

WESTERN Recorder

July 31, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 29

Conference aims to provide 'voice of reason' in Calvinism debate

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—Not unlike a national political debate, Southern Baptists' ongoing wrangling over Calvinism seems to have swung to those at the extremes. That is to say, those who talk the loudest on either side of the aisle are the only ones being heard.

That's why the head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention said this weekend's conference on the denomination's hottest topic is so important, especially now.

"What we want to do is offer a voice of reason instead of allowing those extremes on either side and who are uncooperative to be at the microphones," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said.

The Aug. 4 conference, "Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?" at Crestwood Baptist Church, has caught the attention of Chitwood's fellow state execs. Many of them expressed an interest in attending, telling Chitwood at last month's Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, "It seems your conference is even more relevant than we thought it was already."

Calvinism was a recurring talking point in New Orleans. Outgoing president Bryant Wright espoused a desire to see Calvinists and traditionalists tone down their rhetoric and seek common ground. Meanwhile, SBC Executive Committee Frank Page

□ See Calvinism conference ... Page 7

A Beautiful Burden

God turns teen's pain into means for other kids to heal from divorce

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Independence—Some Christians may spend their whole lives searching for that one special niche where they can passionately serve the Lord, that place where they can take the burdens of their hearts and allow God to use them for His purpose.

Brooke Willis found her burden when she was 11. As the child of divorced parents, Brooke knows what it means to hurt. She also knows what it means to be angry, scared, lonely and sad.

"I was so young when it happened, and I really didn't know what was going on," said Brooke, now 13. "I started kindergarten right after that and none of my friends had gone through a divorce. I thought I was the only one."

Melissa Willis, Brooke's mom, said soon after the marriage ended, her daughter stopped talking to people, especially men. Mother and daughter eventually moved in with Melissa's parents and Brooke began visiting with a Christian counselor. Melissa said with counseling, the care of her parents and prayers from their church family at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Independence, Brooke slowly began to heal.

"It ended up being like a blessing because throughout elementary school, kids would come to me as

□ See Brooke Willis ... Page 2

■ **Right:** Brooke Willis, 13, of Independence, was the driving force behind starting a Divorce Care for Kids (DC4K) at Hickory Grove Baptist Church. Willis said the idea came from Crossings Camps' "Beyond Effect" emphasis, which encourages teens to turn their burdens into a passion for sharing the gospel. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)



Aurora churches kindle hope after horror

By Aaron Earls

Aurora, Colo.—Almost as soon as the gunfire ceased in the Century Theater in Aurora, Colo., local churches began meeting the needs of the hurting in the community and their own congregations.

"I immediately felt the same anxiety that many others felt," said Mitchell Hamilton, pastor of Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church, "as I considered the very real possibility that one of

IN MOURNING A woman cries at the altar during a service at Mississippi Avenue Baptist Church in Aurora, Colo., remembering the victims of the recent theater shooting. (Photo by Kevork Djansezian/Getty Images)

our members might be directly affected. My second thought was to get to the church and begin organizing a response."

The church, located less than a mile from the theater, opened its doors for prayer vigils and counseling. All of the church's staff members have been involved, Hamilton said, and other counselors were brought in, including one who had ministered following the Columbine High School shooting in 1998.

During one counseling session, Hamilton was faced with a teary-eyed 6-year-old girl asking why her cousin died.

"It was tough," Hamilton said of talking with the little girl and her mother. "The

□ See Aurora churches ... Page 6



"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."

Subscribe NOW at www.westernrecorder.org

Find us on
Facebook
and on
twitter
as westernrecorder

Western Recorder 7-31-2012

KBC business committee approves 'historic' ministry budget

By Dannah Prather

Louisville—The Kentucky Baptist Convention's business and finance committee has unanimously approved a budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year that KBC leaders describe as "exciting" and "historic."

The budget increases dollars for church-assistance programs and moves the KBC closer to the goal adopted by messengers to the 2010 KBC annual meeting to send half of all Cooperative Program receipts to Southern Baptist causes, including national and international missions.

Describing the proposal as a "marker" in the KBC's historic timeline, Lowell Ashby, head of the convention's finance and business services team, said it builds on a "million-dollar shift" of funds reached earlier this year from the KBC Mission Board and Kentucky Baptist agencies and institutions to the SBC.

Ashby said the shift means that Kentucky Baptists are responsible for funding the work of 12 more International Mission Board missionaries than they funded in the previous fiscal year. It also means more dollars from Kentucky Baptists for the North American Mission Board and other SBC causes.

The new budget takes the next step, according to KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood, enabling Kentucky Baptists to reach the 50/50 goal sooner than the target date of 2017-18 that was approved two years ago.

KBC President Adam Greenway said "no compelling reason exists for Kentucky Baptist churches not to continue to give sacrificially through the Cooperative Program and, prayerfully, for our pastors to lead their churches toward increased financial support."

Shoring up ministry funding

The new budget addresses needs in all mission fields, Chitwood explained.

"Given the significant reduction in overseas missionary personnel, coupled with the growing lostness of North America, more funding for international and national missions is imperative," he said. "This budget also makes strides for ministry in Kentucky.

"As a result of the 10-year decline in CP giving and the poor economy, the budgetary landscape was constantly changing for Mission Board staff serving our churches," he continued. "They were providing services without a clear picture of the resources available to accomplish that work because the picture just kept changing."

In recent years, as CP gifts repeatedly missed approved budget goals, "multiple mid-year adjustments" in the budget had become the norm," Chitwood said. The new budget "has us in a much stronger position," he added.

The firm footing is a result of a staff restructuring that Mission Board members approved in May. The plan eliminated 37 staff positions and included

retirement or resignation incentive packages for all employees. Twenty-seven full- and part-time staffers accepted the packages. Additionally, it was decided that contracts for nine part-time ministry consultants will expire without renewal next month.

The estimated savings in salaries and benefits for the current fiscal year totaled \$928,849, Ashby said, describing it as "a sacrifice" that enables the KBC's bottom line to align with Kentucky Baptists' stated priorities.

The savings makes possible a 20 percent reduction in fixed costs for the Mission Board.

Ashby called it a "tremendous blessing" that the entire cost of the retirement and resignation packages for the staff will be absorbed during the current fiscal year.

"We've gone through a major shift and it's one we can be excited about," Ashby said.

Another trend visible in the proposed budget is the Mission Board staff's decreased dependence on non-CP dollars, such as NAMB monies and dwindling restricted and investment funds, to provide services to churches. An estimated 91.23 percent of the Mission Board's programming will be funded through the Cooperative Program in the upcoming 2012-13 fiscal year.

The budget proposal includes the following program team allocations:

- Missions mobilization: \$1,326,837.

- Evangelism and church planting: \$2,373,870.

- Church consulting and revitalization: \$2,359,088.

The two support teams tasked with compiling the Annual Church Profile, processing gifts, promoting the Cooperative Program, facilitating Mission Board business and other vital services are allocated as follows:

- Finance and business services: \$990,910.

- Executive office: \$1,404,611. (KBC)

Kentucky Baptists' CP giving again tops monthly goal

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists contributed \$1,868,881 through the Cooperative Program in June. The total exceeded the monthly spendable budget goal by \$48,287, even though it fell more than \$200,000 below the strong CP giving in last June.

"Our fiscal year ends Aug. 31, and right now Cooperative Program giving is more than \$420,000 ahead of our adjusted budget goal," said Lowell Ashby, head of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's finance and business services team.

"In a time of transition here at the KBC, and while the world continues to deal with poor economic news, Kentucky Baptists have kept pace with last year's CP giving, and in recent months, have exceeded the monthly spendable budget goals," he added.

Giving remains 4.88 percent behind the \$23.5 million goal approved by messengers to the 2011 KBC annual meeting, but Executive Director Paul Chitwood said the reorganization approved by the Mission Board in May has the convention "working comfortably" within the adjusted budget.

"We are grateful for the generosity of Kentucky Baptists and trust that God will continue to provide the resources necessary to accomplish the vision He has given us," Chitwood said.

Several CP promotional tools are available free of charge to Kentucky Baptist churches while supplies last, including a new Cooperative Program poster/brochure and the CP "cram course," a quick and colorful read that clearly explains CP. Also available is a DVD with PowerPoint slides, sermon outlines, Sunday School lessons and many other resources.

To request these materials, email Communications@KyBaptist.org. (KBC)

Brooke Willis

Continued from page 1

their parents got divorced," Brooke said. They wouldn't tell anyone else, but they would come and talk to me about it."

Sometimes students would have questions, but usually Brooke would just listen. If a child appeared particularly distraught, she would encourage him or her to talk to the school counselor.

It was not until several years later at a Crossings camp that Brooke would realize her heart for kids of divorce would transform into her very own ministry.

"They were talking about the 'Beyond Effect,'" Brooke said, referring to the Crossings challenge for students to use their gifts, talents and resources to impact the kingdom of God. "I found out my passion was helping kids, and my burden was kids that are going through a divorce. I came home and really wanted to do something about it."

Within months of returning from camp, Brooke and her mother discovered a Christian-based divorce care program for kids called DC4K. Brooke gathered information and made a formal presentation to Hickory Grove Pastor Bill Clark.

"I had not heard of DC4K, but by the time we got done meeting, I was really stoked about it," Clark recalled. "All I had to do was order the materials and cut them loose."

The pastor admitted he has a hard time teaching adults to allow their hearts to be broken for what breaks God's heart, yet here is an 11-year-old child fully embracing the concept.

"God never wastes a pain. Once we go through some of the healing process He has in store for us, He always uses that

STUDY MATERIALS

During the free 13-week DC4K session, children ages 5-12 are given the tools to cope with emotions and heal from the pain of divorce. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

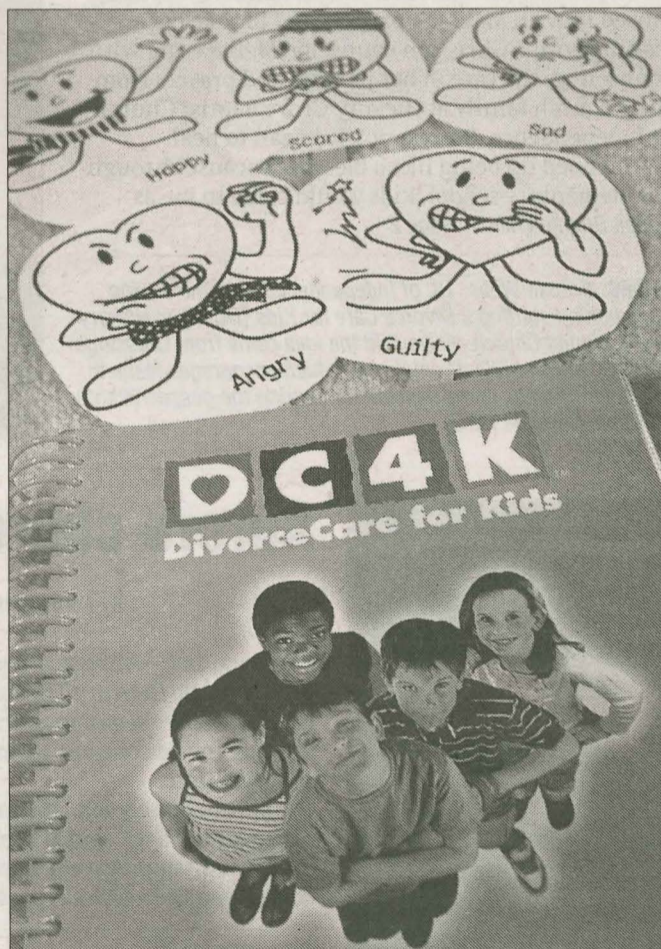
pain to birth a passion," Clark said, "and out of that passion comes a purpose. That's exactly what happened with Brooke."

DC4K, also known as DivorceCare for Kids, is a 13-week program designed to help children ages 5-12 heal from the pain of divorce. Through Bible stories, role playing, crafts and games, children are given tools to face their fears and properly deal with their emotions.

This fall will mark the fourth session of DC4K at Hickory Grove. With the help of other adult leaders, Melissa and Brooke have led 36 children through the program.

While mom did most of the initial lesson planning, Melissa said it was definitely her daughter who drove it.

"In the beginning, Brooke just led story time and some of the exercises," Melissa said. "This last time she led a good part of it. I think the kids really relate to her. She has that perspective that is so perfect for the kids."



Whenever Brooke talks to the kids at DC4K, Melissa said they seem to listen a little more closely. She believes the candor and vulnerability they have experienced has everything to do with Brooke.

"I feel—I don't want to say proud, but proud it's made that big of a difference, and so many kids have been impacted by it," Brooke said. "It's really nice to know I can help. God was the one who did it, but He used me." (WR)

Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance

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



Monthly budget goal:	\$1,820,594
Actual giving:	\$1,868,881
Over budget:	\$ 48,287
Year-to-Date budget goal*:	\$18,205,896
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$18,627,322
Over budget:	\$ 421,426

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

Book on 20th century Kentucky Baptists nearing completion

By Drew Nichter

Farmington—Think it's tough leading a church in today's economy? Try being a quarter-time pastor during the Great Depression.

N.S. Castleberry served a number of churches throughout west Kentucky at the turn of the 20th century. He twice was pastor of Farmington Baptist Church, once from 1904-05 and again from 1925-28.

Ben Stratton now leads the Graves County congregation. He recalled the story of Castleberry encouraging members of the four churches he led simultaneously—hence, a quarter-time pastor—to sell all the eggs their hens laid on Sundays and give that money to missions.

Stratton said one of those churches earned a total of \$20 for Southern Baptist missions efforts, a significant sum in a time when some families struggled to make that much money in a week.

It's individuals like Castleberry and about 400 other Kentucky Baptists who are the subjects of a soon-to-be-published book from the J.H. Spencer Historical Society.

The book, titled "20th Century Kentucky Baptist Biographies," compiles biographical sketches of hundreds of ministers, missionaries and laypersons who served the bulk of the ministries in 20th-century Kentucky.

The book's editor, Bill Whittaker, has worked tirelessly since early 2011 to compile the biographies that he and 90 other writers penned for the 300-page volume. It now is in the publisher's hands and is expected to be completed in late October and made available to the public at the Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting in Lexington this November.

The J.H. Spencer Historical Society voted at its 2010 annual meeting to tackle the book project. The independent group was formed in 2008 after the dissolution of the Kentucky Baptist Archives Advisory Board and maintains loose ties with the KBC.

Stratton, who serves as treasurer for the historical group, said he believes the book will serve as a "good reference tool" for Kentucky Baptist historians, "because a lot of people in this book haven't been written about anywhere else.

"It shows you the great diversity of the state," Stratton said, noting that individuals from every region of the state are represented, the ministries of whom reveal the many "theological trends" that wove through the state during the 20th century.

"You've got Calvinists and non-Calvinists, Landmarkers, fundamentalists—there's a little bit of everybody in there," Stratton said.

Whittaker, a retired pastor and former president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, called the months-long project an "interesting and enjoyable" experience. He spent many hours poring over thousands of old Western Recorders, church history volumes and even lengthy personal journals.

Whittaker said he hopes the book will encourage individuals and churches to record and preserve their histories, something congregations these days often fail to do.

"It was sad to make contact with some historic churches ... and find they had very little (recorded) history," Whittaker said. "Sometimes today, a church leader gets caught up in what he's doing right now and he may not be interested in history. But most every church has somebody or a committee that could preserve some things along the way."

Fields Publishing in Nashville, Tenn., is printing a run of 400 copies of the book. The book will be on sale for \$30 at the KBC annual meeting, but advance copies can be purchased for \$25. To pre-order a copy, send a check to the J.H. Spencer Historical Society at P.O. Box 26, Farmington, KY 42040.

The group also is looking for what it's calling "partners in history preservation," Whittaker said. These sponsorships are available for \$100 and include a free copy of the book and the name of the church or individual included in the book's "partners" section. Sponsorships can be mailed to the same address as the advance orders. (WR)

Changing of the seasons

Ashland's Pollard Baptist beginning to move 'beyond winter'

By Karen Willoughby

Ashland—A church, like nature, goes through seasons: the freshness of spring, the warmth of summer, harvest of fall and the cold deadness of winter.

"When that cycle stops in winter, a church, like other organisms, dies," said Wesley Smith, pastor of Pollard Baptist Church in Ashland.

"Pollard Baptist Church is a winter church, but there is a determination, by God's grace, to move beyond winter," Smith said. The 5,000 contacts made by the church's 30-plus members and the 36 baptisms witnessed last year indicate Pollard Baptist is indeed approaching a new spring.

When Smith arrived in May 2010, he discovered a congregation with a glorious past but one that, he says, was about to die.

Researchers say 70 to 80 percent of churches across the Southern Baptist Convention have plateaued or are in decline. That was the Pollard Baptist's story. During its 120-year history, the church had grown to more than 1,000 in Sunday morning worship. By the time Smith arrived, attendance was in the 30s.

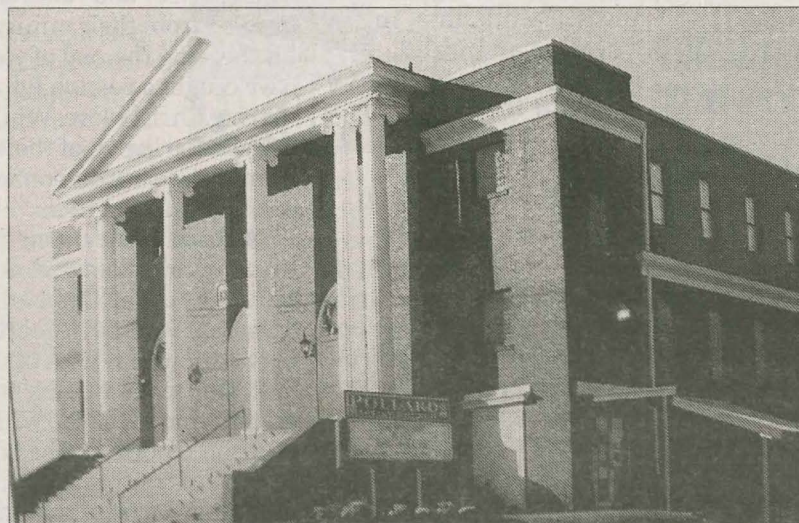
"A winter church must become a going church rather than a coming church if it is going to live again," Smith said, adding that he told the church before they called him, "Everything that does not focus on the Great Commission needs to go so that we can return to our initial marching orders. ... If you are not willing to change, do not call me."

Because of his burden for and experience with winter churches, Smith said he knew the move toward spring would not be easy. It is hard on the pastor and on the membership, he explained.

"Traditions not focused upon going are often deeply rooted," the pastor explained. "Some people are not able to make the change and will leave."

Smith said Pollard needed to change in three primary areas—approach, attitude and activity.

According to Smith, the approach needed to change from being a social place for members,



A DYING CHURCH? The impressive facilities of Pollard Baptist Church belie the reality of the once-thriving Ashland church. At one time, more than 1,000 people worshipped at the church on Sunday mornings; when Pastor Wesley Smith arrived three years, that number was down to less than three dozen. (Photos courtesy of Pollard Baptist Church)

to being the body of Christ that brings glory to Him. The attitudes needed to change from desiring personal political power to seeking spiritual power through obeying Christ. The activities had to change in order to function as one body doing what Jesus commanded His churches to do.



Pastor Wesley Smith:

"A winter church must become a going church rather than a coming church if it is going to live again."

"It's not our job to build the church," Smith said. "Our job is to witness. Jesus is the Lord of the harvest. It is His church. A winter church must focus upon the work rather than the result."

The work changed as Smith led Pollard Baptist Church to organize the membership into ministry teams—"going," "sowing" and "growing"—all of which were supported by an "equipping" team.

The first group found individuals through canvassing, new community move-in letters and visits, tract distribution and personal contacts. The second presented the plan of salvation to those who were found. The third disciplined those who were won through a

year's home Bible study program the pastor developed called "Discipleship Dynamics."

The members who could not physically go became "equippers," praying and making sure plenty of resources were available.

"God does not call us to come to church and to sit and soak up knowledge from the pulpit," Smith said. "That is what had become the norm here."

"Winter churches are filled with good people who have not shared what they know. When that happens, the church becomes filled with 'un-squozed' sponges," the pastor continued. "When a soaked sponge is not 'squoze,' it starts to sour and sink. Now you know why those benches they sit on at church are called 'pews.'"

"It takes years to change the actual environment in a church," Smith added. "That is why Pollard is not out of winter yet. However, Pollard is moving beyond winter."

In his first year, the focus was upon members as Smith disciplined them to be doers of the word, and made administrative changes that facilitated the process.

The second year focused on the Acts 1:8 Challenge—reaching the church's community, as well as maintaining its commitment to give to worldwide missions through the Cooperative Program.

"Many winter churches fail to realize that the Cooperative Program is a means for the church to do missions where we cannot go," Smith said. "It never takes the place of a church doing missions where we are. We must personally exercise Acts 1:8 in our Jerusalem (and) our community. If we will, spring can come again."

"What is happening at Pollard can happen in any winter church if that church is willing to change its approach, attitudes and activity," he said. "The same power that enabled churches of the past is available and at work today." (WR)



'GO TO SERVE' Pollard Baptist Church van ministry volunteers canvass Ashland greeting local residents and inviting them to church.

God is still working

Many of us use the phrase, "God is at work." Is He? In John 5:17, Jesus says, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

In the context of that passage, God was at work, first, in healing an invalid. John 5 begins with Jesus at the Sheep Gate Pool commanding an invalid who can't make it down to the healing waters, "Get up, take your mat, and walk."

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

God also was at work warning a sinner. Jesus tells the invalid who has been healed, "You are well,

sin no more" (verse 14).

Moreover, God was at work confronting self-righteous, hard-hearted, religious legalism. Much to the chagrin of the Jews, Jesus was working, granting healing and life, on the Sabbath.

Then, we see that God was at work exposing the authority and identity of Jesus. Jesus says in verse 21, "The Son gives life to whom he will."

Finally, God was at work revealing the gospel and, thus, raising those who are spiritually dead that they might enjoy the physical resurrection. Jesus says in verse 25, "an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

God was at work through Jesus and God is still at work. He is still healing those stricken physically, warning sinners, confronting self-righteous, hard-hearted, religious legalism, and exposing the authority and identity of Jesus. And, praise be to God, God is still at work revealing the gospel and, thus, raising the dead. By the power of His Spirit, God is still doing all of these things through Kentucky Baptists.

Because God is the one working through us, we can be hopeful in our work regardless of challenges or challengers, obstacles or obstructions, hardships or heartaches. In fact, if we will honor our Lord with our labor, we must be hopeful in that labor.

If you are stricken physically, remain hopeful, for God is still healing. If your warnings to a sinner seem to be ignored, remain hopeful, God is still at work. If the legalists threaten you, remain hopeful, God is still working. Though many are blind to the authority and the identity of Jesus, remain hopeful, God is still working. When the gospel is rejected, remain hopeful, God is still raising the dead.

Kentucky Baptists, with 2 million lost in our state, we still have work to do in Kentucky. With billions lost in our world, we still have work to do to the very ends of the earth. Let us declare, with our Lord, "My Father is working until now, my Savior is working, and I am working."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

1:8 Experience preparing students for lives of service

The (Acts) 1:8 Experience chapel service has rapidly become a highlight of the summer. Last week, 45 students, who served here in Kentucky and in Denver, San Francisco and New York City, as well as in Southeast Asia, Ecuador and Haiti, shared some inspiring stories and insights from their ministry experiences. There is nothing like hearing the zeal of young hearts who have caught a passion for missions and sharing Christ's love. While space does not permit sharing all of their testimonies, from these excerpts you will quickly see what I mean:

Madison Wesley, a member of First Baptist Church of Somerset and a student at University of the Cumberlands, served on a team that worked in Southeast Asia, building relationships with other students on a university campus. "Our team was able to pass off 13 students to missionaries in that area who will continue meeting with them," Madison reported. "The bottom line is that God is really moving in Southeast Asia, and we feel incredibly blessed to have been a part of that in this small way," she said. "And we are taking away a new perspective in our hearts for two countries," she added, explaining that they now seem a little like home.

Allan Amburn of Hurstbourne Baptist Church in Louisville, who attends the University of Louisville, also served in Southeast Asia. He told about a conversation with a student there: "We eventually got to the topic of happiness and what made us happy," Allan said, recalling that the other student found happiness in respect, an enjoyable job, good friends and marriage. "I told him that my utmost happiness comes from knowing God. And (the student) said, 'I wish I could know about that God,'" Allan continued. "I looked him straight in the eyes and said, 'I can tell you about that God right now.'" Allan rejoiced that on a college campus in a closed country, the student had accepted Christ.

Kyle Bradley, a student at Morehead State University, served on a team that worked in Richmond, Va., and New York City. His team, he said, learned that all are called to be witnesses, using a penny as an illustration. "It's really a good ministry tool," Kyle observed. "If you read a penny, it says, 'one cent.' And that's what we are: We are all 'ones sent' by God. We are all 'ones sent' to do His work."

Caitlin Boeschel, a student at Northern Kentucky University, was among those who shared their faith on subways in New York City. "If someone sat next to us, we would try to start up a conversation," Caitlin explained. "They would ask us where we were from, and we'd say we were here on a mission trip. Sometimes it led to talking about God and the gospel. People may not have come to Christ through that, but

we may have planted a seed." The group also learned that "you don't have to travel across the sea to work with internationals; you can go to New York City."

Sitha Salyers, who attends Eastern Kentucky University and Red House Baptist Church in Richmond, served on a team that went to Ecuador. "We started off the trip with

some really great advice," Sitha recalled. "One of the camp staffers told us, you don't have to come to fight the darkness, you just have to be the light. All we had to do is walk in and share the light of Christ and He would do the rest and draw people to Him." Even though many of them did not speak Spanish, the team still was able to share Bible stories through skits. "Instead of saying the word of God, we showed it

through our actions," she said. **Hailley White**, from Morehead State University and First Baptist Church of Somerset, went to Haiti. "We had heard a lot of terrifying stories about the place—the darkness, the voodoo and the poverty," she recalled. "But when we got there, we found it is a land of contradiction; it is absolutely beautiful, absolutely joyful," Hailley said. Her team worked with special-needs children, led a Vacation Bible School and conducted a soccer camp. "For us, we got to experience Haiti, but we also got to be Haitians. We got a chance to experience their joy, despite not having anything, and to experience their love for life."

Graham Withers, a member of St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, who attends the University of Kentucky, served on a team that split its time between Denver and San Francisco. Graham was particularly impressed by a spiritual formation professor at Golden Gate Seminary who said the best way to draw people to Jesus is to become one with fellow believers. "To me, this spoke so true of what we did this summer," Graham explained, reciting John 13:35. "Everyone in their deepest desires has the desire to be loved, and there is no better way to be loved than by God and by the love that comes from God through believers in Him."

After the chapel service, Keith Inman, director of the KBC's collegiate and young adult ministry group, to summed up the inspirational service for Western Recorder readers. "The 1:8 Leadership Experience continues to cultivate a heart for missions in the lives of those students who participate," he said. "The 1:8 students share good news with good deeds to individuals in a lost and hurting world. With our strategic Baptist partners in Kentucky and around the world, students are taking on more and more responsibilities of leadership, preparing them for a life of service." And, I would add, this life-changing missions opportunity is one that more of our college students should experience.

DVD should be off shelves

Based on the statements of the authors critical of LifeWay's decision to pull a controversial video ("The Blind Side") after selling it for some two years, may we make the following conclusion: These authors would prefer an "unsafe" and "unsanitized" atmosphere in all bookstores, regardless of their purpose?

Would they be willing to extend such thinking to the corner grocery? Should poisoned food be placed on the shelves,

possibly with a warning label so that all buyers are free to make up their own minds? It may be that people should be able to buy "raw milk" and "farm-fresh eggs" from their neighborhood organic food store without government intervention, but does that require that all stores make such items available?

Is it not most likely that the real issue is the same as that of the silversmiths in Acts 19?

While they used a philosophical argument against Paul (like that of Acts 16:20-21), the real issue was their

pocketbooks. Someone has said, "There is a nerve that leads straight from the left hip pocket to the heart."

Charles Blair
Clinton



WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICHTER
News Director

THOMAS C. TOWNSEND
Marketing & Business Manager

Board of Directors:

Floyd Price (chairman), Richmond;
Lanna Kilgore, Bowling Green;
Rick Robbins, Florence;
Wayne Spivey, Harrodsburg;
Linda Polley, Elizabethtown;
Rick Stevens, Hopkinsville;
Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: news@westernrecorder.org.

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

To subscribe: Send \$15 for a one-year, individual subscription or visit our Website and subscribe to our Electronic-Only edition at \$10 per year. Group subscriptions (church budget plan) are \$10 per year.

WesternRecorder.org



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to subscribe to Western Recorder.

Recalling 'a deep gloom over all the land'

By Duane Bolin

Forgive me, but as a teacher of history, I cannot help but think about these next few years except within the context of what the late historian Shelby Foote referred to as "the crossroads of our being." The extended sesquicentennial of the Civil War (1861-65) should be a time of prayer and reflection about how far we've come as a nation and how far we've yet to go.

The Kentucky Baptist historian and itinerant evangelist John Henderson Spencer gave a poignant eyewitness account of the Civil War years in Kentucky in his autobiography. With the firing on Fort Sumter and the war's commencement, Spencer recorded that "the year 1861 closed with a deep gloom over all the land."

He remembered that the "great Civil War was already raging fiercely" and that the "people in Kentucky were nearly equally divided on the question of the hour." According to Spencer, "families were divided, and many hearthstones where peace and happiness had hitherto prevailed were now embittered by mad passions and bitter strife."

In Kentucky's churches, "division of sentiment and sympathy" resulted in factions and sometimes splits. Many churches were left pastorless, their ministers gone off to fight and die on distant battlefields. Spencer reported that the Civil War "put a sudden check on all religious and other benevolent enterprises."

Colleges and academies were closed and their buildings converted to makeshift hospitals. In 1863, Georgetown College reported only 40 students. The receipts of the General Association declined from \$14,099.82 in 1860 to \$8,313.82 in 1861, to only \$2,154.02 in 1862.

Even more disturbing than the financial decline, the "active piety of the churches declined in almost equal ratio." Spencer concluded that the "religious prospects of the country never had been so gloomy" as since the close of the War of 1812.

Although Alfred Graves became editor of the West-

ern Recorder in 1864, the paper remained "discontinued" through much of the war. Publication could not resume, one contemporary remarked, until "national affairs will justify it, and the cooperation of the brethren will encourage the attempt." Graves did what he could, but the paper's future seemed bleak.

Born in Boone County in 1838, Graves was educated at Georgetown College and licensed to preach only two years before the war. He completed additional study in theology at Western Baptist Theological Seminary in Covington in 1860 and, at the outbreak of the war, assumed pastoral duties at the Baptist church in Harrodsburg.

After two years there, he moved to Louisville to accept a call to pastor Jefferson Street Baptist Church and then a year later, "editorial charge" of the Western Recorder. He preached one year at Portland Avenue Baptist Church before moving on after the war to Stamping Ground and then to First Baptist Church of Manchester, N.H.

The dislocation and uncertainty of Graves' ministry with various churches and the instability of the Western Recorder during the war years was indicative of the despair of the divided nation. When we despair today, let us remember 1863, a time when "the same spirit of sadness and gloom, which pervades our own hearts, (was) breathed upon us by the churches from all parts of the state." And then let us remember that perhaps the greatest contribution of the Western Recorder and the greatest achievement of Kentucky Baptists emerged from the ashes of "the destructive war."

Today, the Western Recorder is needed more than ever. Through its pages, we learn about the great work of Kentucky and global Baptists. We also learn about issues. We stay informed, not to advance our own agendas, but to serve the Lord. The Western Recorder helps us serve the Lord. It's as simple as that.

Duane Bolin, a professor of history at Murray State University and a member at First Baptist Church of Murray, is the author of "Kentucky Baptists, 1925-2000: A Story of Cooperation."

A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

Ways to give to Baptist causes

By Laurie Valentine

Your church, association and the Kentucky Baptist Convention and its agencies and institutions have a wide variety of important ministries that need financial support to launch them into reality or to continue or expand their existing programming. The methods by which you may support these important causes through legacy giving (giving out of your assets rather than your income) also are wide ranging.

An outright gift of cash, appreciated securities or real estate is probably the most common—and simplest—way to make gifts during your lifetime.

Other methods of lifetime giving, such as charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, allow you to provide a future benefit to one or more Baptist causes while retaining an annual income for your lifetime or a term of years.

There also is a variety of methods you can arrange now to benefit the causes of your choice at your death. The most common is a bequest in your will or living trust. Another possibility is to name a Baptist cause as the beneficiary of some portion of your IRA or a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family security.

You can designate your gift be used for a specific program or ministry of the benefiting organization, rather than giving the organization the choice of how to use your gift. You also may want to limit the organization to use only the earnings off what you give (this arrangement is called an "endowment fund").

Gifts may be made directly to the benefiting organization or may be given to a third party, such as the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, to manage for the designated beneficiary cause or causes.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Praying the Book of Psalms

By James Stillwell

Q: I am so angry, often depressed, sometimes happy, and no matter what I feel, I wonder if God understands. What can you tell me about emotions based on Scripture?

A: As words speak to the mind, music speaks to the heart. On a daily basis, spend time in the Bible hymn book, Psalms. A full range of emotions are sometimes contained within one psalm. Feel like yelling as you observe injustice in the world? Need a shelter in a time of storm? Feel like praising God from the rooftops? It's all there.

Many psalms are particularly suited to depths of anger that almost seem out of place in a conversation with God. These are given so that we might have permission to "let it all out" in prayer, for our strong and mighty God can surely take it. These harsh prayers frequently are called the "imprecatory" psalms, as they help you pray your negative feelings. Put your feelings and circumstances in the place of the author's and lift it all to God.

Scripture teaches that God brings order out of chaos. When our feelings are chaotic, the Spirit of God can use the psalms to dispel the darkness. When you are filled with negative feelings, resist the urge to avoid dealing with them; they will only grow stronger and more destructive when you try to deny them.

God knows your heart; acknowledging your feelings before God is the act of confession. Ask God's Spirit to be present. You just might find after giving your feelings to God through prayer, they are different. As you pray the psalms, remember you follow in the steps of Christ. When His burden was greatest—on the cross—Jesus cried out to God from Psalms.

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

Church's heart matters most in reaching lost

By Erich Bridges

Chris Jenkins wants fellow pastors to know something up front: It's not easy to get a church strategically involved in global missions. In fact, it might be the hardest thing you ever do.

"I hear the IMB giving us these steps, you do this and you do that, and it sounds easy," said Jenkins, pastor of Unity Baptist Church, a congregation of about 200 people in Prince George, Va.

Four years ago, the church called the IMB and committed to pray for a nomadic group in the Sahara Desert with more than 300,000 people and only one known Christian.

"We wanted somebody that nobody else wanted," Jenkins told messengers to last month's Southern Baptist Convention meeting. "Of course, we just wanted to pray for them and didn't have a clue what we were getting in to." They were getting in to something that is revolutionizing their church—and might just revolutionize the people group they began visiting in 2010.

Jenkins insisted he's like most pastors: so busy he can barely carve out enough time to juggle ministry and family life, much less a commitment to a people group thousands of miles away. Yet Jenkins and his flock couldn't ignore God's call to the

nations. Unity is one of hundreds of churches to embrace an unengaged, unreached people group.

"We liked to talk like we were a church on mission, but we really knew it was just a show," he said.

"We were more concerned with what was going on inside the four walls."

After Unity's first trip to the Sahara in 2010, its whole outlook began to change.

"God kind of slapped me around a little bit" on that trip, he recalled. "I saw people, thousands of miles away, that are going through things I could

never imagine going through, and they have no one in their life sharing with them that God cares. ... How in the world are they going to know it unless we're out there with our hearts, pouring them out, with our hands, getting them dirty, and with our voices, telling people about the good news of Jesus Christ?"

That first journey—and three more since—have changed priorities at Unity. Some members are selling cars and taking second jobs, even planning for early retirement, to get involved in the Sahara mission. "And what we've learned on the global side certainly has helped us on the local side," the pastor said.

Jenkins also had the opportunity to share his experience with other pastors at the IMB's "prayer tent."

Worldview



Erich Bridges

"To be mobilizing others when we're just getting mobilized, it helps you see the work that God is doing," he said. "But I feel like a cat in water, too. I dove in and here I am trying to help other people. Sure, we've sent four teams, but I'm not ignorant enough to think that we're an engaging church just because we've sent four teams."

"But I want to help churches see that this is not just for mega-churches," he added. "You don't have to have 1,000 people in your sanctuary on Sunday morning to be able to adopt an unengaged, unreached people group. ... It's for all of us. It doesn't matter our size; it doesn't matter our race."

"That's who God has called—the local church."

The first step, he noted, is to take the first step.

"Start praying for a people group. Start researching and learning about them," Jenkins urged. "It's amazing what God does in your heart as a pastor and the heart of your congregation as they start to literally embrace a people group. Their heart starts to get wrapped around these people and they start seeing ... a God-sized task in reaching them."

As IMB President Tom Elliff says, it's not a church's size that matters, it's the size of a church's heart. (BP) Erich Bridges is a global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

Legal experts: Politicians cannot legally block Chick-fil-A

By Michael Foust

Chicago—Attempts by politicians in both Chicago and Boston to block the opening of Chick-fil-A restaurants because of the company president's views on marriage would be unconstitutional and also set a dangerous precedent for other businesses, according to numerous attorneys.

Boston Mayor Thomas Menino and Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel each have been quoted as saying they want to prevent Chick-fil-A restaurants from opening in their cities, with Menino declaring in a letter to Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy, "There is no place for discrimination on Boston's Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it." (The Freedom Trail is a path through the city's streets highlighting Boston's historic buildings.)

Emanuel agreed with a Chicago alderman who also opposes a new Chick-fil-A, saying of the company, "They disrespect our fellow neighbors and residents."

Menino and Emanuel backed off their statements July 26, each saying they realize they constitutionally cannot block a restaurant from opening.

Cathy, in two interviews in recent weeks has said he believes in the biblical definition of marriage. The company issued a statement saying it treats every customer with "honor, dignity and respect" and that it will stay out of the gay marriage debate in the future.

David Cortman, an attorney with the legal group Alliance Defending Freedom, said a restaurant cannot be blocked from opening because of the restaurant's or the owner's beliefs.

"It absolutely is not constitutional," Cortman told Baptist Press. "And I think the irony here is that they are claiming this is an issue of freedom and civil rights, but they're actually the ones who would be violating the civil rights of Chick-fil-A not to allow them to open up their business simply because of their views."

But the issue concerns more than just Chick-fil-A, Cortman said, and impacts any business or organization in the U.S.

whose owners hold views different from that of the government. Boston and Chicago would be practicing viewpoint discrimination, a violation of the Constitution's Free Speech clause, Cortman pointed out.

"It does create both a dangerous and an illegal precedent," he said. "The government shouldn't be in the business of threatening or punishing people for their thoughts or ideas, whether they are individuals or businesses themselves."

"And, there's certainly a double standard. You did not hear a politician threatening to deny permits to companies like Home Depot or Starbucks or Target over those companies' aggressive promotion of the homosexual agenda," Cortman added.

Eugene Volokh, a law professor at UCLA, wrote on his blog, "Denying a private business permits because of such speech by its owner is a blatant First Amendment violation."

The Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune and Boston Globe editorial boards

all have defended Chick-fil-A's right to open restaurants.

"Which part of the First Amendment does Menino not understand?" a July 25 Globe editorial read. "A business owner's political or religious beliefs should not be a test for the worthiness of his or her application for a business license."

Meanwhile, support for Chick-fil-A continues to grow. Sign-ups for "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day," Aug. 1, launched by Mike Huckabee, surged past 250,000 late last week.

Evangelist Billy Graham also spoke up for the company.

"I want to express my support for my good friends Truett Cathy and his son, Dan Cathy, and for their strong stand for the Christian faith," Graham said in a statement. "I've known their family for many years and have watched them grow Chick-fil-A into one of the best businesses in America while never compromising their values."

"Each generation faces different issues and challenges, but our standard must always be measured by God's word," Graham continued. "I appreciate the Cathy family's public support for God's definition of marriage." (BP)



Aurora churches

Continued from page 1

mother came to our church because that was the first place she thought could help her daughter."

After sharing some about heaven and praying with the family, Hamilton scheduled an appointment for them later that day with a professional grief counselor.

While several people came by the church and were counseled, others simply wanted a place to mourn and pray.

"A young Marine came by in tears. He ran in and just wanted to go to the altar," Associate Pastor Allie McNider said. "We lost two local servicemen, and he was grieving for them."

Aside from providing on-site help for the community, the church has empowered its members to minister to those around them.

"We offered any resource they may have needed," McNider said, "anything from counseling to a gift card for family members to eat at local restaurants while they are here."

Mississippi Avenue Baptist member Rose Lamb said she has been helping a co-worker who lost her son.

While prayer was the most important need, Lamb said she and other co-workers have been able to meet some of their friend's immediate needs of "food, hugs, errands and daily visits to the home for emotional support."

While the church may not always have the answer to the "why" questions, Lamb said Christians "can offer comfort and support through listening, prayer and just being there for a hurting world. Just offering to pray with someone makes a huge impact."

For Lamb, reaching out to the hurting should be how believers respond during tragedies. "Bottom line," she said, "it's what Christians are called to do."

Lamb said she has seen non-Christian friends attend Mississippi Avenue Baptist and Christians come together in prayer.



SURVIVOR The Edge Church pastor Ryan Heller (right) visits hospitalized Aurora, Colo., theater shooting victim Pierce O'Farrill, who has publicly forgiven the gunman. (BP photo)

"There are incredible testimonies of believers who were in critical places to save and counsel the hurting," Hamilton said, "and there are miraculous survival stories."

Ryan Heller, pastor of The Edge Church in Aurora, experienced one of those stories when he learned one of his members was among the 58 wounded.

Pierce O'Farrill told a local TV station that he and a friend were only a few feet from the gunman when he began firing. O'Farrill and his friend were hit and fell to the ground.

As he lay motionless on the floor unable to escape, O'Farrill said he heard the shooter walk toward him, stopping only inches from him.

"He was literally standing directly above me, and I could feel his boot right next to my head," O'Farrill said. "I just had my face down on the ground and stayed as still as I possibly could, and I prayed and prayed."

As soon as they realized one of their

own was among the victims, church members began to minister to O'Farrill.

"Our whole staff has really been involved in encouraging him," Heller said. "Lots of our people are visiting and loving on him. ... We visited him in the hospital and joined hands in prayer over him and his family."

Meanwhile, O'Farrill has, in the words of his pastor, "stirred a national debate on forgiveness" after he told the media he forgives the accused gunman. The exposure has allowed church members and pastors to share God's message.

"We became very intentional to share the love of Christ and the gospel with each member of the press we met," Hamilton said. "I had one videographer, with tears, tell me that he had never had anyone pray for him."

Through the tragedy, McNider said he feels they were "able to show them a side of church they may not have experienced. ... They saw the true spirit of the living God through His people." (BP)

Churches must be safe places both spiritually and physically

By Aaron Earls

Denver—The Denver area has seen its share of violence. From Columbine to the 2007 shootings at a Youth With a Mission center and New Life Church and now the Aurora theater, churches have sought to prepare for similar attacks during their worship services.

Bob Ryan, team leader for Mile High Baptist Association, said individuals must be assured that the church is a safe place, not just spiritually, but physically. Many Mile High churches are security trained, he said.

"If the shooter had come to one of our churches wearing the type of gear he had on, it would have been dealt with outside," Ryan said. "It's not necessarily about having concealed weapon permits, but about having a plan in place for something like this."

Churches have to be intentional about protecting those inside, but not at the risk of keeping others out, Ryan said. "Churches can have security set up to be essentially invisible unless they are needed."

Practically, Ryan said, churches should have procedures in place to deal with the unimaginable because it has become a reality.

Spiritually, he urged churches to learn how to spot evil. "Jesus said we are to be wise as serpents, but harmless as doves," Ryan said. "We have to figure out how to do that in our culture. ... Our churches have had opportunities to train. You are never ready, but you can be trained." (BP)

Poll shows pastors split on Calvinism, its effect on SBC

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—Nearly equal numbers of pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention consider their churches Calvinist/Reformed as do Arminian/Wesleyan, although more than 60 percent are somewhat or strongly concerned about the effect of Calvinism on the denomination, according to a new survey from LifeWay Research.

Two-thirds of pastors do not consider their church a Reformed theology congregation, while 30 percent agree (somewhat or strongly) with the statement, "My church is theologically Reformed or Calvinist." Four percent did not know. This compares to 29 percent who agreed with this statement in a 2011 survey of Protestant pastors.

By the same token, 64 percent of SBC pastors also disagree (15 percent somewhat; 49 percent strongly) that "my church is theologically Arminian or Wesleyan." Thirty percent of respondents classify their church as Arminian or Wesleyan, with 6 percent selecting "don't know." This compares to 37 percent of Protestant pastors who agreed on the 2011 survey.

"Historically, many Baptists have considered themselves neither Calvinist nor

Arminian, but holding a unique theological approach not framed well by either category," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research.

"We used the terms 'Reformed' or 'Calvinist,' as that is generally self-explanatory," Stetzer pointed out. "However, the terms 'Arminian' or 'Wesleyan' are less common as Wesleyans are often seen as another denomination and many are uncomfortable with the term 'Arminian.'"

The survey revealed that 61 percent of SBC pastors agree (35 percent strongly; 26 percent somewhat) that they are concerned about the impact of Calvinism in the SBC. Thirty percent disagree (16 percent strongly; 14 percent somewhat) with that statement. Nine percent didn't have an answer.

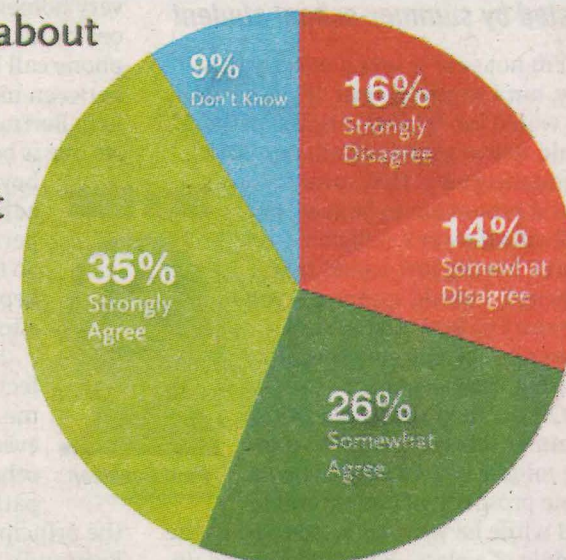
The survey showed pastors of Midwestern churches are more likely than pastors in the South (20 percent vs. 13 percent) to somewhat disagree and less likely to strongly agree (27 percent vs. 37 percent) that they are concerned about the impact of Calvinism in the SBC.

Seventy-eight percent of pastors responded they personally are not five-point Calvinists, while 16 percent agreed (8 percent somewhat and 8 percent strongly) with the statement: "I am a

five-point Calvinist." This compares to 32 percent of pastors who agreed with the statement in last year's survey of Protestant pastors. The majority is reflected in every age bracket, although SBC pastors age 55-64 (77 percent) and 65 and older (77 percent) are more likely to "strongly disagree" with the statement than pastors age 18-44 (60 percent) and 45-54 (66 percent). Pastors age 18-44 (18 percent) and 45-54 (10 percent) are more likely to

THEOLOGY Among SBC Pastors

I am concerned about the impact of Calvinism in the Southern Baptist Convention.



LifeWayResearch.com

LifeWay
RESEARCH

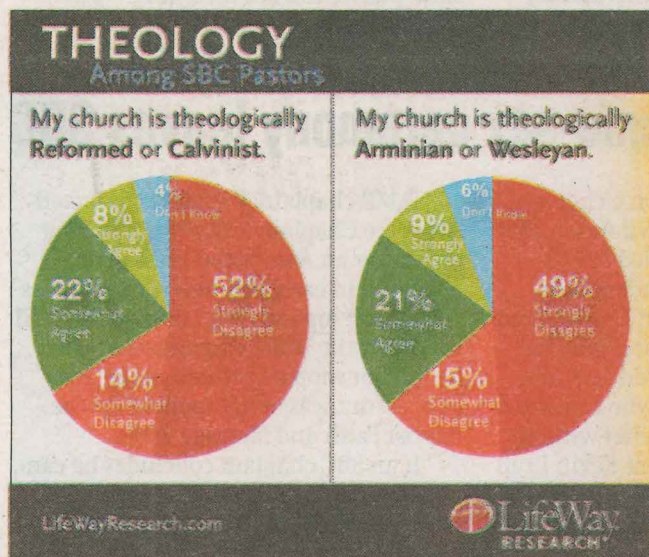
strongly agree with the statement than pastors age 55-64 (3 percent) and 65 and older (1 percent).

LifeWay Research asked a similar question in a 2006 SBC survey, which revealed 85 percent did not consider themselves five-point Calvinists and 10 percent affirmed that they were five-point Calvinists.

"Rather than ask a single question of yes or no, the new survey was intended to capture some of the complexity of the debate by covering several specific theological points and bringing clarity to how strongly pastors hold each position," Stetzer explained.

"There appears to be a lot of concern among Southern Baptist pastors on the impact of Calvinism," Stetzer said, "but the beliefs in these doctrines, at least measured by these questions, show quite a mix of beliefs."

Stetzer summarized that, "Most Baptists are not Calvinists, though many are, and most Baptists are not Arminians, though many are comfortable with that distinction. However, there is a sizeable minority that see themselves as Calvinist and holds to such doctrines, and a sizeable majority that is concerned about their presence. That points to challenging days to come." (LW/BP)



Calvinism conference

Continued from page 1

promised to form a committee to study the Calvinism debate within the confines of the Baptist Faith & Message 2000.

Their comments came hot on the heels of weeks of blog posts and Tweets that ignited discussion, the tone of which was not always gracious, Chitwood noted.

Even a LifeWay Research survey released the week of the convention found SBC pastors split on the issue and a slight majority saying they're concerned about Calvinism's effect on the denomination (see story above).

Chitwood said he was encouraged by what he heard from SBC leaders at the convention. They "voiced a commitment to work together (and) to not let this be an issue that ultimately divides" the SBC, he recalled.

The Executive Committee's Page is one of the speakers lined up for the upcoming conference. He is expected to sound a call for unity in the SBC amid the Calvinism debate, Chitwood said.

In addition to Page, David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., will provide historical overviews of both the history of Baptist theology, as well as the resurgence of Reformed theology.

The afternoon session will include a dialogue between a "committed Calvinist," Hershael York, and a "modified Calvinist," Steve Lemke. York is the pastor

of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, a former KBC president and an associate dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Lemke is director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

The full slate of speakers will be available for a Q&A session preceding Page's presentation. Chitwood said the questions during that time likely will be submitted in writing beforehand.

Of the four men on the panel, York is the only self-professed five-point Calvinist, Chitwood pointed out. Page, meanwhile, has stated on numerous occasions, including at last month's SBC annual meeting, that he is not a Calvinist, but understands that many leaders in the convention are.

For Chitwood, he said he has seen this issue for some time as a "point of tension," echoing a statement he made when he was elected executive director of the KBC last summer. He said he wanted the state convention to take the lead in dispelling myths and helping Kentucky Baptists understand the Calvinism debate.

"Here's a role that we should naturally play in trying to generate a positive discussion and understanding on the issues that are relevant to the day," he said.

Through the conference, Chitwood noted, the KBC will "try to do what we can to help Kentucky Baptists be informed, have good information and be able to see the need to work together in spite of our differences." (WR)

5-YEAR/60,000-MILE BODY & CHASSIS WARRANTY STANDARD WITH EVERY NEW BUS PURCHASE

Carpenter Bus Sales has gone the extra mile again in providing a unique 5-year/60,000-mile body & chassis warranty* with every new bus they sell!

An option like this would normally add \$3,000 to the price of a bus. With Carpenter Bus, it comes standard.

LifeWay
CHRISTIAN STORES

Call 866-750-5658
or visit us online at
CarpenterBus.com

*Details on this Limited Warranty at
www.carpenterbus.com/5-60



Carpenter
BUS SALES

Blessed are the patient, part 1

Biblical directive to have patience tested by summer-school student

I'm not sure it says it exactly this way, but I think the gist of the Scriptures would be: "Blessed are the patient." I could tell you stories from our 2012 graduating class that surely would prove that to be true, but with our six-week summer school having just ended two days ago, I would rather tell you the story of Bertrand. Here's "part one" of that story (we'll finish it next week).

On the next-to-last day of summer school—while I was in the middle of an interview with some prospective houseparents and while he was supposed to be in the middle of a class—Bertrand showed up outside my closed office door. I admit to being surprised, but it wasn't the first time Bertrand had shown up at my office—and it wasn't the first time he had shown up unexpectedly.

The first time I met Bertrand was when he came for his summer school admissions interview with his family. He was a polite young man of moderately small stature with a life goal of playing in the NBA and/or being a dentist. We had a good chat, and I told him that if he had any problems, he shouldn't hesitate about letting me know. What I didn't tell him was when to let me know.

As a result, the next time I saw Bertrand in my office was when he came to me in the middle of a class. As it turned out, while he was with me, the principal and the entire school administration were searching frantically for him. Nobody dreamed that Bertrand would think to go to the president's office in the middle of the day.

That day, during the first week of

summer school, Bertrand was feeling very homesick and very much "picked on" by his peers in the dorm. It took a phone call home (and a later conference between me and the dean of boys) to help Bertrand hold on and tough it out. No one is born or originally lives in the

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

boys' dorm, so it does take some adjusting and patience until a person feels comfortable there. So far, so good; patience has kept a student with us through a tough time.

Now, Bertrand is not a perfect child, in that, he resembles me and every other boy who has ever lived. So sometimes it is other people who need to have patience with him. For example,

the principal chose to be patient with Bertrand's AWOL behavior during that first week of summer-school classes and didn't do more than talk with him.

There also was the time that, in spite of being campused (or grounded), Bertrand decided to see if he could attend "free time" undetected—something that is not very likely, especially with fewer than 55 students in summer school.

When the on-duty houseparent saw him and told him to go back to the dormitory, Bertrand began to argue. Just before leaving the gym, he decided to "moon" the houseparent and the rest of the coeducational crowd that was present. The dean of boys did exercise patience, but Bertrand still got two days of suspension for his inappropriate and unacceptable action.

Patience won again—Bertrand still was a student at OBI and our work in his life continued.

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

We welcome the London District

Ky. African-American Baptists hold annual convention at Clear Creek

As I write this, our campus is coming alive once again. There are several elements that make this an exciting time of year. Of course, our students return to classes, but that hasn't happened just yet. Our alumni return home to celebrate what God has done and is doing in their lives and at their alma mater, but the alumni conference is not until Aug. 6-7.

God has painted the campus green and added touches of other colors, but even that is not the focal point of the excitement. This is the week the London District of the Baptist Missionary and Education Association assembles at Clear Creek for its annual meeting.

The London District is the Kentucky Baptist association of African-American Baptist churches. The district began meeting at Clear Creek many years ago for its annual conference. Before our students return to the chapel for services, the London District wakes up the sanctuary with Spirit-filled music, passionate preaching and an air of

excitement. I always look forward to my invitation from them to bring an opening message at the convention.

It is very difficult sometimes, when passing by the chapel, not to turn in there instead of going to our offices. In

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

fact, we often do take a moment to sit with them and enjoy a time of worship to freshen up our work day. Between sessions, the halls are filled with some of the most cordial Christians you could ever want to meet.

I would not say their meetings are much different than the many other Baptist associational meetings I have experienced. Our annual meetings always include preaching, but none more passionate than the messages delivered in our chapel this week. Like ours, the London District meetings are a mixture of business and worship.

I know one thing for sure: It is a good week when our brothers and sisters from the London District come to campus. We gladly welcome them each year.

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.

Religion survey finds record number of American 'Nones'

By Cathy Lynn Grossman

Washington—Unbelief is on the uptick. People who check "None" for their religious affiliation now are nearly one in five Americans (19 percent), the highest ever documented, according to the Pew Center for the People and the Press.

The rapid rise of "Nones"—including atheists, agnostics and those who say they believe "nothing in particular"—defies the usually glacial rate of change in spiritual identity.

Barry Kosmin, co-author of three American Religious Identification Surveys, theorizes why None has become the "default category." "Young people are resistant to the authority of institutional religion, older people are turned off by the politicization of religion, and people are simply less into theology than ever before," he said.

Kosmin's surveys were the first to brand the Nones in 1990 when they were 6 percent of U.S. adults. By the 2008 survey, Nones were up to 15 percent. By 2010, another survey, the biannual General Social Survey, bumped the number to 18 percent.

Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church, the nation's largest religious denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, Methodists and Lutherans, all show membership flat or inching

downward, according to the 2012 Yearbook of American & Canadian Churches.

The 19 percent count is based on aggregated surveys of more than 19,000 people conducted by the Pew Research Center throughout 2011.

How high the Nones numbers might go depends on demographics, said Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, religion and divinity at Duke University, an expert on the General Social Survey.

Two forces could hold Nones' numbers down. First, they are disproportionately young, often single, and highly educated—all groups with a low birth rate. Second, the number of believers who immigrate to the U.S. from particularly religious nations, such as Catholics from Mexico, fluctuates with government policies and economic issues, Chaves said.

But the chief way the category grows is by "switchers." A 2009 Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life look at "switching" found more than 10 percent of American adults became Nones after growing up within a religious group.

Chaves said there's also another dimension to the unbelief trend worth watching. "Americans famously say they believe in some variation of God. Over 90 percent do," Chaves noted. "But it used to be 99 percent decades ago. The change is slow, but we can see it coming." (USA Today/RNS)

Chaplain at same-sex ceremony leaves SBC

Alpharetta, Ga.—The Air Force chaplain who attended a same-sex civil union that took place in June has notified North American Mission Board leaders he is leaving the Southern Baptist Convention.

"Southern Baptists love and pray for our chaplains. That being said, we only want to endorse chaplains who can support Baptist doctrine and belief without reservation," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said. "When it comes to what our chaplains believe and practice, we do ask and we do expect them to tell."

NAMB chaplaincy leaders contacted Air Force Chaplain (Col.) Timothy Wagoner after an Associated Press article appeared in early July describing him as "watching supportively" during the civil union. At the time, Wagoner indicated he did not support the ceremony and gave assurances of his support for the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

"If an SBC chaplain concludes he cannot conduct his ministry in harmony with SBC beliefs and doctrine, then it is best to part ways," Ezell said. (NAMB/BP)

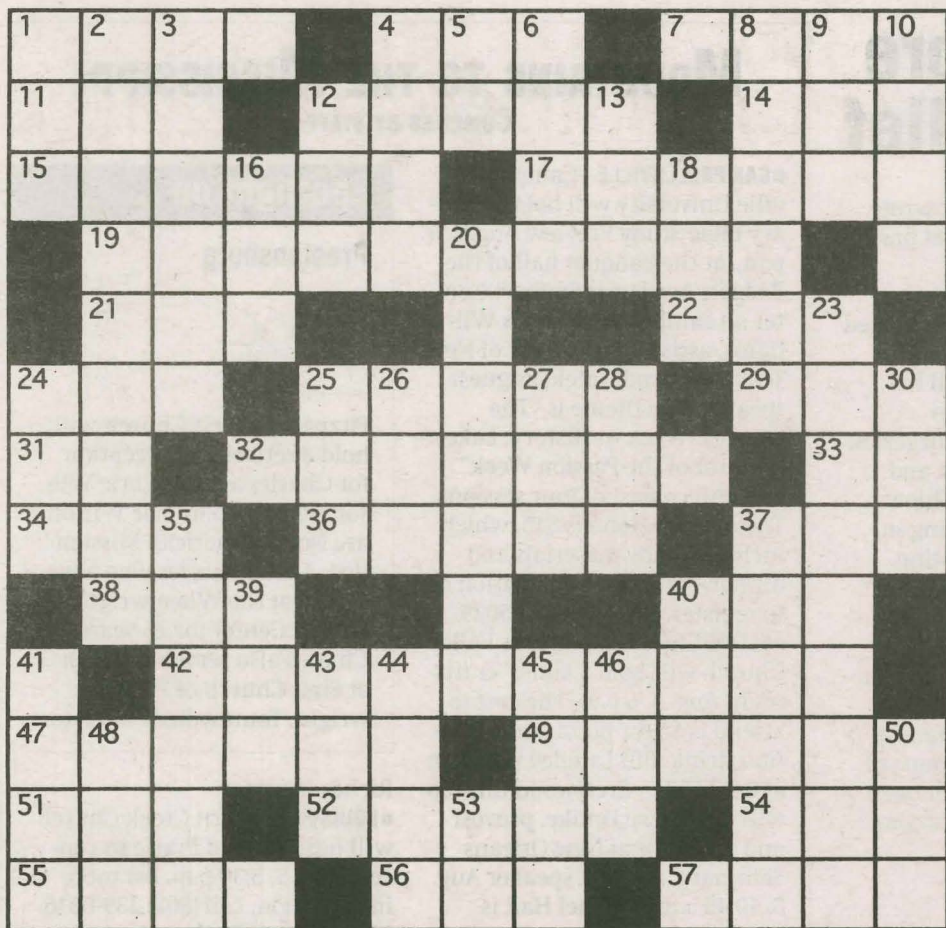
FREE \$100

BIBLE LAND TOUR CERTIFICATE

Hundreds of Life Changing Packages

www.pilgrimtours.com/100

or call 800.322.0788



Bible Crosswords

By John Thornberg

Across

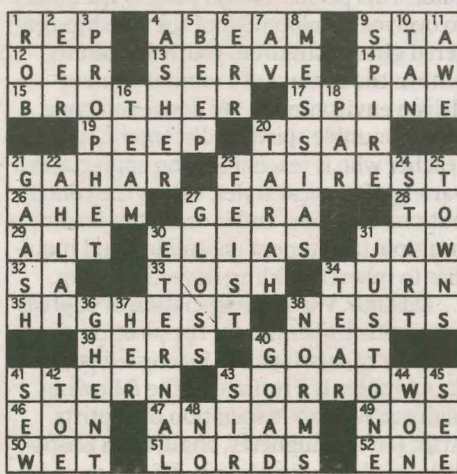
- 1 To engrave with acid
- 4 Common contraction
- 7 Woodwind
- 11 Powerful lobby in D.C.
- 12 Erstwhile emerald?
- 14 "___ we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6)
- 15 Proximal's polar opposite
- 17 Central African nation
- 19 Gemstone comprising third foundation of wall of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)
- 21 To know (Scot.)
- 22 Spigot
- 24 Balaam's beast
- 25 Marble for marbles?
- 29 Scold constantly
- 31 "___ is finished" (John 19:30)
- 32 Gem in second row of high priest's breastplate (Exodus 28)
- 33 "I find ___ fault in him" (John 19:4)
- 34 "And on earth peace, good will toward ___" (Luke 2:14)
- 36 Bottom of the barrel?
- 37 "Some of them thought, because Judas had the ___" (John 13:29)
- 38 Familiar name of Brazilian port
- 40 Geographical abbr.
- 42 Gemstone comprising seventh foundation of wall of 19 across
- 47 Return to original speed (music)
- 49 Indian communal village
- 51 Zilch
- 52 Formerly known as the coney, in Bible times
- 54 Row
- 55 Gem in fourth row of 32 across
- 56 "Thou anointest my head with ___" (Psalm 23:5)
- 57 Cause disintegration of blood cells

Down

- 1 "But the ___ of all things is at hand" (1 Peter 4:7)
- 2 Practical joker
- 3 Converts into cold, hard currency
- 4 Soft mineral
- 5 Linking verb
- 6 To scatter or cluster
- 8 Tree found on Persian Gulf
- 9 Not a spring chicken
- 10 Character actor Jack, whose stock-in-trade was westerns
- 12 Cohort
- 13 Conscious self

- 16 Exposure in Ixtapa?
- 18 "Go to the ___, thou sluggard" (Proverbs 6:6)
- 20 Covers with a hard, glossy surface
- 23 Slender cigars
- 24 Aspire to
- 25 First ___
- 26 Needlefish
- 27 What to wear
- 28 Printer's measure
- 30 ___ and Magog (Revelation 20)
- 35 Well
- 37 Young Yankee employee?
- 39 Measure of resistance
- 40 Sodium hydroxide
- 41 One billionth (prefix)
- 43 Measure of rotations (abbr.)
- 44 Toy or turkey?
- 45 Gemstone
- 46 Light (Lat.)
- 48 ___ ear
- 50 Mineral resource
- 53 Eastern seaboard state (abbr.)

Last puzzle's solution



Memorial gifts: A new idea

Memorial mission endowments provide ongoing kingdom support

The North Carolina Baptist Foundation encourages North Carolina Baptist churches to establish "memorial mission endowments" to receive memorial gifts when church members pass away. It's a wonderful idea, and I want to encourage Kentucky Baptist churches to consider doing the same thing.

For many years, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation has encouraged churches which have established endowment funds with us to encourage their members to direct memorial gifts into the endowments as a means of growing it over time. The NCBF idea of establishing an endowment specifically for memorial gifts is just another way for church members and friends to honor and perpetuate the legacy of those special people in their lives at the time of their deaths.

Memorial gifts are not limited to just writing a check. They also can be made with appreciated securities, real estate, a beneficiary designation of a life insurance policy or a retirement account or a bequest in a will or a trust.

A memorial missions endowment can be established with the KBF with an initial contribution of at least \$100. No

earnings distributions will be made to the church until the account attains a market value of \$5,000. Once distributions are available, the church decides each year which missions and ministries will benefit from the distributions.

So, the endowment becomes a new source of perpetual support for the church's missions and ministries and provides flexibility as priorities of the church may change from year to year.

The most wonderful feature of a memorial mission endowment is the legacies of those persons being memorialized through gifts to the endowment will continue to be remembered and included in the life of the

church well beyond their lifetimes. Unlike the typical memorial gift to a church, which is spent and gone forever, an endowment gift allows the donor and the one being remembered to have an ongoing involvement in advancing the kingdom through the missions and ministries of the church until Jesus comes again.

Call me toll free for more information about how your church could establish such a fund.

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

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

Highlighting Sunrise's mission

Lawsuit distracts from real stories of lives changed through Sunrise

The recent media attention regarding the 12-year-old lawsuit involving Sunrise, the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the American Civil Liberties Union was a bit misleading. Procedurally, the judge ruled the lawsuit could continue. However, the appearance of the information would suggest new action has been taken. Those are not the facts.

The lawsuit was waiting to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court but was rejected and sent back to district court. By court procedures, the judge simply left the case open as it was never settled by parties nor by judgment. That means no new action was taken, nor are there any new developments at this time.

The lawsuit which alleges Sunrise has used tax dollars to promote religion and/or coerce children's religious beliefs has been bantered about in the court system for more than a decade. Because of our ties to the Baptist community, the ACLU argues we should not be allowed to receive any tax dollars to serve Kentucky's kids, which incidentally does not cover the cost of care, even though some of those tax dollars come from Baptists.

Like the majority of private child care providers that contract with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to care for young victims of abuse and neglect, Sunrise has been a faith-based agency since its inception in 1869. And, like all other private child care providers, Sunrise is contracted by the state to

not only provide for our children's physical, emotional and educational needs, but also to provide opportunities for their spiritual growth as they choose.

Our mission is all about saving children's lives, helping them heal from horrors they never should have to experience, and finding loving families who are ready to open their hearts and homes to a child in need. Such drawn-out legal

wrangling only detracts from this critical, life-changing work.

For those who want a glimpse into the lives their donations and tax dollars are changing, check out www.Sunrise.org. There you will find just a small selection of stories about our kids that showcase Sunrise's mission and results. Such successes don't necessarily make newspaper headlines or garner much attention, yet they tell the real story.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter
TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE



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.
27-28 Transformational Church Summit: A Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders, Campbellsville University.

October

- 4-6 Ministers in Transition Conference, Louisville.

From Aurora, Colo., more stories of miracles, belief

Aurora, Colo.—Hope rises from the tragic Aurora theater shooting in such stories as a young woman thought to be critically injured and a mother who shielded her teenage daughters.

While the nation mourns the 12 lives lost during the Colorado shooting, victims and their families, including Petra Anderson and Marie Isom, try to piece their lives together and find hope.

Petra Anderson

When Anderson, a 22-year-old violinist, walked into the midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises" with two friends, she didn't know a small defect in her skull soon would save her life.

Anderson's trip to the movies turned into a horrific evening when she was hit by four shots from the gunman: three in her arm and one in her brain, Brad Strait, her pastor at Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church in Englewood, Colo., recalled on his blog.

The bullet went through her nose and traveled through her brain until it stopped at the back of her skull. Strait said doctors were uncertain if she would live, and if she did, they said she might have significant brain damage.

After an agonizing wait, Strait and Anderson's mother received good news. Unbeknownst to them, Anderson had, from birth, "a tiny channel of fluid running through her skull, like a tiny vein through a marble, or a small hole in an oak board, winding from front to rear," Strait wrote.

The bullet managed to follow that path and missed all the vital areas of her brain.

"Like a giant BB through a straw created in Petra's brain before she was born, it follows the

route of the defect," Strait wrote. "It is channeled in the least harmful way."

After surgery to remove the bullet, Strait said Anderson looked "surprisingly wonderful" and almost uninjured. She still has much healing ahead of her though, including more surgeries.

In a video for Anderson and other victims, her sister Chloe Anderson spoke about living in the aftermath of the shooting.

"Hearing the descriptions of what happened that night is like hearing someone talk about the worst parts of the movie just coming right off the screen and into reality," Chloe said. "Our family has been shaken by the events of last Friday, but we have not been broken any more than this community has been broken."

Marie Isom

Isom also was in the packed Aurora theater in suburban Denver, and while she was not injured like Anderson, she shares a story of hope from the experience.

Isom wrote on her blog that she was not thrilled about seeing the end of the Batman trilogy, but after pressure from her teenage daughters she chose to attend on opening night.

"I don't like action movies. And I don't like midnight showings," she wrote. But "parents sometimes make sacrifices for their kiddos, and I decided I would take my 14-year-old and 16-year-old daughters who were chomping at the bit.

"Twice I had the opportunity to back out and twice I was quite tempted. But something in me said just go with your girls. I did."

Isom was a mere 50 feet from the gunman when gas filled the air and he began shooting. She

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...

Prestonsburg



Fitzpatrick First Church will hold a retirement reception for Charles and Marjorie Wilson Aug. 4, 2 p.m. The Wilsons are North American Mission Board missionaries who have served at the Wheelwright Baptist Center for 26 years. Charles also serves as pastor at First Church of Wheelwright. Tommy Reed is pastor.

Richey is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will host Voice of Praise in concert Aug. 5, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a community gospel sing Aug. 4, 7 p.m., featuring local gospel singers. Tom Curry is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University will hold a January Bible Study Preview Aug. 2, 1 p.m., at the banquet hall of the Badgett Academic Support Center on campus with Jarvis Williams, assistant professor of New Testament and Greek, as guest speaker. The theme is "The Greatest Week in History: Luke's Account of the Passion Week" and will consist of four sessions. The cost to attend is \$15, which includes study materials and dinner. For more information or to register, call (270) 789-5029.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a ladies' crafts night Aug. 3, 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$5 for pizza and a two-liter drink. Bill Langley is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Crestwood Church will host Steve Lemke, provost and professor at New Orleans Seminary, as guest speaker Aug. 5, 10:45 a.m. Michael Hail is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold a CPR certification class Aug. 4, 10 a.m. For more information, call (270) 358-3193. Paul

noticed her daughters were struggling and they all got on the floor.

Her youngest daughter was at the end of the row near the gunman, so Isom jumped on top of her to cover and protect her as shots fired across the theater.

But even during disaster, Isom's faith did not falter.

"In that moment, as the rapid-fire shots continued, I truly thought I was going to die. And I realized that I was ready," she wrote. "I have put my faith and trust in Jesus Christ as the redeemer of my soul, and there wasn't the slightest doubt that I would be received into heaven, not

because of any good thing that I have done but because of His merciful nature and the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ."

When the shots stopped, Isom and her daughters made their way out of the theater and to their car safely, but remain rattled.

Despite the terrible incident, Isom remained adamant that God is still good even though there is evil in the world. "God is always good," she wrote. "Man is not. Don't get the two confused.

"We will continue to praise and worship our mighty God, anticipating that He will bring beauty from ashes, as only He can do." (BP)

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.

OPPORTUNITY: High-tech manufacturer offers unique opportunity for Christian family home-based business. Call (800) 506-1631 for recorded message and complete information.

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: 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: 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@bell-south.net.

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 cprc@insightbb.com to apply. Applications accepted through Aug. 1.

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 resúmes to allie@calvaryindanville.com by Aug. 12.

SEEKING: Crab Orchard Baptist Church, Crab Orchard, Ky., is seeking a youth minister/associate pastor. For more information, contact Casey Horton at (606) 282-3776.

SEEKING: Main Street Church in Alexandria, Ky., is seeking a full-time worship educator. This person should possess the ability to oversee development of the worship-centered gifts of children, youth and adults within the context of a vibrant content-driven environment. We desire someone who is humble-spirited, diplomatic, a teacher who is teachable, who appreciates a variety of musical styles, values the contributions of others, and is confident leading a multiple instrument ensemble. Send inquiries to robertfranklin@sievechurch.org.

SEEKING: Warren Association of Baptists is accepting resúmes for the position of director of missions. All interested persons should submit a resumé to the following address: Warren Association of Baptists, Attn: David Daugherty, chair, 6448 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY

To place an advertisement:

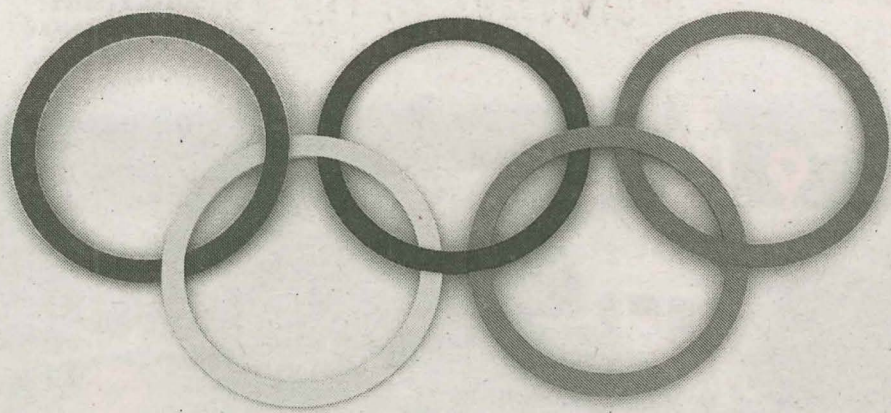
Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit WesternRecorder.org. Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



42104. Resúmes also may be sent to David Daugherty, 158 Clearfork Church Spur Road, Rockfield, KY 42274. Email resúmes may be sent to amy@warrenassociation.org. Deadline for resúmes is Sept. 1.

SEEKING: Victory Baptist Church at 165 Hammons Lane, London, KY 40744 is praying for a bivocational pastor to lead our church family. Prayerfully consider sending a resumé to the above-mentioned address, c/o Kevin Grant, pastor search committee chairman, or to kevin.grant@xerox.com.

SEEKING: Safe Harbor Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music; traditional worship, open to blend. Call (502) 570-5851 or email safeharborpastor@gmail.com.



What are Olympian Tobin Heath's passions? Christ and soccer

By Tim Ellsworth

London—Tobin Heath's love affair with the sport of soccer began early in life—when she started playing at age 4 at the local YMCA.

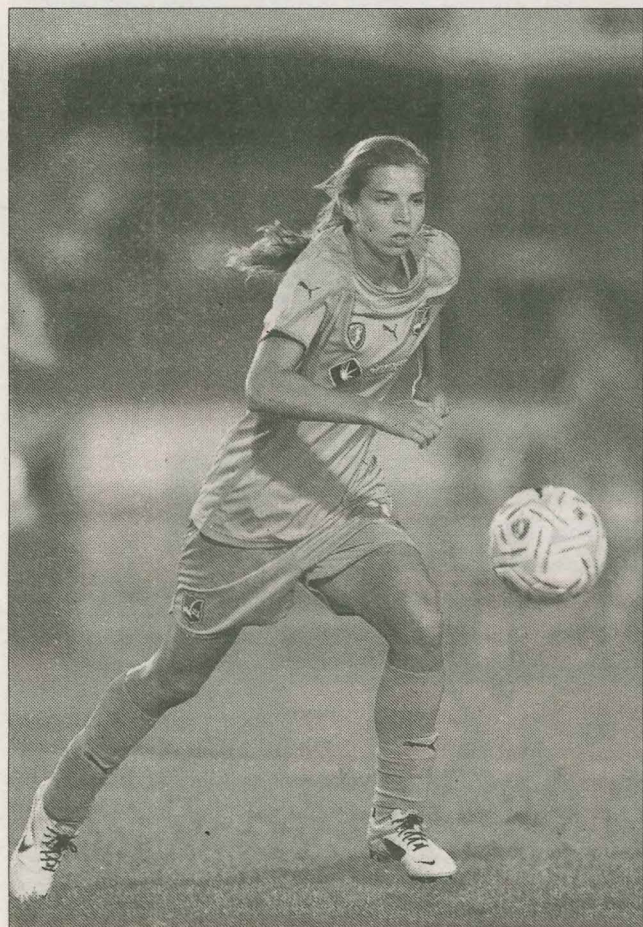
"I had an incredible sense of joy in the game," she said. "I didn't want to do anything else."

Her passion for soccer continued to develop throughout her youth, as did her skills. She became one of the top soccer players in the country, and this week she will make her second Olympics appearance as a member of the U.S. women's team.

Soccer isn't the only passion that began in Heath's youth. Her relationship with Christ also started early in her life and has continually deepened through the years.

"I was brought up in the church, and from an early age, I was lucky enough to be shown great examples of Christ's love through my parents and my family," Heath said.

Though she had a strong foundation in a Christian family, leaving her New Jersey home for college proved to be a turning point in her life. She realized



that her faith didn't stay at home, but that she had to embrace it for herself.

She did that during her freshman year at the University of North Carolina, when she said she really found her identity in Christ. She immersed herself in Scripture and began a closer walk with the Lord that has continued and that others have noticed.

Stephanie Cox, a teammate of Heath's on the 2011 World Cup team, said Heath has a laid-back personality that reminds her of a surfer.

"She talks kind of slow sometimes and is very relaxed," Cox said. "But then you start to get her talking in front of people or in our Bible study, and she gets on a roll. She's passionate. It's really captivating."

Heath said the women's Olympic team has every expectation of winning a gold medal in London. On a personal level, she said she simply wants to enjoy the journey and do what she can to allow her teammates to be successful.

"You don't really know what your role is going to be at the Olympics until you actually get there," Heath said. "There are so many special moments and stories and challenges that go

along with the tournament itself. I'm excited for the journey and for what we're going to face along the way."

She said her Christian faith has allowed her to derive great joy from playing soccer because she knows God has entrusted her with a gift.

"I realize that I couldn't have gotten where I am without Him, and He continues to be my everything every day," Heath said.

She said wants to use that gift to bring glory to the Lord, whether that means playing her best on the field or loving, encouraging and ministering to her teammates along the way.

"Just as important as winning a game is winning lives for His kingdom," Heath said. (BP)

London 2012 Olympic Games



U.S. archer learns to trust God

By Tim Ellsworth

London—Jacob Wukie had little reason to feel confident heading into this year's Olympic archery trials.

Stomach problems had plagued him for weeks, significantly cutting into his training plans. In his preparation for the trials, Wukie had hoped to shoot 350-400 arrows a day. One week, he only shot 500 arrows total.

"I just had to learn to be OK with not being able to give it all I had and trust that the Lord would be glorified through that," Wukie said.

Despite the lack of training, Wukie kept advancing through the trials. On the last day of the third and final round, his closest competitor faltered, and Wukie made the Olympic team by the slimmest of margins.

When he steps onto the field to compete in London, Wukie certainly wants to win. But more than that, he said he wants to represent Christ well on one of the world's biggest athletic platforms.

"For me, my worth is in the fact that I am saved. I'm a Christian," Wukie said. "My goal is to glorify God."

"Right now, I'm shooting archery," he continued. "I believe that wherever we are, we're supposed to do everything to the best of our ability. So, I'm working as hard as I can in training in archery to be the best that I'm able to be."

Wukie has learned to trust God with his archery, whatever the outcome may be. The 2012 Olympic trials were a stark contrast to four years earlier, when Wukie spent countless hours preparing, only to find himself overmatched and unprepared for that level of competition.

That helplessness caused a great deal of anxiety and frustration.

"Even though I intellectually believed that God was in control and had a good plan for my life, and that all things work together for good for those who are Christians, I kind of proved to myself that I didn't actually believe it, because I was so worried about all of these things that had gone wrong," he said.

Wukie placed 17th when only the top 16 archers advanced, effectively ending his chances at making the 2008 Olympic team in Beijing. Prior to those trials, Wukie had prayed that God would change his prayer and teach him to trust in His leading and His plans.

"After a couple of months, I realized that the Lord had changed my heart, that I was excited about whatever the future was, even though I didn't know what it was," he recalled.

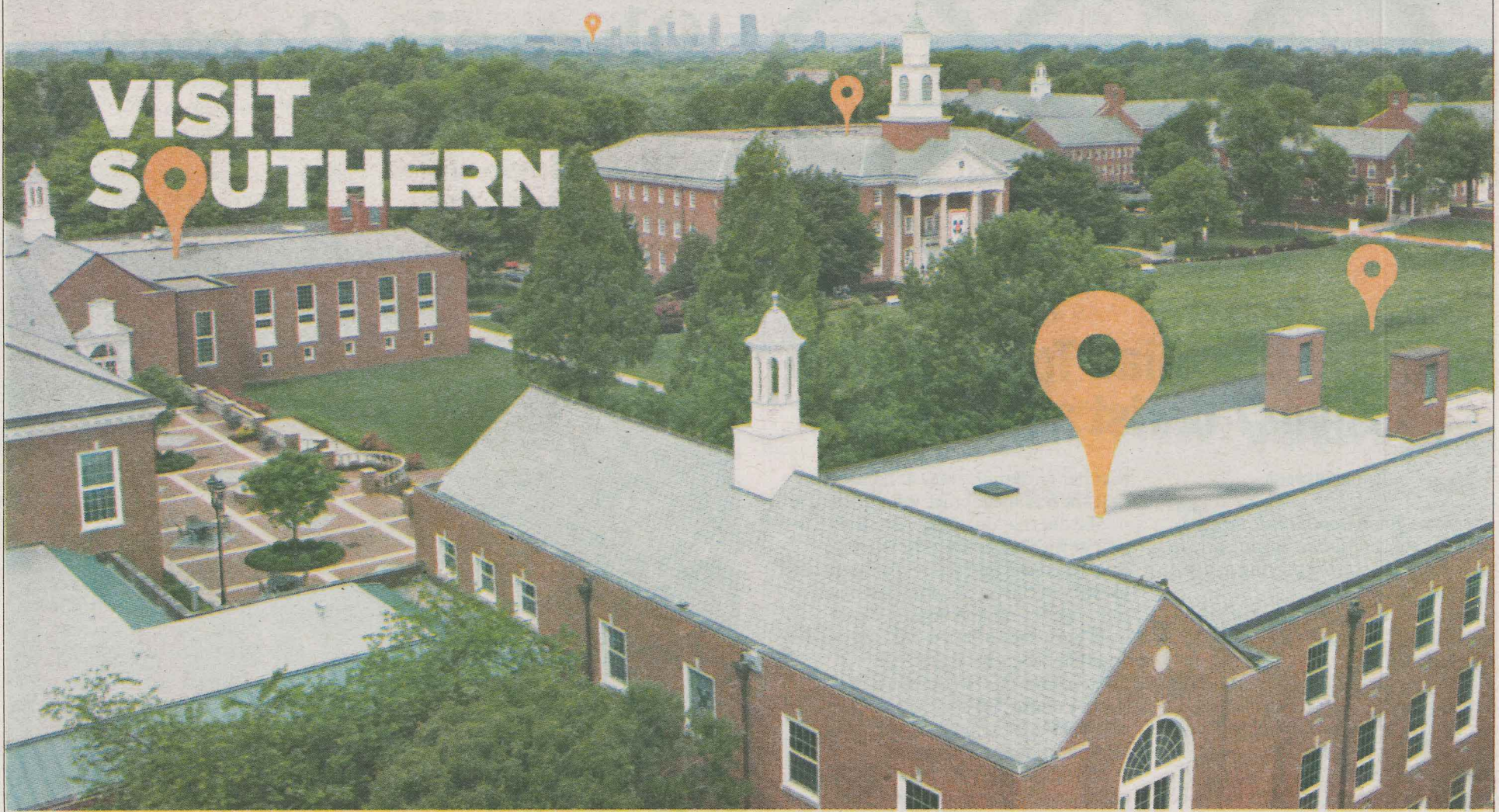
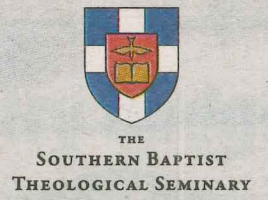
A week later, the national coach informed him that another archer had pulled out of the competition and that Wukie was back in the top 16. He continued with the Olympic trials, ultimately finishing fourth and serving as an alternate to the 2008 Olympic team.

"Just through everything that the Lord had brought me through, ... I knew that I was where He wanted me to be," Wukie said. "I wasn't on the team and didn't end up competing in Beijing, but He had taught me to trust Him."

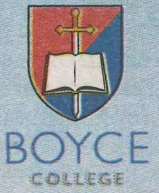
That lesson was a valuable one for Wukie, and one he will carry with him into the 2012 Olympics.

"Whether I win or don't, whether I win the gold medal or go out my first match, my prayer is going to be that God will be glorified in my performance and in how others see me," Wukie said. "I'll pray that others around me will be able to see the Lord through me and my actions and my performance." (BP)

Preview Day is October 12, 2012
sbts.edu/preview



**VISIT
SOUTHERN**



Preview Day is October 19, 2012
boycecollege.com/preview



**VISIT
BOYCE**