

WESTERN Recorder

August 21, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 32



■ Above: Volunteer guide Candice Leitch (left) helps 5-year-old Kate-Lynn Ayers find clothes for school at Buck Run Baptist Church's "Get Kool for School" event last month. Each child selected three outfits and also received a pair of shoes, a free hair cut and school supplies for the new year. ■ Below: Skylyn Ohler, 8, searches for her favorite color among the selection of pencil bags at Buck Run. More than 300 bags of school supplies were prepared by church volunteers to hand out to the children of single mothers. (Photos by Robin Cornetet Bass)



What does it take to keep college students connected to their faith?

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Louisville—More than a quarter of a million students are heading off to Kentucky's college campuses this month and a significant portion will experience, for the first time, life far away from the watchful eyes of their parents.

There will be no one to enforce curfews or check off a list of chores. No one to nag students about eating vegetables or doing homework. And for most, no one at college will be making sure they get to church on Sunday mornings.

Of the high school students who regularly attend church, LifeWay Christian Resources estimates 70 percent will take a hiatus

□ See College students ... Page 2

Serving Students

Churches connect with families, kids through helpful back-to-school events

By Drew Nichter

London—It's noon on a Saturday in late July and the sanctuary at London's Hart Baptist Church is standing room only.

Evangelist Cameron Mills, one of the stars from the University of Kentucky's 1998 National Championship team, is sharing the gospel with hundreds of area residents who have showed up, not for a revival, but the church's annual back-to-school event.

"In that 30 minutes with Cameron Mills, we have more unchurched people in that building collectively than we would have all year round," Pastor Terrell Bradley said.

As Mills finishes up, nearly 700 children and their parents disperse throughout the building and the church grounds, collecting free school supplies, clothing, getting haircuts and playing games. There is even a mobile dental unit offering free teeth cleanings.

The idea for reaching out to Laurel County students came from a desire to meet the widespread needs that Katie Avera, and her husband, John, who teaches in the school system, witnessed day in and day out.

Katie, who serves as Hart Baptist's preschool and children's

□ See Churches help students go back to school ... Page 6



Study: Teens' behavior significantly affected by what they see in movies

By Erin Roach

Washington—Exposure to sexual content in movies leads teenagers to have sex earlier and to participate in riskier sexual behavior, a study has confirmed, leading researchers to suggest incorporating media literacy training into sexual education.

The study, published in Psychological Science, a journal of the Association for Psychological Science, said roughly 85 percent of movies released from 1950 to 2006 contained sexual content, and only 9 percent of sexual content in movies contained messages promoting sexual health.

Sexual explicitness of PG-13- and R-rated movies has increased over the past decade, researchers also noted. Evidence suggests adolescents' sexual attitudes and behavior are influenced more by movies than by other forms of media, the study revealed.

"Adolescents who are exposed to more sexual content in movies start having sex at younger ages, have more sexual partners, and are less likely to use condoms with casual sexual partners," said

□ See Teens & movies ... Page 3



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Western Recorder 8-21-2012

Pair of Ky. Baptists singled out for NAMB disaster relief awards

Des Moines, Iowa—Elaine Koch of Taylorsville and Lew Cook of Maysville received awards last week for their faithful service through the Southern Baptist and Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief ministries.

The awards were presented Aug. 14 in Des Moines, Iowa, as part of the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Roundtable.

A member of Redemption Hill Baptist Church in Fisherville, Koch received the Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award. Cook is a member of First Baptist Church of Maysville and was presented the Distinguished Service Award for 2012.

Two achievement awards are presented annually from among nominees across the country. One of last year's winners was Bernard Randall of Monticello who received the award posthumously.

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb gave high praise to both of the award recipients.

"Elaine has served faithfully in almost every area of Kentucky Baptist

Disaster Relief," he said. "She is a humble servant of the Lord."

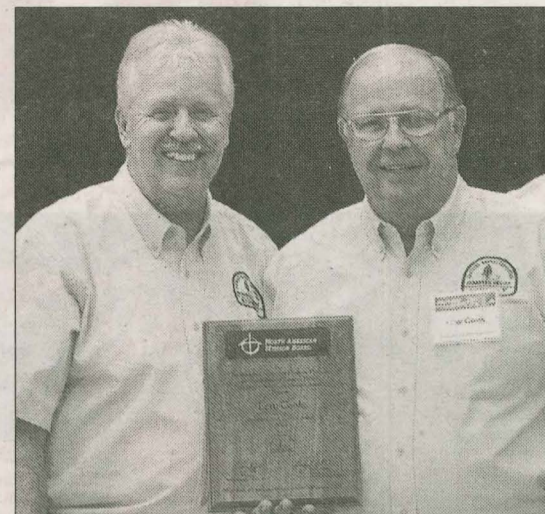
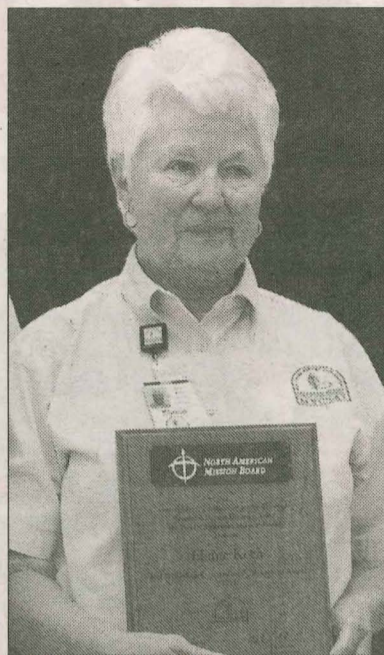
Koch began her disaster relief work in 1987, serving alongside her husband, Larry, who was Webb's predecessor at the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Larry Koch's retirement has not diminished the couple's commitment to disaster relief. In recent years, the Kochs traveled to American Samoa following an earthquake and tsunami, and last March, served on the incident command team responding to an outbreak of tornadoes across Kentucky.

Cook has served through Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief since 1994. His wife, Linda, also is a volunteer.

Webb said Cook was a valuable leader through a series of deployments over the past year.

"Lew served on our responses to tornadoes in Alabama, floods here in Kentucky and in Minot, North Dakota," Webb said. "He really demonstrated his leadership skills as incident commander in Vermont following Hurricane Irene.



■ **Left:** Elaine Koch receives the Joel W. Phillips Outstanding Achievement Award from the North American Baptist Mission Board Aug. 14. ■ **Above:** Award recipient Lew Cook (right) poses with Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb.

"He is an outstanding leader who combines disaster relief knowledge and strong relational skills," Webb added.

Cook also "played a key role" in responding to tornado damage in West Liberty earlier this year. (KBC)

College students

Continued from page 1

from corporate worship for at least a year between the ages of 18-22.

College plays a significant role in this decision as students move long distances from their home churches and choose

spending time with friends over fellowship with other believers. According to the LifeWay study, some just want a break from church or have obligations at work. Others admit they were only attending church to please someone else.

Joe Ball, Crossings Ministries' new youth ministry strategist, said young adults begin the process of dropping out of church long before the tassel is moved across their graduation mortarboards.

"It starts about age 16, and we just don't notice it until they leave for college," Ball said. "Students that are passionate and in love with Jesus don't leave the church when they go to college. I think it's those who have been marginal that we lose. And unfortunately, a lot of our high school students are marginal."

Somewhere along the line, Ball noted, church leaders began to accept that they would lose youth attendance to other commitments like athletics and part-time jobs.

"We've never really challenged that," Ball said. "The football coach tells them if they don't come to practice they're not going to start. And their boss says, 'If you don't show up to work, I'm going to fire you.' And at church we just say God will be here when you're done. So, they go to the place that requires the most of them."

While high schoolers are taking advanced-placement calculus, working as assistant managers and being captains of the football team, Ball said, the

church is still spoon-feeding youth with the same Bible lessons they have heard since third grade. Instead, he said, youth need to be challenged with principles of theology, encouraged to step out of Sunday School and teach in the children's or preschool department, and learn how to wrestle bigger questions, such as, "Can I call this faith my own?"

Joe Ball:

"Students that are passionate and in love with Jesus don't leave the church when they go to college. I think it's those who have been marginal that we lose. And unfortunately, a lot of our high school students are marginal."



"If we don't wrestle with those questions on a spiritual level—if we don't personalize it—our faith will only grow to a certain level," Ball explained. "I'd rather them do that as a high school student in my house than in isolation on a college campus."

In the case of students who have already packed up and moved into a dorm room somewhere, what can parents do to encourage their children to remain strong in the faith?

Ball suggested making move-in day more of a week-end away. Scout area churches online, talk with church leaders and find a congregation where your

student can get plugged in. By attending services as a family, parents can ensure their child is introduced to the pastor or college minister. A few weeks later, parents should follow up by asking questions about church attendance and if he or she has joined a small-group Bible study or Christian club on campus.

"A lot of the time we are asking, 'Do you need any money? How are your classes going?' We're not asking the spiritual questions," Ball said. Make spiritual involvement an expectation, he added.

Youth pastors share some of the responsibility for making sure former youth members are connected with fellow Christians at college, Ball stressed. He recommended taking juniors and seniors on a tour of state colleges and introducing them to Baptist campus ministers. Stay connected through Facebook, but also make sure to visit in mid-September, take them out to eat and ask

them how they are doing, Ball suggested.

Students heading off to college for the first time also can be a ministry opportunity for the church-at-large. Ball recommended sending students church newsletters and giving them subscriptions to their hometown newspaper. Retired or traveling church members could arrange a quick stop to meet, feed and minister to a student. The occasional care package also is a nice surprise.

At one church, Ball said, Sunday School teachers were promoted with students through all four years of high school. After graduation, the teachers were given the year off from leading Bible study and instead were encouraged to visit their former students at their various college campuses.

And with every call or visit, "always ask them, where are you getting plugged in to the faith community?" (WR)

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Page announces advisory team for crafting Calvinism strategy

By Michael Foust

Nashville, Tenn.—Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page has announced the members of an advisory team who will help him craft a strategic plan to bring together various groups within the convention who hold different opinions on the issue of Calvinism. The 16-member group will hold its first meeting Aug. 29-30 in Nashville, Tenn.

"My goal is to develop a strategy whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism," Page said when announcing the group last week.

At some point in the coming months, he said, "most likely there will be the crafting of a statement regarding the strategy on how we can work together."

"I want to be very clear: This is not an

attempt to redo the theological consensus that we have in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000," Page said. "It is practical in nature, not doctrinal."

Page emphasized that the group is "not an official committee" of the convention. He also said additional individuals could be added to the group.

"We wanted people who truly represented the various constituencies involved in this theological discussion," Page said.

The 16 members of the advisory team are:

Daniel Akin, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.

Mark Dever, pastor, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington.

David Dockery, president, Union University, Jackson, Tenn.

Leo Endel, executive director, Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention.

Ken Fentress, pastor, Montrose Baptist Church, Rockville, Md.

Timothy George, dean, Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala.

Eric Hankins, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oxford, Miss.

Johnny Hunt, pastor, First Baptist Church, Woodstock, Ga.

Tammi Ledbetter, homemaker and layperson, Inglewood Baptist Church, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Steve Lemke, provost and director of the Baptist Center for Theology and Ministry at New Orleans Baptist Theological

Seminary.

Fred Luter, pastor, Franklin Avenue Baptist Church, New Orleans, and SBC president.

Albert Mohler, president, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Paige Patterson, president, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

Stephen Rummage, pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, Fla.

Daniel Sanchez, professor of missions, Southwestern Seminary.

Jimmy Scroggins, pastor, First Baptist Church, West Palm Beach, Fla.

Earlier this month, Page was part of a Kentucky Baptist Convention-sponsored panel discussion at Crestwood Baptist Church where he and other speakers said Southern Baptists should and can unite, despite their differences on the issue of Calvinism. (BP)



Frank Page

Teens & movies

Continued from page 1

Ross O'Hara, who conducted the research with other psychological scientists at Dartmouth College.

Richard Ross, professor of student ministry at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, said allowing a middle schooler to watch sex on the big screen is like allowing a toddler to ride in the front seat with no seatbelt, standing up, at rush hour.

Allen Jackson, director of the Youth Ministry Institute at New Orleans Baptist

Theological Seminary, likened it to a pregnant woman drinking alcohol.

"There's an enhanced risk at that life stage," Jackson said. "There is an enhanced impact of the images that are viewed."

The effect of media on sexual behavior, the study said, is driven by the acquisition and activation of "sexual scripts." In behavioral psychology, a script is a sequence of expected behavior for a given situation. A higher degree of sexual media exposure, researchers say, has been found to predict more permissive sexual attitudes.

Adolescents sometimes seek out sexual media, possibly to learn scripts, the study said, noting that 57 percent of U.S. adolescents ages 14 to 16 reported using media as a primary source of sexual information.

Ross said when film studios spend millions to make sexual content powerful and when adults give youth permission to view such content, real consequences in real lives will result.

"What teenagers most need is a new set of 'movies.' The Bible is the 'novel.' Teenagers need to read and study the book, absolutely. But they also need to see the 'movie' based on the book," Ross

said. "They need mom and dad and their leaders to live out—in high definition—what life looks like based on the book.

"If we only prohibit bad movies, we leave a vacuum. We need to replace them with 'movies' that star parents and leaders who reveal what it means to love God, to love others and to join Christ in bringing His Kingdom on earth," Ross added.

Jackson, of the Youth Ministry Institute, said conservatives and liberals alike can find common ground regarding media literacy. An example, he said, is the fact that cigarette ads no longer appear on television or in print.

"Media literacy groups said you shouldn't use advertising tricks on children. You shouldn't have a cartoon camel selling cigarettes to make children think it's OK," Jackson said.

"There are voices from both the very liberal and the very conservative that say we should monitor what children see in the way of media because all of the camera angles and multiple scene changes and special effects are almost like an unfair advantage influencing the lives of children," he added.

Jackson recommended the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding as a

resource for parents who want to be proactive in raising godly children in the current media climate.

"Walt Mueller is one of the most respected faith-based voices in this whole area, and there are hundreds of free resources, including the Digital Kids Initiative," Jackson said, noting that the program is a media literacy guide for Christian parents.

Parents, Jackson said, should watch a television show with their children and ask questions such as, "What is the message behind the message? Was there an agenda in that show? If we heard profanity, why is it in there? Why would we listen to that? What's the lifestyle that's glorified? What's the worldview that's inherent in the show?"

When special effects are used on screen, parents should help children sort fact from fiction, Jackson said.

"I'm not one that says we should seclude our children from media, although I respect the parents that do so," he said. "It's quite a useful thing for parents to watch a movie or to watch a commercial or to watch a television show with their children and employ active media literacy principles even as they do so." (BP)

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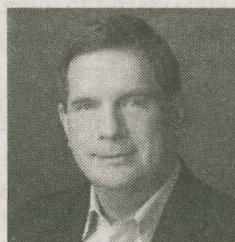
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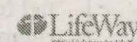
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Stories from the mission field

The reach of the Cooperative Program never ceases to amaze me. Recently, Kentucky Baptist Convention staff shared stories about how CP made an eternal difference to people in need of a Savior.

Together
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

"Jim," a Paducah resident, watched a team of student volunteers work on his neighbor's roof during the hottest part of summer. He was amazed that these Kentucky Changers would do such hard work at no charge. Jim's amazement grew when he learned that the students paid for the privilege to serve and spend their nights sleeping on the floor of a local church.

The next day, Jim returned to his neighbor's house. He sat in on a prayer and devotion time, talked with students and their leaders and heard the gospel. Jim accepted Christ as his Savior.

The KBC's transition and conflict management ministry helps encourage, equip and resource ministers in their personal and spiritual lives and develops their leadership skills. As they become better leaders, their churches are better equipped to fulfill the Great Commission.

Every year, the KBC provides retreats for ministers and their spouses who are leaving places of service under difficult circumstances or perhaps are entering in a stress-filled environment. The entire cost of the Ministers in Transition conferences is funded through CP.

Here are comments from those who have participated in an MIT Conference:

"Thank you for giving us a safe place to process and just be us. Truly, we felt the love."

"Healthy churches will give birth to new churches," one pastor wrote. The KBC transition and conflict management ministry staff "is a vital part of the efforts to assist churches (in transitioning) from a maintenance to a missional mindset. The process must begin with the leaders of these churches."

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers met "Mr. and Mrs. Johnson" of West Liberty earlier this year. The couple is in their 80s and have been resistant to the gospel message. They were unlikely to invite anyone from the local church into their living room.

When tornadoes plowed across Kentucky March 2, disaster relief volunteers were in West Liberty and other communities meeting needs less than 12 hours after the storms. The Johnsons received meals prepared at the kitchen unit. The chainsaw and recovery teams cleaned debris from their property.

After meeting the Johnsons' physical and material needs, two DR chaplains stopped by the home and were welcomed. The couple responded to the gospel. Mr. Johnson accepted Christ as his Savior. Mrs. Johnson, who had made a decision many years earlier, re-dedicated her life to Christ.

These are not just stories; they are testimonies to the power of God's people working together to share Christ with the world. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for your support of the Cooperative Program.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Our students need you to be spiritual mentors

John Roberts was a supportive mentor, devoted friend, steadfast encourager and father in the ministry. Yet, that tribute somehow doesn't quite do justice. He was so much more. He was a "Barnabas" to a young college student with a little talent and big dreams of being a Baptist editor. Roberts taught me that I could use journalism to share the Christian faith, and being introduced to him as a student became a spiritual marker on my faith journey.

If memory serves, when we first met back in 1982, Dr. Roberts was sitting at a huge wooden desk, with books upon books rising to the ceiling on the shelves behind him. He had been at his post more than 15 years, and his silvering hair bespoke of the high regard that many across the state had for his knowledge of Baptist life and of his keen insights as a seasoned denominational journalist. This, no doubt, seemed intimidating to the squirming student before him who was being queried as a prospective intern. "So, what do you want to do after you graduate?" he asked.

Yet, I think I caught him off guard somewhat with my pert retort. "I want to sit in that chair one day," I said, nodding toward his desk chair. A gracious grin crept across the senior Baptist editor's face, nearly touching each side of the wire-rimmed glasses that framed his nose. I had apparently struck a chord, connecting with his own story.

As Dr. Roberts approached retirement some 15 years later, he would write in an editorial: "For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a newspaper editor. I had a growing awareness also that God had a claim on me. As the two merged, I have been the most fortunate of men." He considered it "a high honor and a special privilege" to serve as a Baptist editor. That sentiment was instilled in my heart, too.

Dr. Roberts had a profound influence on my life as I observed his committed service to South Carolina Baptists while serving as the Baptist Courier's first intern. A graduate of Furman University, where I was attending, Roberts

encouraged me to attend a Baptist seminary, pointing me to Southern. He wrote a letter of recommendation that almost certainly landed an internship with the Western Recorder before I had even applied to Southern—which incidentally was once situated on property surrounding where the Baptist Courier's building now sits in Greenville, S.C.

While I believe God has directed my path, He allowed Dr. Roberts to play a key role in launching my career as a Christian journalist, first by pointing me toward a news position at a Baptist college and soon thereafter bringing me to the attention of a Baptist editor in a neighboring state who needed an associate. When Don Kirkland, who was Roberts' associate for many years, was named editor, I returned to the Baptist Courier. And, had I not attended Southern and served as an intern at the Western Recorder during those three years, it is unlikely that I would now be serving as your editor.

Dr. Roberts evidently made similar impressions on others. Jim Clontz, director of missions for South District Baptist Association in Danville, shared with me in an email: "I used to be a special correspondent for the Courier and found John (Roberts) to be a wonderful editor with which to work! He did so much to move the Courier to higher levels of content, appearance and circulation."

My point in sharing this with you, though, is not simply to praise Dr. Roberts, who died this past week at age 85, but to encourage you to be a mentor for a young student, shaping his or her spiritual journey. There are many young men and women who need someone like you to be a "Barnabas," leading them to use their talents for the glory of God. They don't necessarily have to be ministerial students, either. They might be a journalist, teacher, pilot, nurse, dentist, musician, carpenter—and your guidance and timely words of encouragement may be just what is needed to help guide them on God's path along the way.

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton

'Meet the Teacher' Sunday

Here is a fresh and simple way to invite school teachers and staff to your church: Honor those important community leaders by planning a "Meet the Teacher" Sunday during the first month of school.

Students and adult church teachers, principals, librarians, bus drivers, nurses, food servers, coaches, music teachers, home-school teachers, professors, counselors and other school personnel to a Sunday service. They'll be recognized with a small gift and a special prayer.

Invite them

- Students from kindergarten to college use printed cards to personally invite their teachers and school personnel to come for worship and sit beside them.

- Church members or groups prepare big snack baskets and deliver them to

teacher break rooms at local schools. Include a card with a promise of your church's prayers this school year and an invitation to "Meet the Teacher" Sunday.

- Provide printed cards and e-invitations for adult church members to personally invite their friends and neighbors who work in the schools.

- Advertise on your church sign and in local papers to invite teachers and school personnel to "Meet the Teacher" Sunday.

Welcome them

- At a welcome table, provide beautiful name tags for the special guests, personalizing them with the individual's name, job and school.

- Plan a brief post-worship milk and cookie fellowship. Serve homemade cookies, milk in cartons and coffee. Assign adult Bible classes to intentionally chat and invite guests back to worship the next week.

- Children's classes can prepare index-size "thank you" notes to include

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

with the pastor's follow-up letter to the special guests.

Honor them

- Recognize teachers and school personnel by asking them to stand. Student ushers give them a small gift, such as a Scripture bookmark or imprinted mug or pen. Lead a prayer of thanksgiving, asking God to bless them.

- Invite students of all ages to stand for a separate special prayer of blessing and commissioning.

- Include students in leading worship as ushers, prayer leaders or praise team members. Our church planned a simple rhythm Scripture performance and every student was included in the presentation.

You probably know a school employee you could invite to church. Wouldn't it be awesome if that teacher met the Master Teacher, Jesus, on "Meet the Teacher" Sunday?

Diana Davis is an author, speaker and the wife of Steve Davis, the North American Mission Board's vice president for the Midwest region.

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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'Back to school' means back to ministry

By Keith Inman

As a seminary student 30 years ago, I heard one of my professors make the following statement: "Never before has a generation of students gone off to the university campus so desperately in need of relationship. And yet, never before has a generation of students gone off to the university campus so ill equipped to have one." These words seem to ring true today.

I would like to submit another "never before." Never before has a generation of students gone off to the university campus so open to the pluralism and relativism that saturates the existing culture of the day. The world, with its technology, wealth and transportation system, is smaller than ever before. More international students are studying at our university institutions and they bring a variety of religions that beg for equal footing on the landscape of intellectual and reasonable choice.

The university and popular culture are primed to challenge what many might consider a naïve and narrow belief system that would proclaim that Jesus is "the way, the truth and the life," and that "no one comes to the Father but by Me."

The church has neglected the campus for too long, and we are reaping the consequences. The power of higher education continues to explode across our nation and world.

Charles Malik, a Harvard-educated Lebanese scholar who has been awarded 50 honorary doctorates, "develops the idea that of the seven prevailing institutions of Western culture—the family, the church, the state, the economic enterprise, the professions, the media and the university—the university is both the most Western and the most dominant." He asks an insightful question: "What does Jesus Christ think of the university?"

In the early days of this country, the first universities were birthed by the church and unabashedly Christian. They dripped with evangelical zeal. John

Harvard's bequest to the university: "Let every student be plainly instructed and earnestly pressed to consider well the main ends of his life and study—to know God and Jesus Christ which is eternal life, and to lay Christ in the bottom as the only foundation and learning—and to see the Lord as the giver of all wisdom. Let everyone seriously set himself by prayer in secret to see Christ as Lord and Master."

Times have changed. As confusion reigned in the culture of Colossae, the blending of ideologies has made the whole religious landscape confusing today. One recent student commented, "I feel as if I have been told to go play the game of life and someone forgot to give me the rule book."

Church must go back to school, too

It's time for the church to go back to the university. I am grateful that Kentucky Baptists support the local Baptist Campus Ministries and our campus ministers who serve as missionaries to the campuses.

The BCM was created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach the campus and world for Christ. The purpose is to be strategic partners and to serve as a "beachhead" in a territory that is rife with spiritual warfare. We need each other to reach a college student population of 18 million plus, 80 percent of whom profess no faith in Christ. We need each other to reach the campus for the sake of the future church.

Our leaders, our pastors, our missionaries and the body of Christ are vulnerable without the engaging presence of the church and BCM. We need each other to reach the campus for Christ for the future of this country. We need each other to "proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ."

Fall is here. It's time to go back to school. See you there!

Keith Inman is the collegiate evangelism strategist for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

FAITH ON CAMPUS



Keith Inman

When did Methuselah retire?

Life expectancies are increasing in the United States and most other developed countries. The American Society of Actuaries says that a 65-year-old man likely will have another 17 years to live; for women, it's 20. For married couples at age 65, there's a 1 in 3 chance that one will live beyond 90.

Longevity, generally a positive development, has its challenges. Independence, mobility, financial resources—they all start to wane as a person adds more years to his life.

The primary financial concern for most seniors is outliving their money. According to recent studies, the concern is realistic. Most people nearing or beginning retirement underestimate their life expectancy and overestimate how long their savings will last.

For example, if a person retires at age 62 and then lives to 88, that's 26 years of living off of retirement savings and Social Security—that's 30 percent of a person's life lived in retirement. That's a challenge, particularly in a time with low interest rates and a shaky future for some pensions.

Let's consider the extreme example of Methuselah, the oldest man in the Bible. If he lived 30 percent of his 969 years in retirement, he would have retired at 678. His savings (or his children or grandchildren) would have needed to support him for 291 years.

To make your retirement more feasible and fulfilling, consider the following:

- Save more now and consume less.
- Wait until later to retire.
- Invest your assets so they have potential to grow.
- Develop income streams that will last a lifetime.
- Work part-time jobs or develop a hobby that can bring in income.

While dreams of retiring sound alluring, remember you continue to have God-directed purpose during your days on this earth. Actually, I don't think Methuselah ever retired. Neither did Moses, Abraham, Paul nor John. Retirement is a more modern idea—and one that has its faults. Ask yourself, "What would God have me do with this time of my life?"

Jeremy White is a certified public accountant with Blythe, White & Associates in Paducah.



Nine things churches should remember in reaching college students

By J.D. Greear & Rupert Leary

There are three well-established facts regarding Christianity and college students that ought to capture the attention of any gospel-loving pastor: college is a time of unprecedented openness to all things, including the gospel; many of the great "awakenings," both major and minor, in our history have started through college students; and there is a disturbing absence of this age group in many of our congregations.

We learned the following nine lessons along the way as our college ministry grew and flourished in an area that features many prominent universities.

Whatever you do, don't shy away from depth or hard truth.

Students are not dumb, nor are the college professors filling their minds five days a week. These students are being presented with deep questions, and simplistic answers not only fail to persuade them, but make them increasingly skeptical of Christianity. So, take them deep, and do it often.

Furthermore, teach the hard stuff—like what the Bible teaches about gender roles, sexuality and divine punishment. Most students already know generally what evangelical Christians believe about these things, so we gain no ground by pandering around it, ignoring it or

apologizing for it. Speak truth convincingly with clarity and grace.

Preach the gospel.

The beauty of the gospel intrigues most students. It engages both believer and unbeliever. It exposes the root idolatries that drive our behavior, and reveals God's radical agenda for the world that calls for a dramatic response. The gospel "secret" is that all the things we want to see produced in students are produced not by telling them what they are to do for God, but by exalting in what God has done for us.

Love on display often is the most effective apologetic.

We often think the way to convince unbelievers is to show that our smart guys are smarter than their smart guys. True cynics are convinced more, however, by the beauty of Christ's character in us than they are meticulous logic of our apologetic. The church's greatest persuasive power is in her serving (1 Peter 3:15; 4:7-11).

Remember that we live in the Bono generation.

Serving the community and the poor around the world is now, for lack of a better term, "cool." This generation's awareness of global suffering ensures that a message that fails to address global and societal needs will fall on

deaf ears. The awareness of global suffering actually provides a wonderful opportunity for the gospel. We can show that the gospel provides a better, more holistic answer to the problems of the world.

Lift their eyes to the nations.

God's agenda for the world is nothing short of people from every people group worshipping Jesus. We should teach students to choose their lives' paths based on this end goal. Even those students who do not go into "full-time ministry" can choose their career paths in light of the Great Commission.

Aggressively develop summer projects and overseas opportunities.

Summer projects and mission trips are great "farm teams" for training students in missions. We have seen tremendous returns from students who served on these projects.

The "come-and-get-it" approach of many churches and campus ministries is less effective with today's students.

We have found that one-on-one meetings and small groups reach many of these "radically unchurched" students. Also, it's easier (and cheaper) to draft younger, "just-out-of-college" workers than it is to hire a career "college pastor."

Providing multi-generational connections for students within the church is essential to discipleship.

Students need a Titus 2-type connection with older adults. This can happen in both formal and informal settings.

Cultural adaptation is important, though not essential.

Why do churches hold on to the cultural mores and styles of previous generations if they are trying to reach this one? We can't make the gospel more attractive through our "coolness." That said, ultimately the appeal of the church has more to do with its timelessness than its trendiness. The essential element is not a cool pastor or loud music, but an authentic message. Traditionalism is a killer not because it is "uncool" but because it is a counterfeit of the gospel.

We would encourage you to lay all cultural elements of your church at the feet of Jesus and ask Him to show you how to prioritize the mission over preference. Every effective missionary in every culture has thought this way. God help us if we value our cultural traditions more than our children.

There is no magic bullet for reaching students, but we hope these timeless values will help spur you to expect great things of God for this generation, and attempt great things for God in it. (BP)

J. D. Greear is lead pastor and Rupert Leary is the pastor of college ministry and mobilization at the Summit Church in Durham, N.C.

FIRST PERSON

Churches help students go back to school

Continued from page 1
ministry director, said the need to reach children in Laurel County is great. And the statistics certainly support her concern.

According to a University of Kentucky study, at least half of the students attending the 15 elementary, middle and high schools in Laurel County participated in the free or reduced lunch program in 2010. One elementary school had 87 percent of its students enrolled.

Serving in such an impoverished area, Avera said Hart Baptist Church felt called to step up and help area students and their families get what they need to start the new school year.

"We just want to reach out to the community and show people that the church cares about those who are needing help," Avera said. "With the economy the way it is, there are a lot of families out there that, could really use the extra help."

Growing ministry

Hart Baptist is one of a growing number of Kentucky Baptist churches reaching out to students and families through back-to-school events. Most of them feature games and food mingled among the free school supplies, clothes, haircuts—all of the essentials for getting kids ready for a new school year.

It's a time of year that can be

especially difficult for single mothers. So, Frankfort's Buck Run Baptist Church packed 300 bags of school supplies, sorted them by grades and handed them out at a recent "Kool for School" day.

Connie Mitchell coordinates the church's single women's ministry. She organized the first back-to-school event last year, but was unprepared for the overwhelming response.

"Last year, we ran out of just about everything we had. We weren't expecting the crowds," she recalled. "So, this year we worked doubly hard to get the supplies."

The seed for the event was planted several years ago, Mitchell said, when

she visited a single mother on the first day of school. She wouldn't send her child to class because he didn't have any shoes to wear. Mitchell offered to buy him a pair, but the mother didn't know his size. Mitchell placed the child's foot on a piece of paper, outlined it and took it to a shoe store to find a pair that fit him.

"You don't think about things like that going on in your community, but it happens all the time," Mitchell said.

Open doors for the gospel

Like most church back-to-school events, both Buck Run and Hart Baptist had a host of volunteers guiding families



NEW 'DO' Austin Jarrell, 8, receives a complimentary haircut from stylist Haqikah Muncie, of Elle Salon, at Buck Run Baptist Church's "Get Kool for School" event. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

through the maze of games and free stuff. More importantly, they served as witnesses, looking for open doors, however slight, to share the gospel.

Candice Leitch was rebuffed multiple times when trying to tell families about Jesus Christ at Buck Run. Even though some families put up a wall between themselves and the guides, Leitch said she was not discouraged.

"I pray they will know we did this for a higher purpose other than just being nice," she said. "Even if that doesn't happen right away, I hope they will remember we were there when they needed it most."

Hart Baptist Pastor Bradley said in the three years his church has conducted the back-to-school event, very few new

faces have shown up on Sundays as a result. But that is not a deterrent for hosting the event, which has seen attendance grow by nearly 100 people each year, he said.

The church's generosity caught the attention of at least one family. Ron and Lisa Vanover and their sons, William and Adam, came from nearby Corbin. Ron stood with William, a soon-to-be fifth grader, waiting for a haircut.

Ron said the love shown by the Hart Baptist Church members meant he and his family would be back the next day for worship.

"It seemed like this would be a nice church to go to because the people are so friendly." (WR)

Robin Cornetet Bass contributed to this story.



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London Olympics see largest Baptist overseas event response

By Ava Thomas

London—"We lit the flame and lit up the world."

Doug Shaw had to smile a little when London 2012 chairman Lord Coe closed the Olympics with those words Aug. 12.

Shaw is hoping that's exactly what happened.

As part of More Than Gold, a joint effort of Christian churches worldwide, Shaw saw about 2,500 evangelical Christians reach out to thousands of Olympics attendees in London. Volunteers met tourists, visitors, athletes and locals, and they ministered among London's massive immigrant population.

And Shaw and others are hoping that soon some of the people they met might even take the gospel back to the countries from which they came—to "light up the world."

"The world was here, and the cordial atmosphere was an excellent opportunity for sharing one's faith," said Shaw, who served as Olympics volunteer coordinator for Southern Baptists and worked through More Than Gold.

About 450 Southern Baptist volunteers were on the ground in London—an epic milestone, Shaw said. "To my knowledge, this is the largest Southern Baptist volunteer response to any single event outside the U.S."

It was a response that matched the numbers—the 2012 Summer Olympics was teeming with people. Seven million people saw some part of the games live during the competition's 16-day run, according to BBC News.

London's Underground trains made 4.5 million journeys on their busiest days during the games, the BBC reported. Officials estimate visitors left via London's airports at a rate of 200,000 people a day.

The sheer numbers and friendly spirit surrounding the Olympics provided endless opportunities for Christians to engage in conversations with the masses,

Shaw said. Volunteers have spoken with, counseled, shared, provided meals and offered hope, he said.

"We have had word of salvation experiences at one of the mission points at least," he said. "This took place in an open café that has resulted in 400 guests visiting a local church for the first time."

Volunteers helping run events like

this have meant "strong engagement" for London's local churches, Shaw said.

And prayer played a huge part as well, he noted. Shaw said he hopes many watched and prayed for London before, during and now after the Olympics.

To learn more about how to pray for or help reach London with the gospel, visit AdoptLondon.com. (IMB)



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Holy writing cramps

Signing slew of 'thank you' notes each month well worth discomfort

Holy writing cramps—that's what I get about one day each month. This uncomfortable condition could easily be avoided, but the spiritual benefit of the experience is more than worth the pain.

The writing cramps always come from signing the monthly "thank you" letters to the many people who faithfully send donations to OBI in support of the Lord's ministry. These letters are the end product of a lengthy process. Some of my colleagues have received the contributions, credited them to our in-house, handwritten record of each donor's support and then entered that information into the computerized system that generates a personalized letter for me to sign.

I must be honest, when that stack of letters arrives on my desk, it is a holy moment. Although I often joke about how long it will take me to get time to sign them (and sometimes it takes me weeks to get to them), there is no mistake about it: The stack of letters is a testimony to the faithfulness of the Lord to move in the hearts of His people so as to provide for the needs of His servants and those to whom He has called us to minister. It is a temporary but substantial monument, a genuine "Ebenezer," a stone of help commemorating the Lord's aid in time of need. It is a means of remembering that, "Thus far the Lord has helped us" (1 Samuel 7:12).

I could avoid signing those letters. If I just asked my colleagues to help me sign them by using my official signature stamp, they would be glad to do it. But I don't like to do that. I like to sign my name to each letter—just my first name, because that seems to best

express my personal, heartfelt gratitude. Signing the letters gives me time to think about the people who stand behind the ministry, who will never get their ultimate reward in the "thank you" letters of this world, but who are laying up their treasure in heaven rather than here on the earth.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Signing each letter gives me the opportunity to look at the record of contributions, sometimes stretching back over decades. I can breathe a prayer of thanks for such friends and also ask the Lord to bless them and raise up another generation of such friends when these have gone home to receive their rewards from the King.

Personally signing each and every letter gives me the opportunity to pray for all our donors. I also can stop and pray for individuals who are giving in memory of a loved one or who have indicated some special circumstance which led them to give during that month.

Are there special letters that get more of my attention than others? I must confess that, yes, there are. These are the smallest sheets of paper in the stack and they are the fewest in number, but somehow they are the sweetest letters to my spirit. These are the brief "thank you" notes sent to those who have made more than one donation to OBI in a single month. Because we at Oneida have been on their minds so frequently, these make my heart sing a special song of praise to the Lord.

Holy writing cramps—I hope to feel them every month.

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

Kingdom-minded people

Believers who put God's kingdom first often display 5 common traits

Joe Ballard, of Charleston, W.Va., is a kingdom-minded Christian. Kingdom-minded people share a common set of traits and behaviors that make them "different." Here are some things about kingdom-minded Christians and how these things are seen in Mr. Ballard.

Kingdom-minded people think past this life. Many pastors are proud (in a good way) of the libraries God has provided for their studies. Joe's collection fills to overflowing a large basement with shelves covering each wall. Joe wants that library to serve beyond his life. So, he has made arrangements for it to go to Clear Creek when he goes home to his Lord.

Kingdom-minded people think in terms of "kingdom good." Joe does not see his collection as a worldly possession to boast about; he sees it as a tool for kingdom work. A real craftsman knows his tools' value does not lie in the cost, but in their potential. Joe wants to pass on this treasure so it can be used in service to the King.

Kingdom-minded people look for what they can do instead of begrudging what they must do. It is easy to regret what you cannot take with you. People like Mr. Ballard rejoice in the contributions they can make as they go.

Kingdom-minded people do all they can now, then leave it all behind. We took a trailer to Charleston this week to pick up hundreds of books. Let me add, Joe has not passed away—he is a picture of health. He is just so excited about what his gift can do, he wanted to give part of it now.

Kingdom-minded people realize the meaning of stewardship. They are not owners; they are keepers and managers. Whenever something is needed in another part of the kingdom, they look for ways to transfer the wealth. God uses kingdom-minded Christians like Joe Ballard to keep His work at Clear Creek going, and we are very thankful for them.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



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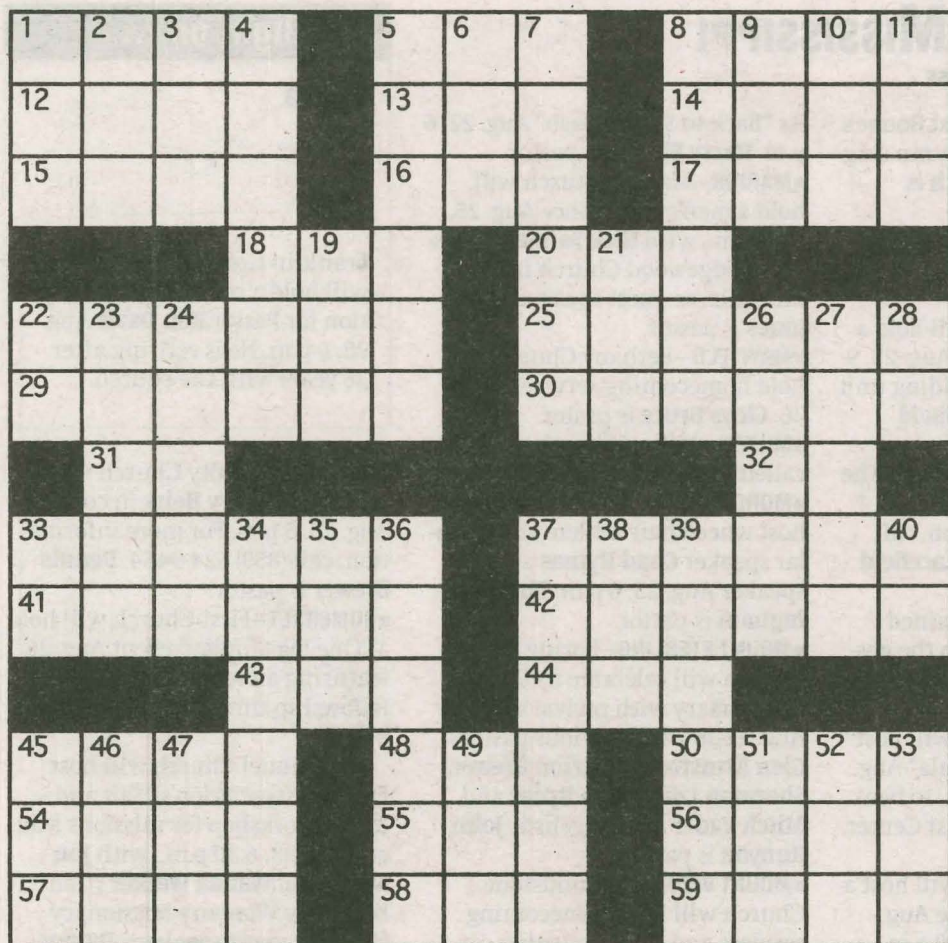
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Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

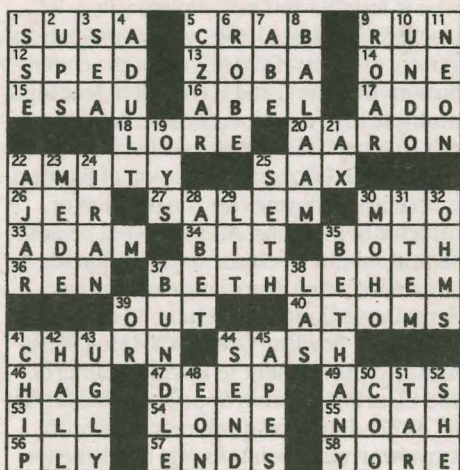
- 1 Great amount
- 5 Lea denizen
- 8 "All ____ that we should be saved was ... taken away" (Acts 27:20)
- 12 Son of Joah (1 Chronicles 6:21)
- 13 Gold, in Guantanamo
- 14 Grandson of Adam
- 15 "Neither count I my life ____ unto myself" (Acts 20:24)
- 16 Bled, as fabric
- 17 Used to be
- 18 Usually 15 percent
- 20 To ____ for
- 22 Father of Rachel, and his namesakes
- 25 Cause great anger
- 29 Author of Tristram Shandy
- 30 911 happy ending
- 31 Naval officer (abbr.)
- 32 Laughing syllable
- 33 "Make a great flame with smoke ____ out of the city" (2 words, Judges 20:38)
- 37 Belonging to the first son of Eliphaz (Genesis 36:11)
- 41 "We who are Jews by ____" (Galatians 2:15)
- 42 "____ Abana and Pharpar ... better than all the waters of Israel?" (2 Kings 5:12)
- 43 Number of performances of a play
- 44 Day ____
- 45 Get out of
- 48 Former Mideast republic (abbr.)
- 50 Feminine name
- 54 "When ye ____ the harvest of your land" (Leviticus 23:22)
- 55 Hwy.
- 56 She was called "tender eyed"
- 57 Feminine name
- 58 Still
- 59 Writer Bombeck

Down

- 1 "I will ____ evil beasts out of the land" (Leviticus 26:6)
- 2 Netherlands metropolis
- 3 Feminine name
- 4 ____ board
- 5 "They came and took up his ____, and laid it in a tomb" (Mark 6:29)
- 6 Mouth (pl.)
- 7 "And there appeared another ____ in heaven" (Revelation 12:3)
- 8 "Let them live; but let them be ____ of wood" (Joshua 9:21)
- 9 Holy ____ of Israel

- 10 ____ favor (Sp.)
- 11 Compass pt.
- 19 "There was no room for them in the ____" (Luke 2:7)
- 21 Chemical suffix
- 22 Place of the seal (abbr.)
- 23 Entrance court (pl.)
- 24 Untamed one
- 26 Son of Carmi who was stoned by all of Israel (Joshua 7)
- 27 Fertilizer from sea birds
- 28 Shoe width
- 33 Hosp. employee
- 34 Continent which includes Italia
- 35 S.A. country
- 36 "But the talk of the lips tendeth only to ____" (Proverbs 14:23)
- 37 Musical instrument of the Old Testament (Isaiah 5)
- 38 Rather than
- 39 "____ not with him that flattereth with his lips" (Proverbs 20:19)
- 40 Elm, for one (abbr.)
- 45 Eastern state univ.
- 46 Uncle of Saul (1 Samuel 14)
- 47 Plug up
- 49 Consumed
- 51 Poetic preposition
- 52 Candidate for a burnt offering
- 53 Exclamation

Last puzzle's solution



'Bold Hope'

Offering's season of prayer offers reminder to pray, give, go boldly

It's that time of year when we Kentucky Baptists are called upon to focus our praying, giving and going on those in our home state who are without Christ in their lives. And what would we do without the able leadership of Kentucky WMU to guide and assist us in this focus? Thank you, Joy Bolton, and your staff.

The theme of this year's state missions emphasis and the Eliza Broadus Offering is "Bold Hope." The focal scripture passage is 2 Corinthians 3:12: "Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."

As George Beasley-Murray observed in his commentary, this hope combines a confidence as to the glory that attaches to the gospel proclamation in the present with the expectation of a revelation of that glory in the future. At the heart of the gospel is the manifestation of a glory that has a future, namely, that of the incarnate, crucified and risen Christ returning in majesty for the victory of the kingdom. So, whatever is our lot in the present, our lot in the future is a glory that will be

vindicated in the triumph of our Lord. Therefore, we can afford to be very bold in our praying, going and giving.

How fortunate we Kentucky Baptists are to have in place all across this state a variety of ministries to facilitate our giving and going. These include: food ministries, prison, pregnancy care, drug addiction recovery, disaster relief, collegiate ministries, ethnic ministries, church planting, evangelism and missions camps.

I urge you to let the Eliza Broadus Offering provide you an easy, effective and efficient channel through which you can give to support all of these ministries across our state. Begin

now to pray with boldness (1) for your state missionaries and volunteers who deliver these ministries 24/7 on your behalf; (2) for how much and in what way you will give through the offering; and (3) for an openness for how God can use you this next year as a volunteer in one or more of these ministries.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

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

EBO Season of Prayer

September brings new EBO theme, renewed focus on state missions

On Aug. 31, we will close the books on the 2011-12 Eliza Broadus Offering. It has been a good year, exceeding the 2010-11 offering by more than \$65,000. Every dollar has been used for ministry across Kentucky. Thank you Kentucky Baptists for your faithful giving.

The 2011-12 offering included a \$500 grant to all 70 Kentucky Baptist associations. The ministries funded are exciting. In many cases, EBO grants were added to funds provided by the association, making even more possible. Here are just a few of the associational reports:

- Nelson Association spent its funds on several community events to promote a new church plant.
- Liberty Association purchased a disaster relief laundry unit.
- Boone's Creek Association bought 150 Bibles to give to children who have attended camp.
- Henry County Association used the funds for a county-wide direct mailing about upcoming Vacation Bible School programs in an effort to be sure that every household knew about VBS opportunities.
- Bell Association used its grant for food and home-repair ministries.
- Ohio Valley Association hosted a county-wide prayer conference with

Jennifer Kennedy Dean as the guest speaker.

■ Bracken Association used its EBO grant to host an evangelistic block party utilizing a trailer from Warren Association that was purchased several years ago with EBO funds.

■ Ten Mile Association purchased Bibles for Kentucky Raceway Ministry.

■ White's Run Association reported 11 professions of faith following its "Truth Jubilee" evangelistic event.

■ Anderson Association used its \$500 for Kentucky Changers.

■ McCreary County Association hosted a Gospel-singing event to introduce the community to the new Appalachian Ministry Center.

Our 2012 state missions theme is "Bold Hope" and the offering year begins Sept. 1. This year's materials feature eight ministries that give hope to people who desperately need to know the hope we have in Christ.

You can read about these ministries in the "State Missions Special Edition" which will be included as an insert to the Sept. 4 Western Recorder. Use it as a guide to pray for missions in Kentucky. Let the stories inspire your giving to the Eliza Broadus Offering. For more information, visit www.KyWMU.org/EBO.

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

EBO at Work



Joy Bolton

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter

TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE



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

■ **BRODHEAD**—Brodhead Church will host Rockcastle Association's senior-adult revival Aug. 27-29 with **Gene Williams** as evangelist. **Ralph Baker** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Saloma Church will celebrate its 61st anniversary with homecoming services Aug. 26. A potluck meal and concert by the **Crossroads Quartet** will follow the morning worship service. **John Chowning** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—New Hope Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 26, 10 a.m., with **Gary Taylor**, pastor of Olive Branch Church in Hanson, as guest speaker and the **Breakin' Ground Quartet** providing special music.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a "Magnificent Monday" service Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m., with **Josh Howerton**, pastor of The Bridge Church in Spring Hill, Tenn., as guest speaker and **Adam and Marie Bishop** as worship leaders. **Hershael York** is pastor.

Crestwood Church will host **Crestwood's Own** in concert Aug. 26, 6 p.m. For more information, call (502) 695-2088. **Michael Hail** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Providence Church will host Boone's Creek Association's fall hymn sing Aug. 27, 7 p.m. **Bill Meece** is pastor.

Salem Church will host Boone's Creek Association's fall hymn sing Aug. 28, 7 p.m. **Jerry Smith** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethel Flock Church recently called **David Watts** as pastor.

Bethlehem Church will hold a community shred event Aug. 25, 9 a.m., with a mobile shredding unit from A-Plus Shredding. **David Hughes** is pastor.

Cloverleaf Church will host **The Melody Boys** in concert Aug. 26, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Deer Park Church ordained **Edgar Paul Harrington** to the gospel ministry Aug. 26. **David Platt** is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will host a "Second Chance Yard Sale" Aug. 24, 4 p.m.; Aug. 25, 7 a.m., to benefit Jefferson Street Baptist Center. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will host a hunters' education course Aug. 23-24, 6:30 p.m.; Aug. 25, 9 a.m., presented by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. Participants must attend all three sessions to complete the course. For more information, call (502) 964-0808. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold

its "Back to School Bash" Aug. 22, 6 p.m. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Marion Church will hold a men's conference Aug. 25, 8:30 a.m., with **Nick Sandefur**, pastor of Edgewood Church in Hopkinsville, as guest speaker. **Mike Jones** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—Bethany Church will hold homecoming services Aug. 26. **Cloys Bruce** is pastor.

■ **MILTON**—Milton Church recently called **Deek Dubberly** as pastor.

■ **MORGANFIELD**—First Church will host wheelchair athlete and popular speaker **Chad Hymas** as guest speaker Aug. 23, 6 p.m. **Tim Leadingham** is pastor.

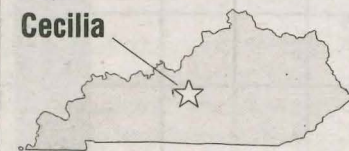
■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Spring Street Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary with revival services Aug. 22-26 with previous pastors **Glen Armstrong, Marion Brewer, Sherman Long, John Ryder** and **Mitch Vader** as evangelists. **John Runyon** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Roundstone Church will hold homecoming services and a note-burning ceremony Aug. 26, 10:30 a.m. **The Huton Family** will provide special music. **Rick Reynolds** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church honored Pastor **Dan Summerlin** on his 10 years of service to the church with a reception Aug. 19.

Spotlight on ...

Cecilia



Franklin Crossroads Church will hold a retirement celebration for Pastor **Ron Davis** Aug. 25, 6 p.m. He is retiring after 26 years with the church.

■ **RICHMOND**—Unity Church will host **The Calvary Heirs** in concert Aug. 25, 6 p.m. For more information, call (859) 624-9464. **Dennis Brewer** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will hold a "One Big Sunday" event Aug. 26 featuring an ice cream sundae fellowship time. **French Harmon** is pastor.

Immanuel Church will host Pulaski Association's "Salt and Light" workshop for missions leaders Aug. 28, 6:30 p.m., with **Jon Auten** and **Wanda Walker** from Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union as guest speakers. **Danny Pace** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a potluck picnic lunch Aug. 26, noon, to welcome new and returning University of the Cumberland's students to campus. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

Longtime S.C. editor Roberts dies

Greenville, S.C.—John Roberts, the longest-serving editor in the history of South Carolina's Baptist Courier newspaper, died Aug. 15, according to the news journal.

Roberts, 85, died following a brief illness. Don Kirkland, his former longtime associate who succeeded him as editor, said Roberts "raised the bar of professionalism significantly higher."

"His professionalism coupled with a love for, and a commitment to, Christian journalism and denominational service deserve highest praise and

appreciation," Kirkland said.

Roberts, a native of Shelby, N.C., graduated from Gardner-Webb College, Furman University and the Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. He joined the Courier staff in 1965 as associate editor and business manager. The following year he succeeded S.H. Jones as editor, and held the job until his retirement in 1996.

Roberts was a member of First Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C.. He is survived by his wife, Helen, six children and eight grandchildren. (ABP)

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

SEEKING: Warren Association of Baptists is accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. All interested persons should submit a resumé to the following address: Warren Association of Baptists, Attn: David Daugherty, chair, 6448 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Resumés also may be sent to David Daugherty, 158 Clearfork Church Spur Road, Rockfield, KY 42274. Email resumés may be sent to amy@warrenassociation.org. Deadline for

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

SEEKING: 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 mvbck@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.

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

SEEKING: Friendship Baptist Church in Oakland, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resumé to: Bobby Williams, 2117 Smiths Grove Scottsville Road, Smiths Grove, KY 42171, or send an email to friendshippastorsearch@gmail.com.

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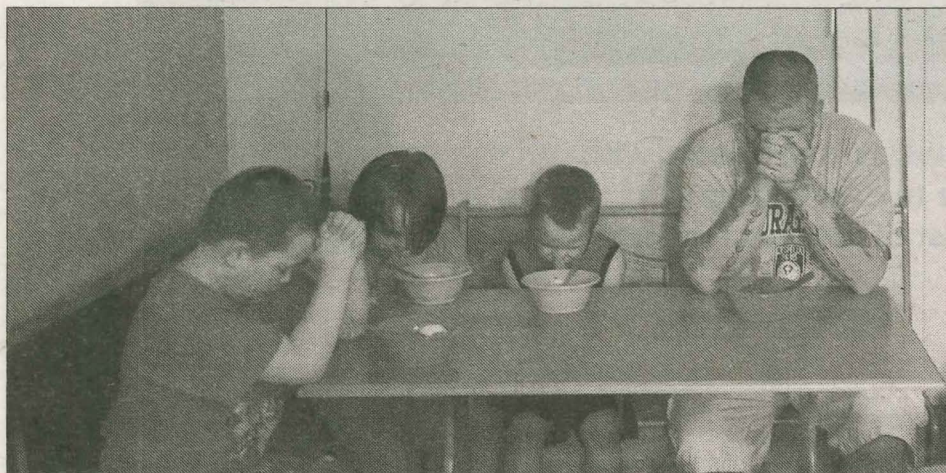
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Consumed by love

Former white supremacist sheds hate, now embraces love of Jesus Christ



FAMILY PRAYER Chris Simpson (right) prays with his children (from left), Cody, Kayleigh and Nikolaus over their ice cream at their home in Jackson, Mich. Though he was raised Methodist, Simpson and his wife, Misty, followed the Norse religion until coming back to Christianity shortly after his decision to leave the white supremacy movement.

By Aaron Aupperlee

Rives Township, Mich.—Two years ago, Chris Simpson led a white pride march.

Six months ago, he abandoned the white supremacy movement.

On April 15, he was baptized.

Five days later, Simpson sat in the waiting room of a skin and vein clinic, waiting to start the long and painful process of having his tattoos, most replete with Nazi or white pride iconography, removed.

"Hate will blind you to so many things. It will stop you from having so many things," Simpson said. "It consumes you."

Simpson, a 38-year-old garbageman and former Marine, said he has given up on hate. It is a decision he made for his family, for his wife, Misty, and his children, 9-year-old Cody, 7-year-old Kayleigh, 5-year-old Nikolaus and the 2-year-old twins, Tyrsson and Aeris.

Even without the tattoos, which sprawl down his arms and up his neck, Simpson's presence can be intimidating. At 6 feet and 245 pounds, he fills out clothing with authority. He does not think his tattoos draw notice, but they are hard to miss.

"PURE HATE," is tattooed across his knuckles. His forearms read "BLOOD" and "HONOR." There are four battle-axes in the shape of a swastika on his left shoulder with the words "Supreme White Power" over them. There are several wolf's hooks, a Nazi symbol. The iconic lightning bolts associated with Nazi Germany's Schutzstaffel, the SS, are above his right wrist. There's a Nazi war bird on his chest. There are tattoos of a Valkyrie, a Viking and Thor with swastikas drawn in his helmet. There are 42 in all, he thinks.

Simpson was a member of Battalion 14, a white-pride group with supporters in Michigan. His involvement in the white pride movement began in a place of pain, frustration, anger and confusion. On April 28, 2000, Chris and Misty Simpson lost their first child, Alexis Nicole.

Born with open spina bifida, a buildup

of fluid in the brain, clubbed feet and no intestines or stomach, Alexis lived only two and a half hours.

Recently married and struggling to scratch out a life in Danville, Va., Alexis' death sent Simpson reeling.

"I was feeling a lot of anger and hatred, and I was confused," Simpson said. "I just built up this hatred, or what I thought was hatred."

Simpson directed that hatred, with the help of a white pride group in his community, at people of other races. He believed that other races were succeeding at the expense of white people. They were driving nice cars, living in nice houses, watching nice televisions while he and Misty struggled.

The white pride movement gave Simpson a place to direct his anger and frustration. He viewed stories in the media through a white versus black lens. Increasingly, he thought whites were becoming targets. He called this a "racial awakening."

In December, fighting within the organization and what seemed like total reliance on the Simpsons to finance the group's activities, caused Chris and Misty to call it quits.

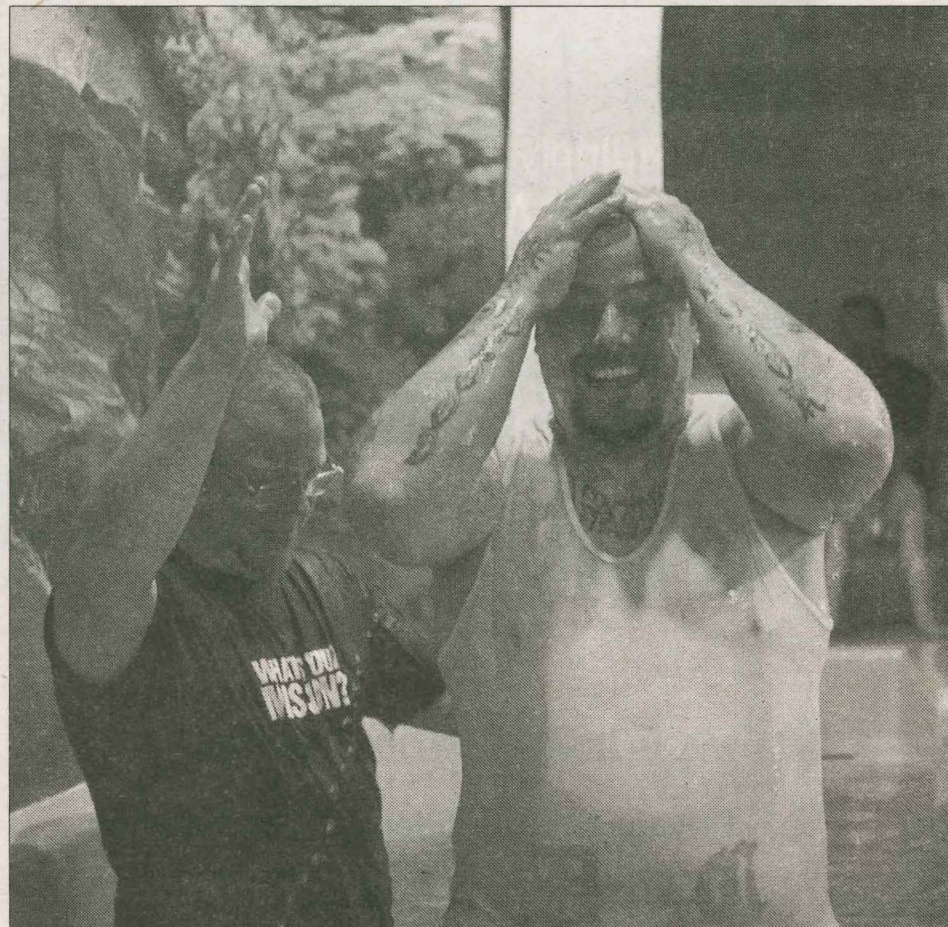
During a shopping trip to Walmart, one of his children looked down an aisle, then up at Simpson and said, "Daddy, you can't go down that aisle. There's a (racial slur) down there."

"It was time to make a change for them," Simpson said of his children. "I don't want them following that path."

In April, Simpson stood in the baptismal pool at New Horizons Community Church in Jackson, Mich. He wore a white tank top and white shorts, tattoos on full display for the congregation.

Pastor Jerry Lyon placed his hand on Simpson.

"God, I know that there are things from his past life that need to be buried. And God, today we enjoy the opportunity. We take glory in that opportunity



RAISED TO NEW LIFE Chris Simpson wipes the water from his face after being baptized by New Horizons Community Church pastor Jerry Lyons back in April, the Nazi tattoos from his old life as a white supremacist on full view to the congregation. (Photos by Sean Proctor/MLive.com)

to bury that old life and to say to you, God, I am a new creation in Jesus Christ," Lyon prayed.

With Simpson holding his nose, Lyon lowered him back into the water. The congregation applauded.

"Any kind of burdens I carried before, I let them go. There's no need to carry

things that happen in the past," Simpson later said. "I forgave all those who have wronged me and asked for forgiveness from those that I have wronged."

Simpson's baptism came about a month after he and his family watched the movie "Courageous," and decided to attend New Horizons. The movie, produced by Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga., follows the lives of four police officers who excel at their jobs but flounder in the task of fatherhood.

Simpson connected with the movie, both out of his desire to be a police officer and his fatherless childhood. His father and stepfather were not part of his life. His grandfather, the man he looked to as a father, died of leukemia when Simpson was 11. It was then that Simpson turned his back on God.

After watching the movie, Simpson noticed the sign out in front of New Horizons inviting people to come watch "Courageous" for free.

Within a month, he was baptized. He attends a Bible study. Prayers start meals and end days. His children, once picking up on Simpson's racism, now model his Christianity.

"When we accepted Christ, it was like this whole house was transformed," Simpson said of his family. "I'm just hoping this rollercoaster ride keeps going up."

Simpson looked around the lobby of the Skin and Vein Center in Fenton, Mich. A busload of people surrounded

him. They were participants in the Freedom Ink Tattoo Removal program, a free service offered by the Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation to help individuals remove prison or gang tattoos. James Phillips, the re-entry service manager who runs the program, invited Simpson to participate.

"This is one of the vehicles that people can use to make changes in their life," Phillips said.

Tough-looking men went into an office and came out only minutes later with large bandages. Phillips told Simpson tattoos hurt more coming off than going on.

Tattoo removal takes years. A single tattoo can take several treatments to disappear.

Simpson wanted Amy Sowers, a nurse with the clinic, to blast off all the tattoos from his arms. When she was done there, he wanted her to start on his stomach, his neck and his legs.

Sowers started on the "H" of "HATE" scrawled across the knuckles of Simpson left hand. About a half-minute seconds later, the first pass was done. The skin instantly swelled up pink.

Simpson said it felt like someone poured acid on his skin.

"I don't care if you're a Marine, that right there will break you," he said.

The disappointment on Simpson's face was obvious. Of the 42 tattoos covering his body, his first treatment targeted four. Once the swelling went down, most of those tattoos came back solid. He took delight in the few missing flecks of ink.

Simpson said he hopes to continue with the tattoo removal. His family still attends New Horizons Church, and his wife, despite a fear of water, was recently baptized. Chris and Misty Simpson started a new group aimed at helping people. It's called RAC, Random Acts of Christ.

"Well, that's a start. This is going to be a long process," he said. "But you know what? It's going to be worth it in the end." (Jackson, Mich., Citizen Patriot/RNS)



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