

WESTERN Recorder

August 14, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 31

What will it take to reach A post-Christian culture?

Ky. Baptists respond to new reality of mass evangelism

By David Roach

Louisville—Mass outreach events have long used the same format: an evangelist presents the gospel to a crowd then invites people to be saved. And many commit their lives to Jesus Christ on the spot.

But that traditional format is changing to accommodate an increasingly post-Christian American culture, according to Keith Inman, the Kentucky Baptist Convention's collegiate evangelism strategist.

Because many non-believers lack a basic Judeo-Christian worldview that allows them to process the gospel the first time they hear it, organizers of mass outreach events in the 21st century should understand that inquiries or interest in Christ may not immediately translate into decisions for Christ, Inman noted.

He added that such interest should be celebrated, and then those inquiries followed up.

In recent years, a prime example of this new reality in mass outreach is a series of evangelistic illusion shows across Kentucky for youth and college students.

The shows, featuring a performance known as Ma?e (pronounced "maize"), involved a series of illusions followed by the personal testimony of magician Jim Munroe. At the end of each event, attendees were asked to fill out cards indicating their openness to further conversation about spiritual matters.

Kentucky Baptists followed up, having individual conversations with hundreds of students, explaining the gospel in ways they could understand.

"This event turned more into a pre-evangelism event in practice," Inman said. Munroe "presented the gospel—he nailed the gospel. But we have a generation that is missing the first 100 pages of the book. They don't have a place to start, and the church has to figure out what to do. And that takes more conversation."

□ See Post-Christians ... Page 2



From London to Sochi

Ministry team reaches Russians in London, preps for sharing gospel at 2014 Winter Games

By Marc Ira Hooks

London—Though the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Russia are still 18 months away, church planters in the host city of Sochi already are hard at work to capitalize on what the "Olympic spirit" will bring.

And they recently spent time in London during the recent Olympics getting a grasp on how those opportunities would look.

"Traditionally, Southern Baptists have used Olympic ministry as an opportunity for broad seed sowing. However, Olympic ministry can be much more than that. It can be a catalyst for church planting in the host city itself," said Earl Gillespie, a team member for Engage Sochi, an International Mission Board initiative aimed at taking Olympic ministry beyond the opportunity for mass evangelism.

Gillespie said the Engage Sochi strategy is for the residents of Sochi to be reached with the gospel before, during and after the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

"It is our goal to use the opportunities that the Olympics will bring to Sochi to not just reach out to the people of the world who will visit the city for the games, but to use this event as a way to build relationships with the people who live and work in the

Sochi area," Gillespie said. "And we have already begun to do that."

The Engage Sochi church planting team, which formed after the Russian city was named as the 2014 Olympic host, has been actively involved in partnering with Central Baptist Church in Sochi for more than a year. Together they have been exploring ways to use the sporting event to connect believers with the Sochi community.

The Engage Sochi team, which arrived in London prior to the start of the summer games, was surprised at how the atmosphere and demeanor of the people on the streets changed after the opening ceremonies.

"Since the games started, people have been so open," said Kay Gillespie, who coordinates prayer efforts for the Engage Sochi initiative. "We even had one young lady thank us for coming and telling her about Jesus. If I can have those kinds of experiences in Sochi, then I cannot imagine what Jesus is going to do there."

Joining the Engage Sochi team was Danil Pankratov, a Russian Baptist pastor who partners with the team.

"I was surprised how people would talk with you and would listen to a gospel presentation," Pankratov said. "Usually in Sochi

□ See Sochi 2014 ... Page 6



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2014

■ **Top:** Olympic organizers used the London games to promote the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. Billboards advertising the Winter Games could be found in airports, on the streets and even on London's iconic double-decker buses (pictured).

■ **Above:** Danil Pankratov, pastor of Sochi's Central Baptist Church, and his wife traveled to London alongside the International Mission Board's Engage Sochi leadership team to get a better vision for how the Olympics can help reach the people of an Olympic host city. (IMB photos)



"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 8-14-2012

Disaster relief volunteers needed for Okla. cleanup

By Mickey Noah

Oklahoma City—The Oklahoma state convention needs up to 150 volunteers for "ash-out" work after wildfires charred 110,000 acres and destroyed 380 homes across the state in recent weeks.

Sam Porter, disaster relief director for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, said Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are needed to respond to damages in four parts of the state.

"We need DR help from state conventions across the country," Porter said. "The work will take three weeks. We need seven teams of 8-10 people in the Mannford area (near Tulsa), and another five teams to work in the Noble area near Norman."

The wildfires, some of which are believed to have been caused by arson, were fueled by several days of 110-degree heat, extremely low humidity and high winds.

"With the heat, drought, low humidity and winds, it was the perfect fire-storm," Porter said. "Even green trees were burning."

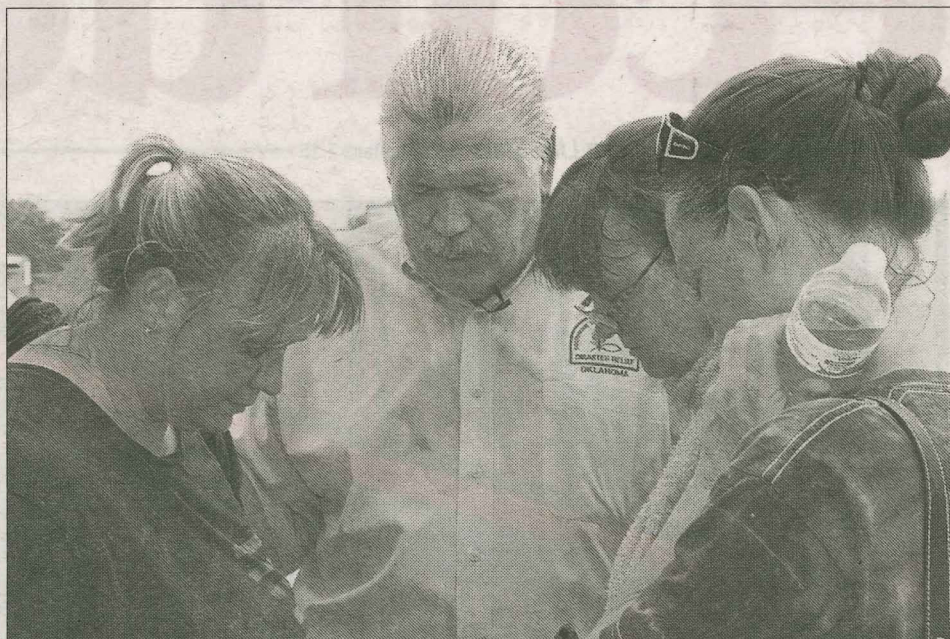
Porter and volunteers have received more than 100 requests for help from families, most of whom do not have insurance. The convention may even field requests from up to 200 more families.

"It's just overwhelming," Porter said, adding that many victims were low-income and elderly people in rural areas.

"Many of these folks couldn't afford homeowner's insurance; it was either food or their medicine," he said. "Now, they may have a \$100,000 pile of ashes."

SBDR volunteers are needed for "ash-out" work, which involves scraping off what's left of charred foundations or slabs, cleaning scorched lots and clearing debris.

"We want as many volunteers as we



HELP NEEDED Oklahoma Disaster Relief Director Sam Porter (middle) prays with family members who lost their home to wildfires near Mannford, Okla. Porter has requested help from disaster relief volunteers from other states in doing "ash-out" work after wildfires destroyed 110,000 acres and 380 homes. (Photo by Bob Nigh/Oklahoma Baptist Messenger)

can get, trained if possible," Porter said. "But even if they haven't done ash-out, it won't take long for us to train them. If the team doesn't have an ash-out trailer, we will just need them to bring basic things like wheelbarrows, rakes and scoop shovels. Workers will need to bring work clothes, heavy boots and gloves, goggles and dust masks. It would also be great if a DR team has a Bobcat tractor with claws for picking up the debris."

Oklahoma's command post will be based at First Baptist Church of Mannford, Okla., just west of Tulsa, where some 80,000 acres were scorched by the wildfires.

At Oklahoma's request, the North American Mission Board deployed its command post, already in operation at

Twelve Corners Baptist Church near Norman. Affected by separate wildfires were Luther, east of Oklahoma City, and Glencoe, near Stillwater.

"We expect our volunteers to come in for just one week at a time," Porter said. "We can house as many people who want to come—up to 200 a night—in various churches."

Many Oklahoma DR volunteers had to be recalled from Colorado, where they had been responding to wildfires in that state since July. Colorado crews will be replenished by volunteers from the two Texas conventions.

Porter plans on completing all ash-out work in Oklahoma by Aug. 31. It takes a full day for a team to "ash-out" a house, he said. (NAMB/BP)

Stansbury, 66, remembered as 'servant of God'

Lebanon—Vic Stansbury, longtime pastor of Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church in Lebanon and former



Vic Stansbury

adjunct professor at Campbellsville University, died Aug. 4. He was 66.

Funeral services for the Nelson County native were held Aug. 7 at the church where he had served since 1980. Prior to his

call to Muldraugh Hill, Stansbury was pastor of Galilee Baptist Church in Berea, Lockport Baptist Church, Sligo Baptist Church, and Elk Creek Baptist Church in Taylorsville.

Stansbury also taught biblical studies at Campbellsville University for 12 years. He was a 1972 graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Jay Hatfield, director of missions for Central Baptist Association, said he first met Stansbury 18 years ago and the two quickly became friends. He described Stansbury as a "servant of God" who sought to help people any way he could.

"He's always been the type of person who is indebted and dedicated to the call of the ministry," Hatfield said of Stansbury. "Wherever he went, people just loved him. He had a wonderful spirit about him. If anybody upon this earth has ever come across as being Christlike, it was Vic Stansbury."

Stansbury dedicated his life to Christian ministry while in high school and preached his first sermon at 16. While a student at Berea College, Stansbury was ordained to the gospel ministry by New Salem Baptist Church in Deatsville in 1967.

Hatfield described Stansbury's childhood home in Deatsville as very similar to the rural, tight-knit community of Lebanon. The DOM said Stansbury's death "is going to leave a very big void" at Muldraugh Hill. "For many of them he's the only pastor they have ever known."

He is perhaps the only pastor known by many of the patients at Springview Hospital where Stansbury volunteered as chaplain. Hatfield said Stansbury faithfully served at the hospital each and every day by counseling the lost and hurting.

"He was just a very loving man," Hatfield said.

Stansbury is survived by his wife of 56 years, Joan, a daughter, two sons and five grandchildren.

He was a member of the Church Relations Council at Campbellsville University, had previously served on the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Mission Board, as well as held posts with the Marion County Ministerial Association and Central Baptist Association.

Expressions of sympathy are requested to take the form of donations to Muldraugh Hill Baptist Church's elevator project. (WR)

Post-Christians

Continued from page 1

Several Ma?e performances were funded by the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions.

More than 100 students indicated openness to further conversations at Ma?e performances in Hopkinsville, Campbellsville, Richmond and Bowling Green. Dozens made positive responses at other locations, prompting youth and campus ministers to follow up with one-on-one conversations.

Conversational evangelism

Evangelists such as Billy Graham saw mass conversions at crusades in the past, Inman said, in part because unbelievers understood that the world was created good and marred by sin. With that understanding, they were ready to embrace the gospel's solution to sin.

However, youth and college students today do not understand the doctrine of creation and lack even cursory knowledge of the doctrine of sin, he said, adding that for many, extended conversation is necessary to process a traditional gospel presentation.

Mass events such as Ma?e introduce Christian ideas and establish a starting point for additional conversations,

Inman explained.

For example, last October at Eastern Kentucky University, Ma?e yielded 187 students willing to have follow-up conversations, as well as 17 first-time professions of faith.

Follow-up by Baptist Campus Ministry students resulted in approximately 60 new students participating in campus ministry events. A Bible study for the football team increased from approximately five attendees to 15-20, according to former EKU Baptist campus minister, Jon Barron.

"As a result (of Ma?e), there were evangelistic conversations taking place that would not have taken place had we not done this mass outreach event," Inman said.

The Campbellsville University BCM leadership team followed up with 172 students who signaled openness to further conversation after a September Ma?e performance that drew 900 attendees.

Students who attended the event were "very powerfully impressed and re-evaluated their relationship with Jesus Christ," Campus Minister Ed Pavy said. "Some made professions of faith; some recommitted."

In Hopkinsville, Chuck Poe worked with a local network of youth ministers to call scores of middle- and high-school students who responded to a fall Ma?e performance. The event boosted

awareness of the BCM at Hopkinsville Community College and encouraged one student at the school to recommit her life to Christ, according to Poe, who serves as minister of students and families at Second Baptist Church of Hopkinsville and is campus minister at HCC.

Results of Ma?e on other Kentucky campuses were similar, Inman said, with attendance increasing at almost every BCM that sponsored a performance.

"The strength of the event was that it empowered our students to share the gospel," he said. "It reminded our students that our call on this campus is to proclaim the gospel."

"It raised the temperature of evangelism," he continued. "Our students became more aggressive. I think they became more relational. They met people from all walks of life on the campus that they normally would not have engaged."

On some secular college campuses, the miniscule percentage of evangelical students is comparable to the percentage of evangelicals in China, Inman said. Such a challenging mission field demands creative outreach events like Ma?e, he said.

Through Ma?e, "the church invaded the campus, introduced the gospel, the message of Jesus, through the missionary arm of the Kentucky Baptist Convention called Baptist Campus Ministry," Inman said. (KBC)

Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?

Conference panelists: Calvinism should not divide Southern Baptists

By Michael Foust

Crestwood—A panel of four Southern Baptist leaders Aug. 4 talked honestly about the division within the convention over the issue of Calvinism while offering suggestions and maintaining that Southern Baptists should and can unite, despite their differences.

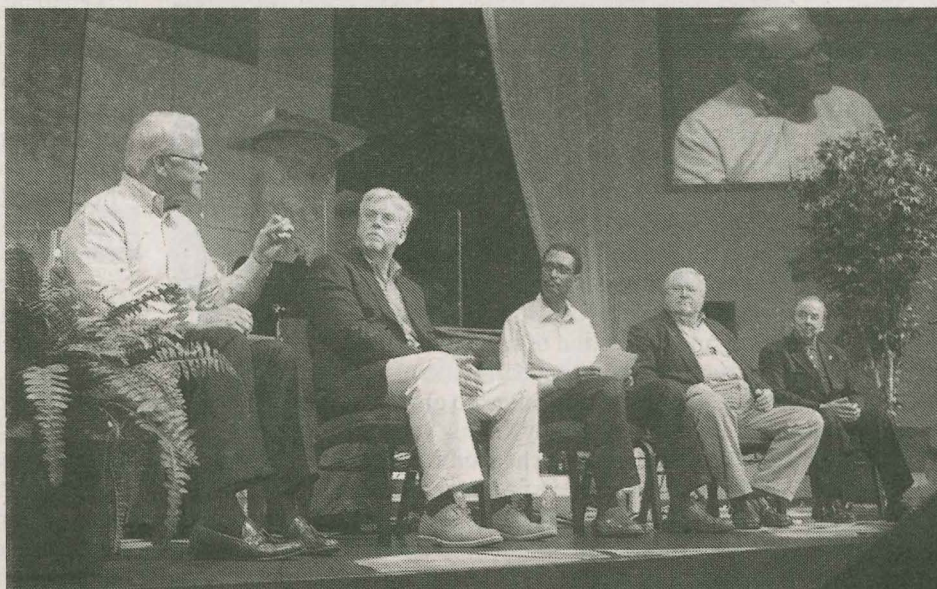
"Baptists for 400 years have disagreed over this issue, and we're not going to come to some place where we all agree. I think we can come to a place where we all can work together," said Union University President David Dockery, one of the speakers at the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored conference, "Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?" at Crestwood Baptist Church.

"In the 18th century, there were particular (Calvinist) and general Baptists," he said, "but at the sending of (missionary) William Carey, they joined hands together for the common cause of missions. That's something we can do again."

Other panelists included Steve Lemke, director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort and associate dean of the school of theology at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; and Frank Page, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

"Right now, there is deep division in our convention over this issue," Page said. "It comes every year at the convention (annual meeting). It is not going to stop until we learn how to treat each other, how to be honest, how to clarify what we really are saying."

There are "extremes" on both sides of the issue, Page noted, a point with which Lemke agreed.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page (far left) answers a question during a panelist discussion at the recent "Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused" conference hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The other panelists were (from second to left) Hershael York, pastor of Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort; moderator Kevin Smith, pastor of Watson Memorial Baptist Church in Louisville; Steve Lemke, provost at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and David Dockery, president of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

"We've got to rein in some of the people on our sides," Lemke said. "Some of these poster boys for Calvinism are hurting the cause of Calvinism horribly—some of these guys on blogs that have an un-Christlike spirit and are just mean."

"At the same time, there are some people on my side who are mean and they really don't understand Calvinism. ... They misrepresent or caricature Calvinism," Lemke added. "I can't rein in people on the Calvinist side. Dr. York has to do that. And he can't rein in the people on my side. I have to do that."

Panelists said when a church has an opening for a pastor, both sides of the issue—pastoral candidates and search

committees—must be honest in stating their beliefs and desires. A "small minority" of Calvinists, Page said, fail to be honest and then try to push Calvinism on the church.

Dockery said Calvinism was prominent within the SBC during the first 75 years or so after it was founded. The convention's history, he noted, is replete with those who have both affirmed Calvinism and disagreed with it.

"There is not just one theological stream from one theological tradition in Baptist life. There are several," Dockery said. "Baptists, as a whole, in the 21st century, don't know their heritage. It's not that we don't know who Calvin is.

We don't even know who Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong are."

York said he is "committed to not letting this be an issue that divides us."

"The Great Commission is the commission that Christ gave to all of us, and we've got to be committed to working together to get the gospel to the ends of the earth," he charged.

Lemke said there is "distrust" on both sides, and "that leads to probably exaggerating what the other side is saying and really going beyond where they really are."

"I hope we can find ways to work together more constructively," he added.

Southern Baptists already have a mechanism that makes it possible to work together—the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, York pointed out.

"There is nothing in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 that makes me or other Calvinists unable to believe what we believe," York said.

The debate over Calvinism, Page said, is a debate "within the family." It is "inerrantists here who are disagreeing with other inerrantists."

When Page was SBC president from 2006-08, he said he appointed Calvinists and non-Calvinists to the Committee on Committees "because they were men and women that would go out and witness with me." He said he soon will name a group of advisors "to help me pull together some kind of strategy" to help keep the convention united.

Both sides, he said, need to learn to respect one another.

"We're talking about and at each other too often," he said. "When you respect someone, you talk to them."

Page added, "If we can do missions and evangelism together ... then we can pull this thing together." (BP)

Dockery: Calvinism has roots in convention's history

By Andrew Walker

Crestwood—Calvinism isn't a recent phenomenon in Southern Baptist life but instead has deep roots in its history, Union University President David Dockery said at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's recent conference on the issue.

"There have been Calvinists in the convention since its inception," Dockery said at the Aug. 4 event.

The university president delivered two lectures, the first focusing on the history of Baptist theology; the second spotlighting the resurgence of Calvinism within Southern Baptist life.

"This conversation is difficult, because there isn't just one theological stream or tradition in Baptist life. There are several. There isn't just one leader, either," he noted, referencing some denominations, such as Methodists (John Wesley) and Lutherans (Martin Luther), who can look back to a founder or major influencer.

Dockery located the beginning of Baptist life with the rise of English Separatism in England. As Baptist life developed in England in the 1600s, Baptists divided between General Baptists and Particular

Baptists. The "particular" group represented a more Calvinistic understanding of salvation, while General Baptists held to, as the name suggests, a more "general" understanding of the atonement.

At the founding of the Southern Baptist Convention in May 1845, it would have been difficult to find leaders who were not Calvinistic in their theology, Dockery said. He distinguished between a Calvinistic denominational leadership of the SBC and its less Calvinist laity. At that time, however, the question over Calvinism was not plaguing the newly formed denomination. Dockery drew attention to the Calvinistic leanings of the Abstract of Principles, a document written by James Boyce that would serve as a doctrinal weathervane for Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

In his second address, Dockery began by asking the question, "Are Southern Baptists Calvinists?" He answered the question by comparing what Calvinism means according to different traditions.

"To a Wesleyan," Dockery said, "Southern Baptists are Calvinists because we believe in eternal security, which Wesleyans do not. But to Presbyterians, who hold to a plurality of elders

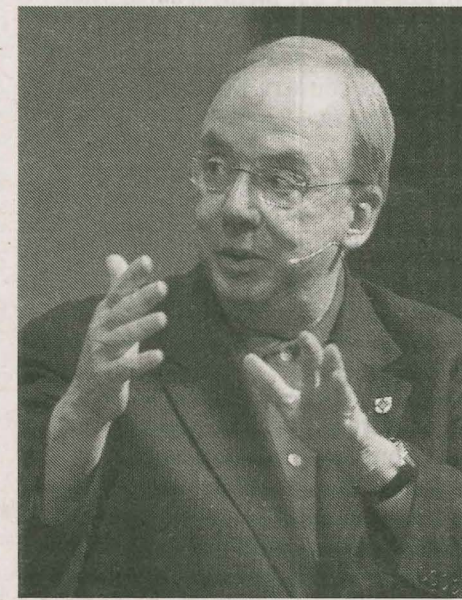
and infant baptism, we are not Calvinists."

Dockery traced the trajectory of earlier 20th century Southern Baptist theology which emphasized personal response, revelation and revivalism. As Southern Baptists became more programmatic in the mid-20th century, "the SBC re-envisioned itself, largely ignoring the 19th Century roots," he explained.

Dockery suggested that the contemporary resurgence in Calvinism is partially attributable to outside influences on seminarians and laity, such as theologians and pastors Carl Henry, J.I. Packer and John Piper. All of these men, Dockery noted, combine biblical inerrancy with a strong commitment to Calvinism.

Dockery made the case for a "big tent" Southern Baptist Convention in which Calvinists and non-Calvinists can partner together for the cause of Christ. He also put the Calvinism controversy in larger perspective, suggesting that liberalism, neo-paganism, & postmodernism are greater challenges for Southern Baptists to overcome than Calvinism.

"Calvinism is not the most important conversation Southern Baptists ought to be having. We have far more that we



David Dockery

agree on than we disagree on," he said.

He also encouraged Southern Baptists to revisit their denominational history.

"By and large," Dockery said, "we don't know our heritage, our history, our theological identity or the distinctives of the various traditions."

An attention to denominational history, he suggested, would help put the current controversy over Calvinism in historical perspective. (BP)

Not afraid of bad news

Among the many deep mysteries God has revealed in his word is the mystery of marriage and how the marriage covenant models the covenant between Christ and His church.

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

In Ephesians 5, Paul writes, "Husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his

body. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.' This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church."

Michelle and I recently celebrated our 19th wedding anniversary. We actually started our "courtship" in middle school, some 10 years before marriage. Over the years, we have made mistakes, learned lessons and grown in our understanding of the divine mystery of marriage.

I have also come to see God's goodness in His concern that Adam not be alone. And I have, by God's grace, begun to appreciate the opportunity that my marriage gives me to model the sacrificial and selfless love of Christ for His church. I confess I haven't taken full advantage of that opportunity, but it is my growing desire.

A couple of weeks ago, Michelle was diagnosed with breast cancer, the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women. Since current studies indicate that 4 in 10 Americans will have some type of cancer during their lifetimes, we know we are facing a battle that has become all too common in our family and in nearly every household across the country. But common doesn't mean easy, especially when it's cancer.

As we reluctantly begin this journey, God has set two things in front of me. First, God led me to Psalm 112 where the Psalmist says the man who fears the Lord "is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord. His heart is steady; he will not be afraid" (verses 7-8). We fear the Lord and refuse to be afraid of cancer.

Second, my job as a husband has not changed. Obeying Ephesians 5, I am to hold fast to my wife, nourishing and cherishing her, loving her as I love myself, for the two are one flesh.

Something more also has become clear: God has given us a support group spanning the state and nation. The prayers and encouragement of our Southern Baptist family in Kentucky and beyond humble us. We are no more deserving of those prayers than anyone else, but should the Lord bring Michelle to mind, know I am grateful for every petition before His throne.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

There is another way besides Calvinism

Those who signed the "Traditional Baptist Understanding of Salvation" statement took it on the chin during the recent annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. Though not mentioned from the platform, many hallway conversations blamed the statement for creating a situation where Calvinism became a front-burner issue. It was not uncommon to hear people say they wished the statement had not been released.

Part of that reaction is fear of another theological fight. Southern Baptists are still living with the impact of the conservative resurgence from the 1970s and 1980s. More recently we have aimed our public guns at cultural and political issues, and many Baptists are growing weary of the continuing confrontations. Thoughts of another round of serious theological conflict are simply less than appealing.

Studies indicate Calvinism continues to grow among Southern Baptists, especially among younger pastors. Anecdotal stories confirm the studies. A growing number of churches face the issue when calling a new pastor or youth pastor. While pockets of Calvinism can be found in most Southern Baptist-related seminaries, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville is most identified with Reformed theology, primarily because of the influence of its president Albert Mohler.

Speaking to the editors of state Baptist papers in February, Mohler said, "When I first arrived at Southern, trust me, if there was a Calvinist on campus I was the one." Nearly 20 years later, the seminary is widely known for its championing of Calvinistic theology.

Mohler told the editors he was a five-point Calvinist, a position he has never hidden. Then he added, "Calvinism is the shape of the future because the options otherwise don't very much exist." He explained that only Calvinism offers the rational support the younger generation needs for the "far deeper and more substantial doctrinal conversations and theological conversations" taking place as cultural Christianity disappears.

The Southern Seminary president makes much of the history of Baptist confessions of faith and contends that the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which he helped craft, is consistent with the Calvinistic heritage of Baptists.

It was Mohler's prediction that Calvinism is the only alternative for the future that prompted many signers of the "traditional Baptist" statement to release their public statement May 31. These longtime leaders, including two other SBC seminary presidents, wanted to say there is another way—the traditional Baptist way.

Interestingly, both sides define the other into their camp. Mohler, for example, says, "There are people in the SBC who in the SBC are called anti-Calvinists or non-Calvinists who, in the larger contexts, would show up and be recognized as Calvinists."

In their book "Whosoever Will," David Allen of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, and Steve Lemke of New Orleans Seminary describe author Richard Muller's definition that true Calvinism requires affirming infant baptism, recognizing the sacraments as means of grace and an amillennial eschatology without which the "famous five" doctrines of Calvinism "make very little sense."

The writers conclude, "From the perspective of a true Calvinist, Baptists are modified Calvinists at best. Nobody in the SBC measures up to this standard of Calvinism."

The five famous doctrines of Calvinism are often expressed in the acrostic TULIP. The letters stand for: Total depravity; Unconditional election; Limited atonement; Irresistible grace; Perseverance of the saints.

Like the term "Calvinist," disagreement over how the doctrines are defined often is the source of contention among Baptists. For example, Baptists do not always mean the same

thing by "total depravity." Some Baptists believe that man is so corrupted by sin that disobedience to God is inevitable. Thus they join the apostle Paul in declaring, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Others mean that man is guilty of sin at birth and already separated from God.

The former group generally holds to the concept of an "age of accountability" for sin, a position that God does not hold one accountable for sin until one is old enough to be conscious of sin. The latter believes one is damned to hell from birth without the remission of sin. That is the reason for infant baptism. Those two positions come into sharp contrast when one stands before the open grave of a newborn or a young child.

Unconditional election holds that before the foundation of the earth, God chose some for salvation. Election is not simply foreknowledge, but an active work by God to choose certain individuals for salvation. It is God's choice alone who will be saved and who will be lost.

Other Baptists believe that an all-knowing God knows who will and will not accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior because God sees all of history, from beginning to end, at the same time. Yet knowing the choice of an individual does not make God responsible for that choice.

Some of Calvin's disciples went further. They concluded, "If some were chosen before the foundation of the world, others must be left, or passed by, as early." These pastors teach that God created some for salvation and others for damnation.

The doctrines of predestination and free will collide here in ways yet unexplained.

Limited atonement teaches Jesus died for the sins of the elect only. His sacrifice was not for the sins of the world. Others believe "God is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). One's position here impacts evangelism.

Irresistible grace means those whom God created for salvation will respond to God's call to salvation. They have no choice. Again some of Calvin's disciples took the teaching a step further. Some refused to extend gospel invitations lest they cast "gospel pearls before swine" and offend God by offering salvation to the non-elect.

In questioning the meaning of the Great Commission in Matthew 28 came the famous rebuke to William Carey when he was told, "Sit down young man, you are an enthusiast. When God pleases to convert the heathen, He will do it without consulting you or me."

Others believe God's grace is offered to all. The role of preaching is to convey the message of that grace through the Jesus' death on the cross so people can freely choose to accept it.

Perseverance of the saints holds that the elect will persevere in the faith to the end. Since it is God who does the saving, His work is always perfect and complete. From here comes the commitment to once saved, always saved.

Calvinism provides a tightly reasoned theological construct devoted to the sovereignty of God. The system also raises many questions, and every one of those questions is being debated in Baptist churches today. The issues have not been left in history books. That is why "Calvinism is hot," as former SBC president Bryant Wright said.

"I don't think most Southern Baptists are where I am," Mohler told the editors. He is right. Southern Baptists have always had a mix of Calvinism in their veins. They have also had a mix of other theological understandings. We cannot be conveniently defined into any category other than Baptist.

Any attempt to force one future on us would be a mistake. That is one reason the "Traditional Baptist Understanding of Salvation" statement was helpful to Southern Baptists. It shows there is another way besides Calvinism.

Bob Terry is editor of *The Alabama Baptist*. This article first appeared in its July 19, 2012 issue.

Guest Viewpoint



By Bob Terry

WESTERN Recorder

Box 43969
Louisville, KY 40253

DR. TODD DEATON
Editor

DREW NICTER
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.

The need for spiritual revival in the SBC

By Frank Page

In my almost two years in the role I now hold, I have traveled a great deal across our nation and some across the world. I am met with an almost universal understanding by God's people that we are in dire need of a Holy Ghost revival in our nation, in our churches and in our lives. This refrain is repeated over and over.

I have long stated that God has a plan for our nation, for our churches and for our lives. I also constantly state that Satan has his own plan for all of the above. We all agree that he has won far too many battles. God's desire has been thwarted too long.

Psalm 85:6 asked the question, "Will you not revive us again?" This cry from the psalmist is a question that all of us must ask today. When this was written, conditions in Judah were desperate as God's people had shortly returned from the Babylonian captivity. People had expected great things from their deliverance and homecoming, but the harsh realities of their return brought bitter disappointment and discouragement.

There is much discouragement, disunity and hopelessness today. We find ourselves theologically and methodologically divided. We find ourselves thwarted on every hand to see our nation touched for the gospel. One of the saddest realities of today is that personal evangelism has reached a new low of emphasis in many of our churches and has led to disengagement from lost people that frightens me deeply.

Many people are asking the same question today that was asked by the psalmist, only rephrased: "Is revival coming?"

Our 21st century churches, to a great extent, have become ease-loving churches. Such being the case, too often churches are not willing to pay the price that revival costs.

It is true for individuals as well. At times we hate our deadness, our lack of spiritual vitality, but we hate still more to be bothered into action. That may sound a bit pessimistic and unkind, but I am confident that this is the reality in which we live. There are many, no doubt, who would like to have a true revival, but many would also ask that revival come without much serious alteration of behavior and priority. We must understand

FIRST PERSON



"It is time to quit talking about it and start doing what God tells us to do. His word is clear. He has told us what must take place for revival to come."

today that revival is costly. It always has been. It always will be.

My main point is simply to help us realize it is time to quit talking about it and start doing what God tells us to do. His word is clear. He has told us what must take place for revival to come. His precious word gives the outline, highlights the need and provides the answer.

Look at 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, pray and seek My face, and turn from their evil ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." Where is humility? Where are earnest prayer warriors? Where are those who seek His face? Where is genuine and life-altering repentance? Are there hearts being broken as we realize the answer to those questions? We fall far short of what God would wish.

May God break our hearts and bring us to the point where we not only see the need, but we are willing to do whatever it takes to see the Holy Ghost revival fall upon our people. (BP)

Frank Page is president of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee. This article is part of a series of first-person pieces in anticipation of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal, Sept. 26-Nov. 4. To learn more, visit www.4040prayer.com.

Greatest spiritual obstacles?

By David Garrard

Q: What is the greatest obstacle parents have to overcome in leading their children spiritually?



A: Brian Haynes is lead pastor at Bay Area First Baptist Church of League City, Texas. He also is creator of the Legacy Milestones Strategy and author of "The Legacy Path," a book about intentional spiritual parenting. Haynes writes that the greatest obstacle parents have to overcome in leading

their children spiritually is their own mediocre or morbidly religious relationship with God, accompanied by a juvenile understanding of His word. Whoa!

Haynes continues, "These are harsh words that I wish I did not have to write, but I recognize this truth in my own life sometimes."

Haynes is concerned that the next generation (our kids) is likely to pursue Christ only as far as Christianity, and the Christian faith seems compelling, important and significant to this generation (us).

Haynes calls for self-assessment, and asks several pointed questions. How is your relationship with Christ? Does Jesus guide and influence every decision? Is the sum total of your faith walk what happens in church on Sunday mornings or is church a faith community that you are connected to and committed to at multiple levels? Can those around you see the difference that faith in God makes in your life? When did you last pray for more than three minutes? What did God say to you from His word today?

As conversations continue about the partnership between the home and the church in the spiritual development of children, we would do well to remember that, as Haynes points out, "The way to the heart of a child is through their family." It all comes down to personal and family priorities. If faith is not important to you and does not make a difference in your life, chances are it's not going to be important to your children either.

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

Traditionalists, Calvinists and Jesus' prayer for unity among believers

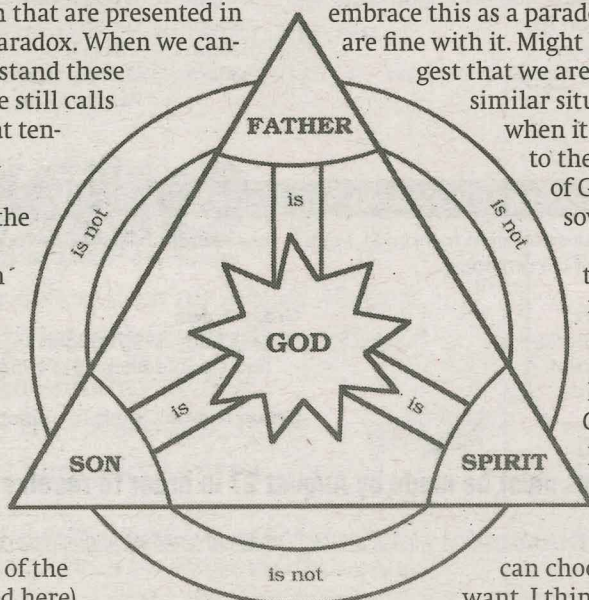
By Aaron Sams

A crucial desire of Jesus found in the Bible is the deep longing that He had for His people to experience a profound unity (John 17:22-23).

Over the past few months, it has concerned me to see many Baptists dividing on the issue of Calvinism. As I have watched this take place, my thoughts have turned time and again to this prayer of Christ for our unity.

Sometimes the Bible presents us truths to affirm that are presented in the word as a paradox. When we cannot fully understand these truths, the Bible still calls us to rest in that tension and affirm those truths. I think perhaps the disunity and tension on both sides of this issue is that many are not resting in the tension of this topic.

Let me give an example. Have you ever seen a diagram of the Trinity (pictured here)



with arrows from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? The arrows show Jesus is God, but he is not the Father or the Spirit. This diagram is beneficial; yet, we know the diagram does not exhaustively explain the Trinity. So, we rest in the tension.

Nobody claims he or she has 100 percent wrapped his or her mind around the Trinity so much so that the concept can be fully explained and comprehended. However, most people embrace this as a paradox and are fine with it. Might I suggest that we are in a similar situation when it comes to the topic of God's sovereignty?

There are two truths that exist in a paradoxical state in the Bible. First, the Bible affirms God is completely sovereign. Second, the Bible affirms people can choose what they want. I think both sides of

the debate would affirm those two statements. Now, the question is, how can these two concepts coexist? Some would say the "TULIP" explains the relationship well. Others would not affirm aspects of the "TULIP."

COMMENTARY



Aaron Sams

I think any explanation one offers to try and wrestle with the coexistence of these two concepts would be like the Trinity diagram. It may get us very close to examining these two truths side by side, but it still does not explain their relationship 100 percent. Their relationship is, like the Trinity, a paradox. It is one of those topics in Scripture in which it is OK to rest in the tension. You can affirm that God is sovereign, and you can affirm that people can choose what they want knowing we do not fully grasp, now, how those two truths coexist.

As Christians, we affirm God is three in one, and we do not completely understand how that works. In a similar way, what if Calvinists and traditionalists could discuss their views and still have the humility to express that no Christian entirely understands how God is sovereign and that we can choose what we want? Not in a way that either side forfeits its theological convictions, but that

both sides understand the complexity of the issue and recognize the tension that is present between the two concepts. Then, in humility, they could choose to stand in unity with those on the other side of the debate, since neither side exhaustively understands how these two concepts coexist.

As a pastor of an inner-city church near Cincinnati, I have enjoyed the prayers, assistance and encouragement of fellow ministers whose fellowships also have partnered with us to help spread the way of Jesus in our area. We may not see eye to eye on this issue of Calvinism, but our unity is found in the desire to glorify Christ. I think both sides of this issue long for that goal as well.

As fellowships committed to utilizing the Southern Baptist Convention to spread the gospel, I pray that we would realize how much we agree on in the Bible as expressed in the Baptist Faith & Message 2000 and rest in the tension when the Bible tells us to do so. I pray Calvinists and traditionalists will respect each other's views, let the friction between the two groups fade away, and move forward together to spreading the gospel. I pray for unity because Jesus prayed for unity for us all.

Aaron Sams is senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Bellevue. He currently is pursuing an M.Div. degree at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

U.S. gold medalist Gabby Douglas: All 'glory goes up' to God

By Tim Ellsworth & Diana Chandler

London—Gabby Douglas soon will have more money than she ever dreamed.

With a vibrant smile and two gold medals to her credit at the Olympics, the 16-year-old gymnast undoubtedly will cash in with endorsement and marketing deals worth millions of dollars.

The fame and fortune that Douglas instantly captured may make some things easier, but they won't remove the difficulties from her life. When she faces such struggles, she turns to Scripture.

"God has given me this awesome talent to represent Him. Glory goes up to Him, and the blessings fall down on us," Douglas said after winning gold.

When she's learning something new that may seem intimidating, she tells herself, "God has not given us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of peace, love and a sound mind," she said. When she's having trouble perfecting a skill, she quotes, "All things are possible through Him."

"You just mentally quote that, and it builds your faith up so much," Douglas said. "God will never fail you. He's always on your side."

Her first Tweet after winning the individual all-around gold medal: "Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me."

Before Douglas left for London, Quintin Stieff, pastor of the Valley Church where Douglas attends in West Des Moines, Iowa, likened her to a shining light that draws attention to God.

"The glory goes all to Him. He's waking me up every morning and He's

keeping me in the gym every day," she said, asking her church family to pray for her to "bring home the gold."

Douglas made history, winning two golds in the first week of the Olympics—one in the women's individual all-around and one in the women's team competition. She's the first African-American woman to win gold in the Olympic

individual all-around, and the first American woman to win gold in both the individual and team competitions at the same Olympic Games.

While she couldn't replicate that success in the second week, her performances will be remembered as one of the London games' biggest stories.

Douglas' mother sends the gymnast

Scripture passages twice daily to keep her on track, Douglas said.

"When it was time for me to go to bed I would just put my earphones in and just fall asleep listening to the Bible," she told the congregation. "We have to put on the full armor of God, so when Satan tries to come against us, we are ready and prepared." (BP)



Sochi 2014

Continued from page 1

when you try to start a conversation with people, they do not want to hear—and sometimes they walk away. But I am discovering that the Olympics are a celebration, and I am pretty sure that people will be more open in Russia during this time."

Connecting with countrymen

While in London, the team spent time in areas where they knew Russians would be, specifically people from Sochi.

"The Russians have two exhibits here in London to promote the next Winter Olympics, and you can already see how they are getting excited about having the winter games in Sochi," team member Craig Dean said.

The team uses pin trading, a popular pastime for Olympic spectators, as a way to engage people in conversation. The specially designed Engage Sochi evangelism pin use the colors of the Olympic rings to tell the gospel story.

In addition to giving away the trading pins, the group also includes a small card that explains the colors in both English and Russian.

"It helps you to meet people and to very quickly tell the important things about why people need salvation and why they need Jesus," Pankratov said. "I can see this being very effective in Sochi."

The pastor added that in Sochi the team has partnered with his church to offer English classes for local residents

who need or want to learn English to help them better communicate during the games.

"One of the people we met here in London lives in our neighborhood in Sochi and was very excited to hear that we are starting an English program," he said. "We now have her contact information and look forward to not just teaching her English, but sharing about Jesus with her."

In addition to the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, Sochi will host the 2018 FIFA World Cup and a Formula One Racing promotional event in the summer of 2014.

"I think that God has brought these events to Sochi to allow the people in our city to be more open," Pankratov said. "As the church, we have to get on our feet. And we must begin to use other methods to reach out so that even more people can hear a gospel message during these big events."

Dean said volunteers from the U.S. are needed to partner with the Sochi church. This is key, he said, as the team takes what it has learned in London and moves back to begin efforts in Sochi.

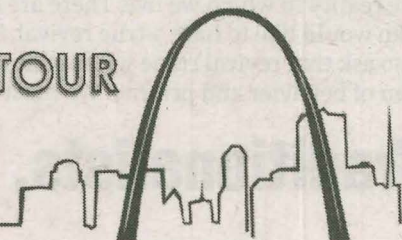
"The bridge from London to Sochi is not complete," Dean said. "As a matter of a fact, it is just starting. There are nearly 400,000 people in Sochi who need to hear the gospel. So, even without the Olympics coming to this area, there is a huge need for the gospel there."

For more information about partnering with the Engage Sochi team before, during and after the 2014 Winter Olympics, visit EngageSochi.org. (IMB)

*Names changed for security reasons

CATCH THE VISION TOUR

September 27-28, 2012
St. Louis, MO



Thank you for considering St. Louis by coming to visit and see where God is at work with church planting in our city. Our planters are very excited to share with you their God-given vision for the city. We will take you to some of the places and introduce you to some of the people groups that reflect the identified sites for new churches throughout our city. Thank you in advance for your willingness to explore partnering in St. Louis and joining God's work of pushing back darkness.

VISION TOUR SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 27

1:30pm Meet in Drury Inn Lobby
1:45pm Introductions at August Gate
2:30pm Vision Tour
6:00pm Dinner
7:30pm Arrive back at Drury Inn

Friday, September 28

9:00am Meet in Drury Inn Lobby
9:15am Vision Tour
12:00pm Lunch
1:30pm Vision Tour
2:30pm Closing Comments at August Gate

TRANSPORTATION & ACCOMODATIONS

The hotel and transportation to/from St. Louis is your responsibility. Vision Tour transportation will be provided.

Hotel Information:

Drury Inn Union Station
201 South 20th Street
St. Louis, MO 63103
314.231.3900

Group Rates:

King Bed - \$99.95/night
Two Double Beds - \$114.95/night

Group Name: Catch The Vision

Reservations must be made by August 27 in order to receive this rate.

For more information, please contact Lynette at lynette@augustgate.com.

Baptists have 'life-changing' opportunity to reach out to Sikhs

By Tobin Perry

Alpharetta, Ga.—In the wake of one of the greatest tragedies to hit the Sikh community in North America, Southern Baptists have an unprecedented opportunity to reach out to their Sikh neighbors with the gospel of Jesus Christ, says Aslam Masih, the North American Mission Board's national coordinator for Muslim people groups and South Asians.

Masih's comments come after a man entered a Sikh temple near Milwaukee Aug. 5 and killed seven people, including himself, turning the nation's attention to a religion of more than 20 million people worldwide.

"We have an opportunity now to turn this very sad situation into a life-changing encounter with the gospel for Sikhs throughout North America," Masih said.

He estimated there are more than 1.1 million Sikhs on the continent. Many of them are concentrated in major metropolitan areas like New York, Vancouver, Toronto, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Yet, Masih said, Southern Baptists have no churches specifically focused on reaching Sikhs with the gospel. He expressed hope that through Send North America, Southern Baptists with a passion to reach Sikhs will partner together to start new works among them.

Send North America is NAMB's church planting and evangelism strategy to penetrate lostness in 29 urban areas in North America. Through the initiative,

NAMB is connecting church planters with partner churches and with areas that need new churches.

Founded in the Punjab province of South Asia in the 15th century, the Sikh religion represents the melding of devotional elements of Hinduism and the monotheism of Islam.

Masih said he already has seen ministry opportunities emerge this week. He mentioned one Sikh temple next door to a Southern Baptist church in Baltimore. The day after the shooting, Masih talked with the church's pastor, who told him about his struggles to build a relationship with the neighboring temple.

Masih then, with the pastor still on the phone, called the temple's priest and, in his own Punjabi language, expressed his sorrow over the tragedy. He asked for the opportunity to bring local Southern Baptists—including members of the neighboring church—to visit the temple and to give the Sikh community a tour of a Southern Baptist church.

Masih said the temple leadership enthusiastically agreed and even volunteered to bring the food. Both sides will have an opportunity to share what they believe, and Masih said he plans to share his own testimony. He also will leave them with a film about Jesus in their Punjabi language.

Masih noted that believers who feel led to reach out to Sikhs in their communities should start by building bridges—much like what the church in



SCRIPTURAL EMPHASIS A Sikh man pounds a drum to emphasize portions of the Sikh scripture being read during a service in Delhi, India. (Photo by Kelvin Joseph/IMB)

Baltimore did in simply reaching out to its neighbors.

"When we start with us and what we believe, they're not going to listen," Masih said. "When you talk about them, they'll listen. That's how you build a bridge. Show an interest in their lives, and you'll build a relational bridge."

Masih said that the Trinity and incarnation are two beliefs that will be real stumbling blocks to Sikhs as evangelicals share Christ with them. Sikhs take a very strong belief in the unity of God from Islam and often struggle with Christian explanations of the Trinity.

Sikhs also see God as more of an abstract principle that cannot be defined by a human incarnation and have

trouble understanding the incarnate Jesus, Masih explained.

He encourages Christians not to argue theology with Sikhs, but to ask a lot of questions and find out what they believe.

Instead of focusing on the differences between Christianity and Sikhism, believers should be prepared to share their testimonies and illustrate through attitudes and actions how much God loves them, Masih said.

"The language of love is understood by all cultures," he said.

For more about to get involved in reaching out to Sikhs throughout North America through NAMB's Send North America initiative, visit www.NAMB.net/Mobilize-Me. (NAMB/BP)

175
KENTUCKY BAPTIST CONVENTION

1837
-to-
2012

[BY CHURCHES - FOR CHURCHES,
TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST]

The Pastors' Conference, Mission Board meeting and other affiliated conferences meet on Monday, November 12.



For more information about the Annual Meeting:
www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

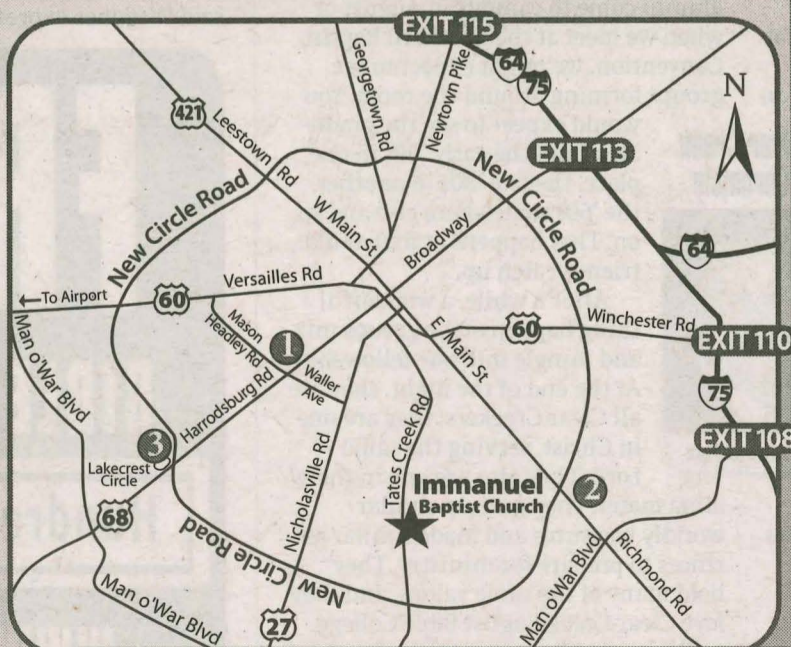
Events and Hospitality Office
502.489.3578 or 866.489.3578
Denise.Withers@kybaptist.org

For more information about Lexington or other area accommodations, visit www.visitlex.com.

KBC ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH - LEXINGTON
3100 TATES CREEK ROAD • WWW.IBC-LEX.ORG

Two sessions only!
Meeting concludes at 6p.m., EDT



Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates (which do not include Lexington's 14% hotel tax). Please note that most room blocks are limited and do not include Tuesday evening since the annual meeting concludes by 6 p.m.

Lexington Accommodations

- ① Crowne Plaza Lexington-The Campbell House
1375 South Broadway
859.255.4281
\$89 (1-4 guests per room)
• Non-smoking rooms
• On-site restaurant and café
• High-speed Internet access
• 24-hour fitness center
• Heated indoor pool
• Complimentary parking
Reservation deadline: 10/19
- ② Doubletree Guest Suites
2601 Richmond Road
859.268.0060
\$109 (1-4 guests per room)
• Non-smoking rooms
• On-site restaurant
• High-speed Internet access
• Fitness center and pool
• Complimentary parking
Reservation deadline: 10/11
KBC block name: KBC-Withers (limited # of rooms)
- ③ Hampton Inn Lexington-South
3060 Lakecrest Circle
859.223.0088
\$84 (1-4 guests per room)
• Non-smoking rooms
• Complimentary breakfast
• Free WiFi
• Fitness Room
• Indoor Pool
• Complimentary parking
Reservation deadline: 10/6

Back to school

New school year brings with it new challenges, changes for students

"Back to school!"—that phrase has come to define a particular season in our nation, and OBI is in that season as well. On Aug. 8, the 28 students of our second summer work program left for a little more than a week at home. They and about 240 others are expected "back to school" at Oneida on Aug. 19.

There already is much under-way for the actual launching of the new school year. For many months the international and domestic admissions departments have been steadily processing applications for new students and rejoicing in receiving information about those who plan to return for another year as OBI Mountaineers. Admissions interviews will be held each Sunday; OBI admits students on almost every Sunday of the school year. It is never too late to apply to Oneida.

Seeking to find God's provisions for our personnel needs, there has been a steady stream of interviews of potential adult ministry team members, and those have borne much fruit. Although we have said goodbye to 13 adults and two "staff kids" since the beginning of the past school year, we excitedly welcome 30 new adult team members and eight children.

Just getting housing prepared and paperwork in order for these "answers to prayer" has kept our year-round personnel very busy, to say the least—and our weekly blessing of volunteer teams has played a huge role in those preparations as well. A combination of brand-new, here-before-and-now-returned and familiar adult faces await our students who will bring a similar mix of the new and the familiar to the campus.

A mix of old and new schedules, rules and privileges will meet our students as well. The day will run the now-familiar schedule of 8 a.m.-3 p.m. What follows is new: study hall for non-honor roll students will last 45 minutes after the school day, followed by after-school jobs and athletics.

New and more efficient ways of accessing the student bank and the student store have been implemented to give the students more free time. Supper hours in the dining hall and hours of operation for the grill have been expanded. The new schedule includes 90 minutes of "free time" with gym time and supervised access to the com-

puter lab, after which there will be 75 minutes in the dorms for students to access the newly-installed wireless Internet, make and receive phone calls, play games, and do all the other things that make dorm life at OBI what it is. Bedtime, though, remains the same.

Like many other schools, OBI is initiating a dress code for the classroom and chapel that requires any collared shirt or top with buttons to have only the top button unfastened. A school T-shirt is an acceptable option. The lower half of the body must be covered from the waist to at least the bottom of the knee.

Other anticipated innovations include class sponsors and class T-shirts with age-appropriate, merit-based off-campus outings each quarter for individual classes. It promises to be an exciting year for adults and students alike. Please join us in prayer for a fruitful harvest as we seek to educate for time and eternity.

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

'Semper Fi' means 'always faithful'

Clear Creek alumni, like Marines, have strong bond with one another

There are things, good and bad, that tie you together with people you may not even know. Former Marines have an instant bond with other Marines simply because they have a set of experiences, challenges and values in common. The bond is there before they know each other personally, and it is there if they never meet. They are Marines, first, last and always. "Semper Fi"—always faithful—to the corps, to their country and to each other.

The ultimate bond that holds together millions who have never met is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, the Son of God. If you are in Christ, as I am in Christ, we are royal siblings. The song says it well, "You will notice we say brother and sister 'round here. It's because we're a family." Those who sing that song around the world not only are brothers and sisters to the ones whose hands they hold, but to all the redeemed on earth.

I like to think that a phenomenon we see at Clear Creek mirrors what we

see in the family of God. It also has elements of what Marines share. When our alumni come to campus in August or when we meet at the Southern Baptist Convention, we might expect to see groups forming around the room. You would expect to see the graduates from the early '90s in one place, the late '80s in another, the '60s somewhere else and so on. That happens at first as old friends catch up.

After a while, a wonderful thing happens—the groups mix and mingle into one fellowship. At the end of the night, they are all Clear Creekers; they are one in Christ, serving the same Lord. They also are one in their alma mater. They gave up similar worldly treasures and made similar sacrifices to prepare for ministry. They hold many of the same values, and they love Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God. I'm also glad to be a Clear Creeker. Semper Fi, Clear Creekers!

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.ccbcc.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Missouri voters OK amendment that allows for prayer in public

By Allen Palmeri

Jefferson City, Mo.—The passage of Missouri Amendment 2—which guarantees the right to pray and worship on public property and to choose any or no religion—was cheered by Missouri Baptist Convention leaders who worked hard for its passage.

Missouri voters passed it Aug. 9 by a margin of 83-17 percent.

"This is the very first time that any state has voted on this issue since the early 1960s," said Kerry Messer, legislative liaison for the Christian Life Commission of the MBC. "This is the first time we've had a credible measure of what citizens think about that topic."

The MBC distributed 186,000 bulletin inserts to affiliated churches, outlining how passage of the amendment would impact the state:

- Children would have the right to pray voluntarily in public school.
- Citizens would have the right to pray and to acknowledge God in public settings and on public property.
- Elected officials would have the right to pray and acknowledge God in public meetings and public ceremonies.
- Students would have the right to express their belief in God in their school work and classroom discussions.

■ Students would have the right to decline participation in school assignments or programs that go against their religious beliefs.

CLC Chairman David Krueger said he thinks the amendment is a model for other states and he hopes they will follow Missouri's lead.

MBC Executive Director John Yeats said the vote was "indicative of the sentiments held by so many people who live and work in the heartland."

"The confusing decisions by the state and federal courts and the potential threat of litigation by groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United have intimidated, until now, many good people into being silent in the public square," Yeats said. "This decision demonstrates the reality that Missourians understand that our constitutional religious liberties are valuable and viable at the church house, the work house, the state house and the schoolhouse."

Messer called the overwhelming result a triumph of perseverance.

"It took us 12 years to get it through the state legislature so we could have it on the ballot for Missouri voters to vote on," he said. "Most activists don't stay involved on a project that long." (Missouri Pathway/BP)

Chaplain who left SBC now with CBF

Atlanta—The Air Force chaplain who ran afoul of the Southern Baptist Convention by attending a same-sex civil union remains "deeply wounded" by the fallout that included his leaving the denomination for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, a CBF official said.

It became official July 23 when a CBF committee approved Col. Timothy Wagoner as a chaplain, according to the CBF's Jim Pope.

Ministers must be endorsed by a recognized religious body in order to serve as chaplains in the military. Pope said Wagoner expressed concern that the

SBC would remove his endorsement, thus disqualifying him from service.

According to news reports, Wagoner had said he would not officiate at same-sex marriage ceremonies or other events, in keeping with SBC doctrine. He attended the June 23 ceremony as a show of support for officers he commanded.

"I am devoted to the Southern Baptist faith," Wagoner told Baptist Press. "My intention was never to embarrass or misrepresent the Southern Baptists."

By late July, however, Wagoner had notified the North American Mission Board he was leaving the SBC. (ABP)

FREE \$100

BIBLE LAND TOUR CERTIFICATE

Hundreds of Life Changing Packages

www.pilgrimtours.com/100

or call 800.322.0788

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
			18	19			20	21				
22	23	24				25						
26				27	28	29			30	31	32	
33					34				35			
36				37				38				
			39					40				
41	42	43				44	45					
46				47	48				49	50	51	52
53				54					55			
56				57					58			

Bible Crosswords

By John Thornberg

Across

- 1 Shushan, per the NIV
- 5 _____ cake
- 9 "I therefore so _____, not as uncertainly; so fight I" (1 Corinthians 9:26)
- 12 Tore
- 13 The Syrians of _____ (2 Samuel 10; hired by Ammon's heirs to fight David)
- 14 "Love _____ another" (1 John 4:7)
- 15 Brother of Jacob
- 16 Brother of Cain
- 17 Fuss
- 18 History
- 20 Moses' mouthpiece
- 22 Friendship
- 25 Alto _____ (jazz instrument)
- 26 O.T. major prophet (abbr.)
- 27 Melchizedek, king of _____
- 30 "O sole _____"
- 33 Seth's sire
- 34 Bridle part
- 35 Together
- 36 Time of revival (abbr.)
- 37 "City of David" (Luke 2)
- 39 What CBS, for one, would like to do: _____ Fox?
- 40 Elemental particles
- 41 Shake violently
- 44 Window component
- 46 Crone
- 47 Like a funk
- 49 New Testament book
- 53 "Love worketh no _____ to his neighbour" (Romans 13:10)
- 54 Like a certain "ranger"
- 55 "But _____ found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8)
- 56 Two-_____, as tissue
- 57 Loose _____
- 58 Times long past

- 11 _____ tetra (tropical fish)
- 19 Yiddish exclamations
- 21 Get rid of
- 22 Slightly open
- 23 Darius the _____ (Daniel 11)
- 24 Middle Eastern country
- 25 Father of Enos (Luke 3)
- 28 Be a party to
- 29 American _____ (college course, abbr.)
- 30 Line that separates the earth's crust from its mantle (abbr.)
- 31 Thing to be done
- 32 Units of electrical resistance
- 35 City near Jerusalem
- 37 Collection
- 38 _____ Cruces, NM
- 39 Conjunction
- 41 Single snack
- 42 "Then led they Jesus ... unto the _____ of judgment" (John 18:28)
- 43 Unseen
- 44 "Here am I, _____ me" (Isaiah 6:8)
- 45 Mimics
- 48 Many moons
- 50 Dove ditty
- 51 Bituminous pitch
- 52 Pronoun

Last puzzle's solution

S	H	Y	D	A	S	H	S	P	O	T						
12	L	E	E	A	C	H	E	N	O	A	H					
15	I	A	D	I	N	E	D	A	I	R	Y					
18	P	R	A	I	S	E	H	I	P	S						
			21	W	R	Y		B	E	S	P	E	A	K		
25	26	S	U	E	T		27	M	E	R	C	Y		28	S	I
29	O	L	D		30	B	A	A	L	S		31	G	I	N	
32	A	N		33	V	E	N	U	S		34	B	R	A	D	
35	P	A	T	I	E	N	T		37	G	E	E				
			38	O	R	C	A		39	P	R	A	Y	E	R	
42	43	F	A	I	T	H		44	C	A	E	N		45	D	O
46	L	U	L	U		47	L	O	V	E		48	W	E	D	
49	T	O			50	O	P	E	N		51	O	N	E		

Down

- 1 Compass dir.
- 2 Moments of elation
- 3 "Let the _____ roar, and the fulness thereof" (Psalm 96:11)
- 4 One who votes
- 5 Peter, for one
- 6 "And they put on him a purple _____" (John 19:2)
- 7 Honest one
- 8 Son of Beor (Numbers 22:5)
- 9 Deafening din
- 10 Let go

Summer ends but work continues

Looking back on blessed summer of camp, ahead to new endeavors

Summer is filled with activity for those in camp ministry. This year, however, is something more than we have ever experienced. Again, God has blessed us with another record year of attendance, but more importantly, a record year in decisions made for Christ.

We still in the process of compiling all the information as I write, so my next column will include all the details of what God has done this summer.

I am so thankful that we have completed another summer in which God granted us great safety with all that goes on at camp. More than 12,000 guests came through our camps during June and July, representing thousands of miles in travel and countless hours of camp activities—all without any significant injury. Of all the non-eternal things that take place, this is one that I am most amazed by and most thankful for what it represents.

This year, I cannot list all that played a role in Crossings 2012, but for the hundreds of staff, volunteers, prayer

partners and many others who contributed to make camp possible, may God bless you for what you have done.

Each year as we grow and serve more, we depend on a greater number of people to help facilitate camp. I am

amazed by the summer staff that plays such a key role in the operation of Crossings as they performed to a level beyond their age.

As we now turn to prepare for Crossings 2013, we already are blessed as we have more than 9,600 guests already signed up to attend camp.

Not only are we preparing for camp, we also are preparing for a new working relationship with churches with the launch

of the Crossings Center for Youth Ministry. Throughout this fall you will see news informing you of how we hope to support youth ministry in the church in a whole new way.

Thank you for all the prayers, and please continue to pray that we will faithfully seek to proclaim the gospel in all that we do.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

GET YOUR NEWS ON THE GO WITH A Digital Subscription

Sign up at www.westernrecorder.org



Access Kentucky Baptist news on your smart phone, computer and tablet with a digital subscription to the Western Recorder — plus...

- Early delivery before print editions are mailed
- Breaking news in your inbox
- Easy access to online advertisers, classified ads and articles on web

CHECK OUT NEW ONLINE FEATURES

Already a print subscriber? Get digital access to the Western Recorder free.



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.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

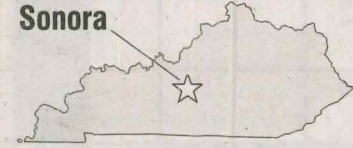
■ **AURORA**—Aurora Church will celebrate its 10th anniversary Aug. 19, 11 a.m. A fellowship meal and special music will follow the worship service. **Dewey Dick** is pastor.
■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Mercer Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 19, 11 a.m., with **Randy Davenport** as guest speaker and the **Lovelace Family** providing special music. A potluck meal will follow the worship service. **James Branscum** is pastor.
■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold a women's ministry fall kick-off event Aug. 16, 6 p.m., with **Becky Meyer**, Kentucky coordinator for Moms in Prayer, as guest speaker. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.
■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Pilgrims Rest Church will hold a women's prayer breakfast Aug. 18, 9 a.m. **Carl Allen** is pastor.
■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a "Magnificent Monday" service Aug. 20, 6:30 p.m., with **Daven Watkins**, pastor at First Church of Pleasant Grove, Ala., as guest speaker and **Bo Warren** as worship leader. **Hershael York** is pastor.
Crestwood Church will host the **Fair Haven Quartet** in concert Aug. 19, 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 695-2088. **Michael Hail** is pastor.
■ **LEITCHFIELD**—First Church recently ordained **Bart Lowrey**,

Scott Merrifield, **Ernie Perkins** and **John Taylor** as deacons. **Doug King** is pastor.
■ **LEXINGTON**—Calvary Church's women's ministry will hold a luncheon Aug. 18, 11 a.m., with Christian author **Kelly Minter** teaching from her Bible study book, "Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break." The cost to attend is \$15. For more information, call (859) 254-3491. **Robert Baker** is pastor.
■ **LOUISVILLE**—Parkland Church will host **Callie Caughron** as guest speaker Aug. 19, 6 p.m. She will offer an update on international missions. **Tom Curry** is pastor.
Walnut Street Church will hold its annual Festival of Tables Aug. 17, 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$12. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.
■ **MADISONVILLE**—First Church will host the choir and orchestra from First Church of Owensboro in concert Aug. 19. The event also will feature a combined choir and orchestra performance from the two churches. **Joe Leonard** is pastor.
■ **MAYFIELD**—Trace Creek Church honored Pastor **Ronnie Stinson Sr.** Aug. 5 on his 40 years of service to the church. He became pastor of the church in 1972.
■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will hold a "Night of Praise" Aug. 19, 7 p.m., featuring a performance of "You Reign" by the worship

choir, orchestra and **Living Water**. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.
■ **SEDALIA**—Sedalia Church recently called **Brad Hall** as pastor. He previously was associate pastor at Edgewood Church in Hopkinsville.
■ **VERSAILLES**—Versailles Church will recognize the anniversaries of five staff members Aug. 19, 10:30 a.m. **Michael Cabell**, **Glyn Martin**, **Adam Norsworthy** and **Virginia Slone** mark five years with the church; **Maria Lester** marks 10 years. There also will be a staff "roast" and potluck meal at 6 p.m. **John Brandon** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Sonora



First Church will host a gospel singing benefit concert for **Jim Cottrell** Aug. 18, 7 p.m., featuring **The Garry Polston Family**, **Don Parker** and the **Southern Tribute**, **Charlie Witty**, **Jim Durham**, **Steve Skaggs** and **Kenny Roberts**. The event is sponsored by Modern Woodmen of America. **Tony Carson** is pastor.

CU chapel series asks 'Who is Jesus?'

Campbellsville—Campbellsville University's fall 2012 chapel series will focus on the question: "Who is Jesus and what is our response?"
Selected speakers include:
Aug. 29, Campbellsville President **Michael Carter**.
Sept. 5, Kentucky Baptist Convention President **Adam Greenway**.
Sept. 12, **Lynn Cohick**, theology professor at Wheaton College in Illinois.
Sept. 26, **Dan Garland**, director of church consulting at

LifeWay Christian Resources.
Oct. 3, Evangelist **Neal Hatfield**.
Oct. 10, **Scott Miller**, pastor of Graceland Baptist Church in New Albany, Ind.
Oct. 31, **Wayne Barnard**, director of student ministries for International Justice Mission.
Nov. 7, **Zach Hunter** of Compassion International.
All chapel services are free and open to the public. They also are streamed live on the web at www.campbellsville.edu/live-streaming. (CU)

Arkansas Baptist exec Turner announces plans to retire in 2013

Little Rock, Ark.—Emil Turner, executive director of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention since 1996, will retire effective February 2013.

Turner announced his intention to retire at the Aug. 2 meeting of the ABSC Executive Board.

"We have been treated with grace and compassion by Arkansas Baptists, and I will miss serving the churches as executive director," Turner told board members.

ABSC Executive Committee Bylaws call for the current executive director to serve until replaced, but Turner expressed during his

announcement the "hope that the operating committee can find a replacement by the time of the December meeting" of the board.

"If not, I am prepared to serve until my replacement can be found and elected," he added. "And in the event of such occurring by the December board meeting, I have requested that I be allowed to continue until the end of February 2013 that I may effectively orient my replacement."

Turner has served as executive director since January 1996. He followed longtime executive director **Don Moore**, who served from 1982 to 1996. Turner was serving as pastor at First Baptist Church of Lake Charles, La., when he was elected to lead the ABSC.

Jason Noel, president of the ABSC Executive Board and pastor of East Side Baptist Church in Paragould, Ark., expressed gratitude for Turner's friendship and leadership over the years.

"He is going to be greatly missed in the state of Arkansas," Noel added. "When it comes to Southern Baptist life, I don't know anybody on point and as well versed. What we really miss is that he is a friend of pastors. That is what he will be known for (and) remembered for."

Building relationships among pastors and other church staff has been a focal point of Turner's ministry in the state, Turner shared in an interview with the Arkansas Baptist News as he marked his 15th anniversary in 2011. Turner, who has served on church staffs and as a pastor of churches in Kentucky, Louisiana and Arkansas, said he has a "deep admiration" for pastors and the difficulties and challenges they face.

During Turner's tenure, the ABSC has grown from 1,378 congregations in 1996 to 1,545 churches and missions today—an increase of about 12 percent. Baptisms in Arkansas Baptist churches have averaged about 13,000 annually during that time, while giving through the Cooperative Program has increased from \$15.5 million to more than \$21 million. (Arkansas Baptist News/BP)



Emil Turner

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: 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. Resumes 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: Safe Harbor Baptist Church in Georgetown, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music; traditional worship,

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.



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

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

SEEKING: Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Calhoun, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor who fulfills the requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-7. If interested, please send a resumé and testimony to MVBC, P.O. Box 668, Calhoun, KY 42327 or by email to mvbcky@yahoo.com.

SEEKING: Vine Run Baptist Church in Dry Ridge, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth and music. Details at www.vinerun.org or (859) 428-1079.

SEEKING: Part-time student pastor for South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. Please send resumés to info.southfork@gmail.com or by mail to South Fork Baptist Church, 4915 New Jackson Hwy., Hodgenville, KY 42748, Attn: Personnel committee.

Church planting conference marks 'brand new day' for NAMB

By Mickey Noah

Woodstock, Ga.—More than 2,000 church planters, pastors and other Southern Baptist leaders—triple the

number originally predicted—attended the North American Mission Board's Send North America Conference at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Ga.

"It's a brand new day for the North

American Mission Board," NAMB President Kevin Ezell said as he welcomed participants. "Our national strategy is Send North America, which is not only about church planting, but also evangelism and church revitalization."

A key intent of the conference was to help mobilize churches to the North American mission field so they can have a more personal connection to and involvement with church planters. NAMB originally planned for 800 at the late July event, but registration eventually topped 2,200.

NAMB's Aaron Coe, vice president for mobilization and equipping, told an enthusiastic audience that the conference was about only one thing: Jesus.

Coe shared NAMB's goal: the net gain of 5,000 new Southern Baptist Convention congregations across North America by 2022, while seeing the church "death" rate—on average about 890 churches a year—reduced through aggressive church revitalization.

"Send North America is not just a big church strategy; it's an every church strategy," Coe said.

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, kicked off the program as the conference's first guest speaker.

"In the last 10 years, the number of self-proclaiming Christians has declined by 10 percent," Stetzer said. "I don't have to tell you that the world is growing more hostile to the message we bring."

Stetzer quoted Christian author Phil Yancey, who claims in principle it's already "Saturday" on planet earth. But Stetzer told the church planters, pastors and others that "we are not sharing Christ and planting churches like we need to do if it is indeed Saturday."

Louie Giglio, founding pastor of Passion City Church in Atlanta, asked participants: "Has the resurrection worn off in me and you? Are you still flipping out that Christ is alive? Because if you're not, don't plant a church."

Workshops throughout the event covered topics such as "Reaching the Nations in North America," "Knowing Your Mission Context," "How to be an Effective Sending Church" and "Rural Church Planting." Other topics covered evangelism, bivocational pastorates and planting. A separate track featured content for minister's wives.

In his message during a general session, Johnny Hunt, pastor at First Baptist, Woodstock, Ga., reminded those in attendance that "oftentimes, we don't

need more instruction. We just need more encouragement in what we've already learned."

Hunt, a former SBC president, said church revitalization is his personal passion, along with church planting.

"As D.L. Moody said, unless we stab American cities in the heart with the gospel, we will lose this country," Hunt said. "In addition to planting new churches, sometimes we need to revitalize existing churches."

Vance Pitman, one of many pastors who have learned from Hunt, challenged those at the conference to see God's bigger story at play in the world. Pitman launched Hope Church in Las Vegas just two weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in 2001.

"Why aren't Baptists planting churches like they should?" Pitman asked. "We need to get so broken over this world and get on our faces on the floor before God. We don't need to come up with a plan and take it to Him. His plan is better than ours."

Pitman told the audience God always has something bigger in mind when He plants a new church.

"The church being born is not the finish line, it's the starting line," he said. "Too many times today we think the goal is the church. The goal is not the church plant. It's just the beginning."

David Platt, author and pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., said successful church planting is about making disciples.

"We come up with all kinds of methods for multiplying churches," Platt said. "We give money; we start campuses; we use technologies like DVDs and satellites. What if we had only what a lot of our brothers and sisters around the world have—only the spirit of God, the word of God and the people of God?"

"That would still be sufficient to see the gospel spread like wildfire across North America," Platt said. "Do we really believe that, or have we become so dependent on our money, technology, creativity and ingenuity that we have missed how the church is multiplied through making disciples?"

J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., told conference participants that a "proper vision of the majesty of Jesus will help sustain church planters as they face difficulties."

The conference's second night was highlighted with the commissioning of 23 new NAMB missionaries. (NAMB/BP)



COMMISSIONING SERVICE North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell (right) introduces Glenn Bennett (left) of Archbold, Ohio, one of 23 new NAMB missionaries commissioned on the last night of the Send North America Conference in Woodstock, Ga. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)

Panel: Plant churches in U.S. to reach nations

By Tobin Perry

Woodstock, Ga.—The influx of foreign-born people into North America gives Southern Baptist churches a unique opportunity to reach the nations, a veteran International Mission Board worker said at the 2012 Send North America Conference.

Most churches, though, are failing to take advantage of that opportunity, he suggested.

"We need to look at some other models and methods when we start churches among people groups," IMB representative Bryan Galloway said during a breakout session on "Reaching the Nations in North America." "We're just not doing that."

Galloway and four other Southern Baptist leaders with experience reaching out to minority groups were part of a panel discussion at the recent conference in Woodstock, Ga.

Moderated by the North American Mission Board's team leader for church mobilization, Shane Critser, the panel discussed a variety of issues related to church planting among minorities, from training church planters to difficulties in church-plant survival.

Carlos Navarro, pastor of Iglesia Bautista West Brownsville in Brownsville, Texas, said one of the biggest issues his church has faced in starting Hispanic churches in Texas is a dependence upon buildings.

"Hispanics won't be reached in church buildings," Navarro said. "We're going to have to reach them where they are."

He also pointed to the diversity of Hispanics as a challenge for planting churches. Most people believe the majority of Hispanics come from Mexico, he said, but many Hispanics come from Central and South America,

including Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Each culture is different and often requires a different strategy, Navarro stressed.

James Dixon, a Maryland pastor and immediate past president of the National African American Fellowship, said he believes even funding sometimes can be a hindrance to church planting among African-Americans.

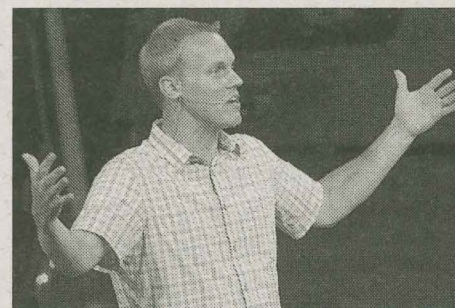
"Church planting is a process," Dixon said, speaking in part to the funding issue. "You want a church that lasts. We often don't let a church planter trust his calling. If you've said God has called you to this, you've got to trust God for it."

By pushing funding on planters too early, Dixon said they often depend on the finances rather than having faith in God and His call on their lives.

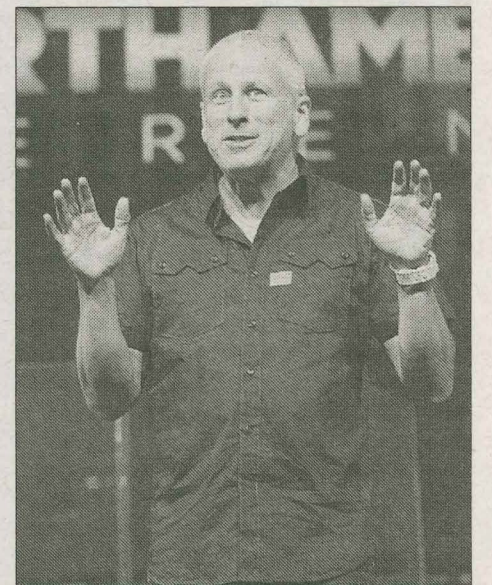
Aslam Masih, NAMB's national coordinator for Muslim people groups and South Asians, went beyond some of the struggles—which he admitted are numerous—of reaching Muslims and focused on opportunities to find Muslim-background leaders for new churches. "The only thing we need to look for in church planters who are trying to plant churches among Muslim-background people is the vision," he said.

Benny Wong, pastor of First Chinese Baptist Church of Los Angeles, talked about what has been effective for his church in training new planters. Wong said the church doesn't have a formal program for church planters and instead he focuses on modeling church planting for his people.

"For the first year my wife and I helped out every week," Wong said of a church his congregation planted. "We stacked chairs, vacuumed and picked up trash. That motivated laymen to get involved." (NAMB/BP)

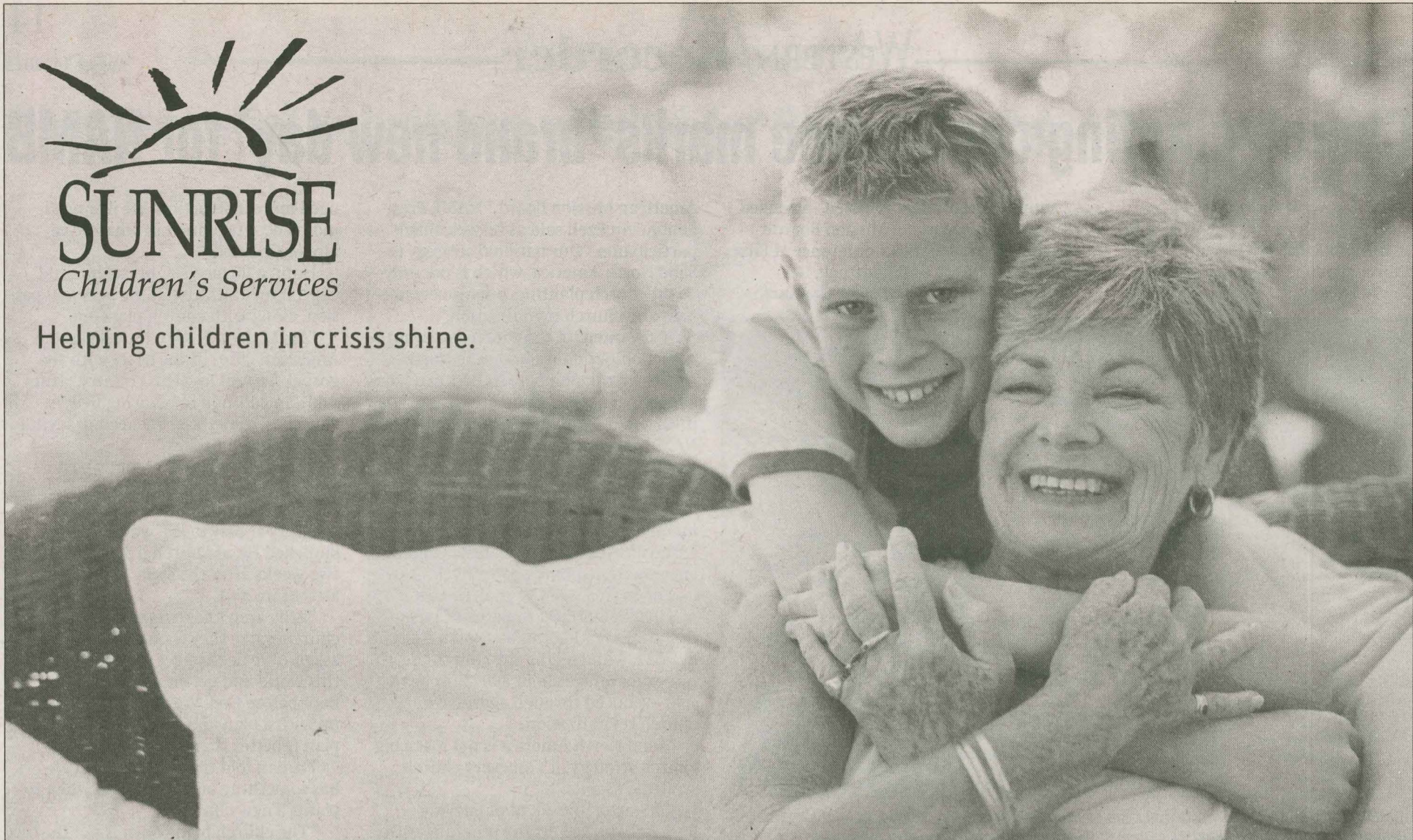


■ Above: David Platt, pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., told those at the Send North America Conference in Woodstock, Ga., that successful church planting is about making new disciples. ■ Right: Louie Giglio, founding pastor of Passion City Church in Atlanta, challenged church planters with the question, "Are you still flipping out that Christ is alive? Because if you're not, don't plant a church." (Photos by Susan Whitley/NAMB)





Helping children in crisis shine.



THANK YOU TO THE MANY KENTUCKY BAPTISTS THAT HELP US CARE FOR OVER 2,000 HURTING CHILDREN EACH YEAR.

We couldn't save these children's lives without you!

Some of the many ways churches are helping Kentucky's children in crisis shine:

Thanksgiving Offering:

Traditionally collected in November, the annual offering plays a vital role in helping Sunrise provide excellent care for children who deserve the best.

Food Round Up:

By collecting grocery gift cards and monetary donations in September, churches are helping to feed children who often arrive at Sunrise malnourished.

Mile of Pennies:

Groups such as Sunday School and VBS classes start with a goal of \$844.80 and collect pennies until they reach the end of their "mile" - then they start toward their next mile!

In-Kind Donations:

When churches donate Christmas gifts, school supplies, quilts, toiletries or luggage, it shows the children that someone cares about them.

In-Home Missions:

Sunrise is always in need of foster parents to care for children who need a safe, loving home. Churches who recruit and support in-home missionaries (foster families) in their church help Sunrise save more lives.

**By supporting Sunrise Children's Services, you are changing lives.
Lives of children like Nathan and Brittany:**

Upon leaving Sunrise's Crossroads Treatment Center, Nathan wrote: "I really thank you for the healing and the tools you all have given me so I can succeed in life. You all will always be on my mind and will be part of my life. I know you all will do well with the new kids coming in. Keep up the good work and don't stop doing what you have done for me. Staff has helped me build trust and helped me realize that people out there do care for me. Thanks for everything."

Brittany's social worker recently wrote: "I just wanted you to know that your agency and foster parents have given Brittany more than I have seen any child receive. She has been placed in some of the best homes through Sunrise. Brittany and her brother Travis received much love and support while with Sunrise. Thanks goes to you, your staff and the foster parents for everything."

For information on ways to support Sunrise kids, or to request a speaker or other resources, contact Carmen Gibson at (800) 456-1386 or cgibson@sunrise.org.



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.

www.sunrise.org



Campbellsville UNIVERSITY

Campbellsville, Ky.
www.campbellsville.edu
August 14, 2012



KBC president to speak Sept. 5 in Ransdell Chapel

Dr. Adam Greenway, president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and senior associate dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions and Evangelism, will be the CU chapel speaker Wednesday, Sept. 5, at 10 a.m. Greenway serves as a trustee of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. CU's Wednesday morning chapel services are open to the public.

All invited to attend and become transformational church leaders

A Transformational Church Summit, a 2-day, 24-hour conference for pastors and church leaders, will be held at CU on Sept. 27 and 28. Attendees will be challenged and equipped with tools to develop ministry platforms which expand leadership and deepen relationships. Featured speakers include: Dr. Thom Rainer, Dr. Dan Garland, Dr. John Mark Toby, the Rev. Rusty Ellison, the Rev. Charles Grant and Dr. Shane Garrison. Register on the web at campbellsville.edu/summit.

Preview Days to welcome students

Days have been set to welcome prospective students to campus on Oct. 6 and Nov. 3. Tiger Round Up is Nov. 15-16. For information on both events, contact CU Admissions at (270) 789-5220.

Public invited to Baptist Heritage event Oct. 4 at CU Louisville center

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

"Hear The Roar!" -- Homecoming 2012 is set for Oct. 12 and 13.

Baptist higher education gives inestimable return on Cooperative Program funds

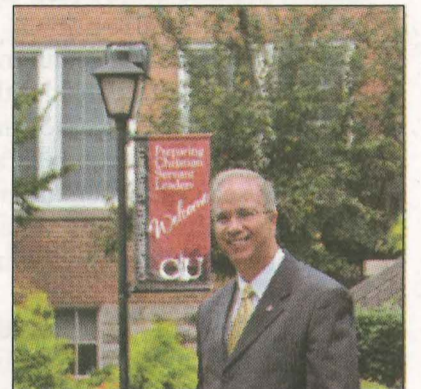
By Dr. Michael V. Carter, president

Campbellsville University has a rich legacy of providing quality Christian higher education in the Baptist tradition. As we begin our 106th year, it is an appropriate time to pause and consider the *inestimable value* of the contributions being made by Baptist higher education in our nation and to highlight the role of Campbellsville University as a prime example of "value-added" post-secondary education.

From our humble beginnings as the Russell Creek Academy, established by the area Baptist association of the same name, Campbellsville University has emerged, a century later, as a vibrant and growing Christian university, affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, of around 3,600 students who choose from 63 academic options at the undergraduate level, 17 master's degrees, five post-graduate concentrations, and eight pre-professional areas of study. Guided by our Board of Trustees-approved *Vision 2025 – Preparing Christian Servant Leaders* strategic blueprint for the future, our goal is to become one of America's premier Christian universities by 2025 while remaining Christ-centered and Baptist-affiliated.

In this period of emphasis on being "Great Commission" Christians, we stress that Baptist higher education has tremendous value and return-on-investment for Kentucky Baptists and is a vital part of Kentucky Baptist missions.

> *Inestimable return, page 2*

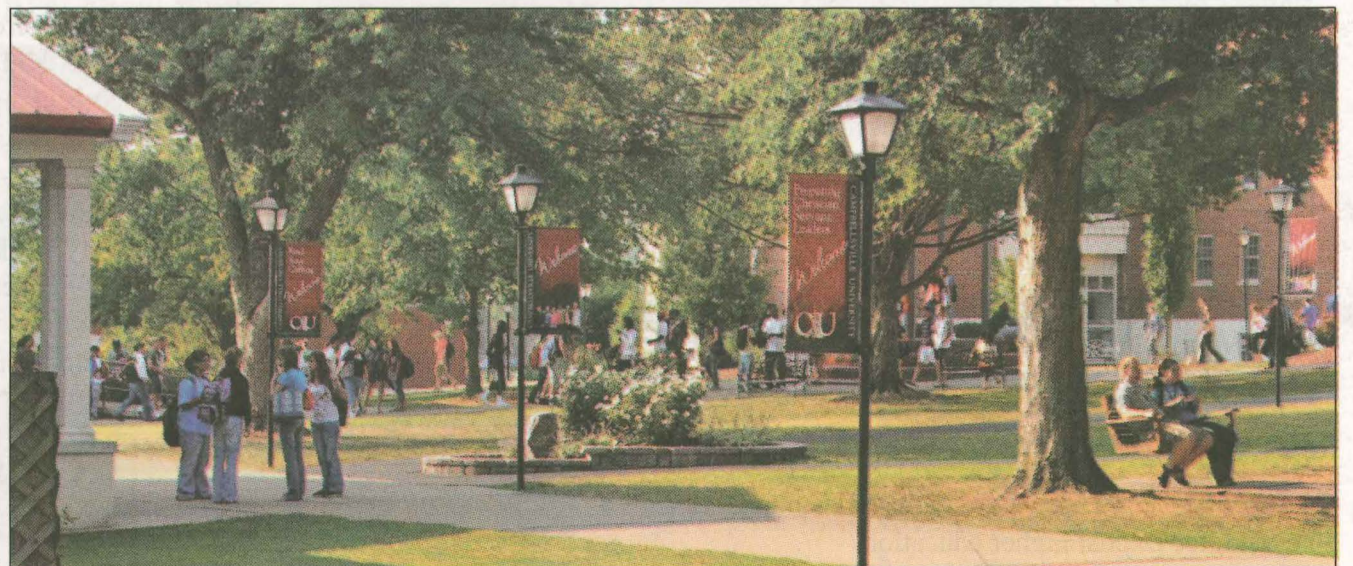


Carver MSW accredited by SW Council

The Council on Social Work Education has accredited Campbellsville University's Carver School of Social Work Master of Social Work program.

"Accreditation is a challenging process yet it provides a level of assurance that the program is delivering a curriculum consistent with professional social work standards," Dr. Darlene Eastridge, dean of the Carver School of Social Work and Counseling, said. "The recognition of the Carver School's MSW program as a Council on Social Work Education accredited program adds a level of confidence that Campbellsville University is delivering a quality social work program at the undergraduate and graduate levels." President Michael V. Carter called the accreditation a major step forward in the growth of the Carver School of Social Work at Campbellsville University. "When the Carver School was first

> *Council, back page*



Campbellsville University is a widely acclaimed Christian university affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention with over 3,600 students able to find their calling from among 63 undergraduate options, 17 master's degrees, five post-graduate areas and eight pre-professional programs.



Inestimable return

> continued from front page

In CU's 2011-2012 fiscal year, we received around \$1.3 million in Cooperative Program dollars. We are most grateful for the funds received from the Kentucky Baptist Convention. During the same period, CU provided more than \$6 million in aid to Baptist students and recruited a growing number of Kentucky Baptist students. Another way of considering the investment of Kentucky Baptists is to note that the investment of \$1.3 million impacts CU's 3,600 students at a very low per student cost of \$361.

An even more important manner of looking at return-on-investment is to consider the transformation of the lives of our students as they are educated in a caring and warm Christian environment and challenged to become Christian servant leaders in their chosen field of study and professional pursuit. What exactly do I have in mind in making this statement? Some of the points I would stress include:

- CU Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, coaches, and students are active in Christian servant evangelism in a wide variety of venues including the local church;
- CU faculty, staff, coaches, and students are involved in a number of missions trips each year in Kentucky, the United States, and around the world;
- CU has emphasized a strong evangelistic emphasis in campus revivals and chapel services, community crusades, campus Bible studies, FIRST CLASS for first-semester freshmen, etc. resulting in hundreds of professions of faith in Christ and renewed commitments to Christ, in recent years;
- KBC pastors and leaders are regularly invited to the campus to speak to the entire university family and join in discussion with CU leaders;
- CU sponsors pastors and church leaders conferences for Kentucky Baptist pastors and church leaders on a variety of topics;
- CU faculty, staff, and coaches are members of local congregations and active in local church life;
- CU's School of Theology has around 200 students who are preparing for vocational ministry by majoring, or minoring, in the various courses of study offered by the School of Theology;
- A number of CU faculty and staff serve in pastoral and other local church leadership capacities;
- CU maintains a very active Church Relations Council that helps connect the university to the local church.

We are working very hard to encourage all of our students to become Christian servant leaders and to give of themselves in lives of service to the cause of Christ and their fellow human beings. All of us at Campbellsville University are committed to doing "more for Christ" and seeking to transform the lives of our students who in turn will go out into all the world – in a variety of professions and fields of service – to bring the transforming power of Jesus Christ to others.

That, my friends, is an inestimable return-on-investment for the Cooperative Program funds received by CU.

There has never been a greater need than in 2012 and beyond, for Baptist higher education.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Campbellsville University. Please feel free to contact me at any time, by email at mvcarter@campbellsville.edu or by phone at (270) 789-5001.

Young and Stepp bring hope to children in mission work

Mary Kate Young and Anna Stepp are two students in a list of nearly 70 Campbellsville University students who have served in ministries and missions this summer.

Young of Paris, Ky., who will be a sophomore this fall, served with CU Crew, a ministry team sponsored by CU which travels around Kentucky to various churches assisting with Vacation Bible School. The team consists of five CU students.

Stepp of Grayson, Ky., who will be a senior this fall, served with two other CU students at Great Mission International, an orphanage with locations in Togo and Ghana, Africa.

Young said she would not trade her summer experience with CU Crew.

"It has caused me to fall in love with sharing the gospel and with missions."

The music education major said she sees new ways "to spread the gospel no matter what I am doing."

Young said she was excited to come from a public high school to a private, Christian university because of opportunities like CU Crew where she could spend a summer serving God.

Stepp, an educational ministries major, spent her summer alongside two other CU students serving as "mommy" to 43 orphans. They also worked with City of Refuge Ministries to negotiate the release of children working as fishing slaves at a local lake. During their time, five children were released from slavery and brought to a

safe house.

By bringing medical supplies and other resources to small villages, the founder of City of Refuge Ministries would educate the people on human trafficking, how bad it is for the village and then ask for release of a few children. The City of Refuge has a neighborhood of safe houses, each with 10 to 15 children who have a Ghanaian mother and father to take care of them, like a real family.

Stepp, who served on CU Crew last summer, said, "This trip has opened my eyes to the need of so many children to have a forever family. Reaching out to orphans through adoption or sponsorship is a huge way to spread the love of Jesus and His gospel."

Stepp said she has learned so much about the importance of God's love. "It can cross all culture and language barriers."



Anna Stepp, right, spent two months of summer vacation in Ghana, Africa serving in an orphanage and aiding the release of five child slaves.



Mary Kate Young, top, served with CU Crew at Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

CU hosts 7,275 campers in summer 2012 season

Campbellsville University served as host to 7,275 campers from 14 different states, including eight Centri-Kid camps plus choirs and orchestras, various sports camps, LINC orientation and more.

"We love having these groups on our campus during the summer, because here at CU we view our summer camp program as a great recruiting tool," Rusty Watkins, CU coordinator of summer camps and conferences, said. "But the most important reason we do summer camps is to see life change in the lives of young people."

CU summer camps resulted in over 181 decisions for salvation plus 68 rededications and decisions to serve Christ.



Sharing the good news

Young people are introduced to Jesus around the world by CU students in mission work. Above: John Harbold and Kevin Metzger celebrate with children after winning a game of foosball. Sharing experiences in Niger, Africa, they reported nine students and two staff members delivered the Gospel and painted seven school buildings in the village of Boubon on their most recent mission trip. Harbold, who graduated from CU in May, said, "Being on this mission trip (his fourth international mission trip) reiterates my calling into missions... God has placed missions on my heart!"

LINC orientation helps new students bridge the gap between home and college

"One of the most exciting yet anxious transitions students face is the shift from high school to college," Jodi Allen, dean of student services, said.

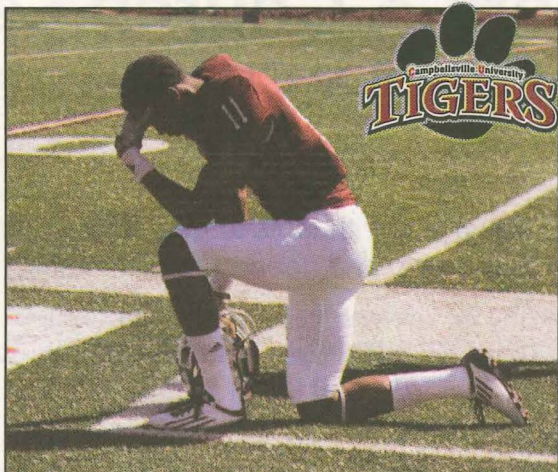
While attending LINC, which stands for: Learn in a new environment, Invest in your future, Navigate life changes and Connect to Campbellsville, students complete a two-day orientation in which they stay overnight to experience what their new home away from home will be like.

Haleigh Lanham, an incoming freshman from Danville, Ky., had a positive experience at LINC. She was able to interact with future classmates who share similar passions.

Many months of planning are spent for the orientations by Campbellsville University staff including Allen; Dave Walters, vice president for admissions and student services; and Andrew Franklin, director of residence life.

Athletes prepare for season -- first things first

As pre-season summer activities kick off at CU, the students, faculty, staff and coaches place the dedication to developing Champions of Character and Christian servant leaders first. CU School of Nursing student/photographer Johnietta



Jessie was moved to take the photo above when she witnessed a champion CU football player take time for prayer before the game.

Track all CU sports at www.campbellsvilletigers.com

Church Relations Council connects CU to local churches

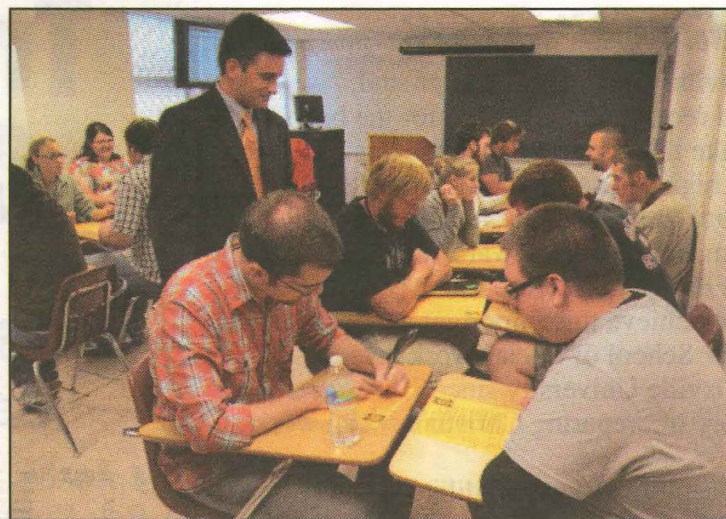
The Church Relations Council (CRC) held its annual fall meeting at Campbellsville University Aug. 2 with featured speakers including: the Rev. Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville, Ky., and Dr. Michael V. Carter, president of CU. Other speakers giving updates were: the Rev. John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president; Dr. Darlene Eastridge, dean of the Carver School of Social Work; Benji Kelly, vice president for development; Ed Pavy, director of campus ministries; Lauren Barr, CU student who went to Africa this summer; and Dr. John Hurtgen, dean of the School of Theology.



John Chowning, left, thanked the CRC for "being a vital part of Campbellsville University" and reminded them of the upcoming Transformational Church Summit and Baptist Heritage Lecture Series.



CRC Executive Committee members gathered Aug. 2. Comprised of pastors, other church staff, and key lay leaders, the CRC serves in an advisory capacity to the president and administration in maintaining closer relations between CU and area churches. CRC standing committees include the Academic, Campus Ministries, Development and Public Relations committees.



< Dr. Shane Garrison, CU assistant professor of educational ministries (standing at left) instructs students in CU's School of Theology. Theology courses are available on the main campus, at CU's Louisville Center and online.

Three programs of Christian studies are now offered completely online:

- Master's of Theology *online*
- Associate Degree of Christian Studies *online*
- Certificate in Christian Ministry *online*

www.campbellsville.edu/online-degrees

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

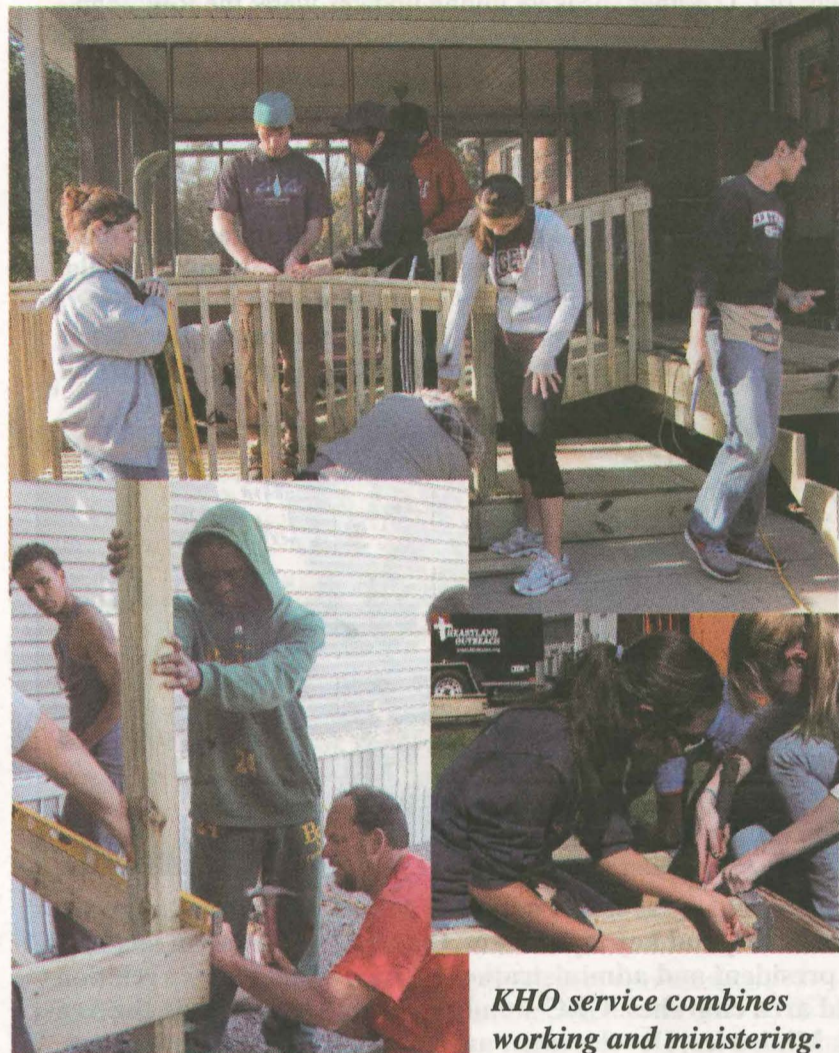
Campbellsville UNIVERSITY



This Campbellsville University news insert to the Western Recorder was developed by the Office of University Communications under the direction of John Chowning with design and content by Linda Waggener, Joan McKinney and Christina Kern. For additional information call (270) 789-5004 or visit the website at www.campbellsville.edu.

CU and KHO partner to serve families in region

Results: Over 54 professions of faith and the number of rededications or calls to ministry were too many to count.



KHO service combines working and ministering.

A hammer and some nails, lumber and shingles, and a crew of servant leaders have made it possible for Kentucky Heartland Outreach (KHO) to provide home repairs to families in the central Kentucky region this summer.

Campbellsville University and KHO, an affiliate of CU, are working together to help families in need and introduce them to Jesus Christ. A result of this ministry is that over 54 professions of faith were reported this season and the number of rededications or calls to ministry were too many to count.

"We are so thankful each year for the number of groups that come out to volunteer their time," said Todd Parish, president of KHO. "It allows all of us to work together and minister not only to each other, but to the needs of the families in the community and bring them into a knowledge of Jesus Christ."

"KHO is a great ministry," John Chowning, vice president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president of CU, said, "and CU is very proud to be associated with them. KHO allows youth and our students to work with those who cannot help themselves, and we are pleased to work with these servant leaders to help others. Lives are being changed through the outreach ministries of Campbellsville University such as KHO."

KHO hosts youth groups from churches all over the nation each summer in order to accomplish much needed repairs on homes in the Central Kentucky region. Each summer, KHO works in a certain region of the Commonwealth, giving families a new roof, deck or wheelchair/walking ramp. A trained crew chief is in charge of each site, while gaining the help of the volunteers to get the task accomplished in a timely manner. All is done free of charge to the homeowners, providing they qualify for the grant-funded program.

The camp is a chance for students to understand the ministry that Jesus Christ had among the people and how he was able to meet people's physical needs as well as their spiritual needs. For more information on how you can help KHO or to obtain an application packet, contact them at (270) 469-4949 or visit their website at www.khohome.org.

Council accredits CU's MSW > from front page

transferred to Campbellsville University," Carter said, "we worked hard to build and receive accreditation for the bachelor's of social work and to make that program one that was fully recognized as a quality and highly-respected program of study.

"Once that had been accomplished, our next step was to launch the MSW program and to work toward securing accreditation for the MSW. Dean Eastridge and the Carver School faculty have worked very hard to achieve this important affirmation, and we believe that the Carver School of Social Work, as it has grown and matured at Campbellsville University since 1998, is stronger than ever in its rich history of preparing Christian social workers."

Eastridge said, "Our faculty has worked diligently to restore the Carver School to its legacy of providing a Christian education. We are excited that Carver School has expanded Christian educational preparation to include undergraduate social workers, graduate level social workers and marriage and family therapists."

She said, "We are pleased about our accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education, and we look forward to celebrating this achievement on Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 13. Come join us as we celebrate this historic occasion!"

CU Carver School of Social Work & Counseling
(270) 789-5049
dfeastridge@campbellsville.edu

Transformational Church Summit

2-day, 24-hour conference for
Pastors & Church Leaders
 Sept. 27-28 at CU's main campus

Speakers: • Dr. Thom Rainer, Dr. Dan Garland, Dr. John Mark Toby, Rev. Rusty Ellison, Rev. Charles Grant and Dr. Shane Garrison will challenge and equip you with tools to develop ministry platforms which expand leadership and deepen relationships.

Sponsored by: LifeWay, the KBC and Campbellsville University
REGISTER ONLINE: www.campbellsville.edu/summit
 Or call (270) 789-5520

CU now offers three programs of Christian studies completely online!

www.campbellsville.edu/online-degrees