

WESTERN Recorder

October 30, 2012

Shine Like Stars * Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 42



Building beds and bridges

Owensboro church meets an often overlooked need

By Robin Cornetet Bass

Owensboro—"This is the best day ever," said seven-year-old Kayleah Bittel as she danced circles around her younger sisters.

The girls giggled as they watched volunteers from First Baptist Church of Owensboro carry one, two pine beds into their small home. Then one, two new mattresses, followed by a pair of pink containers stuffed with pillows and brightly colored comforters.

"I'm a little overwhelmed," said Savannah Blake, the girls' mother. "For someone to come in from the outside and help us like this—it's a real blessing."

Tears welled up in the mother's eyes. She knew her three

Members of First Baptist of Owensboro deliver the first of two beds to a nearby family where three young girls shared a single twin bed. Making the delivery are Steve Bailes (left), Tristan Collier, 6, and Paul Strahan, pastor of First Baptist. (Photo by Robin Cornetet Bass)

□ See Build-a-Bed ... Page 6

Flame

Hip hop artist's theology strengthened by time at seminary

By Whitney Jones



Louisville—A Grammy, four-time Dove Award and two-time Stellar Award nominee, hip hop artist Flame credits his time at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with strengthening the theology in his chart-topping songs.

Flame—whose real name is Marcus Gray—was introduced to Southern by happenstance when he and a friend took a road trip from St. Louis for a conference at the Louisville seminary. That was where Flame met Southern President Albert Mohler who made quite an impression.

"We really enjoyed the preliminary session and the breakout sessions, and Dr. Mohler just meshed well with the prospective students (and)

□ See Hip Hop's Flame ... Page 7

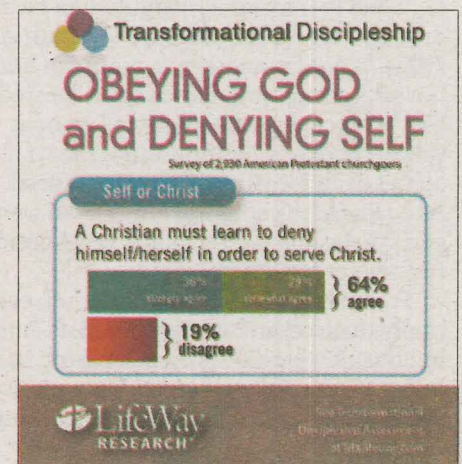
Study: Obedience challenging for believers

By Russ Rankin

Nashville, Tenn.—Making personal, sacrificial decisions in order to better obey Christ is a key attribute to an individual's spiritual growth, according to a survey of American churchgoers by LifeWay Research. Yet, the study also found less than one-third of churchgoers strongly agree they are following through in specific aspects of obedience.

"Obeying God and Denying Self" is one of eight attributes of discipleship identified in the Transformational Discipleship study conducted by LifeWay Research. Each of the eight attributes consistently shows up in the lives of believers who are progressing in spiritual maturity. The study produced the Transformational Discipleship Assessment, which measures an individual's spiritual growth in each of the eight areas of development.

Scott McConnell, director of Life-



Way Research, said the Obeying God and Denying Self attribute "does not measure a specific list of sins to avoid. Rather, it gauges whether an individual has an obedient posture.

"When it comes to obedience, a spiritually mature disciple of Christ has a loving motivation to obey God, the self-awareness to know they must be proactive to avoid bad decisions, and the

□ See Obedience study ... Page 2

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Western Recorder 10-30-2012

At 73, Casey Co. man prays: 'I want to be saved'

By David Roach

Bethelridge—On average, a 73-year-old American male can only expect to live another 11 years.

That reality hit Edward Cain, and he knew that his time to get right with God was running out. So, the Kentucky retiree began a spiritual search that led him to find faith in Christ this spring through the witness of a longtime friend and Southern Baptist pastor.

"I knew how old I was and I knew I was going to have to get things straight with God," said Cain, 73.

By the world's standards, he wasn't a wicked man. He had been married for 43 years, had longstanding friendships with believers in Christ and held multiple jobs at once over four decades. His main income came through driving a semi-truck, which he did for 41 years, logging 3 million miles before retiring.

But at times, he could become consumed with worry, and he refused to trust Jesus as his provider, protector and Lord. As far back as his school days, he rebuffed those who shared the gospel with him, including a fervent Methodist.

"There was a lady there who was a strong Christian and she talked to me several different times," Cain recalled. "She tried to get me to get saved and I rebelled against it."

Eventually Cain left church, and not long after graduating from high school he moved from his home in Casey County to Cincinnati, where he worked in two factories over 12 years before beginning his career as a truck driver. At times he drank and did other things he knew he shouldn't do, but generally he lived a life that most everyone saw as honorable.

Road warnings

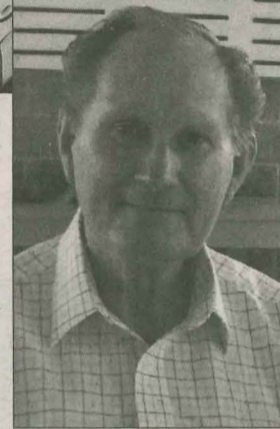
Still, Cain knew he was a sinner. By age 73, he also knew God had warned him several times.

"I had two major accidents when I was driving a truck," he said. "One woman got killed in one. In another, (a man) ran under the back of my trailer and got all messed up. God protected me all the time I was out there. There were several times that if it hadn't been for Him, I'd have been dead. And I knew all those warnings I had weren't going to last forever. So at my age, I decided I better get my life straight."

So, he started attending churches, eventually to discover Polly Ann Baptist Church in Eubank where Terry Holt is pastor. In the midst of his spiritual search, Cain received a phone call from a longtime friend asking if



■ Above: Ed Cain, 73, a new believer in Christ, now uses his years of truck driving experience to pick up neighborhood kids in the church van and take them to Polly Ann Baptist Church for Sunday School and worship each week. ■ Left: Polly Ann Baptist Pastor Terry Holt prepares to baptize Cain.



he and Holt could come over to talk. Holt said he remembers the day well.

"I got a call one morning from one of our church members," he recalled. "He said, 'I've been on the phone with Mr. Ed. I believe he's under conviction, and I think we need to go see him some time.' I said, 'Well, what about right now?'"

When they arrived at Cain's house, he had the garage door open and three chairs sitting on the driveway.

"Mr. Ed ... you know who I am. You know who I represent and I want to know, are you going to heaven or hell?" Holt said to Cain, who replied, "I'm going to go to hell when I die, and I don't want to. I want to be saved."

Cain prayed on the driveway, committing his life to Jesus Christ and asking for His salvation.

"I guess I was so high on God that I can't remember much of what went on that day," Cain recalled. "The main thing was that Bro. Terry asked me if I was ready to give my heart to God and be saved. And I told him yes I was. So, we had prayer, and God saved me."

The next Sunday, Holt baptized Cain, and he became a member of Polly Ann Baptist. The pastor said Cain never misses church and now uses his truck-driving skills to pick up neighborhood kids in the church van for Sunday School and worship each week.

'Just look at me'

Cain said knowing Jesus has made a major difference in his life, lifting a burden from his soul. He has shared his story with others and said he hopes some of them will come to faith in Jesus soon.

"Before, I was always worried about this and that," he said. "And now everything is just calm and peaceful."

For Christians who have trouble believing that senior adults can come to Jesus, Cain has some advice: "Just look at me."

It's advice echoed by Pastor Holt.

"Most of the people that are being saved out here are above 70 years old," the pastor said. "There have just been tons of them who are above 70 years old that have given their hearts to Christ, people that nobody could reach for years. That is amazing." (BP)

Chick-fil-A business, recognition rise in wake of controversy

Atlanta—Visits to Chick-fil-A restaurants increased by 2.2 percent in the third quarter, apparently driven by those supporting the restaurant in the face of criticism over the issue of same-sex marriage.

Research specialist Sandelman & Associates reports that across the board—from consumer use to market share to ad awareness—Chick-fil-A's numbers were up in the July-September period, a span which includes Chick-fil-A Appreciation Day in which hundreds of thousands of people flocked to the restaurant Aug. 1. USA Today and several other national outlets reported the data.

The appreciation day was a way for Chick-fil-A's supporters to speak out in light of the criticism the restaurant received after its president, Dan Cathy, defended traditional marriage.

Jeff Davis, president of Sandelman & Associates, said the controversy was "something that brought Chick-fil-A to the forefront of people's minds."

"There was a lot of talk that this would hurt Chick-fil-A, but it actually helped the brand," Davis said. The restaurant also broadened its customer base in 28 of 35 media markets, he noted.

Sandelman surveyed more than 30,000 fast-food customers and found that Chick-fil-A's market share was up 0.6 percent. The company's ad awareness was up 6.5 percent.

It is an "unusual situation," Davis told ABCNews.com, for a company to struggle in the public-relations realm and to come out ahead in support. (BP)

Obedience study

Continued from page 1
humility to confess sins they commit," McConnell said.

The survey reveals 64 percent of churchgoers agree with the statement: "A Christian must learn to deny himself in order to serve Christ." Nineteen percent disagree with the statement.

"Obeying God is only easy when a person's own desires match God's," McConnell said. "Until believers have the same mind as Christ, denying their own natural desires will be hard."

The survey measures confession of

sins and asking God for forgiveness as one component of the Obeying God and Denying Self attribute. When asked how often, if at all, they personally confess "sins and wrongdoings to God and ask for forgiveness," 39 percent indicate every day and 27 percent say at least a few times a week. Eight percent of respondents say they rarely or never confess sins and wrongdoings to God and ask forgiveness.

Sin was not only addressed after the fact—the survey also asked individual churchgoers how proactive they are in avoiding sin. Three-fourths say they try to keep themselves out of situations in which they may sin, but only 32 percent strongly agree. Eleven percent disagree,

and 16 percent responded indifferently.

The survey also examined an individual's inclination to adjust his or her attitude through the statement: "When I realize my attitude does not please God, I take steps to try to fix it." More than 80 percent agree with the statement, but only 32 percent of those strongly agree.

Other positive actions

The survey also reveals other actions that can positively impact the scores of individuals on the Obeying God and Denying Self attribute:

- Attending a worship service.
- Obeying or following God with an awareness that doing so may be costly.
- Being disciplined or mentored one on

one by spiritually mature Christian.

- Reading the Bible or a book about what is in the Bible.
- Praying for the spiritual status of unbelieving acquaintances.
- Setting aside time for prayer.

McConnell noted that Obeying God and Denying Self is the only one of the eight attributes of discipleship that was predicted by more frequent worship attendance.

"Many people think of obeying God as something they must do on their own," McConnell noted. "However, it's clear through the research findings that the teaching, encouragement and accountability of corporate worship have a direct impact on obedience." (LW/BP)

After years of avoiding partisan politics Why is Billy Graham so involved in 2012 elections?

By Adelle Banks

Charlotte, N.C.—After years of shunning the partisan political spotlight, is Billy Graham a born-again Republican?

In May, the elderly evangelist was featured in an ad supporting a North Carolina referendum that would ban same-sex marriage.

After a recent meeting with GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association scrubbed language describing Mormonism as a "cult" from its website.

Two days later, the ministry announced a "vote biblical values" campaign, with Graham's photo and signature accompanying a statement that opposed abortion and supported traditional marriage. Funded by specially designated donations from ministry supporters, the campaign includes newspaper ads and a website with downloadable posters and bulletin inserts.

Why has the famed evangelist—who has said he has learned hard lessons about being too political—getting so involved in the 2012 elections?

Experts who've watched Graham's decades-long career say 2012 marks a new trajectory for the 93-year-old evangelist, and they speculate that Franklin Graham, his son and president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, could be playing a primary role.

"If not a new turn, he's further down the road with expressing a preference for a candidate," said William Martin, author of "A Prophet With Honor," a 1992 biography of Graham. "I'm reasonably certain that he's not done this before."

At Romney's meeting with both Grahams in North Carolina, Billy Graham told Romney he would "do all I can to help you," according to a Romney aide. Though the "vote biblical values" campaign does not mention Romney by name, it dovetails with his policies.

Martin said Graham, who's met with every president since Harry Truman, often has been coy about those relationships, while his son has not. The new



POLITICAL REVIVAL?

At a meeting at the evangelist's home earlier this month, Billy Graham (center) offered to "do all I can to help" GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney. There are those who believe the 94-year-old evangelist's recent political involvement is being driven by his son Franklin Graham (right). (BGEA photo)

BGEA campaign is "more in line" with the son's historical behavior than the father's, Martin said.

"I think that Franklin has an influence in there," Martin said. "But I can't say ... that he is leading his father to do something that he's not willing to do."

Michael Hamilton, who chairs the Seattle department at the evangelical Seattle Pacific University, also sees the son's hand behind Billy Graham's political involvement.

"The 'vote biblical values' campaign repeats the slogans of the religious right in ways that Billy Graham never did until he was very old and frail," Hamilton said. "I think it would be more responsible for the media and for Americans to interpret these statements as the statements of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and its current president, Franklin Graham, as opposed to the statements of Billy Graham himself."

Asked if he was surprised about his grandfather's involvement in the "biblical values" campaign, Tullian Tchividjian, Billy Graham's grandson, said both yes and no.

"It's closer than he's been in a long, long time in my opinion, to get involved in something like this," Tchividjian said.

He has remembered his grandfather feeling the fallout of his close friendship and support for President Richard Nixon,

which led him to a divine warning that he was a primarily a preacher and not a politician.

But Tchividjian said he expects that it was "an idea that was presented to him"—he did not know by whom—and it made sense as an elder "statesman" to speak out on issues he's long believed represented the Bible's teaching.

"It's probably not something that he came up with on his own," said Tchividjian, noting his grandfather's advanced age. "Nobody in the organization, including my uncle, would have done it if my grandfather had not agreed to it or signed off on it."

Time will tell if this foray into the political realm will affect Graham's long-term legacy.

"In the eyes and minds of some people, it could enhance his legacy," said Tchividjian, pastor of Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.. "In the minds and eyes of other people, it could diminish it."

The elder Graham's spokesman, A. Larry Ross, said the ad is "consistent" with the BGEA's mission and Graham's personal practice of staying "politically neutral" in his public ministry.

"He is challenging citizens—particularly the faith community—on how to vote, rather than for whom to vote," Ross said. (RNS)

BRIEFLY...

Spence leaves KBC for S.C.

Lizzi-beth Spence, a collegiate ministry specialist with the Kentucky Baptist Convention for more than a decade, has accepted a children's ministry position in South Carolina, her home state. During her time with the KBC, Spence helped coordinate ministry efforts of the more than 20 Baptist campus ministers serving across Kentucky. She now serves as children's minister at Brushy Creek Baptist Church in Taylors, S.C. According to Keith Inman, the KBC's collegiate evangelism strategist, Spence provided leadership for some of the ministry's most far-reaching initiatives, such as the 1:8 Leadership Experience which has mobilized dozens of college students to serve across the U.S. and around the world. "Her contribution to our team will be greatly missed," Inman said. "Hundreds of students have been directly influenced by her leadership."

Carson-Newman to change name

Carson-Newman College's board of trustees unanimously voted to begin the process of changing the institution's name to Carson-Newman University. The change would go into effect after the first of the year. The decision follows months of study conducted by officials at the Jefferson City, Tenn., and precedes the school's steps in changing its charter with the state of Tennessee. Founded in 1851 as Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary, the institution has undergone several name changes. It has been known as Carson-Newman College since 1930.

New CBF head to be elected in Feb.

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Coordinating Council will vote in February on a successor to Executive Coordinator Daniel Vestal, who retired in June, according to an announcement at the council's Oct. 25-26 meeting. CBF Moderator Keith Herron said the candidate's name will be announced Jan. 18, when the recommendation comes to the CBF's advisory council.

Poll: Nearly half affirm creationism

Nearly 50 percent of adults in a recent Gallup survey say they believe God created human beings within the past 10,000 years, the highest percentage for that answer since 2006 and the second highest since the question was first asked in 1982. Gallup asks Americans their thoughts on evolution every year. This year 46 percent agree that "God created human beings pretty much in their present form at one time within the last 10,000 years or so." In 1993 and 1999 it was 47 percent. When it was first asked in 1982, it was 44 percent. Another 32 percent of Americans in this year's survey believe in theistic evolution, agreeing that "human beings have developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided the process." Another 15 percent believe in evolution and say God played no role.

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Reporting to Ky. Baptists

The annual meeting of the Kentucky Baptist Convention represents a unique opportunity for our Mission Board staff and KBC agencies and institutions to

Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

share ministry highlights and updates from another year of kingdom work in our state and far beyond. In addition to sharing time on the platform, an annual Book of Reports is compiled as a resource to communicate with Kentucky Baptists.

We are making this year's Book of Reports available online. It can be accessed at www.KyBaptist.org/BookofReports. I encourage you to take time to download the book and read all of the reports. I assure you it will be a cause for celebration and thanksgiving to God for the work He is doing through Kentucky Baptists. This week and next, I am posting sections from my report here.

Kentucky Baptists have been working together to share the gospel with the people of the commonwealth and beyond for 175 years. I consider it a privilege to serve as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention as we mark this historic milestone together.

The anniversary comes at a unique time for the KBC, having embarked this year on the most extensive staff restructuring in recent memory. That restructuring has resulted in a Mission Board staff sharply focused on serving well the churches of the KBC.

In this service, we are working to equip Kentucky Baptists to fulfill the Great Commission by sharing the gospel and making disciples. We also are helping Kentucky Baptists obey the Great Commandment by providing avenues to show the love of Christ in serving others through ministries such as disaster relief and Kentucky Changers. We are working to help pastors and ministers implement best practices in outreach, new-member follow-up, Sunday School, stewardship, church safety and other key areas.

And we are working to educate Kentucky Baptists on the power of the Cooperative Program and how gifts made through CP are truly fulfilling the Great Commission. We rejoice in the way KBC churches are renewing their commitment to getting the gospel beyond their communities through CP.

In that regard, I have wonderful news to report for the cause of worldwide missions: For the first time in four years, CP giving from KBC churches to support Great Commission work increased over the year before. Since the 2007-08 fiscal year, CP receipts each year have represented a decrease over the prior year. But as we close the books on the 2011-12 fiscal year, we celebrate a 1 percent increase over last year's giving. Knowing that this victory represents a significant sacrifice on the part of KBC churches, let me express my gratitude to the pastors and church members committed to getting the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

'Awaken the dawn': Singing of God's faithfulness

"Awaken the dawn." The phrase leapt off the page and gripped my heart. How can someone wake up the dawn? Doesn't the sun rise on its own, needing no help from anyone on its fiery trek? I pondered possible meanings of the poetic words in Psalm 57:8.

Birds often begin to chirp in the faint light of early morn. For night owls, who long for sleep, their shrill calls before daylight seem annoying, even taunting. To the eager and rested soul, however, blissful bird songs can be rejuvenating.

For years, a shrill buzz jarred me awake, and I'd groan, "Morning already? Ugh!" As of late, I have changed my alarm to the soothing strum of a harp. Perhaps now I ease into the day a little more pleasantly.

With a high schooler, we often awaken just as sunrays stream through the bedroom window, and we hurriedly pull the blinds. What if those sunrays were viewed, instead, as the welcomed herald of God's approaching gift of a new day?

On a May morning, I rejoiced at seeing the sunrise once more with my wife, Michelle, and we prayed to share more. Since coming home from the hospital after a frightening bout, however, she has experienced unrelenting, excruciating pain, radiating around her midsection. Acute pain and nausea have led to frequent doctor's appointments, emergency room visits, hospital stays, a battery of tests and even surgery. Yet, the pain has not abated.

In the midst of a debilitating burden, one could very easily fall prey to disheartenment and dismay. And, truth be told, sometimes frustration seems so overpowering—if it were not for the blessings of faith and family walking beside us. In these moments, the psalmist's cry becomes ours: "Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me for in you my soul takes refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed." And we find solace:

"God sends his love and his faithfulness." Even in the midst of the lions and ravenous beasts of daily living, whose razor-sharp fangs could rip a forlorn faith to tatters, the psalmist resolves, "My heart is steadfast, O God."

According to the American Academy of Pain Management, approximately 116 million adults suffer chronic pain. I had no idea, no understanding, no empathy—until now.

Some of these are probably in your congregation, sitting around you. In a recent issue of Christian Ethics Today, Kerry Smith pointedly inquires, "Can you name the churches who have a ministry to pain sufferers? Probably not. Do you see chronic pain patients in your church? More than likely, not." He urges us to "pay attention to those who are chronically pain broken, ... view them not as broken pain-filled vessels, but

as the great treasures they are."

In spite of the trials, the psalmist boldly declares, "I will sing and make music. Awake, my soul!" How is he still able to display a remarkable attitude of praise? Here is his answer: "For great is your love, reaching to the heavens, your faithfulness reaches to the skies." That's the abiding faith that we so desperately need to see us through tough times. He is a bulwark of faith on ready display.

The prophet Isaiah encourages us: "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 43:30-31). A message of hope! He understood well the wondrous blessing of "awakening the dawn," starting each day afresh—relying resolutely on the Lord's strength and love to sustain us. Imagine the difference it would make in your day and mine, if only our souls began each morn singing of the Lord's faithfulness: "Awaken the dawn!"

After Thought

By Todd Deaton



Realizing the joy of gospel-driven prayer

By Chuck Kelley

Very soon we will be voting in one of the most important presidential elections the U.S. has ever had. Christians are praying about this election and calling others to pray. Our instinctive expectation when we pray is for God to intervene in the circumstances we bring before His throne. We must never forget that He responds in the way He deems best, and that His response often may be different than our desires. Whatever God's response, the act of prayer is itself a pathway to joy.

Prayer is a petition we present before God, never directions we give to God. However, knowing that every time we pray in accordance with biblical guidelines, God does hear and responds is a promise that should bring joy to the heart of every believer. It is our assurance that we are living in His grip and are part of His unfolding purposes.

Christians with the habit of prayer tend to be those who live with a deeply rooted sense of joy growing from their

certainty about God's presence and work. Let's dig a little deeper into why we can experience joy as a fruit of our prayers.

The first way a Christian learns to pray is by praying as an expression of need to the Lord who loves us and gave Himself for us. The gospel tells of our sin and the sacrifice Jesus made. If He would do that, He would surely hear my cry for help. If He will provide forgiveness and eternal life, surely He will provide present help. Praying for His intervention on the basis of His provision for our salvation becomes a vivid reminder of how He feels about us. When the gospel story drives your prayers, it drives you to joy.

The second way a Christian learns to pray is by praying for the needs of others. Our encounter with Christ reveals His love for us. Our walk with Christ makes clear His love for others. The gospel is bigger than me. The gospel is for the whole world. The better you know the gospel, the more you understand the love of God is deep enough and wide enough to embrace all who turn to Jesus in faith.

The third way a Christian learns to

pray is by praying for the purposes of God to be fulfilled. Children know their parents love them, but they do not understand the depth of that love. As they grow and mature, they realize more and more the distinctive, sacrificial love that drove every loving act of their parents. As we learn more of Christ, our prayers begin to reflect more of His priorities. When you are praying for what you know God wants to do, you rejoice in the certainty He will hear, and He will respond to prayers in the direction He already is going.

Pray for our nation and stand in the gospel. Pray knowing that God loves every man, woman, boy and girl in this nation. Pray knowing that our needs all matter to our Heavenly Father. Pray knowing the Father's priority: He wants the U.S. to be a nation that will honor Him and follow His ways. Pray knowing that religious liberty is one of the most crucial freedoms we have, allowing all to follow the dictates of their conscience before God. Pray knowing that leaders do matter. When we decide whom to follow, we are deciding our destination. (BP)
Chuck Kelley is president of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

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Christianity isn't dying, cultural Christianity is

By Ed Stetzer

You've heard it suggested the U.S. is simply Europe on a 50-year delay. Supposedly most churches will be museums before our grandchildren reach adulthood.

Though new numbers from Pew Research point to a decline in American Protestants, no serious scholar believes Christianity is on a trajectory of extinction. As a researcher and practicing evangelical Christian, I say to those who've read recent reports and come to that conclusion: "Not so fast."

Many in the U.S. who identify as Christian do so only superficially. These cultural Christians use the term, but do not practice the faith. Now it seems many of them are giving up the Christian label, and those cultural or nominal Christians are becoming "nones," people with no religious label.

I've seen this in my own family. Growing up in an Irish Catholic community outside New York City, the Catholic church was the church we didn't go to. Today, I am an evangelical Christian, and I attend church like one, but most of my extended family do not attend church, and don't bother to call themselves Catholics any longer. The nominals became the nones.

Moreover, the cultural value of identifying as a Christian is decreasing. When that happens, those whose connection to Christianity was more an identifying mark than a deeply held belief find the label does not matter.

When considering why someone does or does not label themselves a Christian, we see three broad ways people identify as Christian.

On a survey, cultural Christians mark "Christian" rather than another world religion or because their family always has. Churchgoing Christians identify as such, because they occasionally attend worship services.

On the other hand, conversion Christians claim to have had a faith experience in which they were trans-

formed, resulting in a deeply held belief.

The recent growth in nones, I believe, comes primarily from cultural and churchgoing Christians no longer using a religious identification.

Yet, there is movement in religious identification that should cause us to consider three ramifications.

FIRST PERSON

First, Christians continue to lose what some have called a home-field advantage. Christianity is no longer the first choice of many seeking spiritual meaning, and identifying as Christian is not necessary to be an accepted part of society.

Second, the squishy middle is collapsing. It makes less sense to be a cultural Christian today. Better to be spiritual than religious, unless your religion matters to you.

Third, Christianity is not collapsing, but it is being clarified. If you cut through the recent hype, and look to studies such as the General Social Survey, you'll find the United States is filled with vibrant believers.

The survey shows the evangelical movement has remained generally steady from 1972 to 2010, that church attendance has declined among mainline Protestants, and that the nones have increased. But Christianity has not collapsed.

It's true that many mainline church buildings, like their European counterparts, have converted into shops, concert halls and museums. But I find it telling that churches like Sojourn Community Church in Louisville, are buying back former cathedrals and filling them anew with vibrant young congregations.

Even in the shadow of the decline of cultural and nominal religion, the future of vibrant Christianity in America is all around us. The future of Christianity in America is not extinction but clarification that a devout faith is what will last. Christianity in America isn't dying, cultural Christianity is. (BP)

Ed Stetzer is president of LifeWay Research.

Respect for our country

By David Garrard

The seventh grader walked into our fellowship hall on Wednesday night and every head turned. He was decked out in a coat, vest and tie—the whole nine yards. We waved him over to our table and asked, "What's the occasion?" He flashed a smile and replied, "I led the pledge of allegiance at my school this morning."

A teacher sitting at our table said, "I don't know a single American kid who would get dressed up for that." You see, the young man in the suit is from Zimbabwe.

The next day, I visited a school to speak to an FCA group. As I walked in, two boys were lowering the flag. I spoke to them briefly and encouraged them to treat the flag with respect. A few minutes later, as I sat in the office waiting, one of the boys walked in. The flag was in his hands, wadded up like an old sheet.

These experiences got me thinking: Do our kids respect their country? How can we teach them to appreciate its greatness? Here are a few ideas:

- Read books together about our country's history.
- Visit historical sites such as capitals, monuments and memorials.
- Learn the words to our national anthem.
- Talk about flag etiquette.
- Use the election to talk about the democratic process that allows us to choose our leaders.
- Talk to your children about the religious liberty we enjoy in the U.S.
- Above all, model respect for our country in your own attitude, actions and words.

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



A financial life reality check

By Don Spencer

Below are a series of statements. Enter a score of 1-10 to indicate your satisfaction with that aspect of your financial life. (10 = very satisfied, 5 = moderately satisfied, 1 = not satisfied)

- I am satisfied ...
- ___ 1. with my level of giving to church and other charitable giving
 - ___ 2. with my level of debt
 - ___ 3. with my spending habits
 - ___ 4. with the current level of my retirement savings
 - ___ 5. with my investment choices
 - ___ 6. with my current insurance coverage
 - ___ 7. with my ability to meet financial obligations
 - ___ 8. with my savings for my children's education
 - ___ 9. with feelings I have about my financial life
 - ___ 10. that financial issues do not cause stress in the relationships that are most important to me
 - ___ 11. with the status of my current estate plans
 - ___ 12. that I have taken advantage of ways to reduce my tax obligation
 - ___ 13. with the income potential my current job or career provides me.
 - ___ 14. with the "extras" that I am able to buy for myself and/or loved ones
 - ___ 15. with the way I keep my financial records
 - ___ 16. with how I respond emotionally to financial issues
 - ___ 17. with the working relationship I have with financial professionals (bank, brokers, accountant, insurance agent, etc.)

Space does not allow for addressing each statement in depth. Hopefully this will help you identify those areas where you need to give attention and get professional assistance. If you have many with low scores, avoid trying to address them all. Take the lowest two or three and deal actively with those. Dealing with those will improve other areas of your financial life.

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

Reaching the Baby Boomer 'base' and beyond

By Erich Bridges

American churches are dealing with a challenge similar to the dilemma faced by political parties: How do you keep your "base" involved while appealing to a broader range of new, preferably younger, people?

It's no secret many U.S. church groups—including evangelicals—are struggling to keep their own kids from dropping out of church involvement as they finish school and enter adulthood. Attracting children, teens and young adults with no Christian background is an even bigger task. Without new blood and a continuing infusion of young leaders, churches face a bleak future.

Meanwhile, the generational "base" of many churches now is the Baby Boomers, the 76 million Americans born between 1946-64. The oldest of us have surpassed traditional retirement age; the youngest are rapidly approaching 50. But 50 is a lot younger than it used to be, as life expectancies lengthen and folks stay healthy and active for decades into what once was considered old age.

If you're a church leader trying to figure out how to keep 50-somethings involved while reaching out to younger people, I recommend the advice of Matt Thornhill, president and founder of The Boomer Project, a marketing research group that studies the Boomer generation and provides key data to corporations, nonprofits, government agencies, media outlets and faith groups.

In a recent article, Thornhill writes about a 56-year-old church member who organized a mission trip. The adults he recruited to participate ranged in age from 24 to 72.

"Upon their return from the mission, the first question all of them, including the young-adult men who went, asked was: 'When can we do something like this again?'" Thornhill reports. "That question is music to the ears of anyone involved in running a church today. That's because church membership and participation among the younger generations has fallen to the lowest levels ever, according to the National Opinion Research Center's General Social Surveys.

Thornhill offers some tips: ■ Start by finding Boomers' passions, not their "skills." "Too often churches, and other volunteer-dependent organizations, try to match skill sets with needs," he says. "What drives most Boomers to volunteer isn't a desire to exercise their skills, but a desire to fulfill a passion. Boomers want to make an emotional investment of their time and talents, not strictly a rational one. Organizations that identify individual passions and then match them with specific needs are more likely to have full rosters of volunteers—of all ages."

Churches have an infinitely more meaningful "product" to offer, but they hesitate—or are ashamed—to think in such terms. Don't let the world grab all the time, energy and

passion of people so desperate for meaning in their lives.

■ Engage them in short-term missions, at least at first.

"The success of Habitat for Humanity in getting thousands of homes built over the past 20 years is rooted in the 'packaging' of their mission," Thornhill observes. "Rather than trying to engage people to support their overall goal of creating housing for those who need a helping hand, they instead focus on a specific project for a specific family."

Commitment to long-term ministries that transform communities and cultures, whether across town or across the globe, will come in time. But first give Boomers something short, sweet and specific to do.

■ Equip boomers to be cross-generational mentors.

Believe it or not, "young adults today report that they genuinely like Boomers," Thornhill says. "Thanks to the strong and close relationships between Millennials and their parents, many young adults today seek out mentors among Boomer-age adults. Churches should foster and encourage cross-generational projects and missions."

Boomers want to feel what they are doing is significant and life changing. Millennials want to be part of something real and authentic that brings them into relationship with people and needs. That sounds like the beginning of a beautiful partnership. (BP)

Erich Bridges is global correspondent for the International Mission Board.

COMMENTARY

Build-a-Bed a 'blessing' for families

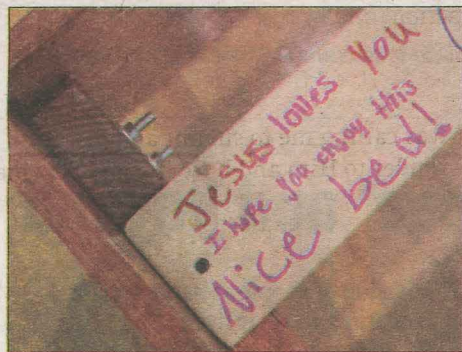
Continued from page 1

little girls would no longer have to share a single twin bed.

Scenes like this played out in homes throughout Owensboro and Daviess County as First Baptist delivered a total of 52 new beds to needy children in their community Saturday, Oct. 27. The event, called "Build-a-Bed," culminated last weekend after nearly a year's worth of planning, hundreds of volunteer hours, and more than \$15,000 worth of donations by First Baptist church members and local businesses.

"Our church vision statement is 'Building bridges. Connecting to Christ.' We saw this opportunity lining up with that vision of how we can connect with our community to meet not only physical needs, but also looking at the spiritual needs in our community," said Nathan Scott, Minister of Recreation and Missions at First Baptist Owensboro.

By partnering with Family Resource Centers in local school districts, First Baptist was able to identify children in the community who needed beds. Many were sharing a single mattress with other siblings. Some were sleeping on living room couches. One set of five-year-old twins was finding their night's rest in the same toddler bed.



Scott credited church member Shannon Bailes for bringing attention to the need. Bailes initially introduced the idea of building beds for kids during a women's ministry meeting.

"I love missions and I think going overseas is great," Bailes said, "But I think God requires us to take care of the people around us—then go to your state and then go overseas. We have needs right here in Owensboro that are going unmet."

Bailes has seen first-hand the physical needs of her community while working as the director of ATEAM, an AmeriCorps affiliate that tutors and mentors K-12 students in western Kentucky. In her role, Bailes has directed five Build-a-Bed projects in secular settings, including a 500-bed blitz in Frankfort.

"If we could get churches going in this, it could be a continual thing," Bailes said, who hopes a church or civic organization in every Kentucky county would take the lead and commit to helping more children get the proper rest their growing bodies need.

Scott said the service project is perfectly suited for a multigenerational church, such as First Baptist, because of the bed's uncomplicated design.

"The assembly is simple for preschool and elementary aged children to help build a bed with their parents or grandparents. Even if you've never used a drill before, you can come in and assemble a bed in less than an hour," Scott said.



Natalie McCoy, 11, took time on her birthday last Saturday to think about other kids' needs and wrote endearments on finished beds.



A total of 200 volunteers from First Baptist Church of Owensboro helped make Build-a-Bed day possible by donating their time, skills and other resources to provide 52 needy children with new beds.



After delivering two beds to a family in downtown Owensboro, Pastor Paul Strahan leads in a prayer. From left are: Steve Bailes, Jermaine Green, Savannah Blake with two of her daughters (Kayleah, left, and Kariann Bittel), Tristian Collier and Strahan, Blake, who is expecting, and her boyfriend, Green, often care for as many as 10 children from previous relationships. (Photos by Robin Cornet Bass)



First Baptist volunteer Tristian Collier, 6, watches Kayleah Bittel (left), 7, and Kariann Bittel, 5, try out their new beds. AT RIGHT: Kayleah Bittel embraces her new stuffed animal. Her youngest sister is seen in background.



Preparing for build day, however, is slightly more involved. About 460 man-hours were needed to cut, sand and stain each piece. Only the mattress slats were left unfinished. For the past several weeks, children attending Wednesday night Awanas at First Baptist have been drawing colorful crosses, hearts and writing "Jesus loves you" messages on the slats.

Along with each delivery, the recipient of a new bed was given a large plastic tub containing a treasure trove of nighttime necessities, including new pajamas in the child's size.

First Baptist Sunday School classes adopted one item intended for the baskets, such as new pillows, stuffed animals, night-lights, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

"One of the Sunday school classes donated all the money to buy the 'Jesus Storybook Bibles,'" Scott said.

Owensboro businesses were generous as well, Scott said, by selling mattresses at wholesale prices and discounting—sometimes even donating—lumber.

But even after all the deliveries were made, Bailes said the 52 beds would only make a dent in the overwhelming needs

of their community.

"Our goal is not to get them to come to First Baptist Church. Our goal is to meet a need," Bailes said. "The only way people can find Jesus is if you meet their need first. You can't just go to a person who doesn't have a place to sleep or clothes on their back and try to win them to Christ. You have to show them what Christ is."

Bailes encouraged churches interested in organizing a Build-a-Bed in their community to contact her or Nathan Scott of First Baptist Church of Owensboro at (270) 683-3505. (WR)

Hip hop's Flame burns bright for the gospel

Continued from page 1

the conference attendees," Flame said. The attendees "got a chance to sit with him, and it was like, 'Wow. This guy's really intelligent. ... He's very witty, funny, but focused on Christ and centered around the cross and the gospel.'"

Little did Flame know that God would pull him back to the seminary.

His wife landed an internship in Louisville during a time when he was trying to further his education. Because his visit to Southern Seminary left such an impression, his wife suggested Southern's undergraduate program at Boyce College. So Flame transferred to Boyce from Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis.

Since graduating from Boyce, Flame has continued his studies at Southern Seminary in biblical counseling. But he has been doing much more than just hitting the books.

Earlier this year, Flame released his sixth album, aptly named "The 6th." In it he uses rap music, typically associated with sex, gangs and violence, to teach others about the gospel.

"It's my sixth album but it's also a deeper meaning," he said. "Obviously, God created both male and female on the sixth day. ... I wanted to talk about us. It's really an album focused on anthropology, the study of man, and thinking about our strengths, our weaknesses, our personalities, our flaws, our accomplishments and ultimately pointing towards God's original purpose for us."

"The 6th" debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Gospel albums chart in March, claimed the No. 2 spot on the Christian albums chart and was No. 8 on the rap albums chart. It immediately shot to No. 1 on iTunes' Hip-Hop chart.

Flame said his purpose for rapping also was something that drew him to Southern Seminary: showing the relevance of the Bible.

Although he had been using music to spread the gospel in prisons, juvenile detention centers and the streets of St. Louis before attending Boyce and Southern Seminary, Flame said his mentors in Louisville helped him better communicate the word in his music.

"They've really helped me catapult the gospel message, but also, in particular, the way it fleshes out in rap music reaching the hip hop culture," he said. "So, I would just say that they strengthened something that I was already developing for myself."

Rap as ministry tool

Flame acknowledged that rap music is not traditionally known for being Christian, but he said that because hip hop has roots in the Islamic faith some of his listeners are more open to listen about religion in general. Even so, apathy and a lack of commitment to any religion are obstacles he faces when trying to reach out to fans of rap.

He continues to try to break down barriers with his music, gain their respect and most importantly share with them the story of Jesus Christ.

"Our generation really values pleasure and fun and just kind of checking out and having a good time, and that makes it sometimes difficult to talk about weightier issues," he said. "But thank God we have the music that plays a role in making that connection with people."

Flame's music did not always proclaim the gospel. As a teenager his material consisted of benign topics like staying in school and hanging out with friends.

But then he began to run with an older, tougher crowd.

"I was torn between trying to fit in, trying to be normal and do what was regular in my neighborhood, and then at the same time, having the conscience that said, 'Hey, this is wrong. You shouldn't do this. You shouldn't taste this. You shouldn't say this, shouldn't feel this.' But then I resisted God's will," Flame said. "I fought Him, and He allowed me to get in a lot of trouble."

He even had to change schools at 16 and on the way home from his orientation, a terrible car accident changed his life. Shortly after the accident he asked his grandmother why it had happened, and she told him God was trying to get his attention. Just a few weeks later, she died. Flame was devastated.

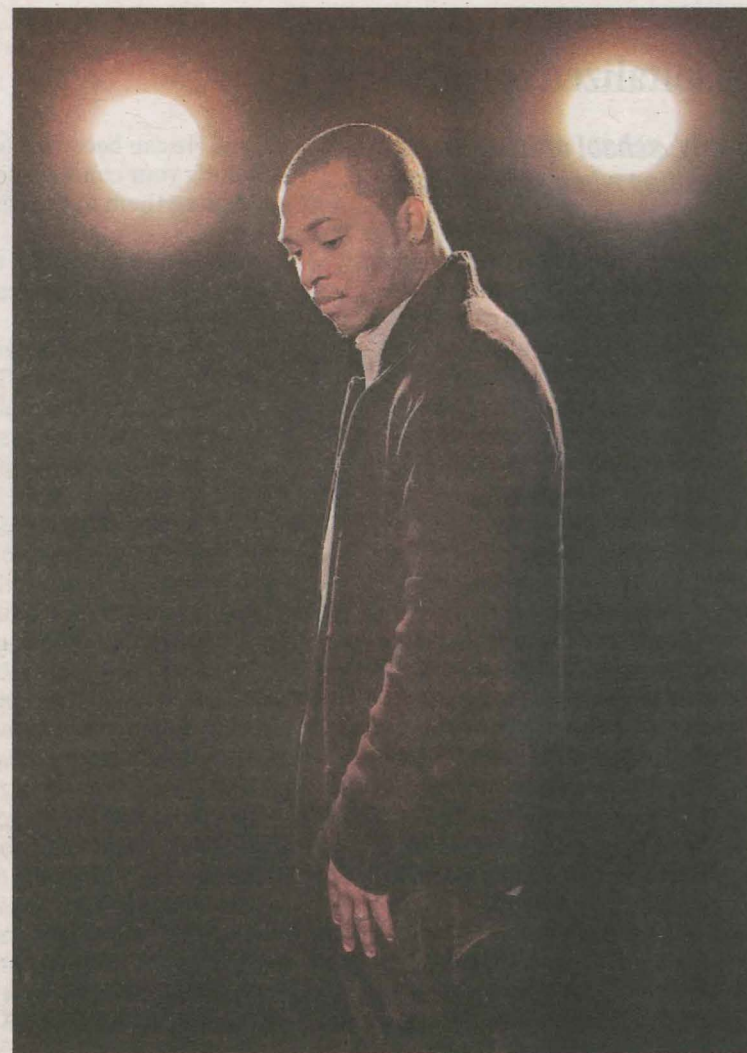
After about a month of resistance, he

returned to church where he better understood the gospel message.

God "understood where I was, but He was calling me to submit and just surrender to Him and have life and become a new creature, a new creation, and that message finally resonated with me and settled in my soul," Flame said. "And I remember just crying like a baby, asking God to forgive me for my sins, forgive me for my wrongs."

"He saved me. I was 16, and He took away most of my vices instantly. Like the major hangups in my life, I completely lost the desire for them, and I just started going Jesus-crazy after that."

Flame's passion for Jesus has not fizzled. He continues to reach out not just in the United States but all around the world with his music. (BP)



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Hospitalized, part 3

Family, school officials experience difficulties when student falls ill

Here is the conclusion of my letter to the father of Arnold, a student recently hospitalized for pneumonia:

"To be honest, it is hard to get enough time to daily examine our 122 boys and 95 girls currently living in the dorms. We have been relying on them to tell us when they are not feeling well, have a cold, headache, toothache, stomach ache, sore throat, etc. Perhaps we can do something at the same time we have a dress code inspection before they leave the dorm for school or chapel. We can make a checklist to facilitate that process.

"Nevertheless, even if we get a general sense of each student's health at the start of the day, monitoring their health throughout the day and their level of activity will be very difficult. I think we shall almost always be left to rely on the student to tell us when they don't feel good.

"As you mentioned in your letter to Mr. Stockton, the flu season is rapidly approaching. If I had my way, every student and adult on campus would get a flu shot. Unfortunately, that isn't likely to happen. If you think it is best for Arnold to have a flu shot or another type of immunization, please feel free to make arrangements for that with your primary care physician or call and talk to our student health coordinator.

"In closing, Mr. K, let me again thank you for your willingness to entrust Arnold into our care for this period of his life, and thank you for raising the issue of our ability to monitor the health status of all our students. We are a better school because Arnold is with

us, and we can become a better school by taking your concerns seriously and addressing them to the best of our ability.

"Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further reason to do so. God bless you."

Here is Mr. K's reply:

"Dr. Davidson, Thank you so much for your reply. You and your staff have been wonderful, and I would like to extend a special thanks to Ms. Bowling for helping with Arnold. Thank you for having 12 of your staff stay with Arnie around the clock in four-hour shifts during those three days. Talking with Arnie every day, I know he is getting

better. My wife and I decided to not come up hoping for a speedy recovery, and we didn't want to delay his return back to class.

"I understand the difficulty of examining every child, and I do realize a lot of the responsibility falls on Arnie. During the next vacation, we will spend time with Arnie emphasizing the importance of taking care of himself and putting the brakes on when he is not feeling well. My email earlier this week to Mr. Stockton was simply from a scared parent. I trust you and your staff because Arnie is very happy there and he trusts the staff.

"I hope this will be the end of the health issues as Arnie becomes acclimated to his new environment. If there is anything we can do on our end, please do not hesitate to ask. Again I thank you for your concern and the great job your staff has done with Arnie."

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

This is Oneida



Paul Davidson

Clear Creek's lecture series

Lectures from Union prof to focus on expository preaching, worship

As I write this, we are looking forward to the Barry Lectures coming to our campus in just a few days. The event is one of three endowed lecture series presented to students at Clear Creek. Our Lacy-Lykins series focuses on marriage and family. The Mrs. James I. Salter series may have its emphasis in Old Testament, New Testament, Christian ethics, Christian education, missions or evangelism. The Barry Lectures center on preaching and worship. Our students have heard from men like Haddon Robinson, Robert Smith, Danny Akin and Norman Giesler.

David Olford will be our speaker for this week's Barry Lectures. Dr. Olford serves as the Stephen Olford professor of expository preaching and as an assistant to the president at Union University in Jackson, Tenn. He also serves as president and board chairman of Olford Ministries International.

Olford received bachelor's degree in ancient language and a master's in New Testament theology, both from Wheaton College. He received his Ph.D. from

the University of Sheffield in England in biblical studies.

In 2009, his book "Find Us Faithful: Leadership That Leaves a Legacy" was published. Together with his father, Olford co-authored the acclaimed,

"Anointed Expository Preaching." He also compiled "A Passion for Preaching" in honor of his father.

The generosity of individuals and families like the ones whose names are carried by our lecture series allows us to expose our students to nationally known speakers in fields related to the Bible, theology and ministry. I never cease to be amazed at the big things God does in His

little Bible college in Pineville.

I am also amazed at how He touches hearts and guides people toward our ministry as partners. I want to thank you, Kentucky Baptists, for the role you play in that partnership. Ministries are shaped and lives changed because of your support for Clear Creek Baptist Bible College.

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

Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

Book Reviews

Incarnate Leadership: Five Leadership Lessons From the Life of Jesus

Author: Bill Robinson
Publisher: Zondervan, 2009, 122 pages
List Price: \$14.99, paperback

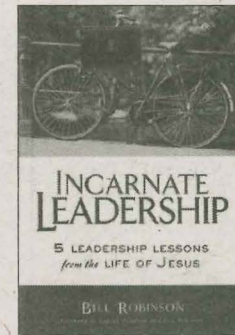
★★★★★

Reviewed by Chris Platt

"Incarnate Leadership" provides refreshing reminders of how we can emulate Jesus' leadership style and be effective pastors and community leaders. Using John 1:14 as a backdrop, author Bill Robinson addresses five questions: (1) Am I staying close enough to those I lead? (2) Am I being transparent with those I lead? (3) Are my actions reflecting our mission or gathering personal glory? (4) Am I leading with grace and truth? (5) What am I sacrificing for those I lead?

In light of his first question, Robinson insists that pastors and leaders should not "get seduced by up," but rather find practical ways to stay in touch with church members, employees or students.

At a conference for university presidents, he had been advised to create distance from those he was called to lead. As president of Whitworth University, he chose to "dwell among" those on campus rather than "be above" them. He suggests that leaders should practice



"random acts of engagement" to connect with people. For example, he made it a practice to leave early for meetings so that he could interact with students and faculty while en route.

Perhaps the most challenging insight Robinson unveils extends from his response to question 3: "Jesus reflected glory (John 5:19). We tend to absorb glory." Am I a "glory absorber" or a reflector of "the light of Christ's grace and truth?"

The author offers three "pride-checks" for leaders to consider. He then embarks on a captivating study of humility. He states that the paradox of humility is that "leadership requires the union of confidence and humility" and unpacks that in light of God's grace and power. Robinson's transparency encourages the reader to evaluate how pride and humility are impacting his or her leadership efforts.

With this 122-page resource, we have unearthed a gem. Though Robinson is not one of the well-known authors of our day, I did not want this work to go unnoticed. Pastors, leaders and small-group participants will find the questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each chapter to be beneficial.

Chris Platt is missions and ministry pastor at Crestwood Baptist Church.

10 Who Changed the World

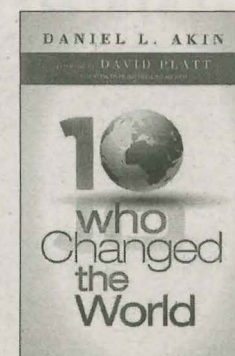
Author: Daniel Akin
Publisher: Broadman and Holman Publishing, 2012, 188 pages
List Price: \$14.99, paperback

★★★★★

Reviewed by Scott Pittman

Drawing from life experiences of missionaries past to illustrate living truths of biblical passages, Danny Akin has developed an inspiring sermon series originally delivered to faculty and students at Southeastern Seminary. His combination of compelling missionaryary stories, coupled with powerful texts was so overwhelmingly received that the messages were transcribed and compiled into book form with each sermon serving as a chapter.

The result is a gripping work that is hard to put down, yet at the same time painfully real in its presentation of these true heroes of the faith. The author makes excellent use of personal accounts preserved in letters, journals and publications penned by missionaries such as Adoniram Judson, Lottie Moon and Jim Elliot. These writings serve as a window into the heart and soul of individuals we oftentimes dismiss as "super saints"—immune to fears, failures, frustration and depression. On the contrary, the manuscripts reveal their struggles with their human



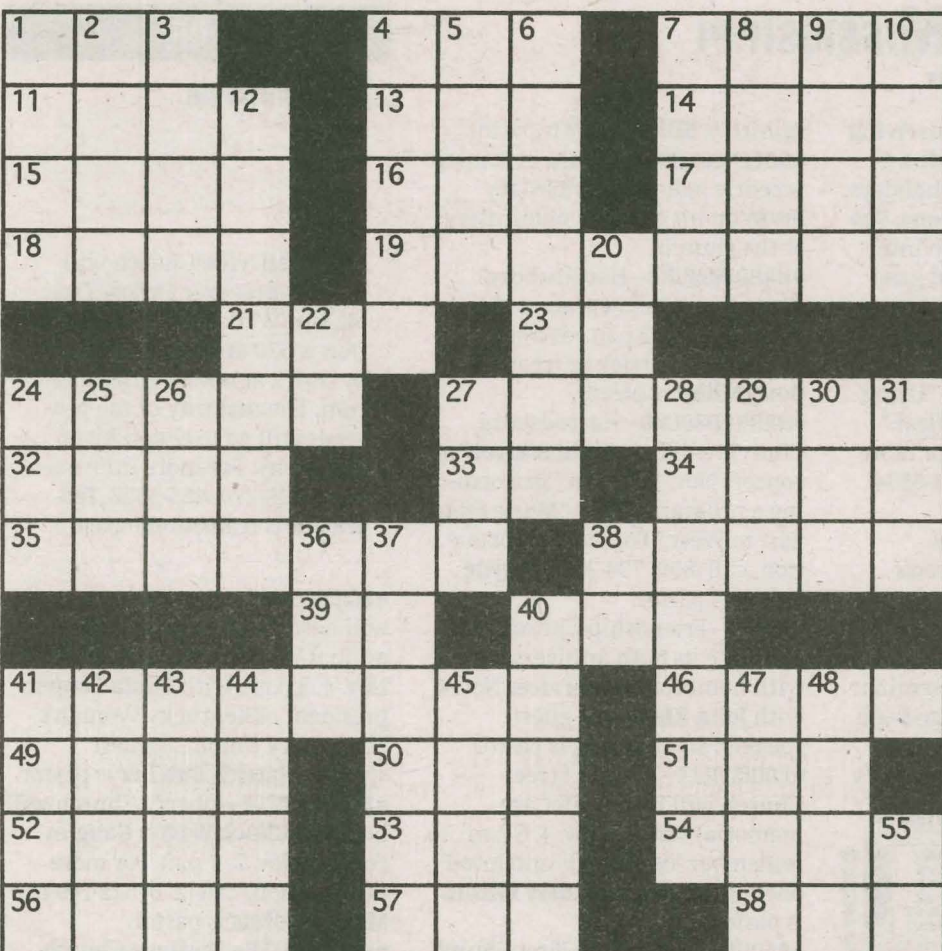
frailties and, consequently, their total reliance upon their faith in God.

Readers will be touched and inspired by the stories of sacrifice, separation, imprisonment and death on the mission field. In

one of the most heart-wrenching chapters, the reader accompanies a missionary couple and their infant daughter on a death march through Communist China. This reader was moved to tears at the loving actions this young mother took the night before her beheading to miraculously provide for the preservation of her baby's life.

The material is a refreshing shift from theoretical discussions to the real-life accounts of those who risked all to engage a cruel and hostile world with the good news of Jesus Christ. This book will heighten your perception of the seriousness of answering the Lord's call to missions, lest anyone imagine missionary life as merely carrying on ministry in another language. Rather, the 10 lives highlighted in these pages clearly portray an all-out abandonment of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" for the sake of the call of Christ.

Scott Pittman is the Acts 1:8 partnership consultant for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.



Bible Crosswords

By Janet Adkins

Across

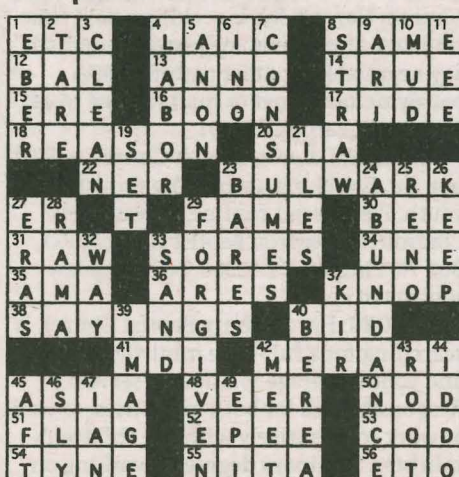
- 1 Juliette Low's organization (abbr.)
- 4 Depot (abbr.)
- 7 _____ reliever
- 11 "The _____ state of that man is worse than the first" (Luke 11:26)
- 13 Desire
- 14 Competent
- 15 Theory
- 16 Old auto
- 17 Wild goat
- 18 Stinging comment
- 19 Welfare; benefit
- 21 "And _____ also the Jairite was a chief ruler about David" (2 Samuel 20:26)
- 23 Part of a day (abbr.)
- 24 One-_____ is a tithe
- 27 Righteous, symbolical name of Israel (var.)
- 32 One of Lamech's two wives (Genesis 4:19)
- 33 Conjunction
- 34 Late folk singer Laura
- 35 David's nephew (2 Samuel 13:3)
- 38 "Yet through the _____ of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs" (Job 14:9)
- 39 Certain therapist (abbr.)
- 40 Kitchen necessity
- 41 "Can two walk _____" (Amos 3:3)
- 46 "_____ it Romantic?"
- 49 Inter _____
- 50 On or upon (prefix)
- 51 Unit of weight in the Middle East
- 52 Practices fabrication
- 53 _____ Perce, North American Indian tribe
- 54 Heads
- 56 Center; source
- 57 Understand; realize
- 58 "_____ unto you, scribes and Pharisees" (Matthew 23:14)

Down

- 1 Speaking too easily
- 2 Actress Thompson
- 3 Tribe to which Anna the prophetess belonged (Luke 2)
- 4 Mideast country
- 5 Problem child?
- 6 "And he [Samson] said ... then shall I be weak, and be as _____ man" (Judges 16:11)
- 7 Matched set
- 8 French clergy member
- 9 Channel, Solomon, Hawaiian, et al., to Christophe
- 10 _____! (word heard in a queue)
- 12 Aka Dorcas (Acts 9)

- 20 Sounds of hesitation
- 22 _____ factor (group of antigens)
- 24 _____ Mahal
- 25 People living in southern Nigeria
- 26 Feminine nickname
- 27 Patient and faithful sufferer
- 28 "But ye have an _____ from the Holy One, and ye know all things" (1 John 2:20)
- 29 Deli loaf
- 30 Footed vase
- 31 _____ a chance
- 36 Period
- 37 Site of Mars' hill
- 38 Thus
- 40 "In a race run all, but one receiveth the _____" (1 Corinthians 9:24)
- 41 Bath powder
- 42 Highly spiced stew
- 43 The _____ eagle (fowl not to be eaten; Leviticus 11:18)
- 44 "Among these nations shalt thou find no _____" (Deuteronomy 28:65)
- 45 Fencer's adjunct
- 47 Garbage _____
- 48 Mount _____, in the land of Moab, gateway to Canaan (Deuteronomy 32)
- 55 Compass point

Last puzzle's solution



Somebody to turn to

Since 1945, Ky. Baptist Foundation has been churches' 'trust agency'

One of the discoveries I've made in my 16-plus years as Kentucky Baptist Foundation president is a large number of members do not know to whom to turn for information about simple, basic but important estate stewardship issues and about Christian estate stewardship in particular.

Among the reasons the Kentucky Baptist Foundation was established 67 years ago as the "trust agency" for Kentucky Baptists was to provide Kentucky Baptist church members a reliable resource to which to turn for information about their basic estate stewardship and charitable gift planning questions. The information we provide is not legal advice nor tax advice. Church members still will need their own advisors.

KBF staff members are available to provide information by telephone, email and an in-person visit in our office or at the church member's home.

We can be contacted in any of the following ways: (1) call the toll-free (in Kentucky only) telephone number at (866) 489-3533 or (502) 489-3533; (2) write us at P.O. Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253-6389; or (3) browse our website www.KyBaptistFoundation.org for email contacts.

Ky. Baptist Foundation



Barry Allen

If you prefer to browse the website, before contacting us or in lieu of contacting us, you may find the information you need, because the website was designed to be a user-friendly, 24/7 source of information about estate planning, charitable gift planning and legacy gift planning, as well as information about the services of the KBF to churches and their members.

Let me also encourage you (1) to follow us and "like" us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/KentuckyBaptistFoundation; we post articles regularly about estate stewardship and other giving ideas; (2) subscribe to the Western Recorder's print or online version to which Laurie Valentine and I contribute articles on a regular basis; (3) follow me on Twitter, @KBF-Barry; and (4) call us to subscribe to our quarterly newsletter, Living Legacy.

Please know your Kentucky Baptist Foundation has stood "steadfast and solid since 1945" and continues to be that "somebody you can turn to" for information by the communication method most convenient and desirable to you to answer your simple, basic but important estate stewardship and charitable and legacy gift planning questions.

Barry Allen is president of the Kentucky Baptist Foundation, PO Box 436389, Louisville, KY 40253; toll-free (866) 489-3533; www.kybaptistfoundation.org

Appreciation for all pastors

Pastors are instrumental in urging support for Sunrise & its mission

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and all across Kentucky, church members hopefully are taking time to reflect on just how much their pastors mean to them, their families and their communities.

By definition, a pastor is much more than just a preacher, but rather a shepherd who tends to other's needs. It's the pastor who checks on the shut-ins, visits the sick and reaches out to those who may have strayed away.

The model pastor, of course, was Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd. In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus talks about the value of the individual, stating that a dutiful shepherd will leave his flock to find the one sole sheep that has gone astray. The celebration for the one sheep found is greater than for the 99 who never left, and He makes it clear that it is not God's will "that one of these little ones perish."

Since 1869, Kentucky Baptists have partnered with Sunrise Children's Services to help us make sure that we look

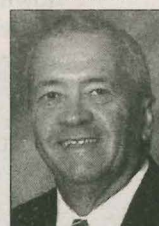
out for "these little ones." Specifically, we're referring to the thousands of children who suffer from abuse and neglect across Kentucky and who need love, stability and a refuge from life's storms.

Throughout our history, Kentucky's pastors have supported Sunrise's work through the Thanksgiving Offering, various programs like Food Round-Up, Christmas sponsorships and also in ministering to and supporting church members who have taken the step to become foster parents. Sunrise would not have existed without the support of pastors from our outset, and we couldn't survive without their continued support today.

So, on behalf of Sunrise Children's Services, the foster families we support and the children we serve, we'd like to extend a warm and sincere "thank you" to the pastors of Kentucky who continue to offer their unwavering support. You can join their efforts by learning more about Sunrise and the work we do by visiting us at www.Sunrise.org.

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

Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

WESTERN Recorder + Your church newsletter

TWO GREAT PUBLICATIONS, ONE LESS POST OFFICE HEADACHE



November

- 1 Church Revitalization Conference, Living Hope Baptist Church, Bowling Green.
- 2-4 Engage International Student Conference, Cave City Convention Center.
- 9-11 All-State Junior High Choir, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.
- 10 GA Jam, St. Matthews Baptist Church, Louisville.
- 11 Kentucky Baptist Men's Chorale and Wind Orchestra Concert, First Baptist Church, Paris.

MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Ronnie Hooks recently resigned as pastor of Maple Grove Church.

New Hope Church will hold revival services Nov. 4-7 with **Todd Gray**, west region pastoral ministry consultant for the KBC, as evangelist. **Mark Thweatt** is pastor.

■ **CAMPBELLSVILLE**—Campbellsville University's steel band will present its fall concert Nov. 1, 8 p.m., in the Gheens Recital Hall of the Gosser Fine Arts Center on campus. The event is free and open to the public.

■ **CORBIN**—Central Church will hold Mega Monday services Nov. 5, 6:30 p.m., with **Jonathan Falwell**, pastor of Thomas Road Church in Lynchburg, Va., as guest speaker and special music by **Charles Billingsley**. Chad Fugitt is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church

will hold a "GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays" seminar Nov. 4, 6 p.m., for those facing the holidays after the death of a loved one. The seminar will feature video interviews with counselors and grief experts discussing topics such as "Why the Holidays Are Tough," "How to Manage Relationships and Holiday Socials," and "Using the Holidays to Help You Heal." The cost to attend is \$5. For more information, call (502) 241-8534. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

Darrell Wilson recently resigned as pastor of Harrod's Creek Church.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a regional Celebrate Recovery training seminar Nov. 3 for church leaders and volunteers interested in learning more about the national recovery

ministry. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—Bethlehem Church recently honored Pastor **Gary Ervin** on his 40 years of ministry at the church.

■ **HARDINSBURG**—Hardinsburg Church will hold a Harvest Fest event Oct. 31, 5 p.m., as a safe alternative to trick or treating. **Doug Miller** is pastor.

■ **HARRODSBURG**—Harrodsburg Church will host **Light & Lively** in concert Nov. 1, 11 a.m., performing a program called "Music From East to West." For more information, call (859) 734-2339. **Wayne Spivey** is pastor.

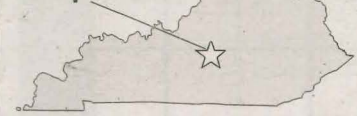
■ **IRVINE**—Friendship Church will celebrate its 60th anniversary with homecoming services Nov. 4 with **John Rhodes** as guest speaker. Scott Rogers is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Walnut Street Church will hold a LifeCare memorial service Nov. 4, 6 p.m., to remember lost friends and loved ones of the church. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

■ **PADUCAH**—Lone Oak First Church honored Associate Pastor **Mike Williams** on his 25 years of service to the church with a reception Oct. 28. **Dan Summerlin** is pastor.

Spotlight on ...

Campbellsville



Campbellsville Church will hold its first-ever Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk Nov. 17. Registration is \$20 and must be done by Nov. 2 at www.cvillebaptist.com. The majority of the proceeds will go to Green River Ministries. For more information, call (270) 465-2683. **Ted Traylor** is transitional pastor.

- **SCIENCE HILL**—Northside Church will host Pulaski Association's annual World Day of Prayer event Nov. 4, 2 p.m., with **Linda Cooper**, president of Kentucky Woman's Missionary Union, as guest speaker. **Patrick Butcher** is pastor.
- **SCOTTSVILLE**—Liberty Church will host **The Chuck Wagon Gang** in concert Nov. 2, 7 p.m. For more information, call (270) 622-7494. **Michael Johns** is pastor.
- **WINCHESTER**—Heritage Church will host Boone's Creek Association Baptist Women's Day of Prayer event Nov. 5, 7 p.m. **Tim Christopher** is pastor.

D.K. PREACHER'S KIDS

BY DAVID AYERS



Editor's note:

A Nov. 3 dedication ceremony for the Kentucky Memorial for the Unborn at the Frankfort Cemetery (WR, Oct. 16, pg. 3) has been postponed, according to Kathy Rutledge, chair of a committee overseeing the project. A rescheduled date for the ceremony has not yet been announced. For updates on the project, visit www.KyMemorialfortheUnborn.org.

Opening special needs day care is CWJC honoree's ultimate goal

By Kristin Easterling

Brandon, Miss.—Bobbi Leath is one step closer to realizing her dream of opening a day care for children with special needs, thanks to her participation in Christian Women's Job Corps, a Woman's Missionary Union ministry.

Leath, from Mississippi, is this year's recipient of the Sybil Bentley Dove Award, given annually to a current or former CWJC participant who advances herself through life skills, academic development and faith in God. The award also includes a financial grant.

Leath, whose son has cerebral palsy and daughter has epilepsy, knew opening a day care center would require getting a GED and a college education. The quest for a GED brought Leath to CWJC, where she said she found much more.

"The job corps was like being with a room full of sisters," Leath said. "The ladies were uplifting and seemed interested in the vision I was dreaming. They helped me see God has His hands in this dream and that I am just a vessel for His hands to work."

While all the women in CWJC were influential on her journey, Leath said Mary Callahan, director of the Rankin

County, Miss., center impacted her during her interview to join the program. "I sat and told her my story," Leath recalled. "With her uplifting spirit, I knew deep down that I was in the right place."

Debbie Boykin, Leath's CWJC mentor, described her as determined and optimistic.

"Bobbi has a passion and feels called to help other families that are facing the same challenges she has had to deal with," Boykin said. "I am so proud of her accomplishments so far."

Leath's life has changed in "big ways" since coming to CWJC. In addition to earning her GED, she said she has greater confidence in herself and a stronger relationship with God.

"He is forever changing and molding me into the person He intended," Leath said. "I have completely let Him take the reins to guide me to do His work."

Leath is pursuing a degree in child development and child care at a local community college, where she earned a 3.54 GPA her first semester.

The national WMU started CWJC in 1997 to help women improve their lives through biblical nurturing, mentoring and job training. To learn more, visit www.WMU.com/JobCorps. (WMU/BP)



Bobbi Leath

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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: 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: 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: 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 minister. Seminary degree or working on

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one required; send resumés to: Search Committee, Hardinsburg Baptist Church, 515 West U.S. 60, Hardinsburg, KY 40143.

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

SEEKING: First Baptist Church of Sherwood, Ark., is seeking a full-time children's minister; resumés received through Dec. 1; send to First Baptist Church, Children's minister committee, 701 Country Club Road, Sherwood, AR 72120, or email fbcresponse@swbell.net.

SEEKING: Dry Ridge Baptist Church of Dry Ridge, Ky., is searching for a full-time pastor. Apply by sending a resumé to Dry Ridge Baptist Church, Attn: Pastor search committee, P.O. Box 14, Dry Ridge, KY 41035, or online to office@dryridgebaptist.com.

Oklahoma boy supports church with near-record steer winnings

By Dana Williamson

Newcastle, Okla.—“If we didn’t stop him, he’d give away all the money he has,” Stacey-Bonham said of her 11-year-old son, Baylor.

And that would be a significant amount, since Baylor deposited \$106,000 in his bank account after showing his prize steer, Stripe.

The young member of First Baptist Church of Newcastle, Okla., is tithing on that money to his church.

Born into the cattle industry, Baylor has been in the “show” business since he was about 5 years old.

“Both of our sons, Logan, now 18, and Baylor started showing as soon as they could pull a steer by a halter,” Stacey said.

Baylor showed Stripe, the grand champion market steer at the National Western Stock Show in Denver back in January, and 24 hours later, the 1,315-pound steer brought \$106,000 on the auction floor.

Baylor, who weighs 80 pounds, was in the auction ring with Stripe, and when the amount hit \$70,000, the audience rose in applause, frightening Stripe, who jerked and sent Baylor flying into the metal bar on the sale ring. But being the professional he is, Baylor jumped up and returned to center ring to complete the auction, which reached \$100,000 before the auctioneer encouraged the \$106,000 amount to commemorate 106 years of the National Western Stock Show.

When Baylor was interviewed after the auction, he said to a cheering crowd, “I came here to show and see what it was like so I could come back and show again next year, but it just worked out for me.”

His father, Steve, an astute businessman, choked up when he came to the microphone, and according to his wife, was upset because he showed so much emotion in public.

“I told him he just showed people that he has a heart, and is a dad, not just a businessman,” Stacey said. “It was an amazing, memorable moment.”

Steve has been in the cattle industry since he was a teenager, and is a professional licensed auctioneer. He buys and sells show cattle nationwide and hand selects them, checking to see if they are built right and can walk well, necessary characteristics for show steers.

“I knew the first time I saw him, Stripe would be perfect on all four feet,” Steve recalled.

Stacey said her sons spend about two hours a day caring for the steers, brushing, rinsing and blow drying their hair and feeding them a structured diet that promotes good muscle-to-bone ratio.

“We buy pickup beds of shampoo from Sally Beauty Supply,” Stacey said. “The hair has to be long, fluffy and healthy. People can’t get over how much hair Stripe had and how soft it was.”

Fans of Stripe were able to see that soft hair up close as the steer participated in a long-standing tradition at the elegant Brown Derby Hotel in downtown Denver shortly before the auction.

Every year, the grand champion steer is paraded through the hotel lobby on red carpet, accompanied by music from



CELEBRITY STATUS ■ Above:

Baylor Bonham poses with his steer, Stripe, after his win at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Stripe got his own pen in the lobby of the Brown Derby Hotel, where people had their photos taken with him. ■ Right: Baylor, who weighs 80 pounds, holds tightly to the 1,315-pound Stripe as he’s auctioned off. The steer fetched \$106,000, the second highest auction price in the National Western Stock Show’s history. Baylor later tithed from his winnings, giving it to support the children’s ministry at First Baptist Church of Newcastle, Okla.



a grand piano, to a makeshift pen where people can have their pictures taken with the prize winner.

Stripe was somewhat special because only twice in the history of the Denver show has a steer brought more than \$100,000, with the high being \$110,000 in 2008. The last three years, the winners have brought between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

Stacey said Logan and Baylor work with four to six head of cattle each year. From participating in stock shows from October through January, they end up losing three of those.

The first time Baylor won significant money was in November of 2011 at a national show in Louisville where he came away with \$27,000.

When he was interviewed in the ring after that sale, he told reporters he was going to save some of the money for college, but he was going to give part of it to the children’s ministry at his church.

“That was totally off the cuff,” Stacey recalled. “I had no idea it was coming. It took me to tears.”

A heart for children’s ministry

When the family returned from Kentucky, Stacey took Baylor to visit with the children’s minister at First Baptist, Newcastle, Ronda Pinkerton. Baylor, who was saved and baptized at the church when he was 8, told her he would like his tithe money to be used to help kids who aren’t able to go to summer camp because they can’t afford it and also to be used for fees for Upward Basketball, as well as for tennis shoes for those kids who needed them.

“This time Baylor and the rest of the family want the money to be used where it is most needed,” Stacey said. “We are getting ready to go into phase three of upgrading the church facilities, so we are going to see if they would rather put the money from his second win into the building program.”

Stacey said that since Baylor is only 11, she believes he will have a long career and frequently will have winnings on which to tithe to his church.

“Baylor has been so often in the limelight that his intentions with his winnings have become public knowledge, and I think that is a good witness to other kids,” she said. “He has the biggest heart you’ve ever seen. I promise you Baylor would give every dime of it away if you let him.” (Oklahoma Baptist Messenger/BP)

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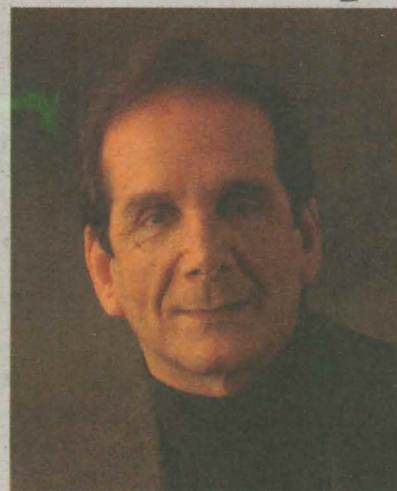
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