

WESTERN Recorder

July 24, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 28



Crossings in Haiti teaches students 'World is bigger' than Kentucky

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Louisville—For many, summer vacation means long, lazy days spent on sandy beaches.

But change the latitude, add some manual labor and a lot of humidity, and the result is part of what 234 Kentucky Baptist students experienced this summer while serving Christ as part of camp at Crossings in Haiti.

"It was one of the hardest weeks of my life, but it was an amazing trip," said Kris Billiter, youth pastor at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville. "I think it opened everyone's eyes that there is a whole other world out there."

Billiter led five student and three adults on a

Crossings mission trip to Haiti last month. Among their tasks was to prepare the grounds of Camp La Phare, a secluded plot of land owned by Baptist Haiti Mission that will be used to hold future camps for Haitian children and serve as a training site for Haitian Baptist pastors and leaders.

Youth from Walnut Street joined others from Kentucky in clearing the land of rocks, helping local Haitians build a retaining wall and digging holes for light poles. Camp participants also assisted with Vacation Bible Schools conducted by

□ See Students experience Crossings in Haiti ... Page 6

■ **Left:** Becky Black of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville draws a small crowd of Haitian children while attending a Crossings in Haiti camp last month with students and fellow church members. Participants in the camp helped Haitian churches with Vacation Bible School and made repairs at Camp La Phare, a Baptist Haiti Mission camp. (Photo courtesy of Walnut Street Baptist Church) ■ **Right:** Joseph Lowe (left) and Megan Blakely of Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg interact with Haitian children while helping build Sunday School classes for a Haitian church. (Photo courtesy of Main Street Baptist Church)



Luter: Historic SBC presidency indeed a 'big deal'

New Orleans pastor discusses SBC's hot topics: Calvinism, race, unity

By Drew Nichter

Two days after he was elected president of the Southern Baptist Convention, Fred Luter's cell phone rang.

"Can you please hold for the President of the United States?" the voice on the other line asked.

"I thought it was one of my friends just messing with me," Luter said.

After being assured that President Obama was indeed calling, he agreed to wait. A few seconds later, the first few bars of "Hail to the Chief" preceded the distinctly recognizable voice of the nation's 44th president.

"Hey pastor, this is President Obama. I just wanted to call you and congratulate you."

Then the nation's most powerful man asked Luter a question that the newly elected SBC president said drove home just how significant his election really was.

"How does it feel to be the most

popular president in the United States of America?" Obama asked.

"That's when I knew this was a big deal," Luter recalled.

Little more than a month into his new role, the SBC's first African-American president has been featured in newspapers and on TV news channels from coast to coast. The former street preacher has even been a top-trending topic on Twitter, even though the pastor of New Orleans' Franklin Avenue Baptist Church has never once sent out a Tweet.

Luter even took some time to sit down with the Western Recorder prior to preaching at Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead July 20. He discussed the hot-button topics making news among today's Southern Baptists, including Calvinism, the racial reconciliation dialogue and his presidential motivation to get more African-American pastors and their churches involved in the SBC.

(Answers have been edited for length and clarity.)

Being the Southern Baptist Convention's first African-American president, do you feel a certain burden of expectation?

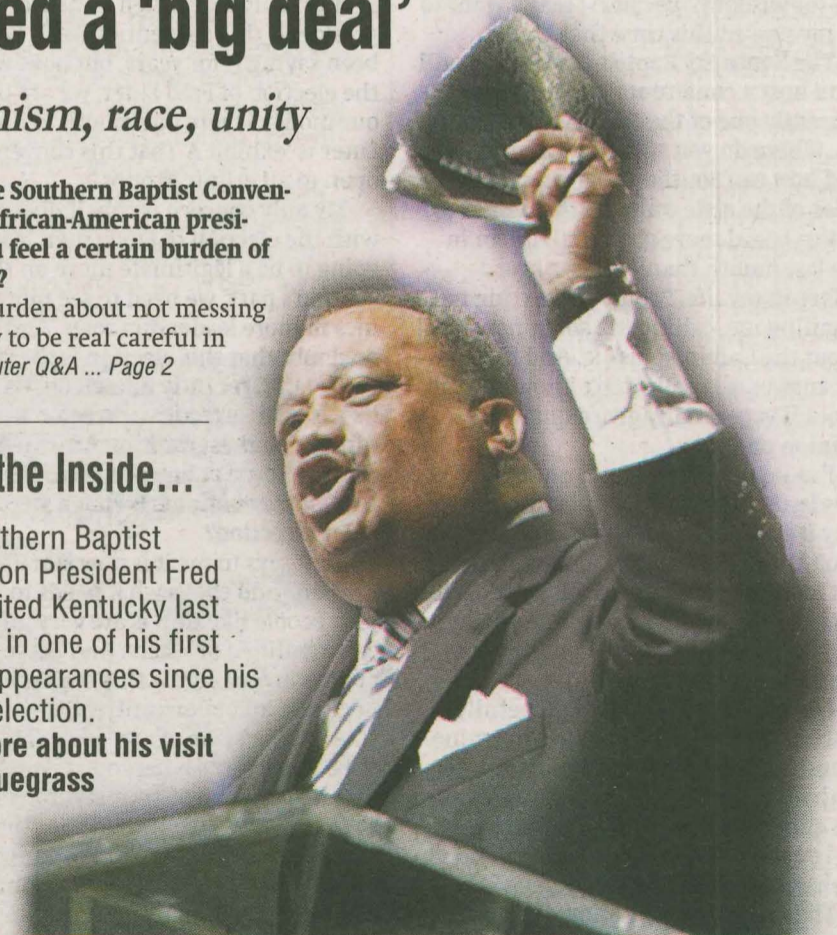
I feel a burden about not messing this up. I try to be real careful in

□ See Fred Luter Q&A ... Page 2

On the Inside...

New Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter visited Kentucky last weekend in one of his first church appearances since his historic election.

Read more about his visit to the Bluegrass State on page 2.



"The Western Recorder provides a vision for missions, challenging believers to reach out to those who need to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ."

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Western Recorder 7-24-2012

SBC President Luter urges believers to have 'renewed minds'

By Drew Nichter

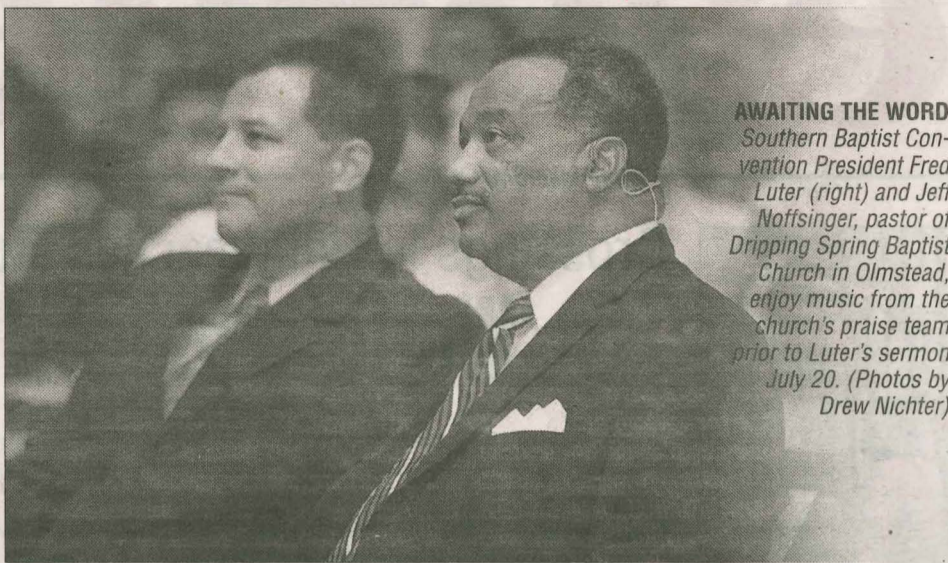
Olmstead—If Jeff Noffsinger had his way, Fred Luter wouldn't have come to Dripping Spring Baptist Church.

Noffsinger wanted to book a spot for Luter at this November's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, of which Noffsinger is president.

When Luter said he already was booked for that date, Noffsinger asked himself: "Why can't he come to Dripping Spring," the small country church in the middle of western Kentucky farmland?

The conversation took place prior to Luter's historic election as the Southern Baptist Convention's first African-American president in June. Noffsinger said he knew if he didn't book Luter to come to Olmstead July 20, it might be impossible to get him any other time.

Fortunately for Noffsinger and the Dripping Spring congregation, Luter was available. His appearance drew a packed house, including several notable Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist individuals, some of whom drove three or more hours to hear the New Orleans pastor preach.



AWAITING THE WORD
Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter (right) and Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead, enjoy music from the church's praise team prior to Luter's sermon July 20. (Photos by Drew Nichter)

What they heard from Luter was a call for believers, Southern Baptists especially, to renew their minds.

"If there's going to be a renewal among the people of God, it must start with us, as believers, renewing our minds so that God can use us for the things God wants to do," Luter challenged.

All believers will, at some point, find themselves "lured by the enemy," Luter said. And regardless of one's age, race, education or position in the church, "none of us are exempt from the attacks of the enemy," he pointed out.

The only way a Christ follower can stand against Satan's attacks is to have a "renewed mind," Luter stressed.

Having such a mind is important in three key ways, Luter said. It helps a believer think about Christ, one's choices and the cross.

"When I think about all that Jesus Christ did for me," Luter said, "it should help me think about the things that I do in this life."

When it comes to making choices in life, believers should understand "that all of our decisions should please our Heavenly Father," Luter stressed. "That's how Jesus did it.

"It's all about choices, because every choice you make leads to a consequence," he continued, "and that consequence can either be a blessing or it can be a burden."

Once a month, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church members take communion, Luter said. Afterward, he reminds the congregation: "What we just did should help us remember what Jesus Christ did on the cross for you and for me.

"That's why our minds should be renewed," he declared. "So we can walk right, so we can talk right, so we can live right, so we can pray right, so we can preach right." (WR)

Fred Luter Q&A

Continued from page 1

my interviews that I don't say anything stupid, don't say anything that will embarrass me, my church, the convention, and more importantly, anything that will embarrass the kingdom of God.

I'm very honored at this position that the Southern Baptists have given to me. That's why when people ask, "What can I do for you?" I tell them, "Please pray for me for wisdom." Because I really want to do my best in this time that I have.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention will soon host a conference on Calvinism, currently one of the SBC's hot-button topics. Where do you stand on Calvinism and how can Southern Baptists on both sides of the aisle unite on this issue?

I've heard more about Calvinism in the last month than I've ever heard before in my life. People are texting me, emailing me, calling me about how I feel about the Calvinism issue. And my honest answer is I really don't know enough about it yet to really give a qualified opinion on it.

I've talked to guys on both sides of this issue, and I'm still trying to find out why it's all of a sudden such a big deal. I don't think it's contentious at this point, but looks like it could be if it's not dealt with. I do know that Satan, the enemy, will do all that he can to come against the kingdom of God.

I do want to be a part of, hopefully, getting the two sides together in trying to resolve this thing and come together so that this will not be something that the enemy can use to divide churches and particularly brothers who've known each other in the faith for years.

The racial reconciliation dialogue has been ongoing in the SBC for many years now. How does your election change that conversation?

I think it should be able to turn the page. Up until my election, one of the songs that you've been hearing is that Southern Baptists are just some Anglo

convention; it's led by a bunch of white folks. Since 1995 when this convention passed a resolution apologizing for slavery (a committee on which Luter served) this convention has said, "Listen, there's nothing we can do about our past. We regret that it happened, but we can change things about our future." And I've seen this convention do that.

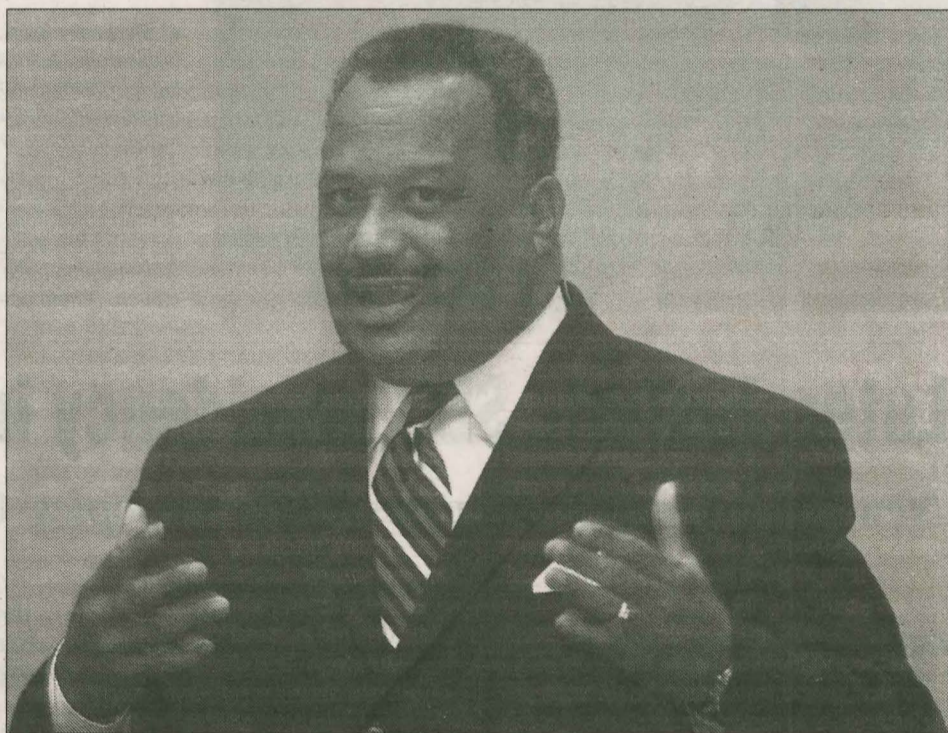
There are things that have been done through the years to say to Southern Baptists and to non-Southern Baptists that this convention is open to all ethnic groups. This year, when I was elected as president, this convention said, "We've been saying it for years, but now, with the election of Fred Luter, we are putting our money where our mouth is. Fred Luter is 'exhibit A' that this convention is open to all ethnic groups."

My only concern is that it doesn't stop with the election of Fred Luter. If this is going to be a legitimate move on the convention's part, we need to see more ethnics in more leadership roles. And I have no doubt that this election is the start.

The KBC recently named Curtis Woods its associate executive director, making him the highest-ranking African-American employee at any of the old-line state Baptist conventions. Is that a step in the right direction?

That says to me it is now starting to happen—and that's what needs to happen. People like Curtis are very gifted, very qualified brothers. And those type of guys are all across this country—they just need an opportunity.

And that's one of the things I'm going to be hopefully saying to African-American guys across the country: You need to be involved. It's what I call the "theology of presence." The convention cannot appoint you or vote for you or nominate you for something if you're not involved. You've got to be involved in your local association; you've got to be involved in your state convention; and your church has to be involved, not only through your evangelism but also in Cooperative Program giving. You've got to be able to show that you support the convention,



NEW SBC PRESIDENT Fred Luter preaches to a packed house at Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead July 20. As the SBC's first African-American president, Luter said he feels a burden to not embarrass the convention and consistently asks other to pray for his wisdom in his new role.

not only in your presence, but also with your pocketbook.

The multi-ethnic partnership between your church, Franklin Avenue Baptist, and First Baptist Church of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina has been well publicized. How can average Southern Baptist churches of different ethnicities work together similarly without waiting for a natural disaster to bring them together?

It has to start with the pastors, and it should not take a disaster like Hurricane Katrina to make it happen. David (Crosby, pastor of First Baptist, New Orleans) and I knew each other pre-Katrina, but we just would see each other and say, "Hey man, how are you doing?" But after Hurricane Katrina, when we started worshipping together, he and I got a close connection. And when the members of our churches saw the connection that we had, then it was just an

obvious transition.

There need to be pastors who come together and say, "This is important for the body of Christ," not necessarily what's good for my church or what's good for your church. And that's what happened between David and I. What our churches did in New Orleans was a great testimony.

It has to start with the pastors, and then through the pastors, it will go to the members. And then the community will see it happening. And when the community sees it happen, then you can probably deal more with this race issue where people say, "We need to work together to deal with the issues that every community is facing, like crime, education, housing. We can literally turn our city around." Because if it's going to happen, it's not going to be one church or one pastor or one group—it's going to take all of us to make it happen. (WR)

New Mexico Baptists pass on Glorieta purchase

By Art Toalston

Nashville, Tenn.—The potential sale of LifeWay's Glorieta Conference Center has turned from the Baptist Convention of New Mexico to a California-based Christian college.

The BCNM's Glorieta Task Force has notified LifeWay Christian Resources that it is not feasible for the state convention to assume ownership of Glorieta, even for the \$1 price LifeWay had set for the 2,100-acre site near Santa Fe.

LifeWay, meanwhile, has said it is considering a sale to Olivet University in San Francisco contingent on a "comprehensive review of the theological compatibility" of LifeWay and the school.

BCNM executive board chairman Lamar Morin confirmed in a July 16 statement that ownership and responsibility for Glorieta would not be financially viable for New Mexico Baptists.

The BCNM task force "believed any

prudent business plan would include an environmental study and indemnification by LifeWay for any environmental problems that might be discovered," Morin said. "Based on its inspection of the property, the task force determined that a viable business plan needed to include deferred maintenance of \$10 million to \$20 million."

Morin said when LifeWay advised the group it "could not indemnify the state convention as requested, the task force could not proceed any further."

LifeWay trustees voted last fall to pursue viable options for the 60-year-old conference center. They cited changes in church practices, rising costs and a volatile economy in pointing out that Glorieta had broken even financially only once in the last 25 years. It now offers only summer events for students.

Meanwhile, LifeWay said it is working with Olivet University and an evangelical third party to conduct a theo-

logical compatibility review of the school. During that process, the school is renting previously unused facilities at Glorieta for students, faculty and staff.

LifeWay Chief Financial Officer Jerry Rhyme declined to announce specific details of the potential sale to Olivet. But according to a LifeWay statement, a potential sale would include:

- "Significant protections for individuals and churches that lease land from Glorieta."
- "Permission for LifeWay to continue using Glorieta for summer camps."
- "Accommodation of use by New Mexico Baptists."
- "Preservation of memorials associated with rooms and structures."
- "Prohibition of re-selling the facilities in the future without LifeWay's permission."

Rhyme said any sale requires the approval of LifeWay's board of trustees which meets again in late August. (BP)

Bowling Green pastor to be KBC first VP nominee

Louisville—Tom James, pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church in Bowling Green, will be nominated as first vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention when the annual meeting convenes in Lexington Nov. 13.



Tom James

Tom Curry, who leads Louisville's Parkland Baptist Church, said he plans to nominate James. He is the first announced candidate for the post.

In an email to the Western Recorder, Curry lauded Eastwood Baptist's generous gifts

to both the Cooperative Program and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. He also called James a "faithful, conservative, Baptist pastor" who is able to connect with fellow Kentucky Baptists.

"I'm confident he will be just the leader Kentucky needs going forward," Curry said of James.

And as the KBC moves forward into a restructured future, James said he is eager to help lead a convention that shares his church's missions-focused mindset. Eastwood currently has partnerships with missionaries on four continents and is looking to add more missions ventures in the future, he noted.

"I'm excited about the thought of being able to get more money on to the mission field (and) to put more missionaries in North America and around the world," he told the Western Recorder, referring to the KBC's plan to achieve a 50/50 Cooperative Program funding split between Kentucky and Southern Baptist missions causes.

As a member of KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood's advisory team, James witnessed firsthand some of the behind-the-scenes process of the recent staff reorganization. He said he was grateful for how well the transition has been handled and that as first vice president, he will have further opportunities to work alongside and encourage Chitwood and the rest of the Mission Board staff.

During James' tenure at Eastwood Baptist, the church has routinely been one of Kentucky's top CP givers. James said he is a "firm believer" in CP and reminds his congregation regularly, "we're investing in missionaries and ministers for future generations."

James has been pastor of Eastwood Baptist Church since 2004. Before that he served congregations in both Tennessee and South Carolina. He preached last year's convention sermon at the KBC annual meeting in Florence, was president of the 2009 Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference and last month was one of two Kentuckians to serve on the committee on committees at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

According to the KBC's 2011 Annual Church Profile report, Eastwood Baptist Church gave \$233,804 (12.25 percent) of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program, fifth most among Kentucky churches in total CP gifts. It also reported 48 baptisms. (WR)

Longtime Western Recorder staff member retires

Louisville—After 22 years with the Western Recorder, Jeff Wise has retired as composition and computer specialist.

He was recognized July 13 at the Kentucky Baptist Building for his longtime service with a reception and gifts from current and former co-workers.

"I am forever grateful for the opportunity the Recorder has given me to make a difference in lives of people in Kentucky and beyond its borders," Wise said.

Among the well-wishers at the reception was former Recorder staff member Dannah Prather, who now serves as marketing and media relations associate with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Prather described Wise as "very compassionate and encouraging." She said there was a time when she was faced with a difficult decision and Wise offered her kind words.

Former editors of the Kentucky Baptist newspaper described Wise as a hardworking, reliable employee.



Jeff Wise

"Jeff always took great pride in his work," said Marv Knox, editor of the newspaper from 1990-95. "He wanted the Recorder to look great. So, he held himself to exacting standards. This was a great relief, because I always knew the pages would look as good or better than the editor or managing editor specified."

"Besides working together, Jeff and I were seminary classmates," Knox continued. "He always viewed his work at the Recorder as a ministry. And although the nature of his tasks never pushed him into the spotlight, Jeff served Kentucky Baptists and the kingdom by strengthening the quality of the Recorder's news presentation."

Wise initially was hired in 1989 as a contract employee and given the task of

replacing the newspaper's outdated Linotronics gallery printing system with a modern desktop publishing system. A year later, he was asked to join the staff full time.

In addition to his responsibilities in composition and page design, Wise helped set up the newspaper's first pre-Internet computer network that eventually led to inter-office email and a dial-up bulletin board for uploading church newsletters electronically.

Since the introduction of the Internet, the Recorder has worked to keep pace with industry trends such as a full-service website that provides readers with breaking news and the ability to search Kentucky Baptist news archives.

"The Recorder has changed tremendously over the years, and I was involved in every part of its computer systems from my start in 1989 until my retirement," Wise said. "The Recorder has been good to me. It has been a great place to work." (WR)

CALVINISM: CONCERNED? CURIOUS? CONFUSED?

An objective look at today's most discussed theological issue

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Featuring —



David Dockery



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DR: Ministry to the hurting

Working together, Kentucky Baptists continue to minister to the hurting and share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world. Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief is a great example.

**Together
We are the KBC**

Paul Chitwood

Storms that knocked out power from Ohio to Maryland in the midst of an unprecedented heat wave created a potentially life-threatening situation for hundreds of thousands of people. The North American Mission Board and West Virginia Baptist Disaster Relief called on Kentucky Baptist Disaster

Relief to deploy to Mount Nebo, W.Va., to respond to needs created by the storms.

Under the leadership of Director Coy Webb, KBDR immediately deployed a kitchen and shower units, along with a host of chaplains and trained volunteers. The work was especially challenging logistically due to power and water outages at many of the work sites.

On the day I am penning this article, workers already have logged hundreds of hours of labor, prepared nearly 6,000 meals per day, distributed Bibles, washed clothes, counseled with the victims and, most importantly, shared the gospel. These ministries are funded in part through the Cooperative Program.



I received a phone call from one of our KBDR volunteers asking for Cooperative Program information for West Virginia. A local pastor, whose church and community was being served by our volunteers, had shared about his plans to lead his church out of their state and national Southern Baptist partnerships. Now that he was on the receiving end of CP assistance and Southern Baptist ministry, however, he was rethinking that plan.

I was pleased to provide information regarding how CP dollars are spent in West Virginia, North America and around the world. The report I received back regarding this pastor and his church was that they now "want to get more involved and help West Virginia and the SBC to have a greater effect."

Experience has taught me that people become enthusiastic CP supporters when they realize how CP dollars are being used, not to support a mythical "bloated bureaucracy," but to meet the needs of hurting people, strengthen churches and take the gospel to the ends of the earth.

I am hopeful that more of our churches will again discover the incredible Great Commission and Great Commandment opportunities presented by the Cooperative Program. Whether on the giving or receiving end, CP really does allow us to do together what we could never do on our own.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Fish story casts lines of spiritual insights

Our Kentucky Baptist Crossings camps and other summer camps have been in full swing since June, with tens of thousands of children and youth enjoying swimming, canoeing, hiking, craft-making and other outdoor activities while making friends and deepening their relationships with God. As a former staffer, our camps and assemblies hold a special place in my heart. I have seen how God can use even the seemingly simplest of experiences as an incredible opportunity to share His love with a child or to teach an important life lesson.

Recently, I read an article in another state Baptist newspaper in which an evangelism director shared a marvelous truth he had learned while attending camp with his son. Having served as a lifeguard for that same Royal Ambassador camp many years earlier, I could relate well to his experience, but it also is one with which I believe anyone who has ever attended a Christian camp will appreciate.

Lee Clamp and his son, Conner, took a canoe out on the lake to do some fishing. When a lifeguard asked him to put on a life jacket, he thought, "I was a certified lifeguard when you were in diapers, buddy. I won't need this." But he put it on anyway. With that brief segue, I yield space for my friend to tell much of the story in his own words:

"It was a gorgeous day and the camp had been so wonderful. I was teaching Connor the art of being a champion fisherman. ... All of a sudden, I got a tug on my line and quickly set the hook. I landed what looked to me to be a 15-pound bass, but we didn't have a scale in the boat to get an accurate weight. Connor wanted to throw the bass back, so I made the mistake of tossing it at his feet. He put his hand on the edge of the boat and knelt down.

"If you are ever in a canoe, don't put your hand on the edge of the boat and kneel down. Water began to cascade over the side of the boat, and it slowly tipped over. All of a sudden our life jackets weren't so ridiculous anymore. We bobbed up and down next to the water-filled canoe as I watched all of my tackle gear float around me."

When the lifeguard arrived by kayak, he was surprised

to see a fish swimming in the canoe. "That's right! The bass was the only thing still in the boat," Clamp now laughs. The lifeguard later confirmed that it was closer to 1 pound.

Clamp continues: "I realized that day that a life jacket is ridiculous, unless you're drowning. 'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but it is God's power to us who are being saved' (1 Corinthians 1:18). Many in our state are drowning and don't even realize it. ... Until we understand the severity of our sin, a savior is not needed. Jesus is the only life preserver, and He has given us the privilege of joining Him as He saves the world."

We certainly do need to be more urgent in sharing the "life preserver" with those who are "drowning," but I also garnered two other key lessons from this fishing story.

First, the significance of carving out father-and-son time cannot be overstated. There likely was a lot more than just fishing going on here, and they now have a funny camp memory to bring them even closer. Loving and supportive fathers can be influential figures in children's lives, but it requires spending quality time together. (See the first-person piece by Mike Goeke below.)

Second, lifeguards use many tools—ring buoys, shepherd's crooks, kayaks—to rescue people. Just last week, I watched a report about a new remote-controlled device that lifeguards can guide to a drowning person. Our Savior also uses many different means to rescue the perishing with God's love—revivals, home-restoration projects, food distribution, disaster relief, health clinics, mission trips, camps.

One of the most effective tools for reaching Kentucky youth is our Crossings camps at Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. Crossings President David Melber said more than 10,500 students have attended this year and nearly 600 decisions for Christ have been recorded. Crossings has collected offerings for various missions projects in recent years, and in this issue Robin Bass reports how Crossings is expanding its successful camping ministry internationally by providing an opportunity this summer for our students to go on a mission trip to help start a camp for Haitian Baptists.

**After
Thought**

By Todd Deaton

**The significance of just being there for our children**

By Mike Goeke

A friend of mine recently referred to his missionary dad as his hero. As I creep into the back half of my 40s, being a hero to my kids holds more allure, and the legacy of my life seems to take on more value to me. I wondered what it would take to be a hero to my kids.

Great financial success has never motivated me, and I don't care to leave a legacy of material things. So, in my mind I crafted a legacy. I decided that I want my kids to see me walking in obedience to God. I want them to see me serving the church and serving other people. I want them to see me taking spiritual risks and living the life of a true disciple of Christ.

As I was thinking of all the things I want my kids to see me doing, some-

thing very important flooded my thoughts and washed over my heart, soul and mind. More than any of those things, I realized that I just want my kids to see me. I want them to see me at their sporting events. I want them to see me at their school programs. I want them to see me at breakfast and supper.

I want them to see me crouched behind a baseball glove or sitting at a tea party, drinking imaginary tea and eating plastic doughnuts. I want them to see me at their desks, working through math problems. I want them to see me on the side of their beds, praying with them. I want them to see me with arms open wide to comfort them or welcome them home. I want them to see me caring when they are scared or sad.

I want them to see me jumping across the trampoline from them and

running behind their bikes as they learn to ride without training wheels. I want them to see me with my own cup full of popcorn, watching a DVD. I want them to see me smiling when I walk in the door, and I want them to see me groggy as they tap on my forehead to wake me up. I want them to see me cry and laugh. I want them to see me loving their mommy, laughing with and kissing her and saying "I'm sorry" to her.

Yes, I want them to see me doing great things for God and living out the call on my life with honor. But at the end of the day, even those very good things probably don't matter if, in the process, they never saw me. I think I will quit worrying about my kids seeing me as a hero, and work harder to make sure they simply see me as their dad. (BP)

Mike Goeke is an associate pastor at Stonegate Fellowship Church in Midland, Texas.

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What churches could learn from restaurants

By Joe McKeever

My wife and I went to her favorite restaurant. No one there knew our names or had a clue this was her eatery of choice, but they got it right. As we approached, a young lady opened the door and stood outside. Inside, another attractive young adult greeted us, asked the right questions ("How many?" and "Would you prefer a booth or table?") and showed us to a seat. She gave us menus and informed us that Greg would be taking care of us.

Greg showed up promptly, took our drink orders and was off. The evening progressed as we expected. We enjoyed the food and the fellowship with each other, we paid the bill, tipped Greg generously and we left.

We wish churches knew what these places do.

■ We wish churches put as much emphasis on friendly greeters at the door as good restaurants do.

Have you ever arrived at an unfamiliar church and saw no one at the doors, no greeters anywhere, and wondered where to enter? As a guest preacher, this happens to me a lot. Are restaurants more interested in welcoming paying customers than churches are in showing hospitality to those coming to worship Christ?

The most successful eateries choose greeters carefully and train them. Managers monitor them and correct those who don't get it right. Often, a young greeter will be accompanied by a mentor who is training him.

■ We wish churches knew what restaurants know: While the food is the main thing, it's not the only thing.

Pastors sometimes assume that if their sermon is a winner, worshippers will put up with just about anything—not so.

The most successful restaurants do not rely solely on their menus to bring customers back. They are always painting, experimenting with new dishes and looking for ways to improve. Those that neglect their facilities and appearance will find themselves without diners.

■ The food, however, is the main thing—in restaurants and at church.

A store in Dothan, Ala., posted a sign in its window: "Going out of business because we forgot what we were in business for." Sound familiar?

COMMENTARY

Even if the building is impressive, the location is excellent and the people are friendly, if the pastor cannot deliver a worthy sermon, I'll pass, thank you.

Most pastors know at least 50 percent of their ministry is the Sunday morning sermon, and therefore give it the lion's share of their study time. The pastor who cuts corners on this is asking for trouble.

■ People have a choice, both in restaurants and in churches.

In a town where I was speaking recently, the mega-First Baptist Church sits across the street from the huge First United Methodist Church. In between was another smaller church of a third denomination. Many towns across the South have a downtown intersection where four Christian churches of different denominations occupy all four corners.

People will not stay in a church that does not feed them, challenge them, welcome them or one where the membership is always fighting. They can drive to another church down the street and find instant relief from such stress. While a few members will stay with a sick church out of loyalty, they are in the minority.

■ There is an important contrast, however: A restaurant lives and dies by the bottom line; a church does not and must not.

The church member who divides the number of additions into the cost of a revival to see if they are getting their money's worth is missing the point. The church member who divides the number of salvation decisions into the cost of a mission trip is applying the wrong measurement. No church should be making a profit or declaring dividends. The Lord's best churches will always be straining at the limit of their resources.

The only one who should be showing a profit from the church sits on the throne in heaven. We who are privileged to labor on His staff should keep His resources in play for Him and not bury them as the disobedient and fearful servant did.

Unlike restaurants, in the church our Master Chef is always on the premises, ever watching over the whole operation. Now, may we take your order?

Joe McKeever is a preacher, cartoonist and retired director of missions for New Orleans Baptist Association.

Saving a marriage after an affair

By Valerie Vincent

Q: Is it possible to recover from an affair?

A: Yes, with a biblical framework for dealing with betrayal, someone skilled to guide you and genuine prayer.

Consider these steps:

No more contact with the lover.

Communicate to the woman or man that the affair is over, but not in person or in private. Do this in complete openness with the betrayed spouse.

Whatever changes that are needed to ensure no more contact must be made.

Tell. There can be no more secrecy.

Examine yourself. Confession by the betrayer is essential.

Examine the marriage. Why did the affair happen? Seriously look at the underlying issues, the marriage vulnerabilities that led to the crisis.

Repent.

Forgive. Forgiveness does not mean there is no accountability or hard work to repair. It means making a clear choice to move forward and do the work.

Rebuild trust. Much of the work is on the one who betrayed the marriage covenant—not all, but a great deal. Building trust takes time. If the one who had an affair becomes impatient, does not want to talk about it anymore and wants to quickly move past it, then more repentance work is necessary.

Work hard by being patient and truthful about everything, big and small. Both spouses have to recommit to the marriage and work at it. The one who has been betrayed needs to express his or her feelings rather than deny or gloss over them.

Get support. Seek a professional counselor or therapist. Enlist a friend who will listen and pray for your marriage. Spend time with a minister. Recovery needs to be more than "we survived the crisis"; it needs to be a redefinition of the marriage.

Without God, so many things are impossible; with God, even this is possible.

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



Why poor tipping at restaurants compromises the gospel message

By Raymond Johnson

"So, that was a friendly Christian person?"

One of my restaurant coworkers—a divorced, agnostic man working two jobs to pay child support—tossed a receipt with a circle around the subpar tip he had received from a Christian individual sitting at his table. In fact, the tip was less than subpar—barely 10 percent on a \$90 bill. I thought about ignoring him, but I have been attempting to share the gospel with this coworker for a while. "Not all Christian people treat others that way," I said softly.

I have been waiting tables at a restaurant for several years to support my wife and children and pay my way through seminary. Repeatedly, I have observed Christians—or people who identify themselves as Christians with Christian T-shirts/apparel or Christian conference name tags—come into the restaurant at which I work, pray for their food after acting rudely toward their server, leave a 10 percent tip (give or take a few percent) and a gospel tract and then leave.

Whether Christians are aware of it or not, a subpar tip is a stumbling block to communicating the gospel. It causes unbelieving servers to think that we, as Christians, value money over everything and everyone else (1 Timothy 6:10). So, my coworker, like many other servers, interprets such actions (poor tips from

alleged Christians) as stingy. Tragically, the result—though it may be unfair—is that many servers have identified the majority of Christians as a contingent of people who care little for others.

They hear Christians promise them that God is just and fair and that He is a generous King who is lavish with His mercy and kindness toward others. Christians promise them that the gospel they preach is for all people right before they metaphorically clinch their money in their fist and tip poorly, refusing money to laborers who are worthy of their wages (1 Timothy 5:18; Matthew 10:10).

Now, both believers and unbelievers can leave poor and fair tips. But the Scripture teaches that Christians, more than others, should be characterized by generosity and love, not just by "fairness," because they were loved even though they were undeserving (1 John 4:19).

It seems the deeper issue is not a knowledge of what is culturally fair or economically acceptable when it comes to tipping servers. Rather, the issue is a lack of recognition by Christians that we have received out of God's fullness (John 1:16) and that we have received because God generously provided His Son for our salvation (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9).

What Christians may not realize is that by tipping servers poorly, they are in danger of living inconsistently with the gospel they preach. Indeed, poor tips are an example of what Moses teaches in

Deuteronomy 25—muzzling an ox when it is treading out grain. It relinquishes responsibility to the Great Commission, because the gospel is about grace. Of all people, Christians should understand that they are unworthy to be recipients of the great mercy, grace and generosity shown them in Christ.

Even a nonbeliever can tip fairly, but Christians should be more than "fair" tippers, they should be generous because God has generously

provided redemption for them through His Son, Jesus Christ (Luke 7:47). For the Christian, tipping shouldn't be contingent upon the dining experience.

When a Christian determines the tip based on quality of service or uniqueness of the dining experience, he or she contradicts grace and flirts dangerously with greed. That's because he or she forgets, at least momentarily, that underserved grace is shown to us every day.

The real heart issue when it comes to poor tipping is a lack of awareness of how great and vast the debt was that God generously and graciously forgave.

FIRST PERSON



Raymond Johnson

Now, the reader should understand that I am not saying that patrons do not have the right to communicate that their dining experience was poor. I am saying, however, that leaving a subpar tip does not communicate that the dining experience was poor (unfortunately, it often happens, as in the account mentioned above, when service was superb and when the patron had no complaint). Rather, the Christian patron should tip generously and then notify a manager or supervisor of the lack of service. Regardless of the dining experience, all persons created in the likeness of God deserve a fair wage (Genesis 1:27). For the server, tips are wages, not donations.

Sadly, a large portion of the people with whom I work have received less than generous tips from many customers who have identified themselves with the gospel. As a result, a significant portion of non-Christians working as servers have distanced themselves from the gospel preached to them by Christians.

It seems the only way to rectify this is for Christians to recognize our position in Christ—we are the recipients of unmerited grace from a generous God—and give generously so others may know their treasure is indeed found in someone else, Jesus Christ. (BP)

Raymond Johnson is a doctoral student at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is on staff at Ninth & O Baptist Church in Louisville and works as a server at Mitchell's Fish Market.

Students experience Crossings in Haiti

Continued from page 1

Haitian Baptist churches in outlying villages.

"Some might ask, 'What does digging a ditch have to do with the gospel?' Bil-liter said. "But it was preparing a place for (Haitian) kids to come and hear the gospel. It was breaking down barriers to the gospel and giving the Haitian kids some place to get really excited about coming to. And that was our small piece of what God is doing there."

Stepping out on faith

Crossings President David Melber said organizing a camp outside of the United States was a first for his staff. In fact, the Haiti camp was Crossings' first held outside Kentucky state lines.

Melber said the prospect was not met without concerns, but the staff felt the Lord was speaking to them through students and church youth leaders.

"For the last three to four years, we have been asked to offer something like this," Melber said. "We just wanted to come alongside and facilitate an opportunity for churches to get their students out of the country. We hear students express they have a heart for missions and they want to be involved in missions. Now we have a venue where they can step out in faith and follow that."

It was a step of faith for Crossings as well, Melber explained, a step made easier after developing a partnership with Baptist Haiti Mission, a ministry that is affiliated with more than 350 Haitian-led churches.

According to the ministry's website, the purpose of Baptist Haiti Mission is to spread the gospel of Christ through planting churches, providing medical care, education and self-help ministries. The partnership gave participants of Crossings in Haiti a safe location to set up base camp and plenty of avenues through which to serve. For Baptist Haiti Mission, it provided much need laborers.

For part of their stay, students helped

Haitian churches with the more than 300 children who attended VBS on a daily basis. Because more children wanted to attend than space allowed, local pastors would hand out tickets to ensure everyone had an opportunity. By the end of the third week of camp, more than 150 Haitian children gave their lives to Christ.

David Melber:
"We hear students express they have a heart for missions and they want to be involved in missions. Now we have a venue where they can step out in faith and follow that."

"Haiti is a really hard place to serve," said Kelly Collins, a Crossings staff member who guided church groups traveling to and from the island country. "The poverty is overwhelming. Just the needs you see on a daily basis can be overwhelming.

"The only way we could encourage adults and children to combat those sights and smells and sounds is to know that God has a love for all people and He desires to reconcile people to Himself from every tribe and tongue and nation," she added.

Collins said the 234 students attending one of three camps held in March and June represented 17 different Kentucky churches.

"It's necessary to expose students to the needs of people around the world," Collins said. "It's important for people to experience other cultures and see God at work. I would challenge youth leaders and students to join the work that God is doing around the world."

Albert Jones, student minister at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg, was one of those youth pastors up for the challenge. He accompanied four adults and 10 students to Crossings in Haiti back in June.

"One of the greatest things (the Kentucky Baptist Convention) has going for it right now is Crossings Ministries," Jones said. "Crossings in Haiti is a perfect venture for a leader or church that has never led an international trip."

Like many of the 17 Kentucky churches represented, Jones said the experience would not have been possible for his youth without the prayerful and financial support of church members.



MANUAL LABOR Students from Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg install a roof on the generator house at Camp Le Phare as part of their mission trip with Crossings in Haiti. Chris Leib (far left), who directs Camp Le Phare and is an employee of Baptist Haiti Mission, supervises the work. (Photos courtesy of Main Street Baptist Church)

The cost for attending Crossings in Haiti is \$635 per person, includes all in-country expenses and pays for 20 Haitian children to attend Camp La Phare later this summer. Airfare expenses are extra and added roughly another \$900 per person.

Melber said Crossings plans to hold multiple camp locations in Haiti in the coming years and has increased camp opportunities from three to five weeks in 2013. With this recent international experience, Crossings also is looking at opportunities beyond Haiti, starting

with an expansion of current stateside camps that now only include camps at Jonathan Creek and Cedarmore.

"A key component of the teaching is the world is bigger than your community, your town or even your state," Melber said. "Our commitment is to be gospel focused, to see our students exposed to the utter need of the world, and prayerfully consider how to take the gospel to the nations."

For more information about Crossings in Haiti camps being offered in 2013, visit www.GoCrossings.org. (WR)



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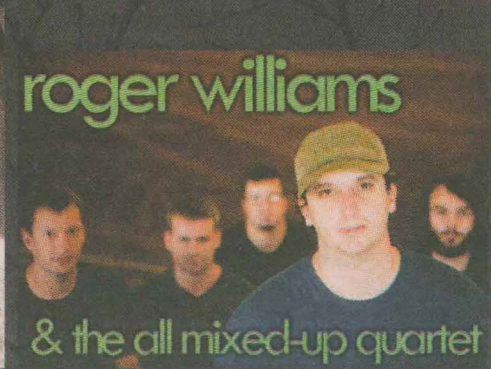
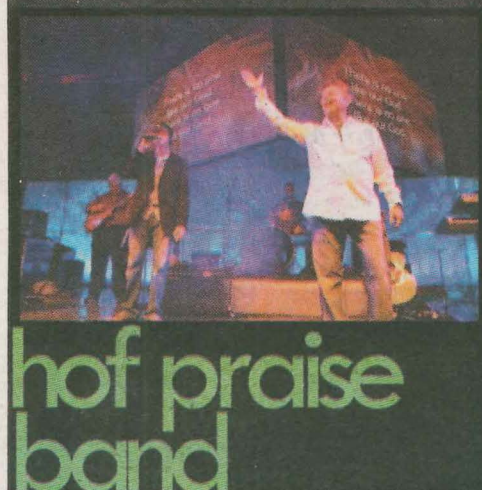
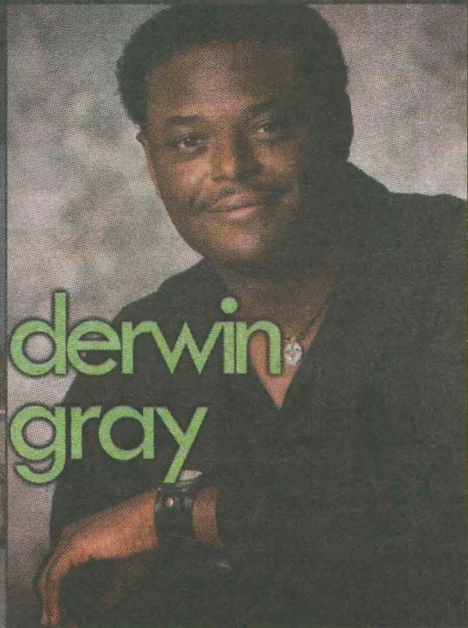
CONCENTRATION A Haitian boy participates in a Vacation Bible School recreation game where youth from Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg were assisting a local Haitian church. Main Street was among 17 Kentucky Baptist churches that sent students on a Crossings mission trip in Haiti this summer.

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A season for prayer

Prayer is significant part of OBI's preparations for new school year

Prayer is important at OBI. It always has been; it surely is now. In recent weeks, a group meeting each weekday has intensified the ministry of intercession on campus. It couldn't come at a more strategic time, for this time of year is full of transition.

As we enter into this season of change, our intercession is guided by Philippians 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your graciousness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Please join us in frequent prayer for these vitally important matters:

- Give thanks for the successful completion of summer school. Most of our students achieved their academic and behavioral goals. Ask the Lord to renew their strength and that of their teachers before the new school year.

- Thank the Lord for His help during the first of our two work programs. Pray for the safety and productivity of the students and supervising adults who are participating in the second work program between now and Aug. 8

- Thank the Lord for our many volunteers. Ask Him to bless their efforts and to allow them to understand the significance of their help which enables us to keep tuition costs at a minimum.

- Thank the Lord for our donors whose gifts make the OBI miracle possible. Ask Him to bless them abundantly for their faithfulness and generosity.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

- Thank the Lord for the recent rain that has broken the heat and provided the needed moisture for our corn crop. Pray for a God-glorifying harvest.

- Pray for the health and safety of our ministry team and their families.

- Pray for wisdom and strength of the new construction and maintenance team volunteers so they will finish preparing residences for new occupants on time.

- Pray for our faculty as they prepare for their teaching and co-curricular responsibilities. Pray especially for teachers who will have new responsibilities.

- Pray for our many new ministry team members (some with their families) who will be relocating to join us. Each adult will need to undergo orientation before Aug. 19.

- Ask the Lord to supply an accounting assistant in the business office.

- Pray for our students as they prepare to begin the new school year. Pray for physical and spiritual safety, wisdom and courage as they leave their families to come to OBI.

- Pray for student leaders who will organize welcoming activities.

- Pray for wisdom and strength for administrative team members as they seek to guide and facilitate all of the above-mentioned activities.

- Pray that the Lord will quickly unite the ministry team in vision and spirit.

- Pray for an abundant spiritual harvest among the students throughout the school year.

"Again, I assure you: If two of you on earth agree about any matter that you pray for, it will be done for you by My Father in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

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

Following His convictions

Student grows spiritually at Clear Creek as he follows God's calling

Student Peyton Wills, from Clinton, Tenn., is thankful for the spiritual growth he has experienced during his first year at Clear Creek.

"I came to know the Lord as my personal Savior when I was 13," Peyton recalled. "I was raised in church and had always experienced the church life up until then, but I did not know Christ personally as my Savior. There was a time later on in my adult life when I strayed from my walk with the Lord. Four years ago, I went to a discipleship program in Hot Springs, Ark., and it was during this time that I really surrendered my life to whatever God wanted me to do.

"After this experience, I felt a conviction to grow in the word of God and in my relationship with the Lord. I now had a passion to share the gospel and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

"My pastor had attended Clear Creek years ago, so he suggested I visit the campus. From the moment I arrived on campus, I fell in love with this place.

"I am thankful for the practical ministry training I am receiving as a student here," Peyton said. "I am currently serving as the education pastor at Antioch Baptist Church in Clinton, Tenn. The position has given me a great opportunity to grow spiritually and gain valuable practical ministry experience.

"I am thankful for the commuting options that Clear Creek offers to students. I still get the benefits of being on campus two days a week, but I am able to return to my family after my classes are over for the week.

"My first year here at Clear Creek has been absolutely amazing," Peyton said. "I have learned

so much from my professors and even other students. The knowledge I have gained this first year has been second to none compared to all other studies I have done in my life. If I can just remember half of what I have learned over my time here at Clear Creek, I will be a very smart man."

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

NAMB's Carver says its chaplains do not support same-sex marriage

By Mickey Noah

Alpharetta, Ga.—The North American Mission Board's executive director for chaplaincy, Douglas Carver, has reiterated that Southern Baptist military chaplains endorsed by NAMB do not support same-sex civil unions or marriages that might take place on some military installations.

Carver's statement followed a report published by the Associated Press implying that Air Force Chaplain (Col.) Timothy Wagoner condoned a same-sex ceremony that took place on his base. The 20-year NAMB-endorsed chaplain has strongly refuted the news story.

"When the AP story first came out, we contacted Chaplain Wagoner and he assured us he was either misinterpreted or quoted out of context in the story," Carver said.

The Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which serves as the Southern Baptist Convention's guiding doctrinal statement, clearly lists one man and one woman as the only biblical standard for marriage. Several resolutions approved by SBC messengers in recent years also affirm support for traditional marriage.

Wagoner supervises chaplains at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in Wrightstown, N.J. He clarified to NAMB his position on civil unions and his responsibilities as a supervising chaplain.



Douglas Carver

"The (AP) article does not accurately reflect why I attended a civil union," Wagoner said. "The general tone of the article has led many to conclude incorrectly that I personally support same-sex civil unions."

Wagoner said he told the AP reporter that "while I support our service members as an installation chaplain and member of the Armed Forces, both my conscience and adherence to historic Baptist principles would not allow me to personally officiate at a same-sex civil union."

"I am devoted to the Southern Baptist faith," Wagoner said. "My intention was never to embarrass or misrepresent the Southern Baptists whom I have faithfully served for 30 years."

Some 1,450 NAMB-endorsed chaplains serve in all branches of the U.S. military.

Carver said, "Our expectations are that military chaplains will continue to uphold the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which makes it crystal clear that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman."

After the AP article appeared, Carver said NAMB's chaplaincy office immediately sent a letter to all chaplains, reinforcing the Southern Baptist position on same-sex civil unions. A videoconference for all senior SBC military chaplains also is planned to emphasize NAMB's expectations for ministry. (NAMB/BP)

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For book or conference information with Dr. Frizzell, contact our office at:
(piones@bgco.org or 405-942-3000, x4517.)
Dr. Frizzell is also available for church and region-wide *Returning to God* Conferences.

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Bible Crosswords

By Evelyn Boyington

Across

- 1 Member of Congress (abbr.)
- 4 "Behold, _____ is in thine own eye?" (2 words, Matthew 7:4)
- 9 Scheduled stopping place (abbr.)
- 12 Poetic preposition
- 13 "I will _____ thee seven years" (Genesis 29:18)
- 14 Handle roughly
- 15 "There is a friend that sticketh closer than a _____" (Proverbs 18:24)
- 17 Part of a book
- 19 Coop comment?
- 20 Nicholas, for one
- 21 "The children of Giddel, the children of _____" (Ezra 2:47)
- 23 "O thou _____ among women" (Song of Solomon 6:1)
- 26 Excuse me!
- 27 "Ehud the son of _____, a Benjamite" (Judges 3:15)
- 28 Preposition
- 29 Measure of Everest (abbr.)
- 30 "This is _____, which was for to come" (Matthew 11:14)
- 31 "With the _____ of an ass have I slain a thousand men" (Judges 15:16)
- 32 Continent (abbr.)
- 33 Nonsense (Brit.)
- 34 Table or pike
- 35 "He ... shall be called the son of the _____" (Luke 1:32)
- 38 "The birds of the air have _____" (Matthew 8:20)
- 39 Towel identification
- 40 Horned mammal
- 41 Describing a taskmaster
- 43 "A man of _____" (Isaiah's description of the Messiah)
- 46 Long, long time
- 47 "The sons of Shemidah were ... Likhi, and _____" (1 Chronicles 7:19)
- 49 Greek form of Noah
- 50 You're all _____!
- 51 House of _____
- 52 Compass pt.

Down

- 1 "Will a man _____ God?" (Malachi 3:8)
- 2 Always (poet.)
- 3 "That a great _____ is risen up among us" (Luke 7:16)
- 4 One of the twelve tribes of Israel
- 5 Horn holler?
- 6 "Ye do _____, not knowing the scriptures" (Matthew 22:29)

- 7 Thoroughfare (abbr.)
- 8 "We have found the _____" (John 1:41)
- 9 Steeple
- 10 More than freckled
- 11 "Stand in _____, and sin not" (Psalm 4:4)
- 16 Five make one in b'ball
- 18 Average
- 20 Stopover on the journey from Egypt to Jordan (Numbers 33:27)
- 21 Where Joshua was buried: "on the north side of the hill _____" (Judges 2:9)
- 22 "And the children of Sheshan; _____" (1 Chronicles 2:31)
- 23 Small, snappish dog
- 24 Maze instruction
- 25 Boroughs
- 27 To cover up
- 30 "He became the author of _____ salvation" (Hebrews 5:9)
- 31 "They have slain them which showed before of the coming of the _____" (2 words, Acts 7:52)
- 34 Rend
- 36 Belgian city
- 37 Pronoun
- 38 Standards
- 40 Pester continuously
- 41 "A time to rend, and a time to _____" (Ecclesiastes 3:7)
- 42 What a "piggy" is
- 43 Title of respect
- 44 "A brother offended is harder to be _____ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- 45 Understand
- 48 Favorite first word

Last puzzle's solution

1	B	A	R	A	K		5	H	A	G	G	I	A	H
12	L	O	D	E	S		13	H	A	G	G	I	A	H
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26	E	N	O	S		27	A	T	E		29	D	A	R
30	D	A	T	A		31	E	H	I		33	T	E	
34	C	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G		36	G	N
37	O	H		39	R	E	T		40	S	E	R	F	
42	N	O	N		44	P	A	W		46	D	O	E	R
48	C	R	Y		49	C	I	T	E	S		51	W	E
52	E	N	G	O		54	E	S	A	U		56	T	I
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Learning to be content

Haitians offer humble reminder to appreciate what God has provided

Today is another special day that we are blessed to see God's work extend far beyond our local "Jerusalem." It was just about a year ago that we loaded the first container of items to assist in building a new camp in Haiti. Again, the weather is hot, the contents are a random assortment of supplies from alcohol swabs to weather-proofing items, and we are loading yet another full container headed to Haiti.

Group projects like loading a container is a great visual of how the body of Christ works. Honestly, of all the tasks I find myself doing in camp, these group projects rank at the top as just plain fun. We have many across our state who have contributed finances and supplies, a random group of our staff who are loading the container, and another group to put the items to use when they arrive.

Once it arrives at the camp outside of Port-au-Prince, there will be a large group of very eager adults waiting to unload them. Their excitement is no less than the most energetic 5 year old on Christmas morning. They just can't

wait to see what is inside the container—and yes, it will be very hot there as well.

Because of Christ, we are bonded as family to our co-laborers in Haiti, and we share many of the same struggles in life as we battle against sin and a lost world. However, their appreciation for the things we take for granted is a stark contrast to our culture. The thrill they express when receiving a container of basic items we see day in and day out is very humbling and convicting.

While I don't always succeed, one of my personal daily goals is to try to be the best steward of what I have been given today without worrying about what I don't have or what we, as a ministry, don't have.

I think our Haitian brothers and sisters practice this much better than I do as evidenced by their attitudes in a life where they have to be content with much less than we typically expect. We can learn much from other believers, so I encourage you to be a good steward of the opportunities you have today.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

'The Story Lives On'

EBO to help WMU leaders 'Excel,' help boys find 'Courage' in Christ

EBO will be at work July 28, at First Baptist Church of Hodgenville as Kentucky WMU hosts Excel, our summer leadership training event. We will introduce the new 2012-14 WMU theme, "The Story Lives On," and provide conferences to help WMU leaders grow and excel in missions education and involvement. A variety of ministry workshops also will be offered to help leaders excel.

One of the highlights of 2011-12 for Kentucky WMU has been the return of missions education for boys through Royal Ambassadors and Challengers. New literature for these groups produced by WMU will begin in September.

Jonathan Auten joined the Kentucky WMU staff last July as our missions consultant for RAs and Challengers. He has been busy getting to know missions education leaders, helping with regional RA Congress events, planning boys' activities at Missions Adventure Camp, and training leaders.

EBO will be at work in a big way August 3-4 at Courage 2012, a statewide missions education event for men and boys held at Laurel Lake Baptist Camp

in Corbin. The theme is "Charting Your Course by God's Word." Courage 2012 is for RAs, dads, RA leaders and all missions-minded men and boys. The program includes worship, missionaries, recreation and RA racers.

Special guests include KBC children's ministry director John Bennett; University of the Cumberlands' football player Sean Bryant; national WMU's RA/Challengers managing editor, Steve Heartsill; worship leader Bo Warren; and missionaries Ron and Greta Wilson.

Promotional materials for the 2012 state missions emphasis "Bold Hope" were mailed to WMU directors and pastors earlier this month. Standing orders for posters, prayer guides and Eliza Broadus offering envelopes will be mailed Aug. 1.

If your church did not complete an annual order form or you need to update an order, please contact the Kentucky WMU office. A new standing order form for missions offering materials will be sent in our fall mailing. All state missions materials are posted on our web site at www.KyWMU.org/EBO.

Joy Bolton is executive director-treasurer of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253; (502) 489-3534; www.kywmu.org

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

27-28 Excel WMU Leadership Development Event, First Baptist Church, Hodgenville.

August

3-4 Camp Courage, Laurel Lake Baptist Camp, Corbin.

4 Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?, Crestwood Baptist Church.

4 Sunday School Training Day, Central Baptist Church, Corbin.

25 Regional Mini-Super Saturday, First Baptist Church, Richmond.

September

13-14 Children's Ministers' Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.

19-21 Missionary Retreat, Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Lucas.

19-23 Adult Kentucky Changers—West, Princeton.

21-22 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, First Baptist Church, Cannonsburg.

21-22 Men's & Women's Wind Orchestra Retreat, TBA.

22 Children in Action Day Camp, Highland Baptist Church, Shelbyville.

22 Disaster Relief Volunteer Training, Phases I & II, First Baptist Church, Cannonsburg.

New steeple goes up



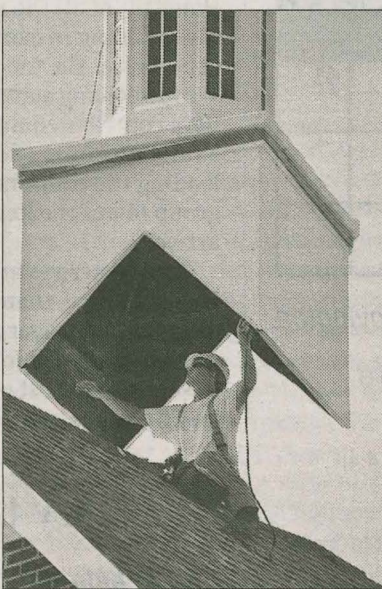
Kevil—Nearly five months after storms toppled the old one, Newton Creek Baptist Church now has a steeple back in place atop its sanctuary.

A crew worked last week to put the brand-new steeple in place atop the Kevil church (pictured above and at right).

The church's previous steeple was destroyed Feb. 29 when powerful storms swept through western Kentucky and much of the Midwest, damaging many homes and businesses.

Newton Creek Pastor Wayne Carter said the church dedicated the new steeple after last Sunday's worship service.

(Photos by Allie Douglas/The Paducah Sun)



Kiger is new Greenup DOM

Greenup Baptist Association in Ashland has called its longtime treasurer to serve as its director of missions.

Butch Kiger began serving as DOM July 1. He succeeds Harold

Cathey, who retired last year.

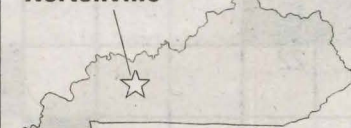
Kiger has served as Greenup's treasurer for more than 20 years. He also has served on staff at several area churches, including First Missionary Baptist Church of Wurtland, where he is pastor.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Nortonville



Nortonville Church called **Ronnie Sivells** as pastor July 1. He previously was a KBC church development strategist for the state's west region.

■ **ALLEGRE**—Bellview Church recently called **Rodney Skipworth** as pastor. He previously served as the church's interim pastor.

■ **CARLISLE**—First Church recently called **Micah Spicer** as pastor. He previously served as pastor of Canmer Church.

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold its annual Hope for Today picnic July 25. Backpacks containing school supplies will be handed out to local school-age children.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold its "Kool for School" event July 28, 9 a.m., for single mothers in the community to receive school supplies, clothes and shoes for their children returning to school. Free food and hair cuts also will be provided. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church recently called **Paul Richey** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Highlands Church recently honored Pastor **James Pierce** for his 10 years of service to the church.

■ **LONDON**—Hart Church will hold its third annual "Back to School Bash" July 28, noon, with former University of Kentucky basketball player **Cameron Mills** as guest speaker. The event will feature food, games and clothes and school supply giveaways.

Terrell Bradley is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the **Lefevre Quartet** in concert July 27, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a

community block party July 27, 6 p.m., with children's games, door prizes and community resources. School supplies and uniforms for area students will be handed out. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will celebrate its 29th anniversary with revival services July 27-29, 7 p.m., with **Carroll Roberson** of Mississippi as evangelist. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Temple Church will host Central Association's revival services July 29-Aug. 1, 7 p.m., with **James Jones**, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Campbellsville, as evangelist. **Cal Adams** is pastor.

■ **VANCEBURG**—First Church recently honored Pastor **Howard Wilson** for his 30 years of service to the church.

Heselton Church recently called **Russ Pruitt** as pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will hold a block party July 28 at which students will receive school supplies for the coming year. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

CLASSIFIED ADS

ANNIVERSARY: Bicentennial celebration at Buck Creek Baptist Church in Calhoun, Ky., Aug. 11-12. Saturday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m., will be a time to hear from former pastors and enjoy an ice cream social. Sunday, Aug. 12, will have a very special service at 10 a.m. followed by a church potluck. All former pastors and members are encouraged to attend.

DEGREE: Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. www.newburghseminary.com.

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RESOURCES: Sound, projection, video, theatrical lighting; JCA Media, well known in the KBC, 20+ years of experience, installing quality equipment at reasonable prices. Jim Cottrell, owner, Elizabethtown, (270) 862-9586 or (270) 312-7492. Ryan Jackson, project manager, Bowling Green, (502) 803-7417. References available. Email: jcot@windstream.net.

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: 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: 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: 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.

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: Executive director for new pregnancy resource center opening in La Grange area; part-time position. Contact Chris Platt at (502) 758-2090 or by email at eprc@insightbb.com to apply. Applications accepted through Aug. 1.

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

SEEKING: Full-time youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church. Responsible for helping students grow in their relationship with Christ through Bible study, discipleship and missions. Email resumé to allie@calvaryindanville.com by Aug. 12.

SEEKING: Emmanuel Baptist Church in Stanton, Ky., is seeking a part-time male staff member to lead its student ministries department. Please send resumé or inquiry to gregwebb.ebcstanton@yahoo.com.

London: 'Multilingual capital'

Immigrant-heavy city not a 'melting pot'

By Elaine Gaston

London—For more than 200 years, London has been home to some of the globe's most remarkable cultural treasures.

In an hour's stroll through the British Museum, a visitor can view Greek statues from the Parthenon and colossal stone winged lions from an Assyrian palace. One also can see the Rosetta Stone, the world's key to unlocking the language of the pharaohs. Incomparable, priceless treasures indeed.

But now a different kind of treasure is finding its home in London outside the secure walls of a world-class museum.

That treasure is on the streets, in the neighborhoods, riding the buses and underground trains, working in the restaurants and attending the schools.

It's the people.

There's Asuntha*, for instance. Her Sri Lankan husband brought her to London just after they were married. As is common in this sort of arranged marriage, she didn't know him well, and family difficulties followed. A few years and two daughters later, her husband left her, a bank repossessed her home, and she had to move into government housing.

But Asuntha stayed in London, living in a small flat above a gym, to build a better life for her daughters. Her girls attend British schools and speak flawless English. She knows that by staying in London, her girls will have a more promising start to life than they ever would have had back in their home country.

Asuntha is one of an estimated 100,000 Sri Lankan-born U.K. residents, the majority of whom live in London. They bring with them not just their culture but also their religions, which include Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism.

In a 2007 article, *New York Magazine* likened modern-day London to the New York City of the early 1900s during its great age of immigration. For decades, different ethnic groups have found reasons to immigrate to London.

Turkish Cypriots began to settle in the city's Camden area in the 1950s. In the Haringey area there's a concentration of

about 40,000 Turkish-speaking people—and more than 200,000 in all of London.

Pakistanis, because of historical and colonial links with Britain, have flowed into London in large numbers, especially in the 1960s. Now there are more than 1 million in the U.K. Some 27,000 Portuguese live in Stockwell, the largest community of Portuguese outside Portugal.

Clothing factory work attracted Vietnamese refugees in Hackney in the early 1980s. Wars and conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and elsewhere have brought more refugees to London in the last decade.

Most recently, workers from European Union countries have flowed into Britain since it opened to member states in 2004. Originally the government predicted 13,000 workers would enter Britain a year from other European Union countries. In the first 18 months of the policy, however, 329,000 arrived, many of them from Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Latvia and the Czech Republic.

The result? The city has become a "multilingual capital," according to London's National Centre for Languages.

The center estimates that school children in London speak more than 200 languages and more than 40 percent of all London school children speak a language other than English at home.

Figures show that in east London, the percentage of elementary school students who speak English only as a second language is as high as 78 percent.

A spiritual dynamic of this ethnic tapestry is expressed in the diversity of religions in London. Mosques are evident in many parts of the city, as well as in outlying towns, and Hindu and Sikh temples dot the cityscape where once only Christian churches resided.

Instead of being a "melting pot," first coined for the assimilation of newcomers to the United States into a homogenous whole, London labels itself as "multicultural," a place in which different cultural identities are maintained, ideally within a unified society.

It was this multicultural aspect of London that brought International



HONORING REFUGEES Friends embrace during Refugee Week, an annual celebration that recognizes the contributions refugees bring to the U.K. Each event was sponsored by a club, school, business or individual willing to organize it. Events explored refugee experiences through the arts, music, food or just meeting people in local areas from other countries. (IMB photos)

Mission Board missionary Patrick Sims* to the city in 2002.

"London is an amazing place to get to relate to people from all over the world," said Sims, IMB strategy leader in London.

He and his wife, Sarah*, lead a team of missionaries reaching out to Londoners. Team members often speak the languages and understand the cultures of these residents, newcomers and second-

and third-generation immigrants alike.

"Today in most major cities around the world, you will find many cultures," Sims said. "I think it's just magnified in London, a city whose indigenous are the minority in their own capital. I think maybe the unique element here is the massive amounts of each of the groups that are here." (IMB)

*Names changed for security reasons

London preparations bring giant workload, even bigger price tag

By Elaine Gaston

London—To prepare a city even as sophisticated as London for a concentrated influx of hundreds of thousands international visitors and athletes is a massive undertaking.

Because of that, London began planning even before the city won the bid to host the 2012 Summer Olympics.

Once the bid was secure, preparations moved into high gear.

First, there was the building of the Olympic Park, sprawling nearly 250 acres with its assortment of stadiums and venues. For London, the park includes the main stadium which will seat 80,000 for track-and-field events, as well as for the opening and closing ceremonies; the aquatics center; the velodrome for cycling; and the basketball arena. Another arena is solely dedicated to handball.

Also part of the complex is the Olympic Village, built to house and feed more than 17,000 athletes and officials.

Other venues for sports are scattered around the city of London and the entire country, with equestrian events in Greenwich Park and soccer stadiums situated as far north as Manchester and Glasgow. Perhaps most irreverently, beach volleyball has transformed the Horse Guards Parade—just across St. James Park from Buckingham Palace—into sand volleyball courts.

The official London organizers are relying heavily on volunteers to help the games run smoothly. In 2010 they estimated they would need 70,000 local volunteers to help out with the games. But when, late in that year, organizers

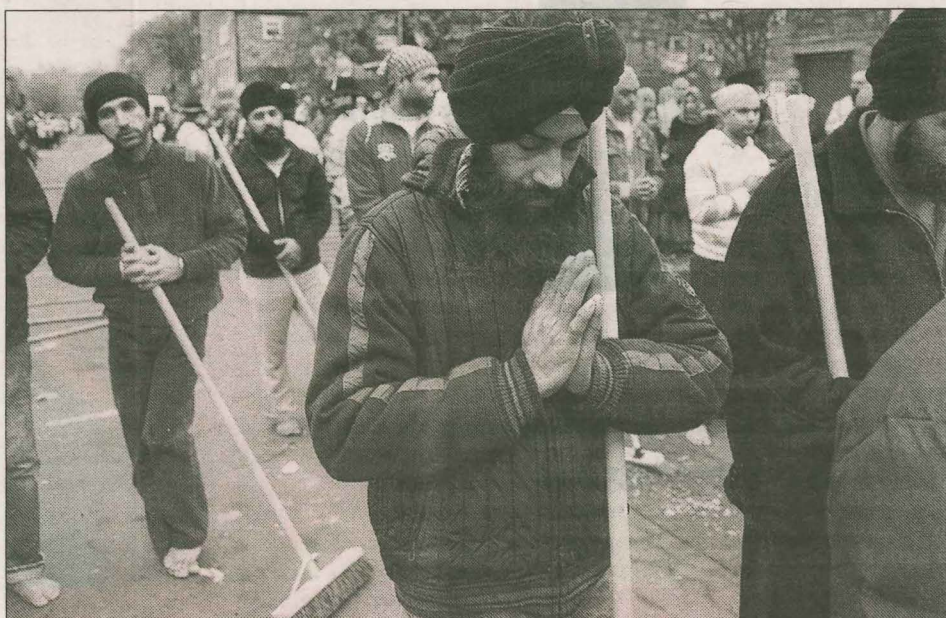
called for volunteer applications, more than 240,000 responded for those 70,000 spots.

Other 2012 Olympic games facts:

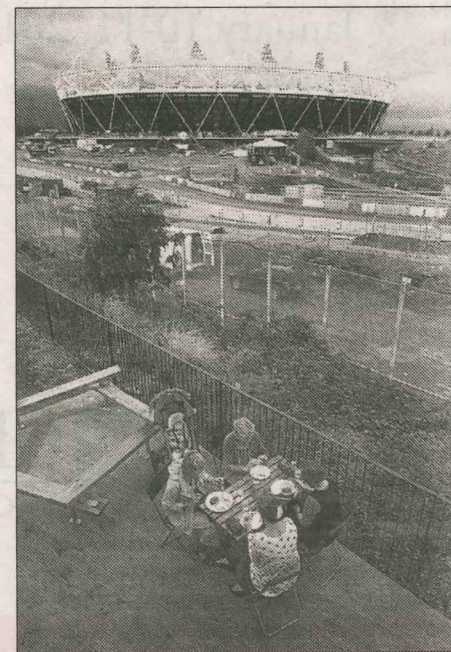
■ Up to 500,000 spectators could need transportation on any given day during the Olympics.

■ A dozen rail services will run to the Olympic Park during the games.

■ Budget estimates put the Olympics at costing the British government approximately \$14 billion, four times the original estimate of \$3.5 billion. This includes building of facilities, improving infrastructures and \$966 million for security. (IMB)



KEEPING WITH TRADITION Sikhs prepare the streets for the celebration of the Prakash Ustav of Guru Nanak in the Asian community of Southall in London. Sikhs believe that Guru Nanak brought enlightenment to the world.



MAJOR BUILDING A family enjoys a meal near the Olympic Stadium during its construction in the summer of 2010.

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world on fire!"

- St. Catherine of Siena

WORLD ON FIRE

Student Conference

October 21, 2012

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

A conference for exceptional high school juniors and seniors.

Focused on human trafficking and modern day slavery, this year's conference will inform, equip, and motivate students, parents, pastors and educators to become people who set this world on fire and end slavery in this generation!



Kelsey Timmerman, nationally renowned author of *Where am I Wearing?*, will lead discussions about the choices we make every time we buy. Other speakers include Kim Browning, who will speak about fair trade chocolate, Reegan Hill, who will speak about purchasing power and fair trade goods, and Marissa Castellanos, addressing trafficking right here in Kentucky.

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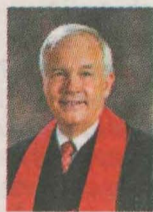
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