

WESTERN Recorder

October 23, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 41

Ky. Baptists mark first CP giving upturn since 2008

By Dannah Prather

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist Convention leaders say that, in addition to a 175th anniversary, messengers to the upcoming annual meeting will celebrate an uptick in Kentucky Baptists' contributions to missions through the Cooperative Program.

In 1915, Kentucky Baptists embraced a unified budget plan to support missions and ministries. Eventually the concept was adopted by the entire Southern Baptist Convention and named the Cooperative Program.

"When we closed the books on fiscal year 2011-12, it was the first time in four years that Kentucky Baptists increased CP giving from the previous year," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said.

Kentucky Baptists gave more than \$22.6 million through the Cooperative Program in fiscal year 2011-12, which ended Aug. 31, exceeding the previous fiscal year's total by more than \$200,000.

"It was a 1 percent increase, which may seem modest to some, but it represents sacrifice and commitment on the part of Kentucky Baptists during continued tough economic times," Chitwood noted.

Lowell Ashby, the KBC's business manager and head of the finance & business services team, described CP giving for the year as "amazing for a recession recovery period."

Joy Bolton, executive director for Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, said a factor more important than economic recovery "is the emphasis on cooperative giving that has been sounded by many different people in our state convention."

"Seasoned leaders and new pastors are speaking up on behalf of the Cooperative Program and its value," she explained.

One of the voices championing CP louder these days is KBC President Adam Greenway.

"I'm telling pastors and churches that, in the past, have been less than enthusiastic about supporting

□ See Cooperative Program ... Page 3

Losing their religion?

New survey shows one in five Americans now identify as 'none,' claim no religious identity

By Kimberly Winston

Bethesda, Md.—The number of Americans who say they have no religious affiliation has hit an all-time high—about one in five American adults—according to a recent study from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

Labeled "nones" because they claim either no religious preference or no religion at all, their ranks have hit 46 million people. Much of the growth is among young people—one in three U.S. adults younger than 30 now are considered nones.

The report also found that the number of self-described atheists and agnostics has hit a peak—13 million people, or 6 percent of the U.S. population. That's a rise of 2 percentage points over five years.

And while the "nones" are growing, Protestantism is on the decline, shrinking from 62 percent of the religiously affiliated in 1972 to 48 percent in 2012. Meanwhile, the number of U.S. Catholics held steady, at about one in four Americans.

"These are continuations of longer trends in American religion," said Greg Smith, a lead researcher on the study, as he and colleagues presented the findings to the 63rd annual Religion Newswriters Association conference in Bethesda, Md., earlier this month. "I think it goes without saying these are pretty significant changes in the American religious landscape."

With some pretty significant implications, too. The study shows that "nones" lean heavily Democratic—75 percent voted for Barack Obama in 2008, about the same percentage of evangelical Christians who voted for John McCain.

John Green, director of the Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, said the Pew survey showed the unaffiliated have become a large and important constituency of the Democratic Party—perhaps larger than black Protestants, who turned out in large numbers to support Obama in 2008.

"It may very well be that in the future, the unaffiliated vote will be as important to the Democrats as the traditionally religious are to the Republican Party," Green said.

"If these trends continue, we are likely to see even sharper

□ See 'Nones' on the rise ... Page 6



Rise of 'nones' no reason for panic, SBC leaders say

By Erin Roach

Bethesda, Md.—Headlines proclaiming the loss of the Protestant majority in the United States should not cause panic among evangelicals but should motivate them to articulate the gospel and live as followers of Christ, Southern Baptist leaders say.

The percentage of Americans who are not affiliated with any particular religion—dubbed the "nones"—rose to 20 percent in the latest analysis by

the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life, compared to 15 percent five years ago.

Moreover, one-third of Americans under age 30 are religiously unaffiliated, the Oct. 9 survey revealed, and the percentage of Americans who self-identify as Protestants dropped from 53 percent to 48 percent.

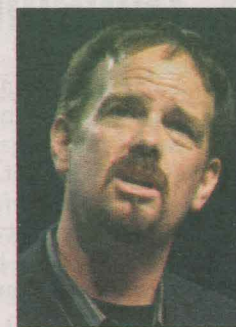
North American Mission Board President Kevin Ezell said the report underscores the need for Southern Baptists to plant healthy churches.

"Southern Baptists shouldn't need any more evidence to

□ See No reason for panic ... Page 6



Kevin Ezell



Ed Stetzer



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Western Recorder 10-23-2012

SBC president to speak in Ky. on eve of election

By Drew Nichter

Owensboro—On the eve of a historic presidential election, the man whose own election made history will be speaking in the Bluegrass State.

Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter will preach at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Owensboro Nov. 5, 7 p.m. CDT, marking his second speaking engagement in Kentucky since becoming the denomination's first black president in June.

Pleasant Grove Pastor Kenny Stone said he had been trying to get the New Orleans pastor, whom he knew for 20 years, to preach at his church since the election. "He's just been increasingly busy, as you can imagine," Stone said of Luter.

The only date Luter had available was Nov. 5, election eve. Stone said that while most people are thinking about the candidate for whom they're planning to vote, he believes Luter's message will redirect their thoughts to Christ.

"We want to promote the idea of returning to God, of our country returning back to the Lord," Stone said of the crux of Luter's message.

And in such a highly charged political season, such a message is decidedly "apolitical," Stone added.

"God speaks with one voice, and He's neither Democrat nor Republican," Stone said. "But He speaks very clearly in His word, and He expects His people to follow His directive, whatever party they are a part of."

With voting booths opening less than 12 hours from when Luter steps to the Pleasant Grove pulpit, those looking for a last-minute endorsement from the SBC president will be disappointed, Stone said. "Really, the politics is a backseat thing."

Luter's visit comes on the heels of a LifeWay Research survey that found nearly 90 percent of Protestant pastors believe they should not endorse a candidate for any office from the pulpits of their churches. Fewer than half of those surveyed even agreed they would publicly back a candidate outside of church.



BLUEGRASS VISIT Southern Baptist Convention President Fred Luter will preach at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Owensboro Nov. 5, a day ahead of the all-important 2012 general election. It will be Luter's second speaking engagement in the state since his own historic election in June. (LifeWay photo)

In contrast, the group, Alliance Defending Freedom, recently held its "Pulpit Freedom Sunday," encouraging pastors to endorse candidates from the pulpit as a way to challenge the IRS ban on such endorsements. Tax codes prohibit tax-exempt organizations, like churches, from openly supporting candidates for public office.

Stone said he believes federal laws have "bullied" pastors into avoiding endorsements from the pulpit. Revoking a church's tax-exempt status, he pointed out, would be a violation of the First Amendment.

However, Stone said neither he nor Luter will be making such proclamations from the Pleasant Grove pulpit on Nov. 5. The reason: the congregation's response to the gospel.

"If you're smart, you know the moment you endorse a candidate, ... you're going to alienate probably half the people who are listening to what you're saying," Stone said, "and they're probably not going to hear anything else you say."

On any given Sunday, the pews of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church are

populated by several staunch Democrats, Stone said. And the pastor standing before them in the pulpit preaching God's word is a forthright Republican.

"I would rather them hear me present the gospel, not turn them off by endorsing the very candidate that I feel they're not going to support," Stone said. "In my congregation, it would have the ultimate negative effect."

Stone said he has invited both state and local officials to hear Luter's sermon on election eve. U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie has confirmed he will attend and is expected to offer an invocation. Gov. Steve Beshear notified Stone Oct. 10 of a prior commitment and that he won't be able to attend. Sens. Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul also were invited but have not yet responded.

Even with several politicians in attendance, Stone said he wants Luter's message to resonate with everyone—that God's word "has the ability to transcend everything that divides us."

"God has the message. He's got the answer," Stone said. "And if we look any place else, we're simply wasting our time or playing politics." (WR)

Tapscott to be nominated KBC 2nd vice president

Corbin—Tommy Tapscott, associate pastor at First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt, will be nominated as second vice president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention next month.

Andrew Dyer, pastor of Corinth Baptist Church in Corbin, will make the



Tommy Tapscott

nomination at the Nov. 13 gathering at Lexington's Immanuel Baptist Church. Tapscott is the first announced candidate for the post.

If elected, Tapscott, 34, will have the unique distinction of holding a KBC officer's post

without having served as a senior pastor. Since becoming a licensed minister in 1997, Tapscott has served in youth ministry, as an education minister and now as an associate pastor.

That variety of ministry positions in which he has served, Tapscott said, gives him a unique perspective in communicating with Kentucky Baptist church leaders.

"Those things have helped shape me to better help unify the convention on all levels," he said, "not just from church to church, but on all aspects of the church."

Tapscott has represented Laurel River Baptist Association on the KBC Mission Board for the past three years, serving as chair of the nominating committee and a member of the administrative committee since 2011.

In that time, Tapscott said he has witnessed the inner workings of the convention during its "pivotal time" of transition and restructuring.

Echoing the KBC's refocused mission statement that stresses helping and revitalizing churches, Tapscott said he wants to be a "catalyst to help strengthen churches." And after seeing statewide Cooperative Program gifts increase for the first time in four years, he believes Kentucky Baptist churches can do even better.

"We can do more for Christ and we can raise the CP giving in all areas in all of our churches," Tapscott said. "And I want to help promote that and help be a stronger advocate for KBC causes."

Tapscott has served as an associate pastor at First Baptist, East Bernstadt, since 2008. Prior to that, he was minister of education and assimilation at Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Somerset for seven years and a youth minister at Lowell Baptist Church in Campbellsville, his home church. He is a graduate of Campbellsville University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

According to the KBC's 2011 Annual Church Profile report, First Baptist Church of East Bernstadt gave \$36,526 (12.37 percent) of its undesignated receipts to the Cooperative Program. The church also reported 20 baptisms. (WR)

Wallace Kent, 76, remembered as 'Frankfort's pastor'

Lexington—Wallace Kent, who was affectionately known by family and friends as "Frankfort's pastor," died Oct. 16 in Lexington after a brief illness. He was 76.

Kent spent the bulk of his ministry in Frankfort, leading Crestwood Baptist Church as pastor for 38 years until his retirement in 2009. He continued to minister in the state capital, serving as an associate pastor to senior adults and pastoral care at Buck Run Baptist Church for the past three years.

Spending more than half his life tirelessly ministering to those in the state capital earned him the nickname, "Frankfort's pastor."

"I am convinced that he knew more people in Frankfort than anyone," Buck Run Pastor Hershael York said of Kent. "Wallace knew them, who they were related to, and what was going on in their lives."

"He loved and lived the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he made it evident by his easy, gentle engagement with nearly everyone he met," York added.

Son-in-law Jeff Church, lead pastor of Phos Communion Church in Buckner, teasingly called Kent "the bishop" because of his outgoing personality and ease with which he approached others.

"He was truly a man of God and a fabulous pastor, husband, grandfather, dad and father-in-law," Fuson said. "He embodied the marks of a true child of God."

An Alabama native, Kent graduated from Howard College (now Samford University) in Birmingham and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. In addition to serving Crestwood and Buck Run Baptist, Kent was pastor of Little Mount Baptist Church in Taylorsville—where he met and married his wife of 52 years, Bettye Zoe—and Macedonia Baptist

Church in Owensboro. He also spent time in the 1960s serving as a chaplain to American servicemen in Germany.

Those who knew Kent frequently recalled his capacity for loving others. On her blog, Kent's oldest granddaughter, Evelyn Fuson, a Baptist Campus Ministries intern at Eastern Kentucky University, wrote: "His legacy will live on through memories and namesakes, but most importantly through the lives he touched that will push forward in love ... his favorite topic to speak on."

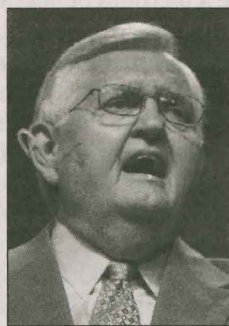
In addition to his wife, Kent is survived by three sons, three daughters and 11 grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 20 at Buck Run Baptist Church in Frankfort. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be sent to Iglesia Bautista, Pan de Vida, a ministry of Franklin Baptist Association with which Kent's daughter, Alison Cuentas, is involved. (WR)

KBC Pastors' Conference to focus on 'Raising the Standard'



Paige Patterson



Bob Pitman



Herb Reavis



Dan Summerlin

Lexington—Seminary president Paige Patterson and Florida pastor Herb Reavis are among the speakers at this year's Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference, Nov. 12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead and president of this year's conference, said the 2012 theme is "Raising the Standard" and is based on 1 Timothy 6:11-13.

The opening speaker is Dan Summerlin, pastor of Lone Oak First Baptist Church of Paducah and the lone

nominee for president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Patterson, president of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, will speak at 3 p.m., followed by Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Baptist Church in Corinth, Miss.

The evening session features evangelist Bob Pitman of Muscle Shoals, Ala., at 6:30 p.m., followed by Jerry Chaddick, pastor of Open Door Baptist Church in Lake Charles, La. The final speaker of the conference is Reavis, senior pastor of North Jacksonville (Fla.) Baptist Church.

Hill to be nominated conference's president-elect

Ashland—Steve Hill, pastor of New Horizon Baptist Fellowship in Glendale, will be nominated as president-elect of the Kentucky Baptist Pastors' Conference when the meeting is held Nov. 12 at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

Hill will be nominated by Floyd Paris, pastor of Unity Baptist Church in Ashland and a former Kentucky Baptist Convention president. The annual conference is held a day prior to the KBC annual meeting. If elected, Hill will serve one year as president-

elect, then slide into the president's role, overseeing the 2014 conference.

Hill has been pastor of New Horizon since 2002. Last year, he was announced as a nominee for president-elect of the 2013 conference by Louisville pastor Mark Payton, but the nomination was later withdrawn.

The president of this year's Pastors' Conference is Jeff Noffsinger, pastor of Dripping Spring Baptist Church in Olmstead. Wesley Noss is the current president-elect and will preside over next year's meeting. (WR)

Music will be provided by the praise team from Central Baptist Church in Corbin under the direction of Ron Green, associate pastor of music and worship. Also performing is the vocal trio, "Three for Thee," from Dripping Spring Baptist Church. Members include Dana Noffsinger, Brooke Bibb and Wesley Walker.

For additional information on this year's Pastors' Conference, visit www.KyBaptist.org/PastorsConference.

The conference precedes the KBC annual meeting on Nov. 13, also at Immanuel Baptist Church. For more information, visit www.KyBaptist.org/AnnualMeeting. (KBC)

John Dunaway, longtime Kentucky pastor, former KBC president, dies

Huntsville, Ala.—John Dunaway, 79, a longtime pastor who served as president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, died Oct. 18 at his home in Huntsville, Ala., following a long illness.

A Kentucky native, Dunaway graduated from Georgetown College in 1954 and received his master's degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1958. He served as pastor of Little Flock Baptist Church in Shepherdsville, Eaton Memorial Baptist Church in Owensboro, First Baptist Church of Corbin and helped found Community Baptist Church in Henderson.

He was president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 1979-80, chaired the board of the Kentucky Baptist Children's Home (now Sunrise Children's Services) and was chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee.

Dunaway also was instrumental in helping name the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the breakaway group of moderate Baptists formed in the wake of the Southern Baptist Convention's conservative shift.

A constitution proposed at the inaugural CBF gathering proposed the group call itself the "United Baptist Coalition." Dunaway, pastor at First Baptist Church of Corbin at the time, pointed out that an existing United Baptist group that espoused "extreme Calvinist views" would "be in conflict with who we are and what we are."

Ed Vick, a layman from Raleigh, N.C., said Baptists, in the truest sense of the word, are not united but rather cooperative. And so the group instead named itself the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

After the Atlanta-based CBF formed in 1991, Dunaway served as moderator of the Kentucky Baptist Fellowship. He later helped found the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, which relocated to the campus of Georgetown College in 2010.

Dunaway is survived by his wife of 59 years, Mary Jayne, a daughter, a son and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Oct. 20 at First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Ala. A service celebrating his life will be held at First Baptist, Corbin, Nov. 3, 2 p.m. (ABP)

Cooperative Program

Continued from page 1

missions through the Cooperative Program that, with this new direction, there no longer exists any compelling reason not to be a CP-supporting church," Greenway said.

The "new direction" is the decision in recent years by KBC messengers to to increase the percentage of CP gifts going to national and international missions and other Southern Baptist causes.

Because of the shift and solid giving during the past fiscal year, Kentucky Baptists supported 16 more International Mission Board missionaries than the previous fiscal year, Ashby pointed out.

"We also sent \$303,400 more to the

North American Mission Board than last year," he added.

Before the reallocations began in 2011, Kentucky Baptists were sending 38 percent of CP dollars to Southern Baptist causes such as the IMB and NAMB. Last year, the percentage to SBC causes increased to more than 43 percent.

The remaining Cooperative Program dollars help support 10 agencies and institutions affiliated with the KBC, such as Kentucky Baptist colleges, Kentucky WMU, Western Recorder and Crossings Ministries, where more than 700 teenagers professed faith in Christ this past summer.

CP also fuels ministries and services through the KBC Mission Board staff, including Baptist Campus Ministries, disaster relief and a variety of training

opportunities and church/ministry consultations for the KBC's 2,400 congregations. More than 91 percent of the Mission Board's funding comes through the Cooperative Program.

In response to the CP shift, the KBC Mission Board staff was restructured earlier this year.

"With the restructuring in place, churches have increased confidence that vital work in our state will continue, even as we increase CP giving for missions and other SBC work," Bolton said.

The \$22.5 million budget that messengers will consider Nov. 13 reaches the goal of a 50/50 split of CP dollars between SBC and KBC causes, a goal originally projected to be met in 2018.

"The decision by our KBC executive director to move as quickly as possible to

future, and about what God is going to continue to do at Midwestern."

A member of Southern Seminary's executive cabinet since January 2006, Allen has served as vice president of institutional advancement since 2009 after three years as executive assistant to seminary President Albert Mohler. Allen has taught courses in personal spiritual disciplines, pastoral ministry and preaching. He also served as senior pastor of Carlisle Avenue Baptist Church in Louisville until his resignation earlier this year.

He holds Ph.D. and master of divinity degrees from Southern and an undergraduate degree from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Ala. Allen and his wife, Karen, have five children.

Robin Hadaway, professor of missions at Midwestern Seminary, has served as interim president since Feb. 10. Started in 1957, Midwestern has had a rocky history since the retirement of longtime president Milton Ferguson in 1995. Trustees fired president Mark Coppenger, Roberts' predecessor, in 1999. Roberts' presidency lasted 11 years. (ABP)

Midwestern elects Allen president

Kansas City, Mo.—Trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary voted 29-2 Oct. 15 to elect Southern Baptist Theological Seminary administrator and former Kentucky Baptist pastor Jason Allen as the Kansas City-based school's fifth president.

Allen, 35, succeeds former president Phil Roberts, who resigned in February amid questions about his leadership from members of the seminary's board of trustees.

Trustee chairman Kevin Shrum, lead pastor of Inglewood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tenn., voiced confidence in the board's decision to bring Allen, vice president for institutional advancement at the seminary in Louisville, to Midwestern.

"We couldn't be more pleased to announce the election of Jason Allen as the fifth president of Midwestern Seminary," Shrum said in a press release. "In addition to a tremendous student body, a fine faculty and a great staff, we now have a new president that will help us embark on a new phase in the history of Midwestern. So, we are very excited about moving forward, about the

achieve the 50/50 goal is being well received," Bolton said.

The split includes 10 percent of the budget allocated for Cooperative Program resourcing on behalf of the SBC and KBC. Chitwood said that percentage may be lower in future budgets but, for now, investing funds in CP education and promotion seems to be paying off.

The upcoming annual meeting will be Chitwood's second as KBC executive director. He said chief among his messages to Kentucky Baptists will be gratitude and excitement.

"For the first time in four years, Kentucky Baptists increased their support of missions through the Cooperative Program," he said. "I'm humbled by the trust they have placed in us to be good stewards of those gifts." (KBC)

The calamity of cancer

With so many members of our Kentucky Baptist family praying for and asking about Michelle, I thought I best share an update. Since October is

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

"Breast Cancer Awareness Month," it seems an appropriate time.

Although Michelle has taken the semester off from teaching, several of her students and colleagues from Mount Washington Middle School participated as a team in the 2012 Komen Louisville Race for the Cure. Only our 14-year-old daughter

was up for the run, but thankfully the event included a one-mile "family walk" for those of us with bad knees (me), short legs (our daughter Cai), or who prefer to use our energy in other ways (our son Daniel). After a tough week recovering from her second chemo treatment, Michelle was feeling well enough to join us. She earned her medal!

I told her last night how proud she has made me during this battle. We are only about three months past her diagnosis. In that time, she has endured the shocking news of her illness, two surgeries, the grueling days spent recovering from her first two treatments, her husband shaving her head and the tangible uncertainty of whether anything she is undergoing will, in the end, make a difference. Yet, she has embraced every piece of news, life-altering treatment and miserable moment with the unquestioned assurance that Jesus is not only the author and finisher of her faith, He is the author and finisher of her life. In her words, "If God knows the number of hairs on my head so, He surely knew they were going to come out."

Indeed, as Scripture teaches us, "Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good things come?" (Lamentations 3:37). When coupled with Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose," God's sovereignty over the calamity of cancer is something we have chosen to embrace. That decision has yielded Michelle (and her husband) a comfort that my words cannot begin to express.

So, how's she doing? Physically, some days are better than others. Emotionally, stronger than I even knew. Spiritually, I stand amazed.

I would be remiss if I did not add that the prayers and support we have received from our brothers and sisters in Christ continue to be wonderfully overwhelming. Truly, our burden rests on so many shoulders that at times we even forget we carry it. We testify that the law of Christ is being fulfilled (Galatians 6:2) and owe a debt of gratitude we can never repay. Thank you!

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Nones' on the rise constitutes call to action

In seminary years ago, I had a New Testament professor whose class was loved by students because of his insightful lectures, but whose multiple-choice tests were dreaded like the pox. I know what you are thinking: How can that be? Multiple-choice tests are always easy. Not so!

The professor took multiple-choice tests to the next level. There were multiple options to the same question. Sometimes several choices could be correct—or not. With eight, 10 or 12 potential responses for a single question, you can see the challenge. Making a negative grade on one of his tests was not out of the realm of possibility.

Then, there was that last choice that just drove you over the edge: "none of the above." Just when you thought you had it all figured out, there it was staring back at you. It made you want to rip up your paper and walk out. The anguish of indecision run amok: "none?" Could it be? Surely not.

A recently released survey by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, however, runs against that grain. Apparently, when it comes to their choice of religion, a growing segment of American society now has no problem with selecting "none of the above."

In fact, one in three young adults say they are "unaffiliated" with any denomination—Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian, Jewish, Lutheran, Episcopalian or otherwise. According to the Pew study, they just aren't sitting in anyone's pews, and they have no mind to do so.

Just as alarming to some, Protestants now are in the religious minority, comprising only 48 percent of the population. And chances are good that one in five adults you meet on the street—depending, of course, on where you live—does not identify with any church.

Now church leaders and seminarians everywhere are bewildered and dismayed. How can this be? What does this all mean for the church? Is the church at fault? Have we not been outwardly focused enough? Are our young people drifting away from the faith, never to return?

Or, is our society becoming increasingly more pluralistic and tolerant of other beliefs? Are people growing more comfortable with admitting they don't attend church at all? Are they just turning a deaf ear to the gospel, not wanting to change their personal lifestyles?

Is it all of the above? Some of the above? Or none of the above?

There seems to be a plethora of possibilities—even some of which we've yet to think.

Before we go too far, it must be said, most of the 46 million "unaffiliated" aren't necessarily hostile to the church. Only about 13 million of them are atheists or agnostics. Many may be somewhat skeptical, but there's still an opportunity to reach them. But know also, they aren't looking and probably won't otherwise darken the door of your church. So, we obviously have a great deal of work to do in sharing the gospel with our friends and neighbors.

In one of many recent columns that have appeared on the topic, Albert Mohler, president of Southern Seminary, observes: "The most significant finding in this research may be the documentation of the fact that the rise of the unaffiliated means

that the 'nones' are moving out of a loose religious affiliation into none at all. In other words, those Americans who had previously reported a loose or tenuous identification with a religious body now feel free to identify with no faith at all. ... This strongly suggests that cultural Christianity, for example, is simply disappearing."

In Mohler's view, this move can be a good thing: "It is good that non-believers know that they are, in fact, not believers. Cultural Christianity is not Christianity, and no one will find salvation through merely identifying as Christian." Similarly, Ed Stetzer of LifeWay Research counsels that the move does not represent a great shift, seeing it, instead, as "a natural progression of what I call the nominals moving to the nones."

OK, but the bigger question for the church remains: "Why?" And, that calls for bold self-scrutiny. Are we truly living up to our calling to be "Great Commission Baptists"? Do our lifestyles and actions represent Christ's love to others? Do those around our churches see us as making a real difference in our communities? Are church members truly being transformed by the Holy Spirit into Christ-likeness?

Our nation is becoming more lost, and as Christ's disciples, we need to be very concerned about the next generation. But rather than be discouraged by the latest trend, we should seize this as a growing opportunity to go out into "the wheat fields," as Stetzer puts it, to reach the lost, which are quickly becoming as likely to be down the street as across the ocean. And, that's one multiple-choice test the church should never answer with "none."

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Why every Christian should register & vote

By Sudi Kate Gliebe

Champion the Vote estimates that out of 60 million Christians in the U.S., only 30 million vote or are even registered. Can you imagine the impact 30 million votes can have on a general election? Can you fathom the weight that 30 million votes would have on the issues of life, marriage, religious freedom and fiscal restraint?

Clearly, however, these 30 million believers either don't care enough to vote or have never been taught the importance of voting. This is why pastors are so important.

Here are five things pastors can do to

make a difference:

- Teach the congregation the importance of praying for God to raise righteous leaders to fill the White House, Congress and the Supreme Court. Call out periods of fasting and prayer for this specific purpose. Create prayer guides and distribute them.

- Preach boldly about the sanctity of life and the importance of honoring God's definition of marriage—one man and one woman. These are biblical truths, not just political hot buttons.

- Exhort the congregation to vote. "We the people" means that all of us are responsible to preserve our republic. The citizenry of America is enormously

powerful. Remind the congregation that voting is a privilege, a responsibility and a sacred trust.

- Encourage the formation of a task force at the church that has as its purpose to register voters, provide voter guides before elections and inform the congregation about issues that matter so they can contact their representatives and senators.

- Invite pastors in your circle of influence to get involved, share ideas and establish partnerships with them. There is strength in numbers.

In the fight for life, marriage and religious freedom, every vote counts and every pastor matters.

Sudi Kate Gliebe is a soon-to-be graduate of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, with a Ph.D. in childhood education.

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Choosing a church not like choosing a sports team

By Timothy Paul Jones

The Major League Baseball season is drawing to a close once again. My favorite team launched the season with the hopeful slogan, "This is our time." But "our time" quickly faded into "next time" for the Kansas City Royals, and the team spent most of the season locked in a contest with the Twins for the uncoveted title of the "Worst Team in the American League."

It's around this time each year I find myself asking, "How exactly was it I ended up a Kansas City Royals fan?" The last time the Royals were serious contenders, Ronald Reagan was in the White House, the Berlin Wall was still intact and grunge rock hadn't yet made it past the Seattle city limits.

Goodness knows, I've tried to stop rooting for a losing team. During my decade of earning graduate degrees, I stopped following baseball altogether, only to discover upon my return that I still could not keep myself from cheering for the same team as before. Not even decades in the cellar has managed to dethrone the Royals from first position in my sporting allegiances.

Why keep choosing a losing team?

I am clearly not the only person who persists in prioritizing a particular team even when that team never earns a place in the postseason. After all, someone somewhere purchases clothing adorned with the logos of the Indians, Mariners, Pirates and Cubs.

Why is it that human beings select certain teams and stick with them? At least three patterns seem to drive this irrational rationality of persistent loyalty—and these patterns may help us think a bit more carefully about what we try to do to grow our churches.

Commonalities: They come from a place where people are more like me. I am a Midwesterner. As a result, I'm

FIRST PERSON

pretty much incapable of cheering for a team from any state that seceded from the Union or from any city west of the Great Plains or east of the Great Lakes. And I don't think I'm alone in my affinity for teams from locations near past or present places of residence. Fans of the Braves often have roots south of the Mason-Dixon Line; New Englanders aren't rooting for the Mariners; and folks who hope the Indians do better next year don't live near a coastline.

Memories: The power of recollections. In my basement, there are three white-and-blue shirts I wore as a 3-year-old, each one imprinted with a face and faux signature. My Grandma Lu was the source of these T-shirts inked with the likenesses of George Brett, Hal McRae and Frank White. Grandma Lu lived most of her life in Kansas City; my parents met one another in Kansas City; I earned my master's degree in Kansas City; I remember games at Kauffman Stadium with my parents, my sister and her husband, my wife and oldest daughter.

Despite a disappointing record over the past two decades, there are traditions and ties to Kansas City that are threaded through some of my deepest and most cherished memories. When I am rooting for the Royals, I'm not merely hoping for a certain team to triumph; I am also remembering.

Affinities: Random preferences and prejudices, quibbles and quirks. For certain fans, the designated-hitter rule is such a deal breaker that they're incapable of rooting for any American League team. Others select and reject teams because they're excited or annoyed by particular players. For me, long-term rootedness in a particular place is vitally important, so a skip from one city to another permanently besmirches a team's reputation. Such are the less-conscious quibbles and quirks by which we choose between teams that might otherwise have been equal in our allegiances.

Thinking through this, it occurred to me that some of these patterns also may explain what pulls many people to churches. According to a Gallup poll conducted a few years ago, three of the top reasons why Americans attend church are a sense of fellowship, family traditions and how the experience at church personally inspires them—reasons similar, in some ways, to the patterns of affinity, memory and commonality that drive fans to persist in their faithfulness to particular teams. Being tied to a church by memories might be a positive pattern as long as family traditions don't compete with the church's commitment to the Great Commission.

When it comes to using affinity and commonality to attract people to church, however, I'm not so certain these patterns are positive. Yet, whether intentionally or not, this often is how we aim people toward particular congregations: "Lots of children about the same age as your kids go there." "The music there is amazing." "That campus might be a bit too traditional for your taste."

Lacking diversity

When choosing which team to cheer for, looking to one's own commonalities, memories and affinities is perfectly harmless. Yet when these phenomena form the foundations for trying to grow a community of faith, the results fall far short of God's design. Appealing to these things tends to turn churches into homogeneous conglomerations of spectators instead of diverse communities of gospel-centered servants.

Suppose I encourage people to attend my church because the church matches their pre-existing affinities or because the people in the congregation are a lot like them. This mentality meshes well with the "homogeneous unit principle" that once dominated church-growth literature. That principle urged churches to avoid mingling "diverse social and cultural elements" because culturally diverse congregations make it impossible "to maintain a sense of community."

This idea isn't new, of course. In the first century A.D., when ex-idol worshippers showed up to worship alongside Jewish believers, churches in Ephesus and Rome cooked up their own versions of the homogeneous unit principle—but the Apostle Paul vehemently rejected the notion of a church fragmented along cultural faultlines. He claimed that the death of Jesus had so thoroughly shattered the walls between diverse cultures that they could all now worship and serve together as one body

Charitable gift annuities

By Laurie Valentine

Would you like to provide support to your church or another favorite Baptist cause while benefitting from lifetime payments, management of assets and tax savings? If your answer is yes, a charitable gift annuity may be just what you are looking for.

A charitable gift annuity is a contract between you and the Kentucky Baptist Foundation under which you agree to make a gift of cash or appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares and, in exchange for your gift, the Kentucky Baptist Foundation agrees to pay you a fixed amount each year for your lifetime. The lifetime payments to you are backed by the general assets of the cause(s) that ultimately will benefit from your gift.

Your annual payment depends on the value of your gift and your age at the time you make it. The older you are, the higher the payment rate. The payment amount is not dependent on what your gift earns.

Establishing a charitable gift annuity during your lifetime allows you to provide for your financial needs and those of your family, while at the same time assuring vital future support to the causes you ultimately designate to benefit from your gift.

Tax savings may be available from the charitable income tax deduction that is allowable, and also from the fact that part of each payment you receive is tax free. These benefits can make the cost of establishing a charitable gift annuity very reasonable.

Using appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares to establish a charitable gift annuity also can provide capital gains tax savings.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

(Ephesians 2:11-18). In the process, Paul unmasked the homogeneous unit principle for what it really is: a repudiation of the power of the gospel. The church's capacity for community originates not in human homogeneity but in the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians 4:1-3).

And let's be honest about ourselves and our churches: This divinely ordained capacity for diversity is far from the reality experienced by most American Christians. In fact, even with the commonalities that attract baseball fans to particular teams, the spectatorship at a typical professional game reflects more racial and socioeconomic diversity than the membership of most churches.

If the world is ever to glimpse the peace-making power of the gospel, God's people must recognize that homogeneity is not God's design for the growth of his church. Part of the beautiful foolishness of the cross is the fact that those who rub shoulders in the shadow of the cross are people the world would never dream of mingling together (1 Corinthians 1:18-29).

Regional commonality, familial memory and personal affinities can be wondrous expressions of common grace. They may even, at times, provide bridges for the proclamation of the gospel. But the church is called to a greater and better communion, a fellowship that points explicitly toward the cross and the empty tomb formerly occupied by King Jesus. He is the head of the church, and He gave His life for the church so that the cosmos could be filled with glory divine (Ephesians 1:22-23). It is His character alone that must shape the church's identity and constitution (Ephesians 4:11-16).

In Christ, there are no season-end laments about "next time" because He already has triumphed once and for all, and His triumph purchased people "from every tribe and every language, every people and every nation" (Revelation 5:9). Through this people, God is forming a new family, one brought together not by shared memories or preferences or similarities but by adoption through the Christ's blood.

So, don't point people toward a fellowship based on shallow and fleeting human affinities; such commonalities are fine at the ballpark but disastrous in the body of Christ. Point people instead to their shared need for divine rescue from the domain of darkness, a rescue that results in fellowship that lasts forever. (BP)

Timothy Paul Jones is associate professor of leadership and church ministry at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Making marriage a priority

By Scott Wigginton

Q: Once upon a time, our marriage was a priority for both of us, but now it seems to get lost in the shuffle of packed schedules and lots of responsibilities. What can we do to help with this?

A: Only you can take back your marriage. And make no mistake: It must be taken, for it will not be given. The slow drift of your marriage down the river of life can only be overcome with a strong motor and a careful set of the sails. The motor represents your concerted efforts; the wind in your sails is the Holy Spirit's influence that will take you far beyond your own efforts, provided you set your sails to respond to Him.

You must address the "hurry sickness" of our age through the spiritual disciplines of "slowing" and "solitude." Slowing will require that you schedule less and create more margins for time with God and your spouse. You will deliberately say "no" to some things that you both decide upon as you reflect on your schedules. Solitude will mean that you spend less time with societal "opportunities," while at the same time finding regular time alone with God and each other.

One of the ways you can accomplish both of these is through marital rituals. A ritual has a set time to begin and end; it will happen because it is built into the fabric of each day. Here are two examples. A "coffee cup" ritual might occur each evening after supper as you first prioritize that meal and then dismiss the children while filling the coffee cups. From the filling to the draining of the cups, this is a time for conversation about your days. A similar ritual might find you leaving your home to walk and talk in the neighborhood.

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



Meet John Q. None

A profile of the United States' fast-growing religiously unaffiliated

By Lauren Markoe

Washington—Meet John Q. None, a young, white male who is making a big impression on the American religious landscape for something he doesn't do: align with any religious group.

The rise of the religiously unaffiliated, or "nones," as documented in a recent study from the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, has major implications for nearly all aspects of American life—from religion to business to culture.

While the proliferation of Mr. None generally is seen a disappointing trend, it is worth getting to know him.

Just who is John Q. None? Here's a snapshot drawn from the Pew Forum's recent poll:

He's a he.

Though fewer than half of Americans are male, 56 percent of nones are. The gender divide among nones who are atheists or agnostics is even more pronounced: 64 percent of this group is male.

He's young.

The older the American, the more likely he or she is to be affiliated with a religion. One-third of Americans under 30 say they have no religious affiliation, compared to 9 percent of those 65 and older. This is mostly due to "generational replacement" as a younger generation assumes the place of an older one that is decidedly more religious.

He's white.

Of all nones, 71 percent are white, 11 percent are Hispanic, 9 percent are black and 4 percent are Asian. If you narrow the pool to just agnostics and atheists, the group is even whiter: 82 percent.

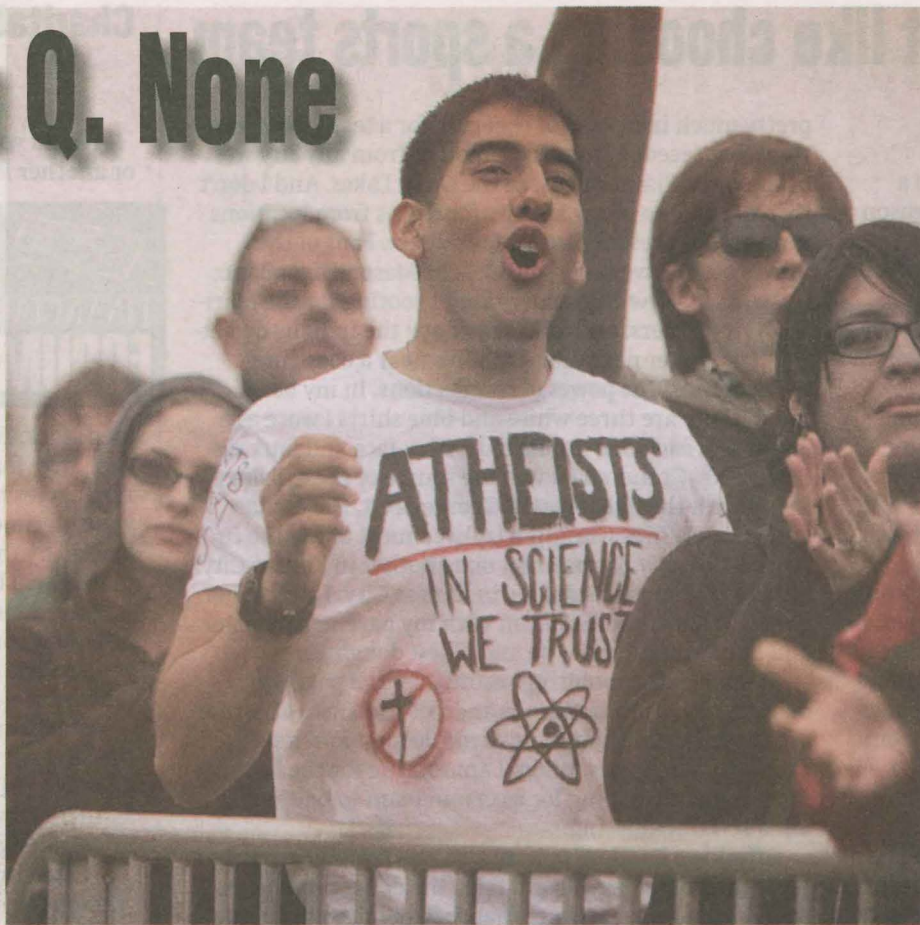
'Nones' on the rise

Continued from page 1

divisions between the political parties and sharper divisions within parties.

The unaffiliated also are increasingly liberal on social issues—another finding with major political implications. Nearly three in four say abortion should be legal, compared to 53 percent of all Americans. Slightly fewer (73 percent) favor same-sex marriage (compared to 48 percent of all Americans).

Researchers also found that almost two-thirds (65 percent) of the unaffiliated think it is not important for a president to have strong religious beliefs



MEET THE 'NONES' Thousands of atheists and nonbelievers, including Alberto Valdez (center) from Del Rio, Texas, gathered on the National Mall in Washington back in March for the Reason Rally. A recent survey shows that nearly one in five Americans now identifies as religiously unaffiliated, referred to as the "nones." (Photo by Tyrone Turner/RNS)

He's not necessarily an atheist.

The largest group of nones (68 percent) say they believe in God or a universal spirit. Within that group, 30 percent of them are certain God exists. Another 27 percent of nones say there is no God.

He's not very religious.

This may sound obvious, but it makes the distinction between a person who has no religious affiliation, and one who is not religious. There are some nones who do consider themselves religious—just outside the confines of a religious organization. Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of nones seldom or never attend religious services.

He's a Democrat.

Nones are among the most reliably Democratic of voters. In 2008, three-quarters of them voted for Barack Obama and 23 percent for John McCain, making them as strongly Democratic as white evangelicals were Republican.

He thinks abortion and same-sex marriage should be legal.

Big gaps separate nones and Americans in general on these issues. While

(compared to 29 percent of the general population), and 54 percent say it makes them "uncomfortable" when politicians talk about religion.

Still, claiming no religious identity does not mean an absence of religious beliefs, the report found.

The majority of "nones"—68 percent, including some who say they are atheists—say they believe in God or some form of higher being. Half say they feel "a deep connection with nature," and 20 percent say they pray every day.

Why do the nones continue to grow? Smith attributed it to the natural replacement of older, more conservative generations with younger, more liberal ones, as well as a worldwide rise in secu-

larism among developed nations. Another interesting twist to the study's findings is how broad based they are. "The change is occurring among both men and women, those with college educations and those without, within several income levels, and in all regions of the U.S.," said Cary Funk, another of the study's lead researchers. "The growth does tend to be concentrated among whites, with no significant change with blacks and Hispanics."

He's liberal or moderate.

And not just on the issues above. More than three-quarters of the unaffiliated describe themselves as generally liberal or moderate, compared to the one-in-five of them who call themselves conservative.

He's not necessarily hostile toward religious institutions.

He just doesn't want to belong to one. More than half of the nones (52 percent) say religious institutions protect and strengthen morality, though an even greater proportion (70 percent) believes these institutions are too concerned with money and power.

He's more likely a Westerner.

Nones are most concentrated in the West and least so in the South. While 23 percent of nones live in the West, 30 percent of nones do. (RNS)

No reason for panic

Continued from page 1

convince us that we must increase our efforts to penetrate lostness in North America," Ezell said in a statement. "We have had good intentions for the last 100 years, but the truth is we have lost enormous ground.

"I believe that only a church planting movement will reverse this trend and that is why our Send North America strategy is an all-out effort to help Southern Baptists move in that direction," Ezell said, referring to an emphasis on church planting in metropolitan areas.

Society's 'natural progression'

Ed Stetzer, president of LifeWay Research, said the Pew report does not indicate a sky-is-falling moment.

"I am one to quickly point out when there are struggles and challenges," he said. "But this is the natural progression of a secularized society that has lost the value of identifying itself as Christian.

"We have about the same percentage of evangelicals as we did over the last few decades. Furthermore, that holds true among young adults as well," he added. "Crises sell books and make headlines, but they don't necessarily fix problems."

The church in the U.S. has become like a bear fed by tourists, Stetzer said, because of so-called seekers willing to return to church to recapture their childhood religious memories.

"What happens when you feed the bear is eventually it can't fend for itself," he said. "I think the people of the church have to learn to fend for themselves by going out and proclaiming the gospel, not counting on a really cool church to preach the gospel for them."

Russell Moore, dean of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary's School of Theology and its senior vice president for academic administration, said believers should be more concerned about the loss of a Christian majority in Protestant churches than the loss of a Protestant majority in the United States.

"What we should pay attention to instead may be the fresh wind of orthodox Christianity whistling through the leaves—especially throughout the Third World and in some unlikely places in North America as well," Moore wrote on his website. "Sometimes animists, Buddhists and body-pierced Starbucks employees are more fertile ground for the gospel than the confirmed Episcopalian at the helm of the Rotary Club."

It's not necessarily a bad thing that this generation of Christ followers in the United States finds itself engaging a culture that is unfamiliar with the claims of Jesus rather than one that thinks it already knows what Christianity is about, Moore said.

"The American Protestant majority is over and to that I say, 'good riddance,'" he wrote. "Now let's pray for something new—like a global Christian majority, on earth as it is in heaven."

With the survey's results, some commentators may jump at the chance to announce the extinction of Christianity, Stetzer said, but the data just doesn't show it.

"This is trumpeted because the nones have increased, but this is not that great of a shift," Stetzer said. "This is just a natural progression of what I call the nominals moving to the nones." (BP)

NAE study derails Glorieta sale

By Bob Allen

Nashville, Tenn.—LifeWay Christian Resources decided not to sell its cash-strapped Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico to a Christian college in California following an independent review of the potential buyer's doctrinal views.

The Tennessean newspaper in Nashville reported Oct. 16 that the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing house had received the report of a study by the National Association of Evangelicals and that a potential deal with Olivet University International had been called off.

"LifeWay Christian Resources has reviewed the report from the National Association of Evangelicals and decided not to go forward with the sale of Glorieta Conference Center to Olivet University," LifeWay said in statement.

"We are appreciative of our relationship with Olivet's leadership and indebted to NAE for their thorough work. We will now renew our pursuit of viable options for the sale of the property," the statement continued.

A LifeWay spokesman declined to discuss details of the NAE investigation, but Olivet has long been hounded by controversy over a movement in Asia led by the school's founder, David Jang, who has faced repeated accusations of holding heretical views about the second coming of Jesus Christ.

Olivet's current president, former Southern Baptist missionary and seminary professor Bill Wagner, insists that the school's teaching is orthodox. He released a statement saying Olivet University officials intend to discuss the report with LifeWay

leaders in hopes of reviving the deal.

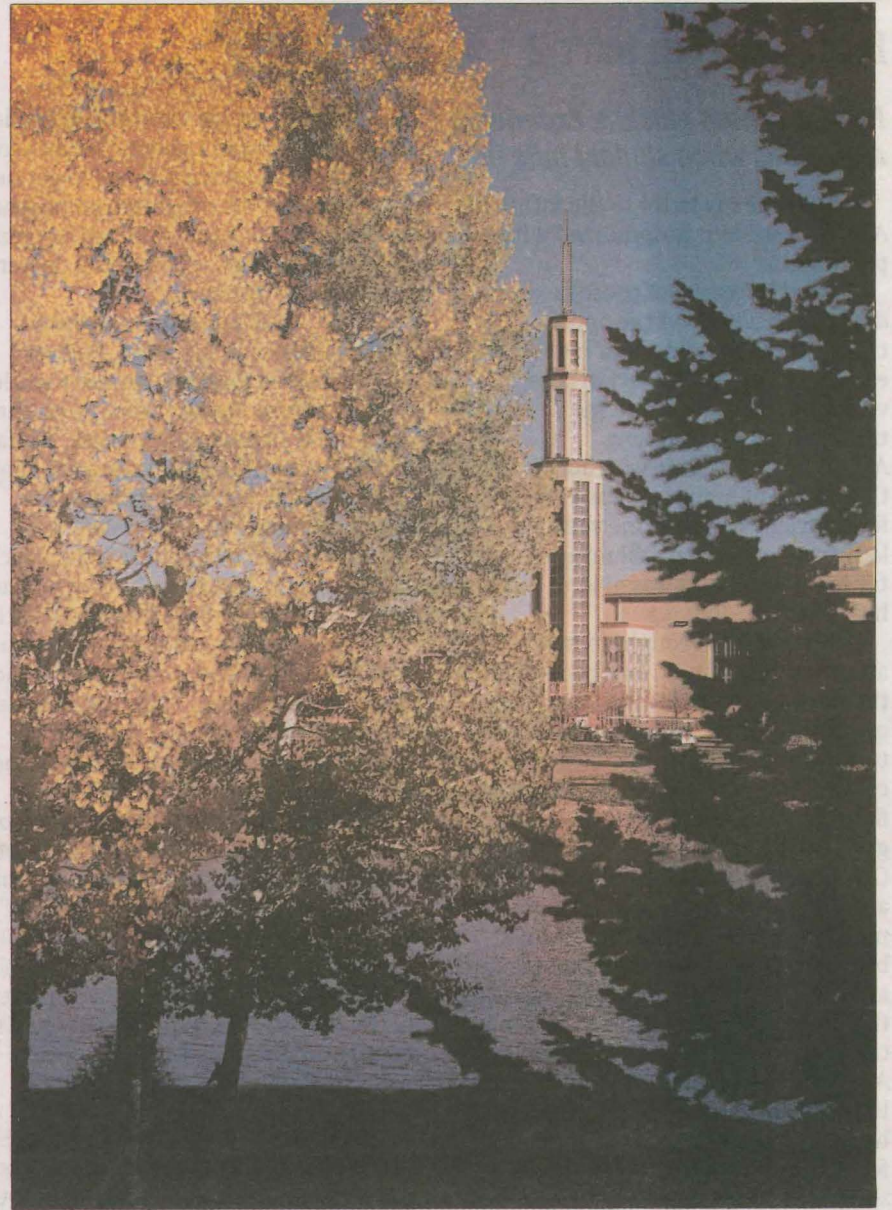
Olivet, currently located in San Francisco, already has failed in bids to purchase Bethany University, a closed Assemblies of God school in Scotts Valley, Calif., and a 217-acre campus in Northfield, Mass., founded by famed evangelist D.L. Moody that recently was donated to formerly Baptist-affiliated Grand Canyon University by the billionaire owners of Hobby Lobby.

LifeWay also has had problems unloading its 2,100-acre encampment near Santa Fe, N.M., which has lost money in all but one of the last 25 years. In July, the Baptist Convention of New Mexico turned down an offer to purchase Glorieta for \$1, after a study committee failed to come up with a viable business plan to operate the conference center as a ministry.

The New Mexico convention task force estimated deferred maintenance of the conference center opened in 1952 would cost \$10 million to \$20 million, and that any prudent business plan would include an environmental study. New Mexico Baptists asked LifeWay to indemnify the Baptist Convention of New Mexico for any environmental liability and litigation liability. LifeWay declined and the deal was called off.

Olivet University leadership has leased unused space at Glorieta during discussions about possible purchases of the property.

Olivet President Bill Wagner, a native of Albuquerque who served as an International Mission Board missionary for 31 years and as professor of missions and evangelism at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary for 10 years, was invited to speak to Glorieta volunteers in August. (ABP)



The sale of Glorieta Conference Center in New Mexico has been placed on hold for an independent review of the potential buyer's doctrinal views.

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Poll shows most Americans don't mind publicly religious athletes

By Jeanie Groh

Phoenix—Tim Tebow can wear all the Bible verses he wants on his eye black: Most Americans don't mind professional athletes expressing their faith on and off the field, according to a new study.

A poll conducted by Grey Matter Research and Consulting shows that 49 percent of Americans see athletes' public expressions of faith favorably; 32 percent don't care, and 19 percent take a more negative view.

More than 1,000 American adults were polled about public displays of religion among professional athletes. Participants were asked about specific religious actions commonly displayed by religious athletes, including prayer after games, speaking about faith in interviews and making religious signs, such as crossing oneself or pointing heavenward, on the field.

"As a Christian, it's very encouraging, because I believe we recognize the influence that Christian athletes can have," especially in such a sports-minded country, said Josh Canales, the Los Angeles County director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes. In college, Canales played baseball at the University of Florida and at UCLA. He then went on to play three seasons for Major League Baseball's Los Angeles Dodgers.

Americans are most supportive of opposing teams praying together after games, with 55 percent of all Americans viewing it positively.

Americans' least favorite expression of religion is when "athletes suggest that God helped them or their team accomplish something," according to the study. Responses to statements such as "God really gave me strength out there," or, "I kept believing and God let me hit that home run," are viewed negatively by 26 percent of respondents.

In general, those who are not avid sports fans tend to be more ambivalent about players' religious expressions than self-identified sports fans, who are more likely to support athletes' expressions of religion.

Churchgoers not as supportive

While regular churchgoers are more likely to support religious expression, between 30 and 41 percent of that same group had either negative or neutral feelings toward open religious expression on the field or on the court, depending on the action.

"Positive feelings toward these expressions of religious belief are a bit more muted than one might expect among religious Americans," Ron Sellers, president of Grey Matter Research, stated in the study. (RNS)



Tim Tebow

Hospitalized, part 2

Family, school officials experience difficulties when student falls ill

I continue my letter to the father of Arnold, a student hospitalized with pneumonia:

"Over the course of those next few days, whenever I had the opportunity to ask Arnold about his eating, I made it a subject of conversation. He has assured me that he is eating well now. Arnold seems to have weathered that storm of homesickness and found friends, even a fine young lady from one of our OBI ministry team families. I was glad to hear that.

"When it was brought to my attention that Arnold had been taken to the doctor earlier this week and subsequently admitted to the hospital for treatment of pneumonia, I was very concerned. I intended to see him that first night, though I knew he was in good medical hands and that we had OBI adults scheduled to be with him around the clock. Disappointingly for me, my preparations for yesterday's board of trustees meeting took me until after midnight. At that point, I decided that he would not be awake if I went to the hospital, so I elected to pray for Arnold and waited until yesterday to go to the hospital after the meeting. I did, however, check on his condition and found that though it had improved slightly, he was still a very sick young man.

"Yesterday, after our trustees' meeting finished, I managed to get to the hospital for about 15 minutes around 9 p.m. Arnold was very tired at that point. A friend had visited for over an hour and that had left him fatigued and ready to rest. We talked briefly and prayed before I told him that I would try

to stop today on my way back to Oneida from a meeting in London. Before leaving, I checked with his nurse to get her assessment of his progress and prognosis. She told me Arnold's blood oxygen needed to be higher before the doctor was likely to discharge him.

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

"This afternoon, I visited Arnold in his room, and we talked for a few minutes while he was channel surfing on the TV. He was much better. His face was still slightly more red than usual, but he definitely was stronger in appearance, even though he had just gotten back on the bed from having walked the halls of the hospital with his friend. I asked if the doctors had said anything about going home tomorrow and he said that they had. I blessed him and left for home. I told him I looked forward to seeing him at home in the dorm tomorrow, which I do.

"I'm sorry to have taken so much of your time to share what I just have, but I would like you to know for certain that Arnold's welfare—and every aspect of it—is of great concern to me personally. Because of that, I want to thank you for raising the question of how we might better monitor the general daily health of our students. It is of importance to me also. Because of your letter—and because another student passed out today during a PE class run (he didn't eat any breakfast and had some other medical issues) in spite of the instructor constantly asking him if he was OK and getting a "yes" each time in response—our administrative council will discuss the matter of monitoring our students' health issues on a daily basis."

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

Senior seminar

Class offers one final touch to the ministry training at Clear Creek

The senior seminar is one of the last classes our students take before graduating. The class gives us an opportunity to look over those who soon will hold diplomas to be sure they are ready to represent Clear Creek as alumni and to represent their Lord as ministers.

It also is an opportunity to put a final "polish" on them and make sure we have not missed anything in their preparations for ministry. The experience is a little like a mother bird pushing—with love—baby birds out of the nest. Senior seminar says, "It's time to solo."

We staff the class on a rotating basis, with our director of christian service, Richard Bartels, taking the lead. Bartels brings many gifts, talents and abilities to the mix. Great among his offerings to the experience is his world travel as a missionary. He can share the importance of flexibility and adaptability in ministry from experiences like moving from the heat of Africa immediately to the extreme cold of Germany.

Roy Lucas also is part of the senior seminar team. Dr. Lucas shares from his theological education and from practical experience. He teaches courses such as New Testament and Greek and has served as senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Loyall for the past 14 years. Dr. Lucas can help students to divide the word of truth rightly and properly apply it in a ministry setting.

Jay Sulfridge also is taking a turn on the seminar team. Dr. Sulfridge is our dean of institutional advancement and is pastor at Southside Baptist Church in Middlesboro. He can help students who will serve in the area near Clear Creek since his entire 25-year pastoral ministry has been less than 50 miles from the school.

The mix of gifts and experiences in the senior seminar team is poured into our graduating seniors as they approach their own personal ministries. Maybe one of these men now training will be your pastor someday.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Conference aims to equip churches in reaching, engaging senior adults

By Robin Cornet Bass

Shelbyville—By the time today's preschoolers reach sixth grade, the number of Kentucky residents 60 and older is expected to top 1 million. When those same kids are graduating from college in 2030, senior adults likely will make up more than one-fourth of all Kentuckians.

Yet, among a growing number of aging adults, fewer and fewer are attending church.

According to the Barna Group, Baby Boomers—typically defined as those born between 1946 and 1964—have become the generation most likely to be unchurched. Sunday School attendance and church volunteerism also have dropped dramatically in this age group over the past 20 years, Barna reported.

Geoffrey McGillen said he has seen the changes firsthand since becoming minister of senior adults at First Baptist Church of Shelbyville 17 years ago—particularly in how Baby Boomers view their place in ministry.

"We used to give them jobs like handing out bulletins and collecting the offering," McGillen said. "Most of our Baby Boomers have no desire to fill that role anymore. Most Baby Boomers want to have an active role in ministry, yet they still want flexibility. Churches need to respond to that with meaningful programs that will engage them."

In response to statistics and the changing needs of senior adults who do attend church, First Baptist, Shelbyville, will host "Booming Beyond," Nov. 10-11, a

conference designed to help church leaders better reach and care for the Baby Boomer generation.

The two-day conference will feature Christian author and gerontologist Amy Hanson. The author of "Baby Boomers and Beyond" will discuss ways to encourage, evangelize and utilize the ministry talents of senior adults. In particular, she will talk about using inter-generational ministries as a way to spark the passions of senior adults and help them remain in the church body.

"We are now in a situation where we could have a four- or five-generation church," McGillen said. "In that longevity, we have to address the concerns and issues those four or five generations have. We have to look at ways to help our people progress into older age in a spiritual, uplifting way."

McGillen said examples of inter-generational ministries include mentoring and activities that allow senior adults to interact with children and grandchildren.

"If you look at the demographics, Baby Boomers who bring their families to church are more likely to stay in church," McGillen noted. "We, as a congregation, felt called, partly because of community concerns, emotional and spiritual wellbeing concerns. We knew we had to step up."

Register for "Booming Beyond" at www.ShelbyvilleBaptist.com or by calling (502) 633-1317. The cost is \$20 per person before Nov. 6, and includes lunch on Saturday. The fee is \$25 after Nov. 6. Sunday-only attendance is \$10. (WR)



Amy Hanson

New book focuses on infusing churches with 'Jesus-centered focus, direction

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—A desire to see churches infused with greater gospel awareness—from the pulpit to the parking lot—prompted Matt Chandler, Eric Geiger and Josh Patterson to coauthor "Creature of the Word: The Jesus-Centered Church."

Chandler, lead pastor of teaching at The Village Church in Flower Mound, Texas, said the idea for "Creature of the Word" grew from questions he received from other pastors and church leaders "about how being Jesus centered really fleshed itself out on a day-in, day-out basis in the life of a church."

Chandler and his coauthors—Eric Geiger, vice president of the church resources division of LifeWay Christian Resources, and Josh Patterson, pastor of ministry leadership at The Village Church—set out to examine the Scripture-based aspects of a Jesus-centered church and provide practical steps toward forming such a church.

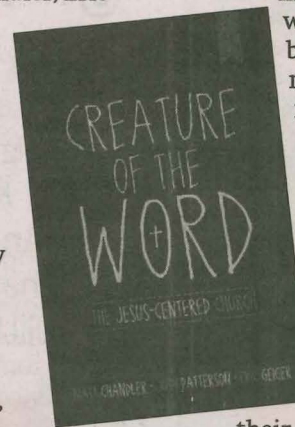
Chandler said the ideas conveyed in

the book are "about how the gospel should infuse everything from the parking lot to the preschool to the pulpit. It's about how you take the gospel and make it much more than a doctrinal statement, but see it practically worked out on a day-to-day basis in how a church is organized and how a church functions."

"Martin Luther famously described the church as being 'a creature of the word,'" said Geiger, explaining the book's title. "Essentially, the church is not the one who births the word, but she is born of the word of God. Thus, she is a creature of the word."

The authors noted that their intention is to foster churches that view the gospel as not one component among many others in the life of the church, but rather the very basis of their existence which informs their theology, culture and practice.

"The gospel isn't something that should be compartmentalized or relegated to one aspect of the church," Patterson said. "It's something that infuses to become a living, breathing part of the culture of the church." (LW/BP)



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Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

- 1 And so on (abbr.)
- 4 Describing nonclergy
- 8 "This ___ Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven" (Acts 1:11)
- 12 Gala event, to Gabrielle
- 13 ___ Domini
- 14 "The Lord be a ___ and faithful witness" (Jeremiah 42:5)
- 15 Poetic contraction
- 16 Welcome benefit or blessing
- 17 Transportation (colloq.)
- 18 "All the land of Canaan fainted by ___ of the famine" (Genesis 47:13)
- 20 "The children of Keros, the children of ___" (Nehemiah 7:47)
- 22 Uncle of Saul (1 Samuel 14)
- 23 Fortified rampart
- 27 Hit TV show
- 29 "And his ___ went throughout all Syria" (Matthew 4:24)
- 30 Busy one
- 31 Untried, as talent
- 33 "Beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of ___" (Luke 16:20)
- 34 Singleton, in Strasbourg
- 35 Doctors' support group (abbr.)
- 36 Mythological god of war
- 37 KJV word for "bud," as on a flower (Exodus 25)
- 38 "I will utter dark ___ of old" (Psalm 78:2)
- 40 "Lord, if it be thou, ___ me come unto thee on the water" (Matthew 14:28)
- 41 The year 1501, to Flavius
- 42 Son of Levi (Numbers 3:17)
- 45 Continent
- 48 Change direction slightly
- 50 Land where Cain dwelt (Genesis 4)
- 51 What is unfurled
- 52 Fencing sword
- 53 Food fish
- 54 Actress Daly
- 55 Actress Talbott
- 56 WWII milieu (abbr.)

Down

- 1 Father of Peleg and Joktan (Genesis 10:25)
- 2 Noxious weed (Matthew 13)
- 3 "Create in me a ___ heart, O God" (Psalm 51:10)
- 4 Apply some elbow grease
- 5 Therefore (arch.)
- 6 Ending for many words in Italian
- 7 Devours
- 8 "She [Rebekah] said ... We have both ___ and provender enough" (Genesis 24:25)

- 9 Onassis
- 10 Miry clay
- 11 Shoe width
- 19 "I will ___ no wicked thing before mine eyes" (Psalm 101:3)
- 21 The Philippines, for example, to Rene
- 23 Uncovers
- 24 "And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great ___" (2 Samuel 12:30)
- 25 Nevada city
- 26 "Thou wilt ___ him in perfect peace" (Isaiah 26:3)
- 27 Times of historical significance
- 28 "In ___ was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping" (Matthew 2:18)
- 29 "Be of good cheer; thy sins be ___ thee" (Matthew 9:2)
- 32 "After the ___ which they call heresy, so worship I the God" (Acts 24:14)
- 33 "A foolish man, which built his house upon the ___" (Matthew 7:26)
- 37 "In the night ___ of Moab is laid waste, and brought to silence" (Isaiah 15:1)
- 39 Another word for idol
- 40 City of Macedonia where Paul preached
- 42 "With them in the clouds, to ___ the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:17)
- 43 "For he shall grow up ... as a ___ out of a dry ground" (Isaiah 53:2)
- 44 ___ the seer (2 Chronicles 12:15)
- 45 Rear of a ship
- 46 Cunning
- 47 John (Scot.)
- 49 On or upon (prefix)

Last puzzle's solution

T	A	P		A	R	A	M		S	A	S	E		
E	S	A		L	A	T	U		I	G	O	R		
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Reflecting on the old & the new

Construction at Cedarcrest camp prompts thoughts of lives changed

If you are like me, you find yourself in some strange circumstances from time to time. Today I am working at the Cedarcrest campus at Cedarmore and taking time to write this article sitting by the firepit among the back cabins.

We have just finished the removal of two of the cabins—Nos. 10 and 11—along with numerous trees. We are making way for new housing to be constructed, the first new construction at Cedarcrest Camp in decades.

I usually don't like to talk about new buildings. While they are a necessity, our purpose is about seeing the gospel proclaimed. However, there comes a time when buildings have served their useful lives and new ones must be built.

As I look around, I can't help but wonder what lives have been changed here in the last 40 years? How many missionaries have come to this campus to educate our youth about missions through the efforts of our sisters in the Woman's Missionary Union? How many youngsters have gone on to serve

Christ in their adult lives? Honestly, only God knows these answers, but I do look forward to going home and seeing a great multitude in worship with Him.

Our road in camp ministry is like others: full of great blessings and daily battles against a world set against the gospel. As I personally reflect on my life, I can see God working in every detail of life leading up to this point. The experiences gained by growing up and being blessed to be around construction and building the untold number of people who have been used of God to speak truth into my life, many times in the form of correction.

As I sit here, I am most blessed that God allows me to serve in a unique ministry that I have learned to love; see the faithfulness of so many who bring groups here for the sake of Christ; and work with an incredible staff. I also am grateful for all those who have come before me to help build these properties and see them used for the spreading of the gospel.

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

Crossings Ministries



David Melber



WILL YOU PROVIDE A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS WISH FOR AN ABUSED CHILD?

While most children are thinking about the upcoming Christmas holidays with youthful innocence, that's not the case for the thousands of abused and neglected children in Kentucky who haven't had the promise of a warm, safe bed, let alone a Christmas tree or gifts. Give special meaning to the Christmas season for these hurting children. Sponsor a child's Christmas wish list personally or donate toward the Christmas fund and staff will take care of the shopping for you. Contact Cindy at (800) 456-1386 or e-mail chills@sunrise.org for a wish list and provide a merry Christmas to a child.



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We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.



October

- 25** Kentucky Baptist Men's and Women's Chorales, Hurstbourne Baptist Church, 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.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **BARDWELL**—Bardwell Church will hold its annual "Family, Friends and Fish Fry Day" Oct. 28. **Rodney Bice** is pastor.

■ **BREMEN**—Mount Pisgah Church honored **Denny Vincent** Oct. 21, who retired after 40 years as the church's music minister. The church also will hold a "Friends and Family Day" and a reunion of the **Mount Pisgah Singers** Oct. 28, 10 a.m., with special music by the **Mount Pisgah Quartet**. **Bill Bursztynski** is pastor.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Temple Church will hold revival services Oct. 28-31 with **Ronnie Sivells**, pastor of Nortonville Church, as evangelist. **Adam Brown** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold Mega Monday services Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m., with **Phil Hoskins**, pastor of Higher Ground Church in Kingsport, Tenn., as guest speaker and special music by the **Fair Haven Quartet**. **Chad Fugitt** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold a Ladies Night Out "Bizarre

Bazaar" Oct. 26. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HARDINSBURG**—Hardinsburg Church will host **The Commonwealth Quartet** in concert Oct. 28, 6 p.m., as part of its third annual "Gospel Sing." For more information, call (270) 756-5230. **Doug Miller** is pastor.

■ **LONDON**—Greenmount Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 28, 11 a.m., with special music by **Mountain Connection**. A lunch will follow the worship service. **Claude Maggard** is pastor.

New Salem Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 28 with special musical guests and a fellowship meal afterward. **Greg Deaton** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Cloverleaf Church will host the **Dixie Echos** in concert Oct. 25, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacefield** is pastor.

Fern Creek Church will have flu shots available from CVS Pharmacy Oct. 28 after the morning

worship service. The shots are for individuals ages 14 and older and will cost \$31.99 each for all those not on Medicare (Part B). For more information, call (502) 239-0316. **Linda Barnes Popham** is pastor.

Maple Grove Church will host a hunters' education course Oct. 25-26, 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 27, 9 a.m., conducted by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. Participants must attend all three sessions to be certified. For more information, call (502) 964-0808. **Ray Hayes** is pastor.

Melbourne Heights Church will hold health screenings from Life-Line Screenings Oct. 25, 8 a.m. To make an appointment, call (800) 449-2350. **Adam Schell** is pastor.

South Jefferson Church will hold revival services Oct. 28, 10:40 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.; Oct. 29-30, 6:30 p.m., with **Wesley Pitts**, director of missions for Long Run Association; **Tim Harris**, pastor of Hillsdale Church in Louisville; **Jim Hill**, pastor of Salem Church in Shelbyville; and **Rob Sumrall**, preaching pastor of Franklin Crossroads Church in Cecilia, as evangelists. **Richard Carver** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a men's night out event Oct. 27, 5 p.m., with dinner and a showing of the movie, "Courageous." **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **MARION**—Second Church will hold revival services Oct. 25-27, 7 p.m., with **Jeff Noffsinger**, pastor of Dripping Spring Church in Olmstead, as evangelist. **Chris Lowery** is pastor.

■ **MAYFIELD**—High Point Church will dedicate its new Christian Life Center Oct. 28 following the morning worship service. **Rick Hatley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT STERLING**—Reid Village

Spotlight on ...

Clarkson



Clarkson Church will hold a reception Oct. 27, 2 p.m., to honor **Arnold and Ruth Moon** for their 60 years of marriage and ministry.

Church will hold revival services Oct. 28-Nov. 2 with **Gary McCammon**, pastor of West Union Church in Ohio, as evangelist. **Todd Wiley** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT VERNON**—First Church will host **Chad and Nikki Williams**, missionaries to Honduras, as guest speakers Oct. 28, 7 p.m. **Eddie Nation** is pastor.

■ **RAVENNA**—Williams Memorial Church will hold homecoming services Oct. 28. **Jeffrey Ryder** is pastor.

■ **RICHMOND**—Red House Church will hold a Young at Heart celebration and potluck meal Oct. 26, 11 a.m., with **Al Griffin** as guest speaker and special music by **Gary Maynard**.

■ **WILLIAMSBURG**—First Church will hold a potluck bean supper Oct. 28, 5 p.m., to raise money for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. **Ande Myers** is pastor.

■ **WILLIAMSTOWN**—Williamstown Church will hold LifeLine health screenings Oct. 29. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (800) 449-2350. **Darrell Morgan** is pastor.

■ **WINCHESTER**—Central Church will hold a children's emphasis day Oct. 28 with **Shane Garrison**, assistant professor of educational ministries at Campbellsville University's School of Theology, as guest speaker.

Children's book tells of missionary life

San Antonio—The only child of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot has written a children's book about her early life in the Ecuadorian jungle where her mother told a tribe about Jesus after they had killed her father.

Valerie Elliot Shephard was just 10 months old when the Ecuadorian Indians killed her 29-year-old father and four fellow missionaries in 1956. Her mother, now an accomplished author, remained in the jungle for several years until many in the tribe accepted Christ and abandoned their savage ways.

The release of "Pilipinto's Happiness: The Jungle Childhood of Valerie Elliot" coincides with what would have Jim Elliot's 85th

birthday. Pilipinto, which means "butterfly," was the Indians' nickname for the girl.

"The gift to me, and what mother and God taught me, was the principle of being perfectly content," said Shephard, now a mother of eight grown children. "God puts us in all kinds of situations as we are growing up. My situation was unusual, amazing and simple."

Using illustrations, the book conveys how Shepard learned to trust God in the jungle.

"There is an awful discontentment among young people," she said. "I do look at the youth culture and just feel only the Lord can bring about a heart contented with simple pleasures and gifts from the Lord." (BP)

CLASSIFIED ADS

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.

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

NEEDED: SBC seminarian looking to pay for school and fund missions work by selling books. To donate or sell your books, call (270) 601-1650.

SEEKING: Red House Baptist Church, a member of Bates 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: Bivocational pastor for Germantown Baptist Church, a small SBC church in northeastern Kentucky. Average worship attendance is 20, but plenty of opportunities for growth; parsonage provided. Looking for motivated people person who can help us grow and reach our community for Christ. Send resumé to Paul Fields, paulwfields@maysvilleky.net, or Tracie Roark, search committee chair, 906 Spruce Ct., Maysville, KY 41056.

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: Stithon Baptist Church in Radcliff, Ky., is seeking a worship director FT/PT. Please call (270) 351-6055 or send resumé to Stithon 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.

SEEKING: Petrey Memorial Baptist Church, Hazard, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth; home provided and salary negotiable. Contact pastorbill58@petreymemorial.net or mail resumé to 141 Alto St., Hazard, KY 41701.

SEEKING: New Hope Community Church in Elizabethtown, Ky., currently is taking applications for a part-time children's ministry director. For more information, a ministry description is located on the church's website, www.newhopechurch.com under the section "children." Send resumés to k.quesenberry@newhopechurch.com; deadline to send a resumé is Oct. 27.

SEEKING: Part-time music minister at Brookside Baptist Church; please send resumés to Attn: music search committee, 1351 Wilmore Road, Nicholasville, KY 40356. Resumés can be emailed to pam@brookside-baptist.org.

SEEKING: Lewisport Baptist Church is seeking a full-time minister of music and discipleship. This individual shall possess some experience in leading an organized church music program, discipleship ministry and have a desire to teach and equip others; minimum of a bachelor's degree preferred. Please send resumés, videos and all other inquiries for a job description and compensation to lewisportbaptist@tds.net or Lewisport Baptist Church, 1115 Pell St., Lewisport, KY 42351, Attn: Bryan Napier.

SEEKING: Hardinsburg Baptist Church is searching for a full-time minister of music and youth; average 175 in a.m. service. Responsibilities for both ministries, as well as work cooperatively with the children's

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minister. Seminary degree or working on one required; send resumés to: Search Committee, Hardinsburg Baptist Church, 515 West U.S. 60, Hardinsburg, KY 40143.

SEEKING: Dawson Baptist Church in Philpot, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Please send resumé to Personnel Committee, Dawson Baptist Church, P.O. Box 78, Philpot, KY 42366, or craig@dawsonbaptist.com.

SEEKING: Greenland Baptist Church in Corbin, Ky., is looking for a part-time youth pastor and part-time worship pastor. Interested candidates please submit resumé by email to colecaven@gmail.com or call (606) 524-6232.

SEEKING: Lebanon Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of youth. Send resumé marked Attn: Personnel committee, 144 East Mulberry St., Lebanon, KY 40033.



Clean water opens hearts in Peruvian slum

IMB missionaries Quentin and Gina Roberts (left) talk with Edith Caballa, president of the Rosario de Fatima neighborhood in Lima, Peru. They stand near an access point (foreground) to the water system that now provides clean water to homes in the inner-city slum. The water project, funded by Southern Baptists, has improved the neighborhood's sanitation and living conditions and has opened doors for sharing the hope of Christ. Photo by Rebecca Springer.

By Emily Pearson

Lima, Peru—"Please, can you help us?" The woman's plea was the first thing Quentin and Gina Roberts heard as they entered an inner-city slum in Lima, Peru. What they found shocked them. Lean-to shacks and cracked adobe homes lined a narrow, dirt path in the small community of Rosario de Fatima. There was no water system; the 350 residents used large buckets to collect their sewage. The buckets sat in the sun, covered with pieces of cardboard or empty egg cartons. Once they were full they were emptied into a large hole at the neighborhood's entrance.

Beside the hole was a large sink—the only place in the community with running water—where the residents washed their clothes.

Edith Caballa, the neighborhood

president and lifelong resident there, said living without running water was nearly unbearable, especially in a community so small and crowded as Rosario de Fatima.

But today the community's unsanitary conditions are mostly a memory.

"We had no water system. We brought buckets with our waste and just poured it in the hole. Then we would wash out the buckets and use them to bring water back to our home for drinking and cooking," Caballa recounted. "That was every single day. And there were so many of us and so much waste, there were fights and people insulting each other. It was very hard."

The Robertses, as International Mission Board missionaries to inner-city Lima, have shared the gospel and started Bible studies throughout the city. Connections they made in one of their Bible

studies brought them to Rosario de Fatima where they hoped to begin another outreach. But they quickly realized the dire water situation provided an opportunity to be Jesus' heart, hands and voice to the community.

"I'd never seen anything quite like that," Gina Roberts said. "I've been places where they didn't have bathrooms, like in rural areas. But in the city there are no trees, no place to dig a hole, no rocks to hide behind. People living there had no sense of dignity.... (T)hings were just totally exposed to everybody. There was a lot of sickness because of it. Our hearts were totally broken by this place."

Thousands of Peruvians in downtown Lima live in quintas like Rosario de Fatima—individual slums that range from small neighborhoods to large apartment buildings. Sometimes as many as 900 people live in a community

without a single bathroom.

"They live very close together," Gina said, "and that breeds social problems as a result."

With financial help from Southern Baptists, the Robertses arranged for a water system to be installed throughout the community. The \$15,000 project took nearly two years to complete. Every family was then responsible for installing a bathroom in their home.

Today, about half of the houses have bathrooms. Some residents still use outdoor disposal systems but each family has a private area that can be cleaned using the water that is piped just outside every home.

During the water project, the Robertses started a Bible study in the community. About 20 people meet to learn God's Word every other Friday night. Although the Robertses still attend, Peruvian believers from the community now lead the study.

"It's sometimes hard," Quentin reflected, "but you have to find that balance between demonstrating God's love in people's physical needs and, then, meeting more than just those needs. Jesus fed the hungry, but there has to be a spiritual component."

Caballa said since the water system was installed, many community members are more open to hearing the gospel from missionaries who cared enough to help. She attends the Bible study and encourages others to join.

"I was very far away from the Lord for a long time before the (missionaries) helped us," she said. "I didn't have the kind of Bible study that I have now. Little by little, I have been growing in the Word through these studies."

"The neighborhood is still a little bit rough around the edges," she added. "We have a lot of work to do. But now it has a great advantage because it has the water system."

"It was very tough for us. But now, thanks to the (Robertses), things have changed. We have the Bible study, and we have water."

"Thank God those days are over." (IMB/BP)

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18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: **Business Manager** Date: **September 21, 2012**

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Children's Thanksgiving Offering 2012



“God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:6 (NLT)



Helping children in crisis shine.

GOD IS WORKING HERE... PLEASE, JOIN THE MISSION!

God is working and moving in the lives of the abused and neglected children that Sunrise serves every day - in big ways! YOUR support of the Children's Thanksgiving Offering helps us impact the lives of thousands of children.

**Please donate to the
Children's Thanksgiving Offering,
a missions offering for the children.**

Ask your pastor when your church has scheduled the offering or visit www.sunrise.org to give directly. Call Carmen at 800.456.1386 to request bulletin inserts, envelopes, posters or a speaker to update your church on our ministry.



We hold ourselves to the highest accountability standard. We are the only private child care provider in Kentucky offering a full array of services that is accredited by the Joint Commission, the premiere health care accreditation organization in the country.

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