

WESTERN Recorder

July 17, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 27

Long-absent worshippers respond to cowboy church

By Ken Walker

Benton—Every Sunday when Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church gathers in Benton, Charla Helton and her husband, Harold, are there. They became regulars last September, after Pastor Chris Clarke preached the funeral of Charla's 79-year-old father.

"Chris performed the funeral in his boots and jeans," said Helton, a Kentucky native who moved home four years ago. "Daddy was buried in his boots and jeans, too."

The following Sunday, Charla and Harold returned to the Kentucky Opry, the 550-seat theater that is home to the western Kentucky church.

They loved the comfortable style of dress, country-and-western music and the down-home atmosphere.

"When I go before the Lord and praise Him and get a witness from somebody else, then God knows me," said Helton, who rededicated her life to Christ that day. "Why do I need to pretend to be something different than who I am?"

Helton's comments reflect the feelings of many Kentuckians who worship

□ See *Cowboy church ... Page 2*

Teen inherits late grandfather's love of missions, carries on family's

Legacy of Service



By Drew Nichter

Junction City—The children's Sunday School hallway at First Baptist Church of Junction City is dedicated to the memory of Lawrence Kendrick.

In that same hallway is a room filled with dozens of gift-wrapped boxes that might make one think the calendar has fast-forwarded to late December.

Over the years, Ben Kendrick, 16, has spent a good deal of his time packing those boxes, and hundreds like them, for Operation Christmas Child. That is, at least, when he's not excelling at golf and tennis, working one of three summer jobs or making the Boyle County High School honor roll.

The boxes are a labor of love for Ben and the rest of the Kendricks, including

his late grandfather, Lawrence, who was instrumental in getting the Junction City church involved in the Samaritan's Purse-led ministry in the late 1990s.

And the effort is a true family affair. Ben's mother, Kathy, is the area coordinator for the Danville-area Operation Christmas Child team.

"Growing up, it was always a joke

□ See *Ben Kendrick ... Page 7*

Planners expect extensive Bible museum to open in Washington by 2016

By Adelle Banks

Washington—A large-scale Bible museum will open in Washington within four years, say planners who have been touring the world with portions of their collection.

Cary Summers, chief operating officer of The Museum of the Bible, a non-profit umbrella group for the collection of the billionaire Green family of Oklahoma, said they considered Washington, Dallas and New York but decided the nation's capital was the best location. The final name of the museum and its exact location have not been disclosed but planners hope to confirm a location later this summer.

Research they commissioned found that the general population was more

willing to travel to the nation's capital for a Bible-focused museum than the other two cities, Summers said.

"In reality, the population base within that eight-to-10 hour drive of D.C. represents half the U.S. or two-thirds, and there's a lot of Christians in that group," he said.

Summers, who has been a consultant on the Creation Museum's planned life-size Noah's Ark in northern Kentucky, said the Bible museum will charge admission. Although the museums of the Smithsonian Institution are free, he noted that the News-eum and the Spy Museum both charge admission and have been successful.

A sampling of the Bible museum's offerings—from the collection of more than 40,000 artifacts—have been displayed in the Passages Exhibit at the

Vatican and in Oklahoma City and Atlanta and soon will appear in Charlotte, N.C.

Summers said the traveling exhibit recreates at 80 percent scale the chamber of London's Westminster Abbey where the King James Version of the Bible was written. A full-scale recreation is planned for the museum.

Steve Green, president of the Hobby Lobby arts and crafts chain and a Southern Baptist, said the museum will feature the history, contents and influence of the Bible but will leave it up to visitors to decide whether to believe the holy book.

"When we present the evidence, I think it's going to be compelling for somebody to say, 'Wow, this is a compelling book. I might want to consider what it has to say,'" he said. (RNS)



RARE KJV The first edition of the King James Bible, a work commissioned in 1604 to replace the influential but divisive Geneva Bible. This extremely rare octavo edition of the New Testament was clearly intended for popular use, perhaps indicating why very few have survived. (Photo courtesy of The Green Collection)



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Western Recorder 7-17-2012

Paducah pastor Summerlin first nominee for KBC presidency

By Drew Nichter

Lawrenceburg—Dan Summerlin, pastor at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah, will be nominated as Kentucky Baptist Convention president when the KBC annual meeting convenes Nov. 13 in Lexington.

Summerlin, a former KBC first vice president, will be nominated by Bob Ehr, pastor at First Baptist Church of Lawrenceburg. Summerlin is the first announced candidate for the post.

"These are certainly significant days in the life of our convention with a lot of changes going on," Ehr said, "and I think Dan could help navigate us through those" changes.

Ehr said he has known Summerlin from their days as pastors in Alabama. Ehr succeeded Summerlin as pastor of Big Sandy Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., in the mid-1990s.

"He's a man of a great cooperative spirit," Ehr said of Summerlin. "He really does relate well to all people, regardless of age or the size of one's church."

With the KBC in transition, Summerlin said, as president, he could provide a well-informed voice for pastors who have questions about what's going on.

Summerlin was part of the 15-member Kentucky Great Commission Task

Force that recommended moving the KBC to a 50/50 allocation of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky and Southern Baptist missions causes by 2020. KBC messengers voted in 2010 to adopt the group's report, establishing a renewed vision for the convention and its 2,400-plus churches.

Much of the task force's report emphasized the need for Kentucky Baptists to focus on the Great Commission, Christ's command to take the gospel to all the world. Summerlin said that emphasis must remain the convention's No. 1 priority.

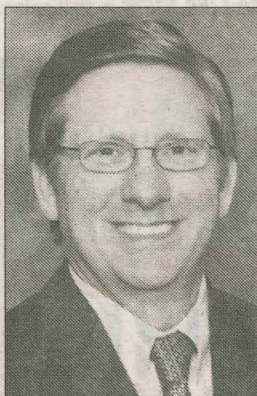
"The Great Commission will help us to begin focusing on missions, focusing on evangelism, reaching out in our communities, helping churches to grow (and) helping churches in baptism and discipleship," he noted.

Much of that mirrors the reorganized KBC Mission Board staff structure which is designed to place more emphasis on evangelism, church planting, revitalizing congregations and mobilizing Kentucky Baptists for missions.

Summerlin said he wants Kentucky Baptists to be "light and salt" in the

world and for others to know "what we stand for more than what we're against."

The Paducah pastor said he believes that can be achieved in the Bluegrass, a region with a high volume of leaders. "I've served in other state conventions, but the number of pure leaders is very high here," he noted. "Every voice is a strong voice."



Dan Summerlin

One of the challenges Kentucky Baptists do face, though, is a "generational challenge," Summerlin said.

In the ministry now for more than 30 years, Summerlin said he stays connected to younger pastors through mentor groups. But

his extensive experience in the pulpit allows him to understand both sides of the generation gap, he pointed out.

"I think I understand a little of both sides in what they want and what they see in the future, and maybe I can help try to translate for each one what the other group is trying to say," he noted.

If elected in November, Summerlin would become the first president to preside over an annual meeting at his home church since at least 1961, when the convention changed its name from the

General Association of Baptists in Kentucky to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The 2013 KBC annual meeting is to be held at Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah.

Summerlin is less than a month shy of marking 10 years as the pastor at Lone Oak First Baptist. An Alabama native, he came to the church in 2002 from University Baptist Church in Huntsville, Ala. He also has served in Mississippi.

Summerlin was elected first vice president at the 2010 KBC annual meeting, at which he also preached the convention sermon. He currently serves as a Western Recorder trustee.

On the Southern Baptist Convention level, Summerlin is a member of the SBC Executive Committee and has served on both the Committee on Committees and the Tellers Committee at past SBC annual meetings.

A graduate of the University of Alabama, Summerlin holds both a master's degree and doctorate from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to the 2011 Annual Church Profile report, Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah gave \$291,933 (9.54 percent of its undesignated receipts) to the Cooperative Program, third most among all KBC churches in total gifts. Lone Oak also reported 55 baptisms. (WR)

Cowboy church

Continued from page 1

at county fairgrounds, horse tracks and other non-traditional venues.

Many cowboy churches gather during the week because so many members are traveling to horse shows, rodeos and trail rides on the weekends.

And although many congregations average only 35 to 40 people each week, those who attend often drive long distances to worship.

"I counted (where) people came from one day and it (totaled) seven counties," said Clarke, who also is director of the Happy Trails equestrian ministry. "For these people, ordinary praise and worship doesn't do anything for them."

"I still preach from the Bible, but most of my examples have something to do with horses, farming or an agricultural theme people can identify with."

It was identification with his background that appealed to Moorefield resident Dwayne Waldrup when he was living in North Carolina. After learning about a cowboy church in Asheville that advertised "come as you are," Waldrup decided to see if they were serious.

Soon after getting involved in a church that met at the North Carolina Agricultural Center, Waldrup learned his wife's employer was relocating her to Kentucky.

However, Waldrup said he believes God brought them to this state.

"We try to reach cowboys, common folks and outcasts nobody else is trying to reach," said Waldrup, founding pastor of Blue Grass Cowboy Church, which meets on Tuesday nights at the Bourbon County Fairgrounds in Paris.

"We don't vary from Baptist doctrine but we open the doors to anybody that wants to come," Waldrup pointed out. "We probably have four or five different

denominations represented."

Many of these fledging congregations are affiliated with the Cowboy Church Network, a North Carolina-based Southern Baptist ministry.

With nine Kentucky Baptist churches in the network, veteran missions leader Larry Martin said the time is ripe for additional growth. Planters say they hope to start five more cowboy churches around the state by the end of this year.

Although cowboy churches were already spreading before the World Equestrian Games came to Lexington in 2010, the ministries that emerged from the Games are fanning the flame.

Chris Clarke:

"I still preach from the Bible, but most of my examples have something to do with horses, farming or an agricultural theme people can identify with."

One example is Cane Run Baptist Church, located across the highway from the Kentucky Horse Park. After Martin became the church's pastor earlier this year, it launched Cane Run Station Cowboy Church in April.

The church already has recorded six conversions, and when the pastor was invited to speak at a rodeo in Cynthiana May 27, three more people accepted Christ as their Savior.

The same principles that helped multi-housing ministries grow are spreading cowboy churches, said Martin, former missions team leader for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Trying to bring apartment residents to church didn't work, but when churches started meeting in apartment buildings they took off.

The same is true of churches meeting



COWBOY PASTOR Chris Clarke, pastor of Kentucky Lake Cowboy Church in Benton, entertains Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union members at their annual meeting in 2009. Clarke, who also directs the Happy Trails equestrian ministry, started the western Kentucky church as a way to reach those in various areas of the horse industry, most of whom are unable to attend church on Sundays because of their professions. (File photo)


in stockyards, show arenas and other places where agricultural communities feel at home, Martin explained.

No matter who they are trying to reach, Kentucky Baptists should keep in mind the story of Charla Helton.

After a bad experience in Washington 10 years ago, she stopped attending church until she met Clarke. Helton said she is convinced that everything about her experience with the Kentucky Lake pastor and his church—including the strength she sensed in the midst of overwhelming grief—is a sign that God is watching over her. "If something is so overarching it can't be improved on, it has to be God." (KBC)

Correction

An incorrect graphic accompanied a story in the July 3 Western Recorder titled, "May's CP gifts most since 2007." The graphic below represents the correct Kentucky Baptist Convention Cooperative Program giving totals for the month of May.

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance	
Giving for May 1-31, 2012 & Year-to-Date	
	
Monthly budget goal*	\$1,820,594
Actual giving:	\$1,956,476
Over budget:	\$ 135,882
Year-to-Date budget goal*	\$16,385,302
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$16,759,441
Over budget:	\$ 373,139
<small>*Based on annual spendable budget \$21,847,130 Actual budget \$23.5 million</small>	

BRIEFLY

Crews to retire from Northwest convention

Bill Crews, executive director of the Northwest Baptist Convention, will retire Dec. 31 or when his successor is elected, if after that date. Crews, 76, announced his intentions during the convention's executive board meeting last month. NWBC messengers elected Crews in 2007 after he served several months as interim executive director. In announcing his retirement, Crews noted his original commitment to serve in the role for up to five years. During his tenure, Crews led the convention staff through a major reorganization, which redeployed most staff members into various regions of the convention's territory, which includes Washington, Oregon and the Idaho panhandle. He also implemented significant staff cuts after the North American Mission Board shifted its funding toward church planting. Following his retirement, Crews said he hopes to serve the NWBC in a volunteer capacity to assist the convention's churches.

Nelson, former Montana exec, dies

James Nelson, executive director of the Montana Southern Baptist Fellowship (now Montana Southern Baptist Convention) from 1985-94, died July 4 in Albuquerque, N.M. He was 88. Nelson moved to Montana after serving with the then-Home Mission Board (now North American Mission Board) from 1975-82 as director of the associational missions division and, earlier, director of the rural-urban missions department. Nelson and his wife, Annis, were missionaries in the Panama Canal Zone from 1960-63 and regional missionaries working with Native Americans in northwestern New Mexico from 1964-71. He then served with the Baptist Convention of New Mexico as director of the mission ministries division from 1971-75. Also during his ministry, Nelson was a director of missions in Alabama and pastor of churches in Alabama and Mississippi. He is survived by his wife of 66 years and their six children. A memorial service was held July 7 at Highland Baptist Church in Albuquerque, N.M.

Senator's resolution applauds Luter election

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) has introduced a congressional resolution congratulating the Southern Baptist Convention for electing as president Fred Luter, the first African-American to hold the post. Landrieu notes the historical significance of Luter's election and honors the SBC's commitment to ethnic inclusion. Luter is pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. Landrieu notes the SBC's 1978 resolution against racism and its 1995 resolution apologizing for slavery, as well as Luter's role in resurrecting Franklin Avenue Baptist Church from the destruction of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The June 29 resolution was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and does not require the approval of the House of Representatives.

Alliance Defense Fund changes name

The Alliance Defense Fund, one of the nation's best-known Christian legal groups, has a new name—the Alliance Defending Freedom. The organization switched to its new name July 9 in a change that accompanied a new logo and tagline: "For Faith, For Justice." The new name will allow it to keep its often-used acronym, ADF. The new name, the group's president said, better communicates its purpose. "Our mission remains the same—defending religious liberty, the sanctity of life, and marriage and family. Only our name has changed," ADF President Alan Sears noted. "The change is to help more people easily understand the work that we do and why it matters."

Barna: Americans continue to reduce church giving

The economy continues to impact Americans' giving to churches and nonprofit organizations, with a recent Barna Group study showing one-third of those surveyed had reduced the amount they gave to churches in the last three months. According to the study released late last month, Barna found that with each passing year, the economy continues to burden a growing number of households. In addition, More than 10 percent of those surveyed said they have completely dropped all giving to churches in recent months.

Judge: Case against Sunrise can continue

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—A federal judge has ruled that millions of dollars in state funding received by a Kentucky Baptist Convention-affiliated children's agency can be challenged in court once again.

Judge Charles Simpson of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky wrote in a July 5 ruling that plaintiffs in the 12-year-old case against Sunrise Children's Services can proceed in filing suit against the agency, saying it uses state funds to coerce children's religious beliefs.

Sunrise, which changed its name from Kentucky Baptist Homes for Children in 2007, had fought to have the case rejected in federal district court after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear it last year.

The case stems from a 2000 lawsuit brought by Alicia Pedreira, a former KBHC employee who was fired in 1998 after the agency discovered she is a lesbian. Pedreira claimed discrimination by the agency, an allegation that the court rejected in 2001.

Despite the discrimination claim being thrown out, a second claim that Sunrise uses state

funds to promote religion among the children it serves was allowed to proceed.

Sunrise President Bill Smithwick estimated that 70 percent of the agency's \$24 million annual budget comes from the Commonwealth of Kentucky in the form of reimbursement payments.

Smithwick said that the contract between Sunrise and the state includes a provision that the agency address the spiritual needs of the children it serves without being coercive in doing so. Sunrise serves more than 2,000 children each year through its residential and foster-care programs.

"We are in compliance with our contract to the state to provide religious, spiritual opportunities to the kids. We do that," Smithwick told the Western Recorder. "We're not coercive. Faith, by definition, is a choice."

Smithwick said Judge Simpson's decision is "nothing new" for Sunrise, which has been battling this case for a dozen years now. "This is just the case being revived again after it was denied a hearing at the Supreme Court," he said.

In 2008, Simpson threw out the case against Sunrise, citing the U.S. Supreme Court's decision a

year earlier in the *Hein v. Freedom From Religion Foundation* case. That ruling stated that taxpayers could not challenge religious-based activities, such as faith-based social services, that are funded on the federal level.

Seventeen months later, a federal appeals court overturned Simpson's decision, stating that while federal taxpayers do not have standing to file suit, state taxpayers do.

Last year, Sunrise presented the case to the U.S. Supreme Court which declined to hear it. That returned the case to Judge Simpson and the U.S. District Court.

Smithwick said he is disappointed with the decision, but that he is confident Sunrise will ultimately claim victory in the prolonged case. As for when that will be, "I have no idea," he said. "All I can say is it's closer now to conclusion than it was 12 years ago."

Three other individuals are listed as plaintiffs in the case along with Pedreira. Among them is Paul Simmons, a former faculty member at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary who is president of the Louisville chapter of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. (WR)

Brown, 53, remembered as humble servant

Richmond—Rick Brown, who had served as pastor of Union City Baptist Church in Richmond for nearly two decades, died June 3. He was 53.

Brown was remembered as "one of God's precious saints and choice servants" by Hamp Valentine, retired director of missions for Bates Creek Baptist Association. The two served alongside one another in the eastern Kentucky association for all of Valentine's 15 years as DOM.

Valentine called Brown a strong supporter of Bates Creek Association, having served in a number of leadership roles, including moderator, student committee chairman and youth camp pastor.

"There was not a more committed, dedicated, faithful and humble Christian servant than Bro. Rick," Valentine said. "I shall always remember him for his humble, sweet spirit, his joyful and positive attitude and his wonderful laugh."

A Frankfort native, Brown earned his bachelor's degree at Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. He then went on to get his master's at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. Prior to his tenure at Union City Baptist Church, Brown was pastor at First Baptist Church of Kingston, Mo.

Valentine said Brown "had a heart for missions and for reaching the lost." The pastor was a

regular on associational mission trips, serving in Mississippi and Montana, as well as abroad in Botswana.

"Like the apostle Paul, he poured out his life in ministry for the Lord," Valentine said of Brown. "He fought the good fight, he finished the course and he kept the faith. There is indeed a crown of righteousness laid up for him in heaven."

Brown is survived by his wife of 35 years, Lynita, and his son, Adam.

Funeral services were held June 7 at Union City Baptist Church.

The family requested that memorial gifts be made in the form of donations to Clear Creek Baptist Bible College. (WR)

Pastor grateful after Colorado fire spares home

Colorado Springs, Colo.—A Colorado Baptist pastor said he feels stunned and grateful in the midst of raging wildfires that have spared his home and church but killed two neighbors and destroyed hundreds of houses.

"Numbness and shock—PTSD is what it is," said Bob Bender, pastor at First Baptist Church of Black Forest in Colorado Springs.

"We're bummed out but when we think how devastating other people have it—it looks like Hiroshima up there—we consider ourselves blessed."

The Waldo Canyon fire made

international news since it began June 23 in the Pike National Forest and began its march toward Colorado Springs. It charred more than 17,000 acres and at one point even threatened the U.S. Air Force Academy before it was contained.

It has been called the most destructive fire in Colorado history. It consumed nearly 350 homes, killed two people and forced the evacuation of at least 3,000 residents, according to multiple news reports.

Among them are Bender and his wife, Beverly. They already were evacuating their home when

police arrived to clear the neighborhood June 26.

Fourteen of Bender's relatives, including his two adult children and their families, had to flee their homes, too. Bender and his wife are staying with his in-laws, and likely will not be able to return home for weeks.

Bender served as a chaplain for support personnel serving firefighters. That brought Bender into contact with President Barack Obama. "I said I want you to know I am praying for you, and he said, 'I appreciate that and I believe in the power of prayer.'" (ABP)

Celebrating citizenship

As with most Americans, the Fourth of July is always a big celebration day for our family. The day includes a family reunion, fireworks and way too much food. For the past several years, my father's farm has been the host site.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

By all standards, this year's celebration was another success. No rain, although the pasture could have used it. The mercury didn't climb as high as predicted and a light breeze stayed with us most of the day. I managed two grills without burning the burgers. No major injuries from the fireworks or four-wheelers. Indeed, the 236th year of our nation's independence was safely, rightfully and joyfully celebrated.

And so was the American citizenship of the only Asian girl at the party. Ironically, the Fourth of July marks the day our daughter, Cai, became a U.S. citizen. That was the day, five years ago, when our flight home from China touched down. Bringing her home was the final step in our adoption process, securing not only Cai's place in our family, but also her citizenship in our country.

Cai was an abandoned orphan, doubtless another byproduct of China's one-child policy. That policy has resulted in China having the highest abortion rate in the world, with many of those abortions reportedly forced upon unwilling mothers. Due to the severe penalties exacted on families with two children and the cultural preference for a male child, the abortion or abandonment of infant girls is common practice.

Cai was a newborn, umbilical cord still attached, when found abandoned in a marketplace. She was taken immediately to an orphanage to be warehoused with others who had escaped murder in the womb but would have no mother to hold them. Instead, she spent her first 10 months tied to the metal rails of her shared crib. Then, God brought her to us.

The bruises left by the ropes disappeared in time, as did any memories my daughter may have had from the first few months of her life. Today, she is a healthy, happy girl who loves to swim, enjoys her Sunday School class and keeps her family laughing.

She also is a citizen of two countries. Interestingly, though no one in China wanted her, the Chinese government will always consider her a citizen. As she was welcomed into our family, she also became an American citizen.

A third citizenship, however, is our goal for Cai. As thankful as Michelle and I are that she is our adopted daughter, we pray for the day when she will be adopted once again, this time in Christ, "no longer a foreigner and alien, but a fellow citizen with God's people and member of God's household" (Ephesians 2:19).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Renewed: Why Kentucky Baptists need a newspaper

"Imagine our denomination in Kentucky having its Baptist wires running into 40,000 homes! How quickly could our forces be mobilized and in what close touch would our State Board of Missions, with its large programs, be able to keep with Kentucky Baptists."

That was the challenge issued to Kentucky Baptists in 1919 to embrace their state Baptist newspaper. It was a united call for cooperation in missions and ministry. As for achieving the arduous climb to 40,000 subscribers:

"Ah, Reader, think of what 40,000 subscribers to our paper would mean at this time—what it would mean for the Baptist 75 Million Campaign, what it would mean for the churches and what it would mean for the 40,000 homes. Nothing that any of us can do at this time will count toward the 75 Million Campaign more than our efforts in behalf of the 40,000 September Drive. Every Baptist home which we fail to reach with our paper must be reached by the pastor in some other way, which oftentimes cannot prove as effective as the coming every week of our state paper, filled with fresh, rich news about the movement."

More specifically, every pastor was urged to concentrate his energies upon leading his church to reach a subscription apportionment: "Let the church canvasses for subscriptions rage like a blessed storm. Let pastors vie with one another in their efforts to lead their churches even beyond the apportioned goal. Let the subscription-getting become an epidemic among Kentucky Baptists, let it spread like a conflagration, with all of us dropping everything, not to put out the fire, but to fan the blaze and fill the Kentucky sky with the light of our 40,000 triumph. What a far-reaching and fruitful victory it would be."

In the October 1919 article, "Campaign Information," J.R. Black, publicity director, featured a section, "What other pastors think," which included the following voices:

"We are told that 80 percent of our knowledge comes through the eye. If that is true our new state paper, the Western Recorder, placed in every Baptist home in the state will be a tremendous factor in our great drive. I am persuaded that this paper owned by all of our people and filled each week with red-hot messages, plain and direct, will enlist thousands. ... It is a great step forward." —J.E. Martin, Jellico, Tenn.

"No one but God himself can truly estimate the value of 'one great state paper' at this hour in our history. It will do

more than any other single agency to inform, inspire, enthuse and unify our people for the mighty program which now engages the attention and deep concern of us all." —T.C. Crume, Covington

"Without our state paper comes blindness, ignorance, narrowness, lack of interest, littleness, selfishness, stagnation, discouragement, failure. With it comes power of sight, breadth of vision, fellowship with our greatest men, cooperation, encouragement, inspiration, warning, unity of our Baptist hosts, victory."

—Arthur Dailey, McVeigh

"The Western Recorder will be of immeasurable value. ... For example, (1) the paper will inform our Baptist people as to who we are and what we can and ought to

do in bringing in the reign of our Lord. ... (2) The paper will exert an uplifting, far-reaching influence on our people all over Kentucky. It will strengthen their faith, warm their hearts and quicken their zeal. (3) Our state paper will deepen the interest of our people in our Baptist schools in Christian and ministerial education, in our hospital, in our children's homes, in ministerial relief and all others of the benevolences for which we stand pledged. I hail our state paper as a dependable ally in all my work and pledge to it my loyal, loving support." —O.C. Peyton, Union

The task of advancing the kingdom through the Cooperative Program remains ever before us, and Kentucky Baptists have renewed their vision to carry the gospel to the nations. The Western Recorder stands firmly committed to this task: "to further the cause of Christ; to inform Baptists of Kentucky about matters of general interest to the churches and to describe, interpret, promote and cooperate with the program and ministries of the Kentucky Baptist Convention." Each week, the newspaper encourages Kentucky Baptists to "shine like the stars" (Philippians 2:15). In reading about Baptists cooperating in missions and ministry may you, too, be so inspired: "In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Kentucky pastors, the Western Recorder needs the voice of today's Baptist statesmen, speaking a good word about the importance of their state Baptist paper and its benefits to congregational and missional vitality. Encourage your church to stay informed about and involved in Kentucky Baptist efforts in reaching the commonwealth and our world for Christ.

Love the leader

You are a member of a Sunday School class, church committee or ministry team. You are on the softball team, the nursery rotation or the praise band. Whatever your involvement in your church, each group you attend or serve has a leader who needs to know you're behind him or her. How can you encourage that leader? Try some of these fresh ideas:

- Pray faithfully for the leader.
- Consistently show up early for meetings or rehearsals.
- Stay late to help clean up. Don't leave the grunt work to the leader.
- Send an uplifting text, card or

Facebook message. Tell what you like about serving or attending the group. Random encouragements are the best.

- Don't complain (Philippians 2:14).
- Leaders need friends, too.

Invite the leader's family over for dinner.

■ Watch for stressful times. Example: Does your leader have houseguests over during a particularly busy time at church? Mow his lawn, or deliver a meal.

■ Listen when your leader speaks. Show love and respect by your actions.

■ Get involved. Listen to needs among the group and the church, and joyfully volunteer to help when God prompts you. Tithe, invest time, care.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Power of revival, repentance to heal nation

By Fred Luter

As a kid growing up in my home church, one of the most exciting times of the year was our annual revival. Oh, what a time that was!

It was a time that everyone was anticipating. I can vividly remember the choir singing songs that had everyone on their feet. When the deacons prayed during devotion, everyone seemed to be in one accord.

However, the highlight of the worship service was when the guest revivalist got up to preach. It appeared that everyone was eagerly waiting to hear what God was saying to us through His word and through His messenger.

The sermons during revival were always challenging and most times convicting. This was always evident when the "doors of the church," or "invitation," was extended at the end of the sermon.

People were getting out of the pews and coming down the aisle responding to the Spirit of God. Some came for salvation; others were coming to rededicate their lives. Yes, the power of revival and repentance was evident in that church.

Since those early experiences in my home church, I have always been a fan of revivals. I have seen how lives, marriages, families and churches can be transformed when revival takes place. I now see the same things happening in the church of which I now am pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. I truly believe that God is still using revival to touch, transform and change lives.

That is why I am so excited to be a part of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal. I truly believe that this prayer vigil can make a difference in our nation. That's why I would like to challenge and encourage Southern Baptists from

across our great country to embrace and participate in this prayer vigil.

Brothers and sisters, I am convinced that the downward moral decline in America will not change because of who is in the White House. I truly believe the moral decline will only change because of who is in God's house.

For the word of God says, "If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14).

If true change is going to happen in America, it will only happen when the body of Christ is obedient to the word of God. In other words, we as believers must do the four things that God requires of us in 2 Chronicles 7:14:

- Humble ourselves.
- Pray.
- Seek God's face.
- Repent of our sins.

If we as believers do our part, then rest assured, God will certainly do His part. God promised to forgive our sins and to heal our land.

Brothers and sisters, if there was ever a time for revival and repentance it is now. When you look at how this nation has taken God out of every part of our lives, we should not be surprised by the horrific events that we hear about in our daily news.

It is time for true revival. It is time for true repentance. It is time for the church to stand up and be the church by being light in a dark world and being salt in a low-sodium, saltless society. We can start by taking part in this 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal. (BP)

Fred Luter is president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. This article is part of a series in preparation of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal, an initiative of the North American Mission Board and Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission to encourage Southern Baptists and other evangelicals to pray for 40 days from Sept. 26 to Nov. 4. To learn more, visit www.4040Prayer.com.

FIRST PERSON



Fred Luter

Fortifying church-home partnership

By David Garrard

Eat together and say a real prayer before the meal.

Be intentional about sitting down at the table and eating together. Take time to disconnect from some of the distractions and demands of the day and reconnect with each other. Always pray for your food, and when you do, say a real prayer—not a memorized prayer that can sound perfunctory and insincere.

Just talk with each other and trust God to use the time. You may be amazed at how easily and often the conversation will turn to important stuff, and how dinner time strengthens your family and their faith.

Get your children to Sunday School, get them there on time, and make sure they have their Bibles.

When we are casual in church attendance and punctuality, we send an unspoken message to our children about the importance of Bible study and worship. We make sure our kids get to school every day, and we do our best to make sure they are on time. We make sure they do their homework. We do all of this because we believe school is important. Surely church deserves the same.

Ask better questions about your child's experiences at church.

Too often, our main concern is, "Did you have fun?" It is OK for kids to have fun when they come to church. At the same time, kids need to understand that life is about a lot more than just having fun.

When our children were little, my friend Anne Smith taught us to ask, "What did you learn today?" Asking that opens the door to faith conversations in ways other questions do not. It also gives parents important insights into the faith development and understanding of their children.

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



10 rules of debt management

By Don Spencer

For most people, debt is a necessity. It can be a valuable tool in personal finance. However, if not handled properly, debt can become a major problem.



A common problem is seeing debt purely from a monthly payment perspective. For example, a couple purchase an item on credit that only costs \$20 a month. Then it is another item for only \$10 more a month. Little

by little, this mushrooms and causes problems.

Below are 10 rules for using debt wisely and safely:

- Save for major purchases. Don't finance unless it is absolutely necessary. Set a goal of paying cash for vacations, cars, etc.

- Use credit cards as a convenience only. Do not finance any long-term debt with credit cards. Pay the bills in full each month. Credit cards are easy to get and misuse and generally have high interest rates.

- Keep all debt payments under one-third of your gross income. Above that, you're exceeding safe levels.

- Lower the real cost of debt. Try to make all interest tax-deductible, like a home-equity loan.

- Maintain adequate assets that can be easily turned into cash. Debt has never hurt anyone; a lack of sufficient cash flow to manage debt has.

- Have adequate life and disability income insurance. Ignoring this poses significant financial risk.

- Make debt predictable. Be cautious using adjustable-rate financing and loans with balloon payments.

- Accelerating debt payments may not always be best. One should maintain adequate savings for emergency needs, fund tax-deferred retirement plans adequately, and pay off non-tax-deductible debt before accelerating payments on other debts.

- Refinance only if it will save money. Consolidation loans do not always save money.

- Protect your credit and make payments on time. If you can't pay on time, re-negotiate with creditors.

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

Living like we know God has it all under control

"I've got this." "It'll be OK." "I've got it covered." "I've got it taken care of." These statements all convey the same sentiment.

I have heard these phrases over and over in life. I am sure that I've used all of these phrases with my mom and dad several times while growing up. Most of the time, I meant it. Some of the time, I am not sure who I was trying to convince the most, me or them.

These phrases also may be some of the most common phrases in a teenager's vocabulary.

I heard it from my son, Jordan, halfway through his sophomore year at North Bullitt High School when his mid-year grades came out and they were nowhere close to where they needed to be. I wasn't really sure he had it covered, and the more he tried to reassure me, the less believable his argument became. All I could see were the grades on the paper, and I could not see any way on earth he had it taken care of.

As it turned out, he did. He didn't make the honor roll that year by any means, but he did manage to turn his grades around and pass all those classes. And, as it turned out, his report card was a wake-up call

and his grades improved every semester afterward.

Sometimes it takes a strong dose of reality staring us in the face to serve as a wake-up call for us to get serious about things.

With the recent reorganization at the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the realization that what I was doing was no longer going to be an option for me, it was a time that I would have had every right to be panicked about what the future held. After all, I have a mortgage, a son in college and am very fond of eating.

Throughout the process of wondering what was next though, I had an overwhelming sense of peace. In fact, I had a sense from the Holy Spirit that, "It's OK. I've got this."

It made no sense why I would have that assurance. Everything in me said I should be panicked, worried, anxious and a thousand other adjectives—but I wasn't. Every time one of those feelings would begin to creep in, that still small voice would speak: "It's OK. I've got this."

What does all this have to do with student ministry? I am convinced that this generation of students needs to see in the adults who

work with them an attitude that it is going to be OK and God has everything under control. We do a good job of telling them that and teaching it, but do we live that out in front of them? When life gets tough and things don't go as planned, do we live before them this truth? Do our students know by the way we live our lives that we know that no matter what happens in life that we are convinced God has it under control and that He has it covered?

If I had to judge only by observations and conversations I have with adults, I think the answer would be a resounding "no." Most adults are on the verge of panic when things don't go as planned or when major life changes are forced upon us. Meanwhile, our students are watching to see if we live out what we say is truth.

Honestly, it is not only in this area that our students are watching, but in everything that we say and do. It has always been said of teenagers that they have a built-in hypocrite meter. I think that may be truer than ever of this generation.

May we always live a life that is consistent with our teaching.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is a youth ministry strategist with Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

Chaplain ready to manage faith presence in Olympic Village

By Ava Thomas

Manchester, England—John Boyers' gig at the Summer Olympics might seem sensational until you see his normal digs.

His "office"—the home of the Manchester United football club—is nicknamed the "Theatre of Dreams." For 20 years, he's rubbed shoulders with the thousands who pay \$25 a head to tour Old Trafford, one of the world's most visited stadiums. And that's not counting game days, when 76,000 fans show up.

Boyers is a constant in a place of perpetual turnover, and he will tell you that's just the way he likes it.

"Being sensitively present in people's lives and being found trustworthy over time are so important," said Boyers, chaplain for the 647 full-time staff members and players of Manchester United. "I come alongside people to be a supportive friend, providing spiritual and pastoral care when they need it."

He said he doesn't proselytize, and he has his reasons.

"It's different from being a chaplain in the United States," Boyers said. "In English sports, a secular culture, people are suspicious of keen Christians."

Opportunities for overt evangelism are very restricted, and a "hard sell" just doesn't work well in England, he said.

"So, chaplains are accepted by clubs as those who serve, offering pastoral and spiritual care sensitively to all people employed by a club," Boyers said. "That's the deal. If you don't like the deal, don't sign up."

That means there are no organized prayer times before games or chapel services for players. But near Easter and Christmas, he does lead Bible studies for staffers. As for his weekly work, Boyers said, "I pray that the Lord will go before me, be with me and direct me, causing people to ask the questions which produce significant conversations."

And, he said, many days they do. A number of players and staff dealing with problems, crises and life questions seek him out to talk. Those who don't still think of him as a "good guy," shake his hand in the hallway and know he's there if they ever do decide to chat.

"At the heart of U.K. sports chaplaincy is one concept: trusting relationships," Boyers said. "When people get to know



HEAD CHAPLAIN John Boyers has spent more than 20 years providing pastoral care for the players and staff of the Manchester United soccer team in England. This year, he'll manage the 160 chaplains slated to serve at the 2012 London Summer Olympics. (Photos by Chris Carter/IMB)

you and trust you, they open up to you, often when they need help."

Boyers is invading their space on purpose, and the staff and players value that, he said.

"Chaplaincy is incarnational ministry—what Jesus did to identify with us," he said. "The church can't hide behind its lovely windows and doors. It's got to get out there into the wider world."

"It's messy work," he added, "but if the incarnation of Jesus means anything to us, we have to identify with people as He did and meet them where they are."

It was that truth that got Boyers out of the church and into chaplaincy in the first place. It's the reason he agreed to pilot the nation's chaplaincy program on behalf of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. The program now has 230 chaplains of different Christian denominations placed in professional sports from soccer to horse racing.

"I have known John Boyers for 25 years and honor him as the doyen of sports chaplains in the United Kingdom. He has a winsome way of opening doors that were previously closed," said David Coffey, global ambassador for BMS World Mission and past president of Baptist World Alliance.

"The fruitfulness of his ministry over the past 21 years is a testimony to God's

LOYAL SUPPORTER

John Boyers' teacup sports the Manchester United crest, one of England's most successful football, or soccer, clubs. He has been a chaplain with the club for more than two decades.

2012 London Olympics

faithfulness and John's persevering spirit. His considerable experience will be a great asset to the chaplaincy at the London Olympic Games."

During the Olympics and Paralympics, Boyers will manage the deployment of 160 chaplains from the five major world religions—Christianity; Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Hinduism—into the athletes' village.

Boyers and other Christian chaplains will hold optional services and lead Bible studies for athletes and others working

in the village, as well as be available to talk or pray with anyone who requests it.

It's the same deal as it is at Old Trafford—proselytizing is prohibited in Olympic areas. "But when people ask questions, we have every right to respond," Boyers said.

So he keeps praying that same prayer—that God will prompt questions that allow him to share how Jesus Christ changes lives. And whether those opportunities come or not, he said he'll serve with love and compassion. (IMB)

2012 USA Olympians' faith on display

London—The U.S. trials for the London 2012 Summer Olympics have showcased not only premier athletic talent but faith. Many team hopefuls have pointed to the heavens and cited their reliance on God.

Among them is Brittany Viola, who credited God for her success in making the Olympic diving team and said she hopes God will use her to share His love and truth with the world.

"Through faith and taking God's word as truth, I have performed and accomplished more than I could have ever hoped for or imagined," Viola said, according to Beliefnet.com. "I expect God to use His children ... to touch the hearts and lives of thousands of athletes, spectators and individuals all over the world with His unimaginable love, acceptance, forgiveness and hope."

Chante Lowe, who set a meet record of 6 feet 7 inches in making the high jump team, said when you see her dancing on the track, she's not just working her muscles.

"I'm praising the Lord, and that's really where I get a lot of my praise

and worship in is right there on the high-jump apron," she told USA Today. Lowe broke the previous meet record of 6 feet 6.5 inches set in 1988.

Jennifer Nichols, on the way to her third Olympics as an archer, said she recites to herself Scripture she has memorized and keeps a tiny book of Bible verses in her quiver.

"I take comfort in knowing that I'm here because the Lord brought me here and having a purpose in what purpose He has for me, not necessarily knowing where He's going to take me," she told USA Today, "but the excitement of knowing that there is a plan. I'm excited to be able to offer whatever I can to be able to glorify the Lord in what I do."

Nichols said she gets a better shot by reciting Scripture.

"I memorize a lot of Scripture to recite while I'm shooting," she said. "I carry a little book in my quiver that has Bible verses that I memorize as I'm walking back and forth to the target. And sometimes I'll recite them while I'm on the line shooting. It plays a large part." (BP)



Harvie to work through SBTS, KBC, NAMB to mobilize church planters

Louisville—In a strategic partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention and the North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary will house the new role of church planter mobilization strategist at its Louisville campus. Aaron Harvie, a NAMB church planter in Philadelphia, will fill this new role Aug. 1.

As CPM strategist, Harvie will work closely with seminary faculty, Kentucky Baptists and NAMB to better equip and connect would-be church planters with strategies and contacts for partnering with existing churches to plant in key areas of North America.

"This will provide us with someone working with our staff in close partnership who will help us take advantage of opportunities and elevate church planting among our pastors," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "It seems like the perfect fit and will help create an environment of church planting among our staff and in our convention."

Harvie planted Riverside Community Church in 1999, and the congregation has since multiplied into four church plants in the Philadelphia area.

Harvie said his new role will give him an opportunity to do more of what God allowed him to do during his years in Philadelphia.



Aaron Harvie

"I went to Philly with the dream of planting one church, but God had plans for multiple churches," Harvie said.

"Since then, we've had the opportunity to plant four other churches, and three out of the four were started by staff from our church.

"Taking someone and, over time, developing them and preparing them to plant has been one of the greatest experiences in my ministry," he added. "What's crazy is that every one of these guys came on staff not with the intention

to be planters but, over time, this desire to plant grew in them."

But it takes more than a mentoring planter and a dream, Harvie explained.

"Without partners there's no planting," said Harvie. "The partner is not just about money. It's about prayer support, it's about mentoring. Planters need the wisdom of tenured pastors."

Harvie also will work closely with Southern Seminary faculty to develop church planters through a mentorship process.

"I'm going to Southern as a practitioner knowing whom I'm looking for and how to get them ready," Harvie said. "I'm looking for those whom God has called, and I'm ready to help equip them to plant churches that penetrate lostness and bring people into a relationship with Jesus." (NAMB)



CHEERFUL CHILDREN The smiles of grateful children, like these two Mongolian girls, receiving Operation Christmas Child gift boxes is what awaits Danville teen Ben Kendrick during his trip with the Samaritan's Purse Youth, or SPY, team trip next week. (Photo courtesy of Samaritan's Purse)

Ben Kendrick

Continued from page 1

that me or my siblings never got a Happy Meal toy," Ben recalled. "As soon as they came out of the box, Mom would take them and put them in the shoebox room."

Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected nearly 100 million shoeboxes filled with gifts and the gospel, giving them to impoverished children in more than 130 countries.

Next week, Ben will have the opportunity to hand-deliver some of those boxes to children in Mongolia, an Asian nation of 3 million people, only 2 percent of whom claim to be Christians.

Ben is one of 21 teenagers part of the Samaritan's Purse Youth, or SPY, team that will serve in Mongolia from July 21-28. During the week, the teens will hand out shoeboxes at four locations and work with local churches and ministries in reaching homeless children in and around the capital of Ulaan Baatar.

It will be a fast-paced trip to the other side of the world, but Ben said he is eager to go. "I can't wait," he said. "If I could leave tomorrow, I would."

Ben's ties to Asia are strong. His younger sister Mia was adopted from South Korea, and the Kendricks have hosted an exchange student—who Ben calls his older sister—who also hails from South Korea and now is a student at University of the Cumberland. Additionally, three of Ben's cousins were adopted from Taiwan and Kazakhstan.

The Kendrick family's love of missions and children stems directly from their late patriarch, Lawrence.

Each of his three sons had biological children, then adopted from other countries. All of them got financial help from Lawrence during the adoption process. Even into his 60s, Lawrence and his wife, Ramona, considered adopting internationally, his son Mark recalled.

The bottom line is Lawrence Kendrick loved children. He taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School for nearly 50 years. That's why the children's Sunday School hallway is dedicated to him.

"That's a big deal because you don't see that a lot," Kathy Kendrick said. "Little boys need to see men teaching kids in Sunday School. Usually your children's wing is the women's wing."

Grandson Ben certainly noticed when Lawrence began going on mission trips to Russia, serving mostly in orphanages. It was there he first saw a child receive an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. When he returned home, he made sure his home church got invested in the min-

istry year-round.

Lawrence loved the Russian children so much, Kathy said, he would pay the exorbitant luggage fees to haul a foot locker full of candy to give to the kids.

It was that heart for missions that Ben and his older brother "just saw their whole lives," Kathy said.

What they also witnessed was their grandfather's heartbreaking ordeal after a 2008 car accident in Russia left Lawrence with a severe brain injury, one from which he would never recover.

After 17 days in a Russian hospital, Lawrence was flown by air ambulance to Lexington. He died a few days later.

At the time of the accident, Lawrence was in Russia for a third time. He had hired a taxi to take him to Bryansk, two and a half hours from where his mission team was serving. He had a gift to give a family he had stayed with on a previous trip. It was a little girl in that family who had received an Operation Christmas Child shoebox during Lawrence's first visit, Kathy said.

In a country that only 20 years earlier was closed to the gospel, Kathy said the zeal of young Russian Christians drew her father-in-law to the country.

"He was just crazy about the people and the newness of the gospel," she said. "They were just so reverent." In the United States, "sometimes, maybe, we don't have that eagerness," she admitted.

The same can't be said for Lawrence's grandson. Ben Kendrick said he is chomping at the bit to get to Mongolia, not only to reach children with the gospel, but also possibly to get a glimpse of what God has in store for his future.

One appeal of the trip, Ben said, is working with Samaritan's Purse, which focuses a great deal on international disaster relief and medical missions, two areas Ben is interested in pursuing.

Of course, the teenager said he wouldn't rule out one day joining the PGA Tour. But, he admitted, he still doesn't know in which direction God will call him.

"This mission trip might be the first step in what He's leading me to do," Ben said. "It may be in the medical mission field with Samaritan's Purse; it may have nothing to do with foreign missions. ... I just don't know right now."

Either way, the Kendricks say they know Ben's path has been forged by a grandfather who loved Jesus Christ and was compelled to share that love with others, especially children.

"I think his grandfather would be tremendously proud," Ben's grandmother, Ramona, said, admitting, though, she is nervous to see him go halfway across the world. "I'll be praying real hard." (WR)

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Bible study, trivia style

Oneida students enjoy spirited competition of Bible-based trivia

In an era when it seems teenagers only are interested in games that have to be played on a computer or viewed on an electronic device, yesterday evening's competition was refreshing and just plain fun to watch. The 2012 "Summer School Bible Trivia Championship" was held as part of our evening chapel service—and our students were excited and involved, to say the least.

Had you walked in on the competition, you might have mistaken the electric atmosphere for that of the Super Bowl or the NCAA Men's Basketball finals. With many shouts from the audience of "I know it! I know it!" and with student onlookers and potential on-stage members literally on the edges of their pews or crouched down on the floor in anxious attention, the two teams answered questions taken from the free online e-book, "1,001 Bible Trivia Questions."

As the first round of 20 questions got underway, the boys' team eked out an early lead. When the four-member panels changed, the girls' team made a comeback. By the end of the second round, the teams were tied.

After yet another lineup change, the boys' team struggled with a workable strategy to get their correct answers to the podium before their competitors did and gradually fell behind by five points by the end of round three. After one last conference between the

supervising and enthusiastically involved houseparents and their final-round teams, the competition was intense. The girls held on to their lead by answering these questions:

■ On what day did the apostles receive the Holy Spirit?

■ What were the religious leaders called who continually tried to trap Jesus with their questions?

■ Whose father was prepared to sacrifice him on an altar?

Nevertheless, as the round progressed and the final questions were asked, the boys were able to remove the deficit with quick and correct answers to questions like these:

■ When Jesus was in the wilderness, what was He tempted to turn into loaves of bread?

■ What job did Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, do?

■ At the age of 12, Jesus was left behind in Jerusalem. Where did His parents find Him?

■ How did Judas betray Christ?

Finally, with the score tied at 38, the deciding question was given:

■ Who was David's great friend?

The boys' team runner sped to the podium with the correct answer—Jonathan—and fraternal pandemonium enveloped the boys as they each anticipated their sweet reward: free ice cream cones in the OBI grill.

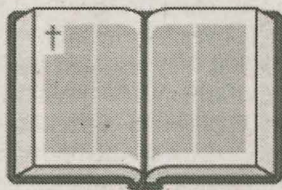
The life lesson for the students? It is good—and fun—to study your Bible.

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



God provides

First-year student sees God's hand on his life at Clear Creek campus

First-year student Josh Chasteen, from Berea, said he is thankful for God's provisions as he shares how the Lord has worked in his life.

"I am so thankful for God's call on my life to preach the gospel," Josh said. "I began to feel the call from God to preach when I was 17. I had never been very good at speaking in front of crowds. I was always the quiet one in the group. So, for me to think about preaching was very different for me. But when God called me, I knew I had to surrender to His call. ... I am thankful for God showing me from the start that it wasn't through my ability but through Him that I could do it."

"I am thankful to God for leading me to Clear Creek," Josh said. "When I came and visited the campus, I knew this was a special place. I knew this was a place where I could learn to grow in my ministry and learn to be the best that I can be for the Lord."

Josh is serving at Central Baptist Church in Corbin where alumnus Chad

Fugitt serves as pastor. Chad has committed to investing in Josh to help him gain some practical ministry experience through his leadership.

"I am gaining some valuable experience," Josh said. "I am allowed to attend weekly staff meetings with Pastor Chad, and then he takes me visiting with him as he goes out to minister to his congregation. I am getting some great practical experience by being able to spend time with him."

"Whenever my wife, Sarah, and I first surrendered to God's call to come to Clear Creek, we really had some concerns about just leaving everything behind," Josh recalled. "We didn't know

how we were going to pay for school and other things. But the Lord has been amazing in His provisions for us. He has provided all the finances we needed for our schooling, and I have a job here on campus. Though I may question some time, God always provides. I thank Him for His provisions."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

LifeWay's 'Blind Side' removal sparks criticism from authors

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—LifeWay Christian Resources' recent decision to no longer stock "The Blind Side" DVD on bookstore shelves has struck a nerve with Christian authors.

Rachel Held Evans said it points to a "chokehold" that the stores hold on the Christian publishing industry.

Evans said Christian bookstores have developed a reputation for "a highly sanitized customer experience" by purging from their shelves any language, content or theology not considered "safe" for their most conservative readers.

"What most people don't realize, however, is that the problem of sanitized Christian bookstores extends far beyond the inventory on the shelves to create an entire Christian subculture that is so sanitized and safe, it often fails to produce art that is relevant to our culture or our lives," Evans wrote on her blog.

The result, she said, is that authors avoid being too "edgy" for fear of not getting published or simply take their product elsewhere.

Eric Metaxas, author of the New York Times No. 1 bestseller "Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy," described a Christian publishing industry that is "heading for cultural irrelevance."

In a Breakpoint commentary, Metaxas said LifeWay "caved in" to pressure to pull a film that liberal critics decried as Christian propaganda after a Florida pastor threatened to object to explicit language and use of a racial epithet.

"For outsiders looking in, the moral of the story is that: 'There is no pleasing

Christians. They always seem to be looking for something to be mad about,'" Metaxas wrote. "We complain about the calumnies and caricatures of Christians on the big screen; and then, when an Academy-Award winning film shows us

at our very best, we complain that scenes depicting harsh, inner-city reality are too true to life.

"We are, in effect, making our participation contingent on all our possible objections being met beforehand," he continued. "Since there are many people who would be happy if we stayed within our cultural and religious ghettos, it's difficult to imagine how we Christians

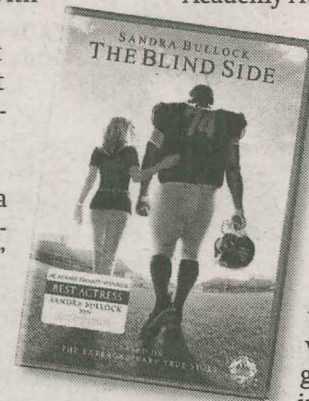
can hope to be taken seriously in cultural discussions and debates with this kind of an approach."

The marketing decision also drew criticism in major blogs including Internet Monk and the Huffington Post.

Marty King, LifeWay's director of communications, said officials have heard different perspectives from customers about the decision to no longer stock the DVD at LifeWay Christian Stores.

"We agree the movie as a whole promotes Christian values and a redemptive message," he said. "However, it does contain instances of street language and racial slurs against African-Americans."

King said LifeWay decided last month to stop selling the movie after nearly two years because of the likelihood it would become a focus of debate and division at the recent SBC annual meeting in New Orleans. "We were electing the Southern Baptist Convention's first African-American president and did not want to distract from that historic moment." (ABP)



Restaurant's church discount draws state probe

Columbia, Pa.—A family-owned restaurant in Pennsylvania is under a state discrimination investigation for offering a 10 percent discount for diners who present a church bulletin on Sundays.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission confirmed there is an investigation against Prudhomme's Lost Cajun Kitchen in Columbia. The complaint was filed by John Wolff, a retired electrical engineer.

"I did this not out of spite, but out of a feeling against the prevailing self-righteousness that stems from religion, particularly in Lancaster County," Wolff told the York (Pa.) Daily Record. "I don't consider it an earth-shaking affair, but in this area in particular, we seem to have so many self-righteous religious people, so it just annoys me."

According to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, a restaurant is classified as a public accommodation. As such, restaurants are not allowed to discriminate based on religion, among other things.

Sharon Prudhomme, who owns the restaurant along with her husband, said she's not discriminating against anybody—and plans on fighting the charges.

She said she is bothered the state is "basically agreeing" with Wolff.

"We're just a mom and pop. We're not some big chain like the Olive Garden," she said.

Prudhomme said the trouble started in April 2011 when she received the first of several letters from the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which demanded she stop giving discounts to patrons who brought in church bulletins.

In late June, the restaurant was served with a 16-page complaint from the state of Pennsylvania, accusing Prudhomme of discrimination.

Prudhomme said a state representative suggested she compromise and sign an agreement that she would offer discounts to any civic organization in town. "I said, 'Are you crazy?' We have taxes to pay. We have utility bills, payroll, mortgages and they're expecting me to give everyone a discount?"

If the commission determines there's enough evidence to support the complaint, it could be referred to a public hearing. Should the restaurant owners be found in violation, it is unclear what penalty they might face. (Fox/BP)

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Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 With Deborah, he confronted the army of Sisera
- 5 One of the sons of Merari (1 Chronicles 6:30)
- 12 Poems
- 14 Burn with anger
- 15 Contented comment
- 17 "And the Lord God caused a ____ sleep" (Genesis 2:21)
- 19 "Suffer the little children to come unto ____" (Mark 10:14)
- 20 Apiece (abbr.)
- 21 Perimeter
- 23 Farm implements
- 25 The ____ Pavilions (Kaye novel)
- 26 Son of Seth
- 28 "I took the little book ... and ____ it up" (Revelation 10:10)
- 29 In the ____
- 30 Information
- 32 Balmy state (abbr.)
- 33 Spanish pronoun
- 35 "In the ____ God created" (Genesis 1:1)
- 37 Exclamation of surprise
- 39 Concerning, with "in"
- 40 Oppressed person
- 42 "I ... was come nigh unto Damascus about ____" (Acts 22:6)
- 44 "The Lord that delivered me out of the ____ of the lion" (1 Samuel 17:37)
- 46 "Thou art not a ____ of the law, but a judge" (James 4:11)
- 48 "For the stone shall ____ out of the wall" (Habakkuk 2:11)
- 49 Mentions
- 51 Bide a ____ (Scottish phrase)
- 52 Printer's measure
- 53 Great Commission verb
- 54 "The first came out red ... and they called his name ____" (Genesis 25:25)
- 56 Note on the diatonic scale
- 57 Abandon
- 60 "____ ye from your evil ways" (2 Kings 17:13)
- 62 "The God ... who hath called us unto his ____ glory by Christ Jesus" (1 Peter 5:10)
- 63 Daniel's den mates

Down

- 1 Announce loudly
- 2 Right page (abbr.)
- 3 "Which of you ... can ____ one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:27)
- 4 "If ye love me, ____ my commandments" (John 14:15)
- 6 Resident of the Far East (abbr.)
- 7 Certain rocks

- 8 Command to a horse
- 9 With ____
- 10 "Then I will give them ____ to know Me" (2 words, Jeremiah 24:7, NKJV)
- 11 "____ unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord" (Psalm 34:11)
- 13 Actress Ward
- 16 "Naphtali is a ____ let loose" (Genesis 49:21)
- 18 "The blessed and only ____, the King of kings" (1 Timothy 6:15)
- 22 Ruth and Orpah were "women of ____" (Ruth 1)
- 24 Pronoun
- 25 Note on the diatonic scale
- 27 Cheerless
- 29 Ate out
- 31 "Strong meat belongeth to them that are of full ____" (Hebrews 5:14)
- 32 Old-fashioned hand towel message
- 34 Yield
- 36 Mature
- 38 "Moreover the Lord thy God will send the ____ among them" (Deuteronomy 7:20)
- 41 "My ____ did not slip" (Psalm 18:36)
- 43 Worried exclamation
- 44 Greek letter
- 45 Occident
- 47 Bridle part
- 49 ____ fields (what Jesus went through on the sabbath day, (Mark 2)
- 50 Son of Kish
- 53 European tongue (abbr.)
- 55 Father of Bezaleel (Exodus 31:2)
- 58 Quadrant in D.C.
- 59 British 'bye
- 61 "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be ____ strife" (Genesis 13:8)

Last puzzle's solution

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Getting over 'the wall'

Summer's midway point reminds camp staff to rely solely on Christ

This summer has been incredible in countless ways as we have seen a record number of students make salvation decisions through the first half of the camp season. It is always at the midpoint of the summer that even with so much going well, we at the same time experience great challenges. The term "the wall" is used to describe this mid-summer phenomenon that brings all of our staff to the verge of the breaking point.

Since first serving with Crossings in 1999, I have had the blessing of seeing the summer perspective through a few different positions. I must say that regardless of your role, "the wall" is aptly named. Why do we have such a time? One could say it is due to the effects of our rigorous schedule that eventually just takes its toll by the sixth week in. You also could say it is due to the heat of that time of year—especially hot this year, as we have had temperatures of 110 degrees at Jonathan Creek. Or you could say it is due to the peak attendance that usually happens around the end of June and the first of July.

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Regardless of the reasons, the fact is God uses this time to teach us greater reliance upon Him. As Christ followers, getting stretched beyond what we think we can do is a requirement to grow in sanctification. God uses these circumstances to further reveal Himself as our sustainer in life. After all, how do we realize Him more fully until we are out of the way and feel we cannot go on without Him?

I never attended camp growing up, but in the last 14 years, God has grown my appreciation for the way He can use camp to draw us to Himself due to the uniqueness of what a camp experience can provide.

Camp is unique for those who come and unique to those who work on the other side.

While I personally do not like hitting the wall every summer—and I know our staff share in my lack of enthusiasm for this time—I do realize the benefits that we can only experience as His strength is perfected in our weakness.

David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or www.GoCrossings.com

Access to Christian higher education

Funding Kentucky Baptist learning institutions is support for missions

The accessibility to a Kentucky Baptist Christian higher education is a concern of mine and, I trust, a concern of yours as well.

I believe Christian higher education is more essential today than ever before, and yet, it is becoming less accessible to many students due to the ever-increasing cost. This reality is true also for public higher education. But it is the Christian higher education institution that is dependent upon private gifts from you and me to keep it accessible to the students whose family financial circumstances require assistance.

At the heart of their missions, our Kentucky Baptist Christian education institutions are teaching institutions with a focus on helping their students become lifelong learners who will make a positive difference in the world through service to Jesus Christ and their fellow man.

Campbellsville University President Michael Carter has stated it this way: "The very essence of Christian higher education, especially in the Baptist tradition, is in the degree that we allow the transformational teachings of the

Christian faith to permeate the learning environment of the university. ... Our mission is about excellence in the classroom, ... also about the quest to bring our faith through our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, led by the Holy

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Spirit, to the world in which we live. ... This is why Christian higher education is so important and why it is really a contemporary form of "missions."

There are a variety of channels through which you can provide financial assistance to those students who need it. Gifts of any amount can be made to existing scholarship funds of the institution of your choosing or to the Kentucky Baptist Foundation. The KBF has existing scholarship funds that benefit all of the Kentucky Baptist Christian higher education institutions, or you can establish your own scholarship fund with guidelines specific to your preferences.

Call us toll free to assist you in maintaining accessibility for students to receive a Christian higher education at Campbellsville, Cumberland and Georgetown.

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

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Baker elected Bates Creek DOM

Berea—A former Kentucky Baptist Convention staffer has been elected to lead Bates Creek Baptist Association.

Larry Baker, the KBC's former missions growth team leader, was unanimously called to become Bates Creek's director of missions. He succeeds Hamp Valentine, who recently retired after nearly 15 years with the association.

Baker joined the KBC staff in 2004 as its new work and associational missions department



Larry Baker

director. He was promoted to team leader in 2010. He left the KBC last month, one of 37 employees who accepted early retirement or voluntary resignation incentive packages as part of the KBC's staff reorganization plan.

The DOM role is not new territory for Baker. Prior to joining the KBC, he served as DOM for Christian County Baptist Association in western Kentucky. He also was an International Mission Board missionary to Ecuador and Peru. (WR)

Cumberlands, Clear Creek ink master's program partnership

Williamsburg—A pair of Kentucky Baptist institutions are teaming on a new opportunity for students.

Beginning this fall, University of the Cumberlands will partner with Clear Creek Baptist Bible College alumni in a special scholarship opportunity for Clear Creek alumni to pursue a master's degree in Christian studies at the Williamsburg school.

"As sister institutions of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, UC and Clear Creek already partner together on many levels through the ministry of Christian education with the goal of reaching others for Christ," Cumberlands President Jim Taylor said. "Clear Creek Baptist Bible College is a fine institution with a long history of training adults for ministry. We are glad that Cumberlands can partner with Clear Creek to provide this opportunity for their gradu-

ates to pursue an option for graduate study through our MACS program at a greatly reduced cost."

The scholarship will be named in honor of Taylor's late son, James Jr., the president noted.

"Many lives have been impacted through the kindness and generosity of the individuals who have made this scholarship possible," Taylor said.

UC's Christian studies master's degree is an online program that focuses on providing a thorough understanding of the Bible, theology, education, contemporary culture and ministry strategies to prepare students for ministry.

"One thing that has always made me proud to be a part of the Kentucky Baptist Convention ... is the cooperative spirit that exists between all the agencies and institutions," Clear Creek President Donnie Fox said. (UC)

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Central City



Temple Church will hold a "S.W.A.G. (Saved With Amazing Grace)" county-wide youth worship service July 20, 7 p.m., with **Nick Forsythe**, pastor of Calvary Church in Grand Rivers, as guest speaker and the **Corey Farlow Band** as guest musicians. **Adam Brown** is pastor.

Stevens is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church will host Laurel River Association's WMU meeting July 19, 6 p.m., with **Jennie Baker** of the Laurel County Life Center; **Pat Callahan** of Laurel Lake Baptist Camp; **Tom Combs** from Christian Shelter for the Homeless in London; and **Wanda Walker**, adult and churchwide missions education consultant for Kentucky WMU, as guest speakers. **Terrell Bradley** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold "Son-Day Fun-Day" July 22, 5:30 p.m., with fellowship, food and an outdoor worship service. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Cuba Church recently called **Matthew Jackson** as pastor. He previously served as the church's interim pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Harris Memorial Church recently called **Jimmy Ashcraft** as pastor.

■ **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church ordained **Kevin Riley** to the gospel ministry July 7. He recently was called as pastor of Antioch Church in Bardwell.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville Church will hold Upward Basketball camp July 23-26, 9 a.m. The cost to attend is \$30. To register, call (270) 465-2683.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a men's breakfast July 21, 7 a.m., with **Doug Wheeler**, a biblical counselor and founder of the Family Path therapy service, as guest speaker. The cost to attend is \$5. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold "Warrior Week" for fourth- and fifth-grade students July 23-27. The cost to attend is \$50. The deadline to register is July 18. For more information, call (502) 695-4050. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **FREDONIA**—Unity Church recently called **Danny Sherrill** as pastor. He previously was pastor of Sugar Creek Church in Princeton.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Greensburg Church will host Russell Creek Association's WMU rally July 19, 6 p.m., with **Jason Keltner** as guest speaker. **Blake Jessie** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Roland Memorial Church will host Muhlenberg Association's WMU annual missions day camp for children July 21, 10 a.m. The event will feature food, crafts and a guest speaker. **Danny Mooneyhan** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church honored Minister of Music **Emory Riley's** 15 years of service with a reception July 15. **Rick**

CLASSIFIED ADS

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SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Airline Baptist Church, Henderson, Ky., where everybody is somebody. Send resumé to: Airline Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1942 Clay St., Henderson, KY 42420.

SEEKING: Caretaker for Camp Lewis, a Christian camp for kids. Very light maintenance, raking leaves, etc. Free rent, free utilities, home on site. www.camplewis.com. campprayerchain@aol.com. (800) 457-5678.

SEEKING: Minister of music, a man with a heart for God and people to minister

through music at North Oldham Baptist, Goshen, Ky. 12-15 hours/week, blended style. Email resumé to worship@nobcky.org. (502) 228-4325. www.nobcky.org.

SEEKING: Part-time youth leader for Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Ky. Contact for more details. Send resumé to mtpleasantbaptist@windstream.net; mail to: Youth Pastor Search Team, 1108 Keene South Elkhorn, Nicholasville, KY, 40356. (859) 619-7169.

SEEKING: Full-time faculty in biological science at Mid-Continent University, a Christ-centered institution of higher learning seeking highly motivated, energetic, qualified faculty to join our team of experts to manage growth in traditional and accelerated undergraduate programs. Requirements: a master's degree in biological science from a regionally accredited institution; ability to teach science from a Christian worldview; and experience with online and face-to-face traditional and adult-learning formats. Applicants should forward cover letter, vitae, statement of personal relationship with Christ and a list of references to mcufacultyjobs@midcontinent.edu. Under separate cover, send official transcripts of all college work to the same email address or Debra Hudson, associate VP of academic affairs, Mid-Continent University, 99 Powell Road East, Mayfield,

KY, 42066. Incomplete submissions will not be considered. Mid-Continent University does not discriminate in the employment of individuals on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, disability, sex or age. However, to the extent allowed by law, reserves the right to give preference in employment based on religion. The position begins at a time negotiated by the university and the candidate.

SEEKING: Part-time youth minister for small church in Frankfort. Person must have a heart for Christ and enthusiasm for youth. Interested persons may send a resumé to calvarybaptist@fewpb.net, or mail to: Calvary Baptist Church, 36 Schoolhouse Road, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

SEEKING: Office coordinator/secretary for Fern Creek Baptist Church; 38 hours/week. Applicant must be a spiritually mature Christian, an active church member, must have several years of experience and have strong computer skills. Applicant must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Publisher, Excel and PowerPoint and church software programs. Send resumé to: Fern Creek Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, 5920 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY, 40291, or email linda@ferncreekbaptist.org. Resumes will be received through July 26. Questions, call Pastor Linda Barnes Popham (502) 239-0316, ext. 103.

To place an advertisement:

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



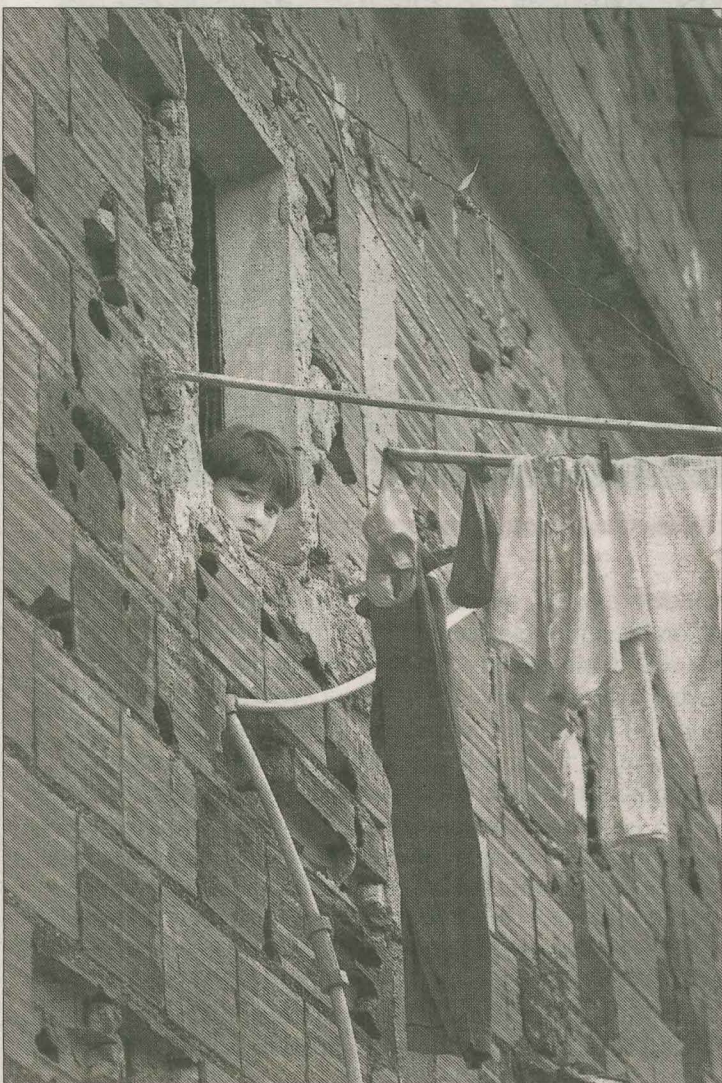
SEEKING: Part-time youth minister, Bedford Baptist Church in Trimble County. Email resumé to the Bedford Baptist youth committee at bbclinda@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Youth pastor with a heart for God and youth for Mayflower Unity Baptist Church in Pike County, Ky. Please email resumé to timcpa77@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Part-time youth director for First Baptist Church, Lebanon Junction, Ky. Bible study on Sunday mornings and evenings and also Wednesday evenings. For more information, call Rosie Samuels at (502) 833-4721 or email samu4721@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: Ballardsville Baptist Church in Oldham County, Ky., is seeking a drummer to serve in Sunday morning worship services as a volunteer. Contact worship minister Neal Green at (502) 222-9165 or (502) 931-4091.

Reaching Venezuela



A young girl peers out of a window at her home in Petare, a dangerous barrio (or slum) in Caracas, Venezuela. Nearly 4 million people live in similar slums, mostly in lean-to houses that stretch across the mountains on both sides of the capital city. (Photos by Rebecca Springer/IMB)

In city's dangerous slums, missionary couple meets spiritual, physical needs

By Emily Pearson

Caracas, Venezuela—Missionary Ed Engle puts his life in God's hands as he begins his journey up the mountain to El Coche, a slum in Caracas, Venezuela.

On the way, a man calls out and runs toward him, a nearly toothless smile lighting up his face. He's been drinking and can barely form a coherent sentence, but he recognizes Ed's friendly face. Engle embraces the man and spends a few minutes talking with him as best he can.

A few minutes later, Engle climbs into a crowded SUV—the public transportation that will take him up the mountain. The roads are too steep for other vehicles and it's too hot to walk. He wipes the sweat from his face, then hands out gospel tracts to the other passengers.

At the top of the mountain, Engle steps out onto the dirt road, mindful of the open stream of sewage flowing nearby. He spends the next few hours tirelessly trekking through the maze of tiny concrete and metal homes, handing out tracts and talking to residents about their families, their lives and Jesus.

He meets a 17-year-old girl—with two young children—whose boyfriend has just thrown her

out into the street. He visits a family in their home—a doorless, windowless shack with an uneven dirt floor. Heavy rocks and beer bottles anchor the thin metal roof to the house.

As Engle makes his way from house to house, he isn't bothered by the lack of shade and water; it's worth the discomfort to share the gospel.

Tomorrow, he'll get up and do it all again, knowing there's plenty of work to do.

Of the more than 5 million people living in the capital city of Caracas, only 1 percent are evangelical. Many of those who are lost live in the city's barrios, or slums, considered some of the most dangerous in the world. Nearly 4 million people—some 80 percent of the city's population—live in lean-to houses that stretch across the mountains on either side of Caracas. The streets are plagued with crime, substance abuse and gang violence.

Engle and his wife, Pam, are International Mission Board missionaries who have worked in the slums of Caracas for 12 years. In a place where houses are built nearly on top of each other, there isn't space to hold large evangelistic services or other public events. Instead, the Engles, from Tennessee, must rely on individual conversations to tackle a God-sized task.

"It's about one-on-one contacts," Engle said. "But we've had people come up well after I've given them a tract and tell me that I'd given them one, and they prayed that prayer on the back, but now they don't know what to do. And it happens often enough that we're not discouraged by just handing out tracts."

But the Engles do much more than simply tell people about Jesus. In the barrios, physical needs are endless. Slums like El Coche, for example, don't have running water. The residents rely on the government to deliver water every two weeks.

Although the Engles' main focus is evangelism, they also minister to people's physical needs. That, in turn, opens doors for sharing the gospel.

"Jesus saw physical needs and He met those needs," Engle noted. "When we get to know the people, we do what we can for them. We'll take them a bag of rice if they need something to eat or we'll get them medicine if they need it."

Working with the Engles in the barrios, volunteer teams from the U.S. have held eyeglass clinics, provided free blood-pressure testing, helped with construction projects and taught sewing and electrical skills.

"We try and help people, but we always tell them we need them to be open to having Bible studies with us," Engle said. "We'll use whatever thing we can, but in all things we do, we try and meet a need with a spiritual end in mind."

The Engles have helped start several Bible studies in different barrios across Caracas, and some of them have grown into potential churches. But whenever a church has begun, some obstacle—such as political turmoil or the serious illnesses of believers—has arisen.

"There does seem to be a spiritual battle going on here," Engle said. "Bible studies aren't the end goal for us, but the devil gets his foot in the door and he tears works apart. So, the idea is to get churches started, but it hasn't gotten to the point where we can say a church is really going."

As the Engles seek to start churches, they know that reaching the millions of lost Venezuelans in the barrios is too big a job for two people. To help spread the gospel, they encourage Venezuelan believers to evangelize their own neighborhoods.

"Pray that the people in the barrios won't just be saved, but that they will be like Paul or Timothy," Engle urged. (IMB/BP)

Millions in Caracas educated, wealthy yet lost

Caracas, Venezuela—Joe Busching casually approaches the Venezuelan college students laughing and chatting on the campus lawn. After striking up a conversation, he asks if they'd answer a few questions—they agree.

"What do you think about God?" Busching, a Southern Baptist missionary, asks.

One student shrugs. "I guess you'd say I'm agnostic, but I don't really believe in God," he replies. "I mean, it's fine for other people, but I just don't think He exists."

Turning to another student, Busching asks, "What do you think happens when you die?"

"I'm not really sure," he says. "Maybe if I've been a good person, I'll go to heaven. But it's more likely nothing will happen."

Other students echo these beliefs at more than a dozen universities across Venezuela's capital, including the University of Caracas where about 70,000 students attend. While many students claim to be Catholic because of their culture or family history, most are either non-practicing or, in some cases, openly atheist. A few are involved in local indigenous cults rooted in witchcraft and idol worship.

About 5 million people live in Caracas, and only about 1 percent of them are evangelicals, International Mission Board workers say. Thousands of the spiritually lost are students.

To reach them, IMB missionary Susanne Arnold helps Venezuelan students in local churches begin campus Bible studies.

"My heart is to see students coming to study the Bible," Arnold said. "Even if they aren't Christians, they need a safe place where they can come and ask questions."

So far, Arnold has helped students begin Bible studies at three universities. Leading

studies in English opens doors for evangelism by attracting students who want to learn the language. But sometimes the schools push back. Proficiency in English is a graduation requirement for many universities, so school officials don't want free English help competing with paid classes. "We need something ministry-minded but not threatening," Arnold said. "We're still figuring out the best way."

Workplace evangelism

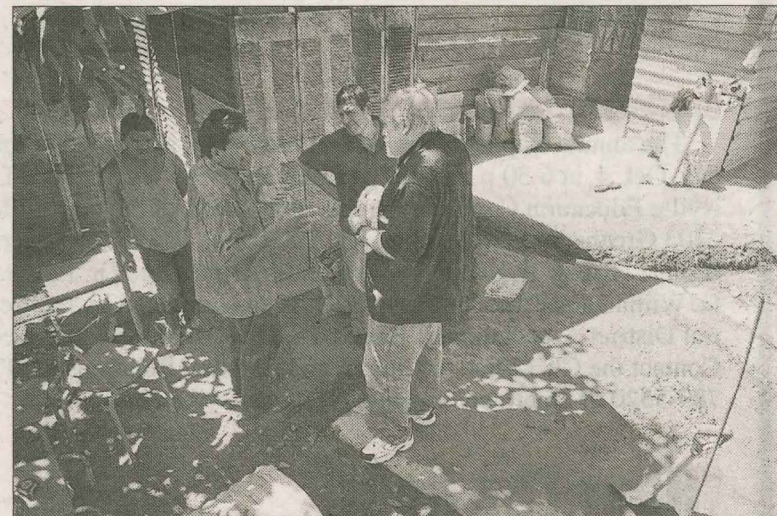
Most people in Caracas live in the dangerous, impoverished slums that span the mountains around the city. But casting a shadow over the slums are the skyscrapers of the city's professional district, representing the wealthiest—and least evangelized—part of Caracas.

"The people who live in that area are rich, cultured, self-sufficient and have little interest in spiritual things," IMB missionary Mike Bennett said. "Their life is work and making more money, so somehow or another we have to reach them with the gospel—and traditional evangelism techniques won't work."

Because of these professionals' hectic schedules, it's very difficult to get them to attend home Bible studies after work, Bennett said.

"Even though they might have the desire (to attend), they don't have the energy," Bennett said. "We've started praying that the Lord would burden (Venezuelans) to reach their colleagues for Christ."

Bennett said he is encouraged by the number of people who have accepted Christ and by the growing initiative of Venezuelan believers to witness for Christ in their workplaces. Most professionals in Venezuela, however, remain unreached. (IMB/BP)



BARRIO BELIEVERS International Mission Board missionary Ed Engle (right) talks with Venezuelan believers living in El Coche, one of the most dangerous slums in Caracas, Venezuela. The Venezuelans are installing a restroom next to the shack where they meet for an outreach Bible study.

CU COMING EVENTS

January Bible Study Preview is August 2

The School of Theology and Church Relations Council of Campbellsville University invite everyone to this year's January Bible Study Preview, "The Greatest Week in History: Luke's Account of the Passion Week." Dr. Jarvis Williams, CU's associate professor of New Testament and Greek, is the leader and can be reached at (270) 789-5481.

KBC president to speak September 5 in Chapel

Dr. Adam Greenway, current president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and senior associate dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, will be the CU chapel speaker Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012. Greenway serves as a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. CU's Wednesday morning chapel services are open to the public.

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Dr. Thom Rainer

REGISTER ON THE WEB: www.campbellsville.edu/summit

Preview Days to be held in October and November

Fall Preview Days have been set to welcome visitors to campus on October 6 and November 3. Tiger Round Up is November 15-16. For information on both events, contact CU Admissions at (270) 789-5220.

Baptist Heritage event is October 4

The annual Baptist Heritage Lecture Series will be held Thursday, Oct. 4, at 6:30 p.m. EDT at Campbellsville University's Louisville Education Center in the assembly room of the new building, 2303 Greene Way, Louisville, Ky. The theme is African-American Baptist History in Kentucky with featured speakers Dr. Lawrence H. Williams and Dr. Joe Early Jr. It is co-sponsored by the Central District Association of Baptists (CDBA). Admission is free. Contact the CU Office of Church and External Relations at (270) 789-5520 or email jehowning@campbellsville.edu.

"Hear The Roar!"

HOMECOMING 2012 SET FOR OCTOBER 12 & 13



CU students reflect on missions

"... The trip opened my eyes..."

CU student leader Alexa Moore comforts a young child on her first mission trip.

Tyler Tucker, a Greensburg, Ky., freshman at CU, had never been on a mission trip nor a plane. He reflected on both on his return but seemed most moved on the trip by having his eyes opened to the real world poverty. He said, "I very much wish to go back." He reported experiencing a desire to give the children everything he had and said he did leave a large amount of his clothes behind for the missionaries to share with them. Tucker is among dozens of Campbellsville University students serving in missions this summer, sharing themselves on their journey to becoming Christian servant leaders. One 11-member team made national news. They were aboard the US Airways flight which had to be diverted to Bangor, Maine when a woman claimed she had a bomb implanted inside her. Amidst the chaos of the media attention after their safe arrival back on campus, CU students focused on the real story of their mission experiences in Niger, Africa. They reported nine students and two staff members delivered the Gospel and painted seven school buildings in the village of Boubon. John Harbold, who graduated from CU May 5, said, "Being on this mission trip (his fourth international mission trip) reiterates my calling into mission... God has placed missions on my heart, and I can't wait to be back in Africa!"

CU hosting over 6,000 campers

Campbellsville University will serve as host to over 6,000 campers this summer, including eight Centri-Kid camps. Other camps include: choirs and orchestras, various sports camps, LINC orientation and more. Centri-Kid camps, a ministry of LifeWay Christian Resources, are the largest with 750 participants at a time. Rusty Watkins, CU coordinator of summer camps and conferences, said, "We love having these groups on our campus during the summer as a great recruiting tool, but the most important reason is to see changes in the lives of young people."

KHO is working in six counties

Kentucky Heartland Outreach (KHO), which is affiliated with CU, is working in Adair, Green, Pulaski, Casey, Lincoln and Rockcastle counties this summer. KHO hosts youth groups from churches all over the nation each summer in order to accomplish much needed repairs on homes in the Central Kentucky region, giving families a new roof, deck or wheelchair/walking ramp. All is done free of charge to the homeowners, providing they qualify for the grant-funded program, which specializes in aiding homeowners who are at or below the Area Median Income levels for their county. For details visit their website at www.khohome.org.

Campbellsville
UNIVERSITY



- Ranked as a top regional university in the south by U.S. News & World Report
- Among America's Best Christian Colleges
- Rated as a Military Friendly School
- Named a Champions of Character Institution by the NAIA
- Named to President's Higher Ed Community Service Honor Roll

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