shelton, Cheryl Hatfield
Region 8: Judy Short, Lisa Nickell, Shelby Castlen

BNF President: Dolores Gilmore
Development Specialist: Twyla Sheffield
Royal Ambassadors/Challengers Representative: Rick Gastineau

So, what's up with your blood sugars?

Kentucky BNF summer meeting

June 30
10 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Saverns Valley Baptist Association office
500 College Street Road
Elizabethtown

Presented by
Vanessa Paddy
Diabetes Management Coordinator
at Hardin Memorial Hospital

\$20 for BNF members
\$25 for non-BNF members
2 CEU credits

Missions Challenge 2012

Mission Adventure Camp for Girls and Boys

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



Weeklong Camps	Cost \$195
June 11-15	Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
June 18-22	Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones
June 25-29	Girls and boys in grades 3-6 and their chaperones

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights

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

Mother/Daughter and Father/Son Overnights	Cost \$50
June 15-16	Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads
June 22-23	Girls in grades 1-3 and their moms, Boys in grades 1-3 and their dads

Overnights at the Creek Jonathan Creek July 13-14

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

Mother-Daughter Overnight	Girls in grades 1-3 and moms	Cost \$50
GA Overnight	Girls in grades 4-6 and their chaperones	Cost \$50
Acteens Splash	Girls in grades 7-12 and their chaperones	Cost \$50

For more information, go to www.kywmu.org/camp

This summer, Mission Adventure Camp will be led by male and female staff of the Acts 1:8 Team!

- Stacy Nall**
WMU Camp Director
- Robin Watson**
Acts 1:8 co-director,
Morehead State University
- Sara Bradley**
Acts 1:8 co-director
Morehead State University
- Jordan Clevenger**
Morehead State University
- Meredith Ellis**
Western Kentucky University
- Caleb Hetrick**
University of the Cumberlands
- Cassie Kaufman**
Western Kentucky University
- Amanda Sickman**
University of the Cumberlands
- Kayla Mae Smith**
University of the Cumberlands
- Montez Straughn**
Kentucky State University
- Leah Stroupe**
Kentucky Wesleyan College
- Kendell Vickers**
University of the Cumberlands
- Hailley White**
Morehead State University

Courage 2012

CHARTING YOUR COURSE BY GOD'S WORD

A Statewide Missions Education Event For Men and Boys
August 3 & 4, 2012
Laurel Lake Baptist Camp
Corbin, KY

*I pondered the direction of my life,
and I turned to follow your laws.
I will hurry, without delay,
to obey your commands.
Psalm 119:59-60 (NLT)*

Registration deadline: July 6
To register go to www.kywmu.org/courage

CiA Day Camp

For boys and girls in grades 1-6

September 22
Highland Baptist Church
in Shelbyville
10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (EST)
Cost: \$10 per person, includes lunch.
After Sept. 10, cost: \$12.

Children in Action Day Camp BLOCK PARTY!

www.kywmu.org/ciadaycamp