

WESTERN Recorder

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Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 36

Witnessing dolls 'open eyes' to gospel

Eliza Broadus Offering makes ministry possible

By Robin Cornetet Bass



Robin Reeves

Corbin—With their sweet painted smiles and braided yarn hair, witnessing dolls are easy to underestimate. Many see them as children's playthings, but to Robin Reeves, director of Christians By Choice Clown and Creative Ministries, these dolls are mighty tools used to proclaim the saving grace of Jesus.

In the past three years, Reeves and about 30 other women from Frankfort Baptist Church, in Corbin, have been stitching and stuffing these witnessing dolls. Each lovingly crafted piece is adorned with a set of salvation beads and a note explaining the meaning of the colors. The women, who serve under the name "Sewing Seeds of Kindness Ministry," have

created more than 7,000 dolls since 2009 and have distributed them to churches, ministries and missionaries in 27 states and 17 countries—largely thanks to funding through Eliza Broadus Offering grants awarded each year.

Reeves, a Missionary Service Corps Missionary, said she has

□ See *Witnessing dolls ...* Page 2



Wilson's leave lasting legacy

By Ken Walker

Wheelwright—When Jeff Craft wound up in Wheelwright nine years ago, the California native never dreamed that the long road he traveled to the eastern Kentucky town would lead to such joy.

Yet, thanks to missionaries Charles and Margie Wilson, the man who once would fight "at the drop of a hat" is now a follower of Christ.

"With their help, I became a more patient person," said Craft, who first visited the Wheelwright Baptist Center in 2004.

"Any time I need help, they've been there to give me guidance," he said. "I have learned to be content, whether rich or poor, hungry or full."

Such tributes flowed like a mountain stream at



the recent reception honoring the Wilsons at the Fitzpatrick First Baptist Church activities center in Prestonsburg.

Bound for their home state of Georgia, the couple retired Aug. 31 after 32 years as missionaries with the North American Mission Board.

Twenty-six of those years were in this state, with the Kentucky Baptist Convention helping support their ministry.

According to Eric Allen, there are many stories similar to Craft's, with 396 professions of faith recorded at the Wheelwright center since 1986. Allen is Kentucky Baptist Convention's Missions Growth team leader.

In addition, Wilson preached nearly 4,000 sermons as pastor of First Baptist Church of Wheelwright.

"One of these days when you get to heaven there will be a lot of people thanking you for what you've done," Allen told the couple.

"You have given your lives to the people of Floyd County. You have listened to them and cried with them. You will be missed."

□ See *Lasting Legacy ...* Page 3

RETIRING Charles and Margie Wilson recently retired as North American Mission Board missionaries. Twenty-six of their 32 years of ministry were spent as directors of the Wheelwright Baptist Center in Floyd County.

KBC approves Shelbyville pastor as church revitalization team leader

By Ken Walker

Louisville—Last week, the Kentucky Baptist Convention Administrative Services Committee approved the hiring of Shelbyville pastor Steve Rice as the KBC's team leader for church consulting and revitalization.

Rice will lead a team of 10 ministry consultants providing services and support to the 2,400 congregations affiliated with the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said he was grateful for the KBC Mission Board's decision in June that allowed the committee to approve the hire without action from the entire board. He added that the administrative committee was unanimous in its support of Rice.

"This is the right time to fill the position and Steve is the right man for the job," Chitwood said.

Pastor of First Baptist Church of Shelbyville since 2008, Rice served previously as KBC's director of discipleship and assimilation. Prior to that, he served for six years as pastor of



Steve Rice

Williamstown Baptist Church in Grant County.

Rice begins his new duties Oct. 1.

"Steve's experience as a pastor whom God has used to revitalize churches, and his role as a former KBC staff member, make him uniquely qualified for this position," Chitwood

said. "He is also a humble and genuinely spiritual man who has earned the respect and admiration of Kentucky Baptists."

A native of Eastern Kentucky, Rice completed his undergraduate work at Morehead State University and has a master's degree from Luther Rice Baptist Theological Seminary in Lithonia, Ga., and a doctorate from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Cordova, Tenn.

Rice said when he was called to the Shelbyville pastorate, he felt he had "unfinished business" as a KBC staff member. "I had so many ideas and plans for discipleship" he said, as well as creative ways for Kentucky Baptists to welcome new people to their churches and get them involved.

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Westerfield remembered as 'passionate servant'

By Robin Cornet Bass

Hopkinsville—Kentucky Baptist Men on Mission president and longtime Disaster Relief volunteer Tom Westerfield died Sept. 11 in a tractor accident on his farm in Crofton. He was 72.

Westerfield assumed the role of Baptist Men president in 2010 and as spokesperson had been working with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in developing new strategies for the ministry in light of restructuring.

Westerfield was "a passionate servant of Christ," said Coy Webb, Disaster Relief director with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "He was a visionary leader who mixed great organizational skills with a compassionate heart for people. Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief has lost a great leader and friend."

Westerfield served as communications leader on Kentucky's Disaster Relief Leadership Team and was described by Webb as a strategic leader in the Christian County Association. There,

Westerfield led the effort to establish communication, shower and childcare units. More recently, he had been a leader in developing the state's first water purification unit.

Since becoming a volunteer in 1993, Westerfield has been a pervading presence with Disaster Relief efforts not only in Kentucky, but in Alabama, Texas and at Ground Zero. He also served with the ministry abroad in Haiti, the Republic of Georgia and Zimbabwe.

In 2008, Westerfield was among five recipients nationwide to be recognized with a Distinguished Service Award by the North American Mission Board, one of the highest accolades bestowed on Southern Baptist DR volunteers.

At First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville, Westerfield was considered much more than a member, said former pastor Rick Stevens, now serving as director of missions of Cumberland Baptist Association in Clarksville, Tenn.

"Tom was a godly man and a strong leader," Stevens said. "He will certainly

be missed at First Baptist, in the entire community really."

Westerfield held a variety of positions with public service organizations, including Kiwanis Club of Hopkinsville, Hopkinsville-Christian County Gideon Camp, Hopkinsville-Christian County United Way and the Christian County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

In his working career, Westerfield was retired as the director of Pennyroyal Mental Health Center, a former teacher and assistant principal at Hopkinsville High School, and a farmer.

And even with all his service outside the home, Stevens said Westerfield was "a person who left behind a real legacy. He has six sons and I can see in his sons the faith he passed on to them."

Westerfield is survived by his wife, Genia Westerfield; six sons, Christopher Daniel (Natalie), Benjamin Trigg (Erin), Matthew Taylor (Wendy), Wesley Bryan (Brandy), Whitney Henderson (Amanda) all of Hopkinsville, and Charles Franklin (Andrea) of Nashville, Tenn.; and eight



DISASTER RELIEF Volunteer Tom Westerfield coordinates rescue and relief efforts in the Kentucky Baptist mobile communications unit.

grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Sept. 14 at First Baptist Church of Hopkinsville. The family requests any memorial contributions placed in care of the Kentucky Baptist Convention Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 43433 Louisville, KY 40253-0433. (WR)

Witnessing dolls

Continued from page 1

received numerous reports through the years about children and adults making professions of faith after hearing the gospel message told with a witnessing doll. She and fellow Christian By Choice volunteers have personally experienced God working through the dolls during backyard Bible clubs each summer.

Simple message

The witnessing part of the doll is intentionally simple, Reeves said, and it begins something like this:

"Just like us, every one of these dolls is different. God made us unique individuals, but we all have one thing in common, and that's our heart and soul," Reeves said and at this point would be showing the side of the doll with closed eyes.

As she points to the place where a heart would be, Reeves continued, "There's an emptiness there. He created us with a void in our heart that only He can fill. We can try many things to fill that void, but only He can."

Flipping the doll over reveals eyes that are wide open. Not only does the doll now have a smile, there is a painted red heart on its chest with a white cross in the middle.

"Once we accept Him into our lives, He is always there. He never leaves us. But until you receive Him, He's not yours at all. It's like the dolls," Reeves said. "They're not for sale. It's a free gift, but until you accept this doll, it's not yours. That's the same way it is with Jesus. Until you accept Him as your personal Savior, He's not yours. He's there for the taking, He's there for the asking, He'll never force Himself upon you, but He is the greatest gift you will ever receive."

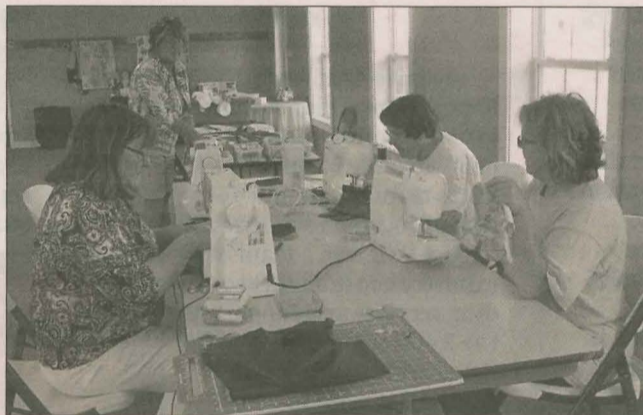
Reeves said children quickly understand the presentation is not about the doll at all. It is about Jesus and what He did for them. She has been amazed to see children—even ones who appeared disinterested—explain this simple gospel message

five minutes later with family members.

"It's a wonderful witnessing tool especially for children because it gives them something to hold on to," Reeves added. "They understand the significance of the eyes being closed and open, of the beads and the heart with the cross."

'Driven' by the Spirit

Since establishing Christians By Choice ministries in 1990, Reeves has recruited and coordinated hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteers as they sought to evangelize the gospel through clowning, puppets, Backyard Bible Clubs, block parties and back-to-school events.



Volunteers from Frankfort Baptist Church, in Corbin, have made more than 7,000 witnessing dolls during the past three years and have distributed them to 27 states and 17 countries. (Photos by Robin Reeves)

In 2012 alone, she managed the missions efforts of nearly 500 volunteers in a variety of works including construction, fire clean-up, nursing home and after school projects.

"She brought in 10,000 man-hours through volunteers in the past year," said David Aker, director of missions for South Union/Mount Zion Baptist Association. "She coordinates teams from Kentucky and other states serving here, sometimes two a week working in different ministries."

While Reeves was networking with mission teams and making lists of work opportunities, she would also make appearances as "Ringo the Clown" whenever she could at Vacation Bible Schools or community events.

"She is driven by God's Holy Spirit,"

Aker said. "She has that passion born in her."

When health issues made it necessary for Reeves to scale back her physical activity in 2007, her passion to serve did not waiver. She began praying for God to reveal a new ministry opportunity. She prayed for two years before it was finally revealed.

New purpose in Christ

In 2009, Reeves was presented with a box of witness dolls that had been sitting in a North American Mission Board closet—for two years. The concept was so simple, yet so effective, Reeves said. She decided to make more dolls, but first she would need help.

"Our women's ministry was pretty much dead. We were not active at our church. We did not have WMU or Women on Mission at our church. Our pastor's wife had met with the women some and we would have little retreats now and then, but really we had not done anything in two years," Reeves recalled.

With a new sense of purpose, women at Frankfort Baptist eagerly signed up to help make the dolls. Reeves said several ladies past retirement age had expressed thoughts of uselessness in God's kingdom until this opportunity was presented.

"They realized the Lord can still use them even at that age. A lot of them at the time had given up. They thought there was nothing they could do, but He had another plan," Reeves said.

Recently, their sewing machines have been whirling trying to complete 500 new dolls for missionaries in India to use at a women and children's event in February. There is also an order that must be completed and shipped before Christmas to the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center.

"The Lord has really blessed this little ministry. When He gave us this three years ago, I never dreamed it would become what it has," Reeves said.

For more information about starting a witnessing doll ministry at your church, consult the projects page on wmu.com/ adults for patterns, specific instructions, and tips. (WR)

Team leader

Continued from Page 1

"When I went to Shelbyville First Baptist, I imagined I'd retire there," Rice continued. "But God had other plans." He noted that he and his wife, Laura, plan to remain members of the congregation, although Rice's work often will take him on the road.

The KBC Church Consulting and Revitalization team "will have a major focus on consultations in the field," he explained. Meeting Kentucky Baptist pastors, ministers and other leaders face to face will provide the team valuable insight into the types of services and programs that should be offered.

"When we offer conferences, they will be based as closely as possible on the needs we discover during our consultations," Rice said. "Our vision is to help pastors and churches reach their full potential for the Lord."

Chitwood noted that Rice's hire fills the final upper level leadership position that remained from the restructuring of the KBC Mission Board staff in May.

With Rice's appointment, "I feel God once again has given us just what we need. We have assembled a leadership team that is smaller but it also has a very sharp focus—to help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ," he said.

Previously, Rice was an elementary/high school band director with Hazard Independent Schools. He served as a bivocational music minister and also the bivocational pastor of Island Baptist Mission, a work of First Baptist Church of Pikeville.

The Rices have three children. (KBC)

Wheelwright native David Boyd to continue ministry center

By Dannah Prather

Wheelwright—This month, the Kentucky Baptist Convention will transfer ownership of the Wheelwright Baptist Center in Floyd County to native son David Boyd and his wife, Stephanie.

David Boyd, also known as Dabo, grew up in Wheelwright and was impacted personally, and eternally, by the ministry center and its retiring directors, Charles and Margie Wilson.

When Wilson and Boyd first met 17 years ago, "Dabo was not a Christian and didn't have favorable leanings as far as churches go," Charles Wilson recalled. As a member of the Wheelwright City Council, Boyd was working with Wilson to accommodate 150 World Servants set to serve in Floyd County for a summer project.

After serving alongside a World Servants team who were framing a house for a needy family in his home county, Boyd was changed.

"A few months after that, he gave his life to Christ," Wilson said.

"Charles was my spiritual mentor," said Boyd, who, under the Wilsons' supervision, began Wheelwright's Youth Fellowship Center in 1998. It was the ministry's first outreach to local youth.

And now, Boyd and his wife will start a new chapter for the ministry center that serves dozens of families and last year witnessed 37 professions of faith.

Boyd "grew up around that ministry. He's familiar with what the needs are," said Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association. "I think (the Boyds) have a heart for this. I sense an excitement in them about getting started."

The Wilsons recently retired after serving 32 years as North American Mission Board missionaries. They served 26 of those years in Wheelwright. With their retirement, convention leaders determined it was time to hand the center over to someone else.

KBC formed a small committee to seek proposals from churches or individuals interested in the work.

"From the start, we wanted to see the ministry at Wheelwright sustained," said Paul Chitwood, KBC executive director. "The fact that the Wilsons themselves know the Boyds and have confidence in their ability to continue the work there gives me confidence that we made the right decision."

Eric Allen, leader of KBC's Missions Mobilization team, was on the committee that accepted the Boyd's proposal.

"David and Stephanie have been ministering in Appalachia for years through World Servants," he noted. "The fact that David is from Wheelwright and is

known by the people there, including the Wilsons, gave us a sense of assurance that God was calling the Boyds to this ministry."

With roots in Youth for Christ, World Servants is similar to Southern Baptists' and Kentucky Baptists' "Changers" initiatives that mobilize believers to hands-on service while sharing the gospel with others.

Stephanie Boyd is area director for World Servants' Appalachian initiative. She said God used a mission trip to Wheelwright when she was 16 to draw her into ministry.

"I fell in love with the community and the people," she said. "I started crying when we were driving away."

As a volunteer mission leader for World Servants and World Vision over the years, David Boyd has served across the U.S. and internationally, returning often to Appalachia and Wheelwright.

"The real jump we've seen in missions groups coming to Wheelwright over the past several years—Dabo has been influential in getting those here," Wilson said.

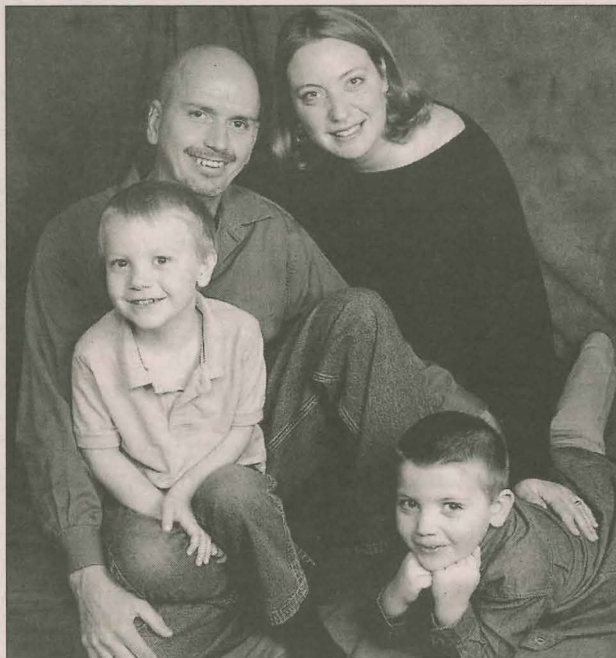
The Boyds, with their sons, Stephen and Carter, will relocate from Philippi, W. Va., to Wheelwright.

"We are looking forward to continuing the (Wilson's) legacy of loving people like Christ loved us," Mrs. Boyd said.

Wilson served as pastor of Wheelwright Baptist Church, which meets at the center. Boyd said he wants the weekly services to continue, estimating that "90 percent of the town doesn't attend church" regularly.

Wilson said he, his wife and several other friends and family, have been praying for the future of the Wheelwright Center for more than four years. As he watched God bring the Boyds, step by step, closer to Wheelwright, Wilson said he has a sense of peace about the future of the ministry, and hopes that his fellow Kentucky Baptists will, too.

"I've got a lot of faith in Dabo's concern for people," he said. "There's a long history of seeing how God has used him." (KBC)



NEW DIRECTOR David and Stephanie Boyd (with sons, Carter at left and Stephen) are the new directors of the former Kentucky Baptist Convention-owned ministry center in the Floyd County community of Wheelwright. A native of Wheelwright, David Boyd said his "spiritual mentor" was longtime center director and NAMB missionary, Charles Wilson.

Lasting legacy

Continued from Page 1

Tom Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association, said he will miss Mrs. Wilson's personal assistance as his part-time secretary for the past 13 years.

"This room will hold all of us, but it won't begin to hold the lives of all those you have touched," Biddle said.

The DOM noted that the Wilsons served such diverse roles as taxi drivers, home repair contractors, mission team hosts, and leaders of a thriving deaf ministry in the region.

Their daughter, Amy Armstrong of Florence, recalled growing up in Toledo, Ohio, and later Wheelwright without much money, but feeling like one of the richest kids around.

"God always provided and we had everything we needed," she said. "I remember many Thanksgivings we had a table full of people not related to me."

Some guests from long distances attended the reception. Among them were Francisco Espinoza of Toledo, Ohio, and deaf ministry pioneer Tina McFarland Savelyev, who does mission work in central Asia.

"They were a different kind of pastoral team," Espinoza said of the impression the Wilsons made at Western Avenue Baptist. "I was used to pastors who didn't go into the neighborhood."

"Charles tried to get people to participate in their own solution and do for themselves. They did a lot of good work."

A former KBC employee who lived in the mountains from 1992-96, Savelyev

said it wasn't necessary to persuade the couple back then that deaf ministry was needed in the region.

"They were helpful to me in gathering of data, but we were on the same page then in recognizing that relationships were paramount," Savelyev said. "In the process, our friendship with each other grew and became a treasure."

Such friendship characterizes the way they have touched current members of First Baptist, such as children's Sunday school teacher Jayne Henson.

Henson recalled being on the wrong path before she accepted Christ in 2008, thanks to the Wilsons.

"I became involved in (groups like) Alcoholics Anonymous and am

spreading the gospel and teaching others about Christ," Henson said.

Such success stories represent one of the couple's favorite memories of their ministry career.

"We've worked with so many people with special problems and watched God change them," Wilson said.

"I've always explained that basically what I do is provide them with the tools so that they can begin to let Christ take over their lives and change the way their lives are running."

For Mrs. Wilson, who took continuing education courses to master sign language, she hopes her deaf ministry role will continue in Georgia.

"I've tried to help deaf people see that

a relationship with Jesus Christ is the best thing that they can have," she said.

Their move south is tentatively set for mid-September. It will take them closer to daughters Melinda Adkins and Marcha Thompson, six grandchildren, and Mrs. Wilson's brother, Joe Ogletree.

Initially, they will return to their home church, Sweetwater Baptist in Thomson, which supported them on the mission field.

However, they may not stay long. Wilson said that serving as an interim pastor may be his next ministry after they settle into their new home.

No matter where they wind up, though, they said they will carry fond memories of Kentucky Baptists. (KBC)

KBC implements changes for 2012 annual meeting

Lexington—When Kentucky Baptists gather Nov. 13 in Lexington to mark the 175th Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, they may notice that several details have been streamlined, including the meeting itself.

Instead of three sessions, this year's gathering will conclude after two.

The meeting will gavel to order at 8:30 a.m., EST, at Immanuel Baptist Church, and will conclude at approximately 6 p.m.

Another change is that it no longer will be necessary for messengers to request registration cards in advance. Messengers may register on site beginning Nov. 12 at noon, prior to the start of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference. Registration will continue Nov. 13.

The 2012 KBC Book of Reports, which contains official correspondence from

mission board staff, committees and agencies and institutions, will be available for download from the KBC website in advance. KBC will not have printed copies of the report at the meeting. The report will be available Oct. 15 at www.kybaptist.org/bookofreports.

"KBC staff and members of the annual meeting committee are hopeful that these changes will result in a reduction of the costs associated with the annual meeting," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said. "We desire to be excellent stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us of both time and money."

Among the highlights of this year's meeting will be a free coffee shop and more space in the exhibit area to meet with KBC staff in "mini consultations" about services the staff provides.

A series of historical banners will be unveiled, along with information about how associations and congregations may borrow the banners for special events.

Sharing in music will be:

- The gospel trio, Greater Vision
- First Baptist Church of Mt. Washington praise team

- The host church's praise team
- Kentucky Baptist Chorales
- Oneida Baptist Institute Choir

Chitwood's report is at 9:45 a.m. KBC President Adam Greenway will deliver his address at 11:30 a.m. The convention sermon from Jason Pettus, pastor of Living Hope Baptist Church in Bowling Green, will be at 3:30 p.m.

For information about accommodations, and other details visit www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting. (KBC)

Celebrate CP victory

September may seem a strange time to reflect on the old year and look ahead to the new. Yet, for us "Baptists" who march to a different drummer with our

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

denominational calendar, now is the time to celebrate the faithfulness of God and of His people during the past year.

In that regard, I have wonderful news to report for the cause of worldwide missions. For the first time in four years, Cooperative Program giving from Kentucky Baptist Convention churches to support Great Commission work increased over the year before.

Since the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the receipts each year have represented a decrease over the prior year. But as we close the books on the 2011-2012 fiscal year, we celebrate a 1 percent increase over last year's giving.

Knowing that this victory represents a significant sacrifice on the part of KBC churches, let me express my gratitude to the pastors and church members who are committed to getting the gospel not just to their Jerusalem, but also to their Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

Through the Cooperative Program, Kentucky Baptists are planting churches, educating college and seminary students, relieving the suffering of tornado victims, housing the homeless, feeding the hungry, revitalizing churches, training leaders, caring for orphans, doctoring the sick, counseling addicts, sharing the gospel at summer camp, on university campuses, in stable barns, shelters, prisons, and in many other settings all across Kentucky, North America, and in 180 countries of the world.

There were other exciting discoveries as we closed the books on this past fiscal year. Most notably, Kentucky Baptists gave their highest amount ever to the cause of evangelizing North America through the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering of the North American Mission Board. Gifts totaled \$2,234,942.

The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, funding the Great Commission overseas, totaled \$5,040,378. That represents an \$110,000 increase over last year.

The Eliza Broadus State Missions Offering totaled \$1,151,067. That offering was higher than the previous year by \$80,000.

The Eliza Broadus Offering provides vital support for church planting and evangelism and mission work in Kentucky. The lives of unborn children are being saved by crisis pregnancy centers funded by EBO. Inmates are hearing the gospel, trusting Christ, and being baptized by local churches thru ministries funded by EBO. Women in the adult entertainment industry are being shown a pathway to freedom and salvation by ministries funded by EBO. These are just a few of the ways Kentucky Baptists are obeying the Great Commission and Great Commandment through the EBO.

Will you join my family and be a part of what God is doing thru these ministries by giving thru the EBO this year?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Youth eager to see drill leaders answer call

This past week I received letters from two Bible drill instructors which captured my attention. Yet, it was the enclosed notes from about 10 youth that tugged at my heart.

Lorena Davis, of Bardwell, who has led drill teams for about 10 years and seen several young people become Christians, wrote: "Truly God's word does not return void. I feel that learning scripture is one of the most important things that youth can do. ... Also youth need to be able to use what they have learned, and share this knowledge. The speaker's tournament is quite valuable as well. If things need to be cut, please don't cut the study of God's word."

Brittany McClure, of Fulton, who works with her group, observed: "The children do not come together to be the best, but to do their very own personal best. Despite all the busy distractions of life, they sit together and recite precious scriptures over and over until they are perfected. ... With so many flashy temptations in the world, Bible drill is good to reward the works of the young for committing the Word to memory and to their hearts. The blessings are more than social recognition or monetary reward because it may mean life or death."

Space does not permit using all of their notes, but here are a few excerpts:

"I think that we should have Bible drills for youth this year. I was one point away from going to state, and the girl that beat me got a scholarship and I wanted to try to win it this year. I really would like to be able to write another speech this year."—Brittany Spicer

"I have been in Bible drill for six years. ... I have been waiting to do a speech since I was in 7th grade, and now am finally old enough. Please have the speaker's tournament."—Daytarra Jones

"Please let the older kids do Bible drill. It is a good influence. I am in the 6th grade, and I would like to be able to do it next year because I don't know enough verses."—Samantha Crider

"I'd like to have Bible drill and the speaker's tournament. I am in the 8th grade and I have already learned 10 verses."—Jerry West.

"Great news, kids! Sharpen your skills, we're still doing Bible drills!" says KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood.

By way of explanation, in the recent restructuring of the KBC Mission Board staff, several key leaders in the youth ministry area—Joe Ball, Jay Parker and Alice Seymour—moved to

other positions or retired, leaving a leadership void for oversight of youth drills. On the children's level, however, a group of directors of missions, led by Jeff Crabtree—then of Warren Association, but now a KBC church revitalization consultant—has agreed to pick up the baton and coordinate state drills next April and May in Cadiz, Bowling Green, Somerset and Lexington. Jim Clontz, of South District Association, is the key contact for the drills, and KBC will provide funding.

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Youth Bible Drill. Even if we can no longer host the youth drills, please don't let that stop you from teaching scripture and pouring yourself into the lives of these youth."

The Recorder also has learned that the KBC funding already has been set aside for youth drills, and Crabtree anticipates lay leaders soon will be in place to coordinate the events. Last year 37 youth representing 17 churches in 10 associations were involved in drills, and 10 high school students representing seven churches from five associations participated.

Chitwood told the Western Recorder: "Since 'these words are life to you' (Deuteronomy 32:47), the importance of local churches teaching the word of God to every age group, starting when they are young, cannot be overstated. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the local churches by providing resources that will allow Bible drill competitions to be facilitated. We are also grateful for the partnerships with associations and local churches in conducting the competitions."

I'm not sure why the youth wrote to me since, as an editor, I really don't have decision-making power regarding continuation of the drills. Still, even though they didn't know it when they penned their notes, they had found a kindred spirit. I have had the pleasure of being a Bible drill instructor at three churches. It is thrilling to see youth having fun learning verses that will provide a firm foundation and give direction to their lives as they grow in Christ-likeness. I can affirm along with these leaders that "God's word does not return void," and it is our prayer that those who are passionate about seeing youth drills and speaker's tournaments continue will step forward and answer the call.

Sharing Jesus 10 seconds at a time

Webster defines an evangelist as an "enthusiastic advocate." In Greek, evangelism means, "to tell the good news."

God has called every Christian to enthusiastically advocate His good news. You can do that.

Step No. 1: Read the idea-starters below. Where does life take you that you can be an enthusiastic advocate for Jesus? Check one below or create your own unique title.

- I could be a ...
- Water cooler evangelist to co-workers.
- Jogger evangelist to other runners.
- PTA evangelist to teachers and other moms.

Fresh Ideas



Diana Davis

- Social media evangelist to followers and friends on Facebook, Twitter, blog.
 - Golfing evangelist to teammates.
 - Stroller evangelist to moms and neighbors.
 - Homebound evangelist to postal carrier, medical team, visitors.
 - Carpool evangelist to my kids' friends.
 - Waiting room evangelist to the person nearby.
 - Dog-walking evangelist to other dog-lovers and neighbors.
 - Mall evangelist to sales-people and shoppers.
 - Book club evangelist to other readers.
- Step No. 2:** Ponder. Write a sentence

(140 characters or less) that you may use. Example: Asked about your weekend, you say, "The worship service at church was awesome," or "Without God, I couldn't have made it!"

Step No. 3: Commit to God that you'll be His verbal witness every day, beginning today.

People you see every day are waiting to hear how God impacts your life. Intentionally talk about Him. You'll be amazed how often your faith in God fits into ordinary conversation. So, where are you going today? That's where God has assigned you as His enthusiastic advocate. (BP)

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

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Bill Edmonds, Louisville;
Duane Bolin, Murray;
Bill Bartleman, Paducah;
Dan Summerlin, Paducah;
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton.

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

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Changing the world begins with your prayers

By Daniel Akin

Missionary A. T. Pierson well said, "If missions languish, it is because the whole life of godliness is feeble." To this powerful and convicting statement we may add, "If the whole life of godliness is feeble, it is because prayer is feeble."

James Fraser was a pioneer missionary to the Lisu people in western China. He would labor more than five years before seeing his first convert. It would be an accurate assessment to call him a "prayer missionary." He understood the essential nature of prayer if the gospel was to reach and change the world. He understood that anything lasting and eternally significant would be the result of waves of prayers that revealed belief in God to do something great for His glory.

Fraser wrote, "Solid, lasting missionary work is done on our knees. ... The Spirit must be continually maintained in strength by unceasing prayer, especially against the powers of darkness. All I have learned of other aspects of the victory-life is useless without this."

The work of reaching and changing the world is, indeed, a work done on our knees. And, it is a work that takes on the nature of fierce and intense warfare. After all, one of Satan's chief weapons is to cut off communication with God, communication that takes place in prayer.

John Piper is certainly correct when he writes, "Prayer is meant by God to be a wartime walkie-talkie, not a domestic intercom ... not for the enhancement of our comforts but for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom."

When Paul was imprisoned, he continued to have a passion for the Word of God to go forth to those who needed to hear the gospel. He understood, as well, the intimate connection of that passion to prayer.

Thus he wrote to the Colossians, "Devote yourself to prayer ... Pray for us that God may open a door to us for the message, to speak the mystery of Messiah" (Colossians 4:2-3).

God does not call everyone to leave home and go to the nations. I am convinced He is calling more than are going, but if we are not asking, how can we even receive His answer?

Often I challenge our students at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary to pray a missionary prayer. It is not one most expect. I do not encourage them to pray, "Lord, should I go?" Rather, I challenge them to pray, "Lord, why should I stay?"

Our International Mission Board says there are 3.6 billion people who lack an adequate opportunity to hear the gospel. That means millions upon millions of people will be born, live, die and go to hell without ever hearing the gospel and the name of Jesus. That is a sobering reality. It is a haunting reality.

How should we respond? The Bible provides a clear and unambiguous answer. Pray! This is the counsel given by our compassionate Savior to His disciples as He looked upon the masses in need of a shepherd:

"When saw the crowds, He felt compassion for them, because they were weary and worn out, like sheep without a shepherd.

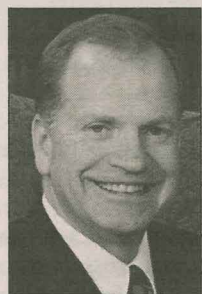
Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:36-38).

God does not call all to be international or North American missionaries. However, He does call all of us to be Great Commission Christians. You see, we can all give. And, we can all pray.

David Livingstone was right, "The best remedy for a sick church is to put it on a missionary diet." Such a diet, the Scriptures teach us, will always have a healthy portion of prayer.

Daniel Akin is president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. This first-person is part of a series of first-persons Baptist Press will publish in anticipation of the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal, Sept. 26 to Nov. 4. To learn more, visit www.4040prayer.com.

FIRST PERSON



Daniel Akin

The Sound Relationship House

By James Stillwell

Q: What are some research-based principles for a happy marriage?



A: John Gottman's model for building a successful marriage is called the "Sound Relationship House," represented by seven floors:

1. Love maps. Your mental map of the other person. Ask open-ended questions. Update your knowledge of the other person on a frequent and regular basis. "Check in," get the "temperature" of the relationship.

2. Share fondness and admiration. Instead of scanning your environment for mistakes, scan your environment for what the other person is doing right to build a culture of fondness, appreciation, affection and respect.

3. Turn towards. In a relationship, each person makes bids for connection. The key is to be aware of how the other person makes a bid and then turn towards them.

4. Positive perspective. The positive "frame" you put on the relationship.

5. Manage conflict. Through dialogue, showing interest, affection, humor, empathy, excitement, softening and soothing. Some important conflict resolution skills: Softened start-up, accepting influence, repair and compromise.

6. Make life dreams and aspirations come true. Through play, fun, and exploration and adventure, each person helps the other realize their important life dreams and aspirations.

7. Create shared meaning. The way you move through time together, how you prioritize your time and resources, the stories you tell one another about your ancestors, culture, beliefs and legacy. The way you decide to have things and events in your life have meaning, formal and informal rituals of connection—because every relationship is a cross-cultural experience.

James Stillwell is minister to singles at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington. E-mail: james@ibs-lex.org.

What is a personal inflation rate?

Would you believe me if I told you that the inflation rate is currently 1.4 percent per year?

It is, according to the Consumer Price Index. CPI is a statistic the U.S. government publishes to measure the inflation rate by seeing how much prices have changed from one period to the next. For the 12 months ended July 31, 2012, the CPI was 1.4 percent for urban consumers in the U.S.

To arrive at the average rate of inflation for the average consumer buying an assumed average basket of goods and services, the government uses sampling, estimates and assumptions. Although the CPI is widely used and quoted, your results may vary. We all pay bills in the real world, not in an abstract, statistical one.

The prices for some items, such as long-distance phone prices or the price of a flat-screen TV, have dropped over time while others, such as health care costs, have increased. What ultimately counts is your personal usage of the various items in the index. For you, what counts is your personal rate of inflation.

To manage your finances effectively and act as a good steward, it's important to "count the cost" and know the rate of increase on those costs. Let's assume that you have a lot of medical and dental costs, you drive quite a bit, and you don't usually buy much technology items. Then, your personal rate of inflation may be in the double digits. If this high personal rate of inflation continues, then it affects how long your savings may last and how much income you may need in the future.

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

Off to college from a parent's perspective

It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since we dropped our oldest child, Karen, off for her first day of kindergarten at Southern Elementary School in Lexington. I was on staff at Chevy Chase Church at the time and took the morning off to be there for that milestone.

Time has erased most of the memories of that morning. I do remember what an emotional day it was for parents as they took their kids to the classroom, introduced them to Mrs. Kinghorn, the teacher, and then said their good-byes and went their way. I think the kindergarten students handled the day better than most of the parents.

That afternoon I had the opportunity to work with other members of our church and the Baptist Student Union at the University of Kentucky, helping move freshmen into the dorms. Surprisingly, the same emotional response from parents was played out in the parking lots all across campus as moms and dads dropped their students off at the dorm and watched their boy or girl begin their next step into adulthood.

Thirteen quick years later, I understood the emotions of the

parents as we drove away and left Karen on the campus of the University of the Cumberland. I always knew that God had a sense of humor, but it was particularly evident that day. We were somewhere between Williamsburg and Corbin on I-75 when Tim McGraw's song, "There goes my life," came on the radio. I had to pull over.

I am reminded of the events of these days at this time every year. The Facebook posts of students moving in, the emotional posts of parents who are excited and sad at the same time. We raise our kids to be successful as adults, but this

step comes way too quickly. I almost started a support group while at Edgewood Baptist Church for moms that had just sent their child—especially the oldest—off to college or boot camp.

A lot is said about how to help your college-age child make the transition, but not much is done to help the parents deal with the empty room or the empty nest. So this month I offer a few pointers as we minister to parents who have just sent the hearts off to college.

Pray for them. The rollercoaster of emotions that are flooding

through them can be crippling. The difference in the nightly routine of making sure everyone is in bed brings a constant reminder that part of the family is missing.

Ask about their student. It reassures them that you realize their student is gone and that you miss them, too. If possible make plans for you or another adult from your congregation to go and see their student at college.

Encourage them to give their student space. The technology of today—cell phones, texting, skype—makes communication possible 24/7. But their student needs their space. Encourage them to set a specific time each week to catch up.

Help prepare them for the change that will take place in their relationships with their children. Their students will come home with different eating and sleeping habits. They actually may want to spend more time with the friends when they come home than with their parents. Discourage parents from making plans for their student without checking first with them.

Pay extra attention to the other children in the house. The family dynamic also has changed for them. Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.

Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball



Baptist relief spurs 'thank you' from Napolitano

By Mickey Noah

Alpharetta, Ga.—Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano called to thank Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers who have diligently served since Hurricane Isaac hit the southeast Louisiana coast in late August.

Napolitano personally expressed gratitude to North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell.

"She called to say how much she appreciates everything Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers are doing and to acknowledge that our efforts are a key part of the response," Ezell said. "The investment Southern Baptists have made in disaster relief over the years has helped us become a key partner in times of crisis. I am grateful for all of our partners who make this happen. We know that many needs will be met and that

ultimately many lives will be impacted with the gospel."

Fred Luter, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and senior pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, said "without a doubt, disaster relief is one of the things we're really good at and that I'm most proud of," when told of Napolitano's call. "It's unbelievable that seven years to the day both Hurricanes Katrina and now Isaac hit our area. We're still trying to rebuild from Katrina.

"By the grace of God, New Orleans didn't flood this time, but we can identify with the folks in Plaquemines Parish and LaPlace," said Luter, adding that 60 of his church members were going to the New Orleans hard-hit suburb of LaPlace to help Sept. 8. "I look forward to seeing those yellow shirts."

SBDR feeding teams have cooked and

delivered more than 130,500 meals at field kitchens in Baton Rouge, Kenner, Covington, Houma, Westwego, Belle Chasse and Slidell, La., and in Long Beach and Pascagoula, Miss., since Isaac hit.

Isaac-related outreach has led to at least five professions of faith and nine other faith-related decisions. SBDR has recorded 78 chainsaw, 54 mud-out and 8 roofing jobs; provided almost 2,200 showers and laundry loads for victims and volunteers; provided childcare for 41 children; and made 2,231 ministry contacts and 47 gospel presentations.

Feeding units deployed to date have come from Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

Southern Baptist feeding kitchens from the six state conventions have the capacity to prepare up to 225,000 meals a day in Louisiana and Mississippi. After SBDR volunteers cook and package the meals, the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army deliver the food to flood victims.

In addition to feeding operations, DR volunteers representing state conventions are deployed in Louisiana, including groups from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas (SBTC and Texas Baptist Men), and Southern Baptist Conservatives of Virginia.

Volunteers are busy assessing damages; doing mud-out, chainsaw and other recovery jobs; providing childcare for victims; providing shower and laundry units; chaplaincy and power generation.



ASSISTING FAMILY David and Susan Hampton, of Immanuel Baptist Church in Corbin, talk with young children at a home where a Kentucky Baptist team is working.



MUD OUT Janice Gaines, of Benton, serves with flood recovery work in Louisiana after Hurricane Isaac. Gaines is a member of Hamlet Missionary Baptist Church.

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IMB honors 82 emeriti missionaries for service

Laura Fielding

Ridgecrest, N.C.—In a tiny, West African community under a star-filled sky, missionary Marvin Thompson would read Scripture to villagers by the faint light of a kerosene lamp.

Thompson spent many days and nights being Christ's heart, hands and voice to his people group, sharing Bible stories and building relationships.

"I've got some good memories of those experiences," he recalled. "As well as throwing up the next day or two from some bad food I got," he added with a chuckle.

Thompson, 62, and his wife, LaNette, 58, served as Southern Baptist missionaries for 26 years in West Africa. They are two of 82 new emeritus missionaries recognized at a special, week-long emeriti event sponsored by the IMB, Sept. 7-13, at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina.

Emeriti are retired missionaries with at least 15 years of service whom International Mission Board trustees vote to honor with the title.

Pioneers in their field

The Thompsons, both Texas natives, were appointed in 1985 and served in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mali.

The couple became pioneers in chronological Bible storying, a method of teaching oral learners (those who cannot read) a series of Bible stories in a way that relates culturally to the learners. The Thompsons were the first IMB missionaries to use storying in West Africa. After seeing five churches established



EMERITUS MISSIONARY Ann Pearce (right), who served for 39 years in Paraguay, helps Jo Yates with her corsage prior to the 2012 Emeritus Recognition Service at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. Yates served for 42 years in Paraguay. (Photo by Will Stuart.)

in their city, the Thompsons moved to a small Muslim village in Cote d'Ivoire where they continued to use the technique.

It was in Cote d'Ivoire that LaNette had the chance to share all 52 stories in the storying track with a recent widow who repented.

"When she accepted Christ, it was like that was the reason we were there; it was almost like that was the reason God called me when I was 12," LaNette said. Someone had to come reach this one woman in this remote village, "and it was just like that was my purpose."

The Thompsons moved to Mali in 2002 and remained there until retirement in 2011. Their missions legacy lives on through the many nationals and missionaries they've trained, and through two of their three children who returned to West Africa as Southern Baptist missionaries.

"We're retired from the IMB, but not retired—just shifting gears," Marvin said.

Added LaNette, "When He calls you to full-time service, it doesn't end."

Not ready to retire

New emerita Annette Hall isn't slowing down, either. The 68-year-old Virginian appointed in 1973 served for 38 years as an IMB representative to North African and Middle Eastern peoples.

Hall was a nurse educator in two Middle Eastern nations, but later moved to France in 1990 to work with Muslim immigrants. She adopted the chronological Bible storying method, using stories to teach literacy and French as a second language.

"We were meeting their need by giving them access to the French language ... but then we were also giving them the gospel," Hall said.

Living in Richmond, Va., since retirement, Hall has a passion to see Bible storying take root in the United States. She is connecting with Baptist leaders across state lines and hosting workshops to train others.

"Retirement has come before I was ready for it," she said. "I don't plan to stop anytime soon. My goal is to keep training people and keep using stories as long as I'm able." (BP)

Pakistani Christian girl granted bail, not freed

Lahore, Pakistan—A Pakistani court has granted bail to a Christian girl accused of blasphemy, but her lawyer says he will not seek her release until her security can be guaranteed.

The Telegraph reported that Judge Muhammad Azam Khan set bail of 1 million rupees (about \$10,000) for Rimsha Masih, who has been imprisoned for three weeks on charges of desecrating the Quran. While prosecuting attorneys argued that blasphemy suspects are not entitled to bail, Masih's defense said she was a minor and should be set free.

But in a development that illustrates the mortal danger surrounding blasphemy accusations, one of Masih's lawyers says he will allow her to remain in prison until arrangements can be made for her safety.

"She is at grave risk in the sense that the people who managed this whole drama and fabricated the evidence against her most certainly wish her harm,"

Raja Ikram, one of Masih's lead defense lawyers, told the Guardian, claiming Masih will need bodyguards and an armored vehicle to protect her.

Masih's case has drawn international scrutiny since she was arrested three weeks ago for allegedly desecrating the Quran, a crime that carries a life sentence in Pakistan. A young man in Masih's neighborhood claimed he saw her carrying a trash bag with burnt pages of the Quran, and police arrested the girl after an irate mob demanded action and threatened to burn her alive.

But since then, the Muslim imam in Masih's neighborhood has been arrested for planting evidence against her. That coupled with her age and mental state (an official medical review determined she is roughly 14 and has mental difficulties) has brought even conservative Muslim clerics to her defense.

Paul Bhatti, who heads Pakistan's Ministry of National

Harmony, hailed the support of Muslim leaders in Masih's case.

"I am very hopeful for that and very happy that justice has prevailed," he told the Washington Post, also saying that arrangements had been made to move Masih to a secret location upon her release.

According to the Guardian, Christians in Masih's neighborhood are on edge, subjected to derogatory treatment and forced to close their churches.

The girl's parents are in protective custody, likely to protect them from murderous vigilantes, who in the past have killed blasphemy suspects and those defending them. In a statement quoted by the advocacy group Avaaz, Masih's father lamented the violence and intimidation surrounding her case.

Masih's case has raised calls to reform Pakistan's blasphemy laws, which critics say are often used to persecute religious minorities or settle personal vendettas. (BP)

BAPTIST DIGEST

Isaac damage at NOBTS under \$300,000. New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary escaped Hurricane Isaac's winds and rain with damage estimated at less than \$300,000. The slow-moving storm raged on throughout the day Aug. 29, the seventh anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. But this storm was no Katrina, and seminary classes have resumed. Several campus-based homes and apartment buildings experienced minor roof damage, mainly shingle loss. Limbs were down throughout campus and multiple termite-damaged trees fell. Two faculty homes were hit by trees. However, the campus did not experience major flooding.

Gray named Baptist Courier editor. James Rudy Gray, a pastor, writer and Christian counselor with roots in journalism, has been named the 11th editor and president of the Baptist Courier, the official newspaper of the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Gray, 59, will succeed Don Kirkland, 68, who announced in March that he will retire at the end of 2012, capping a 38-year career with the paper. Gray has served as pastor of Utica Baptist Church in Seneca since 1994. He was elected convention president in 2009 and is a past board member and chairman for New Orleans Seminary. He served two terms on the Courier's board of trustees in the 1990s and was serving on the board at the time of his election as editor.

Suspect arrested in death of IMB worker. A suspect has been arrested in the death of Southern Baptist representative Cheryl Harvey in Jordan, according to Jordanian authorities investigating the attack on the veteran teacher. Harvey, 55, whose body was found Sept. 4 in her apartment in Irbid, Jordan, was stabbed to death. Police reports indicate she was killed by a young Jordanian man. Robbery was the apparent motive, police said in the report obtained Sept. 7 by Southern Baptist officials. Harvey, of Sudan, Texas, worked in Jordan for 24 years, teaching English and other subjects. Ten years ago she founded the ESL language center where she taught in Irbid, Jordan's second-largest city and home to several universities.

Texas man's tract reaching thousands. A new gospel tract published by Houston businessman David Howell has been read by at least 15,000 people—most of them prisoners—since June, and many have reported that God used it to change their lives. Titled "How to be a Child of God," the graphic, comic-book style booklet explains the concept of being crucified with Christ, presented by the apostle Paul in Galatians 2:20. An accompanying video presents its message online with automation and professional voiceover. Howell, a member of Houston's Second Baptist Church, began writing the tract more than five years ago.

ERLC urges court to review gay marriage case. The SBC's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission and other religious groups have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review a federal appeals court's ruling that a state cannot define marriage as between a man and a woman. In a friend-of-the-court brief filed Aug. 31, the ERLC joined three other religious entities in urging the high court to rule on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' invalidation of Proposition 8, a 2008 amendment approved by California voters that defined marriage as between a man and a woman. The National Association of Evangelicals filed the brief. In addition to the ERLC, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints also signed onto the brief.

NAMB's Larry Wynn joining Georgia Baptists. Larry Wynn, who has served as vice president of evangelism at the North American Mission Board since early 2011, announced Sept. 11 that he is leaving to become vice president of revitalization for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Wynn has spent all of his ministry years in Georgia, having been pastor of Hebron Baptist Church in Dacula, Ga., for 32 years before taking the position at NAMB in early 2011. He is a past first vice president of the SBC and has twice served as president of the Georgia convention.

'October Baby' now available on DVD. The faith-based film "October Baby" is now available on DVD and Blu-ray and is being promoted as a ministry tool for churches and pregnancy resource centers. Inspired by a true story, "October Baby" chronicles a young woman's search for the truth about her past. When "October Baby" opened in theaters in March, it was among the Top 10 movies playing at the time and ranked No. 3 in per-screen average, and Provident Films said it "even saved lives." The DVD is available at LifeWay Christian Stores and through LifeWay.com, along with 4-session small group Bible studies for adults and students.

'The time of my life,' part 2

OBI student reflects on opportunity to study drama, represent Christ

Last week we shared the first part of OBI junior Jacob Bortell's account of his experience this summer at the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts. Here is his conclusion.

"It wasn't just the small personal lessons we learned that made the Governor's School for the Arts important and enjoyable. We loved big things, too, like performances. With morning and evening performances every day by guest artists, focusing on one of the nine artistic disciplines represented in the GSA curriculum, we were exposed, enlightened and blessed by the amazing talents presented to us.

"Artists like Harry Pickens, Judith Blazer, Ben Sollee, DCDC and GSA's staff inspired and lifted our hearts, encouraging us as young, upcoming artists and giving advice for a successful artistic future. From the diversity of people and artistry, I learned to appreciate and respect an artist's creation even if it was strange or not to my personal liking—something that was put to the test a few times while I was there.

"Through hours of studio and performances every day, I learned a lot about my art form and others as well. However, I would say that I gained and grew the most by being a part of the community. The classes were fantastic and I gained so much from them, but what I loved the most and will treasure forever were the people—friends, staff members, guest artists, and everyone who was and is a part of GSA.

"The love that I received from them was more valuable than hours of

studio lessons. Because of it, I found myself able to open up, and I learned how to reach out to people for the first time.

"By basking in the support and friendliness of those around me, my heart and mind were able to take a breather by letting go of fears, doubts and the competitive spirit. I was able to relax, be thankful and rejoice in others' victories and accomplishments. We became a family—one that shared laughs, difficulties, talents and creations.

"Harry Pickens, a piano virtuoso, ecstatic friend, wise man and GSA's 2012 artist in residence told us, "You are the heart of GSA." He was saying that it is the people who give the GSA program the life, passion and creativity that it has. As we were told towards the end of our time together, GSA is not a place or a program at all. It is a community.

"When we left the campus, we did not leave GSA behind, but took it with us in our hearts. Our passion, our zeal, and our friendships continue beyond the program and into every new adventure we experience.

"My life has been changed through all the hard work, artistic immersion, and community of outstanding people. I have gained knowledge, wisdom, love and a whole new family. I am excited to use what I have learned to better myself and to share that knowledge and wisdom with my friends back home.

"So much love and passion has been shared with me, both at GSA and at Oneida. I can't wait to give it all back."

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

Living Water still focus

Pastor and dean gets history lesson at Clear Creek Springs

If you really want to study history, sometimes you just have to leave the dusty stacks of the libraries and talk to some people. Our dean of institutional advancement, Jay Sulfridge, was doing that recently during one of his many duties as pastor of Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro, when Mary Ann Frost gave him a brief education. As Dean Sulfridge sat at a picnic table on her lawn, Mary Ann told him some of the neighborhood's history.

"This house belonged to James Bowling," Mary Ann said. She went on to explain how Bowling was tied to Clear Creek Springs.

"Jim Bowling's brother-in-law was J.M. Davis, who started a health resort at Clear Creek Springs. It started when a man cut his leg, and he bathed it in the spring at Clear Creek and it got better. Well, of course, it did; it was sulfur water!

"From that, they got the idea that the spring was healing water, so they tried to market it as Clear Creek Springs, the same as Hot Springs, Ark. Then, of

course, Dr. Kelly bought it and started a camp there that became the college."

As Mary Ann talked, Sulfridge was reminded of a trip to St. Augustine, where he saw the famed Fountain of Youth. On approach, he noticed a familiar smell. It smelled like the spring at Clear Creek. It was sulfur water!

A theme began to be seen. In what would later be St. Augustine, Ponce De Leon looked to a spring of water to find youth and lasting life. At the first of the 20th century, people sought healing in the waters of Clear Creek Springs. Today that spring still flows on the campus of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, where the word of God is taught. Jesus said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

Thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for helping us to train messengers who carry that precious truth to a world athirst.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Longtime Southwestern evangelism professor Roy Fish dies at 82

Fort Worth, Texas—Roy Fish, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary distinguished professor emeritus of evangelism, died Sept. 10 at age 82.

Many Southern Baptists considered Fish's name synonymous with "evangelism," a fitting remembrance for the man who served Southwestern for nearly 50 years and once occupied the L. R. Scarborough Chair of Evangelism, considered "The Chair of Fire."



Roy Fish

As Southwestern Seminary President Paige Patterson put it, "Dr. Roy Fish was at once a fabulous lecturer and the most consistent soul winner I know. He lit a fire under thousands of students.

"While we support his family in heart-felt prayer, and while he is irreplaceable for us, we rejoice with Dr. Fish and his entry to his Heavenly home," Patterson said. "God help us all to love lost people like he did."

As a Southwestern professor, Fish impacted the lives of thousands of students, many who credit him with instilling a fire for evangelism in their souls. Fish organized for many years the annual Spring Break Revival Practicum, now called Revive This Nation, as the seminary sent out hundreds of student preachers to preach revivals in churches.

Fish held several prominent denominational positions, including second vice-president of the Southern Baptist Convention and interim president of the North American Mission Board. NAMB president Kevin Ezell, who studied under Fish at Southwestern, described him as a personal soul-winner with a contagious passion for the Gospel.

"Dr. Fish left his imprint on thousands of students over the years and our convention is much better for it. I rejoice that he is now with the Savior he so loved, but I grieve for the loss his family and our entire convention is experiencing today," Ezell said. "NAMB is indebted to Dr. Fish for the year he served as interim president from 2006 to 2007. He lent his leadership and credibility at a time of uncertainty here at NAMB."

Fish served as pastor or interim pastor at more than 20 churches, and spoke and preached at conventions, conferences and churches on every continent except Antarctica. He authored several books and numerous articles on evangelism.

Fish received various awards, including the W.A. Criswell Lifetime Award in Evangelism from the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention, the Charles G. Finney Award for Evangelism in Theological Education, and an honorary doctorate from Southwest Baptist University.

Southwestern reorganized in 2005 its division of evangelism and missions in the School of Theology and named it the Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions. (BP)



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September

- 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.
- 9-11** All-State Junior High Choir, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10** GA Jam, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BOSTON**—Mount Moriah Church will celebrate its 210th anniversary Sept. 23, 10:30 a.m., with a worship celebration, followed by a meal. **Joshua Hitchcock** is pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Oak Grove Church will host Little River Association's pastor, staff and spouse picnic Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. **Paxton Redd** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—First Church will host Muhlenberg Association's WMU church leadership training event Sept. 20, 6 p.m. **Bob Lowery** is pastor.

■ **DEXTER**—Dexter Church will hold a senior-adult rally Sept. 21, 4 p.m., with magician **Mark Comley** as guest speaker and a dinner. The cost to attend is \$5. **David Little** is pastor.

■ **DUNMOR**—Penrod Church has called **Derek Benton** as pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Locust Grove Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 23 with **Abundant Praise** providing special music. A potluck meal will follow the morning services. **Robert Darnell** is pastor.

Severns Valley Church will host **Francesca Battistelli, Sidewalk Prophets, Andy Cherry** and **City Harbor** in concert Sept. 21, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at www.wjie.org. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **GARRETT**—First Church will hold revival services Sept. 18-20, 7 p.m., with **Dave Hammond**, pastor of Faith Church in Myra, as evangelist. **Randy Osborne** is pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 23 with **Mike Wakefield** as guest speaker. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Cave Springs has called **Mickey McPherson** as pastor.

New Cypress Church will hold homecoming services Sept. 23 with **Jerry Eades**, director of missions for Muhlenberg County Association, as guest speaker. **Tommy Drury** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Green Acres Church will hold revival services Sept. 23-26, 6:30 p.m., with **Rusty Ellison**, pastor of Walnut Street Church in Louisville, as evangelist. **Phil Ellis** is pastor.

Highview Church's East Campus will hold a Secret Keeper Girl, Live event, "The Pajama Party," Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. The cost to attend is \$15 per person.

Hurstbourne Church will hold a "Celebrate Missions" dinner for women Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., with **Rachel Wind**, missionary to China, as guest speaker. The cost to attend is \$8. **Mike O'Neal** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold a "Guitar Sunday" Sept. 23, 9 a.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

■ **MAGNOLIA**—Pikeview Church will hold community fall revival services Sept. 19, 7 p.m., with **Bob Sharp**, pastor of Mount Pisgah Church in Upton, as evangelist. **David Walters** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a "Living Free! Stepping Into Freedom" family training event Sept. 22, 8:30 a.m., a program that helps individuals become facilitators and mentors for those who have life-controlling issues. For more information, call (502) 538-7361. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—Memorial Church will host Blood River Association's ministers', deacons' and wives' retreat Sept. 28, 6 p.m., with Christian humorist and storyteller **Buck Creasy** as guest speaker. **Martin Severns** is pastor.

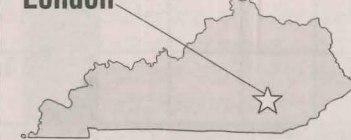
■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church will hold Beast Feast 2012 Sept. 22. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor. ■

■ **RICHMOND**—First Church's children's choir will present the musical, "That's So Daniel," Sept. 23, 6 p.m. **Bill Fort** is pastor.

■ **SEDALIA**—Lynnville Church will celebrate homecoming Sept. 23.

Spotlight on ...

London



Weaver Church will host a discipleship training event for Laurel River Baptist Association Sept. 24, 6 p.m. **Ronnie Owens** is pastor.

William Strong is pastor.

■ **WACO**—Bethlehem Church will host Bates Creek Association's men's fish fry Sept. 22, 5:30 p.m. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

Bethlehem Church will host Bates Creek Association's youth hayride and chili supper Sept. 29, 5 p.m., with **Randy Calico**, youth pastor at Pilot Knob Church in Berea, as guest speaker. **Mark McGuire** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a pancake breakfast Sept. 22, 8 a.m., to benefit the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

■ **WILLISBURG**—Brush Grove Church will hold revival services Sept. 23-26, 7 p.m., with **Travis Farris**, pastor of Hedgeville Church in Danville, as evangelist. **Everett Hood** is pastor.

Cannonsburg church hosts disaster relief training Sept. 22

Ashland—New and returning volunteers with Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief are invited to First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg Sept. 22 for training.

Sessions include the introductory course in disaster relief and an additional course in the afternoon for a specific area of ministry.

Instruction for chaplaincy volunteers begins the day before and continues on Saturday.

Kentucky Baptists provide an array of services to people affected by natural and man-made disasters, including hot meals, laundry and showers, emergency childcare, communi-

cations, and clean-up assistance.

Returning volunteers need to attend training at least every three years to remain eligible to respond to a disaster.

Training begins at 9 a.m., EDT. First Baptist Church of Cannonsburg is located at 11512 Midland Trail Rd., Ashland.

Fees for new volunteers are \$40 per person. Returning volunteers pay \$20 per person. Online registration is underway at www.kybaptist.org/drtraining.

For more details, e-mail Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief at dr@kybaptist.org or call (502) 489-3527 or (866) 489-3527 (toll-free in Kentucky). (KBC)

Kentucky Baptist chorales slate concerts in four cities

Louisville—Free concerts in Bowling Green, Brandenburg, Louisville and Paris will showcase the talents of the Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra, and the Kentucky Baptist Women's Chorale.

Both chorales and the wind orchestra will perform Sept. 22 at First Baptist Church of Bowling Green. The concert begins at 3 p.m., CDT, at 621 E. 12th St.

The women's chorale will perform at 6 p.m., EDT, on Oct. 7 at First Baptist Church of Brandenburg, 149 Lawrence St.

A second combined concert will be 7 p.m., EDT, on Oct. 25 at Hurstbourne Baptist Church, 8800 Shelbyville Rd., Louisville.

The men's chorale and wind orchestra will perform Nov. 11 at First Baptist Church of Paris. The concert begins at 6:45 p.m., EST, at 916 Main St. Also on Nov. 11, the All-State Junior High Choir will perform, first during morning worship and then at 3 p.m., EST, at Parkland Baptist Church, 7206 Shepherdsville Rd., Louisville.

The chorales and wind orchestra will perform at the Annual Meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Nov. 13 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

These groups are comprised of Kentucky Baptists from all aspects of music ministry, from ministers and worship leaders to choir and praise team members. (KBC)

CLASSIFIED ADS

DEGREE: Earn your seminary college degree at home. Ministry, biblical studies, pastoral leadership, more. Free academic evaluation. www.newburghseminary.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.

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

SEEKING: 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.

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

SEEKING: Pike County, Ky., church is seeking a youth/children's program minister. Send resumé or inquiries to timcpa77@gmail.com.

SEEKING: Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville is accepting resumés for two part-time (20 hours each) administrative assistants. One position will work with the missions minister and the other will work with the education/Sunday School minister. Secretarial experience required along with strong skills in grammar. To request application and send resumé,

contact Mary Thomason at maryt@littleflock.com or call (502) 955-8760, ext. 236.

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Taylorsville, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to paul@daughtertybodyshop.com, (502) 905-4897 or FBC, Attn: Search Committee, 115 W. Main, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

SEEKING: Stanford Baptist Church in Stanford, Ky. is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact information available at www.stanfordbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Gum Springs Baptist Church in Walling, Tenn., is seeking a full-time associate pastor of youth/worship. Send resumé to gumspingschurch@gmail.com or mail to 5454 Franks Ferry Rd., Walling, TN 38587.

SEEKING: Minister to the next generations. Join the ministry team of Highland Baptist Church in Shelbyville, Ky., to help

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FOR SALE: Burgandy Heather padded pews: 18 are 10-foot long, 3 are 8-foot. Good condition. \$2,000. Call (606) 205-5255.



Overcoming Obstacles

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC Volunteers from College Heights Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo., traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to lead a soccer clinic in a park near Holy Trinity Church in Barkingsdale, an area of London. The clinic was part of the ministry done through More Than Gold during the Paralympic Games. (IMB)

Wyoming pastor finds few hurdles to the gospel at London Paralympics

By Ava Thomas

London—Brian Scott sees every day what it's like to live with hurdles—he's had a "hurdler" living in his home for the past few years.

"Our foster daughter Rachel, who's 24, is paralyzed on one side, and she has difficulties from a brain surgery she had when she was a child," said Scott, missions pastor of College Heights Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo.

They are difficulties God is redeeming, he said—and using for ministry.

During the recent Paralympic Games in London, Rachel and the rest of the family shared the gospel with other people working to overcome difficulties.

It's something Scott said fit hand in glove, just like Rachel becoming part of their family.

"My wife, Hallie, was a provider for kids who were wards of the state until she became pregnant with our daughter, Lainie (now 3). Then she said, 'If I'm going to be home with Lainie, I'll only be able to help others with special difficulties if they're in my home, too.'"

So when Lainie was born, Rachel also moved in—a new baby, a new adult daughter and a new way to live out the gospel as a family, Scott said.

The Paralympics was just an extension of that, he said. The Scotts passed out water, visited in homes, painted

faces, ran a soccer clinic and shared the love and message of Jesus at the Paralympics Aug. 29-Sept. 9.

The Paralympic Games, a major international sporting event, is held immediately after each Olympic Games. Athletes with physical and intellectual disabilities ranging from amputation to cerebral palsy compete in 21 sports.

"It's very easy to share the gospel in that arena (the Paralympics)," Scott said. "People are going through trials, and it's a perfect time to talk about important stuff. They are overcom-

ing obstacles, and it's so easy to then talk about the One who overcame our greatest obstacle in life for us—our sin."

The 2012 Paralympics got the best response ever worldwide, with 2.7 million spectators attending, 100 nations airing the broadcasts and unprecedented displays of enthusiasm from the host country, according to Seattle Post Intelligencer.

It turned out to be the perfect scenario for College Heights Baptist to connect with the British people—something Scott has wanted to do for years, he said.

"We've been involved in missions in Africa for years and have had layovers in London every time. We were ready to have a church partner in London that we could spend time with when we traveled through," Scott said. "So when we heard More Than Gold was looking for

volunteers to partner with a church for the Paralympics, we jumped on it."

More Than Gold, a joint effort of Christian churches of many denominations worldwide, helps Christians collaborate for ministry during major international sporting events. The effort saw more than 2,000 teams come for the Olympics a few weeks ago, but ministry efforts were diminished during the Paralympics—Scott's church was the only Southern Baptist group from the United States to come.

"The Paralympics has been amazing for us in sharing, because it's such an easy lead in," said Scott, whose family and others from his church saw dozens of children come to their soccer clinic

after they canvassed the neighborhood surrounding Holy Trinity Church in Barkingside.

"The church will continue to work with the kids and families, which is the best part of all," Scott said. "It's good for them to know Christians will come and help them, but it's even more important for them to know that their local church cares."

To learn more about More Than Gold, visit morethangold.org.uk. For more information about the Paralympics, visit london2012.com/Paralympics. (IMB)

Ava Thomas is a writer/editor for the International Mission Board based in Europe.



TALKING ABOUT TRIALS Brian Scott, missions pastor for College Heights Baptist Church in Casper, Wyo., said sharing the gospel in London during the Paralympic Games was easy. "People are going through trials and it's a perfect time to talk about important stuff." (IMB)

Clear Creek Baptist Bible College

Dr. Norman Geisler to lecture at Clear Creek



Clear Creek is honored to have Dr. Norman Geisler speak in our chapel on September 26-27. Dr. Geisler will bring two lectures on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 26 at 2:00 P.M. and 3:00 P.M. and two lectures on Thursday morning, September 27 at 10:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.. The topic will be "Defending Changeless Truth in Changing Times." Make your plans to be here for this opportunity to hear this leading philosopher and theologian.

THE PUBLIC IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND and ***there is no charge for attending.*** Lunch is available on campus at a cost of \$5.50 and reservations must be made by calling (606)337-1562.

Meet Our Speaker

Dr. Norman Geisler, PhD, is a prolific author, veteran professor, speaker, lecturer, traveler, philosopher, apologist, evangelist, and theologian. To those who ask, "Who is Norman Geisler?" some have suggested, "Well, imagine a cross between Thomas Aquinas and Billy Graham and you're not too far off."

Dr. Geisler has authored/co-authored over 70 books and hundreds of articles. He has taught theology, philosophy, and apologetics on the college or graduate level for over 50 years. He has served as a professor at some of the finest Seminaries in the United States, including Trinity Evangelical Seminary, Dallas Seminary, and Southern Evangelical Seminary. He now lends his talents to Veritas Evangelical Seminary in Murrieta, California, as the Distinguished Professor of Apologetics.

Directions to CCBBC from Lexington, KY

Take I-75S to exit 29/US-25E /Corbin/Barbourville. Go south on US-25E for approximately 35.3 miles to State Hwy 190. Turn right onto State Hwy 190. Go approximately 1.6 miles to State Hwy 1491. Go straight onto State Hwy 1491 for approximately 0.5 mile, College is on the left.



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Clear Creek is an institution of the Kentucky Baptist Convention