

# WESTERN Recorder

September 25, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 37

## Leading in the line of fire

*Ky. Baptist back from Afghanistan but still on duty*

By Mickey Noah

Aurora, Colo.—Army Chaplain (Capt.) Jared Vineyard sometimes finds himself much too close to the action.

That was true when he was wounded as an artillery officer in Iraq and later during a one-year stint as a Southern Baptist chaplain ministering to an infantry battalion in Paktika Province in eastern Afghanistan.

Then in July—only his fifth day on the job with his current assignment as a chaplain at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo.—a dozen people, including an airman and a sailor stationed at Buckley, were murdered by a gunman in a nearby Aurora movie theater. Another 58 were injured.

Once again, the 32-year-old Vineyard, a member of



Army Chaplain (Capt.) Jared Vineyard (standing on bench), a North American Mission Board chaplain, leads a devotional time with fellow troops in eastern Afghanistan. Now assigned to Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo., Vineyard is a member of First Baptist Church of Oak Grove near Fort Campbell. (NAMB photo)

First Baptist Church of Oak Grove near Fort Campbell, was called into action to conduct grief counseling—using every bit of the experience he gained as an Army chaplain in Afghanistan to console the sailor's family, friends and colleagues.

When he was based in the

mountains separating Afghanistan from Pakistan, Vineyard was in a dangerous place. Paktika Province shares a 375-mile border with Pakistan. It's a crossover point for Taliban insurgents sneaking across the border.

Vineyard wasn't one to stay in the confines of the

base. About 850 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division were spread out across eight locations throughout the province. Vineyard was chaplain to all of them and would travel weekly by helicopter to bases in remote mountain areas.

□ See Army chaplain ... Page 6

## Retiring East Ky. ministry founder urges others to find their ministry

By Ken Walker

Inez—Although Eileen Mullins left Haven of Rest the first week of September, the founder plans to spread the message nationwide about the need for similar efforts elsewhere.

With Eileen and her husband, retired pastor Carl Mullins, both suffering from various health problems, she decided the time had come to turn over the reins to new directors.



Eileen Mullins

"The first thing I'm going to do is write my book," said Mullins, who is moving to the central Kentucky town

of Dry Ridge, where she spent eight years during her childhood.

"The second thing I'm going to do is use the Internet to contact people all over the country," she said. "You can get on the Internet to find every church and director of missions in the U.S. We need (ministries) like this in" other areas.

Familiar to countless mission teams from Kentucky and many other states, Haven of Rest is a tangible sign of the good accomplished by the Eliza Broadus Offering for State Missions. EBO contributed the \$2,000 in seed money that launched the ministry.

Mullins' plans for Haven of Rest originated with visits to her son in prison in the 1990s. There she observed numerous families who were too poor to afford food or lodging once they arrived.

Touched by their plight, she envisioned one day operating a home where the friends and families of inmates could stay free of charge.

After learning in 1998 about plans to build a federal prison just south of Inez, she said she sensed God telling her, "Here's your ministry."

Although it took six more years until the first guests came to Inez, Haven of Rest has been nothing short of miraculous.

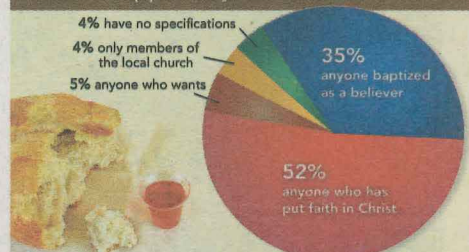
An Inez businessman donated 2.9 acres of land for the facility, while

□ See Haven of Rest ... Page 2

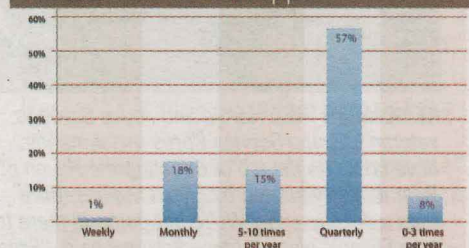
### Pastors' views on the Lord's Supper

Survey of 1,066 SBC Pastors

Who may participate in the Lord's Supper at your church?



How often does your church conduct the Lord's Supper?



LifeWayResearch.com

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## The Lord's Supper

Survey looks at how often churches offer communion, who's allowed to participate

By Carol Pipes

Nashville, Tenn.—The majority of Southern Baptist churches permit anyone who has put their faith in Jesus Christ to participate in the Lord's Supper, according to a survey by LifeWay Research. The survey also revealed that 57 percent of Southern Baptist Convention churches observe the Lord's Supper quarterly.

"Denominational distinctives are often evident in how the Lord's Supper is observed," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "We sought to measure two attributes of Southern Baptists' remembrance of Jesus'

death and resurrection: who may participate in the Lord's Supper—with five distinct options listed—and the frequency it is observed."

The survey of more than 1,000 SBC pastors found 96 percent of their churches allow individuals who are not members of that local church to participate in the Lord's Supper. Only 4 percent restrict par-

□ See Lord's Supper ... Page 3

Close communion vs. open communion: KBC exec Paul Chitwood weighs in. Page 4

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# Mine closures strain eastern Kentucky ministry centers

By Dannah Prather

**Prestonsburg**—Ministries in eastern Kentucky are bracing for a tough winter as hundreds of eastern Kentucky residents have been furloughed or have lost their jobs entirely because of drastic reductions in coal production.

A single employer, Arch Coal, laid off 750 workers across Appalachia last month. Other companies have been forced to idle employees or close operations.

Added stress on an already economically depressed area has created a sense of urgency among some Kentucky Baptist ministries there.

"These ministry centers rely on in-kind donations as well as financial contributions," said Eric Allen, leader of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's missions mobilization team. "There's no doubt that their resources will be stretched thin because of the increased need in these communities."

John Fitzwater and his wife, Melissa, are Mission Service Corps missionaries and directors of Loaves and Fishes Ministry in Lynch. The ministry provides food boxes to the needy each month.

On a recent Thursday evening, "we had 66 new (people) or regulars who had not come to get a box in months," Fitzwater said. "We usually average about 200 boxes per month. We gave out 225" in July. Now that the layoffs are in effect, the Fitzwaters say they expect demand to be even higher in coming months.

Judy Caulder in Benham said needs already were profound even before the mine shutdowns. She and her husband, Frankie, direct Kentucky Sacks of Love, which provides backpacks, school supplies, clothing and other necessities to needy children.

Before the school year began, "teachers were anticipating more students being eligible to participate" in the

program, Judy Caulder said. "We assisted with clothing and school supplies at two schools before school started and overheard several parents comment that they did not know what they would do without the giveaways."

Allen said it is often during times of great need that God's people and His love shine brightest.

"Each of these ministries is focused on sharing the gospel, as well as meeting physical needs," he said. "Kentucky Baptists can have confidence as they support these works."

In order to provide what is most needed, supporters who wish to assist are encouraged to visit the ministries' websites or make contact by e-mail or phone first.

Another eastern Kentucky ministry in need of food donations is Emergency Christian Ministry in Williamsburg. Director Bill Woodward said the shelter's location creates the demand, not mine layoffs.

The shelter is only three blocks from an Interstate 75 exit. People come because their vehicles are out of gas and there's no money to fill the tank, or maybe the car has broken down. Still others come on foot. The needs are basic, Woodward said—a safe place with a meal and a bed until they figure out their next step.

"We have enough food for our clients," he said, but until recently the ministry also had enough to provide emergency food aid to families in need, even if they weren't staying at the shelter.

Woodward said demand "usually picks up in October," and he hopes the pantry can be restocked by then. "The Lord will make a way," he added.

David Aker, director of missions for South Union/Mount Zion Baptist Association, said Emergency Christian Ministry "is thought to be one of the last centers for food operations" left in the area. (KBC)

will have the drive and intense passion like Eileen because she is the ministry's founder."

Allen won't get any arguments on that point from her replacements, Harold and Joyce Scroggs.

The couple, longtime Southern Baptist Mission Service Corps volunteers, have served as directors of United for Jesus since 2007. The interdenominational construction and home-repair initiative is based in Cumberland. Prior to that, they served in Lynch at Solomon's Porch, founded by veteran Kentucky missionary Lonnie Riley.

"We're not going in there to take Eileen's place," Joyce Scroggs said. "Eileen can't be replaced. We're just going to do the work Eileen can no longer do."

After learning of Mullins' plans to leave, the Scroggses prayed for two months before deciding to visit Inez in July. Instead of just staying overnight, though, a change in plans allowed them to remain for three more nights.

"We prayed about it and felt if it was meant for us to be there, we would have the feeling it was home," Scroggs told the Western Recorder. "When we pulled up in the yard, we felt like it was home."

"When (the board of directors) called and offered us the job, we prayed more to make sure it was God and not just us

## How to contact these ministries...

### Freedom Center Ministries, Inc. Lynch

Various essentials for individuals and families  
Directors George and Robin Lewis  
www.FreedomCenterMinistries.com  
GeorgeLewis52@hotmail.com  
(606) 899-5804

### Kentucky Sacks of Love Benham

Backpacks, school supplies, clothing and non-perishable food  
Directors Frankie and Judy Caulder  
JSCaulder@bellsouth.net

### God's Love from a Diaper Bag Jenkins

Baby care items and other necessities for families  
Directors Lester and Bessie McPeck  
DiaperMinistry.weebly.com  
BessieMcPeck@hotmail.com  
(606) 832-4008

### Loaves and Fishes Ministry Lynch

Emergency food aid  
Directors John and Melissa Fitzwater  
www.LoavesandFishesMin.org  
FitzwaterLis@gmail.com  
(606) 733-5513

### Emergency Christian Ministry Williamsburg

Family shelter and food aid  
Director Bill Woodward  
Bill.Woodward@hotmail.com

Donations received at the center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at 630 South Hwy. 25 W in Williamsburg

## Report: Marriage limits child poverty

**Washington**—Being raised in a married family reduces a child's probability of living in poverty by more than 80 percent, according to a report by The Heritage Foundation which found the chief cause of child poverty is the absence of married fathers in the home.

"Marriage is a powerful weapon in fighting poverty. In fact, being married has the same effect in reducing poverty that adding five to six years to a parent's level of education has," Robert Rector, a senior research fellow at the foundation, wrote in a Sept. 5 report.

As a solution, Rector said it is reasonable for government to take active steps to strengthen marriage.

"Just as government discourages youth from dropping out of school, it should provide information that will help people form and maintain healthy marriages and delay childbearing until they are married and economically stable," he wrote. "In particular, clarifying the severe shortcomings of the 'child first, marriage later' philosophy to potential parents in lower-income communities should be a priority." (BP)

## Haven of Rest

Continued from page 1

church groups and other volunteers did most of the construction, saving tens of thousands of dollars.

In addition to the original guest house, several years later the ministry opened a dormitory.

"They get a room and pile in there—sometimes seven to a room because of bunk beds," Mullins said. "Memorial Day weekend, we had 65 people here."

This outreach has been one of the most fruitful ministries in Kentucky Baptist life. Since its inception, guests have come from 43 states and such international locations as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada and Panama.

In addition, about 500 missions volunteers a year come to help. The ministry also has seen between 40 and 50 professions of faith in Christ annually, according to Eric Allen, leader of the KBC's missions mobilization team.

Allen lauded Mullins for preparing for her departure by writing an operations manual, developing a board and slowly relinquishing leadership.

"I've known for several years that Eileen was going to step down, but I am sorry to see her go," Allen said. "No one

wanting to go."

Board chairman Tom Biddle said the directors realized the day of Mullins' retirement was coming, which is why they took steps to make sure Haven of Rest would continue. The transition includes plans to hire an assistant director, although that position has not been filled yet.

"I've told the board that always when you have somebody new it's going to be different," said Biddle, director of missions for Enterprise Baptist Association. "We know we face some challenges."

"In a tougher economy, and because some people who gave (money) faithfully died, our biggest challenge will be generating sources of income and (regular) donations."

However, Mullins doesn't consider money that much of an obstacle, primarily because she has watched the Lord faithfully provide over the past eight years.

Even with a recent gift that paid off the final construction loan, the ministry still has to meet its \$5,000 monthly budget with only \$1,000 in pledges.

"God told me, 'Don't borrow, don't beg and no government,'" Mullins said. "It's a witness that God still provides."

Though recognizing that it will be difficult to trade her picturesque



**AT HOME IN INEZ** Harold and Joyce Scroggs, veteran Mission Service Corps missionaries, have taken on the job of directing the Haven of Rest ministry started by Eileen Mullins more than a decade ago. "We're not going in there to take Eileen's place," Joyce Scroggs said. "Eileen can't be replaced. We're just going to do the work Eileen can no longer do."

surroundings for an apartment, Mullins said she is focused on writing a memoir about Haven of Rest and encouraging others to reach out.

"Wherever you are, there's a ministry," she said. "There are always people who don't know the Lord." (WR)

# State execs, NAMB leaders resolve to move forward 'in unity'

By Art Toalston

**Grapevine, Texas**—State Baptist convention and North American Mission Board leaders "have determined to move forward together in unity to impact the lostness of North America," according to a statement issued Sept. 14.

The agreement was shared during the annual NAMB-sponsored state executive directors meeting Sept. 13-14 in Grapevine, Texas.

Representatives of the state executive directors, led by David Hankins of Louisiana, met with NAMB President Kevin Ezell and other mission board execs as part of the two-day gathering near Dallas.



**UNIFIED FRONT**  
Louisiana's David Hankins represented other state convention execs in releasing a statement resolving to "move forward together in unity" with the North American Mission Board.

The session follows the creation of a special study committee in February during the Fellowship of State Executive Directors' annual meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz. The committee's assignment: to evaluate relations and cooperation between state Baptist conventions and NAMB.

Apprehension and uncertainty have marked the relationship between NAMB and a number of state conventions as the mission board has increased funding for its Send North America church planting and evangelism strategy prioritizing Southern Baptist missions efforts on those areas of North America with the greatest spiritual lostness and the smallest number of Southern Baptist churches. The shift has reduced joint funding for staffing for longstanding missions and ministries in the states.

"It is our desire that all of us can join ranks around the task of evangelizing and congregationalizing North America," Hankins said in the statement. "Southern Baptists can have confidence

in our united effort."

Emil Turner, former president of the executive directors' fellowship, said when the study committee was formed that it "can help get beyond anecdotal reports about difficulties that new-work conventions face and arrive at quantifiable conclusions. The desire is to cooperate with NAMB in a way that helps strengthen new-work conventions." New-work conventions are those where Southern Baptist outreach is not as well established as conventions in the Bible Belt.

In addition to discussing the agreement during their meeting with NAMB leaders, the 33 state executives in attendance discussed planning related to the Send North America strategy. (BP)

## Lord's Supper

Continued from page 1

participation to local church members.

According to the survey, 52 percent of SBC churches offer the Lord's Supper to "anyone who has put their faith in Jesus Christ." Thirty-five percent say "anyone who has been baptized as a believer" may participate. Five percent of SBC churches serve communion to "anyone who wants to participate," while 4 percent of churches don't specify any conditions for participation.

"A single question cannot capture all the nuances of who churches allow to participate. There are many descriptive phrases different people prefer," McConnell said. "However, the choices provided address key attributes mentioned in the Baptist Faith and Message such as believer's baptism and church membership. Today, many Southern Baptist churches may nuance their answers in different ways, but this gives a helpful picture of where SBC pastors are on the issue when choosing between the provided options.

"Clearly, though, this survey points out a difference between the beliefs expressed in the Baptist Faith and Message, and the Lord's Supper practices of many Southern Baptist churches," McConnell pointed out.

Article VII of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 lists baptism as a "prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper." Article VII also states that the Lord's Supper is for "members of the church."

While quarterly observance of the Lord's Supper is the norm for nearly 60 percent of all Southern Baptist churches, 1 percent observe the Lord's Supper weekly. Eighteen percent offer it monthly and 15 percent from five to 10 times a year. Another 8 percent conduct the Lord's Supper less than four times a year.

The survey also found sharp regional differences in the frequency with which Southern Baptist churches conduct the Lord's Supper. Pastors of churches in the Northeast (67 percent) and West (45 percent) are more likely to say they observe the Lord's Supper monthly than pastors of churches in the Midwest (17 percent) and South (14 percent).

The majority of churches in the South (61 percent) and Midwest (58 percent) conduct the Lord's Supper quarterly compared to churches in the West (29 percent) and Northeast (12 percent). (LW/BP)

## Kentucky associations taking lead in state Bible drills

**Louisville**—The Kentucky Baptist Directors of Missions Fellowship is challenging children to become scholars of Scripture in 2013 through Bible drills.

Baptist associations are working together to offer four Bible drills across the state:

- April 27 at New Hope Baptist Church in Cadiz and Calvary Baptist Church in Lexington.

- May 4 at First Baptist Church located of Bowling Green.

- May 11 at Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset.

Bible drills help children in grades 4 through 6 increase their knowledge and application of God's word by testing their skills in memorizing and locating books of the Bible and key passages.

"Bible drill is such a valuable tool for

biblical literacy," said Paul Chitwood, executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. "As a Kentucky Baptist and a father whose children participated in Bible drills, I am grateful to our directors of missions for organizing the children's Bible drills."

Bible drill begins in the local church. Children who give 12 or more correct responses at their church drill proceed to an associational competition. Children who give 16 or more correct responses at their associational drill may advance to the state event.

Participants may use the New International Version, Holman Christian Standard Version and King James Version translations of the Bible.

Participants also can use the Blue Cycle of Bible drill preparation

materials. Downloadable verse cards and sample drills for each Bible translation, along with dates and locations of the drills, are available at the KBC website [www.KyBaptist.org/BibleDrill](http://www.KyBaptist.org/BibleDrill).

State DOMs recently assumed leadership of the statewide drills following a significant reorganization of the KBC Mission Board staff in May.

Jim Clontz, DOM for South District Association, is coordinating the 2013 children's Bible drills. Church and associational volunteers may contact him at (859) 238-7624 or [sdbadom@bellsouth.net](mailto:sdbadom@bellsouth.net) for additional information.

Chitwood said arrangements are being finalized and an announcement is forthcoming about leadership, dates and locations for events for youth Bible drill and speakers' tournament. (KBC)

## Luter vows support to SBC entities, addresses Calvinism

By Diana Chandler

**Nashville, Tenn.**—Fred Luter pledged to work with all Southern Baptist Convention entities to accomplish their kingdom goals in his first presidential address to the SBC Executive Committee Sept. 17 in Nashville, Tenn.

Luter addressed various SBC entity leaders by name, drawing from relationships built during his 25 years of service and leadership as pastor of Franklin

Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans.

"Instead of trying to reinvent the wheel, instead of implementing something that will take a long time to implement and complete," Luter said, "my prayer and my vision is to go to these brothers and sisters across our convention and say, in the short window that I have, 'What can I do as SBC president to help you to carry out your vision and your goal that God has assigned for you to do?'"



**KINGDOM GOALS** Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter preaches at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Sept. 20, a few days after addressing the SBC Executive Committee for the first time as president. (NOBTS photo)

Most importantly, Luter urged SBC leaders to resolve the Calvinism debate, which he said has the potential to foster divisiveness within the SBC when the priority should be winning the lost.

"This debate we're having across the convention about Calvinism needs to be resolved among us ASAP," Luter said. "The dream of turning this convention's heart to missions and evangelism, missions and discipleship, can easily turn into a nightmare if we do not resolve this Calvinism issue in a Christ-like manner. However, if it's going to be resolved, it must start with many of us right here in this room."

Luter said pastors and associational leaders he has encountered since his election have expressed concerns about the Calvinism debate that has heightened in the SBC in recent months.

"The question that I'm asked ... is, 'Brother Luter, why can't you all preachers get along?'" Luter said. "Why can't the leaders of this convention get along? Because what happens in the pulpit is what happens in the pews."

"I am convinced that the enemy will do all that he can to stop this wonderful, dynamic convention from doing all that we can do to win the lost," Luter said. "And I believe that (the enemy) has chosen this time, this debate about Calvinism, to slow us up and stop us from doing what God has called us to do." (BP)

## Close & open communion

I am sharing excerpts this week and next from my contribution to a recent article on communion in SBCLife. While I defend the

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

"close communion" position, keep in mind that the Kentucky Baptist Convention is a tent big enough for the various theological positions on communion that fit within our historic Baptist confessions of faith. Each local church, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit and upon the foundation of God's word, must determine whom they will invite to join them at the table.

Close communion—inviting baptized believers to participate—"fences" the Lord's table, but not with proverbial barbed wire.

Churches practicing close communion typically welcome to the table any who have repented of their sin, trusted in the atonement secured through the cross and resurrection, confessed Jesus as Lord, and submitted to scriptural baptism. Being a member in good standing of a church of like faith and practice is another qualifying mark often stipulated.

The distinction between open and close communion is easy to make. Open communion invites anyone present who claims to follow Jesus to partake of the Supper. Though commonly practiced in churches of various denominations, open communion can be spiritually dangerous for a host of reasons. And, according to the Apostle Paul, the stakes are high. In his instructions concerning the Lord's Supper, Paul wrote, "Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy way will be guilty of sin against the body and blood of the Lord" (1 Corinthians 11:27).

Paul's admonition is more than a strict warning against missing the symbolism of the elements. In the broader context of 1 Corinthians 11, Paul expresses concern about the self-centeredness, gluttony and drunkenness characterizing the Corinthian believers and their participation in the Supper. These sins, of which they were not repenting, led Paul to alert them of God's impending judgment (verse 29).

On these and other fundamental issues, open communion fails to offer the warning of 1 Corinthians 11. Believer's baptism is a good example. With baptism being the symbol of one's profession of faith and a clear command of Jesus, is not the rejection of it a sign of willful disobedience at the most basic level? Offering the Lord's Supper to the unbaptized is unwise at best; at worst, it leads them into temptation.

Thus, the Baptist Faith and Message refers to baptism as "prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper." Establishing scriptural baptism as one of the fences around the table seems non-negotiable and moves a church quickly away from the open communion position, drawing a closer circle around the table.

How tight should the circle be? I'll share my perspective in next week's column.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Curing the 'disease of me' requires focus on Christ

Legendary NBA basketball coach Pat Riley has led multiple teams stocked with superstars, so he knows something about dealing with egos.

He also knows about winning and losing. What prevents potentially great teams from winning championships, in his view? Not lack of size, speed or talent. Rather, they are sabotaged by what Riley calls the "disease of me." Selfish stars focus on themselves. They resent others getting any glory. They're frustrated—even when the team is winning—if things aren't going their way.

"The most difficult thing for individuals to do when they become part of a team is to sacrifice," Riley said. "It is much easier to be selfish."

That pretty much describes the central challenge of the spiritual life. Following Christ requires sacrificing your own agenda. To do that, you have to get your eyes off yourself and onto Him. You don't have to be a superstar to struggle with that. As human beings, our natural tendency is to focus on ourselves, our wants and our needs. Others, including the Lord, get the leftovers.

"I start many sentences both out loud and in my heart with the words, 'I feel like,'" admitted a missionary in her most recent blog post. "That's such a dangerous place for me. I'm a feeler and a discerner and many times that gets me in trouble, spiritually speaking. It causes me to presume that things are a certain way and that people think certain things about me. It makes me focus on myself. The enemy loves to use this in my life—to make me forget that it's not about me at all."

Why is it so hard to keep our eyes on Jesus? Sometimes it's because we don't believe He is enough. We want Him, but we want other things, too. Comfort. Perks. Recognition. Guarantees. Safety and security. Roadmaps. Faith doesn't work that way.

Brad Bessent, a missions-hearted pastor who has taught me a lot, gets to the heart of the matter in a reflection on the Gospel of Luke, chapter 5: "Jesus calls Levi, a tax collector, to follow Him. The thing is, tax collectors were the scum of the earth. They were extortionists and hated by everyone. But Jesus says to Levi, 'I want you.' He had already assembled a pretty motley crew, a mosaic of people. Fishermen, a leper, a paralytic, all in the same chapter, and now Levi (also called Matthew).

"When Jesus calls, Levi gives up everything to follow Jesus. He was a wealthy man and he left all of that behind him.

When you follow Jesus, there is only one guarantee. You are not guaranteed security; you are not guaranteed safety; you are not even guaranteed shelter. All you are absolutely guaranteed is if you follow Jesus, you will get Jesus. So, everyone considering becoming a believer has to decide: Is Jesus enough?"

For Levi, Jesus was enough. And he believed Jesus was enough for everyone else. Before leaving all he had to follow the Master, he threw a big party at his house, gathered all his lowlife friends and invited Jesus as the honored guest. Levi didn't say, "Look at me and what I'm doing," although his friends surely noticed the radical change in his life. Instead, he pointed his friends toward Christ.

Levi has something crucial to teach us today, whether we are reaching out to our own fallen culture or to an unreached people group far away: Jesus is enough, and we must point searching people toward Him alone.

Missionaries learned that truth in a particularly resistant area of Asia that had long been known as a "graveyard of missions." Christian workers tried again and again to confront the evil practices

accepted in the culture, to no avail. They tried to introduce their own customs and values—and failed miserably. At the edge of despair, they remembered Christ's words: "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself" (John 12:32). They stopped cursing the darkness and began lifting up the light that shines in the darkness. At last, seekers became followers, and a Christian church movement was born.

Culture warriors and social-justice seekers, take note. You can battle the encroachments of secularism, humanism, greed and injustice all you want, and you might succeed—for a while. But pasting Christian values onto fallen cultures is like putting makeup on a corpse. Without the transforming power of Christ Himself, Christian social and political movements inevitably falter.

It is a matter of focus. Are your eyes focused on the world, on yourself or on Jesus? Jesus says, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father?'" (John 14:9).

A great old hymn puts it this way: "Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace." (BP) Erich Bridges is the International Mission Board's global correspondent.

### COMMENTARY



Erich Bridges

## Praying for revival & impact on those with disabilities

By Sarah Parshall Perry

Faith is a funny thing. It cannot grow unless exercised, and it cannot be exercised unless challenged. Sometimes a temporary and uncomfortable situation is sufficient to force us to our knees.

Sometimes, the challenges we face affect our very bodies and minds. Then, the practice of faith is not one of living struggle to struggle, but day to day.

So it must be with the disabled among us—they who are tenderly loved by a Lord who, while on this earth, specifically ministered to the blind, the crippled and the injured. Those with disabilities are never unhinged from the earthly reminders of their broken bodies, and so their faith is ever challenged. What might this 40/40 Prayer

Vigil do for them? Do they bear the potential for kingdom work on a grand scale? Yes, because in part, praying for them actually changes us.

I once found myself pitying those with disabilities. Then, when my son was born with autism, my view of those with disabilities changed. I reserved no pity for him. I told him he would receive no special treatment and that he was expected to do his best, no matter what. But inside, my heart burned with a tiny spark of self-righteous anger. "Why, God? Did you really think this disability was necessary in our lives?" Yet who was I to be mad? Did I profess to know better than God did as to what purpose this challenge served our family?

What can we specifically pray for those with disabilities? The same thing

that we can pray for ourselves: that God uses their situations to develop a dose of patience, a modicum of insight, some gratitude, more kindness, or the perseverance to get up and face the day.

This nation is desperate for healing. We are broken and soul-weary. In praying for those with disabilities, we learn that our frustration with the way things are often is just an expression of our own faulty wisdom. Trusting God, giving Him our hearts by accepting His plan for our lives can clear the pride from our eyes and return us to a right way of thinking.

Sarah Parshall Perry is a mom, attorney and writer who blogs about her son's disability at [www.ChosenFamilies.org](http://www.ChosenFamilies.org). This column is part of a series published for the 40/40 Prayer Vigil for Spiritual Revival and National Renewal, Sept. 26-Nov. 4.

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Bill Bartleman, Paducah;  
Dan Summerlin, Paducah;  
Paul Nunn, Prestonsburg;  
Chip Hutcheson, Princeton.

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

Western Recorder is published weekly 49 weeks a year by Western Recorder Inc., an agency of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253. It will not be published the first week of January, the week of Independence Day or the week of Christmas. Periodicals postage paid at Louisville, Ky. (USPS 679-380)

For general information or to give news tips, call (502) 489-3535; or email: [news@westernrecorder.org](mailto:news@westernrecorder.org).

POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to: Western Recorder, Box 43969, Louisville, KY 40253.

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## 10 reasons unchurched aren't being reached

By Thom Rainer

Though much of this information could be regarded as dismal, my ultimate assessment is not that pessimistic. I believe in the God of miracles. If my conclusions focused on human ability and goodness, I would have little hope. But my conclusions presume the God of creation is on His throne.

In this list of reasons we have not reached the unchurched, let us focus on what is wrong. Let us look with stark honesty and candor at the ineffectiveness of many American believers when it comes to sharing their faith. And then, let us look at reversing the trend through God's power.

**Spiritual lethargy.** One of the main reasons many Christians do not share their faith is simply explained by the word disobedience. The problem for many Christians is that they are not growing spiritually, and lack of spiritual growth inevitably leads to a diminished desire to share Christ with others.

**Growing inclusivism.** One of the faster-growing belief systems today is pluralism (all religions lead to God). A variation of pluralism called inclusivism is a dangerous doctrine that is gaining momentum in many seminaries, colleges and churches. This view affirms that Jesus is the only way of salvation, but He can be found in other "good" religions. There is a subtle but growing belief among many Christians that somehow "good" followers will make it to heaven outside of a true Christian conversion.

**Growing disbelief in hell.** At one time, this was a view held almost exclusively by unbelievers. However, recent books by those claiming to be evangelicals have brought this discussion front and center. Those who truly have a desire to reach the unchurched have a burden to see people in the eternity of heaven, but they also desire to see them escape the wrath of an eternal hell. Denying the existence of hell undermines the urgency of placing one's faith in Christ.

**Busyness.** Perhaps one of Satan's most effective strategies is to get us so busy that we fail to do that which is such a high biblical priority. The unchurched are waiting for you to tell them about Jesus. What priority do

you give to reaching the lost?

**Fear of rejection.** Only one in four unchurched persons will be resistant to faith discussions. But nearly four out of 10 of the unchurched will be receptive to your concern for their eternity. Simply stated, fear of rejection is unfounded and is an often-used excuse by Christians for their failure to witness.

**A desire to be tolerant.** The message of the gospel, in some senses, is intolerant. The one true God insists there can be no other gods—He is a jealous God. The great concern is that many Christians are unwilling to take a narrow view because they do not want to be labeled as intolerant. But Jesus never wavered in His insistence that He is the only way to the one and only true God.

**Losing the habit of witnessing.** Some Christians have been active in sharing their faith with the lost. But, for a myriad of reasons, they got out of the habit. Witnessing, like prayer and Bible study, is a discipline. It is a habit to learn, retain and, if lost, regain.

**Lack of accountability.** Programmatic evangelism in local churches is sometimes denigrated because it is seen as a "canned" approach. But one of the strengths is that some inherent system of accountability is built into the program. Accountability is likely to engender more witnessing attempts, which creates a habit of witnessing that increases our zeal.

**Failure to invite.** When was the last time you invited an unchurched person to church? When was the last time you offered to take a person to church, or, at the very least, meet him or her at church? It's a simple gesture, yet so few Christians do it.

**We go to churches that don't reach the unchurched.** We only reach one person for Christ each year for every 85 church members. That is a frightening and terrible ratio. One key reason we do not reach the unchurched is that many Christians in the U.S. are members of churches that do not reach the unchurched.

I've covered 10 of the most common reasons Christians fail to obey the Great Commission. This list is not exhaustive, but in God's power, we can reverse this trend and reach the unchurched in America. (BP)

Thom Rainer is president of LifeWay Christian Resources.

### COMMENTARY

## Facebook undermining trust

By Scott Wigginton

**Q: How can we keep Facebook from being a problem in our marriage?**



**A:** Some of the most common problems spouses report about Facebook include concerns about their mates: reconnecting with old love interests; posting photos of themselves that make their mate uncomfortable; posting negative comments about their spouse; choosing to "friend"

those which make the spouse uneasy; having long exchanges with the opposite sex; spending excessive time online; setting wall information as private; or posting private or inappropriate information. Keeping in mind that trust is the foundation of marriage, couples need to do everything they can to make sure that using Facebook does not undermine trust. There are some situations in which using Facebook clearly creates a trust problem, one example being a marriage in which the spouse has been involved in an extramarital affair. Part of affair recovery and rebuilding trust may mean not using Facebook to create safety in the marriage.

Marital safeguards against dangers and temptations of this prominent social media tool include:

- Sharing log-in and password information with one's spouse and inviting him or her to regularly see what is on one's wall and messages.

- Checking with the spouse before "friending" an old boyfriend, girlfriend or ex-spouse.

- Removing photos or information that make the spouse uncomfortable.

- Keeping cross-gender exchanges brief and showing the spouse any conversations that go beyond several exchanges.

- Committing not to be on Facebook after the spouse goes to bed.

Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart."

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

## Endow your tithe

By Laurie Valentine

Tithing is part of our Christian stewardship responsibilities. It is a discipline practiced by many all of their lives, and it is vital to the continued viability of the programs and ministries of our churches. When you die, will there be someone to "step into your shoes" to provide the funds your tithe has been providing?

To assure your church will have the financial resources it needs, until the Lord returns, consider including in your estate plan a provision for the creation, at your death, of an endowment fund for the benefit of your church. Or, establish an endowment fund now to which you can make modest gifts at regular intervals with a provision in your estate plan for a final gift to the endowment at your death.

To assure the funds will be used as an endowment fund, you must specify that in the bequest or beneficiary designation.

To create an endowment fund large enough to have sufficient earnings to fund your tithe in perpetuity requires a gift at your death (or a combination of gifts during life and at your death) equal to approximately 28.5 times your current annual tithe. This assumes an annual distribution rate of 3.5 percent.

For example, if the current amount you tithe each year is \$2,000, the endowment would need to have \$57,000 in it (\$2,000 x 28.5) by the time you die. Assuming the endowment is invested to grow its value over time, the amount it will distribute to your church also will grow over time.

Assure your tithe will last forever by endowing it. Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.



## 'Why did God make stickers?'

By Judson Edwards

Four-year-olds have a way of getting to the heart of things. And they can be surprisingly theological, too.

Not long ago, my 4-year-old grandson, Anthony, got into some grass burrs that hurt his feet and made him miserable. While I was helping him extricate those stickers from his socks and feet, he

looked up at me and said, "Why did God make stickers, Granddad?"

He knows, of course, I'm supposed to be some kind of expert on God and assumes I have answers to questions like that. I looked at my son for help, but he smiled at me and shrugged his shoulders.

"I'm not sure why God made stickers, Anthony," I replied weakly.

"But God wants to take care of us, not hurt us, right?" he said.

"That's true, bud," I said, "but sometimes we get into things like stickers, and we're not sure why."

If Anthony did think I was the answer man for all things pertaining to God, he now knows otherwise. I was as confused as he was as to why God would create painful stickers we could step on. If God wants to take care of us, why did he ever create stickers that are guaranteed to make us miserable? At age 4

or 64, we're clueless when it comes to that question.

Although he doesn't know it, this will not be the last time Anthony wrestles with this dilemma. As he grows older, he will ask a variation of that question a thousand times. "Why stickers, God?" will morph into "Why tornadoes, God?" "Why tumors?" "Why loneliness?" "Why death?"

Like the rest of us, he will have to grapple with a world that is brimming with evil and suffering. And like the rest of us, he often will wonder why God would create such a world.

I wish I had an answer for him. I really would like to be Anthony's answer man, giving easy answers to his hard questions. Then, he could look proudly at Granddad as some kind of spiritual giant, someone who can make sense of evil and suffering, and maybe the world would seem a little less sinister to him.

I suppose we're all looking for that person, really, who knows more than we do and can explain the mysterious ways of God to us. We would all like to believe someone out there understands what's going on in the world and can make some kind of sense of it.

But it's not going to happen. I've read the Bible from cover to cover,

and I've read quite a few books on the question of evil and suffering, and I still don't have a clue why God made stickers. Isaiah got it right when he heard God whisper, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways. ... For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Maybe someday, we'll understand.

So, I'm sorry, Anthony. I don't know why God made stickers or any of the other things that will inflict pain upon you as you grow older. You might as well know right now that I'm as lost as you are when it comes to comprehending those things. We live in a mysterious world full of unanswerable "whys."

But here's what I promise you. As long as I'm alive, I'll be there to help you pull the stickers out. I'll be right beside you when you have to deal with tornadoes, tumors, loneliness, death or any of the other mysterious enemies you will have to face. We may not have all the answers, bud, but we do have each other.

And here's what I hope and pray for you: When you have to face those painful stickers, you will discover that God is with you even—or especially—in your pain. (Texas Baptist Standard)

Judson Edwards is a retired pastor in San Antonio. His newest book is "Blissful Affliction: The Ministry and Misery of Writing."

### FIRST PERSON

## Army chaplain home from tour in Afghanistan, but remains on duty

Continued from page 1

"I would do services, baptize, go on patrol with the men and even fill sandbags with them—just trying to have a ministry of presence with them. Then I'd fly out to another combat outpost," Vineyard said.

"My goal was to hit all the troops and try to have a chapel service for everybody at least once a month and have face time with every soldier," said Vineyard, who ministered to soldiers of all faiths.

At one base, Vineyard was about to start a service in a ramshackle, plywood chapel. He had just asked for prayer requests when the unmistakable whistle of incoming rockets drove the chaplain and his flock to a nearby bunker.

"The policy was to stay in the bunker and wait for an all-clear signal, but one of the guys said, 'Chaplain, let's just finish the service here. We're here and ready to go.' So we finished our prayer requests and did our Bible study. The guys thought it was neat to have a real combat Bible study in the bunker."

During his yearlong tour in Afghanistan, Vineyard saw four of his soldiers killed in battle. Combat deaths "open up a lot of windows of ministry and you become really close to the guys," he noted. "A key part of the chaplain's job is to honor the dead, so one of the first things I do is conduct a memorial ceremony for the fallen soldier. I'll also bring in all the guys and talk about what happened, what they felt and experienced—just let them talk. We'll pray, and I'll counsel those who need it."

During his ministry in Paktika Province, Vineyard baptized 34 soldiers who accepted Christ.

When Vineyard was not conducting chapel services or baptizing, he was counseling. A large number of his counseling sessions were for service members struggling with troubled marriages and relationships. These usually included newlywed soldiers separated from their brides for the first time or older Army veterans who had served as many as three tours in the Middle East—repeatedly separated from loved ones.

Vineyard now lives in Aurora, Colo., with his wife, Amanda, and their three children, Jacob, Katherine and Samuel. He serves as chaplain to the 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion at Buckley Air Force Base, a joint military base. He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

"Jared is only one outstanding example of 1,450 Southern Baptist military chaplains endorsed by the North American Mission Board for service around the world," said retired U.S. Army Chief of Chaplains (Maj. Gen.) Douglas Carver, now executive director of NAMB's chaplaincy services.

Carver said he has established two new strategies for NAMB chaplaincy.

"One, we must do a better job of connecting our chaplains with SBC churches back home," he said. "Second, we must encourage SBC churches to start ministries for returning military personnel and their families, especially in cities near military bases."

Vineyard said Carver's new strategies for NAMB chaplains are right on target.

"It's just good for chaplains to have that connection with a home church," he said. "When I first got back to Fort Campbell and wanted a strong SBC connection, we moved our membership to First Baptist Church in Oak Grove."

### More military ministries

With thousands of troops recently returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan, Vineyard said he believes it's time for SBC churches to launch ministries for the military.

"If churches, especially those close to bases, would adopt a 'How can we serve the military?' approach, we could reap untold kingdom benefits as the troops come back home."

Vineyard said he and other service members know there's a general appreciation in SBC churches for the military. "But it would take that up a notch if a Baptist church showed you in practical ways. It would be eye opening for a lot of military guys." (NAMB/BP)



**BRINGING SOLDIERS TO CHRIST** Chaplain (Capt.) Jared Vineyard, a NAMB chaplain now serving at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, Colo., baptizes one of the many soldiers he led to Christ during his year-long tour in eastern Afghanistan's Paktika Province, one of the country's most dangerous areas. (NAMB photo)

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# IMB's international missionary corps grows by another 54

By Tess Rivers

**Hendersonville, N.C.**—As a college student traveling abroad in Cambodia, Hope Denaham\* happened upon a 4-year-old girl in an alley.

"She reached her arms out to me, and I held her for an hour," Denaham recalled. "I wondered if she had ever been held in her life."

Denaham grew up internationally, but she had no desire to live overseas, much less serve as an international missionary. But her encounter with the little girl and the heartbreak of human need changed her.

"While holding the child in my arms, I knew that God was calling me to reach the broken and forgotten," she said.

Denaham, who will serve in South Asia, was one of 54 men and women appointed as missionaries by International Mission Board trustees during a Sept. 12 service at First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, N.C. While their stories are unique, their call is the same: to take the good news of Christ to the nations.

After returning from a second trip to Asia where she worked in orphanages and refugee camps, Denaham realized she could never go back to "life as normal."

"I saw that His desire was for all people to know Him ... and my call was to share Christ with the lost," she said.

## 'I will be His heart'

For Russ Finley,\* who will plant churches in central Asia, a passion to



**REACHING THE NATIONS** Members of First Baptist Church of Hendersonville, N.C., present flags of the nations Sept. 12 during a service that saw the appointment of 54 new International Mission Board missionaries. (Photo by Michael Logan/IMB)

share the gospel grew out of his childhood struggle with severe learning disabilities.

"When I graduated from high school, I could only read and spell the simplest words," Finley said. "I didn't feel very valuable. I felt just the opposite. I let ... my learning difficulties control what I thought about myself."

But through "God's grace and power," Finley not only completed college with

two bachelor's degrees, he also earned advanced degrees in social work and law. Since 1995, he has worked with abused and neglected children and authored legislation and policies to address children's issues.

While justice for society's weakest motivates both Denaham and Finley, the desire to share God's love with those yet to hear is their driving force.

"I have seen Jesus' love melt the heart

of a former secret police agent in eastern Europe and bring hope to the eyes of poor children in the Amazon jungle of Peru," Finley recalled. "In obedience to His call, I will be His heart among the people of central Asia."

Addressing those at the service, IMB President Tom Elliff reminded that reaching the remaining 3,167 unengaged, unreached people groups will require more than the nearly 5,000 active IMB missionaries can provide.

"We are counting on the churches," Elliff stressed. "The Great Commission is everyone's job."

But taking the gospel to the hardest-to-reach places also involves great challenges and personal sacrifice, Elliff acknowledged.

Referring to the recent death of Cheryll Harvey, a Southern Baptist representative in Jordan, Elliff said, "Maybe you are saying, 'This is hard for me.'"

Pointing to Hebrews 12 where the author reveals that believers are surrounded by a "great cloud of witnesses (verse 1) and urges them to "consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart (verse 3), Elliff challenged the new missionaries to look to Jesus in every situation.

"When you are asking, 'Dear God, why am I here?' look to Jesus," Elliff urged. "Look to Jesus because of who He is, what He did and why He did it."

"Don't quit. The answer in every instance is Jesus. He is the answer a lost world is waiting to hear." (IMB/BP)

\*Names changed for security reasons

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KBC block name: KBC-Withers (limited # of rooms)
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• Complimentary parking  
**Reservation deadline: 10/6**

[ BY CHURCHES - FOR CHURCHES, TO REACH THE WORLD FOR CHRIST ]

The Pastors' Conference, Mission Board meeting and other affiliated conferences meet on Monday, November 12.

For more information about the Annual Meeting:  
[www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting](http://www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting)  
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For more information about Lexington or other area accommodations, visit [www.visitlex.com](http://www.visitlex.com).

Messengers are responsible for making their own reservations. Kentucky Baptist Convention must be mentioned and reservation deadlines met to receive blocked room rates (which do not include Lexington's 14% hotel tax). Please note that most room blocks are limited and do not include Tuesday evening since the annual meeting concludes by 6p.m.

## 'They're going to hurt me!'

### Enemy's attack on student quelled only by powerful name of Jesus

"They're going to hurt me! They're going to hurt me!"

I opened the door to the principal's office where we had been meeting, only to hear the student's voice trailing off and see the assistant principal jogging behind, trying to follow the student as he left the building. By the time I reached him, he was sprawled face down on the porch of the Campus Ministry Center, breathing heavily, eyes closed, eyelids twitching, almost totally unresponsive. He had run through a flowerbed on his way down the hill, torn up a large, prickly plant and scattered others, then slipped and fell.

What followed during the next half-hour or more was a period of intense prayer by me and some of my colleagues and repeated medical monitoring by our on-duty EMT, herself a registered nurse with some years of emergency-room experience.

What had happened to our student was not clear to us. What was totally clear was that he was in serious trouble: a stroke-level blood pressure, a pulse four times greater than normal, a body that was being thrown into repeated spasms, fingers that were being twisted into demonic symbols, blasphemous words being shouted. The battle for this young man's life—both physically and spiritually—was on.

As we tried to talk to him, got him up, held him, seated him, cradled him and held his hands, only one thing calmed him and stood in the path of the twisting spasms that gripped his body and gave him extraordinary strength: the name of Jesus. Repeatedly, in the name of Jesus, we took authority

over the physical and spiritual assaults of the enemy upon this young man.

As wave after wave of spasms tried to start, the name of Jesus held them at bay. As the fingers tried to twist into the horned symbol of the demonic realm, only the name of Jesus and declaring the lordship of Jesus on our campus and over the life of this teenager kept things anywhere near normal for him. As our EMT told the ambulance workers when they loaded the young man for transport, "The only thing that has worked to keep this boy calm is the name of Jesus."

Eventually, the sheriff's deputies and EMTs took our student to the hospital, but not before the deputies told us that from the smell of the boy's breath and the scent of his clothes they suspected a particular drug was involved. Further investigation throughout the day among the students and with the boy's family showed that what had happened was a combination of dangerous and potentially deadly things that had entered the boy's body, mind and spirit. Some of this had happened while he was still home for the summer; some had apparently happened in the three days since he had returned to begin his senior year.

Throughout that day many people prayed for that student. I saw him that evening in the hospital's ICU. He was lucid but very tired. He was discharged the next day to go to a counseling and rehabilitation center near his home. Lord willing, he will return to OBI. Please join us in prayer and celebrate the power of the name of Jesus.

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

### This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

## 'A place called Clear Creek'

### Clear Creek not only an institution, but a vision come to life, culture

By Jay Sulfridge

Today I heard our president use a phrase he uses most often. In leading prayer during chapel services, President Donnie Fox once again thanked God for "a place called Clear Creek Baptist Bible College." I have become accustomed to hearing Dr. Fox refer to this school as "a place called Clear Creek." Those words have spawned some thoughts in my own heart.

When we speak of "a place called Clear Creek," we indicate the reality of a vision brought to life. L.C. Kelly, our founding president, testified that God led him to a place (then a cornfield) and gave him a vision and a burden for what God would do there. This school, then existing only in the heart of God, would some day become a reality. I am reminded that God is able to do that which He promises.

Clear Creek is an institution and the Kentucky Baptist Convention's one Bible college. The KBC has other fine colleges

for which God has plans, but, by definition, Clear Creek is our only Bible college.

Clear Creek is quite an institution, but also is a place. Clear Creek is a way of life that, once experienced, will forever change one's way of thinking. Clear Creekers are a unique group of people, so you could say that Clear Creek is a culture.

In the work to which God has called me, I cannot forget the impact of the fact that Clear Creek is a "place." The tangibility of a "place" reminds us there are real physical needs at Clear Creek. We cannot accomplish what God has called us to do without meeting the physical needs of the school. We cannot meet those needs without the valuable help we receive from Kentucky Baptists through your Cooperative Program giving. It is through Kentucky Baptists that God continues to fulfill the vision He gave Dr. Kelly of a "place called Clear Creek Baptist Bible College."

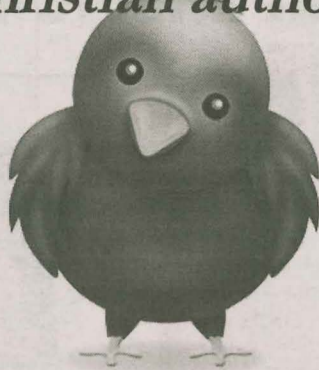
Donnie Fox is president of Clear Creek Baptist Bible College, 300 Clear Creek Road, Pineville, KY 40977; toll-free: (866) 340-3196; Web site: [www.ccbcc.edu](http://www.ccbcc.edu); e-mail: [dfox@ccbcc.edu](mailto:dfox@ccbcc.edu).

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

## Christian author



By Adelle Banks

San Antonio—Prolific author Max Lucado talked to Religion News Service about grace, the topic of his 29th book and answered a range of questions from people who follow RNS on Twitter. Lucado, 57, is the minister of preaching at Oak Hills Church, a congregation in San Antonio.

(The interview has been edited for length and clarity.)

**You write that people don't have a deep understanding of grace. What's the difference between grace and mercy?**

**A:** My hunch is that most people have settled for a wimpy grace. It's something that doesn't change their lives. There is a difference between grace and mercy. Mercy is the decision of God not to punish us. But grace is the decision of God to save and bless us.

**@tunde\_ogunyinka wants to know: What is the one thing you can't do without each day?**

**A:** I think the one thing that I cannot do without each day is hope. If you put me in a position where you took all my hope away, I'm not sure I could make it through the day.

**@kaykay\_ayodeji asked: Which book or writer has inspired your style of writing?**

**A:** Early in my writing I was influenced by a man named Frederick Buechner. Back in the '90s, I read many of his books and it really influenced my thinking and my writing. He has a slight irreverence that I thought was refreshing, but it's not an irreverence that's unbiblical. It's just real appreciation for God's greatness. It's like it released him to be a happy writer.

**@Anewdawnnatural wonders: What was going on in your personal life at the time you wrote "Fear Not"?**

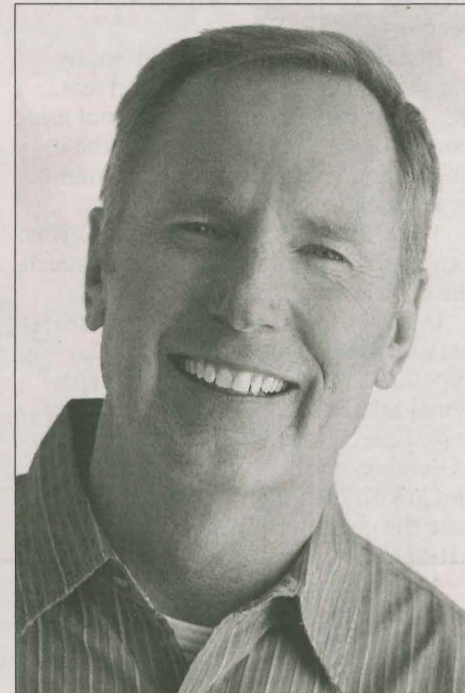
**A:** Personally our family was going through a lot of transition. Our daughters were leaving one by one, leaving the nest, graduating from high school, going off to college, graduating from college, going off into their professional lives. And then the nation was going into the recession. I saw fear on my heart, and I could see fear on the face of my church members. So, that was what got me thinking, "Let's just look at all the times Jesus said don't be afraid."

**@timbo9677 asked: How should Christians decide who to vote for in the elections?**

**A:** First, we pray. That's the call of

# Max Lucado

## answers RNS Twitter followers' questions



Scripture to Christians. Our job during times of national decisions is to lead the way in prayer. Then, I believe you select a president who best represents what you think are the values that God wants us to have, and line yourself up with either one candidate or the other based upon the character or the values of that candidate.

**@benp711 wants to know: What do you think about Israel threatening Iran?**

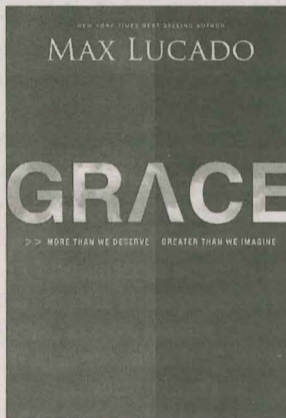
**A:** I've never been one to say I know exactly that we're in the last days, but there's some things happening these days, both good and bad, that make me wonder if we may be heading into the final generation. One of the good things that's happening is that, little by little, we're taking the gospel to the whole world. But at the same time there is this resistance. And Israel and Iran are going to potentially trigger some type of conflict that could trigger the last days. I do not know when Christ is coming back—no one knows. But I do think the environment is getting more and more to the point where we can look for His return.

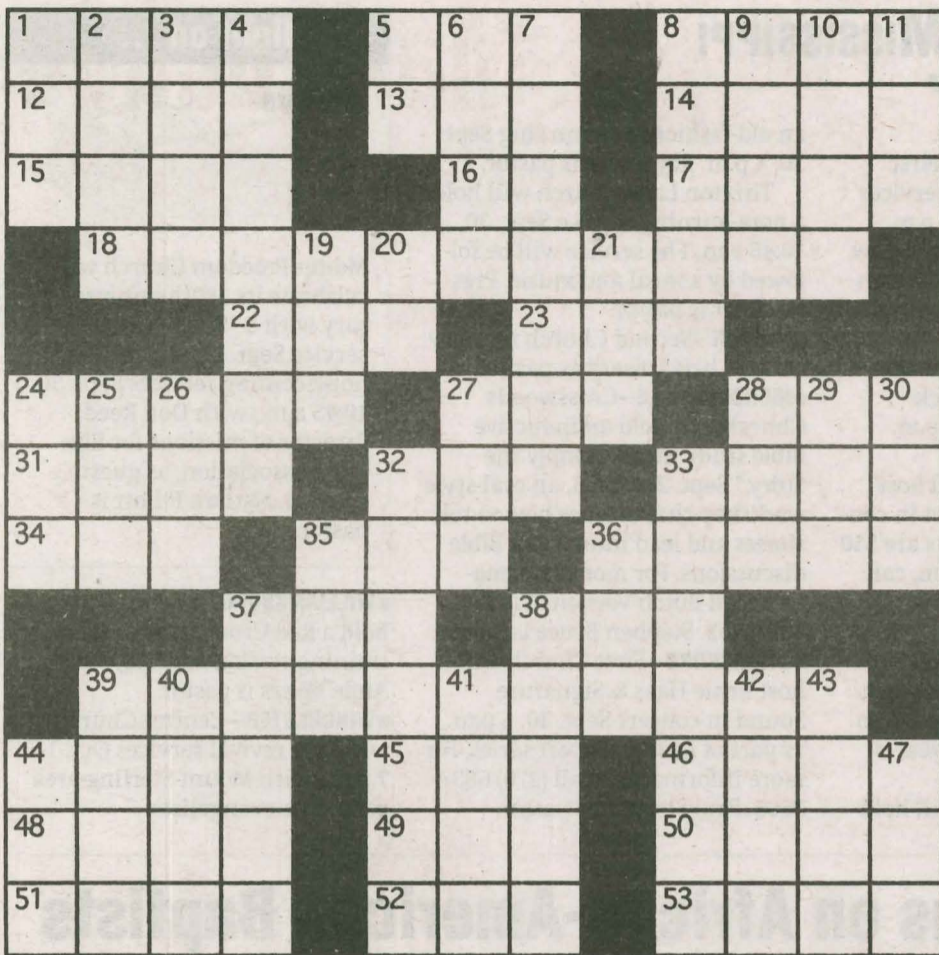
**You gave a personal example of overcoming a taste for beer, which you swore off at age 21 but began craving again a few years ago. How did grace play a part in that?**

**A:** I accepted the forgiveness of God. I got off track as an adult and because I believe in God's grace, I believe that gave me strength then to get that little part of my life realigned, to not play games about it, to confess it, to ask for forgiveness from God and ask others to forgive me as well, and then move on. It could have been a major disaster in my life, but really it was just a little blip on the radar screen because I believe in grace.

**Let's let @IracemaTanya ask the last question: What are your future goals?**

**A:** I don't have any desire to retire in the sense of not doing anything. Because as long as the Lord gives me strength, I want to keep writing and keep preaching. I love what I do. (RNS)





**Bible Crosswords**

By Janet Adkins

**Across**

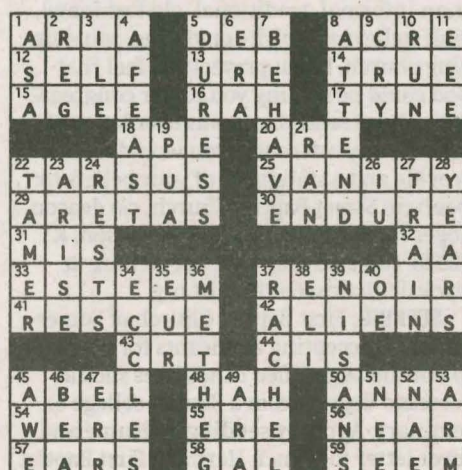
- 1 Exclamation of sorrow
- 5 Catalog promise (abbr.)
- 8 "But \_\_\_\_ found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Genesis 6:8)
- 12 Greek form of feminine name that means "princess"
- 13 \_\_\_\_ wife
- 14 \_\_\_\_-Lebanon (mountain range in W. Syria, which includes Mt. Hermon)
- 15 Not ready to turn pro (abbr.)
- 16 Bone
- 17 Cave dwellers
- 18 New Testament epistle
- 22 The green, green grass of home?
- 23 \_\_\_\_ of the above
- 24 Like a sprinter
- 27 1/1000th of an inch
- 28 Exodus character
- 31 "For \_\_\_\_ be called, but few chosen" (Matthew 20:16)
- 32 Prevent
- 33 "Diana ... should be destroyed, whom all \_\_\_\_ ... worshippeth" (Acts 19:27)
- 34 Employ
- 35 Biblical verb
- 36 "Let us \_\_\_\_ before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:6)
- 37 Greek letter
- 38 "And the \_\_\_\_ gave up the dead which were in it" (Revelation 20:13)
- 39 "The Lord hath given you the land, ... all the \_\_\_\_ ... faint because of you" (Joshua 2:9)
- 44 Concept (comb. form)
- 45 Historical period
- 46 Tiny amount (colloq.)
- 48 Bereft; desolate (arch.)
- 49 Beam of light
- 50 Masculine name
- 51 Healing plant
- 52 Affirmative
- 53 "Simon \_\_\_\_ ..."

**Down**

- 1 Old Testament king whose name means "physician"
- 2 "For thou art my \_\_\_\_ ... the Lord will lighten my darkness" (2 Samuel 22:29)
- 3 Son of Ulla (1 Chronicles 7:39)
- 4 "O \_\_\_\_ us early with thy mercy" (Psalm 90:14)
- 5 Progenitor (colloq.)
- 6 With "down," way to meet the bed

- 7 "We are perplexed, but not in \_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 4:8)
- 8 Husband of Abigail (1 Samuel 25)
- 9 Second son of Judah (1 Chronicles 2:3)
- 10 Members of the bar (abbr.)
- 11 Possessive pronoun
- 19 His wife turned into a pillar of salt
- 20 Part of the psyche
- 21 Under the weather
- 24 Texas institute of higher learning (abbr.)
- 25 Had been
- 26 Suffix used to form feminine nouns
- 27 Welcome \_\_\_\_
- 28 Enzyme of vegetable origin (suffix)
- 29 Grain mentioned in the Old Testament (Isaiah 28)
- 30 Suitable for (suffix)
- 32 "And fire shall consume the tabernacles of \_\_\_\_" (Job 15:34)
- 33 Husband of Sapphira
- 35 "And there was war between \_\_\_\_ and Baasha king of Israel" (1 Kings 15:16)
- 36 Greek island in the Aegean
- 37 Single speech sound
- 38 Corset (Brit.)
- 39 Matinee \_\_\_\_
- 40 Notorious emperor of Rome
- 41 Dies \_\_\_\_
- 42 Brother of Job (Genesis 46:13)
- 43 Don't leave!
- 44 Longshoremen's org.
- 47 Solution (abbr.)

**Last puzzle's solution**



**Missions opportunities**

**Haiti camps, Kentucky Changers offer ways to serve globally, locally**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

We are familiar with these words of Jesus. We frame them for our homes and churches, and many of us learned this verse as a child. As a ministry, at Crossings we have asked ourselves what we are doing to fulfill this commission. How serious are we being about this task given to us as believers? This was more than a suggestion or desire of Jesus—this was a command. It is a call to action and a great responsibility.

We are passionate about the gospel and passionate about seeing people cross over from death to life. We have some exciting opportunities for students and adults to live out the Great Commission. Acts 1:8 says: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." We are taking this to heart and providing opportunities to serve alongside us for Kentucky Changers and Crossings in Haiti.

Kentucky Changers challenges students and adults to live out the gospel locally. It provides a unique opportunity to discover that missions is not about a location—it's a lifestyle. Participants are challenged to live out their faith during weeklong camps by getting their hands dirty serving the people of Kentucky.

**Crossings Ministries**



David Melber

Crossings in Haiti allows an "ends of the earth" opportunity for students and adults to take the gospel to a broken and hurting part of the world. By participating in outreach events with local schools and churches, your students will have a firsthand experience with loving the "least of these" and together we will learn more about God's

great heart for the nations.

One of the important things to remember as we discuss going in to "all the world" and making "disciples of all nations" is the comfort and strength Jesus provides us at the end of that challenge He gives. He says, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." He gives us a great task and then reminds us of His great presence that is with us and gives us strength to fulfill that task.

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

**Christmas Star campaign**

**Kentucky Baptists can help make Christmas joyous for Sunrise kids**

We often get irritated by the commercialism of Christmas that seems to come earlier and earlier each year. However, imagine how frustrating all this buildup and hype can be for a child who knows that come Christmas morning, he or she will wake up in a cold house with nothing under the tree and little to eat. Sadly, this is true for thousands of children in Kentucky each year.

There are children in Kentucky who will go to sleep on Christmas evening, not with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads, but rather the aches of hunger pangs keeping them from sleep. A young girl may lay awake hoping that for once, her father won't sneak into her room and do things to her a father shouldn't. A young boy may lay in fear, hoping his intoxicated mother will leave him and his brother alone for just one night without a beating or physical abuse. Other children may cry themselves to sleep, having just heard for the thousandth time that they are worthless,

ugly and hated by their parents. Sunrise Children's Services strives to make Christmas a special occasion for the children in our care each year, but we can't do it without your help.

The Sunrise Christmas Star sponsorship campaign is an opportunity for

**Sunrise Children's Services**



Bill Smithwick

you to take an active role in making a very real difference in the life of a child. Each child in the care of Sunrise fills out a Christmas wish list and we forward that list to you, the sponsor. This list includes a lot of practical needs like clothes, and includes the child's gender, clothes size, shoe size, their favorite colors and other details that will help you pick out items they will cherish. There's also space on their wish lists for

them to include a few other ideas for gifts they'd like to have.

Be a Christmas Star and help our children see the true Light of Christmas through your generous giving. Contact Cindya Hills at [chills@sunrise.org](mailto:chills@sunrise.org) or call (800) 456-1386.

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

**Your church newsletter**

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





## September

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.

11 Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra Concert, First Baptist Church, Paris.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church will hold a "Praise Night" Sept. 30, 6 p.m. Mark Burnett is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLVILLE**—Saloma Church will host In His Service in concert Sept. 30, 6 p.m. For more information, call (270) 789-0082. John Chowning is pastor.

■ **EDDYVILLE**—First Church ordained Mitchell Peeler to the gospel ministry Sept. 23. Tim Perdue is pastor.

Second Church will hold revival services Sept. 30, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Oct. 1-4, 7 p.m., with Jerry Spencer as evangelist.

■ **FLORENCE**—Kento-Boo Church recently called Gary Wilson as associate pastor of education and outreach. Stan Cole is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold a Christmas and holiday bazaar Sept. 29, 7 a.m. All proceeds will go to the American Can-

cer Society's Relay for Life.

■ **HUSTONVILLE**—Moreland First Church will hold revival services Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 1-3, 6:30 p.m., with Ron Shaw, lead elder of Community Church in Somerset, as evangelist. Eric Douglas is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Deer Park Church will hold its annual potluck church picnic Oct. 3, 5:45 p.m. David Platt is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will host the Louisville Vocal Project in concert Sept. 30, 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each. For more information, call (502) 239-0316. Linda Barnes Popham is pastor.

Hurstbourne Church will present Bibles to all first graders Sept. 30 as a way to encourage them to read God's word. Mike O'Neal is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will hold

an old-fashioned hymn sing Sept. 30, 4 p.m. Ray Hayes is pastor.

Thixton Lane Church will hold a note-burning service Sept. 30, 10:45 a.m. The service will be followed by a meal and music. Preston Siler is pastor.

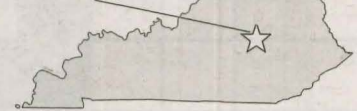
■ **MARION**—Second Church recently called Chris Lowery as pastor.

■ **NICHOLASVILLE**—Crosswoods Church will hold an inductive Bible study titled "Simply the Story," Sept. 28-Oct. 3, an oral-style workshop that teaches how to tell stories and lead interactive Bible discussions. For more information, call Butch Vernon at (859) 533-0462. Stephen Bruce is pastor.

■ **OWENSBORO**—First Church will host Ernie Haas & Signature Sound in concert Sept. 30, 6 p.m., as part of its fall concert series. For more information, call (270) 683-3505. Paul Strahan is pastor.

## Spotlight on ...

### Wilmore



Mount Freedom Church will celebrate its 180th anniversary with a "Singspiration" service Sept. 29, 7 p.m., and homecoming services Sept. 30, 10:45 a.m., with Don Reed, director of missions for Elkhorn Association, as guest speaker. Nathan Elliott is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a Red Cross disaster shelter training session Sept. 30, 5 p.m. Ande Myers is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will hold revival services Oct. 1-5, 7 p.m., with Mount Sterling-area pastors as evangelists.

## CU lecture series to focus on African-American Baptists

**Louisville**—Campbellsville University will host a lecture on "African-American Baptist History" as part of the school's Baptist Heritage Lecture Series Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m., at Campbellsville University's Louisville campus.

The featured speakers are Lawrence Williams, distinguished professor emeritus of Africana studies and history at Luther College in Iowa who also teaches at Louisville's Simmons College of Kentucky, and Joe Early, an assistant

professor of theology at Campbellsville University.

Williams' lecture for the event is titled "The History of Simmons College/University." Early will discuss Richard Henry Boyd, an early "shaper of black Baptist identity."

"The Baptist Heritage Series is dedicated to highlighting the richness of the history of the Baptist movement in Kentucky, the United States and around the globe," said John Chowning, CU's vice president for church and

external relations. "As a Baptist-affiliated institution, Campbellsville University is seeking to help promote a better understanding of and appreciation of what it means to be a Baptist in the 21st century."

Williams is a noted historian known for his research on African-American Baptist history in Kentucky and is widely recognized as an authority on the black church and the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Early has written several books

on Baptist history. His latest book is "The Life and Writing of Thomas Helwys: The First English Baptist." His next book, "A Survey of Christian History," is expected to be published next year.

The event is co-sponsored by the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky, Central District Association of Baptists and Simmons College of Kentucky.

For more information, call (270) 789-5520 or email jechowning@campbellsville.edu. (CU)

## 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.

**FOR SALE:** Burgundy heather padded pews; 18 at 10 feet long, three at 8 feet long; good condition; \$2,000, (606) 205-5255.

**FOR SALE:** Christian, military and patriotic neckties, \$15 value, \$7; stripes and solid colors, \$7; clip-on ties, humor book with 500 jokes, "Laughter Doeth Good Like a Medicine" (1,400 sold), \$6. (606) 285-3051.

**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:** 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:** 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).

**SEEKING:** Minister to the next generation: Join our ministry team to help the Highland Baptist Church family in Shelbyville, Ky., reach, love and grow disciples of children and students (K-12). Invest in relationships; equip parents as disciples; develop partnerships between home, church and community; make a difference. More info on candidate page at [www.highlandbaptistky.com](http://www.highlandbaptistky.com). Submit resumé to [hbc.mng.search@highlandbaptistky.com](mailto:hbc.mng.search@highlandbaptistky.com) by Nov. 15.

**SEEKING:** Pike County, Ky., church seeking youth/children's program minister. Please send resumé or inquiries to [timcpa77@gmail.com](mailto:timcpa77@gmail.com).

**SEEKING:** Administrative assistant: Little Flock Baptist Church at 5510 N. Preston Hwy. in Shepherdsville is accepting resumé for two part-time secretaries (20 hours each). One position will work with the missions minister; the other will work with the education/Sunday School minister. Secretarial experience is required, along with strong skills in grammar. To request an application and to send a resumé, contact Mary Thomason at [maryt@littleflock.com](mailto:maryt@littleflock.com) or call (502) 955-8760, ext. 236.

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church Taylorsville, Ky., seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to [paul@daugherty-bodyshop.com](mailto:paul@daugherty-bodyshop.com), call (502) 905-4897, or to FBC, Attn: search committee, 115 W. Main, Taylorsville, KY 40071.

**SEEKING:** Stanford Baptist Church, Stanford, Ky., is seeking a full-time pastor. Contact information is available on our website, [www.stanfordbaptist.com](http://www.stanfordbaptist.com).

**SEEKING:** Denham Street Baptist Church in Somerset, Ky., is seeking a God-called, ordained pastor to edify our congregation through God's holy word and to direct our congregation by divine example and scriptural teaching. We expect our pastor to: 1) Preach the whole word of God with power as revealed in His divinely inspired Scriptures; 2) Teach us from his Spirit-led experience and dedicated study; 3) Join with us to support our church body and the surrounding community with a mission-minded ministry, first and foremost, to the lost, to our membership and to those who seek a church for worship. The congregation of Denham Street Baptist Church fully expects our new pastor to preach and teach exclusively from the 1611 King James Version of the Holy Bible. Denham Street Baptist Church still adheres to the and follows our foundational inception of worshipping as an informal, traditional, old-fashioned, Bible-believing, Spirit-convicting, soul-winning church. If you prayerfully feel that God could be leading you to our congregation, please send your resumé or letter of inquiry, any references you would like to provide and a statement of your beliefs to: Denham Street Baptist Church, c/o deacon Roger Harness, P.O. Box 383, Ferguson, KY 42533. You also may visit our website at [www.denhamstreetbaptist.org](http://www.denhamstreetbaptist.org).

**SEEKING:** First Baptist Church of Somerset, Ky., is accepting applicants for minister to families. Qualified candidates should possess a degree from a Baptist college or seminary. Apply by sending a resumé and cover letter to French Harmon, First Baptist

### To place an advertisement:

Rates are available upon request. Call (502) 489-3428; or visit [WesternRecorder.org](http://WesternRecorder.org). Claims made by advertisers are not necessarily those of the Western Recorder's staff or directors.



Church of Somerset, 128 N. Main Street, Somerset, KY 42501, or electronically to [fharmon@fbc Somerset.org](mailto:fharmon@fbc Somerset.org).

**SEEKING:** Barren River Baptist Church is seeking an energetic and motivated pastor with strong leadership skills. Please mail resumé to Attn: Pastor search committee, 5630 Barren River Road, Bowling Green, KY 42101. If you have previously submitted a resumé, please reapply.

**SEEKING:** Oakland Baptist Church near Sparta, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resumé to Jerry Webster, 4465 Hwy. 127 North, Glencoe, KY 41046, and/or call (859) 643-5409 (evening number).

**SEEKING:** Full-time Southern Baptist pastor for Dallasburg Baptist Church in Wheatley, Ky. If interested, please send resumé to Dallasburg Baptist Church, Attn: Kristy Jury, 4760 Kentucky 227, Wheatley, KY 40359; resumé may be emailed to [kjury@outlook.com](mailto:kjury@outlook.com). Deadline is Nov. 4.

**SEEKING:** Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 5285 Hwy. 44 East, Shepherdsville, KY 40165, is accepting resumé for a part-time youth minister (15 hours/week); email resumé to [dean@pgbc.net](mailto:dean@pgbc.net), (502) 543-7336.

## HIMALAYA HIKERS:

## 'They're not coming to us'

By Ava Thomas

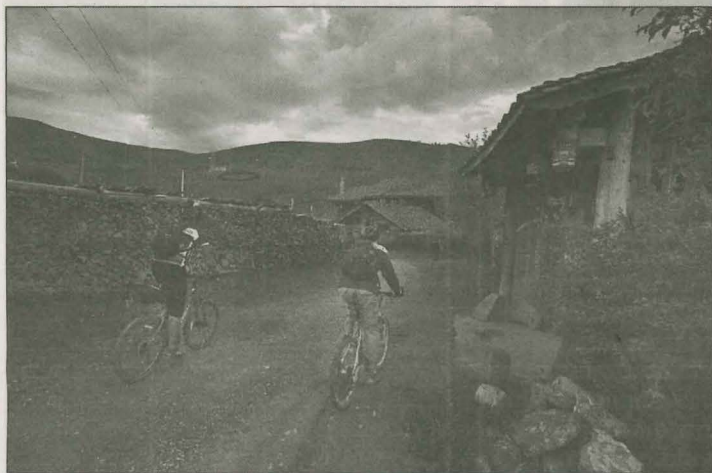
**Himalaya Mountains**—Aaron Juergens\* had the mountains tattooed on his arm long before he moved to the Himalayas.

On his heart, too. And, it seems, on his genetic makeup.

"When I was 1 years old, my dad moved my family out to Colorado to be near the mountains where there was more stuff to do," he said.

For the next 25 years, Juergens was cold, wet, dirty and happy.

"We did pretty much everything outdoors you could do when I was a kid, and after high school I started climbing 'fourteeners,'" he said of Colorado's 54 peaks that soar over 14,000 feet. "I would climb three mountains a week. It got to the point where I was never home."



**REACHING UNREACHABLE** Aaron Juergens\* and Will Craig\* enter a village in the Himalayan Mountains. With GPS units, the extreme ministry team maps the trails and finds villages. **Below:** A team of IMB workers hike to a Buddhist festival in the Himalayas. (Photos by Kelvin Joseph/IMB)

He froze his fingers enough times that he never again forgot gloves. He earned a college degree in mapmaking. He learned weather patterns. Orientation. Knot tying.

It was ordained entertainment, Juergens said. "God had that planned out."

Some mountains have people who need to hear and other mountains have people who need to go.

And he needed to go.

"I understand exactly why I have been brought up and raised the way I am," Juergens said. "God knew who I was when I was a little kid and He knew who I'd be today."

Today, Juergens is the Colorado kid who hikes the "roof of the world," freezing and throwing up, adapting inadequate maps and running from lightning storms.

And finding people who have never heard the gospel.

"Not all people live in the cities where you can take a taxi to their front door," Juergens said. "People live in places that we would never dream of living in but the fact is they live there. That's where they're put and they're not coming to us. We have to go to them."

So he and his teammates do just that. It's a tough job even for Juergens, he said. People get sick from the altitude or food. Travel is grueling. The spiritual warfare is intense.

"It takes five days from leaving the city before you ever make it to a village," said John Costa,\* Juergens' team leader. "It's a multiple-hour bus ride into the mountains and then you have to spend a couple of days in a base town acclimatizing before you can start to hike or mountain bike out."

Then once you start, the ridges are between 10,000 and 15,000 feet. It's over a ridge and down into a valley, another ridge and then a valley. It's vicious dogs and a giant yak squaring off with you in the trail. It's camping in thin, cold air.

It's getting to an unreachable people who are just that—hard to reach, Costa said.

"There are a lot of people out there that if we want to actually walk through their front door and share the gospel with them, we're going to have to use our feet or a bike," he said. "And the obstacles aren't just geographic—they're physical, spiritual and political."

Each unreachable people group has its own challenges—language, hostile terrain, security or perhaps trouble with access, Juergens said.

In his team's case, it's all of the above.

"If you don't like the cold or you don't like inclement weather or you're afraid to get tired and sweat or if you're afraid your makeup's going to run or you don't like how your hair looks when you're tired, this isn't the job for you," Juergens said. "Climbing mountains isn't easy. They don't climb themselves."

And they can kill you.

Severe altitude sickness hit one team member on a ridge recently and it took 14 hours to evacuate him. Costa and Juergens took him down the mountain on villagers' horses, then by a borrowed car and then hired a car to drive to the hospital.

"We had to pull off a rescue," Costa said. "We take great care not to let that happen. We push to the edge, but it's a calculated risk. We are compelled to reach these people, so we want to put significant effort into it."

But sometimes you still can't predict what the mountains will throw you.

And sometimes there are other issues that make access difficult: permits might be denied, civil unrest, travel restrictions and in some areas, foreigners are not allowed.

"We are seeing more questioning than ever before but gospel is advancing more than ever," he said, noting that the spiritual warfare is producing spiritual

fruit. "The two go hand in hand."

But even so, it's not an overwhelming movement.

Costa has been working among the people of the Himalayas for more than 10 years and has seen three people come to faith in Jesus Christ.

"We would love to see it go faster. We would love to say there have already been churches planted but we are only just starting to see tangible fruit," he said.

Only now, after more than a decade of hiking and biking long distances, being sick, drinking tea, learning language and sharing over and over and over.

It's something Grace Westrick,\* a summer worker, said was difficult to grasp.

"You spend so much time and effort getting out to the people, and then once you get there, their hearts are so closed it's crazy," she said.

"But there's something about being the ones to pray from a mountaintop in Jesus' name over a valley that has long been the enemy's territory," she added. "If the one who has been defeated can be here, why not the Victor?"

And the Victor is showing up, Costa said.

"We've seen a spike in people coming to know Christ and I think that's indicative of what God is doing," he said.

One new believer wants to be baptized soon—the first to want baptism in front of his family and community.

"We are facing more obstacles than we ever have before, but this is no surprise. This believer represents the very first person who wants to be baptized in this place. Satan's not just going to give that up easily," Costa said.

But that isn't a reason to quit, Juergens said—it's a reason to keep going, even when you're sick and freezing on top of a mountain.

"I'm up there, wearing six jackets and three gloves and five socks and I really just kind of want to sit in a bed," he said. "But then you think about those people (who haven't heard yet). If we turn around, who is going to come next? I mean, how many people have turned around? The world is getting smaller. The day is coming when everybody is going to have no excuse whatsoever for not hearing. There's no excuse for turning back—we keep going." (IMB)

\*Name Changed



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# WESTERN Recorder

November 29, 2011 Shine Like Stars • Philippines 2-15 Volume 185, Issue 46

## 'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact

By Kristie Ruedolph

Cave City—In a time of global unrest and turmoil, laughter and friendship between hundreds of international students from different countries might seem impossible. Yet for the past 57 years, that is what has taken place at the Cave City Convention Center during the Engage International Student Conference, hosted by the Kentucky Baptist Convention's Baptist Collegiate Ministry.

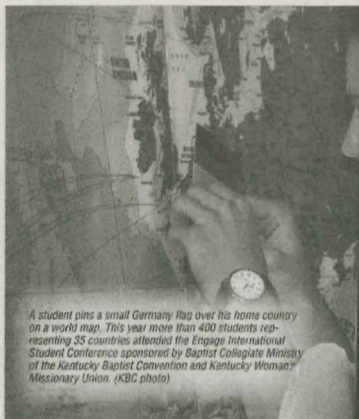
More than 400 students from 35 countries attended this year's event, held earlier this month. While Engage primarily is a cultural conference for Kentucky's international students, it also is a strategic piece of BCM's efforts to reach international students for Christ alongside local churches.

"As campus ministers who take American students abroad to share the gospel, we've realized they are here at our door," said Cindy Pelphrey, campus minister for Owensboro area schools and the event's coordinator. "We're trying to engage them while they are here. The world is becoming very small."

Event coordinators seek ways to share the gospel and plant seeds for ongoing conversions, she said.

Three years ago, Pelphrey befriended Chinese student Sunny Lu. As a college freshman, Lu was eager to attend the event. Now a graduating senior at Kentucky Wesleyan College, Lu just attended her final conference, and credits the event for many positive memories, experiences and friends.

□ See 'Engage' conference ... Page 2



A student pins a small German flag over his home country on a world map. This year more than 400 students representing 35 countries attended the Engage International Student Conference sponsored by Baptist Collegiate Ministry of the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union. (KBC photo)

## IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

By Don Graham

Richmond, Va.—Eight months after unanimously electing Tom Elliff as "God's man" to lead Southern Baptists' global missions efforts, International Mission Board trustees officially inaugurated him as the mission board's 11th leader.

Meeting Nov. 14-15, trustees dedicated an evening to inaugurating Elliff during a special service in Richmond, Va.

Southern Baptist Convention President Bryant Wright, a guest speaker at the inauguration, compared Elliff to Barnabas in Acts 11:24—a "good man" of great faith, filled with the Holy Spirit.



INAUGURATED Former International Mission Board president Jerry R. Cessor as denominational leaders lay hands on Tom and Jeanne Elliff Nov. 14 as the newest president of the IMB.

"There are 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups (in the world), and God has put on Tom's heart that we challenge the churches of our convention to go out there and reach all 3,800. ... Now that is great

faith," Bryant said. "We know beyond doubt that God has role." Wright told Elliff at the 2011 South

□ See Elliff inaugurated



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