

# WESTERN Recorder

January 8, 2013

Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

Volume 187, Issue 1



**IN NEED OF HEALING** A makeshift memorial recalls the loss of 20 schoolchildren and six teachers in a Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. (BGEA photo)

## Pastor leads Ky. community in praying for Sandy Hook

By Drew Nichter

**Somerset**—Like most Americans, Ed Amundson could think of little else on Dec. 15. Alone with God during his quiet time, he tried to pray—but prayers would not come.

"My thoughts were scrambled," recalled Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset.

A day earlier, 26 lives violently ended at a Connecticut school, shot by a gunman who invaded the building. Twenty of those killed were first graders at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

The shooting was especially difficult for the pastor whose middle son is the same age as some of the students who died. His wife, Shannon, is a school teacher.

Unable to pray, Amundson simply asked: "Holy Spirit, what can I do?"

God's answer? Organize a prayer vigil and fundraiser to bring those in Somerset and Pulaski County together in honoring the Sandy Hook shooting victims and survivors.

On Jan. 3, about 400 area residents gathered at Somerset's Center for Rural Development. They joined in song with musicians from several area churches. They were led in prayer by Amundson and other pastors. And they heard from several community leaders, including Somerset Mayor Eddie Girdler and school superintendents and principals.

The event was held the same day  
□ See 'Love to Sandy Hook' ... Page 3

# 2012

## 12 for 2012: Looking back at the year's top newsmakers

### 'Eventful year' sees KBC reorganized, budget fast-tracked, first black SBC president elected

By Todd Deaton

**E**xecutive Director Paul Chitwood summed up 2012 well at the December meeting of the Mission Board: It was a "very eventful year" in the life of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

Indeed, with a significant restructuring of state convention personnel, the fast-tracking of the KBC's move toward a 50/50 division of Cooperative Program gifts, and the election of the national denomination's first black president, 2012 certainly was history making for both Kentucky and Southern Baptists.

Here's a recap of 12 news-making events from the past year:

#### Renewed focus

The KBC Mission Board overwhelmingly embraced a plan in May that leaders said would enable more direct assistance to its 2,400 churches, preparing them to better serve their communities and the world. The strategy sharpened the focus of KBC staff into three key areas: church consulting and revitalization, evangelism and church planting, and missions mobilization.

"We must have a focus that is oriented toward the field," Chitwood said. He also announced a new mission statement: "... Created by churches, for churches, to

help churches reach Kentucky and the world for Christ."

#### Departures

Preceding a reorganization of the Mission Board staff, employees were given an option to consider retiring early or resigning voluntarily. Twenty-three full-time and four part-time staff members took the incentive packages, vacating their positions by the end of June. The departures were necessitated by economic realities and a shift in convention priorities, Chitwood said.

Messengers to the 2011 KBC annual meeting re-prioritized the way Cooperative Program dollars will be distributed, voting to send a higher percentage to Southern Baptist Convention causes and international missions.

#### New faces

In a special-called meeting in Elizabethtown in June, Mission Board  
□ See *Newsmakers 2012* ... Page 7



**HISTORIC ELECTION** Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans, answers questions during a press conference after his election as the first African American president of the Southern Baptist Convention last June. (Photo by Morris Abernathy/BP)



**REFOCUSING KBC** Kentucky Baptist Convention Executive Director Paul Chitwood (left) presents his plan for reorganizing the Mission Board staff, which was adopted last May. The plan also included a new mission statement for the KBC focused specifically on assisting the state's churches. (Photo by Robin Cornet Bass)



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# Kentucky Baptist pastors' paychecks on the rise since 2010

By Drew Nichter

Louisville—Kentucky Baptist pastors have seen their paychecks increase since 2010, according to a recent study. The average yearly compensation for a full-time senior pastor in Kentucky is \$55,852, up more than \$3,500 from 2010.

Those numbers come from data collected through the Southern Baptist Convention's Church Compensation Study. Results from the biennial survey, conducted by LifeWay Christian Resources and GuideStone Financial Resources, were released in October.

The 2012 study polled 12,168 staff members from Southern Baptist churches nationwide. It is designed to provide churches with detailed information regarding comparable compensation packages for ministerial staff.

The \$55,852 full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors receive each year in average compensation (which includes salary and housing expenses) represents a nearly 6.8 percent increase from the \$52,302 they made in 2010.

Despite the bump in pay, pastors in the Bluegrass lag behind when it comes to the average Southern Baptist pastor. Nationally, SBC pastors receive \$60,774 annually, almost \$5,000 more than they did two years ago.

Among the state conventions, pastors in Baptist General Convention of Texas churches earn the most—\$80,396 a year on average. At the opposite end of the spectrum, just as they were in 2010, Montana Baptist pastors are the lowest paid at \$37,130 per year.

According to a LifeWay news release,

full-time pastors' compensation rose 5.5 percent between 2010 and 2012, when adjusting the numbers for church size. That was just enough to outpace the 5.1 percent inflation rate of the same two-year period.

Keeping up with inflation is a trend Don Spencer has noticed in analyzing recent compensation surveys. The Kentucky Baptist Convention's church financial benefits consultant created the survey in 1988 and oversaw it every two years before handing it off to LifeWay and GuideStone in 2008.

While churches have done their best to stay ahead of the inflation rate when compensating their ministers, the sluggish economy in recent years means, ultimately, there are fewer of them to pay, Spencer said.

Recent evaluations of churches' retirement plans, Spencer said, indicate fewer and fewer staffers serving Kentucky Baptist congregations. Having a smaller church staff, however, means those who remain are more likely to receive increases in salaries and benefits, he pointed out.

## Rising cost of benefits

The area of benefits is another matter, however. Overall pay packages for full-time Kentucky Baptist pastors did increase from 2010 to 2012, but to a lesser degree—\$69,013 in 2012, compared to \$66,275 in 2010.

That's due primarily to the increasing cost of medical insurance, Spencer noted. According to LifeWay, statistics from the U.S. Department of Labor show a 7 percent increase in medical costs

from 2010 to 2012.

Kentucky's bivocational pastors, in particular, took a hit in medical benefits. While their salaries increased over the two-year span—from \$19,229 to \$21,177—their overall pay packages actually decreased. In 2010, they received \$24,318 in combined pay and benefits; two years later, that dropped to \$23,444.

Spencer said he believes the decrease has less to do with church cutbacks and more to do with bivocational pastors finding medical insurance through secular employment.

"The pastor's taken another job, and it may be for insurance only," he said. "They get some pay, but (benefits are) the primary motivation."

Even when churches can and offer to increase a pastor's benefits, many are declining the raise, believing the money could be better spent elsewhere, Spencer explained.

Comparatively, bivocational pastors in Kentucky do better than most. The average part-time SBC pastor makes more than \$1,500 less annually than those serving in the commonwealth.

While the results may show an increase in overall compensation for pastors nationally, Spencer said an adjustment in how the online survey was

## Ministers' compensation

	Kentucky	SBC
<b>Full-time pastors</b>		
Average compensation.....	\$55,852	\$60,774
Average pay package.....	\$69,013	\$72,840
<b>Bivocational pastors</b>		
Average compensation.....	\$21,177	\$19,603
Average pay package.....	\$23,444	\$21,348
<b>Full-time staff</b>		
Average compensation.....	\$49,359	\$53,761
Average pay package.....	\$60,965	\$65,627
<b>Bivocational staff</b>		
Average compensation.....	\$14,168	\$13,788
Average pay package.....	\$14,871	\$14,472

conducted prompted more large churches to complete it in 2012. And that, he said, is reflected in the results.

The increased response from those churches, which often have larger ministerial staffs that are paid more, inflates the averages, he pointed out.

"I really think that had it not been for getting a much stronger response from the larger churches, we would have seen the averages much closer to being the same" as in 2010, Spencer said.

Even still, when comparing salary data from churches of comparable sizes and budgets, the survey provides a beneficial snapshot of just how well pastors are being compensated, he noted.

The study also includes compensation data for full-time and bivocational staff positions, office personnel and custodians. It is found at LifeWay.com/CompensationSurvey. (WR)

## Study: Christians largest religious group

Washington—Christians are the world's largest religious group and are nearly evenly dispersed globally, according to a new Pew study of the world's major religious groups.

Of the world's 6.9 billion people, 2.2 billion (32 percent) are Christians, Pew reported last month. While only 12 percent of Christians live in North America, the vast majority of Christians (99 percent) live outside the Middle East-North Africa region where Christianity began.

Apart from North America, Christians are geographically dispersed, with 26 percent in Europe, 24 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, 24 percent in sub-Saharan Africa, and 13 percent in the Asia-Pacific region, the study, conducted by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, found.

Researchers did not study the degree to which people actively practice their faiths, but relied on the subjects' self-identification of their religious affiliation.

The majority of the world's other religions lives in the Asia-Pacific region, including nearly all Buddhists and Hindus, and most Muslims and the religiously unaffiliated, researchers found.

While 58.8 percent of the world's population lives in the Asia-Pacific region, it is home to 99 percent of Hindus and Buddhists, 62 percent of Muslims and 76 percent of the religiously unaffiliated.

Pew reported that the world's population includes 1.6 billion Muslims, 1 billion Hindus, nearly 500 million Buddhists, 400 million adherents of various folk and traditional religions, 58 million adherents the study confined to the category of "other," comprised of many other religions including the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Sikhism, Shintoism, Taoism and Wicca.

A plurality of the world's 14 million Jewish people (44 percent) live in North America, while 41 percent live in the Middle East and North Africa, nearly all of them in Israel, the study found.

In the U.S., 78 percent of the country's nearly 310.5 million people identify as Christian, the study found. The U.S. also has nearly 51 million religiously unaffiliated, 5.69 million Jewish people, 3.57 million Buddhists, 2.77 million Muslims, 1.79 million Hindus, 630,000 adherents to folk religions and 1.9 million

people affiliated with other religions.

Globally, about half of all Christians are Catholic. An estimated 37 percent of Christians are Protestant, including Anglican, independent and non-denominational churches. The Orthodox Communion, including the Greek and Russian Orthodox, make up 12 percent of Christians.

Researchers categorized Christian Scientists, Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses as "viewing themselves as Christian," and computed them as comprising about 1 percent of the global Christian population.

Most of the world's population, (5.8 billion people or 84 percent) affiliates with a particular religion, leaving 1.6 billion (16 percent) with no religious affiliation, the study found. But many with no religious affiliation hold religious or spiritual beliefs, such as a belief in God or a universal spirit, while not identifying with a particular religion.

The study found that some religions have much younger populations, determined in part by the growth rate of countries where the religions are largely found. (BP)

## Adoption tax credit made permanent in 'fiscal cliff' bill

Washington—The so-called "fiscal cliff" bill signed by President Obama maintains a tax credit that makes adoption more affordable for low- and middle-income families.

The adoption tax credit was set to expire at the end of 2012, and for months the adoption community had been lobbying Congress to extend it. The House and Senate made the credit permanent under the bill passed just before the new year, according to the office of Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.), an adoption advocate.

Unlike a tax deduction, which only reduces taxable income, a tax credit actually reduces a person's tax liability. Last year the adoption tax credit was a maximum of \$13,360.

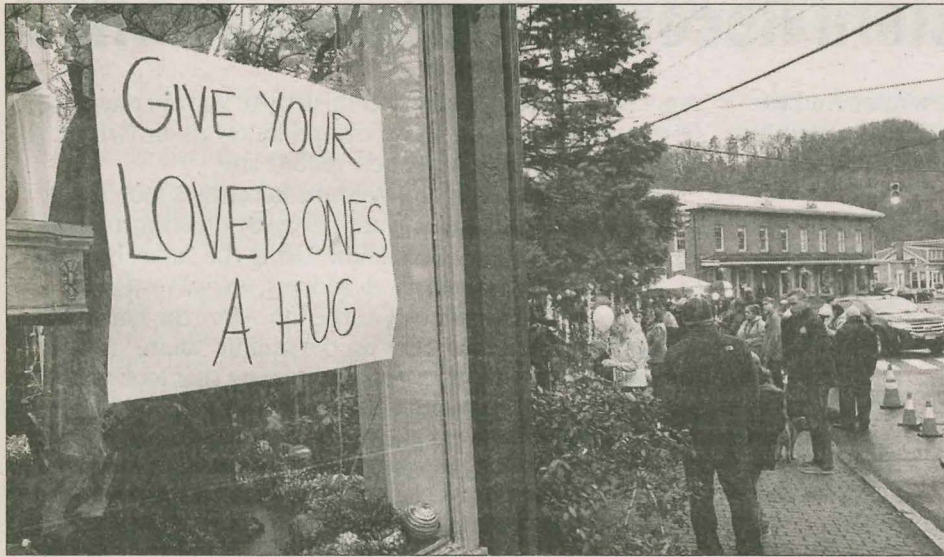
Under IRS rules, an adoptive family can claim adoption expenses—court costs and adoption agency fees, among others—up to the maximum amount allowed under the credit. This means for instance, that if an adoptive family owes \$10,000 in federal taxes for a year, and their adoption cost \$10,000, then they would owe no taxes for that one year, likely resulting in a large IRS refund. Families have up to five years to obtain the full credit.

Many adoptions, though, cost much more—often more than \$20,000—and the tax credit simply makes an expensive adoption more affordable.

"Every child deserves a protective, loving family, and I hope that a permanent adoption tax credit will enable many more families to open their hearts and homes to a child in need," Landrieu said in a statement.

"This will ease the minds of adoptive families across the country," said Bill Blacquiere, president of the Bethany Christian Services adoption agency. "We appreciate Congress' continued support in trying to ensure that vulnerable children can experience the love of a forever family."

Blacquiere previously had said he feared fewer families would adopt if the tax credit was not renewed. (BP)



■ Above: Signs abound all over Newtown, Conn., seeking to rally hope amid the community's loss of 20 elementary schoolchildren and six teachers. Volunteers with Southern Baptist Disaster Relief and the Billy Graham Rapid Response Team have been among those in the town providing chaplaincy care. ■ Below: Residents hang a banner urging those in Newtown to "Stay Strong" amid the unspeakable tragedy. (BGEA photos)



## At Sandy Hook, Southern Baptist chaplains pray, try to offer hope

By Joe Conway

Newtown, Conn.—Although Enio Agüero has ministered to families of military service personnel killed in action, only God's grace could prepare him for comforting those who lost their children in the mass murder at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"As you can imagine, this is a difficult situation," Agüero said. "There is a long road to recovery for these families—and not only the families and first responders, but for all of Connecticut."

Even so, Agüero said he can see God's hand at work.

The national disaster relief chaplain coordinator for the North American Mission Board have joined area chaplains, including those from the Baptist Convention of New England, in providing whatever comfort they could in the unimaginable circumstances in Newtown, Conn.

NAMB President Kevin Ezell said he is thankful Agüero has been available to help.

"I know Enio wanted to do whatever he could to help, and I am glad God gave him this opportunity," Ezell said. "I know I speak for all Southern Baptists when I say our prayers and thoughts are with the families and survivors in Newtown."

On Dec. 14, the day of the tragedy, Agüero reported to the Sandy Hook volunteer firehouse. After quick introductions with law enforcement officials, he went to work.

"I counseled several first responders.

I was part of the death notification teams for the families of the victims of the school shooting," said Agüero, who was accompanied by John Revell, a pastor and police chaplain from Stamford, Conn.

"I am trying not to be an obstacle for what God is putting into place," Agüero said. "He is opening doors for ministry. There will be needs for a long time here. After the funerals, there will be needs of the families and those who have responded."

Bruce James, disaster relief director for the Baptist Convention of New England, also expressed appreciation for Agüero's ministry.

"We are grateful for how in God's providence He had DR chaplain Enio Agüero in New York (for Hurricane Sandy), and he deployed and began to minister at the Sandy Hook Emergency Response Center," James said. Four BCNE chaplains on the day of the shooting in 20 counseling sessions with first responders and families of the victims, Agüero reported.

Southern Baptist Disaster Relief deployed a team of chaplains to Newtown who were trained to assist children in times of disasters. The Mississippi team of three, including a law enforcement chaplain, worked with area pastors and Agüero, ministering to children and parents.

Southbury Baptist Church Pastor Bryan Sims and his congregation, which meets less than 10 miles north of the school, also have reached out to the community. (NAMB/BP)

## 'Love to Sandy Hook'

Continued from page 1

Sandy Hook Elementary School students returned to class, albeit at a different school in a nearby town.

Amundson said it was important to hold the prayer vigil on that day, three weeks since the shooting, to show the Newtown community it has not been forgotten.

"This is a time when people are beginning to back off," Amundson said. He often tells those looking to comfort those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, "people really need you three weeks later. Because everybody's there for the first two weeks."

It also must have been difficult for the Sandy Hook teachers and students to return to school, Amundson said. The tragedy, for them, remains fresh.

"So, what a better time to send a great word of encouragement?" the pastor said. The vigil lets Newtown residents know "there's a community of people who are praying and lifting you up before the Lord in your time of transition and uncertainty," he added.

### Keeping schoolchildren safe

Amid the grieving for those killed in Connecticut, the shooting has ignited a debate among many Americans on the issues of gun control and school security.

The latter came to the forefront at the Somerset event, as superintendents and principals addressed their own schools'

safety measures. Even through their words, Amundson said, God spoke—specifically to David Morris.

A member of High Street Baptist, Morris attended the prayer vigil only to join his fellow residents in praying for Newtown. But God had other plans for the successful business owner and CEO of Modern Systems, Inc., a Somerset-based commercial and home security company.

Morris approached Amundson after the vigil and said God had laid it on his heart to offer to install panic button alarm systems in all of the schools in Pulaski County and provide monitoring services for at least three years—all at no cost to the school systems.

"It's only the Holy Spirit that would lead me to do this," Morris told the Western Recorder. "When I walked into the building, this had never entered my mind. But when it did, it was a done deal... This is what needs to be done."

In emergency situations, the buttons can be pressed to contact emergency services in less than one minute. Seconds matter in a crisis, Morris said, and there isn't always time to reach a telephone to call 911.

Morris said a project of that size will cost tens of thousands of dollars, and that he has not yet officially extended the offer to officials of the three school systems in Pulaski County. But should they accept his offer, Morris said he likely would have the installations done within 90 days.

And he plans to do even more. In the coming weeks, Morris said he will



**ENCOURAGER** Ed Amundson, pastor of High Street Baptist Church in Somerset, organized a prayer vigil and fundraiser for those affected by the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. It was held Jan. 3, the same day Sandy Hook students returned to class. Amundson said the event was a way to pray for and encourage the grieving Connecticut town and let them know they have not been forgotten. (Photo by Amy Mitchell)

contact other security system dealers nationwide, urging them to join him in securing the schools in their own communities at little or no cost.

"I offer this as a challenge (to other dealers) to do their part to make electronic security more affordable for schools," he said.

Not only will those in his industry be hearing from Morris, so will school officials statewide. In letters to be sent out soon, he will urge them to re-evaluate their schools' security measures, contact local security experts and make

informed, financially sound decisions when addressing student safety.

"The knee-jerk reaction after a terrible tragedy like this is typically to throw money at a problem. And although that's well-intentioned, it's not always the best course of action," Morris said. "So, I'm encouraging superintendents and decision makers to talk to experts and to make wise decisions."

Amundson called Morris' offer the "centerpiece" of the Somerset prayer vigil and fundraiser. Monetarily, the event raised nearly \$1,000 for the "My Sandy Hook Family Fund," which has been established to raise money for the victims' families. The fund, so far, has collected more than \$1 million, with a target of \$2.6 million by the end of January. The money is expected to be evenly divided among the 26 victims' families.

All of the money raised in Somerset through the "Love to Sandy Hook Fund" at the town's First Southern Bank branch, will be hand-delivered by Amundson in the next couple of weeks. He also will take hundreds of cards and messages signed by vigil attendees to Newtown.

It is a small offering to a hurting community, Amundson said, but one that has helped bring together a town 800 miles away wondering what it could do to help after such a horrible tragedy.

"People who felt helpless, like I did, we feel like we've done something," the pastor said. "We got to get together in a mass of corporate prayer (and) it's united our community." (WR)

## 'Embrace'

The Psalmist declared, "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done" (1 Chronicles 16:8).

Together  
We are the KBC

Paul Chitwood

When Jerry Rankin announced his retirement after 17 years as president of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, I was serving as trustee chairman of the IMB. Consequently, I was left with the task of appointing and serving on a search committee to find his replacement. As I

reflected upon the nature of the role, I quickly began to feel the weight of that assignment.

The IMB is the largest international missionary-sending agency in the history of Christianity. Convinced that making known among the nations what God has done is the single-most important endeavor on the planet, I believe that serving as the IMB president may be the most eternally strategic job on the planet. Thus, filling that job was, in itself, an important job.

Although I appointed the search committee and served with them for a season, my time on the trustee board expired before a candidate was selected. Yet, the search committee chairman, Jimmy Pritchard, was gracious enough to call and ask my opinion before the committee announced its decision.

When he informed me the candidate to be announced was Tom Elliff, I rejoiced in God's graciousness. I was convinced then—and remain convinced today—that Elliff is the man of God's choosing for the most eternally strategic job on the planet.

An immediate confirmation of the wisdom of the committee's selection was the vision and challenge Elliff presented to Southern Baptists soon after his appointment. With 3,800 people groups in the world still unreached for Christ and even unengaged by missionaries, Elliff has challenged Southern Baptists to embrace the task of taking the gospel to each of these people groups. That challenge has been announced and celebrated but, for the most part, remains unembraced, as do thousands of people groups with a combined population of more than 1 billion lost souls.

On Feb. 8, Kentucky Baptists will have an opportunity to learn how we can engage the unengaged. The Kentucky Baptist Convention is hosting the IMB's Embrace Conference in Louisville on the campus of Southern Seminary. Information and registration is available at [www.KyBaptist.org/Embrace](http://www.KyBaptist.org/Embrace). Registration closes at noon on Feb. 1.

With 2,400 churches in our state convention, we could deal a significant blow to the enemy's strongholds among the nations by our willingness to embrace the peoples without a witness. I am praying for a great turnout for the Embrace Conference and an even better turnout of Great Commission witnesses who will take the gospel from the Bluegrass to the ends of the earth. Will you embrace?

Paul Chitwood is executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

## Extra! Extra! Western Recorder has gone mobile!

Welcome to 2013. The Mayans were wrong! And we are so glad, for with the new year comes a new and exciting way to receive and read your Western Recorder.

We've gone mobile! If you are among the lucky ones who received a new smart phone or tablet for Christmas, take a moment and check us out. Using your phone's Internet browser, log on to [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org) to see all the latest Kentucky Baptist news. (Even if you didn't get a new smart phone or tablet, you don't have to miss out. You can still do it on your old one.)

On our new mobile site's homepage, you can see our top news story and, after signing in, you can choose one of our latest electronic issues to view, read more of our recent news stories and features, browse our classified advertisements section, and check out your church's newsletter to see what's happening this week. That's provided, of course, that your church participates in our church newsletter service, which, by the way, became an even better savings idea this year in light of recent postage regulation changes. (You might want to call our business manager Tom Townsend at (502) 489-3535 and start saving today.)

Or, if you are on our new mobile site, you could just click on one of the circled icons we've placed at the bottom of the homepage to send us an e-mail or call us. We really wanted to make it easy for you to reach us with news tips and story ideas about your church, so you can tell everyone about how God is doing great things in your community.

If after all this, you still are eager to read more Kentucky Baptist news or national and world missions news, just click on the other circled icon on our homepage to go to our full site. Or, if you want breaking news

reports and commentary sent directly to your phone or tablet, you can like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter by clicking on the tab on our new mobile site.

But wait, you can set up Western Recorder's mobile site to function like an app on your phone by creating an icon on your home screen. Here's how: Using the Safari browser on an iPhone, type in our web address, [www.WesternRecorder.org](http://www.WesternRecorder.org), at the top. After the homepage loads, click on the middle "share" icon at the bottom. (It is the one that looks like a box with an arrow coming out of it.) Another screen page or menu will appear with several options from which to choose. Select the middle one: "Add to Home Screen." Edit the title text as desired and click "add." You're done! The process is similar on an iPad, but the "share" icon appears next to the browser's navigation bar at the top. Now, you have all the latest Kentucky Baptist news at the touch of your finger. Pretty cool, huh?

Oh, there is just one catch, but you already knew it: You have to be a subscriber to the Western Recorder to get all the Kentucky Baptist news. You are, aren't you? Otherwise, you probably wouldn't be reading this column. Just in case you aren't—or if you want to share your enthusiasm for all that God is doing through Kentucky Baptists with a friend—all you have to do is click on the "subscribe" tab on our mobile homepage, and we will take it from there. You can choose to receive your Kentucky Baptist news through our mobile site and view all our electronic issues for just \$10 for an entire year, or you can get it all—print, mobile and digital—for only \$15.

So, as the newsboys used to cry in the streets: "Extra! Extra! Read all about ... Kentucky Baptists"—in print or on your phone or tablet. 2013 is off to a good start!

After  
Thought

By Todd Deaton



## Making a will that 'works'

By Laurie Valentine

Approximately 60 percent of adults in the United States die without a will. There are many reasons people don't make a will. Procrastination or just not knowing how to get started are two of the biggest. Making a will that accomplishes your estate planning objectives (one that "works") is not a difficult process. Just follow these 10 steps:

**Determine the value of your estate.** List all of your assets—real estate, investments, bank accounts, business interests, life insurance, retirement plan benefits and IRAs, and personal property—in one column. List all of your current liabilities—mortgage(s), credit card and other debts—in a second column. Add each column.

Subtract the total liabilities from total current asset value. The difference is the current value of your estate.

**Plan for each family member.** Your first responsibility is to take care of your family.

**Decide whom you want to name as executor.** This should be someone who is both competent and familiar with your family.

**Decide whom you want to name as guardian for minor children.** This person or couple

will be given custody of your children if both parents die before all children are 18 years old.

**Determine how you want your estate distributed.** Make ample provisions for your spouse and children.

**Consider Christian causes.** Consider titling your estate through the inclusion of a bequest to your church and other Christian causes. Make sure you

clearly and correctly identify the charities you include in your plan.

**Provide for common disaster.** Provide an alternate plan of estate distribution should something happen to your entire family.

**Choose an attorney to assist in making your will.** Use an attorney whose practice includes estate planning and probate work.

**Keep your will in a safe place.** The signed original copy should be kept in your safe deposit box, a fireproof lockbox or by your estate planning attorney. Make sure your executor has access.

**Keep your will updated.** Your estate planning documents should be reviewed every three to five years to make sure they continue to reflect God's purposes for your possessions.

Laurie Valentine is trust counsel for the Kentucky Baptist Foundation.

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## Shine Like Stars \* Philippians 2:15

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## A Christian response to Russia's adoption ban

By Tony Merida

As I was preparing a sermon on Psalm 146, I began thinking through the various implications of verse 9, especially in light of the recent decision made by Vladimir Putin to ban adoptions of Russian orphans by American families.

In contrast to human leaders who often ignore or oppress society's weakest, the Psalmist writes of God: "The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin."

To put Putin's decision in perspective, consider this:

■ In 2011, about 1,000 Russian children were adopted by Americans, more than any other foreign country, but still a tiny number given that nearly 120,000 children in Russia are eligible for adoption.

■ According to David Satter of the Hudson Institute, "Russia has more orphans per capita than any nation in the world. Of the estimated 650,000 orphans, an estimated 95 percent are 'social orphans' who have been abandoned by their parents or taken away from them."

■ "Americans adopt more children than every other country in the world combined," noted Adam Pertman, executive director of the New York-based Donaldson Adoption Institute.

■ Americans have adopted more than 60,000 Russian children since the fall of the Soviet Union.

Sadly, many families already are in the adoption process and have spent a significant amount of money, time and energy only now to be shut down by the Russian government.

The New York Times reports on this crushing reality: "Senior officials in Moscow have said they expect the ban to have the immediate effect of blocking the departure of 46 children whose adoptions by American parents were nearly completed. ... Adoption agency officials in the United States who work regularly with Russian orphanages said there were about 200 to 250 sets of parents who had already identified children they planned to adopt and would be affected."

God cares for the defenseless. Of course, this verse isn't the only one that highlights His concern for the sojourner, the fatherless and the widow. By extension, I believe God's people must share God's concern and identify with the powerless and take up their cause. Indeed, I believe this is one of the main ways God does take up their cause—through His people living out His word.

### COMMENTARY

How do we take up their cause? We should be doing something for the defenseless and powerless in this broken world. All of us should consider how we may use our gifts and influence to care for the defenseless.

Let me mention three action steps:

■ First, we should pray. God can change the hearts of the hardest of men (Proverbs 21:1), and all human leaders serve under the sovereign permission of God (Psalm 75:6-7). Remember that prayer is not just preparation for the work of justice and mercy; it's doing the work of justice and mercy.

■ Second, we should speak truth to power. Regardless of your political views, I believe it's a privilege to live in a democracy. We need to remember that those who have a voice must give a voice to the millions who do not. One could live his whole life practically and never have to see or hear an orphan—because they have no voice. But they are here. Millions of them cry out for help, relief, love and spiritual truth. We must be a voice for the voiceless.

■ Third, we must train indigenous Christian leaders in starting and sustaining a culture of adoption and orphan care. Despite all their amazing work, we need to remember that American families will never take in the massive number of orphans that exists in the world.

To be clear, I'm not discouraging international adoption; I wholeheartedly promote it. But I know it's not the only solution. The orphan crisis is complex. It needs to be addressed at a variety of levels, in a variety of ways.

One of the main things that must be done is training leaders, especially those in the church. A culture of adoption does not exist in many countries. Perhaps the reason there is a small culture of adoption here is because we are a country of immigrants. That's not the case in some other countries. Furthermore, in some churches in other countries, adoption isn't valued like it should be.

What we need to do in Russia is what we need to do in other parts of the world: Give believers a Christian perspective on adoption and orphan care, and help them start and sustain that culture. This is not easy task. It isn't an easy task for a local Christian leader or pastor in the U.S., and it isn't easy for one in Russia.

But no one said orphan care was easy. The Good Shepherd laid down His life to make us part of His family, and those who claim to follow Him will suffer hardship as well. But it's worth it. Caring for the least of these in the name of Jesus is always worth it. (BP)

Tony Merida is lead pastor of Imago Dei Church in Raleigh, N.C., and a graduate of University of the Cumberland.

## Talking about Newtown

By David Garrard

**Q: How should I talk with my kids about the school shooting?**

**A:** Although it has been several weeks since the school shooting in Connecticut, questions remain, especially as children head back to school after the Christmas break. Here are a few thoughts for talking with your children about what happened.



Younger children do not need to know a lot of the specifics. Try to

answer their questions without getting into details. It is enough for them to know that a bad man hurt some teachers and children. When children begin to probe for details, they basically want to know if their school is safe and if something like this is going to happen to them. Reassure them.

As adults, we understand the risk that life brings and that accompanies ordinary activities. We understand that when we get in a car, there always is the chance something horrible can happen, and that, occasionally, it does. And yet, we don't hesitate to drive. In our minds, we are able to balance the risk of an accident with the likelihood of one actually happening. This reflects a developmental maturity that children typically do not possess. Part of our job as parents is to protect our kids until this ability develops. In short, we need to do the worrying for them. From us, they need to receive the confidence that the world is a good and safe place.

Older children will be able to understand that God has given us freedom to choose and that choices have consequences that affect us as well as others. When we go outside the lines that God has drawn, bad things happen. Remind children that God is always with us, even when bad things happen to us or around us.

Finally, as part of your response, pray for the families of the children and teachers and others who were directly impacted. Pray, too, that schools will be safe places where children can learn and play and enjoy being with friends, free from the fear that ruins and robs the innocence and joy that God wants for all of His children, young and old.

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

## Consider starting a youth ministry network: 'We are better together'

By Joe Ball

I have spent parts of the last couple of weeks "pulling cable." Crossings Ministries is moving its offices, and I have been helping to run thousands of feet of CAT5 cable to network our offices. I have very little idea how all that works. I just know that through all those cables we will be able to be connected to each other, share resources, and connect to the information superhighway.

All those cables coming together and connecting all of us as a staff reminded me of what a good youth ministry network should be: men and women passionate about discipling students connected together through their relationships with Christ and each other to reach a community with the gospel.

I didn't realize what a unique network I was a part of in Hopkinsville. Some of us met together weekly for accountability. We met monthly with the group as a whole and did quarterly events together as youth ministries. Bill, Steve and Nathan became more than fellow youth workers in town—they became friends. They are some of the dearest friends I have to this day.

In early December, I had the

opportunity to attend a National Network of Youth Ministries meeting in Cincinnati. I have been to several of the meetings they host, and it is a great organization whose main focus is to facilitate networking of youth pastors all across the world. At these network facilitator training meetings, they walk you through four parts of a healthy network.

A healthy network includes these key areas:

**Praying together.** By praying, we are asking God to show us His vision for our communities. I think sometimes, as networks, we breeze through this step. We pray to open and maybe close meetings, but do we earnestly seek the face of God and ask Him to show us His vision for our communities? By praying together, we also are able to share our hearts, heartaches, joys and to pray for specific students and workers. It is amazing how when a group of people pray together, God unites their hearts.

**Building relationships.** Those days at the Way Cup station, drinking coffee and sharing life, were priceless. Trust comes through relationships. We would sit together, drink coffee and ask each

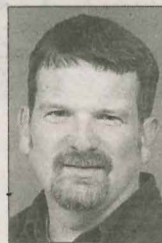
person the same questions every week. These questions kept us accountable to each other and showed impeccable trust. We asked each other: 1) How's your quiet time? 2)

How are you dating your wife this week? 3) How's your relationship with your kids? 4) If I went to your computer and checked your history, would we both be embarrassed? Those weren't the exact words, but that is the gist of it. We had given each other permission to speak into those areas of our lives. We became a band of brothers.

**Developing strategies.** Getting a community of churches to come together to reach students for Christ requires a God-given strategy. A healthy network is able to present a united strategy to local churches, the community and the school system. Local school personnel don't have to be concerned about every church wanting to "do their own thing" on their campuses, but they can be assured that the network is a true partner in the development of students.

**Sharing resources.** The sharing of resources—volunteers, book studies,

### Youth Ministry Corner



Joe Ball

**"Getting a community of churches to come together to reach students for Christ requires a God-given strategy."**

props for camp, musicians, etc.—is a great byproduct of a healthy network. That winter retreat curriculum you have left over or the video series you did last spring that is just sitting on your shelf can help other youth leaders.

But, it is more than that. Those empty seats you have on your bus as you head to camp or a concert, why not offer them to a smaller church in your community that may not have the transportation to attend? Swap out musicians or worship leaders for a night, or offer to provide child care for one of their events so all parents and adults can be with their students.

As we begin a new year, let me encourage you to either join or begin a local network. We are a whole lot better together than we ever could be apart.

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

# Sandy survivors in N.Y. aided by influx of collegiate volunteers

By Joe Conway

**Staten Island, N.Y.**—The pace of Southern Baptist Disaster Relief work may lessen a bit for the holidays, but it rarely comes to a halt. That was the case for 500-plus collegiate volunteers who served survivors of Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey up to the week of Christmas and are continuing their work into the new year.

One of those volunteers is Reese Hammond from Northwest Missouri State University. Hammond was part of an

11-member student-led Baptist Student Union group who came to Staten Island to serve alongside trained SBDR volunteers from Alabama and elsewhere.

"Over the week we worked on some of the most damaged homes you could think of," Hammond recalled.

"All of these homes had extensive water damage. Some had even experienced more than 14 feet of water rushing over them. We worked on homes that were filled with mud and mold. We had homes where sewer pipes had broken and sewage was everywhere inside."

Susan Peugh, a North American Mission Board staff member responsible for coordinating volunteer opportunities, said God is using disaster relief to reveal Himself to college students.

Students have had "life-changing experiences while ripping out floors, insulation and spraying for mold," Peugh said. "Daily they are being reminded of how God has blessed them and why they need to share His hope and love with those who are hurting. They will long remember this experience."

Since Hurricane Sandy made landfall, SBDR volunteers have prepared 1.8 million meals, cleaned debris from more than 1,000 homes and made 4,600-plus ministry contacts. Volunteers have shared the gospel with more than 800 people, resulting in 88 professions of faith during 32,543 ministry service days.

Hammond said the trip to Staten Island "didn't mean that we were missing out on free time over break. It meant that if we didn't go on this trip, we would be missing out on making Christ's name great in the hearts of those who are hurting."

"Over the week, we were able to sow the seeds that God makes grow. We were able to pray with these people after each day of work. We gave out Bibles and we shared what Jesus has done in our lives."

The Missouri collegians were among students from 22 states who gave part of their Christmas breaks to serve in the New York City area. Students will continue to minister on site through Jan. 22.

"Overall, this trip was full of God's

glory," Hammond said. "He made everything line up just right. He put us in the position to serve those who needed Him. He revealed Himself to us, to those we served and to New York."

"So, in the end, God was faithful as always. He was faithful in getting us there, He was faithful in revealing Himself to us and to the people we worked with, and He was most definitely faithful in making His name great throughout our entire trip." (NAMB/BP)



**CLEANING UP** Jordan Crawford, a student from Florida Baptist College, adds a kitchen sink to a debris pile from a gutted Staten Island home. Crawford was among hundreds of college students volunteering with disaster recovery efforts during their schools' winter breaks. (Photos by Adam Miller/NAMB)



**RECOVERY WORK** Katie Lilly uses a crowbar to remove molding from a Staten Island home to help the owners prepare for a rebuild of their storm-damaged property.

You created my  
inmost being; You  
knit me together in  
my mother's womb.  
I praise You because  
I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made;  
Your works are  
wonderful. I know  
that full well.  
(Psalm 139:13-14)

Lend a hand  
for mothers,  
for the gift of life,  
for God's wonderfully  
made work.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday is January 20<sup>th</sup>.

As individuals, churches and associations, Kentucky Baptists partner with these pro-life ministries. Contact the one near you and ask how you can lend a hand!



<b>Ashland:</b> Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center	<b>Campbellsville:</b> Central KY Pregnancy Support Center	<b>Crestview Hills:</b> New Hope Center	<b>Frankfort:</b> Avenues for Women	<b>Latonia:</b> New Hope Center	<b>Mayfield:</b> Hope for Life Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Murray:</b> Life House Care Center	<b>Russell Springs:</b> ARC Pregnancy Support Center	<b>Vine Grove:</b> CrossWay Pregnancy Resource Center
<b>Barbourville:</b> Barbourville Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Carrollton:</b> Haven of Hope Pregnancy Center	<b>Crestwood:</b> Grace Ministries	<b>Glasgow:</b> Crossroads Pregnancy Center, Inc.	<b>Lexington:</b> Assurance Pregnancy Help Center	<b>Maysville:</b> Baptist Nursing Fellowship Baby Boot Camp	<b>Owensboro:</b> Care Net Pregnancy Center of Owensboro	<b>Shelbyville:</b> A Loving Choice Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Williamstown:</b> Care Net Pregnancy Services of North. KY
<b>Bardstown:</b> New Life Center	<b>Cold Spring:</b> Care Net Pregnancy Services of North. KY	<b>Crossroads:</b> Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Greenville:</b> Pathway of Hope	<b>London:</b> Laurel County Life Center	<b>Monticello:</b> H.E.L.P. Pregnancy Care Center (Hold Each Life Precious)	<b>Owenton:</b> Meeting the Needs	<b>Shepherdsville:</b> New Hope Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Winchester:</b> New Beginnings of Winchester
<b>Benton:</b> Haven of Hope	<b>Columbia:</b> Agape House Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Cumberland:</b> Esther's Closet	<b>Henderson:</b> Marsha's Place Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Louisville:</b> A Woman's Choice Pregnancy Resource Center	<b>Morehead:</b> Hope Pregnancy Care Center	<b>Paducah:</b> Hope Unlimited Family Care Center	<b>Somersets:</b> AIM Pregnancy Support Center	
<b>Bowling Green:</b> Pregnancy Support Center	<b>Corbin:</b> Southeast KY Women for Life	<b>Danville:</b> Pregnancy Resource Center of Central KY	<b>Hopkinsville:</b> Alpha Alternative Pregnancy Care Center	<b>Madisonville:</b> Door of Hope Pregnancy Center	<b>Morganfield:</b> Shelter of Love Crisis Pregnancy Center	<b>Pikeville:</b> Appalachian Pregnancy Care Center	<b>Springfield:</b> House of Hope Pregnancy Center	
	<b>Covington:</b> Care Net Pregnancy Services of North. KY	<b>Elizabethtown:</b> Clarity Solutions for Women	<b>Manchester:</b> Heart & Soul Life Center			<b>Richmond:</b> Pregnancy Help Center		
		<b>Florence:</b> Care Net Pregnancy Services of North. KY						

Visit [www.kybaptist.org](http://www.kybaptist.org) or call the KBC Missions Mobilization Team at (502) 489-3403 or 1-866-489-3403 (toll-free in KY).

## Newsmakers 2012: A look back

Continued from page 1

members approved several key convention staff leaders. Curtis Woods, former campus minister at Kentucky State University, assumed the role of associate executive director for convention relations and communications; Chuck McAlistar, an Arkansas evangelist, became leader of the evangelism and church planting team; and, Aaron Harvie of the North American Mission Board will assist the KBC as a church planting strategist. Shebyville pastor Steve Rice became head of the church consulting and revitalization team in September. Then, in December, Jason Stewart completed the KBC puzzle as its new worship and music consultant.

### Youth ministry shifts

Shortly after an expanded partnership between the KBC and Crossings Ministries was announced, Joe Ball, former director of the convention's youth ministry department, was appointed as a youth ministry strategist by Crossings. Ball will concentrate his efforts on Kentucky Changers, the KBC's youth missions endeavor that equips students to provide home repairs and renovations for needy families.

### No new name

A task force studying a possible name change for the Southern Baptist Convention recommended keeping its legal name, ending weeks of speculation. Instead, the group opted for adopting an informal, non-legal descriptor: "Great

### CALVINISM CONVERSATION

Kentucky Baptist pastors Hershael York (left) and Kevin Smith (center) discuss Calvinism in the Southern Baptist Convention with Steve Lemke of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary at a conference on the hot-button topic last August at Crestwood Baptist Church.



Commission Baptists." The new moniker was approved by a close—53-46 percent—vote.

### 'No' to casinos

The year began with a call to thwart Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear's push to expand gambling.

"If a bill is introduced, I'm going to shame the legislators who call themselves Christians and would inflict this seductive evil on their fellow citizens," asserted Frankfort pastor Hershael York, who organized a meeting of pastors to boldly speak out against expanded gambling.

Their concerted efforts proved successful in derailing seven casinos from entering the state.

### New school leaders

Paul Davidson, the school's campus minister, became the 11th president of Oneida Baptist Institute. He succeeded Bud Underwood, who retired in March after 18 years as OBI president.

Meanwhile, Jason Allen, vice president for institutional advancement at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, was selected as the next president of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

### Devastating tornadoes

In early March, attention focused on the massive destruction caused in West Liberty by deadly tornadoes that ripped across eastern Kentucky, killing 22 people. More than 175 Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers raced to help



■ Above: Joan Penn (center), a member of Faith Baptist Church in Frankfort, and others share their concerns about expanded gambling with Rep. Derrick Graham (D-Frankfort) during an anti-gambling rally at the Kentucky State Capitol last February. Their efforts were rewarded as a bill to allow casinos in the commonwealth ultimately fell short. ■ Right: Kentucky Baptist Disaster Relief volunteers prepare meals at a mobile feeding unit in West Liberty days after March 3 tornadoes caused widespread damage and killed nearly two dozen people across the state. (Photos by Robin Cornet Bass)



storm victims recover. The outbreak also caused extensive damage in southern Indiana.

### Historic moment

New Orleans pastor Fred Luter became the SBC's first black president in June.

"To God be the glory for the things that He has done," Luter responded moments after approximately 7,000 Southern Baptists rose to their feet and cheered "Hallelujah."

### Talking Calvinism

One of the denomination's hottest topics came to the forefront in Kentucky at an August conference, "Calvinism: Concerned? Curious? Confused?" At Crestwood Baptist Church, presenters included York, Frank Page, David Dockery and Steve Lemke.

Meanwhile, a LifeWay Research

survey found SBC pastors split on the issue of Calvinism, with 60 percent saying they were concerned about its growing influence.

### Postponed action


In the weeks leading up to the state convention's annual meeting in Lexington, the KBC's administrative committee reached a decision to recommend ending a 7-year-old partnership arrangement with Georgetown College.

After Georgetown President William Crouch announced plans to retire this June, however, the Mission Board voted unanimously to delay for one year the vote to sever ties while awaiting word of Crouch's successor.

### 50/50 on the fast track

In November, messengers to the KBC's 175th annual meeting approved a ministry budget of "historic" proportions—or rather, percentages. The new budget fast-tracked the move to reach a 50/50 split in Cooperative Program giving between KBC and SBC causes. The action achieves the goal much sooner than the target date of 2020, which was set two years ago with the adoption of recommendations brought by the Kentucky Great Commission Task Force.

The 2013-14 budget accelerates the plan by raising the "shared expenses" category from 4 percent to 10 percent, but the category will drop to 7 percent in the 2014-15 budget. An advisory group formed by Chitwood is currently exploring the convention's partnership agreements with its agencies and institutions in light of the necessitated budgetary adjustments for Kentucky Baptist ministries. (WR)



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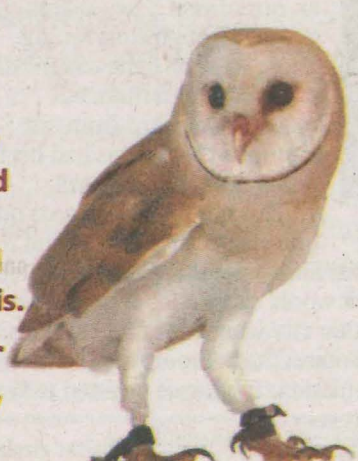
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## A joyous Christmas

### Number of campus events convey meaning of Christmas to students

Celebrating Christmas 2012 at OBI was a joy. There was so much to celebrate and many people to involve in the celebration. On the Monday after Thanksgiving, the student council led in dressing up the campus for the holiday by placing wreaths and lights in prominent places.

Our first-semester play, "The Twelve Months of Christmas," was given three laugh-filled but poignantly thought-provoking performances during the first weekend of December. A cast of newcomers and veteran dramatists made each performance a memorable holiday-enriching treat.

Our chapel services also took on a Christmas focus. For two days, the students and faculty viewed a DVD documentary about "The Star of Bethlehem" in which the reality of the star which guided the magi to Bethlehem was affirmed and scientifically demonstrated through computer-generated graphics.

Every year, Christmas is a time for special musical festivities, and it was our joy to have two such presentations. The first was a potpourri of Jesus-focused songs from our 20-member band, advanced guitar students, six-member vocal ensemble and our choir. I confess that not only did I enjoy the music, but I also gave thanks to our Heavenly Father that we have the privilege of being able to offer such an array of classes which allows our students to develop their God-given musical talents in a Christ-centered way under the tutelage of a committed team of musicians and teachers.

The following afternoon, some of our middle-school students and our older elementary students (from ministry

team families) presented a dramatized and choreographed children's musical. Their lively music brought positive responses from the older students.

Can you have a birthday—especially Jesus' birthday—without a party? Not on our campus, and there were celebrations galore, including open houses by the FFA, the girls' dormitory students (with their special, creative door decorations) and our staff students in grades three through five, as well as the student council-planned Christmas Fest with its wide variety of activities for the student body.

Of course, we couldn't celebrate God's indescribable gift without giving some gifts ourselves. To show each student that he or she is uniquely loved and important, the school gave all students individualized Christmas cards with a photograph of the students' KBC presentation, a gospel tract, \$2 to spend in the OBI grill and candy. Reports came back from students of how special the gifts made them feel.

Ultimately, there was the "Walk to Bethlehem" presented by our farm personnel. This moving experience led all students in groups from the center of campus to the farm through various stations where students—individually and in groups, in speech and in song—brought home the truth, the meaning and the challenge of the events leading up to and culminating in the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The saying is true: Jesus is the reason for the Christmas season. It only underlines another fact: Jesus is the reason for OBI—not just at Christmas, but every day.

*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

## The mission field as classroom

### Student & family prepare to spend semester sharing gospel abroad

January is about getting back to our routines here on our campus and preparing for the spring semester at Clear Creek. Everyone has had a good break from their classes and enjoyed spending time with family. Some even are excited to get back to their studies. It's always a busy time as we prepare for the beginning of the spring semester.

This semester will be anything but routine for one of our students and his family. They will leave this month to spend the entire semester on the other side of the world in one of the villages of the people group that Clear Creek has adopted. A Clear Creek alumnus serves as an International Mission Board missionary to that people group.

Our student family will live in a village as the guest of the chief, who has eight villages under him and has agreed to let us work in all of them. The family will be sharing the gospel through storytelling and looking for other opportunities to share. The people group cannot read, so tapes and other electronic means are used to share the gospel.

This people group has a population of more than 2 million and is 98 percent Muslim. The work there is very slow and results do not come quickly. The initial focus is on being part of the community to begin building relationships with people.

Clear Creek's academic dean, Malcolm Hester, and a student visited two of the villages when they were there last year during an initial visit. They shared the gospel through storytelling. There were no believers in that particular area then, but recently we heard from our alumnus that he has had his first believer. Praise the Lord!

This new believer needs our prayers because he is afraid to tell his family. He is the son of a chief, and it would cause a lot of problems. In another city where our first team visited, they met some believers who come to the missionary's house to listen to Scripture every day.

Thanks for your support that enables us to equip students who are called of God for kingdom work.

*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; e-mail: dfox@ccbcc.edu.*

### Clear Creek Chronicle



Donnie Fox

# CALL TO PRAYER

## SBC leaders: January offers 'pivotal opportunity' to pray

Alpharetta, Ga.—Southern Baptist Convention leaders say they are hoping churches will start 2013 with an emphasis on prayer and the lost during the month-long SBC Call to Prayer in January.

The effort will help churches focus on prayer in several key ways toward seeking to engage those without Christ.

"The SBC Call to Prayer is a pivotal opportunity as churches cast a vision for ministry in 2013," said SBC President Fred Luter, pastor of Franklin Avenue Baptist Church in New Orleans. "This coming January we will have the chance to gather as a denomination and center our thoughts and prayers on the lost in our communities and around the world."

Among the emphases of the SBC Call to Prayer are:

**My Family and Friends.** Select a friend or family member and pray that they would come to faith in Christ.

**My Nation.** Select a Send North America city and pray for the church planting efforts in that area.

**My World.** Select an unreached people group and pray that the gospel would be advanced among these people.

By using online resources and partnerships with state Baptist conventions and local associations, churches can design events and prayer opportunities that fit specific needs.

"We want to make it as easy as possible for pastors to lead their churches in praying for their families, their

communities and lost people around the world," said Kevin Ezell, president of the North American Mission Board. "These are tools and resources we hope every church can use to lead their people into a deeper prayer life for the coming year."

Al Gilbert, NAMB's interim vice president for evangelism, said he hopes the emphasis will help Southern Baptists view the lost around them in a new way.

"We need to pray with the question in mind, 'Who do I know who needs to know Christ?'" Gilbert said. "It's an opportunity to really think through and intercede even as we seek to penetrate lostness."

"When Jesus saw the lost, He was moved with compassion. But notice the first thing He asked His disciples to do," Gilbert said. "He told them to pray to the Lord of the harvest. Often we don't see it as a harvest; we see it as people who don't want to know Christ. But that's not the way God sees it."

Gilbert encouraged Southern Baptists to be evangelistically minded in 2013 and said participation in the SBC Call to Prayer is a great way to begin.

"Who do we know who needs to know Christ?" he said. "It should become a natural question that we ask and something we regularly pray about, and I think this is an opportunity to help us begin to shape our thinking for the coming year."

To learn more about the initiative, visit [www.NAMB.net/SBCCalltoPrayer](http://www.NAMB.net/SBCCalltoPrayer). (NAMB/BP)

## Faith leaders urge Americans to pray for collegiality among political leaders

Washington—At a time when the ideals of compromise and collegiality seem like a distant dream in the nation's capital, an unusually diverse coalition of religious leaders is asking Americans to pray for civility.

"Through daily prayer, we are calling on the 'better angels of our nature' needed to sustain our nation and solve problems," said Peg Chamberlin, immediate past president of the National Council of Churches and one of the faith leaders taking part in "18 days of Prayer for the Nation."

Prayers began Jan. 3, the first day of the new Congress, and end on Jan. 21, the day of President Obama's second inauguration.

Faith leaders from all side have signed on, including Richard Land of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission.

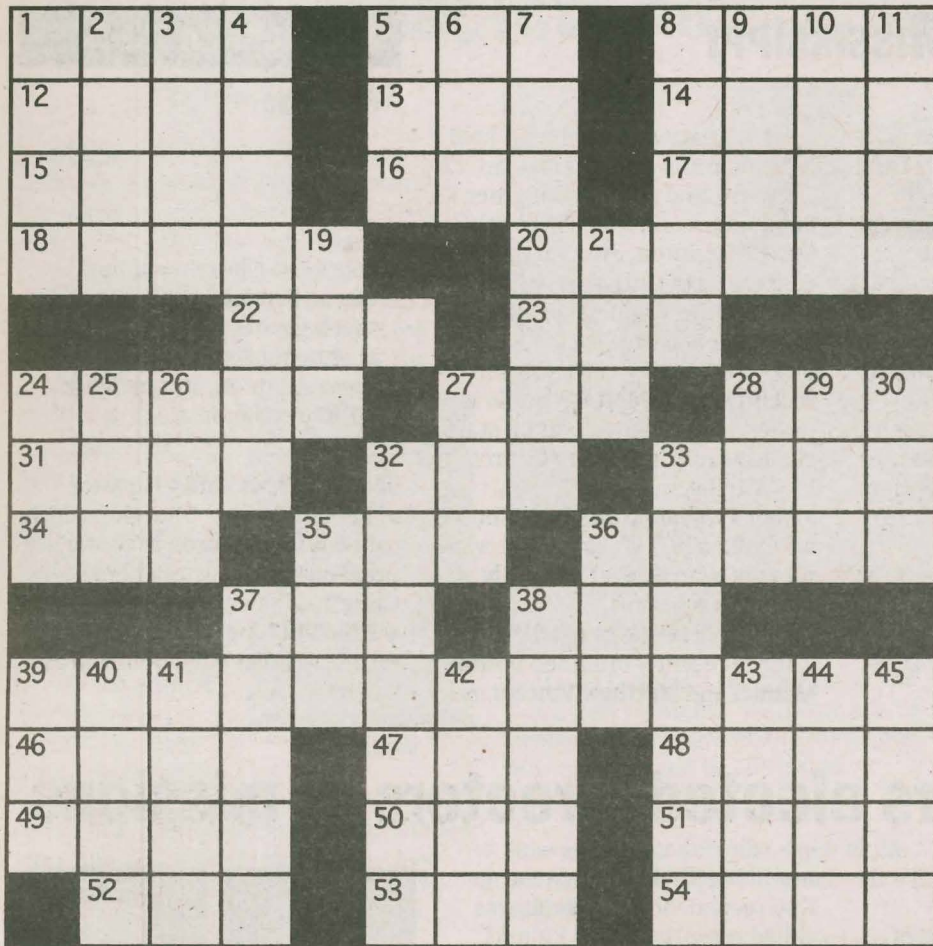
The Faith & Politics Institute, a non-partisan group that nurtures the spiritual life of members of Congress and their staffs, and presses political foes

toward civil debate, organized the days of prayer and an online "commitment to prayer" page to document participation.

It lists 27 clergy and others on day one. Lisa Sharon Harper, director of mobilizing for the Christian group Sojourners, left her prayer on the page, which reads in part: "Dear God, please move in the hearts of our legislators. Ignite in them a deep desire for the common good. Give them courage to lead and not merely follow the direction of the pundits and polls."

Though various faith groups often encourage prayers for the country separately, it is rarer for so broad a group to organize a sustained national period of prayer.

Those behind the initiative say they hope Americans, no matter their faith, pray for a climate where political leaders, among other virtues, "are quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry," and "avoid attacking the character of others or falsely impugning their motives." (RNS)



**Bible Crosswords**

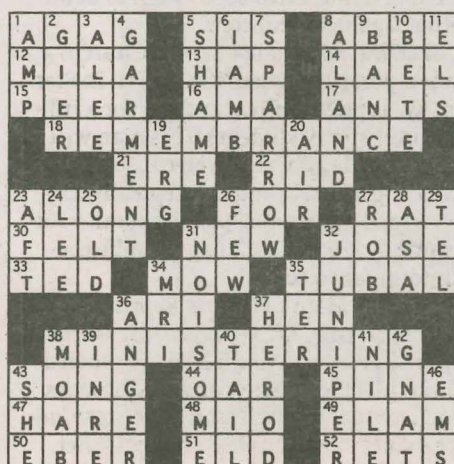
By Janet Adkins

**Across**

- 1 "He [Jesus] went into the synagogue ... and stood up for to \_\_\_\_" (Luke 4:16)
- 5 \_\_\_\_ Sea
- 8 Become wan
- 12 Inter \_\_\_\_
- 13 Mother lode
- 14 "For this \_\_\_\_ is mount Sinai in Arabia" (Galatians 4:25)
- 15 "Thou shalt lend unto \_\_\_\_ nations, and thou shalt not borrow" (Deuteronomy 28:12)
- 16 More, in Managua
- 17 Showy flower
- 18 Be quiet!
- 20 Where Esther lived, but not Mordecai
- 22 \_\_\_\_ Pan Alley
- 23 Belonging to a town near Bethel (Joshua 7)
- 24 Father of Jeroboam (1 Kings 16:3)
- 27 Drug prescription abbr.
- 28 Tore
- 31 Sixth month of the Jewish year
- 32 Mideast alliance (abbr.)
- 33 \_\_\_\_ it!
- 34 French possessive pronoun
- 35 Feminine name
- 36 "But let us watch and be \_\_\_\_" (1 Thessalonians 5:6)
- 37 Work unit
- 38 Summer home staple
- 39 Where Jesus delivered "The Olivet Discourse"
- 46 Goofs
- 47 Patriotic org.
- 48 Sacred vow
- 49 Brand name in sauces
- 50 Pot adjunct
- 51 She sailed in 1492
- 52 Born (Fr.)
- 53 Parts of a century (abbr.)
- 54 Hidden obstacle

- 10 Describing nonclergy
- 11 Gaelic
- 19 Direct \_\_\_\_
- 21 First \_\_\_\_
- 24 War zone, of the not too distant past (colloq.)
- 25 Netherlands city
- 26 \_\_\_\_ relief
- 27 Catch some rays
- 28 "To turn aside the needy ... that they may \_\_\_\_ the fatherless!" (Isaiah 10:2)
- 29 Fifth or Madison, e.g.
- 30 Uncle of Saul (1 Samuel 14:50)
- 32 "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the \_\_\_\_" (Psalm 1:1)
- 33 Parts of parliamentary procedure
- 35 Biblical verb
- 36 Costa del \_\_\_\_
- 37 "Let him seek peace, and \_\_\_\_ it" (1 Peter 3:11)
- 38 "He had made a scourge of small \_\_\_\_" (John 2:15)
- 39 Body of water, in Boulogne
- 40 Algerian seaport
- 41 Encourage
- 42 Not biased
- 43 "For \_\_\_\_ is the help of man" (Psalm 60:11)
- 44 Sicilian volcano
- 45 Carpet quality

**Last puzzle's solution**



**Down**

- 1 Candidates for offerings, as in burnt
- 2 King of Israel, while Asa reigned over Judah (1 Kings 16)
- 3 Indigenous, ethnic group of Japan
- 4 "Until the ... dawn, and the \_\_\_\_ arise in your hearts" (2 words, 2 Peter 1:19)
- 5 CD \_\_\_\_ (computer adjunct)
- 6 Historical time period
- 7 "We are perplexed, but not in \_\_\_\_" (2 Corinthians 4:8)
- 8 Old-fashioned fire fighters' needs
- 9 Site of the Taj Mahal

**Giving: charity or worship?**

**New year provides opportunity to dwell on attitude toward giving**

What is your attitude toward giving to your church and to other Christian ministries? Do you find yourself sometimes giving grudgingly instead of cheerfully? Is your attitude affected from time to time by fear or greed, or a concern for how your church or charity will use your gifts?

As you begin the new year, let me encourage you to get a lesson from the Apostle Paul on the proper attitude toward giving. In his famous love chapter, 1 Corinthians 13, Paul contended it is love alone that counts, love alone that triumphs, and love alone that endures. The love about which Paul spoke to the Corinthians then and to us today is the agape kind of love—the caring love that expresses God's nature and that He extends to us undeserving creatures. It's God's gift; we cannot earn or gain it; we receive it in response to His love in Jesus Christ. It comes not through self-assertion, but self-surrender. It evokes faith that in turn

evokes love. It is centered on concern for others. To follow the way of love is to follow the very nature of God Himself, for God is love.

Therefore, God's love should define our attitude toward giving. He wants us to give cheerfully, prompted by love and in response to His giving.

**Ky. Baptist Foundation**



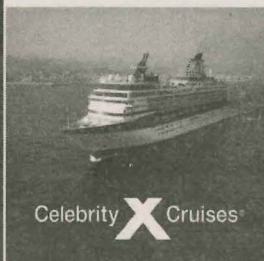
Barry Allen

In 1 Corinthians 13:3, Paul shows the relationship of love to giving and to deeds of good will. He clearly stated it is possible to give and to do good deeds for some motive other than love, and when we do, we gain nothing. In fact, such giving reflects selfishness, not love.

Starting now, each time you give, visualize placing your gift in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, who loved you enough to die in your place for the forgiveness of your sins and that you might have life abundant and eternal. And, give thanks to Him for His unending love and for the privilege of participating with Him in reconciling the world unto Himself. In so doing, your giving attitude will be much more than an act of charity; it will be an act of worship.

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It's time to travel



## 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.
- 24-26** Shepherding the Shepherd, The Downtown Hilton Hotel, Lexington.
- 24-26** Southeast Conclave, Chattanooga, Tenn.

## February

- 1-2** Disaster Relief Chaplaincy Training—Region 3, Hardinsburg Baptist Church.
- 1-2** English as a Second Language Workshop, Northside Baptist Church, Elizabethtown.

## MOUNTAINS TO THE MISSISSIPPI

COMPILED BY STAFF

■ **CADIZ**—Rocky Ridge Church will hold revival services Jan. 15 with **Mark Thweatt**, pastor of New Hope Church in Cadiz, as evangelist. **Robert McIntosh** is pastor.

■ **CRESTWOOD**—Crestwood Church will hold a Silver Ring Thing conference on purity Jan. 13, 6 p.m., promoting the message of abstinence until marriage. **Donnie Patrick** is pastor.

■ **CORBIN**—Lynn Camp Church recently called **Eddie Barker** as pastor and **Justin Morris** as youth pastor.

■ **ELIZABETHTOWN**—Severns Valley Church will hold a "Wacky Adventure" event for kids Jan. 12, 10 a.m., featuring a mechanical bull, inflatables, a rock-climbing wall

and **Jason Lindsey** of Hooked on Science as guest speaker. **Bill Langley** is pastor.

■ **GREENSBURG**—New Hope Church recently called **Casey Durrett** as pastor.

■ **LEXINGTON**—Grace Church will hold a church-wide potluck breakfast Jan. 12, 9 a.m. **David Smith** is pastor.

■ **LOUISVILLE**—Bethlehem Church recently honored Pastor **David Hughes** with a farewell reception. He has served the church for 28 years.

Cloverleaf Church will host the **Crossmen Quartet** in concert Jan. 12, 7 p.m. For more information, call (502) 367-0218. **Geoffrey Lacey** is pastor.

St. Matthews Church will hold a men's ministry breakfast Jan. 12, 7:30 a.m., and a father/daughter banquet Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m., with **Steve Wigginton**, director of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in Louisville, as guest speaker. **Greg Barr** is pastor.

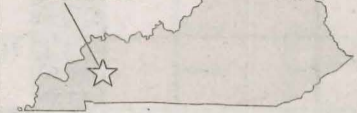
■ **MAY'S LICK**—May's Lick Church recently called **Matt Reynolds** as pastor. He previously was on staff at Pathway Community Church in Fort Wayne, Ind.

■ **MOUNT WASHINGTON**—First Church will hold a W.O.W. kick-off service for youth Jan. 9, 6:30 p.m. **Billy Compton** is pastor.

■ **OWINGSVILLE**—Owingsville Church recently ordained **Donnie Manuel** and **Matthew Vincent** as

## Spotlight on ...

### Princeton



Southside Church will host **Wayne Grudem**, professor of theology and biblical studies at Phoenix Seminary, as guest speaker Jan. 16, 10 a.m. **Mark Williams** is pastor.

deacons. **Chris Bailey** is pastor.

■ **PRINCETON**—First Church recently called **Russ Davidson** as pastor. He previously was pastor at First Church of Salem, Mo.

■ **WOODBINE**—Indian Gap Church recently called **David Johnson** as pastor.

## Pair of former KBC officers elected directors of missions

**Bowling Green**—Two pastors who formerly served as Kentucky Baptist Convention officers have been elected directors of missions with two state associations.

Former KBC president John Mark Toby was called as DOM of the Bowling Green-based Warren Association of Baptists. He succeeds Jeff Crabtree, who took on one of the newly created pastoral

ministry consultant roles with the KBC in July.

Toby had served as pastor of Beacon Hill Baptist Church in Somerset since 1999. He held the president's post in 2008-09, during which time he was elected first vice president for the Southern Baptist Convention.

The association to which Beacon Hill Baptist belongs also has a

new DOM. Rick Hatley, a former KBC second vice president, was called recently to lead Pulaski County Baptist Association. He succeeds Malcolm Cheek who retired last year.

Hatley was the convention's second VP in 2009-10. He moves to Pulaski County after four years as pastor of High Point Baptist Church in Mayfield. (WR)



John Mark Toby



Rick Hatley

## Anderson, former missionary to Argentina, seminary professor, dies at age 83

**Fort Worth, Texas**—Justice Anderson, a Southern Baptist missionary in Argentina for 17 years who later founded Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary's World Missions Center, died Dec. 29. He was 83.

Anderson and his wife, Mary Ann, were Southern Baptist missionaries to

Argentina from 1959-74. During that time, Anderson served as a professor at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires. He also served as vice president of the Argentine Baptist Convention in 1962 and 1965 and as interim president of the seminary from 1968-69.

After returning from the mission field, Anderson joined Southwestern's faculty as a professor of missions. The World Missions Center he founded in 1980 and led for 20 years remains a training site for future missionaries.

Anderson earned a divinity degree from Southwestern in 1955 followed by a

doctor of theology in 1965, as well as earlier degrees from Baylor University.

Funeral services were held Jan. 2 at Agape Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas.

Anderson is survived by his wife, four children, 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. (BP)

## Crouch, moderate Baptist leader, father of Georgetown College president, dies

**Asheville, N.C.**—William Henry Crouch, who founded the Alliance of Baptists and was the father of Georgetown College President Bill Crouch, died Dec. 29 at his home in Asheville, N.C. He was 84.

Crouch, the pastor emeritus of Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C., was a member of the "Gatlinburg Gang," a group convened by Cecil Sherman in 1980 that marked the beginning of the so-called "moderate" resistance to the "conservative resurgence" that took place in the Southern Baptist Convention in the late 20th century.

Six years later, Crouch was among a group that formed the Southern Baptist Alliance, organized in December 1986 and publicly announced the following February. He was elected the group's first president and functioned as its executive director until 1988.

Originally intended as a voice to uphold traditional Baptist values such as the autonomy of the local church and the separation of church and state within the Southern Baptist Convention, the group distanced itself from the SBC

in 1991, and a year later was renamed the Alliance of Baptists.

Today, the 140-church group, with an additional 3,000 individual members, is known for its progressive views on social issues like interfaith and ecumenical relations, sexual orientation and opposition to the U.S. embargo of Cuba.

A graduate of Mars Hill College with two master's degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a doctorate from Wake Forest University, Crouch was pastor of churches in Kentucky, Mississippi and North Carolina. His father, Perry, was executive director of the Baptist Convention of North Carolina. His son, Bill, has served as president of Georgetown College since 1991 and has announced plans to retire in June.

After retiring from the ministry, the elder Crouch served as the director of development for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond in Virginia.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Janice. A memorial service for Crouch was held Jan. 4, at First Baptist Church of Asheville, N.C. (ABP)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**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@mbcmurray.org.

**SEEKING:** New Bethel Baptist of Hardinsburg, Ky., is searching for an interim worship leader to lead adult choir and Sunday worship. If interested send email to newbethelbaptist@gmail.com.

**SEEKING:** Emmanuel Baptist Church, a contemporary, evangelistic church in Stanton, Ky., is prayerfully searching for a full-time minister of students. This man will be married (wife actively involved), formally trained (preferred) and theologically conservative. If interested, please submit your resumé by Jan. 31, 2013 to gregwebb.ebc-stanton@yahoo.com.

**SEEKING:** Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Nicholasville, Ky., is prayerfully searching for a part-time youth leader. Responsibilities include Sundays and Wednesdays. Send resumé to mtleasantbaptist@windstream.net; www.mtleasantbaptist.net.

**SEEKING:** Calvary Baptist Church, 111 N.

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McWhorter Street, London, Ky., is seeking a part-time minister of youth. For more information, call (606) 864-7071; Pastor Harlan Avera.

**SEEKING:** Burlington Baptist Church, a contemporary, vibrant and growing church in Burlington, Ky., is seeking a part-time young adult pastor. Responsibilities include working with college-age and young adults, ages 18-25. Please refer inquiries to gttoole@yahoo.com by Jan. 31.

**SEEKING:** Crittenden Baptist Church is seeking a part-time pianist for all worship services, as well as providing accompaniment for the church choir and other musicians during performances and rehearsals. Please send resumé to Personnel Committee, Crittenden Baptist Church, P.O. Box 132, Crittenden, KY 41030, or crittendenbaptist@fuse.net.

# PBS series depicts American abolitionists as driven by faith

By Adelle Banks

Arlington, Va.—As the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, PBS premieres “The Abolitionists,” a three-part series Jan. 8.

Documentarian Rob Rapley, the writer and director of the series, talked with Religion News Service about the role religion played in the lives of the abolitionists.

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

**How would you sum up the role of faith in the work of American abolitionists?**

It was a time in which religion played a central role in American life with the Second Great Awakening. Every one of the abolitionists was shaped very much by their faith. In fact, they would have defined themselves first by their faith before any other category.

**Many of the abolitionists were driven by the notion that slaveholding was sinful. How did their opponents respond?**

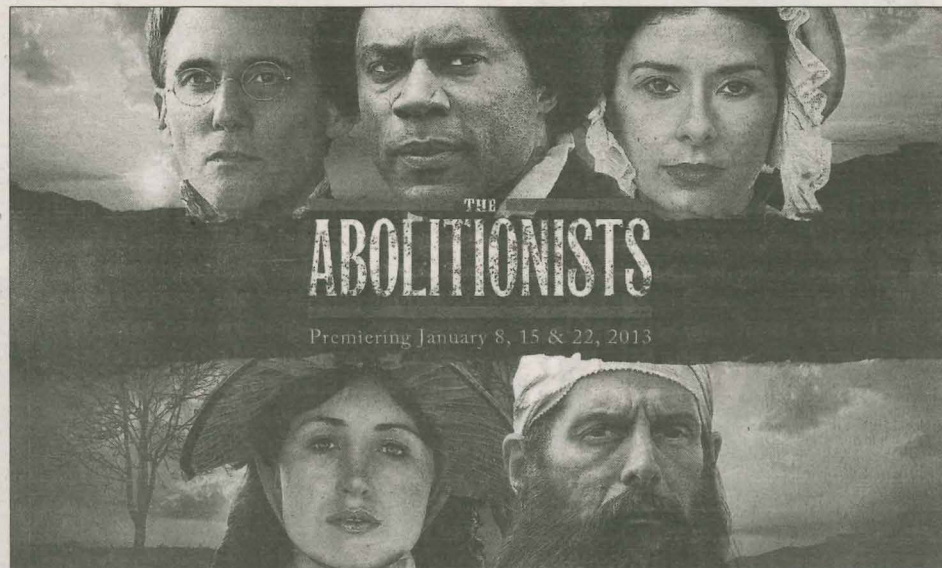
One of the most difficult things to comprehend about this story is the degree to which slavery was an accepted part of American life. It was sanctioned in the Bible, certainly all over the place in the Old Testament, so slaveholders used that as justification.

**Some abolitionists talked about “moral suasion.” How did that affect their arguments against slavery?**

They really resorted to this idea of converting people. Since that was a central part of the evangelical movement



Rob Rapley



Premiering January 8, 15 & 22, 2013

that was sweeping the country at the time, they thought, “Well why not? If people can be converted to faith then why can they not be converted to anti-slavery?”

**How would you describe some of the religious views of abolitionists such as John Brown?**

As John Brown saw it, God had a plan for him, that life was predestined and, especially, that you had to make sense of your afflictions. As John Brown's afflictions mounted, he took that as a message from God that he had to take up arms.

**You pointed out the role of women abolitionists, such as Angelina Grimke's appeal to Christian women of the South. Was she at all successful?**

She said explicitly, “I know that you do not make the laws, but your husbands and brothers and fathers do.” She urged them to advocate ending slavery to their kinfolk who were in positions of power. She thought that if the women of the South turned against slavery, it would

lead very quickly to the end of slavery, that men would follow suit. That was roundly rejected. The gentle appeal to her kinfolk resulted in a violent backlash.

**Despite their differences, Frederick Douglass hailed William Lloyd Garrison for challenging the power of both church and state. What was Garrison's greatest charge against the church?**

A lot of the established churches just said, “We don't want any part of this,” where they had initially hosted anti-slavery meetings. Garrison said, “You are not being faithful to the word. We are. Therefore, we must come out of the churches.” It was actually called come-outism: come out of the churches, come out of the government, separate ourselves from this unclean society. That was the essence of Garrison's charge. The churches were part of the evil.

**What about Douglass? Did he have similar problems with the church?**

Douglass had grown up in slavery

surrounded by very outspokenly religious slaveholders who were the pillars of the Methodist church in Maryland. So he just felt from the beginning that the established church was just unredeemably corrupt. But he also was a profound, faithful man.

**Before he signed the Emancipation Proclamation, President Lincoln had a different view on what to do with the U.S. slave population. What did he suggest to black ministers?**

He invited five black ministers to the White House in the summer of 1862 and he basically said, “If it weren't for your people, we wouldn't have this war.” He tried to recruit them into an effort to lead colonization. These prominent ministers would lead their people and, with the aid of the government, would take them back to Africa to Liberia or to Haiti. Everyone in the abolitionist movement was absolutely stunned by this. Once he had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, he never mentioned it again.

**As the country marks the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, what message do you hope viewers will walk away with after seeing your series?**

I think it's really a testament to the power of the individual. These characters were up against overwhelming odds. In hindsight, it seems like the end of slavery was inevitable, but it was in fact about the most unlikely thing in the world. And a very small set of people set this vortex in motion, which eventually swept up the country and changed our history for the better. It really is so easy to lose sight of the fact that if you're dedicated enough and if you have a clear vision of something right and true that you can, in fact, effect change. (RNS)

## Cumberlands athletes, students spread cheer over Christmas holiday

Campton—University of the Cumberlands students reached out to children and families in need during the Christmas season by providing new shoes and toys as part of two separate outreach events.

Members of the women's junior varsity basketball team participated in the Samaritan's Barefoot for Bare Feet movement by helping distribute new footwear to more than 600 Rogers Elementary and Campton Elementary students in Campton Dec. 18.

Patriot athletes, joined by members of the University of Kentucky men's basketball team and other volunteers, bathed the children's feet before helping them put on new socks and shoes.

“It was a great experience to participate and get to talk to the kids about getting new shoes,” UC basketball player Karlie Blackburn said. “When teams come together like we and UK did today, it shows we were willing to help. Hopefully with the kids seeing others help them, it will leave them wanting to help those less fortunate when they get older.”

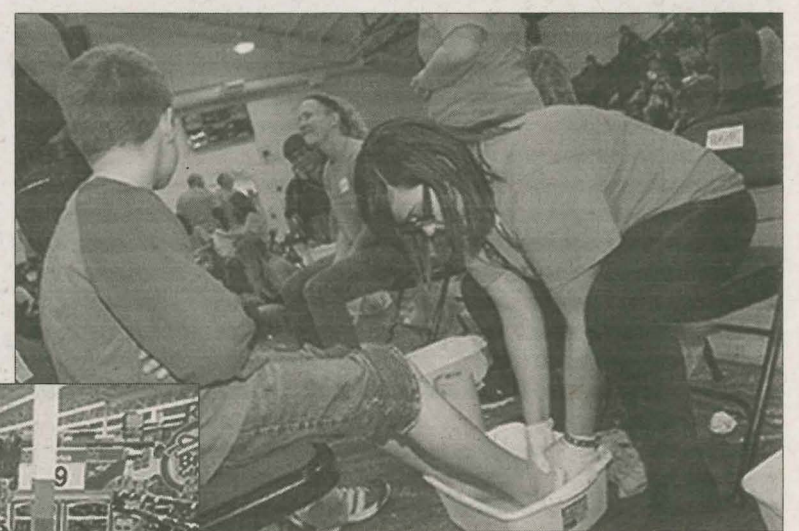
UC athletes have set a fundraising goal of \$3,000 so that a shoe distribution can be set up in southeastern Kentucky to help local children. The Patriots will host their second annual Barefoot for Bare Feet Game Jan. 24 at 6 p.m. against University of Virginia-Wise.

In another Christmas outreach, 48 UC

students, including members of the Patriot golf team, took part in Mountain Outreach's seventh annual “Midnight Toy Shopping Spree.” More than 800 new toys were purchased for children ranging from infants to teenagers.

“Our program was honored to work with Mountain Outreach again this year,” said Chris Kraftick, UC's golf team coach. “Our players really enjoy the opportunity helping out young people in the community.”

The golf team helped bag the toys at the register and loaded the gifts into a moving truck. (UC)



**ACTS OF SERVICE** ■ Above: A University of the Cumberlands student bathes the feet of a young boy before putting new socks and shoes on him. Members of the school's junior varsity women's basketball team volunteered at the Barefoot for Bare Feet event in Campton. ■ Left: Cumberlands' students help Mountain Outreach select more than 800 toys during a midnight shopping spree Nov. 30. (University of the Cumberlands photos)



## What If My Will is Out of Date? Where do I Start?

**A** Last Will and Testament is one of the most important documents an individual will ever prepare. Yet in many cases, estates have not been distributed according to the wishes of the individual simply because the estate plan was outdated. Ask yourself these questions:

- Have you moved to another state?
- Have tax laws changed?
- Have your charitable interests changed?
- Has your marital status changed?
- Has the size of your estate changed markedly?
- Has anything changed in regard to your children's needs or their marital status?

The Kentucky Baptist Foundation has resources to assist you in updating your estate plan.

*To learn more:*

*Visit [www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org](http://www.kentuckybaptistfoundation.org) and click on "Estate Planning." The Estate Plan Organizer will take you through the estate planning process quickly and easily in about 30 minutes.*

**and/or**

*Contact Foundation Trust Counsel Laurie Valentine for private no cost estate planning consultation.*

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***Let the Kentucky Baptist Foundation assist you in developing an estate plan that provides for the future financial security of your family and advances God's Kingdom.***

Barry G. Allen, President  
Laurie W. Valentine, Trust Counsel

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