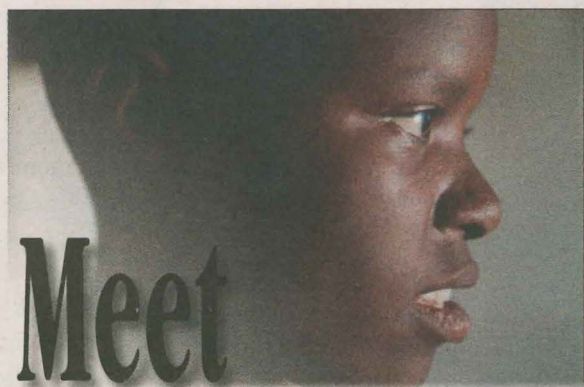


# WESTERN Recorder

November 27, 2012

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 186, Issue 46



## Meet Clive

Boy surviving HIV with help from Southern Baptists

By Elizabeth James

**Zvavahera, Zimbabwe**—The boy carefully climbs out of the desk and makes his way to the large chalkboard at the front of the classroom. After eyeing his teacher, 10-year-old Clive picks up the piece of chalk and fills in the subtraction problem.

It may seem like a small step, but Clive's headmaster and teacher agree he is making remarkable improvements. Just a few months earlier, Clive was

spending more time in the clinic than he was in the classroom.

Like many others in the Zimbabwe village of Zvavahera, Clive is HIV-positive. But Clive's battle with HIV began long before he was diagnosed.

Before the disease began to consume his own body—primarily by stunting his growth—it already was shaping his life.

In 2007, AIDS took the lives of both Clive's mother and father, recasting the roles of his family and forcing his 16-year-old sister, Mercy, into the role of primary caregiver.

"When my parents were still alive, everything was better," Mercy recalled. "They used to assist us and play their role. When they passed away, things became very difficult for us."

While other children their age come home from school to fully prepared meals, Clive and Mercy begin the race to complete chores before sunset. The balancing act of cleaning the dishes, sweeping the house, finding firewood, fetching water, searching for food and preparing the meal often kept them out of school.

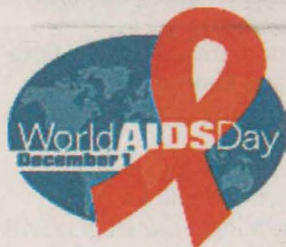
In 2011, when Clive got word that he was HIV-positive, he had no idea what it meant, Mercy said.

What began as a few missed days of school soon spiraled into months of illness. The decline in health made it impossible for Clive to make the seven-kilometer walk from home to school.

"Clive used to be in the clinic every week or every month," said Evans Thonolana, a nurse at the Zvavahera Clinic.

On the rare occasions Clive could attend school, his teacher said the most he could do was sleep at

□ See Meet Clive ... Page 5



## 'ACT of LOVE'

**Louisville**—Dozens of Kentucky Baptists took time away from family and friends this holiday to serve hot meals at Jefferson Street Baptist Center's fourth annual Thanksgiving Eve "Dinner for the Homeless."

Jesse Eubanks, interim executive director for the center, said more than 400 plates of food are provided annually. "We are so thankful for all of the volunteers and donors that make this holiday special. This can be a sad and difficult time of year for so many people."

He described the selflessness of volunteers as an act of love. "It shows people they are not alone," Eubanks said.



Ky. Baptists serve Thanksgiving Eve meals to Louisville's homeless

□ For more photos, see page 4

Anita Houchens, of Cloverleaf Baptist Church, serves lemonade to guests at Jefferson Street Baptist Center's Thanksgiving Eve dinner Wednesday, Nov. 21, in Louisville. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)

## Post-Sandy SBDR meal count tops 1.2 million

By Joe Conway

**Edison, N.J.**—Southern Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers deployed after Hurricane Sandy had prepared more than 1.2 million meals in New York, New Jersey and, earlier, in West Virginia as of Nov. 19.

More than 330,000 of those meals have been prepared by dozens of Kentucky Baptist disaster relief volunteers, who have served more than 1,500 "volunteer days" since they arrived in the region Nov. 1.

A mud-out team from Three Forks Baptist Association is serving in New York this week. The eight-person crew is expected to serve through Dec. 1. Overall, the Kentucky Baptist response in the affected areas is winding down, according to Coy Webb, who coordinates the Kentucky Baptist Convention's disaster relief efforts.

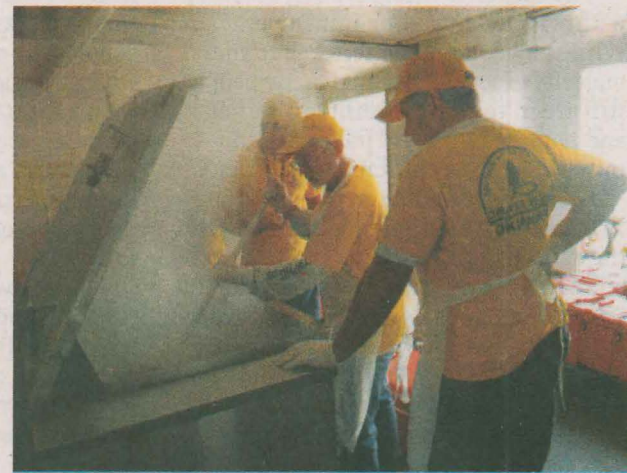
As more power is restored to homes in the hardest-hit areas, SBDR leaders say the need will diminish for meal preparation by the deployed feeding units.

Volunteers also have reported 56 individuals who have made professions of faith in Christ as a result of the disaster relief ministry.

The North American Mission Board soon will coordinate both church-to-church partnerships in the region and the mobilization of student volunteers for long-term ministry and service in the Northeast.

"The church-to-church initiative in response to Sandy will be different in nature than that of the response to Hurricane Katrina," said Jerry Daniel, team leader for NAMB's "LoveLoud" emphasis.

While the church partnerships fostered in the wake



**KITCHEN DUTIES** David Crowell (center) and Jackie Pledger (right) prepare a meal at the Oklahoma Baptist Convention's disaster relief mobile kitchen unit in Middletown, N.J. The crew served up turkey and dressing on Thanksgiving Day. (Photo by Laura Sikes/NAMB)

of Hurricane Katrina focused in large part on the physical rebuilding and repair of church infrastructure, the aftermath of Sandy will see a different ministry emphasis, Daniel explained.

"There was not a lot of damage to church facilities, so the church-to-church aspect of Sandy will focus on churches partnering with churches in the affected area to do work in the community," he said. "This will

□ See Disaster relief ... Page 2



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Western Recorder 11-27-2012

# Graffiti Church shines 'light' in Sandy's aftermath

By Diana Chandler

**New York**—East 7th Baptist Church has prayed for the toughest assignments in serving the neediest people. In God's care, the church has ministered through Sept. 11, and now is a healing balm to survivors of Hurricane Sandy.

Three weeks after the superstorm killed 110 people along the East Coast—nearly half of them in New York—the church known as Graffiti is helping people recover by meeting physical and spiritual needs.

The 40-year-old church that typically draws 100 to Sunday worship has served thousands in the wake of the hurricane through partnerships God has provided, according to adult ministries director Kareem Goubran.

"When a disaster hits ... the needs will be long term (and) the response will be long term," Goubran said. "We know God's called us ... as a local church to be light, to give ongoing ministry to people who have been affected."

In post-Sandy ministry, the effectiveness of cooperation is evident, he said.

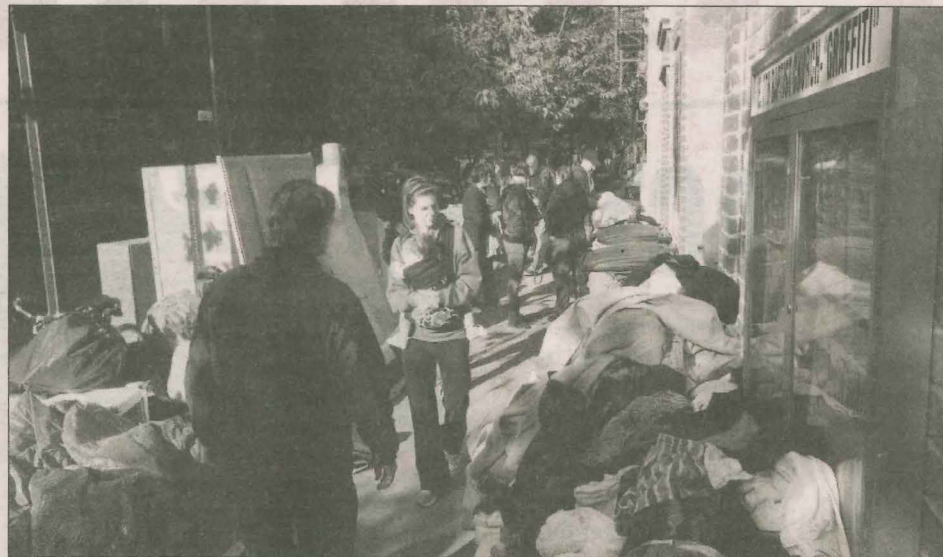
"We try to do everything in ministry in partnership because we can't do it by ourselves," he said. As New York struggles to return to normalcy, Graffiti Church is helping residents clean their homes, eat and stay warm, working with Southern Baptist partners and beyond.

"We did have kind of unprecedented 'neighbors helping neighbors'" in tandem with ministries offering to help "because there was such a specific need for every building around us. I think we had at one time nine different churches helping us," Goubran recalled.

The church is incorporating recovery within its longstanding ministries. While power has been restored to the majority of local residents, many people still are in the dark. Graffiti's Internet and phone service still has not been restored, but the church has electricity.

Graffiti's free lunch in the park Nov. 17 became a Thanksgiving event when the church distributed hats, gloves, socks and blankets with freshly packaged Thanksgiving meals to go. The Saturday meal, served three weekends each month, drew some who never before had a need to attend, Goubran said.

"We asked people, 'What are you



**MINISTRY DOESN'T STOP** East 7th Baptist Church on Manhattan's Lower East Side continued its clothing closet ministry (right), even as trash accumulated (left) from the church's flooded basement after superstorm Sandy. North Carolina Baptist Men and other disaster relief volunteers have cleaned several basements in the community, stripping them of damaged drywall, sheetrock, furnishings and debris. (BP photo)

thankful for?" So many people are just talking about that experience with Hurricane Sandy," Goubran said. "We've been hearing people just say, 'Thank you that you're reaching out to us.' People need kind of a listener, a chaplain, a caregiver"

## Ministries of healing

The church's after-school program and computer, ESL and GED classes all are settings for fellowship and healing. The Lower East Side used to be called a ghetto, Goubran said, but now is a dichotomy.

"It's really a tale of two cities. We have the richest and the poorest living right next to each other," he said. "The population that was hit this time was not just people who are in poverty or struggling with addiction, or homeless or dealing with a mental illness, which is the population we are used to serving. (These are) people who are young professionals who live in the community who just got flooded basements and don't know what to do."

Many new faces were evident at Graffiti's post-Sandy seminar on preventing mold from festering in basements.

"We had over a hundred people that we'd never met before, even though we're always doing ministry in our commu-

unity," Goubran said. "We feel like the neighbors know us and we know them."

The church also held a "listening" seminar to teach church members chaplaincy skills.

"Let people tell the story. Don't tell them how to feel. Be pleasant. The same way when you pray you don't always hear an audible voice, that's a sign that God is listening to you when you have something to say," Goubran said in describing the church's advice. "That's the posture we take when we engage people. We just ask people, 'How are you doing since Hurricane Sandy?' And people will tell their story."

People have said, "I can't believe the water came this high. I can't believe we were out of power for so long." Or, "We still don't have heat," Goubran recalled. "A lot of people say, 'I'm still cold,' or, 'I still don't have hot water.'"

Longtime Graffiti minister Johnny Johnson, serving as the church's flood recovery coordinator, also noted how Hurricane Sandy has allowed a wider reach within the community.

"It's allowed us to cross racial boundaries and engage Muslims, Asians, Buddhists," Johnson said, "because when something like that happens, there are no more color lines. ... It's about a need and fulfilling that need." (BP)

## Disaster relief

Continued from page 1

provide the local churches a platform with their neighbors. The assistance given by partnering churches will allow for an increased bandwidth of ministry by local churches in the Northeast."

Planning and logistics also continue for mobilizing college students to assist with clean-up operations over the winter break. Details for volunteer opportunities for students and the church-to-church initiative soon will be available, Daniel noted.

In total, more than 1,200 SBDR volunteers from 34 states and Canada have responded to Sandy the storm hit in late October. (NAMB/BP)

## Lee to retire as BCM/D exec. director

**Silver Spring, Md.**—David Lee announced his plans to retire as executive director of the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware during his Nov. 12 address at the convention's annual meeting.

Upon his retirement July 31, 2013, Lee, 62, will have completed 19 years of service to the convention, the last 13 as executive director.

Before joining the BCM/D staff, Lee was pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Glen Burnie, Md. The North Carolina native also has led churches in Mississippi and Maryland.

Lee was the unanimous choice of the BCM/D General Mission Board in 2000 to succeed Charles Barnes.

Lee's tenure has been marked by a strong emphasis on missions and church



David Lee (right), pauses for a moment of prayer with Ken Stalls, the convention's outgoing president, during the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware annual meeting in Silver Spring, Md.

planting, building relationships among pastors, and helping existing churches become healthier and more Great Commission-focused. Lee and his wife Sherry have together championed the support of ministers, their wives and their families through numerous initiatives. (Maryland-Delaware Baptist/LIFE/BP)

## October CP gifts top monthly goal, yearly totals lag

**Louisville**—Kentucky Baptists exceeded the monthly goal of missions support through the Cooperative Program in October.

CP giving for last month was \$1,856,142, exceeding the monthly budget goal by \$22,809. Year-to-date CP support through the second month of the new fiscal year is \$125,000 behind the same period last year.

During the recent Kentucky Baptist Convention annual meeting at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington, messengers approved a budget for the fiscal year 2013-14 that enables an equal split of Cooperative Program funds between Kentucky Baptist and Southern Baptist causes, with 10 percent of those funds set aside for shared expenses, or "Cooperative Program resourcing."

"That 10 percent will be used on behalf of the SBC and KBC to tell more Kentucky Baptists about what the Cooperative Program does and that, by giving through CP, we can support missions and ministries here at home, in other parts of North America and the entire world," KBC Executive Director Paul Chitwood said.

"Even though the Cooperative Program has been part of Baptist work for nearly 90 years, it has become clear in recent years that many Southern Baptists and Kentucky Baptists are not well informed about CP," Chitwood continued.

At next year's annual meeting in Paducah, Chitwood said he anticipates that the budget messengers will vote on will reduce "Cooperative Program resourcing" to 7 percent, enabling even more CP funds to be used for direct support to missions and ministries. (KBC)

### Kentucky Baptist CP gifts at a glance

Giving for Oct. 1-31, 2012 & Year-to-Date



Monthly budget goal*	\$1,833,333
Actual giving:	\$1,856,142
Over budget:	\$ 22,809
Year-to-Date budget goal*:	\$3,666,667
Year-to-Date actual giving:	\$3,131,577
Under budget:	\$ 535,090

\*Based on an annual budget goal of \$22 million

### Clarification

It was previously reported that any gifts received in excess of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's 2013-14 Cooperative Program budget goal of \$22.5 million would be distributed to KBC and Southern Baptist Convention causes at predetermined percentages as in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 budgets, called the "More for Christ" challenge.

According to the KBC's business manager, Lowell Ashby, this year's budget no longer includes that provision. Cooperative Program gifts received beyond \$22.5 million will be allocated at the same percentages as all other CP funds.

## Don't let life interfere with counting your blessings

Some years back, Pastor Jack Hinton of New Bern, N.C., took a group from his church into the Caribbean on a summer mission trip. Now, if you want to go on a mission trip, that's the place.

While they were there, the missionary who was their host invited them to minister to the patients at a leprosarium in the little island nation of Tobago.

In the hospital for lepers, the Carolinians were broken hearted to see the effects of the various forms of this dreaded disease on its victims. After a bit, the administrator of the facility invited Pastor Jack and his group to lead a worship service in their chapel.

The patients who were ambulatory were brought in. Pastor Jack noticed, however, one patient—a little woman—who came in and took a seat on the back row, and then turned her body toward the back wall.

That was strange.

The visitors led worship, singing hymns, giving testimonies, leading in prayers. After a bit, Pastor Jack announced, "We have time for one more hymn. Does anyone have a favorite you'd like us to sing?"

And now for the first time, the little woman on the back row turned and faced the front. Pastor Jack found himself staring into the most hideous face he had ever seen.

Because of the effects of leprosy, this woman had no nose. And no lips. And when she raised her hand to make the request, there was no hand there—only a bony nub.

She said in a weak voice,

"Could we sing 'Count Your Many Blessings?'"

Pastor Jack lost it.

The tears came up into his throat and choked off his voice. He couldn't get a word out and finally had to step out a side door and weep. Someone else stepped up and led the hymn.

One of the men walked outside and put his arm around the pastor. "You'll never sing that song again, will you, Jack?"

"Oh, yeah," he said, "but not in the same way."

Can you still count your blessings?

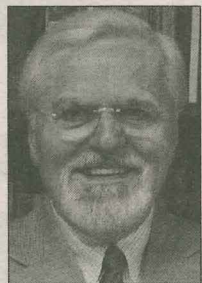
There's a little woman on the island of Tobago who would like to hear your reasons for not praising the Lord.

We let so many things interfere with our thanksgiving:

- The gift was not what we expected, so we say nothing.
- The service was not everything it could have been, so we keep silent.

- The help someone rendered was eclipsed by what another person did for someone else we know. So we keep our appreciation to ourselves.

### Commentary



Joe McKeever

- We felt we deserved more. So we grew resentful.

Lord help us. We are a selfish lot.

"In everything give thanks," Scripture commands (1 Thessalonians 5:18). "For this is the will of God concerning you."

It is God's will that we give thanks.

It is God's will that we give thanks regardless of the situation, what we expected or how we feel.

A thankful life is a wonderful testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A thankful soul is the best proof of the Lord Jesus within the human heart.

A thankful spirit is the best beauty treatment a person can give him or herself.

A thankful heart makes us a joy to be around and thus a welcome addition to any gathering.

A thankful word is the most pleasant sound in any assembly.

A thankful preacher is a joy to hear preach.

A thankful church member is a joy to whom to preach.

A thankful Christian is the only kind there ought to be—period.

Christians are followers of a grateful Savior. Jesus gave thanks before eating (John 6:11), thanked the Father for hiding certain insights from the wise and revealing them to infants (Matthew 11:25), thanked God for hearing his prayer (John 11:41), and it's a safe bet that in Heaven, at this very moment, He's thanking the Father for you and me.

And aren't we thankful for that?

Let us take a lesson from the little woman of Tobago and the Psalmist of old and count our blessings.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits" (Psalm 103:2).

*Joe McKeever is a former pastor and director of missions for New Orleans Baptist Association. The source for the Jack Hinton story is "The Commission," a former International Mission Board magazine.*

## Misunderstanding Mormons

In a recent "commentary" concerning Mormons, the president of LifeWay Research made this comment: "In some ways, Mormonism is to Christianity what Christianity is to Judaism. Christianity took basic beliefs from Judaism, but, from their perspective, added another testament and doctrines that did not match the original."

This statement is so misleading and so far from the truth that Western Recorder readers must become aware how far wrong the writer is. Otherwise, many will not understand that Mormonism is a true cult. I support that with four major facts that are bases of their belief. Mormons believe:

- Satan is the brother of Christ.

- There are multiple gods. In other words, they practice polytheism (belief in multiple gods) rather than one God as do Christians and Jews.

- The Trinity is three separate beings.

- Jesus' conception was of a physical nature.

The Book of Mormon is considered by the Mormons to be at least equal to the Bible. Also consider that Joseph Smith made more than 3,000 changes to the King James' Version, and the Mormons only use this rewritten Bible in their worship.

Mormons use many of the same terms as Christians, but they have different meanings. Jesus was not even added to the cult's name—the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints—until the 1970s in an attempt to be considered a Christian religion. Since one of only

140 worldwide Mormon temples is in the Louisville area, the temple has become a magnet for Mormons moving to the area.

The article can create more misunderstanding of the Mormon belief truly being a cult to those who do not research their true differences from Christians. This can result in more acceptance that Mormons may actually be Christians by some—a situation that should not even be considered.

*Don Helton  
Pewee Valley*

**Forum Disclaimer:** Baptist Forum is provided as an opportunity for Kentucky Baptists to express their viewpoints. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Western Recorder's editorial staff, its Board of Directors, or the Kentucky Baptist Convention. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and will be edited for style, clarity and space. Letters must reflect a spirit of Christian charity and civility.

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

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## Three truths revisited

One year ago, I wrote an article stating that, for its future to be viable, three things must hold true for the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

### Together We are the KBC



Paul Chitwood

First, I maintained the KBC must constantly strive to meet pastors and churches where they are.

Acknowledging our Lord's commission has not changed, every generation is presented with unique challenges and opportunities in fulfilling that commission. For the KBC to remain effective at

helping churches fulfill their missions, our Mission Board staff and ministries must be able to help our generation of churches address their challenges and take advantage of their opportunities.

Second, I argued the KBC must rise to the challenge of clearly communicating its kingdom role. While the KBC has many ministries designed to serve and strengthen the local church, most Kentucky Baptists know very little about these ministries or how their churches could be blessed by them.

Third, I contended that our state convention structure and ministries must respond to present financial challenges by valuing the things Kentucky Baptists value most and by continually striving to offer strategic, high-quality ministry support for churches. We must make hard choices between the "good" things we do and the "best" things we do, and then do those things with excellence.

One year later, we have undertaken a seismic and historic transition. Where do we stand on these three proposals?

First, our new mission statement and Mission Board staff structure have us positioned to meet pastors and churches where they are. KBC staff members approach our churches from a position of humility, acknowledging we are only here because the churches have put us here, and we are here for the sole purpose of serving the churches. Moreover, our staff members are available daily to encourage and assist pastors and churches on the field. Our staff members are men and women who bring with them years of experience, a track record of success in their unique ministry areas, and a set of listening ears.

Second, more than ever, our staff members are engaging every available opportunity for communication. They are active on social media, available to speak or preach and are constantly looking for new techniques to raise awareness concerning ways we can bless and serve the local churches.

Third, we have responded to the financial challenges of our day with a leaner Mission Board staff, a renewed focus upon serving KBC churches as our first priority, and a greater investment of Cooperative Program dollars in places where the gospel has not been heard.

While these moves continue to require difficult choices between what is "good" and what is "best," we wholeheartedly believe these moves find us valuing the things Kentucky Baptists value most.

*Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.*

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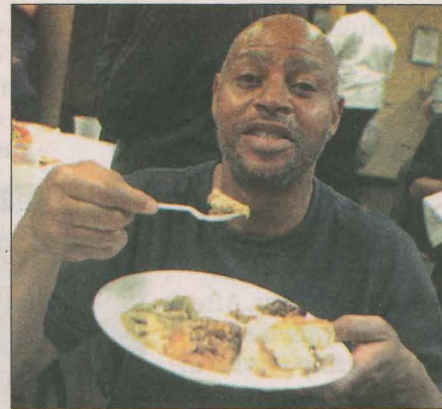
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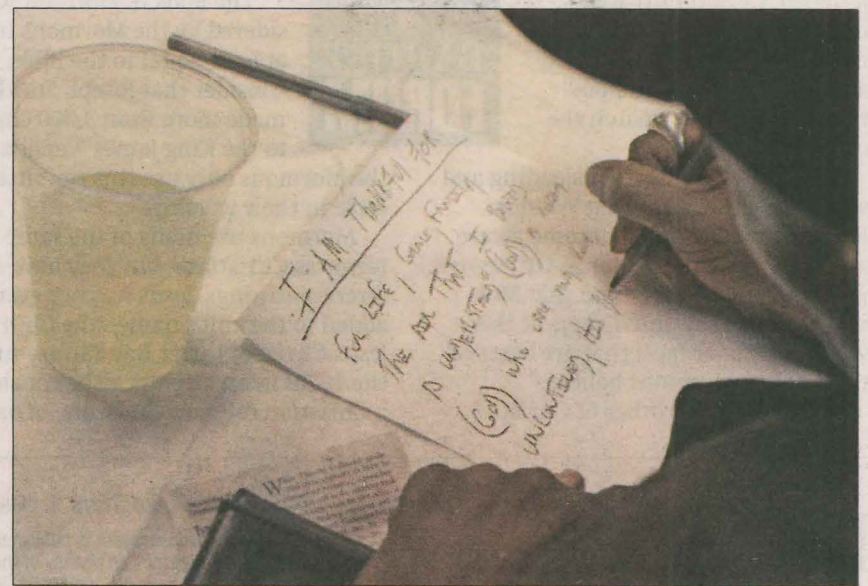
# 'ACT of LOVE'



Volunteers from several Louisville area churches helped serve more than 400 meals at the 4th annual Jefferson Street Baptist Center Thanksgiving Eve Dinner for the Homeless Nov. 21. **FAR LEFT:** David and Wanda Kerr, of Cloverleaf Baptist Church, serve as greeters and welcome guests to the dinner. **LEFT:** Shannon Lee Goode enjoys a turkey dinner with all the trimmings.



April James (right), of Southeast Christian Church, closely listens as a Thanksgiving dinner guest known only as "Sherri" shares a story about her life. (Photos by Robin Cornetet Bass)



**LEFT:** Shelby Scott (left), of Cloverleaf Baptist Church, and Natalie Laurence, of Southeast Christian Church, prepare to serve their first tray of Thanksgiving Eve meals at Jefferson Street Baptist Center. Guests were offered seconds on meals and desserts, and many took a plate of food to-go. **ABOVE:** Dinner guest Randall Gibbs jots down things he is most thankful for, including life, family and blessings from God.

## Amid Israel & Gaza conflict, prayers rise for 'bold' faith

By Ava Thomas

**Israel**—The smoke trails of rockets make jagged cuts through the cloudless sky over Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

Stephen Johnson\*, a Christian worker among Palestinians, said he feels just as rough around the edges.

After arriving in the West Bank Nov. 16, he fell asleep but was awakened when a rocket hit near the house where he is staying. "We are fine—a little jittery, but OK," he said.

He's not the only one who's jittery—phone calls to friends who are believers in Gaza Strip confirmed that.

"They are all OK, but very frightened," Johnson said. "They've been here many times before."

The long history of conflict between Gaza and Israel has been marked in recent years by militants in Gaza firing rockets into Israeli populations, triggering severe retaliation by Israel.

With the current fighting, it's dangerous to be in the street, and there's little movement outside. Grocery stores are empty. "People have bought up supplies in case the situation gets worse," Johnson said.

And they pray "worse" won't mean "closer." The Palestinian Ministry of Interior office, for example—very close where some of Johnson's friends live—has been hit by Israeli rockets.

In Israel where Ben Martin\* lives,

people aren't as worried about rockets as they are about the possibility of others getting involved, such as Egypt or Hezbollah, the Shiite Muslim group based in Lebanon. Egypt's president stated early in the conflict that it would not leave Gaza on its own.

"The main concern is the secondary threat," said Martin, a Christian worker among Jews. "In these days, what do we do? We're told to be sober-minded so that we may be able to pray.

"What we need is people who will pray for the believers in Israel and for the believers in Gaza to be bold to share in the midst of hard times," Martin said.

One believer in Israel Martin knows has had the opportunity to share with a family while he was taking cover with them as rockets approached. "We don't just sit with our hands folded—we look for opportunities."

Martin, Johnson and others in the region say there is a ready harvest among the Middle Eastern peoples.

"Pray for safety" for believers caught in the crossfire, Johnson urged, "but also that they would have opportunities to share the hope that they have.

"As you watch the news, write down the names and places, then turn the TV off and pray the news," Johnson added. "It's not a political statement or a stand, but asking the God of heaven to invoke His will in the situation and to bring true and lasting peace. With that, He is well pleased." (IMB/BP)



**'TRUE & LASTING PEACE'**  
As the death toll rises and the conflict escalates between Gaza and Israel, Christian workers in the area are asking believers to 'pray the news,' for God to bring real peace to the area and open hearts to the peace only He can bring. (IMB photo)



**LIFE-SAVING MINISTRY** Each month, Mercy and her HIV-positive brother, Clive, walk to the local government clinic in Zimbabwe to collect their monthly food pack, provided through the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. The distribution is a time of encouragement for families affected by HIV/AIDS, because they are able to share their status without fear of stigma or shame. (BGR photo)

### Meet Clive

*Continued from page 1*  
his desk, unable to even copy notes from the chalkboard. Clive's headmaster, Shadreck Makaganise, wondered if the boy would ever recover.

"We once went to see him," Makaganise said. "It was terrible, because we never thought he was going to survive."

Though Clive had medicine, he lacked the one simple thing needed to sustain his life—food. As Thonoloana explained, many of the symptoms Clive suffered were caused by his not having enough food for the medicine to be effective.

Finding food was nearly impossible for the two children. Their extended family could not help, and drought made it difficult to grow crops. The combination forced Mercy and Clive into a desperate situation.

Mercy often skipped school in order to work a neighbor's gardens, in hopes of providing a little extra food for her brother.

"At times when he got sick, I used to cry because I didn't know what to do," Mercy said. "When he got sick, he used to lose a lot of weight within a few days or so. ... I felt like I was hopeless. I could not improve the situation of my brother."

After a visit to the village of Zvavahera and seeing many people in situations like Clive and Mercy, Aaron Mutingwende, orphan-care program director for the Baptist Union of Zimbabwe, decided something had to be done. Mutingwende applied for a grant through Baptist Global Response to fund a feeding program in the area. Through that effort, hundreds of HIV/AIDS families have been provided with food. The life-saving food was provided by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Every month, around 350 people come to the clinic in Zvavahera to receive their food. After weighing in and recording their progress, they fill their plastic sacks with rice, peanut butter, sugar, oil, soap and other goods handed out by volunteers from the local Baptist church. The recipients leave with more than a full bag of food. At every distribution, Thonoloana educates the crowd on HIV care and prevention and Mutingwende encourages them to live the full and abundant life promised by Jesus.

"We have to take care of the needy. We have to take care of the sick,"

Mutingwende acknowledged. "We can't allow people to think just because they are sick, we no longer value them. ... They are part of our family, still part of society."

Mutingwende said he has seen the restoration in both individuals and the community as a result of the food distribution. From bedridden patients now walking, to several HIV support groups developing, he said he could have never imagined that type of progress when the first distribution was made in January of 2011.

For Clive, even the small changes are reminders of God's mercy. From being able to play outside without getting headaches, to staying awake in class, the simplest signs of progress are monumental victories in the boy's personal battle against HIV.

"They told us about the program and we got very excited," Mercy said, "because it was going to make a big change in our lives."

The food Clive received was a catalyst for recovery, soon enabling him to regain strength and return to school.

"Now they are attending school every day because some of the problems were solved" through the distribution, Mutingwende noted.

Clive's illness had taken a toll. Because he had missed so much school, he had to be placed in a remedial class. When he first came back to school, Clive's teacher noticed he was unable to complete simple math problems or recite the alphabet. Within a matter of months, however, he was improving, soon leading his class.

Clive's improvements have expanded outside the classroom as well. Though he once struggled to keep friends, he now has several of them and often walks to school with them.

Time at the clinic no longer consumes Clive's days. Instead, he spends his spare time climbing trees to collect fruit, playing outside with his dog, Cheetah, and helping his sister with household chores. Though he will continue to face the effects of HIV, for the moment he has enough strength to lead the life of a normal 10-year-old boy.

"He used to be very weak before we started receiving food, but now he has greatly recovered," Mercy said. "I am no longer scared when he goes out because I know he has enough strength to come back." (BGR)

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## Adventures in Haiti, part 1

**OBI staff member recalls mission trip to Haiti working with orphans**

If you know much about Oneida at all, you know the school is a missions ministry. The people whom the Lord leads to serve on our ministry team do so because they want to see the lives of teenagers and their families changed.

As a result, it isn't surprising that from time to time OBI individuals and families have a desire and vision to travel to other parts of the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ. One of our secretaries, Katy Price, recently traveled to Haiti

for a week to minister in Christ's name there. Here is a report of her experience:

"You never really understand the beauty of a mountaintop, the pain of loss or the joy of encouragement until you have seen what others have gone through and how they have overcome those obstacles. I had a God-given opportunity to go to Haiti with 13 others from all over the United States and work with children for a week through the organization, World Orphans (Journey 117).

"Sunday morning, we went to a Haitian church in the area and worshipped with them for around four hours. It was a one-room church, so the adults were in the front and the kids were in the back. All through the service, there were kids and adults on the stage fixing things or turning on fans or tuning the instruments. It was quite different from what I was used to.

"After church, some of the team members were able to lead a marriage seminar, and the rest of us played in the back with the kids.

"On Monday morning, we had a great opportunity to go to a museum and learn about the history of Haiti. I was heartbroken to hear about what they have gone through, but delighted to hear how they have overcome.

"After the museum, we went back to the church and had a VBS with the kids. They loved the crafts and the songs the best, and they all loved to be hugged and held. Some of the kids live near the church, so we got to go to their homes, meet their guardians and see their home lives.

"In one of the homes, we met a lady named Mama Jean. She is a very special lady. She lost her home and husband in the earthquake and is raising five kids alone. She told us that whatever her family needs, God provides for her. She does not rely on anyone else for what she needs. Her one prayer request was that she would be able to stay in God's will and that her kids would grow up knowing God.

"Tuesday morning, we loaded backpacks full of school supplies and candy for 80 kids. When we got to the church later that day, the kids were all eager to see us and to see what we brought for them. When we passed out the backpacks, the smiles and joy on their faces when they saw what was inside was priceless. We did another VBS, and the kids loved everything we did with them. The team was able to do more home visits and meet more amazing families."

*To be continued next week...*

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

**This is Oneida**

Paul Davidson

## Trust God first

**Senior recalls God's provisions in his time studying at Clear Creek**

Graduating senior Bret Benton, from Irvine, will finish his studies in December. As he and his new bride, Dana, prepare for this next transition in their lives, he said he is thankful for all God has taught him these last few years at Clear Creek.

"I was definitely the typical kid who grew up in church and had heard all the Bible stories," Brett said. "But when I first came to Clear Creek and I had to take the Bible entrance exam, it humbled me. It made me realize I had a broad perspective of the Bible; I knew the famous Old Testament and New Testament stories throughout the Bible. But I realized I didn't really understand the flow of the Bible—how it pieces together throughout history.

"My studies at Clear Creek have definitely enabled me to see the Bible in that continuous story of how God has pieced His word together throughout history," Brett said. "I am truly thankful for the excellent professors that God has placed at Clear Creek.

"At the end of my first year, I was getting ready to go home for the

summer," he recalled. "I still owed a large amount on my student account. I remember leaving the financial aid office that day with a great burden. A few days later, I stepped out on the balcony of Kelly Hall where our single

dorms are located, and I started praying. As I was praying, I saw a little bird. God reminded me of the passage in Matthew 6 about His provisions for even the birds. God reminded me that He provides for even the birds, so how much more am I going to provide for you.

"It was literally the next day when I was called in to the financial aid office and was informed they had a large scholarship for me that took care of my student account for the year.

"Throughout my time at Clear Creek, God has taught me to just trust Him first," Brett said. "It's so easy to get wrapped up in all the things that don't really matter. It's all about trusting Him first, and He will give you the ability to fulfill the call He has placed on your life."

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

**Clear Creek Chronicle**

Donnie Fox

## New Congress more religiously diverse, fewer are Protestant

By David Gibson

Washington—Three Buddhists, a Hindu and a "none" will walk into the 113th Congress—and it's no joke. Rather, it's a series of "firsts" that reflect the growing religious diversity of the country.

When the new Congress is sworn in next January, Hawaii Democrat Tulsi Gabbard, an Iraq war veteran, will represent the state's 2nd Congressional District and will become the first Hindu in either chamber on Capitol Hill.

The 31-year-old Gabbard was born in American Samoa to a Catholic father and a Hindu mother, and moved to Hawaii as a child. She follows the Vaishnava branch of Hinduism.

Gabbard takes over the seat held by Rep. Mazie Hirono, who won a Senate race and will become the first Buddhist to sit in the upper chamber. There already were two other Buddhists in the House of Representatives, both of whom won re-election: Rep. Hank Johnson, a Georgia Democrat, and Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, a fellow Hawaii Democrat.

An analysis of the incoming Congress by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life also notes that Kyrsten Sinema, and Arizona Democrat who narrowly won a seat in the House, is the first member of Congress to publicly describe her religion as "none"—the popular name of a fast-growing category of Americans who say they have no particular religious affiliation.

After Sinema's win was heralded by nontheist groups, her campaign said she does not consider herself an atheist but rather "secular."

The Pew Forum—which based its

congressional analysis on data collected by CQ Roll Call—says that about one in five U.S. adults describe themselves as atheist, agnostic or "nothing in particular." Ten other members of the 113th Congress (about 2 percent) do not specify a religious affiliation, according to Pew, up from six members in the outgoing 112th Congress.

The next Congress also will see significant shifts among the mainstays of the American religious landscape.

Protestants still will comprise the majority, with about 56 percent of the members in both chambers. But that continues a steady decline since 1961, when 75 percent of members were some variety of Protestant.

Jews in Congress will see a decline, going from 39 seats to 32 seats—though at 6 percent that still is a significantly larger share than their proportion in the overall U.S. population, which is just less than 2 percent. And even though Mitt Romney, the Mormon standard-bearer, lost the presidential election, the number of Mormons in Congress remains the same, at about 3 percent, or 15 seats overall.

Roman Catholics appear to be the big winner from the Nov. 6 vote, edging up from about 156 seats to 161, or just above 30 percent. That compares with the 22 percent of the wider U.S. population that identifies as Catholic. Catholic Democrats outnumber Catholic Republicans in the House by a 73-61 margin, and by an 18-9 margin in the Senate.

Two Muslim members of the House—Minnesota's Keith Ellison and Indiana's Andre Carson, both Democrats—will return to Capitol Hill in January. (RNS)

## Looking ahead to 2013: 'Exchanged'

**Crossings staffers ponder summer camp theme during winter months**

By Kelly Collins

Oftentimes people wonder what goes on in camp ministry during the winter months. At this time of year, many people are enjoying the cold weather and the holiday festivities, and few are thinking about the summer. Not at Crossings.

During these months we have been working tirelessly at our properties hosting retreat groups, making renovations, building new buildings and making plans for camp in 2013. We have more than 11,000 students already registered for summer 2013, and we are praying for an increase in the months to come.

We have spent the past few months tirelessly recruiting summer staff from all over the United States to come and serve alongside us this summer. In December, we will host a CORE event on our property where summer-staff candidates can come and experience "camp" and learn more about the vision and mission of Crossings. God has been faithful to bring brothers and sisters who are excited about the ministry of

Crossings and are anxious to live out the Great Commission in the context of camp as they partner with us.

In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, "God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become

the righteousness of God." This exciting gospel-saturated verse has been the framework for the summer 2013 theme:

"Exchanged." Each day students will examine ways we exchange what we bring for what Christ gives; my sin for His righteousness, my works for His grace, my selfishness for His servanthood, and my fear for His peace.

We are excited to see how God works through this gospel-focused curriculum about what

Christ has done for us. Although our themes change annually, our message never does. There is salvation in no other name but Jesus Christ (Acts 4:12).

Please begin praying now for this curriculum and for the students and adults who will hear this message. Be reminded and encouraged today of the "exchange" in your life as a believer and that He became sin for you, that you might become the righteousness of God. David Melber is president of Crossings Ministries. Contact Crossings at (502) 491-7000 or [www.GoCrossings.com](http://www.GoCrossings.com)

**Crossings Ministries**

David Melber

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CECILIA**—Cecilia Church will hold a Parents' Night Out Nov. 30, 5:30 p.m., with free child care available for children ages 3-5th grade.

■ **CENTRAL CITY**—Cedar Grove Church will host Muhlenberg County Association's pastor appreciation Christmas dinner Nov. 30, 6 p.m. **Cody Crowell** is pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church's women's ministry will hold its Christmas dinner Dec. 4, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

Tunnel Hill Church will hold a Hanging of the Green service Dec. 2, 7 p.m. **Nathan Whisnant** is pastor. ■ **FRANKFORT**—Buck Run Church will hold a family ornament painting event for children Dec. 1, 10 a.m. Kids will paint one ornament for their families and one to give away. The cost is \$2 per child 5th grade and younger. **Hershael York** is pastor.

■ **GEORGETOWN**—Great Crossing Church recently called **Ricky Hardison** as pastor.

■ **GLENDALE**—Gilead Church's ladies' ministry will hold a Christmas tea Dec. 2, 4 p.m., with crafts and games. The church also will hold its 2nd annual ladies' Christmas brunch Dec. 4, 10 a.m. **Sam Hinkson** is pastor.

■ **GREENVILLE**—Second Church will hold a Christmas banquet Dec. 2, 7

p.m., with **Custom Made Bluegrass** providing special music. **Ray England** is pastor.

■ **HODGENVILLE**—First Church will hold a "Single Seniors" banquet Dec. 1, 4:30 p.m., with the 4 D's providing special music. **Paul Richey** is pastor.

■ **HOPKINSVILLE**—First Church will hold "Breakfast in Bethlehem" for children Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m., with crafts and the Christmas story.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church will hold a sports fundraising event Nov. 30-Dec. 1, featuring cornhole and volleyball tournaments. **David Hughes** is pastor.

Parkland Church will hold an "Angel Breakfast" for children and their families Dec. 1, 10 a.m. **Tom Curry** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold its annual German Christmas

service Dec. 2, 6 p.m., celebrating the holiday in the German language. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

Walnut Street Church will hold a Christmas party for single adults Dec. 2, 12:30 p.m., with **Emma Reed** providing special music. **Rusty Ellison** is pastor.

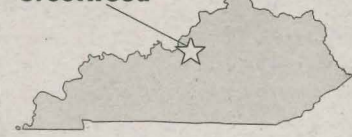
■ **MORGANTOWN**—First Church will hold "PG Party" Nov. 30, 6 p.m., for kids grade K-6 with pizza, games, crafts and Christmas movies. **Greg Wallace** is pastor.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold "Missions Day" Dec. 2, 10:30 a.m., celebrating the church's ministries and missions partnerships. A banquet will follow the service. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **MURRAY**—First Church's choir will present its Christmas program, "Celebrate the Cradle," Dec. 2, 6 p.m. **Keith Inman** is pastor.

### Spotlight on ...

#### Crestwood



Crestwood Church will hold a "GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays" seminar Dec. 2, 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.



### December

10-11 KBC Mission Board, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

### January

17-18 New Director of Missions Orientation, Kentucky Baptist Building, Louisville.

18-19 Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training—Region 1, Liberty Point Baptist Church, Cadiz.

19 Disaster Relief Training—Region 1, Liberty Point Baptist Church, Cadiz.

## Your church newsletter

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



## Longtime Southern Seminary professor Marvin Tate dies at 87

Louisville—Marvin Tate, a longtime professor at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, died Nov. 16. He was 87.

Tate was a professor of Old Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary from 1960 until 1995, and then a senior professor until 2003.

An Arkansas native, Tate was a graduate of Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia. Tate then attended Southern Seminary, earning both a divinity degree and a doctorate.

While a student at Southern, Tate served as pastor of Goshen Baptist

Church in Glen Dean. Later, he served as pastor of a church in Oklahoma and taught at Wayland Baptist College in Texas before joining the Southern Seminary faculty. In 1992, Tate took an endowed position as the John R. Sampsey Professor of Old Testament—a chair he held until his retirement from full-time teaching in 1995.

Tate is survived by his wife of 55 years, Julia, his five children and five grandchildren. A memorial service was held Nov. 20 at Buechel Park Baptist Church in Louisville. (SBTS/BP)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**AVAILABLE:** Free piano for a church; it is in good condition, but will have to be picked up; call (502) 472-8409.

**FOR SALE:** 1994 Dodge 15-passenger van, 74,000 miles, \$2,900, call (859) 734-5534.

**RESOURCES:** Sound, projection, video, theatrical lighting; JCA Media, well known in the KBC, 20+ years of experience, installing quality equipment at reasonable prices. Jim Cottrell, owner, Elizabethtown, (270) 862-9586 or (270) 312-7492; Rusty King, project manager, Nashville, Tenn., (615) 972-8869; Amy Cottrell, operations manager, Louisville, acottrell@jcamediasolutions.com. References available. Email: jcot@windstream.net.

**RESOURCES:** "Small Does Not Mean Struggling" is an encouraging book by a small-church pastor for small-church pastors. Available in e-book and print at your favorite book retailer.

**SEEKING:** Gilead Baptist Church, Glendale, Ky., is seeking a part-time pastor of worship whose responsibilities will be planning and leading worship for a congregation that embraces various worship styles. A candidate should have musical training/experience. A complete job description can be found on Gilead's website, www.gileadbaptist.com; submit resumé to info@gileadbaptist.com.

**SEEKING:** Twelve Oaks Baptist Church in Paducah, Ky., is accepting applicants for a full-time minister of worship. Duties will include directing adult choir; coordinating children's music program; youth praise band and the worship praise team; and leading congregational worship music by blending traditional/contemporary selections. Additional tasks include visitation, leadership, VBS music, PowerPoint presentations and managing audio/visual equipment and musical instrument. Prospective minister of worship must possess a Master's degree from a seminary or college. Submit

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resumés and cover letter to the attention of the Minister of worship search committee at Twelve Oaks Baptist Church, 2110 New Holt Road, Paducah, KY 42001.

**SEEKING:** Owenton First Baptist Church is seeking a part-time minister of music. All inquiries can be made by calling (502) 484-2430. Resumés may be submitted to Owenton First Baptist Church, 213 N. Main St., Owenton, KY 40359.

**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 at office@dryridgebaptist.com.

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

**SEEKING:** Memorial Baptist Church, Murray, Ky., is seeking a part-time worship leader. Responsibilities include planning and directing the music portions of the Sunday morning and evening services; working with children, youth and adults for a well-balanced music department, including instrumentalists, choirs, teams and individuals, while embracing all music styles. Please refer inquiries to worshipsearch@mcbcmurray.org.

## A 'Merry Christmas' for Sunrise children

### 'Christmas Star' program offers kids opportunity for happy holiday

The Christmas star pointed the way to the child we all celebrate at this time of the year. Sunrise hopes to use another kind of "Christmas Star" to help other children this month.

There are children in Kentucky who will go to sleep on Christmas evening, not with visions of sugar plums dancing in their heads, but rather the aches of hunger pangs keeping them from sleep.

A young girl may lie awake hoping that, for once, her father won't sneak into her room and do things to her a father shouldn't. A young boy may lay in fear, hoping his intoxicated mother will leave him and his brother alone for just one night without a beating or physical abuse. Other children may cry themselves to sleep, having just heard for the thousandth time that they are worthless, ugly and hated by their parents.

Fortunately, you have an opportunity to help hundreds of these children enjoy a "Merry Christmas" this year. Many children who have been removed from neglectful and abusive homes

have been placed with Sunrise Children's Services, either in one of our foster homes or our residential programs across the state.

Each year, Sunrise strives to make Christmas a season of special hope, meaning and joy. Knowing that many of these young people have never experienced a good Christmas, we take seriously this opportunity to make them feel loved, special and appreciated. But we can't do it without your help.

The Sunrise Christmas Star campaign is an opportunity for you to take an active role in making a very real difference in the life of a child. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to be directly involved in the lives of children who long to know love, especially at this time of year. The smile you'll give them as they open up their gifts will truly be rewarding for you as well.

For more information about how to become involved, contact Cindy Hills at [chills@sunrise.org](mailto:chills@sunrise.org) or by calling her at (800) 456-1386.

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

### Sunrise Children's Services



Bill Smithwick

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

### 'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact

By Kristie Randolph

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

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

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

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

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

See 'Engage' conference ... Page 2

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

### IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

By Don Graham

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

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

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

There are 3,800 unengaged, unreached people groups (in the world), and God has put on Tom's heart that we challenge the churches of our convention to go out there and reach all 3,800. ... Now that is great faith," Bryant said. "We know beyond doubt that God has role," Wright told Elliff at the 2011 South At the inauguration.

See Elliff inauguration.

**WESTERN Recorder**  
'Engage' opens doors to global gospel impact

IMB gathers to inaugurate Elliff as its new president

Southern Baptists called to Jan. pr

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