

# WESTERN Recorder

September 4, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 34

## Hurricane Isaac passes through, Baptists respond

### Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crews remain on alert to help flooded Gulf Coast residents

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptists already are in the Gulf Coast region as Hurricane Isaac has ended its disruption of the lives of thousands of residents.

Last weekend, more than three dozen Baptist relief units were been deployed to Louisiana and Mississippi, according to Bruce Poss, a disaster recovery coordinator with the North American Mission Board.

“Southern Baptists have responded as they have in the past—with a lot of enthusiasm, in numbers, to the disaster,” Poss said. “When people start hurting, (Southern Baptist Disaster Relief) shows up.”

Two feeding units from the Oklahoma state convention are in Louisiana and a group of Texas Baptist Men also have set up a feeding unit. Additionally, feeding units from the Arkansas Baptist State Convention are stationed at First Baptist Church of Kenner, La., and Gentilly Baptist Church in New Orleans, disaster recovery officials said. Chainsaw units also have been deployed.

Two 60,000-pound Freightliner rigs with roofing supplies set out for the Gulf Coast region last week, in coordination with Gulf Coast Baptist Association in Mississippi and other Southern Baptists in Louisiana. The trucks were filled with 20 pallets containing 320 rolls of plastic roof sheeting, wooden strips and nails that volunteers will use to repair storm-damaged homes.

Meanwhile, Kentucky Baptist disaster relief crews remain on alert, awaiting deployment to the Gulf Coast. Kentucky's DR coordinator, Coy Webb, said several



state leaders are ready to serve at the Kentucky Baptist Building in Louisville to coordinate groups to travel to storm-ravaged areas.

“We are basically in a ‘wait-to-see-if-needed’ mode,” Webb said in an email to the Western Recorder, adding that any Kentucky teams deployed would be called upon for flood recovery work.

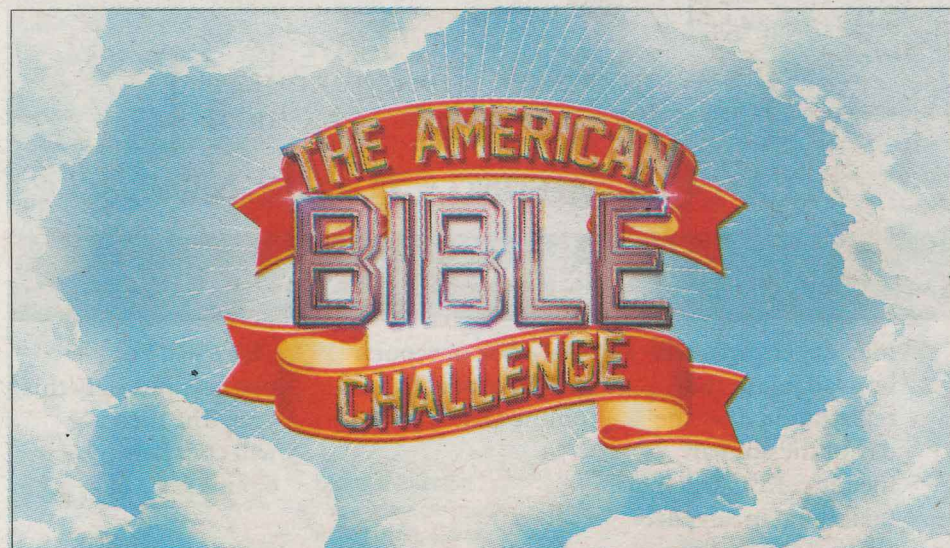
Webb himself is at the Federal Emergency Management Agency offices in Washington this week serving as a liaison between FEMA and Southern Baptist Disaster Relief.

Two Kentucky Baptist volunteers have been deployed to assist with disaster relief efforts: Larry Koch, of Taylorsville,  See Hurricane Isaac ... Page 5



To donate to disaster relief efforts, visit [www.NAMB.net](http://www.NAMB.net)

North American Mission Board leaders and disaster relief staff pray (at left) for travel mercies and safety as two NAMB tractor-trailers packed with supplies and equipment leave Alpharetta, Ga., for the Gulf Coast to respond to needs created by Hurricane Isaac (below) which made landfall last week, dumping as much as 15 inches of rain on communities in Louisiana and Mississippi. (Photo by John Swain/NAMB)



## New Bible-based game show sets sights on religious audience

By Chris Lisee

Santa Monica, Calif.—The world's best-selling book has made it to the small screen in what is thought to be the first religiously themed game show on a secular network.


“The American Bible Challenge” tests teams’ knowledge of the Old and New Testaments in a quiz show interspersed with stories of the competitors and the charities for which they play.

The show represents a bid to tap the

religious market by the secular GSN (formerly Game Show Network). The base audience is evangelicals, said consulting producer Maura Dunbar, but she hopes it will appeal to a broader audience, including nonbelievers.

“I think people of faith will have a very good comfort level, and I think this is an opportunity for all of us to hopefully open up the Bible to new audiences and engagement,” Dunbar said.

Comedian Jeff Foxworthy, coming  See ‘Bible Challenge’ ... Page 4

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## LifeWay's Rainer 'optimistic' even as company faces challenges

By Marty King

Ridgecrest, N.C.—"We Christians are often too timid, lacking the boldness to move where God wants us," LifeWay Christian Resources President Thom Rainer told the entity's trustees during their semiannual meeting.

"I often see the challenges facing LifeWay, and wonder about our next step," Rainer said in his report at last week's meeting in Ridgecrest, N.C. "But then I am reminded the God we serve is in charge, and I begin to see things from a different perspective. I have never been more challenged at LifeWay, and I've never been more optimistic."

Rainer spoke openly about the challenges facing the publishing entity, including the sluggish economy, dramatic changes in how churches "do church" and digital and technological demands.

"For most of our history, LifeWay has been a print organization," he said. "Now, we're moving rapidly into a time where digital is not just a transitional stage. It is the new reality. Digital resources are where our churches and individuals are and will be."

Rainer said he is "incredibly encouraged by the level of excellence in our technology division. It used to be that technology was a resource we needed, but now it is the main thing for much of what we do."

He cited the "incredible success" of the launch of the new Gospel Project Bible study curriculum, the first quarter of which is in its third printing, as an example of meeting the needs of churches and individuals.

"We're not going to stop with the Gospel Project," he said. "We're planning other curriculum launches and re-launches. We're not going to be satisfied until we've brought curricula to the

bride of Christ that is deeper and more relevant to churches and individuals."

Rainer also said challenges remain at Glorieta Conference Center. "The decision last year to find another owner for Glorieta was very hard," he said. "We thought we'd found a potential buyer (in Olivet University), but, there are some questions to be answered theologically. We're having a third party do a theological review and that is exactly where we are right now."

Later, Rainer told Baptist Press he believes a final report on the theological compatibility of Olivet and its movement should be available "in weeks, not months."

Rainer said he is encouraged with "the incredible turnaround of B&H Publishing Group, which was once an afterthought but is now a strategic part of our organization," with LifeWay Research where "pastors can find out what is taking place in churches and the culture"; and, with acquisitions like WordSearch, Student Life and Auxano consulting.

Trustees addressed a number of business items during the meeting, including approval of a for-profit subsidiary "to facilitate ministry operations in the country of China." The new company, to be called LifeWay Global, Inc., will help "make Bibles, study materials, training and other expertise available to churches and Christians in China," according to information given to trustees.

LifeWay trustees also passed a motion declining to re-open a study of whether to sell the 2011 NIV Bible translation in its LifeWay Christian Stores.

The action was in response to a motion referred by the 2012 Southern Baptist Convention requesting that LifeWay reconsider its decision in February, following an exhaustive study, to continue selling the NIV translation. (LW/BP)



Thom Rainer

## Committee named to find new ERLC head

Nashville, Tenn.—A search committee has been selected to find a successor to Richard Land as president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

On behalf of the ERLC Executive Committee, Richard Piles, acting chairman of the board of trustees, has named Barry Creamer, vice president of academic affairs at Criswell College in Dallas, as chairman of the search committee.

The other ERLC trustees named to the committee are:

**Ken Barbic**, senior director of federal government affairs for Western Growers Association and a member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington.

**Kenda Bartlett**, executive director of Concerned Women for America and also a member of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington.

**Lynne Fruechting**, a pediatrician and member of Immanuel Baptist Church in Newton, Kan.

**Ray Newman**, executive director of the Georgia Citizen Action Project and pastor of Macedonia Community Baptist

Church in Braselton, Ga.

**Bernard Snowden**, associate pastor of family life at Antioch Baptist Church in Fairfax Station, Va.

Piles, who is from Arkansas, will serve as an ex officio member.

The committee will be seeking a candidate to bring to the ERLC board to succeed Land, who announced his retirement July 31. Land's retirement will be effective Oct. 23, 2013, when he will complete 25 years as the organization's president.

"Our search committee will be asking the Lord to direct us to the individual who can serve the commission and Southern Baptists for another 25 years in the arena of biblical ethics and public policy," Piles said in a statement. "I am confident that person is within our convention and will emerge eventually."

The committee will establish its own guidelines for the presidential search, Piles told BP. There is not yet a timeline for bringing a recommendation to the board, he said. (BP)

## July CP gifts up from '11, falls short of goal

Louisville—Kentucky Baptists contributed \$1,594,890 to missions through the Cooperative Program in July.

The total fell short of the monthly spendable budget goal by \$225,704 according to Lowell Ashby, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's finance and business services team, but exceeded CP gifts for July 2011 by more than \$32,000.

The fiscal year ended Aug. 31, and Kentucky Baptists were \$1,777,788 away from breaking the \$22 million mark in CP giving for the fiscal year, Ashby noted.

An August total of \$1,625,000 would exceed the annual spendable budget goal of \$21,847,130.

"That figure, \$22 million, is significant because it represents the annual budget goal for the new fiscal year," he explained. "That goal will keep us on track to increase CP giving to national Southern Baptist causes, while maintaining important missions and ministries in Kentucky."

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he is humbled by Kentucky Baptists' ongoing support of missions through CP in the midst of the restructuring of the Mission Board staff this year.

"When you consider the major changes that have been made during this fiscal year in leadership and in the direction of the ministry, I don't think anyone would have been surprised if giving took a significant dip," Chitwood said. "But that's not how

Kentucky Baptist CP giving at a glance	
Giving for July 1-31, 2012 & Year-to-Date	
Monthly budget goal:	\$ 1,820,594
Actual giving:	\$ 1,594,890
Under budget:	\$ 225,704
Year-to-Date goal:	\$ 20,026,535
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$ 20,222,212
Over budget:	\$ 195,677
*Based on annual spendable budget \$21,847,130; Actual budget \$23.5 million	

Kentucky Baptists view the Cooperative Program.

"They realize that the work supported through CP isn't optional, it's critical if we are to share Christ with Kentucky and the world," he added.

One example of such commitment came recently from T.J. Francis, pastor at First Baptist Church of Walton, who challenged his congregation to increase by \$3 their usual weekly offering.

The manageable yet sacrificial gift will result in more financial resources for local ministry through the church, Francis said, and also will increase the church's annual giving through the Cooperative Program.

Francis, who serves as KBC first vice president, noted that in the past year, the percentage of Walton First Baptist's undesignated receipts contributed to missions through CP has increased from 8 percent to 9.5 percent. He said he hopes the figure will increase to 10 percent in the coming year.

The "\$3 More Challenge" is just one part of Kentucky Baptists' "More for Christ" initiative. For details, visit [www. MoreforChrist.com](http://www.MoreforChrist.com). (KBC)

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2012 ANNUAL MEETING - TUESDAY, NOV. 13

WHAT'S NEW THIS YEAR?

- 1 Messenger cards will be available at the registration desk the day of the annual meeting. KBC will NOT mail them in advance.
- 2 The book of reports will be available online Oct. 15.
- 3 There will be two sessions only this year. The meeting will conclude by 6 p.m., EST, Nov. 13.

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## Ky. WMU leader pens excellent tool for churches

If your church is thinking of starting a Woman's Missionary Union organization or just wanting to strengthen or revitalize an existing one, Joy Bolton knows just the resource you need. In fact, she wrote it.

With recent changes in WMU, including adopting a new logo with the tagline "Missions for Life" and adding Royal Ambassadors to their assignment, national WMU leaders felt it was time to redo its "Missions Guide for Churches." Bolton, director of Kentucky WMU since 1999, was their willing and capable choice.

Bolton brought a lifetime of experience and a fervent love for missions to the project. She grew up in its Girls Auxiliary and Acteens organizations, served as an intern in the national WMU office in Birmingham, Ala., and had been a church and associational WMU director multiple times before joining the WMU staff of South Carolina as Women on Mission consultant in 1995. Knowing that most churches, both in Kentucky and across the SBC, are smaller-membership churches, Bolton quickly saw a need to rework this essential tool with them in mind.

"Earlier guides gave an elaborate structure for a WMU organization, and then said if you can't do all of that, you don't have to. Just do it simpler," Bolton explained. "I wanted to say, you can start simple, and here are the basic leaders and things you will need. Then, if you want to complicate it, you can." So, instead of starting with a coordinator and working backwards, down a chain of missions leaders, Bolton started with recruiting one or two volunteers to launch a missions program. "Many of our churches are doing well to find a leader and maybe an

assistant, much less two or three group leaders and a coordinator," she said.

The guide's aim is to inspire church members to be active, involved, lifelong participants in the mission of God. So, Bolton began by casting her objective: "The desired outcome is that the reader of the WMU guide will identify personally with the mission of God and the WMU objectives, understand how to start and carry out WMU work in the church, and have a brief overview of the WMU family of organizations and approaches." In calling people to become "radically involved," she outlines the biblical basis of missions, WMU's six main objectives, and how WMU undertakes its work through a church-wide approach.

A voice of experience, Bolton also makes a strong case for WMU's importance to a healthy church. "WMU members are known for being among the most faithful in church attendance, tithing and outreach," she maintained. "WMU is committed to prayer, and thousands of missionaries rely on it for prayer support. Many pastors depend on WMU whenever there is a task to be done. Children who participate in WMU missions groups are more likely to make professions of faith and grow up with a heart for missions."

Age-level guides for leaders of its missions programs will be coming out soon, spanning from Mission Friends, Girls in Action, Acteens and Royal Ambassadors to Youth, Women and Adults on Mission groups. Each of these guides center around three or four of the chapters that Bolton wrote for the overarching WMU guide and are available at [WMUStore.com](http://WMUStore.com).



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

### Take Him at His word

I am a bivocational pastor of a small congregation in London. I am not a scholar, but I have studied the Bible intensely for more than 20 years.

Calvinism appears to me to be man's attempt to explain how God works in our world, when we should just take Him at His word. Does God know who will be saved? Yes, God knows everything, but we do not. All we know is that God wants every human being saved, period.

It seems to me that Calvinism extracts the most important element: love. I can't believe that God would love some of us and not all of us—He created us. His word exudes love to every individual. If we presume on God, we have committed a grave error because we are the created, not the Creator.

God chose to save me and I accepted His choice of me, but I still had to choose to be saved. I am making this simple, but it is very profound to me that He saved me. The cross tells me that God chooses everyone to be saved, but tragically, very few accept Christ's salvation, and only God knows why.

A good friend of mine in Laurel River Baptist Association put it like this: "God

predestined WHOSOEVER believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." Amen.

Craig Morgan  
London

### Support for 'another way'

The guest viewpoint by Bob Terry (Aug. 14 WR) should be read by every Kentucky Baptist church member.

Thanks for reminding us there always has been and, in my opinion, always will be "another way" as an option to five-point Calvinism.

As a Kentucky pastor for 50 years, I have always proclaimed the gospel and taught Bible truths in "the other way." As pastor of Calvary Baptist in Danville for 31 years, I had the privilege of serving with deacons, Sunday School teachers, ministers of music, youth leaders, associate pastors, WMU and other leaders who supported my ministry. We also had the support and participation of hundreds of church members. We believed in John 3:16-18, 2 Peter 3:19, Romans 10:12-14, and other Scriptures related to salvation, discipleship, ministry, evangelism and missions.

Southern Seminary President Albert Mohler said, "Calvinism is the shape of

the future because the options otherwise don't very much exist." He explained that only Calvinism "offers the rational support the younger generation needs for the deeper and more substantial doctrinal conversations and theological conversations taking place as cultural Christianity disappears." That sounds like theological jargon to me.

Why do Southern Baptists continue to spend hundreds of thousands of Cooperative Program funds to pay the salaries of seminary presidents and many professors to promote and teach a theological doctrine that has and continues to cause so much confusion and division in our churches and denomination?

As for the advisory team appointed by Frank Page to craft a Calvinism strategy, this should have been done 20 years ago. As the old saying goes, "It's like closing the barn door after the horses are already out."

Ernest Martin  
Danville

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### An apology

"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers—not because you must, but because you are willing, as

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God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve" (1Peter 5:2).

As a pastor for 18 years, I wanted desperately to be a faithful shepherd of God's flock. I studied hard to teach and preach. I visited members and prospects. My goal was to be available for every funeral, wedding, or baptism.

When necessary, I skipped days off and rearranged vacations. For the average pastor, none of those pursuits is particularly noble. They simply come with the territory for those who are privileged to hear and answer God's call.

Yet, I feel the need to apologize. I need to apologize to every cancer patient to whom I ever ministered. I had no idea of the roller coaster of emotions, the difficulty of waiting for test results or the next treatment plan. I made my visits, held your hand, tried to speak words of encouragement, and prayed for you. But I didn't have a clue. I couldn't comprehend the uncertainty that almost always surrounded you. I somehow missed the unique impact of the journey through the valley of cancer. Please forgive me.

Even now, I can't claim to really understand. My wife has cancer, not me. But, according to Ephesians 5, the two are one. While that truth is more spiritual than physical, I do feel her diagnosis more than I felt the diagnoses of those who called me "pastor." Yet, for the most part, I'm still clueless.

Michelle and I thought a clean report on her lymph nodes would mean our journey in the world of pink ribbons would be short lived. We were wrong. A flip of the coin summarizes the situation. A fast-growing, large tumor, though surgically removed and seemingly contained, is just as likely than not to result in an incurable cancer in the bones, brain or lungs. "An aggressive cancer necessitates aggressive treatment," we were told by one doctor. Others agreed. So, here we go.

As Michelle braces for five months of intensive chemotherapy, I am asking God to sustain her (Psalm 3:5). I am praying I can be the pastor in our home she needs and the husband at her side she deserves. Neither of us feels ready for this, but those who have gone before us are an encouragement. All who pray for us are a blessing. Above everything, God's promises are dearer to us than ever before.

"Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip" (Psalm 66:8-9).

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## 'Bible Challenge' seeks audience of both believers & nonbelievers

Continued from page 1

from Fox's quiz show, "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?," will host the Bible challenge. Foxworthy describes himself as a Christian, and details attending Bible study with friends on the American Bible Challenge website.

The show tests biblical knowledge in culture, history, literature and current events. In one segment, players try to differentiate "the Word of the Lord" from "the Lord of the Rings" and identify whether a character comes from the Bible or Star Wars.

"We find ways to open up the biblical world to references that I think make it easy to relate to," Dunbar said. "We had fun with the content, never poking fun at the content."

Dunbar is chief content officer of Odyssey Networks, which co-produces the show and has produced Hallmark Channel films based on Christian novels like Angela Hunt's "The Note" and Beverly Lewis' "The Shunning."

The show brings together the religious message of the multifaith Odyssey Networks, the storytelling of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" producer Tom Forman, and the technical expertise of Embassy Row, which produced "The Glee Project" and "The Newlywed Game."

Religion-themed television can be a gamble for networks.

ABC canceled "GCB," after its unpopular inaugural season. Based on a novel by Kim Gatlin, the show garnered

controversy for its title and raunchy depictions of Christian women.

National Geographic Channel's "American Colony: Meet the Hutterites," was accused of exploiting the Montana Anabaptist faith community, first by Hutterites outside the colony, and later by colony leaders.

But some shows with religious themes have staying power. Episodes of "7th Heaven," a show about a family with a minister father, spanned a decade.

Producers face an interesting challenge in creating a Christian game show for an American audience.

A 2010 Pew survey found Jews, Mormons, atheists and agnostics showed the highest levels of overall religious knowledge in the United States.

Mormons scored highest on specific biblical knowledge, followed by white evangelical Protestants, atheists and agnostics, black Protestants, and Jews. White mainline Protestants and Catholics scored the lowest.

A poll by the American Bible Society—which sponsors the show—found 85 percent of Americans own a Bible. About one-quarter read the Bible several times a week or every day. However, the same percentage never reads it. The majority reads the Bible less than once a month.

Readers of the New International Version translation might want to play along—it's the official Bible of the show. Viewers can catch the "Bible Challenge" Thursdays at 8 p.m. on GSN. (RNS)



YOU MIGHT BE A BIBLE SCHOLAR Host Jeff Foxworthy appears with Team Suburban Saints during an episode of "The American Bible Challenge," on GSN. (Photo courtesy of GSN)

## Debt load high among seminarians

Washington—Rising educational costs are becoming a critical problem for an increasing number of seminarians, according to the Association of Religion Data Archives.

It's not unusual for seminarians to graduate with up to \$80,000 in debt, the ARDA reported, based on data from several studies from diverse denominations. The average starting salary for full-time clergy was \$44,140 last year, the U.S. Labor Department estimated.

The debt is affecting graduates' ability to serve and their readiness to start families, research revealed, and seminaries are employing more caution when accepting applicants who already are financially heavy laden.

The research cited nothing specifically about Southern Baptist seminary students. They generally carry less debt than their counterparts in other denominations because the cost is offset by the Cooperative Program. (BP)

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# Via Twitter, pastors connect with church, others

By Whitney Jones

**St. Joseph, Mo.**—With social media sites like Twitter, pastors can easily connect with their church members or fellow preachers just by typing a message and hitting “send.”

But navigating the constant stream of social networks from the standpoint of a pastor can be challenging since those sites are targeted toward more casual content. However, many pastors these days are using Twitter as a tool to encourage and further teach the gospel.

Micah Fries, pastor at Frederick Boulevard Baptist Church in St. Joseph, Mo., said he tweets to share further thoughts on his sermons so church members can continue to contemplate each week’s message.

“I guess for me Twitter—and Facebook to a similar degree—is much like an extension of the pulpit,” he said. “So, I try to use it regularly during the week as a means of extending the sermon throughout the week.”

But Fries does more than tweet Scripture references or sermon points. His

Twitter feed includes day-to-day observations and comments on his family’s activities. He said showing people both his professional and personal life is important because both aspects of life are intertwined.

“I’ll be talking about sanctification and 30 minutes later I’m talking about the Florida Gators, and then I’m probably going to post a picture of me making milkshakes with my daughter,” Fries said. “I do that intentionally because to me that’s what life looks like.”

For Bart Barber, pastor at First Baptist Church of Farmersville, Texas, Twitter gives him a place to share his thoughts on current topics and keep an open conversation going with fellow Christians.

“A lot of times Twitter really feels like teaching in a way,” he said. “It is the opportunity to react to the events of the day in a way that people who follow you see a new perspective about it or learn something about it.”

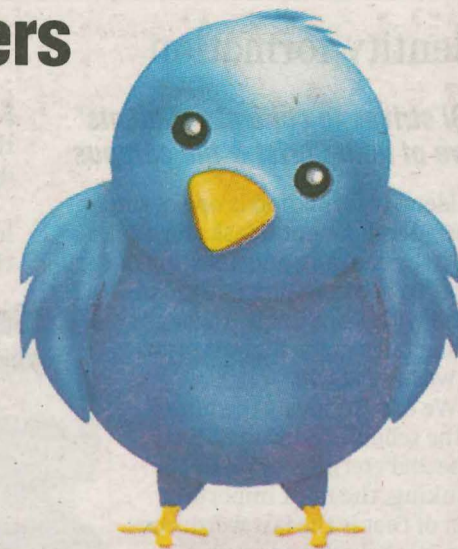
Unlike Fries, Barber’s church is much smaller and many of the members do not use Twitter. So, instead of using the site mainly to reinforce sermon messages, he reaches out to other leaders.

“I’m using Twitter more strategically to communicate with a group of people that we share a similar mission, and they may not even be people I know,” he said. “They’re people who have the same affinity I have. They care about the gospel. They care about Southern Baptists.”

Like Barber, Chad Driggers, who preaches at First Baptist Church of Fruitland Park, Fla., uses Twitter to follow other pastors. But he also uses Twitter to stay updated on organizations like Baptist 21 and movements like the North American Mission Board’s Send North America church planting strategy.

Driggers said he uses Twitter to stay “informed of what’s going on within Baptist life and within Christian circles” and learn about ministries around the world.

The social network has reconnected him to old friends, too. Driggers now talks to people he hasn’t seen in years, like a student from his youth ministry days, as well as former classmates from the Baptist College of Florida. (BP)



## Be a ‘thrillionaire’

### Believers can experience God’s love through giving cheerfully

There was an organization called More Than Money. Its membership was comprised of people dedicated to the advocacy of philanthropy. They wanted to make certain those who are busy accumulating all the things money can buy do not miss out on the real joy of what money will support. More Than Money members claimed life was about giving, not accumulating. They assisted the top 5 percent of the nation’s “net worthers” to take leadership, earn, give and leave a legacy.

The chair of this fascinating organization with its headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., was Ruth Ann Harnisch. In a previous publication of Contributions, she was portrayed as driven, compulsive with the desire to encourage men and women to philanthropy now. She wanted to help them start letting loose of their money now, not later.

Harnisch herself had millions. As far as she was concerned, she was committed to giving it all away. She loved calling on people for gifts for various causes, and she made no judgment on who should give and how much. She called herself a donor activist who gave people the opportunity to invest in

growth, spirit and a great cause. Her job was not to extract money from people by force. She would tell them if they were not thrilled to make the gift, do not do it. What she wanted was “thrillionaires.”

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, the apostle Paul reminds us of this: “Each should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” If you are not already a thrillionaire, there is something missing in your spiritual relationship to Christ that needs immediate attention.

Let me give you some biblical examples of thrillionaires. Con-

sider the widow on a fixed income in Mark 12:41-44. What about Zacchaeus, a hard-nosed businessman, in Luke 19:1-10? Consider the single woman in Mark 14:1-9 and Barnabas who gave with no strings attached in Acts 4:36-37. How about the Macedonians in 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 who gave out of their extreme poverty? Of course, Jesus stands as the supreme example and motivation for giving in 2 Corinthians 8:9.

Experience God’s love; be a thrillionaire!

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

### Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

## Hurricane Isaac

Continued from page 1

also is in Washington at the American Red Cross headquarters; Cindy Henderson, of Versailles, is serving at NAMB’s incident command center in Alpharetta, Ga.

Louisiana and Mississippi were hardest hit when Isaac came ashore Aug. 28 as a Category 1 hurricane, bringing rain, strong winds and flood waters that forced evacuations and rescues. Power companies have been working to restore electricity to hundreds of thousands of customers in the region, and residents have been displaced by flood waters in several communities in Louisiana.

Strong winds caused scattered damage in New Orleans. At New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, a dozen large trees blew down, two of them on homes occupied by professors. A student apartment building sustained significant roof damage, as did a few Southern Baptist churches and New Orleans Baptist Association’s building, said Billy Puckett, NOBA disaster relief coordinator.

Recovery crews initially had difficulty reaching certain areas of the city, said John Hebert, missions director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, noting that many of the highways into the city were closed because of high water.

But, Puckett said, New Orleans is recovering.

“The spirits of the people are really up,” he said. “The mayor was encouraging businesses to open.”

Isaac weakened to a tropical storm, but continued to bring heavy rains and tornado warnings as it moved slowly inland. The storm has dumped as much as 15 inches of rain in communities along its path.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief assets include 82,000 trained volunteers, including chaplains, and some 1,550 mobile units for feeding, chainsaw, mud-out, command, communication, childcare, shower, laundry, water purification, repair and rebuild, and power generation. SBDR is one of the three largest mobilizers of trained disaster relief volunteers in the United States, including the Red Cross and Salvation Army. (BP)

With additional reporting by News Director Drew Nichter

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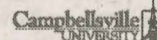
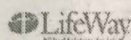
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## Identity formation

### OBI strives to cultivate students' love of both Christ & the campus

Identity formation is one of the primary developmental tasks for adolescents, and urging and assisting our students to become spiritually identified with Jesus Christ through saving faith is the highest priority we have at OBI.

We take seriously the motto of the school—"Education for time and eternity"—and in our thinking, the most important part of that is the last word: eternity. We believe and teach our students what Jesus said: "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul?" (Mark 8:36). But ultimately, we know that salvation is a work that must be done by God Himself. We rejoice with the angels and you when that happens.

With these commitments and goals, we continually and prayerfully ask the question: "What will help our students see Christ and His kingdom as someone and something, respectively, to be joyfully embraced?" It is in trying to answer this question that the importance of "school spirit" comes into focus.

OBI exists to represent Christ and His kingdom, and therefore, an authentic, long-lasting, positive attachment to the school as a representative of Jesus and His love and grace is something to be desired and, as much as is humanly possible, inculcated. So, we ask, "What can we do to foster love for OBI—"school spirit"—among the student body?"

First and foremost, the students must know on their first day and every day after that they are welcome and wanted, cared about and loved unconditionally.

Few of them have grown up with OBI as the place they want to be. Many students start out hating OBI.

Though all have said they want to be here, the reality of being away from their families and friends isn't easy to embrace on an emotional level. Homesickness is difficult for youth to overcome. Students are more likely to be counting the days until the next vacation rather than counting the days until the next special event on campus. They must learn that OBI can be, wants to be and needs to be their home away from home for this stage of their lives, but learning to be

comfortable with a frequently changing amalgamation of students and cultures in a dormitory setting is a process. It takes time.

Joining a team or group or participating in student council-planned special activities each month can help. Technological additions in the dormitories, a new after-school schedule that prioritizes academics while allowing more time for food and fun with friends, regular off-campus recreational trips for various groups—all of these demonstrate that the administration cares about the students and has listened to them about their desires.

But "school spirit" is just that—a matter of the spirit, a matter of the heart. It is something only God can create, just like salvation. Pray with us that His love shared through our human efforts will cause our students to love Him and OBI.

Paul Davidson is president of Oneida Baptist Institute, Box 67, Oneida, KY 40972; [www.oneidaschool.org](http://www.oneidaschool.org); e-mail: [president@oneidaschool.org](mailto:president@oneidaschool.org)

### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

## The Jack Bruce scholarship

### Family of former Rockcastle DOM establishes fund for Clear Creek

A valuable means of support for our students here at Clear Creek is through the establishment of endowed scholarships managed by our Kentucky Baptist Foundation with the help of Barry Allen and Laurie Valentine. We recently had the privilege of recognizing Rockcastle Baptist Association and the family of Jack Bruce for the establishment of the Jack Bruce Scholarship Fund to benefit Clear Creek students.

Clear Creek alumnus Randy McPherson is director of missions for Rockcastle Association. He was in attendance with two of Jack Bruce's children, Nancy Hale and Peggy King. Rockcastle pastors Vaughn Rasor, Jim Craig and Raymond Flynn also were in attendance to celebrate the day with us. The association and the Jack Bruce family have worked diligently to raise funds for the scholarship.

During the ceremony, daughter Nancy Hale delivered a very moving tribute to our students about her father and what it meant to her family to be part of the scholarship. She talked of her father's connection with Clear Creek that went all the way back to

second president D.M. Aldridge. She fondly recalled the friendship her father developed with Aldridge over his years in ministry and how he valued the ministry of Clear Creek.

Jack Bruce pastored churches in Kentucky, Ohio and Florida throughout his distinguished ministry. He served as director of missions for Rockcastle Baptist Association from 1990-2008. He was recognized as one of the outstanding DOMs in the state of Kentucky. He had a heart for missions and for spreading the gospel throughout the state and world. He went home to be with the Lord on Nov. 1, 2011.

As I was listening to his daughter Nancy deliver her address to our students, I thought her words about how her dad would feel about this scholarship being established in his name were fitting. She said, "If dad were here today, he would say to you, 'This scholarship is not about me, it's all about Jesus.'"

Clear Creek is thankful for ministry partners like Rockcastle Baptist Association and the Jack Bruce family.

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](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu).

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## What do we say to those who are suffering?

By Aaron Sams

This has been an amazing summer. I think the most fun thing I experienced was seeing my 2-year-old son, Caleb, playing in our neighbor's pool. He went from being afraid of the water in June to begging for just a little more time in the pool by August. While it was so much fun being with my son, it often was during our times at the pool that it would hit me the hardest. I would see the scar on his chest and remember so many nights that I stayed up, begging God not to let Caleb die.

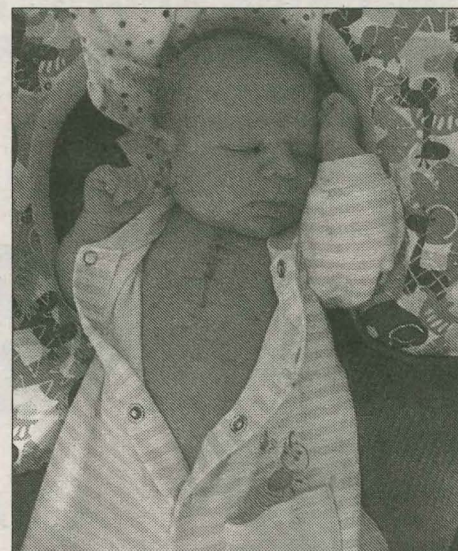
When Caleb was born in 2010, he had a condition called transposition of the great arteries.

After his birth, it became apparent that something was terribly wrong. That night, I had to leave my wife in a hospital in Kentucky and travel in an ambulance with my son to Children's Hospital in Cincinnati. The doctors then explained that, without open-heart surgery, he would die.

When faced with such a horrendous situation the inevitable question arises, "Why?" Why did God let this happen to my son? I would be lying if I said I did not question God in this moment of suffering. Yet, somehow, by God's grace, as I stood there looking at Caleb's helpless condition, it hit me like never before: God let His Son die for me. Now, here I was begging him to save my son. It was then that I thought of the suffering of the Savior.

Unexpectedly, comfort came not in having the "why" question answered. Peace came when the "who" question was answered. Who has come to this planet to suffer with us? Who was weeping with me at that moment and came to die for Caleb, my wife and me? Then, somehow, peace overcame me in that moment. It gave me comfort knowing Jesus came to suffer to ensure we get to be in a place one day where heart surgeries do not exist. I could pray to a Messiah who understood my and Caleb's suffering.

God has been good to us. Caleb will never have a "normal" heart, but he has come a long way and is doing great. He who did not spare His own Son brought healing to mine and used the incredible



THEN AND NOW Caleb Sams, son of Aaron Sams, the pastor at First Baptist Church of Bellevue, is pictured, at left, as a newborn shortly after he had open-heart surgery to repair a potentially fatal birth defect. While he will never have a "normal" heart, Caleb, pictured at right as a smiling 2 year old, "has come a long way and is doing great," his father said.

doctors and staff at Children's Hospital to rescue my baby boy.

In the two short years that I have been a senior pastor, I have walked with individuals facing terrible suffering, deteriorating physical health, the loss of a loved one and other situations. So many times I am tempted to try and answer the question, "Why did this happen?" Nonetheless, I know the Lord has not told me why particular sufferings emerge in the lives of

various individuals. This is not to say that we cannot address suffering biblically by pointing to the fall and other truths. However, it is to say we rarely know why a particular season of suffering has entered the life of an individual.

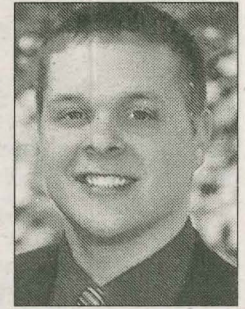
So, when asked why, I answer, "I don't know why this exact suffering has come about." However, I then explain that I do know the answer to the question, "who?" Who came to suffer for us? Who willingly suffered to take us to a place where suffering is banished for eternity? Who can we turn to right now that weeps with us and knows what we are going through? Jesus Christ.

Fellow pastors and all believers, we are called by God to minister to people in life who face suffering. Like any person, the temptation is to try and answer, "Why did this happen?" In those situations, we cannot always speak authoritatively concerning the cause of those particular circumstances. Yet, we always can speak authoritatively in answering who suffered on our behalf.

As one who has faced suffering before, I can assure you, encouragement comes when we think deeply on this truth: The God we turn to in suffering has suffered for us. Let us encourage each other with that truth.

I also would like to invite all readers to the Cincinnati Heart Walk on Sept. 15 at Eden Park in Cincinnati at 9 a.m. Come show your love and support for children born with congenital heart disease.

Aaron Sams is the pastor at First Baptist Church of Bellevue.



Aaron Sams

### FIRST PERSON



## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Cadiz Church will hold revival services Sept. 9-12 with **Jimmy Gentry** as evangelist. **Larry Wilson** is interim pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 9. **Cody Crowell** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold a Centershot Ministries event Sept. 10, 5 p.m., which uses archery to share the gospel with children. The event is open to students from second to 12th grade. For more information, call (606) 528-6650. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold "Senior Prom 2012" for senior adults Sept. 7, 6 p.m. The cost to attend is \$8 per person. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Pleasant Ridge

Church will celebrate its 154th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 9, 11 a.m., with **Wallace Kent**, associate pastor at Buck Run Church in Frankfort, as guest speaker. **Bob Tindall** is pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church will hold a game day for preschoolers and children, grades 1-5, Sept. 8, 10 a.m. **David Smith** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold a stewardship education seminar Sept. 9, 5 p.m., with **Barry Allen** and **Laurie Valentine** from the Kentucky Baptist Foundation as guest speakers. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will celebrate its 90th anniversary with homecoming services Sept. 9, 10:40 a.m., with **Bud Underwood**, former president of Oneida

Institute, as guest speaker. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will host **The Penny Loafers** in concert Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m., along with Magician **David Garrard**. Tickets are \$5 for adults. All proceeds go to the church's Christmas Connection ministry. For more information, call (502) 896-8882. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host the **Annie Moses Band** in concert Sept. 9, 6 p.m., as part of its fall concert series. For more information, call (270) 683-3505. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Springfield Church will host Central Association's music night Sept. 9, 6 p.m. **Justin Compton** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—University of the

### Spotlight on ...

#### Auburn



New Friendship Church will hold revival services Sept. 7-8, 7 p.m.; Sept. 9, 8:30, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m., with **Ricky Cunningham**, pastor of Hardin Church, as evangelist. **Barry Raley** is pastor.

Cumberlands will honor the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with a special ceremony Sept. 11, noon, at Patriot Park near the Hutton School of Business building on campus. Retired **Col. Michael Farley**, a Cumberlands graduate, will be the guest speaker.

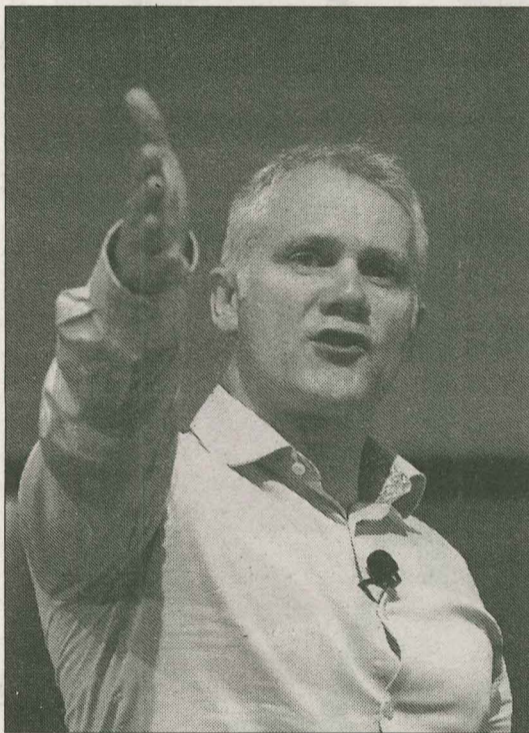


### September

- 13-14 Children's Ministers' Retreat, Cedarmore Camp and Conference Center, Bagdad.
- 19-21 Missionary Retreat, Barren River Lake State Resort Park, Lucas.
- 19-23 Adult Kentucky Changers—West, Princeton.
- 21-22 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training, First Baptist Church, Cannonsburg.
- 21-22 Men's & Women's Wind Orchestra Retreat, TBA.
- 22 Children in Action Day Camp, Highland Baptist Church, Shelbyville.
- 22 Disaster Relief Volunteer Training, Phases I & II, First Baptist Church, Cannonsburg.
- 27-28 Transformational Church Summit: A Conference for Pastors and Church Leaders, Campbellsville University.

### October

- 4-6 Ministers in Transition Conference, Louisville.
- 27 Women's Ministry State Leadership Conference, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.



## Former atheist Pethers to spend three days with UC students, local church leaders

**Williamsburg**—Former atheist Dennis Pethers will visit the University of the Cumberlands campus Sept. 5, 6 and 7 to share his story with students and area church leaders.

The England native will visit several groups during his three-day stay in Williamsburg. He plans to discuss and field the "tough questions" that people have about Christianity.

Pethers, the founder of Viz-a-Viz Ministries, was invited to Cumberlands by the school's Baptist Campus Ministry and missions and ministry department in order to share his story and unique perspective on Christianity.

"We all have a story," UC BCM Director Dean Whitaker said. Pethers "wants to share his story, listen to other's stories and tie it all in to the big picture—Christ's story."

In addition to Cumberlands, Pethers is being hosted by two other BCM groups in Kentucky this fall. The invitations stem from his

appearance at the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Evangelism Conference in February.

Pethers' schedule during his three-day visit to Cumberlands includes:

- A prayer meeting at Main Street Baptist Church in Williamsburg, Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
- Pethers will visit several classes on campus throughout the day, Sept. 6.
- A question-and-answer session with students in the campus grill, Sept. 6, 12:15 p.m.
- A second Q-and-A session with students in the Roberts Dining Hall, Sept. 6, 5 p.m.
- Pethers will share his story at the Gatliff Chapel, Sept. 6, 8 p.m.
- A roundtable discussion with local pastors and church leaders in the Patriot Room at the Cumberland Inn, Sept. 7, noon.

To register for that event or for more information, contact Whitaker at dean.whitaker@ucumberlands.edu. (UC)

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**DEGREE:** Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. [www.newburghseminary.com](http://www.newburghseminary.com).

**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.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Rep for home-based business; work own hours, be your own boss and have a wealth of training and support; unlimited earning potential; perfect for a stay-at-home mom. Call Holly at (502) 708-8640 for more information.

**RESOURCES:** Sound, projection, video, theatrical lighting; JCA Media, well known in the KBC, 20+ years of experience, installing quality equipment at reasonable prices. Jim Cottrell, owner, Elizabethtown, (270) 862-9586 or (270) 312-7492. Ryan Jackson, project manager, Bowling Green, (502) 803-7417. References available. Email: [jcot@windstream.net](mailto:jcot@windstream.net).

**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](mailto: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 [mvbcy@yahoo.com](mailto:mvbcy@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](http://www.vinerun.org) or (859) 428-1079.

**SEEKING:** Part-time student pastor for South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, Ky. Please send resumé to [info.southfork@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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. Resumé will be accepted through Sept. 16. [www.potters-housebc.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:cedarcreekbc@gmail.com) no later than Sept. 15.

**SEEKING:** Boone Trail Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tenn., is seeking a full-time senior/lead pastor to serve in ministry and operate with a team approach with five other pastoral staff. A master of divinity from an accredited seminary is preferred; five years experience in church ministry is required. We are a multi-campus church with an average attendance of 600. Please send resumé to Boone Trail Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor Search Committee, 1985 Carroll Creek Road, Johnson City, TN 37615, or to [pastorsearch@boonetrailbaptist.org](mailto:pastorsearch@boonetrailbaptist.org) by Sept. 30.

**SEEKING:** Part-time youth minister for church in Frankfort; interested persons may send a resumé to East Frankfort Baptist Church, 457 Versailles Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Mount Vernon, Ky., is seeking a full-time youth pastor. Please send resumé to [fbcc@kyn.twcbc.com](mailto:fbcc@kyn.twcbc.com) or by mail to First Baptist Church, Attn: Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 639, Mount Vernon, KY 40456.

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**SEEKING:** Stithton Baptist Church in Radcliff, Ky., is seeking a worship director, FT/PT. Please call (270) 351-6055 or send resumé to Stithton Baptist Church, 95 Park Avenue, Radcliff, KY 40160.

**SEEKING:** Full-time associate pastor of worship and discipleship: Poplar Heights Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., is seeking an experienced minister with God-given gifts to fill the dual role of worship pastor and discipleship pastor. This person will organize and oversee the blended-style worship services; he must be able to lead worship, praise team and sanctuary choir. He will provide leadership for Sunday School, all discipleship opportunities and give oversight to the children's ministry area. Please email resumé to Pastor Robert Morgan at [robert@poplarheights.com](mailto:robert@poplarheights.com), or mail them to Poplar Heights Baptist Church, 1980 Hollywood Drive, Jackson, TN 38305.

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By Shirley Cox

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## Eight Ministries Featured in the 2012 Bold Hope State Missions Emphasis

Across Kentucky, people are struggling in darkness. Without the light of Christ, they are searching for many ways to fill a deep void in their lives. The words of the apostle Paul challenge Christians to share the gospel message with boldness: *“Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold”* (2 Corinthians 3:12 NIV).

The 2012 state missions emphasis features eight ministries in Kentucky. These ministries are meeting a variety of physical and spiritual needs in their communities. Ministering with empathy and compassion, those who serve are

living out the gospel message of Jesus Christ. Their stories present a challenge to Kentucky Baptists to:

**Pray with Boldness.** *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:16 NKJV). Pray for missionaries, ministries and volunteers who are laboring for the Kingdom.

**Give with Boldness.** *“You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:35b NLT). Pray for God’s leadership as you give to the Eliza

Broadus Offering which supports many ministries in Kentucky.

**Go with Boldness.** *“Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God”* (Ephesians 5:2 NLT). Pray for God to reveal your spiritual gifts and lead you into the Kingdom work He created you to fulfill.

Pray that God will make you sensitive to the needs of others. Ask the Holy Spirit for an invitation to join Him as He offers Bold Hope to all mankind. Pray for God to help you practice spirit-filled **boldness** as you give to the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. Then, submit yourself as a living sacrifice, willing to boldly serve wherever God leads you.



### ELIZA BROADUS OFFERING 2012-13 Allocations

#### Kentucky Baptist Convention.....\$850,000

##### Evangelism

##### & Church Planting..... \$379,000

- Evangelism.....\$79,000
- Church Planting.....\$70,000
- Collegiate Ministries.....\$105,000
- Multiethnic Ministries...\$125,000

#### Missions Mobilization..... \$471,000

- State Missionaries.....\$250,000
- Church & Community  
Ministries.....\$188,000
- Disaster Relief.....\$ 33,000

#### Kentucky Baptist Associations & Special Ministries...\$130,000

All Kentucky Baptist Associations will be given a ministry grant of \$500 provided the association meets EBO grant guidelines.

Additional requests for Special Ministries funds may be made through an application process. Kentucky Baptist affiliated ministries may apply, including ministries of associations, MSC missionaries, etc.

The deadline for submitting an EBO allocation request from the 2012-13 offering is December 15, 2012. Contact Kentucky WMU for a 2012 allocation request form.

#### Kentucky WMU.....\$270,000

- Missions Education, Leader  
Development, Missions Events,  
Resource Materials.....\$153,000
- Missions Camps  
and Overnights.....\$ 57,100
- Promotion and  
Season of Prayer.....\$ 59,900

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

### Hope Behind Bars

When he wanted to change his life as a drug addict, B.J. Bradley began searching for a church where he could find love and acceptance. God led him to Northside Baptist Church in Mt. Vernon.

“In this church, with the help of others with the same issues, I found love, sobriety and the peace through Jesus Christ I had so longed for. I longed for others to find this peace also.”

Since 2002, B.J. has served in a ministry at the Rockcastle County Jail. For several years he has conducted four services for male and female inmates every Sunday afternoon. “I preach the gospel and tell them about deliverance and hope through Jesus Christ in my testimony,” B.J. says. “These inmates are without hope and need to know there is another way to live. There is recovery and life beyond addiction.”

Other Northside members, George Renner and Darlene Baker, also teach a Saturday evening Bible study at the jail. “Our church provides support, guidance, prayer and resources to volunteers involved in this ministry,” says Randy McPheron, pastor of Northside and Director of Missions for the Rockcastle Baptist Association. “It’s not about the mistakes the inmates made but how God wants to work in their lives. Jesus Christ can break the shackles of sin and remove the guilt.”

“We offer baptism at the church to those who demonstrate a sincere desire to commit their life to follow Jesus,” McPheron says. “We have seen their children, parents and spouses at these baptisms. It’s hard to watch a mother with shackles on her ankles wearing jail

clothes and her small child in the room crying for its mother. But we have great hope that through the transforming power of Jesus, these families will have a better future.”

Although the stories of the inmates are heart wrenching, their transformation stories are testimonies of victory. “One inmate had a brother who was a pastor and this inmate had attended church and knew about God,” B.J. says. “While he was serving his term, he was changed by Jesus Christ. He has been released from jail over four years and still calls me every year to thank me for telling him about the love of God.”

Another inmate who served two to three years in jail accepted Christ during his first year of incarceration. After he left the Rockcastle County Jail, he continued to write Brother Randy and me for two years, telling us he couldn’t wait to get out of jail and start coming to church,” said B.J. “After his release he didn’t have anything but his salvation. He started his life over and as a church, we did all we could to help this man spiritually and physically. His wife and child have started attending church also and she accepted Christ.”

An Eliza Broadus Offering (EBO) grant was used to help purchase a portable baptistry for the Rockcastle County Jail. EBO grants have also assisted the Northside Baptist Church S.W.A.T. (Servants with a Testimony) Team to purchase materials for support groups helping people who are struggling with alcoholism and other addictions. Many who have been reached through the jail ministry participate in SWAT Team meetings.



B.J. Bradley gives a hug to a new believer after baptism at the jail using a portable baptistry provided by the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Churches can begin or partner with county or state jail ministries by providing volunteers, materials, and encouragement to inmates and those who have been released. Jail ministries also include ministries to the families of those who have been incarcerated.

## Shelby Christians United Against Drugs & Celebrate Recovery Bring Healing and Hope

In mid-2000, God began opening Teresa Smith's eyes to the devastating effects of drugs on family and friends. "Most of that pain stayed very secret," said Teresa, "yet it was there, threatening the facade of a 'normal' Christian community. It was then my friend Ghedra Dunn came to me, wanting to start a Christians United Against Drugs in this area, patterned after a successful program in Powell County. It was nothing dramatic, just a gentle leading of the Savior."

Ghedra Dunn's insight into the devastation of drug use came directly through her own daughter. "Alicia was addicted to crack cocaine. She gave her 18-month old daughter, Harley, to me because she chose the drugs. I knew Christ was the only answer to Alicia's addiction and I poured out my heart to God, my family and my church family."

Together, these two women began Shelby Christians United Against Drugs. The ministry seeks to "unite Christians from all denominations under Christ to pray for and set up programs to help lead His hurting children out of the darkness of addiction to drugs/alcohol and to introduce them and their families to the healing powers of Jesus and give them hope of a better tomorrow."

With prayer as the cornerstone, the ministry is uniting groups that are fighting to make a difference in lives in Shelby County. "We do prayerwalking," Ghedra said. "We also set up an information booth about drug use/abuse and about the program. And we helped bring the Christian-based Celebrate Recovery to Shelby County."

John Flannigan serves as the Ministry Director for the Celebrate Recovery (CR) program which meets

weekly at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville. "The 12-step Celebrate Recovery program offers hope to individuals working through their hurts, habits or hang-ups by defining Jesus as their higher power and helping them in their relationship with Him through faith," said John.

As John and other volunteers minister, he watches God begin the healing process, one life at a time. "One of the men had a physical addiction to alcohol. God has taken him from the verge of losing his family to making amends with God, himself and anyone he may have hurt during his addiction."

"God is using this ministry to unite ministries in Shelby County including a pregnancy center, feeding ministry, clothing ministry, counseling service, homeless shelter, parenting classes, and financial counseling. All are Christian-based," says Teresa. "We communicate with one another and support each other in prayer and hands-on ministry."

"I thought I was helping start this Celebrate Recovery ministry for my daughter," said Ghedra, "but I realize God used my daughter and CR to help me heal as I helped others. Through His grace, I have healed from sexual abuse, control issues, co-dependency and eating issues."

Gifts to the Eliza Broadus Offering provided start-up monies to help SCUAD purchase Celebrate Recovery materials and advertise the program. Churches can start or partner with Celebrate Recovery programs by providing materials, refreshments, and child care.

Pray for churches to begin Celebrate Recovery ministries. Pray for people who are hiding hurts, habits, and hang-ups from others and need the hope found only in Jesus.

## Food Ministries Bring Hope to the Hungry

For the past sixteen years, churches in the Elkhorn Baptist Association have offered Bold Hope to homeless people living on the streets of Lexington. By giving away sack lunches of sandwiches, chips and cookies, volunteers have unique opportunities to share the love of Christ.

"We use about 2,000 lunch bags and over 5,000 sandwich bags weekly," said Sandra Williams, Church and Community Ministries Director for the Elkhorn Association.

Serving with coordinators of the ministry sites, Sandra helps direct the work of 300-350 volunteers who range in age from six to 90. A North American missionary, Sandra helps to enlist, train and motivate the volunteers.

"We don't ask the clients why they are in the situation they are in or why they need the food," says Sandra. "This is not a gourmet meal,

but some people stand in line for two hours to receive the food. We give out food to help them physically, but a volunteer also stands by the door to take prayer requests. At first, we didn't get many prayer requests, but now people who aren't getting food stand in line to share requests. They need to know someone is listening to them and praying for them."

Along with their prayer requests, the homeless share their personal stories. "One gentleman had been sick and could not keep his family at home because he couldn't work," said Sandra. "We prayed with him each week for about three months. One night he came in smiling and said, 'You prayed too hard, I now have two jobs!' It is great to hear 'Because you prayed, this is happening in my life.'"

The volunteers with the food ministries of Elkhorn Association soon learn that patience and under-



When Kay Hammond describes her work at the Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center in Pikeville, her face glows with God-given passion. Kay often speaks to community and church groups to promote awareness of the sanctity of human life and to tell about her work at Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center (APCC).



Kay Hammond

A former high school librarian and later assistant librarian at the University of Pikeville, Kay now directs the Baptist Campus Ministry at the university and serves as director of APCC.

"At APCC, we share our faith with our clients," Kay says. "We are pro-life, seeking to protect the lives of women and children. We place the utmost value on both. It has been my experience that clients who have a strong faith in God handle pregnancy-related crises better. Five of our clients professed faith in Christ last year."

In 2011, APCC served over 1,000 participants. The center offers marriage and parental counseling, pregnancy testing, abstinence education, abortion recovery and adoption education. In addition to serving nine counties in eastern Kentucky, APCC reaches into Wise County, Virginia and Mingo County, West Virginia.

Forty APCC volunteers were involved in Christian counseling, fundraising, clerical work and outreach last year. Among the

volunteers were University of Pikeville students who served internships to earn college credit.

Lives are changed on a regular basis at the center. For example, one of the clients had many emotional and spiritual problems. "I prayed for her daily and thought, 'God, I am not getting through to this girl,'" Kay said. "About six months ago, I was sitting in my office and heard someone call my name. The young woman who had been so difficult said,

'Hey, Kay, I want you to know I never forgot the talks we had about God. I have received Jesus as my Savior and my life is changed. I will be a freshman at the University of Pikeville this semester and I have my little boy with me. I'm doing it!'"

The Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center is supported by donations from individuals, churches, and grants from the Eliza Broadus Offering. "Without the EBO grant, which helps purchase baby items and educational materials, we could not keep our ministry going," Kay said.

Churches can partner with crisis pregnancy ministries by donating diapers, baby clothes, baby care equipment, and baby care products. Volunteers are needed to staff crisis pregnancy centers, teach classes, and mentor both women and men in pregnancy support programs.

Pray for women facing crisis pregnancy and the impact of APCC and other ministries on the lives of hurting people. Pray that God will supply needed resources and volunteers to continue crisis pregnancy ministries across Kentucky.



Volunteers prepare and serve meals to the homeless through the hot meals ministry. Lunch sacks are filled for distribution.



standing are necessary to minister to the homeless. "One lady who started coming to the meal for the homeless was very angry and did not want to hear anything about the Bible or Jesus," said Sandra. "However, we became friends with her and she started asking questions about God. Then she began helping us with the sack lunches and became friends with the other volunteers. Last summer she accepted Christ."

This ministry is supported by the Eliza Broadus Offering and by donations from churches and individuals, World Hunger, and the Elkhorn Association WMU. Churches can partner with food ministries by donating lunch and sandwich bags, as well as disposable plates, napkins, cups, and utensils.

Pray for food ministries to have needed supplies and resources. Pray for opportunities to share Christ.

*"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold."*  
(2 Cor. 3:12 NIV)



*"I thought I was helping start this Celebrate Recovery for my daughter, but I realize God used my daughter and CR to help me heal as I helped others."*  
Ghedra Dunn, Shelby Christians United Against Drugs

This insert made possible by the gifts of your church through the Cooperative Program and the Eliza Broadus Offering. It was adapted from the Master Article included on the 2012 Bold Hope DVD (pdf file).

**The Writer:** Shirley Cox is a freelance writer from Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. Cox writes regularly for *Missions Mosaic*.

**Please note:** The 2012 Bold Hope DVD complements this article. A copy of the DVD has been sent to each pastor and WMU director. All materials are also posted on line:  
[www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo).



## Hope House is more than a name

In a downtown section of Bowling Green known as the Enterprise Community, Hope House Ministries is serving a densely populated 3.6 square mile area where 44% of the people live at or below the poverty level. Fifty-five percent of the people have no high school diploma. Fifty-three percent are unemployed.

"We've seen families come in that have no hope and leave with the greatest hope ever given, forgiveness of sins through Christ," says Bryan Lewis, Executive Director of Hope House Ministries.

Hope House opened its doors in 2009. The goal of this ministry is to alleviate spiritual and physical poverty through gospel restoration. By means of ministries in the home, in the neighborhood and in the school, Hope House seeks to provide long term rehabilitation by partnering in each of these areas, giving families the hope of overcoming poverty through the gospel and the dignity of caring for themselves.

Each week, 20-40 volunteers pick up donations, deliver furniture and food, and perform administrative work. In addition to providing food, clothing and financial assistance for short term relief, Hope House works toward long-term rehabilitation through classes in *Jobs for Life* and One-on-One Financial Counseling.

"Volunteers reach out to the neighborhood through prayerwalking, servant evangelism, one-to-one Bible reading and discipleship, and home maintenance and repair," says Bryan. "Volunteers also hold community cookouts, back yard Bible clubs, block parties, and facilitate Affordable Christmas."

Hope House partners with area schools through the Back Pack Program, sending bags of food home with low income students on weekends. They also partner with Parker Bennett Curry Elementary School to provide mentors, lunchtime *Cafe Concierge* volunteers, and enlisting groups to adopt a classroom.

Working to alleviate physical poverty in the community provides many opportunities to share the gospel with the clients of Hope House. "In our first year of ministry, a homeless man named Loy came to us," Bryan said. "Loy was struggling with many things, but God allowed us to develop a deep relationship with him. He found a zeal for Christ and was baptized. After finding his clear identify in Christ, he found a purpose for working and became a light to others walking in darkness."

Each day presents new challenges which open doors for the staff to experience God. "The brokenness, hurting and hopelessness we have

seen in this area can be overwhelming, yet we've seen God do incredible things here," Bryan said. "We saw God provide a refrigerator ten minutes before I got a call from a single mother who was using a cooler to keep her food cold."

Despite the challenges, Bryan rejoices that God allows him to serve at Hope House. "God has graciously blindsided me and put me here. I am humbled and broken each day as I am reminded of my own depravity apart from Christ. It's a joy to serve alongside churches that encourage their people to scatter to Hope House to serve on a weekly basis. The heroes of this ministry are the volunteers who give their time, talents, and treasures to seek the work of the ministry continue in this area."

Initially a vision of Living Hope Baptist Church, Hope House

also partners with Eastwood, Rich Pond, Forest Park, Christ Fellowship, Covenant Ministries, Grace Community, and White Stone Quarry Baptist churches. The ministry also receives donations from several organizations and individuals.

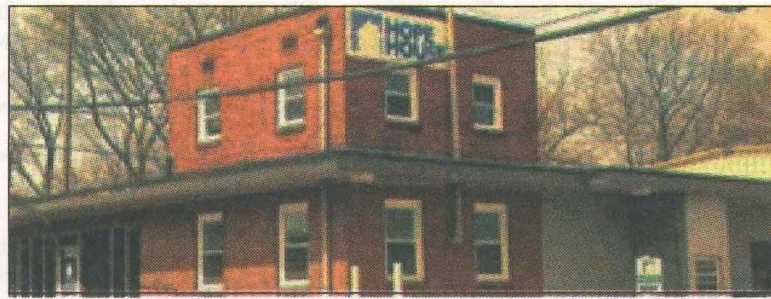
Hope House received their first Eliza Broadus Offering grant this year. Funds are being used for supplies and ministry resources.

Churches can partner with Hope House and similar ministries across Kentucky by providing food, clothing, cleaning products, household items, furniture, personal care products, Bibles and Christian literature. Volunteers are needed to work with clients, teach classes, and sort donations.

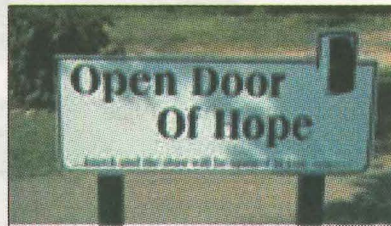
Pray for God to send laborers and for a resurgence of evangelism in our communities.

*The brokenness, hurting and hopelessness we have seen in this area can be overwhelming, yet we've seen God do incredible things here.*

*We saw God provide a refrigerator ten minutes before a call from a single mother using a cooler to keep her food cold.*  
Bryan Lewis,  
Executive Director,  
Hope House  
Ministries



Hope House includes offices, a warehouse, and space for classes.



## This door opens to hope

While Lee Bean was pastor of Dover Baptist Church in Shelbyville, the church received calls on a regular basis for rides to homeless shelters in Frankfort, Lexington and Louisville. During a trip to take a homeless man to Frankfort in December 2008, Lee said to one of his deacons, "Wouldn't it be nice to have a homeless shelter right here in Shelbyville?"

Lee's dream became a reality when the Open Door of Hope opened in November 2009. Every night the shelter provides a hot meal, a place to sleep and a Bible study for 15 men. "We help the men find employment, permanent housing, transportation to doctors and court appointments, etc.," says Lee who now serves as executive director of the ministry. "We are also in the process of opening a long-term drug/alcohol recovery program for men who desire to break the cycle of addiction."

In addition to meeting physical needs, Open Door of Hope ministers to the spiritual needs of the men. "It's

heartbreaking to hear the stories of these men when they come to us," says Lee. "Most of them have experienced things a human being should not have to experience. We try to be the hands and feet of Jesus in softening some of those rough edges in a man's life and point him to the source of hope - Jesus himself."

Each night a different church group or individual prepares and delivers meals to the shelter. "Then there are those who just drop by occasionally and hang out with our guys to build relationships," says Lee. "Including all those who prepare meals and donate supplies, we have well over 100 volunteers."

"Every time I begin to doubt God's call in my life, He comes through with some small victory to remind me this is His doing and that it's not up to me to see it through. God reminds me that He has put up with me for 38 years. For the first time, I've learned what grace really looks like in someone's life."

Lee recalls a particular example of God's grace. "Greg was brought to the shelter by law enforcement officials. He had walked several miles after his wife threw him out of the house for repeated drug use. He stayed at the Open Door of Hope for several months," said Lee. "Greg began attending church and reconnected with Jesus. Today he has reconciled with his wife, holds a steady job and volunteers at the shelter when he has free time."

Open Door of Hope is funded by Shelby Baptist Association, churches, Eliza Broadus Offering grants, local businesses and a few private grants. "With the Eliza Broadus Offering grant we purchased supplies and Bibles for the

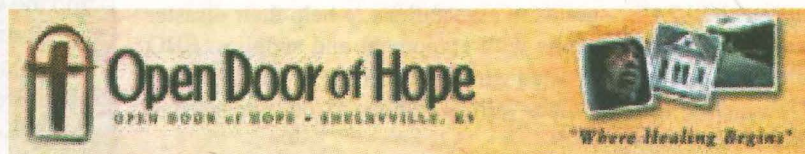
men we serve," said Lee. "It's truly wonderful to see the generosity of Kentucky Baptists when it comes to serving those who seem to have lost all hope."

Churches can partner with Open Door of Hope and similar ministries by providing meals, paper products, cleaning supplies, sheets, towels, and personal care items. Mentors and other volunteers are needed on a regular basis.

Pray for Bold Hope to break through the hardness of homeless men. Pray for meals, supplies, and other needed resources, as well as for mentors and other volunteers. Pray that homeless men will see the beauty of Christ and His saving grace.

The 2012 Bold Hope DVD includes a video related to every featured ministry

Materials are also available on line : [www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo)



"Where Healing Begins"



## Bringing hope in darkness

Scarlet Hope began with a vision God gave Rachele Starr, a vision of women trapped in strip clubs, sex shops, and xxx theaters. "God showed me it wasn't enough just to drive by and pray for them but that as Christians we are called to go and bring His love to women in this dark, dark world," says Rachele, founder and director of this ministry.

Rachele guides trained leaders who bring the love of Christ to women working in more than 27 strip clubs in the Louisville area. "As a team, we deliver home-cooked meals to 350 women and men (owners, bouncers) in these clubs," says Rachele. "We sit with the women and listen to their stories, hoping to bring the gospel into light when God allows us to share. Going each week builds trust and close relationships that lead the women to Bible students, art therapies, and many other resources we can provide. We share the gospel message with them through God's love."

One of the most devastating effects of the adult entertainment industry is that it steals the self-worth of the women. "We share the gospel message with them through our love. We have seen the lives of our friends, families, co-workers and bosses transformed by the testimonies of these

ladies," says Rachele. "The grace of God is reaching into the depths of our city and pulling out women who have been in the adult entertainment world for more than 30 years."

Approximately 175 volunteers serve in the Scarlet Hope ministry by going into the strip clubs, mentoring women coming out of the clubs, cooking meals, cleaning, working on projects in a resource home, putting together gifts and events, leading Bible studies, and helping drive women to appointments for educational or medical purposes.

Until April 2010, the ministry operated out of homes and coffee shops. "God gave us the keys to a 12,000 square foot house that exceeded our dreams," said Rachele. Located in a strategic location "that only God could have orchestrated," the home was already set up for transitional living and as a resource center.

Many women have already come through the Scarlet Hope resource program and renovations on the transitional living area have been underway this year.

As she reflects on God's blessings, Rachele includes watching lives change and be transformed through the redeeming power of Christ. "To sit in a room with someone that six months before was a drug addict stripping in a club and to know she has accepted Christ is absolutely incredible," says Rachele.

"Scarlet Hope is a wonderful example of what one person can do to give hope to those caught in the trap of human exploitation," says Joy Bolton, executive director of Kentucky WMU. "Through Project HELP: Human Exploitation, WMU is seeking to raise awareness of human trafficking, bullying, sex and media exploitation, then get people involved."



"Kentucky WMU has invited Rachele, a member of Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, to speak about Scarlet Hope at WMU events. She is a young woman who has challenged us to open our eyes to those who are victimized by the adult entertainment industry. Because so many work in adult entertainment due to force or desperation, Rachele challenges us not to look the other way," says Bolton. "In addition, Kentucky WMU recently provided a Project HELP grant to support this ministry. The grant was made possible through the Eliza Broadus Offering."

Scarlet Hope is funded by churches, private donors, fundraisers, and ministry grants. Churches can partner with Scarlet Hope by providing meals, household supplies, and enlisting volunteers.

Pray for a revival in the strip clubs in Louisville. One strip club closed its doors because the owners gave their lives to Christ, rejecting the lifestyle they had lived for 25 years. Pray for the Scarlet Hope team and for God's blessings on this ministry.



Scarlet Hope volunteers share smiles and hope!



## Blankets give hope to children

Tornadoes. Tsunamis. Floods. These words create images of homelessness, devastation and trauma. When disaster strikes, adults are often barely able to grasp what has happened.

Children also suffer from the shock and confusion that follows disaster. "Imagine you are a child who has lost your home, your clothes, your toys and your security," says Coy Webb, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Director. "For most of us, this is a heartbreaking thought."

An exciting new ministry of Kentucky Disaster Relief is a Childcare Unit to care for children in the days following a disaster. "The new unit contains rolling modules that can be set up in a church or emergency shelter," says Webb. "This ministry gives Kentucky Baptists an opportunity to provide hope to children and families while our presence reminds them they are not forgotten. We care, but more importantly, God cares about them."

Kentucky Disaster Relief and Kentucky WMU co-sponsored a project earlier this year to collect children's blankets for the new Childcare Unit. "Warm, cuddly blankets offer comfort and security to children impacted by crisis," says Webb. "These blankets provide a tangible way to share the love of Christ with a hurting child."

"Over 7,000 blankets were given for this ministry. It was a huge blessing and we deeply appreciate the WMU partnering with us on this project," says Webb. "We are not

in need of further blankets at this time as our storage for Disaster Relief is limited, but these blankets have already been used to minister to children and families during the response to the tornadoes in eastern Kentucky this spring. I wish all Kentucky Baptists could have seen the smiles on the children's faces as they received these gifts of grace."

Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief has 45 units across Kentucky and has trained over 10,000 volunteers since it began operation in 1984. Volunteers staff feeding units designed to serve thousands of hot meals on short notice. They also operate chainsaws to help remove debris, clean up flooded homes, and provide many other ministries during disasters.

During 2011, Kentucky Disaster Relief responded to 18 disaster settings, sending chainsaw teams, shower units, and chaplains. "This ministry enables me to actively serve my Lord and fulfill the commandment to love my neighbor as myself and take the Gospel into all the world," says Webb.

Kentucky Disaster Relief is supported by the Cooperative Program, Eliza Broadus Offering, and gifts from individuals and churches. EBO has provided funds for Disaster Relief through the KBC as well as grants to associations to help their disaster teams with equipment and supplies. EBO assisted with the expenses of the Childcare Unit as well as a Shower Unit purchased in 2010.

Blankets were sealed in airtight bags and are in storage, ready to be used when disaster strikes. The new Childcare Unit has already been in use this year and is ready to go again.



For information on training and service opportunities, contact Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief at 502-489-3401 or 866-489-3527. Learn more at [www.kybaptist.org/dr](http://www.kybaptist.org/dr).



A promotional booklet/DVD has been sent to the WMU director and pastor in every KBC church. The DVD includes videos as well as teaching plans for all ages and suggestions for churchwide promotion of the Season of Prayer for State Missions and the Eliza Broadus Offering (PDF files).

Orders for posters, prayer guides and offering envelopes were filled according to the standing order of each church. Request additional copies by calling Kentucky WMU at 502-489-3534 or toll free, 1-866-489-3534; or by email: [kywmu@kybaptist.org](mailto:kywmu@kybaptist.org). All materials are posted online: [www.kywmu.org/ebo](http://www.kywmu.org/ebo). These materials are provided by the gifts of your church to the Eliza Broadus Offering and the Cooperative Program.

Church contributions to the Eliza Broadus Offering should be mailed to: Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions, Kentucky Baptist Convention,

PO Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253. Checks should be made payable to Kentucky Baptist Convention and designated "EBO." Church treasurers may also include EBO contributions with other contributions through the Kentucky Baptist Convention using the KBC church contribution form and designating the amount for the Eliza Broadus Offering.

Individuals or groups may contribute directly to the Eliza Broadus Offering. Please make checks payable to the Kentucky Baptist Convention and notate "EBO" on the check memo line. Mail these checks to: Eliza Broadus Offering, Kentucky WMU, PO Box 436569, Louisville, KY 40253-6569. Please enclose name and address for an acknowledgement of your gift.

Contributions for the 2012-13 Eliza Broadus Offering will be received from September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013.