

WESTERN Recorder

June 12, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Families serving families

Retreat meets special needs with God's love

By Robin Cornetel Bass

Scottsville—Danny Raisor confidently stood on a loose, wooden platform while working 40 feet in the air, as if his feet were guided by some inner ironworker high atop a skyscraper.

He and several other men from Bardstown's Parkway Baptist Church volunteered their time last week on a construction project at Barren Heights Retreat, a camp near Scottsville designed for families with special-needs children. Much like his balancing instincts, Raisor said he felt God guiding him to join the ministry efforts of camp directors Joe and Toni Rose about five years ago.

"It was something that was pressed on my heart," Raisor said. "The Lord draws us where He wants us. He calls on all of us to use our talents, and I have a few in the construction end."

Fellow Parkway member David Frye said he also felt called to help the camp. "We like coming here. We like serving God and doing His work," Frye noted.

Boasting 4,000 square feet, the newest construction project at Barren Heights is by far the most ambitious. Last week, the all-volunteer crew had finished framing the first floor and had moved on to constructing the bones of a vaulted ceiling

for the building's chapel area. When the building is complete it will include two bedrooms for retreat leaders, bathrooms, a laundry room, large covered porch, a small chapel and a basement storm shelter.

"We're calling it the 'New Barn,'" said Toni Rose, who created the ministry eight years ago with her husband, Joe. The couple reside in Louisville with their two daughters, Jessi, 18, and Abbi, 15.

Toni said the building's nickname points back to when the camp was comprised of little more than three cabins and an old tobacco barn that still is used for Sunday morning worship during weekend retreats.

Raisor said he became involved at the retreat when he heard about wheelchair-bound guests having trouble maneuvering from the cabins to the barn. Working with a local supplier, Raisor and other men from Parkway Baptist poured 27 yards of concrete in two days. Later in 2010, he coordinated the construction of an outdoor pavilion so guests with sensitivity to the sun could still enjoy the outdoors.

"The group from Parkway has been amazing," Toni said. "The fact that God crossed our paths with folks from that

☐ See Barren Heights Retreat ... Page 6



NAMB disaster relief fleet gets \$1.5 million boost

By Mickey Noah

Alpharetta, Ga.—While 2012 has been a relatively quiet year so far for Southern Baptist Disaster Relief on a national scale—compared to tornado-dominated 2011—SBDR leaders at the North American Mission Board have used the time to expand Southern Baptists' response fleet for future disasters.

As a result of a \$1.5 million allocation by NAMB's trustees in February, the board's disaster relief fleet now includes three new 53-foot 18-wheelers. Two of the tractor-trailers already are in NAMB's Alpharetta, Ga., parking lot, with the third—a tractor with a refrigerated trailer—due to arrive in July. Also coming next month will be a much-needed second command center trailer.

NEW ADDITIONS

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers (from left) Tom Day, Jim Harper, Claude Carpenter and Cam Sutherland, all from Cumming, Ga., examine one of the four new heavy-duty Ford-550 trucks and cargo trailers at the North American Mission Board. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)



In addition, NAMB now has four heavy-duty Ford-550 trucks to pull any of four mud-out and pressure washing cargo trailers that would haul generators, tools and other equipment to disaster sites.

"We are thrilled to be able to provide these vehicles and this

additional equipment to come alongside our state partners who do such an amazing job responding to disasters," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "When this equipment rolls into town, people will know help is on the way, but they will also

☐ See NAMB DR fleet ... Page 3

Poll: Pastors want to keep SBC name, split on 'Great Commission Baptists'

Nashville, Tenn.—More than half of the pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention do not intend to use the name "Great Commission Baptists" in communication about their churches, although 40 percent say they have not discussed the issue or decided, according to a recent survey by LifeWay Research.

The survey also reveals more than 70 percent of pastors agree the name "Southern Baptist Convention" should continue to be used.

LifeWay Research conducted a survey of more than 1,000 SBC pastors in light of the task force appointed by SBC President Bryant Wright to study a possible name change for the 167-year-old convention. The report of the task force, delivered in February during the president's report to the SBC Executive Committee, recommended the convention maintain its legal name but adopt

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Western Recorder 6-12-2012

Kentucky Changers youth helping Harrodsburg residents this week



Harrodsburg—A construction crew of more than 400 students and adults in bright orange T-shirts is working in Harrodsburg this week as Kentucky Changers help area residents.

Coordinated by the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Kentucky Changers equips student, young-adult and adult volunteers to provide home maintenance and repair services to the needy throughout Kentucky.

Projects are supervised by skilled

carpenters, and residents are never charged for the work.

As they serve, Kentucky Changers build relationships with the homeowners, sharing with them the love of God.

The group's home away from home for the week is Mercer County Senior High School. Churches of Mercer Baptist Association are assisting Kentucky Changers throughout the week.

Kentucky Changers coordinators say they hope to assist more than 30

residents and homeowners in the area this week.

Modeled after the Southern Baptist youth mission endeavor World Changers, Kentucky Changers organized 19 years ago. In 2011, nearly 90 projects were completed by 1,200 Changers from 80 churches across Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Virginia and Florida.

This summer, Kentucky Changers also will serve in Paducah and Somerset. (KBC)

Former Paducah youth pastor to lead newly formed Crossings ministry center

Louisville—Roger Palmer, a former youth minister at First Baptist Church of Paducah, has been named director of the Crossings Center for Youth Ministry, a new effort of Kentucky Baptists' camp ministry, Crossings.

Since 2004, Palmer has served as National Director of Reach-Out Youth Solutions, based in Stone Mountain, Ga.

The Crossings Center for Youth Ministry provides a venue for pastors and youth ministry "veterans" to connect with those seeking ideas, advice and encouragement in their mission to students.

The center also will serve as a clearinghouse for ministries, books, blogs and other youth ministry resources.

"Roger has served in youth ministry for more than 20 years," Crossings President David Melber said. "He is going to be a great asset for Kentucky Baptists who have been called to share Christ with students and disciple them in their growing Christian walk."

Crossings, previously known as Kentucky Baptist Assemblies, provides camp and retreat services to students and adults through the Cedarmore and

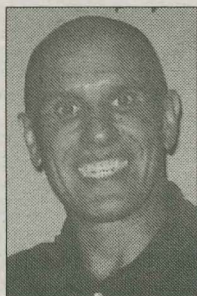
Jonathan Creek conference centers.

Last month the Kentucky Baptist Convention Mission Board approved a plan to restructure its staff, which included transferring the responsibility of youth ministry resourcing to Crossings.

As part of the new plan, Crossings also will assume responsibility for coordinating the annual Kentucky Changers projects. Joe Ball, who will leave the KBC June 29 as director of the youth ministry department, has been hired by Crossings to direct the ministry.

"In the restructuring of the mission board of our relationship with Crossings," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "They are doing an outstanding job of sharing the gospel with students and motivating them to participate in Christian service."

As part of the growing partnership, this fall, Louisville-area staff of Crossings Ministries will move into the Kentucky Baptist Building. Currently, those staff members work from rented office space elsewhere in the city. (KBC)



Roger Palmer

Richard Land signs off radio show

Nashville, Tenn.—The head of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission signed off without fanfare for the last time on the Richard Land Live! weekly radio show June 2.

Land, Southern Baptists' top spokesman for moral and religious-liberty concerns since 1988, didn't go into detail about the controversy over recent comments about Trayvon Martin and a plagiarism investigation that brought rebuke and a decision to cancel the program by the executive committee of the ERLC's trustee board.

"Due to a variety of circumstances this will be my last appearance on Richard Land Live!," Land said in the closing moments of a previously recorded broadcast without the usual listener phone calls. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my more than decade-long relationship with and conversation with you. I still believe America needs and must have a spiritual revival followed by a spiritual awakening culminating in a spiritual reformation."

Paraphrasing 2 Chronicles 7:14, Land described the U.S. as a land "uniquely blessed by God" but in need of moral reform.

"It seems to me that anyone who

reads American history has to come to the conclusion that our nation ... has been not just the object of fortuitous circumstance but divine providence," he said. "And that divine providence and that kind of blessing—and blessing by definition means undeserved—merits our response."

Land first got into hot water March 31 when he described black leaders Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton as "racial ambulance chasers" and accused President Obama of using the Martin, comments for which he later apologized.

The ERLC trustee executive reprimanded Land earlier this month for "racially charged words" and "carelessness" with attribution for plagiarized comments he made during a broadcast, and decided to pull the plug on the radio program deemed "not congruent" with the agency's mission. (ABP)

CORRECTION

The cover story in the June 3 Western Recorder, "When you're hurting, what are you going to do?" was written by Ken Walker.

SBC name survey

Continued from page 1

"Great Commission Baptists" as an informal, non-legal name for churches and entities that want to use it. The Executive Committee approved the president's recommendation.

LifeWay Research asked the question: "Do you agree that the Southern Baptist Convention should continue to be the name for this convention?" and found 72 percent of pastors agree (strongly or somewhat) the name should continue to be used. Twenty-three percent disagree and 5 percent "don't know."

The percentage of pastors who agree with the statement increases with age. Sixty-one percent of pastors under 45 agree, while 82 percent of pastors over 65 agree. Pastors of smaller churches (less than 50 in attendance) are most likely to "strongly agree" (64 percent) with the retention of the name Southern Baptist Convention. And, pastors in the West (45 percent) are less likely to "strongly agree" than pastors in the South (57 percent).

Jimmy Draper, chairman of the task force that recommended the new name,

said the survey results were about what he expected them to be.

"The vast majority of Southern Baptists prefer to keep the Southern Baptist name. ... That is why we recommended keeping that name," Draper told Baptist Press. "Approximately 90 percent of those who attend the convention annually are from the South. For most of us, we see the value of the name as a brand worthy of maintaining."

Draper, though, said the task force made the "Great Commission Baptists" recommendation to benefit those outside the South, as well as ethnic groups.

"It is important for all of us to remember that we are now ministering as Southern Baptist in all 50 states," Draper said. "For many of them, the name 'Southern' is an impediment to gaining opportunities to seek to bring others to faith in Christ. For many of our African-American church leaders in the SBC their involvement with the name 'Southern' has been a point of contention and conflict with their peers. We should believe in the Great Commission enough to be willing to remove every possible impediment to evangelistic outreach for those for whom it would be helpful."

LifeWay Research Director Scott

McConnell said that "while more than one in five pastors indicate they are ready for a change in the name of the convention, across all subgroups measured the majority of pastors agree the current name should continue to be used."

When pastors were asked if they agree "that a non-legal name like 'Great Commission Baptists' would be acceptable for use by those who would find it beneficial?" an equal number of pastors agree and disagree (46 percent).

Responses to this question also vary by church size and pastor age. Only 36 percent of pastors of churches with less than 50 in attendance agree the non-legal name would be acceptable compared to 61 percent of pastors of churches with attendance over 250.

There also is a split in responses between younger and older pastors. The majority of pastors age 18-44 agree (59 percent), while the majority of pastors age 65-plus disagree (60 percent).

Pastors also were asked if their church intends to use the tagline "Great Commission Baptists" in some or all of their communication about the church.

More than half (54 percent) say they will not use the non-legal moniker although more than a third (35 percent)

have not discussed it and five percent have not decided. Four percent responded they will use both Southern Baptist Convention and Great Commission Baptists in their descriptors, and two percent indicated they will use Great Commission Baptists exclusively in their church identification.

Draper said the percentage of churches possibly open to the descriptor also is about what he envisioned.

"We should be willing to remove every obstacle that would discourage their efforts to reach others for Christ," he said, referring to churches that would use the descriptor.

"The point has never been to satisfy the majority of Southern Baptists. The point from the beginning was to seek to remove any barrier to the presentation of the gospel where it would be helpful," Draper noted.

Wright said he hopes the 'Great Commission Baptists' descriptor will be seen as a "way of describing who we are and what our mission is as Southern Baptists."

"No church has to use it, but a church or a church plant inside or outside the South might feel it would be helpful in reaching people for Christ." (LW/BP)

Wilson named exec. director for NAMB DR

Alpharetta, Ga.—Fritz Wilson, disaster relief and recovery team strategist for the Florida Baptist Convention since 2006, has been named executive director of the North American Mission Board's disaster relief team.

Wilson will be working with NAMB's disaster relief team leader Mickey Caison through a time of transition. The announcement was made June 7.

Wilson already has begun developing a strategy plan, but will officially begin his leadership of disaster relief at NAMB in October of this year to enable him to continue leading Florida disaster relief until the end of the current hurricane season. He eventually will relocate to Alpharetta, Ga., where NAMB is headquartered.

During the time of transition, Caison will continue to utilize his relationships and expertise in the disaster relief network with special concentration on new-work states.

"Fritz brings many years of great experience and relationships throughout the disaster response network that will allow him to build on the outstanding foundation Mickey Caison has established over the years," NAMB president Kevin Ezell said. "This ministry is so significant to Southern Baptists and so essential to the United States disaster response network, we want to handle this transition with great care."

The transition period will allow Caison—who will remain DR team leader—to work with new-work states and help them strengthen their disaster relief strategy and volunteer base, Ezell said.

"While Mickey Caison's years of dedicated service and experience—plus his national reputation and professional network in disaster relief—are difficult to match, Fritz Wilson will come to NAMB with his own unique set of skills and experience to begin the transition," Ezell said.

Since 1996, Wilson has served in a variety of positions of increasing responsibility while directing the disaster relief ministries for the Florida convention in Jacksonville, Fla.

"I am humbled and honored to be asked by Dr. Ezell to fill this role at NAMB," Wilson said. "I covet the prayers of all Southern Baptists as I seek to serve shoulder to shoulder with my brothers and sisters across the convention, ministering as the body of Christ."

Since 1999, Wilson has led Florida Baptists in more than 100 disaster responses. During the same period, the Florida convention's roster of credentialed disaster relief volunteers grew from 800 to more than 9,000.

An Alabama native, Wilson has earned degrees from University of Mobile and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Wilson and his wife, Deborah, are the parents of two sons, Benjamin, 18 and Elijah, 13. (NAMB/BP)



Fritz Wilson

New Orleans Seminary gets near-400-year-old KJV

By Frank Michael McCormack

New Orleans—In 2011, English-speaking Christians celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first printing of the King James Version of the Bible.

The KJV, heralded both for its long-standing value as a translation of Scripture and for its impact on the English language, was commissioned in 1604. Seven years later, in 1611, royal printer Robert Barker produced the first copies of the new English version of the Bible.

A second printing took place in 1613 and a third in 1617.

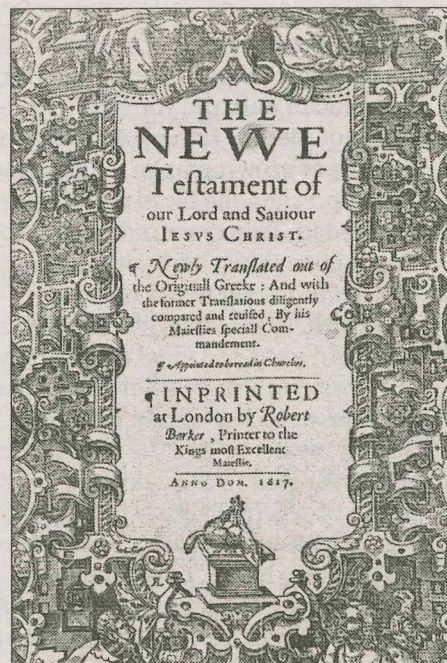
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary acquired a copy of the King James Bible from that 1617 printing from a former Primitive Baptist minister and his family in Atwood, Tenn., in August 2011.

The past year of the Bible's history is meaningful for the family and quite exciting for the seminary, which hopes to display it one day in a museum dedicated to Bible history and biblical archaeology.

But much of the story of this particular Bible remains mostly a mystery.

It was printed in Barker's own London print shop. Due to high demand for the Bible, later printings were done at several London printers and bound at Barker's shop. Judging from the Bible's size—15.5 inches tall by 11.5 inches wide by 5.25 inches deep—it likely was used as a lectern Bible or in some other ministry setting.

Little else is known about the Bible's history for almost 250 years after its publication. In 1860, according to an



inscription near the front, it was presented to Anne Early as "the gift of her beloved father," Edward Early, on Oct. 24 of that year. No occasion is named for the gift. Members of the Early family lived both in England and the United States in the mid-1800s, so it's possible the Bible had crossed the Atlantic by then.

Another century-long gap in the Bible's story sits between the inscription and the 1970s when it re-emerged in Atwood, Tenn. Samuel Tolley, a Primitive Baptist minister, bought another Primitive Baptist pastor's library, which included the 1617 King James Bible.

The previous owner "had been collecting Baptist literature for years and

years," said Mike Tolley, Samuel Tolley's son. "He was getting old, and my dad bought his whole library."

Neither Mike Tolley nor his sister recalls the previous owner's name or where he acquired the Bible. The 1617 King James Bible, he said, became a treasured part of his father's library.

During his 50-plus years in ministry among Primitive Baptists, Samuel Tolley published a Baptist newspaper and worked toward building a historical library. His personal collection, besides the 1617 King James Bible, included scores of Primitive Baptist books, records and other documents.

In the 1990s, Samuel Tolley began to sell his personal library, Mike Tolley said, in hopes that it would benefit Baptists for generations to come.

"It all wound up in the (Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives) in Nashville," Mike Tolley said. "They got just about everything from Dad's library."

Everything, that is, except the 1617 King James Bible, which Samuel Tolley had promised to give to his son and daughter, Ellen Lovett. The Bible passed to Mike Tolley and his sister about five years ago when Samuel Tolley developed Alzheimer's disease and retired from the pastorate.

The 1617 King James Bible at New Orleans Seminary currently is in the rare books collection at the John T. Christian Library along with other rare books and Bibles. Seminary officials say they hope to develop an on-campus museum for the Bible and other rare items. (NOBTS/BP)

NAMB DR fleet

Continued from page 1
know hope is on the way."

Mickey Caison, NAMB's disaster relief team leader, said the expanded fleet will complement and enhance the state Baptist conventions' already significant DR assets.

"While the Southern state conventions already have considerable resources depending on the scope of the disaster in their states, the emerging conventions in the North, Midwest and West are especially excited to see these additional resources made available to them," Caison said.

The three 18-wheelers, four new trucks, two command center trailers and cargo trailers all will be "wrapped" in the familiar blue and yellow disaster relief colors, with matching logos and graphics that will clearly identify them as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

When a major disaster strikes anywhere in North America the expanded fleet will bring not only resources for the people in need but also better communications for the relief workers.

"These new resources will greatly enhance our capabilities of responding in the emerging state convention areas, and it also gives them the assurance that equipment will arrive and be available for the duration of the disaster," Caison said. "The command center will give them an office to work out of and satellite communications to give them instant access to phone service and the



REINFORCEMENTS The North American Mission Board has added three new 53-foot, 18-wheelers to the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief fleet and four new heavy-duty Ford-550 trucks. The vehicles will be used to haul food, water, ice and other equipment for future disaster relief responses throughout North America. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

Internet until local networks are restored."

Caison said funds for the new vehicles and trailers resulted from NAMB budget "underspends" in 2011.

The new vehicles and trailers also will enable SBDR teams to better support disaster victims because of the units' greater capacity to bring in more equipment and resources at one time, Caison said.

He added that the new trailers' shipping capabilities will allow the set up of "volunteer villages," including enough tents, generators, cots and other gear to accommodate an estimated 75 volunteers in each village.

"This will be an especially important

capability in the emerging states, where very often the local SBC churches are few, small and unable to house a large number of volunteers who may have deployed from anywhere in the United States," he said, noting that volunteer housing was a problem last year during the SBDR response to flooding in Minot, N.D., and to tropical storms Irene and Lee.

The additional fleet vehicles also generate a demand for more volunteers, especially those with commercial driver's licenses.

Several of the new SBDR fleet vehicles will be exhibited during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans next week. (NAMB/BP)

Keep the KBC a 'big tent convention'

On May 29, I received an advance copy of "A Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation" from

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

David Hankins, executive director of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Within a couple of days, that statement was released via the Internet with an invitation for people to sign indicating their approval of the document.

Since that time, the document has dominated denominational conversations. While an admittedly small number of Southern Baptists spend their time engaging in conversations about the denomination, I believe growing publicity warrants two brief comments from me as your executive director.

First, I join others in expressing delight that we are debating the nuances of biblical soteriology, rather than issues like what parts of the Bible we will choose to believe or whether we will ordain as ministers those who practice homosexuality. In a recent interview on the latter subject, a reporter asked if I believed Southern Baptists would soon begin to follow the lead of our society and of some other denominations and endorse gay marriage. I responded that we would not because, submitting ourselves to the Bible's authority over us, we cannot.

Second, regardless of whether or not my personal convictions would permit me, I simply choose not to sign the document. The reason I choose not to sign the document is that I am committed to keeping the Kentucky Baptist Convention a "big tent convention." What, exactly, does that mean? In order to be home to 2,400 churches, the KBC must be committed to including a diversity of churches and Kentucky Baptists.

Having spent many a night in a tent, I recognize that any tent needs corner stakes to keep from being blown away by the least gust of wind. Thus, to avoid being blown here and there by every wind of teaching, I believe the KBC must be anchored by our commitment to these four things: the truthfulness of God's word, our Lord's Great Commission, the beliefs summarized in the Baptist Faith and Message, and cooperation. To exclude any Kentucky Baptist church sharing these four commitments is, in my opinion, a grave mistake.

Moreover, I do not stand alone in my opinion. The KBC was formed in 1837, eight years before the Southern Baptist Convention was founded in 1845. The commitment of Kentucky Baptists over the course of our 175 year history has been to partner with those who share our commitment to Scripture, to the Great Commission, to the varying streams of Baptist doctrine, and to cooperation.

That commitment has served well the Kingdom of God. I believe it will continue to serve well the Kingdom of God in Kentucky and to the ends of the earth.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Good dads really do make a difference

This Sunday is Father's Day when we pause to honor them and reflect upon "what do we owe to our dads?" I mean, besides my charm, good looks and striking wit? ... You can stop laughing now. You didn't really think I'd say a full head of hair, did you? (He's bald—for those of you who have not met my father). All joking aside, I had the good fortune of growing up in a Christian home and appreciate the blessings of having a loving dad. To help you count your blessings, here are just a few of the things for which I'm thankful today:

■ **Faith.** One of my vivid memories is of sitting in a big, red vinyl chair in my parents' room talking with my dad about my decision to accept Christ. From him, I saw what it means to love the Lord and to serve Him with gladness. During my childhood, Dad served as pastor of several Baptist congregations, and later served as sort of a pastor to pastors as a state representative for the old Annuity Board, now GuideStone. Somehow, it just seems natural that I came away with an awareness that all believers are called to use whatever talents and abilities they have to advance God's kingdom by serving others.

■ **Family.** Another favorite memory of mine has to do with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meetings every June. (I know that may be hard for some to believe.) Dad purchased a Winnebago travel trailer and for several years our family traveled together to wherever the convention was meeting. Once we even went nearly across country, stopping over at the Baptist conference center in Glorieta, N.M. My sister, Lea Ann, and I have some really good stories to tell from those family excursions.

■ **Foundations.** The importance of attending church regularly was stressed in our family, as was the value of a Christian education. It was a value instilled (OK, maybe indoctrinated would be more accurate) in my sister and me

from the time we were toddlers. Oddly enough, both of us wound up going to my Dad's alma mater, but it is not something either of us regrets. I think we'd have to agree we received a strong foundation that has prepared us well. My sister is now a school teacher and, well, you know what I do. Speaking of which, I also owe him for a helping boost in my Christian career path. When I sought out an internship at the Baptist Courier, I'm sure it didn't hurt that he was a long-time, respected pastor in the state who was one of the newspaper's trustees.

■ **Focus.** This is probably the most intangible trait to exemplify. Yet, it is essential. Life throws so many unexpected challenges at us. Through it all, Dad and Mom have been an encouraging and stabilizing force. They not only have shown unconditional love, but also consistently have been beacons of God's goodness and grace. They continue to stand by us, offering their love and support even well into our adult years.

This isn't an exhaustive list, and my wife, Michelle, can say many similar things about her father, who was a pastor before becoming a college and seminary professor. From my perspective, I can attest that I was blessed with a great father-in-law and grandfather to my kids, and his godly influence is greatly missed by our family. It is a testament to his character that so many of his friends have become our good friends since we moved to Louisville three years ago. We are, indeed, the beneficiaries of his legacy of faith.

This Father's Day, if you too are blessed to have a strong, Christian dad, express appreciation for his godly influence in your life. Dads, be sure to tell your kids that you love them—spend some time, play a game, shoot some hoops, get some ice cream, talk and laugh together. And, if you aren't a dad, find one and speak an encouraging word. Remind them: Dads make a difference!

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Connecting evangelism and spiritual growth

By Mike James

As I write this article, I am spending the night with my 90-year-old mom in the old house where I grew up. My dad and his brothers and sisters (eight of them) were all born in this very house. I am doing an interim pastorate near where my mom lives, so I spend Sunday nights here to give my sister a night off as she is the principle care giver for my mom.

I just finished my devotion and began to think about the decisions made in this very room where I slept last night. I did my homework in this room, stored all my stuff, talked on the rotary phone, and read my Bible most nights.

One strong memory took me back to my senior year of high school. On a cold December night I was reading a devotion magazine and read a quote that God used to rock my world. The quote said this, "The world is far more ready to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ than Christians are to hand it out."

The Holy Spirit took that quote and nailed me. I was vice president of my class, involved in lots of clubs, first

trumpet player in the band, attended church every week, but I had not intentionally shared the gospel with my high school friends. I was so convicted by this that I got on my knees by my bed and

FIRST PERSON

asked the Lord to forgive me for not sharing and promised not to pass up any opportunities the remainder of my senior year.

The second part of my senior year was phenomenal. I did not know that the Lord was also speaking to several other friends in my high school. A group of us started to carry our Bibles each day to school and began to meet to pray and share testimonies, and soon we received invitations to lead worship services at various churches throughout our county. About the same time, the Asbury revival broke out in Wilmore, Ky. You can read about that in the book, "One Divine Moment." Three of us from my high school actually drove over to Asbury and witnessed firsthand this great move of God on that campus.

It was an amazing year that carried over as I went off to college and got involved in Baptist Campus Ministry

(back then it was Baptist Student Union), where I got to use my spiritual gifts, served as president one year and met my wife. That experience so long ago taught me many things that I seek to practice today. The main life lesson is this: When we share our faith, we grow spiritually. As I made the commitment to intentionally share my faith, my spiritual life grew exponentially.

Church members often share with me that they feel stuck—that they are not growing spiritually. I always ask, "Are you attempting to verbally share your faith on a regular basis?" The most frequent answer is "no."

If we step out on faith and allow the Holy Spirit to use us as His witnesses, we will grow. If we choose not to share, we will stagnate spiritually. God wants to use you today to share Christ with people you meet. He has some divine appointments already made for you. Will you keep those divine encounters and share Christ? If you do, get ready for some new spiritual growth in Christ! Proverbs 11:30 says, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."

Mike James is a church development strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Reforming the deacons: How to tell a kingdom servant when you see one

By Joe McKeever

If to be a deacon means to serve, and if it really matters the quality of the person chosen to serve the congregation, then someone in church leadership must be able to recognize a servant when they see one. Otherwise, you may end up with a deacon body that wants to do anything in the world except serve.

"Now, before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He should depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

You will recognize that as the opening of the Upper Room passage where the Lord washes the feet of His disciples, the ultimate act of servitude. In this verse, we find a number of insights as to the traits of a servant.

Jesus could serve because He knew the correct time. For years Jesus had repeatedly announced, "My time is not yet." But no longer. Now, the time has arrived, and He had to act quickly. There was so much to say and so little opportunity to say it. In taking up the towel to serve, the Lord gave the disciples an object lesson they would never forget.

Jesus could serve because He knew His destination. The Lord knew full well that within a matter of a couple of days He would be reporting in with the Heavenly Father. He was not confused, not in doubt, not fearful and not insecure. Confidence is so empowering.

Jesus could serve because He loved. The Lord had no need to dominate these men in that Upper Room, and He certainly saw no need for them to get down and serve Him. Out of an overwhelming, everlasting love, He got the towel and served them. Love overcomes objections and empowers the servant.

"And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God, and was going back to God, rose from supper, and laid aside His garments, and taking a towel, He girded Himself about" (John 13:2-4).

More reasons why Jesus was able to serve the disciples:

The devil was on the job and on schedule. Your enemy, the devil, is walking to and fro as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8). In case you didn't know that, there is no time to delay. The time is critical and God's people must be at their best and strongest.

The Father had equipped Jesus for all that He was asking of Him. God did not send Jesus on this greatest of all missions without providing all that would be required of Him. "The Father had given all things into His hands." He wants for nothing more. He lacks nothing else. He will be able to do all the Father asks, whether great or small.

Jesus knew who He was and had nothing to prove. The primary reason people will not serve is insecurity: not knowing who we are, we always feel we have to prove ourselves. The last thing we want is someone overlooking us, thinking down upon us. We crave recognition, long to hear our name called, thrill to be chosen.

Jesus knew where He came from and where He was going. This is the secret of His steadfast self-confidence and self-esteem. Jesus knew that He had come from the center of the universe, heaven's throne room, and that shortly He would be back there with the Father in unimaginable glory. The last thing He needed and lusted for was the puny accolades earth had to offer. Therefore, He was able to serve in the lowliest ways.

So, what then does a servant look like? How can we recognize one when we see him?

1. A kingdom servant is not insecure, but knows who he/she is in Christ.

The Christ-like servant has no identity crisis and no esteem confusion. A servant does not need a vote from anyone to know he/she is "somebody" in Jesus Christ and "nobody" as far as the world is concerned. And he's fine with that.

2. A kingdom servant is always ready, eager to find ways to give and to bless.

In the church, you may even notice he/she does not wait to be asked, but sees a need and jumps in. The rest

of us are amazed at such faithfulness, humility and sweet willingness. Where, we wonder, does God get such people? They seem to be a breed apart.

3. A kingdom servant will take the lowliest job which no one else wants.

A need is announced with quite a price to be paid, and silence prevails. No one wants that job with so much demanded and so little in return. That's because there are no servant-hearted in the room. The man/woman with a servant heart eagerly volunteers for the worst task, the lowliest job, the most thankless assignment. Why? I don't know exactly, only that it's true.

They are all treasures to everyone who knows them. It can be said of them what Hebrews 11 says of some saints of old: "Wherefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God."

4. A kingdom servant will have the greatest attitude throughout.

Because his heart is in the right place ("hid with God in Christ" is how Paul put it), the servant-hearted will enjoy working with those troublesome 9-year-old boys or cleaning the nursery after an accident or remaining behind following the church dinner to clean. Listen closely and you will hear them singing.

5. A kingdom servant will expect nothing in return.

When you decide to give them recognition or bestow an award on them, you will have to sneak around and surprise them since this is the last thing they want. The award will embarrass them. They live by the mantra given by our Lord in Luke 17:10, a great word for all servants in the kingdom: "I am only an unworthy servant; I have only done my job."

Bottom line: the next time your church announces openings for deacons, remember the word means "servants!" Look around and see who's serving already. Those who serve well in lowly areas, do so sweetly, and prefer to remain in the background, these are the ones you are looking for.

Through such servants the kingdom of God moves forward. By such servants great churches are built.

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

FIRST PERSON

Helping your spouse grieve

By Valerie Vincent

Q: My wife is grieving the death of someone that was very close to her—how do I help her grieve?

A: Grief is personal and unique. Helping your spouse grieve may require patience, understanding, kindness and space. Offer your ongoing support to your wife. Let her know that she is loved and that you are there for her. Encourage her to seek meaningful ways to grieve.

These may be symbolic acts that express the deep loss felt by the absence of the one who has died. Offer your presence, but be ready to accept that she may need more time alone. Give her the gift of space.

Look for ways you can relieve some of her life's demands and lessen the stress of expectations. Recognize that grief is exhausting and so more rest may be needed during this time.

Grief can also be sporadic. There can be times of lesser and greater intensity of grief. It is difficult to watch someone we love grieve. Our society tends to set a certain level of expression as acceptable for grief and even a certain time period. Grief does not have such boundaries.

Complete isolation and withdrawal from one's support system is not a healthy way to process one's grief. Encourage your wife to spend time with a good friend or caring family members to help her grieve this loss. Make yourself available to her when she needs you.

Pray for her and pray over her that she would experience the comfort of the Lord Jesus Christ. The presence of a loving spouse and the presence of Christ are powerful companions in deep sorrow.

Valerie Vincent is a Christian counselor with Hardy Associates in Louisville.

Summer offers time when parents, students can be together

Summer is here—that time in most youth ministry schedules where things go full throttle until mid-August. With camp, mission trips, Vacation Bible School and amusement park trips, it seems at times there is hardly any time to breathe. Let me encourage you this summer to intentionally create opportunities for students and their parents or guardians to participate together. It may mean that you have to schedule things at a different time or use different chaperones than normal, but it will be worth it.

Some ways to do this:

Camp and mission trip chaperones—Not long after Karen came into the youth group and I began to see the Lord work in her life while we were at camp and on mission, I became burdened to figure out how to let other parents get the privilege of seeing firsthand the movement of God in their children's lives. It was my privilege to be able to see God work in the lives of both of my kids, and it challenged me to grow in my walk with God. I think sometimes as youth workers we take for granted the blessing it is to see God move in the lives of our students. Having parents see that firsthand can only make them better parents and better followers of Christ.

Day trip adults—A day trip to Holiday World, the closest mall and putt-putt place or to a nursing home for an afternoon of bingo and fingernail painting is a good way to incorporate parents into the mix. You may get some resistance from students or their parents and some lame excuses about "cramping my style," but the chance for parents to see students around their friends or for students to see that their moms or dads can be around and not totally embarrass them is priceless.

Host homes—It has been more than 30 years since I graduated high school, but I still remember some of the times we had as a youth group at Little Flock hanging out together after church on Sunday nights. Sometimes it was for a formal thing planned by our youth leaders. At other times it was a group of us wanting just to be together. Those host families became surrogate parents for all of us. The Cravens, the Montgomerys, the Hornbecks, the Raymers, the Byrds and the Balls would sometimes on a moments notice open their house and yards to a bunch of teens that just wanted to be together.

The same thing happened at Edgewood. We would have families

that would open their homes, pools and lives so students could hang out together. These adults spoke not only into the lives of their own children, but also into the lives of countless other students. The fact that students just want to be together with other students may be one of the few things that are the same from when I was a teen.

Intentional activities—This will take a little more planning, but events like our church picnic or homecoming celebrations are great places for us to plan events for students and parents to do things together. Maybe plan a three-legged race or balloon toss—something that is fun and should cause smiles and laughter to ensue. We may have to find surrogate parents or surrogate kids for some in our group, but with some advanced conversations that should be fairly simple.

Parent youth devotions—Be it "30 Days: Turning the hearts of parents & teens toward each other" by Richard Ross and Gus Reyes or another Bible study, summer is a great time for parents and students to spend time learning spiritual truths from one another. With a short-term commitment involved, it may give some parents and/or students the willingness to give it a try.

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Barren Heights Retreat: Families helping families

Continued from page 1
church has made a huge difference."

Today, through the efforts of many volunteers, generous businesses, donations and grants, the camp now includes a playground, tennis and basketball courts, enclosed kitchen and dining areas, a walking trail and two bunkhouses for volunteer host families.

The Roses described Barren Heights Retreat as a loving place where families with disabled children can receive a free mini vacation away from the watchful—and often critical—eye of world. A place where families can find the respite they need and deserve.

"These families get judged, they get dirty looks at restaurants," Joe Rose said. People ask, "Can't you control your kid?"



HELPING HAND Danny Raisor works on constructing the roof of a new building at Barren Heights Retreat last week. Raisor and other men from Parkway Baptist Church in Bardstown have a special bond with the Scottsville camp that serves families with disabled children. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

They are used to that. At Barren Heights, their kids can scream and have meltdowns and it's OK. They don't have to have the fear and anxiety that someone is going to judge them there. That's the respite. That's the feeling they get here that the world doesn't give them."

All serve at 'ideal retreat'

Guest families are carefully matched with host families who come to volunteer their time by interacting with the families, cooking their meals, and even taking care of their special-needs children so parents can enjoy a quiet walk together.

"Part of the recipe for making a successful weekend is having families serve families," Joe said. "We have kids that are serving. We have moms and dads who are serving. That's the ideal retreat."

The Roses readily acknowledge on camp literature and the website that the retreat is based on their Christian faith. They said the vision for the camp came after prayerfully giving God control of their lives and the 10-acre piece of land near Barren River Lake. But, the Roses said they tend to shy away from being in-your-face evangelists.

"We are intentional about evangelizing with our hands and feet and not our mouths," Joe explained. "If people want to know our testimony, if they want to know why we are doing this, we have an answer ready for them. But it's not a ministry where (guests would feel) we have an agenda. That would compromise the unconditional love that Christ gave, and we want to love unconditionally."

True believer

Ernie Bagley said he was skeptical of that unconditional love when he first encountered Barren Heights Retreat. He arrived one weekend in 2006 with his



FAMILY MINISTRY A mother and father help their wheelchair-bound son dunk a basketball while visiting Barren Heights Retreat. Directors Joe and Toni Rose started the camp five years ago as a way to offer families with special-needs children a respite from the stress of everyday life. (Photo courtesy of Barren Heights Retreat)

wife and youngest son, Cody, who has been diagnosed with Smith Lemil Opitz, a genetic condition where the body does not produce cholesterol. Cody is non-verbal and requires use of both a feeding tube and a colostomy.

"I kept waiting for the time-share speech," Bagley said, adding that like many guests, he thought the free aspect of the camp was "too good to be true."

Joe Rose:
"We are intentional about evangelizing with our hands and feet and not our mouths."

Bagley remembered asking Joe over and over again, "Why are you doing this? Why is your family doing this for families like us? You don't have anyone in your family with special needs, yet you're caring for families who do. Why?" The answer

he got was simple: Because the Lord laid it on their hearts.

Bagley has since taken up the cause and serves on the Barren Heights Retreat board of directors. As one of several lay ministers on standby, Bagley has attended many weekends at the camp acting as a retreat leader.

"We have been blessed to be on both sides," Bagley said. "I don't think we could ever give back all that we have received."

Raisor agreed that being a servant has its own reward. He also has volunteered as a host family and often brings his grandchildren to partake in the missions experience.

"At Barren Heights, I see people loving on other people for who they are. I think that is what Jesus' ministry was all about," Raisor said. "Barren Heights can use anybody's resources, they can use anybody's sweat and they can use anybody to take care of families. There's something here that you can do and you'll just be blessed because of it."

To learn more about the ministry of Barren Heights Retreat or to volunteer as a host family, check out www.Barren-Heights.org. (WR)



Do you want this to be your child someday?

- Is your teenager...
- ▶ having trouble in public school?
 - ▶ influenced negatively by peers?
 - ▶ caught in conflicts at home?
 - ▶ needing to start over?

Oneida Baptist Institute

is a Christian boarding school for grades 6-12. Founded in 1899, Oneida serves students from Kentucky and around the world. OBI is accredited by the Kentucky Non-Public School Commission. An 11:1 student/teacher ratio, nightly study hall and Tutoring Lab help teens who are behind. Advanced Placement courses challenge students to excel. The school also has an array of co-curriculars and a student work program. Check it out. Oneida may be just what you've been looking for.

Oneida Baptist Institute

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What is OBI?

Oneida Baptist Institute is a fully accredited Christian boarding school for grades 6-12.

OBI was founded in 1899 by James Anderson Burns.

Oneida is a mission field

OBI began as a school for children of the Eastern Kentucky mountains. We still welcome day students, many of whom carry on a family tradition by coming to Oneida.

Approximately 50% of our students are from Kentucky. Some 30% are from other states and another 20% are internationals.

Oneida is a place where local, state, North American and international missions are happening -- all at the same time.

Annual offering

This is the 18th year for Kentucky Baptist churches to observe the Father's Day Offering for Oneida Baptist Institute.

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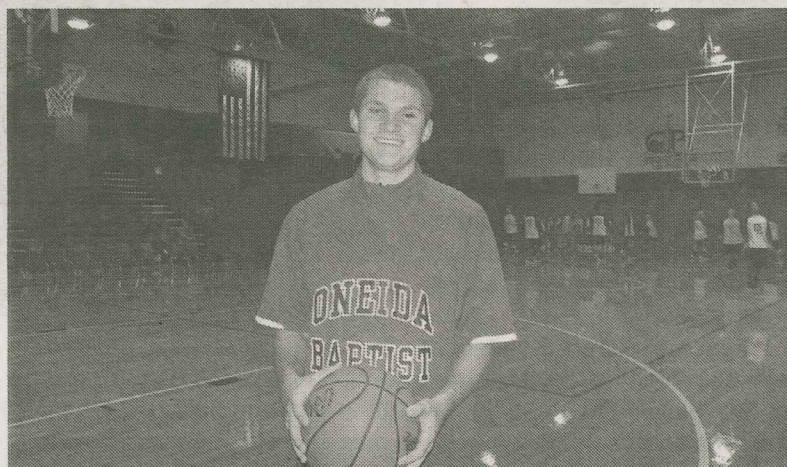
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Meet some of OBI's graduating Class of 2012

Adam found support of caring teachers, coaches



Adam thrived in sports at OBI.

Adam is a third-generation Oneida graduate. His grandparents, Dr. W. F. and Kay Underwood, graduated with the Class of 1963. His mother, Laura Underwood Stockton, graduated in 1986. His parents, Dan and Laura, serve at OBI as the High School Principal and the Athletic Director, respectively.

Adam summarized, "My mom went to school here. She graduated and went to college and came back to work here. Then, my dad came to work here, and they've worked here for 20 years. They've been married for 19 years and I'm 18 years old. This is where I live.

When I think of home, I think of Oneida."

Like many students who enroll at OBI, Adam experienced some academic setbacks during elementary school and needed to catch up. After repeating the sixth grade, Adam said that his seventh grade year was like "starting over." His teachers noticed a significant difference in Adam and named him the Most Improved seventh grade boy.

By high school, he had hit his stride. "Freshman year felt like the best year of my life," he said. He joined the Student Government Association and earned straight A's for the entire

year. Again, the faculty voted him the Most Improved boy of his class.

"In high school, the teachers were there to help, but they weren't on top of you. ... They were [also] positive influences [and] helped me in my Christian walk," Adam said.

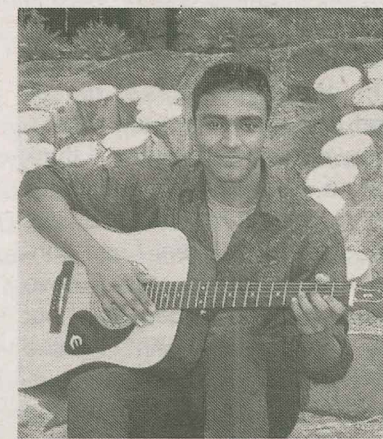
Sports became an outlet for Adam beginning in middle school. His six seasons with the cross country team included four trips to the state meet. He competed for five years with the track team and played soccer for three years. He received the Coach's Award and the GPA Award in soccer his senior year.

Cross country coach Lance Nutter commented, "Adam has been part of my life as a student, an athlete and a family friend for years. His willingness to persist and be successful even in the face of adversity has made him who he is. I'm very proud of him and can't wait to see what great things he will do with his life, wherever God takes him."

Adam took two years of commercial art and won second place in the graphic design category at the Bluegrass Regional Art Show this year.

Adam has enlisted in the Navy.

Daniel enjoyed Oneida's well-rounded program



Daniel shared his faith through music.

Completing his second year at OBI, Daniel is a senior from United Arab Emirates. His aunt, who lives in America, had heard about OBI and that it was "a good Christian school." Daniel's parents were apprehensive about his studying abroad, but they knew it was a valuable opportunity for him. Daniel agreed that attending OBI would provide a transition into adulthood and college. "I have to leave one day. Why couldn't this be the start?" he reasoned.

Daniel has played soccer since he was very young and became eligible to play at OBI his senior year. Before he joined sports, he was the supervisor of the chapel cleaning crew and earned an Outstanding Worker award. He said having a daily required job as a student is beneficial because, "It shows you how to manage your time and what it's going to be like when you work [later]."

Daniel plays the guitar and shared his talent in ministry opportunities like accompanying special music performances in chapel services.

OBI staff member Jerry Worcester leads a worship time in the boys' dormitory. When he began the meetings, he noticed, "Daniel would always be there. He seemed to enjoy worship, singing and playing his guitar. Eventually, I asked him to be a part of the Sunday worship team. He took it seriously. Whenever we had a practice, he was always there. He is very courteous, a nice guy."

Daniel plans to study engineering at a college in the United States. He enjoyed his time at Oneida saying, "It was awesome. I had a lot of friends and there were a lot of activities and things to do."

Kaitlin traded stubbornness for salvation

Kaitlin had family ties to Oneida long before she enrolled her freshman year. From clothing donations to short-term missions trips, "My grandparents have [been involved] with Oneida for like 20 years. That's how my family knew about it," she said.

When Kaitlin started high school at home, she was already headed down the wrong path. "I was getting into trouble starting in the eighth grade," she explained. "I felt lost. I had no goals or ambitions. I wasn't going to school, and I was failing all my classes. My parents said, 'Enough is enough.'"

She did not mind leaving home to attend OBI. "I knew in my heart that something had to give. I knew I needed to make a change," she said.

Change did not come easily for Kaitlin, who struggled with rules and authority. She said, "I was very defiant and stubborn. I wouldn't listen to the houseparents. I was not nice to my teachers. It was my way or the

highway."

Surprisingly, Kaitlin did not have a problem with Oneida's after school "job" requirement. "I liked that part. I like to work, and I like working with my hands. I liked the unity and how you came together to get the job done," she said. She worked in the dining hall and became supervisor of her cleaning crew. "I liked having leadership," she added.

At the end of her sophomore year, Kaitlin got into some trouble. The prospect of being sent home proved to be a turning point in her life as her defiant attitude crumbled. "I realized that I couldn't afford to go back home and put myself right back where I started. I begged to come back," she recalled.

She made a fresh start her junior year at OBI beginning with improving her GPA for college. She brought her average grades up to mostly A's. "I started really focusing on all areas of my life—dorm, school and God. I started growing up," she said.



Kaitlin was the 2011-2012 Oneidian Yearbook Queen.

Before coming to OBI, Kaitlin did not believe in God. "I thought Christianity was like mythology. At points in my life I would wonder if there was a God, but I always decided there wasn't. Little did I know He was trying to help me the whole time." With guidance from OBI teachers, Bible class and timely

(Kaitlin continued p. 2)

Oneida Baptist Institute

(Kaitlin continued)

chapel sermons, Kaitlin concluded, "I need a Savior."

She said a prayer to accept Christ as her Savior during an evening chapel service last year. Since that moment, "It's been awesome!" she said. She noticed changes in herself and in how she treated others. "I have more self control. I think before I speak now and that's been something I've always struggled with. I feel I can connect more with people. I have more confidence, because I put my confidence in Him. I shine for Him."

Kaitlin was named by the Oneida faculty the Most Improved junior girl. "It really touched my heart to know they saw my improvements. It motivated me to do even better this year," she said.

Kaitlin's math teacher, Diane Davidson, said, "Accepting Christ and being baptized ... was a turning point in her life. It's wonderful to see a young lady who used to be loud and argumentative become a young lady who is using her voice to bless others. Jesus has truly made a difference in her life."

Kaitlin enrolled in the senior Field Placement program and was a teaching assistant in the elementary classes for OBI faculty/staff children. "My field placement job showed me what having a boss is really going to be like. They have expectations of what you should get done every day. It was a challenge, but it's really going to benefit me later," she said. Her career goal is to become a physical therapist.

Kaitlin believes it is God's grace that has enabled her to stay and graduate from OBI. "I would debate with myself every summer, 'Do I want to stay at Oneida or do I want to go home?' I could feel something tugging at my heart to go back to Oneida."

Jesse changed directions, found Christ

Jesse arrived at OBI from Alabama when he was in the eighth grade. His grandparents were long-time friends of Oneida and volunteers with the Alabama Campers on Mission, which makes a two-week mission trip to Oneida each year.

"I pretty much didn't do anything at my old school except get in trouble," he recalled. He skipped school and needed to repeat the eighth grade.

Though he agreed to come to Oneida, Jesse admitted, "At first I hated it here. I got in trouble a lot when I first started. Having to go to study hall every night was irritating." Jesse noted that keeping his room clean was not a problem. "I never failed a room check," he said.

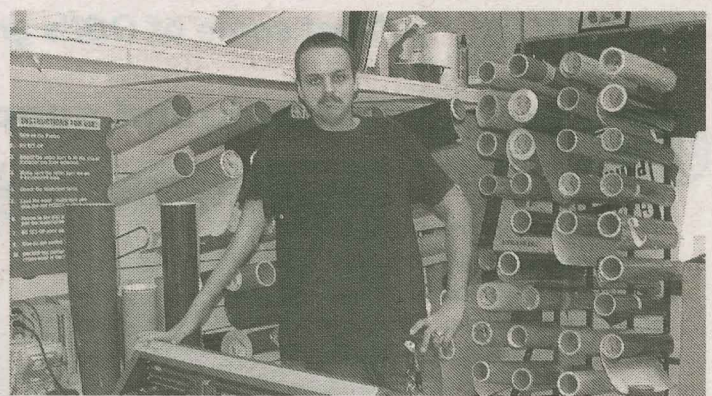
After he settled into life in Oneida, he saw improvement in his grades and behavior. "I got into the swing of things and changed my direction," he said.

By the end of his first year, his teachers voted him the Most Improved eighth grade boy. His grades were up to A's and B's by his freshman year.

Jesse accepted Christ during his freshman year. "I was not a Christian before I came here," he said. "I prayed with one of the houseparents. I changed from being the person I was ... Now, it's like I've completely turned my life over to Him. I understand that anything He does is for my greater good."

Jesse explored a variety of talents in high school. He acted in two plays and sang in the choir for one year. He was also a member of the Student Council his senior year.

He discovered a talent for graphic design when he enrolled in commercial art class this year. "I like getting to come up with my own designs. I never thought I'd be good at it, but my



Jesse found hidden talent in graphic design.

teacher says I'm one of the best students," he said. He won first place at both the regional and state art shows in the graphic design category.

OBI commercial art teacher Sheri Nutter named Jesse the Student of the Year. "Jesse has an instinct for the business of graphic design. His work is marketable, and his attitude and skill

make him a pleasure to work with," she said.

After school, Jesse was the supervisor of his dorm cleaning crew. "It makes me feel good knowing that when I do a job, it is well done," he said. He plans to study business management in college.

Ji Hyun appreciated the chance to live and study in Oneida



Ji Hyun was a four-year member of the OBI pep band.

From South Korea, Ji Hyun (pronounced jee-hun) began her freshman year at OBI in 2008. "It's really hard to get A's in Korea. I studied but not like some of the people at home. School

was only getting more competitive as I got older. You can't even have real friends, because you're competing with them every day," she said.

At a teacher's recommendation, Ji Hyun's mother proposed the idea of studying abroad. "I thought it would be a good experience. I would get [more fluent in] English," she said.

Her mother is a single parent working as a nurse to support her two daughters. Her father died of a long-term illness when she was ten years old. OBI's affordable tuition made it possible for Ji Hyun to have the opportunity to come to America.

Though she struggled with her English skills at first, Ji Hyun felt like she fit in at Oneida. Her English as a Second Language class helped her to progress quickly in fluency. "The first year

was hard. I couldn't speak English at all. They made me speak a lot in that class," she said. Soon, she could follow a class lecture and converse with others. Speaking with American friends also helped her to improve. "When I saw new Koreans come to OBI, I always told them to hang out with Americans," she said.

Living on campus taught Ji Hyun important life skills. "I learned to take care of myself and do my work. I learned how to get along with people, not only friends but all ages of people. I'm more outgoing than I used to be," she said.

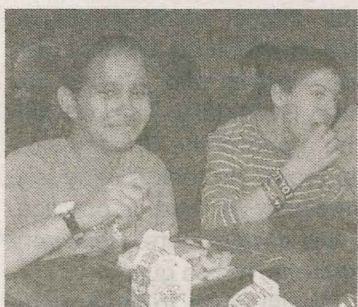
Ji Hyun's main after school activity in grades 9-12 was playing the clarinet in the pep band. She received the Director's Award for the last two years from Tim Cochran who said, "Ji

Hyun's leadership, skill and consistency will be missed."

Looking back on her time at Oneida, "I can see God taking care of my future. He has been training me here. He has a plan for my future, and He is making me stronger," she said.

Having earned the Highest GPA award in grades 10-12, the Most Studious award as a junior and graduating third in her class, Ji Hyun plans to attend a college in Kentucky. She would like to become a dentist and be able to offer her services in missions work. "I want to show people the love that God and others have shown me," she said.

A day in the life of an Oneida student . . .

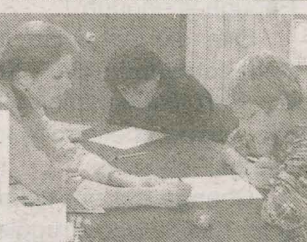
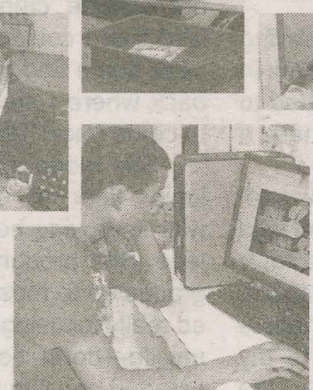


Most students choose to start the day with breakfast.

Before going to school, beds must be made and dormitory rooms must be clean.

Our fully-accredited academic program has a wide range of classes and electives to meet the needs and interests of our diverse student body.

Classes begin at 8:00 AM, and students attend six, 50-minute periods a day.



We offer advanced placement courses, tutoring and English as a Second Language.



At 11:00 AM each school day, students meet for a 30-minute chapel service.

Oneida Baptist Institute

Cassie focused on her future



Cassie found her niche and career goal on the farm.

Cassie came to Oneida as a junior from Alabama where she lived with her father. "I had been having trouble at home and fighting with my dad," she said. They looked at various boarding schools on the internet. "He thought it would be the best thing to do, and I agreed with him because I don't like fighting," she said.

Cassie's parents are divorced, and her mother lives in Virginia. Cassie was used to traveling for visits. "Coming to Oneida was kind of hard at first, because I've never been away from both parents for extended periods of time," she said.

She appreciated the friendliness of the OBI students. "I was kind of scared about my first day at lunch, and you don't know who you're going to sit with. Some kids invited me over, and I fit in right away. Everybody here is nice," she said.

To overcome homesickness, Cassie got involved in activities. She acted in four plays and competed on the swim team, but her main interest became agriculture. She joined the farm crew for her after school job. "I've always loved animals. At the farm, we care for the animals. It's a sense of accomplish-

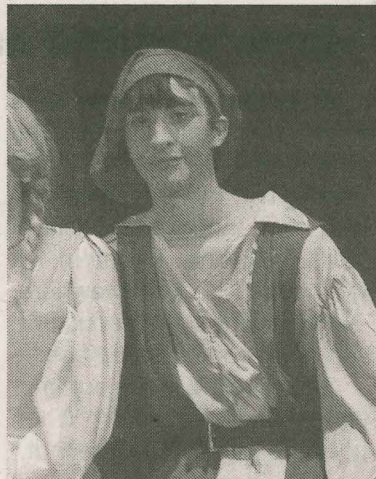
ment to raise pigs from birth; to keep and feed them well, and then use them to help feed the school," Cassie said.

Cassie joined the FFA and was chapter president her senior year. She earned awards in cattle showmanship, speaking and tractor driving. Her experience in the OBI agriculture program helped her to decide on a career as a veterinarian.

She received Outstanding Worker awards from her farm supervisors Marty and Christa Bevil, who found Cassie's work ethic to be notable. They said, "Cassie has been a go-getter since the first day she worked at the farm. She looks at every job eagerly and does her best to complete it. She makes teaching exciting because of her enthusiasm."

Looking forward to college, Cassie is glad she had the opportunity to come to Oneida. "It's a really good school. There is not a lot of peer pressure here, and my grades improved a lot. I needed to be here," she said.

Nathan thrived close to home at OBI



Nathan took advantage of a wide variety of cocurriculars.

Nathan was a fourth grader when his family moved to Oneida from Texas to be near relatives. Their mother is a 1982 graduate of Oneida Baptist and felt it was the best option for Nathan and his sister, Samantha (OBI Class of 2010), especially since it was so close to home.

After attending the public elementary school, Nathan was

a little anxious to start a new school in the sixth grade. He followed in his sister's footsteps making friends and joining after school activities like swimming, tennis and drama. "It looked like my sister was having fun. That's why I joined," he recalled.

Staying involved in campus life after school also proved to be a great way to spend time with his OBI friends. "OBI was like my other home. I liked the people, the environment and all the opportunities," he said.

Nathan earned seven varsity athletic letters and the Best Attitude award in swimming. In drama, he earned two fine arts letters and the Best Extra, Best Stage Manager, Best Supporting Actor and Director's awards.

"Nathan enjoyed the production process. His positive attitude and willingness to do most anything was a significant contribution to our program," said drama director Tamara Cochran.

Nathan was also an officer in the Student Council and Bap-

tist Campus Ministry.

Nathan was voted Most Outstanding in the sixth, seventh and tenth grades and graduated in the top ten of his class.

He took commercial art classes his last two years at Oneida. "I enjoyed the designing aspect, and I can take those skills with me when I go," he noted. He placed third in graphic design at this year's Bluegrass Regional Art Show.

As a Christian, "Being at OBI made me stronger in my faith, and I learned more about the Bible. ... I noticed if I was struggling with something, every chapel would seem like it was meant for me," he said.

Nathan plans to study English or theater in college and is interested in becoming a writer.

Oretha gained confidence and became a friend to many



Oretha had a variety of job experiences at Oneida.

Oretha was born in Liberia and was living with her aunt after her mother died. When she was

seven years old, her aunt "won" visas for the family to travel to the U.S.

Oretha went to live with her grandmother in Massachusetts. As a teenager, "I wasn't really getting along with my grandma. I never listened to her, and I never really took her seriously," she recalled.

A friend of the family had sent her son to OBI. Oretha agreed to give it a try and enrolled her sophomore year. When her family left campus, she struggled with homesickness. Her roommates would invite her to join them for free time activities, but Oretha would refuse. "I prayed a lot, and God helped me settle in. He helped me let my guard down so I could

participate in things," she said.

It took about a month before she began opening up to people and realized, "It was easy to make friends here. They're all really nice." Her friends became an important part of her decision to stay and graduate from OBI.

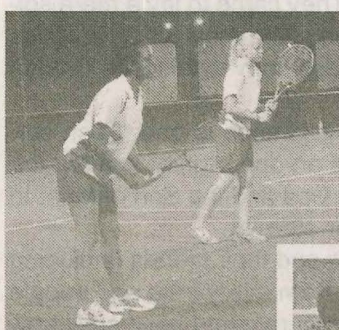
Oretha earned an Outstanding Worker award as the supervisor of a dining hall crew. She was a hall monitor in the dorm and a team manager for cross country and cheerleading. In the senior Field Placement program, she assisted in the K-2 classroom for staff children.

In 2011, Oretha received the student-voted Brad Dorough Friendship award and was named the Most Outstanding junior girl.

"Oretha has a positive influence on those around her and encourages her peers to never settle, to always give their best efforts in whatever they do," said cheerleading coach Michelle Barnes.

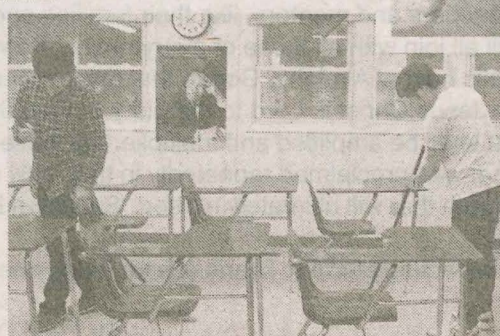
Oretha accepted Christ when she was younger but decided to be baptized at Oneida Baptist Church. "I've seen myself grow here. I wanted to take this step with God before I [graduated]," she said.

Oretha would like to become a nurse and family therapist. "I like to help people," she said.

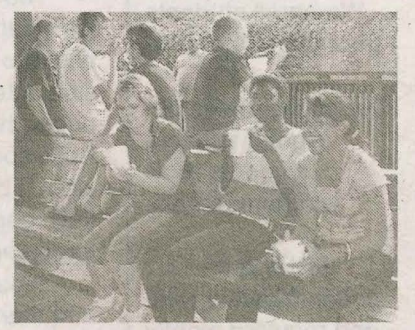


After school, students may choose to participate in sports, agriculture, pep band or drama to fulfill our work requirement.

There are plenty of other jobs to choose from like the campus grill, yard/trash crew and cleaning crews in the classrooms, dormitories and kitchen.



Evening "free time" is a chance for recreation in the gym, a visit to the computer lab, attending a home sporting event or enjoying a special activity hosted by the Student Council or Baptist Campus Ministry groups.



Every student not on the academic honor roll must attend nightly study hall.

"Lights Out" is at 10:00 PM on school nights and 11:00 PM on weekends. Many OBI students state that they benefit from our consistent rules and structured schedule.

Oneida Baptist Institute

For Time and Eternity

Unlike many Christian schools, OBI welcomes teens who do not know Jesus.

At OBI they hear the Gospel message daily. If we reach them for Christ, they can take the good news around the world.

Our funding

Approximately 9% of Oneida's funding comes from the KBC Cooperative Program.

Another 30% comes from student fees.

The remaining 61% of our support comes from churches and individuals as well as income from our modest investments.

Our ongoing tradition of affordable student fees and need-based scholarships keeps the door open to any young person who needs to be at Oneida.

More about Oneida

OBI's average enrollment is 260-275.

We have 125 faculty and staff.

OBI has an 850-acre campus, including a 200-acre farm.

We enroll students throughout the year.

Our curriculum is designed to serve students at all academic levels.

OBI has an 11:1 student/teacher ratio and required nightly study hall for those not on the honor roll.

We offer a wide variety of cocurricular activities plus a unique student work program.

Meet some of the Class of 2012

His fresh start led to a new beginning with Christ



You Chang shared his testimony at the senior banquet

You Chang Sung is from South Korea and came to Oneida as a sophomore. "When I was a freshman I had really bad grades," he recalled. "Ever since I came here my grades have been getting better."

Getting a fresh start was the motivation he needed to change his attitude. He said, "I decided to have some purpose in my life. I wanted to go to college, [so] I became concerned about studying seriously. [In class] I participated and asked many questions."

You Chang was named the Most Studious and Most Outstanding junior boy last spring. He excelled in advanced placement courses offered at OBI, but top scores did not always come easily. "I had to work hard since English is my second language," he said. He plans to study psychology in college.

You Chang liked OBI because it is "peaceful" and provided "many opportunities to help me improve myself in education and sports." His after school activities included soccer and cleaning in the dormitory.

You Chang accepted Christ last year partly as a result of getting into trouble. Fearing expulsion after making a mistake in anger, he said that the Dean of Boys spoke to him with compassion. "I became a Christian after that because I learned about forgiveness," he said.

"You Chang saw his mistake and then corrected the behavior which led to it," recalled Joseph Scull III, the Dean of Boys during 2011. "He is committed to knowing the Lord and following Him. He is hardworking, thoughtful and very teachable. I believe he will be a great success at whatever the Lord leads him."

Katie needed an intervention and a Savior

At home in Florida as a sophomore, Katie needed an intervention in her life. "I had a really bad attitude problem. I was really angry and taking it out on everyone. My mom felt like I needed to go somewhere. ... When she told me about OBI, I agreed to come," said Katie.

She enrolled in the summer before her junior year. "When I got here, I fell in love with it," she said. Some students are put off by the many rules and guidelines at OBI, but not Katie. "I liked how the rules were always the same," she said.

Katie had played soccer at home since the second grade and joined the OBI soccer team for two seasons. A boys' team which allows girls to play, OBI competes against the boys' soccer teams of other schools. This did not deter Katie, who earned an athletic letter plus the Coach's Award.

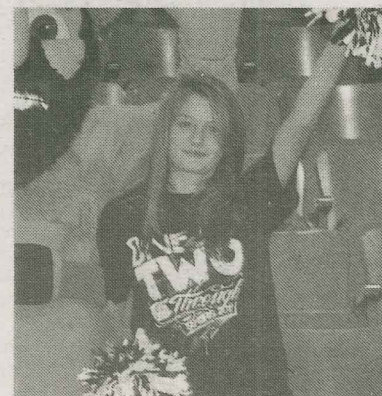
Katie also joined cheerleading. "I decided to try something different," she said. When her sports seasons were over, she

worked as a hall monitor in the dorm at night.

Katie said that she did not "give God much thought" her first few months at OBI. "Then, I found myself asking questions. I looked up scriptures and talked to people about it. I knew [God] was what I needed," Katie said.

It was during a Christmas service at her home church when she prayed to receive Christ. She chose to be baptized at Oneida Baptist Church in March, 2011.

After sharing her testimony in chapel last year, OBI teacher Kirbee Parkhouse got to know Katie and her roommate when they asked for a follow-up conversation. "I shared Jesus with them, and Katie's roommate accepted Christ that day," Parkhouse recalled. She was glad to hear of Katie's decision to accept Christ later. Parkhouse observed, "This year, Katie has struggled with a few decisions like where to go to college. I have noticed that she truly thinks about what God would want her



Katie earned awards in soccer, cheerleading, softball.

to do. She has matured very much from the time I first met her and appears to be focused on following Jesus."

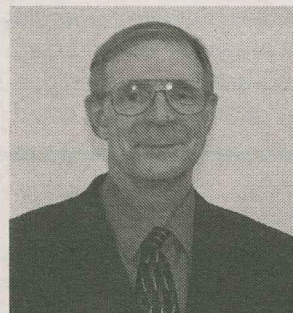
Katie is ready for graduation but has appreciated her time here. "My mom and I get along a lot better now. Me being here was better for our relationship. ... I was able to forgive people and let go of my anger [because] I had God to help me," she said.

Katie plans to study criminal justice in college.



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

Oneida is many ... Oneida is ONE



You've read these ten stories, you've met these ten students, you've learned something of how God gathered the class of 2012 together in the place we call Oneida. Each of these young people has a unique heritage, a unique journey, a unique need. Each one has a unique future, a unique place in their Creator's plan, known only to Him. From across the ocean, from across the street these students came. They came to lay a more solid foundation for their earthly lives. They, along with their 38 classmates and our 225 underclassmen, bear abundant testimony to this fact: Oneida is many.

But more than that, and most importantly, Oneida is one. Each student who comes to OBI hears about and has an opportunity to meet the one and only Savior, the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God and the Son of Man. In doing so, they each have the possibility to lay a secure foundation for their eternity.

All our students, like their OBI teachers and mentors, like their families and their friends (including you), have one destination. They will all join with all those of every nation, from every tribe and people and language, gathered by the angelic host of Almighty God to that place where every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The songs of praise that they have sung in Oneida shall be amplified and multiplied by those of an innumerable multitude, pulsating with the one truth that was proclaimed repeatedly in their OBI classrooms and chapel, reverberating with the one and only truth that will ultimately matter: "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

Your prayers and your gifts are impacting eternity. Thank you for being one of the many who is one with OBI. God bless you.

— Dr. Paul Davidson, OBI President

FATHER'S DAY

Dad's best present: Sons who are godly leaders

By Laura Fielding

Jinotega, Nicaragua—Rex Jones knows a thing or two about raising sons—he has three of them—and he's trained them to make an impact on the world for Christ.

The Jones boys—Barrett, 22; Harrison, 20; and Walker, 18—all are talented football players. Barrett, a graduate student in accounting, is an All-American lineman for the University of Alabama who, in the past year, has won both the Wuerffel Award for combining exemplary community service with athletic and academic achievement and the Outland Trophy for being the best college football interior lineman. Harrison is an upcoming junior at Alabama and is a tight end for the Crimson Tide. Walker, a rising senior at Evangelical Christian School in Cordova, Tenn., is on his high school football team and plans to play college football like his brothers.

Early in their marriage, Rex and his wife, Leslie, decided to be "intentional" in their style of parenting and raise their sons with a clear focus on Christ. They wanted "to teach and train these kids to

be a resource to the world," Rex said.

"The world needs Christian men leaders," he noted. "I don't know that they'll be pastors or missionaries, but ... the world needs good Christian lawyers and doctors and dentists and people who are in professions that can influence people."

The Jones boys have accepted their father's challenge. Barrett has led three mission trips during his spring breaks from college. The Joneses returned from a week-long mission trip to Nicaragua in March.

During that trip, Rex encouraged Barrett to take the leadership role for the team of about 30. He urged all three of his sons to disciple their friends on the trip.

Barrett said he understands the value of participating in missions and the importance of encouraging others to get involved.

"Missions is something that's extremely important to the Christian community because God is so much bigger than just America—He's a global God," Barrett said.

"We can only (reach) so many people," Rex said. "But if we train other people to

Rex Jones:

"The world needs Christian men leaders. I don't know that they'll be pastors or missionaries, but ... the world needs good Christian lawyers and doctors and dentists and people who are in professions that can influence people."



FATHERLY SUPPORT In Nicaragua, Rex Jones (black shirt) challenged his oldest son, Barrett (center), to take on the leadership role for the mission team of about 30, but he still was there to offer advice and support. (IMB photo)

(reach) people, then it becomes exponential."

Rex said he also sees the family's mission trips as a time to expand the vision for missions. He challenges participants "not only to experience serving on these mission trips, but to have a goal in their lifetime ... to be able to do the same thing with their families."

His hope is that each of the 30 people on the trip will go on a future mission trip and take 30 of their friends.

"That would be 900 people around the world that God could use to make a difference," he said, "and that's our goal."

Barrett, Harrison and Walker each use football to share Christ's love with their teammates and spectators.

"Obviously sports are for fun—that's why I do them—but also you can have a great influence on others," Walker said. "As we've seen with Barrett, really it's given him a pedestal to be able to share the gospel and share his faith, and that allows people to watch him more closely. I believe that if you take that opportunity and you make the most of it, then that can really change people for Christ."

The Jones brothers say they are appreciative of their father's leadership, character and influence as a Christian role model in their lives.

"He's a picture of Christ for me," Harrison said. "He's taught me everything that I think I want to teach my kids one day." (IMB)

MORE for CHRIST

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

Kelsie Witham is a college student at Morehead State University. She's had life-changing missions experiences but Christ has called her to do more — to be a missionary right where she is on her college campus.

"I need to view the people I'm in class with, the people I see on the sidewalks, the people in my sphere of influence...as my mission field. I need to love them as Christ loved them and I need to share the Gospel with them..."

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



Watch a video about Kelsie at www.moreforchrist.com



The 'Oneida experience'

Students work with one another to make sure all adapt to campus life

One of OBI's end-of-the-year traditions is the composition of essays by the graduating seniors. These essays are titled "My Oneida Experience" and are intended to aid the seniors in realizing where they came from, where they are now and where they intend to go. Excerpts are read from each student's essay during the commencement service, which provides an opportunity for those in attendance to experience a bit of each graduate's journey.

A part of the essays I particularly enjoy hearing is each senior's initial impressions and reactions to Oneida. A recurring theme is the shock and distress—literally—of many students in discovering that their new school and home is, for all intents and purposes, in the middle of nowhere.

As you might imagine, for students used to a big city or even a small town, the dearth of places to entertain oneself can be quite challenging for new students. There is always the danger that students may become bored and demoralized because of the often drastic change of pace they experience. Consequently, their classmates could latch on to their negative attitudes, leading to the development of a great wave of discontent and the erosion of morale.

The administrators at OBI are highly sensitive to and aware of these dangers and constantly are looking for ways to make the environment, both in school and out, as positive, exciting and energetic as possible.

One organization that has been established to accomplish this purpose

is the student council. This is a student-led and staff-monitored organization consisting of students from every high school grade that meets together twice a month during the school year to discuss ways to improve every student's

Oneida experience by planning enjoyable activities. At a minimum, one activity is scheduled per month.

The council's many hours of deliberation and preparation culminate in the active participation of all the members in promoting the events beforehand, assisting faculty and staff members during the events, and leading in the clean-up efforts

afterward.

During the 2011-12 academic year, the student council organized a back-to-school luau, a fall festival, intramural volleyball, flag football, soccer tournaments, a Christmas Fest, a staff variety show, a Family Feud game night, a chili cook-off, the culture fair, the Spring Fling, and a student talent show.

Not only did all of these events contribute positively to the atmosphere on our campus, but most importantly, they helped forge lasting bonds between students and provided them with many meaningful and positive memories of Oneida Baptist Institute, a place where, whether in sixth grade or 12th grade, they were shown God's love, surrounded by friends from all across the globe and given guidance that will last them from now until eternity. This is the "Oneida experience" at its best. Come share it!

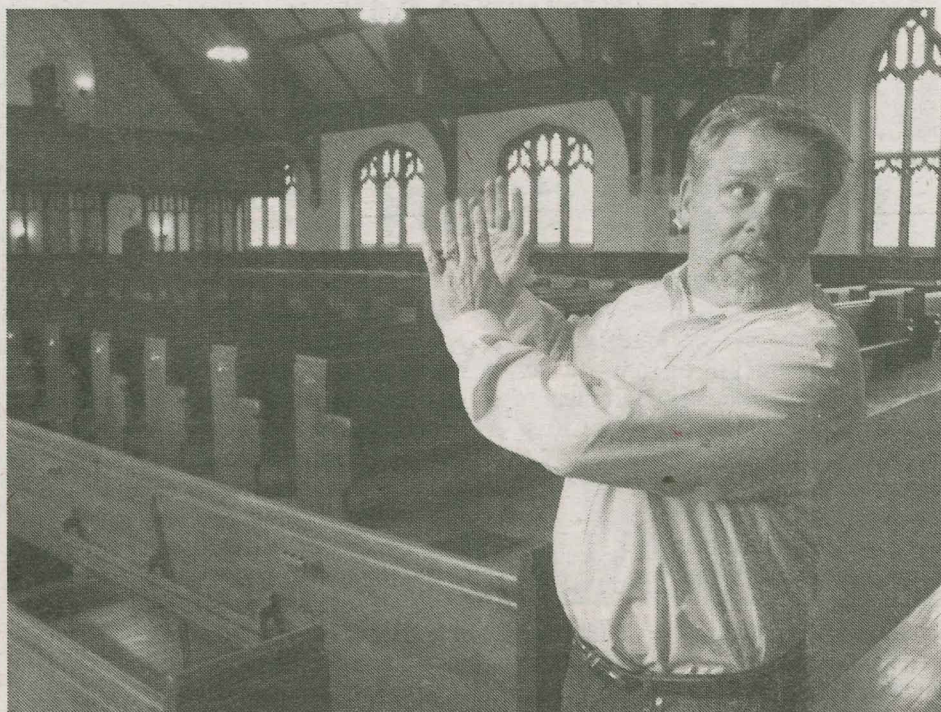
(Adapted from comments by 2011-12 OBI student council president, Anna Davidson)

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

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson



CAMPUS TOUR Jerry Patengale, who was hired by the Green family to help find a new owner of a college campus in Northfield, Mass., points out the stone chapel that was once deemed unsafe but has been repaired. (Photo by G. Jeffrey MacDonald/RNS)

NAMB one of two finalists to receive free Mass. campus

By G. Jeffrey MacDonald

Northfield, Mass.—After four months of hosting tours, soliciting proposals and fending off controversy, the billionaire owners of a picturesque campus in western Massachusetts have announced two finalists in the competition to receive the property free of charge.

Finalists to receive the 217-acre Northfield, Mass., campus founded by 19th-century evangelist D.L. Moody are the Southern Baptist Convention's North American Mission Board and Grand Canyon University Foundation of Phoenix.

"It's our privilege now to gift this to an organization that will carry on the Moody tradition," according to a statement from Steve Green, the Oklahoma businessman who bought the campus with his family in 2009.

"We're confident that both the foundation at Grand Canyon University and the North American Mission Board have the capacity and commitment to do so."

Naming finalists marks the latest stage in a two-year process to give away the Northfield campus formerly owned by Northfield Mount Hermon School. Since buying it, the Greens have poured more than \$5 million into improvements, but their initial plans were dashed in December when the C.S. Lewis Foundation missed a key fundraising deadline to launch a C.S. Lewis College.

Since then, dozens of institutions have been visiting and making proposals that show both an orthodox Christian vision and the financial means to pull it off. One early front-runner, Liberty University, became a target of protests from local residents and alumni of Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Liberty was among several schools not chosen because they weren't interested in receiving the entire campus, according to Jerry Patengale, a college administrator hired by the Greens to help gift the property.

Finalists now offer radically different visions for the campus.

NAMB would use the 43-building

campus for training missionaries and church planters, as well as hosting retreats for pastors. The Southern Baptist Convention has been targeting the Northeast for church planting in recent years, but the denomination has lacked supportive infrastructure in the region, according to Aaron Coe, vice president for mobilization at NAMB.

NAMB would sustain the property out of general operating funds with a plan for the property to gradually cover most of its expense through generated revenue.

"We're grateful to the Green family for seeking organizations who share and are inspired by D.L. Moody's vision to see people come to faith in Christ," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "It's exciting that NAMB would be considered as a possible steward of such an amazing and historic resource. This is an opportunity that could give Southern Baptists an unprecedented presence in the Northeast."

Grand Canyon University, a for-profit Christian school in Phoenix, proposes to establish a second campus in Northfield. As many as 4,800 undergraduates would live on site. After three or four years, it likely would become a stand-alone university with both traditional and online students, according to Grand Canyon University CEO Brian Mueller.

"We like to make our online students feel part of the campus," Mueller said, noting that GCU in Phoenix has 7,000 traditional students and 40,000 online students. "This would give us a home base in the Northeast for them to better identify with Grand Canyon University."

Both finalists are being encouraged to work with a third candidate, Redemption Christian Academy of Troy, N.Y., to find a presence for the historically black prep school on the property. Northfield residents expressed interest in having Redemption Christian Academy on campus, Patengale said.

A final decision about who gets the campus is expected within the next month. (RNS, with additional reporting by NAMB)

Family & ministry

Graduate couple balances family, ministry obligations at Clear Creek

Scott and Stephanie Seiber have been an example of commitment on our campus for years. They just graduated together after seven years of studies. With their commitment to both family and ministry, they have good reasons for taking that amount of time.

"When we got married, we both had surrendered to ministry but we also made the decision not to have any biological children. We only wanted to adopt," Scott and Stephanie said. "We felt God was leading us in this direction because we knew of so many children who needed

homes. Well, when we filled out our first adoption papers, we got pregnant and our first child, Stella, was born. When she was 12 months old, we filled out adoption papers for a second time and, again, we got pregnant and our second child, Asa, was born.

"When Asa was 12 months old, we filled out adoption papers for the third time," the couple continued. "No, we didn't get pregnant this time. We then adopted Samuel David, who was 6 years old. Now we also have Timothy Able who is our second adopted child. We

brought him home from the hospital when he was 2 weeks old. He is 6 months old now—and I am pregnant again!" Stephanie said.

Scott's senior chapel message focused on the importance of the family.

"My family is my first ministry and most important ministry," he said. "I feel strongly about training up this generation of children. If we don't take the time to disciple our families, we will lose the next generation. Next to our relationship with Christ, our families are the most important ministry we have."

The Seibers have been committed to balancing family and ministry obligations.

"I have served as student minister for five years in Virginia," Scott said. "My first week there, I only had one student. I have focused on discipleship and poured myself into the ones that started coming. I feel strongly about the importance of discipleship for these students. Just like our families, if we don't focus on discipleship in the church, we will lose this generation. Now our group has grown, and we see great things ahead."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

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Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Chop off
- 4 One of Hezekiah's overseers (2 Chronicles 31:13)
- 9 One's own turf?
- 12 Mother of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:2)
- 13 Kind of finish
- 14 "The ___ appeareth, and the tender grass showeth itself" (Proverbs 27:25)
- 15 Atlantic seaboard state (abbr.)
- 16 Altar end of a church
- 17 "When I ___ the five loaves among five thousand" (Mark 8:19)
- 19 New churches, evangelically speaking
- 21 "As for ___, he made havock of the church" (Acts 8:3)
- 22 "I go my ___, and ye shall seek me" (John 8:21)
- 23 Paul or Peter or John or ...
- 26 "A river went out of ___ to water the garden" (Genesis 2:10)
- 28 "Serve him in sincerity and in ___" (Joshua 24:14)
- 29 Masculine nickname
- 30 City in central Israel
- 31 "And Abram passed through the land ... unto the plain of ___" (Genesis 12:6)
- 32 In the ___
- 33 Jesus conversed in this language (abbr.)
- 34 "Eldad and ___ do prophesy in the camp" (Numbers 11:27)
- 35 "I will give thee a crown of ___" (Revelation 2:10)
- 36 Day of baptism (two words)
- 38 Kitchen implement
- 39 Vainly
- 40 Progenitor
- 43 Number of men who met Abraham at his tent, including the Lord (Genesis 18)
- 45 ___ in full
- 46 Conjunction
- 47 Consume
- 48 Desire strongly
- 50 Jane or John
- 51 "He planteth an ___, and the rain doth nourish it" (Isaiah 44:14)
- 52 Gluts
- 53 "For ye are all ___ in Christ" (Galatians 3:28)

- 9 Biblical verb
- 10 "Ye shall be as an ___ whose leaf fadeth" (Isaiah 1:30)
- 11 What to do with eggs?
- 16 One among the covenant sealers (Nehemiah 10:26)
- 18 Make haste
- 20 Held in fear
- 21 Flowed or gushed out (O.T. spelling)
- 23 "Women adorn themselves ... not with ... costly ___" (1 Timothy 2:9)
- 24 Gold ___
- 25 Life on the ___ (Dobson book)
- 26 Ardor
- 27 Feminine name
- 28 "Exhort one another daily, while it is called ___" (Hebrews 3:13)
- 31 Samplings of songs?
- 32 "Whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall ___ him" (Ecclesiastes 10:8)
- 34 Darius the ___ (Daniel 11)
- 35 Master
- 37 "The voice of ___, and the voice of gladness" (Jeremiah 7:34)
- 38 Symptoms of malaise
- 40 "She shall shave her head, and ___ her nails" (Deuteronomy 21:12)
- 41 "I will cause the sun to go down at ___" (Amos 8:9)
- 42 The ___ of life (Revelation 22)
- 43 Prince of Wales, for example
- 44 Owns
- 45 Stand ___
- 49 Apiece (abbr.)
- 50 Accomplish

Last puzzle's solution

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Crossings' missions focus

This summer marks another record attendance, missions involvement

The camp season is yet again in full swing. This year, by God's grace, is again another record year for the attendance at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek for the Crossings program. We all are truly amazed at what God has done through the years, it still is hard to believe that Crossings now is in its 13th year.

Looking back, Crossings began in 2000 at Jonathan Creek with 1,309 people in attendance. That first year seems like a lifetime ago as we consider all the changes that have taken place.

One of the most exciting developments through the years has been the missions involvement by the campers. Crossings began its first international partnership in 2001 with Project Mercy in the Philippines.

Project Mercy basically consisted of the camp offerings in 2001—approximately \$13,000—going to purchase a van to transport youth for evangelistic and discipleship events. Through the years, the participants of Crossings have provided funding to mission projects in Trinidad, Moldova, Ukraine, Zambia, India and Haiti. The most recent in Haiti

not only includes funding but we also are now sending teams to support the projects in that country.

This year alone, we will see more than 250 people from churches across our state go to Haiti to minister to people that are in desperate need. Additionally, through this partnership, Crossings has seen our own employees respond to God's call by moving family to Haiti to serve full time. Last year the Salter family moved to Haiti in September, and this year the Bidwell family will move in late August.

Ky. Baptist Assemblies



David Melber

When we see our co-workers respond, that certainly brings me to a crisis of belief as when we "loose" someone it causes

strain as we seek to replace them. However, it is a reminder that we are only stewards and all belongs to God.

Throughout the years, Crossings attendees have given more than \$710,000 to these mission projects. We are eager to see what takes place this year as record numbers again will be challenged to give to see the gospel proclaimed here and around the world.

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

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June

- 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.

July

- 7-14** Kentucky Changers, Somerset.
- 13-14** Acteens Splash, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13-14** Girls in Action Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 13-14** Mother/Daughter Overnight, Jonathan Creek Camp and Conference Center, Hardin.
- 27-28** Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

Faith-based 'Unconditional' to be shown at SBC meeting

Nashville, Tenn.—Going to the movies can be an expensive outing, but at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans later this month, LifeWay Films is hosting a free screening of "Unconditional," a new faith-based film.

At 7 p.m. on June 19, LifeWay Films will show "Unconditional" in Auditorium C of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. No tickets are required for admission.

"Unconditional"—which will be released this fall—is a story about forgiveness, healing from losing a loved one, and getting people out of their comfort zones to reach others for Christ.

According to Scott Mills, manager of LifeWay Films, "Unconditional" is based on the real-life story of Joe Bradford, a Nashville, Tenn., man devoted to mentoring fatherless children in the inner city.

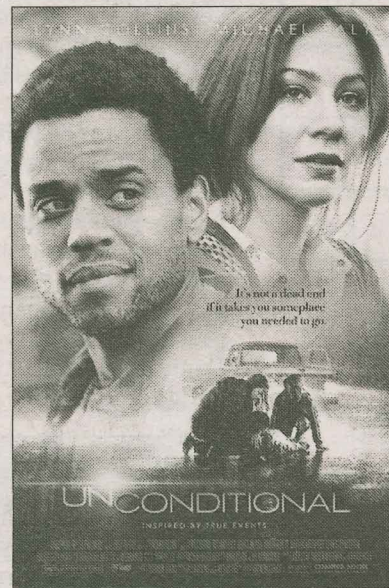
The film stars a number of well-known film and television actors including Lynn Collins, Michael Ealy and Bruce McGill.

"Cinematic storytelling has proven to be a powerful way to share a message," Mills said. "Successful films like 'Courageous' and 'October Baby' continue to raise the bar for message-driven movie production.

"Unconditional" is a solid tool

for churches to reach their community. It will motivate us all to do something in our community outside the walls of the church to help meet others' needs," Mills added. "For those who come to the screening at the SBC meeting in New Orleans, we ask that they help spread the word about the film to their fellow pastors and local theaters back home."

For information about LifeWay Films, visit its booth in the exhibit hall at the SBC annual meeting. For more information about the movie, visit www.UnconditionaltheMovie.com. (LW/BP)



Deadline extended for compensation survey

Dallas—The deadline for completing the biennial Southern Baptist Convention Church Compensation Survey has been extended to June 30.

The survey benefits participating churches by providing an accurate baseline of compensation among similar-sized churches in their state convention. Customized reports allow administrators, personnel and finance committees and minister search teams to better determine adequate compensation for ministers and staff.

The survey, found at www.GuideStone.org/Compensation

Survey, can be completed in five to eight minutes on average.

Church ministers and staff need to have access to information regarding their salaries, benefits, their church's estimated weekly worship or Bible study attendance, resident membership and annual budget.

A printed version of the survey may be obtained by contacting GuideStone at (888) 984-8433 or by calling the Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits department at (502) 489-3521 or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3521. (GS/BP)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Scottsville



Scottsville Church will honor Pastor **Dale Darley** June 17, 6 p.m., for his 10 years of service to the church.

June 15, 7 p.m., featuring Animal Tales, a live animal education program with emphasis on God and His creation. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will hold a Vacation Bible School kick-off event June 16, 6 p.m., featuring ventriloquist and preacher **Bill Holman**, "The Dummy in the Middle," with his "friends" Henry and Homer. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **FLAT LICK**—Cole's Branch Church recently called **E.C. Fields** as pastor.

Salem Church recently called **Bud Sizemore** as pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a Father's Day "Created Creatures" program June 17, 6:30 p.m., featuring Animal Tales, a live animal education program with emphasis on God and His creation. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **GRAY**—Paint Hill Church recently called **Derrick Mills** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church will hold a ForeTalk mini seminar June 16, 9 a.m., with financial advisor **Stan Craig** discussing end-of-life issues. For more information, call (502) 589-5290. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a Vacation Bible School family fun night

Pentecost, former Virginia Baptist newspaper editor, dies

Richmond, Va.—Julian Pentecost, retired editor of the Religious Herald, a Baptist newspaper in Richmond, Va., died May 31. He was 88.

Pentecost, as editor of the Herald in the 1980s—a decade of theological conflict in the Southern Baptist Convention—acquired a reputation as a fierce defender of freedom to interpret Scripture during a time when SBC conservatives were narrowing the range of accepted theological viewpoints.

He earned both master's and doctoral degrees from Southern Seminary and led several Virginia churches. He became editor of the Herald in 1970, retiring in 1992.

Pentecost was active in denominational life for most of his career, serving as president of the Baptist General Association of Virginia in

1968 and as a trustee of the University of Richmond, Virginia Baptist Homes, the Virginia Baptist Historical Society, Southern Seminary and both the Home (now North American) and Foreign (now International) mission boards. He also was a former president of the Southern Baptist Press Association and was a founding director of Associated Baptist Press.

At the time of his death, he was a member of River Road Church in

Richmond.

Pentecost's wife, Mary, preceded him in death earlier this year. He is survived by a son, two daughters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

His funeral was held June 4 at River Road Church. (Virginia Religious Herald/BP)



Julian Pentecost

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

SEEKING: Full-time 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: 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 bookkeeper (G/L A/P) for the Accounting Services Department, Kentucky Baptist Convention. Requires 3-5 years related experience; offers competitive salary and benefits package. For more info, please submit resumé to Accounting Services Dept., www.kybaptist.org/administrative by 6-8-2012.

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: Full-time minister of music to lead our active congregation at Gardendale Baptist Church in a blended style of worship. Ideal candidate must have a music degree, a minimum of two years experience, and exemplify strong spiritual maturity. Applications will be accepted in PDF (Adobe) or DOC

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(Microsoft Word) format. You may email your resumé, including contact information, to gbcjobsearch@gmail.com; or mail a copy to: Music Search Committee, Gardendale Baptist Church, 1667 Alexandria Drive, Lexington, KY 40504. For more information about Gardendale Baptist Church and a PDF version of the full job description, go to www.gbc-lex.com. Resumés will be accepted through June 15, 2012.

Mayan calendar draws spotlight to troubled, struggling culture

By Emily Pearson

Quetzaltenango, Guatemala—Because the ancient 5,125-year Mayan calendar will end on Dec. 21, 2012, global interest in Mayans has skyrocketed in recent years.

Some New Age philosophers predict the beginning of a new era of enlightenment for mankind. Others say it's a countdown to the end of the world. Although many scholars dismiss these claims, tourists from around the globe are flocking to Mayan ruins in Latin America. The calendar itself has been the subject of many books, movies, news specials and college lectures.

But most Mayans aren't concerned about the ancient calendar, according to International Mission Board missionaries who work among Mayan people groups. In fact, the real Mayan story isn't about the calendar at all, they say. It's about the Mayan people.

Jeronimo, for example, is one of nearly 5 million Mayan descendants living throughout Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Belize. He was an alcoholic before IMB workers with Guatemala's Tajumulco Mam people group came with a message that changed his life.

Jeronimo accepted Christ as his Savior, and soon his wife and children did the same. Later he started the first evangelical church in his community. Then he began sharing Christ and planting churches in other villages. He also translated parts of the Bible and other Bible storying materials into the local language so others could hear the Gospel.

Despite success stories like Jeronimo's, many Mayans remain trapped in a spiritual darkness drawn from old traditions, said Gary Stone, IMB missionary among the Tajumulco Mam.

"The Tajumulco Mam have always been known as a fierce and warlike people," Stone said. "Villages feud between each other and land wars are never ending. The culture is broken, and there is much darkness in daily life. Incest, stealing, lying, alcoholism, multiple partners, greed and other sins keep the Mam people in darkness."

Like many Mayan groups, the Mam cling to their heritage and live in small rural villages of between 50 to 100 families. They depend on crops like potatoes,



OFFERINGS At a worship center in San Andres Itzapa, Guatemala, people of Mayan descent pay homage to San Simon (Saint Simon), also known as Judas Iscariot. Worshippers offer cigars, tortillas, liquor and candles in exchange for forgiveness of sins. (Photos by Warren Johnson/IMB)

beans, corn and peppers to survive. Most still wear traditional handmade Mayan clothing.

Poverty and lack of jobs sometimes force them to find work elsewhere.

"Many (Mam) travel to the U.S. to make their fortunes," Stone said. "Instead of finding the riches they desire there, many of them come back to Guatemala with addictions, venereal disease and broken relationships."

The traditions that give Mayan groups their unique identity often are a barrier to the Gospel, missionaries say. Many groups have adopted Catholicism in name only and still worship Mayan spirits linked to the names of Catholic saints.

"The primary religion is animism with a veneer of Catholicism overlaying it," said Alan Lyons, a strategy leader for IMB work among Mayans. "There are

obvious examples of animistic, indigenous practices, like sacrificing chickens on the steps of the church. Many church members have difficulty explaining what it means to be a follower of Jesus, and in times of crisis, they often revert back to animistic practices instead of trusting Jesus."

Many Mayans do not read and only speak one of the 69 Mayan languages. Stone and other missionaries are working with national believers to present the Gospel in the groups' heart languages through oral Bible storying, Gospel recordings and drama.

Stone hopes that the current upward trend in education will also help, as young people stay in school longer and learn to read.

Despite these difficulties, God has been moving among Mayan people groups.

"When we arrived to work with the Tajumulco Mam, they were considered an unreached people group," Stone said. "Through the work of missionaries ... the Gospel has been liberally sown among the villages. Today, by God's great grace and mercy, they are no longer unreached."

God also has been working among the K'ekchi' people, a Mayan group in Guatemala, where IMB missionary David White has served for five years.

"During our time with the K'ekchi', we have been blessed to see several new groups and missions started," White said. "When a K'ekchi' person is saved, they use the word 'pabanc.' It means 'to believe and obey.' This combination helps to solidify their faith in Christ. They know that to publically accept and follow Christ is to not only believe, something you do privately, but also obey, something that will be lived out publically."

During the past decade, the K'ekchi' have experienced a church-planting movement—a rapidly multiplying increase of indigenous churches planting churches within a given people group or population segment.

The K'ekchi' also take up an annual offering to support their 18 national missionaries who are spreading the Gospel to other indigenous groups.

"The K'ekchi' have a heart for prayer and evangelism that is foreign to many believers," White added. "Weeping over spiritually lost people and faithfully witnessing is at the forefront of the K'ekchi' church."

White also said the K'ekchi' are committed to studying God's Word, despite being nonliterate.

"K'ekchi' believers do an incredible job of memorizing Scripture," he said. "The majority of the people still cannot read or write. Each Sunday they take the memory verse very seriously. They will repeat the verse until everyone is satisfied they know it."

Through their faith in God and understanding of Scripture, the K'ekchi' have moved beyond traditional Mayan religion. Now, instead of praying to spirits for a good harvest season, the K'ekchi' attend a worship service before planting day—trusting God with their survival.

IMB missionaries among Mayans asked Southern Baptists to pray that other Mayan groups will follow the K'ekchi' believers' example.

"Pray God will break down the walls of tradition that keep so many Mayan peoples from knowing Him," one missionary said. "Pray that He will raise up local (Mayan) pastors, church planters and missionaries to other Mayan groups who have yet to hear (the Gospel)." (IMB/BP)



FOOD FOR SALE Wearing traditional handmade clothing, Mayan women sort a crop of onions they have just washed in Guatemala's Lake Atitlan (in the background). Soon they will sell the onions at an outdoor market in a nearby village.

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

Fall 2012 Classes

On Campus Classes (begin on Aug. 16, 2012)

Course Title	Day(s)	Time
Evangelism	T,W	7:35-8:50 am
Transition to Ministry	T,W	7:35-8:50 am
Old Testament 1	T,W	8:00-8:50 am
New Testament 5	T,W	8:00-8:50 am
New Testament 1	T,W	9:00-9:50 am
New Testament 7	T,W	9:00-9:50 am
Apologetics in a Pluralistic Age	T,W	9:00-9:50 am
Religious Cults and New Age	T,W	10:00-10:50 am
Biblical Geography	T,W	10:00-10:50 am
Principles of Leadership	T,W	10:00-10:50 am
Fitness Education	W	11:00-11:50 am
Old Testament 7	T,W	1:00-1:50 pm
Computers in Research	T,W	1:00-2:15 pm
Sermon Preparation	T,W	1:00-2:15 pm
Principles of Teaching	T,W	1:00-2:15 pm
Hebrew I	T,W	2:30-3:20 pm
Ministers, Money & Management	W	2:30-4:20 pm
Internship I	T	3:30-4:20 pm
General Psychology	T	5:30-8:10 pm
Systematic Theology III	Th,F	7:35-8:50 am
English Composition I	Th,F	7:35-8:50 am
Systematic Theology I	Th,F	7:35-8:50 am
New Testament 3	Th,F	8:00-8:50 am
Leading Youth and Adult Choir	Th,F	8:00-8:50 am
Old Testament 3	Th,F	9:00-9:50 am
Old Testament 5	Th,F	9:00-9:50 am
Evangelism of Jesus	Th,F	9:00-9:50 am
Musicianship I	Th,F	9:00-9:50 am
Math Proficiency	Th,F	9:00-9:50 am
Educational Administration & Leadership	Th,F	10:00-10:50 am
Introduction to Missions	Th,F	10:00-10:50 am
English Proficiency	Th,F	10:00-10:50 am
Musicianship III	Th,F	10:00-10:50 am
Clear Creek Singers	F	11:00-11:50 am
Internship I	F	11:00-11:50 am
Study of Hymns	Th,F	1:00-1:50 pm
Philosophy	Th,F	1:00-2:15 pm
General Science	Th,F	1:00-2:15 pm
Fine Arts/Humanities	Th,F	1:00-2:15 pm
Public Speaking in Ministry	Th,F	1:00-2:15 pm
General Science Lab	Th,F	2:30-3:20 pm
Introduction to Youth Ministry	Th,F	2:30-3:30 pm
Biblical Archaeology	Th	2:30-4:20 pm
Greek III	F	2:30-4:20 pm
Clinical Pastoral Education	Th	3:30-5:20 pm
Leading Children's Choir	Th,F	4:00-4:50 pm
Instrumental Ensemble	Th	5:00-5:50 pm
American History I	Th	5:30-8:10 pm
Piano and/or Voice Lessons	Th-F	TBA

On-Line Classes (begin on Aug. 20, 2012)

Old Testament 1	Biblical Geography
Old Testament 3	Internship I
Old Testament 5	American History I
Old Testament 7	English Composition I
New Testament 1	Fine Arts/Humanities
New Testament 3	General Psychology I
New Testament 5	Computers in Research
New Testament 7	Ministers, Money & Management
Public Speaking in Ministry	Educational Administration & Leadership
Evangelism	Philosophy
Introduction to Ministry	Clinical Pastoral Education
Introduction to Missions	General Science
Sermon Preparation	General Science Lab
Systematic Theology I	Fitness Education
Systematic Theology III	

On-Line 8 Week Sessions

Session 1A (Begins July 2 - ends August 24)

Old Testament 2
New Testament 2
Old Testament 8
New Testament 8

Session 1B (Begins August 27 - ends October 19)

Old Testament 3
New Testament 3

Session 1C (Begins October 22 - ends December 14)

Old Testament 4
New Testament 4

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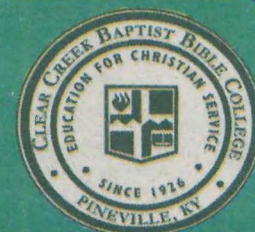
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