

WESTERN Recorder

October 9, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 39

World Hunger Sunday

October 14

Delhi's slums receive hope, 'Bread of Life'

By Jane Middleton

Delhi, India—Poverty is extreme in the slums of Delhi, India—the eighth-largest city in the world—but Southern Baptists are making a life-changing difference for 90 children and their families through the World Hunger Fund.

When Asha* brought her two daughters to the Bread of Life nutrition program, both girls were spindly and their hair was merely small patches on their heads. Each month, the children were weighed and given a health assessment.

Like other children in the program, they were given medication for simple problems such as ear infections, worms or diarrhea. They also were given multivitamins, along with staples such as dried beans and lentils, rice, oil and soap.



BASIC NEEDS More than half of Delhi's 22 million people live in areas without access to safe drinking water. Southern Baptists are making a life-changing difference for 90 children and their families through the World Hunger Fund.

After a few months, the girls had gained a little weight and were more responsive, and their hair had grown. More than half of Delhi's 22 million people live in areas with severely inadequate housing, electricity, sanitation and water, according to a government study. Slum dwellers find little reason for hope.

"Poverty is extreme in large areas surrounding the city of Delhi," said Josie Gabdon*, a Baptist Global Response partner who directs the Bread of Life program in Delhi. "Children are starving, and disease is rampant. With a little food and education, we can improve the lives of these innocent children."

Bread of Life is improving the health of 90 children and their families with monthly food supplements, multivitamins and medicine provided in part through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. National partners identified two slums, each with populations of at least 40,000, to be the focus of the project.

Bags of food go home with hungry kids

By Tobin Perry

Carterville, Ill.—Amy Simpson already had enough to do. With three kids and a full-time job with the city of Carterville, Ill., and a variety of church responsibilities, she had said no for four years when asked to start a Woman's Missionary Union group for younger women at her church.

And even after she relented in 2008 and agreed to lead the group, she certainly didn't have time to mobilize those women in a new missions venture.

Yet God made the time. Through a friend at another church, Simpson had heard of a need in her

community to help feed school children on the weekends—when they don't get their breakfasts and lunches at school.

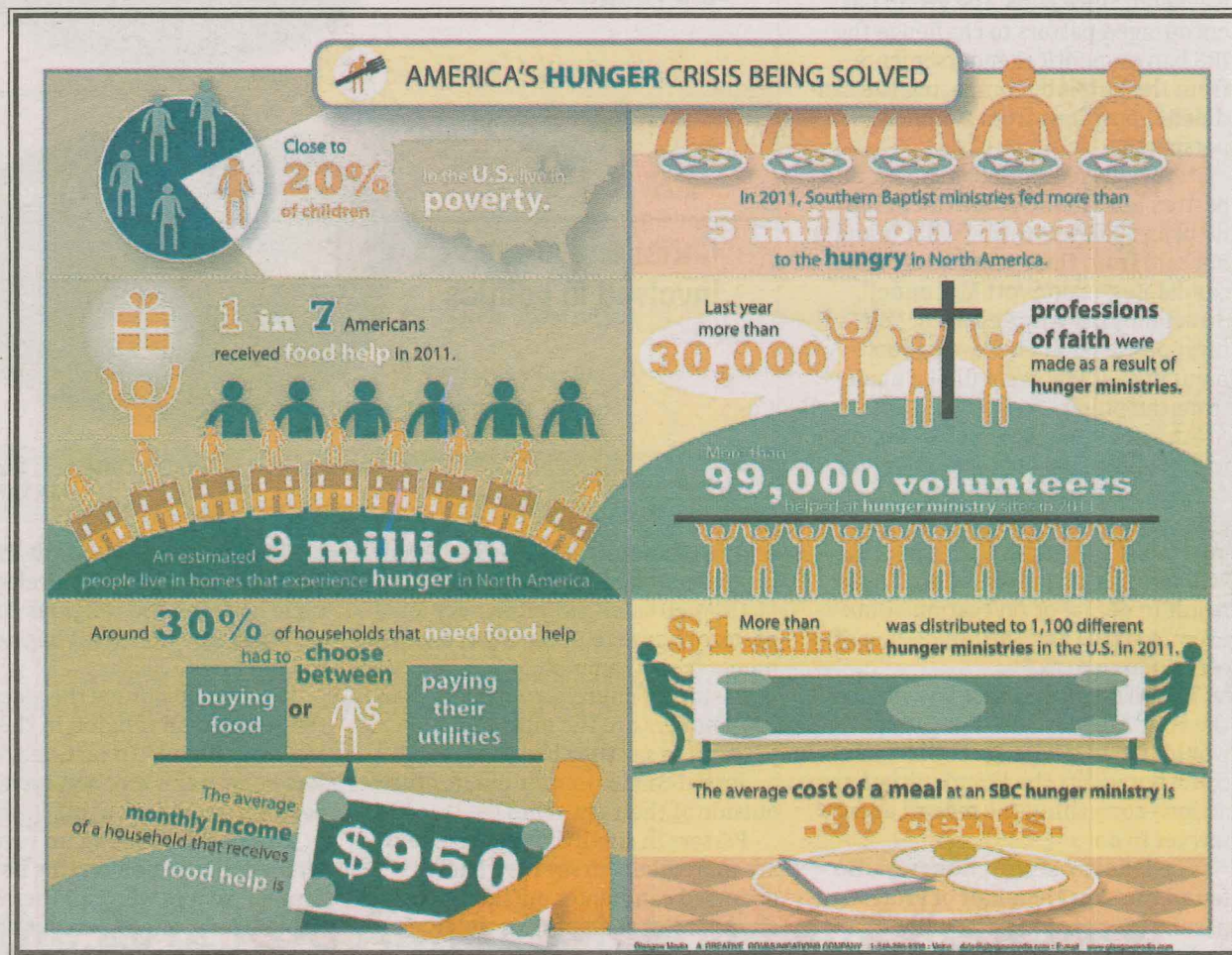
"What's sad about our area is that there are few jobs here for parents," Simpson said, noting that many of the major employers in the area have closed. "Our economy is pretty shabby."

Simpson and the rest of the WMU group wanted to help—because it was something Jesus would do, she said. Built around a simple declaration, "God Use Me," the GUM Drop Ministry at First Baptist Church of Carterville, Ill., provides much-needed help for hungry kids on the weekends.

Through the ministry, kids get a bag of child-friendly food to take home each Friday during the school year. Each bag has enough food to get a child through the weekend—often including cereal, canned pasta and fruit.

Even though it's done on public-school grounds, the ministry uses every opportunity to point students to Jesus and tell them why they're receiving the bags. Often it comes in the form of Scripture verses attached to food items or small gifts in the bags.

For the past four years the ministry has been a labor of love for Simpson and more than 1,000 volunteers (40 to 60 a night from a variety of churches and denominations). In the ministry's first week



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Western Recorder 10-9-2012

Survey: Pastors reject pulpit endorsements

Federal laws heavily discourage candidate support in churches

By Carol Pipes

Nashville, Tenn.—Nearly 90 percent of pastors believe they should not endorse candidates for public office from the pulpit, according to a new survey by LifeWay Research.

The survey, released last week, also revealed that 44 percent of pastors personally endorsed candidates, but did so outside of their churches.

By comparison, a December 2010 LifeWay survey found that 84 percent of pastors said they should not endorse candidates from the pulpit.

Slight differences emerged between pastors who consider themselves evangelical and those who identify as mainline. Eighty-six percent of evangelical pastors believe candidates should not be endorsed from the pulpit, compared to 91 percent of mainline pastors.

Results also vary according to pastors' political affiliations. Among those who call themselves Democrats, 98 percent believe pulpit endorsements are wrong, compared to 90 percent of independents and 82 percent of Republicans.

'Pulpit Freedom Sunday'

The results of the survey came just prior to the Alliance Defending Freedom's "Pulpit Freedom Sunday" last weekend. Since 2008, the group has encouraged pastors to challenge the IRS ban on political endorsements from the pulpit by comparing the candidates' positions from a biblical perspective.

"Previous research has shown that pastors believe the government has no place in determining what is and is not said from their pulpits regarding candidates," said Scott McConnell, director of LifeWay Research. "Yet most pastors don't believe endorsement of candidates should be made from the pulpit."

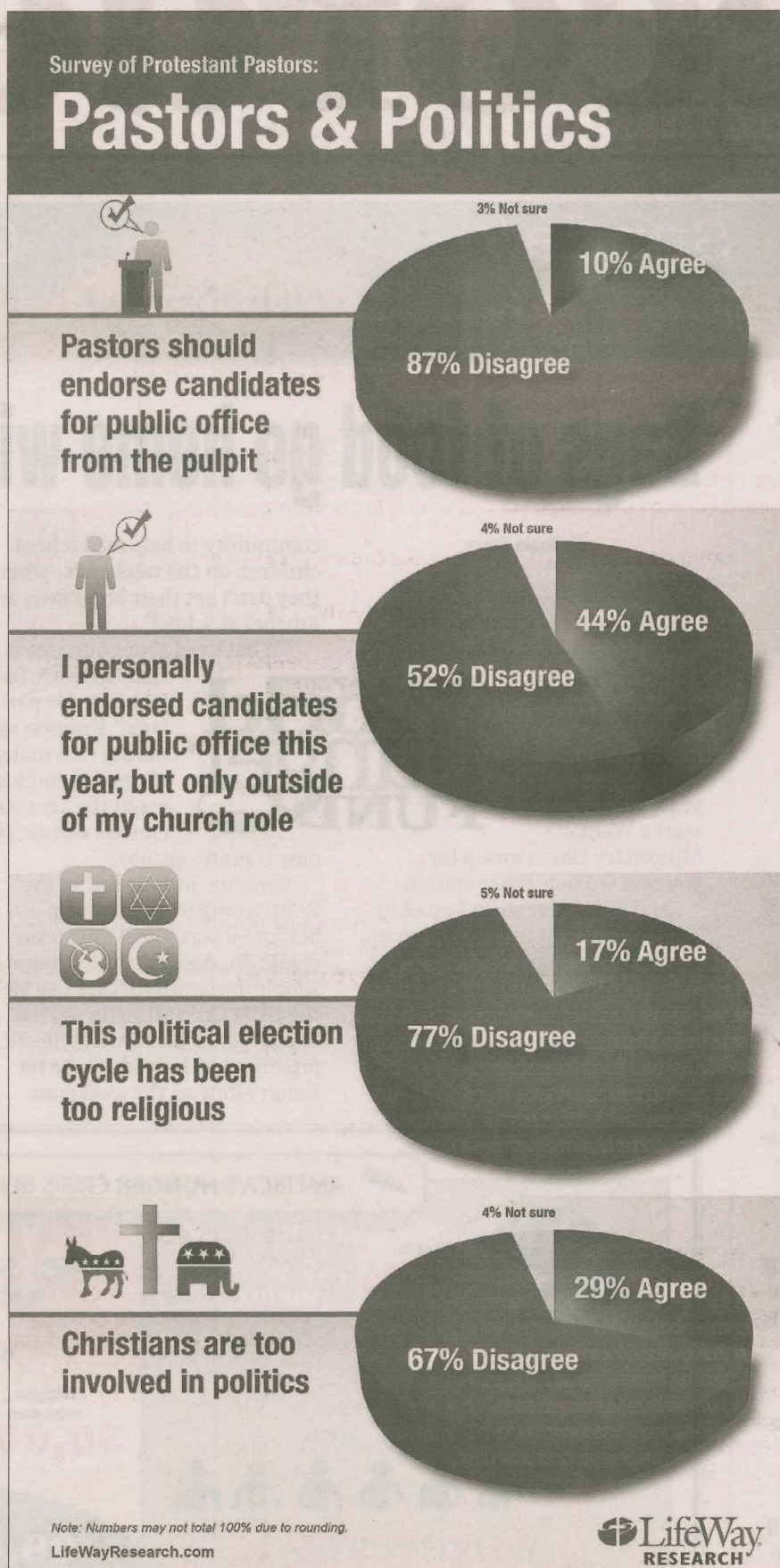
An amendment to the IRS tax code in 1954 prohibits tax-exempt organizations, such as churches, from endorsing political candidates for public office. According to the IRS, "violation of this prohibition may result in denial or revocation of tax-exempt status and the imposition of certain excise tax."

The ADF believes that law violates the First Amendment. The group would like to challenge the law in court but wants the IRS to initiate the action—something the federal agency has yet to do.

The LifeWay Research survey also found that less than half of Protestant pastors (44 percent) personally endorsed candidates this year outside of their church roles.

McConnell noted that only one-third of pastors strongly disagree that they have endorsed candidates outside of their church roles.

"Clearly most pastors have opinions on who the best candidates are,



and those convictions may be heavily dependent on biblical principles," McConnell said. "However, very few pastors choose to make those endorsements from the pulpit."

Pastors of churches with less than 50 members are the most likely (56 percent) to say they had personally endorsed candidates for public office outside of their churches.

Pastors in small cities (49 percent) are more likely to say they had endorsed candidates outside of their church roles than pastors in large cities (33 percent).

2012 presidential campaign

While there has been much talk about the beliefs of both presidential candidates in the current campaign, few pastors believe there has been too much focus on religion.

The survey revealed only 17 percent of pastors believe the election cycle has been too religious compared to 77 percent who say it has not been too religious.

"Pastors do not see the election as a referendum on religion in the U.S.," McConnell said. "In fact, very few pastors believe this election cycle has been very religious at all."

Party affiliations again reveal differences in opinion on this issue. Among pastors who call themselves Republicans, only 9 percent believe the election has been too religious, as compared to 20 percent of independents and 39 percent of Democrats.

Also, mainline pastors at 22 percent are more likely to believe the election cycle has been too religious, compared to 14 percent of evangelical pastors. (LW/BP)

Georgetown College President Crouch to retire next year

By Drew Nichter

Georgetown—Georgetown College President William Crouch has said he plans to retire next year after more than two decades at the school.

Crouch announced his intentions in an Oct. 2 letter to Georgetown board of trustees chairman Earl Goode. Crouch will step aside June 30, 2013.

According to an email from Goode to the Georgetown College community, the board chair said Crouch and his wife, Jan, had been contemplating the retirement for several months.

"Together they have left a lasting impact on this institution," Goode wrote.

The school's trustees have not yet announced plans for choosing Crouch's replacement. Crouch was named the school's 23rd president in June of 1992, succeeding the late Morgan Patterson.

In his two-plus decades at the college, Crouch has led Georgetown to enhance its academic profile, increase enrollment of minority students, and has guided the school through economic struggles.

Crouch increased the school's visibility nationally, most notably in recruiting the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals to train at the campus' expanded athletic facilities. The Bengals held their training camps at the school from 1997 to 2011.

Crouch also has been instrumental in easing the school's historical ties to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. In 2005, Georgetown College leaders asked to terminate a covenant agreement between it and the KBC that allowed the convention to approve the school's trustees in exchange for Cooperative Program funding. At the time, Crouch expressed a desire to achieve certain academic standards for the school, as well to expand its donor base.

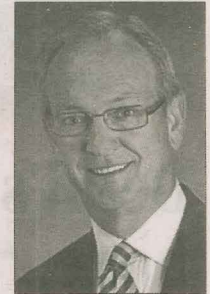
That year, a joint workgroup developed a new working relationship between Georgetown and the KBC that allowed the school to have a self-perpetuating trustee board. Cooperative Program funds to Georgetown were phased out over the next four years, ending altogether in 2009.

The working relationship established in 2005 now is in jeopardy. Kentucky Baptist messengers will vote next month to sever all remaining ties to Georgetown College. The KBC's administrative committee last month recommended the move, citing the school's desire to expand its "ecumenical appeal," committee chair, Floyd Paris, told the Western Recorder.

In response, Crouch affirmed the school's Baptist heritage, saying it will "remain committed to serving Baptist students in the future."

Crouch came to Georgetown in 1992 from Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tenn., where he was vice president for development. Prior to that, he served with the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, N.C., and as a pastor in North Carolina.

Crouch earned both a doctorate and a master's degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He also is a graduate of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C., and Wingate (N.C.) University. (WR)



William Crouch



KBC ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH – LEXINGTON
3100 TATES CREEK ROAD · WWW.IBC-LEX.ORG

KBC MISSION BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

Budget Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2013-14

The annual Cooperative Program Goals, as well as the percentages for the division of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist Convention causes and Southern Baptist Convention causes, are determined by the Kentucky Baptist Convention in its annual session.

Upon recommendation of the Mission Board, the Convention at Florence November 15, 2011 set the 2012-2013 goals and percentages as shown below.

The Mission Board recommends to the Convention in Lexington on November 13, 2012 the following 2013-2014 goals and percentages.

| | APPROVED 2012-2013 BUDGET | | Revised Order and Categories | | PROJECTED 2013-2014 BUDGET |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL | | | I. COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL | | |
| A. OPERATIONAL BUDGET | \$23,500,000 * | | A. TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL | | \$22,500,000 |
| 1. SBC CAUSES (a) | \$10,231,649 | 43.54% | 1. SBC CAUSES | | \$11,250,000 50.00% |
| 2. KBC CAUSES (b) | \$12,328,351 | 52.46% | 2. KBC CAUSES | | \$11,250,000 50.00% |
| 3. SHARED EXPENSES (b) | \$940,000 | 4.00% | | | |
| B. "MORE FOR CHRIST" CHALLENGE | \$705,000 | 3.00% ** | B. SHARED EXPENSES | | \$2,250,000 10.00% |
| 1. SBC CAUSES | \$429,768 | 63.50% ** | 1. SBC SHARED FUNDING | | \$1,125,000 5.00% |
| 2. KBC CAUSES | \$247,032 | 36.50% ** | 2. KBC SHARED FUNDING | | \$1,125,000 5.00% |
| 3. SHARED EXPENSES | \$28,200 | 4.00% ** | | | |
| TOTAL COOPERATIVE PROGRAM GOAL (c) | \$24,205,000 | | C. OPERATIONAL BUDGET (c) | | \$22,500,000 |
| 1. SBC CAUSES | \$10,661,417 | 44.05% | 1. SBC CAUSES (a) | | \$10,125,000 45.00% |
| 2. KBC CAUSES | \$12,575,383 | 51.95% | 2. KBC CAUSES (b) | | \$12,375,000 55.00% |
| 3. SHARED EXPENSES | \$968,200 | 4.00% | | | |
| II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME | *** | | II. OTHER ESTIMATED INCOME | | *** |
| A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY | *** | | A. RESTRICTED KY ONLY | | *** |
| B. OTHER | *** | | B. OTHER | | *** |
| III. TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET GOAL | *** | | III. TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET GOAL | | *** |
| TOTAL CHALLENGE BUDGET GOAL | *** | | TOTAL CHALLENGE BUDGET GOAL | | *** |

(a) The distribution of these items is voted by the Southern Baptist Convention.

(b) The distribution of these items is voted by the Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Convention.

(c) Any Cooperative Program receipts in excess of the goal will be distributed at the same percentages for the "More for Christ" Challenge.

* Revised post-reorganization Cooperative Program budget of \$22,000,000 was approved for the Mission Board on July 24, 2012 with the "More for Christ" Challenge applicable to CP receipts exceeding \$23,500,000 in 2012-13.

** 3% growth in CP divided KBC 36.5% and SBC 63.5% after 4% shared expenses per GCTF-KY CP Distribution Plan.

*** To be approved by the Mission Board upon recommendation of the Business and Finance Committee May 6-7, 2013.

Recommendation Regarding Partnership Agreement between the Kentucky Baptist Convention and Georgetown College

In these days of limited resources and a more focused ministry assignment, Kentucky Baptists are choosing to invest Christian education resources, energies and attention on our institutions that are in covenant agreement with the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Therefore the KBC will terminate its ministry partnership with Georgetown College pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the parties dated Nov. 15, 2005. Upon expiration of the ministry partnership, the KBC will no longer maintain a partnership agreement with Georgetown College, which elected to terminate its Covenant Agreement with the KBC in 2005. We appreciate the Baptist foundation of Georgetown College and offer our prayers for their endeavors to serve Christ and His Kingdom.

Find information on the 2012 KBC Annual Meeting and Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference at www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting.



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The 'four pegs'

By Curtis Woods

Perhaps it was Rupert Meldenius, who said, "Unity in essentials, liberty in incidentals, and in all things charity." This maxim portrays the heartbeat of many Kentucky Baptists. As associate executive director for convention relations, I believe that biblical truth and compassionate love go hand in hand.

Together
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

Upon accepting his stewardship as executive director, Paul Chitwood wisely articulated his guiding principles to protect our "big-tent convention" from theological error. They are most affectionately known as "the four pegs." What are the four pegs?

First and foremost is a high view of Scripture. The Bible is authoritative for faith and practice. It shapes our presuppositions and enlivens our passion for God and His world. As Kentucky Baptists, we unashamedly embrace biblical inerrancy because we believe that the Bible is true in all that it reveals about God and His creation. It is absolutely trustworthy. As a convention, we stand under the word of God, not above, before or alongside the word of God, but under it. The word shapes our identity.

Second, we are committed to the Great Commission. Jesus says we must "make disciples" of all people groups. In order to do this, we intentionally seek out loving relationships with the lost, seeking to snatch their souls from the fire as an act of love (Jude 21-23). I will lamentably admit that sometimes the hustle and bustle of life keeps me away from intimacy with lost folks. I am sure you have similar experiences. Confession is good for the soul, and His commission is good for their souls. Thus, we must develop strategic ways to naturally intersect the stories of unbelievers with the great story of the gospel through personal relationships.

Third, the Baptist Faith and Message reflects our common confessional beliefs. As a convention, we must fight the fight of faith by avoiding "theological tribalism." We should no longer define our Christian friends on the basis of geography, ethnicity, economics or school affiliations. Our common ground is neatly packaged in our statement of faith. Let us study and affirm its content together for the gospel.

Fourth, our commitment to cooperation displays biblical maturity. We advance the gospel together by "powering missions and ministries through Cooperative Program" living and giving. I say living because CP was created to give life to the Great Commission. By God's grace, He has provided us with an ingenious tool to advance the gospel through our giving. Every church within KBC life, no matter its socioeconomic circumstance, geographic or ethnic status, has the ability to be like the Macedonian churches (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

If these pegs are in place, then our convention will be secure in the gospel against the winds of change.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

In October: 'Light' the world by relieving hunger

David Jeremiah tells a story from Benjamin Franklin's autobiography in "The Blessings and Behavior of the Believer," a study of Ephesians, that has spiritual implications for addressing global problems such as World Hunger.

As the story goes, the streets of Philadelphia were dark at night and crime was rampant. Franklin suggested that residents light the portion of the street directly in front of their homes or businesses, so streets would no longer be dangerous. No one, however, followed his suggestion. Franklin went ahead, though, and hung an oil lantern on a pole outside his house. Oddly enough, people tended to gather around his lamp, seemingly because they felt safer. Having seen the benefits of lighting the street, other citizens began hanging lanterns in front of their houses. Gradually, street lights began appearing all over town, lighting up the night. "Benjamin Franklin's observation was that what he had been unable to accomplish by admonition, he accomplished by example," Jeremiah observed.

Making a significant impact in fighting world hunger can seem like trying to light up the night. The problem is so overwhelming; the darkness, so pervasive. More than 1 billion people do not have enough to eat, meaning that one-sixth of the world's population is undernourished. A child dies every five seconds from hunger-related causes; almost 16,000 children die every day. That fact alone should stir our compassion and action.

Here in the United States, some 49 million people struggle with hunger, including 17 million children. One in six people do not get enough food to eat, and even more alarming, one in four persons standing in a soup kitchen line is a child. And, with the recent mine closings in eastern Kentucky, the problem of hunger is drawing even closer, as friends and neighbors are affected.

Jesus said He was the "light of the world," and He calls His disciples to be "lights," too. Franklin's anecdote is a poignant reminder that not only do we need to be an example, but also if each of us does our part, together we can have a significant impact in helping overcome the

surrounding darkness and changing our world for the better. Take a look at the article below, and see some great examples of how a little can mean so much in alleviating hunger. Wasn't that the point that Jesus made with a little boy's lunch? The disciples hastily discounted the boy's contribution as meager—nowhere near enough to feed a multitude—but in Jesus' hands, miracles happen.

After
Thought

By Todd Deaton



Through the North American Mission Board's hunger-relief ministry, Kentucky Baptists can share the gospel with people in desperate need, and we can enable local food banks, church food pantries and Baptist mission centers to address short-term and long-term needs. In 2011, Southern Baptist volunteers served more than 5 million meals to the hungry in the United States and Canada, whose homes were devastated by floods, tornadoes, hurricanes and other disasters. The amazing part is that for about the price of a chocolate bar, we can feed three people. Yes, three people. The average cost of a meal is 30 cents. Using the same math, we can feed a person for slightly more than \$6 for an entire week. Even more significant, more than 30,000 professions of faith were made as a result of hunger-relief ministries.

Through Baptist Global Response, Southern Baptists respond to natural disasters, catastrophes, famine, political refugees and other humanitarian crises. In 2010, for example, nearly 1.2 million people received food, more than 166,000 people were provided safe drinking water through well projects or sanitation efforts, and approximately 17,600 received livestock or agriculture assistance, so they could provide food for their families. Your gifts provided for hunger-relief projects in nearly 70 countries.

On Oct. 14, World Hunger Sunday, Kentucky Baptists again have an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus to a hurting and hungry world. Let us not forget the admonition of Jesus in Matthew 25: "Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." Let's do our part to minister to the 'least of these' and join together in fighting world hunger in October. "Light" your world!

World Hunger Fund: Little bit of money goes a long way

It doesn't take a lot of money to make a difference for hungry people in North America.

For example:

■ \$20 provides five children food for a week at the GUM Drop backpack ministry in southern Illinois.

■ \$50 will feed 250 homeless people in New York City at soup kitchens and sack lunch distributions.

■ \$60 will provide food for a family for two weeks in the coal mining communities of Kentucky.

■ \$75 will feed 400 migrant workers, through the "Feeding Those Who Feed Us" hunger ministry in California.

■ \$100 will provide 500 meals to the homeless in Las Vegas.

According to statistics collected by

the North American Mission Board, hunger is a reality for more than 49 million Americans. That's one of every six Americans and one in every four American children.

Only the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund uses 100 percent of all contributions to feed hungry people. Personnel already are in place, supported by the Cooperative Program, so administrative and promotional costs are covered by other budgets.

Twenty cents of every dollar given to the hunger fund is sent to NAMB to support hunger projects in the United States and Canada.

Eighty cents of every dollar is sent to the International Mission Board for direct hunger ministry, as well as water

well drilling, agricultural education and water purification.

When Southern Baptists give food, they are there for the long haul, desiring to plant churches and make disciples for Jesus Christ. The goal is to build relationships with people and eventually lead them to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

The good news of salvation through Christ is always foundational. Whenever possible, the plan of salvation is shared with individuals and an opportunity to respond is given.

In emergency situations, food aid must be given. But when possible, hunger ministries are designed to create independence from rather than dependence on food aid. (BP)

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Recorder

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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)

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How should American Christian voters decide whom to support?

By Timothy George

Earlier this year, in the midst of the presidential primary season, I was asked to address a group of Southern Baptist pastors on the question of Christian faith and political engagement. The first question I was asked was, "How should an evangelical Christian decide who to support in this election?" That was a legitimate question, and has prompted me to think of some wider implications.

■ We should be grateful to live in a representative democracy where the right to vote and the rule of law are respected. Such has not always been the case, even in our own country, as the history of slavery, women's suffrage and the struggle for civil rights indicates. Freedom is ever under assault from without and within. Religious liberty and political responsibility are closely related: If we default on the latter, we may well forfeit the former. Vote!

■ The American republic was founded on a clear distinction between church and state, as the First Amendment shows, but this has never meant the separation of faith from public life. What we believe about ultimate matters has a direct bearing on how we deal with issues of everyday life. What is a human being? How do we foster a society where justice prevails? How do we construct "a more perfect union" for the common good? These are profoundly moral and spiritual questions, as well as political ones.

While IRS regulations forbid pastors and religious leaders from endorsing particular candidates, there is no prohibition against addressing the great moral issues of our time, all of which have political implications. Michelle Obama was completely correct in her remark at the African Methodist Episcopal Church's General Conference in June. She claimed that "there is no better

COMMENTARY

place than church" to talk about political issues because they are ultimately moral issues. Distinguish!

■ In the Manhattan Declaration, Chuck Colson, Robert George and I made a public argument, based on biblical wisdom and the right use of reason, that the three most pressing moral issues of our time are the sanctity of every human life from conception to natural death, marriage as a lifelong covenantal union of one man and one woman, and religious freedom for all persons. Of course, there are other issues that call for Christian engagement: racial reconciliation, care of creation, immigration, education, care for the poor and sex trafficking, among others.

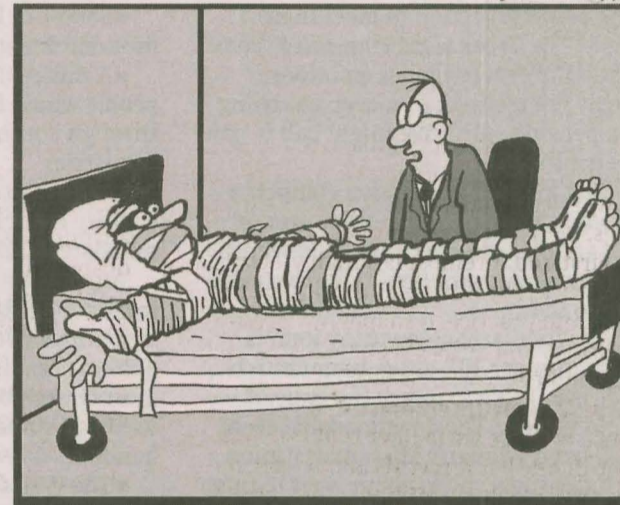
At other moments in history, other issues have claimed the attention of believers. For William Wilberforce, it was the abolition of the slave trade. For Dietrich Bonhoeffer, it was the persecution of the Jews. For Martin Luther King Jr., it was the cause of civil rights. But today, life, marriage and freedom are threshold issues that provide a basis for our concern about many other things. They also are the issues most under assault at this moment in our culture. Discern!

■ There is a difference between Christian discernment and partisan politics. The kingdom of Christ cannot be equated with any political party. Our current president, a Democrat, is the most pro-choice president in American history, and yet Supreme Court justices appointed by Republicans gave us *Roe v. Wade*. What Baltimore Archbishop William Lori said to Catholic voters applies to all Christians regardless of party affiliation: "The question to ask is this: Are any of the candidates of either party, or independents, standing for something that is intrinsically evil, evil no matter what the circumstances? If that's the case, a Catholic, regardless of his party affiliation, shouldn't be voting for such a person." Examine!

■ Regardless of who wins the election, the spiritual and moral issues that ought to inform our political acts will remain on the agenda. In seeking to make a wise decision based on a rightly informed conscience, we need to listen to God's voice in the Scriptures, learn as much as we can about the candidates, and turn to God in prayer. These words spoken by God to the people of Israel long ago still are pertinent today: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). Pray! (BP)

Timothy George is the founding dean of Beeson Divinity School at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Hubert, I've told you and I've told you... don't talk politics in Sunday School!"

Do your children worry too much?

By David Garrard

Former New York Yankee baseball player Mickey Rivers may have said it best: "Ain't no sense worrying about things you got control over, 'cause if you got control over them, ain't no sense worrying. And there ain't no sense worrying about things you got no control over, 'cause if you got no control over them, ain't no sense worrying about them."

When I was in college, I received a letter from my dad in which he said: "Worry is a waste of time and energy. Most of the problems we fear in anticipation never materialize. I think Jesus meant this when He said, 'Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. Therefore, don't be anxious about tomorrow.'"

These thoughts were more than just words to my dad. I saw that kind of "careless-in-the-care-of-God" attitude in the way he lived his life.

Dad was right. We waste our time and energy when we worry, and yet most of us still do. Children are no exception. Here are some of the things kids at my church said they worry about: failing a test; being punished; a family member or friend dying; forgetting homework; parents divorcing; not being able to watch a favorite TV show; missing the bus.

Help your children learn that worry is like a rocking chair; it makes a lot of motion, but doesn't go anywhere. Be sensitive to the things your children might worry about, but help them know they can give their worries to God. Show them how by doing it yourself.

Mickey Rivers may have had the first word in this column, but I'll give Jesus the last: "Don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes" (Matthew 6:34, *The Message*).

David Garrard is minister to children at St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville. Reprinted from *WR*, Oct. 11, 2011

Does your church need youth ministry help?

By Joe Ball

"Where can I find help?" That may be the No. 1 question I have been asked over the past eight or so years. Pastors from small churches looking for someone—anyone—to come and help begin a student ministry often ask it. Personnel committees looking to fill a youth ministry position ask it. Full-time youth ministers looking for volunteers ask it.

Sometimes I think that if I could just figure out how to develop a youth leader/worker in a box, where all someone had to do was open the package, add water and a vibrant youth worker would emerge, then I could retire a wealthy man. Unfortunately, it isn't that easy.

My heart hurts for these ministries and churches, and as I have wrestled with this question, I seem to have found at least a modicum of an answer.

Pray. I know that seems to be the go-to answer with any concern we have and, at times, it may seem passé, but I am convinced now more than ever that this is the place we need to start.

Roger Palmer, director of the Crossings Center for Youth Ministry and a 30-year veteran of youth ministry, emphasized this in a recent conversation we had about how to help a church that has not been able to find anyone to minister to their eight students. Palmer's advice was

to encourage them to get a prayer team together and begin to specifically pray Matthew 9:37-38, "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest.'"

Palmer continued: "I love the Amplified Bible, for it says God will 'force out,' which means He does the 'pushing' and 'prompting.' Our God creates the 'passion' and the 'burden.'" The passage reads: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the laborers are few. So pray to the Lord of the harvest to force out and thrust laborers into His harvest.'"

Palmer said, "We do not take God seriously enough at His word, and we need to teach our people to follow through on what our Lord told us to do. I'm not saying the pastor has not prayed, but has he called the body together to pray with him, to see that as serious as God sees it, and to challenge his people to do the same?"

Look around. With whom in your congregation and community are the students already in a relationship? Whom do they talk to or go to for advice? Who is the Kool-aid mom in your congregation? What adult do they seek out? It may better serve your needs to disciple a volunteer or a group of volunteers to be the leaders you need, than to spend a lot of time trying to find the right fit.

In this culture of teens I have become more and more convinced that we need to pay attention to the "who" with whom they already have built relationships. I tell adults all the time if, for some reason, a student has decided that you are important to them and he or she wants to spend time with you, values your opinion and talks to you on a regular basis, that truly is a gift from God and they are your assignment. Teens today are fickle at best in whom they trust and confide. Why not take advantage of those relationships?

One of the caveats of this is that these adults, along with any others we put in front of our students, need to be growing in the faith and modeling the lifestyle we want our students to emulate. Students have enough people in their lives who want to be their buddies. We need adults who want to be adults and help disciple students into fully devoted followers of God.

Ask. Seek advice from other youth ministries in your area and "borrow" some of their volunteers, or volunteer to be a training ground for some of their students who have been called to ministry. You will get the advantage of volunteers with a solid base and a built-in mentor. It also helps students and churches see that we are all in this together and that youth ministry is best done within the context of a healthy network of youth ministers.

Joe Ball, a former youth minister at Edgewood Baptist Church in Hopkinsville, is youth ministry strategist for Crossings Ministries.



Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

World Hunger Sunday October 14

When it comes to hunger ministry, Jesus' love compels response

When Southern Baptists observe their annual World Hunger Sunday on Oct. 14, they will be called to act out the powerful love of Jesus, who the Bible says was "moved with compassion" for people in desperate need.

Scripture recalls several instances, like the one recorded in Matthew 14:14, when Jesus saw a large crowd, was moved with compassion for them, and took powerful action to meet their needs. The Greek word translated "compassion" refers to tender emotions, deeply felt feelings, or a deep churning in a person's spirit. We might call it "gut wrenching."

That kind of compassion compels a response. Churches and other groups that want to engage the issue of world hunger have a variety of resources available to them.

A particularly noteworthy item is World Hunger 101, a two-hour church-wide event that explores the issue of world hunger. The downloadable event pack from Woman's Missionary Union includes suggestions about ways to introduce the topic and how to consolidate a full understanding of issues related to hunger. Each age-level session plan includes promotion ideas and hunger

project ideas.

World Hunger 101 is available for download at WMUstore.com. A variety of resources also can be found at World-HungerFund.com, the homepage for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Among the free downloadable resources are:

- Bulletin inserts, the World Hunger Fund logo, mini-poster ads, videos and a PowerPoint presentation

- Soup-can labels to create receptacles for WHF donations

- A mini coloring book depicting real people whose lives are being touched through Southern Baptist hunger ministries

- A drama script that can be used to educate church groups on the Christian mandate to minister to the poor.

Among the low-cost items available for order on the site:

- "Impact World Hunger," a four-page publication, sized for easy placement in most church bulletins, that also can be used as a stand-alone informational handout.

- The World Hunger Bread Bank to help churches, schools or community groups fight world hunger by collecting money to donate to the World Hunger Fund.

- World Hunger Fund offering envelopes.

- A "B.E.A.T. Hunger" retreat kit.

World hunger awareness and fundraising event ideas also are available from Baptist Global Response (goBGR.org), the international relief and development organization that partners with the International Mission Board in hunger-relief initiatives overseas.

Among the ideas to help plan a world hunger awareness and/or fundraising event are:

- **30 Weekend:** A fun way to help people, young and old, become aware of and impact world hunger. This event also is great for team building, prayer, fasting, college campuses or weekend retreats.

- **Harvest Festival:** Incorporate hunger awareness in your harvest festival with a variety of educational activities designed to help children better understand world hunger and what they can do to make a difference.



GUM Drop Ministry

Continued from page 1

in 2008, it fed 12 children. Today, it feeds nearly 1,300 a week in 34 schools and six counties.

Simpson acknowledged that starting the ministry was a journey of faith.

"When we started, we had nothing," Simpson said. "I've had to step out of my box—and He moves the box on me daily. We need to invest in our kids. They may never know me personally, but someday, when they get to be my age, maybe they'll look back and say, 'Someone cared enough for me to help.'"

Many children and parents who have benefitted from this ministry have written notes of thanks back to the ministry

over the years, she said.

"I've gotten a couple of cards from different parents," Simpson said. "I've saved them all, and they make you cry."

The Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund has been a big part of helping Simpson and others feed hungry children in southern Illinois. Collected by Southern Baptists each October, the hunger fund provides 5 million meals for more than 2,000 hunger ministries—like GUM Drop—in North America. More than 33,000 professions of faith have happened through those ministries.

"It has been a roller coaster of emotions to be honest," Simpson said. "Most of the time I want to cry (because of all of the needs). I feel very honored, privileged and humbled that God lets me participate in this." (NAMB/BP)



■ Above & left: Hunger ministries take many forms, including the Set Free Thanksgiving Dinner and Food Distribution on Skid Row in Los Angeles. On Oct. 14, congregations across the United States will collect offerings for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. (Photos by Greg Schneider/NAMB)

Run for Their Lives: A 5k run to raise funds. Instead of "running for your life," this is a race to "run for their lives," raising money and community awareness for world hunger.

Baptist Global Response also can arrange for a speaker who has experience in hunger relief for world hunger events or hunger-focused church services. For more information, contact BGR

through its website.

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission also provides resources at its website, ERLC.com/Hunger, including articles on biblical directives for combating hunger and poverty as well as how to begin a hunger ministry. Also available are two sermons, "The Ministry of the Open Hand" and "Do Justice to the Afflicted and Needy." (BP)

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Multivitamins, beans make world of difference for 'least of these'

By Josie Gabdon

Delhi, India—As the scorching sun blazes the parched earth, the women gather in the small school building for the monthly Bread of Life presentation.

As they enter the building, smiles and greetings of "namaste" and "jai masih ki" fill the room.

Over the past few months, these mothers have gotten lessons on how to take care of their families at Bread of Life, a nutritional support program that provides preventive health lessons and food rations each month to extremely low-weight children under the age of 5.

Each month the children are weighed and given a health assessment. For simple diseases such as ear infections, worms and diarrhea, they are given medication. For more complicated diseases, they are referred to a local clinic. They are given multivitamins, along with dried beans and lentils, rice, oil and soap.

As the women gather, storytellers in the group are eager to get started on this month's lesson about the dangers of extreme heat. All the mothers know about children suffering in hot weather.

During the summer, water is scarce and daily temperatures rise above 110 degrees. Without electricity, families look for ways to escape the heat. Almost everyone sleeps on their rooftops or on charpais (woven rope beds) in front of their makeshift homes.

Many of the family homes consist of a



Food supplements such as dried beans and lentils, rice and oil—provided by Southern Baptists through the World Hunger Fund—are helping 90 children and their families in the slums of Delhi, India, understand God's love for them.

World Hunger Sunday October 14

small room, perhaps 5x7 feet, and a small outdoor area for cooking. Only a few families have a latrine. The water supply is a hand pump shared by about 50 families. Although health workers noticed several skin diseases this particular month, they saw few cases of diarrhea. The mothers had learned how to provide clean water for their families.

In an effort to follow Christ's command to take care of widows and orphans, a widow has been added to the program. She lives alone, without any income. She fell last year, breaking her arm, and it healed badly. Now she cannot use it much at all.

The widow belongs to a Hindu people group with tattoos on their bodies. "These tattoos are to remind me of

where I've been as I enter the next life," she explained.

At almost 80, she had never heard the name Jesus before she received help from Bread of Life. Now, she is welcomed by the team as she arrives without her cane and wearing a new sari. She eagerly joins the other women to hear the lesson and listens with rapt attention to the Bible story that follows.

More than having physical needs met, these families have heard from followers of Jesus. They have heard stories from God's word and have seen the love of Christ through the workers.

Those who serve through Bread of Life continue to pray for nearby communities, knowing the Holy Spirit is the only one who can transform lives. (IMB/BP)

Bread of Life

Continued from page 1

Both slums are lacking in housing, electricity, sanitation and clean water. Narrow dirt paths wind through a maze of homes cobbled together from sticks, mud and plastic sheeting.

As families come to receive food, they are provided with basic health and nutrition lessons as well. Children are weighed and evaluated so progress can be monitored. Teachers and national partners are trained so they can continue lessons and follow up with children once the program has ended.

"The national partners are working

with families in the community in several areas, and this project will assist them to show love and gain greater access to the community," said Francis Horton, who directs BGR work in South Asia. "Truly we've found a place where people in need are being connected with people who care."

When people struggle with dire poverty and feel no one cares about their plight, they are deeply moved when someone offers to help, Gabdon said.

"We continue to pray for these communities, knowing that the Holy Spirit is the only one who can transform their lives," Gabdon said. "By caring for physical needs, we find people eager to know why we want to help them." (IMB/BP)

Bringing Your Family
to the Annual Meeting?

Child Care

For Preschoolers and Children
Ages 8 weeks to 5th Grade (Space is limited)

Child care will be available during the sessions of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference and the Kentucky Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, Nov. 12-13 at Immanuel Baptist Church, Lexington.

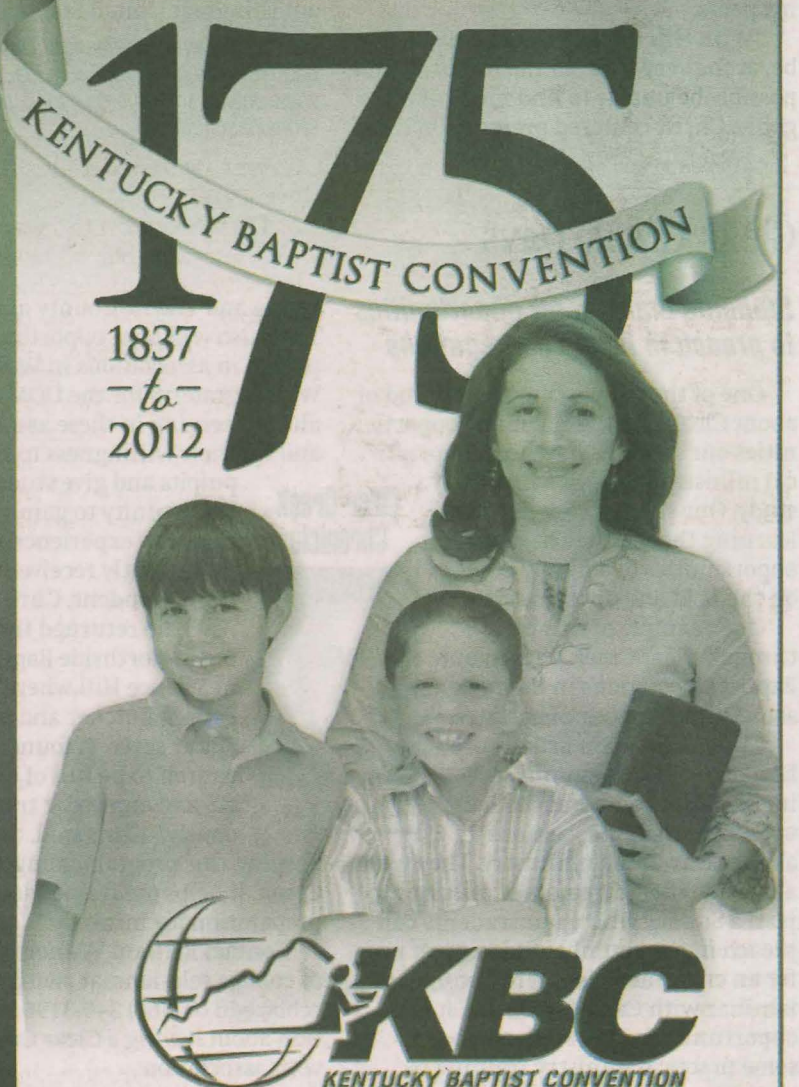
Please note: Child care is \$10 per child per day or a maximum of \$25 per family per day. Advanced registration required. Deadline is noon, EST, Nov. 7.

Register online at

www.kybaptist.org/annualmeeting

or by calling 1-866-489-3357 (toll-free in KY) or (502) 489-3357.

Children must be picked up at meal times. We regret that we are unable to provide care for special needs children.



Additional costs related to child care provided by Kentucky Baptists' gifts through the Cooperative Program.

An 'extraordinary opportunity,' part 2

Oneida student recalls blessing of participating in scholar program

Last week you heard from Anna Davidson about her experience in the Governor's Scholars Program this summer. Here is the rest of her story:

"My general studies instructor, Greg Jacobelli, had us delve into the issue of cost. We examined the effects of a variety of products and industries on the environment and humans, and discussed the long-term consequences of these effects.

"My favorite activity was the construction of nok hockey tables. I'd never heard of them before, but they're basically air hockey tables without the air. During this activity we learned how to use tools—power and manual—to create an enjoyable product from scratch and also discussed the importance of being able to make and fix things on one's own.

"My third instructor, Lane Springer, led our seminar class in which we had civil discourse about tough issues and endeavored to understand and respect each other's points of view, regardless of whether we thought they were right. This seminar helped me to realize that I could carry on an intellectual conversation with Kentucky's best and brightest.

"I also came to many new realizations about the state of Christianity among the young citizens of Kentucky and in my personal life. In the past few years, I have become discouraged, burdened and concerned by the immoral, godless and intolerant attitudes and actions of society, specifically among my peers.

"With this on my mind, I expected to be, at the very least, in the minority and possibly be unable to find much of a godly, Christ-centered presence on cam-

pus at all. Praise God, I was wrong.

"Not only did I have a Christian roommate and residence hall advisor, but the vast majority of girls on my hall were unshrinking witnesses for Christ. I also met many scholars who expressed a belief in the God of the Bible.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

"Most encouraging of all, in class discussions, these individuals firmly expressed their convictions about God and steadfastly supported Judeo-Christian principles. I also attended a scholar-initiated and led prayer group that was full of teens passionately in love with Jesus.

"These avenues helped me to discover some close Christian friends. We went to church together on Sundays. I have been raised Southern Baptist, but while there, I attended Catholic, Presbyterian and Christian worship services to gain a better understanding of those denominations. We also supported each other in times of homesickness and indulged in good, wholesome fun. God is good, and there is hope for tomorrow.

"Participating in the Governor's Scholars Program this summer has both given me a higher estimation of myself educationally and socially and humbled me with the realization that there are so many generous, compassionate, academically brilliant, and passionately Christ-centered high school seniors in this great commonwealth. This GSP experience broadened my horizons, deepened my love for Kentucky and her citizens, and heightened my desire to be a leader in my school, in Clay County, in Kentucky, and throughout this great United States and world."

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

Clear Creek Days

Students thankful for opportunities to preach in local congregations

One of the things I am most proud of about Clear Creek is the many opportunities our students have to gain practical ministry training while they study. Our students are not just learning theory, they have many opportunities to actually get out on the field and do ministry.

One example of this is through Clear Creek Days in our Baptist associations in Kentucky some of the surrounding states.

Clear Creek Days usually are headed up by our alumni serving as pastors who want to help us inform their associations about Clear Creek's ministry. They work alongside their directors of missions to plan a Sunday where our students can preach in the churches. It is a great way for an entire association to become familiar with Clear Creek, and it is an opportunity for our students to get some practical ministry training by preaching in a local church.

Throughout this year, students will have participated in Clear Creek Days in Greenup, Pulaski County, Red River,

Union and Wayne County associations. They also will have opportunities to preach in associations in West Virginia. We are grateful for the DOMs and our alumni serving in these associations and for their willingness to share their

pulpits and give students the opportunity to gain valuable ministry experience.

I recently received an email from a student, Chris Jensen, when he returned from preaching at Northside Baptist Church in Science Hill where alumni Patrick Butcher and Martin Spicer serve. "I found this church to be full of Clear Creekers and enjoyed it tremendously," Chris said. "Thanks for

keeping this program going at Clear Creek. It helps me tremendously in my preparation for ministry."

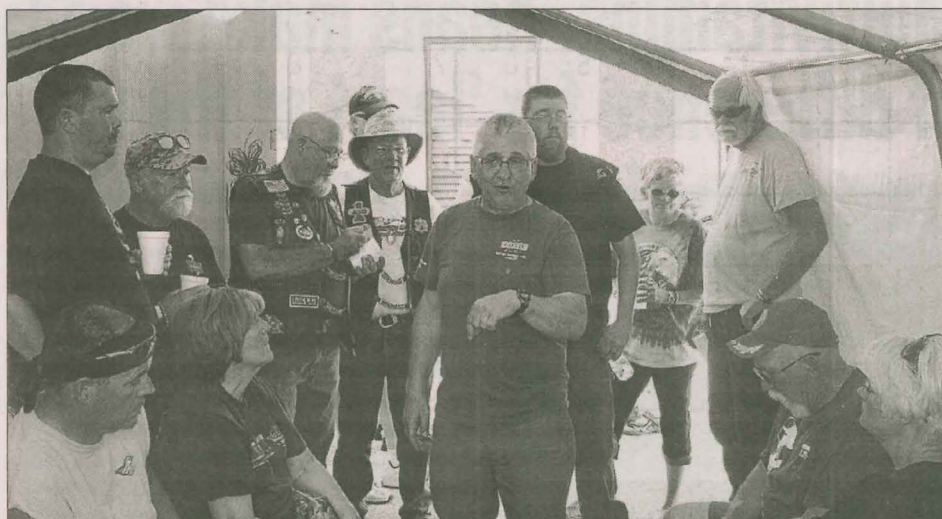
Contact Richard Witherite, director of college relations, at rwitherite@cbbbc.edu or (866) 340-3196 for information about having a Clear Creek Day in your association.

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.cbbbc.edu; e-mail: dfox@cbbbc.edu.

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox



REACHING BIKERS Buck Hill (center), missions director for the Dakota Baptist Convention, gives instructions to a group of Southern Baptist volunteers inside the convention's outreach tent in the heart of the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The convention has pumped a good deal of money into reaching the nearly 500,000 bikers who show up to the South Dakota event each year. (Photos courtesy of Tommy Purvis)

Pastor shares Sturgis experience, what can happen in three minutes

By Drew Nichter

Sturgis, S.D.—Just how long does it take to lead 19 people to Jesus Christ? For Tommy Purvis, less than an hour.

For one week each August, the tiny town of Sturgis, S.D., swells with upwards of half a million people for the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. The event draws bike enthusiasts from all over the world.

This year, Purvis was one of them.

The La Grange pastor began riding bikes about a year ago. After seeing an article about last year's Sturgis outreach by the Dakota Baptist Convention, Purvis said he was itching to get out there and see the madness for himself—and, most importantly, witness to the lost.

For the last seven years, Dakota Baptists have pumped a good deal of money into reaching the Sturgis crowd. The convention rents tent space in the heart of Main Street and buys a brand-new Harley-Davidson Switchback—which typically runs more than \$16,000—to give away in a drawing. For a chance to win the bike, passers-by are invited into the tent to listen to a three-minute testimony from a volunteer.

Purvis, who leads DeHaven Baptist Church in La Grange, was one of about 150 Southern Baptist volunteers who shared their own stories of redemption and salvation with more than 3,500 people attending the rally in early August. Of those, 315 prayed to receive Christ as their Savior.

"People don't come to Sturgis looking for the Lord," Purvis admitted, "but it was obvious that those who came under the tent were looking for something, because they were ready to listen."

Purvis estimated he talked to at least 100 people during his five-day volunteer stint, giving his three-minute testimony each time.

Sharing what Christ has done in one's life in such a short amount of time "is hard to do," Purvis said. With each individual, he would share "what my life was like before Christ, how I met Christ as my Savior, (and) what my life has been like since then."

Then the all-important question: "Would you like to have something like that happen in your life?"

Nineteen people answered "yes."

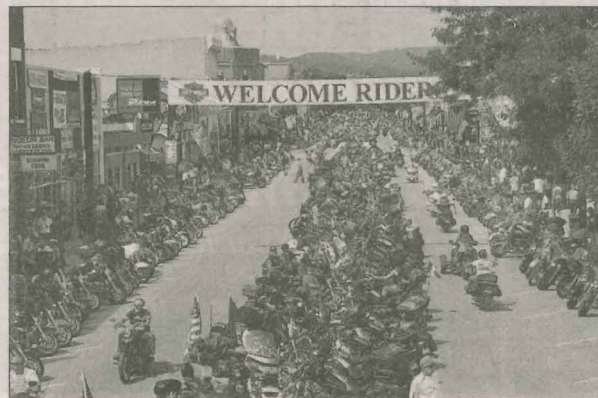
Among them was an unmarried couple, Purvis recalled, who discovered they had a close connection with the pastor.

Purvis' shared about the death of his daughter in 1983 to cystic fibrosis. Two years earlier, she had prayed to receive Christ as her Savior. While her death was painful for Purvis and his wife, "I have the satisfaction of knowing that she's in heaven, not because she was a good girl, but because she had received the Lord in her life," he said.

"That man looked at me and he said, 'My daughter has cystic fibrosis,'" Purvis recalled. "I felt my knees buckle. ... What are the odds of that happening?"

Since returning home to Kentucky, Purvis has used his own three-minute testimony experience to urge his congregation to develop their own stories. It's an approach that doesn't just work for hardcore bikers, he said.

"People all around us, their appearances may deceive you—but they're looking for something," he stressed, "and you have a story to tell. And in the right environment, your story will resonate with certain people." (WR)



A SEA OF BIKES

Hundreds of thousands of motorcycles line Main Street in Sturgis, S.D., each August during the world-famous motorcycle rally. "People don't come to Sturgis, S.D., to meet the Lord," said La Grange pastor Tommy Purvis, who was part of a Southern Baptist effort to reach bikers at the event. The Dakota Baptist Convention-led outreach saw 315 people pray to receive Christ as their Savior this year.

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-59 indicating starting points for clues.

Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- 1 Once more; again
5 Egyptian cobra, for one
8 "Launch out ... let down your ... for a draught" (Luke 5:4)
12 Feminine nickname (var.)
13 1/1000th of an inch
14 "___, lama sabachthani?" (Mark 15:34)
15 With "off," visibly upset
16 Defined time of history
17 Bobbin of a weaver's shuttle
18 Have
20 U.S. medical research org.
22 Woman married (two words)
25 "The Lord is thy ___ ... thy shade upon thy right hand" (Psalm 121:5)
29 Doesn't pedal
30 "But to him that ___ righteousness shall be a sure reward" (Proverbs 11:18)
31 Assn.
32 Definite article
33 Depended upon
37 "___, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy" (Acts 9:33)
40 What the frontrunner will do
41 One of "the seven churches in Asia" (Revelation 1:11)
42 Long, undetermined time
43 Son of Noah (var., Luke 3:36)
44 Having to do with the community (abbr.)
47 Anger
49 Wood for a funeral rite
53 "___ was a great man among the Anakims" (Joshua 14:15)
55 Corn serving
56 "Not one ___ of his head fall to the ground" (1 Samuel 14:45)
57 Gossip (colloq.)
58 Promotion for a police officer (abbr.)
59 They attend Promise Keepers events

- 10 High, rocky hill
11 Wrongdoing
19 ___ paint
21 Vowel trio
22 Prepare meat for grilling
23 One of the fenced cities of Naphtali (Joshua 19:38)
24 "Though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the ___" (Jeremiah 49:16)
26 His name literally means "a stone"
27 Leader Allen of the Green Mountain Boys
28 Father of Joanna (Luke 3:27)
34 Wrath
35 Part of the psyche
36 "The cock shall not crow, till thou hast ___ me thrice" (John 13:38)
37 Express one's opinion
38 Crony (arch.)
39 Maiden in mythology
44 Possessed with a devil
45 Eastern state univ.
46 Where an inch is really an inch (abbr.)
48 Feminine name
50 Sweet potato
51 Grain mentioned in the Old Testament (Isaiah 28)
52 Sea eagle
54 "Then said I, ___ Lord God" (Jer. 1:6)

Last puzzle's solution

11x11 crossword grid with the solution to the previous puzzle.

Down

- 1 Corporate giant (abbr.)
2 Jacqueline Kennedy, ___ Bouvier
3 Before (poet.)
4 "But the younger ___ refuse ... they will marry" (1 Timothy 5:11)
5 Make ___
6 Title of respect
7 "So Solomon ... covered the floor of the house with ___ of fir" (1 Kings 6:14-15)
8 "He shall neither have son nor ___ among his people" (Job 18:19)
9 High priest who raised Samuel

Moving on

Staffers say farewell to Crossings, called to new areas of ministry

This year certainly will be remembered for numerous exciting events in camp life. A record number of campers made a record number of decisions. We had more than 700 students accept Christ as their Savior at Crossings this summer, and nearly 750 expressed their call to full-time ministry. At the end of the day, these are the most exciting numbers for our staff.

The reality is we are pretty far removed from really knowing the campers who made these decisions, but given the exposure our staff has to the gospel focus of camp, sometimes things hit closer to home.

Since summer, our staff has seen several changes. The Bidwell family left the immediate Crossings family and now is serving in Haiti assisting with our camp project there. Later this month, the Lusk family will leave Crossings for Baton Rouge, La., to plant a church. The Bidwells and Lusks have served a long time with Crossings; both Scott and T. were former summer

staff members at Crossings at the Creek 10 years ago.

Since that time, watching them grow, get married, each begin families and seeing how they both have greatly contributed to where Crossings is today is a blessing beyond what words can describe. However, it does stretch our faith as decisions to follow the Lord hit closer to home when He moves our staff to new areas of service in His kingdom.

I honestly could not be more proud to have served with and observed how the Lord has grown these two men and their respective families. It will be exciting to see how God multiplies and grows His kingdom through the calls He places on not only our campers' lives, but also our staff.

Please continue to pray for us as we send these staffers out, as we seek to fill their roles, and as we hope to see more respond in this way to His call to reach this world. The gospel is the answer to us each and every day.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber

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October

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

■ **ARLINGTON**—Shiloh Church will hold revival services Oct. 15-18. **Gaylon Bruer** is pastor.

■ **BARDWELL**—Mississippi Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 14, 9:30 a.m., with **Ray Provow** as guest speaker and special music by **Heaven's Sake**. A potluck meal will follow the worship service. **Mark Burnett** is pastor.

■ **BEDFORD**—Pleasant View Church will hold revival services Oct. 12-13, 7 p.m.; Oct. 14, 10:30 a.m., with lay leaders as evangelists. **Gregg Fisher** is pastor.

■ **BEREA**—Calvary Church recently called **Wayne Miller** as pastor.

■ **CADIZ**—Canton Church will hold revival services Oct. 14-17 with **Sam Moore** as evangelist. **Damian Phillips** is pastor.

Hurricane Church will hold revival services Oct. 14-17 with **Mike Rust**, director of missions for Little River Association, as evangelist. **Mike Wimberly** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—New Hope Church will hold an old-fashioned day Oct. 14, 10 a.m., with special music by **Higher Praise**. A potluck meal will follow the worship service.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will

hold Mega Monday services Oct. 15, 6:30 p.m., with **Kevin Smith**, pastor of Watson Memorial Church in Louisville, as guest speaker and special music by **Bo Warren** and his band. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold a Transformation Summit Oct. 13, 9 a.m., a networking event featuring church and Christian community leaders. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **DUNMOR**—Dunmor Church will hold revival services Oct. 14-17 with **Kyle Noffsinger**, pastor of First Church of Fredonia, as evangelist. **Jeremy Whitney** is pastor.

■ **EAST BERNSTADT**—Laurel Chapel Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 14, 11 a.m. **Randall Eversole** is pastor.

■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will host the **Josh Martin Band** in concert for its final performance Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (502) 695-4050. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church will hold a family hayride event Oct. 14. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will

host a "5th Quarter" event following the LaRue County High School homecoming football game Oct. 12. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—**Rick Stevens** recently resigned as pastor of First Church.

■ **LA GRANGE**—La Grange Church will hold a "Finding Our Way" conference for ministers and spouses Oct. 13, 8:15 a.m., with **Jim and Carol Orrick** as guest speakers. **Tony Rose** is pastor.

■ **LEBANON**—Woodlawn Church recently called **Rick Catron** as pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Fern Creek Church will hold a "Son-Day Fun Day" event Oct. 14, 5 p.m., with food, games, music and the dedication of a new prayer garden. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church ordained **Minsoo Kim** to the gospel ministry Sept. 30. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—Macedonia Church ordained Pastor **Barry Hurst** to the gospel ministry Oct. 7.

■ **NASHVILLE, TENN.**—Judson Church recently called **Mike James**, former discipleship director and south central church strategist

Spotlight on ...

Buffalo



Mount Tabor Church will hold a marriage summit Oct. 12, 6 p.m.; Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m., with **Scott Wigginton**, associate professor of pastoral ministries and counseling at Campbellsville University, as guest speaker. For more information or to register, call (270) 325-3441 or email mtbcbbuffalo@gmail.com. **Barry Fields** is pastor.

with the KBC, as pastor to adults and assimilation.

■ **PAINT LICK**—Good Hope Church recently called **Mike Hatter** as pastor.

■ **SPRINGFIELD**—Temple Church will hold revival services Oct. 14, 10:30 a.m. & 7 p.m.; Oct. 15-17, 6 p.m., with **Richard Collins** as evangelist. **Cal Adams** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Providence Church will hold October Fest Oct. 13, 11 a.m., with music, food and games. **Anthony LaBona** is pastor.

Literacy missions, ESL tutoring focus of upcoming workshop

Lexington—A workshop for individuals interested in tutoring others in English as a Second Language will be held Oct. 19-20 at Porter Memorial Baptist Church in Lexington.

Many Kentucky Baptists volunteer as tutors through literacy missions, which assists children and adults in developing reading skills using a Bible-based curriculum.

The workshop also will provide

volunteers insight on how to start a literacy missions group in their churches or associations.

The Oct. 19 session begins at 6 p.m.; the next day's session runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The workshop is \$15 per person, which includes materials and lunch on Saturday. Advanced registration by Oct. 15 is required. Call Rene Bibb at (859) 223-5496. (KBC)

SBC Pastors' Conf. offering distributed

Hampton, Va.—Checks totaling more than \$110,000 for Southern Baptist causes have been distributed from the Pastors' Conference offering received in June in New Orleans prior to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Conference president Grant Ethridge, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church in Hampton, Va., said attendees made good on this year's theme, "Changing Lives, Communities and the World," when it came time to collect an offering for the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board and GuideStone Financial Resources' assistance to needy retirees.

"We wanted to partner (with IMB, NAMB and GuideStone) to help accomplish this mission of change for Christ," Ethridge said. "It's important for pastors to really work together to lead others into changing lives, communities and the world. None of us can do alone what all of us can do together."

Of the money given at the conference, more than \$50,000 went to the

IMB to aid in Scripture translation and distribution projects; a \$50,000 check to NAMB and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering will be used in church planting; and \$10,000 was given to GuideStone for assistance to retired Southern Baptist ministers, workers and widows.

Regarding the gift to NAMB, Ethridge said, "We believe the future of North America is in church planting and revitalization."

Citing New York, as an example, Ethridge said the need for churches is great in the metropolitan area of more than 22 million people. "This money can help with NAMB's vision to plant 50 new churches in the city over the next five years," Ethridge said.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell said the Pastors' Conference offering reflects the priorities of Southern Baptist pastors. "To receive this gift from fellow pastors is extremely encouraging," he said. "It demonstrates for our entire convention where our priorities should be." (NAMB/BP)

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church Taylorsville, Ky., seeking a part-time minister of music. Send resumé to paul@daughertybodyshop.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.

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 Church of Somerset, 128 N. Main Street, Somerset, KY 42501, or electronically to fharmon@fbc Somerset.org.

SEEKING: Red House Baptist Church, a member of Tates Creek Association of Southern Baptists, is searching for a full-time, experienced senior pastor. Apply by sending a resumé and cover letter to Red House Baptist Church, Attn: pastor search team, 2301 Red House Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

SEEKING: Southern Heights Baptist Church, a member of Elkhorn Baptist Association, is seeking a full-time pastor. Send resumé to Southern Heights Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor selection committee, 3408 Clays Mill Road, Lexington, KY 40503.

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SEEKING: Buck Creek Baptist Church of McLean County is seeking to hire a full-time youth director. We have an outstanding youth program for grades 6-12. The average attendance of our youth program at this time is 60-75 on Wednesday nights. Maybe God is calling you to be part of this wonderful opportunity. A full job description is available upon request. Resumés may be mailed to the attention of the youth director search committee at 3788 US Hwy. 431 N, Calhoun, KY 42327, or emailed to bcpastortom@bellsouth.net.

SEEKING: First Missionary Baptist Church of Wurtland, Ky., is seeking a bivocational pastor. Send resumé marked Attn: search committee to First Missionary Baptist Church, Wurtland, Ky., 600 Center Ave., Wurtland, KY 41144.

SEEKING: Part-time Southern Baptist youth minister for Oak Grove Baptist Church, Russellville, Ky. For more information, call Samantha Long at (270) 847-0762, email resumé to tslong@logantele.com or mail resumé to 4675 Morgantown Road, Russellville, KY 42276.

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

SEEKING: Walnut Grove Baptist Church in Russellville, Ky., is seeking a full-time student minister. Duties will include ministering to all children and youth with an emphasis on youth. Please send resumé to Walnut Grove Baptist Church, c/o search committee, 2941 Highland Lick Road, Russellville, KY 42276.

Celebrating Together

Pair of congregations lay claim to title of first Baptist church west of Mississippi

By Diana Chandler

Bayou Chicot, La.—Two churches sit just up the road from one another in Bayou Chicot, La., a town so small there's no official population count. Both claim roots as old as Baptist evangelism west of the Mississippi River.

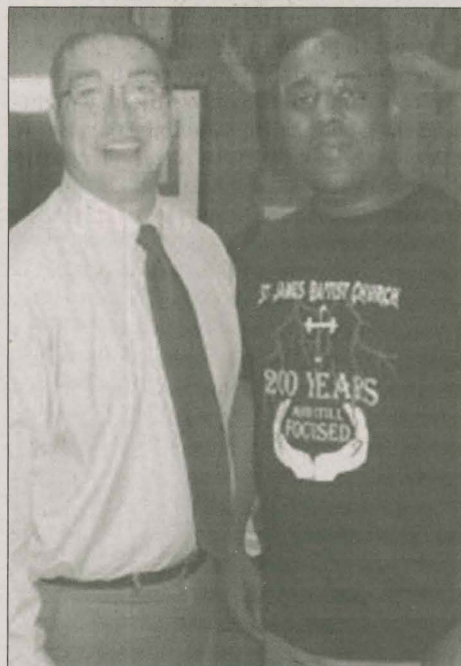
Calvary Baptist Church, a white Southern Baptist church, and the African-American St. James Baptist Church both trace their foundings to Joseph Willis, a former slave of white and Cherokee heritage.

Both congregations say they are the church Willis founded in 1812 in Bayou Chicot and are celebrating their bicentennials this year, each laying claim as the oldest Baptist church in Louisiana.

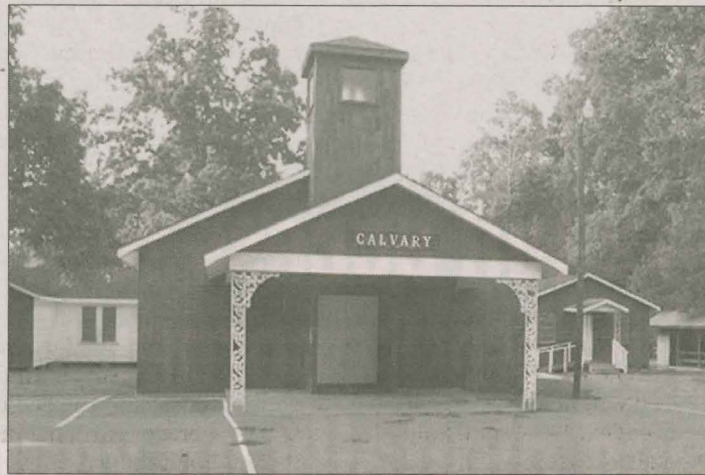
But the churches are not fighting over the distinction. Instead the two young, bivocational pastors, Reginald Arvie of St. James and Thomas Walker of Calvary, are working to heal wounds and remove barriers.

"We're younger pastors, and so a lot of ... the mindset of the older people, we don't have that," said Arvie, an African-American pastor affiliated with the National Baptist Convention. "A lot of the boundaries, the walls that have been set up in that community, we don't see those things—I guess first of all because of the way we were raised, our generation. And then second of all, because we're both new to the area.

"From what I gather, the people don't mind being together in town. Seems like everyone knows everyone, both white and black," Arvie said. "But Sunday is probably the most segregated day in



PASTORS & FRIENDS Thomas Walker (left) and Reginald Arvie, lead churches in Bayou Chicot, La., that trace their foundings to the historic Baptist preacher, Joseph Willis, who established the first church west of the Mississippi River. Walker, pastor of the predominantly white Calvary Baptist Church, and Arvie, pastor of the mostly African-American St. James Baptist Church, believe Willis founded their respective churches in November 1812. As friends, the two pastors are working for racial healing in the community.



HISTORIC CONGREGATION Bayou Chicot's Calvary Baptist Church, founded in 1812, currently sits about a mile from the original Calvary church building, believed to have been built at the site of the current Vandenburg Cemetery in the center of the small Louisiana town. (Photo courtesy of the Joseph Willis Institute for Great Awakening Studies)

Chicot, because everybody goes their separate ways, and that's something he and I have discussed and a barrier we would like to tear down."

Walker's wife, Gabrielle, a Louisiana College history professor, has researched the churches' histories. "We are really hoping that this will become an opportunity for racial healing," she said.

Much of the history of the two churches is not known. They trace their roots to Willis, born in 1758 in Bladen County, N.C., to a wealthy English plantation owner and his slave, reportedly Cherokee. Historians say the church planter kept a diary, now lost.

The original Calvary Baptist included free whites and African-American slaves, sources agree. Willis, who in 1787 gained freedom from slavery in a bill his first cousin, John Willis, introduced to the North Carolina legislature, himself owned slaves.

According to historians, Opelousas Court House documents show Willis buying and selling land and slaves in Bayou Chicot, including the sale of a slave for \$500 and the purchase of a slave for \$800, both in 1809, and the sale of three slaves for \$1,500 in 1829.

Neither the date nor the reason African-Americans left Calvary to form St. James is documented, but Arvie has made certain assumptions based on restrictions historically placed on African-American slaves. He speculated that when Joseph Willis secured—after several attempts—ordination from nearby Mississippi Baptist Association, Willis had to separate the black and white members into two congregations.

"Calvary has a lot of history as well as a lot of black history, ... because Calvary was a white church at the same time (Willis) pastored some of the slaves there," Arvie said. "From my understanding, during those times, it was almost impossible for a black church to be part of a white association.

"This is just speculation, but I'm gathering because of the African-American members he had there, that gave him some problems" as well as seeking

ordination, Arvie pointed out. "I'm almost positive that it did because he made three trips (to Mississippi Baptist Association), and I believe on the third trip some members of the association came and they installed Calvary as part of the Baptist association. I assume that he then had to make changes."

William Paxton recorded in his 1888 book, "A History of the Baptists of Louisiana," that the Mississippi association in 1812 sent two men to Bayou Chicot to ordain Willis and constitute a church.

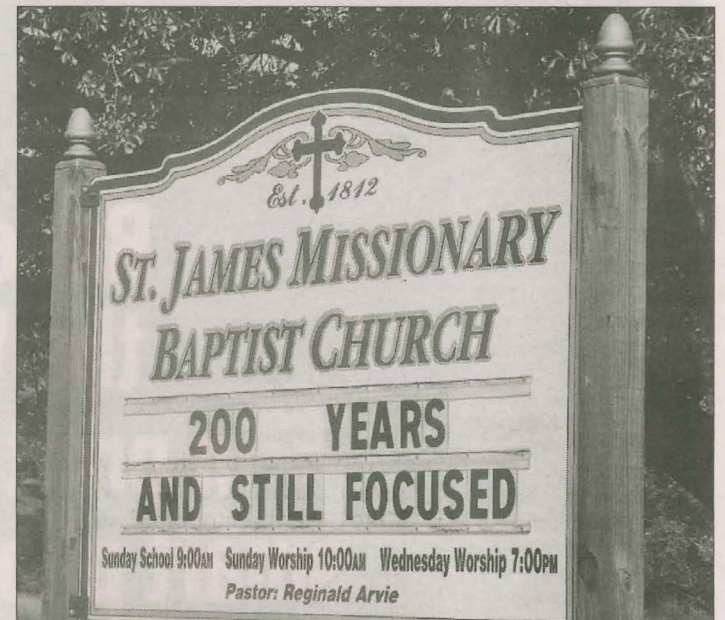
"On their arrival at Bayou Chicot, in the parish of St. Landry, which was one of the places at which Mr. Willis preached, they found five brethren and one sister, whom they constituted into a church called Calvary," Paxton wrote. "The church was constituted Nov. 13th, 1812, the first in the state. At the same time, at the request of the newly constituted church, they proceeded to ordain Joseph Willis as their pastor."

Randy Willis, the church planter's fourth great-grandson, a historian in Austin, Texas, said blacks and whites likely worshipped together unrestricted at Calvary Baptist at the time.

"I mean Joseph Willis, if you look at the rolls, so many people (were) getting saved. He's got different races going to his church. He made no distinction between them," Randy Willis said. "But the reason blacks became Baptists after the Civil War was primarily the denomination. It was not really theology. ... Churches were autonomous, and the slaves wanted to rule their own churches."

Upon Willis' ordination and Calvary's installation into the association, the two congregations—one white, the other black—likely began worshipping separately in the same building in order to comply with probable rules and regulations of the association separating the races, Arvie speculated. He has found no records documenting when St. James became an individual congregation, nor when the church built a separate building, although its current location was built in the early 1970s, Arvie said.

The original location of Calvary



BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION St. James Missionary Baptist Church records its founding in 1812 as the first church Joseph Willis established west of the Mississippi River. The congregation, affiliated with the National Baptist Convention, is celebrating 200 years of fellowship this year. (Photo courtesy of St. James Missionary Baptist Church)

Baptist is believed to have been in the center of town, on the site of what now is a cemetery. The church currently is in its third facility.

Walker described Calvary as committed to spreading the gospel, with a heritage of church planting that began with Willis. When he and others founded Louisiana Baptist Association in Cheneyville in 1818, all five charter member churches were outgrowths of Willis' ministry.

"Our first church plant is 195 years old. Our newest church ministry/plant is about seven months old," Walker said. "As far as we can tell, we have planted churches throughout every generation of the church.

"Calvary has accepted the Acts 1:8 challenge. Calvary is not just an old Southern Baptist church. It is a prime example of what every SBC church should strive to be like," Walker added. "We are faithful in doctrine, in witness, in unity and seek to fulfill the Great Commission."

Calvary's most recent mission is New Beginnings in Bunkie, La., which Walker said likely will remain in mission status for some time.

Approaching the bicentennial, Walker and Arvie have held joint activities such as shared Vacation Bible School nights, and both have expressed hopes of preaching in one another's pulpits before the anniversary. The two men are friends and Walker has invited Arvie to join the Southern Baptist Convention.

"At one time, I was slowly prodding him to become SBC, but they are happy with their (National Baptist) district," Walker said. "I brought a light fixture over to replace his single light bulb fixture in his office. So, now our friendship between the churches shines every time he turns on the light." (BP)

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November 29, 2011 Shine Like Stars • Philippians 2:15 Volume 185, Issue 46

'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact
By Kristie Randolph

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 conversations, 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

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 P. Cressor as denominational leaders lay hands on Tom and Joanne 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 a role," Wright told Elliff. At the 2011 South...

See Elliff inauguration...

IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

Southern Baptists called to Jan. pro...

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