

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Students and their sponsor from Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo., invite a Tibetan Buddhist monk to an English club they hosted in Kathmandu, Nepal. (IMB photo)

Multiplied efforts

Students help native Kentuckian engage Tibetans with the gospel

By Caroline Anderson

Kathmandu, Nepal—Elderly women walk clockwise around a Tibetan Buddhist temple in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their hands bear sculpted calluses earned from years of rolling prayer beads between their thumbs and index fingers.

Tibetans are known to be resistant to the gospel, International Mission Board representative Tal Bratcher* tells those who work with him.

Before they return home, seven

recent high school graduates will see some of the spiritual calluses soften when they share how God softened hard spots in their own hearts.

The students came from Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo., to help Bratcher and his wife, Janice*, start churches in two Tibetan areas of Kathmandu.

The Bratchers are responsible for planting churches among 10 Tibetan unengaged and unreached people groups in Nepal. Such groups have never heard the gospel, have no one

actively spreading the good news and have no known believers. Many of these people groups in Nepal live tucked away in the Himalayas.

It's a daunting task, and that's why the Bratchers are investing in local believers and short-term teams to help them fulfill the Great Commission among the Tibetans of Nepal.

Though the students had just graduated from high school, the Bratchers had big plans for their venture to Nepal.

□ See *Reaching Tibetans ... Page 6*

Report shows multisite church boom in last decade

By Adelle Banks

Dallas—The number of congregations that host worship services at more than one physical location has grown to more than 5,000 in the last decade, according to a new report.

Researchers say these "multisite" churches, which may share worshippers across town or many miles apart, are growing at a much larger

pace than traditional megachurches.

Without the burden of additional expensive buildings, congregations find they grow faster in new places, said Warren Bird, research director of Leadership Network, who announced the findings Aug. 21.

"It's a combination of both evangelism and saying, 'People may not come to this particular building. How can we take where we are to

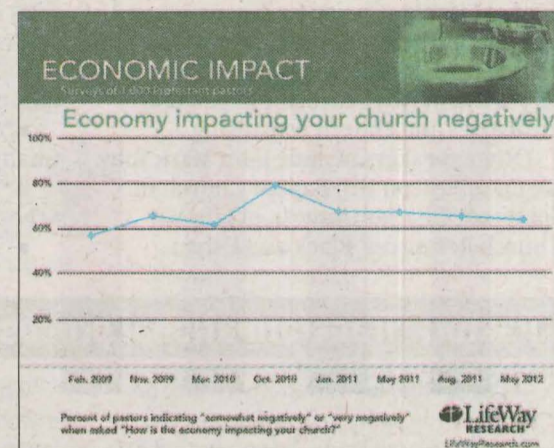
where they are?'" he said.

Bird, the author of books on the multisite trend, has tracked the number of churches meeting in more than one place for his Dallas-based church think tank; he combined his findings with Faith Communities Today surveys.

Multisite churches have grown from fewer than 200 in 2001 to 1,500

□ See *Multisite churches ... Page 2*

Survey: Churches still feeling effects of sluggish economy



By Carol Pipes

Nashville, Tenn.—Pastors say the economy continues to have a negative impact on their churches despite stabilized giving, according to a survey by LifeWay Research.

When asked, "How is the economy impacting your church?," nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of pastors answered negatively, with 56 percent indicating somewhat negatively and 8 percent very negatively. A quarter of the pastors surveyed said the economy has had "no impact" on their churches, while 9 percent indicated a positive impact on their congregations.

"Pastor views on the economy are similar to many economic outlook surveys," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "We weren't surprised the current perspective of economic impact on churches is predominantly negative."

However, there is some good news. The survey found that while the sluggish economic recovery has translated into flat or reduced giving for many churches, the trend of fewer churches reporting declines in giving has continued.

It also found:

■ 23 percent of churches had lower giving in 2010 than 2009.

■ 19 percent of churches had lower giving in 2011 than in 2010.

■ Through May 2012 giving for 15 percent of churches has been below 2011.

Similarly, fewer churches are failing to meet budget expectations. Through May 2011, giving for 27 percent of churches was below budget. At the same time in 2012, only 22 percent of churches reported giving below budget—a 5 percent decrease from the prior year.

The trend seems to indicate a stabilization of giving rather than widespread increases in giving. Through May 2011, 36 percent of churches saw giving the same as 2010. And through May 2012, 40 percent of churches saw giving the same as 2011.

□ See *Church economy ... Page 3*



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Summit to highlight church 'transformation'

Campbellsville—Bringing new energy to the local church is the focus of Campbellsville University's Transformational Church Summit Sept. 27-28.

"We need transformation," said John Chowning, CU's vice president for church and external relations. "We need renewal. We need a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in our congregations and among our people, and we believe this conference can help."

The event begins Thursday at 1 p.m., EDT. Speakers include Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay Christian Resources; and former Kentucky Baptist Convention evangelism team leader Dan Garland, who now serves as LifeWay's director of pastoral ministries and church consulting.

Other speakers include John Mark Toby, pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset; Charles Grant Jr. of LifeWay Church Resources' Black and Urban

Church Partnerships Division; Shane Garison, assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville University; and Rusty Ellison, pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood has urged Kentucky Baptists to attend.

"I believe it falls right in line with the Kentucky Revival Convention," he said. The presenters are a "great lineup of speakers who have decades of experience in investing themselves in revitalization ministries in the local church."

Breakout session titles include:

- "Transformational Church for Predominately African-American Churches"
- "Culture Eats Strategies: Incremental Change in a Local Church"
- "Transformational Church for Sunday School"
- "Transformational Church 101"

■ "How to Use the TCAT (Transformational Church Assessment Tool)"

"The Transformational Church Conference at Campbellsville University will provide tools to help (leaders) know how church members would respond to statements in the Transformational Church Assessment Tool," Garland said.

LifeWay's TCAT helps churches assess the health of a congregation, celebrate areas of strength, and address areas of concern. The tool goes beyond the usual indicators of church health, focusing on areas that will help church members better understand how to become a transformational church.

Some of the statements found in the TCAT include:

- "A sense of anticipation and expectancy surrounds our worship services."
 - "Our church members often bring friends with them to our worship services."
 - "Our church regularly starts new small groups."
 - "Serving is considered normal behavior at our church."
 - "Our members are comfortable sharing their faith with unbelievers."
 - "Our church leadership has given us a clear direction for the future."
 - "Our congregation knows the vision of our church."
 - "Seeing people praying together is a normal sight at our church."
 - "Our church depends on prayer for its effectiveness."
 - "Our church has a clearly defined discipleship process for moving a person from salvation to spiritual growth to significant ministry."
 - "There is a culture of inviting at our church, where people are constantly invited by others to get connected on a deeper level."
- The fee for the summit is \$40 per person. Registration is underway at www.Campbellsville.edu/Summit.
- The summit is sponsored by Campbellsville University, KBC and LifeWay Christian Resources. (CU/KBC)



Thom Rainer

Ky. Baptists urged to 'Catch the Vision' in St. Louis

St. Louis—Kentucky Baptists interested in sharing the gospel through starting new churches in St. Louis are encouraged to take a "vision tour" Sept. 27-28.

Participants will hear from several church planters in the St. Louis metro area, and meet people in some of the communities that lack an evangelical presence.

Mission leaders say St. Louis is a mission field that is close by but very different from Kentucky. In the 60-mile radius from downtown St. Louis, there is only one church per 7,500 people. In Kentucky, the ratio is one church per 1,600 people.

Through "Send St. Louis," the North American Mission Board is encouraging Southern Baptists to partner with pastors, church planters and other believers in St. Louis to start new churches so everyone in the 15-county area has an opportunity to hear the gospel.

In addition to church planting, Kentucky Baptists are partnering with St. Louis Metro Baptist Association in a variety of ministries to strengthen existing churches in dozens of urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods and communities.

Those who are interested in participating in the "Catch the Vision Tour" are asked to make hotel reservations by Aug. 28 at the St. Louis Drury Inn, located on South 20th Street. The hotel lobby will be the starting point of the tour on Thursday at 1:30 p.m., local time.

Contact the Drury Inn at (314) 231-3900 and reference "Catch the Vision" to receive the group rate.

For additional information about the upcoming Catch the Vision Tour, send an email to August Gate Church at lynette@augustgate.com.

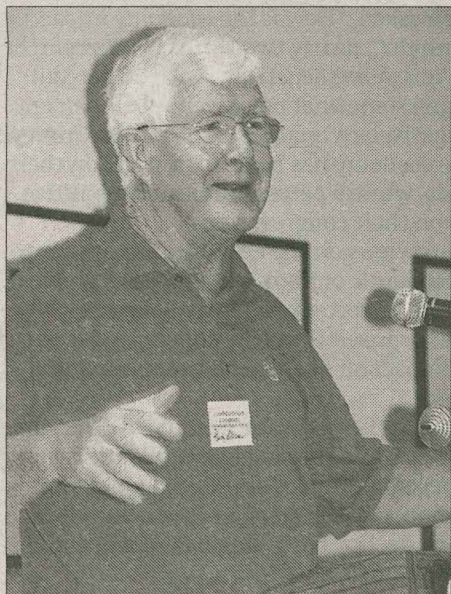
Find out more about NAMB's Send St. Louis church planting initiative at www.NAMB.net/StLouis. (KBC)

Pastor: 'Transformational process' changes churches

Campbellsville—When Rusty Ellison was serving as interim pastor of the church he now leads, he conducted an Exodus.

The pastor of Walnut Street Baptist Church in Louisville asked all members age 40 and older to leave the service and those under 40 to stay.

About 20 people remained.



Rusty Ellison

The service was recorded and when it was presented later, Ellison challenged the congregation, saying, "This is the church in 10 years if we don't pour out and make difficult changes."

"So many congregations are filled with the 'greatest generation,'" Ellison said. "Most churches are sustained by older adults, who are (dying) every day."

The transformational church has "brought a fresh sense of hope to Walnut Street," he said.

Several aspects and approaches to church revitalization will be the focus of Campbellsville University's Transformational Church Summit, Sept. 27-28, at the Ransdell Chapel. Ellison is among the speakers.

Among the sessions is an overview of LifeWay Christian Resources' Transformational Church Assessment Tool, which helps congregations celebrate areas of strength and address areas of concern.

Such assessments can bring "a fresh sense of vision and hope for the congregation," Ellison said.

"God cannot be through with our churches," he added. "We need to figure out how to bring vitality to our Kentucky churches." (CU/KBC)

Multisite churches

Continued from page 1

in 2006 to an estimated 3,000 in 2009 to more than 5,000 today. In comparison, U.S. megachurches have grown from about 50 in 1970 to about 1,650 in 2012 in all of North America.

Congregational diversity

Multisite comes in all kinds of models: Some congregations speak different languages at different locations; some hear from different "campus pastors" on site, and others are preached to by a senior pastor who speaks live or via video.

"The more campuses you have, the more likely you are to use video teaching," Bird explained.

Sergio De La Mora, senior pastor of Cornerstone Church in San Diego,

preaches five times every Sunday on its main campus in National City, Calif., with one service in Spanish and another translated into Japanese. After morning service, he hops in his car and drives to the La Jolla campus for a 5 p.m. service before returning to National City for its last service at 6:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, videos of his 8:30 a.m. sermon are played in satellite campuses in Escondido, Calif., and across the border in Tijuana and Mexico City. A campus pastor runs the service at a location in Tucson, Ariz.

So, is one of the disadvantages of multiple sites an exhausted pastor?

"You got to remember we're born to do this," said De La Mora, comparing his leadership of his "franchised" church to an Apple store manager who works from opening until 10 p.m. "This is the new generation of preachers. People are in

transit so they want options when they come to church."

In all, his nondenominational evangelical church is attended by about 6,500 people.

"Our philosophy is I do the speaking but my campus pastor, with his leaders, they do the reaching into the community," De La Mora said.

At Community Christian Church in the Chicago area, Pastor Dave Ferguson has taken a different approach with its dozen sites. "I can only be at one location at a time," he said.

Each week he gathers in a room with a team of campus pastors to develop a "big idea" into a sermon. A video featuring one of them is created, but the pastors can choose whether to speak from the original manuscript, a version of it they edited, or show the video.

In the end, the general message

reaches about 10,000 people worshipping at sites that include a community center, a college theater, reopened churches and office parks.

While the vast majority of multisite churches are on the other side of town or at least in the same region, there are exceptions. The Bridge Community Church, a congregation based in rural Indiana, has campuses in Anderson, Decatur and Muncie but also has one in Bihar, India.

Bird said churches that total at least 500 people tend to be the ones that start a second campus, but smaller churches also have created additional sites.

"It was the megachurches that pioneered it and because megachurches tend to be ones people glean ideas from, pretty soon churches said, 'Why couldn't we do that? You don't have to be really big to do that,'" Bird said. (RNS)

CU star wrestler nurtures campus nature revival

By Chris Megginson

Campbellsville—As a freshman in 2008, Campbellsville University's Spencer Adams was looking for a place where he could momentarily escape the college life and find peace and quiet. He desired to be in nature, away from campus, but settled for a shaded storm drain at the corner of North Columbia Avenue and University Drive.

Today, that space is known as CU's Log Cabin Park, developed over the past year by Adams' student-based organization, Green Minds.

Green Minds was created to help clean up Taylor County and Campbellsville and promote environment-conscious thinking among CU students. Adams, a three-time NAIA All-American wrestler from Marion, Ohio, developed his vision as a student in Richie Kessler's freshman environment and man class.

"When Spencer first came to me with this idea, it was a pencil drawing on a piece of paper. He was tired of hearing of all of the environmental problems out there," Kessler said.

"We all get tired of hearing people complain. Here was an instance where somebody was not complaining but actually working to build consensus and do something to make things better. I was all for that from the beginning."

With Kessler's advice, Adams worked to build the organization from the bottom up as a student movement. Recruiting the help of his fellow wrestlers and other environmental science students, Adams was determined to start the process of awareness on campus.

"I wanted other students to get in there and have a place where they can make their impact on campus. I wanted to establish that base for everyone else," said Adams, who graduated last May with a degree in environmental science.

In the past year, Adams worked with Green Minds, Kessler and Rob Roberts, CU's director of grounds and landscape development, to transform that edge of campus into a likeness of a small park with a cedar-log gazebo and bridge.



THINKING GREEN Campbellsville University graduate Spencer Adams (left) talks with students during the school's annual Earth Day ceremony on campus. (Photo by Joan McKinney/CU)

"There was a lot of harassment and persistence," joked Roberts of Adams' passion. "He's had great ideas, and everyone loved them. We started with the gazebo, planting and bridge, and now the ball's rolling."

After planting more than 60 species of native plants, three wildflower beds, 20 or so different shrubs and trees and multiple ferns, the park has become home to numerous types of birds, who frequent the park.

"It's been completely transformed from what it was," Adams said. "It's like you're not even on campus, but out at some far-away cabin."

"This is the only place on campus you can hear all of the birds. You don't

(usually) get that in the middle of a city," he added.

This summer, Adams passed the Green Minds torch to fellow wrestler Derek Alsip. The senior from Cincinnati took over the organization with the plan of giving international students an opportunity to plant a vegetable garden on the land. He also has plans for hiking trips this fall and fundraiser opportunities by building benches out of cedar logs. The organization already has sold many of them to pay for additional plants at the park.

"I don't think you could have done this at any other university," Alsip said. "The university provided us this opportunity." (CU)

Most Americans keep faith private online

Washington—A new survey finds that Americans, while mostly religious, generally do not use social media to supplement worship and mostly keep their faith private online.

The Public Religion Research Institute survey found about one in 20 Americans followed a religious leader on Twitter or Facebook. A similar number belonged to

a religious or spiritual Facebook group.

PRRI Research Director Daniel Cox said churches face many challenges in connecting with people via social media. Megachurches may reach a large audience through, but the majority of Americans attend smaller houses of worship that lack the resources to run social media campaigns, Cox said (RNS)

Church economy

Continued from page 1

"Many people refer to the 'new normal' of tighter consumer spending, but it appears there has been no adjustment in economic expectations," McConnell said. "Pastors and Americans in general are still disappointed when they experience a lack of consistent or increasing growth."

According to the survey, a larger percentage of pastors serving in large cities and the suburbs (72 percent in both areas) cited a negative impact on their churches from the economy in 2012 than those serving in small cities (63 percent) and rural areas (61 percent).

Also, a higher percentage of pastors in the West (71 percent) said the current state of the economy was having a negative impact on their churches compared to churches in the Northeast, South and Midwest (all at 63 percent). (LW/BP)

Staff, strategy changes ahead for Tennessee Baptists

Brentwood, Tenn.—The Tennessee Baptist Convention Executive Board will eliminate up to 16 full- and part-time staff positions over the next several months.

TBC Executive Director Randy Davis announced the changes during a recent staff meeting at the Baptist Center in Brentwood, Tenn.

The changes "are not driven by the economy," Davis emphasized, though "we are certainly sensitive to the impact of a down economy." Rather, the changes are "driven by strategy to move us forward in accomplishing a clear objective: To assist the local church in winning the lost of Tennessee to Christ."

The staff cuts will free up nearly \$1 million once the process is completed, Davis told the Baptist and Reflector newspaper, noting that the changes "will allow more of our resources to be pushed to the harvest fields."

Reversing a half-century-long decline

in the number of people reached and baptized in Tennessee must become a reality in the state, Davis said.

"Seeing more people reached with the gospel, baptized and becoming fully devoted followers of Christ through healthy and empowered churches is the target. That is our clear direction," he emphasized.

Davis described the staff reduction not as "downsizing" but instead "right-sizing our ministry."

The TBC leader said that realigning the convention's financial, personnel and structural resources will facilitate:

- Intentionally assisting churches with a harvest field-focused initiative.

- Taking another step toward seeing the 50/50 distribution of Cooperative Program funding become a reality for the convention, as well as national and international Baptist outreach.

- Enhancing communications.

U. Cumberlands opens northern Ky. satellite campus

Florence—Starting with the fall semester, University of the Cumberlands now has a satellite campus in northern Kentucky.

The new branch, located in Florence, will host three programs: the clinical psychology Ph.D., the master's degree in physician assistant studies, and the Lifelong Learning program.

Students in the Ph.D. program will meet in classes on site for a one-year residency and then complete their clinical rotations in clinics and hospitals in the northern Kentucky and Cincinnati areas. Students in the P.A. program also will do part of their clinical rotations in northern Kentucky and Cincinnati. Cumberlands plans to have approval to offer classes at the Florence campus for that program by next year.

UC initially required a satellite campus to supply more clinical rotation opportunities for students in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program.

"There are not mental hospitals around here (in Williamsburg) that we can use," said Larry Cockrum, UC's vice president of academic affairs. "We looked in Lexington and Louisville, ... and in going through the scope of it, we found more facilities in the Cincinnati and northern Kentucky area."

The university also is looking to admit twice as many students into its P.A. program within the next few years, Cockrum said.

"If we double the size of the P.A. program, we won't have enough clinical rotations in this area to handle it," Cockrum said. "Our plan is to open the northern Kentucky branch and send part of the students up there for their clinical rotations. ... There is a need for physicians' assistants. The field is really growing, and we can help meet that need."

The northern Kentucky branch also will host the Lifelong Learning program, a degree-completion program for working adults. (UC)

- Eliminating unneeded and unwise duplication of ministries.

- Accelerating a much-needed emphasis on serving ethnic and African-American ministries.

- Giving greater help in serving and reaching impoverished and underserved children and families.

- Prioritizing TBC work around sending churches, starting churches and strengthening and supporting churches.

Wearing the "hat of the executive director" made him look at the staff positions strategically, Davis said, but "having the heart of the pastor" helps him see beyond the position. He emphasized that "each one of our team members will be treated with the utmost respect and fairness."

He told the staff, "I see the person. I see you and I know this hurts all of us on a personal level." (Tennessee Baptist & Reflector/BP)

Worthy of celebration

I was privileged recently to join Pastor Thomas Webb and Buck Creek Baptist Church for their bicentennial celebration. Buck Creek originated as a

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

plant from Beaver Dam Baptist Church and made its mother church a grandmother eight times over during its first century in existence. In addition to planting churches, Buck Creek was instrumental in the founding of Daviess-McLean Baptist Association.

Although 200 years old, Buck Creek still is reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. A renewed commitment to church planting also is evident at Buck Creek.

According to the church history printed for the bicentennial celebration, more than 100 years had passed since Buck Creek planted a church. That drought, however, recently has come to an end. In partnership with the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Buck Creek currently is sponsoring the plant of Life Community Church in Owensboro, under the leadership of Kenny Rager as planter.

Pastor Webb shared with me that Buck Creek is committed to starting other churches in the future. My prayer is that other established churches will follow the lead of Buck Creek and congregations like her who are committed to reproducing themselves for the sake of the gospel.

In other news worthy of celebration, I just received a wrap-up report from summer camps at Crossings Ministries. Once again, the bar was raised with record-setting numbers.

According to Crossings president, David Melber, salvation decisions at camp totaled 702; another 744 students indicated they were hearing God's call to ministry. In a tangible response to the challenge they received to share Christ with the world, campers gave an offering from their snack money totaling more than \$100,000.

Since Crossings is funded in part through Cooperative Program giving, every KBC church can celebrate the opportunity to be a part of such impactful ministry. Life Community Church in Owensboro also is a recipient of funds from the Kentucky Baptist Convention, meaning every KBC church can celebrate being a partner and supporter of this new plant.

The results of churches partnering together to reach Kentucky for Christ are visible all across the state. The Kentucky Baptist Convention: created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Transformed disciples essential to transformational churches

It comes as no surprise: Most people struggle with sharing their faith. According to a recent study by LifeWay Research, only 25 percent have shared their faith once or twice during the past six months, and 14 percent say they have shared it three or more times. Sharing our faith is one of eight attributes of a spiritually maturing disciple identified by a survey of more than 2,900 Protestant adults. The research is the basis of an insightful new book, "Transformational Discipleship: How people really grow" by three LifeWay leaders—Eric Geiger, Michael Kelly and Philip Nation.

Geiger, you may recall, is coauthor of "Simple Church," which challenges church leaders to develop a process for discipleship, and in "Transformational Discipleship," he and the others make a sobering diagnosis: "There is a discipleship deficiency in most churches resulting in a lack of transformation." In short, "we have a transformation problem." But, they also uncovered what kind of discipleship is truly transformational, and they identified some attributes that consistently characterize maturing believers: Bible engagement, obeying God and denying self, serving God and others, sharing Christ, exercising faith, seeking God, building relationships and being unashamed.

"Discipleship apart from Jesus may be many things, but it is not transformational," they maintain. "It may bring changes, but it essentially leaves you in the same spiritual state as it found you," they explain. "The discipleship may provide education, improve behavior, increase happiness, add value, or make the disciple more skilled at a craft. But these are just changes." The objective, instead, is finding what they call "the transformational sweet spot," where hearts can be transformed by the Spirit of God. "Aim for Christ-centered discipleship that brings about true transformation," they urge.

There's a subtle danger, however: drifting. "The word 'drifting' sounds so innocuous as if there is no danger at all. But the subtle beginning can lead to a long journey in the wrong direction," they assert. Nation illustrates this danger

by telling about his kids slowly drifting down the coastline as they swam. I can easily relate after my family's recent trip to Myrtle Beach. Some of you know that my wife, Michelle, has been quite ill for several months. So, she was content to sit comfortably in a chair under a big umbrella, reading a good book. At first, my children and I tried to stay fairly close while playing in the ocean, allowing ourselves to be carried

by the current only a little piece before making our way back. As time passed, though, we began to tire and drifted more and more, not paying as close attention to keeping her in sight. "It was the subtle thought of, 'Does it really matter that I stay this close?'" Nation assesses. "When it comes to the faith, the answer is a loud, bold, earthshaking YES!" he states, adding that it often connotes a change in our

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



heart.

In September, Campbellsville University will host a "Transformational Church Summit" (see page 2). Keynoting this important event for revitalizing churches will be Thom Rainer, president of LifeWay, who teamed up with Ed Stetzer to write "Transformational Church." Based on another research project on church health, Rainer and Stetzer offer a message of hope to church leaders. In the introduction to "Transformational Discipleship," which is a follow-up to "Transformational Church," Rainer writes: "The church is alive and well, and certain tendencies mark congregations that have a profound, transformational impact. Among the conclusions from the project was this simple but powerful one: God shapes congregations through the shaping of individual lives."

Recently, I was handed a nametag on which the word "faculty" was misspelled "faculty." I thought, "There's no 'i' in 'faculty.' Education is a team effort." It is a bit of a cliché, but you will note there is an 'i' in "disciple." That is an essential element: the Holy Spirit does the transforming, but I must willingly yield my heart through Bible study, prayer, worship, exercising faith and serving others to be used by God for His glory. That's how we really grow as disciples.

Praying for revival, 'fresh move' of God among our families

"Prayer invites God into the equation." So states Mark Batterson in his book, "The Circle Maker."

As we pray during this 40/40 Prayer Vigil, we are factoring God into the equation by praying for a fresh move of His Spirit among our families, communities and churches. We are not asking God for a revival of morality, virtue or even common sense. We desperately need His intervention in the spiritual condition of our land. Our nation is in crisis, and as followers of Christ, we are called to be vigilant in prayer.

God instituted the family before the church or the nation—it is the basic unit of society. As families go, so goes a nation. In light of that truth, it is no wonder Christians are alarmed. If we look at the statistics and we see that divorce, substance abuse, sexual promiscuity and all other

societal ills have had a devastating effect on the family, Christian or not.

While we pray for the upcoming election specifically, we must remember that godly leaders usually are those who come from devout families, nurtured by parents who honor the Lord and intentionally train their children to pursue God's will.

I recently reviewed a study I did a few years ago on women in church history. I was struck by how most of these women, by far, did not come to Christ as adults, but rather as children and were nurtured in the faith at an early age. Through the teaching and guidance of

their parents, they developed a social conscience and determined desire to serve God unconditionally. This is the pattern we see in Scripture—parents integrating biblical principles and truths into their daily lives and families.

FIRST PERSON



Susie Hawkins

Clearly, the influence of godly parents is not just "taught, but caught." What happened in the homes did not stay in the homes, but was generously lived out by such women and shared with a lost world.

In light of this, it is crucial that we fervently pray for the spiritual vitality of our families. The theological and moral commitments of our future leaders are being cultivated now. The home is the laboratory of life, where all members should be seeking to live out an authentic Christianity every single day. This is inviting God into the equation.

Let us pray for an outpouring of God's spirit within our families, that we might be salt and light in our world and witnesses to the power of the gospel. (BP)

Susie Hawkins is an author, Bible study teacher and speaker who lives in Dallas. This piece is part of a series being published in anticipation of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal, Sept. 26 to Nov. 4. To learn more, visit www.4040Prayer.com.

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Are we prepared to reach the 'globals'?

By Stephen Wilson

In the last few years, pundits have come to recognize a sub-category of young 20- and early 30-somethings called the "globals" generation. These young Americans have developed some characteristics that are relatively new to American culture and society. If Southern Baptists hope to impact this group of young adults, we should know something about them.

According to pollster John Zogby in, "The Way We'll Be: The Zogby Report on the Transformation of the American Dream," and Sam Sander's report, "Globals' Generation Focuses on Experience," globals share a number of common attributes:

- A largely secular worldview, but one open to some aspects of cultural beliefs from around the world.

- Two-thirds of this generation possess current passports, and one-fourth of them aspire to live abroad.

- On social, spiritual, cultural and economic issues, they possess an international rather than a distinctly American perspective.

- They are more diverse in terms of race and ethnicity than previous generations.

- Their personal networks, whether face to face or online, include people from all over the world.

- They see the world at large as being "instantly accessible" through travel or the Internet.

- Many globals have a different perspective on the "American dream" and do not necessarily aspire to accumulating homes, cars and material success.

- They put less emphasis on marriage and family than their parents.

- Many globals view "experiences" as more important than any other category of goals.

- They value a greater degree of "openness" and "transparency" in their private and public dealings with other people than did previous generations.

- Globals see themselves as "global citizens" with a responsibility to the world community at-large superseding their responsibilities to more local institutions and constituencies.

Although many globals are not ready to jettison traditional ideas of marriage, family and even American

citizenship, these values are less important to them. Needless to say, most young people identified as part of this cohort do not share a Christian worldview, and in fact, Zogby refers to them as "secular spiritualists." Globals seek to address the social and spiritual problems of their day from a global worldview that owes little to a distinctly American and/or Christian perspective.

So, how can the Christian community at large and Southern Baptists in particular hope to reach this generation for Christ? Admittedly, older American Christians have few connections to the culture and society of this cohort. We are not as well traveled. We are considerably more homogeneous in terms of race and ethnicity.

The outlook of older American Christians is set firmly in the cultural perspective of the U.S., and we look to a 2,000-year-old faith tradition to guide us. Therefore, we are sometimes apprehensive of some aspects of their global secular worldview—as they are concerning our perspectives. The recognition of the vast chasm between our respective worldviews is the beginning of the hope to bridge it.

Nevertheless, globals' cultural milieu offers plenty of hope for Christians to evangelize and influence this generation. In spite of the secularism that pervades their culture, they share with the Christian tradition a number of characteristics, including a suspicion of materialism, the desire to create a diverse society and community irrespective of race and ethnicity, a global concern for humanity and a "service ethos" to reach humankind as a means to address global human concerns.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, Christians can reach this generation for Christ. Conversely, we must first submit to our own spiritual discipline and educate ourselves about this very different generation. Christ has called us to a global mission—the Great Commission. The Great Commission always conveyed the expectation that we were reaching out to generations of separate people groups all over the globe. Our challenge this time is unique, for we now are witnessing to a single emerging "global generation." (BP)

Stephen Wilson is a dean emeritus and department chair of history at Mid-Continent University in Mayfield.

COMMENTARY

When forgiving isn't easy

By Scott Wigginton

Q: How do I forgive my spouse when he has hurt me deeply, and I keep being reminded of what he has done at every turn?



A: Perhaps one of the greatest misconceptions about forgiveness is that it is a once-and-for-all decision. It is easy for others to say things like, "get over it," "move on" or "stop living in the past." While this may seem like sage advice, the truth is that forgive-

ness is both a decision that may occur in a moment, as well as a process that unfolds as we continue to make daily decisions to release our hurt and the need to see others as our debtors.

In her book, "How to Forgive ... When You Don't Feel Like It," June Hunt suggests four stages in the process of forgiveness:

Stage one: Face the offense. In this stage we must acknowledge the gravity of the offense and the pain and hurt it created. In John 8:32, Jesus says to His followers, "You will know the truth and the truth will set you free." Perhaps the title of an old book casts some light on this statement, "The Truth Will Set You Free, but First It Will Make You Miserable."

Stage two: Feel the offense. Hunt writes, "Without feeling, there can be no healing." Keeping feelings buried is not spiritual or wise; those land mines will not be disarmed through denial. They must be detonated or defused in a safe place.

Stage three: Forgive the offender. Here we must remember that forgiveness is not a feeling, but an act of the will. It is a decision based on a discovery; we discover that we are in need of forgiveness as well.

Stage four: Find oneness. As persons in need of divine forgiveness, we must realize that we are more like the persons who have offended us than we are different. This means that in most, not all, cases we seek reconciliation.

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

Advancing the kingdom through KBF

By Laurie Valentine

Using the Kentucky Baptist Foundation to accomplish your legacy giving objectives can benefit both you and the Baptist causes you wish to support.

KBF receives and administers legacy gifts for the support of all Kentucky and Southern Baptist causes.

As a "member of the family," the Foundation has a special appreciation and affection for the mission and ministry of the causes supported through your gifts. This connection assures you, the giver, that the Foundation has each cause's best interests in mind as it manages the gifts made for that cause's benefit.

Many donors want to provide support to more than one cause and realize that dividing their gifts may result in lower total support. A single trust or endowment fund can be set up with KBF to provide support to multiple Baptist causes. This can result in more consistent levels of support for all—each cause will have the benefit of the same level of competent investment management oversight services and the economies of centralized fund management.

Designating the Kentucky Baptist Foundation as the manager of your gift assures the causes you want to support are left to do what they were called to do—missions, Christian education, child care, evangelism, disaster relief, etc. You relieve their boards and staffs of the responsibility of investment research, analysis, decision making, transacting and reporting, and place those responsibilities with the organization whose mission is to provide competent, prudent financial management for the causes selected by its donors. Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



Gleaning spiritual lessons from London Olympics

By Tim Ellsworth

As the world turned its attention on the Olympics, London 2012 provided a number of memorable images that will endure for years. The blinding speed of Usain Bolt. The triumphant smile of Gabby Douglas. A stadium of 80,000 British fans cheering madly for Mo Farrah and Jessica Ennis.

Oscar Pistorius blazing past on his prosthetic blades. Allyson Felix winning gold in the 200 meters. And Michael Phelps, the winningest Olympian ever, saying farewell. These are the scenes that captured the heart of the world. Here in the U.S., the London Olympics became the second most-watched television event in history, behind only the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

But there's more to the Olympics than what is seen on TV. Behind the scenes, hundreds of faithful Christians traveled to London to labor in anonymity, telling people without hope about the hope found in Christ.

"We're here in London to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, to proclaim to all the people that come here from all the nations that there's one Savior of sinners, and there's no other name under heaven given among men by which they

must be saved—the name of Jesus," said Bobby McCreery, an evangelist from Georgia.

McCreery was part of a team ministering with Sports Fan Outreach International. They read the Bible and preached openly in places like Trafalgar Square and Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park.

While McCreery was preaching, a woman named Ann walked up. "How can I be born again?" she asked McCreery.

"We were able to share the law and the gospel with her, and the excellencies of Christ," McCreery said. "She was crying. What an amazing God we serve."

In addition to volunteers sharing the gospel on the London streets, many Olympic athletes themselves used the opportunities they were given to talk about how the Lord had worked in their lives.

"God has been so good to me," Felix said after winning gold in the women's 4x400 relay. "I couldn't do anything without Him."

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

U.S. diver David Boudia—who won bronze in the 10-meter

synchronized diving event and gold in the individual 10-meter platform—talked about the way his church family had encouraged him throughout the Olympics.

The Olympic experience stirs something within us, something that longs for the unity, peace and camaraderie the games embody. We gather around our TVs each night to watch the competition together.

As my friend, Owen Strachan, wrote on Twitter, "The Olympics really do accomplish what they set out to do: they unite. You feel like part of the world watching them."

I think he's right. But ultimately, the Olympics are a shadow that points to something far greater.

We yearn to live in a world free from the corruption, violence and chaos that so often characterize our lives. For those who are in Christ, that day is coming—a day when people from all the nations will gather as one, freed from the sin that has so thoroughly mangled our lives. We will gather, not to participate in athletic competitions that display the best of human achievement, but to proclaim the excellencies of the One who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light. (BP)

Tim Ellsworth is the editor of BP Sports and director of news and media relations at Union University in Jackson, Tenn.

FIRST PERSON

Tibetan believers experience God in their hearts' melody

By Caroline Anderson

Kathmandu, Nepal—The Tibetan men and women begin to weep as the believer's hands slide over the guitar strings. It's their hearts' melody—put to music in their own language.

The gospel came alive to these believers when they realized God speaks to them in their language and culture, said James, one of 12 leaders in the Tibetan church among the Lhomi people group.

"When we sing the song in our own context and own style, people start to cry in our church," he said. "They found the message of God in their own melody."

Today between 250 and 300 believers worship among the Lohmi people group in Nepal. The International Mission Board's Global Research reports a total Lhomi population of nearly 5,000.

The Lhomi believers love to worship, and their worship is an expression of the freedom they've found in Christ from dreams and demons. When they worship, it paints a picture of their rich cultural heritage.

James recalled when the gospel came alive for him.

His mother had an illness everyone attributed to demons, and he was possessed with a fear of demons. But when he and his family believed in Christ, they learned Jesus was stronger than demons. His fear evaporated and his mother was healed. Today, he expresses his freedom in Christ in his music.

"The Lord gave me the heart to create the song," said James, a singer, songwriter and worship leader who has composed between 60 and 70 hymns.



BEAUTIFUL MUSIC James plays a Tibetan worship song he wrote in the Lhomi language—the first praise and worship song for believers among the people group. (IMB photos)

The gospel came to the Lhomi people through Finnish Bible translators. Portions of the Lhomi Bible first were printed in 1976. As the Lhomi became believers, some like James began writing music in their own context.

James studied ethnomusicology at a university in Thailand. He has produced several CDs and his music already has been translated into Dzongkha, one of the languages in Bhutan, and Managi, the language of another Tibetan people group in Nepal.

Lhomi culture, language and worship are very different from that of the surrounding Nepalese culture. Tibetan

music is based on the pentatonic scale, meaning they use only five notes per octave instead of the standard seven.

The Lhomi and other Tibetan people groups have tried to worship in Nepali, but they say it doesn't feel authentic.

Worse, many "just (become) really confused because they don't know the melody," James said. "They come from the mountainside and they never try to sing the Nepali song."

Non-Christians enjoy the Christian music, too, James said, "because we borrow the tune from the southern culture and language. Melody is very important in our culture."

Because most Lhomi have heard the gospel, Lhomi believers are planting churches among other Tibetan people groups, partnering closely with IMB representatives and Tal and Janice Bratcher* and Kendrick and Jewel Deckard*.

The Bratchers and Deckards came to Nepal to see the gospel saturate the other 25 Tibetan people groups as it has the Lhomi.

"God has done something amazing in the Lhomi people. They are really an anomaly among the Tibetan Buddhist peoples in the Himalayas," Bratcher said.

"We're trying to tap into the Lhomi people and encourage them, to mobilize them to go and reach culturally similar groups in different areas in the Himalayas," he said.

U.S. churches also play a role in reaching the Himalayas with the gospel. Several churches partner with the Bratchers, Deckards and the Lhomi to reach Tibetan people groups who have yet to hear the gospel. Some churches have adopted people groups and committed to see the gospel penetrate hidden villages.

Many times, James and other Lhomi believers travel with short-term teams from churches in the United States. The teams and Lhomi believers work to each others' strengths to make sure the gospel reaches all.

Short-term teams draw an audience and cultivate an interest in the message that James and other Lhomi believers bring. When Americans come and want to hear about their lives, it creates an opportunity for Lhomi believers to share their faith. (IMB/BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

Reaching Tibetans

Continued from page 1

"Really try not to put God in a box and feel like He won't be able to use you because you're young or because you don't have any missions experience or don't know the language," Bratcher told the students during their orientation.

Their ministry time centered on English clubs, scheduled times where anyone could come practice English for free. Tibetan and Nepalese children learn English in school but rarely have the opportunity to practice.

Concord Baptist students spent time prayerwalking through neighborhoods and trying to start conversations. Everyone the students met received an invitation to come practice English for an hour at a local coffee shop.

One-on-one discipleship

This allowed the students to meet one on one with Tibetans and build relationships in order to share the gospel. In the afternoons, they hosted sports camps and shared the gospel there.

"By having the team here and sharing the gospel in the English clubs, it's helped tremendously because it's multiplied my own efforts," Bratcher said.

Bratcher said he plans to continue with one-on-one discipleship with the contacts the team made. It's the reason Bratcher is in Nepal today.

Before he found Jesus, Bratcher also had spiritual calluses. The former high school football player was "a hooligan,"

the Kentucky native said. If he hadn't become a believer, Bratcher said he's sure he'd "either be dead or in jail."

Kevin Hall, Bratcher's former youth group leader, trained him as a disciple. Now Hall ministers to students at Concord Baptist Church, and he led the team's trip to Kathmandu.

Bratcher is using the same model Hall used, life-on-life discipleship. Bratcher has been discipling Lobsang Sherpa*, a believer from the Dhokpya Tibetan people group, one of the 10 groups Bratcher is trying to reach. Lobsang is the only believer in his people group.

"I see his (Hall's) influence in my life overflowing into Lobsang, in that his methods weren't really orthodox," Bratcher said. "We spent a lot of late nights together, going to these really greasy diners and praying over the word together, having accountability times."

Bratcher said Hall saw potential in him that he didn't see. It was the same with Lobsang.

"As we've looked in the word together and seen God's heart in the Scripture and in the gospel for him, saving Lobsang for a purpose—and that's not for Lobsang's happiness or his mere joy—but God has called Lobsang out of his people group as the first believer, to be that light to his people and see more of them into the kingdom," Bratcher said.

Lobsang came alongside the Concord team, translating and acting as a cross-cultural guide for the students.

Just as Hall disciplined Bratcher and, now, Bratcher is discipling Lobsang, Hall is investing in a new generation of



CONVERSATIONS Anna Bommel of Concord Baptist Church in Jefferson City, Mo., talks with a Tibetan Buddhist monk during an English club outreach in Kathmandu, Nepal. Bommel was one of seven students to travel to the Asian country to work alongside International Mission Board missionary Tal Bratcher.

students at Concord Baptist and instilling a vision for reaching the lost.

Five of the seven students have expressed a calling to serve overseas. The trip was an opportunity for the students to see what life abroad is like. One of them is Hall's daughter.

"My whole life, I've been fighting a call," Kalee Hall said. "That's what pastors' kids do."

God used a summer camp her dad led to change her heart.

Kalee, now a freshman at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., had the opportunity to talk with a Tibetan girl during an English club. The girls bonded quickly. Both are 18 and have three younger sisters.

Kalee told her how God would take her sins away and the consequences of not believing. "I'm saying this because I care about you," Kalee told her new

friend. Soon, both girls were in tears.

"I can't go against my family," the girl said when Kalee gave an invitation to become a Christian.

Though her new friend left without accepting Christ, Kalee still prays God will work in her life and continue to soften the calluses on her heart.

Now Kalee is able to say, "Wherever you want me to go, God."

After graduating from college, she said she plans to move overseas and teach English as a second language.

Though many spiritual calluses remained at the end of the week, Laura Smith, an adult leader with the Concord team, shared the gospel with a young Tibetan man who accepted the message. Bratcher is following up with him and said he hopes to begin the discipleship process. (IMB/BP)

*Names changed for security reasons

Mountain Outreach celebrates 30 years of service, 141 homes built

Williamsburg—University of the Cumberland's Mountain Outreach ministry celebrated its 30th year serving south-eastern Kentucky and marked the occasion by constructing three new homes this summer. The student run ministry has provided a total of 141 homes for impoverished Appalachian families since 1982.

Amy Roberts, a recent graduate of UC who worked with summer team, said she has been involved with MO since the spring of her freshman year.

"We're not just building houses we're meeting a physical need in order to witness to these people," Roberts said. "I like meeting the families because they really are a greater blessing to us than anything we give to them."

In addition to the three houses MO constructed, Roberts and other volunteers also assembled dozens of wheelchair ramps, repaired several roofs and porches as well as equipped homes with working septic systems.

Although MO is associated with the University, no student funding goes toward supplies for the ministry. Financial assistance comes from thousands of donors, including local business and national corporation.

A few years ago, MO was presented with a \$1 million endowment. Some of the earnings from the endowment have been used to buy land for construction. Interest on the endowment is used each year to help construct the homes.

For the average homebuyer, the homes that MO construct would sell for around \$100,000, but MO provides these



Hand up—Students are the driving force behind the University of the Cumberland's Mountain Outreach ministry. During the past 30 years, they have built more than 140 homes for impoverished Appalachian families.

homes at a fraction of the cost with no interest and no down payment. MO also provides home recipients with basic needs such as a stove and refrigerator and with the nice extras such as a washer and dryer.

Ministry is born

As the story goes, said Christopher Leskiw, associate professor of political science, two students developed a friendship with an elderly Appalachian man

after helping him repair the roof of his tarpaper house.

"They would go to our local hardware store and get pallets and rip them apart and find all kinds of scrap wood to help this man repair his house. He heated his home with this little wood burning stove, and these two students chopped him a whole bunch of wood, wished him well, and went home for the Christmas holidays," Leskiw said.

However, when they returned to visit

after the winter break, they found the man sleeping under his mattress and suffering from hypothermia.

"They took the man to the hospital where he later passed away," Leskiw said. "His death captured the attention of the community."

Thereafter, Dr. Jim Taylor, president of UC (formerly Cumberland College), set up Mountain Outreach as a non-profit student run ministry.

"Focusing on these families can really make a great impact. These people have never had their own home. Some of the conditions you see them living in just break your heart. The recipients often treat their new homes like a palace when it finally becomes theirs. It's really special to not only give them keys to a house, but it's a home where relationships have been established between the homeowners and the workers as well as the neighbors. It's more about building community than building houses, really."

Although the students and volunteers involved in MO learn practical skills that they can use later, even in constructing their own homes, the focus of the organization lies on the aid and compassion that it provides.

"It's hard not to focus on the work because there's a lot of it," Leskiw said, "But that's not why these kids volunteer. It brings a lot of satisfaction but again that's just part of the picture. The other part is building the kingdom and just expressing God's love through nailing a nail. It's pretty incredible that a ministry can do that." (UC)

Do you have a student going away to college? Contact the Local Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM)

Alice Lloyd College
Matt Stewart, Part-Time
606-634-2311
www.alcbcm.com

Ashland CC
Jason Davis, Volunteer
606-836-5111

Big Sandy CTC
Norm Marcum, Part-Time
606-424-3876

Campbellsville University
Ed Pavy
270-789-5227

Centre College
Lori Akers, Volunteer
859-329-1708

Eastern KY University
Jeff Prosser
859-623-3294

Elizabethtown CTC
Michael Coogle, Volunteer
270-765-4023

Hopkinsville CC
Chuck Poe, Volunteer
270-985-3072

KY State University
Brian Hinton, Interim
502-597-6480

Morehead State University
Gene Parr
606-784-4490
www.facebook.com/moreheadbcm

Murray State University
Mark Whitt
270-753-5771
www.AtTheB.com

Northern KY University
Brian Combs, PhD
859-572-5955
www.nkubcm.org

Oneida Baptist Institute
Clark Bunch
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Owensboro Area Schools
(Brescia, HCC, KWC, MCC, OCTC)
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270-925-4779
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Kay Hammonds, Part-time
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Somerset CC
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University of the Cumberland
Dean Whitaker
606-539-4343
www.ucumberland.edu/bcm

University of KY
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859-257-3989
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www.uoflbcm.com

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'Feel good' mail

Letters from alumni recalling their time at Oneida most welcome kind

I get a lot of mail. Some of it still comes through the Post Office; some comes through inter-office memos. Today, a lot of it comes through my computer. Some of it is "junk mail" or "spam." Some is very business oriented, dealing with finances and materials. Some of what I read is from people who are interested in serving Christ as part of the OBI ministry team or who are interested in having a teenage member of their family become an Oneida student. These letters make me happy.

One kind of mail I especially like to get is the mail that tells me that OBI has made a positive difference in someone's life. For me, that is "feel good" mail. I recently received this "feel good" email and want to share it with you.

"My fiancé, Walter, is a former student at OBI. He attended there almost 20 years ago and has nothing but fond memories. ... He has really special memories of Dr. and Mrs. Underwood, whom he credits with helping him become the responsible, successful adult that he is today.

"Walter had a rough start at OBI. He was sent there due to a poor family situation at home, and I have no doubt that he was quite a challenge. However, by the time his senior year arrived, Walt was making good grades and had a complete attitude change. He feels that his successes there are, without a doubt, the result of your dedicated teaching and administrative staff.

"He did not graduate from OBI due to circumstances at home, and he had to leave very quickly without much chance to say goodbye or thank you.

Eventually, Walt went on to serve in the Army for eight years and he currently works in Iraq as a private contractor for the U.S. government.

"Walter will be on leave soon, and we are planning a trip to Kentucky to see family and his two children. The reason

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

I am writing you this email is because we would like your permission to visit the school. Walt would like to once again visit the place that has given him so many fond memories, and he would like his two girls, both in junior high, to see the school as well. We would be visiting on a Tuesday. I am aware that the school year will be well underway at this point and we do not wish to disrupt any part of the school day. Is it possible for us to stop by?

"Also, I read that Dr. Underwood has retired. Since it seems that Walt will be unable to thank him in person for all that he did so many years ago, is it possible to get a mailing address or even an email where Walt could send correspondence?"

I have replied to this email and, Lord willing, this family will be coming to visit us—and hopefully the Underwoods—soon. It will be a kind of personal homecoming. Almost any day can be "homecoming" at OBI if someone wants it to be.

OBI alumni, make my day a "feel good" day; let me hear from you. It not only makes me feel good, it reminds me, our ministry team members and the friends of OBI of the importance of what we're doing today. To quote Charles Dickens' Tiny Tim: "God, bless us, every one."

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

Faculty appointments

Two Clear Creek faculty members named endowed chair instructors

As I write this article we are making final preparations for a chapel service to recognize two faculty members who have received prestigious appointments to two of our endowed chairs of instruction. Bill Helton has been appointed to the Leroy A. Peterson Chair of Homiletics, and John Ditty has been appointed to the Robert O. Fitts Chair of Old Testament.

The Leroy A. Peterson Chair of Homiletics supports the college's mission by training those preparing for ministry to preach. The chair is named for former professor Peterson, who graduated from Clear Creek in 1948. He retired in 1991 after 29 years as a faculty member.

The Robert O. Fitts Chair of Old Testament helps provide a quality, Bible-based education. It is named for former professor Fitts, who taught at Clear Creek from 1963-86.

Both Peterson and Fitts had long, distinguished terms of service at Clear Creek. They committed their lives to equipping those called by God to serve.

While they both have gone on to be with the Lord now, their legacies remain strong among Clear Creek alumni and Kentucky Baptists. I still have conversations with alumni about the influence these scholars had. These endowed

chairs are evidence of those legacies as the funds were raised to endow these chairs not long after their retirements.

Drs. Helton and Ditty continue the legacy of outstanding scholars at Clear Creek who have committed their lives to equipping those called of God to serve. Both men studied under Fitts and Peterson themselves. For them to be appointed to these chairs is a high honor.

You can be proud, Kentucky Baptists, of the quality of faculty you have here at Clear Creek. Drs. Helton and Ditty are products of your support for the college. We could not employ the quality faculty and staff that we have if not for your support of this ministry. Thanks for all you do for us.

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

When Missions Shapes the Mission: You and Your Church Can Reach the World

Author: David Horner

Publisher: Broadman and Holman Publishing, 2011, 261 pages

List Price: \$14.99, paperback

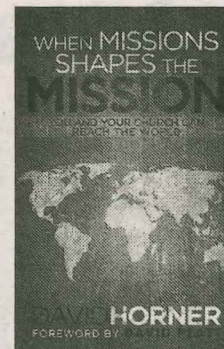
★★★★☆

Reviewed by Scott Pittman

"Why are more churches not engaged in a more practical and substantial way in taking the gospel to the nations?"

This question, posed in the opening line of the book, is the impetus behind the content that follows. By the author's estimation, the status of missions in the majority of churches today is unacceptable. Therefore, he challenges church leaders to stop "neglecting missions" and subsequently provides useful tools to help churches become "a missions-focused congregation led by a missions-minded pastor looking to honor a mission-hearted Savior."

The introduction seeks to define missions and discuss how one's definition of missions impacts its actual practice. The first section, "Where We Are," offers reasons why missions does not receive the consideration it deserves in churches. This section is of particular interest to Southern Baptists, offering an analysis that demonstrates that even in a traditionally missions-focused denomination like the Southern Baptist Convention, a very small fraction of resources are dedicated to international missions. Given the author's tone, the section,



"Where We Want to Be," would be better titled, "Where We Should Be." Chapter five seems a misplaced continuation of the previous section's discussion of factors limiting the growth of missions. It does provide, however, a contrast to the higher standards set by the biblical review and a synopsis of the nine "common denominators" found in successful past missions models.

Section three, "How to Get There," is the most helpful section, presenting "best practices" gleaned from churches with effective missions efforts. Churches can implement these to establish and perpetuate a vision for missions within their congregations, formulate a strategy for developing that vision, and eventually sustain the missions endeavor. The concluding section is an excellent guide for examining an individual's response to God's call.

This book is recommended for church leaders looking for inspiration and direction for their missions ministries, no matter their current status. It would make an excellent group study or function as a guide for pastors and missions committees. Most importantly, it could provide the spark needed to ignite the dormant missions flame in the hearts of pastors and parishioners alike.

Scott Pittman is the Acts 1:8 partnership consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Book Reviews

Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church

Author: Reggie McNeal

Publisher: Jossey-Bass, 2011, 184 pages

List Price: \$24.95, hardcover

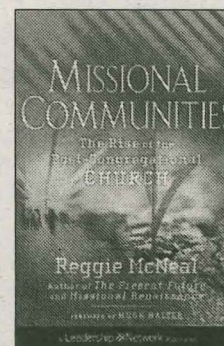
★★★★★

Reviewed by Chris Platt

Reggie McNeal has been a leading voice in the missional church conversation for the past decade. His books, "The Present Future" and "Missional Renaissance," have awakened many of us to the reality that we have entered the post-congregational era of Christianity. This is not to say that the congregational church expression is doomed. It is to say that now is the time to champion missional community expressions to address the changes we are facing.

In "Missional Communities," McNeal defines a missional community as "the people of God partnering with him in his redemptive mission in the world." The strength of the book is in how the author downloads stories of missional communities in a variety of settings.

As someone who serves at a church in a suburb, I resonated with the idea of having a network of missional communities that are part of the larger, gathered church. Others reading this resource may be intrigued by how this approach works on a college campus or in a city through a megachurch model.



Every church leader will find a story that connects with his or her story.

Each story introduces the rhythms, activities, leadership considerations and scorecard for that particular missional community. Studying these examples can benefit church planting and evangelism strategies as well as spiritual formation and community transformation initiatives. Since McNeal is a master on the issue of changing the scorecard for the church, reading "Missional Renaissance" alongside "Missional Communities" would be helpful because it incorporates practical metrics churches must consider if they are going to be effective in today's culture.

"Missional Communities" is a must-read for pastors, denominational leaders and directors of missions. At the local-church level, for example, a pastor and staff can read the book together and let it be a discussion starter for imagining how their church can creatively engage the community for Christ. The ministry team may not agree with every facet offered by the book, yet they will find plenty of insights that can be implemented.

Chris Platt is missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church.

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Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- 1 Rouen repository
- 5 Douglas, for one
- 8 Father of Gaal (Judges 9:26)
- 12 Zest
- 13 Act or process (suffix)
- 14 "If a man ____ me, he will keep my words" (John 14:23)
- 15 City in western Germany
- 16 "Peter... ____ unto the sepulchre" (Luke 24:12)
- 17 Paradise
- 18 "There shall not be found among you ... a charmer ... or a ____" (Deuteronomy 18:10-11)
- 21 Lend an ____
- 22 Witticism
- 23 Maximum
- 26 "Trust in the Lord ... and verily thou shalt be ____" (Psalm 37:3)
- 27 "A brother offended is harder to be ____ than a strong city" (Proverbs 18:19)
- 30 He was (Lat.)
- 31 ____ pottage (dish served in Genesis 25)
- 32 "And Judah and Israel dwelt safely ... under his ____" (1 Kings 4:25)
- 33 Paving material
- 34 "A golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the ____ of the robe" (Exodus 28:34)
- 35 With fewer impurities
- 36 Son of Noah (var., Luke 3)
- 37 Wrongdoing
- 38 "He found them ten times better than all the ____" (Daniel 1:20)
- 43 On a cruise
- 44 Mini ____
- 45 Pester
- 47 "God sent him forth from the garden ... to ____ the ground" (Genesis 3:23)
- 48 Work unit
- 49 Server's advantage, in tennis
- 50 Unbelievable, as a story
- 51 Dentist's degree (abbr.)
- 52 Two nonconsecutive notes on the diatonic scale

Down

- 1 Community consumer org.
- 2 Elvis' middle name
- 3 Number of holes on a par-three course, usually
- 4 "Lest he be wise in his own ____" (Proverbs 26:5)
- 5 Hubbub
- 6 Last duke from the line of Esau (Genesis 36)
- 7 Appointed another appellation

- 8 "And I will bring forth a seed ... and mine ____ shall inherit it" (Isaiah 65:9)
- 9 Augur
- 10 At any time
- 11 Where thieves dwell?
- 19 Tattle, with "on"
- 20 Where Cain dwelt (Genesis 4)
- 23 Rent out
- 24 Masculine name
- 25 Spoil
- 26 Not masc.
- 27 "I count all things but loss ... that I may ____ Christ" (Philippians 3:8)
- 28 "When we are absent ____ from another" (Genesis 31:49)
- 29 Father of Abner (2 Samuel 3:23)
- 31 Separated
- 32 "Come thou hither ... and dip thy morsel in the ____" (Ruth 2:14)
- 34 "Walk about Zion, and go round about ____" (Psalm 48:12)
- 35 "They sewed ____ leaves together" (Genesis 3:7)
- 36 Hesitate
- 37 "Thou shalt compass me about with ____ of deliverance" (Psalm 32:7)
- 38 Continent
- 39 Mimic a merchant
- 40 Ingredient definitely not found in low-fat recipes
- 41 Sat high in the saddle
- 42 "For Paul had determined to ____ by Ephesus" (Acts 20:16)
- 43 Corporate giant (abbr.)
- 46 Genetic material

Last puzzle's solution

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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57					58				59			
I	R	M	A		Y	E	T		E	R	M	A

Saying farewell

Longtime Crossings staffer begins new season of ministry in Haiti

Life sometimes is painful, and today is no exception. Since 2001, I have had the privilege of serving with and knowing Scott Bidwell. He started with Crossings as a summer staffer and came on to our staff full time in 2004. Scott has been many things to me—friend, hunting buddy, co-worker and, honestly, my right hand in this ministry for the last several years.

The Melber family has been blessed to see him get married, start a family and grow into an incredible follower of Christ. He and his wife, Monica, have been instrumental in the spiritual growth of our kids and, honestly, just a huge part of our life as Melbers.

Today the Bidwells said farewell as they head to Haiti to serve as missionaries. They will continue to be connected to us as co-laborers for Christ as our Haiti partnership continues, but he won't just be down the hall at our office.

Emotions today range from great joy to, honestly, a gut-level pain as I have thought of Scott as a son, and I simply just could not be more proud of the

man he has become. Their witness to me and to our staff has been incredible as in less than eight months they responded obediently to God's call for them to go by selling all they have to follow Him.

The Lord certainly is the source of all that has taken place with Cedarmore and Jonathan Creek. We have experienced consistent growth year after year. God chooses to use people to display Himself to the world, and our circumstances are no exception. I can say without any reservation that Crossings would not be where it is today had God not placed Scott here.

I will miss them tremendously, I am thankful to continue our work together as God now has him stationed in Haiti. Countless lives have been impacted by him through his faithful service to the Lord with Crossings. God bless them as they continue to be a blessing to others. I am greatly blessed that God brought us together so many years ago, and I look forward to this new chapter in ministry together.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

Life-changing camp experience

Sunrise children have opportunity to hear from God at church camp

School starts for most students this month, marking the end of another summer. Fortunately, summer included a week of church camp for more than three dozen children served by Sunrise Children's Services, thanks to a generous donation from the Huston Foundation.

Church camp can be a life-changing experience for a young person as they're away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life that can be filled with not-so-positive messages from television, movies, music, friends, etc. For one week, a young person can be shielded from negative influences and allowed to listen for the voice of God while also making new friends and enjoying fun, uplifting activities.

This was the case with a young girl named Mary, a Sunrise client who enjoyed such a week this summer. She wrote the following short note thanking the Huston Foundation for the opportunity:

"I am truly grateful for your

sponsorship which permitted me to attend church camp. I had so much fun there. It was truly wonderful. In my time at church camp, I met a lot of great people that I would have never met without your help. I also experienced God coming into my life. Thank you for helping change my life."

Changing lives is what Sunrise is all about, and Mary is just one of thousands of children we serve each year. Through your continued support of Sunrise, you are partnering in the effort to make a real, positive difference in the children's lives each and every day.

Sunrise not only strives to provide for the physical, emotional and educational well-being of children who have suffered from abuse and neglect, but we also are dedicated to serving the child's spiritual needs. While spiritual encouragement cannot be made compulsory, it's offered with respect to our faith-based heritage that dates back to our founding in 1869.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

Your church newsletter

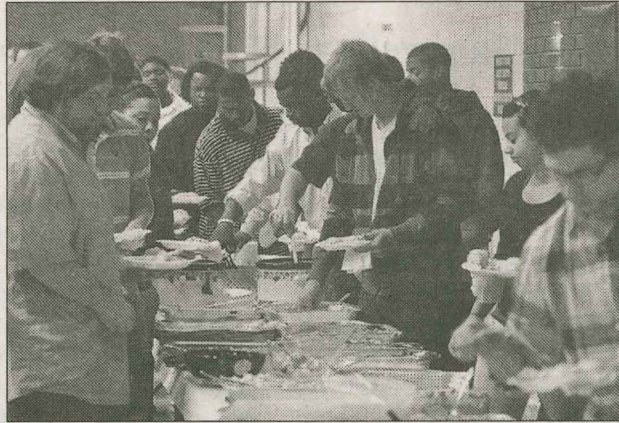
Mailed to every church family for about the price of a postcard! For more information, call (866) 489-3535.





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.



CHOW LINE
Campbellsville University student-athletes and members of the marching band fix their plates at the potluck breakfast for the recent "Maroon and White Day" at Campbellsville Baptist Church. (Photos by Chris Megginson)

FOOD TO GO

Terri Cassel hands out to-go boxes to members of the volleyball team during "Maroon and White Day" at Campbellsville Baptist Church. Students were encouraged to take some food with them back to their dorms.



CU students welcomed back with breakfast

Campbellsville—After a grueling first week of practices, Campbellsville University student-athletes were able to take a break Aug. 19 and worship with nearby Campbellsville Baptist Church.

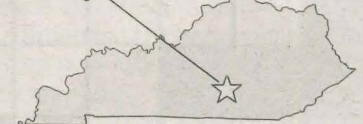
Students on the school's fall sports teams and the marching band were invited to the church for a worship service and a complimentary breakfast. It was the sixth year for the event, known as

"Maroon and White Day."

"We want the athletes to feel like they have a home away from home here in Campbellsville," said Justin McDonald, activities pastor at the church. "We just want to make them feel loved, especially those who have never been away from home before."

Spotlight on ...

Nancy



Cedar Point Church will hold a reception Sept. 2, 2 p.m., to honor Pastor Lester Caldwell on his 50 years as a pastor.

Association's fall hymn sing Aug. 30, 7 p.m. Todd Wiley is pastor.

■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will host **Sons of the Father** in concert Sept. 2, 10:45 a.m. For more information, call (270) 726-2468. Buddy Crabtree is pastor.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will host **Squire Parsons** in concert Aug. 31, 7 p.m. For more information, call (606) 528-6650.

Chad Fugitt is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Bethlehem Church and Greasy Creek Church recently hosted a community worship event at Green County Middle School with actresses **Donna Douglas** and **Lulu Roman** as guest speakers. **Gary Ervin** is pastor of Bethlehem Church; **Roger Robertson** is pastor of Greasy Creek Church.

■ **HIGHLAND HEIGHTS**—First Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 2, 10 a.m., with an open house and worship service, followed by a meal. **Mark Webb** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village Church will host Boone's Creek

Event to kick off 'Shoebox Season'

Walton—The 2012 Operation Christmas Child "Shoebox Season" will kick off in northern Kentucky Sept. 1 with an event at First Baptist Church of Walton.

At the kick-off event, Hasty Martin of Walton will share about her recent journey to Uganda to distribute shoeboxes.

Northern Kentucky churches, civic groups and schools collected nearly 15,000 gift shoeboxes in 2011. The goal for 2012 is to collect 16,776 boxes.

A second event Sept. 7, 7 p.m., will feature a "full-circle story" from Timur Nesbitt, who will speaking at Oak Ridge Baptist Church in Covington.

Nesbitt once was a recipient of a shoebox as a child living in Central Asia. He now works for Samaritan's Purse, the evangelical organization that oversees the shoebox ministry.

Operation Christmas Child, the world's largest Christmas project of its kind, is a year-round project of Samaritan's Purse. Participants fill shoe boxes with school supplies, toys, toiletries and other needed items, along with letters of encouragement for impoverished children worldwide. More than 8.6 million gift boxes were collected through Operation Christmas Child last year.

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.

NEEDED: Double Springs Baptist Church in Lincoln County is looking for a used, late model 15-passenger church van. Call the church office at (606) 379-2145.

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: Warren Association of Baptists is accepting resumés for the position of director of missions. All interested persons should submit a resumé to the following address: Warren Association of Baptists, Attn: David Daugherty, chair, 6448 Scottsville Road, Bowling Green, KY 42104. Resumés also may be sent to David Daugherty, 158 Clearfork Church Spur Road, Rockfield, KY 42274. Email resumés may be sent to amy@warrenassociation.org. Deadline for resumés is Sept. 1.

SEEKING: 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 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.

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 by email at friendship-pastorsearch@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for The Potter's House Baptist Worship Center in Smithland, Ky., a member of Ohio River Baptist Association of Southern Baptists. Send resumé to 881 Cutoff Road, Smithland, KY 42081. Resumés will be accepted through Sept. 16. www.potters-housebc.org.

SEEKING: Cedar Creek Baptist Church is looking for a full-time associate pastor for adult family ministries and administration. Qualified candidates should possess a master's degree from a Baptist seminary. The job description and requirements can be viewed at www.cedarcreekbaptist.com. Apply by sending a resumé and cover letter to Cedar Creek Baptist Church, 7709 Bardstown Road, Louisville, KY 40291, or electronically to cedarcreekbc@gmail.com no later than Sept. 15.

To place an advertisement:

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'Iron Men'

Bivocational pastors do 'double duty' to impact world for Christ

By Joe Conway

Richfield, Pa.—Pusey Losch begins each day in God's word. Like many men who make a living with their hands, he seeks spiritual preparation for both the physical and mental challenges of his day.

Losch is a painting contractor, starting his business 32 years ago after seeing an opportunity while laboring as a carpenter in rural Pennsylvania.

"I started building houses to make a living," he said. "I did that until I figured out I could make a better living with a bucket of paint than a stack of 2x4s."

While some working men eschew Facebook, Losch checks it regularly. He isn't worried about his own status—he's checking on his flock.

Losch is one of the many bivocational pastors serving congregations across the Southern Baptist and Canadian National Baptist conventions. According to data in the Annual Church Profile report, some 8,000 pastors and associate pastors are bivocational. Even more ministers serve bivocationally as student pastors, worship leaders and in other roles.

Losch joins men like adjunct professor Martinez Andrews and engineer Carlos Soca who work more than 40-hour weeks at their day jobs, give spiritual leadership to their churches and remain engaged in the lives of their families.

A new phrase, "Iron Men of the SBC," coined by Tim Dowdy, describes these men. The expression came to Georgia pastor after attending a triathlon.

"A couple of days later I was in a meeting at NAMB discussing bivocational pastors," said Dowdy, immediate past trustee chairman of the North American Mission Board. "Then it hit me. I thought, 'Most of them don't swim, bike and run, but they are the iron men of the SBC.' They hold down full-time jobs, pastor churches and take care of their families."

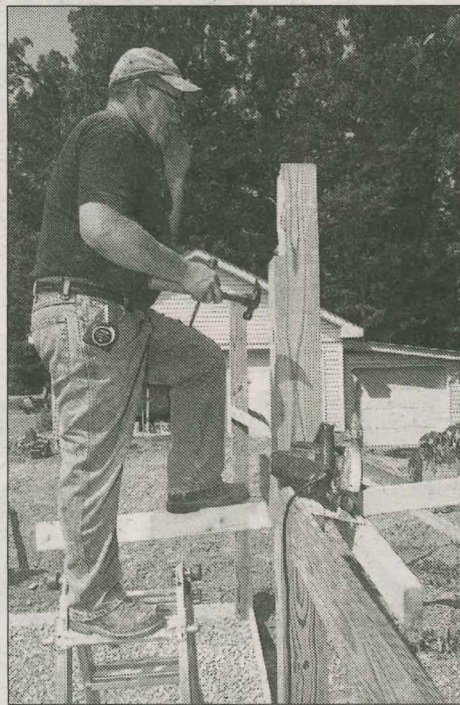
To raise awareness for the need to help bivocational pastors, Dowdy will participate in his first full triathlon in Panama City, Fla., in November.

"There are 345 million people in North America, and conservatively 70 to 80 percent still need to come to faith in Christ," Dowdy pointed out. "We need bivocational pastors leading churches. In some urban and rural settings, there may never be a base that can support a full-time pastor."

Losch, Andrews and Soca may be in the minority in the SBC, but it is a large one. Only 63 percent of Southern Baptist congregations are led by full-time pastors, according to Southern Baptist Directory Services.

"We believe the only way for us to have a true church planting movement is to garnish the efforts of bivocational pastors and to train our young people that they, too, can be bivocational," NAMB president Kevin Ezell said.

Ezell recently announced a partnership between NAMB and Union University in Jackson, Tenn., to offer a 33-hour,



A BIVOCATIONAL LIFE ■ **Left:** Mountain View Community Church bivocational pastor Pusey Losch pauses from his construction of a pole barn to take a phone call, an occupational hazard. Losch, a painting contractor, supplements his income with carpentry when paint jobs are scarce. ■ **Right:** Losch visits with members of his Richfield, Pa., church prior to services. Bivocational pastors face challenges to meet vocational, ministry and family demands. (Photos by Ken Touchton/NAMB)

online master's degree in theology. NAMB will support the effort with "Iron Men of the SBC" scholarships. NAMB honored bivocational pastors with a luncheon at the recent Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans and featured a bivocational pastor in its convention report.

A day in the life of the average bivocational pastor is anything but typical.

"Sermon preparation is probably the toughest," Losch said. "I've been told how I'm supposed to do it, and then there is reality. When you work all day, come home and then are up until 1 a.m. counseling someone with serious issues, and you have to be up the next morning for work, sometimes sermon preparation takes a hit. I'll admit it. I've written one or two on my way walking to the pulpit."

Finding family time is daunting, too. Andrews, the father of four sons, ages 2-13, was hit recently with the sudden need to find a new worship location for his church plant, Connect Church in Decatur, Ga.

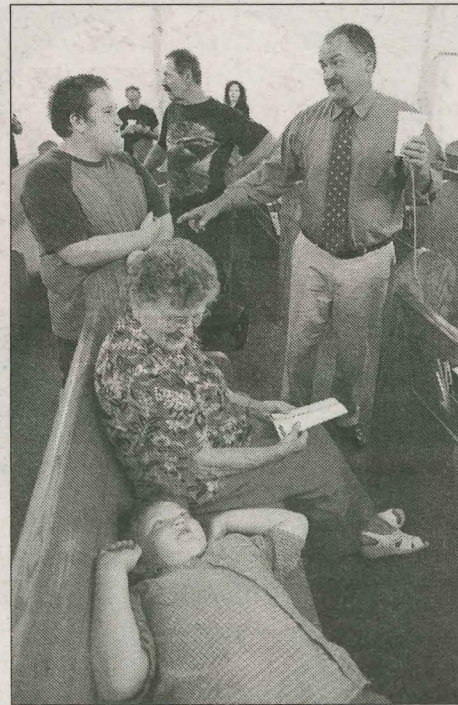
"I was, of course, concerned about the move," Andrews said. "As I was preparing my sermon, God made it clear to me I should focus on my sons, not where the church would meet."

He sensed the Lord prodding him, "Don't worry about the location. Be with your boys. You let me take care of where the church will meet."

Andrews spends 40-50 hours per week in lesson preparation and classroom lectures at Carver College and Belhaven University, both in Atlanta.

Although the calling can be challenging, bivocational pastors have support in the form of The Bivocational and Small Church Leadership Network.

"The BSCLN is the champion of the



in at services is important.

"Recently I was told I was needed the next week in Mexico for a presentation," Soca said. "There is no way to make services when you're out of the country. Thankfully we've developed men who can lead."

"The balance of a professional career, a growing family, and the demands of leading in a congregation are challenging," he added. "What do you put your energy and your time in to?"

Recognizing those challenges, NAMB supports pastors through individuals like George Garner, who leads Bivocational and Rural Missional Strategies.

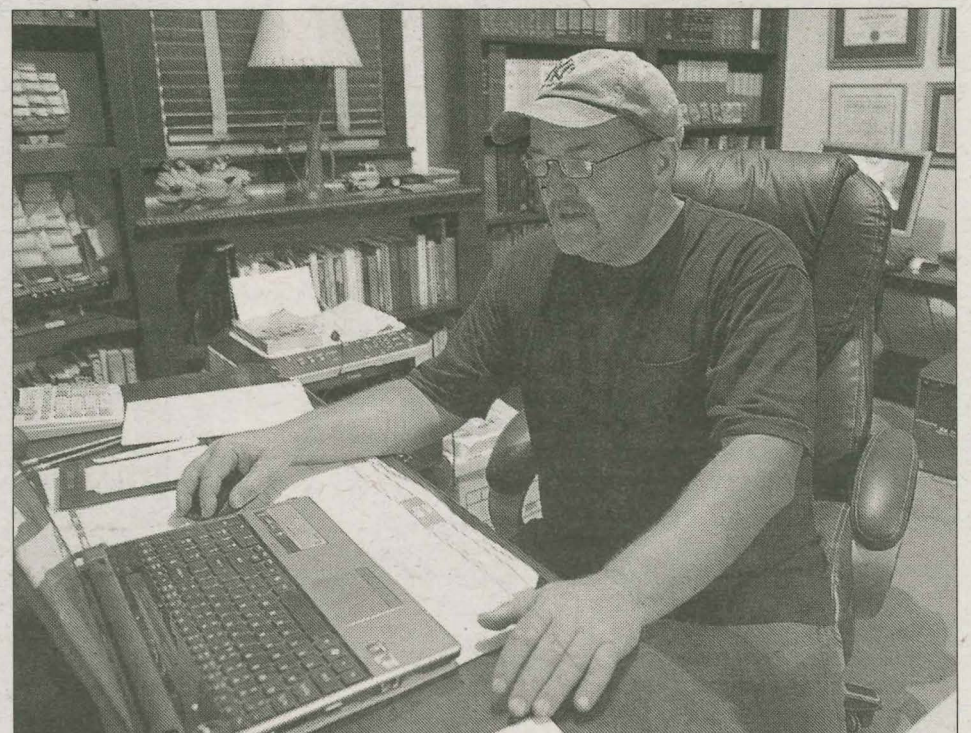
"Kingdom explosion and spiritual awakening will come when the vast army of bivocational and lay leaders are released to be kingdom agents ... in the marketplace of our continent," he said.

At 54, Losch has planted four churches, including Mountain View Community Church. His habit of keeping up with Facebook allowed him to lead an old friend to faith in Christ. It also helped one family make a major change.

"We had a boy come to our VBS. Three years later, he sent a friend request," Losch said. "I asked him if he was going to church. When he said no, I invited him. His entire family showed up. Three weeks later, his dad came to say the entire family were giving their lives to Christ."

Losch's advice for potential bivocational pastors: "Make sure you are good at both preaching and working. It is hard work, and you need to be good at what you do."

Soca agreed. "It can be challenging and tough," he said. "But at the same time, I have learned to rely on the Holy Spirit. That's been a big lesson, a big growth area for me. You cannot do this in your own strength. You have to rely on God." (NAMB/BP)



CONNECTED Social media keeps bivocational pastor Pusey Losch connected to Mountain View Community Church members. Losch, a painter by trade, also uses social media for evangelism.

2012 State Missions Emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering

BOLD HOPE

2012 Eliza Broadus
Offering Goal:
\$1,250,000

“Therefore, since we have such
a hope, we are very bold.”

2 Corinthians 3:12 NIV 1984



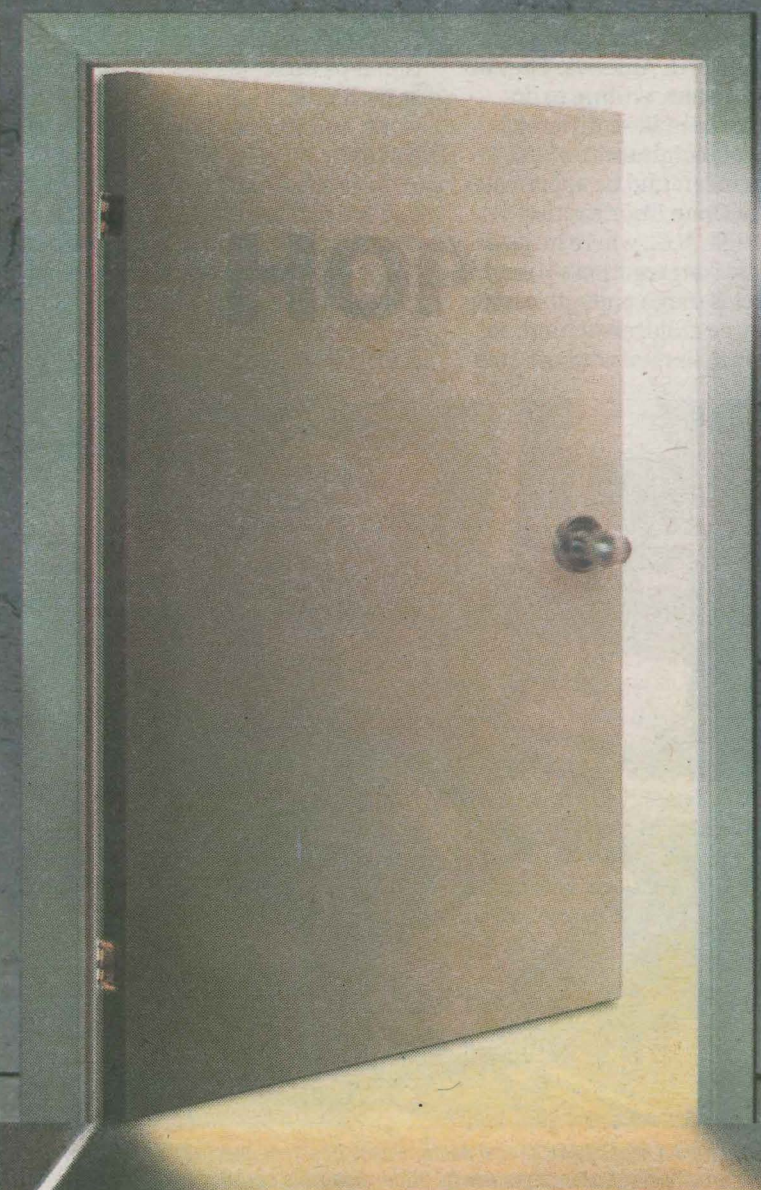
Pray with Boldness



Give with Boldness



Go with Boldness



BOLD HOPE

**Eliza Broadus
Offering**
for Kentucky missions

Total as of Aug. 15, 2012
\$1,140,733.45

**Thank you
Kentucky Baptists
for your
faithful giving
to reach the lost
in our state.**

A PERSONAL WORD **Bold Hope DVD packed with resources**

Our 2012 state missions emphasis is Bold Hope and features eight ministries which give bold hope to people in need.

A promotional booklet with information for missions leaders and a DVD was mailed to pastors and WMU directors at the end of June. To be good stewards of our resources this year, all print materials such as the Master Article and teaching plans are included on the DVD. Every church is encouraged to print the quantity needed of these materials and have a state missions emphasis for all ages sometime in September.

Posters, prayer guides and offering envelopes were mailed to churches on August 1 using the new standing order system. If your church has not placed a standing order or needs to update the quantities, please contact the state WMU office. A new standing order form will be in our fall mailing to church WMU directors.

Our Eliza Broadus Offering for 2011-12

closes August 31. While we did not reach the goal, we far exceeded prior year giving. Thank you, Kentucky Baptists. Every dollar is used for vital ministries across Kentucky.

By watching the 2012 DVD, you will get a sampling of ministries that are supported by EBO. These ministries count on our prayers, giving, and involvement as they share Christ with people who need hope in the face of life's struggles. Jesus gives true hope for eternity and for daily living. Learn more: www.kywmu.org/ebo.

The Kentucky Baptist Convention staff has been through a significant reorganization and re-launch. The new descriptive statement about the KBC, "Created by churches, for churches, to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ," is key to re-visioning how to best serve in the future.

As new KBC staff join the team and others take on different responsibilities, Kentucky WMU will continue to serve alongside the Mission Board staff and other KBC entities to serve Kentucky Baptists. Learn more at www.kybaptist.org/re-launch.

Kentucky WMU sent a team to Malawi in July. This team of seven spent a week teaching seminary wives at the Malawi Baptist Seminary in Lilongwe. The impact of Kentucky is touching many places in the world as we have provided assistance for WMU work in Kenya, Brazil, Korea, Tanzania, Indonesia and now, Malawi. I am sure there are other countries that Kentucky WMU has touched through KBC partnerships and other mission trips.

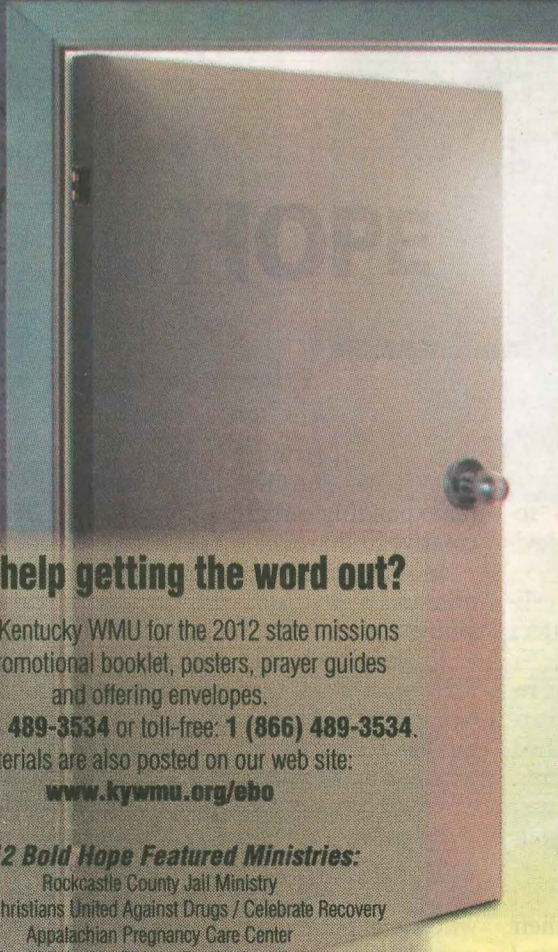
National WMU has adopted a new tag line: "missions for life." It is an apt description of what WMU stands for and does. It is our goal that through the influence of WMU in each church and association, that every believer catches the vision for missions locally and globally.

The WMU vision statement says that we "challenge Christian believers to understand and be radically involved in the mission of God." When this happens in every church, with every believer, the world will not be the same.

The new WMU emphasis for 2012-14 is The Story Lives On. May we be like Peter and John in saying, "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20 NIV).



Joy Bolton



Need help getting the word out?

Contact Kentucky WMU for the 2012 state missions DVD promotional booklet, posters, prayer guides and offering envelopes.

Call (502) 489-3534 or toll-free: 1 (866) 489-3534.

Materials are also posted on our web site:
www.kywmu.org/ebo

2012 Bold Hope Featured Ministries:



- Rockcastle County Jail Ministry
- Shelby Christians United Against Drugs / Celebrate Recovery
- Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center
- Food Ministries, Elkhorn Baptist Association
- Hope House Ministries
- Open Door of Hope
- Scarlet Hope
- Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief

BOLD HOPE

2012 State Missions Emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering

Join us in giving Bold Hope to those who are lost
as we support ministries across Kentucky. KENTUCKY GOAL **\$1.25 million**

"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."
2 Corinthians 3:12 NIV 1984

Kentucky state missions materials are provided by the gifts of your church through the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

WMU DIRECTORS

Get ready to celebrate

By Wanda Walker

Over the next two years, we will celebrate the 125th year of Woman's Missionary Union. How will you celebrate in your church? Consider these ideas:

- Be creative with your mission projects. What is a ministry that is missing in your community? Is there something that is simple and often overlooked? Is there a project that people just won't do, yet needs to be done?

- Let your church know that WMU is 125 years old and celebrate all the years your church WMU has been ministering to others.

- Have a reception in honor of Eliza Broadus. Create a display highlighting her life and her story of Kentucky WMU. A monologue was included with the State Missions packet on the DVD/CD.

- Hold a church-wide World Crafts party to emphasize international Project HELP: Human Exploitation. Emphasize the anniversary of this WMU ministry. The website www.worldcrafts.org is a great resource to help you get started.

- Learn your church WMU history. Work with your church staff, especially the pastor, to celebrate the importance of WMU in the local church.

- Give the staff a gift that will be a daily reminder of WMU and its age level organizations. GA's could make baked goodies, cards or a craft. Mission Friends could prepare a song to sing for staff or during Sunday morning worship.

- Promote and attend your associational celebrations, national celebrations and our state celebration at the annual meeting.

Please do not forget to return your WMU church leadership forms to the Kentucky WMU office. This is our best link to you and will help us keep you and your leaders informed.

Oh, do all the members of your WMU team receive Missions Mosaic? If not, it is a great resource for them.

Why not make it an annual Christmas gift for them? It will make the celebration more exciting knowing what is happening with our missionaries as they realize the importance of our history and legacy.

RA's/CHALLENGERS

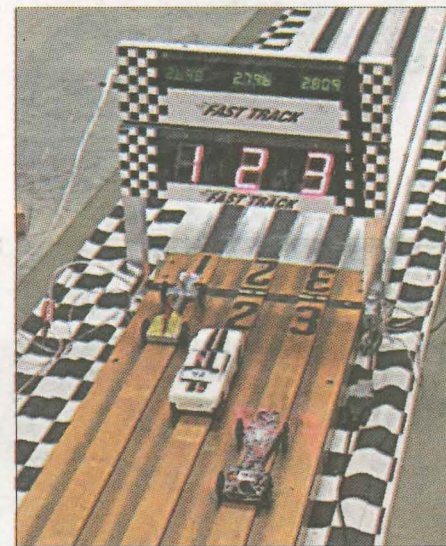
The excitement of 'Charting Your Course'



By Jon Auten

What do you get when you take 64 RAs, 41 RA leaders and 18 hard-working volunteers—place them in Laurel Lake Baptist Camp for two days and one night, and give them great food, fantastic speakers, enthusiastic worship, RA Racers, ropes and knots, bows and arrows, logs and saws, compasses, horses, a rope bridge and the opportunity to swim?

You get Courage 2012 and a lot of excited, happy and spiritually growing boys who had fun while learning about "Charting Your Course by God's Word"!



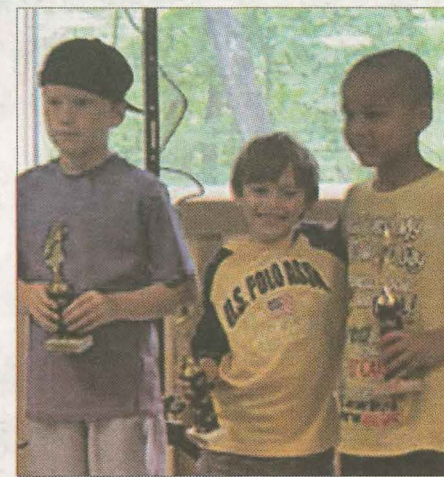
There is not enough space in this article to thank everyone by name for making Camp Courage a great success, but several people in particular need to be noted. Thanks to John Bennett, KBC Children's Ministry Consultant, for telling an exciting camping story, sharing the gospel and helping the boys "Chart a Course for God." Thanks are also glad-

ly extended to Steve Heartsill, National WMU Managing Editor for RA/Challenger materials, for sharing his testimony and teaching the boys about "Charting a Course for Godly Living." And many thanks are sent to Leah Stroupe and Caleb Hetrick, KBC/Collegiate Ministry Acts 1:8 One Life team members, for talking about their summer missions experience and showing the boys how to "Chart a Course for God's Mission."



Pat Callahan, his family and staff did a wonderful job of hosting the RAs at Laurel Lake Camp. From cooking great meals to providing assisted horse-back riding, they were always there to make things truly marvelous. Worship leadership was provided by Bo Warren with wisdom, love and energy. He had the boys up and singing with joy! "Ain't nobody, love me like Jesus!"

More could be said about the various activities and details of Courage 2012, but suffice it to say, everyone left ready to come back next year. Speaking of next year, the date for Courage 2013 is already set for August 2-3. Mark your calendars for a return trip, or your first trip, to Camp Courage!



One final note: a new statewide RA event was announced at Courage—The Kentucky State Royal Ambassador Missions Congress. We're calling it RAM-CON 2013! We'll be racing the cars, learning about missions, and more. Write it down—March 16, 2013—site to be announced. You don't want to miss it!

KENTUCKY WMU CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 7-8 Mississippi River Ministries Bus Tour
- 9-16 Season of Prayer for State Missions & Eliza Broadus Offering
- 22 Children in Action Day Camp, Highland Baptist, Shelbyville, girls and boys grades 1-6

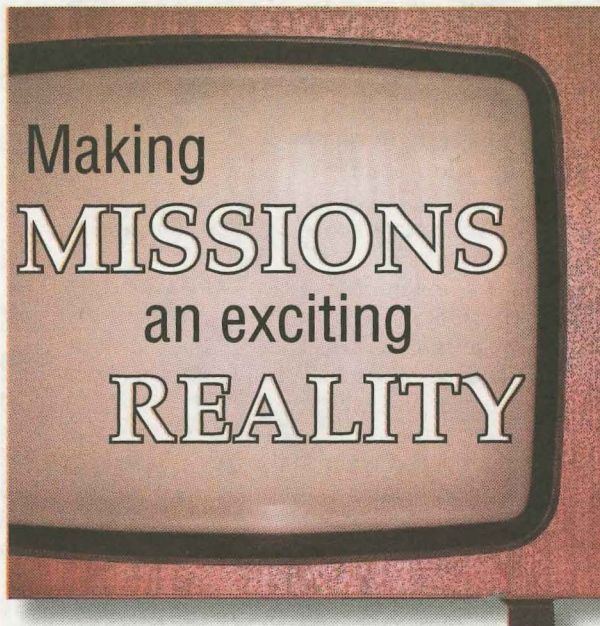
OCTOBER

- 3-6 North American Baptist Women's Union, Nashville

NOVEMBER

- 5 Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer
- 10 GA JAM, St. Matthews Baptist, Louisville, girls grades 1-6
- 13 KBC Annual Meeting

ADULTS



By Wanda Walker

Reality. Reality. Reality!

Does anyone besides me get tired of seeing all this "reality" displayed in front of us all the time on the television?

It seems like every TV station has some sort of reality show. Bachelorettes and housewives. Bounty hunters and crocodile hunters. Big families and little people.

If your church was chosen as the site of the next big reality TV show, would your adult missions education capture the imagination of the masses? Would it be filled with excitement for what you are learning about missions? Would you have something available to all ages? Or would it be boring and repetitive? If so, would your group be willing to risk something new?

Do some things outside your comfort zone! I can't imagine that everyone I see on reality TV are in their comfort zone (at least not in the commercials for them. I personally do not watch them.)

When working with adults in our churches, we need to be open to take risks and try new ways to reach adults with missions education and missions experiences. We can do things the same and not take a risk, but we may

miss the opportunity to reach the unchurched in our community. The diversity of culture has opened the way for expanding our minds, opening our hearts and being creative to share the gospel with everyone.

In addition to traditional groups in our churches; permit, and bless if you will, the idea of learning, praying, giving and going with missions a new way.

Explore the world of myMission designed especially for young adult women. myMission provides a way for young adult women to network with others who want to pursue a missions lifestyle. It is a cross between a small group, a Bible study, and a missions organization. You can build their community and serve the world.

By accessing the website www.mymissionfulfilled.com, a woman can have the opportunity to create her own profile and comment on blogs written by women who are experiencing similar lifestyles. Women can also pray daily for missionaries on their birthday and get resources to help their own small group.

As we celebrate the 125th year of Woman's Missionary Union, let's step out and take a chance! Do something different! Make the reality of adult involvement exciting and enticing enough to others to want to belong.

President's perspective

What a blessing!
On July 4-16, a Kentucky WMU team of seven traveled to Lilongwe, Malawi in Africa to be a blessing to seminary wives at the Malawi Baptist Seminary.

After a 10-week term of study by their pastor husbands, the wives are invited for a week of classes just for them ... three times per year. Our team of seven was to be the faculty for the July 2012 week. We taught: Bible studies, the role of the pastor's wife, spiritual-life development, various health issues, gave testimonies, did crafts, and loved on their babies.

We had planned and prepared and they were ready to learn. They hung on



Linda Cooper

every word. They were so hungry to learn everything we had to teach them ... just regular women who love the Lord and were willing to be used by Him. We became quick friends.

The women there spoke Chichewa, so we had to use interpreters—which always makes things interesting—but we were able to minister to the interpreters, too. They even asked to have copies of what we had shared so that they, too, could share with others. We gave all of them toothbrushes and first-aid kits; things that are very common here in Kentucky but in Malawi, they are a luxury.

One of our team members is in the Li-

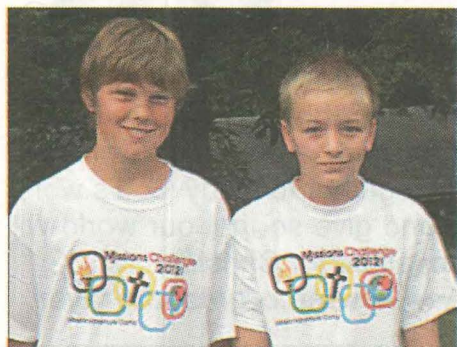
ons Club. She arranged for us to present several pairs of glasses to the Lilongwe Lions Club. Many are now seeing better. Joy Bolton was blessed to be able to give her mother's glasses to one of the pastor's wives who hadn't been able to see to read her Bible in a while.

We worked with IMB missionaries who were very helpful to us while we were there. They informed us about the culture, provided us with transportation, and prepared some meals for us that were familiar to our digestive system. I have learned how helpful that is on an overseas mission trip. We were able to take several items to them that are difficult to acquire in Malawi. It was funny to us to hear how excited they were over Q-tips!

When you go on mission trips, your prayer is that you will be a blessing to someone along the way but it always seems to work in reverse and you are truly blessed. Yes, I believe we were a blessing to the women in Malawi but oh, how they were a blessing to me as God wrote a new chapter in my missions story. The Story of Jesus Lives On ... on the other side of the world.

With WMU's new theme "The Story Lives On," I would like to encourage you to share your story. Where will you tell your story this year through WMU? The story that can lead someone to Christ who then shares their story with someone else, and the life-changing story of Jesus will live on and on. Share your story ... today!

Camps challenge kids to be missions-minded



By Stacy Nail

Mission Adventure Camp

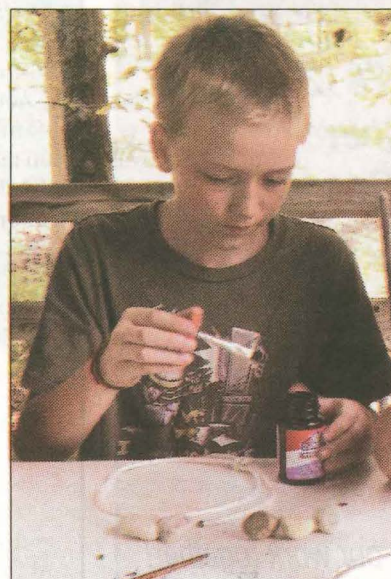
Mission Adventure Camp at Cedar Crest was excited to host the Acts 1:8, One Life Team this summer! These students from all across Kentucky combined their special gifts and talents to share the love of Christ to our campers. After camp, the Acts 1:8, One Life Team traveled to serve children in Haiti. Mission Adventure Campers gave an offering to help purchase supplies for the team's trip to Haiti. Campers made friendship bracelets to send to the campers in Haiti.

Campers were also encouraged to accept the "Missions Challenge" of spreading God's love to everyone they meet. Campers enjoyed hearing from missionaries and learning how mission volunteers share the Good News at the Olympics. In 2012 both girls and boys were invited for all three weeks of camp. Girls and boys worshiped and enjoyed recreation together and participated in interest tracts and specialized activities for Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action. Fathers and sons attended the first Father/Son Overnights at Cedar Crest.

Cedar Crest is located at Cedar-more Camp and Conference Center in Bagdad, Kentucky.

Overnights at the Creek

Girls in Action and Acteens campers had a missions-filled weekend at Jonathan Creek in Hardin, Kentucky! These campers learned about missions at the Olympics and were challenged through Bible study and missionary speakers. Campers



also enjoyed swimming, recreation and waterfront activities.

Please contact Kentucky WMU for 2013 camp dates and prices. You can also check Kentucky Notes for updates on next summer's camping plans.

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN

Guiding young kids in big city missions

By Stacy Nail

Welcome to a new year in Mission Friends, the missions organization for newborns to kindergarteners!

Preschool

Preschool As a Mission Friends leader you play an important role in helping preschoolers to love God and others. Mission Friends Leader, Mission Friends at Home, and First Steps in Missions are valuable tools that will help you provide developmentally appropriate activities for each child.

Mission Friends will be learning about missions in big cities this year. The September unit in Missions Friends Leader focuses on missions in Miami, Florida. Consider having a beach party to kick things off! You'll also want to involve preschoolers in the State Missions Emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering. The material is available from your church WMU director or the Kentucky WMU office.

Have you been wondering how to teach the Project Help: Human Exploitation emphasis to preschoolers? Mission Friends Leader will provide ideas for teaching preschoolers to be more caring towards others and the environment.

Children

Invite your children to discover missions in some of the largest cities in the world! The Girls in Action, Children in Action and Royal Ambassadors theme for 2012-13 is "Meet Me in the City." Each month, boys and girls will discover a character trait through Bible study. They will learn how missionaries in big cities exhibit those traits as they share the Good News of God's love. Curriculum for each organization is available through www.wmystore.com. Contact Kentucky WMU for more information.

In September, children can participate in the State Missions Emphasis and Eliza Broadus Offering. They will learn about the Food Ministries of Elkhorn Baptist Association in Lexington.

As a children's missions leader, you can make a big impact on the children you lead by learning about the media's exploitation of children and families, an area of the Project Help: Human Exploitation emphasis. Visit www.wmu.com for more information about this issue and others related to Project Help: Human Exploitation.

KENTUCKY WMU HERITAGE FUND

The following gifts to the Heritage Fund were received during the second quarter of 2012 (April 1 – June 30). Our thanks to each individual and group who gave.

In Honor of:
 Frances Curtis
 Tina Nicely
 Susan Bryant
 Cynthia Slinker

Donor:
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 Kentucky Baptist Foundation
 Peggy Puckett
 E.M. "Pinky" and Ladelle Pincomb
 Carolyn Hyatt
 Rudy & Linda King
 Heralds/Builders SS Class
 John Chowning

Other Gifts:
 Kentucky WMU staff

STUDENTS

Summer memories

By Maryann Lee

As this long and hot summer draws to a close, it is great to look back on all the exciting things that have happened.

Teenage girls from across the state had the opportunity to come to together at Jonathan Creek Conference Center for Acteens Splash July 13-14. More than 65 girls and their leaders had a great time of learning about missions and growing in their walk with God.

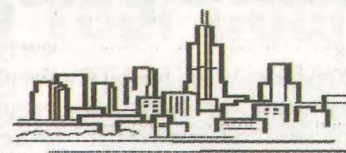
It was wonderful to get to hear the laughter of teen girls as they swam at the lake, knowing they were praying for missionaries and learning about how they could serve God. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success.

What has your Acteens group been up to this summer? Did you get to go on a mission trip or participate in any special events in your community? Be sure to let us know about it.

Please "like" our Kentucky Acteens page on Facebook and post pictures of your events. National Acteens also has a Facebook page where you can share mission trip stories and pictures. These two resources are great ways to find out more about what is going on with Acteens, Youth on Mission, Challengers and WMU.

Sharing your story is just one way you can help other groups as well. Seeing what others are doing can help you to get ideas and learn what you can do to make a difference. Be sure to "like" Kentucky Acteens and National Acteens to stay informed about all that is going on with Acteens and WMU!

City JAM!



GA JAM

(Girls Grades 1-6 and their leaders)

Saturday, November 10, 2012

10:00 am-2:15 pm (Eastern Time)

St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville, KY

Cost - \$10.00 per person

(lunch provided)

- Meet international and North American missionaries!
- Participate in a Live Action Project!
- Make new friends!
- Discover missions in the city!

For more information and to register visit www.kywmu.org/gajam

Through the fruit

of the Spirit... **JOY**



On **November 5, 2012** Baptist women from around the world will come together to study God's word, pray and give so that our world will be impacted for Christ.

www.kywmu.org/dayofprayer

Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting

BY CHURCHES - FOR CHURCHES,
 TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST.

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2012
Immanuel Baptist Church
3100 Tates Creek Road
Lexington, Ky. 40502

Join in worship and fellowship with Kentucky Baptists.

Visit the WMU display and displays for new KBC teams

Your presence is an encouragement to our work together!

NABWU invites you to experience the power of connecting with your Baptist sisters from across North America

Join the tapestry

YOUR STRENGTH will be renewed as you make new ties with women who share your desire to "be Jesus" to the people you meet.

YOUR VISION will be enlarged as you see skillfully designed ministries that lift women and children out of risky or hopeless situations such as poverty, prostitution, and imprisonment.

YOUR HOPE will be revived by testimonies, prayer, workshops, and Bible studies woven into action. God will speak to you through Raquel Contreras, Luran Bethell, worship leader Hornrette Washington, and other outstanding Baptist women of courage and faith.

NABWU ASSEMBLIES happen only once every five years. This one comes in an affordable package at the music-themed Millennium Maxwell House Hotel. Come for an extra day and enjoy Nashville attractions like the Grand Ole Opry.

NABWU ASSEMBLY
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE
OCTOBER 3 - 6, 2012

Millennium Maxwell House Hotel
 Special rates for NABWU participants
 Conference fee: \$175, \$200 after Sept. 1
 Learn more at www.nabwu.org.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN'S UNION
NABWU

REGISTER ONLINE NOW! GO TO WWW.NABWU.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION