

# WESTERN Recorder

September 11, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 35

## Shooting at Louisville Baptist church claims two lives

*Suspect allegedly angry over property dispute at homeowners' meeting, pastor asks for prayer*

By Robin Bass Cornetet

**Louisville**—Tragedy erupted at a Louisville Baptist church Sept. 6 when a gunman opened fire during a homeowners association meeting, taking the lives of two men. Jason Autry, lead pastor of Springdale Community Church, said no members of his church were involved or harmed during the incident.

"We are saddened by the loss," Autry said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims' families especially."

David Merritt, 73, president of the Spring Creek Homeowners Association, was pronounced dead at the scene.

The second victim, 69-year-old Marvin Fisher, was taken to University of Louisville Hospital and was listed in critical condition for several days. Fisher, who served as a board member of the homeowners association, died Sunday.

Lt. Barry Wilkerson, commander of the homicide unit for Louisville Metro

Police Department, said a total of 10 people attended the homeowners meeting and about a dozen others were located in various parts of the building Thursday evening. There were no additional injuries.

Wilkerson said the gunman, Mahmoud Yousef Hindi, 55, confessed to police and has been charged with murder, assault and wanton endangerment. Hindi pled not guilty during arraignment Saturday morning. His bail was set at \$1 million and he will next appear in court Sept. 14 for a pre-trial conference.

On Friday, Wilkerson would not comment about potential motives for the shooting other than to say, "We do know there's a past history."

Numerous media reports pointed to an alleged property or zoning dispute between Hindi and the homeowners association.

Wilkerson said officers were

□ See Springdale church ... Page 2



Police tape still hangs from the front doors of Louisville's Springdale Community Church a day after a homeowners' association meeting of a nearby subdivision turned deadly. Mahmoud Yousef Hindi is charged with murder, assault and wanton endangerment in the Sept. 6 shooting that killed David Merritt, 73, and Marvin Fisher, 69. (Photos by Robin Cornetet Bass)

## Former Louisville pastor tapped to lead Midwestern

**Kansas City, Mo.**—Jason Allen, vice president for institutional advancement at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, has been selected by Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's presidential search team members as their nominee to become the school's president.

Allen, 35, also is executive director of the Southern Seminary Foundation and previously served as

pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville.

The search committee said it expects to bring Allen's nomination to the board of trustees next month for an official vote. If elected, Allen will succeed R. Philip Roberts as Midwestern's fifth president.

"Though young in years, Jason is rich in experience that crosses a wide spectrum of ministry concerns such

□ See Allen MBTS candidate ... Page 3

## In Isaac's wake, Kentucky Baptists head to Louisiana

**Covington, La.**—Three Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief mud-out units and several chaplains are in Louisiana this week to help residents there affected by Hurricane Isaac.

Approximately 40 volunteers from Kentucky Baptist churches are helping residents clean up after the storm, while chaplains listen and provide encouragement, prayer and spiritual counsel.

The Kentucky volunteers are based at First Baptist Church of Covington, La., and are expected to serve through at least the end of the week.

Louisiana and Mississippi Baptists already are at work helping their neighbors affected by the slow-moving storm that made landfall Aug. 29, bringing floods, power outages and wind damage along the Gulf Coast.



**SOUTHERN BAPTISTS MOBILIZED** A stack of water is unloaded at Coteau Baptist Church in Houma, La., from one of the new 18-wheel disaster relief rigs operated by the North American Mission Board after Hurricane Isaac. (Photo by Karen Willoughby/Louisiana Baptist Message)

The Kentucky teams have joined disaster relief volunteers from Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

In response to Isaac, Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief Director Coy Webb is serving as Southern Baptist Disaster Relief liaison at the Federal Emergency Management Agency incident command center in Washington. Former Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief leader Larry Koch has served in a similar capacity for the American Red Cross' response to the hurricane.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief feeding operations are in high gear at a number of sites in Louisiana and Mississippi, with more than 100,000 hot meals prepared and delivered to victims.

Most of the feeding has taken place in the greater New Orleans area, where at one point 700,000 people were without power after the Category 1 storm brought torrential rains and flooding.

In some areas—especially Plaquemines, St. John the Baptist and Jefferson parishes—the rain resulted in more flooding and residential damage than that caused by Hurricane Katrina seven years ago.

Gibbie McMillan, disaster relief director for the Louisiana Baptist Convention,

□ See Disaster relief ... Page 6



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Western Recorder 9-11-2012

# SBC Calvinism committee's first meeting marked by 'civil tone'

By Art Toalston

**Nashville, Tenn.**—An advisory team on the issue of Calvinism met "to listen, to learn and to hope," Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee President Frank Page reported after the 16-member group met late last month in Nashville, Tenn.

The goal for the meeting, Page said in a statement, "was not to argue theology or to try to change each other's minds. ... I was greatly heartened by the civil tone that marked the meeting."

Page named the advisory team in mid-August to develop, as he said at the time, "a strategy whereby people of various theological persuasions can purposely work together in missions and evangelism."

When he announced the group, Page said at some point in the coming weeks and months he is hoping for "the crafting of a statement regarding the strategy on how we can work together."

"My hope is that we, as a diverse body of Baptists, can agree to a genuine, joint acceptance of Great Commission

responsibility," Page said in his statement. "We must reclaim the principle of respect in our dealings with others. A common theme around the table is that we need to stop the exaggerations and caricatures of those whose perspective on the extent of the atonement is different from ours. We must avoid the twin ditches of anger and arrogance that threaten to pull us off the road of cooperation."

The advisory team will meet again in early November at a yet-to-be-named site. The meeting was conducted on

background rules involving no quoted statements by or attribution of comments to advisory team members. By consensus, the advisory team agreed that Page would issue a statement after the meeting.

In announcing the 16-member advisory team in mid-August, Page said additional individuals could join the group in the future.

SBC President Fred Luter, who is part of the advisory team, was not in attendance due to Hurricane Isaac's impact in the New Orleans area. (BP)

## Springdale church requests prayer, holds vigil after deadly shooting

Continued from page 1

dispatched to the church shortly after 7 p.m. Thursday evening—just moments after the meeting began.

"It appears he arrived and stayed there for a short period of time before the shooting took place," Wilkerson said, adding there was limited time for argument to ensue. As Hindi attempted to leave the scene, he was detained by a retired police officer that happened to be in the church building.

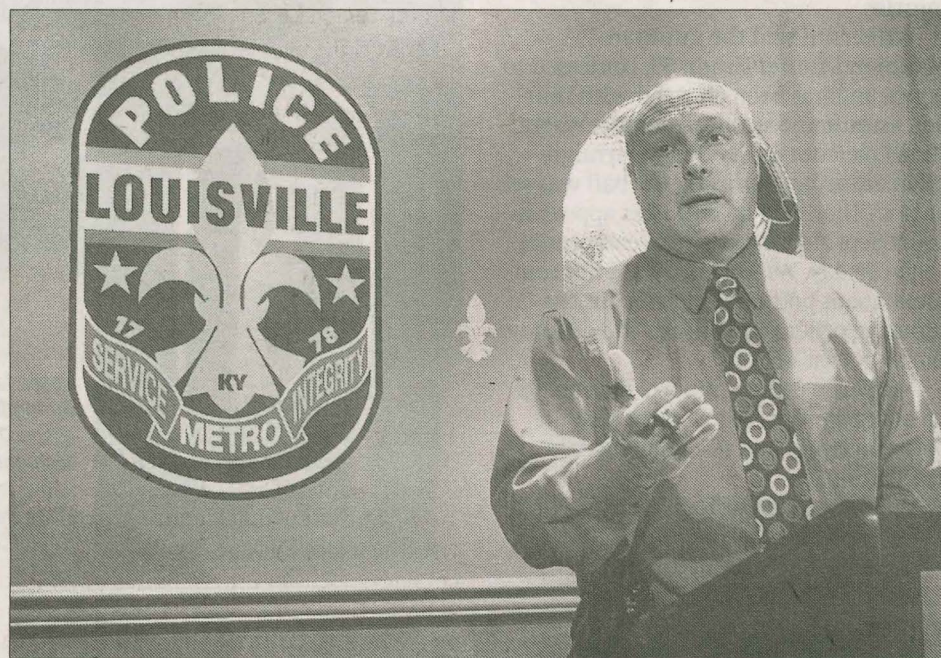
"The quick response of a former LMPD officer and another individual did probably save some lives," Wilkerson said. "As tragic as this event is, it's good to know there are people who are willing to step up and take action when necessary."

Autry said he quickly drove to the church after being notified of the shooting by phone. According to a message on his wife's Twitter page, Bonnie Autry was in the building when the incident occurred.

"I am shaken and broken, but just as we were studying on the opposite wall of this tragedy, this I know, 'We give thanks to you, Lord God, the Almighty, the one who is and who always was. You have assumed your great power and have begun to reign,'" wrote Bonnie Autry, quoting Revelation 11:17.

Autry used his Twitter account to let concerned friends know that he, his wife and staff were OK.

By Friday morning, Autry was already in conference with his associate pastors discussing ways to help their community heal from the brutal violence that has shocked the quiet suburban area in eastern Jefferson County. Later that afternoon, he met with elders of the church



**PRESS CONFERENCE**—Lt. Barry Wilkerson, commander Louisville Metro Police Department's homicide unit, said Mahmoud Yousef Hindi confessed to firing a weapon during a homeowners association meeting at Springdale Community Church, Louisville, that has left two people dead.

"It truly is our hearts' desire to let them know that we love them and we're here and we're going to be ministering to them now and in the days ahead," the pastor said. "We want to be very active in helping people recover and heal."

Autry said Springdale Community Church has maintained a longstanding, "wonderful relationship" with the neighboring subdivision. He said the homeowners association uses the church facilities frequently for meetings and the residents of Spring Creek enjoy utilizing the church's walking path.

Autry told local media that Hindi's wife and children were among church

and community members who attended a prayer vigil Sunday at Springdale. Hindi has seven children. The youngest are 14-year-old twins. Like most at the service, Autry said the Hindis were "just trying to make sense of it all."

"It's awful when it happens anywhere and the fact that it did happen here it's obviously something we couldn't do anything about. It was a random act and unfortunately that's prevalent in the world," Autry continued. "But we do have faith in Jesus Christ ... and we see this as an opportunity to share the love of Christ to the victims and everyone else." (WR)

## SBC's CP gifts poised to hit budget for year

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Year-to-date contributions to Southern Baptist national and international missions and ministries received by the SBC Executive Committee are near \$175 million, 2.63 percent above the year-to-date budgeted goal, and more than a quarter of a percent ahead of contributions received during the same time last year, according to committee president, Frank Page.

As of Aug. 31, the \$174,983,253.81 in gifts received by the Executive Committee for distribution through the Cooperative Program allocation budget totaled 102.63 percent of the \$170,500,000 year-to-date budgeted amount to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The total is \$507,698.92 more than the \$174,475,554.89 received through the end of August 2011.

"This has not been an easy year for so many of our churches and state conventions," Page said. "The economy continues to be sluggish. Unemployment rates rose in 44 states last month. Unemployment and underemployment continue to affect many faithful church members.

"Yet, in spite of these adversities, Southern Baptists continue to give obediently to support the missions and ministries of their churches, associations, state conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. For this we are grateful."

The convention-adopted budget is distributed 50.2 percent to international missions through the International Mission Board; 22.79 percent to North American missions through North American Mission Board; 22.16 percent to theological education; 3.2 percent to the SBC's operating budget; and 1.65 percent to the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission.

If the convention exceeds its annual budget goal of \$186 million dollars, the IMB's share will go to 51 percent of any overage in Cooperative Program allocation budget receipts. Other ministry entities of the SBC will receive their adopted percentage amounts and the SBC operating budget's portion will be reduced to 2.4 percent of any overage. (BP)

## Iranian pastor escapes death sentence, released



**FINALLY FREE**—Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani greets his family as he leaves prison after 1,062 days in Iran. (BP)

**Tehran**—Iranian pastor Youcef Nadarkhani has been acquitted of apostasy and released, ending a saga that drew international attention and saw him spend more than 1,000 days in jail in the face of a death sentence—simply for being a Christian.

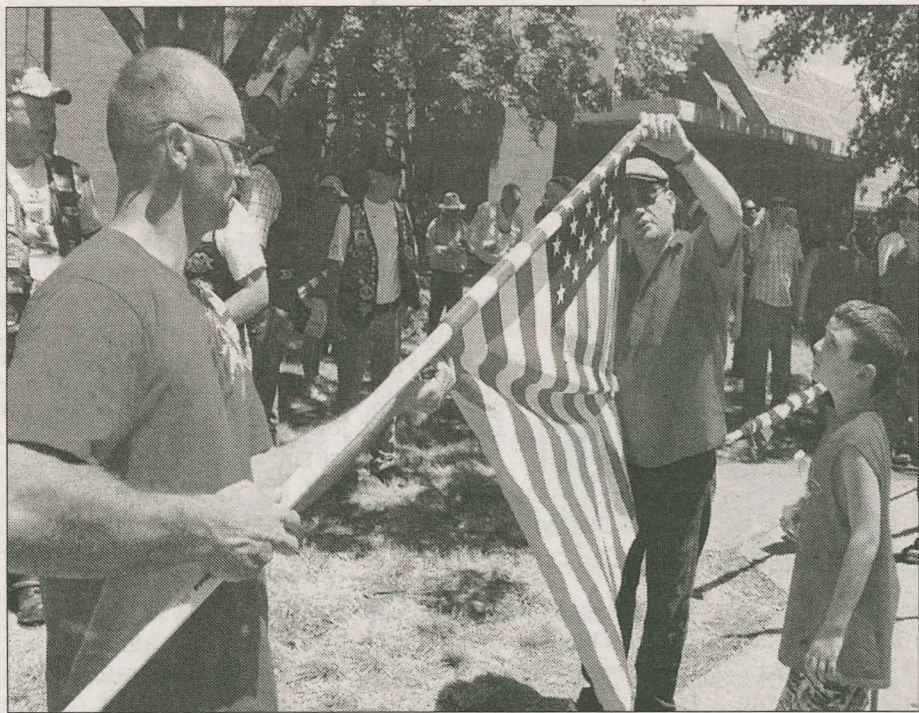
Christian Solidarity Worldwide reported Sept. 8 that Nadarkhani, in jail since 2009, was acquitted of apostasy—that is, converting from Islam to Christianity—but found guilty of evangelizing Muslims. CSW said Nadarkhani was sentenced to three years in prison for that latter charge, but released due to time already served. Nadarkhani said he never was a

Muslim.

The White House, the U.S. State Department and governments around the world had spoken up for Nadarkhani.

Nadarkhani was arrested in October 2009 while registering his church in Rasht, Iran, although he initially was arrested for protesting his children being taught Islam in school, American Center for Law and Justice reported. He was charged with apostasy for supposedly abandoning Islam and later was given a death sentence.

In September 2011, Nadarkhani was given four chances to recant his faith in court and refused each time. (BP)



**STANDING AGAINST HATE** Taylor Hewlett, 9, watches Josh Flowers (left) and Nathan Rascher put away a flag across from First Baptist Church of Columbia, Mo., near the end of an event to support the family of Army Specialist Sterling Wyatt, who was killed in Afghanistan. "We won," Hewlett said. He was referring to the fact that Westboro Baptist Church, a protest group that had gathered down the street from the funeral, left by early afternoon. (Photo by Kellie Kotraba/RNS)

## New law, creativity block hate group's military funeral protests

**Washington**—The independent Westboro Baptist Church of military funeral protest fame is being blocked on more than one front in its hateful demonstrations at solemn family gatherings.

In recent months, thousands of people have invoked creativity in stopping Westboro's protests, gathering in droves wearing colorful shirts or dressed as zombies to form a human blockade of the group's path.

Last month, President Obama signed into law the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012, which restricts protests at military funerals to at least two hours before or after the event, and at least 300 feet away from the venue. The law counters a 2011 Supreme Court ruling that Westboro's protests are protected under the First Amendment.

In July, large crowds donned red

shirts to prohibit Westboro from disrupting a funeral in Columbia, Mo., and a group of Texas A&M University students put on maroon T-shirts to protect a College Station, Texas, funeral from Westboro's onslaught. In Seattle, dozens of people dressed as zombies to block a Westboro protest at a military burial there.

The Kansas-based Westboro group frequently demonstrates at funerals to spread its extreme message that deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan are God's punishment for the United States' tolerance of homosexuality.

According to news reports, members of the group say they will not respect the Honoring America's Veterans Act limiting such protests. Violating the law includes the possibility of \$50,000 in statutory damages, according to the *Army Times*. (BP)

## Authorities investigating death of IMB worker serving in Jordan

By Don Graham

**Irbid, Jordan**—Jordanian authorities are investigating the death of Southern Baptist worker Cheryll Harvey, whose body was discovered in her apartment in Irbid, Jordan Sept. 4. Foul play has been confirmed in the death of the 55-year-old single woman from Texas.

Harvey had served the Jordanian people for 24 years, demonstrating the love of Christ through teaching English and other subjects in connection with the Jordan Baptist Society.



Cheryll Harvey

### Harvey remembered

"Cheryll was greatly loved by both our personnel in the Middle East and by her many students," International Mission Board President Tom Elliff said. "We are faced once again with a sobering reminder of the brevity of life and the importance of faithfully serving the Lord to the very end of our time on earth. Cheryll has left for us a great example that we should follow.

Harvey "will always be remembered for her quiet and unassuming spirit, as well as her passion for sharing the good news," Elliff said.

Harvey was a member of College Heights Baptist Church in Plainview, Texas, and grew up attending First Baptist Church of Sudan, Texas. Family and colleagues in the United States have been notified and await word about the circumstances surrounding her death. Harvey is survived by two brothers who reside in Texas.

"As with any event such as this, it is imperative that we remember Cheryll's surviving family members and friends," Elliff said, "and that we lift them up in prayer during these days. We best honor

her by giving honor to the Lord whom she so faithfully served."

Robert Roecker, pastor of First Baptist, Sudan, said the church is in a "state of shock." Harvey had visited her childhood church several times since Roecker became pastor, offering slideshows of her work in the Middle East.

### Loved serving in Jordan

A friend of Harvey's relayed to him that "Cheryll talked about how when she retired she might just stay in Jordan. She just really loved it there and loved the people.

"The thing that always astounded us was when you heard her speak she was just a meek and mild person with just a soft voice," Roecker recalled. "It's not the picture you have in your mind of someone who is on the frontlines in Jordan. To have that courage and faith was amazing to us. The folks who knew her here were always saying how surprised they were at what God was able to do through her."

LaDelta Vernon, Harvey's third-grade teacher who would often talk to her when Harvey came home on occasional furloughs, said she always imagined the quiet, well-behaved girl with the distinct laugh would grow up and raise three daughters. As it turned out, she never married. She was a helper, Vernon said, so her teaching English wasn't a surprise. Her teaching it in the Middle East was, however.

"She was a good student. If she was your friend, she was your best friend. She didn't talk behind people's backs. She was just a sweet, sweet girl," Vernon said. "She was doing what she wanted to do, what God called her to do." (IMB/BP)

## Allen MBTS candidate

Continued from page 1

as local church ministry, denominational service, seminary administration, teaching and executive experience," Midwestern trustee chairman Kevin Shrum said in a statement. "All of these professional attributes, coupled with Jason's contagious personality, will assist MBTS in preparing pastors for local-church ministry and missionaries for global missions."

Search team chairman, Bill Bowyer, said Allen has the "heart of a pastor, a mind of a scholar and proven administrative and development skills" to lead Midwestern.

"The entire presidential search team is thrilled about the prospect of Dr. Allen leading MBTS to the next level of training a generation of highly effective ministers, church planters and missionaries," Bowyer added.

Allen said he and his wife, Karen, "are deeply humbled and honored by the trust and confidence that the presidential search team has placed in us."

"We have unmistakably sensed the leadership of the Holy Spirit throughout this process, and we are united with a resolve to give our hearts and lives to the

serving and leading of Midwestern Seminary," he added. "I look forward to the upcoming October meeting with the trustees where I can share my heart for Midwestern Seminary and my vision for where I pray the Lord will be leading us together into the future."

Allen has served as a member of Southern Seminary's executive cabinet since January 2006, has been vice president of institutional advancement since 2009, and was executive assistant to the president from 2006-09. He also has taught courses in personal spiritual disciplines, pastoral ministry and preaching at the seminary.

After six years with the church, Allen resigned as pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist in February. Prior to that, he was pastor of Muldraugh Baptist Church in Meade County and served on other church ministerial staff in Kentucky and Alabama.

Allen earned both his master's degree and doctorate from Southern Seminary. He received his undergraduate degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala.

Midwestern Seminary has been in search of a new president since Roberts' resignation in February. Robin Hadaway, the seminary's professor of missions, has served as interim president since that time. (MWBS/BP)

## CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

Deadline Oct. 15!

The KBC Committee on Resolutions will receive resolutions for consideration at this year's annual meeting until Oct. 15.

This year's meeting is in Lexington on Nov. 13 at  
**Immanuel Baptist Church**



### RESOLUTIONS MUST:

- Be typewritten, titled & dated.
- Be accompanied by a letter or e-mail from a church qualified to send a messenger to the annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention certifying that the person submitting the resolution is a member in good standing.
- Include complete contact information for the person submitting the resolution and his or her church. No person may submit more than three resolutions in a single year.

### If you have a resolution to be considered:

E-mail to: [executive@kybaptist.org](mailto:executive@kybaptist.org) (preferred)  
Mail to: Committee on Resolutions  
c/o KBC Executive Office  
P.O. Box 43433  
Louisville, KY 40253



Executive Office  
502-489-3577 or 866-489-3577  
[www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting)

## Helping without hurting

I recently received a question from a pastor concerning a common dilemma for churches in our day. The church was trying to determine how best to help a family drowning under a growing mountain of debt.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

Being unfamiliar with many of the specific circumstances, I offered some general questions that might be helpful for any church seeking to walk with a family under financial strain. I share these questions here knowing that most of our churches have similar ministry opportunities.

When considering assisting an individual or family straining under debt, a very important question to consider initially is: Has this dilemma resulted from irresponsible and/or sinful behavior (Hebrews 12:5-6)? If so, will coming to the rescue inadvertently spare them of behavior-altering consequences? These kinds of questions will help you avoid enabling the person in his or her irresponsible or sinful patterns.

Another important question is: What does Scripture teach about the church's obligation (Galatians 2:10) but not only the church's obligation? What does Scripture teach about the obligation of the person's own family (1 Timothy 5:4-8) and their brothers and sisters in Christ (1 John 3:17) verses the church body as a whole?

If the church still is considering stepping in, another question must be asked: What is the church attempting to rescue? A family's standard of living? A family's ability to "make it on their own" in the future? Their very lives? Something else? Whatever it is, does it fall in line with what God has revealed in His word regarding what His church should seek to provide her members?

If the church decides God's calling is to step in, what is the wisest course of action? Will an injection of cash simply be "throwing good money after bad"? For example, there is no need to pay a monthly mortgage on a house that is in foreclosure. A better investment would be to help on a deposit for an apartment to avoid homelessness. Be smart with the Lord's money (Luke 16:11).

Before rushing forward, at least one more question should be considered: Would action taken by the church be reproducible? That is to say, if another member came tomorrow with the same need, could that need also be met? If not, that doesn't automatically mean you refuse to help, but it should at least result in some strategic thinking about how the church will minister to all of her members in light of the needs of a specific person or family. The question of "setting a precedent" is a serious question to consider but should never be a standing veto on the church taking any action whatsoever.

For other helpful directions, check out Rod O'Neil's book, "Guide to Benevolence Giving for Church and Family."

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Seeing missions through her mother's eyes

It seems a little strange to feature the same person in my column in two consecutive issues, but this past week was the Woman's Missionary Union's Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions emphasis, and Joy Bolton has such a delightful story to tell about how the Cooperative Program's support of missions in Kentucky and Malawi joyfully converged in a personal way.

Joy—if you've met her, then you know the name truly "fits"—first shared the story on her blog, but she since has expanded upon it for another article, and I have taken the liberty of merging the two accounts for our Recorder readers. I feel it's a missions story well worth repeating. But first, a little background:

Scott Pittman, partnership missions director for the Kentucky Baptist Convention, helped connect state WMU to provide training for seminary wives at a Baptist seminary in Malawi, a small country in southeast Africa, as a focus this year, and a seven-member team from Kentucky WMU, led by Executive Director Joy Bolton and state WMU President Linda Cooper, was enlisted to serve as faculty. In July, the team provided Bible studies and classes on the role of minister's wives, spiritual-life development and health education as well as made crafts.

One of the WMU team members, Marjorie Yandell, who with her husband, Van, serve as Mission Service Corps missionaries in Fredonia, also arranged a Lion's Club project to provide eyeglasses to a local chapter of the Lion's Club in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, that needed them. That's where Joy's story picks up.

"When I was growing up, my mother, Dorothy Luebbert, was extremely nearsighted. After cataract surgery a few years ago, that all changed with new lenses in her eyes," Joy writes in her blog. "Now she could see at a distance but needed reading glasses. She got a nice prescription pair, as well as a number of the dollar-store variety. They were often found around the house at places where she would sit down to read."

Joy's mother died shortly before the Malawi trip, so she thought to put her mother's glasses in her suitcase to

contribute them to the Lion's Club project. Knowing that her mother, a pastor's wife, was a lifelong supporter of missions through WMU, it seemed a fitting tribute to her legacy.

On the first day of classes at the seminary, however, Joy asked some of the members to read from the Sermon on the Mount. One of the women told Joy, "I can't see to read my Bible anymore." Knowing that her mother's reading classes were still among those brought for the Lion's Club project, Joy went to find them for her.

"What a thrill (it was) when the glasses were presented to Mary and she was able to read her Bible aloud in class," Joy recalled.

Joy's opportunity to see missions through her mother's eyes illustrates that we as Southern Baptists have an opportunity to experience an amazing blessing by giving through the Cooperative Program and by being personally involved in missions.

"The Cooperative Program put our missionaries in place in Malawi, provided for the seminary and provided a partnership director for the KBC, who made the initial arrangements," Joy explained. "All of these converged in Malawi when Mary, a Baptist pastor's wife, received a needed pair of glasses, a luxury for most in Malawi, and the missions legacy of Dorothy Luebbert lived on."

But you don't necessarily have to go all the way to Malawi to experience the joy of missions. Through the ministries that Kentucky Baptists support through the Eliza Broadus Offering, opportunities to experience missions abound here in the commonwealth. This year's emphasis, which focuses on 2 Corinthians 3:12, highlights the "bold hope" offered by outreach ministries at the Rockcastle County Jail, Shelby Christians United Against Drugs, the Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center, the food and community ministries of Elkhorn Baptist Association, Hope House, Scarlet Hope and Kentucky Baptist disaster relief. And, the eight inspiring videos that accompany the EBO materials are an invitation to start your own missions story.



### After Thought

By Todd Deaton

## Why no laypersons?

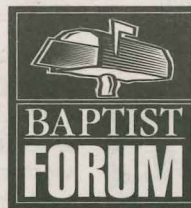
The recent announcement of yet another "named" committee to study the various ways that might enable Baptists, who hold definitively different opinions of Calvinism, to "get along" continues the insistence of naming ministerial and academia personages to represent the vast numeric majority of Southern Baptists. Why is this true?

There is one named, non-academic/ministerial member who will attempt to serve with those who are five-tulip plants, partial tulips, and weed killers, but the obvious representation of the average Baptist, possessing no seminary degrees, is reflective of the presumption that in the absence of such few are held as those who can manage the topics of compromise, consensus and acceptance. Ostensibly, this committee will not discuss doctrinal

tenets, but will examine how adults can be persuaded to work together.

It might have been more reasonable to name psychologists, psychiatrists, and social workers, along with public school teachers, to such a committee. They deal with the need to "get along with others" every day.

Edward Clark  
Danville



## Reject Calvinism

I am not a Calvinist because Calvinism inadvertently denies salvation. Salvation means that something is saved from destruction. To save something means that you don't destroy it—you save it.

Transformation, too, means that some parts of the original are saved and reused. That's what true repentance is, a transformation—a change—and change requires continuity of some sort. Total change is a self-contradiction, an

oxymoron. Total change would be total destruction. If a change is absolutely total, then nothing is saved.

And total change is what the doctrine of total depravity would require. The individual that you experience as yourself will be totally gone. You, the individual, will no longer exist. That's not salvation. It is destruction and a denial of the cross.

Thankfully, salvation means what it says: "we" will be saved. That part which we call "us" will continue. That which I call "I" will never die. The true gospel rejects Calvinism. So should we.

John C'de Baca  
Lexington

**Forum Disclaimer:** Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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### Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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## Reflecting on the role of work in a believer's life

By Duane Bolin

Other than my faith, my family and my friends, work is the most significant part of my life. No matter what we do to make a living—whether we farm, teach, work in business, a coal mine or a factory—our work determines the ebb and flow of our daily lives. Strangers may ask us who we are, and we sometimes respond with a description of our work. Our work helps define us.

What should be the nature of work for a believer? What role does work play in our lives? How do we understand our work as a part of who we are? Does our work represent a drudgery or a joy?

In Genesis, work is seen as a punishment for sin. The biblical writer proclaims after the Fall: "cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

By the New Testament, however, work is viewed in a more positive light. Before women made up half of the workforce, Paul wrote about masculine work in his first letter to the Thessalonians: "But we exhort you, brethren, to do so more and more, to aspire to live quietly, to mind your own affairs, and to work with your hands, as we charged you; so that you may command the respect of outsiders, and be dependent on nobody" (1 Thessalonians 4:10-12).

Work as a virtue is carried over to his second letter to the same church: "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is living in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, we did not eat anyone's bread without paying, but with toil and labor we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you. It was not because we have not that right, but to give you in our conduct an example to imitate."

For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: If anyone will not work, let him not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work in quietness and to earn their own living" (2 Thessalonians 3: 6-12).

This New Testament view of work, as a way to live a quiet but rewarding life, merits rewards in the afterlife as well. And while we may not agree with the poet's theology of salvation or heaven, Rudyard Kipling wrote about future rewards for simple, honest work in his poem, "When Earth's Last Picture is Painted":

### A Letter from the Laity



Duane Bolin

*When Earth's last picture is painted and the tubes are twisted and dried,*

*When the oldest colours have faded, and the youngest critic has died,*

*We shall rest, and, faith, we shall need it—lie down for an aeon or two,*

*Till the Master of All Good Workmen shall put us to work anew. And those that were good shall be happy: they shall sit in a golden chair;*

*They shall splash at a ten-league canvas with brushes of comets' hair;*

*They shall find real saints to draw from—Magdalene, Peter, and Paul;*

*They shall work for an age at a sitting and never be tired at all! And only the Master shall praise us, and only the Master shall blame;*

*And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame.*

*But each for the joy of the working, and each, in his separate star,*

*Shall draw the Thing as he sees It for the God of Things as They are!*

Kipling viewed work as a creative act, which is appropriate because we are, after all, made in the image of the Creator.

Duane Bolin works in the department of history at Murray State University and is a member of First Baptist Church of Murray.

## Guilty of indoctrination?

By David Garrard

In his book, "God Is Not Great," Christopher Hitchens argues that teaching children about faith, in general, and Christianity, in particular, is a form of indoctrination. Hitchens, of course, believes that religion poisons everything and that the world would be a much better place were it completely free of faith influences. A milder form of this argument puts forth the idea that children should be

free to choose a religion for themselves without input from family. If anything, they should be taught about all religions without bias toward a particular faith.

Professor and author Stephen Prothero counters by saying that wanting your children to be free to choose a religion is "foolhardy—not unlike saying that you will not read anything to your daughter because you don't want to enslave her to any one language."

Frederick Buechner says that teaching children about all religions "is like saying they should be taught comparative linguistics before they have mastered English grammar." He points out that avoiding all mention of God is, in itself, the most powerful kind of indoctrination. Buechner adds, "Given no reason to believe that the issue of God has any importance at all, or even exists as an issue, how can anybody make an intelligent decision either for God or against Him?"

Brian Haynes challenges Christian parents to be primary faith influencers and guides in their children's lives. You are not indoctrinating them; you are sharing with them what you believe to be the most important and foundational truth about life.

Practice Deuteronomy 6: "Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Center your life around God's commands. "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit and home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

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



## Six steps for financial security

By Don Spencer

**Step 1:** Invest in yourself. Your earning power is an important asset. Seek opportunities to develop skills that will increase your earning power.

**Step 2:** Protect your loved ones and assets. Have adequate insurance to cover possible expenses due to illness, disability, liability and death. Without adequate insurance, you are betting your financial security that nothing bad will happen.

**Step 3:** Control the use of debt. You will never have financial freedom as long as debt controls you. If it is a problem, get rid of the credit cards. Many studies have proven that people spend significantly more when using credit.

**Step 4:** Pay God and yourself first. Contribute your tithe and set aside a specific amount for savings. Do this first; do not wait to see if there is money left at the end of the month.

**Step 5:** Don't go for home runs. Invest regularly and wisely. Use time, not timing in investing. In baseball, those who go for home runs also strike out frequently. Most successful investors aim for lots of singles and doubles. Invest in high quality and diversify your investments.

**Step 6:** Reduce expenses now to fund a more comfortable future. Take advantage of tax-deferred retirement plans. Use a budget to help prioritize fixed and flexible expenses.

Address all six of these steps in a biblically based perspective and your financial security will improve dramatically.

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



## How to make your marriage soar like eagles

By David Jeremiah

Shooting bald eagles—with cameras—is a popular sport in the U.S. Spotting their high-flying, sharp-sighted majesty is a national pastime. They soar and glide 10,000 feet above earth by catching updrafts.

Eagles also teach us about God. "I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself" (Exodus 19:4). "Like an eagle teaching its young to fly ... the Lord kept Israel from falling" (Deuteronomy 32:11). "Those who wait on the Lord ... shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31).

Eagles are God's object lessons. Within their nature, He placed certain homing instincts that teach us profound lessons about marriage.

### Life-mates

Male and female eaglets are committed. They pair up for life and raise eaglets each season for 20-30 years. Only after one dies will the other seek a new mate.

Such fidelity is rare in "human" marriages today. Emphasis on permanence is lacking. Repeat, review and remind yourself of your vows. We're warned: "Pay what you have vowed—better not to vow than to vow and not pay" (Ecclesiastes 5:4-5).

Take wedding vows seriously—God does. Cultivate friendship. Spend time together. Talk, listen, date, develop joint habits and hobbies. Stick together in sickness and health. Temper and temptation arise, but the sanctity of our vows safeguards with a fail-safe boundary.

### COMMENTARY

#### Monogamy

Watching for infiltrators, eagles guard the exclusiveness of their relationships.

Moral failure may begin with personal conversations with the opposite sex. When unfulfilled needs are met, you might drift unwittingly into hazardous waters. Beware of talking about personal things you aren't discussing with your spouse.

Keep an eagle eye on your home. Be territorial, jealously guarding your exclusive marriage relationship. Keep relationships with co-workers professional. Never flirt, even in jest. Practice vigilance. Seemingly small indiscretions can become major traps.

#### Work on things together

Mr. and Mrs. Eagle work hard building their nest and raising their family. One nest that was found was 34 years old. Another 22 foot-deep

nest weighed more than two tons. Nests provide soft beds for eggs.

Egg-sitting and "child"-rearing involves both parents. Marriage and home-building requires work from both partners.

Work at communicating, loving, making time for each other, maintaining a cheerful attitude. Share chores. Keeping a marriage humming and a home running takes two. "Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do (marriage and parenting), as though you were working for the Lord" (Colossians 3:22).

#### Build your nest high

Eagles build their nests high and well, providing a spectacular view and protection from predators.

How can couples build homes on high ground? Commit to walk with Jesus Christ every day. Go to church and worship together as a couple. Read your Bible together regularly and pray together.

Turn a "sore" marriage into one that soars. Learn the lesson of the eagles—be committed for life, practice fidelity, work together and build high. Catch the updrafts of God's love and your nest will be secure. (BP)

David Jeremiah is the founder of Turning Point for God and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, Calif.

# Post-Isaac power outages, flooding doesn't deter worshippers

By Gary Myers

**New Orleans**—Lack of electricity did not equal a lack of worship in Hurricane Isaac's wake at many Southern Baptist churches across New Orleans Sept. 2.

With or without power, the churches gathered to praise God during another difficult experience just seven years after Hurricane Katrina.

Like most area churches, Poydras Baptist Church in St. Bernard Parish southeast of New Orleans was without power. After suffering through the relentless hurricane earlier that week, 50 people attended worship in the church foyer.

"We sang a few hymns and proclaimed God's word," Pastor John Gailey said. "We even had an invitation. We worshipped without electricity, but we had the true power."

At least two deacon families from the church suffered significant losses. One of the families had to be rescued from a levee after being caught in quickly rising floodwaters. Their home was a total loss. These families and many others are facing a difficult recovery process.

"We're going to need teams to come in and mud-out, gut-out and rebuild,"



**MEETING OUTDOORS** Pastor Chad Gilbert leads a prayer time at Edgewater Baptist Church in New Orleans Sept. 2. The congregation met outside due to lingering power outages from Hurricane Isaac. (Photo by Ryan Rodgers)

Gailey said. "It's kind of the same thing as with Katrina."

When Pastor Thomas Strong heard that the Metairie Baptist Church

building would not have electricity, he considered cancelling services Sept. 2. He knew many members had not returned from evacuations and others were traveling for the Labor Day holiday.

Then Strong began hearing from church members. They wanted to gather as a congregation, so the church met for worship, fellowship and prayer. The fellowship hall, which has more windows and better air circulation than the sanctuary, served as the meeting space. Fans powered by generators offered a small measure of comfort.

"It was hot—really hot by the time we finished—but no one complained," said Strong, who also serves as dean of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary's Leavell College. "We were just glad to be together as a family to pray, to encourage one another, and most of all to worship—to get our focus right."

After a time of music, church members spent time in focused prayer. They prayed for the people in New Orleans and the surrounding region who were impacted by the storm. They also prayed for people in Haiti and Cuba who also experienced losses because of Isaac.

Across the city at Edgewater Baptist Church, members gathered at the normal worship time. Just like at Metairie, Edgewater's service was anything but normal. Members met under the oak trees in the church parking lot because of the power outage. One church member led the congregation in a few songs, and then pastor Chad Gilbert asked people to share Scriptures that were especially meaningful during the storm.

Gilbert said he had been preaching a series on the church's covenant and was set to preach about Edgewater's purpose as a church. In light of the storm, he considered changing his sermon but decided the message was the very thing the congregation needed to hear.

"There's always a reason to deviate from your purpose as the church or from your purpose as the people of God," Gilbert said. "There seems to always be an interruption that would take us away from making disciples of all nations—but we have to stay the course." (NOBTS/BP)



**CLEANUP UNDERWAY** A Southern Baptist Disaster Relief chainsaw team from Cedar Crest Baptist Church in West Monroe, La., clears debris from a fallen tree at a residence. (Photo by Karen Willoughby/Louisiana Baptist Message)

## Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

said Celebration Church in LaPlace, La., was hit hard by the floodwaters and had some 18 inches of water standing in the church's sanctuary. Many of its members were in shelters in nearby cities.

Post-traumatic stress has set in for many south Louisiana residents, especially those who also went through Hurricane Katrina in 2005, McMillan said.

"We appreciate the prayers of the people. Prayer is getting us through some difficult times," he said. "One thing I've learned in 12 years of doing this is that you have to take one day at a time. No two storms are alike. You have to learn to act but not react to everything going on around you."

If necessary, Southern Baptist feeding kitchens from have the capacity to potentially serve up to 225,000 meals a day in Louisiana and Mississippi. After SBDR volunteers cook and package the meals,

the food is being delivered to victims by the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army. In some remote Louisiana areas, helicopters or ferries may have to be used to deliver food, McMillan said.

Hurricane Isaac claimed eight lives—six in Louisiana and two in Mississippi, according to CNN. Insured damages inflicted by Isaac may top the \$2 billion mark, according to insurance company AIG. That figure does not include those homeowners who are uninsured.

For updates on Kentucky and Southern Baptists' response to Hurricane Isaac, visit [www.KyBaptist.org/DR](http://www.KyBaptist.org/DR) or [www.Facebook.com/KentuckyDR](http://www.Facebook.com/KentuckyDR).

Contributions can be made to support the work of Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief on the web page. Gifts also can be made to the Kentucky Baptist Convention by writing "disaster relief" in the memo line of your check and mailing it to: KBC, P.O. Box 43433, Louisville, KY 40253.

Compiled from reporting by Dannah Prather of the KBC and Mickey Noah of the North American Mission Board

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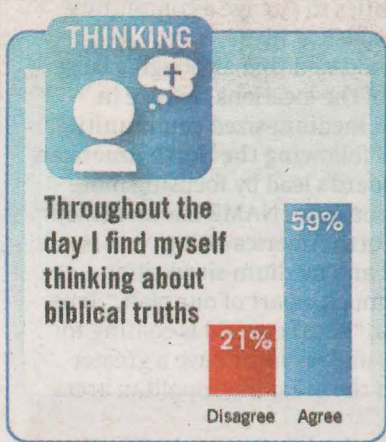
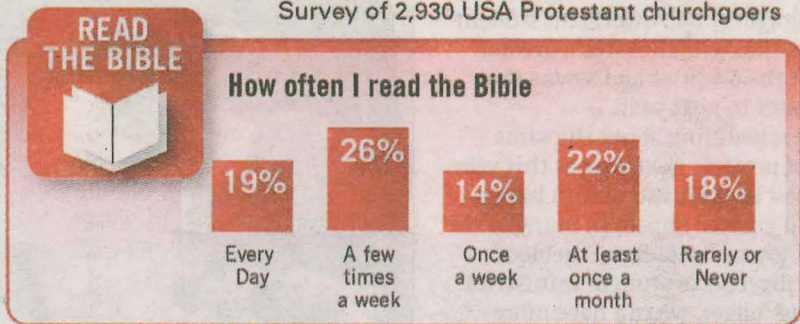
with **Johnny Hunt** and **Larry Wynn**

**NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD**

LifeWay Research study

Transformational Discipleship  
**BIBLE ENGAGEMENT**

Survey of 2,930 USA Protestant churchgoers



See Transformational Discipleship Assessment at [tda.lifeway.com](http://tda.lifeway.com)

**Most churchgoers don't read their Bibles on a daily basis**

Nashville, Tenn.—While the majority of churchgoers desire to honor Christ with their lives and even profess to think on biblical truths, a recent study found few actually engage in personal reading and study of the Scriptures.

The survey found 90 percent of churchgoers agree that "I desire to please and honor Jesus in all I do," and 59 percent agree with the statement: "Throughout the day I find myself thinking about biblical truths." While the majority agree with both statements, there is a significant difference in the strength of agreement. Nearly two-thirds of churchgoers (64 percent) strongly agree with the first statement, but only 20 percent strongly agree with the second.

However, when asked how often they personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible:

- 19 percent responded "every day";
- 26 percent said a few times a week;
- 14 percent said they read the Bible "once a week";
- 22 percent said "once a month" or "a few times a month";
- 18 percent said "rarely/never."

"Bible engagement has an impact in just about every area of spiritual growth," said Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research. "You can follow Christ and see Christianity as your source of truth, but if that truth does not permeate your thoughts, aspira-

tions and actions, you are not fully engaging the truth.

"God's word is truth, so it should come as no surprise that reading and studying the Bible are still the activities that have the most impact on growth in this attribute of spiritual maturity," Stetzer added. "As basic as that is, there are still numerous churchgoers who are not reading the Bible regularly. You simply won't grow if you don't know God and spend time in God's word."

The survey also reveals six actions that positively impact Bible engagement:

- Confessing wrongdoings to God and asking forgiveness.
- Believing in Jesus Christ as the only way to heaven and the number of years one has believed this.
- Making a decision to obey or follow God with an awareness that choosing to do so might be costly. Sixty-three percent of churchgoers say they have done this at least once in the last six months.
- Praying for the spiritual status of people who are not professing Christians.
- Reading a book about increasing their spiritual growth. Sixty-one percent of churchgoers say they have done this in the last year.
- Having been disciplined one on one or mentored by a more spiritually mature Christian. Nearly half of churchgoers (47 percent) say they have done this. (LW/BP)



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## 'The time of my life,' part 1

### OBI student reflects on opportunity to study drama, represent Christ

Every summer, students from high schools all across the United States participate in a wide variety of special programs. What follows below is the first of a two-part reflection on one such experience by Jacob Bortell, an OBI junior "staff kid."

"Unlike some other schools, at OBI students have the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity without any prior experience.

"In the fall of 2009 I was in my first OBI theater performance. I had two minor parts and barely spoke, but that was all it took to get me hooked. Except for that year's spring play, I have been in every performance since, enjoying larger and larger roles—even lead roles. This past spring, my directors suggested that I apply for a three-week summer program called the Governor's School for the Arts.

"I had never heard of it, but apparently it was a big deal if anybody was accepted. I auditioned for drama with nothing but my previous experience and the support of my friends, family and mentors. Out of this year's 1,800 applicants, only 29 students were accepted into drama. Against my own doubts, I was one of the 29.

"As I readied myself, I realized that being in a program with such a diversity of people meant there would obviously be differences in opinions, lifestyles and beliefs. I was all right with that, but I was a little anxious about being a good representative of Christ.

"I did not have much experience at all in sharing the gospel, and I wasn't confident in my ability to do so if the topic were to come up. However, my

anxieties soon vanished as I became familiar with the people there and started making friends. I found (and I'm still discovering) that being a friend and loving others, in words and in action, is the first step in sharing the gospel. It is as Jesus said: 'As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another' (John 13:34-35).

"I arrived on the campus neither nervous nor excited; I was uncertain of what to expect. Little did I realize at the time what an enormous opportunity GSA held. Its intensive educational program, immersive

artistic environment and community of passionate artists and friends created an excellent setting for learning, growth and discovery.

"Many of the preparatory letters promised that I would have the time of my life, but I was also promised it would be 'boot camp.' It turned out to all be true

"We were in the studio at least eight hours a day doing things that were uncomfortable, new and difficult. Projects tested our ability to work together, and high standards kept us from slacking. We learned a lot from the material, but from our instructors' wisdom and advice we gained just as much, including 'don't apologize' by the way you present yourself, your work or a decision you've made. Small lessons like that from our instructors were treasured by all of us."

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

### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

## Meet the fall class

### New students arrive at Clear Creek and get adjusted to life on campus

It's very busy around our campus these days. The fall semester has started and our new students are settling in and adjusting to the task of budgeting their time between family, work, ministry and their studies. I always enjoy meeting the new students God sends our way each semester and hearing them share how He is working in their lives. They are always excited to begin their studies and prepare for the calling God has placed on their lives.

This fall we praise the Lord for 33 new degree-seeking students who are following God's call to Clear Creek. We count it an honor to be used of God to provide training for these students. Please continue to pray for each of them as they try to balance their time between all they need to do this semester. Since most of our students are of non-traditional ages, it can be a major life adjustment they are working through.

God continues to call Clear Creek students from all walks of life, from all

over the country and to different avenues of study. Twenty-five of these students will live on campus and study full time; eight others will study completely online, taking advantage of our online bachelor's degree.

The average age of our incoming fall semester class is 31. These students come to us from nine different states, including Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, Florida, Michigan, Alabama, Louisiana, Maine and Utah.

Some of their previous occupations include: pastor; teacher; cook; firefighter; salesperson; pharmacy technician; production planner; retailer; truck driver; account representative; patient care worker; newspaper clerk; auto repair worker; stock clerk; music director; and construction worker.

We count it a privilege to be the Bible college of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Thank you for your support that enables us to fulfill our mission to equip these students for ministry.

*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.cccb.edu; e-mail: dfox@ccb.edu.*

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## LifeWay's World Changers, PowerPlant expand mission

By Carol Pipes

**Nashville, Tenn.**—LifeWay Christian Resources has announced changes for its World Changers and PowerPlant student ministries that will allow for a greater impact on the 64 cities and towns they will minister in next year.

"We're scheduling about the same number of projects next year as this year, but in fewer locations so we can have a longer and greater impact in many of the cities and towns," said Ben Trueblood, LifeWay's director of student ministries. "By staying longer, we can have more opportunities to change a community and our students' lives."

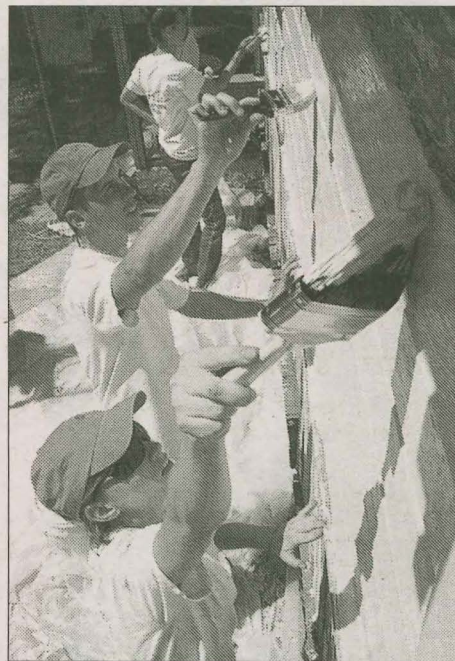
Trueblood said that although a large majority of the locations still are in small- and medium-sized communities, LifeWay is following the North American Mission Board's lead by focusing more resources on cities NAMB has identified as Send North America cities.

"Small and medium-sized cities ... are still very much a part of our plan," Trueblood said. "But the world is coming to our cities, and we must have a greater impact on the great metropolitan areas of the U.S."

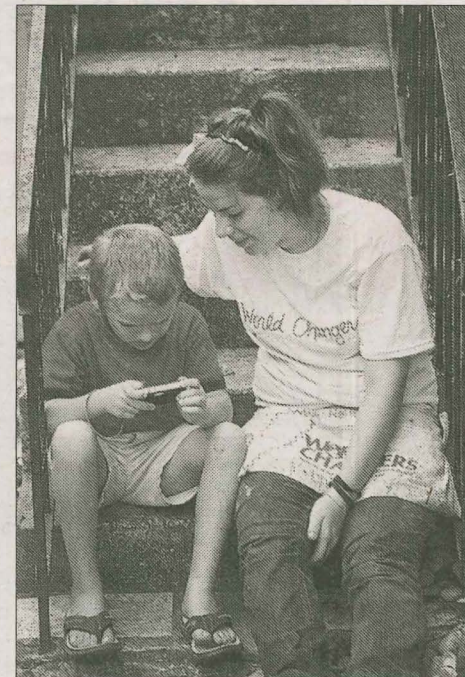
Trueblood said many of the World Changers and nearly all of the PowerPlant projects next year will be in NAMB's Send North America cities including New York, Indianapolis, Chicago and San Francisco.

"Metropolitan areas have tremendous needs, and the types of service to meet those needs are endless," said John Bailey, manager of World Changers and PowerPlant. "We are looking to help churches reach more of their communities' needs."

"Our hope through this city missions vision is that students will walk away from a World Changers experience with a heart for the culture of that city or town realizing they can truly touch the world from right here in their own country," Bailey said.



**CHANGERS IN ACTION** A World Changers paint crew puts the finishing touches on a home in Knoxville, Tenn. World Changers provides students and adults with opportunities to meet physical and spiritual needs by repairing substandard housing for low-income homeowners. (Photo by Susan Whitley)



**GOSPEL SHARING** World Changers is a short-term student missions to help them explore God's missions call on their lives while providing tangible ministry as well as opportunities to share the gospel. (Photo by Daniel Stancil)

LifeWay also announced World Changers no longer will use minors to repair residential roofs. For years, World Changers has allowed high school students to replace weather-beaten shingles and rotted sub-roofing. LifeWay's decision to keep students off roofs is to "ensure the safest worksite possible and not over-extend the risk to our students," Trueblood said.

"We want to make sure we are providing meaningful mission opportunities for our students in the safest possible environment," he added.

Bailey said other home repair and construction jobs have made up roughly two-thirds of World Changers projects and will remain the major focus.

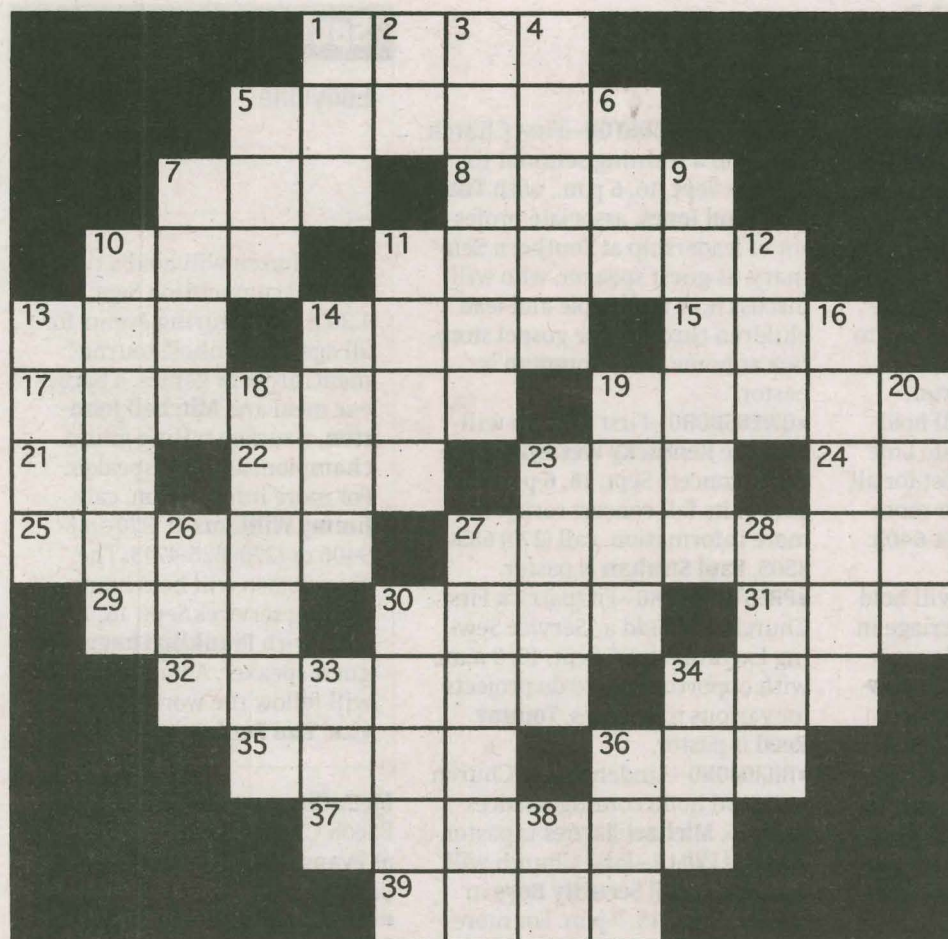
"We will continue our mission of helping eliminate substandard housing by replacing doors and windows, rebuilding porches, adding siding and wheelchair ramps where needed, painting and a host of other necessary repairs," Bailey said.

"God is still calling students to the frontlines of missions," Bailey added. "He can use students in a number of ways. What makes missions exciting is not what students do. Missions is exciting when God begins to work through the lives of students."

Last year LifeWay partnered with NAMB to bring World Changers and PowerPlant under the LifeWay student-ministry family. Summer 2012 was the first summer the two ministries operated under LifeWay.

"We've seen God use students to transform the lives of residents ... in cities and towns across North America," Bailey said. "Yes, we've seen houses that look radically different at the end of a World Changers project. But construction isn't the end goal; it is merely the ministry vehicle to allow the power of the gospel to radically change lives."

Registration for 2013 World Changers and PowerPlant projects already is underway at World-Changers.net and Power-Plant.net. (LW/BP)



### Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

#### Across

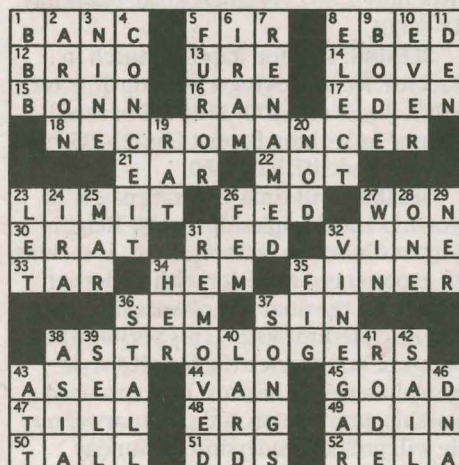
- 1 Ancient Hebrew dry measure (pl.)
- 5 Fifteenth division of Psalm 119
- 7 Snare to trap game or fish
- 8 "And Samuel told him every \_\_\_\_" (1 Samuel 3:18)
- 10 Weak day? (abbr.)
- 11 "I am \_\_\_\_ at my very heart" (Jeremiah 4:19)
- 13 "Lucifer, \_\_\_\_ of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground" (Isaiah 14:12)
- 14 "Speakest to \_\_\_\_ the wicked from his wicked way" (Ezekiel 3:18)
- 15 "La \_\_\_\_" (Debussy composition)
- 17 Omen; portent
- 19 Withhold nothing
- 21 Pronoun
- 22 Black \_\_\_\_
- 23 Pronoun for a seaworthy vessel
- 24 U.S. West Indies territory (abbr.)
- 25 "And David heard ... that \_\_\_\_ did shear his sheep" (1 Samuel 25:4)
- 27 Knight's steed
- 29 O.T. book (abbr.)
- 30 Chinese canine breed
- 31 Age
- 32 Lot, to Abraham
- 34 Foot or footlike structure (zool.)
- 35 Fencer's gear
- 36 \_\_\_\_ France
- 37 "I am like an owl of the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 102:6)
- 39 "And the veil of the temple was \_\_\_\_ in twain" (Mark 15:38)

- 16 "All the \_\_\_\_ run into the sea" (Ecclesiastes 1:7)
- 18 One who is warded off?
- 19 Author of Pygmalion
- 20 Money, in Milano
- 23 Demonstrate
- 26 David \_\_\_\_ Gurion
- 27 Stilton, for one
- 28 Late actor Will
- 30 "Be of good \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 9:2)
- 33 Catalog abbr.
- 34 "I am counted with them that go down into the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 88:4)
- 36 Masculine nickname
- 38 Printer's measure

#### Down

- 1 Give a pink slip
- 2 "\_\_\_\_ I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9)
- 3 "\_\_\_\_ of the leaven of the Pharisees" (Matthew 16:6)
- 4 Twenty-first division of Psalm 119
- 5 "If thou doest not well, \_\_\_\_ lieth at the door" (Genesis 4:7)
- 6 Liquid measure of ancient Hebrews
- 7 All \_\_\_\_!
- 9 To make suitable
- 10 Like all humans
- 11 This may be flipped
- 12 God (Lat.)
- 13 "They toil not, neither do they \_\_\_\_" (Matthew 6:28)
- 14 "Son of man, \_\_\_\_ for the multitude of Egypt" (Ezekiel 32:18)

#### Last puzzle's solution



## Jonah: More than a children's story

**Lessons from Jonah's journey hold truths for believers young and old**

By Whitney Hopperton

When asked, "What do you do at Crossings," I typically reply with our motto of the "triangle": "Love God, Love People, Be a Servant." As an employee at Crossings Ministries, I have the privilege to work in guest relations, assisting guests with the booking and reservation process for camps and retreats. However, many times my job consists of more than that.

This summer, more than just working behind the scenes to help others experience the gospel through camp, I became a student as God revealed His truth to me through the story of Jonah.

The theme for Crossings 2012 was "I Am Jonah." More than just a children's story, Jonah contains deep and powerful truths for people of all ages. In the story of Jonah, we see a reflection of our own sinful hearts, as well as a clear picture of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Students were challenged not to look at Jonah as a role model to be like, but as a reflection of who they already are—

being able to say, "I am Jonah."

My life was dramatically impacted this summer through this study. The main thing I realized was that we serve a great and faithful God who sees the bigger picture of His plan, even when we question and tend to go our own way. Just as God heard Jonah in his moments of distress, God hears me when I call out to Him with an open and honest heart.

I have identified areas of my own life where I was actively rebelling against God and His plans for me. Exposing sin is never an easy process. However, through this, we are given the opportunity to make a change and then go and live out the changes that Christ has made in us.

The common idea of many people is that camp is just for youth and kids. This couldn't be further from the truth. As I experienced this summer, even as an employee of Crossings, God revealed to me the many ways I am like Jonah and desperately need His correction, compassion and grace. Yes, I am Jonah!

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

### Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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## 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.

## November

- 1 Church Revitalization Conference, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 2-4 Engage International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.

# MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **ANNVILLE**—Bond Church will hold its second annual Praise Fest Sept. 14, 6 p.m.; Sept. 15, 5 p.m., with food, games, preaching, singing and skits. **Bobby Ewing** is pastor.

■ **ARLINGTON**—Shiloh Church will hold a back-to-church, old-fashioned Sunday Sept. 18 with an outdoor picnic after the morning worship service. **Gaylon Bruer** is pastor.

■ **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church will hold a fellowship breakfast Sept. 16, 8:45 a.m. **Mark Burnett** is pastor.

■ **CLINTON**—New Harmony Church will hold cowboy church services as part of its high-attendance day Sept. 16. **David Gossum** is pastor.

■ **DRAKESBORO**—Ebenezer Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 16, 10 a.m. **Scott Casebier** is pastor.

■ **IRVINE**—Calvary Church will hold revival services Sept. 17-21, 7 p.m., with pastors from Winchester-area churches as evangelists. **Keith Sands** is pastor.

Knob Creek Church will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 15 with a community breakfast and Sept. 16 with special music from **Jimmy and Missy Chrisman** and the **Chimney Rock Boys**. **Fred Livingood** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Corinth Church will

host a simulcast of **Beth Moore's** "Living Proof Live" event Sept. 15, 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15. For more information, call (606) 864-5440. **Andrew Dyer** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethany Church will host a "Second Chance Yard Sale" Sept. 14, 4 p.m.; Sept. 15, 7 a.m., to benefit Jefferson Street Baptist Center. **Ken Vickery** is pastor.

Bethlehem Church will hold health screenings from Life Line Screening Sept. 14. The cost for all five screenings is \$149. For more information, call (502) 964-6403. **David Hughes** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a marriage seminar, "Marriage in the Wild: Survival Techniques," Sept. 14, 6 p.m., led by **Wade Rowatt** of the St. Matthews Pastoral Counseling Center and his wife, **Jodi**. The seminar is open to all married and engaged couples. The cost to attend is \$25. Reservations are required. For more information or to register, call (502) 896-8882. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **MAGNOLIA**—Three Forks Bacon Creek Church will host a pre-revival community meal Sept. 15, 7 p.m., and community fall revival services Sept. 18, with **Mike Williams**, pastor of Barren Run Church in Sonora, as evangelist. **Roger McGuffin** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a training seminar for parents Sept. 16, 6 p.m., with **Timothy Paul Jones**, associate professor of leadership at Southern Seminary, as guest speaker, who will discuss how to disciple and lead children through the gospel storyline at home. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host the **Kentucky Wesleyan Singers** in concert Sept. 16, 6 p.m., as part of its fall concert series. For more information, call (270) 683-3505. **Paul Strahan** is pastor.

■ **PRESTONSBURG**—Fitzpatrick First Church will hold a "Service Sewing Extravaganza" Sept. 15, 9 a.m., with opportunities to do projects for various ministries. **Tommy Reed** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Linden Street Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 16. **Michael Barnes** is pastor.

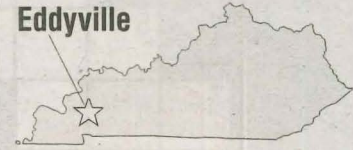
■ **RUSSELLVILLE**—First Church will host the **Social Security Boys** in concert Sept. 15, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 726-2468. **Buddy Crabtree** is pastor.

■ **SOMERSET**—First Church will hold a ministry fair Sept. 16. **French Harmon** is pastor.

■ **SONORA**—Barren Run Church will hold community fall revival services Sept. 16, 7 p.m., with **Roger**

## Spotlight on ...

### Eddyville



First Church will hold a turkey call competition Sept. 15, 1:30 p.m., featuring events for all ages, a cornhole tournament, archery games, a barbecue meal and **Mitchell Johnston**, a turkey calling grand champion, as guest speaker. For more information, call **Jimmy Williams** at (270) 388-9406 or (270) 625-4743. The church also will hold homecoming services Sept. 16, 10 a.m., with **Franklin Skaggs** as guest speaker. A potluck meal will follow the worship service. **Tim Perdue** is pastor.

**McGuffin**, pastor of Three Forks Bacon Creek Church in Magnolia, as evangelist. **Mike Williams** is pastor.

■ **UPTON**—Mount Pisgah Church will hold community fall revival services Sept. 17, 7 p.m., with **David Walters**, pastor of Pikeview Church in Magnolia, as evangelist. **Bob Sharp** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Brush Grove Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 15. **Everett Hood** is pastor.

## Retired music professor reprises 'Sweet Suite' for senior adults

Louisville—After gathering a host of senior adults for a one-time performance four years ago, a former seminary music professor is hoping to reprise the event.

Phillip Landgrave, the former dean of the now-defunct music school at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, is putting together an encore performance of "A Sweet Suite," a collection of old and new songs containing the

word "sweet," Sept. 16, 4 p.m., at the Alumni Chapel on the Southern Seminary campus.

Like the performance in 2008, the choir will consist primarily of senior adults. Landgrave described the "musical testimony" as an "affirmation of our lifetime relationship of the abundant, beautiful, sweet lives we have and will forever have in Jesus Christ our Lord." (WR)



## 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).

**FOR SALE:** Book and rummage sale, Walnut Street Baptist Church, 1141 S. 3rd Street in Louisville, Oct. 5-6, from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Items priced to sell; enter at Welcome Center off church parking lot.

**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).

**RESOURCES:** Do you need a church pianist? Try our piano CDs for churches to sing by. Hymns, gospel, choruses, etc. Call Worship Service Resources at (877) 977-6800. Free demo. [www.wsrpianocds.com](http://www.wsrpianocds.com).

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

open to blend. Call (502) 570-5851 or email [safeharborpastor@gmail.com](mailto:safeharborpastor@gmail.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:** 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. Resumés will be accepted through Sept. 16. [www.potters-housebwc.org](http://www.potters-housebwc.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:** 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:** 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

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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.

**SEEKING:** Allansville Baptist is searching for a part-time minister of youth (10-12 hrs./week). This includes evangelism, Bible study, creative ministry and discipleship. Please mail resumé to: Allansville Baptist Church, Attn: Youth search committee, P.O. Box 242, Winchester, KY 40392, or send an email to [allanbptst@aol.com](mailto:allanbptst@aol.com).

# Landry Jones

*Quarterback leads Sooners on the field, spiritually*

By Bill Sorrell

**Norman, Okla.**—As Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones ministered in an orphanage in Haiti a year after a catastrophic earthquake, there was a crushing blow closer to home.

His teammate, Oklahoma linebacker Austin Box, died in May 2011 at age 22 of a pulmonary edema and aspiration pneumonia.

Jones spoke at a memorial service, telling teammates how precious life is and if they were unsure about Christ being in their lives, he would talk with them. Jones encouraged them to “get it straight” with God.

Team punter Tress Way watched as Jones affirmed his role as the Sooners’ spiritual leader.

“Him doing that in front of the team meeting shows how big a factor Christ is in his life,” said Way, who also is an evangelical Christian.

Jones said that he is a Christian who happens to play football, not a football player who is a Christian.

Returning for his senior season, Jones is four wins away from becoming the school’s career leader in victories. His 29 wins leave him three behind Steve Davis’ record 32 from 1973-75. Jones is the most experienced quarterback in OU history with 37 career starts.

He is the career leader in passing yards with 12,379, besting Heisman Trophy winners Jason White and Sam Bradford. He holds 13 school passing records, including completions with 1,021. In 2011, he averaged 343.3 yards of total offense per game.

With 93 career touchdowns, he broke Bradford’s school record. And in 2010, he received the Sammy Baugh Trophy as the nation’s best college passer. This year, he has been mentioned among the Heisman Trophy candidates.

But despite his superior success, there was a time when college was not “fun.” During the first part of college, he rebelled against God, he recalled.

“I believed in Him but I didn’t follow Him,” Jones said. “After the first year, I got to the point I was so sad and depressed. If life is not fun, it is not worth it. I was an angry young man.”

As he began to follow Christ, which, he said, began rather slowly, his lifestyle changed.

“Without Jesus, I don’t think I would have made it at OU,” he said. “I understand the deeper meaning of who Jesus is in my life. He is my source of happiness, a comfort in hard times and hope there is a better life. At the end of life, you are going to heaven—and that is basically the only thing that matters.”

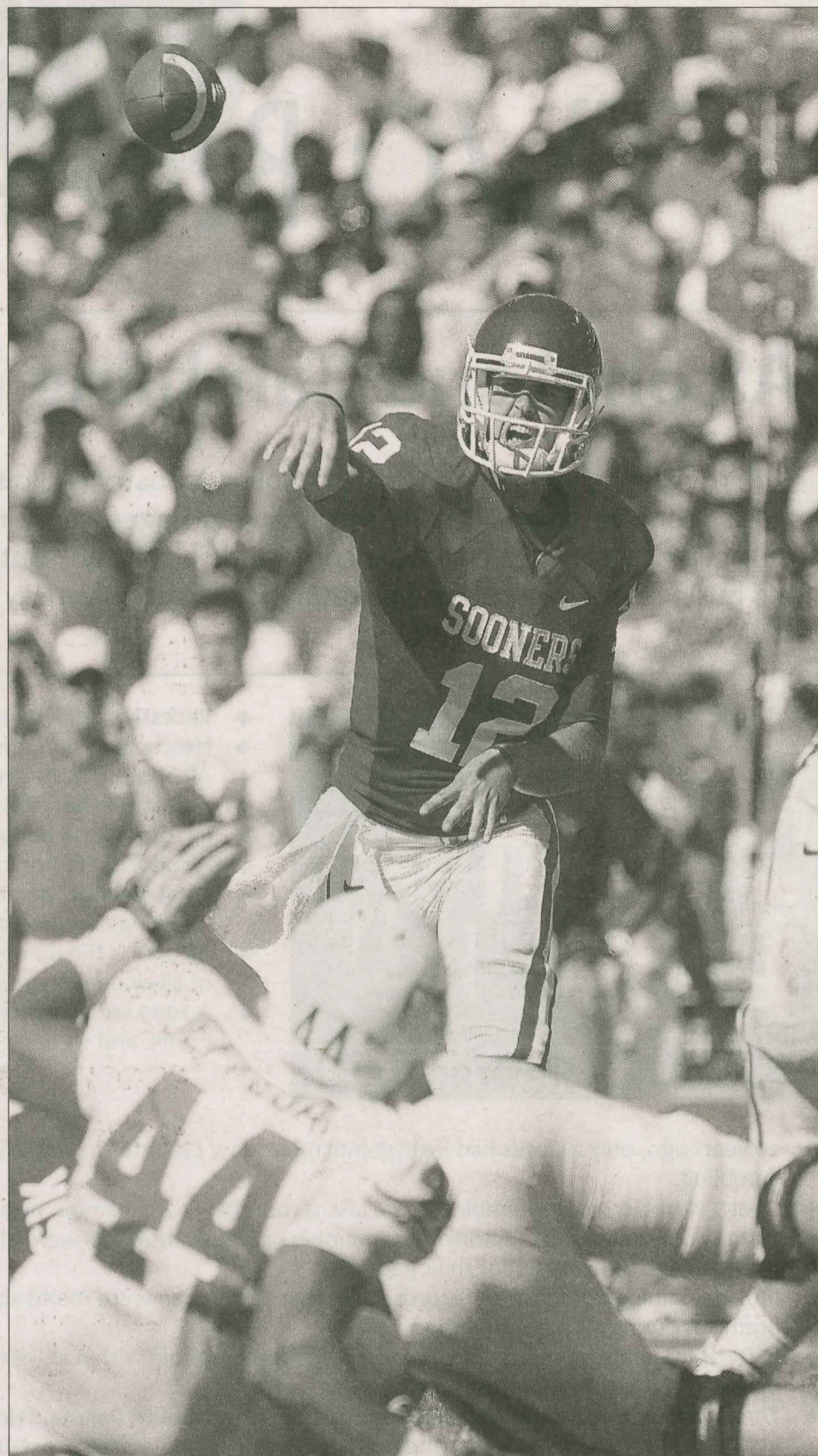
Jones was 6 when he made a profession of faith and was baptized at First Baptist Church in his hometown of Artesia, N.M. His parents, Kevin and Kellye Jones, laid a spiritual foundation for Landry, who is named after legendary Dallas Cowboys head coach Tom Landry.

“Christianity is about how you live your life,” he said. “It’s what kind of choices you make on weekends. It’s the kind of choices you make with the girl you are dating, walking in purity or not. It’s how you love people.”

Way said love is what Jones exhibits most. “He has the biggest heart of anybody I have ever met,” Way said of Jones. “It’s not so much how many people he cares about, it is how much he cares about people.”

A potential first-round draft choice in the 2013 NFL draft, Jones has considered going into the ministry at some point. He said he has prayed about becoming a church planter.

“When we choose God and not worldly things and do something for Him, it fills you with joy,” Jones said. (BP)



## Christian NBA star Jeremy Lin promotes basketball among Taiwan’s youth

By Ralph Jennings

**Taipei, Taiwan**—By visiting his roots in Taiwan, basketball star Jeremy Lin, whose success as a point guard in the NBA, sparked an international fan reaction known as “Linsanity” which he hopes will raise the status of basketball in Asia.

Dozens of young basketball students gathered in a Taipei stadium to welcome Jeremy Lin Aug. 24, excited to meet the 24-year-old American whose parents are Taiwanese. Lin led the New York Knicks to a rapid series of wins after fighting for and finally winning an opportunity to play in February. Lin signed with the Houston Rockets in July.

Lin was in Taiwan with friend, Golden State Warriors forward David Lee, to help a group of 120 Taiwanese summer camp students learn techniques of the game. At a news conference, Lin said he wants to boost basketball play in Asia.

“When it comes to basketball, (Asia) is kind of a little underdeveloped. But I think that’s changing and I think there’s huge potential here and the game is growing at a rapid pace,” Lin said. “And so the thing that I want to do—the thing David wants to do, the reason he wanted to come—was because we felt like we can have a lot of insights we wanted to share and spread to the kids here in Taiwan. That’s why we made the trip.”

Lin also visited Taiwan early in August to teach basketball. He went on to attend promotional events in Beijing and Hong Kong. Mainland Chinese have been wild about basketball since fellow national Yao Ming joined the Houston Rockets in 2002. The sport also is big in the Philippines, where leagues exist in even the remotest parts of the country. But Lin is one of the few Asian or Asian-American players in the NBA.

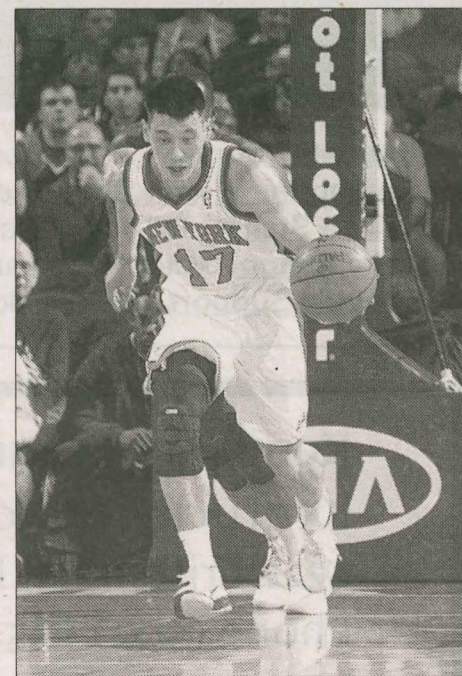
Taiwanese and other Asians look up to Lin partly because he struggled to get

where he is. The Harvard University graduate was demoted by the Warriors three times before joining the Knicks. The team, also doubtful of Lin’s ability, gave him a crucial opportunity to prove himself after a teammate suffered an injury.

Lin declined to compare himself to other NBA players and encouraged the summer campers “to have fun playing basketball.”

“At the end of the day it’s a game—it’s a sport. And if you play it, you should love it,” he said. “So, we want to make this camp educational, but I think the biggest thing is to allow them to have fun so when they leave they’re really excited to continue playing.”

Lin is known for citing his Christian beliefs for getting him through rough spots in the NBA. He recently took part in an evangelical event hosted by a Taiwanese television station before leaving the island last week. (VOA/BP)



Jeremy Lin

Alcohol & Gambling

# TWO BIG PROBLEMS

## Alcohol and Gambling have a lot in common.

Both the alcohol industry and the gambling industry exploit people for a profit. Both exploit human weakness and cause deep-rooted addictions. Both ruin marriages, cause family strife, and destroy lives. Both lead to spouse abuse and child neglect. Both increase crime and corruption. Both lead to financial problems and bankruptcy for individuals and businesses. Both are precipitating factors for a variety of health problems, and are among the leading causes of suicide.



- ◆ Excessive drinking cost the U.S. \$223.5 billion in 2006.
- ◆ Nearly 15 million Americans abuse alcohol, or are alcoholics.
- ◆ Alcoholism is the 3rd leading lifestyle-related cause of death in the U.S.
- ◆ 40% of U.S. hospital beds are being used to treat alcohol-related conditions.
- ◆ In 2010, 10,228 people were killed in alcohol-impaired driving crashes.
- ◆ Alcohol is a factor in 40% of all violent crimes.
- ◆ Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders is the leading preventable cause of birth defects in the U.S., affecting about 40,000 babies each year.
- ◆ Alcohol is the number one drug of choice among America's youth. People aged 12 to 20 drink 11% of all alcohol consumed in the U.S.
- ◆ A 2009 study revealed that of 19,255 suicides from 17 states, about 1/4 of the victims were legally drunk, and 1/3 had some level of alcohol in their bloodstream.

- ◆ 20 years ago, only 2 states had legal gambling. Today, 48 states have some form of legalized gambling.
- ◆ Over 75% of U.S. adults gambled in the last 12 months; 15-20% gamble weekly.
- ◆ A study of 400 Gamblers Anonymous members revealed that 28% were either separated or divorced as a direct result of their gambling.
- ◆ Indiana Gaming Commission records show that 72 children were found abandoned on casino premises during a 14 month period.
- ◆ In Detroit, gambling-related bankruptcies increased 40-fold within an year and a half of the opening of a casino just across the river.
- ◆ Three years after casinos were legalized in Deadwood, South Dakota, felony crimes increased by 40%, child abuse increased 42%, and domestic violence and assaults rose by 80%.
- ◆ One in five pathological gamblers will attempt suicide, while one in ten of their spouses will attempt suicide.



## What Can You Do?

**Educate Yourself** - Learn about the negative effects of alcohol and gambling and keep up to date on news about these issues.

**Spread the Word** - Share the information you have about alcohol and gambling with family, friends, and neighbors.

**Take a Stand** - Tell your legislators that you oppose any legislation that would expand alcohol or gambling.

**Take Action** - Vote "No" on any proposal to increase alcohol sales or availability and "No" to proposals to increase gambling.

**Provide Support** - Make a donation to fund the work and ministry of the Kentucky League.

Kentucky League on Alcohol and Gambling Problems  
Kentucky Ethics League, Inc.

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