

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Calvinism Consensus?

Conference seeks to foster unity among Baptists of different theological bents, maintain focus on Great Commission

By Drew Nichter & Robin Cornetet Bass

Crestwood—When the Kentucky Baptist Convention announced it was hosting a conference on Calvinism, Executive Director Paul Chitwood was asked: “Why are we using Cooperative Program dollars to try to convert people to Calvinism?”

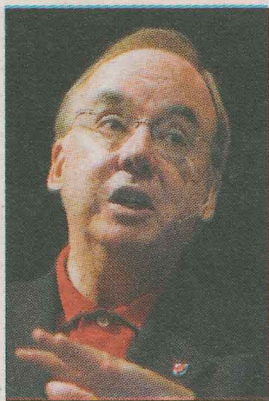
It is that type of suspicion and lack of understanding that clouds the Calvinism debate among Southern Baptists and why such a conference is so important, Chitwood has said.

The KBC welcomed more than 200 people to its “Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?” conference at Crestwood Baptist Church last weekend. Hundreds more logged on across the country to watch live via the Internet.

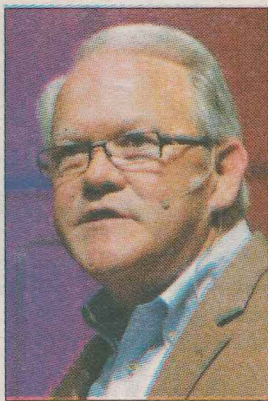
“What we are not doing today is trying to convert anyone to Calvinism,” Chitwood assured. The conference’s goal was “to undergird our cooperation by coming to a better understanding of who Baptists have been historically and who we are today.”

The seminar included sessions from Union University President David Dockery reviewing the history of Baptist theology and the current resurgence of Reformed theology. That was followed by a dialogue between Hershael York and Steve Lemke offering their views of Calvinism from differing theological perspectives (see story on page 6).

Dockery, York and Lemke then were joined by



David Dockery



Frank Page

Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page for a question-and-answer session, which preceded Page’s own call for unity among Southern Baptists

In his address, Page reminded the audience of the Lord’s intent and strategy for unity among believers.

“I know that anything like this (topic) carries with it great risks,” Page noted. “Because there are many voices, great emotion, and always tied to those factors is the possibility of misinterpretation. But our call to which God has called us in Kentucky and around our world is far greater than those risks. So, we come together today trying to pull together for the gospel.”

□ See Calvinism conference ... Page 6



Hershael York (on screen), pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, discusses Calvinism with Steve Lemke (seated, right), provost of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, while Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville, moderates. More than 200 people attended the Kentucky Baptist Convention’s Aug. 4 “Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?” conference at Crestwood Baptist Church. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

ERLC’s Land to retire

Ethics head will step aside Oct. 2013

Nashville, Tenn.—Richard Land, who led the transformation of the Southern Baptist Convention’s ethics entity during much of the denomination’s conservative shift, has announced he will retire next year.

Land’s retirement as president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission will take effect Oct. 23, 2013, he announced in a letter last week to the acting chairman of the entity’s board of trustees. His retirement is scheduled to take place 25 years from the date he assumed the ERLC presidency.

Land, 65, has acted as an outspoken advocate among Southern Baptists for biblical positions on such issues as the sanctity of human life,

□ See Land to retire ... Page 2



Richard Land

Once a Katrina evacuee, now a street pastor in London

By Ava Thomas

London—Bernard McGraw saw the man at the pump stacking pennies on the hood of his car. “Hey, man, do you have a quarter? I’m trying to buy a gallon of gas.”

McGraw had one. He placed it in the man’s hand along with a business card for his Creole restaurant in San Antonio. “If you’re hungry, please come, and I’ll feed you because of the love Jesus has for me and for you.”

A few days later, the man came. “I told him I’ve been where he is. I’m still stacking pennies on my car sometimes,” McGraw said. “But now I have a relationship with Christ that gets me through the hard times.”

It’s a relationship that kept McGraw from committing suicide in the darkest hours of Hurricane Katrina. It’s one that guided him to open a restaurant in San Antonio, and one that’s now brought him to London as a street pastor for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

“At the end of the day, I want to reach that one person who can’t go anymore,” he said, “because I was there.”

McGraw, his wife, Charlene, and six sons lived in New Orleans until Hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005. Four days after the storm, the family waited on the corner of St. Charles and Napoleon avenues for a bus to evacuate them from the flooded city.

□ See Katrina evacuee ... Page 7



SHINING LIGHT Bernard McGraw, a volunteer street pastor at the London Olympics, says he found God during the darkest moments of Hurricane Katrina and now wants to share that hope with others. (IMB photo)



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Western Recorder 8-7-2012

Thousands pack Chick-fil-A restaurants nationwide to show support

Rock Hill, S.C.—In Rock Hill, S.C., last Wednesday, customers waited 75 minutes for a Chick-fil-A chicken sandwich, when they could have driven down the road to McDonald's and been in and out in five minutes.

Chick-fil-A restaurants nationwide were crammed with customers making a difference by standing up for a chain that has been criticized by media members, politicians and activist groups because of Chick-fil-A President Dan Cathy's support for the biblical definition of marriage.

"Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day," as organizer Mike Huckabee called it, may have been more successful than even he envisioned. More than 650,000 people had signed up on Facebook to participate, and even more that that may have showed up at its locations nationwide.

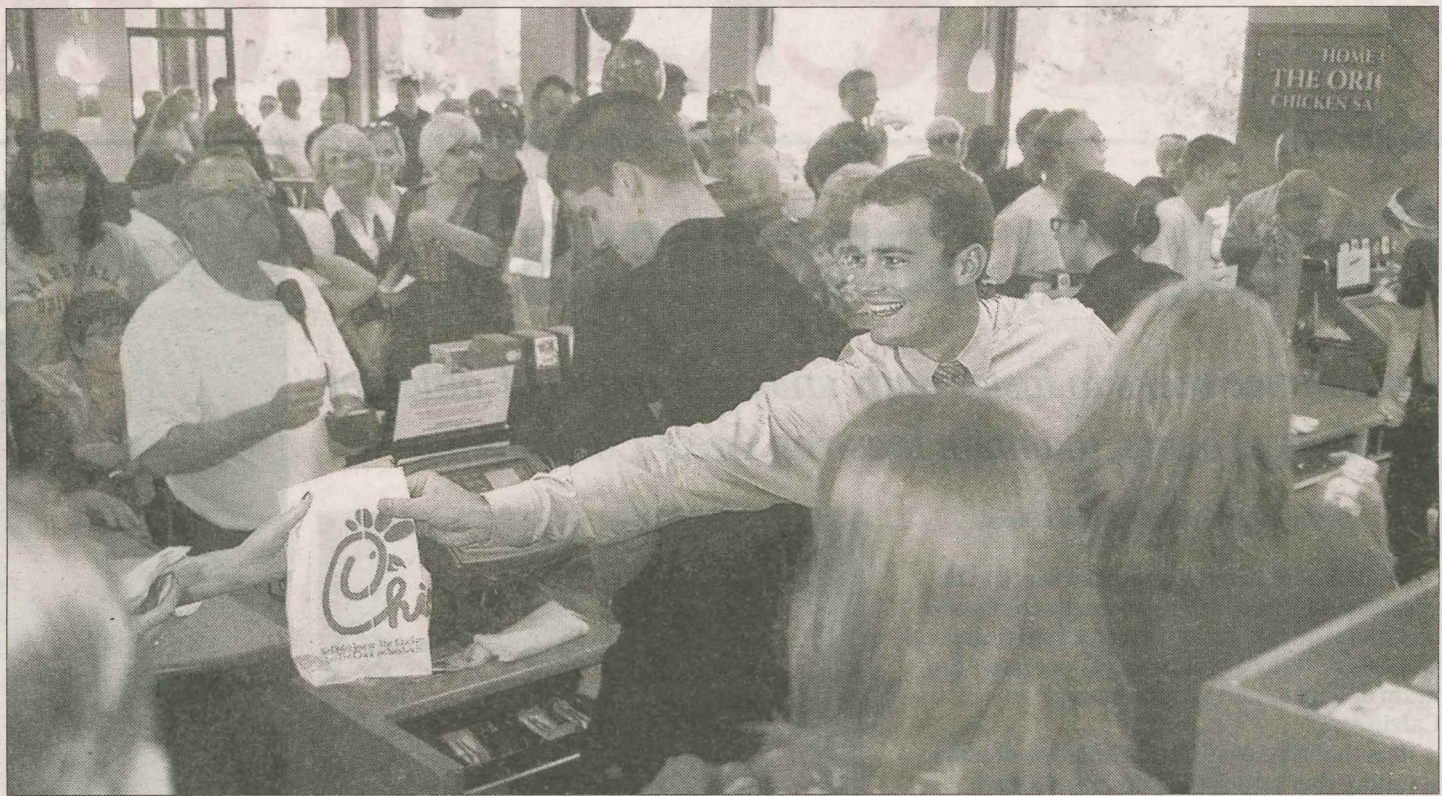
Lunch patrons at the Westport Road location in Louisville, one of seven Chick-fil-A operations in the city, stood in lines stretching from the counter, out both doors and into the parking lot. Some parked and into the parking lot. Some parked their cars at an adjacent shopping center and walked a half-mile to avoid the bumper-to-bumper traffic surrounding the restaurant. Others parked at a nearby home improvement store and crossed six lanes of traffic.

"We've seen traffic back out on Westport Road and Springhurst Blvd.," said Bruce Smith, owner/operator of the east Louisville location. "Our customers are waiting up to 45 minutes in the drive-thru."

The corporate office advised franchisees to prepare for up to three times the normal sales volume in the days leading up to and following Aug. 1, Smith said. All 32 of his employees were scheduled to work during the "appreciation day." On a typical day, Smith said 22 employees cover breakfast, lunch and dinner shifts.

Despite additional workers, noonday customers waited more than 30 minutes in line to place their orders and another 30 minutes to get their food. Still, very few complaints were heard.

Joyce Mills said she and her husband,



STILL SMILING A Chick-fil-A employee at the Westport Road location in Louisville hands a customer her to-go order as hundreds of others pack the restaurant to show their support of the embattled restaurant chain Aug. 1. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

Steve, did not mind the long wait because getting a chicken sandwich was not their main priority.

"We are here trying to make a statement that we stand behind Mr. Cathy. We want to show the liberal media that we prefer to mean more than dollars," said Mills, a member of nearby Westport Road Baptist Church. "We need to be here because our freedom of speech is endangered."

John Wright, a member of Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, said he also felt the need to show support for Chick-fil-A's CEO.

"He should have the right to say what he wants. He didn't discriminate against anyone," Wright said.

Ann Holdaway showed her advocacy of Chick-fil-A with something more valuable than the contents of her wallet—she gave her time. For three hours Aug. 1, Holdaway joined several other women

volunteering as greeters. They all wore matching aprons and broad smiles as they held open doors for customers.

Smith said he was touched by the unsolicited volunteerism and affectionately called the women "raving fans of Chick-fil-A."

While the restaurant owner was advised by the corporate office to refrain from commenting on the recent headlines, Smith did say Aug. 1 was about "freedom of expression."

"People just want to feel a part of something they are passionate about," Smith said. "I've been with Chick-fil-A for 21 years and know what our base is. And people know who Chick-fil-A is. There's a reason Chick-fil-A is on Sundays."

Huckabee said the event was not about gay marriage—as some had made it out to be—but about free speech and religious liberty. A business owner, he said, should be able to state basic Christian

beliefs without being castigated. He stood by that statement during his radio show last week.

"We're finding out that people in America still believe that every American ... has a right to an opinion," Huckabee said on his radio program. "Huckabee have to agree with it, you don't have to like it, but you ought to respect that people have that wonderful right. You don't have that in North Korea. You don't have it in Iran."

Chick-fil-A, which has more than 1,600 restaurants, has long had a passionate base, led in part by families with young children who appreciate the family nights and the indoor playgrounds available at various locations. Support also is strong among Christians who support the company's values and the fact it is closed on Sundays.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Western Recorder Partnerships Director Robin Cornet Bass

Land to retire

Continued from page 1

religious freedom, marriage and race relations. His staunch efforts during his tenure also have made him a leading evangelical Christian voice among social conservatives in the country's escalating cultural battles. Time Magazine named him in 2005 as one of the country's 25 most influential evangelicals.

"Dr. Land has been a stalwart leader of conservative and Christian causes and has been at the forefront of protecting our liberty in America," said Mat Staver, chairman of the Liberty Counsel and dean of the Liberty University Law School. "He will certainly be missed in the role that he has played for many years by those of us who have worked closely with him and those of us who have followed his work."

Land clarified in his letter that he is retiring only from the ERLC, "not from the ministry, or from what is popularly called the 'culture war.'"

"When God called me into the

ministry a half century ago, the burden He placed on my heart was for America," wrote Land, who recently began his 50th year in the gospel ministry. "That call and that burning burden are still there. I believe the 'culture war' is a titanic struggle for our nation's soul and a minister of Christ's gospel, I have no right to retire from that struggle."

Land's decision comes months after he made controversial comments about the Trayvon Martin case that resulted in a reprimand and the loss of his radio talk show for the racial tension the remarks caused.

Fred Luter, who was elected in June as the SBC's first African-American president, said he doesn't believe Land was forced out by church leaders.

"If there was a time they wanted to force him out, it would have been when they made their decision," Luter said last week, referring to the June reprimand by the commission's executive committee.

Rather, Luter said the Trayvon Martin remarks are a "low moment" that should not diminish Land's commitment to racial reconciliation, especially the 1995

SBC resolution the two men worked on apologizing for Southern Baptists' support of slavery during the Civil War era.

"Richard was very passionate in those meetings about the fact that we do not just want this to be a piece of paper, a resolution; we want it to be a meaningful thing," Luter recalled of their work together. "I will always remember him as a man who was a major voice in our convention desiring that people would be treated fairly regardless of their race."

Bill Leonard, chair of Baptist studies at Wake Forest University Divinity School, said from a historical perspective, "the Trayvon Martin situation should not be seen as the defining moment for Land on race."

Nonetheless, Leonard said Land's retirement signals a changing of the guard in the nation's largest Protestant body, which is struggling to reach non-whites and non-Southerners as it faces a declining membership.

"You have to wonder if there is—inside the new, the younger leadership of the convention—a concern that his style of very aggressive, very public responses is

something the convention wants to perpetuate," Leonard said, adding that Land "replaced Jerry Falwell" as the media's go-to voice for conservative evangelicals.

The ERLC's acting chairman, Richard Piles, called Land's departure "bittersweet," and thanked Land for his "exemplary" service.

"He is to be applauded for his tireless work for racial reconciliation, the pro-life movement, and traditional marriage, just to name a few of the more well-known issues he has championed," Piles said of the ERLC president.

Land said he chose to announce his retirement nearly 15 months prior in order to provide "plenty of time for an orderly transition for both the commission and myself to the next phase of our respective future ministries."

Before becoming ERLC president in 1986, Land had served as vice president for academic affairs at Criswell College in Dallas since 1980. He had been professor of theology and church history at the school since 1975.

Compiled from reporting by Baptist Press and Religion News Service

Christian Co. churches team up for 'Operation Hopkinsville'

By Dennis O'Neil

Hopkinsville—For Dale Taylor, helping others is the most important part of being a Christian.

"Serving others, ... that's what we're supposed to do," said Taylor, a member of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Hopkinsville. "That's what we are called to do in life—think of others more than yourself."

Taylor was one of more than 200 Hopkinsville churchgoers who participated in the recent Operation Hopkinsville, a weeklong service project organized by Christian County Baptist Association. Participants offered free car washes, did construction work, organized yard sales and led Vacation Bible School programs.

Taylor helped reconstruct a porch at a home on West Edmunds Street. His wife,

Beverly, travels on several mission trips throughout the year to countries like Nicaragua and Honduras. Taylor has joined his wife on several trips, but has stopped traveling as much since his back has started to bother him.

While he likes international mission work, Taylor said he also enjoys working on mission projects locally. "I try to help out as much as I can here," he said. "A lot of people here need help."

Christian County Association includes 44 churches. Director of Missions Bobby Melton said more than 300 people participated in mission trips around the world last year. With Operation Hopkinsville though, the association wanted to focus more of its missions efforts in the local community.

"It's not about us as churches but about the people of the town we serve," Melton explained. "We want people to know the Lord, and we want them to know that the Lord and people care about them."

Jo Pelham, Woman's Missionary Union director for the association, said the group has been thinking about a locally based mission project for the last couple of years. They originally considered organizing a one-day effort, but eventually expanded it to cover an entire week. Pelham and Daryl Crawford, the association's evangelism director, have been working on the program for more than a year.

Melton estimated that the program has cost between \$18,000 and \$20,000 to organize. The funds cover food, building

materials and equipment for the multiple service projects.

In the future, Melton said he hopes the association can organize missions efforts in nearby Oak Grove and Crofton. Pelham said she hopes the project helps bring Jesus Christ to the community.

"There is hope in Christ," Pelham said. "We can go all over the world and do missions, but we need to be right here at home doing missions, too—and sharing Jesus."

Rick Stevens, pastor at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, said more than two dozen of his church members participated in the project. He said the opportunity to perform a community service appealed to him.

"It's just the opportunity to get our church members actively involved in reaching out to the community," Stevens said. "We obviously do that on mission trips, but this is a chance to do it right here at home."

Frank Brown, who attends Hopkinsville's Kelly Baptist Church, worked with a car-wash crew during the week at the Bradford Square parking lot. Brown said he feels that serving the community is a significant part of being a believer.

"I feel like it is part of our obligation to get out and show people that being a Christian is more than just going to church every Sunday," Brown explained. "It is about getting out in the community and showing love to the communities and others. We're just showing the community that Christians care." (Kentucky New Era/WR)



Nine-year-old Brendan Houston (right) waits for his turn at flying computerized planes while Marvin Mattingly instructs Chris Nolley (seated). Mattingly set up four flight simulation stations during West Broadway Baptist Church's Vacation Bible School in hopes of stirring up interest in a Bible-based remote-control flying club. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

Model plane enthusiast envisions gospel-based club for kids, adults

By Robin Cornet Bass

Louisville—Forget cardboard cutouts of propellers and airplanes. Louisville's West Broadway Baptist Church took the "Amazing Wonders Aviation" Vacation Bible School theme and brought it to life with computerized flight simulation.

Church member Marvin Mattingly set up four stations at the late July VBS in Louisville so children could experience what it is like to be a real aviator. Each station contained a laptop and flight transmitter similar to the ones used by remote control airplane enthusiasts.

After some brief instructions, children were sending their animated planes down the runway and off into the blue sky. Landing their planes, however, was a skill that took a little more practice.

"It's kind of hard," said Annabelle Davis, 9, "but I like it a lot. I think it's fun just seeing how high it can go."

By the end of the week, Mattingly said a couple of kids were doing quite well taking off, flying and landing their simulated planes, even if they were not exactly landing on the runway. "But like they say, any landing you can walk away from is a good landing."

The retired electrical engineer said he hopes the introduction to flying would lead to something far greater than having fun at VBS. Mattingly wants to create a Christian model aviation club as a way for dads and granddads to reconnect with the children in

their lives and live out the gospel.

"I see this as just one more means to get kids involved in church," Mattingly said, adding that children need to know church extends beyond worship and Sunday School. "It can carry over to other aspects of your life, too."

Club members would have access to 10 laptops donated by Facility Commissioning Group in Lexington to practice their skills prior to flying their model planes, Mattingly said. He currently is gathering devotional materials that can tie aspects of the sport in with biblical teachings. All he needs are more remote-control plane enthusiasts who would like to share their passion for Christ with the next generation.

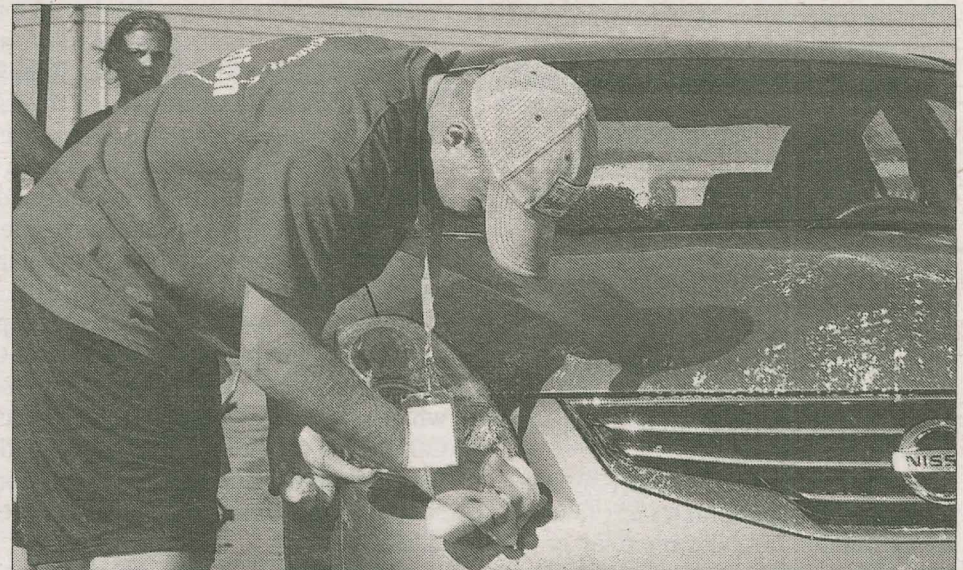
Mattingly described the hobby as a relatively inexpensive way for families to connect around an activity with remote-controlled model planes starting at about \$60. Avid modelers, he added, can spend as much as \$50,000 on their planes.

"I've seen people get started in this when they were 90 years old," Mattingly said, "while the youngest was 2."

In addition to the biblical and family bonding aspects of the sport, Mattingly said children tend to develop increased attention spans and better problem-solving skills.

"I just need help getting it together—especially people who know how to fly," he said.

Marvin Mattingly can be contacted by e-mail at mcmattingly@att.net or through West Broadway Baptist Church at (502) 491-1920.



■ Above: Operation Hopkinsville volunteer Anderson Adams washes down a car's headlights at a free car wash offered at a local shopping mall parking lot. ■ Below: Volunteers repair a porch at a local resident's home. Operation Hopkinsville, the weeklong project coordinated by Christian County Baptist Association, also included construction work, free car washes, Vacation Bible Schools, yard sales and door-to-door evangelization. (Photos by Dennis O'Neil/Kentucky New Era)



Thank you, Lincoln

The following is a guest column by Curtis Woods, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's newly named associate executive director for convention relations.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Whenever I depart the Kentucky Baptist Convention's executive suite, I typically breathe a prayer of thanks to God's grace and faithful men and women who fought for gospel-centered racial reconciliation when it was not in vogue. Lincoln Bingham is a fine example of this.

By God's grace, I am reminded of this reality daily. "Why?" you might ask.

In the Kentucky Baptist Building, there is a mural dedicated to the historic timeline of Kentucky Baptists. I guess you could say it is our "stones of remembrance" or "hall of faith." It reminds Kentucky Baptists that God was at work then and "God is at work now" (John 5:17), a principle KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood constantly reiterates to staff.

Each time I exit the office, I encounter the portrait of Rev. Bingham, across the hall from the doorway, positioned about halfway along the timeline.

We are people of Christ-centered hope and gospel-centered faith. This hope and faith was illustrated when, according to the mural's dedication to Rev. Bingham, in 1976 "the Kentucky Baptist Convention forms the Department of Interracial Cooperation to promote close and more effective cooperation between white and black Baptists in Kentucky."

The picture of Rev. Bingham whispers to me, "I believe in you, Curtis. Be a man of faith and love." I am humbled and thankful to receive the baton of truth and love from the hands of Rev. Bingham.

So, the question remains, what will Curtis Woods, the new associate executive director for convention relations, do with the baton that he has received? Here is my prayer and desire:

First, I hope to proclaim the power of the gospel and beauty of cooperation in any Kentucky Baptist church that blesses me with the opportunity.

Second, I want to enlist more "under-reached ethnic" pastoral leaders to serve our convention in leadership roles. In other words, I want to promote racial reconciliation among all people groups in Kentucky, not just black and white.

Third, I am passionate about reminding Kentucky Baptists about joining our campus ministries as they seek to penetrate lostness on what is perhaps the largest mission field in the U.S., the university campuses.

Fourth, I want to develop a dynamic relationship between the KBC and the budding pastor-theologians at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. I have been blessed to meet so many godly, humble and passionate men and women at the seminary. My hope is to serve as a bridge of love and understanding between our churches and the seminary.

Now you know how you can pray for me, and you also know how I can serve you. I am motivated by this, "the greatest among you shall be called servant."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Calvinism conference informative, helpful, encouraging

If Calvinism was the proverbial "elephant in the room" at the Southern Baptist Convention in New Orleans this June, as some have said, then a whole herd romped through the sanctuary of Crestwood Baptist Church last weekend. Many Kentucky Baptists left the Aug. 4 conference, though, more knowledgeable about the hot-button issue and, hopefully, able to find ways of working together in spite of differences.

David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn., headed the herd, delivering an exceptional historical overview of the SBC. Covering 400 years of Baptist history in about 40 minutes, he called attention to many of its early leaders, our various theological traditions, our confessional statements, and the basic tenets of Calvinism. Other contributors to Saturday's healthy dialogue included Kentucky pastor Hershael York and New Orleans Seminary professor Steve Lemke. Frank Page, president of the SBC Executive Committee, and author of "Trouble with the TULIP," which presents an alternative theological perspective that uses "GRACE" as an acrostic, corralled the herd by offering "A Vision for a Unified SBC" (see the related stories in this issue).

In setting a tone for the day, Dockery appears to have drawn upon his book, "Southern Baptist Consensus and Renewal," for some of his presentation. Listing Baptist giants like Richard Furman, Basil Manly, John Broadus, J.M. Frost, E.Y. Mullins, B.H. Carroll and W.B. Johnson, Dockery's premise is that we have been infected with historical amnesia. "Today Southern Baptists need to begin to build a new theological and historically informed consensus that will help us understand our past, our identity and our beliefs—so we can move forward to carry the gospel around the world and 'discipline' the nations in the 21st century," he charges. And, this was his chief aim in the opening sessions.

Dockery zeroed in on the day's topic, offering a concise outline of John Calvin's hallmark, four-volume work, "The Institutes of the Christian Religion." The definitive edition of Calvin's work—which covers a wide range of theological topics from the general revelation of God in creation and His special revelation in the Bible to the work of Jesus Christ and His atoning death, to the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation, the mystery of predestination, and the Christian hope in resurrection—was published in 1559.

In response to alternative views espoused by Jacob Arminius, which countered many of Calvin's convictions, the Synod of Dordt responded in 1618-19 by developing what has been generally referred to as "the Five Points of Calvinism," Dockery explained. The five points center on total depravity, unconditional election, particular redemption, irresistible grace and the perseverance of the saints.

"Some of you are here today just wishing that Calvinism could go away and would be so much happier if it would," Dockery acknowledged. "But I'm here to say, I don't think it's going away, ... and it's going to be an important part of who we are, particularly as we try to bring the best of the past to the present." And while Calvinism isn't the only theological tradition in our past, it is one that has shaped the first 60 years of the convention and many of its early writing theologians, he noted.

While recent studies have indicated the number of

Calvinists among SBC ranks is growing, they often differ in how they define the five core doctrines, and it is safe to say that not all Baptists agree with every point. When working with those who hold different convictions, Dockery suggested that Baptists should (1) not compromise their own convictions, (2) seek togetherness and unity for the right reasons, (3) remember that doctrinal matters are important, (4) learn how to distinguish between primary and secondary matters of the faith, (5) pray for guidance and illumination from the Holy Spirit, and (6) be humble, not arrogant, when dealing with controversies.

"Let's not make stereotypical kinds of caricatures. Let's not say that Calvinists are not Great Commission Christians.

Let's not say that non-Calvinists are theologically uninformed," he urged. "Let's work together to study the Scriptures and perhaps find an even greater consensus and greater sense of unity for the sake of the gospel, for the sake of the kingdom, for the sake of our Baptist heritage, and ultimately for the glory of God."

Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, who organized the conference, which saw a registered attendance of about 200 and nearly three times that number following it online, told the Western Recorder that he could not have been more pleased with the outcome. "We achieved our goals of clarity, charity and unity," Chitwood said. "David Dockery presented a very helpful and balanced summary of the various streams running through Baptist history, as well as a thoughtful evaluation of where Baptists are today. Hershael York and Steve Lemke represented their viewpoints in a clear yet gracious manner. Frank Page offered a prophetic challenge to a pathway to unity within the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I remain optimistic that gatherings like this one will help protect unity and cooperation in our convention for the sake of getting the gospel to the lost in Kentucky and to the ends of the earth," Chitwood said.

KBC President Adam Greenway said he was "deeply encouraged" by what he saw and heard. "Dr. Chitwood deserves our commendation for having the courage to provide a public forum where this 'hot-button' issue could be addressed with clarity, with charity and with the desire for unity," he said.

"As KBC president, my prayer going forward for our convention is that we will never waver from the conviction that there is room at the KBC table for cooperating Calvinists and cooperating non-Calvinists alike. Though the enemy would like us to think otherwise, far more unites us than divides us," said the associate dean and assistant professor of missions and evangelism at Southern Seminary.

Although it is unlikely that we will ever come to full agreement over Calvinism, the purpose of this conference was not to convert anyone, but rather to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the various streams of Baptist thought that have been influential in shaping us as a denomination. In this regard, this meeting certainly was both informative and beneficial, and many found encouragement in the spirit of unity displayed by those on the platform and in the call for us to join hands and hearts to work together for the sake of the gospel that was intoned.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



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Marriage, family and the chicken sandwich

By Evan Lenow

"Eat More Chicken." That's what former GOP presidential candidate Mike Huckabee wants you to do.

Huckabee declared Aug. 1 to be "Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day" in response to the negative firestorm surrounding Dan Cathy's recent declaration of support for the biblical model of marriage.

Should we support Chick-fil-A? Should we affirm Cathy's statements? Does Cathy have the right to say such things? The answers to these questions are yes, yes and yes, but let's take a look at why.

Biblically, we need to be reminded to stand together with fellow believers as they try to do the right thing. In Hebrews 10:24, we read, "Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds."

The Cathy family has worked long and hard to build a business on principles derived from the Bible. They keep their doors closed on Sundays so their employees can spend the day in worship. They train their staff to treat everyone with respect and kindness. They have even created foundations to fund college scholarships and other educational opportunities for employees. In an age where business is marked with greed and fraud, Chick-fil-A is running things the right way.

In addition, fellow believers should stand for what Cathy has affirmed—a biblical understanding of marriage. In the interview, he said, "We are very much supportive of the family—the biblical definition of the family unit. We are a family-owned business, a family-led business, and we are married to our first wives. We give God thanks for that."

Cathy's statement is much broader than the media has reported. Certainly, his words exclude a vision of marriage beyond heterosexual union. However, he more specifically affirms marriage between one man and one woman for a lifetime. His concern is not simply with same-sex marriage, he expresses concern for rampant divorce, cohabitation before marriage and the fringe elements of polygamous and polyamorous relationships.

COMMENTARY

Marriage, as the Bible describes it, is a covenantal relationship between a man and a woman that lasts until death. I applaud Cathy for supporting this vision.

Socially, not only should we affirm Cathy's words, but we should support his work that, in turn, strengthens marriages. The company uses its profits to support many causes, one of which is its own WinShape Foundation, which helps couples prepare for, strengthen and save their marriages.

In our society today, more than 60 percent of marriages are preceded by cohabitation; more than a third of all American adults experience at least one divorce; and 34 percent of all children under 18 live in households without two married parents. These numbers are staggering. Marriage is on the decline, and we need to do all we can to support it.

When a company like Chick-fil-A and the Cathy family have made it possible for us to be a part of preserving marriage in our society, we need to vote with our mouths and our money.

Politically, we need to stand up for Cathy's right to speak his opinion boldly and without threat of governmental retaliation. The Constitution's First Amendment reads in part, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech."

Threats of retaliation by the city governments of Boston and Chicago constitute a violation of Cathy's First Amendment rights. Cathy has clearly stated that his position is based upon his religious beliefs. Therefore, blocking a company's ability to operate in a city for the religious beliefs of its president amounts to the prohibition of his free exercise of religion.

So what should Christians do? When we find businesses that promote biblical values, we should frequent them. Tell the company that you support the stands it takes. Use your words and your money to demonstrate your support. (BP)

Evan Lenow is assistant professor of ethics and director of the Riley Center at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Get rich quick!

By Don Spencer

It's every investor's dream: a money-making technique that you can get in on for a small amount of money, ignore it for a few years, then reap a great reward. Does it sound like a lost crusade? It wasn't for Ann. She has been putting aside \$75 a month for five years and has earned an annual return of almost 8 percent per year. And, it was not a dream for Martin, who started saving 50 cents

per week in 1946 and now has more than \$82,000. Ann and Martin have been more successful than some professional money managers because they stuck to some basic principles of investing:

Pay yourself first. (For Christians, this basic secular principle should be stated as "pay God and yourself first.") Ann and Martin invested regularly each month. One used payroll deductions; the other, automatic check withdrawals. The critical thing was their commitment to saving a specific amount every month—even if the amount was relatively small.

Every little bit counts. That's due to the miracle of compound interest and its counterpart, dividend reinvestment. Time is on your side when investing. I remember my grandmother's savings account passbook. It was amazing to see the effects of compounding on a seemingly insignificant amount of money.

Don't follow the herd. Regular investing saves you from the tendency to buy high and sell low. By investing an equal amount each month, you benefit over time. Pick investments that are appropriate to your personal risk tolerance level and your time horizon. Above all, don't chase last year's winners. You will rarely benefit from this approach. Finally, use professional help where appropriate, but take control of your investments.

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



Disciplining teenagers

By Scott Wigginton

Q: My husband and I disagree about how to correct our teenagers. He tends to be harsher; I am more lenient. What guidelines would you recommend?

A: Proverbs 29:15 reminds parents, "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

Scriptures that encourage parents to correct and discipline children must be balanced with godly wisdom that leads to appropriate restraint. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:4, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."

Godly parenting is a balancing act between rules and relationships, law and grace, and finding ways to shape character through influencing behavior.

First, praise in public but critique in private. Shame and embarrassment are not tools that belong in the parental toolkit. While there often are public ramifications and even consequences for teen misbehavior, parents must be careful to treat teens with firm kindness and restraint in public to avoid allowing their reactive anger to punish a child instead of disciplining them.

Second, be clear regarding the offense and consistent in enforcing consequences. Teens need to know specifically what they did wrong. Telling a teenager that he was disrespectful does not communicate nearly as effectively as specifically stating that he yelled at his mother. Choosing a consequence that fits the offense requires parents who not only work together, but who also are willing to involve the teen in thinking about reasonable options.

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

Making meaningful camp experiences last

By Joe Ball

I have had the privilege to spend time at three Kentucky Changers projects and two weeks of Crossings camps this summer. It has been an amazing experience to witness firsthand the Spirit of God work in the lives of students and adults in all of these places.

If we are not proactive, the commitments and experiences made at camp and on mission trips soon will be distant memories. A couple of thoughts flood my mind as I think about youth ministries moving from the hectic pace of summer to the normal routines of fall.

One of the things we can do to help build on decisions made at camp is to continue to find ways for adults in our churches to spend time with our students. To me, this is one of the greatest parts of summer—our students get to build lasting relationships with adults and see what the Christian life looks like after youth group.

Our students probably aren't cognitively aware this is happening, but for us to take one of the best aspects of camp and incorporate it into our ministries can only benefit our students. Those relationships, the fun things that are done and those idiosyncrasies that each adult

volunteer brings to the youth group add richness to your ministry that can't be duplicated anywhere else.

Help parents be the spiritual advisors they need to be with their students. Each family dynamic is different, and how we help parents become the spiritual mentors they need to be with their students will be different. Plan a post-workshop dessert fellowship where students can unpack the camp experience and how they saw God work around them. You may have to prompt the discussions with leading questions and activities, but any time we get students and parents talking about how God is working in their lives, it creates something eternally significant.

Embrace the memories. I still remember counting J.B. Hunt trucks while traveling across the country with the students at Edgewood Baptist Church. It was one of the things that our bus driver, Gary Shaw, did to pass the time. It wasn't long until about every student on our bus was looking for J.B. Hunt trucks. We'd be driving along and someone would shout "J.B.!" It's been eight summers since I traveled anywhere with Edgewood, but I still find myself wanting to scream out "J.B.!" when I spot one on the road.

I still remember being a student

at Little Flock Church in the late 1970s and the summers we spent at Camp Joy in Brownsville—from the water fight that took three feet of water out of the pool, to almost being sent home for openly defying the dress code (I'm sure some girl put me up to it), to sitting in "heaven's keyhole" around the campfire were several of us made long-term, life-changing decisions, to a morning time alone with God when I heard God's call into ministry.

One of the things I noticed at Crossings was at the end of every week the youth leader was handed a framed picture of the group. I had seen these hanging in the hallways of several churches, but it hit me while watching it happen on the last day of camp, how that picture could serve as a reminder of what happened at camp. If your camp or mission trip leaders didn't provide you with one, create one yourself. Hang it in the youth area of your building to remind your students of what God did in that time and at that place.

While some of those memories are about fun times, others are "Ebenezer moments" that we need to help our students embrace. It is those moments we need to help our students return to whenever life happens around them.

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

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

'Dialogue from Differing Theological Perspectives'

Calvinism just one of many SBC 'faultlines'

By Drew Nichter

Crestwood—At the 2006 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference, seminary presidents Albert Mohler and Paige Patterson debated their theological differences.

Mohler, president of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a self-professed Calvinist, argued for the five points of the TULIP, as it's called. Patterson, who leads Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, refuted many parts of John Calvin's doctrine.

Jump to 2012 and the question is asked: "Why are we here today if we had that discussion between Dr. Mohler and Dr. Patterson in 2006?"

The query kicked off a discussion between two men, again of differing theological persuasions, at last weekend's "Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?" conference in Crestwood.

Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and a professor and associate dean at Southern Seminary, and Steve Lemke, provost and a professor at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, remained cordial in debating each of Calvinism's five points, at the same time stressing a desire for all Southern Baptists to work together for the cause of the Great Commission in spite of theological differences.

The session was moderated by Louisville pastor Kevin Smith, who leads Watson Memorial Baptist Church and also teaches at Southern Seminary. He posed the initial question about why the Calvinism debate still exists.

"We clearly have a resurgence of Calvinism," said Lemke, the "modified Calvinist."

A LifeWay Research survey in June revealed that 16 percent of Southern Baptist pastors call themselves five-point Calvinists. That's up from around 10 percent a year earlier.

In 2007, the North American Mission Board polled seminary graduates from 2004-05 and found that nearly 35 percent of them identified as Calvinists.

Lemke said many students entering seminary are inclined toward Calvinism,



CALVINISM CONVERSATION Steve Lemke (right) of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary participates in a dialogue session at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Calvinism conference last weekend. Also pictured are Hershael York (left), pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort, and moderator Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

largely because they're influenced by non-Southern Baptist leaders, such as John Piper.

A primary concern for these students, Lemke said, is when they graduate, "are there going to be churches for them out there?" Many congregations today might be uncomfortable with those pastors' theological perspectives, he noted.

The litmus test for young pastors, Lemke suggested, is: "Are they committed to missions and evangelism?" and "Do they talk more about Calvin or about Jesus?"

York countered by saying that if such a small percentage of churches are led by Calvinists but a disproportionate number of them have plateaued or are in decline, Calvinism is not the issue.

"Clearly, we're not going to the lost," he lamented.

York said that even though he is identified as a Calvinist, he does not call himself one, nor has he ever read John Calvin's works. "I call myself a Baptist," York said. "I believe what I believe because I believe that I see it in Scripture."

York agreed with Lemke that Southern Baptists should be more concerned

with missions, evangelism and sharing the gospel than theological differences.

"I don't push the label 'Calvinist' because I just don't find it helpful," York said, adding that many members of his church were not aware of his theological leanings until his participation in last weekend's conference was announced.

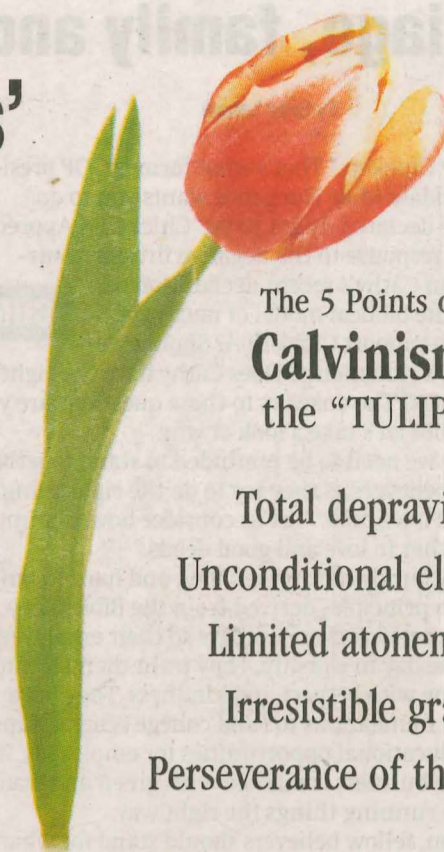
York suggested one of the roadblocks Southern Baptists encounter in reaching the lost is getting sidetracked on issues like Calvinism.

Lemke agreed, saying the Calvinism debate is not the only "faultline" in the Southern Baptist Convention.

"It's not just one issue," he said, "it's a cluster of inter-related issues that really, at the face of it, have nothing to do with each other." That, in turn, creates a sense of distrust, Lemke explained.

For example, when the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force was formed in 2010, some believed it was a "Calvinist conspiracy," Lemke said.

In June, when a group unveiled its "Statement of the Traditional Southern Baptist Understanding of God's Plan of Salvation," some thought it was an effort to change the Baptist Faith & Message.

The 5 Points of
Calvinism
the "TULIP"

Total depravity

Unconditional election

Limited atonement

Irresistible grace

Perseverance of the saints

"There's distrust that leads to probably exaggerating what the other side is saying," Lemke said.

Similarly, York warned, "I think it's important that we not caricature one another." Noting that there are some who feel Calvinists come across as arrogant, York offered an apology.

"I'm truly sorry for that," he said. "That has no place among brothers in the way we treat one another."

York acknowledged that Southern Baptists will always have different understandings of the gospel and how it is applied. "That's part of our heritage. That's never going to change," he said.

In light of that history and those differences, York appealed for understanding among Southern Baptists of all theological bents. "I want those who disagree with me to see that what I believe is still a credible understanding of Scripture, even if you disagree with it," he urged.

York also encouraged a continued focus on Christ's ultimate command. "The Great Commission embraces us all," he said, "and we must all embrace the Great Commission and take the gospel to all the world." (WR)

Calvinism conference

Continued from page 1

Referencing John 7:21, Page said God's intent is for all Christians to become one as the Trinity is one, and for believers to become a people with a singular purpose.

"There are many challenges to that," Page said. "There are many voices pulling us apart. Satan's strategy is always to divide, distort and distract. But it is God's plan for us to be together."

Five principles for unity

How are individual Baptists—with their sinful nature, differing opinions and various depths of biblical knowledge—expected to accomplish this? By following God's five principles for unity, Page said.

Respect. While the world demands tolerance, Page said God's plan involves treating each other with respect. He

pointed out 1 Peter 2:17, "Show proper respect to everyone; love the brotherhood of believers."

"Even if we disagree with someone's soteriology or ecclesiology, we say, 'I respect you. I respect you have the right to believe what you do,'" Page said.

The SBC Executive Committee head described Baptists' disagreement over Calvinism as an internecine argument, where inerrantists are at odds with other inerrantists.

"We are talking at and about each other too often. When you respect someone, you talk to them," Page continued. He suggested rather than taking someone to task on a blog, or referencing his or her comments in an illustration to prove a point—call the person and discuss it one on one.

Peace. From Hebrews 12:14, "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord."

"We make every effort to castigate,"

Page said. "The Scripture says let's make every effort to be at peace with all men, even those we may disagree with soteriologically."

Love. Ephesians 4:15 says to "speak the truth in love."

While seemingly self explanatory, Page said the word 'truth' is more of a verb than a noun. Baptists should be "truthing in love," he explained, relating to each other with the unconditional love of God. Baptists need to re-learn this aspect of God's plan, Page said. "If we don't, we face darkness."

Honesty. "It's time for honesty. If you believe something, tell it to that pulpit committee. If you believe something, tell it to that pastoral candidate. Do not hesitate; tell them what you believe," Page urged, noting Proverbs 12:17, "A truthful witness gives honest testimony."

Scriptural inerrancy. According to 2 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in

righteousness."

Page described scriptural inerrancy as paramount for the Christian believer and said Baptists should be quoting the Author above all earthly authors.

The Great Commission. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells His disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The real issue at stake, Page said, is not the differences between Calvinists and non-Calvinists, but the very souls of every person on the earth who is in desperate need of the Savior.

"I believe God's plan is clear: that we treat each other with respect, honesty, peace, love, with adherence to biblical truth—then we can work together, Calvinists and non-Calvinists alike," Page concluded. "We can come together as family members to talk, to discuss, to admit our problems and to move forward with God's plan under the intent God has for us." (WR)

Katrina evacuee uses own past to reach lost, hurting in London

Continued from page 1

"When the bus came, they said, 'Women and children first.' I never thought I'd hear anything like that in my life. I let my wife and kids go," he said.

Their bus headed for the Superdome. The next bus, which McGraw got on, headed to the airport instead.

And McGraw said he was headed for a meeting with the Lord.

"There was no way for me to communicate with my family. I had no idea where they were or what was going to happen, and I began to hear nightmare stories of what was happening in the Superdome. There was no law and order, and people were being raped," McGraw said. "I had never contemplated suicide before, but I did then. I had no hope, no light and no help. I said, 'Lord, if You are who You say You are, I'm not worthy, but I need You.'"

And God showed up, McGraw said. "I was filled with the Holy Spirit. My whole attitude changed."

A few days later, after a flight to Houston and what he said was a God-ordained phone call, McGraw found his family. They were also in Houston.

"They never got to the Superdome. God protected them, and they spent the night in an alleyway and ended up getting picked up by a bus headed to Houston," McGraw said. "I went down to the Astrodome and started looking for them."

He found them, and they begin to make a new life in Texas. And he found a

new life with Christ, he said.

"God laid it on my heart to start a Creole restaurant on the south side of town," McGraw said. "I'd never cooked like that before. I mean, I cooked, but so did everyone in New Orleans. I didn't cook any better than my neighbor."

But God made the way clear, he said, and a providential string of events and people kept Bernard's Creole Kitchen open for business, he said.

God paid the bills, he said. For four and a half years, McGraw fried fish and fed San Antonio's crack heads, heroin addicts and hungry.

"They would come to the side door, and I'd say, 'I'll feed you, but you have to come in and sit at the table,'" he said. "It was important that they be fed but also that they see and know love."

McGraw saw the same look—physical and spiritual hunger—in the eyes of a man he met in a fast food restaurant in London last week.

"He asked me for money, and I offered to buy him a meal. He took me up on it and said he would eat with us if we would have him. He's homeless, and his wife left him," said McGraw, who served as a street pastor in London last week with a team from Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio.

McGraw asked the man how he was with Jesus. "I've lost my way, but I've always loved God," the man replied.

McGraw said he thought the man would leave after he ate, but he stayed. "It was like God told me, 'This is the



THE WORLD IN ONE CITY The flags of the many nations represented by athletes at the 2012 Summer Olympics line a London street. Bernard McGraw served as a street preacher in the city last week alongside others from Baptist University of the Americas in San Antonio. (IMB photo)

one you came to help—the one you've been praying for," he said.

So McGraw told him as much. "This is your moment—God has carved this out for you," he said to the man.

McGraw and the team helped him find a place to sleep and got him connected with More Than Gold, the ministry umbrella for evangelical Christians during the Olympics.

"We planted seeds, and we have to pray and trust that God is taking the seeds we're planting and will use them for His glory," McGraw said.

After all, he's seen it happen before. He was doing it himself at his restaurant. He told his pastor at True Vine Baptist Church that he felt God calling him to ministry work.

Then McGraw got an invitation to reopen his restaurant at Baptist University of the Americas in 2010 and run their food program, and suddenly people were asking him about doing global missions.

It wasn't long after that he found himself in Haiti, and then in London. In addition to spending his evenings serving as a street pastor at Kings Cross Station in London, he's spending his mornings playing with children in a predominantly Muslim community.

The children are waiting for his team when the doors open in the mornings at Bow Baptist Church near Olympic Park.

"It's my prayer that they will remember us," McGraw said. "But not just that, I hope that they will wonder, 'Who were those people? Why did they come here to love us?'"

He prays God will make the seeds take root in years to come. In fact, that's his prayer for everyone he meets in London.

"I can sympathize with the people who have no hope, and I want to tell them where they can find it," he said.

"People don't need you to tell them they're hopeless—they already know that. They need to be told where they can find the light." (IMB)

Bernard McGraw:

"People don't need you to tell them they're hopeless—they already know that. They need to be told where they can find the light."

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Blessed are the patient, part 2

Maintaining patience worthwhile when student is in 'panic mode'

Here is the conclusion of "Blessed Are the Patient: The Story of Bertrand."

Fast forward to that next-to-last day of summer school. When I saw Bertrand outside my office, I waved him in. I wanted to make a point to the couple with whom I was speaking that the school exists for the sake of ministering to the students. I also was concerned that there might be an emergency—and there was, at least from Bertrand's point of view, one that couldn't wait until lunch to be solved.

Apparently some of the students had been playing pranks on each other the previous evening and Bertrand had said or done something to another male student and his girlfriend that had not gone down well. Bertrand wanted me to call these other two students out of class immediately so they could settle the issue.

Once I found out what type of "emergency" we had and learned that the rest of the students were in class—and that Bertrand wasn't—we went on an entirely different tack. I decided that if I sent Bertrand back to class, it wasn't likely that he, his classmates or the teacher were going to profit from the experience, so I chose to be patient (there's that word again) and go with "plan B."

After determining that the whole situation might be resolved by simply writing of two notes of apology, I made arrangements for Bertrand to sit outside the office of one of the assistant principals and write his notes. I also informed the principal of what was happening and made arrangements for the delivery of the all-important,

emergency-solving documents and went back to my interview.

Later in the day, I was happy to see Bertrand moving normally and with no visible scars or bruises on any of his exposed body parts. He told me that all was well. He and his peers had talked the matter out to a peaceful resolution.

Later that evening, I spoke to the principal and we put together the pieces of this latest episode of "Life with Bertrand." Bertrand had begun by asking the principal to call the two other students out of class. When told he wasn't going to do that, instead of explaining the situation to the principal (who loves students as much as I do and is as patient with them as I am), Bertrand walked across the street to my office in panic mode, leaving in his wake a puzzled and rejected administrator.

I knew then that I needed to help heal the relationship between Bertrand and the principal and, again, patience entered the picture. Instead of ranting and raving at him, I called Bertrand out of class and explained to him the way he had treated the principal the day before had hurt the principal's feelings. Bertrand immediately knew he needed to apologize to the principal. He did, and the relationship was put onto a new and better footing for the future.

Just before leaving for a month at home, Bertrand told me he had enjoyed summer school and was looking forward to coming back to start the regular school year in August—many missions accomplished. Patience won them all. Indeed, blessed are the patient.

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

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Not by sight

The story a picture tells may not always be most accurate portrayal

The following is a guest column by Gary Miller, founder of Outdoor Truths Ministries. Contact him at gary@outdoortruths.org.

I don't consider myself computer illiterate, but I'm also not a tech expert. I fall somewhere in between. One of the things I'm trying to adapt to is my digital camera. I've actually had it for a couple of years, but all I've been doing is taking pictures the simplest way I could. I just thought all of the buttons where there so they could sell it for more.

I've always wanted to take pictures while I'm hunting or fishing, but I never knew how to set up the timer feature. So this year I was determined (forced) to learn.

This past turkey season I became a picture-taking monster. I carry my tripod and camera and have taken some really neat shots of me holding a turkey while in the woods. I love it. Now while I've really enjoyed the more realistic pictures, they still don't tell the story of each hunt. Each photo still has only three basic features: me, a turkey and

the woody background. The story is up to me to remember, relish and share.

If I were to show you one of these pictures, you would simply admire the bird but be clueless to the effort that was involved in getting that gobbler from the limb to the lens. You might have assumed it was an easy and effortless hunt—and you may be wrong or right.

When you and I look at each other, we often do the same thing. We take a mental picture and quickly add our own story, whether it's accurate or not. We may assume a person is rude or kind, arrogant or humble, aloof or approachable. However, most of the time, we just don't know.

Life is so much better when we give others the benefit of the doubt. It seems that we all default to seeing the negative. It's the first button we learn to use on our mental camera. Maybe it's time we all realized there are other features that may give us a better look. And maybe it's time we learned to use them.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Mississippi wedding controversy not indicative of SBC, leaders say

By Diana Chandler

Crystal Springs, Miss.—The inability of an African-American couple to wed at a predominantly white Mississippi church is not indicative of Southern Baptists, denominational leaders claim.

First Baptist Church of Crystal Springs, Miss., made news recently because a black couple, Charles and Te'Andrea Wilson, was forced to move their wedding to a new location one day prior to the event. Pastor Stan Weatherford conducted the ceremony July 21 at a nearby African-American church, telling the Wilsons some members of the 150-year-old First Baptist objected to the wedding because it involved a black couple.

According to news reports, a handful of church members objected to the wedding and Weatherford's job was on the line, the Wilsons claimed.

Church members "had decided that no black couple had been married at their church and that if he went on to ... marry us, then they would vote him out and he would be put out of the church," Charles Wilson told WLBT-TV in Jackson, Miss.

The situation at Crystal Springs is an unfortunate, isolated incident from which pastors can learn, Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter said.

"We just have to be aware that the enemy will use anything he can to come against our churches and our ministries with something like this. And so we've always got to be aware that the enemy is out to kill, steal and destroy," said Luter, the SBC's first African-American president.

"It's unfortunate that it happened, but we've got to learn from it and be able to go on and do what God has called us to do," Luter noted.

"What we can learn from it is that we need to talk to our membership about issues. I think if the pastor would have talked to more members about this, ... it probably would not have happened the way it happened," Luter explained.

Jim Futral, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, said the state and nation have long worked toward racial healing.

"Mississippi Baptists both reject racial discrimination and, at the same time, respect the autonomy of our local churches to deal with difficulties and disagreements under the lordship of Jesus," Futral said. "While there may be hurts, wrongs and mistakes that must be addressed, the context for this to happen is in a historical church with a genuine caring pastor and thoughtful leaders who are seeking to do right."

Pastor Weatherford said he simply was looking for a "win-win" situation in moving the wedding to another venue.

Luter said he sympathizes with Weatherford's position.

"I felt for the pastor because being a pastor myself, I know how awkward situations like that can be, whereby you have a handful of folks who have influence and will cause issues that the other folks are not aware of," Luter said. "From all the indications that I've seen and read, the majority of the members were in support of this marriage happening at the church, and it's just so unfortunate that it came to this."

Roger Oldham, vice president for convention communications and relations with the SBC's Executive Committee, said the convention affirms in Article 15 of the Baptist Faith & Message that racism is against God's will.

"The convention's position on race relations is clear," Oldham said. "We are all saddened when any sin—including the sin of racism—rears its head in our midst. It is equally unfortunate when a group seeks to determine church policy without giving the church an opportunity to discuss the matter and take formal action as a congregation."

Meanwhile, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission President Richard Land said that while there may be valid reasons a couple would be denied a church wedding, the "race or ethnicity of that couple" is never one of them. (BP)

In Recognition

of Deceased Kentucky Baptist Leaders


The 2012 KBC Obituaries Report will include information on deceased persons who have served our Lord and Kentucky Baptists in a noteworthy manner. We are including persons who died during the convention year, **September 1, 2011 through August 31, 2012.**

These persons would be Kentucky Baptist ministers, missionaries, educators, laypersons, institutional leaders and staff and others whose Christian service has significantly benefited our state convention fellowship and mission programs.

These obituary entries will be reported to the 2012 KBC annual meeting in Lexington. You are an important part of our network to gather information on those servants who deserve to be remembered among Kentucky Baptists.

Please forward this information before August 30 to:

Executive Office
PO Box 43433, Louisville KY 40253-0433
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e-mail address: debbie.bannon@kybaptist.org



We Need Your Help To Gather the Following Information:

- Full name of deceased
- Date of birth
- Date of death
- Active or retired status
- Name of church where member, association, state where located
- Service or ministry worthy of recognition (briefly stated)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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42	43					44					45	
46					47					48		
49					50					51		

Bible Crosswords

By John Thornberg

Across

- 1 Bashful
- 4 "Lest thou ____ thy foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:12)
- 8 "A glorious church, not having ____, or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27)
- 12 Sheltered from wind
- 13 Gnawing pain
- 14 Father of Ham, Shem, and Japheth
- 15 State that is bordered by Illinois (abbr.)
- 16 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and ____" (John 21:12)
- 17 Cattle or farm
- 18 Worship
- 20 Body parts between the waist and the knees
- 21 Ironic
- 22 Engage beforehand
- 25 Hard fat found in cattle and sheep
- 27 "The wisdom that is from above is ... full of ____ and good fruits" (James 3:17)
- 28 Affirmative in Acapulco
- 29 "Your ____ men shall dream dreams" (Joel 2:28)
- 30 God worshiped by Jezebel, and its namesakes
- 31 Cotton ____
- 32 Article
- 33 Second planet from the sun
- 34 Small, headless nail
- 35 Qualities of a bishop: "____, not a brawler" (1 Timothy 3:3)
- 37 Command to a horse
- 38 Killer whale
- 39 One foundation of Christian life
- 42 "O ye of little ____" (Matthew 8:26)
- 44 City in Normandy
- 45 Command word
- 46 Big blunder
- 47 "That ye ____ one another" (John 13:34)
- 48 United
- 49 Preposition
- 50 "Hear my voice, and ____ the door" (Revelation 3:20)
- 51 "That they may be ____, even as we are" (John 17:22)

Down

- 1 Make a mistake
- 2 "He that hath ears to ____" (Matthew 11:15)
- 3 Biblical pronoun
- 4 Jay's love in The Great Gatsby
- 5 Teen trauma
- 6 Pronoun
- 7 "Greater is ____ that is in you" (1 John 4:4)

- 8 Brisk and lively
- 9 Composure
- 10 Canoe component
- 11 "Hallowed be ____ name" (Matthew 6:9)
- 16 "Whose waters cast up mire and ____" (Isaiah 57:20)
- 17 Floppy ones?
- 19 Astonished
- 20 Feathered fishing lures
- 22 Real winner (colloq.)
- 23 Encompassing the Orient
- 24 "Charity suffereth long, and is ____" (1 Corinthians 13:4)
- 25 "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much ____" (var., Jeremiah 2:22)
- 26 Bone of the forearm
- 27 Bread from heaven
- 30 Hardwood tree
- 31 "The beauty of old men is the ____ head" (Proverbs 20:29)
- 33 "Add to your faith ____" (2 Peter 1:5)
- 34 Noggin
- 36 What the bread winner must do
- 37 "But her leaf shall be ____" (Jeremiah 17:8)
- 39 ____ the way
- 40 First home
- 41 "And he ____ upon a cherub, and did fly" (Psalm 18:10)
- 42 Airport abbr.
- 43 Vowel trio
- 44 To go back on a promise, with "out"
- 47 Biblical exclamation
- 48 Officer of the U.S. Army (abbr.)

Last puzzle's solution

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
E	T	C	H	T	I	S	O	B	O	E		
11	N	R	A	P	A	S	T	E	A	L	L	
15	D	I	S	T	A	L	U	G	A	N	D	A
19	C	H	A	L	C	E	D	O	N	Y	M	
21	K	E	N	N	T	A	P					
24	A	S	S	A	G	A	T	E	N	A	G	
31	I	T	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	N	O	
34	M	E	N	D	R	E	G	S	B	A	G	
38	R	I	O	L	L	A	T					
41	N	C	H	R	Y	S	O	L	Y	T	E	
47	A	T	E	M	P	O	P	U	E	B	L	O
51	N	I	L	H	Y	R	A	X	O	A	R	
55	O	N	Y	X	O	I	L	L	Y	S	E	

Who are your dependents?

List of one's dependents extends beyond just spouse and children

When you complete an application for a job, insurance, financial aid or some other benefit or service, you are asked about how many dependents you have and, oftentimes, you are asked their names.

When you complete the payroll withholding forms, W-4 and K-4, you are asked to list the number of dependents you have. Also, when you prepare your annual tax return, you have to identify your dependents.

When we answer those questions on all of the forms, in most instances we give the names of our spouse and our children. But what about your church and other charitable organizations that depend upon you? They, too, are your dependents.

Webster's defines a dependent as a person who relies on another for support, especially financial support. To depend is to place reliance upon and trust in someone else. Although your church is not a person, it is dependent upon you for financial support and trusts you to provide for it. The same is true for all of the Baptist and other charitable organizations you support with financial contributions.

Both in good and bad economic times, but especially in difficult times like the present, these charitable organizations are depending upon you and me to continue to provide financial support as best we can.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

I am reminded of and inspired by those Macedonian Christians about which the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Out of their extreme poverty they gave as much as they were able and some even beyond their ability. This was not what was expected given the circumstances of their lives at the time. But what happened is they gave themselves first to the Lord, and then they

gave financially and generously for the service of the saints. It's amazing how differently we respond when we give ourselves first to the Lord. That's the formula for true stewardship.

Then Paul urged the Corinthian Christians to emulate these Macedonian Christians when he said, "See that you also excel in this grace of giving." This is the word of the Lord for us Christians today.

Reprinted from Dec. 2, 2008.

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

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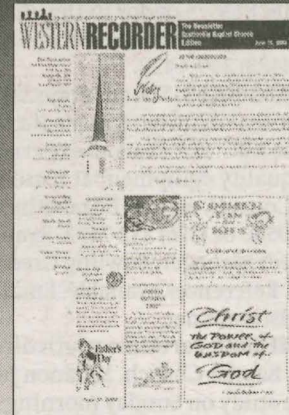
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KBC
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS
August

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.

27 Women's Ministry State Leadership Conference, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

Time of Revival

Baptist churches in Fredonia joined together for "Revival in the Valley," three nights of open-air services July 26-28. The event was the brainchild of Van Yandell, a vocational evangelist and North American Mission Board missionary. Yandell told a reporter for the Princeton Times Leader: "We need revival not only to minister to the lost, but also to build up our churches." Other revival speakers included Rich Gardner, pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, and Carlton Binkley, pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church in Eddyville.

Pair of upcoming events focus on churches' various ministries

Richmond—Several current and former Kentucky Baptist Convention staff members will be among the presenters at the Aug. 25 "Mini Super Saturday" sponsored by Tates Creek Association of Southern Baptists. The one-day event will be held at First Baptist Church of Richmond.

Sessions will be held for topics such as Sunday School, discipleship, congregational relationships, women's ministry, worship and music, Royal Ambassadors and Challengers, and church finances.

For a complete list of sessions, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/Mini SuperSaturday](http://www.KyBaptist.org/MiniSuperSaturday).

Fees are \$10 per person or a maximum of \$100 for 11 or more people per church. Child care is available for preschoolers only, and registration by Aug. 22 is required.

Register by sending contact information, the number of people who plan to attend and the list of workshops they want to attend to: Tates Creek Association of Southern Baptists, P.O. Box 69, Berea, KY 40403.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

Spotlight on ...**Newport**

First Church will celebrate its 200th anniversary Aug. 12, 10:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. A luncheon will follow the morning worship service. **Mike Turner** is pastor.

■ **ERLANGER**—Erlanger Church recently called **Dwight Moody** as pastor. He previously was senior associate pastor of leadership development and missions at Hermitage Hills Church in Hermitage, Tenn.

■ **FLORENCE**—Greenview Church recently called **Jeff Howard** as pastor.

■ **FULTON**—Mount Carmel Church recently ordained **Jason Faulkner, Bryan Hartsell and Joe Kirk** as deacons.

■ **GILBERTSVILLE**—Bethel Church will host Blood River Association's men's breakfast Aug. 11, 8 a.m. **Kyle Reeder** is pastor.

■ **HINKLE**—Dripping Springs Church recently called **David Mounce** as pastor.

■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church recently called **Doug King** as pastor. He previously served as youth pastor at Beaver Dam Church.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will hold a community block party Aug. 12, 5 p.m., with free food, games and school supplies

for students returning to school. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host the choir and orchestra from First Church of Madisonville in concert Aug. 12, 6 p.m. The event also will feature a combined choir and orchestra performance from the two churches. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak Church will hold a Sunday School Summit Aug. 10, 7 p.m. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

Explore 'rock solid' ideas for kids

Kentucky Baptist preschool/children's ministers and ministry leaders are invited to Cedarmore Camp & Conference Center Sept. 13-14 for a retreat focused on "rock solid" ministry ideas.

This year's guest speaker is Patty Smith, an "unconventional church lady," according to John Bennett, preschool/children's ministry consultant with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"Her comprehensive knowledge

of children's ministry is considered as one of the top in nation," Bennett said. "It is an amazing opportunity to have her here to work so closely with our children's ministers and leaders."

The conference is \$100 per person which includes lodging, meals and training. Registration is available online at www.KyBaptist.org/CMRetreat.

For additional details, contact Bennett at (502) 489-3357, or toll free in Kentucky at (866) 489-3357. (KBC)

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.

FOR RENT: Condos in Destin, Fla., Christian owned. harmonyventures@charter.net, (423) 309-4422.

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: 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 eprc@insightbb.com to apply. Applications accepted through Aug. 1.

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 resumés 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 42104. Resumés also may be sent to David Daugherty, 158 Clearfork Church Spur Road, Rockfield, KY 42274. Email resumés may be sent to amy@warrenassociation.org. Deadline for resumés 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.

SEEKING: Hayti First Baptist Church is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Please send resumé by Sept. 30 to Youth Pastor Search Committee, Hayti FBC, 201 E. Lincoln, Hayti, MO 63851, or haytifbc@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Boone Trail Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tenn., is seeking a full-time senior/lead pastor to serve in ministry and operate with a team approach with five

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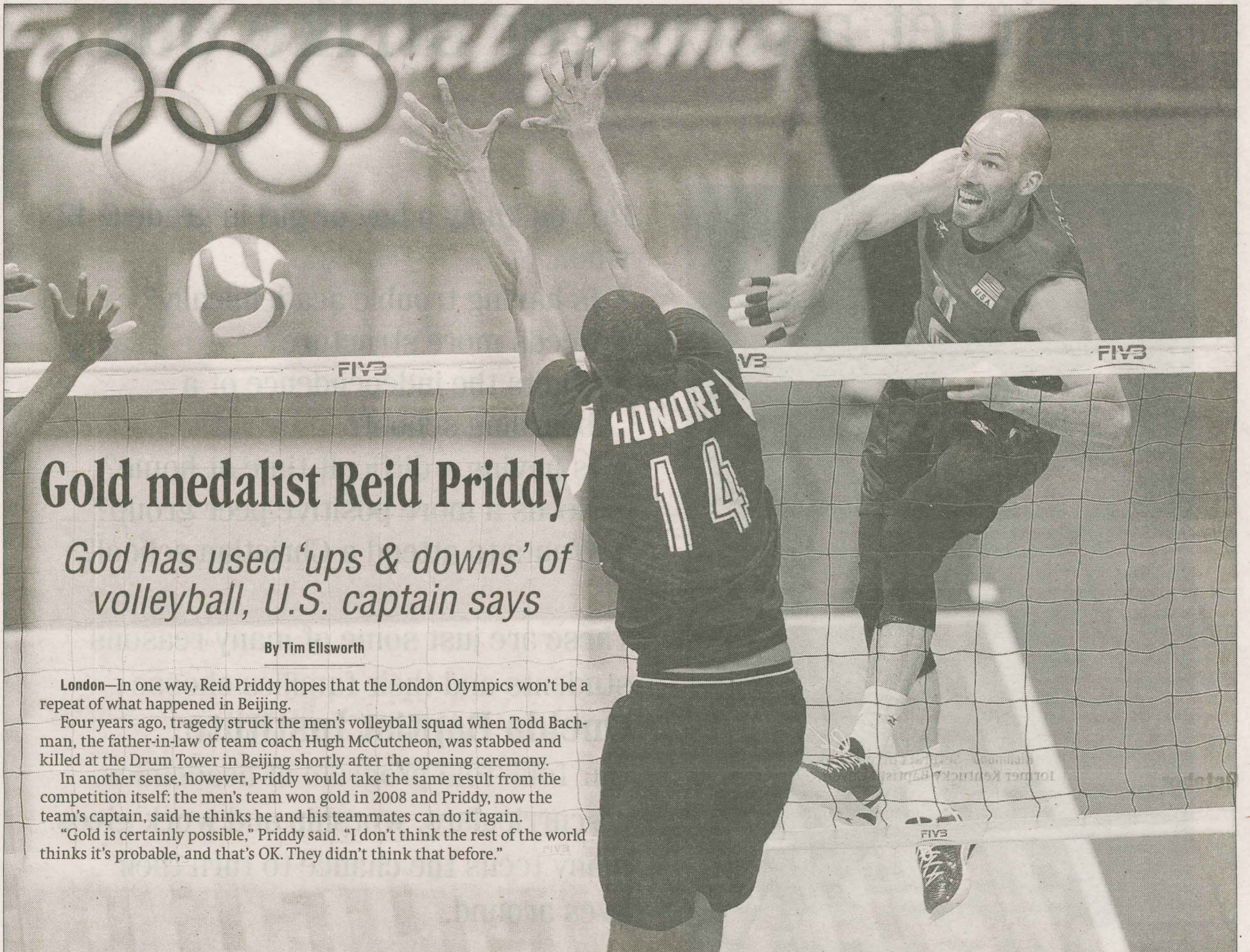
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other pastoral staff. Master of divinity from an accredited seminary preferred; five years experience in church ministry required. We are a multi-campus church with an average attendance of 600. Please send resumés by Sept. 30 to Boone Trail Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1985 Carroll Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37615, or pastorsearch@boonetrail-baptist.org.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Elkhorn City Baptist Church; send resumé to Elkhorn City Baptist Church, P.O. Box 448, Elkhorn City, KY 41522.

SEEKING: Full-time pastor for Mackville Baptist Church in central Kentucky; send resumé by Aug. 21 to Mendalyn Cochran, 10237 Mackville Road, Springfield, KY 40069.



Gold medalist Reid Priddy

God has used 'ups & downs' of volleyball, U.S. captain says

By Tim Ellsworth

London—In one way, Reid Priddy hopes that the London Olympics won't be a repeat of what happened in Beijing.

Four years ago, tragedy struck the men's volleyball squad when Todd Bachman, the father-in-law of team coach Hugh McCutcheon, was stabbed and killed at the Drum Tower in Beijing shortly after the opening ceremony.

In another sense, however, Priddy would take the same result from the competition itself: the men's team won gold in 2008 and Priddy, now the team's captain, said he thinks he and his teammates can do it again.

"Gold is certainly possible," Priddy said. "I don't think the rest of the world thinks it's probable, and that's OK. They didn't think that before."

London marks Priddy's third Olympics experience, and at age 34, he knows he's in the latter years of his professional volleyball career. But regardless of when the end comes, Priddy said he knows the Lord has guided his steps, deepened his faith and molded him along the way.

"I find that God has really used volleyball and the ups and downs and the learning aspects to shape my character, and it's a great arena for that," Priddy said. "It's a great arena to learn how to be a team player, how to put a team's goal above any personal agenda, how to work with other people."

The son of a minister, Priddy grew up in a Christian home, but it wasn't until college and the years shortly thereafter when he grew in his faith. While attending Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, a Jesuit Catholic university, Priddy was part of a campus ministry and "was able to see God do some cool things with a sort of ragtag group of believers," he recalled.

After college he spent two years in Europe, a time in which he said he developed a great fellowship with the Lord. Prior to his first Olympics experience in 2004, Priddy said he had a revelation.

"Right before the Athens Olympics, I really felt God giving me permission to be a fierce competitor," he noted. "I love to compete, and I love to try to win."

He said that freedom he felt from God to play fiercely and passionately set the stage for the rest of his career.

"I just try to be the best volleyball player I can be and the best teammate I can be," Priddy said. "I think that falls in line with what I'm called to do."

Priddy said he hopes London won't be his last Olympic Games. He's confident he can compete at a high level for another four years and perhaps make a

return to the world's biggest athletic stage in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. But, he admitted, he's apprehensive about life after volleyball.

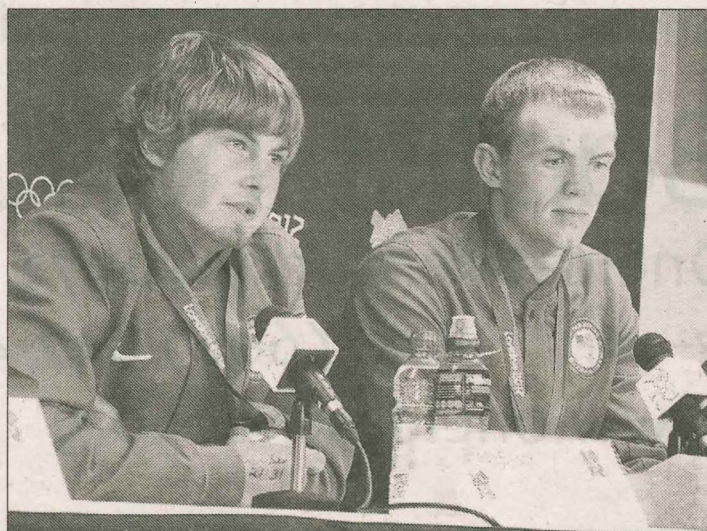
"My relationship with the Lord is so tied to my journey as an athlete," Priddy said. "It almost scares me to think of when that's not there."

Regardless, Priddy said he knows God is faithful and will work in His life, whatever he may be doing and wherever he may end up.

"I'm extremely thankful and grateful for that," Priddy said, "that I've never been in this alone." (BP)

MEETING THE MEDIA

U.S. archers Brady Ellison (left) and Jacob Wukie, speak at a post-event press conference, made up two-thirds of the trio who won silver in the men's team competition July 28. Ellison had the Scripture reference Proverbs 21:31 on his right hand during the match. "I can trust the Lord that He'll allow the truth to be shown to other people," Wukie said after the match. (Photo by Tim Ellsworth/BP)



Victory in Lord's hands, U.S. archers say

London—Brady Ellison, Jacob Wukie and Jake Kaminski became the first Americans to capture a medal in the London Olympics, winning silver in the men's archery team competition July 28.

The U.S. trio scored a big win over South Korea in the semifinals before falling to Italy 219-218 in a gold-medal match that came down to the last arrow. The Italians needed a perfect 10 on the last shot and got it.

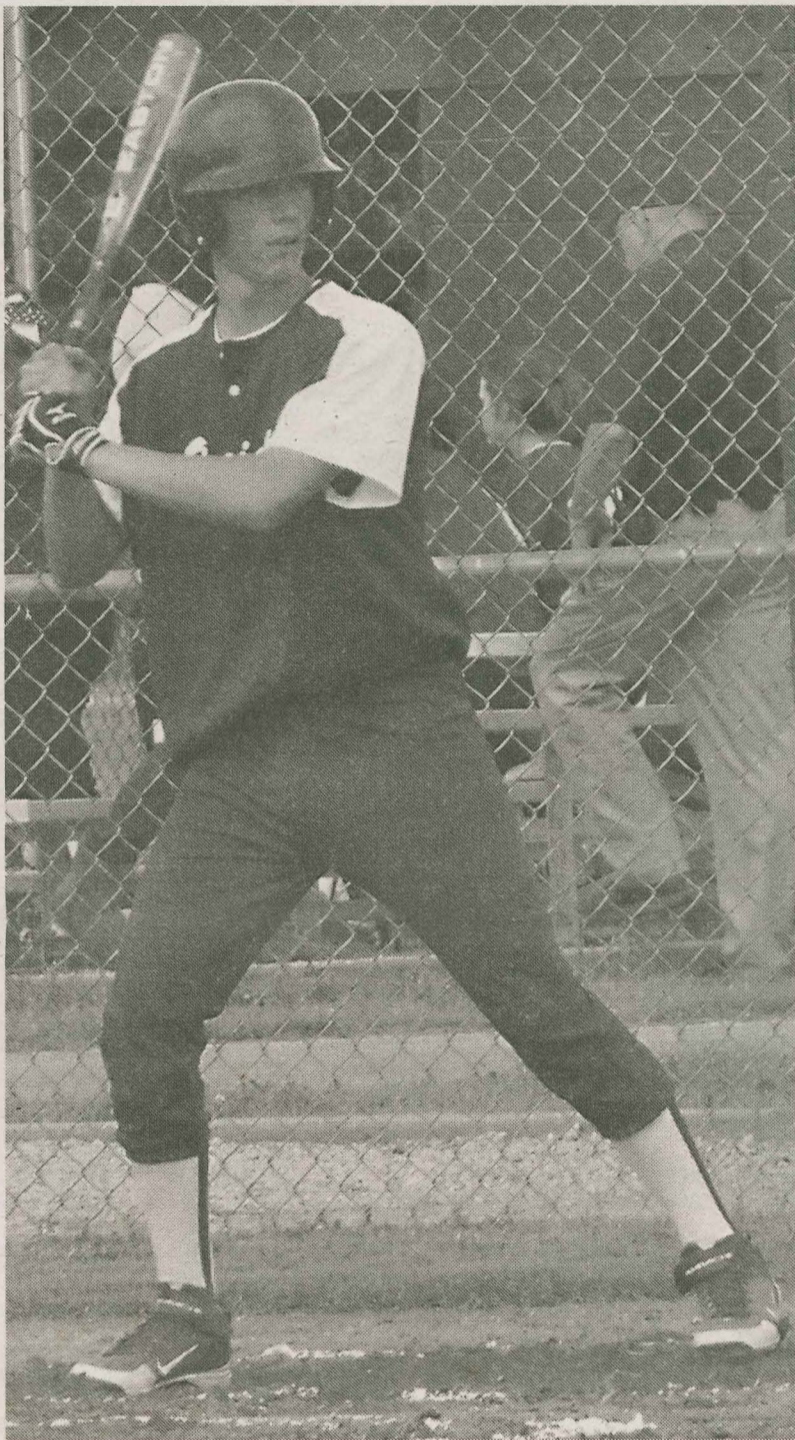
During the match, Ellison had Proverbs 21:31 written on his hand: "The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord."

He explained why the verse is meaningful to him in a press conference after the match, noting it's important to work hard and be as prepared as possible. "But when it comes down to it, victory is in the Lord's hands," Ellison said.

Wukie echoed Ellison's sentiments. Throughout the trials process and the Olympic competition, Wukie said it was important for him to focus on the Lord.

"I work hard and do my best, ... and I trust God with the results," Wukie said. "He said that all things work together for good for those who are in Christ Jesus, and so that's really my focus." (BP)

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